PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Majority of Californians approve of Governor Newsom's handling of COVID-19, wildfires
Spectrum News/Ipsos poll finds that majority support state law mask mandate and closure of universities in response to pandemic

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, October 21, 2020

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between October 7-15, 2020 on behalf of Spectrum News. For this survey, a sample of 1,400 adults age 18+ from California was interviewed online in English, including an oversample of 400 respondents in the Los Angeles media market, for a total of 824 interviews in that market. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.0 percentage points for all respondents and plus or minus 3.9 percentage points for respondents in the Los Angeles media market.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:

Full Annotated Questionnaire

		California	Los Angeles
		(N=1,400)	**(N=824)**
1. Which of the following do you consider to be the main problem facing **California** today? You may select up to three.	Healthcare	13%	13%
	Crime or violence	12%	14%
	Immigration	13%	11%
	Unemployment	22%	22%
	Education	7%	8%
	Taxes	17%	18%
	Climate change/natural disasters	21%	22%
	COVID-19/coronavirus	50%	50%
	Racial injustice	14%	19%
	Opioid or drug addiction	5%	5%
	Affordable housing	26%	27%
	Gun control	5%	5%
	Homelessness	35%	37%
	Air quality	11%	7%
	Other	4%	3%
	None of these	2%	2%
2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way **Gavin Newsom** is handling his job as governor?	Strongly approve	21%	20%
	Somewhat approve	35%	36%
	Somewhat disapprove	14%	14%
	Strongly disapprove	18%	19%
	Don`t know	12%	11%
NETS	*Approve*	*56%*	*56%*
	Disapprove	*32%*	*33%*

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5. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way **Gavin Newsom** is handling the following?	COVID-19	Strongly approve	27%	27%
		Somewhat approve	31%	33%
		Somewhat disapprove	13%	14%
		Strongly disapprove	19%	18%
		Don`t know	9%	8%
	NETS	*Approve*	*58%*	*60%*
		Disapprove	*33%*	*32%*
	Jobs and the economy	Strongly approve	17%	16%
		Somewhat approve	34%	37%
		Somewhat disapprove	19%	19%
		Strongly disapprove	17%	18%
		Don`t know	13%	10%
	NETS	*Approve*	*51%*	*53%*
		Disapprove	*36%*	*37%*
	Crime and public safety	Strongly approve	17%	18%
		Somewhat approve	35%	35%
		Somewhat disapprove	19%	18%
		Strongly disapprove	17%	17%
		Don`t know	12%	13%
	NETS	*Approve*	*52%*	*53%*
		Disapprove	*36%*	*35%*
	Protests and social unrest	Strongly approve	19%	18%
		Somewhat approve	32%	32%
		Somewhat disapprove	18%	19%
		Strongly disapprove	19%	20%
		Don`t know	13%	11%
	NETS	*Approve*	*51%*	*50%*
		Disapprove	*37%*	*39%*
	Plans for sending children back to school	Strongly approve	18%	20%
		Somewhat approve	31%	31%
		Somewhat disapprove	16%	17%
		Strongly disapprove	20%	19%
		Don`t know	15%	13%
	NETS	*Approve*	*49%*	*51%*
		Disapprove	*36%*	*36%*
	Climate change	Strongly approve	22%	23%
		Somewhat approve	32%	31%
		Somewhat disapprove	16%	15%
		Strongly disapprove	14%	15%
		Don`t know	15%	16%
	NETS	*Approve*	*54%*	*54%*
		Disapprove	*31%*	*30%*
	Ongoing wildfires	Strongly approve	22%	20%
		Somewhat approve	34%	33%
		Somewhat disapprove	15%	17%
		Strongly disapprove	17%	18%
		Don`t know	12%	13%
	NETS	*Approve*	*56%*	*53%*
		Disapprove	*32%*	*34%*

