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Harris holds comfortable lead in her home state.

Schiff maintains big lead in U.S. Senate race; Proposition 36 appears headed for passage.

by Mark DiCamillo, Director, *Berkeley IGS Poll*

The final pre-election *Berkeley IGS Poll* shows Vice President Kamala Harris maintaining a comfortable lead over Donald Trump in her home state in next week's presidential election. The poll, completed one week before Election Day, finds the Democratic ticket of Harris and Tim Walz supported by 57%, while the Trump - J.D. Vance GOP ticket receives 35%.

While impressive, Harris's lead does not match the victory margin that President Joe Biden received four years ago when he carried the state by 29 points. One reason for this is that Harris is now receiving significantly less support from the state's Latino and Asian American voters than Biden did in 2020. The declines are particularly striking among male Latino and Asian American voters, only about half of whom are now backing Harris.

The poll finds little change in voter preferences in both U.S. Senate race and Proposition 36, the ballot initiative to stiffen sentences for repeat offenders for theft and drug use. In the U.S. Senate race, Democrat Adam Schiff continues to hold a big lead over Republican Steve Garvey, 55% to 34%. The current standings on Proposition 36 shows 60% of those polled intending to vote Yes, while just 25% are voting No.

The poll shows somewhat greater support for Proposition 32, to increase the state's minimum wage, when compared to an earlier poll in late September. Slightly less than half of voters (47%) are backing it, close to the 50% level it needs for passage. On the other hand, support for Proposition 33, an initiative to expand local government authority to enact rent control laws, is in decline with 45% lining up on the No side and just 35% intending to vote Yes.

These findings come from the latest *Berkeley IGS Poll* completed October 22-29 in English and Spanish among 4,341 Californians considered likely to vote or who had already voted in the state's November general election.

Observed IGS co-director Eric Schickler, "Vice President Harris is in a strong position in California, with roughly equal levels of support among its white, Latino and Asian American voters, and very high support among the state's Black voters. At the same time, her lower vote margins among Latino and Asian Americans compared to what Biden received in 2020 speak to why the broader race across the country is likely to be so close."

Harris holds comfortable lead over Trump in California

The *Berkeley IGS Poll* continues to show Harris with a comfortable lead in her home state. IGS's final pre-election poll Day finds the Democratic ticket supported by 57% of the state's voters, while the Republican ticket is backed by 35%. Another 3% are supporting other candidates to be listed on the state's presidential election ballot, while 5% remain undecided.

However, the size of Harris's lead over Trump is less than what her predecessor received in this state four years ago. In that election 63.5% of California voters backed Biden, 34.3% voted for Trump, a victory margin of 29.2 percentage points.

Harris's somewhat lower level of support is primarily due to somewhat lower levels of vote support from the state's Latino and Asian American voters, who account for slightly more than a third of the state's likely electorate. Four years ago, exit polls in California* found three in four of the state's Latino and Asian American voters, 75% and 76% respectively, backing Biden's 2020 presidential bid. However, the latest poll finds Harris now receiving just 57% support from Latino voters and 56% from Asian Americans.

These declines are offset somewhat by Harris receiving higher levels of support from the state's white voters than Biden did in 2020. According to the poll white voters now back Harris 58% to 36%, compared to a narrower 51% to 47% victory margin among these voters for Biden in 2020. Fueling this increase is Harris's strong support from college educated white voters who are backing Harris 67% to 26%. By contrast, the state's white voters who have not graduated from college are narrowly siding with Trump 50% to 45%.

Slightly more than three in four (77%) of California's black voters are backing Harris, not that different than the 82% support Biden received from these voters in 2020.

Partisanship and political ideology continue to be the most dominant factors associated with presidential preferences, as about nine in ten of registered Democrats and self-described political liberals are backing Harris, while Trump receives similar levels of support from the state's Republican and strongly conservative voters.

