

 DATA FOR *PROGRESS*

2020 VICE PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION

Polling Potential Tickets

April 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- ▶ Democrats as a whole and Sanders primary voters specifically say a Warren VP pick would make them most likely to support Biden in the general election.
- ▶ Sixty-one percent of Sanders supporters would be more likely to vote for a Biden / Warren ticket, compared to 42 percent for a Biden / Harris ticket, 33 percent for a Biden / Klobuchar ticket and 26 for a Biden / Abrams ticket.
- ▶ Warren also rates highest among key Democratic constituencies including black voters, voters under 45 and progressive Democrats.
- ▶ Although Abrams has lower name identification than the national candidates, she overperforms her name identification among black and progressive voters.

The Democratic primary came to a conclusion when Senator Bernie Sanders withdrew from the contest. The end of the race doesn't, however, mean the policy divisions that emerged during the race will be immediately resolved. In the Democratic primary younger voters supported the candidates of change—Sanders called for a political revolution and Warren called for big structural change—while older voters preferred the candidate of stability: Biden. In order for the Democratic Party to defeat Trump this fall, it needs to be united. A vice presidential pick provides one avenue of doing this.

Data for Progress sought to test the relative strengths of a Democratic presidential ticket with a range of widely discussed picks. We tested the favorable numbers of the vice presidential picks, and also tested how those hypothetical tickets

would make voters more (or less) likely to vote for the party this November.

While name identification, whether or not a voter is familiar or not with a candidate, is an important consideration in the data we present here, there are, nonetheless useful patterns to be gleaned. Our analysis suggests that a Biden-Warren ticket would be effective at generating enthusiasm and unity among core Democratic constituencies.

The first chart depicts whether or not Democratic primary voters would be more or less willing to support Biden for president with Warren on the ticket. To gauge this, we asked voters, specifically: We asked voters, specifically:

Would you be more or less likely to support Joe Biden for President against Republican Donald Trump if he chose the following as his Vice Presidential nominee? — Elizabeth Warren

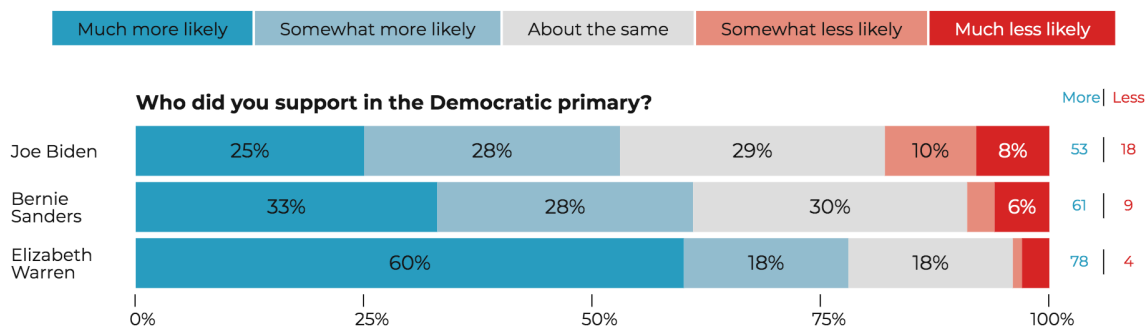
There were five possible responses:

- <1> Much more likely
- <2> Somewhat more likely
- <3> About the same
- <4> Somewhat less likely
- <5> Much less likely

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Warren supporters—admittedly a rather small slice of the Democratic primary electorate—are quite enthusiastic about this prospect, reporting that they'd be more likely to support the party's ticket by a 72-percentage-point margin (78 percent more likely, 4 percent

Both Sanders And Warren Supporters Are More Likely To Support Biden With Warren On The Ticket

Would you be more or less likely to support Joe Biden for President against Republican Donald Trump if he chose the following as his Vice Presidential nominee? -- Elizabeth Warren



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less likely). Sanders supporters would be more likely to support the Democratic party by a 52-percentage-point margin (61 percent more likely, 9 percent less likely). As a symbol of her unity strength, Biden supporters also say they would be dramatically more likely to support a ticket with Warren on it.

