USC PRICE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

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USC SCHWARZENEGGER INSTITUTE OF STATE AND GLOBAL POLICY

CALIFORNIA ISSUES POLL

in consultation with the California Civic Engagement Project and the USC Price Center for Social Innovation

February 2020

The USC Price-Schwarzenegger California Issues Poll was fielded by YouGov from February 1-15, 2020 in English and Spanish and is a representative sample of 1,200 likely voters in California. Questions were designed by USC Price faculty research experts. YouGov is a global public opinion and data company based in London. YouGov interviewed 1,200 likely California voters (Democrats, Republicans, and no-party-preference/other). Interviews were administered online via a panel recruited by YouGov, which used sampling and post-stratification weights so that the 1,200 person sample was representative of the likely California voter population. The survey was directed by Dr. Christian Grose, Dr. Gary Painter, Dr. Mindy Romero and Dr. Pamela Clouser McCann of the USC Price School of Public Policy. Results below may not sum to 100 due to rounding. Margin of error is +/-3.1.
Topline findings:

A. Political Reform and Upcoming Legislative Redistricting: California likely voters favor the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CCRC) and rate its process as fair. Voters support federal legislation for redistricting commissions in all 50 states.

During the Schwarzenegger administration, Governor Schwarzenegger pushed to pass the California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CCRC). It passed via ballot initiative in 2008 and 2010 and will be used for the second time in the 2022 redistricting cycle. On February 19-21, 2020, the state’s Applicant Review Panel meets publicly to finalize the applicant pool to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission from 19,000 to 120 applicants. In the poll, we randomly assigned voter respondents into a group that learned details about how the California Citizen Redistricting Commission (CCRC) members are selected and how they redraw the state’s electoral boundaries; and a group that did not learn any information about the CCRC. This randomized survey experimental methods is on the cutting edge of social science and public opinion methods.

When informed about the Applicant Review Panel and the process that the CCRC uses to draw electoral district lines, California likely voters found the process fair, were less likely to say the process will favor one party, and were more likely to say the process works well.

1. California likely voters who are informed about California’s method of redrawing election lines think the system enhances fairness and say that it works well, but those not provided information about the Commission rate the state’s redistricting method poorly. When asked “How fair is California’s method of redrawing election district lines?,” only 24.2% of California voters said the state’s redistricting methods were fair. However, when likely voters were informed about the California Citizens Redistricting Commission and its selection process, public opinion in favor of the CCRC and its process jumped dramatically. 65.1% of likely voters who learned about the CCRC process said California’s methods of drawing lines was fair. This 40 percentage-point difference in perceptions of fairness between those educated about the CCRC and those that were not informed about it suggests the state of California and the CCRC need to educate the public about the Commission’s redistricting process in order to enhance public confidence over the next several months.

These findings about fairness occur across party lines. More than 50% of Republican likely voters, more than 60% of no-party-preference (NPP) voters, and more than 70% of Democratic likely voters rate the CCRC redistricting and selection process as fair when told how the process works. Republican likely voters who are uninformed about it are particularly likely to rate the redistricting process as unfair.

Similar findings exist for other measures of support for California’s redistricting process:

2. California Likely Voters Support a Key Provision of H.R. 1 (the Voting Rights bill passed by the U.S. House in 2019 currently in the U.S. Senate). A majority of California likely voters favor a bill sponsored by Congressman Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) to require California’s Citizen Redistricting Commission process to be used in all fifty states to draw congressional district lines. When asked if they favor “a new bill in Congress” that “has proposed that an independent redistricting commission – with 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 5 independents” be used to redraw lines, more than 60% of California likely voters support this bill. Interestingly, voters told about the process of selection for the California Redistricting Commission were slightly less likely (55.6%) than voters given no information about redistricting (63.1%) to see the need for federal redistricting reform.
In sum, as California likely voters learn about the California Citizens Redistricting Commission process, they rate the process as one that is fair and they hope to see this method of redrawing lines in other states. However, they are somewhat less likely to favor federal laws requiring redistricting commissions when they learn about California’s CRC.
B. Voter Attitudes and the New Policies on Voting: The Voters’ Choice Act

