

# USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times National Poll

**TOPLINE RESULTS (UAS 191) – May 2019 Monthly Survey**  
Release Date: June 19 2019. Survey field dates May 15 – June 15, 2019

## 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 sample of 5,108 eligible U.S. voters participated from May 15 to June 15, 2019. They are members of the Center for Economic and Social Research's Understanding America Study (UAS) probability-based internet panel. The sample included 2,222 Democratic presidential primary voters and 1,973 Republican primary voters\*. The poll was conducted in respondents' choice of English or Spanish. The overall margin of sampling error<sup>†</sup> is +/- 2 percentage points for all eligible voters, and +/-3 percentage points for Democratic and Republican primary voters. Margins of sampling error for other reported subgroups may be higher, and are provided in the associated banner crosstab release.

**Survey information:** Full question text and context language for included questions are provided 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 associated with this release will be available to registered UAS users at <https://uasdata.usc.edu/survey/UAS+191>.

**Survey Weights and Participation Rate:** As 6,779 panel members were eligible to participate in this survey, the participation rate was 75%. 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. 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.

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](https://uasdata.usc.edu).

**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 and the archive of results of prior Dornsife/LAT polls are available at [bit.ly/USCPolls](http://bit.ly/USCPolls).

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 ([lcvaughn@usc.edu](mailto:lcvaughn@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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Questions reported here comprise one section of a longer survey. Full survey codebook is available at <https://uasdata.usc.edu/survey/UAS+191>. Brackets indicate randomized text and matching answer values. “-” indicates that the estimate is less than one percent. Unless otherwise indicated, tables are weighted column percentages. All questions asked of eligible voters. Trend shown is from UAS Surveys [UAS117](#) (Jan 2018), [UAS175](#) (Apr 2019).

Asked if respondent lives in state other than North Dakota

**cf\_001. Are you:**

|   | Eligible voters, June 2019 |
|---|----------------------------|
| Certain you are registered to vote in the district where you now live | 83                         |
| Not certain if you are registered to vote in your district            | 5                          |
| Not registered to vote  | 9                          |
| Not sure if registered to vote or not                                 | 3                          |

**cf\_004. We know it is still a long way away, but the presidential election state party primaries and caucuses will be held next year, in 2020. If you decide to vote in your state's presidential primary or caucus, which party's primary or caucus are you most likely to vote in, if any?**

|  | Eligible voters<br>Jan 2018 | Eligible.<br>voters April<br>2019 | Eligible<br>voters June<br>2019 |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Democratic party primary or caucus   | 44                          | 43                                | 44                              |
| Republican party primary or caucus   | 34                          | 36                                | 34                              |
| Green party primary or caucus  | 1                           | 1                                 | 1                               |
| Libertarian party primary or caucus  | 3                           | 2                                 | 2                               |
| Some other party primary or caucus   | 4                           | 4                                 | 4                               |
| I am certain I will not vote in any of my state's presidential primaries or caucuses | 14                          | 14                                | 15                              |

Asked if cf\_004 == 1 (Democratic primary voters, N=2222)

**cf\_009. Which “wing” of the Democratic party do you most closely identify with?<sup>1</sup>**

|                                  | Dem Primary Voters June 2019 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Moderate to Conservative         | 27                           |
| Liberal/Progressive <sup>2</sup> | 40                           |
| Democratic socialist             | 10                           |
| Something else [specify]         | 1                            |
| Not sure                         | 21                           |

<sup>1</sup> Administered question included typo: Which “wing” of the Democratic part do you most closely identify with?

<sup>2</sup> Administered with “Liberal” and “Progressive” as two separate options – *Liberal* (25%) and *Progressive* (15%)

Asked if cf\_004 == 1 (Democratic primary voters, N=2222)

Randomized categories within each generic candidate characteristic group – except age. All questions were shown on the same screen, with the preamble.