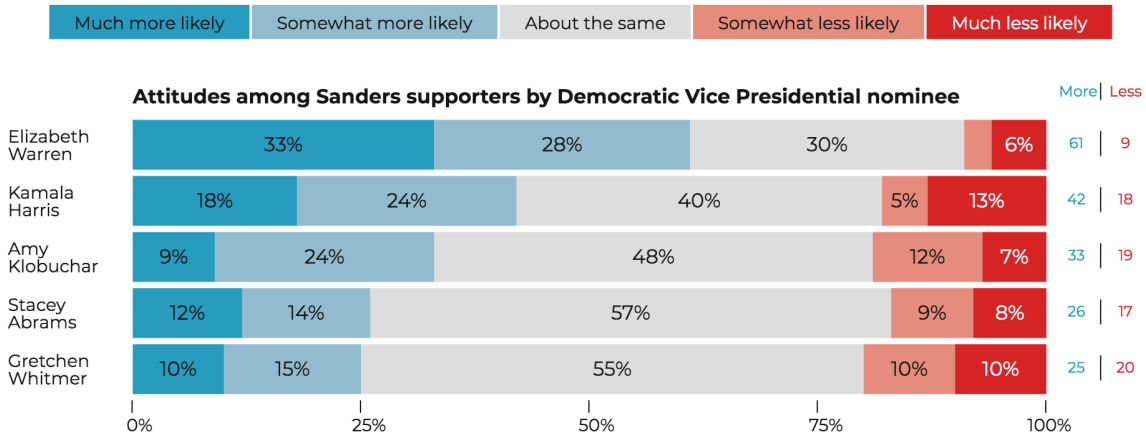
This result—which suggests that Sanders supporters would be apt to support Biden with Warren on the ticket—can be explained in large part when one looks at Warren’s favorable numbers among Democratic primary voters. This result for Warren can be placed in context when compared against other potential picks. Warren is the VP nominee that Sanders supporters say

would make them most likely to vote for Biden, by an overwhelming margin, exceeding the relative strength of her name identification.

Democratic voters who self-identify Socialist largely backed Sanders—the only declared Socialist in the race—but Warren also had a reasonably sized cadre of socialists behind her primary bid as well (28-percentage-points). Warren also won considerable support among those who self-identified as progressives. A majority of both Sanders (64-percentage-points) and Warren supporters (59-percentage-points) self-identify as progressives while, Biden supporters are split down the middle.

Sanders Supporters Are Excited About The Prospect Of Warren As VP

Would you be more or less likely to support Joe Biden for President against Republican Donald Trump if he chose the following as his Vice Presidential nominee?



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It's useful to place this finding which points to enthusiasm about Warren as a potential vice presidential pick in context. To do this, we look at four other possible vice presidents. What we found is that Democrats are most enthusiastic about a hypothetical Biden-Warren ticket, reporting by a 38-percentage-point margin they'd be more likely to vote for the Democratic Party with the junior senator from Massachusetts in the number two slot (53 percent more likely, 15 percent less likely). The ticket Democratic voters were the next most excited about was a Biden-Harris (45 percent more likely, 16 percent less likely) followed by Biden-Klobuchar. A Biden-Abrams came in fourth, but owing to Abrams's relatively low name ID there's considerable room for improvement and [previous Data for Progress research](#) found that after voters read a bio about Abrams, her favorability numbers