1. Many California voters do not know that a new state public policy passed into law in 2016, The Voters’ Choice Act (VCA), is being implemented in 15 of the state’s counties, including LA County and Orange County, for the first time in the March 2020 primary election (or was recently implemented in 2018). When asked “Has your county changed the options for how and where you can cast your ballot in the March 2020 election?,” only 37.1% of California likely voters who live in counties implementing new vote centers as part of the VCA said it had. 28.7% of voters in these VCA counties with vote centers said their county has not changed options for how and where to vote, and 34.3% did not know the answer to the question. For most likely voters in these counties, new vote centers provide more options for voters to cast ballots, but the poll results suggest many likely voters do not know about these changes. This might lead to possible confusion for some voters as they attempt to return their ballots between now and the March 3 primary election day.

2. 17.6% of California likely voters are not confident that “all the ballots” in the state “in the March 2020 primary will be counted as voters intend.

3. 15.9% of California likely voters say they are not confident their own ballot will be counted as they intend, though more than half are confident that it will.

4. In the poll, we informed some groups of voters about the new public policy implementing vote centers and examined whether voter confidence increased or decreased. Some voters received positive messages encouraging the ease of voting under the new VCA. Messages similar to those used by some county elections offices and by voter advocacy groups changed voter confidence. When respondents learned about the new changes to voting due to the VCA, 69.8% (who heard the elections office-style message about the VCA) and 73.1% (who heard about the voter advocates’ message about the VCA) reported being confident that the ballots in California will be counted as intended. Contrast this to likely voters who heard no information about the VCA (76.1% were confident California ballots will be counted as voters intended). Depending on how voters are informed about the VCA matters, as in some instances it lowered voter confidence.
C. Policy Attitudes Toward Homelessness Differ when President Trump Takes Policy Stand. A majority of Californians support the removal of tent encampments from public spaces for people experiencing homelessness. However, if Donald Trump endorses removal of tent encampments used by people experiencing homelessness, support for removal of tents drops significantly to below 50%.

1. If Trump weighs in on homelessness policy, the popularity of the policy goes down. 51.6% of California likely voters favored removing “homeless tent encampments from public spaces.” But when asked if voters would favor “President Trump” removing “homeless tent encampments from public spaces,” then support for this policy dropped to 41.1%. Trump has previously claimed that he will have the federal government intervene in California to remove people in tents from public spaces.

2. California likely voters also are less likely to favor the removal of tents in public spaces housing people experiencing homelessness if the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) threatens to remove tents. 51.6% of California voters favored removing tents from public spaces, but this number dropped to 47.3% if voters were informed that HUD would remove tents with people experiencing homelessness.
D. California likely voters rate the state’s elected officials much better than federal elected officials; Newsom versus 2022 rivals; and presidential election matchups.

1. California likely voters rate their state legislature and governor more highly than the U.S. President.

When asked if they approve or disapprove of the following people or institutions, California likely voters give much higher marks to state elected officials than federal elected officials:

President Donald Trump: 30.4% Approve / 65.3% Disapprove
U.S. Congress: 17.2% Approve / 67.8% Disapprove
Gov. Gavin Newsom: 49.2% Approve / 35.0% Disapprove
California state legislature: 42.1% Approve / 37.8% Disapprove

2. Governor Gavin Newsom leads against a potential 2022 Republican opponent, though Newsom loses some support when going head-to-head against an independent candidate in 2022. When Newsom is paired against two hypothetical candidate matchups in November 2022, when he is up for reelection, he clears more than 50% of the vote against San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, who is a Republican. However, we also asked likely voters if they would vote for Independent Assembly member Chad Mayes over Newsom. While Newsom still wins, he drops below 50% with almost one-third of the state’s voters saying they don’t know who they would choose.

Thinking ahead to the 2022 election for governor in California, who would you vote for in the general election if these were your two choices?

55.7% Gavin Newsom (Democrat), Governor of California
30.1% Kevin Faulconer (Republican), Mayor of San Diego
13.5% Don’t know/skipped

48.0% Gavin Newsom (Democrat), Governor of California
23.4% Chad Mayes (Independent), California State Assembly member
28.6% Don’t know/skipped

3. Donald Trump is likely to lose by a very large margin in November in California. All Democratic opponents easily defeat Donald Trump in head-to-head general election matchups when all California likely voters were asked who they would support.

