

# USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times National Poll

**TOPLINE RESULTS (UAS 156) – National Tracking Polls October 21-28, 2018**  
Release Date: Monday October 29 (Tracking Poll #2)

## 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	3,980	2,284	86%
October 21-27, 2018	3,922	2,350	85%
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.

early\_vote: “Voted early in the midterm election”

**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
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
I have not voted	83	73

If already voted

**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</i>	Oct. 27, 2018
Democrat	59
Republican	38
Other party candidate	2
I voted in other elections but not in the election for U.S. House of Representatives	-

if already voted (poll\_1 = 1), skip to poll\_q7

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

<i>Weighted average likelihood of voting – Oct 27 and Nov 3 include already voted</i>	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
<b>October 27, 2018 (Tracking poll week 2)</b>	<b>74.9</b>	<b>87.7</b>	<b>84.5</b>
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?**

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

<i>Among likely voters – Vote Only, without Lean</i>	Sept, 24, 2018	Oct, 20, 2018	Oct. 27, 2018	Nov. 03, 2018
Democratic candidate	50	52	<b>54</b>	TBD
Republican candidate	36	38	<b>38</b>	TBD
Another party's candidate	1	2	<b>2</b>	TBD
Not sure	13	9	<b>6</b>	TBD
Wouldn't vote	-	-	-	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 likely voters - Leaners only</i>	Sept. 24 2018	Oct. 20, 2018	Oct. 27, 2018	Nov. 03, 2018
Lean Democratic candidate	37	44	<b>47</b>	TBD
Lean Republican candidate	28	40	<b>38</b>	TBD
Lean another party's candidate	35	16	<b>16</b>	TBD

**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
<b>October 27, 2018</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>
November 03, 2018	TBD	TBD	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	5	TBD
Following, not very closely	22	22	TBD
Following somewhat closely	38	39	TBD
Following very closely	24	24	TBD
Following extremely closely	11	10	TBD
Not following	6	5	TBD
Not very/Somewhat closely	59	60	TBD
Very/Extremely closely	35	34	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>Sept 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	29	TBD
My vote will be an expression of opposition to President Trump	45	44	46	TBD
My vote will not be an expression of either support or opposition to President Trump	26	26	25	TBD

## Tracking Poll Week 2: Extra Questions

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

<i>Among likely voters*</i>	<b>April 2017*</b>	<b>Jan 2019*</b>	<b>Sept 2018</b>	<b>Oct. 27 2018</b>
Disapprove strongly	34	42	49	46
Disapprove somewhat	12	12	8	10
Approve somewhat	22	17	15	15
Approve strongly	26	15	24	26
Neither approve nor disapprove	6	14	4	2
Total Disapprove	48	54	57	57
Total Approve	46	33	39	41

\* April 2017 and January 2018 are among all eligible.

**Do you [approve] or [disapprove] of the job being done by Nancy Pelosi, as minority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives?**

<i>Among likely voters</i>	<b>Oct. 27 2018</b>
Disapprove strongly	<b>34</b>
Disapprove somewhat	<b>15</b>
Approve somewhat	<b>25</b>
Approve strongly	<b>7</b>
Neither approve nor disapprove	<b>19</b>
Total Disapprove	<b>49</b>
Total Approve	<b>32</b>

*The next questions ask about claims being made by Democratic and Republican campaigns in recent weeks.*

**Republicans have said:**

***"If the Democrats win a majority in Congress they will enact a liberal Nancy Pelosi agenda of higher taxes, greatly increased government spending and large defense budget cuts."***

**If Democrats win a majority of seats in the House, how likely do you think it is that Congress will enact this agenda?**

<i>Among likely voters</i>	<b>Oct. 27, 2018</b>
Extremely likely	<b>13</b>
Very likely	<b>18</b>
Somewhat likely	<b>32</b>
Not very likely	<b>30</b>
Not at all likely	<b>8</b>
Extremely/Very Likely	<b>31</b>
Somewhat/Not very likely	<b>61</b>

**Would you support or oppose Congress enacting this agenda?**

<i>Among likely voters</i>	<b>Oct. 27, 2018</b>
Strongly support	<b>6</b>
Somewhat support	<b>17</b>
Neither support nor oppose	<b>22</b>
Somewhat oppose	<b>16</b>
Strongly oppose	<b>38</b>
Total Support	<b>23</b>
Total Oppose	<b>55</b>

**Democrats have said:**

***“If Republicans keep a majority in Congress, they will enact a conservative Donald Trump agenda of Medicare and Medicaid cuts, as well as tax breaks for the rich, and they will end affordable health insurance access for people with preexisting conditions.”***

**If Republicans retain a majority in Congress, how likely do you think it is that Congress will enact this agenda?**

<i>Among likely voters</i>	Oct. 27, 2018
Extremely likely	21
Very likely	25
Somewhat likely	26
Not very likely	19
Not at all likely	8
Extremely/Very Likely	47
Somewhat/Not very likely	46

**Would you support or oppose Congress enacting this agenda?**

<i>Among likely voters</i>	Oct. 27, 2018
Strongly support	6
Somewhat support	10
Neither support nor oppose	14
Somewhat oppose	16
Strongly oppose	54
Total Support	16
Total Oppose	70

Asked if both agendas were extremely, very, or somewhat likely, and neutral or somewhat or strongly opposed to both

**Between the two scenarios, please select which one of the two you would you LEAST like to see happen:**

<i>Among likely voters who dislike both and believe both are feasible (16% of likely voters)</i>	Oct. 27, 2018
Republicans keep a majority in Congress, and enact a conservative Donald Trump agenda of Medicare and Medicaid cuts, as well as tax breaks for the rich, and they will end affordable health insurance access for people with preexisting conditions.	51
Democrats win a majority in Congress and enact a liberal Nancy Pelosi agenda of higher taxes, greatly increased government spending and large defense budget cuts	49

***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 toplines 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>