

USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times California Poll

TOPLINE RESULTS (UAS 154) – Pre-Midterms General Election Poll – October 2018

Release Date: October 24, 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 1180 eligible voters in California are members of the Center for Economic and Social Research's Understanding America Study (UAS) probability-based California internet panel. Field dates were September 17-October 14, 2018. The poll was conducted in the respondents' choice of English or Spanish. It included 980 registered voters and 794 likely general election voters. The poll's overall margin of sampling error[†] is +/- 3 percentage points for all eligible and +/- 4 for registered and for likely voters.

Survey information: Full question text and context language 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, after a short embargo, at UASdata.usc.edu.

Survey Weights: A total of 1,623 panel members were invited to participate in this survey, so the participation rate on this date 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 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 research panel that started in 2014. We recruit panel members in waves from Marketing Systems Group frames of all household addresses. To ensure full coverage of the population, we provide internet-connected tablets to individuals who were not already online. Our panel thus includes 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.

For questions about the survey, contact CESR Survey Director Jill E. Darling (jilldarl@usc.edu) or Center 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

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.

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

Randomize answer values

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

	All July 2018	Regis July 2018	All October 2018	Regis October 2018	Likely October 2018
Going in the right direction	44	45	50	52	53
Off on the wrong track	56	55	50	48	47

[Randomize order of Q2/Q3 job approval questions]

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

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Disapprove strongly	53	55
Disapprove somewhat	13	12
Approve somewhat	14	15
Approve strongly	13	13
Neither approve nor disapprove	7	5
Total Approve	27	28
Total Disapprove	66	67

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

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Disapprove strongly	25	25
Disapprove somewhat	14	12
Approve somewhat	31	33
Approve strongly	17	20
Neither approve nor disapprove	12	9
Total Approve	48	54
Total Disapprove	39	37

What is the percent chance that you will vote in the November 2018 election for Governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and ballot measures?

Average self-reported likelihood among registered voters

Democrats	88.8%
Republicans	91.1%
Independents	82.1%
Other parties	81.7%

If the November 2018 general election for California Governor were held today, which candidate would you vote for?

		Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Gavin Newsom Lieutenant Governor/Businessman	Party preference: Democratic	43	47
John H. Cox Businessman/Taxpayer Advocate	Party preference: Republican	25	27
Undecided at this time		30	24
I would not vote for California Governor but I might vote in other races or for propositions		1	1
I would not vote in the election at all		1	0

if gov_2018 = undecided. Use same candidate order as above

As of now, do you lean more toward voting for [Gavin Newsom] or for [John H. Cox]?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Gavin Newsom (Democrat)	25	24
John H. Cox (Republican)	13	14
Not sure	62	61

Combined Governor Vote/Lean Tables	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Vote Gavin Newsom	43	48
Lean Gavin Newsom	8	6
Lean John H. Cox	4	3
Vote John H. Cox	26	27
Vote/Lean Newsom	51	54
Vote/Lean Cox	30	31
Undecided	19	15

To what extent are each of the following issues important to you when deciding who to vote for in the Governor election?

	Not at all important	Somewhat important	Extremely important
Among likely voters			
Education	3	30	66
Healthcare	4	29	67
Illegal immigration	7	40	53
Housing	7	38	55
Fiscal issues like taxes and state spending	2	30	68
Jobs and economic development	0	28	72
Party loyalty / Support for your party's candidate	39	38	22
Candidate agrees with you on supporting or opposing President Trump's agenda	11	39	50
Environmental issues	6	40	54

Note: List created from name and ballot designations from certified ballot list

If the November 2018 election for U.S. Senator for California were held today, which candidate would you vote for?

		Regis voters	Likely voters	Likely Dems	Likely GOP	Likely Inds
Kevin de Leon California Senator	Party preference: Democratic	22	22	23	21	26
Dianne Feinstein United States Senator	Party preference: Democratic	31	35	53	14	27
Undecided at this time		38	33	24	36	38
I would not vote for U.S. Senate but I might vote in other races or for propositions		8	9	1	27	6
I would not vote in the election at all		2	1	0	1	3

Among Undecided. Use same candidate order as above

Do you lean more toward voting for [Kevin de Leon] or for [Dianne Feinstein]?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	Likely Dems	Likely GOP	Likely Inds*
Kevin de Leon (Democrat)	15	17	11	26	-
Dianne Feinstein (Democrat)	16	14	28	3	-
Still Undecided	69	70	61	71	-

* sample too small to report

Combined Senate Vote/Lean Table	Registered Voters	Likely Voters	Likely Dems	Likely GOP	Likely Inds
Vote Kevin de Leon	24	25	23	30	28
Lean Kevin de Leon	6	6	3	13	6
Lean Feinstein	7	5	7	2	7
Vote Feinstein	34	39	53	20	30
Vote/Lean Kevin de Leon	30	31	25	43	35
Vote/Lean Feinstein	41	44	60	21	36
Undecided	29	25	15	35	29

There are several propositions on the ballot for the November 2018 election in California. We are interested in how much you have heard or read about them at this point, and whether you would vote for or against them, based on what you know now. For each proposition, we will show you the description as it will appear on the ballot in November. Please indicate how you would vote, based on the description and what if anything you may know about it now.

