

# USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times California Poll

TOPLINE RESULTS (UAS 132)

Release Date: Friday May 25, 2018 ALL TABS

## SURVEY METHODS

This USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times Poll is the result of a collaboration between researchers in the *Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics* and in the *Center for Economic and Social Research* in the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern California, in partnership with the Los Angeles Times.

The poll's sample of 835 adult residents of California are members of the Center for Economic and Social Research's Understanding America Study (UAS) probability-based California internet panel. The poll was conducted online April 18-May 18, 2018 in English or Spanish and included 691 registered voters and 517 likely primary voters. Its overall margin of sampling error<sup>†</sup> is +/- 4 percentage points for registered voters and for likely voters.

**Survey information:** Full question text and context language are included in this release. The order of response options, and in some cases, order of questions were rotated to reduce order effects. Respondents participated via computer, mobile device or tablet, at any time of day or night during the field period. The data set and paradata will be available, after a short embargo, at [UASdata.usc.edu](http://UASdata.usc.edu).

**Survey Weights:** A total of 1170 panel members were invited to participate in this survey, so the participation rate, including partial completes, was 73%. We calculate weights in two stages: (1) base weights account for the probabilities of selection in our sampling procedures, and (2) post-stratification weights align survey distributions to CPS benchmarks. Weighting benchmarks were derived from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

<sup>†</sup>**Survey Error:** Factors other than sampling error may affect results of any survey, including question wording, question order, sample type (e.g. opt-in panels vs. probability panels such as UAS), population coverage, and impact of current events. In addition, results of questions asked without an interviewer (e.g. in an internet panel) may differ somewhat from similar questions asked by an interviewer over the phone.

This document provides an overview of survey-specific methods and information. For weighting details; panel sampling procedures; recruitment protocols, survey and recruitment response rates; panel attrition rates; panel management protocols; and microdata files (including nonresponse and paradata), please visit our website at [UASdata.usc.edu](http://UASdata.usc.edu).

**Panel Information:** The UAS is an ongoing national research panel that started in 2014. We recruit panel members in waves from Marketing Systems Group frames of all household addresses in the United States. To ensure full coverage of the U.S. population, we provide internet-connected tablets to individuals who were not already online. Our panel thus includes U.S. residents who have cell phones, landlines, or no phone at all. Panel members are compensated for their participation.

This document and the archive of results of prior Dornsife/LAT polls are available at [bit.ly/USCpolldata](http://bit.ly/USCpolldata).

For questions about the survey, contact UAS Survey Director Jill E. Darling ([jilldarl@usc.edu](mailto:jilldarl@usc.edu)) or Unruh Director Robert M. Shrum ([shrum@usc.edu](mailto:shrum@usc.edu)). Additional contact information is on the last page of this report.

The USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research is a proud member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research's Transparency Initiative.

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Brackets indicate rotated text and matching answer values. Randomization was at the respondent level, to provide consistency throughout the questionnaire. “-” indicates that the proportion is less than one percent

*This survey asks about current events, state issues, and the 2018 election in California.*

**Q1. Generally speaking, do you think that things in California are:**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Going in the right direction	51	53	51
Off on the wrong track	49	47	49

**Q2. Do you [disapprove] or [approve] of the job being done by Donald Trump as president of the United States?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Disapprove strongly	54	58	59
Disapprove somewhat	15	12	10
Approve somewhat	16	15	14
Approve strongly	13	12	15
Neither approve nor disapprove	3	2	2
Disapprove strongly/somewhat	69	70	69
Approve strongly/somewhat	28	27	29

**Q3. Do you [disapprove] or [approve] of the job being done by Jerry Brown as governor of California?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Disapprove strongly	24	24	27
Disapprove somewhat	16	14	13
Approve somewhat	31	28	26
Approve strongly	17	22	23
Neither approve nor disapprove	12	11	12
Disapprove strongly/somewhat	40	38	40
Approve strongly/somewhat	48	50	49

*As you may know, California’s primary for governor will be held on June 5.*

**Q4. How closely, if at all, are you following news about the candidates for governor in 2018?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Extremely closely	5	5	6
Very closely	14	17	20
Somewhat closely	33	38	37
Not very closely	33	30	28
Not at all closely	16	10	9
Extremely/Very Closely	51	60	63
Not very/Not at all Closely	49	40	37

**Q5. Have you watched or listened to any debates among the candidates running for governor?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Yes	13	16	17
No	87	84	83

**Q6. California has had different types of primary systems in the past. If you had to choose, which of the three following types of primaries would you prefer to have in California?**