The poll also finds some regional differences in voting preferences. Harris dominates among voters in the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles County, the Central Coast, and San Diego County, while Trump leads among voters in the state's San Joaquin Valley, while voters in Orange County are about evenly divided.

* Source: CNN exit poll of 2,271 Californians who voted in the state's November 2020 presidential election.

Table 1
California likely voter preferences for President in 2024
in late October

	Harris - Walz %	Trump – Vance %	Others** %	Undecided/ not reported %
Total statewide	57	35	3	5
<u>Vote status</u>				
Already voted	63	34	2	2
Not yet voted	55	35	5	5
<u>Region</u>				
Los Angeles County	62	28	5	5
San Diego County	59	34	3	4
Orange County	46	45	5	4
Inland Empire	50	42	2	6
Central Coast	61	31	3	5
Sacramento/North Valley	51	42	4	3
San Joaquin Valley	39	55	5	1
San Francisco Bay Area	69	25	2	4
North Coast/Sierras*	49	40	2	9
<u>Party registration</u>				
Democrats	89	6	3	2
Republicans	7	88	2	3
No Party Preference/other	53	30	8	9
<u>Political ideology</u>				
Strongly conservative	6	90	2	2
Somewhat conservative	19	75	2	4
Moderate	59	29	4	8
Somewhat liberal	91	4	3	2
Strongly liberal	91	1	6	2
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
White (total)	<u>58</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
Non-college graduate	45	50	2	3
College graduate	67	26	3	4
Latino	57	34	4	5
Asian/Pacific Islander	56	35	4	5
Black	77	16	3	4
<u>Gender</u>				
Female	62	31	3	4
Male	52	38	5	5
<u>Age</u>				
18-29	64	27	7	2
30-39	56	33	6	5
40-49	50	39	6	5
50-64	56	37	2	5
65 or older	60	35	1	4

* Findings in the North Coast/Sierras region in this poll are based on a relatively small sample of voters.

** Vote support for other candidates in the latest poll was Jill Stein 1%, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. 1%, all others 1%

Little change in voting preferences in the U.S. Senate race

There has been very little change in voter preferences in the U.S. Senate race over the course of this year's general election campaign. The latest poll finds 55% of likely voters backing the Democrat Schiff, while 34% are supporting Garvey, the Republican. These findings are quite similar to the support levels each has received in each of the past three *Berkeley IGS Polls* in this race.

This year Californians will be asked to vote twice for U.S. Senate -- once to elect a Senator to serve a full six-year term beginning next year, and a second time to elect a Senator to complete the current unexpired term of former Senator Dianne Feinstein. The latest poll finds no difference in voter preferences in these two Senate races.

Party loyalties dominate the voting in the Senate race and reflect the nearly two-to one advantage that the Democrats hold over the Republicans on the state's voter rolls. In the current poll Schiff is the choice of 86% of the state's Democrats. Conversely, Garvey is the choice of 86% of the state's Republicans. Voters not affiliated with either major party also favor Schiff over Garvey 49% to 33%.

The regional differences in voting preferences in the Senate race tend to mirror those found in the presidential election, with the Democrat Schiff holding big leads among voters in Los Angeles County, the San Francisco Bay Area, the Central Coast and San Diego County, while he trails among voters in the San Joaquin Valley.

Table 2
Trend of the general election preferences for U.S. Senate
(among likely voters in California)

	Adam Schiff, Democrat	Steve Garvey, Republican	Undecided/ not reported
	%	%	%
Total statewide -- Late October	55	34	11
Late September	53	36	11
Early August	53	33	14
Late February	53	38	9
<u>Voting status</u>			
Already voted	61	35	4
Not yet voted	51	34	15
<u>Party registration</u>			
Democrats	86	5	9
Republicans	7	86	7
No party preference/other	49	33	18
<u>Region</u>			
Los Angeles County	60	28	12
San Diego County	54	35	11
Orange County	45	41	14
Inland Empire	48	43	9
Central Coast	59	34	7
Sacramento/North Valley	47	44	9
San Joaquin Valley	42	50	8
San Francisco Bay Area	64	24	12
North Coast/Sierras	44	41	15

Voters continue to overwhelmingly support Proposition 36

The latest poll finds little change in Californians’ strong support for Proposition 36, to allow felony charges and increased sentences for repeat drug and theft offenders. It is currently backed by a 60% to 25% margin, similar to the 60% to 21% support found by the poll in late September. This despite the fact that most of the state’s Democratic political leadership, including Governor Gavin Newsom, stand opposed to it.

