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**New research: How the media, electoral process fared in Election 2020**  
 John Sands, Knight Foundation [web@knightfoundation.org]

**Sent:** Monday, December 07, 2020 11:56 AM  
**To:** [Steve Johnston](#)

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ENGAGED COMMUNITIES**

Sarah,

Today, Gallup and Knight Foundation released [a new study](#) that explores how Americans rated the performance of the news media and our electoral process in the days before and after Election 2020.

Although most Americans felt well informed about the races, and that the nation's institutions met the challenge of the election season, attitudes varied sharply along partisan lines, with Republicans expressing deep concern about the election's outcome and the media's coverage of it. The report illuminates the depth of polarization in America and raises the spectre that, in a critical moment, our democratic institutions lacked legitimacy for a significant portion of the electorate.

Among the key findings:

- While Americans felt informed about the elections, Republicans and Democrats disagreed on how responsible the media was in covering the results: Overall, 59% of Americans say the news media was responsible in its reporting of the election results and outcome. This includes 93% of Democrats, but only 21% of Republicans. In fact, 63% of Americans, including just 17% of Republicans, believed news media projections of Joe Biden as the winner of the election were accurate.
- Republicans and Democrats disagree on how well the electoral process worked: Fifty-five percent of Americans think the democratic process worked well, including 92% of Democrats. Close to 9 in 10 Republicans disagreed.
- Voters worry about the influence misinformation had in the election: More than four in five U.S. adults believe they were exposed to misinformation during the election campaign. Six in 10 Americans, including a broad majority of

Republicans, think misinformation swayed the outcome of the election.

The report is part of Gallup and Knight's ongoing series on [Trust, Media and Democracy](#). You can read the findings [on our website](#), and join the conversation with [#trustinnews](#).

John Sands  
Director/Learning and Impact  
Knight Foundation




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