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IGS Poll Finds Support for Retaining Death Penalty

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California voters oppose an effort to abolish the death penalty and strongly support a competing measure that would streamline procedures in capital cases, according to a new poll released today by the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

Respondents opposed the abolition measure 54.9 percent to 45.1 percent, while three out of four respondents supported the streamlining proposition, the survey found. Since the two measures conflict, if both should pass, the measure receiving more votes would take effect.

The poll used online English-language questionnaires to survey respondents from June 29 to July 18. All respondents were registered California voters, and the responses were then weighted to reflect the statewide distribution of the California population by gender, race/ethnicity, education and age. The sample size for the questions on the two death penalty initiatives was 1,506 respondents for one question and 1,512 for the other.

A stark partisan difference emerged on Proposition 62, which would abolish capital punishment and replace it with a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. Democrats supported the measure, 55.1 percent to 44.9 percent. Republicans overwhelmingly opposed it, 70.2 percent to 29.8 percent. Independents were also opposed, though by only 60.6 percent to 39.4 percent.

By contrast, there was support across partisan lines for Proposition 66, which would streamline procedures in capital cases to speed up the resolution of those cases. Even among Democrats

there was strong support (69.7 percent) for the measure, and support was even higher among independents (81.1 percent) and Republicans (85 percent).

A majority (60 percent) of African-Americans favored abolishing the death penalty, but among all other ethnic groups, most respondents opposed that proposal. Support for the death penalty was stronger among older people.

Interestingly, religious differences were reflected in views about abolishing the death penalty, but mostly that difference was related to whether the respondent was or was not religious, rather than to differences among various religious denominations. Among all religious groups there was majority opposition to eliminating the death penalty; only among the self-identified atheists and agnostics did most voters support abolition of capital punishment.

For full results of the poll, please go to the IGS website at igs.berkeley.edu.

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Appendix

Death Penalty -- Abolition

A proposed ballot measure would repeal the death penalty and replace it with a sentence of life in prison without parole. Would you favor or oppose such a measure?

Sample size: 1,506

	Percent
Favor	45.1%
Oppose	54.9%

By Partisanship

	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Favor	55.1%	39.4%	29.8%
Oppose	44.9%	60.6%	70.2%

By Income

	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000-\$99,999	\$100,000+
Favor	49.4%	44.8%	45.4%
Oppose	50.6%	55.2%	54.6%

By Age

	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-64	Age 65+
Favor	49.1%	50.2%	47.8%	41.4%	46.9%
Oppose	50.9%	49.8%	52.2%	58.6%	53.1%

By Race/Ethnicity

	Asian	Black	Latino	White
Favor	36.5%	60%	44.4%	46.5%
Oppose	63.5%	40%	55.6%	53.5%

By Education

	Less than high school	High school degree or equivalent	Some college	Bachelor's degree	Advanced degree
Favor	44.9%	41.6%	42.9%	44.7%	53.3%
Oppose	55.1%	58.4%	57.1%	55.3%	46.7%

By Gender

	Female	Male
Favor	47.2%	44.1%
Oppose	52.8%	55.9%

Death Penalty -- Streamlining

A proposed ballot measure would streamline procedures in death-penalty cases to speed up resolution of the cases. Would you favor or oppose such a measure?

Sample size: 1,512

	Percent
Favor	75.7%
Oppose	24.3%

By Partisanship

	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Favor	69.7%	81.1%	85%
Oppose	30.3%	18.9%	15%

By Income

	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000- \$99,999	\$100,000+
Favor	74.1%	75.3%	78.1%
Oppose	25.9%	24.7%	21.9%

By Age

	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-64	Age 65+
Favor	55%	70.1%	75.7%	79%	83.3%
Oppose	45%	29.9%	24.3%	21%	16.7%

By Race/Ethnicity

	Asian	Black	Latino	White
Favor	76.6%	74.1%	72.5%	76.9%
Oppose	23.4%	25.9%	27.5%	23.1%

By Education

	Less than high school	High school degree or equivalent	Some college	Bachelor's degree	Advanced degree
Favor	76.9%	71.8%	77.9%	75.5%	73.4%
Oppose	23.1%	28.2%	22.1%	24.5%	26.6%

By Gender

	Female	Male
Favor	74%	77.4%
Oppose	26%	22.6%