30.4% Donald Trump / 59.9% Joe Biden / 6.2% I would not vote / 3.6% Don’t know/skipped

31.5% Donald Trump / 59.1% Elizabeth Warren / 5.7% I would not vote / 3.7% Don’t know/skipped

31.1% Donald Trump / 61.4% Bernie Sanders / 3.8% I would not vote / 3.7% Don’t know/skipped

30.5% Donald Trump / 56.6% Mike Bloomberg / 7.3% I would not vote / 5.6% Don’t know/skipped

30.8% Donald Trump / 57.2% Pete Buttigieg / 6.4% I would not vote / 5.6% Don’t know/skipped
4. In the California primary, polling shows Sanders, Biden, and Warren ahead of the rest of the field; followed by Bloomberg and Buttigieg. However, much of this poll was fielded before the Iowa caucus results were released and before the New Hampshire primary vote.

21.4% Joe Biden  
7.7% Mike Bloomberg  
5.8% Pete Buttigieg  
1.5% Tulsi Gabbard  
2.7% Amy Klobuchar  
29.2% Bernie Sanders  
2.1% Tom Steyer  
20.2% Elizabeth Warren  
9.4% Someone else/skipped
Survey Instrument – USC Price-Schwarzenegger California Issues Poll

A. Political Reform – California and Its Upcoming Redistricting

In the Price-Schwarzenegger California Issues Poll, California likely voters were surveyed about their attitudes toward how California conducts its redistricting process. Voters were randomized into one of three groups before answering the following questions about California’s redistricting practices: Voters who learn about the CCRC redrawing lines, informed about legislators redrawing lines, or were given no new information:

One group, called the control group, received no information about how California conducts its redistricting and was simply asked questions about redistricting. The second group, called the “Voters told about California Redistricting Commission” group, received information about how the California Citizens Redistricting Commission selection process and line-drawing process works. This group was then asked the exact same questions as those respondents who received no information. A third group was given information suggesting that legislators redraw their own lines, and this group of respondents was called “Voters told legislators conduct redistricting.” Again, this group of respondents was also asked the exact same questions about redistricting and fairness. We did this in order to compare attitudes among California voters (1) informed about the California Citizens Redistricting Commission process; (2) told about legislator-drawn methods and; (3) given no information on how California draws its lines. To understand how the CCRC process influences voters, we compare voters informed about the CCRC with other voters not informed. When survey respondents are randomized into different conditions such as this, any difference in responses uncovered is likely due entirely to the information provided in the survey questions and is unlikely to be explained by other factors.

2 The “voters told about California Redistricting Commission” group were randomly assigned to receive the following information prior to answering questions about redistricting: “As you may know, congressional and state legislative lines are redrawn every 10 years. In 2021, California is required to redraw the electoral lines for its legislators. In most states, legislators choose their own voters by redrawing their own election boundaries. This means elected legislators pick their voters instead of voters choosing their legislators. In California, we use a different process. A panel of citizens are in charge of redrawing legislators’ lines. This independent panel is called the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, and thousands of California citizens have applied for the Commission this past year. The final commissioners are currently being selected. The commission is chosen by the nonpartisan Bureau of Audits in an attempt to remove politics and partisanship from the process. The citizens commission is composed of equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans, and also has commissioners from other parties or who are registered with no party preference. Once the commission of citizens from different political parties is chosen, they will choose which voters are redrawn into legislators’ election boundaries. This means the independent and nonpartisan citizens commission will redraw the lines that will be used for voters to choose their legislators.”

3 The “voters told legislators conduct redistricting” condition told voter respondents in the poll the following before they answered their questions: “As you may know, congressional and state legislative lines are redrawn every 10 years. In 2021, California is required to redraw the electoral lines for its legislators. In most states, legislators choose their own voters by redrawing their own election boundaries. This means elected legislators pick their voters instead of voters choosing their legislators.”
Below summarizes California likely voters’ responses to questions on political reform and redistricting:

Q. [1/3 of voters were randomly assigned this question] How fair is California’s method of redrawing election district lines?

