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<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0436p3tw>

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Publication Date

2019-12-04



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Release #2019-13

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

A 57% Majority of California Voters Supports House Impeachment of President Trump

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A majority of California voters supports the U.S. House of Representatives voting to impeach President Donald Trump. When asked what action the House should take regarding the House's ongoing impeachment inquiry, 57% favor the President's impeachment, 30% are opposed, while another 13% are unsure or say it's too soon to say.

Voters broadly endorse the House's decision to begin its impeachment inquiry, with 65% approving and 35% disapproving. When asked what they would want the U.S. Senate to do should the House vote to impeach, 55% support it convicting Trump and removing him from office.

When voter opinions about House impeachment and Senate conviction are examined together, half of the state's registered voters (50%) now favors both the President's impeachment and his removal from office, with 7% favoring House impeachment but opposing or unsure about Senate conviction.

As with virtually all matters relating to the President, voter opinions are highly partisan, Nearly all Democrats (95%) support the House's decision to begin its impeachment inquiry, and nearly as many (85%) support it voting to impeach the President. About eight in ten Democrats also believe the U.S. Senate should convict Trump and remove him from office should the House vote to impeach. Republicans hold diametrically opposite views, with just 9% approving of the House's impeachment inquiry, 8% supporting its impeachment of the President, and 5% supporting both Trump's impeachment in the House and conviction in the Senate.

Despite their support for impeachment, more Californians (54%) believe the House should focus greater attention to other national issues than to impeachment (33%).

The poll also finds that Californians' views about the job Trump is doing as President remain remarkably stable, with one in three (32%) continuing to approve of the job Trump is doing, while two in three (68%) disapprove, similar to previous statewide polls.

Broad support for House decision to open its impeachment inquiry of the President

By a nearly two-to-one margin (65% to 35%) voters support the House’s decision to open its impeachment inquiry into the President. Four in ten (42%) say they are following the proceedings very closely, while another 40% are following them somewhat closely.

While half (50%) describe the House’s investigation into Trump’s dealings with the Ukraine government as fair and impartial, about one in three (32%) see them as unfair and too partisan. Another 18% have no opinion.

Democrats are nearly universally supportive of the House inquiry into the President, with 95% approving. Republicans hold diametrically opposite views, with 91% disapproving. Similar partisan divisions characterize perceptions of the fairness of the inquiry.

Independent voters not affiliated with either party hold divided views, with 49% approving of the House impeachment inquiry and 51% disapproving. Independents express a fair amount of skepticism about the fairness of the proceedings, with more describing them as unfair and too partisan (40%) as feel they are fair and impartial (25%). Another 35% of independents are undecided or have no opinion about them.

Table 1
California voter views about the House of Representatives’
ongoing impeachment inquiry into President Trump
(among California registered voters)

	Total registered voters %	Party identification		
		Democrat* %	Republican* %	Independent %
<i>House’s decision to open an impeachment inquiry into President Trump</i>				
Approve	65	95	9	49
Disapprove	35	5	91	51
<i>How closely are you following news about the impeachment investigation</i>				
Very closely	42	41	50	26
Somewhat closely	40	43	35	39
Not closely	18	16	15	35
<i>Perceived fairness of the investigation into Trump’s dealings with the Ukraine government</i>				
Fair and impartial	50	78	5	25
Unfair/too partisan	32	5	83	40
No opinion	18	17	12	35

* includes party leaners

A 57% majority of Californians supports House impeachment of the President

When voters are asked what actions the House should take with regard to its impeachment investigation of the President, California voters believe it should vote to impeach Trump by a 57% to 30% margin, with 13% unsure or saying it's too soon to say.

And, when asked what action the U.S. Senate take should the House vote to impeach the President, voters favor their voting to remove Trump from office 55% to 28%, although 17% are undecided or feel it's too soon to say.

When voter opinions about House impeachment and Senate conviction of Trump are examined together, half of the state's registered voters (50%) now favors both the President's impeachment and his removal from office, while 7% favor his House impeachment but are opposed or unsure about his conviction in the Senate. This compares to 39% who are not as convinced, and either oppose or are unsure about House impeachment and are similarly opposed or unsure about his Senate conviction.

There are huge opinion differences on these matters by party. Greater than eight in ten Democrats (85%) support the House voting for impeachment. Large majorities of Democrats also believe the U.S. Senate should vote to convict Trump and remove him from office should the House vote to impeach. By contrast, Republicans hold starkly different views, with just 5% supporting the House voting to impeach the President and an identical proportion supporting his conviction in the Senate.

