

USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times National Poll

TOPLINE RESULTS (UAS 145) – Feelings about the News, Generic Congressional
Release Date: Thursday September 6, 2018

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.

The poll's sample of 5,044 adult residents of the United States are members of the Center for Economic and Social Research's Understanding America Study (UAS) probability-based internet panel. The survey was in the field July 16-August 16, 2018 and included 2,459 likely midterm voters. The poll was conducted in the respondents' choice of English or Spanish. The poll's overall margin of sampling error[†] is +/- 2 percentage points for all respondents, and for likely voters. Margins of sampling error may be higher for certain subgroups.

Survey information: The questions in this release were one module of a larger survey. Full question text and context language for included 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, paradata, and full questionnaire are available to registered users at UASdata.usc.edu.

Survey Weights: As 6,017 panel members were eligible to participate in this survey, the participation rate was 84%. 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, and California Secretary of State voting reports by county.

[†] 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.

This document and the archive of results of prior Dornsife/LAT polls are available at bit.ly/USCpolldata.

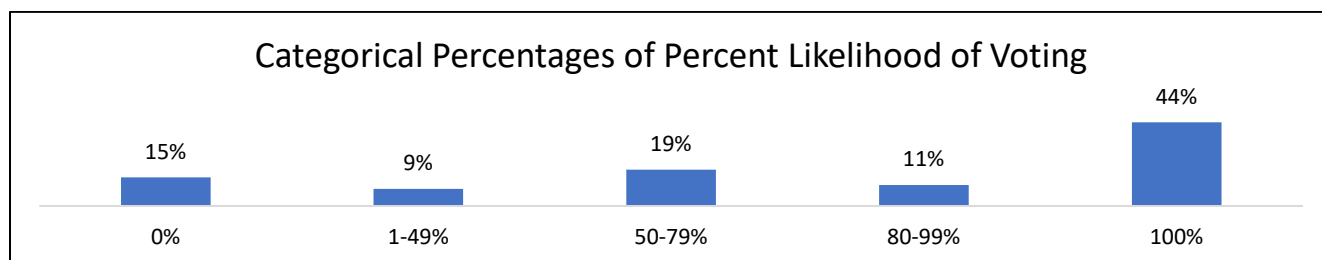
For questions about the survey, contact CESR Survey Director Jill E. Darling (jilldarl@usc.edu) or CFPF Director Robert M. Shrum (nsmall@usc.edu). Additional contact information is on the last page of this report.

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

USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times Polls are funded entirely by the USC Dornsife College of Arts, Letters and Sciences

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.

What is the percent chance that you will vote in the November 2018 election for the U.S. House of Representatives? [0 to 100%]



Asked if >0% chance of voting. Randomize order of Democratic / Republican

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?

| | All Respondents with >0% likelihood of voting (N=4366) | Likely voters (N=2459) |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Democratic candidate | 40 | 46 |
| Republican candidate | 31 | 36 |
| Another party's candidate | 2 | 2 |
| Not sure | 26 | 16 |
| Wouldn't vote | 1 | - |

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?

| | All unsure | Likely voters unsure |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| Lean Democratic candidate | 34 | 34 |
| Lean Republican candidate | 40 | 48 |
| Lean another party's candidate | 27 | 18 |

Combined vote/lean and turnout models

| | All Respondents with >0% likelihood of voting | Likely Voters Regular turnout (~40% of eligible) | High Turnout (~50% of eligible) | Very High Turnout (~60% of eligible) |
|-------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Vote or Lean Democratic | 49 | 52 | 51 | 51 |
| Vote or Lean Republican | 42 | 44 | 44 | 44 |
| Vote or Lean Other | 9 | 5 | 5 | 5 |

For each of the following sources of news or information, please indicate how much you trust that source to give you unbiased and truthful information.

Randomized order of sources – among all respondents

| | Do not trust at all | Trust somewhat | Trust mostly | Trust completely | Trust mostly or completely | Trust most/com (likely voters) |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Fox News | 41 | 37 | 19 | 4 | 23 | 27 |
| MSNBC | 31 | 45 | 20 | 4 | 24 | 31 |
| CNN | 32 | 39 | 24 | 4 | 29 | 34 |
| National newspapers (e.g. NY Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal) | 24 | 45 | 26 | 5 | 31 | 39 |
| Regional, local or hometown newspapers | 15 | 52 | 30 | 3 | 33 | 39 |
| National Public Radio (NPR) | 22 | 46 | 24 | 8 | 33 | 39 |
| Public television | 21 | 48 | 25 | 6 | 31 | 39 |
| President Trump and the Trump administration | 55 | 26 | 15 | 4 | 19 | 25 |
| Your congressional representative | 27 | 54 | 17 | 2 | 19 | 26 |

In the last few weeks, how closely have you been following the news about Donald Trump and his administration? Have you been following the news...

| | All respondents | Likely voters |
|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Not at all | 18 | 5 |
| Not very closely | 29 | 20 |
| Somewhat closely | 36 | 44 |
| Very closely | 17 | 31 |

For the next set of questions, we will ask about how you feel when you watch or listen to the news from your favorite or most trusted news source(s)

These days, when you follow the news about Donald Trump and his administration from your favorite or most trusted news source(s), how often does the news make you feel _____
[satisfied/hopeful/pleased/worried/disgusted/outraged/tired of partisan coverage/confused about what is really going on] ?

Asked as eight separate questions, order randomized.

| | Never | Rarely | Occasionally | Frequently | Always | Freq/Always | Freq/Always (likely voters) |
|-----------|-------|--------|--------------|------------|--------|-------------|--------------------------------|
| Satisfied | 25 | 38 | 25 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 19 |
| Hopeful | 23 | 36 | 27 | 12 | 2 | 14 | 20 |
| Pleased | 24 | 40 | 25 | 10 | 1 | 11 | 17 |
| Worried | 7 | 18 | 30 | 29 | 17 | 45 | 51 |
| Disgusted | 7 | 14 | 28 | 34 | 18 | 51 | 58 |
| Outraged | 8 | 19 | 31 | 29 | 13 | 42 | 51 |
| Tired | 7 | 12 | 33 | 30 | 19 | 49 | 53 |
| Confused | 8 | 19 | 34 | 29 | 10 | 61 | 39 |

Randomize order of the next two questions. Randomize order of more/less motivated, use same order for both

Which of the following statements comes closest to how the news about Donald Trump and his administration that you hear from your *favorite or most trusted news source(s)* makes you feel about voting in this year's "midterm" elections?

The news I hear from my favorite or most trusted news sources...

| | All respondents | All Likely voters | Likely Dem voters | Likely Rep Voters |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| makes me feel more motivated to go to the polls and vote in this year's elections | 50 | 69 | 76 | 64 |
| makes me feel less motivated to go to the polls and vote in this year's elections | 9 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| has no effect one way or the other on my motivation to go to the polls and vote in this year's elections | 41 | 28 | 21 | 33 |

Which of the following statements comes closest to how the news about Donald Trump and his administration that you hear from *news sources you do not trust* makes you feel about voting in this year's "midterm" elections?

The news I hear from sources I do not trust ...

| | All respondents | All Likely voters | Likely Dem Voters | Likely Rep Voters |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| makes me feel more motivated to go to the polls and vote in this year's elections | 46 | 65 | 70 | 61 |
| makes me feel less motivated to go to the polls and vote in this year's elections | 12 | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| has no effect one way or the other on my motivation to go to the polls and vote in this year's elections | 42 | 30 | 25 | 33 |

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

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>