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Strong Support for the State's New Child Vaccination Law
Voters approve of the job Gavin Newsom is doing as Governor three to two

by Mark DiCamillo, Director, *Berkeley IGS Poll*
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There is strong voter support for the state's new child vaccination law. When asked about recent legislation requiring parents to have their child vaccinated for diseases like the measles, mumps and rubella before they can attend a public or private school or daycare center, greater than eight in ten voters (83%) say they favor the law, 61% of whom favor it strongly. Just 16% are opposed.

Support is broad-based with large majorities across all major subgroups of the state's registered voter population in favor. Liberals display the highest levels of support, with greater than nine in ten in favor.

Voters also express a high degree of concern about the recent outbreak of measles in the state. Statewide, 71% of registered voters say they are concerned about the measles outbreak. Voters who are most concerned about the outbreak express the highest levels of support for the child vaccination law.

The poll also finds voters approving of the job Gavin Newsom is doing as governor three to two. Six in ten voters (60%) approve of Newsom, while 39% disapprove. Yet, of those who approve, relatively few (18%) approve strongly, while most of those who disapprove of the Governor's performance disapprove strongly (27%).

Opinions are the Governor are highly partisan. Democrats overwhelmingly approve of the Governor's performance in office, with 86% giving a positive rating and just 13% offering a negative assessment. Republicans view of the Governor is just the opposite, with 83% disapproving and 17% approving

These findings come from the latest statewide *Berkeley IGS Poll* conducted online in English and Spanish among a random sample of 4,527 of the state's registered voters September 13 - 18.

Strong voter support for the state’s new child vaccination law

The statewide sample of voters was asked to offer their opinions about recent legislation requiring parents in the state to have their children vaccinated for diseases like the measles, mumps and rubella before they can attend a public or private school or daycare center. Voters were told that the law provides exemptions for doctor-approved reasons, but that such exemptions are subject to review and rejection by the California Department of Public Health for schools or daycare centers in communities where immunization rates are less than 95%.

After being read this description, greater than eight in ten voters statewide (83%) express support for the law, most of whom (61%) favor it strongly. Just 16% are opposed.

Table 1
Voter opinions about recent legislation requiring parents to have their children vaccinated before they can attend a public or private school or daycare center (among registered voters in California)

| | Total registered voters % |
|-----------------|--|
| <u>Favor</u> | <u>83</u> |
| Favor strongly | 61 |
| Favor somewhat | 22 |
| <u>Oppose</u> | <u>16</u> |
| Oppose somewhat | 7 |
| Oppose strongly | 9 |
| No opinion | <u>1</u> |

Support is broad based

Support for the new law spans all major demographic and regional subgroups of the state’s registered voter population.

There are, however, some variations in the size of the majorities favoring the law relating to voters’ self-described political ideology. Support is strongest among liberals, nine in ten of whom favor it. Support declines to 67% among voters who describe themselves as very conservative in politics, with one in three (32%) opposed.

Voters living in parts of Northern California outside the San Francisco Bay Area, also express slightly less support for the law than voters elsewhere. This region includes the state’s North Coast counties and the numerous but less populated counties in the Sierra mountain region. Yet even in this region greater than seven in ten (73%) favor the new law.

| Table 2 | | |
|--|--------------|---------------|
| Views about the state's new vaccination law across major subgroups of the state's registered voter population | | |
| | Favor | Oppose |
| | % | % |
| Total registered voters | 83 | 16 |
| Parent of child under age 18 | | |
| Yes | 79 | 21 |
| No | 85 | 15 |
| Political ideology | | |
| Very conservative | 67 | 32 |
| Somewhat conservative | 75 | 25 |
| Moderate | 82 | 17 |
| Somewhat liberal | 91 | 9 |
| Very liberal | 92 | 8 |
| Region | | |
| Los Angeles County | 85 | 14 |
| San Diego County | 83 | 17 |
| Orange County | 83 | 17 |
| Inland Empire | 81 | 19 |
| Other Southern California | 81 | 18 |
| Central Valley | 80 | 19 |
| San Francisco Bay Area | 88 | 11 |
| Other Northern California | 73 | 27 |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 83 | 16 |
| Female | 83 | 16 |
| Age | | |
| 18-29 | 88 | 12 |
| 30-39 | 80 | 20 |
| 40-49 | 81 | 18 |
| 50-64 | 84 | 16 |
| 65 or older | 83 | 16 |
| Race/ethnicity | | |
| White non-Hispanic | 84 | 15 |
| Latino | 82 | 17 |
| Asian American | 86 | 14 |
| African American | 80 | 20 |

