

# Consent of the governed:

## *A true picture of the 2020 election result*

(figures are 000s)

Candidate	Major party votes	Number who cast a ballot	Number eligible to vote (2)	Number at voting age (1)	US population represented
		159,633	239,247	255,200	328,000
Biden	81,238	51.8%	33.9%	31.8%	24.7%
Trump	74,233	46.5%	31%	29%	22.6%

The numbers repeatedly stated as the result of the 2020 election are 51% for Biden and 46% for Trump—giving the false impression that a majority (although a slim one) of the country chose Joe Biden.

Those numbers are coupled with boasts about the high voter turnout in this election—67% of eligible voters—reinforcing the impression that this election came closer to representing the will of the people.

In fact, this election, like preceding elections, did not produce a government that represents the “will of the people,” and especially not “the consent of the governed.”

All 328,000,000 of us are governed by the men (mostly) who win elections. They represent the choice of about a quarter of us. Even if we look only at the consent of the citizenry, our government represents the consent only of a third.

The task is clear and urgent: enfranchise all citizens and register everyone eligible to vote. Then offer a program of government that meets the needs of the vast majority of Americans and will bring them to the polls.

(1) US Census data for 2019

(2) From the Council on Foreign Relations

*The number excludes ineligible “felons” (3,280), residents of Puerto Rico (2,620) and noncitizen residents.*