24.2% Fair
43.6% Unfair
13.7% Neither fair nor unfair
18.2% Don’t know

Q. [1/3 of voters were randomly assigned to have the ongoing CCRC selection process described] How fair is California’s method of redrawing election district lines?

65.1% Fair
11.9% Unfair
8.5% Neither fair nor unfair
14.5% Don’t know

Q. [1/3 of voters were randomly assigned to be told legislators often redraw electoral district lines] How fair is California’s method of redrawing election district lines?

24.7% Fair
25.4% Unfair
11.6% Neither fair nor unfair
38.2% Don’t know
Q. How likely do you think that California’s election districts will be unfairly drawn to favor one political party?4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Likely</th>
<th>Unlikely</th>
<th>Neither likely nor unlikely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voters given no information about redistricting</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voters told about CA Redistricting Commission</td>
<td>50.8%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voters told legislators conduct redistricting</td>
<td>61.2%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q. Do you think California’s system of redrawing legislative districts works well?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voters given no information about redistricting</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
<td>43.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voters told about CA Redistricting Commission</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voters told legislators conduct redistricting</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q. A new bill in Congress has proposed that an independent redistricting commission – with 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 5 independents – be used to redraw congressional lines in all 50 states. Do you support or oppose this bill?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voters given no information about redistricting</td>
<td>63.1%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voters told about CA Redistricting Commission</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voters told legislators conduct redistricting</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td>29.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 The ‘don’t know’ option was not offered for this question.
B. Voter Attitudes and the New Policies on Voting: The Voters’ Choice Act

[Note: The next four questions display results for all likely voters in California]

Q. How confident are you that your ballot in the November 2018 election was counted as you intended?

- 39.0% Very confident
- 30.6% Somewhat confident
- 12.3% Not too confident
- 10.4% Not at all confident
- 1.9% Didn’t vote
- 5.9% Don’t know/skipped

Q. How confident are you that your ballot in the November 2016 election was counted as you intended?

- 37.9% Very confident
- 29.4% Somewhat confident
- 12.5% Not too confident
- 10.3% Not at all confident
- 3.7% Didn’t vote
- 6.2% Don’t know/skipped

Q. How confident are you that all the ballots in your state in the November 2018 general election were counted as voters intended?

- 33.1% Very confident
- 32.4% Somewhat confident
- 16.3% Not too confident
- 10.4% Not at all confident
- 7.8% Don’t know/skipped

Q. How confident are you that all the ballots in your state in the November 2016 general election were counted as voters intended?

- 31.4% Very confident
- 32.1% Somewhat confident
- 16.3% Not too confident
- 11.0% Not at all confident
- 9.3% Don’t know/skipped
[Note: The next question displays results only for likely voters California who live in a Voters’ Choice Act county]5

Q. Has your county changed the options for how and where you can cast your ballot in the March 2020 election? [Likely voters in 15 VCA Counties only]

Yes 37.1%
No 28.7%
Don’t know/skipped 34.3%

Q. Has your county changed the options for how and where you can cast your ballot in the March 2020 election? [Los Angeles County likely voters only]

Yes 37.8%
No 23.5%
Don’t know 38.7%

Q. Has your county changed the options for how and where you can cast your ballot in the March 2020 election? [Orange County likely voters only]

Yes 51.0%
No 27.4%
Don’t know 21.6%

Before the next set of survey questions, respondents were randomly assigned to read about how voting is changing in new Voters’ Choice Act counties. In the March 2020 election, in 15 California counties, including LA County and Orange County, how and where one votes is changing (or recently changed in 2018) due to this new public policy. We wanted to see if messages informing voters about these changes affected their attitudes about how they would vote and their confidence in the upcoming elections. The messages were written to be of similar length and content, other than variations required to measure each condition. This randomized survey experiment means any differences in voter opinions are due to question wordings and messages, and these types of survey experiments are state of the art in public opinion research.