In addition the views of partisans on both sides are strongly held, with greater than three in four Democrats saying they strongly approve of House impeachment of the President, while greater than three in four Republicans strongly disapprove.

By contrast, the state's independent voters are more divided and uncertain. When asked what the House should do about impeachment, independents divide 40% in favor of impeachment and 36% opposed, with one in four (24%) unsure or saying it's too soon to say.

And, when asked their views about what action the Senate should take were the House to vote for impeachment, independent voters divide into thirds, with 36% favoring Senate conviction of the President, 31% favoring his acquittal, and another 33% unsure or say it's too soon to say.

Table 2
Voter views about what actions the House and U.S. Senate
should take with regard to impeachment
(among California registered voters)

	Total registered voters %	Party identification		
		Democrat*	Republican*	Independent
		%	%	%
<i>What the House of Representatives should do about impeachment</i>				
<u>Vote to impeach</u>	57	85	8	40
Strongly	52	78	7	32
Somewhat	5	7	1	8
<u>Vote against impeachment</u>	30	3	81	36
Somewhat	3	1	5	10
Strongly	27	2	76	26
Not sure/too soon to say	13	12	11	24
<i>What should the Senate do if the House votes to impeach</i>				
Vote to convict Trump	55	84	5	36
Vote to acquit Trump	28	2	80	31
Not sure/too soon to say	17	14	15	33
<i>Summary of voter views about House impeachment and Senate removal</i>				
Support House impeachment and Senate conviction	50	77	5	30
Support House impeachment/oppose or unsure of Senate conviction	7	8	3	11
Oppose or unsure about House impeachment/ oppose or unsure about Senate conviction	39	9	91	54
Oppose or unsure about impeachment/ support Senate conviction	4	6	1	5

* includes party leaners

Summary views about House impeachment and Senate conviction of the President differ across major demographic subgroups

There are a number of differences in voter opinions about these matters across major demographic subgroups of the state's registered voter population.

The voter segments where majorities of Californians currently support that both the House voting to impeach the President and the Senate voting to convict and remove Trump from office include: African Americans (72%), those with a post-graduate education (61%), voters 30-39 (60%), women (56%), Asian Americans (56%), voters who are not evangelical Christians (56%), voters 40-49 (53%), Latinos (52%), those with a four year college degree (52%), and seniors 65 or older (51%).

On a regional basis, support for both House impeachment and Senate conviction of the President is greatest among voters in the nine-county San Francisco Area (57%), Los Angeles County (55%) and areas of Southern California, outside of Los Angeles, the South Coast and the Inland Empire (56%).

Evangelical Christians are the segment least supportive of House impeachment and Senate conviction of the President, with just 28% holding this view.

Other voter segments in which fewer than half currently back both House impeachment and Senate conviction of Trump include voters in Orange County (42%), the Central Valley (42%) and the Inland Empire (43%), as well as voters 50-64 (43%), males (44%), white non-Hispanics (47%), non-college graduates (47%), voters under 30 (48%), and San Diego County voters (49%).

Table 3
Summary of opinions about Trump’s impeachment and removal from office
(among California registered voters)

	Support House impeachment and Senate conviction	Support impeachment/ oppose or unsure about conviction	Oppose or unsure about impeachment /oppose or unsure about conviction	Oppose or unsure about impeach- ment/support conviction
	%	%	%	%
Total statewide	50	7	39	4
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	44	7	45	4
Female	56	6	33	5
<u>Age</u>				
18-29	48	10	34	8
30-39	60	4	32	4
40-49	53	6	38	3
50-64	43	8	45	4
65 or older	51	4	42	3
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
White non-Hispanic	47	6	44	3
Latino	52	9	32	7
Asian American	56	4	32	8
African American	72	4	22	2
<u>Evangelical Christian</u>				
Yes	28	6	64	2
No	56	7	32	5
<u>Education</u>				
High school grad or less	47	7	40	6
Some college/trade school	47	6	42	5
College graduate	52	7	37	4
Post graduate work	61	6	31	2
<u>Region</u>				
Los Angeles County	55	6	34	5
San Diego County	49	8	39	4
Orange County	42	6	46	6
Inland Empire	43	7	45	5
Other Southern California	56	8	34	2
Central Valley	42	6	49	3
San Francisco Bay Area	57	7	30	6
Other Northern California	51	8	36	5

Most believe the House should give greater attention to other national issues

Despite Californians overall support for impeachment, when voters are asked whether the House should be focusing more of its attention on impeachment or more on other national issues, a 54% majority believes it should give greater attention to other national issues, while just 33% feel it should focus more on impeachment.