*Please read about each type of primary system, then click to choose the system you prefer*

	Registered voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
<p><b>Top-Two primary system:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All candidates, regardless of which party they are from, run against each other in the same primary</li> <li>Registered voters can vote for any candidate.</li> <li>The two candidates with the most votes face each other in the general election</li> <li>Candidates in the general election could both be from the same party</li> </ul>	50	50	49
<p><b>Closed primary system:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each major party holds its own primary</li> <li>Only voters registered as members of the party can vote in its primary</li> <li>Independent or non-party voters <b>CANNOT</b> vote in the Democratic or Republican primaries</li> <li>The winners of each party's primary face each other in the general election</li> <li>Candidates in the general election are from different parties</li> </ul>	10	10	12
<p><b>Mixed primary system:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each major party holds its own primary election</li> <li>Independent or non-party voters <b>CAN vote</b> in the Democratic or Republican primaries, along with voters registered as members of the party holding the primary</li> <li>The winners of each party's primary face each other in the general election</li> <li>Candidates in the general election are from different parties</li> </ul>	40	40	39

In California’s current top-two primary system, registered voters can cast their vote for any candidate from any political party. The two candidates who receive the most votes in the primary, regardless of their political parties, will run against each other in the general election in November.

Asked of U.S. citizens

**Q7. What is the percentage chance that you will vote in the June 5 primary election for California governor?**

Averages:

- 71% among California residents
- 79% among registered voters
- 96% among high turnout voters
- 100% among low turnout of voters

**Q8. If the June 5 primary election to select the top candidates for California governor were held today, and these were the candidates, which candidate would you vote for?**

List created from name and ballot designations from certified ballot list. Candidate order randomized

		Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
<b>Gavin Newsom</b> Lieutenant Governor/Businessman	Party preference: Democratic	18	21	20
<b>Antonio Villaraigosa</b> Public Policy Advisor	Party preference: Democratic	11	11	10
<b>John H. Cox</b> Businessman/Taxpayer Advocate	Party preference: Republican	9	10	13
<b>Travis Allen</b> California Assemblyman/Businessman	Party preference: Republican	4	5	6
<b>John Chiang</b> California State Treasurer	Party preference: Democratic	5	6	5
<b>Delaine Eastin</b> Educator/Youth Advocate	Party preference: Democratic	2	3	1
<b>Akinyemi Agbede</b> Mathematician	Party preference: Democratic	1	1	-
<b>J. Bribiesca</b> Retired Medical Doctor	Party preference: Democratic	-	-	-
<b>Thomas Jefferson Cares</b> Blockchain Startup CEO	Party preference: Democratic	1	-	-
<b>Robert Davidson Griffis</b> Entrepreneur/Economist/Father	Party preference: Democratic	1	1	1
<b>Albert Caesar Mezzetti</b> Retired Educator	Party preference: Democratic	-	-	-
<b>Amanda Renteria</b> COO, Justice Department	Party preference: Democratic	3	1	1
<b>Michael Shellenberger</b> Environmental Organization Executive	Party preference: Democratic	1	-	-

<b>Klement Tinaj</b> CEO/Educator/Artist	Party preference: Democratic	-	-	-
<b>Christopher N. Carlson</b> Puppeteer/Musician	Party preference: Green	-	-	-
<b>Josh Jones</b> Author	Party preference: Green	-	-	-
<b>Zoltan Istvan</b> Entrepreneur/Transhumanist Lecturer	Party preference: Libertarian	-	-	-
<b>Nickolas Wildstar</b> Recording Artist	Party preference: Libertarian	-	-	-
<b>Yvonne Girard</b> Judicial Assistant	Party preference: Republican	-	-	-
<b>Peter Y. Liu</b> No Ballot Designation	Party preference: Republican	1	-	-
<b>Robert C. Newman II</b> Research Clinical Psychologist	Party preference: Republican	1	-	-
<b>Shubham Goel</b> Virtual Reality Manager	Party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Hakan "Hawk" Mikado</b> CEO/Business Owner	Party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Desmond Silveira</b> Senior Software Engineer	Party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Jeffrey Edward Taylor</b> Marketplace Minister	Party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Johnny Wattenburg</b> Business Owner	Party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Gloria Estela La Riva</b> Graphic Artist	Party preference: Peace and Freedom	1	1	2
<b>Other candidate</b> (please write in)		0	0	0
<b>I have not decided how to vote</b>		38	39	40
<b>I will not vote in the election for California governor</b>		3		