**Condition 1: County Elections Office/Voting is Changing:** The first message, called “County Elections Office Administrative Message” is similar to that currently used by the California Secretary of State’s office, Los Angeles County, and other election administrators to inform voters about VCA changes and it emphasizes changes to voting, including vote centers and that the voting location may change. The purpose of this message is to inform voters about changes; and it is positively valenced. This is randomly assigned to one-quarter of respondents before answering the next questions.

**Condition 2: Voter Advocate Message/Voting is Changing:** The second message, called “Voting Advocates’ Message” was designed in conjunction with voting rights advocates. These advocates are conducting voter outreach and education on the VCA and are interested in learning how the new public policy can encourage greater civic participation. This message emphasizes the ease of voting under the VCA, and is positively valenced. This is randomly assigned to one-quarter of respondents to read before answering the next questions.

**Condition 3: Neutral Message:** The third message, called “Neutral Informational Message” is designed to inform about the VCA. It uses similar language to that initially used (before VCA implementation began) by the California Secretary of State and voter advocacy groups to explain changes to voting under the new policy, and the tone is neutrally valenced. This message is randomly assigned to one-quarter of respondents to read before answering the next questions.

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6 The full “L.A. County” message is as follows: “Voting is changing in your county. Starting in the upcoming 2020 elections, voters now have the option to cast a ballot in-person at any vote center in the county. Voter centers replace traditional polling places and provide additional modern features to make voting easy and convenient. Having a single day to vote in-person is now a thing of the past, and the location where you vote may change. Voters in your county can now vote early and have up to 10 days before Election Day, including weekends. Voters can also complete and return their ballot by mail or drop it off at a drop box or vote center.”

7 This voters’ advocate message is as follows: “Voting is changing in your county. In 2020, choose the voting option that best suits your busy schedule. You can complete and return your ballot by mail or leave it in a mailbox or voting center. Would you rather vote in person? No problem. You can still. Your polling place may have changed, but you can find a voting center near your work, home, or school. Vote at any polling place in the county starting February 22 and until Election day. You can even vote on a weekend. Don’t wait. Avoid the lines. Vote early.”

8 The neutral message is as follows: “California recently passed The Voter’s Choice Act, a law that gives counties the option of adopting a new voting system for how you vote in elections. Your county has chosen to adopt the new model. Under the model, every registered voter can either mail in their completed ballot, or return at an official ballot drop box or a newly established vote center. At vote centers, which replace traditional polling places, voters can cast their ballots in person, drop off their completed VBM ballots, as well as receive a range of services. The location where you vote may change, but vote centers are open to voters for up to ten days prior to Election Day, including weekends, and available for all voters to utilize countywide.”
Condition 4: No message/control group: A fourth group of respondents was randomly assigned to have no additional information before answering the subsequent questions.

Any differences in respondent attitudes across these four conditions is due to the messaging content in the conditions.

Below we display the results for respondents’ answers to questions across these four different groups:

Q. By what method do you plan to cast your ballot in the March 2020 election?

- Vote by mail
- Drop off vote-by-mail ballot at official dropbox
- Drop off vote-by-mail ballot at polling place or vote center
- Vote in person at polling place or vote center

Results below are only for respondents in VCA counties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Vote by mail</th>
<th>Drop off VBM ballot at official dropbox</th>
<th>Drop off VBM at polling place or vote center</th>
<th>Vote in person at polling place or vote center</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County elections office msg.</td>
<td>43.8%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter advocate msg.</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral message</td>
<td>45.2%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No information</td>
<td>49.3%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q. Is this method of voting the same way that you typically vote?

Yes / No / Don’t know

Results below are only for respondents in VCA counties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Elections Office msg.</td>
<td>81.4%</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voter advocate msg.</td>
<td>85.9%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral message</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No information</td>
<td>84.6%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 The responses “I am unlikely to vote” and “Don’t know” are not displayed. Since the poll is of likely voters, few answered that they were “unlikely to vote.”
Q. Do you think voters in your state will have problems voting in the March 2020 primary?
Yes / No / Don’t know

Results below are only for respondents in VCA counties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Elections Office msg.</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>53.0%</td>
<td>26.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter advocate msg.</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>70.5%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral message</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>67.9%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No information</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>57.7%</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q. How confident are you that your ballot in the March 2020 general election will be counted as you intend?

