USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times National Poll

TOPLINE RESULTS (UAS 162) – An Early Look at UAS's Post-Midterm Election 2018 Poll
Release Date: Friday November 16, 2018 – Participation from November 7 to 15, 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 sample of 4,159 adult residents of the United States in this early release of data from the UAS post-midterm poll participated from November 7 - 15, 2018. They are members of the Center for Economic and Social Research's Understanding America Study (UAS) probability-based internet panel. The survey will continue to be in the field until December 15. The sample for this release included 3,168 midterm voters. The poll was conducted in respondents' choice of English or Spanish. The overall margin of sampling error[†] is +/- 2 percentage points for all respondents, and for midterm voters. Margins of sampling error may be higher for certain subgroups.

<u>Survey information</u>: 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 full post-election survey data set will be available to registered users at UASdata.usc.edu on January 7, 2019.

<u>Survey Weights</u>: As 6,456 panel members were eligible to participate in this survey, the participation rate *for this release* was 66%. 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. This survey was also adjusted to reflect current national vote total estimates.

[†] <u>Survey Error</u>: 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.**

<u>Panel Information</u>: 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/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.

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American Association for Public Opinion Research's Transparency Initiative.
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pe_qa. Which of the following best describes how closely you may have followed the results of the November 6 midterm elections, if at all?

	Non-voters	Voters
I followed the election results closely on election day	9	43
I actively looked for the results in the day(s) following the election	17	36
I heard about the results but did not actively look for them	41	18
I have not looked for and have not heard much about the results of the election	33	3

pe_qb. From what you know, which of the following applies to the election for US House of Representatives in the congressional district where you live?

	Non-voters	Voters
There is a clear winner in the House election in my district	37	81
There is not yet a clear winner in my district (e.g. there is a recount, a runoff, or ballots are still being counted)	6	6
I am not sure if there is a clear winner in my district or not	57	14

pe_q1. All things considered, on a scale from 0 to 100 where 0 means completely unhappy and 100 means completely happy, what number would you choose to represent how happy you are with the outcome of the November 6 elections for U.S. House of Representatives, across the country?

Average among all respondents: 58.7; among Democrat voters 69.5; among Republican voters 48.8

pe_q2. On a scale from 0 to 100 where 0 means completely unhappy and 100 means completely happy, what number would you choose to represent how happy you are with the outcome of the election for U.S. House of Representatives in the district where you live as it stands at this time?

Average among all voters who know their district outcomes: 62.3; among Democrat voters 69.6; among Republican voters 58.9

asked of U.S Citizens

pe_q3. Were you registered to vote at your home address in time to cast a ballot in the November 6 election?

	Non-voters	Voters
Yes	44	100
No	38	-
Not sure	18	-

Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding

Asked of registered voters

pe_q4. Are you registered to vote as:

	Non-voters	Voters
Democrat	34	37
Republican	32	33
No political party (independent)	31	29
Libertarian	2	1
Green party	-	-
Some other party	1	-

Asked of registered voters

pe_q5. In the November 6 midterm election this year, which of the following statements best describes you?

	Non-voters	Voters
I did not vote due to problems with the precinct or voting location (e.g. ran out of ballots, long lines, moved location, never opened, closed early or opened late, etc.)	3	-
I was unable to vote due to illness, injury or travel	19	-
I did not vote due to work or personal obligations (e.g. lack of time off, or inability to take the time needed to vote)	35	-
I did not vote for some other reason	41	-
I am not sure if I voted in this election	2	-
I am certain that I voted in this election by casting a ballot in one or more of the races for governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House of representatives, and/or local offices or initiatives in my district or state	-	100

Asked of all U.S. Citizens

pe_q6. Please indicate to what extent the following statements apply to you.