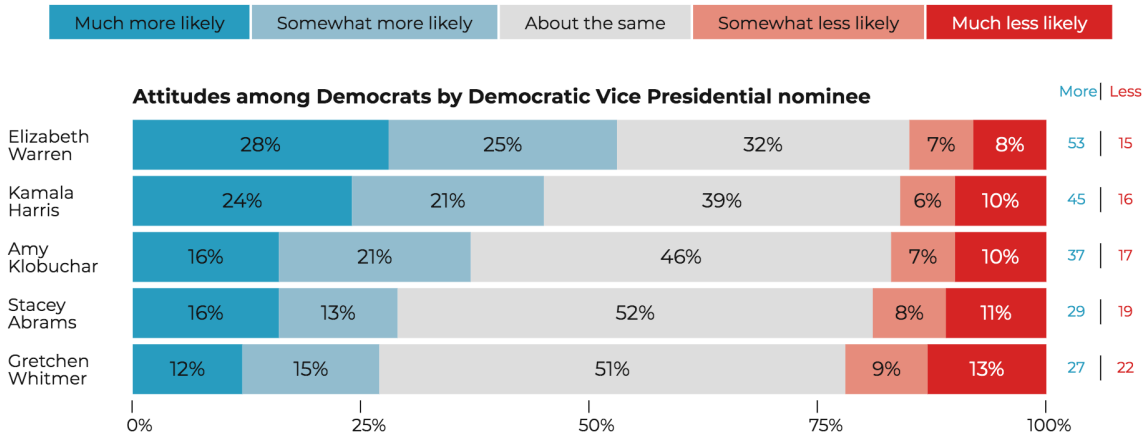
improved markedly. A Biden-Whitmer ticket came in fifth place (27 percent more likely, 22 percent less likely).

Overall, Warren has the strongest favorable numbers among Democrats among the candidates we tested (+50), though this is in part due to her also being the most well known Democrat we tested.

We also analyzed whether Warren's inclusion on the ticket would make voters under forty-five more or less likely to vote for the Democratic party this November. Voters under forty-five are excited about this prospect and with age such a dominating dividing line over the course of the Democratic party this is no small thing. A hypothetical Biden-Harris and Biden-Abrams ticket both performed well.

With Warren In The VP Slot Democrats Are More Excited About Their Party's Ticket

Would you be more or less likely to support Joe Biden for President against Republican Donald Trump if he chose the following as his Vice Presidential nominee?

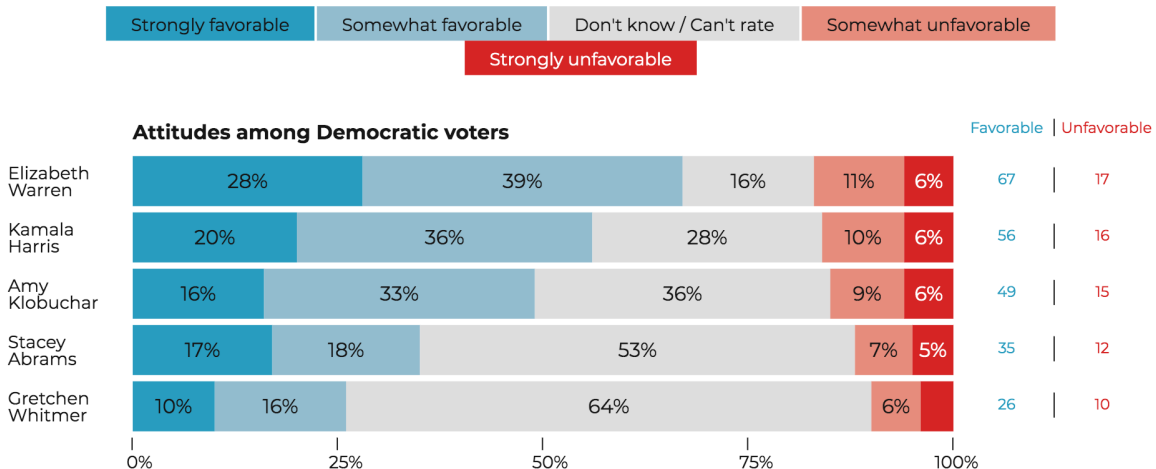


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Warren Has High Favorables Among Democrats

Now, we will present you with a list of public figures. For each, please indicate if you have a favorable or unfavorable view of them. If you have no opinion or haven't heard of the public figure, please indicate that.