Results below are only for respondents in VCA counties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Confident</th>
<th>Not Confident</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Elections Office msg.</td>
<td>67.2%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter advocate msg.</td>
<td>77.0%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral message</td>
<td>75.8%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No information</td>
<td>78.1%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q. How confident are you that all the ballots in your state in the March 2020 primary will be counted as voters intend?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Confident</th>
<th>Not Confident</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Elections Office msg.</td>
<td>69.8%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter advocate msg.</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral message</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No information</td>
<td>76.1%</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Q. All things considered, how do you feel about changes to California’s voting system?\(^{10}\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Neither Pos. nor Neg.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Elections Office msg.</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter advocate msg.</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral message</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No information</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^{10}\) “Don’t know” responses not displayed.
**C. Policy Attitudes Toward Homelessness Differ when President Trump Takes Policy Stand.**

[Note: 1/3 of respondents were randomly assigned to receive this question. This random assignment means no additional factors other than question wording are likely to explain respondents’ differences across conditions].

Q. Some have proposed removing homeless tent encampments from public spaces in California. Do you support or oppose this policy idea?

- 32.2% Strongly support
- 19.4% Somewhat support
- 15.6% Neither support nor oppose
- 14.8% Somewhat oppose
- 13.2% Strongly oppose
- 4.9% Don’t know/skipped

[Note: 1/3 of respondents randomly assigned to receive this question:].

Q. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has proposed removing homeless tent encampments from public spaces in California. Do you support or oppose this policy idea?

- 29.4% Strongly support
- 17.9% Somewhat support
- 15.0% Neither support nor oppose
- 15.5% Somewhat oppose
- 16.0% Strongly oppose
- 6.3% Don’t know/skipped

[Note: 1/3 of respondents randomly assigned to receive this question:].

Q. President Donald Trump has proposed removing homeless tent encampments from public spaces in California. Do you support or oppose this policy idea?

- 27.0% Strongly support
- 14.1% Somewhat support
- 13.7% Neither support nor oppose
- 15.2% Somewhat oppose
- 25.8% Strongly oppose
- 4.2% Don’t know/skipped
D. California likely voters rate the state’s elected officials much better than federal elected officials; Newsom versus 2022 rivals; and presidential election matchups.

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Gavin Newsom is handling his job?

49.2% Approve  
35.0% Disapprove  
15.8% Don’t know/skipped

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Donald Trump is handling his job?

30.4% Approve  
65.3% Disapprove  
4.3% Don’t know/skipped

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the California state legislature is handling its job?

42.1% Approve  
37.8% Disapprove  
20.0% Don’t know/skipped

Q. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?

17.2% Approve  
67.8% Disapprove  
15.0% Don’t know/skipped

[Note: All respondents were asked the next five questions, but the question order was randomized.]

Q. If the November Presidential General Election were held today, would you vote for Donald Trump or Joe Biden?

30.4% Donald Trump  
59.9% Joe Biden  
6.2% I would not vote  
3.6% Don’t know/skipped

Q. If the November Presidential General Election were held today, would you vote for Donald Trump or Elizabeth Warren?

31.5% Donald Trump  
59.1% Elizabeth Warren  
5.7% I would not vote  
3.7% Don’t know/skipped
Q. If the November Presidential General Election were held today, would you vote for Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders?

31.1% Donald Trump  
61.4% Bernie Sanders  
3.8% I would not vote  
3.7% Don’t know/skipped

Q. If the November Presidential General Election were held today, would you vote for Donald Trump or Mike Bloomberg?

30.5% Donald Trump  
56.6% Mike Bloomberg  
7.3% I would not vote  
5.6% Don’t know/skipped

Q. If the November Presidential General Election were held today, would you vote for Donald Trump or Pete Buttigieg?

30.8% Donald Trump  
57.2% Pete Buttigieg  
6.4% I would not vote  
5.6% Don’t know/skipped

Q. Which candidate for president do you intend to vote for in the primary? [note: this question asked only of those answering yes to “Do you intend to vote in the Democratic presidential primary?” and identifies as a Democrat or registered no-party-preference; many responses to this question were fielded before NH primary and mostly before Iowa caucus results released]

21.4% Joe Biden  
7.7% Mike Bloomberg  
5.8% Pete Buttigieg  
1.5% Tulsi Gabbard  
2.7% Amy Klobuchar  
29.2% Bernie Sanders  
2.1% Tom Steyer  
20.2% Elizabeth Warren  
9.4% Someone else/skipped

Q. Thinking ahead to the 2022 election for governor in California, who would you vote for in the general election if these were your two choices?

