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The Risk of the Spread of COVID-19

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The Risk of the Spread of COVID-19

Summary

The emergence of the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in many losses of lives and causing panic to many people around the world, and the United States is no exemption. Furthermore, the pandemic has changed the normal way of life of people. The most devastating thing is that it affected the United States election cycle significantly from the ways presidential and vice presidents' debates are done, gatherings during campaigns and voting methods (Birch et al., 2020). Based on past elections, polling day has always acted as an indication of the end of the long antagonistic partisan period. During this time, many American voters are always on the polling stations looking forward to cast their votes for next coming president and go back home to wait for the results which are always announced the same day or next day. However, the 2020 election has been a different election year for America as the coronavirus has overturned almost all election cycles.

According to Philipose (2020), the coronavirus pandemic has altered the way campaigns are done to the final voting process. Also, campaign rallies were done virtually, agreements postponed as well as debates reorganized and ballots sent by post. Campaigns play a critical role in allowing the candidates to deliver their manifestos to the people, therefore, both President Donald Trump and Democrat candidate Joe Biden were determined to reach out to the people across the nation. Nevertheless, due to increased cases being recorded daily from the pandemic and death toll intensifying substantially, it was important for the candidates to use alternative campaign tactics. Biden utilized vigilant gathering methods and recommended coronavirus extenuation techniques such as continuously maintaining social distance and wearing masks (Philipose, 2020). On the other hand, Republican party leader Trump was contrary to the

restrictions and suggested they were partisan inspired. Trump continued to perform in-person gatherings with the majority of his supporters not following the pandemic restrictions.

Moreover, national conventions were also affected by the pandemic as both parties performed non-usual national conventions to legitimately propose the president and vice president candidates. Philipose (2020), stated that the Democratic Party performed first virtual convention, whereas Republican Party selected a combination of live together with recorded procedures. The virtual convention was done by the Democratic Party comprised of several tough officials, growing stars and ordinary Americans across the nation, as well as taped speeches which were streamed for majority of the individuals watching the activity live. Similarly, both Biden as well as his vice Kamala Harris acknowledged the nominations together provided their speeches on their partisan careers in an empty hotel in Delaware. Similarly, the Republican Party convention was different as it comprised of a partly virtual and partly in-person situation (Landman & Splendore, 2020). Nevertheless, the in-person event followed the COVID-19 restriction and they maintained proper social distancing where it ended with the Trump acknowledging the nominations.

Candidate debates also changed significantly and in different ways. First, the disordered and unfathomable initial debate of the presidential candidates is difficult to forget. However, the view of the debate was different because the candidates did not shake hands and before taking the stage, and the congregate was to maintain social distance. Furthermore, there was not a spin area for media. Moreover, another substantial effect was president Trump's diagnoses of the coronavirus which raised attention on the doubt of his health (Philipose, 2020). This resulted in a shift in the debate to an isolated set-up that Trump did not participate and the second debate was canceled

Reaction

The election event comprises of several gatherings during the campaign and people interacting with each other during the debates. However, this causes an increased risk of getting infected by the novel coronavirus. In-person voting will also result in an increased risk of contracting the disease because of increased congestion at polling stations as well as the use of shared equipment. The more people interact with other individuals, and the more time they take results in an increased risk of coronavirus spreading. Therefore, elections conducted through in-person voting and public attendance at debates will result in an increased risk of coronavirus spread as there will be an immense population and longer waiting times.

For the election process to be conducted safely there will be a need for an increased variety of voting options and not depending on in-person voting alone. Having several options will reduce congestions at polling stations hence reducing the risks of COVID-19 spread. Another way is having long voting periods which will allow people to vote in groups (Cdc.gov, 2020). Also, risk of contracting the disease can be reduced by other options that will reduce the number of voters at the polling station as mail voting. Furthermore, coronavirus is typically transmitted through respiratory droplets released when individuals cough, talk or sneeze (Cdc.gov, 2020). Similarly, it may be likely that people can get the virus through being in contact with infected surfaces or objects and then touch their surface parts such as eyes and mouth. Therefore, the disease can be prevented through washing hands regularly, ecosystem cleaning and disinfection and staying home when having symptoms. Last but not least, conducting in-person voting involves making lines with other people while waiting to cast the votes, interacting with another individual and exchanging equipment across frequently touched surfaces hence an increase in risk.

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