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7. How would you rate how the following are handling the COVID-19 pandemic?	The federal government	Excellent	10%	10%
		Good	23%	22%
		Just fair	25%	25%
		Poor	38%	40%
		Don`t know	4%	4%
	NETS	*Excellent/Good*	*33%*	*31%*
		Just fair/Poor	*63%*	*65%*
	Your state government	Excellent	14%	14%
		Good	38%	38%
		Just fair	24%	23%
		Poor	21%	21%
		Don`t know	4%	4%
	NETS	*Excellent/Good*	*52%*	*52%*
		Just fair/Poor	*44%*	*44%*
	Your local/city government	Excellent	15%	12%
		Good	38%	39%
		Just fair	28%	29%
		Poor	14%	14%
		Don`t know	5%	6%
	NETS	*Excellent/Good*	*53%*	*51%*
		Just fair/Poor	*42%*	*44%*
8. In light of the current circumstances, how long do you think it will be before life in your city or community will get back to normal?		Less than a month	1%	1%
		1-2 months	5%	5%
		3-under 6 months	10%	12%
		6 months-1 year	36%	31%
		Longer than a year	34%	35%
		Never	6%	8%
		Don`t know	8%	8%
NETS		*Under 6 months*	*16%*	*18%*
		6 months or longer	*69%*	*67%*
9. How likely are you to vote in the upcoming presidential election?		Very likely	61%	64%
		Somewhat likely	10%	8%
		Somewhat unlikely	5%	6%
		Very unlikely	10%	10%
		I have already voted	10%	8%
		Don`t know	4%	4%
NETS		*Likely*	*71%*	*72%*
		Unlikely	*15%*	*15%*
10. Thinking about the upcoming presidential election, regardless of your plans to vote (including if you have already voted), what would be your preferred method of voting this year?		In-person on Election Day	16%	19%
		In-person before Election Day	8%	7%
		By mail or absentee ballot	51%	49%
		By dropping off your ballot at an election office or polling place	16%	16%
		Other	0%	1%
		I do not plan to vote	9%	9%
11. Regardless of your plan to vote, how confident are you that your vote will be counted if you voted…	In-person on Election Day	Very confident	51%	53%
		Somewhat confident	23%	23%
		Not very confident	12%	12%
		Not confident at all	6%	7%
		Don`t know	7%	6%
	NETS	*Confident*	*74%*	*75%*
		Not confident	*19%*	*19%*

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11. Regardless of your plan to vote, how confident are you that your vote will be counted if you voted…	In-person before Election Day	Very confident	45%	47%
		Somewhat confident	29%	28%
		Not very confident	12%	12%
		Not confident at all	7%	7%
		Don`t know	8%	5%
	NETS	*Confident*	*74%*	*76%*
		Not confident	*19%*	*20%*
	By mail or absentee ballot	Very confident	36%	36%
		Somewhat confident	28%	29%
		Not very confident	20%	18%
		Not confident at all	10%	11%
		Don`t know	7%	5%
	NETS	*Confident*	*63%*	*66%*
		Not confident	*30%*	*29%*
	By dropping off your ballot at an election office or polling place	Very confident	42%	43%
		Somewhat confident	30%	31%
		Not very confident	14%	14%
		Not confident at all	6%	7%
		Don`t know	8%	6%
	NETS	*Confident*	*72%*	*74%*
		Not confident	*20%*	*20%*
13. How likely are you to trust the outcome of the presidential election, regardless of who wins?		Very likely	31%	31%
		Somewhat likely	32%	32%
		Somewhat unlikely	14%	16%
		Very unlikely	9%	8%
		Don`t know	14%	14%
NETS		*Likely*	*64%*	*63%*
		Unlikely	*22%*	*24%*
14. Have the following made you more or less favorable towards President Donald Trump ahead of this November's election?	The handling of the current vacancy in the U.S. Supreme Court	Much more favorable	15%	15%
		Somewhat more favorable	12%	13%
		No impact	20%	20%
		Somewhat less favorable	10%	9%
		Much less favorable	37%	38%
		Don`t know	5%	5%
	NETS	*More favorable*	*27%*	*28%*
		Less favorable	*48%*	*47%*
	The nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court	Much more favorable	15%	14%
		Somewhat more favorable	15%	15%
		No impact	21%	23%
		Somewhat less favorable	9%	8%
		Much less favorable	34%	34%
		Don`t know	6%	6%
	NETS	*More favorable*	*31%*	*29%*
		Less favorable	*43%*	*42%*