Self-identified Republicans are nearly unanimous believing the House should focus more on other national issues, with 95% holding this view. Two in three independent voters (67%) also take this position. By contrast, Democrats are more likely to back the House giving greater attention to impeachment (52%) than to other national issues (30%).

Table 4
In general, should the House focus more of its attention on impeaching President Trump or more on other national issues (among California registered voters)

	Total registered voters %	Party identification		
		Democrat* %	Republicans* %	Independents %
Focus more on other issues	54	30	95	67
Focus more on impeachment	33	52	3	15
No opinion	13	18	2	18

* includes party leaners

Impeachment hearings not affecting Californians' already very negative views of Trump's job performance or his re-election chances next year

The latest poll also updated earlier measures about Trump's job performance as President and whether or not likely voters would be inclined to support his re-election next year. The results reveal that Californians' views about the President remain remarkably stable.

At present, about one in three (32%) Californians approve of the job the President is doing and 68% disapproving, very similar to the results of four earlier *Berkeley IGS Polls* conducted since December 2017.

There has been no real change in the proportion of likely voters inclined to support the President's re-election next year. The current poll finds 30% of those considered likely to vote in the November 2020 general election saying they are inclined to support Trump's re-election next year, while 67% are not. This is virtually identical to each of two previous *Berkeley IGS Polls* conducted earlier this year. This 37-percentage point disinclination to re-elect Trump is seven points greater than the historic 30-point defeat that he suffered at the hands of Democrat Hillary Clinton in California in the 2016 presidential election.

Table 5
Trend of Donald Trump’s job performance as President in California
(among California registered voters)

	Approve %	Disapprove %
Late November 2019	32	68
September 2019	31	69
June 2019	33	67
April 2018	31	67
December 2017	30	66
May 2017	28	57

(Differences between the sum of each survey’s percentages and 100% equal proportion with no opinion)

Table 6
Likely voter inclination to re-elect Donald Trump as President next year
((among Californians likely to vote in the November 2020 general election))

	<u>Inclined to re-elect Trump</u> %	<u>Not inclined to re-elect Trump</u> %	<u>Depends</u> %
Late November 2019	30	67	3
September 2019	29	67	4
June 2019	31	66	3
	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Others</u>
November 2016 election results	31.6	61.7	6.7

Mostly positive views of the job Adam Schiff is doing leading the House impeachment inquiry of President Trump

The poll also asked California voters their views of the job Los Angeles County Congressman Adam Schiff is doing leading the House impeachment inquiry of the President as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

The results indicate that voters view Schiff in a generally positive light, with 44% approving and 31% disapproving of his performance. Another 25% have no opinion.

Views about Schiff are highly partisan, with Democrats offering an overwhelmingly positive assessment (70% approve vs. 7% disapprove), and Republicans holding nearly universal negative views (7% approve vs. 80% disapprove). Non-partisans give Schiff a somewhat more positive than negative assessment (37% approve vs. 28% disapprove), although over one in three (35%) have no opinion.

Table 7
Voter appraisals of the job Congressman Adam Schiff
is doing as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee
(among California registered voters)

	Approve %	Disapprove %	No opinion %
Total registered voters	44	31	25
Democrats	70	7	23
Republicans	7	80	13
No Party Preference/other	37	28	35

A majority also approves of the job Nancy Pelosi is doing as House Speaker

By a 53% to 46% margin California voters also approve of the job Nancy Pelosi is doing as Speaker of the House of Representatives. As with Schiff, voter views about Pelosi are highly partisan, with 81% of Democrats viewing her favorably compared to just 8% of the state’s Republicans who say this. No Party Preference voters are evenly divided, with 49% approving and 49% disapproving.

Pelosi’s current job marks are more favorable than the assessments California voters gave her during the later years of her previous tenure as House Speaker. For example, in each of the last three *Field Polls* conducted among the state’s registered voters during her tenure, more Californians disapproved than approved of her performance as House Speaker. Pelosi lost the Speakership in 2011 after Republicans took control of the House in the November 2010 elections.

Table 8
Voter appraisals of the job Nancy Pelosi is doing as House Speaker
(among California registered voters)

	Approve %	Disapprove %	No opinion %
Total registered voters	53	46	1
Democrats	81	19	-
Republicans	8	91	1
No Party Preference/other	49	49	2
Pelosi’s earlier ratings as Speaker*			
September 2010	37	44	19
January 2010	39	46	15
October 2009	34	44	22
March 2009	48	35	17
May 2008	30	39	31
December 2007	35	38	27
August 2007	39	37	24
March 2007	48	27	25

* *The Field Poll, as reported in Release #2359, September 30, 2010, by Field Research Corporation.*

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 November 21-27, 2019 among 3,482 registered voters statewide. The overall sample was divided into two random subsamples of 1,772 or 1,710 registered voters on several of the impeachment questions.