Support for Proposition 36 remains very broad-based, with large majorities or significant pluralities voting Yes across nearly all major demographic subgroups of the electorate. Republicans and conservative voters offer nearly universal support for the initiative, and it is also backed by large majorities of the state’s political moderates and independent voters. Almost half of the state’s Democratic voters are backing the initiative, while 34% are opposed, and a relatively large 19% remain undecided. The only major segment lining up in opposition to the initiative are strong liberals, although Black voters are closely divided.

Table 3

Voter preferences on Proposition 36, to increase sentences for drug and theft crimes

	Voting Yes %	Voting No %	Undecided/ not reported %
Total statewide: Late October	60	25	15
Late September	60	21	19
<u>Voting status</u>			
Already voted	62	27	11
Not yet voted	59	23	18
<u>Party registration</u>			
Democrats	47	34	19
Republicans	82	9	9
No party preference/other	60	24	16
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Strongly conservative	81	7	12
Somewhat conservative	81	11	8
Moderate	69	16	15
Somewhat liberal	48	33	19
Strongly liberal	23	60	17
<u>Gender</u>			
Female	57	24	19
Male	64	25	11
<u>Age</u>			
18-29	41	41	18
30-39	53	29	18
40-49	64	19	17
50-64	62	21	17
65 or older	68	21	11
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	60	26	14
Latino	61	23	16
Asian/Pacific Islander	64	20	16
Black	44	38	18

Growing support for Proposition 32, to increase the minimum wage, but it remains below the 50% level needed for passage

The latest *Berkeley IGS Poll* finds somewhat greater voter support for Proposition 32, an initiative to increase the state's minimum wage to the \$17 or \$18 level depending on employer size. Slightly less than half (47%) of likely voters now intends to vote Yes on the initiative, up from 37% one month ago. The proportion of voters intending to vote No has also increased three points in the latest poll to 39%, while undecided voters have declined by half, from 27% to 14%. Although leading in the current poll, these findings still indicate that the outcome on Proposition 32 remains uncertain because historically most undecided voters in the late stages of an initiative campaign tend to vote No.

The fate of the initiative may rest on the shape of voter turnout in the election, as support varies considerably by region and across major subgroups of the state's likely electorate. The segments of the voting public most in favor of increasing the minimum wage are Democrats, black voters, voters under age 30, those with annual household incomes of less than \$60,000, and voters living in the state's largest urban centers, Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Yet, the current poll finds Proposition 32 opposed nearly six to one by Republicans, and also is opposed by voters in San Diego County and the Central Valley, as well as in rural areas throughout the state.

<i>Table 4</i>			
Likely voter preferences on Proposition 32, to increase the state minimum wage			
	Voting Yes %	Voting No %	Undecided/ not reported %
Total statewide: Late October	47	39	14
Late September	37	36	27
<u>Voting status</u>			
Already voted	48	42	10
Not yet voted	46	37	17
<u>Party registration</u>			
Democrats	68	17	15
Republicans	13	76	11
No party preference/other	45	38	17
<u>Region</u>			
Los Angeles County	49	33	18
San Diego County	40	47	13
Orange County	41	43	16
Inland Empire	46	38	16
Central Coast	46	40	14
Central Valley	36	50	14
San Francisco Bay Area	57	28	15
North Coast/Sierras	47	44	9
<u>Urbanicity</u>			
Urban	52	31	17
Suburban	44	42	14
Rural	40	52	8
<u>Gender</u>			
Female	50	32	18
Male	44	46	10
<u>Age</u>			
18-29	55	28	17
30-39	52	31	17
40-49	39	46	15
50-64	46	38	16
65 or older	45	44	11
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	44	43	13
Latino	52	32	16
Asian/Pacific Islander	48	38	14
Black	67	18	15
<u>Household income</u>			
Less than \$40,000	57	25	18
\$40,000-\$59,999	55	29	16
\$60,000-\$99,999	46	39	15
\$100,000-199,999	43	46	11
\$200,000 or more	41	46	13