55.7% Gavin Newsom (Democrat), Governor of California  
30.1% Kevin Faulconer (Republican), Mayor of San Diego  
13.5% Don’t know/skipped
Q. Thinking ahead to the 2022 election for governor in California, who would you vote for in the general election if these were your two choices?

48.0% Gavin Newsom (Democrat), Governor of California
23.4% Chad Mayes (Independent), California State Assembly member
28.6% Don’t know/skipped
Schwarzenegger-Price California Issues Poll Team

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Christian Grose is Academic Director of the USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy and Associate Professor of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. He served as the Director of the Political Science and International Relations Ph.D. program from 2015-18.

He is the author of more than 30 articles and chapters about American politics, public policy; and political representation; including in the *American Journal of Political Science* and the *Journal of Politics*. His book *Congress in Black and White* (Cambridge University Press) won the best book on race and politics award from the American Political Science Association. His research has been funded by the Russell Sage Foundation, the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, and the MIT Election Data Science Center. Grose directs USC’s Fair Maps and Political Reform Lab, where researchers, students, and policy practitioners work together to generate new ideas to reform American democracy. He is also an expert in political reforms and voting rights in California, including the top-two primary and the independent redistricting commission.

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Gary Painter is a Professor in the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California. He also serves as the Director of the Sol Price Center for Social Innovation and the Homelessness Policy Research Institute. He recently published a co-authored book entitled, “Payment by Results and Social Impact Bonds: Outcome-based Payment Systems in the UK and US.” He has published numerous articles in top journals such as the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Urban Studies*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Real Estate Economics*, *Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics*, and *Regional Science and Urban Economics*.

Professor Painter is a leading figure in the field of social innovation. In addition to his recent book, he works extensively with a variety of social innovation organizations and collective impact networks to address some of the grand challenges that society faces. His current research focuses on how to activate the social innovation process. Professor Painter also has extensive expertise in housing, urban economics, and education policy, which shapes his research on how the social innovation process can identify new models of social change within these complex policy areas.

He has served as a consultant for the National Association of Realtors, Pacific Economics Group, Andrew Davidson Co., Fannie Mae, Grant Thorton LLP, Burr Consulting, and the Research Institute for Housing America.
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Mindy Romero is a Research Assistant Professor and the founder and director of the California Civic Engagement Project (CCEP) at the University of Southern California’s Sol Price School of Public Policy in Sacramento. Romero is a political sociologist and holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Davis. Her research focuses on political behavior and race/ethnicity, and seeks to explain patterns of voting and political underrepresentation, particularly among youth and communities of color in California and the U.S.

Romero has been invited to speak about civic engagement and political rights in numerous venues, testifying before the National Commission on Voting Rights and the California Legislature, among others. Her research has been cited in major news outlets, including The New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Sacramento Bee, Politico and the Huffington Post. She has also been a frequent guest on National Public Radio, Capital Public Radio, and several other NPR-affiliated stations in California. She is a regular op-ed contributor to the Sacramento Bee.

Romero works with a wide array of policymakers, elected officials, voter education groups and community advocates to strengthen political participation and representation. She is currently a member of the Public Policy Institute Statewide Survey Advisory Committee, President of the Board of California Common Cause, and former Vice-Chair of the Social Services Commission for the City of Davis.

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Pamela McCann, Ph.D., is an associate professor at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. Dr. McCann previously served as an assistant professor of public affairs at the University of Washington.

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Dr. McCann received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, where she received the Gerald R. Ford Fellowship (2010-2011) and the Rackham Pre-Doctoral Fellowship (2009-2010). She also earned the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (2008-2009; 2004-2005), and named National Science Foundation IDEAS IGERT fellow (2006-2008).