

Fear Over the Outcome of the 2020 Election

By Muhammad Karkoutli, Earl Babbie Research Center Fellow, Chapman University, Class of 2020

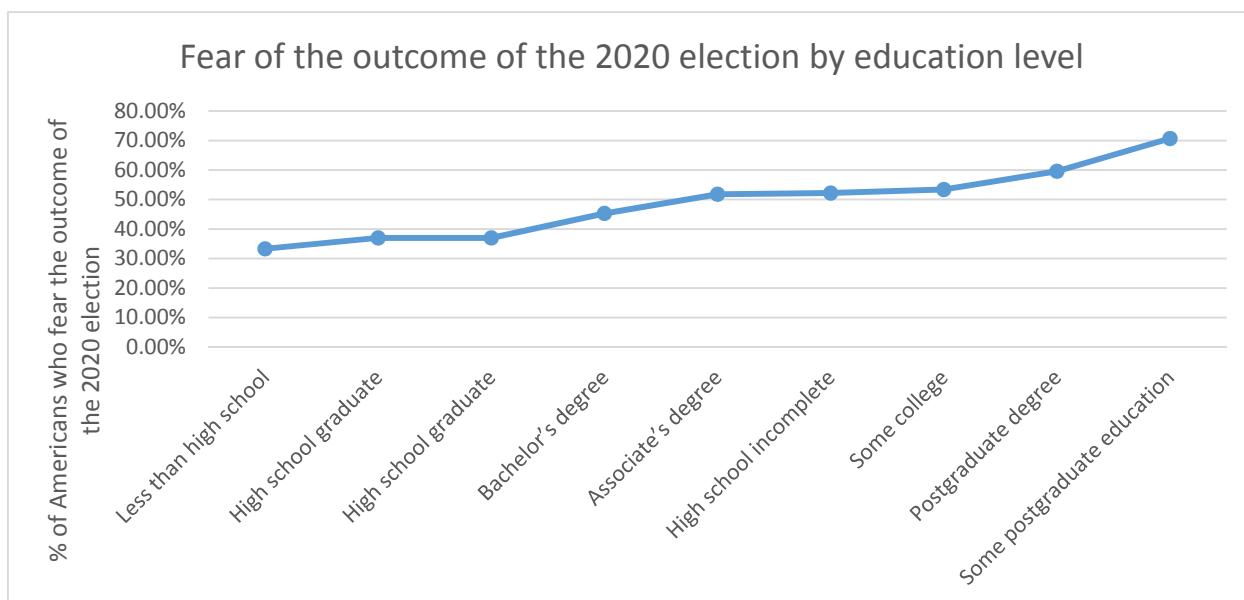
If just thinking about the upcoming 2020 election makes you feel anxious, you're not alone.

Results from the 2019 Chapman University Survey of American Fears (CSAF) reveal that 47.5% of Americans are 'afraid or very afraid' of the outcome of the 2020 election. This fear is the 21st highest fear that Americans have ranking just above random/mass shootings and biological warfare for the 2019 survey.