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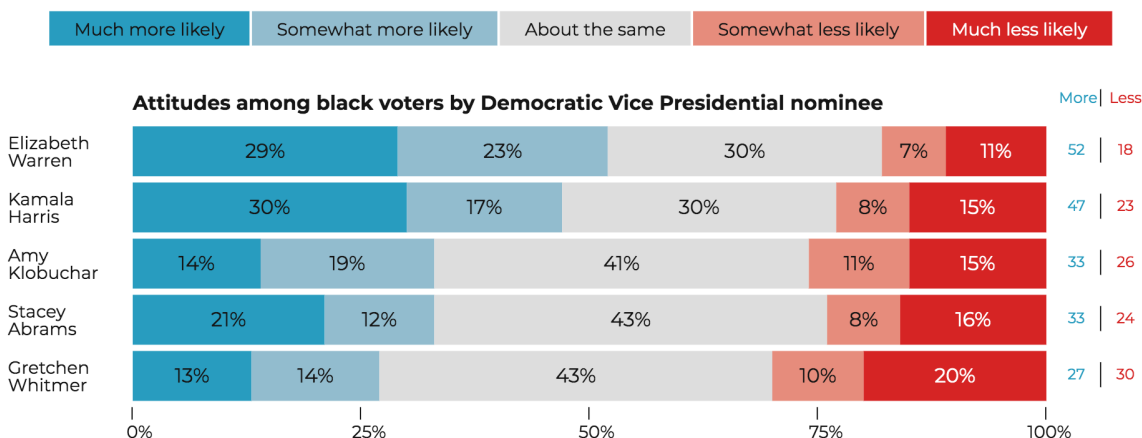
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Black voters are also excited about the idea of a Warren Vice Presidency. Harris and Abrams also perform well, with Abrams getting stronger numbers among black voters than Klobuchar

despite the fact that 50 percent of black voters don't know or haven't heard enough to rate of Abrams, compared with 45 percent for Klobuchar.

Black Voters Are Enthusiastic About A Hypothetical Biden-Warren Ticket

Would you be more or less likely to support Joe Biden for President against Republican Donald Trump if he chose the following as his Vice Presidential nominee?

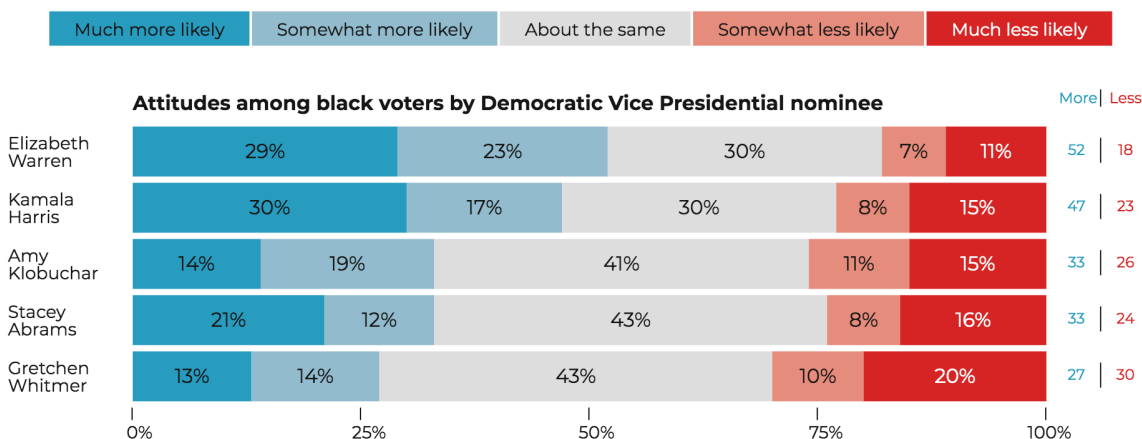


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Black Voters Are Enthusiastic About A Hypothetical Biden-Warren Ticket

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Progressive voters are also excited about the idea of a Warren vice presidency. By a 46-percentage-point margin, progressive Democrats said they'd be more likely to support Biden if Warren's name were to appear on the ticket. A Biden-Abrams ticket over-performs Abrams name identification among progressive Democrats.

Last, we looked at whether or not Biden supporters would be enthusiastic about Warren being placed in the number two slot. Harris holds a narrow edge, with 54 percent of Biden supporters saying she would make them more excited to vote for Biden and 15 percent would be less excited, compared to 53 percent more excited for Warren with 18 percent less excited.

METHODOLOGY

From 4/20/2020 to 4/21/2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1592 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, urbanicity, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ± 2.1 percent