Asked of U.S. citizens

**Q9. If no candidate from your preferred party is selected to be on the ballot in November’s election for governor, which of the following are you more likely to do?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Vote for one of the candidates who is on the ballot	79	86	87
Decline to cast a vote in the governor’s race	21	14	13

*The next questions are about the general election in November of this year. In addition choosing a new governor, voters will also choose between candidates running to represent California in the U.S. Senate.*

**Q10. How closely, if at all, are you following news about the candidates running for United States senator for California?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Extremely closely	3	3	4
Very closely	10	12	13
Somewhat closely	34	38	37
Not very closely	36	34	34
Not at all closely	17	12	12
Extremely/Very Closely	47	53	54
Not very/Not at all Closely	53	47	46

**Q11. If the election for United States senator for California were held today and these were the candidates, which candidate would you vote for?**

List created from name and ballot designations from certified ballot list. Candidate order randomized

		Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
<b>Dianne Feinstein</b> United States Senator	party preference: Democratic	26	31	32
<b>Kevin de León</b> California Senator	party preference: Democratic	5	7	7
<b>Adrienne Nicole Edwards</b> Community Advocate	party preference: Democratic	1	-	-
<b>Pat Harris</b> Civil Rights Attorney	party preference: Democratic	2	2	3
<b>Alison Hartson</b> National Political Director	party preference: Democratic	1	1	-
<b>David Hildebrand</b> Policy Analyst	party preference: Democratic	-	-	-
<b>Herbert G. Peters</b> Retired Aerospace Engineer	party preference: Democratic	-	1	-
<b>Douglas Howard Pierce</b> Missing Children's Advocate	party preference: Democratic	1	1	1
<b>Gerald Plummer</b> Construction Project Manager	party preference: Democratic	-	-	-
<b>Donnie O. Turner</b> Retired USAF Sergeant	party preference: Democratic	1	1	1

<b>Derrick Michael Reid</b> Retired Attorney	party preference: Libertarian	-	1	1
<b>John Thompson Parker</b> No Ballot Designation	party preference: Peace and Freedom	1	1	2
<b>Arun K. Bhumitra</b> Teacher/Engineer/Businessman	party preference: Republican	2	1	1
<b>James P. Bradley</b> Chief Financial Officer	party preference: Republican	3	3	3
<b>John "Jack" Crew</b> Bus Driver	party preference: Republican	-	-	-
<b>Erin Cruz</b> Published Author	party preference: Republican	1	1	-
<b>Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente</b> Businessman/Land Developer	party preference: Republican	-	-	-
<b>Jerry Joseph Laws</b> No Ballot Designation	party preference: Republican	-	-	1
<b>Patrick Little</b> Civil Rights Advocate	party preference: Republican	1	2	2
<b>Kevin Mottus</b> Wireless Safety Advocate	party preference: Republican	-	-	-
<b>Mario Nabliba</b> Scientist	party preference: Republican	1	1	-
<b>Tom Palzer</b> Retired Urban Planner	party preference: Republican	1	-	-
<b>Paul A. Taylor</b> Small Business Owner	party preference: Republican	1	1	1
<b>Colleen Shea Fernald</b> Constitutional Solutions Advocate	party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Rash Bihari Ghosh</b> Water Scientist/Professor	party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Tim Gildersleeve</b> Paratransit Operator	party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Michael Fahmy Girgis</b> Real Estate Broker	party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Don J. Grundmann</b> Doctor of Chiropractic	party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Jason M. Hanania</b> Attorney/Engineer	party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>David Moore</b> Special Education Teacher	party preference: None	1	1	1
<b>Lee Olson</b> Aerospace Systems Engineer	party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Ling Ling Shi</b> Author	party preference: None	-	-	-
<b>Other candidate</b> (please write in)		-	-	-
<b>I have not decided how to vote</b>		41	40	43
<b>I will not vote in the election for U.S. Senate</b>		5		

Several Californians may consider running for president in 2020. For each potential candidate, please indicate whether you would support or oppose the person deciding to run for president, given what you know now. If you haven't heard of the individual, you can indicate that too.