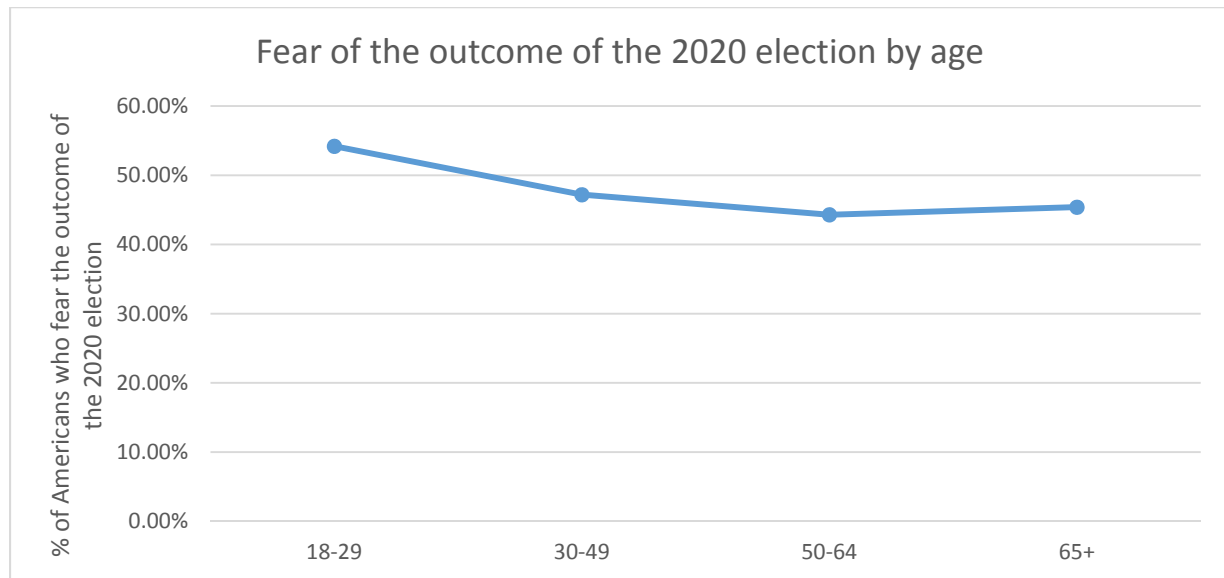
However, there are distinct differences in who fears the outcome of the 2020 election. These differences are clearest between Americans who have different political ideologies, political party affiliations, education levels, races, and ages.

For example, 74.6% of Liberals fear the outcome of the 2020 election whereas the percentage for Conservatives is 29.5%. Likewise, 58.5% of Hispanics fear the outcome of the 2020 election whereas the percentage for Whites is 43.8% and the percentage for Asians/Chinese/Japanese is 38.8%. Further, 70.7% of Americans who have some postgraduate education and 59.6% of Americans who have a postgraduate degree fear the outcome of the 2020 election whereas the percentage for Americans who are high school graduates or who did not complete high school are 37.0% and 33.3% respectively.

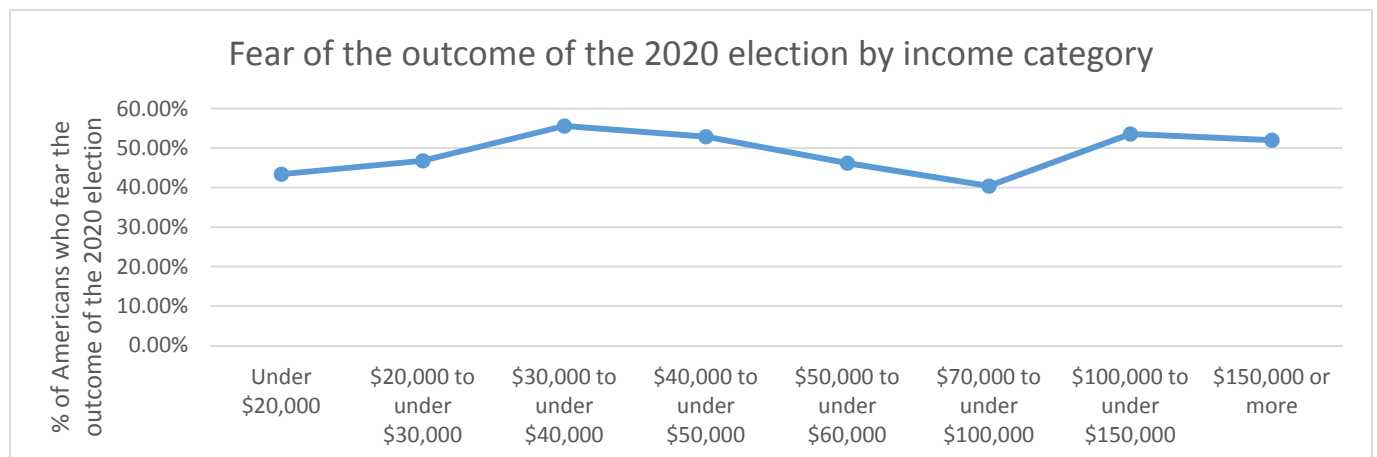
We do see a positive trend for education level. Americans with higher levels of education fear the outcome of the 2020 election more than Americans with lower levels of education.