Growing opposition to Proposition 33 relating to expand local government authority to enact rent control laws

There is growing voter opposition to Proposition 33, the initiative to expand local government authority to enact rent control ordinances on residential properties throughout the state. The latest poll finds 45% are intending to vote No, up nine percentage points from late September, while support for the initiative is stalled at 35%, slightly less than the 37% who said they supported it one month ago. A relatively large 20% remain undecided.

Pluralities of Democrats, Latino and Black voters, renters and younger voters are backing the initiative. Yet, there is strong opposition among the state’s Republicans. In addition, majorities of males, seniors ages 65 or older, as well as whites and Asian American voters are opposed. Also telling is that two of the state’s largest swing voter blocs, political moderates and No Party Preference voters, have now moved to the No side.

Table 5
Likely voter preferences on Proposition 33, to expand local governments’ authority to enact rent control on residential property

	Voting Yes %	Voting No %	Undecided/ not reported %
Total statewide: Late October	35	45	20
Late September	37	36	27
<u>Voting status</u>			
Already voted	36	51	13
Not yet voted	34	42	24
<u>Party registration</u>			
Democrats	46	31	23
Republicans	15	72	13
No party preference/other	33	44	23
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Conservative	17	67	16
Moderate	34	46	20
Liberal	50	28	22
<u>Tenure</u>			
Homeowner	26	57	17
Renter/other	46	29	25
<u>Gender</u>			
Female	36	39	25
Male	32	52	16
<u>Age</u>			
18-29	44	31	25
30-39	38	35	27
40-49	31	47	22
50-64	32	48	20
65 or older	32	53	15
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	30	51	19
Latino	45	35	20
Asian/Pacific Islander	30	51	19
Black	49	26	25

About the Survey

The findings in this report are based on a *Berkeley IGS Poll* completed by the Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) at the University of California, Berkeley. The poll was administered online in English and Spanish October 22-28, 2024, among 4,341 Californians considered likely to vote or had already voted in the state's November 2024 general election. Funding for the poll was provided in part by the *Los Angeles Times*.

The poll was conducted by distributing email invitations to stratified random samples of the state's registered voters. Each email invited voters to participate in a non-partisan survey conducted by the University and provided a link to the IGS website where the survey was housed. Reminder emails were distributed to non-responding voters and an opt out link was provided for voters not wishing to receive further email invitations.

The latest poll also included an oversampling of registered voters in Los Angeles County, administered using the same methods, to enable the poll to examine some election contests facing voters in Los Angeles County and to the *Times*. After the completion of data collection, the results were weighted to realign the Los Angeles County oversample to its actual share of the statewide registered voter population.

Samples of California registered voters with email addresses were derived from information contained on the official voter registration rolls and provided to IGS by Political Data, Inc., a leading supplier of registered voter lists. To protect the anonymity of respondents, voters' email addresses and all other personally identifiable information derived from the original voter listing were purged from the data file and replaced with a unique and anonymous identification number during data processing. In addition, after the completion of data collection, post-stratification weights were applied to the survey data file to align the sample of registered voters to population characteristics of the registered voters statewide and within major regions of the state.

The sampling error associated with the survey results is difficult to calculate precisely because of sample stratification and post-stratification weighting. Nevertheless, it is likely that findings from the overall likely voter sample have a sampling error of about +/-2 points at the 95% confidence level.