Question order rotated for Q12-Q14

**Q12. Would you [disapprove] or [approve] if U.S. Senator Kamala Harris decided to run for president in 2020?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Strongly disapprove	16	17	20
Somewhat disapprove	5	5	5
Somewhat approve	24	25	21
Strongly approve	18	20	22
Neither approve nor disapprove	12	12	12
Haven't heard enough about her to say	26	22	21
Disapprove strongly/somewhat	21	22	25
Approve strongly/somewhat	42	45	43

**Q13. Would you [disapprove] or [approve] if Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti decided to run for president in 2020?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Strongly disapprove	13	15	15
Somewhat disapprove	8	9	11
Somewhat approve	22	22	22
Strongly approve	10	9	9
Neither approve nor disapprove	17	15	15
Haven't heard enough about him to say	30	29	28
Disapprove strongly/somewhat	21	25	26
Approve strongly/somewhat	32	31	31

**Q14. Would you [disapprove] or [approve] if businessman Tom Steyer decided to run for president in 2020?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Strongly disapprove	10	10	12
Somewhat disapprove	7	9	8
Somewhat approve	13	12	12
Strongly approve	4	5	4
Neither approve nor disapprove	18	18	19
Haven't heard enough about him to say	48	46	44
Disapprove strongly/somewhat	17	19	21
Approve strongly/somewhat	17	17	16

We are also interested in what Californians think about a variety of issues facing the state.

Q15. Question not included

Q16. **Would you [oppose] or [support] amending Proposition 13 to tax commercial and bigger business properties based on their actual market value? The limits on property taxes for homeowners and small business would not change.**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Strongly oppose	12	15	17
Somewhat oppose	7	8	7
Somewhat support	32	30	26
Strongly support	22	25	26
Neither support nor oppose	8	5	6
Haven't heard enough to say	20	17	19
Strongly/Somewhat Oppose	18	23	24
Strongly/Somewhat Support	54	55	51

Q17. **Generally speaking, do you [disapprove] or [approve] of the Affordable Care Act (also known as *Obamacare*), which has been enacted in California under the name of *Covered California*?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Strongly disapprove	21	22	25
Somewhat disapprove	9	8	8
Somewhat approve	25	26	21
Strongly approve	35	38	39
Neither approve nor disapprove	6	5	5
Haven't heard enough about it to say	3	1	1
Strongly/Somewhat Disapprove	30	29	34
Strongly/Somewhat Approve	60	64	60

Q18. **If your member of Congress voted to end the Affordable Care Act, how would it affect your likelihood of supporting him/her for reelection, if at all? Would you be...?**

<i>Rotate order of answer values</i>	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Much more likely to support him/her for reelection	13	15	15
Somewhat more likely to support him/her for reelection	15	11	13
Somewhat less likely to support him/her for reelection	17	16	16
Much less likely to support him/her for reelection	37	42	42
It wouldn't affect my vote either way	18	17	14
Strongly/Somewhat more likely	28	26	27
Strongly/Somewhat less likely	54	57	59

**Q19. From what you know now, do you [oppose] or [support] creating a single-payer health care system in California?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Strongly oppose	12	12	13
Somewhat oppose	8	9	10
Somewhat support	21	21	20
Strongly support	17	20	19
Neither support nor oppose	7	5	5
Haven't heard enough to say	35	33	33
Strongly/Somewhat oppose	20	21	23
Strongly/Somewhat support	38	41	39

**Q20. As you may know, a single-payer healthcare system in California [would be supported by increased state taxes] and [could eliminate out-of-pocket healthcare costs]. Based on what you know at this time, if a candidate running for California governor supported a single-payer healthcare system in California, how would it affect your vote for that candidate, if at all? Would you be...?**

<a href="#">Rotate order of answer values</a>	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Much more likely to vote for the candidate	22	24	22
Somewhat more likely to vote for the candidate	26	25	25
Somewhat less likely to vote for the candidate	12	13	16
Much less likely to vote for the candidate	17	18	16
It wouldn't affect my vote either way	17	19	20
I wouldn't vote	5	1	1
Strongly/Somewhat more likely	48	49	47
Strongly/Somewhat less likely	29	31	32

**Q21. The state Legislature approved and Gov. Jerry Brown signed a law to repair California’s roads and bridges over the next 10 years. To pay for the repairs, in January this year, gas taxes rose by 12 cents per gallon for gasoline and 20 cents for diesel. Vehicle registration fees also increased. If you could vote today to [keep] or [repeal] this law, how would you vote?**

<a href="#">Rotate order of answer values</a>	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Keep the law	38	38	37
Repeal the law	51	52	54
Haven’t heard enough to say	9	9	9
I wouldn’t vote	2	1	0

*We are also interested in what Californians think about the new national tax bill that was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump in December.*

**Q22. Generally speaking, do you [oppose] or [support] the new tax bill that was passed by Congress and signed by President Trump last December?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Strongly oppose	37	42	42
Somewhat oppose	10	10	10
Somewhat support	16	14	11
Strongly support	12	12	16
Neither support nor oppose	9	7	7
Haven’t heard enough to say	17	16	15
Strongly/Somewhat oppose	47	52	52
Strongly/Somewhat support	27	26	26

