USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times National Poll

TOPLINE RESULTS (UAS 149) – September National Pre-Election Poll
Release Date: <mark>Wednesday September 26, 2018</mark>

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 5,045 adult residents of the United States are members of the Center for Economic and Social Research's Understanding America Study (UAS) probability-based internet panel. The survey was in the field August 22 – September 24, 2018. It included 4,161 registered voters and 2,513 likely midterm voters. The poll was conducted in the respondents' choice of English or Spanish. The poll's overall margin of sampling error[†] is +/- 2 percentage points for all respondents, for registered voters, and for likely voters. Margins of sampling error may be higher for certain subgroups.

Survey information: 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 data set and paradata will be available to registered users at UASdata.usc.edu on November 8, 2018.

Survey Weights: As 6,456 panel members were eligible to participate in this survey, the participation rate was 78%. 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.

[†] **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.**

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/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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Q1. **Generally speaking, would you say that things in the state where you live are**

	U.S. Residents	Registered voters	Likely Voters
Headed in the right direction	57	56	55
Off on the wrong track	43	44	45

Asked of eligible voters

Q2. **Are you:**

	Eligible Voters
Certain you are registered to vote in the district where you now live (or states where no registration)	81
Not certain if you are registered to vote in your district	5
Not registered to vote	12
Not sure if registered to vote or not	2

Asked of currently registered voters (and residents of states with no party registration)

Q2A. **Are you registered as:**

	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Democrat	41	46
Republican	31	33
No political party (independent)	25	19
No political party (state does not allow registration by party)	2	2
Libertarian	1	-
Green party	-	-
Some other party	1	1

Asked of eligible voters

Q3. **Regardless of if or how you are registered to vote, are you more closely aligned with…**

	Eligible Voters	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Democrats	37	40	44
Republicans	29	32	34
Independents (no political party)	14	15	13
Libertarians	3	3	3
Green party	-	-	-
Some other party	1	1	1
Not aligned with any political party	15	9	5

Q3a. Generally speaking, do you lean more toward affiliating with Democrats or with Republicans?

	Eligible Voters	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Lean toward affiliating with Democrats	23	26	37
Lean toward affiliating with Republicans	19	24	28
Do not lean toward either party	58	50	35

Thinking now about the election in November to elect members of the U.S. House of Representatives, governors, and other state and local officials.

Q4. What is the percent chance that you will vote in the 2018 election for the U.S. House of Representatives?

Average likelihood of voting	Eligible voters	Voting for Democrats in the Congressional Election	Voting for Republicans in the Congressional Election
	69.7	85.7	85.5

Q5. 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?

Probability-based vote estimate: Democrats 51%, Republicans 40% and other candidates 9%

Q6. 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

	Likely voters
Democratic candidate	50
Republican candidate	36
Another party's candidate	1
Not sure	13
Wouldn't vote	0

Q6A. 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?

	Unsure Likely Voters
Lean Democratic candidate	37
Lean Republican candidate	28
Lean another party's candidate	35

Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding

Congressional Midterm Vote: vote/lean and turnout models

	All registered	Likely Voters Regular turnout (~44% of eligible)	High Turnout (~50% of eligible)	Very High Turnout (~60% of eligible)
Vote Democrat	45	50	50	49
Lean Democrat	7	5	5	5
Lean Republican	7	5	5	6
Vote Republican	33	36	36	36
Combined categories				
Vote or Lean Democrat	52	55	54	54
Vote or Lean Republican	41	41	41	41
Vote or Lean Other	7	4	4	5

Randomized order of responses 1-15, and used the same order for both questions

Q7. **Which one of the following issues is likely to be the *most* important factor in deciding who you will vote for in Congress in November? (You will be asked for another/second most likely factor next.) Please read the entire list before choosing the most important factor**

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

Q7a. Which of the following issues is likely to be another important factor in deciding who you will vote for in Congress in November?