**This question asks you to design a generic Democratic nominee that you think would have the best chance of winning the 2020 election against Donald Trump. Please make one selection from each of the categories below. Assume that all types of candidates have a record that qualifies them for the presidency**

**cf\_010. Generic Candidate Race/Ethnicity**

|                          | Dem Prim Voters June 2019 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Asian American           | 3                         |
| African American         | 19                        |
| Latino/Hispanic American | 10                        |
| White American           | 68                        |

**cf\_011. Generic Candidate Gender**

|       | Dem Prim Voters June 2019 |
|-------|---------------------------|
| Man   | 70                        |
| Woman | 30                        |

**cf\_012. Generic Candidate age**

|                 | Dem Prim Voters June 2019 |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Younger than 40 | 11                        |
| 41-50           | 35                        |
| 51-65           | 43                        |
| 66 or older     | 11                        |

**cf\_013. Generic Candidate political experience/background (present or past)**

|   | Dem Prim Voters June 2019 |
|---|---------------------------|
| DC insider, with national level political experience (e.g. U.S. Congress, served in prior administration, etc.) | 71                        |
| Not a DC insider, and no political experience (e.g. business, law, science, etc.)                               | 29                        |
| Not a DC insider, with other political experience (e.g. served in local or state-level office) <sup>3</sup>     |                           |

**cf\_014. Generic Candidate ideology**

|  | Dem Prim Voters June 2019 |
|--|---------------------------|
| Moderate Democrat with broader appeal to independents and swing voters                   | 57                        |
| Progressive or liberal Democrat who can motivate the Democratic base to come out to vote | 43                        |

<sup>3</sup> Answer value 3 was inadvertently omitted from data collection.

Asked if cf\_004 == 1 (Democratic primary voters, N=2222). Randomized order of candidates

**cf\_015. For each of the candidates running for the Democratic presidential nomination listed below, please indicate if you think that candidate could definitely, probably, probably not, or definitely not defeat Donald Trump in the general election in 2020.**

|   | Definitely | Probably | Probably not | Definitely not |
|---|------------|----------|--------------|----------------|
| Joe Biden (Former U.S. Vice President)            | 39         | 47       | 11           | 3              |
| Cory Booker (U.S. Senator, New Jersey)            | 6          | 34       | 48           | 12             |
| Pete Buttigieg (Mayor of South Bend, Indiana)     | 5          | 32       | 48           | 15             |
| Kamala Harris (U.S. Senator, California)          | 9          | 37       | 41           | 14             |
| Amy Klobuchar (U.S. Senator, Minnesota)           | 3          | 22       | 55           | 20             |
| Beto O'Rourke (Former U.S. Representative, Texas) | 6          | 34       | 46           | 13             |
| Bernie Sanders (U.S. Senator, Vermont)            | 17         | 43       | 31           | 9              |
| Elizabeth Warren (U.S. Senator, Massachusetts)    | 8          | 37       | 42           | 13             |

Asked if cf\_004 == 2 (Among Republican Primary Voters, N = 1973)

**cf\_016. Which of the following more closely describes how you feel about voting in the 2020 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state?**

|   | GOP Prim<br>Voters<br>June 2019 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Will definitely vote for Donald Trump, no matter who else is on the ballot  | 54                              |
| Somewhat likely to consider voting for another Republican if an interesting and appealing candidate was on the ballot | 28                              |
| Very likely to consider voting for another Republican if an interesting and appealing candidate was on the ballot     | 14                              |
| Will definitely vote against Donald Trump, no matter who else is on the ballot  | 4                               |

Asked of all eligible voters

|  | June 2019<br>(mean) |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Cf_023. What is the percent chance that you will vote in the 2020 U.S. Presidential election?</b> | 83                  |

Asked if non-zero likelihood of voting for president (N=4836).

