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Californians oppose Biden and Trump running for President in 2024 ***-- Newsom a leading contender for the Democratic nomination if Biden doesn't run --***

by Mark DiCamillo, Director, *Berkeley IGS Poll*
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By a nearly two-to-one margin (61% to 31%) California voters oppose Joe Biden seeking a second term as President in 2024. Republicans are overwhelmingly against the President running again (87% to 9%), while the state's registered Democrats are evenly split, with 46% in favor and 46% opposed.

Despite repeated denials that he will become a candidate for president in 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom emerges as one of the leading presidential contenders in his home state should Biden decide not to run for re-election. While none of the Democrats included as possible presidential candidates in the state's 2024 Democratic primary currently receives substantial voter support in this setting, Newsom and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders top the list with each receiving 13% of the preferences of this state's Democratic primary voters. Vice President Kamala Harris places third in her home state with 10% support. Newsom opens up a significant lead over the field when the second-choice preferences of voters are added into the mix. Among California's Democratic primary voters 25% select Newsom as either their first or second choice for president should Biden not run, while Sanders and Harris each receive 18%, and 13% support Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

California voters are even more opposed to Donald Trump running for president again in 2024 than they are of Biden seeking reelection. Statewide 71% of California voters oppose another Trump presidential bid, with 64% strongly opposed, while just 25% are in favor. Opinions about a Trump candidacy are highly partisan. Two thirds of Republican voters (66%) favor another Trump presidential election, while just 7% Democrats do. Trump also leads the field when GOP voters are asked whom they would support in the state's presidential primary, although Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is a close second.

These are the findings from the latest *Berkeley IGS Poll* conducted online in English and Spanish August 9-15 among a random sample of 9,254 registered voters across California.

Observed IGS co-director Eric Schickler, "While many California Democrats are not convinced that Biden should run again, the absence of a clear Democratic alternative may

afford the President more space in avoiding a serious primary challenge should he decide to seek reelection.”

Most Californians prefer that President Biden not seek a second term

By a nearly two-to-one margin (61% to 31%) registered voters in California oppose Biden seeking a second term for President in 2024, with most of those opposed (41%) saying they are strongly opposed.

Republicans are overwhelmingly against the President running for a second term (87% to 9%), while the state’s registered Democrats are evenly split, with 46% opposed and 46% in favor. Among the growing segment of voters who are not affiliated with either of the major parties, two thirds oppose the President seeking re-election.

Table 1 Do you favor or oppose Joe Biden running for a second term as President in 2024 (among California registered voters)					
	Total	Democrats	Republicans	No Party	Other
	%	%	%	Preference	parties
	%	%	%	%	%
Favor	<u>31</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
Strongly	10	15	5	6	7
Somewhat	21	31	4	18	18
Oppose	<u>61</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>67</u>
Somewhat	20	26	7	24	16
Strongly	41	20	80	41	51
No opinion	8	8	4	11	8

Newsom would be among the leaders in California’s Democratic presidential primary in 2024 if Biden does not run

Voters eligible to vote in the 2024 Democratic presidential primary in California were asked who they would prefer to be the party’s nominee should President Biden decide not to seek re-election. The results indicate that none of sixteen Democrats listed as possible presidential candidates emerges as the consensus pick to be their party’s nominee.

However, despite denials that he will become a candidate for president in 2024, Governor Newsom emerges as one of the leading contenders in his home state should Biden not run. Newsom, along with Sanders each receives 13% of the preferences in this setting, while Harris places third at 10%. None of the other candidate possibilities receives more than 7%, and a relatively large proportion (19%) are undecided.

Newsom however opens up a significant lead over the field when the second-choice preferences of Democratic primary voters are added into the mix. In this setting 25% select Newsom as their first or second choice, while 18% mention Sanders, 18% choose Harris and 13% would support Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg.

When Newsom's name is removed from the list of possible presidential candidates, Sanders opens up a narrow lead over Harris in California, 15% to 12%, while none of the other Democrats receives double-digit support and 21% are undecided.

