

To: Interested Parties

From: The Justice Collaborative Institute

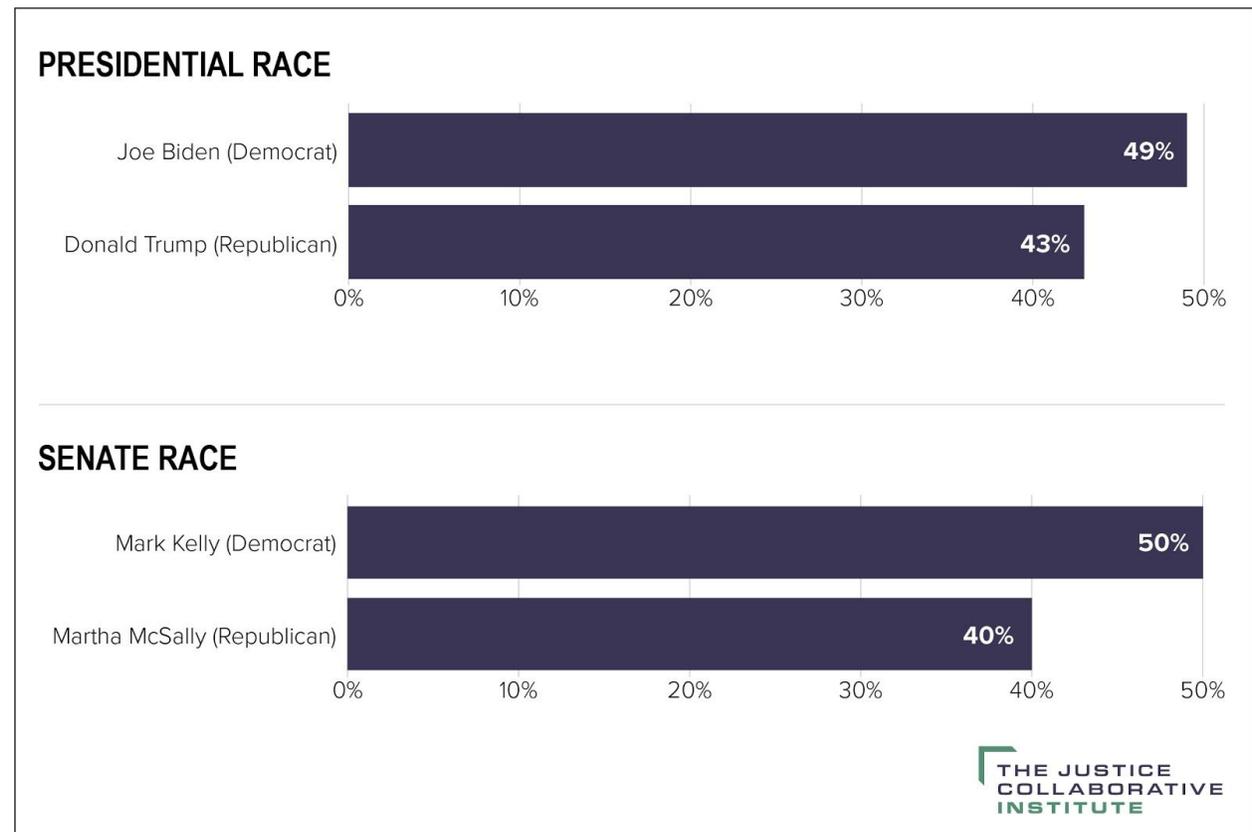
Re: From President and Senate to County Attorney and Sheriff, Democrats Lead Up and Down the Ballot in Arizona

Date: 10/28/2020

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Arizona helped deliver the election to Donald Trump in 2016. However, over the past four years, Republicans have seen a 148,000 voter enrollment advantage [trimmed to](#) under 100,000, resulting in [historic gains](#) for Democrats in the State Legislature and the election of Democratic Senator Kyrsten Sinema in 2018. In Maricopa County, Arizona's largest county, the Democratic candidates for County Attorney and Sheriff hold leads against their Republican opponents.

New polling from The Justice Collaborative Institute shows that Arizona, a historically conservative state, could vote blue up and down the ballot next week. Our polling shows strong leads for Presidential candidate Joe Biden and Senate candidate Mark Kelly in Arizona ahead of Tuesday's election. Among the registered voters surveyed, **former Vice President Biden is leading President Donald Trump 49% to 43% across the state**, with 5% of respondents undecided. **Democratic challenger Mark Kelly is leading current Senator Martha McSally 50% to 40%**, with 10% of respondents undecided.



In Maricopa County, one of the most important national swing counties, our polling shows strong leads for Democrats in the County Attorney and Sheriff elections. Democratic **Maricopa County Attorney nominee Julie Gunnigle leads incumbent Republican Allister Adel 38% to 32%**. In the Maricopa County sheriff's race, incumbent **Democrat Paul Penzone leads Republican challenger Jerry Sheridan 47% to 33%**.

Arizona has been one of the top advertising markets in the 2020 Presidential election, as both parties consider the region a crucial battleground. [Almost \\$14 million](#) in political advertising was poured into the Phoenix media market between April 1st and August 6th. The results in Arizona will have significant implications for the national landscape. Since McSally was appointed to the seat vacated by the late John McCain, the winning candidate will be sworn in after the election results are finalized. This would narrow the Republican advantage in the Senate during a lame duck session in which a new COVID-19 stimulus package is expected to be negotiated.

#### **Other results show:**

- **Arizona voters overwhelmingly trust Vice President Joe Biden's ability to handle the COVID-19 pandemic.** By a 51%-to-35% margin, voters expressed greater trust in Joe Biden than President Donald Trump when it comes to handling the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Donald Trump and Martha McSally are viewed unfavorably by Arizona voters.** Both Trump and McSally have low favorability ratings among likely voters. 56% of respondents have an unfavorable view of Martha McSally (37% favorable). 55% of respondents have an unfavorable view of Donald Trump (43% favorable).
- **Across all issue areas, voters trust Mark Kelly more than current Senator Martha McSally.** Arizona voters are more inclined to trust Mark Kelly on issues related to the economy, COVID-19, gun violence, the criminal justice system, and judicial appointments.

#### **Polling Methodology**

Between October 22 and October 25, The Justice Collaborative Institute polled N=1,007 registered voters in Arizona. The survey included n=874 likely voters and voters who have already voted. The survey was weighted to be reflective of registered voters in Arizona and Maricopa County on race and ethnicity, gender, age, region of the state, and educational attainment. The survey was fielded online, took on average 7 minutes to complete, and has a confidence interval of 3.11% at the 95% level among registered voters statewide and 3.92% in Maricopa County.