

# USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times National Poll

**TOPLINE RESULTS (UAS 155) – National Tracking Polls October 14-20, 2018**  
**Release Date: Monday October 22 (Tracking Poll #1)**

## SURVEY METHODS

This USC Dornsife / Los Angeles Times Poll is the result of a collaboration between researchers in the *Center for the Political Future* and 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.

Midterm tracking poll respondents are adult residents of the United States; members of the Center for Economic and Social Research's Understanding America Study (UAS) probability-based internet panel. A total of 4,711 consented to participate in a series of three tracking polls prior to the midterm elections. The polls were conducted in the respondents' choice of English or Spanish. Margins of sampling error<sup>†</sup> are +/- 2 percentage points for all respondents, and for likely voters. Sampling error estimates for reported subgroups are provided in the accompanying crosstab report.

Tracking poll field dates	N – All adults	Likely Voters	Participation Rate
October 14-20, 2018	3980	2,284	86%
October 21-27, 2018	tbd	tbd	tbd
Oct 28- Nov 3, 2018	tbd	tbd	tbd

**Survey information:** Full question text and context language for questions are included in this release. We rotated the order of response options, and in some cases, order of questions 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 to registered users at [UASdata.usc.edu](http://UASdata.usc.edu) on November 8, 2018.

**Survey Weights:** Each tracking poll is weighted individually. 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 and primary election outcome. 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. Sampling error calculations are at the 98% confidence level.

**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 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).

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 CESR Survey Director Jill E. Darling ([jilldarl@usc.edu](mailto:jilldarl@usc.edu)) or CFPF Director Robert M. Shrum ([nsmall@usc.edu](mailto:nsmall@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 randomized text and matching answer values. Randomization was at the respondent level, to provide consistency throughout the questionnaire. “-” indicates that the estimate is less than one percent. Unless otherwise indicated, tables are weighted column percentages.

## Tracking Poll Questions

*Thinking now about the election in November to elect members of the U.S. House of Representatives, governors, and other state and local officials.*

**What is the percent chance that you will vote in the 2018 election for the U.S. House of Representatives?**

(weighted averages)	Eligible voters	Voting for Democrats in the Congressional Election	Voting for Republicans in the Congressional Election
May 2018	67.7	82.9	82.5
September 24, 2018	69.7	85.7	85.5
<b>October 20, 2018 (Tracking poll week 1)</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>88.6</b>
October 27, 2018 (Tracking poll week 2)	TBD	TBD	TBD
November 03, 2018 (Tracking poll week 3)	TBD	TBD	TBD

**If you do vote in the election for the U.S. House of Representatives, what is the percent chance that you will vote for the Republican candidate? For the Democratic candidate? For another party’s candidate?**

Weighted Ratios	Democrat	Republican	Other candidate
September 24, 2018	51	40	9
<b>October 20, 2018</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>5</b>
October 27, 2018	TBD	TBD	TBD
November 03, 2018	TBD	TBD	TBD

**If the 2018 election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, which party’s candidate would you vote for in your district? (order of party candidates randomized)**

Among likely voters – Vote without Lean	Sept 24	Oct 20	Oct 27	Nov 03
Democratic candidate	50	52	TBD	TBD
Republican candidate	36	38	TBD	TBD
Another party’s candidate	1	2	TBD	TBD
Not sure	13	9	TBD	TBD
Wouldn’t vote	-	-	TBD	TBD

Asked if not sure of candidate vote

**As of now, do you lean more toward voting for a [Democratic candidate] or a [Republican candidate] or another party's candidate in your district?**

<i>Among Undecided - Leaners only</i>	<b>Sept 24 2-18</b>	<b>Oct 20 2018</b>	<b>Oct 27 2018</b>	<b>Nov 0 2018</b>
Lean Democratic candidate	37	44	TBD	TBD
Lean Republican candidate	28	40	TBD	TBD
Lean another party's candidate	35	16	TBD	TBD