**Q23. If your member of Congress voted in favor of the new tax bill that was passed by Congress and signed by President Trump, would it affect your likelihood of voting to reelect him/her? If so, would you be...?**

<a href="#">Rotate order of answer values</a>	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Much more likely to support him/her for reelection	9	8	10
Somewhat more likely to support him/her for reelection	12	12	10
Somewhat less likely to support him/her for reelection	15	16	15
Much less likely to support him/her for reelection	37	40	41
It wouldn’t affect my vote either way	27	24	23
Strongly/somewhat more likely	21	20	21
Strongly/somewhat less likely	52	56	56

**Q24. As you may know, the new tax bill passed by Congress and signed by President Trump caps deductions for state income taxes and local property taxes, and instead increases the standard federal deduction. From what you know now, if your member of Congress voted in favor of the tax plan, would it affect your likelihood of voting to reelect him/her? If so, would you be...?**

<a href="#">Rotate order of answer values</a>	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Much more likely to support him/her for reelection	8	8	10

Somewhat more likely to support him/her for reelection	15	12	11
Somewhat less likely to support him/her for reelection	17	17	15
Much less likely to support him/her for reelection	35	40	40
It wouldn't affect my vote either way	26	23	24
Strongly/somewhat more likely	22	20	21
Strongly/somewhat less likely	52	56	55

*California's high-speed rail project was approved by voters in 2008. It was intended to provide a fast means of transporting passengers to and from Los Angeles, California's Central Valley, and San Francisco.*

**Q25. In general, do you [oppose] or [support] California's project to build a high-speed rail system connecting Los Angeles, the Central Valley, and San Francisco?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Strongly support	18	20	17
Somewhat support	30	29	28
Somewhat oppose	15	14	15
Strongly oppose	28	30	32
Don't know	9	8	8
Strongly/somewhat Support	49	48	45
Strongly/somewhat Oppose	43	44	47

**Q26. The latest estimates for California's high-speed rail project are that it will cost up to \$77 billion dollars and will be finished in 2033. This estimate is nearly twice as much as the original estimated cost. Given these new estimates, do you think that California should [continue building the high-speed rail project], or [stop building the high-speed rail project]?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Continue building the high-speed rail project	31	32	30
Stop building the high-speed rail project	49	49	49
Don't know	19	20	21

The last few questions are about voting in California

**Q27. California has a new law that will allow counties to move away from using polling places and toward voting by mail. Counties can mail every voter a ballot, eliminate neighborhood polling places, and offer in-person election services at locations called “vote centers.” Some counties are doing this in 2018, but most counties won’t start the change until 2020. Do you [support] or [oppose] the idea of moving away from polling places and toward voting by mail?**

	Registered Voters	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
Strongly support	29	30	33
Somewhat support	27	26	26
Somewhat oppose	11	12	8
Strongly oppose	12	12	11
Neither support nor oppose	12	10	10
Haven’t heard enough to say	10	11	12
Strongly/somewhat support	55	56	60
Strongly/somewhat oppose	22	23	19

Some of these last few questions you may have answered before... we just want to make sure we have the most up to date information.

Asked of U.S. citizens (N=740)

**Q28. Are you currently registered to vote in California at the address where you now live?**

	All Eligible Voters
Yes	83
No	11
Not sure	1

Asked of registered voters (N=670)

**Q29. In which party, if any, are you currently registered to vote?**

	All registered	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout	CA Secretary of State 60-day Statement of registration
Democratic Party	53	55	52	53
Republican Party	26	27	30	26
Registered, but not in any party (independent) or other parties	21	19	18	17

Asked of registered voters

**Q30. If you vote in the primary election for California governor on June 5, how will you cast your vote?**

	All Registered	Higher Turnout	Lower Turnout
I will cast my vote by mail, or will drop off a vote-by-mail ballot at my precinct or other location	59	61	63
I will cast my vote in person	39	39	37
I don't plan to vote	2		

***This survey was conducted by the***  
**University of Southern California**  
**Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences**  
**in partnership with the Los Angeles Times**

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**Survey topline and crosstabs available from**  
**USC Dornsife / LA Times Poll archives**  
[bit.ly/USCpolldata](https://bit.ly/USCpolldata)

Survey microdata will be available for download  
by registered users of the Understanding America Study, after a brief embargo.  
Register and access data files: <https://uasdata.usc.edu>