



# Democrats Dominate the Races in California

## ...and Californians have varied reasons for heading to the polls

**Washington, D.C., September 19, 2018** — Today Ipsos released new election data in partnership with Reuters and the University of Virginia Center for Politics showing that Democrat incumbent Dianne Feinstein (44%) holds a strong lead over her fellow Democrat opponent Kevin de León (24%) for California's Senate seat among likely voters. Likely voters also hold a strong preference for Democrats (54%) in the generic congressional ballot, with just 35% reporting they would vote for a Republican. Democrat Gavin Newsom also leads California's gubernatorial race, with 52% of likely voter reporting they would choose Newsom over Republican John Cox (40%).

Californians who are likely to vote say that immigration (20%) and healthcare (19%) are the most important problems facing the country as a whole. Immigration (15%), the economy (14%), and healthcare (14%) are all strong motivators for Californians to head to the polls this November.

Just one third of likely voters in California (34%) report they believe America is on the right track. This number mirrors President Trump's overall approval rating in the state, with 36% of likely voters approving of the job Trump is doing as president. Nearly two-thirds of Californian likely voters (63%) disapprove of Trump's performance as president. When asked about their motivation to vote, 63% of likely voters said they are motivated to vote for a candidate that will oppose President Trump, and 39% reported they were motivated to vote for a candidate who would support Trump.

For more information on California and other races, please reference the [Political Atlas](#), an interactive website collaboration between Ipsos and the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

The Political Atlas site provides daily updates of the main issues affecting citizens in all 50 states, along with poll and social media indicators for every congressional, senate, and gubernatorial race in the country, with expert assessments. Bringing this to the midterms provides further resolution to the ebbs and flows of the campaigns. Ipsos uses machine learning and natural language processing algorithms to collect and categorize over 5 million individual posts a day.

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