Table 2
Voter preferences for the 2024 Democratic Presidential nomination if Biden doesn't run
(among Californians eligible to vote in the Democratic presidential primary)*

	<u>Including Newsom</u>		<u>Excluding Newsom</u>
	1st Choice	1st or 2nd Choice	1st Choice
Gavin Newsom	13	25	--
Bernie Sanders	13	18	15
Kamala Harris	10	18	12
Pete Buttigieg	7	13	8
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	7	7	7
Elizabeth Warren	6	8	7
Hillary Clinton	4	9	5
Stacey Abrams	3	7	4
Amy Klobuchar	3	7	4
Cory Booker	2	5	3
Michael Bloomberg	2	3	2
Gretchen Whitmer	1	4	1
J. B. Pritzker	**	7	2
Jared Polis	**	1	**
Roy Cooper	**	xx	**
Phil Murphy	**	xx	**
Other	9	14	10
Undecided	19	19	21

* eligible Democratic primary voters include those registered as Democrats and No Party Preference.

** less than 1/5 of 1%.

Newsom's support among the state's Democratic primary voters is broad based

The poll finds that Newsom's potential support as a presidential candidate is broadly distributed, receiving 20% - 30% of the first or second choice preferences of voters across most of the major subgroups of the Democratic primary electorate. On the other hand, support for Sanders and Harris is more fragmented. For example, while Sanders receives strong support from liberals and younger voters, he polls poorly among older voters and political moderates. Similarly, while Harris does well among Latino and Black Democratic primary voters, she receives less support from whites and independent voters.

Table 3 1st/2nd choice preferences of the leading candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination across subgroups of California's primary electorate (including Newsom)					
	Newsom	Sanders	Harris	All others	Undecided
	%	%	%	%	%
Total registered voters	25	18	18	20	19
<u>Party registration</u>					
Democrats	29	20	21	14	16
No party preference	17	16	11	31	25
<u>Political ideology</u>					
Conservative	19	11	23	25	22
Moderate	26	13	18	18	25
Somewhat liberal	27	20	18	18	17
Strongly liberal	24	28	15	22	11
<u>Region</u>					
Los Angeles County	25	18	18	22	17
San Diego County	23	21	20	20	16
Orange County	24	21	14	20	21
Inland Empire	27	19	20	16	18
Central Coast	27	21	17	14	21
Central Valley	22	16	20	23	19
San Francisco Bay Area	27	18	15	20	20
North Coast/Sierras	17	14	13	32	24
<u>Gender</u>					
Male	26	21	15	21	17
Female	24	17	20	19	20
<u>Age</u>					
18-29	21	29	13	16	21
30-39	20	23	19	22	16
40-49	23	18	20	19	20
50-64	31	14	20	18	17
65 or older	27	10	17	26	20
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>					
White non-Hispanic	23	15	12	31	19
Latino	27	23	25	9	16
Asian/Pacific Islander	23	22	16	15	24
Black	31	17	27	6	19

Seven in ten Californians oppose Trump running for president again in 2024

California voters are even more opposed to former President Trump running for president again in 2024 than they are for President Biden to seek re-election. Greater than seven in ten Californians (71%) say they oppose another Trump presidential bid, with 65% strongly opposed. This compares to just 25% who are in favor.

Opinions about another Trump presidential run in 2024 are highly partisan, with Republicans backing another bid by the former president greater than two to one, while greater than nine in ten Democrats are opposed, 88% strongly.

Table 4 Do you favor or oppose Donald Trump running for President again in 2024 (among California registered voters)					
	Total	Democrats	Republicans	No Party	Other
	%	%	%	Preference	parties
	%	%	%	%	%
Favor	<u>25</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>27</u>
Strongly	14	3	39	11	14
Somewhat	11	4	27	8	13
Oppose	<u>71</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>66</u>
Somewhat	6	3	10	8	8
Strongly	65	88	19	67	58
No opinion	4	2	5	6	7

Trump leads in GOP presidential primary preferences, but DeSantis is a close second

When California Republicans are asked who they currently support for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, Trump leads with 38% of the preferences. However, Florida Governor DeSantis is a close second with 27% of the vote, while former Vice President Mike Pence places a distant third at 7%.

If Trump is removed from the list of possible Republican presidential candidates, DeSantis emerges as the overwhelming favorite, receiving 53% of the state's GOP voter preferences.

