

USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times National Poll

TOPLINE RESULTS (UAS 157) – National Tracking Poll October 29-November 3, 2018
Release Date: Monday November 5th (Tracking Poll #3)

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† 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	3,980	2,284	85%
October 21-27, 2018	3,922	2,350	84%
Oct 28- Nov 3, 2018	3,936	2,521	84%

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 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.

† **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.

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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.

Asked if respondent has not already told us she/he voted. Report is cumulative value over all administrations.

poll_1: Which of the following describes whether or not you have already voted in the midterm election?

<i>Percentage who already voted among registered and likely voters</i>	Oct. 27 All registered	Oct. 27 Likely voters	Nov. 3 All registered	Nov. 3 Likely voters
I have already voted (i.e. by mailing a vote-by-mail or absentee ballot, or by voting in person at an early voting location, or some other way)	17	27	31	46
I have not voted	83	73	69	54

poll_1a: In the election for the U.S. House of Representatives, did you vote for a Democrat, a Republican, or a candidate from some other party?

<i>Pre-election voting – candidate choice among those who already voted</i>	Oct 27 2018	Nov. 3, 2018
Democrat	59	63
Republican	38	33
Other party candidate	2	4
I voted in other elections but not in the election for U.S. House of Representatives	-	0
<i>Subgroup: Margin of Sampling Error</i>	<i>+/-5</i>	<i>+/-5</i>

Next questions asked if respondent has not already voted

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

Weighted average likelihood of voting – Oct 27 and Nov 3 include already voted	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
October 20, 2018 (Tracking poll week 1)	79.9	88.2	88.6
October 27, 2018 (Tracking poll week 2)	74.9	87.7	84.5
November 03, 2018 (Tracking poll week 3)	76.4	86.3	84.7

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?

<i>Weighted Ratios – Probabilistic Election Forecast</i>	Democrat	Republican	Other candidate
September 24, 2018	51	40	9
October 20, 2018	53	41	5
October 27, 2018	52	42	6
November 03, 2018	52	42	6

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 Only, without Lean	Sept, 24, 2018	Oct, 20, 2018	Oct. 27, 2018	Nov. 03, 2018
Democratic candidate	50	52	54	54
Republican candidate	36	38	38	38
Another party's candidate	1	2	2	2
Not sure	13	9	6	6
Wouldn't vote	-	-	-	-

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?

Among Undecided likely voters – Lean toward voting	Sept. 24 2018	Oct. 20, 2018	Oct. 27, 2018	Nov. 03, 2018
Lean Democratic candidate	37	44	47	40
Lean Republican candidate	28	40	38	47
Lean another party's candidate	35	16	16	13
Subgroup: Margin of Sampling Error	+/-4	+/-8	+/-10	+/-11

Combined Vote or Lean

<i>Categorical Generic Congressional estimate among likely voters</i>	Vote or Lean Democrat	Vote or Lean Republican	Vote or Lean Other	Vote Spread (Dem-Rep)
January 2018	51	40	9	11
June 2018	53	41	6	12
August 2018	52	42	6	10
September 2018	55	41	5	14
October 20, 2018	55	42	3	13
October 27, 2018	57	40	3	17
November 03, 2018	56	41	3	15

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

Among likely voters	Oct. 20, 2018	Oct. 27, 2018	Nov. 03, 2018
Have not been following	6	5	5
Following, not very closely	22	22	19
Following somewhat closely	38	39	39
Following very closely	24	24	25
Following extremely closely	11	10	13
Not following	6	5	5
Not very/Somewhat closely	59	60	58
Very/Extremely closely	35	34	37

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?

Among likely voters	Sept 2018	Oct. 20, 2018	Oct. 27, 2018	Nov. 03, 2018
My vote will be an expression of support for President Trump	29	30	29	31
My vote will be an expression of opposition to President Trump	45	44	46	44
My vote will not be an expression of either support or opposition to President Trump	26	26	25	26

Tracking Poll Week 3: Extra Questions

Do you [approve] or [disapprove] of the job Donald Trump has done in handling the bombs that were mailed to prominent Democrats?

Among likely voters	Nov. 3, 2018
Disapprove strongly	39
Disapprove somewhat	11
Approve somewhat	14
Approve strongly	25
Neither approve nor disapprove	11
Total Disapprove	50
Total Approve	39

When President Trump calls certain parts of the news media “enemies of the people” do you consider those statements to be [harmless comments that don’t threaten anyone], or [dangerous language that could incite violence]?

<i>Among likely voters</i>	Sept 2018	Nov. 3, 2018
Harmless comments that don't threaten anyone	42	41
Dangerous language that could incite violence	58	59

How much, if anything, have you heard or read about a caravan of thousands of migrants who are traveling north from Central America through Mexico?

<i>Among likely voters</i>	Nov. 3, 2018
Nothing	7
A little	19
Some	36
A lot	38

As you may know, a caravan of several thousand people from Central American countries have walked into Mexico and are continuing on a northward path. Which of the following comes closest to your view? If the migrants approach the U.S. / Mexico border, they represent...

<i>Among likely voters</i>	Nov. 3, 2018
Unknown foreign nationals and potential terrorists who should be turned away as a threat to the United States	17
Asylum seekers in need of humanitarian assistance from the United States	37
A mix of asylum seekers in need of humanitarian assistance and potential terrorists who should be turned away	31
Have not heard enough about it to say	15

What is your preference for the outcome of this November’s congressional elections?

<i>Among likely voters</i>	Nov. 3, 2018
Congress controlled by Democrats	57
Congress controlled by Republicans	43

Which is a more important factor in your vote in this November’s congressional elections?

<i>Among likely voters</i>	Nov. 3, 2018
Your views on the candidates running for office in your state	75
Your views on Donald Trump	25

Combined table – Vote is expression of support/opposition and more important factor

<i>Trump as a voting factor: Among likely voters</i>	Nov. 3, 2018
Your views on the candidates running for office in your state	75
Your views on Donald Trump / Support for Donald Trump	10
Your views on Donald Trump / Opposition to Donald Trump	15

Which one of the following issues is the most important factor in deciding your vote for Congress in November? Please read the entire list before choosing the most important factor

<i>Among likely voters</i>	Sept 2018	Nov. 3, 2018
Healthcare	13	18
The economy and jobs	20	14
Gun regulations	5	5
Taxes, spending	11	11
Handling illegal immigration in general	9	6
Building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border	2	3
Abortion	2	3
Trade and tariffs	1	1
Terrorism	1	2
Russian interference in US elections	4	2
Environmental issues	4	4
Local/State issues	7	9
Party loyalty / support for your party's candidate	4	4
Opposition to the other party's candidate	6	7
Another factor is most likely to be important (please specify)	5	6
Don't know	4	6

As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010, known commonly as the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare. The law provided protections for people with pre-existing health conditions. Republicans and Democrats have put forward competing proposals to reform the 2010 law. Each party has claimed that their proposal will protect people with pre-existing conditions. In general, which party do you trust to do a better job of protecting coverage of pre-existing conditions?

<i>Among likely voters</i>	Nov. 3, 2018
Democrats	55
Republicans	31
Other party (specify)	2
Don't know	13

This survey was conducted by the
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in partnership with the Los Angeles Times

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Survey toplines 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>