The survey was administered by distributing email invitations to stratified random samples of the state's registered voters. Once the survey questionnaire and email invitations had been finalized, they were translated into Spanish. 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 participate.

Samples of registered voters with email addresses were provided to IGS by Political Data, Inc., a leading supplier of voter listings derived from information contained on the state's official voter registration rolls. Prior to the distribution of emails, the overall sample of voter listings was stratified in an attempt to obtain a proper balance of survey respondents across major segments of the registered voter population.

To protect the anonymity of survey 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. At the conclusion of the data processing, post-stratification weights were applied to align the sample of voters responding to the survey to population characteristics of the state's overall registered voter population.

The sampling error associated with the results from the survey are difficult to calculate precisely due to the effects of sample stratification and post-stratification weighting. Nevertheless, it is likely that the statewide findings based on the total (or combined) registered voter samples are subject to an approximate sampling error +/- 2.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level., while findings from each of the random subsamples have an approximate sampling error of +/-4 points. Results based on subgroups of this population would be subject to larger margins of sampling error.

Detailed tabulations reporting the results to each question included in this report can be found at the *Berkeley IGS Poll* website at <https://igs.berkeley.edu/igs-poll/berkeley-igs-poll>.

Questions Asked

Below are the questions from which the results in this release were based. Note: On some of the questions in the impeachment series, the overall sample was divided into two random subsamples of either 1,772 (a) or 1,710 (b) registered voters to test for the possible effect that different wordings of these question might have on the survey results. These questions are noted below with an asterisk, with the variations in the wording of each question shown in parens. However, because the survey did not find any statistically significant differences between the different wordings of these questions, the results reported in the release are based on the combined responses of all 3,482 registered voters from both versions of the questions.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President? (1) Approve strongly, (2) Approve somewhat, (3) Disapprove somewhat, (4) Disapprove strongly.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nancy Pelosi is handling her job as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives? *(asked of a random subsample of 1,710 registered voters)*

(Asked of likely voters in the Nov. 2020 general election) If Donald Trump is the Republican candidate for president and the November general election for president were being held today, how likely would you be to vote to re-elect him? (1) Definitely vote to re-elect, (2) Probably vote to re-elect, (3) Probably not vote to re-elect, (4) Definitely not vote to re-elect, (5) Depends / not sure.

Do you approve or disapprove of the ((a) Congressional Democrats' (b) U.S. House of Representatives') decision to conduct an impeachment inquiry into Donald Trump? (1) Approve strongly, (2) Approve somewhat, (3) Disapprove somewhat, (4) Disapprove strongly?*

The impeachment inquiry that the ((a) Democrats in Congress (b) U.S. House of Representatives) are holding centers on President Trump's dealings with the government of Ukraine. From what you have seen, read or heard, would you describe the investigation as fair and impartial, unfair and too partisan, or don't you know enough to have an opinion?*

How closely have you been following news stories related to the impeachment investigation?

Based on what you know or have heard about the issues, which of the following comes closer to your view about what the U.S. House of Representatives should do with regard to the impeachment investigation? (1) Vote to impeach President Trump and send the case to trial in the U.S. Senate (2) Vote against impeaching President Trump (3) Not sure/ too soon to say.

(If vote to impeach) How strongly do you feel this way? (1) Very strongly, (2) Not strongly.

(If vote against impeachment) How strongly do you feel this way? (1) Very strongly, (2) Not strongly.

If the U.S. House of Representatives does vote to impeach President Trump, and sends the case to trial in the U.S. Senate, what should the Senate do? (1) Vote to remove President Trump from office, (2) Vote to acquit President Trump so that he remains President, (3) Not sure/ too soon to say.

In general, do you think that the ((a) Democrats in Congress (b) U.S. House of Representatives) should focus more on impeaching President Trump or focus more on other national issues?*

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congressman Adam Schiff is handling his job as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, which is leading the impeachment investigation?

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 acting co-directors are Professor Eric Schickler and Associate Professor Cristina Mora.

IGS conducts periodic surveys of public opinion in California on matters of politics and public policy through its *Berkeley IGS Poll*. The poll, which is disseminated widely, seeks to provide a broad measure of contemporary public opinion, and to generate data for subsequent scholarly analysis. The director of the *Berkeley IGS Poll* is Mark DiCamillo. For a complete listing of stories issued by the *Berkeley IGS Poll* go to <https://igs.berkeley.edu/igs-poll/berkeley-igs-poll>.