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14. Have the following made you more or less favorable towards President Donald Trump ahead of this November's election?	The recent reporting on Trump`s tax returns	Much more favorable	9%	11%
		Somewhat more favorable	8%	8%
		No impact	27%	25%
		Somewhat less favorable	7%	9%
		Much less favorable	42%	42%
		Don`t know	6%	6%
	NETS	*More favorable*	*18%*	*19%*
		Less favorable	*50%*	*50%*
	The national recovery plan from the coronavirus	Much more favorable	13%	12%
		Somewhat more favorable	15%	14%
		No impact	17%	20%
		Somewhat less favorable	13%	13%
		Much less favorable	37%	36%
		Don`t know	5%	6%
	NETS	*More favorable*	*28%*	*26%*
		Less favorable	*50%*	*49%*
	Trump`s performance in the first presidential debate	Much more favorable	11%	11%
		Somewhat more favorable	10%	10%
		No impact	18%	17%
		Somewhat less favorable	11%	10%
		Much less favorable	44%	46%
		Don`t know	5%	5%
	NETS	*More favorable*	*21%*	*21%*
		Less favorable	*55%*	*57%*
	Trump`s handling of jobs and the economy	Much more favorable	17%	16%
		Somewhat more favorable	15%	16%
		No impact	15%	17%
		Somewhat less favorable	10%	11%
		Much less favorable	38%	36%
		Don`t know	5%	5%
	NETS	*More favorable*	*32%*	*32%*
		Less favorable	*48%*	*47%*
	The fact that Trump contracted COVID-19	Much more favorable	10%	13%
		Somewhat more favorable	10%	7%
		No impact	32%	32%
		Somewhat less favorable	9%	9%
		Much less favorable	34%	34%
		Don`t know	5%	5%
	NETS	*More favorable*	*20%*	*20%*
		Less favorable	*43%*	*43%*
	Trump`s public comments around mask wearing and social distancing	Much more favorable	11%	11%
		Somewhat more favorable	11%	11%
		No impact	19%	19%
		Somewhat less favorable	10%	9%
		Much less favorable	46%	45%
		Don`t know	4%	5%
	NETS	*More favorable*	*21%*	*22%*
		Less favorable	*56%*	*55%*

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15. President Trump recently announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19. What impact, if any, do you think this announcement will have on the upcoming election?		Major impact	30%	31%
		Minor impact	32%	31%
		No impact	27%	29%
		Don`t know	11%	10%
18. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	There should be a state law in California mandating that masks be worn at all times in public	Strongly agree	44%	46%
		Somewhat agree	26%	28%
		Somewhat disagree	12%	11%
		Strongly disagree	15%	12%
		Don`t know	4%	4%
	NETS	*Agree*	*70%*	*74%*
		Disagree	*26%*	*23%*
	There are an adequate number of COVID-19 testing sites in my community	Strongly agree	18%	20%
		Somewhat agree	36%	34%
		Somewhat disagree	17%	18%
		Strongly disagree	10%	9%
		Don`t know	19%	19%
	NETS	*Agree*	*54%*	*54%*
		Disagree	*27%*	*27%*
	I feel comfortable dining inside a restaurant	Strongly agree	16%	15%
		Somewhat agree	24%	22%
		Somewhat disagree	22%	21%
		Strongly disagree	34%	37%
		Don`t know	5%	4%
	NETS	*Agree*	*39%*	*38%*
		Disagree	*56%*	*58%*
	I will take the first generation COVID-19 vaccine when it is approved by the FDA	Strongly agree	21%	19%
		Somewhat agree	24%	24%
		Somewhat disagree	18%	18%
		Strongly disagree	21%	21%
		Don`t know	16%	18%
	NETS	*Agree*	*44%*	*43%*
		Disagree	*40%*	*39%*
	I am having trouble, or have had trouble, paying my bills as a result of COVID-19	Strongly agree	14%	20%
		Somewhat agree	26%	27%
		Somewhat disagree	24%	23%
		Strongly disagree	31%	26%
		Don`t know	6%	5%
	NETS	*Agree*	*40%*	*46%*
		Disagree	*55%*	*49%*
	COVID-19 lockdowns in my community have been too restrictive	Strongly agree	15%	15%
		Somewhat agree	22%	21%
		Somewhat disagree	26%	29%
		Strongly disagree	29%	28%
		Don`t know	7%	7%
	NETS	*Agree*	*37%*	*36%*
		Disagree	*55%*	*57%*