Question wording

Below are the candidates and party tickets that were listed on the California election ballot for President and Vice President. For whom (IF ALREADY VOTED: did you vote) (IF HAVE NOT VOTED YET: would you vote if the election were held today)?

In the full-term election for United States Senator, for whom (IF ALREADY VOTED: did you vote) (IF HAVE NOT VOTED YET: would you vote if the election were held today)?

In the partial unexpired term election for United States Senator, for whom (IF ALREADY VOTED: did you vote) (IF HAVE NOT VOTED YET: would you vote if the election were held today)?

California's election ballot also includes a number of statewide propositions. The following is a summary of some of them exactly as they will appear on the ballot. Please indicate how you would vote on each of these ballot propositions if the election were held today

PROPOSITION 32. RAISES MINIMUM WAGE. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Raises minimum wage as follows: For employers with 26 or more employees, to \$17 immediately, \$18 on January 1, 2025.

For employers with 25 or fewer employees, to \$17 on January 1, 2025, \$18 on January 1, 2026. Fiscal Impact: State and local government costs could increase or decrease by up to hundreds of millions of dollars annually. State and local revenues likely would decrease by no more than a few hundred million dollars annually. Supporters: None submitted. Opponents: California Chamber of Commerce; California Restaurant Association; California Grocers Association. (IF ALREADY VOTED: How did you vote on Proposition 32) (IF HAVE NOT VOTED YET: How would you vote on Proposition 32 if the election were held today)?

PROPOSITION 33. EXPANDS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' AUTHORITY TO ENACT RENT CONTROL ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Repeals Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act of 1995, which currently prohibits local ordinances limiting initial residential rental rates for new tenants or rent increases for existing tenants in certain residential properties. Fiscal Impact: Reduction in local property tax revenues of at least tens of millions of dollars annually due to likely expansion of rent control in some communities. Supporters: CA Nurses Assoc.; CA Alliance for Retired Americans; Mental Health Advocacy; Coalition for Economic Survival; Tenants Together. Opponents: California Council for Affordable Housing; Women Veterans Alliance; California Chamber of Commerce. (IF ALREADY VOTED: How did you vote on Proposition 33) (IF HAVE NOT VOTED YET: How would you vote on Proposition 33 if the election were held today)?

PROPOSITION 36. ALLOWS FELONY CHARGES AND INCREASES SENTENCES FOR CERTAIN DRUG AND THEFT CRIMES. INITIATIVE STATUTE. Allows felony charges for possessing certain drugs and for thefts under \$950, if defendant has two prior drug or theft convictions. Fiscal Impact: State criminal justice costs likely ranging from several tens of millions of dollars to the low hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Local criminal justice costs likely in the tens of millions of dollars annually. Supporters: Crime Victims United of California; California District Attorneys Association; Family Business Association of California. Opponents: Diana Becton, District Attorney Contra Costa County; Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice. (IF ALREADY VOTED: How did you vote on Proposition 36) (IF HAVE NOT VOTED YET: How would you vote on Proposition 36 if the election were held today)?

About the Institute of Governmental Studies

The Institute of Governmental studies (IGS) is an interdisciplinary organized research unit that pursues a vigorous program, of research, education, publication and public service. A component of the University of California system's flagship Berkeley campus, IGS is the oldest organized research unit in the UC system and the oldest public policy research center in the state. IGS's co-directors are Professor Eric Schickler and Associate Professor G. Cristina Mora.

IGS conducts periodic surveys of California public opinion on matters of politics and public policy through its *Berkeley IGS Poll*. The poll seeks to provide objective, non-partisan survey data for public benefit and for scholarly analysis. Veteran pollster Mark DiCamillo serves as director of the *Berkeley IGS Poll*. A complete listing of its reports can be found by visiting the weblink: <https://igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll>.