	Likely Voters
Healthcare	13
The economy and jobs	13
Gun regulations	7
Taxes, spending	14
Handling illegal immigration in general	13
Building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border	5
Abortion	3
Trade and tariffs	4
Terrorism	2
Russian interference in US elections	3
Environmental issues	6
Local/State issues	7
Party loyalty / support for your party's candidate	2
Opposition to the other party's candidate	4
Another factor is second most likely to be important (specify)	3
No second factor	2

For each of the following issues, please indicate whether or not you would consider voting for a Congressional candidate who disagreed with you on that issue, or if the issue wouldn't affect how you vote.

If a congressional candidate disagreed with me about _____

	Summary of responses. Questions were asked individually. Responses shown are among likely voters.	I would definitely not vote for the candidate	I might vote for the candidate, depending on other issues	This issue doesn't affect how I will vote
Q8.	Healthcare	52	43	6
Q9.	The economy and jobs	49	45	6
Q10.	Gun regulations	55	36	10
Q11.	Taxes, spending	49	46	5
Q12.	Handling illegal immigration in general	51	40	9
Q13.	Building a wall on the U.S. Mexico border	54	28	18
Q14.	Abortion	49	33	18
Q15.	Trade and tariffs	27	59	14
Q16.	Terrorism	47	45	8
Q17.	Russian interference in US elections	42	31	27
Q18.	Environmental issues	41	45	14

Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding

Q19. **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?**

	Likely Voters
My vote will be an expression of support for President Trump	29
My vote will be an expression of opposition to President Trump	45
My vote will not be an expression of either support or opposition to President Trump	26

We are interested in learning about how people are feeling about how Donald Trump has been handling his job as president of the United States.

Q20. **Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing as president?**

	Likely Voters
Approve strongly	24
Approve somewhat	15
Neither approve nor disapprove	4
Disapprove somewhat	8
Disapprove strongly	49
Haven't heard enough to say	0
Total Approve	39
Total Disapprove	57

randomize order of the questions in this section and used same order of answer values for the series

Q21. **Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump is handling _____?**
    a. **illegal immigration**

	Likely Voters
Approve strongly	26
Approve somewhat	13
Neither approve nor disapprove	5
Disapprove somewhat	8
Disapprove strongly	47
Haven't heard enough to say	1
Total Approve	39
Total Disapprove	56

b. **foreign trade and tariffs**

	Likely Voters
Approve strongly	21
Approve somewhat	14
Neither approve nor disapprove	7
Disapprove somewhat	14
Disapprove strongly	40
Haven't heard enough to say	3
Total Approve	36
Total Disapprove	54

c. **investigations into Russian attempts to interfere with American elections**

	Likely Voters
Approve strongly	14
Approve somewhat	10
Neither approve nor disapprove	15
Disapprove somewhat	7
Disapprove strongly	51
Haven't heard enough to say	3
Total Approve	24
Total Disapprove	58

d. **healthcare**

	Likely Voters
Approve strongly	13
Approve somewhat	17
Neither approve nor disapprove	11
Disapprove somewhat	10
Disapprove strongly	45
Haven't heard enough to say	3
Total Approve	31
Total Disapprove	55

e. **the economy**

	Likely Voters
Approve strongly	31
Approve somewhat	14
Neither approve nor disapprove	10
Disapprove somewhat	14
Disapprove strongly	30
Haven't heard enough to say	1
Total Approve	44
Total Disapprove	45

f. **issues around race relations**

	Likely Voters
Approve strongly	14
Approve somewhat	12
Neither approve nor disapprove	13
Disapprove somewhat	7
Disapprove strongly	51
Haven't heard enough to say	3
Total Approve	26
Total Disapprove	58

Turning now to the subject of news organizations… The next few questions will provide two opposing viewpoints. For each one, please choose the one that comes closest to your view.

Q22. **Which of the following statements comes closer to your view?**

	U.S. Residents	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
News organizations should have the freedom to publish or broadcast any stories they choose, except in very limited cases on topics such as national security	85	86	89
Government officials should have broad authority to limit the information that news organizations publish or broadcast	15	14	11

Q23. **President Trump has repeatedly labeled certain parts of the news media as "enemies of the people." Regardless of whether you agree with him or not, which of the following comes closest to your view of what President Trump means when he says it?**

	U.S. Residents	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
I think the President is seriously warning America that certain parts of the news media are dangerous enemies of the American people	45	47	50
I think the President is expressing frustration about his coverage by some in the media, but I don't believe he intends his remarks to be taken literally; he's blowing off steam	55	53	50

Q24. **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]?**

	U.S. Residents	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Harmless comments that don't threaten anyone	44	44	42
Dangerous language that could incite violence	56	56	58

Q25. question removed before fielding

We are also interested in how people are thinking and feeling about various issues that have been in the news recently.