	Did not vote	voted
I rarely vote in elections like this one		
Applies Completely	32%	4%
Applies Somewhat	39%	17%
Does not apply at all	29%	79%
It really doesnt matter if I vote or not		
Applies Completely	15%	3%
Applies Somewhat	41%	14%
Does not apply at all	44%	82%
Elections have no real effect on my everyday life		
Applies Completely	13%	8%
Applies Somewhat	46%	32%
Does not apply at all	41%	60%
I have close friends or family who disagree with me about politics		
Applies Completely	18%	36%
Applies Somewhat	42%	45%
Does not apply at all	40%	19%
I wish I had better or more trustworthy information that would help me decide how to vote		
Applies Completely	30%	19%

Applies Somewhat	36%	45%
Does not apply at all	34%	36%
My political beliefs are based on my values and/or religious beliefs		
Applies Completely	22%	43%
Applies Somewhat	41%	41%
Does not apply at all	37%	15%
I believe it is important to talk about politics, and/or get into discussions about politics on social media		
Applies Completely	9%	15%
Applies Somewhat	37%	43%
Does not apply at all	54%	42%
On November 6, I was afraid of what might happen to the country if the Congressional election did not turnout the way I wanted		
Applies Completely	6%	34%
Applies Somewhat	34%	42%
Does not apply at all	60%	24%

Asked of non-registered and non-voters

pe_q7. Please indicate whether any of the following statements apply to you, even somewhat

	Applies at least somewhat	Does not apply at all
I did not know enough about the candidates or issues to be able to make a good choice between them	53	47
I was too busy to send back my ballot, or get myself to a polling place on election day	30	70
I would have voted if there were any good candidates	27	73
I lost track of when the elections was, or of the registration deadline	22	78
I am not entirely sure how to get registered and/or how to vote	18	82
I did not have transportation to a voting location	13	87
I did not have the right kind of identification for registration or voting	10	90
I was not able to vote, or it was harder for me to vote, because of voter suppression tactics in my state or at my polling location	9	91

This and subsequent questions asked of midterm voters

pe_q8. In the November 2018 election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your district, did you vote for:

	Early-Post Election*
The Democratic candidate	52
The Republican candidate	46
I wrote in a candidate or voted for a 3rd party candidate	2

*results were adjusted to current national vote totals

pe_q9. When did you decide which candidate to vote for in the U.S. House of Representatives election?

	Early-Post Election
On election day	15
A week or so before the election	15
Two weeks before the election	9
Three weeks before the election	4
A month before the election	12
Longer ago than that	45

Poll_q8. Thinking about your vote for Congress, which of the following comes closest to representing your view?

	Early-Post Election
My vote was an expression of support for President Trump	28
My vote was an expression of opposition to President Trump	38
My vote was not expression of either support or opposition to President Trump	34

pe_q10. Which was a more important factor in your vote for Congress?

	Early-Post Election
Your views on the candidates running for office in your district	74
Your views on Donald Trump	26

pe_q11. Which one of the following issues was the most important factor in deciding which Congressional candidate to vote for? Please read the entire list before choosing the most important factor

	Early-Post Election
Healthcare, including protection for pre-existing conditions	15
The economy and jobs	13
Gun regulations	3
Taxes, spending	7
Illegal immigration	8
Social issues such as abortion, minority/gay/women's rights, #MeToo	7
International trade	-
Terrorism	1
Environmental issues	2
Candidate integrity / trustworthiness	9
Other Local/State issues	4
Sending a message of support or opposition to President Trump	6
Party loyalty / support for your party's candidates/ voting a straight party ticket	4
Party control of the House of Representatives	12
Another factor was most important (please specify)	4
Don't know	4

pe_q17. When did you actually vote in the November 6 election? By that we mean, when did you mail in your vote by mail or absentee ballot, or drop off a ballot, or vote in person? Your best estimate will do.

	Early-Post Election
On election day	60
During the week before the election	14
1-2 weeks before the election	21
Before that	5

pe_q18. In the various elections that were held on November 6, which of the followings best describes how you voted?

	Early-Post Election
I voted only for candidates that were in one party (e.g. all Democrats, or all Republicans, or all independents, etc.)	66
I voted for candidates from different political parties	44

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*