For age, there is also a positive trend where younger Americans fear the outcome of the 2020 election more than older Americans.



For income categories, no such trend exists. For example, 55.6% of Americans who make \$30,000 to under \$40,000 fear the outcome of the 2020 election more than any other income category. However, the percentage for Americans who make \$100,000 to under \$150,000 is 53.6%



Who fears the outcome of the 2020 election the most?

In terms of political ideology and party affiliation, Liberals (74.60%) and Democrats (72.0%) fear the outcome of the 2020 election more than their counterparts. In terms of education level, Americans who have some postgraduate education (70.7%) and have a postgraduate degree (59.6%) fear the outcome of the 2020 election more than those with lower levels of education. In terms of race, Hispanics (58.5%) and Blacks (55.2%) fear the outcome of the 2020 election more than other racial groups. Females (51.5%) fear the outcome of the 2020 election more than males. The 18-29 age group (54.2%) fears the outcome of the 2020 election more than any other age group. Americans who fear corrupt government officials (52.1%) fear the outcome of the 2020 election more than Americans who do not fear corrupt government officials. Americans who fear capitalism (62.7%) fear the outcome of the 2020 election more than Americans who fear other economic ideologies. Americans who live in the North East (52.4%) fear the outcome of the 2020 election more than Americans who live in other census regions. Americans who stated they are not religious (51.8%) fear the outcome of the 2020 election more than Americans who stated they were religious. For a full list of the rankings, please see the table(s) below.

Table 1: Fear of the outcome of the 2020 election

**% afraid or very afraid of the outcome
of the 2020 election**

Fear of corrupt government officials	52.1%
Democrat	72.0%
Independent	40.5%
Republican	27.2%
Liberal	74.6%
Moderate	42.0%
Conservative	29.5%
Female	51.5%
Male	42.8%
18-29	54.2%
30-49	47.2%
50-64	44.3%
65+	45.4%
Hispanic	58.5%
Black	55.2%
Native American/ American Indian	44.4%
White	43.8%
Asian/Chinese/Japanese	38.8%
Some postgraduate education	70.7%
Postgraduate degree	59.6%
Some college	53.4%
High school incomplete	52.2%
Associate's degree	51.8%
Bachelor's degree	45.3%
High school graduate	37.0%
Less than high school	33.3%
Under \$20,000	43.4%
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	46.8%
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	55.6%
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	52.9%
\$50,000 to under \$60,000	46.2%
\$70,000 to under \$100,000	40.4%
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	53.6%
\$150,000 or more	52.0%
Fear of capitalism	62.7%
Fear of communism	43.7%
Fear of globalization/globalism	42.4%

Fear of socialism	36.4%
North East	53.4%
West	48.5%
South	47.3%
North Central	41.4%
Not religious	51.9%
Religious	44.2%

Table 2: Sorted by greatest to smallest %

	% afraid or very afraid of the outcome of the 2020 election
Liberal	74.60%
Democrat	72.00%
Some postgraduate education	70.70%
Fear of capitalism	62.70%
Postgraduate degree	59.60%
Hispanic	58.50%
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	55.60%
Black	55.20%
18-29	54.20%
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	53.60%
Some college	53.40%
North East	53.40%
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	52.90%
High school incomplete	52.20%
Fear of corrupt officials	52.10%
\$150,000 or more	52.00%
Not religious	51.90%
Associate's degree	51.80%
Female	51.50%
West	48.50%
South	47.30%
30-49	47.20%
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	46.80%
\$50,000 to under \$60,000	46.20%
65+	45.40%
Bachelor's degree	45.30%
Native American/ American Indian	44.40%
50-64	44.30%
Religious	44.20%

White	43.80%
Fear of communism	43.70%
Under \$20,000	43.40%
Male	42.80%
Fear of globalization/globalism	42.40%
Moderate	42.00%
North Central	41.40%
Independent	40.50%
\$70,000 to under \$100,000	40.40%
Asian/Chinese/Japanese	38.80%
High school graduate	37.00%
Fear of socialism	36.40%
Less than high school	33.30%
Conservative	29.50%
Republican	27.20%