

FORECAST ERROR: POTUS 2020

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Appendix 1: methodology supercategories

The website FiveThirtyEight describes several polling modes,[1011a] including live, online, IVR (interactive voice response, otherwise known as automated polls or “robopolls.”), and text. In this article we group them into various categories thus:

Appendix Table 1: My 1st methodology supercategories

See https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/polls-page/president_polls.csv

Methodology supercategory	538's methodology category
Online	Online
Other/Mixed	IVR/Live Phone/Online
	IVR/Online
	IVR/Online/Text
	Live Phone/Online
	Live Phone/Online/Text
	Mail
	Online/IVR
	Online/Text
Phone	Automated Phone
	IVR/Live Phone
	IVR/Text
	Live Phone
	Live Phone/Text
	Text

Appendix Table 2: My 2nd methodology supercategories

See https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/polls-page/president_polls.csv

Methodology_supercat2	538's methodology category
Mail	Mail
Online	Online
Online/Text	Online/Text
Text	Text
Unknown	(blank)
Uses_both	IVR/Live Phone
	IVR/Live Phone/Online
Uses_IVR	Automated Phone
	IVR/Online

	IVR/Online/Text
	IVR/Text
	Online/IVR
Uses_Live_Phone	Live Phone
	Live Phone/Online
	Live Phone/Online/Text
	Live Phone/Text

Appendix Table 3: My 3rd methodology supercategories

See https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/polls-page/president_polls.csv

Methodology_supercat3	538's methodology category
Uses_IVR_and_other	Automated Phone
Mail-only	Mail
Uses_internet_and_other	Online
Uses_internet_and_other	Online/Text
Text-only	Text
Uses_IVR_and_live_phone	IVR/Live Phone
Uses_IVR_and_live_phone	IVR/Live Phone/Online
Uses_IVR_and_internet	IVR/Online
Uses_IVR_and_internet	IVR/Online/Text
Uses_IVR_and_other	IVR/Text
Uses_IVR_and_internet	Online/IVR
Uses_live_phone_and_other	Live Phone
Uses_live_phone_and_online	Live Phone/Online
Uses_live_phone_and_online	Live Phone/Online/Text
Uses_live_phone_and_other	Live Phone/Text

Appendix Table 4: Kennedy methodology categories and MAEs for those categories in 2016

See <https://www.aapor.org/Education-Resources/Reports/An-Evaluation-of-2016-Election-Polls-in-the-U-S.aspx>

Kennedy methodology category	MAE (national polls)	MAE (state polls)
internet (opt-in)	1.5	3.9
IVR+internet	1.2	3.3
IVR+live phone		3.6
IVR-only		2.7
live phone (RBS)		3.2
live phone (RDD)	1.6	3.8

Appendix Table 5: 538 methodology vs Kennedy report methodologies

By crossreferencing this (<https://www.aapor.org/Education-Resources/Reports/An-Evaluation-of-2016-Election-Polls-in-the-U-S.aspx>) to this (https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/polls-page/president_polls.csv) we estimate the MAE for those 2020 polls based on their 2016 MAEs

2020 Methodology_supercat3	538's methodology cat'y	Kennedy cat'y	Matched 2016 MAE (nat'l)
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Mail-only	Mail	?	?
Text-only	Text	?	?
Uses_internet_and_other	Online	internet (opt-in)	1.5
	Online/Text		
Uses_IVR_and_internet	IVR/Online	IVR+internet	1.2
	IVR/Online/Text		
	Online/IVR		
Uses_IVR_and_live_phone	IVR/Live Phone	IVR+live phone	?
	IVR/Live Phone/Online		
Uses_IVR_and_other	IVR/Text	IVR-only	?
	Automated Phone		
Uses_live_phone_and_online	Live Phone/Online	?	?
	Live Phone/Online/Text		
Uses_live_phone_and_other	Live Phone/Text	?	1.6
	Live Phone	Live Phone (RBS) or Live Phone (RDD)	