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18. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?		**IF EMPLOYED**	**N=728**	**N=432**
	I feel comfortable returning to my workplace right now	Strongly agree	30%	32%
		Somewhat agree	30%	25%
		Somewhat disagree	18%	20%
		Strongly disagree	18%	20%
		Don`t know	5%	4%
	NETS	*Agree*	*60%*	*57%*
		Disagree	*36%*	*40%*
19. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?		**IF CHILD AGE 5-17**	**N=337**	**N=220**
	My child is falling behind in school because of COVID-19	Strongly agree	20%	23%
		Somewhat agree	34%	29%
		Somewhat disagree	19%	19%
		Strongly disagree	24%	24%
		Don`t know	5%	5%
	NETS	*Agree*	*53%*	*52%*
		Disagree	*42%*	*43%*
	All colleges and universities in California should be closed and only offer virtual classes	Strongly agree	37%	38%
		Somewhat agree	29%	29%
		Somewhat disagree	15%	12%
		Strongly disagree	11%	10%
		Don`t know	9%	11%
	NETS	*Agree*	*65%*	*67%*
		Disagree	*26%*	*22%*
	My local school district is handling the COVID-19 pandemic well	Strongly agree	19%	20%
		Somewhat agree	40%	40%
		Somewhat disagree	14%	12%
		Strongly disagree	9%	10%
		Don`t know	19%	19%
	NETS	*Agree*	*59%*	*60%*
		Disagree	*23%*	*21%*
		IF CHILD AGE 5-17	**N=337**	**N=220**
	I feel that my child is, or would be, safe attending school in-person	Strongly agree	20%	16%
		Somewhat agree	25%	21%
		Somewhat disagree	17%	19%
		Strongly disagree	34%	39%
		Don`t know	4%	6%
	NETS	*Agree*	*45%*	*37%*
		Disagree	*51%*	*58%*
		IF CHILD AGE 5-17	**N=337**	**N=220**
	My child has the necessary tools to learn in the current environment	Strongly agree	33%	34%
		Somewhat agree	45%	42%
		Somewhat disagree	11%	12%
		Strongly disagree	10%	10%
		Don`t know	1%	2%
	NETS	*Agree*	*78%*	*77%*
		Disagree	*21%*	*22%*

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20a. Regarding COVID-19, which of the following are true to you? Select all that apply.		I have been tested and diagnosed with COVID-19	4%	4%
		A relative has been tested and diagnosed with COVID-19	15%	19%
		A friend or acquaintance has been tested and diagnosed with COVID-19	22%	25%
		A relative or friend has died from COVID-19	12%	13%
		I suspect I have or had COVID-19	7%	9%
		Someone I know suspects they have or had COVID-19	13%	12%
		None of the above	52%	48%
21. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	Police using excessive force against Black or African Americans is a widespread problem	Strongly agree	39%	44%
		Somewhat agree	26%	24%
		Somewhat disagree	14%	13%
		Strongly disagree	14%	14%
		Don`t know	7%	5%
	NETS	*Agree*	*65%*	*68%*
		Disagree	*28%*	*27%*
	The recent protests regarding racial justice will bring about positive change in our society	Strongly agree	15%	20%
		Somewhat agree	33%	33%
		Somewhat disagree	18%	14%
		Strongly disagree	21%	20%
		Don`t know	13%	14%
	NETS	*Agree*	*48%*	*52%*
		Disagree	*39%*	*34%*
	Black Americans receive equal treatment to white Americans in this country	Strongly agree	17%	16%
		Somewhat agree	21%	17%
		Somewhat disagree	21%	22%
		Strongly disagree	33%	36%
		Don`t know	7%	9%
	NETS	*Agree*	*38%*	*33%*
		Disagree	*55%*	*58%*
	Racism is a significant problem in California	Strongly agree	30%	34%
		Somewhat agree	33%	35%
		Somewhat disagree	19%	13%
		Strongly disagree	12%	11%
		Don`t know	6%	7%
	NETS	*Agree*	*63%*	*69%*
		Disagree	*31%*	*24%*
	Lately, I do not feel safe in my community	Strongly agree	12%	13%
		Somewhat agree	26%	27%
		Somewhat disagree	33%	33%
		Strongly disagree	23%	19%
		Don`t know	6%	9%
	NETS	*Agree*	*38%*	*40%*
		Disagree	*56%*	*51%*