Q26. **Which of the following statements comes closest to your point of view?**

	U.S. Residents	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
I believe that Russia is trying to interfere in the 2018 elections, and I am worried their actions will affect the election outcomes	41	42	45
I believe that Russia is trying to interfere in the 2018 elections, but I am not worried that their actions will affect the election outcomes	33	34	35
I don't believe that Russia is trying to interfere in the 2018 November election	26	25	20

Q27. **Thinking about the investigation into Russian efforts to influence the U.S. presidential election in 2016, which comes closer to your point of view about it? Do you think it is:**

	U.S. Residents	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Mainly a serious matter that should be fully investigated	59	59	61
Mainly an effort to discredit Donald Trump's presidency	41	41	39

Q28. **As you may know, Special Counsel Robert Mueller was appointed to oversee a criminal investigation into Russian efforts to interfere in the 2016 election and any links or coordination between President Trump's campaign and Russian agents. Do you think that Mueller is conducting a fair investigation into this matter, or not?"**

	U.S. Residents	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Fair investigation	36	39	48
Not a fair investigation	21	23	27
Haven't heard enough to say	43	39	25

The next questions ask about immigration into the U.S. from other countries

Q29. **In your view, should legal immigration be increased, decreased or kept at its current level?**

	U.S. Residents	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Increased	30	31	33
Decreased	22	21	21
Kept at its current level	48	47	46

Q30. **Thinking about all of the problems facing the United States today, is the issue of people illegally entering the country…**

	U.S. Residents	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
The most serious problem facing the country	4	3	4
One of the most serious problems facing the country	39	41	44
A problem the country is facing, but not a serious problem	44	45	44
Not a problem at all	6	5	6
Don't know	7	5	3

Q31. **Do you favor or oppose building a wall along the U.S. - Mexico border?**

	U.S. Residents	Registered Voters	Likely Voters
Strongly favor	19	20	26
Somewhat favor	18	18	14
Somewhat oppose	14	13	11
Strongly oppose	39	40	45
Don't know	10	8	4

Q32. **The Trump administration has asked Congress for $5 billion to start building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Do you favor or oppose Congress allocating these taxpayer funds for that purpose?**

Among those who favor building a wall or are not sure	**U.S. Residents**	**Registered Voters**	**Likely Voters**
Strongly favor	31	35	50
Somewhat favor	30	31	28
Somewhat oppose	14	13	11
Strongly oppose	7	6	4
Don't know	18	15	7

Q33. **Thinking about undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children, do you favor or oppose allowing them to remain in the United States and eventually apply for citizenship if they meet certain requirements?**

	U.S. Residents	**Registered Voters**	**Likely Voters**
Strongly favor	41	42	48
Somewhat favor	33	33	30
Somewhat oppose	10	10	10
Strongly oppose	7	8	9
Don't know	8	6	4

Q34. **Thinking about people who have immigrated to the U.S. illegally, or have overstayed their visas, who do you think should be deported, if anyone?**

	U.S. Residents	**Registered Voters**	**Likely Voters**
None should be deported	4	4	3
Only those that have committed a serious crime should be deported	30	30	32
Only those that have committed any crime should be deported	25	25	25
All should be deported	31	32	34
Haven't heard enough to say	11	10	6

Q35. **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	57
I would like other candidates to challenge Donald Trump for the Republican nomination in 2020	43

Asked of registered, affiliated or leaned Democrat

Q36. **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	35
Cory Booker	4
Eric Garcetti	2
Kirsten Gillibrand	1
Kamala Harris	8
Mitch Landrieu	2
Bernie Sanders	19
Elizabeth Warren	11
Some other candidate (specify)	5
I wouldn't vote in the primary	15

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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*