Table 5 Voter preferences for the 2024 Republican Presidential nomination (among registered Republicans)		
	Including Trump	Excluding Trump
	%	%
Donald Trump	38	--
Ron DeSantis	27	53
Mike Pence	7	9
Nikki Haley	3	4
Mike Pompeo	2	4
Ted Cruz	2	3
Marco Rubio	1	2
Larry Hogan	1	1
Tim Scott	**	1
Glenn Youngkin	**	**
Tom Cotton	**	**
Chris Christie	**	**
Other	4	5
Undecided	14	17

** less than 1/5 of 1%

Trump's support comes primarily from strong conservatives and non-college graduates within the state's GOP

Trump holds a nearly two-to-one lead over DeSantis among GOP voters who are strong conservatives, while DeSantis is competitive with Trump among Republicans who identify either as somewhat conservative or as politically moderate.

Trump also does better among Republicans who are non-college graduates than among those who have graduated from college.

Table 6				
1st choice preferences for the 2024 GOP Presidential nomination (including Trump) across major subgroups of the California Republican Party				
	Trump	DeSantis	All others	Undecided
	%	%	%	%
Total Republican voters	38	27	21	14
<u>Political ideology</u>				
Strongly conservative	55	29	8	8
Somewhat conservative	36	32	21	11
Moderate	21	19	37	23
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	36	31	24	9
Female	41	23	18	18
<u>Age</u>				
18-29	31	27	26	16
30-39	37	22	16	25
40-49	32	32	24	12
50-64	42	26	21	11
65 or older	41	29	21	9
<u>Education</u>				
High school graduate or less	41	24	20	15
Some college/ trade school	44	27	18	11
College graduate	32	28	23	17
Post graduate work	28	31	30	11

Biden job marks remain mixed in California

The President's current job marks in California are mixed with 48% of registered voters approving of his performance overall and 48% disapproving. This assessment is similar to those Biden received in two previous *Berkeley IGS Polls* conducted earlier this year and is weaker than one would expect for a Democratic president among voters in the Golden State.

Table 7
Trend of California voter appraisals of the job Joe Biden is doing as President
(among California registered voters)

	Approve (total) %	<i>Approve strongly</i> %	<i>Approve somewhat</i> %	Disapprove (total) %	<i>Disapprove somewhat</i> %	<i>Disapprove strongly</i> %	No opinion %
August 2022	48	16	32	48	16	32	4
April 2022	50	17	33	46	14	32	4
February 2022	47	17	30	48	14	34	5
July 2021	59	30	29	37	10	27	4
April 2021	62	39	23	34	8	26	4

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 August 9-15, 2022, among 9,254 California registered voters. Funding for the poll was provided in part by the *Los Angeles Times*.

The *Berkeley IGS Poll* is administered by distributing email invitations to stratified random samples of the state's registered voters. 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 specific issues of interest to voters in Los Angeles 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.

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.

Samples of registered voters with email addresses were provided to IGS by Political Data, Inc., a leading supplier of registered voter lists in California and were derived from information contained on the voter registration rolls. Prior to the distribution of emails, the overall sample was stratified by age and gender 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 during data processing. In addition, post-stratification weights were applied to align the sample of registered voters responding to the survey to population characteristics of the state's registered voters.

The sampling error associated with the results from the survey are difficult to calculate precisely because of sample stratification and the post-stratification weighting. Nevertheless, it is likely that findings based on the overall registered voter sample are subject to a sampling error of approximately +/-2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The approximate sampling error for findings from the sample of Democratic primary voters is +/- 2.5 percentage points, while findings based on the sample of Republican voters is +/- 3.0 percentage points.

Question wording

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as President?

Do you favor or oppose President Joe Biden running for a second term as President in 2024?

IF REGISTERED AS DEMOCRAT OR NO PARTY PREFERENCE: If President Biden decided not to run for a second term and the 2024 Democratic presidential primary was being held today, who would be your first choice? **IF 1ST CHOICE GIVEN:** Who would be your second choice?

Do you favor or oppose former President Donald Trump running for President again in 2024?

IF REGISTERED AS REPUBLICAN: If the 2024 Republican presidential primary was being held today, who would be your 1st choice? **IF 1ST CHOICE GIVEN:** Who would be your second choice?

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 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 seeks to provide a broad measure of contemporary public opinion and 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://www.igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll>.