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21. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?	I support reducing my local police department`s budget in order to increase investment in social programs	Strongly agree	20%	21%
		Somewhat agree	23%	24%
		Somewhat disagree	16%	15%
		Strongly disagree	32%	30%
		Don`t know	9%	9%
	NETS	*Agree*	*43%*	*46%*
		Disagree	*48%*	*45%*
	I support the Black Lives Matter movement	Strongly agree	34%	37%
		Somewhat agree	27%	24%
		Somewhat disagree	8%	9%
		Strongly disagree	22%	21%
		Don`t know	9%	10%
	NETS	*Agree*	*60%*	*60%*
		Disagree	*31%*	*30%*
31. There are a number of propositions included on the ballot in November. How much do you support or oppose the following proposals?	Reinstating affirmative action in California, by repealing Proposition 209, which banned it	Strongly support	15%	17%
		Somewhat support	23%	21%
		Somewhat oppose	13%	14%
		Strongly oppose	15%	15%
		Don`t know	34%	33%
	NETS	Support	38%	38%
		Oppose	28%	28%
	Increasing property taxes for large businesses to reflect their current property value, instead of their purchase value	Strongly support	26%	28%
		Somewhat support	29%	29%
		Somewhat oppose	14%	12%
		Strongly oppose	15%	13%
		Don`t know	16%	19%
	NETS	Support	55%	57%
		Oppose	29%	24%
	Charging repeat theft, when someone is caught for the 3rd time stealing something worth at least $250, as a felony	Strongly support	28%	28%
		Somewhat support	33%	33%
		Somewhat oppose	15%	16%
		Strongly oppose	8%	9%
		Don`t know	15%	15%
	NETS	Support	61%	61%
		Oppose	24%	24%
	Expanding the list of violent crimes for which early release from prison is not an option	Strongly support	27%	29%
		Somewhat support	33%	29%
		Somewhat oppose	15%	13%
		Strongly oppose	10%	11%
		Don`t know	16%	18%
	NETS	Support	59%	58%
		Oppose	25%	23%

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31. There are a number of propositions included on the ballot in November. How much do you support or oppose the following proposals?	Classifying app-based, rideshare drivers as independent contractors	Strongly support	35%	33%
		Somewhat support	27%	26%
		Somewhat oppose	13%	13%
		Strongly oppose	10%	10%
		Don`t know	15%	17%
	NETS	Support	62%	59%
		Oppose	23%	24%
	Changing zoning laws to allow for duplexes and triplexes to be built in neighborhoods previously zoned for single-family homes	Strongly support	16%	15%
		Somewhat support	27%	27%
		Somewhat oppose	21%	20%
		Strongly oppose	15%	18%
		Don`t know	21%	21%
	NETS	Support	43%	42%
		Oppose	36%	37%
32. Would you support or oppose personally paying more in taxes in order to fund wildfire prevention efforts in California?	Would you support or oppose personally paying more in taxes in order to fund wildfire prevention efforts in California?	Strongly support	14%	15%
		Somewhat support	33%	27%
		Somewhat oppose	21%	20%
		Strongly oppose	21%	25%
		Don`t know	11%	13%
	NETS	Support	47%	42%
		Oppose	41%	45%

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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between October 7-15, 2020, on behalf of Spectrum News. For this survey, a sample of 1,400 adults age 18+ from California was interviewed online in English, including an oversample of 400 respondents in the Los Angeles media market, for a total of 824 interviews in that market.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2018 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.0 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,400, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/- 4.5 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points for respondents in the Los Angeles media market.

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