**Assuming that Donald Trump will be the 2020 Republican nominee for president... At this time, without knowing which candidates will be nominated by the Democrats and other political parties, what is the likelihood that you will vote for Donald Trump as the Republican candidate, for the eventual Democratic candidate, or for a third party candidate? Please enter a number between 0% and 100% that represents the current likelihood of your voting for each. The total of the three numbers must add to 100%.**

Table is probabilistic estimate of vote conditioned on likelihood of voting. (Variables are cf\_017a-c.)

| Percentage likelihood of voting for _____ in the general election in 2020? | June 2019 |
|--|-----------|
| Donald Trump   | 37        |
| The Democratic candidate   | 51        |
| A third-party candidate  | 12        |

Asked Trump approval series if cf\_004 == 2 to 6 (all non-Democratic primary voters, N = 2886). Randomized order of questions cf\_019-cf\_022. Randomized order of approve/disapprove, used same order for whole series. **cf\_018. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing as president?**

|                                | Non-Dem reg voters Sept 2018 | Non-Dem Primary Voters June 2019 | GOP primary voters June 2019 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Approve strongly               | 36                           | 32                               | 48                           |
| Approve somewhat               | 29                           | 28                               | 33                           |
| Neither approve nor disapprove | 10                           | 12                               | 7                            |
| Disapprove somewhat            | 9                            | 11                               | 7                            |
| Disapprove strongly            | 13                           | 14                               | 4                            |
| Haven't heard enough to say    | 2                            | 3                                | 1                            |
| Total approve                  | 66                           | 59                               | 82                           |
| Total disapprove               | 12                           | 25                               | 11                           |

**Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump is handling \_\_\_\_\_?**

**cf\_019. ...healthcare**

|                                | Non-Dem reg voters Sept 2018 | Non-Dem Prim Voters June 2019 | GOP primary voters June 2019 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Approve strongly               | 20                           | 19                            | 29                           |
| Approve somewhat               | 29                           | 25                            | 34                           |
| Neither approve nor disapprove | 22                           | 22                            | 19                           |
| Disapprove somewhat            | 9                            | 10                            | 7                            |
| Disapprove strongly            | 11                           | 12                            | 3                            |
| Haven't heard enough to say    | 8                            | 11                            | 7                            |
| Total approve                  | 50                           | 45                            | 63                           |
| Total disapprove               | 20                           | 22                            | 10                           |

**cf\_020. ...the economy**

|                                | Non-Dem reg voters Sept 2018 | Non-Dem Prim Voters June 2019 | GOP primary voters June 2019 |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Approve strongly               | 48                           | 42                            | 61                           |
| Approve somewhat               | 26                           | 20                            | 23                           |
| Neither approve nor disapprove | 8                            | 14                            | 8                            |
| Disapprove somewhat            | 6                            | 10                            | 5                            |
| Disapprove strongly            | 8                            | 9                             | 2                            |
| Haven't heard enough to say    | 3                            | 5                             | 1                            |
| Total approve                  | 74                           | 62                            | 84                           |
| Total disapprove               | 14                           | 20                            | 7                            |

Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump is handling \_\_\_\_\_?

**cf\_021. ...Congressional investigations into collusion with Russia**

|                                | Non-Dem reg<br>voters Sept 2018 | Non-Dem Prim<br>Voters June 2019 | GOP primary voters<br>June 2019 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Approve strongly               | 19                              | 27                               | 41                              |
| Approve somewhat               | 18                              | 16                               | 22                              |
| Neither approve nor disapprove | 28                              | 22                               | 19                              |
| Disapprove somewhat            | 10                              | 9                                | 5                               |
| Disapprove strongly            | 16                              | 14                               | 6                               |
| Haven't heard enough to say    | 10                              | 12                               | 7                               |
| Total approve                  | 37                              | 44                               | 63                              |
| Total disapprove               | 26                              | 23                               | 12                              |

**cf\_022. ...illegal immigration**

|                                | Non-Dem reg<br>voters Sept 2018 | Non-Dem Prim<br>Voters June 2019 | GOP primary voters<br>June 2019 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Approve strongly               | 39                              | 38                               | 55                              |
| Approve somewhat               | 24                              | 22                               | 25                              |
| Neither approve nor disapprove | 9                               | 12                               | 8                               |
| Disapprove somewhat            | 10                              | 10                               | 5                               |
| Disapprove strongly            | 14                              | 15                               | 5                               |
| Haven't heard enough to say    | 3                               | 3                                | 1                               |
| Total approve                  | 64                              | 60                               | 80                              |
| Total disapprove               | 24                              | 25                               | 10                              |

***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/USCPolls](https://bit.ly/USCPolls)

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>