**Trend: Combined Vote/Lean**

<i>Among likely voters</i>	<b>January 2018</b>	<b>June 2018</b>	<b>August 2018</b>	<b>Sept 2018</b>	<b>Oct 20 2018</b>	<b>Oct 27 2018</b>	<b>Nov 03 2018</b>
Vote or Lean Democrat	51	53	52	55	55	TBD	TBD
Vote or Lean Republican	40	41	42	41	42	TBD	TBD
Vote or Lean Other	9	6	6	5	3	TBD	TBD
Vote spread (Dem-Rep)	11	12	10	14	13	TBD	TBD

**Have you been following the news about the November election? If so, how closely?**

<i>Among likely voters</i>	<b>Oct 20, 2018</b>	<b>Oct 27, 2018</b>	<b>Nov 03, 2018</b>
Have not been following	6	TBD	TBD
Following, not very closely	22	TBD	TBD
Following somewhat closely	38	TBD	TBD
Following very closely	24	TBD	TBD
Following extremely closely	11	TBD	TBD
		TBD	TBD
Not following	6	TBD	TBD
Not very/Somewhat closely	59	TBD	TBD
Very/Extremely closely	35	TBD	TBD

**Thinking about your vote for Congress in November, if you do vote in the election, which of the following comes closest to representing your view?**

<i>Among likely voters</i>	<b>Sep 2018</b>	<b>Oct 20, 2018</b>	<b>Oct 27, 2018</b>	<b>Nov 03, 2018</b>
My vote will be an expression of support for President Trump	29	30	TBD	TBD
My vote will be an expression of opposition to President Trump	45	44	TBD	TBD
My vote will not be an expression of either support or opposition to President Trump	26	26	TBD	TBD

## Tracking Poll Week 1: Extra Questions

**Have you been following the news about the Senate hearings and confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court? If so, how closely did you follow it?**

	Likely voters
Have not been following	6
Following, not very closely	12
Following somewhat closely	31
Following very closely	30
Following extremely closely	21
Not following	6
Not very/somewhat closely	43
Very/extremely closely	52

**Do you approve or disapprove of the Senate confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court?**

	Likely Voters
Approve strongly	30
Approve somewhat	8
Neither approve nor disapprove	9
Disapprove somewhat	12
Disapprove strongly	38
Haven't heard enough to say	3
Total Approve	37
Total Disapprove	50

**Have the events and news around the nomination and confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court had any impact on how likely you are to vote in November? If so, are you feeling...**

	Likely voters
Much less likely to vote	1
Somewhat less likely to vote	1
Somewhat more likely to vote	8
Much more likely to vote	35
Did not impact my likelihood of voting one way or the other	56
Total Less likely	2
Total More likely	43
Total No Impact	56

**Are you satisfied or not satisfied with the thoroughness of the FBI investigation into Brett Kavanaugh's background prior to his confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court?**

	<b>Likely voters</b>
Entirely satisfied	22
Mostly satisfied	10
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	14
Mostly dissatisfied	17
Entirely dissatisfied	30
Haven't heard enough about it to say	7
Total Satisfied	32
Total Dissatisfied	47

**During his nomination hearings, Brett Kavanaugh expressed his belief that he was the target of a "calculated and orchestrated political hit" by Democrats and liberals. Whether you agree with him or not, do you personally believe that Justice Kavanaugh will be fair and impartial in administering justice in cases where Democrats or liberals are involved?**

	<b>Likely Voters</b>
Definitely yes	29
Probably yes	20
Probably no	27
Definitely no	24
Total Yes	49
Total No	51

***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**

**Center for Economic and Social Research**  
**Understanding America Study**  
Jill Darling, Survey Director  
contact: [jilldarl@usc.edu](mailto:jilldarl@usc.edu)

**Center for the Political Future**  
Robert M. Shrum, Director, Center for the Political Future  
contact: [Nsmall@usc.edu](mailto:Nsmall@usc.edu)

Mike Murphy, Co-Director, Center for the Political Future  
Contact: [Nsmall@usc.edu](mailto:Nsmall@usc.edu)

**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>