Proposition 6 is titled: Eliminates Recently Enacted Road Repair and Transportation Funding by Repealing Revenues Dedicated for those Purposes. Requires any Measure to Enact Certain Vehicle Fuel Taxes and Vehicle Fees be Submitted to and Approved by the Electorate. Initiative Constitutional Amendment
Are you familiar or not familiar with Proposition 6 ?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Not at all familiar	48	45
Somewhat familiar	39	40
Very familiar	10	11
Extremely familiar	3	4

Please read the ballot title and text and indicate how you would vote if the election were held today.

Proposition 6: Eliminates Recently Enacted Road Repair and Transportation Funding by Repealing Revenues Dedicated for those Purposes. Requires any Measure to Enact Certain Vehicle Fuel Taxes and Vehicle Fees be Submitted to and Approved by the Electorate. Initiative Constitutional Amendment

- Repeals a 2017 transportation law's tax and fee provisions that pay for repairs and improvements to local roads, state highways, and public transportation.
- Requires the Legislature to submit any measure enacting specified taxes or fees on gas or diesel fuel, or on the privilege to operate a vehicle on public highways, to the electorate for approval

If the election were held today, given what I know now I would...

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Vote yes	33	34
Vote no	34	36
Undecided	33	30

[Among undecided](#)

At this time, are you ...

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Leaning toward voting yes	21	22
Leaning toward voting no	20	21
Still undecided	60	56

Combined Prop 6 Vote/Lean Table	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Vote Yes	33	34
Lean Yes	7	7
Lean No	7	6
Vote No	34	36
Vote/Lean Yes	40	41
Vote/Lean no	41	42
Undecided	20	17

Proposition 10 is titled: Expands Local Governments' Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property. Initiative Statute.

Are you familiar or not familiar with Proposition 10?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Not at all familiar	50	49
Somewhat familiar	42	42
Very familiar	7	8

Please read the ballot title and text and indicate how you would vote if the election were held today.

Proposition 10: Expands Local Governments' Authority to Enact Rent Control on Residential Property. Initiative Statute

- Repeals state law that currently restricts the scope of rent-control policies that cities and other local jurisdictions may impose.
- Allows policies that would limit the rental rates that residential-property owners may charge for new tenants, new construction, and single-family homes.
- In accordance with California law, provides that rent-control policies may not violate landlords' right to a fair financial return on their rental property

If the election were held today, given what I know now I would...

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Vote yes	37	36
Vote no	31	33
Undecided	32	30

Among Undecided

At this time, are you ...

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Leaning toward voting yes	18	17
Leaning toward voting no	11	14
Still undecided	71	69

Combined Prop 10 Vote/Lean Table	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Vote Yes	37	36
Lean Yes	6	5
Lean No	4	4
Vote No	31	33
Vote/Lean Yes	43	41
Vote/Lean no	34	38
Undecided	23	21

California has a serious problem of housing being too expensive for many families. Experts and political figures have offered several explanations for that affordability problem.

Which of these do you consider the biggest contributor to the housing problem? (2 responses)

	Registered Voters		Likely Voters	
	First Response	Second Response	First Response	Second Response
Too little homebuilding	7	9	8	9
Lack of rent control	19	15	17	15
Foreign buyers	8	11	7	11
Wall Street investment buyers	3	9	4	9
Lack of public funding for low-income housing	11	18	12	17
Environmental and other regulations that raise construction costs	9	13	9	13
Increasing influence of the tech industry	9	8	11	8
Overly restrictive zoning rules	3	10	4	11
Some other reason (please specify)	13	1	13	1
Haven't heard enough to say	17	6	15	6

The California state government sets goals for how many homes should be built in communities across the state to keep pace with expected growth. Cities and counties have the authority to approve housing developments. The state's housing goals are rarely met. Which of the following comes closer to your view?

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
The state should have greater authority to approve housing developments than it does now	26	25
The authority to approve housing developments should remain primarily with cities and counties	74	75

[Ask if registered, affiliated or leaned Republicans](#)

We know the 2020 election is a long way away, but given what you know now, which of the following comes closest to your view?

	Registered Voters
I definitely want Donald Trump to be the Republican nominee for president in 2020	49
I would like other candidates to challenge Donald Trump for the Republican nomination in 2020	51

[Ask if registered, affiliated or leaned Democrats](#)

We know the 2020 election is a long way away, but here is a list of some candidates who are running, or could run, for the Democratic nomination in 2020. If your state's Democratic presidential primary were held today, would you vote for:

	Registered Voters
Joe Biden	24
Cory Booker	2
Eric Garcetti	7
Kirsten Gillibrand	1
Kamala Harris	20
Mitch Landrieu	1
Bernie Sanders	20
Elizabeth Warren	11
Some other candidate	5
I wouldn't vote in the primary	8

A possible statewide ballot initiative for 2020 would change Proposition 13, the state's limit on property taxes. The proposal would allow commercial and industrial properties to be taxed at their current market value while keeping the existing property tax limits for homeowners unchanged. If this proposal makes it onto the 2020 ballot, *from what you know now*, would you [support] or [oppose] it?

	Registered Voters
Strongly support	20
Somewhat support	27
Somewhat oppose	10
Strongly oppose	12
Haven't heard enough to say	31
Support (total)	46
Oppose (total)	22

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

Center for the Political Future
Robert M. Shrum, Director, Center for the Political Future
contact: Nsmall@usc.edu

Mike Murphy, Co-Director, Center for the Political Future
Contact: Nsmall@usc.edu

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>