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**CALIFORNIA ISSUES POLL  
(SPORTS DATA)**

**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:****Californians' Attitudes about Sports Policies and Fairness****1. California likely voters want to penalize the Houston Astros by removing their World Series title.**

Major League Baseball (MLB) confirmed recently that the Houston Astros broke the rules in the 2017 season, which is when the Astros defeated the L.A. Dodgers in the World series. Over the last week and after the USC Price-Schwarzenegger California Issues Poll was fielded, Los Angeles Dodgers players such as Cody Bellinger have spoken out publicly with forceful criticism of the Astros team. Given that the MLB confirmed that the Astros broke league rules, we asked California likely voters "Should the Houston Astros be stripped of their 2017 World Series title?"

A majority of California likely voters (51.9%) favor taking the World Series title away from the Houston Astros, and only 19.4% are opposed. Support for taking the title away is strongest in Los Angeles County (65.4% support, 15.4% oppose, 19.3% don't know) and in southern California (57.6% support, 16.5% oppose, and 25.9% don't know).<sup>1</sup> Outside of southern California, more support (44.9%) than oppose (22.8%) stripping the Astros of the World Series title, but this is lower than in southern California.

There is bipartisan support for taking the series title from the Astros, though Democrats (58.4% yes; 14.5% no) favor this position at greater rates than Republicans (42.9% yes; 23.4% no) and independents (49.6% yes; 20.1% no).

**2. California likely voters strongly support the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team's lawsuit in their quest for equal pay.**

In May 2020, in a federal court in California, the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team will face its employer, U.S. Soccer, over a pay discrimination lawsuit. Just days ago, the union for the U.S. men's soccer team endorsed paying the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team more. We asked California voters if they "support or oppose the U.S. women's soccer team" in their quest for equal pay in this lawsuit. 71.4% of California likely voters support the women's soccer team, and only 10.9% oppose. A large majority of men (65.6% support/15.9% oppose) and women (75.4% support/7.3% oppose) support the U.S. women's soccer team, though more women than men supported the team's quest for equal pay. Democrats (88.3% support/2.8% oppose), Republicans (41.9% support/26.2% oppose), and independents (67.3 support/10.8% oppose) were all more likely to support the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team lawsuit for equal pay than oppose.

**3. More California likely voters favor than oppose a November ballot proposition to legalize sports wagering in licensed gambling establishments.**

In November, California likely voters will cast a ballot on legalizing sports gambling in the state. Right now, 40.9% of California voters favor allowing gambling establishments to conduct on-site wagering on sports and 21.7% of California voters oppose. However, a significant percentage of California likely voters neither support nor oppose this ballot initiative (37.5%), suggesting there are many undecided and persuadable voters that will be key to determining the outcome of this ballot proposition in November. This ballot proposition has pitted Native American-backed casinos against California card rooms.

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<sup>1</sup> Southern California is defined as those voters living in Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties.

**Survey Instrument – USC Price-Schwarzenegger California Issues Poll****Californians’ Attitudes about Sports Policies and Fairness**

Q. As you may have heard, Major League Baseball recently confirmed that the Houston Astros broke leagues rules by engaging in sign stealing during the 2017 season. Should the Houston Astros be stripped of their 2017 World Series title?

51.9% Yes  
19.4% No  
28.8% Don’t know/skipped

Q. As you may know, the U.S. Women’s National Team will face its employer, U.S. Soccer, in federal court over pay discrimination in May 2020. Do you support or oppose the U.S. women’s soccer team in their quest for equal pay?

55.7% Support strongly  
15.7% Support somewhat  
17.2% Neither support nor oppose  
4.6% Oppose somewhat  
6.3% Oppose strongly  
0.6% Don’t know/skipped

Q. Please say whether you agree or disagree with this statement: When it comes to pay negotiations, men and women are treated differently:

41.9% Agree strongly  
30.4% Agree somewhat  
13.7% Neither agree nor disagree  
8.3% Disagree somewhat  
5.7% Disagree strongly  
0.0% Don’t know/skipped

Q. In November, California voters may consider a ballot initiative to legalize wagering on sports in licensed gambling establishments, such as tribal lands.

Do you support or oppose allowing licensed gambling establishments to conduct on-site wagering on sports?

18.4% Support strongly  
22.5% Support somewhat  
37.5% Neither support nor oppose  
9.6% Oppose somewhat  
12.1% Oppose strongly

## 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 Thornton 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.

Her research interests include U.S. political institutions, bureaucratic delegation, federalism, intergovernmental politics, legislative behavior, public policy, health policy, policy diffusion, state and local politics. She examines the influence of the states and state-level political institutions on national political maneuvering and policy choices. In particular, Dr. McCann focuses on the influence of policy actors' intergovernmental context on legislative choices. Her recent work addresses the impact of the interaction of state and national political institutions on political choices and policy outcomes.

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).