Seven in ten voters express concern about the recent outbreak of measles

When California voters are asked how concerned they are about the recent outbreak of measles in the state, 71% are concerned, with 32% extremely concerned and 39% somewhat concerned. This compares to 29% who report being not too or not at all concerned.

Table 3
Level of concern about the recent outbreak of measles in California
(among registered voters in California)

| | Total registered voters % |
|----------------------|--|
| <u>Concerned</u> | <u>71</u> |
| Extremely concerned | 32 |
| Somewhat concerned | 39 |
| <u>Not concerned</u> | <u>29</u> |
| Not too concerned | 21 |
| Not at all concerned | 8 |

Support for the child vaccination law greatest among voters most concerned about the recent measles outbreak

There is a relationship between voter concern about the recent outbreak of measles and voter support for the new child vaccination law. Those who express higher levels of concern about the measles outbreak express greater support for the law than those who are less concerned.

For example, 88% of voters extremely concerned about the measles outbreak favor the child vaccination law, 76% strongly. Overall support for the child vaccination law drops to 72% among voters not concerned about the measles outbreak, with 28% opposed.

Table 4
Views about the child vaccination law by level of concern
about the recent measles outbreak

| | Total registered voters % | Level of concern about recent outbreak of measles in CA | | |
|-----------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | Extremely concerned % | Somewhat concerned % | Not too/ not at all concerned % |
| <u>Favor</u> | <u>83</u> | <u>88</u> | <u>88</u> | <u>72</u> |
| Favor strongly | 61 | 76 | 63 | 42 |
| Favor somewhat | 22 | 12 | 25 | 29 |
| <u>Oppose</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>11</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>28</u> |
| Oppose somewhat | 7 | 5 | 7 | 10 |
| Oppose strongly | 9 | 6 | 5 | 18 |
| No opinion | 1 | 1 | -- | -- |

Six in ten voters approve of the job Newsom is doing as Governor

The poll also finds voters approving of the job Governor Newsom is doing by a three-to-two margin. Statewide 60% of the registered polled say they approve of Newsom’s performance in office, while 39% disapprove. Of those who approve, most say they approve somewhat. Just 18% approve strongly.

These findings represent a slight increase in voter approval ratings of the Governor compared to June, when 57% said they approved and 42% disapproved.

Table 5
Trend of the job performance of Governor Gavin Newsom
(among registered voters in California)

| | September 2019 % | June 2019 % |
|-------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Approve | <u>60</u> | <u>57</u> |
| Strongly | 18 | 15 |
| Somewhat | 42 | 42 |
| Disapprove | <u>39</u> | <u>42</u> |
| Somewhat | 12 | 17 |
| Strongly | 27 | 25 |
| No opinion | 1 | 1 |

Approval of Newsom’s performance is highly partisan

Democrats overwhelmingly approve of the Governor’s performance in office, with 86% giving a positive rating and just 13% offering a negative assessment. Republicans view of the Governor is just the opposite, with 83% disapproving and 17% approving. A similar wide gap in assessments of the job Newsom is doing exists between liberals and conservatives.

Majorities across most major demographic subgroups of the voter population approve of Newsom’s performance. Regionally his job ratings are highest (70%) among voters in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, his home region and in Los Angeles County (66%). While majorities across other major voter subgroups approve of the job Newsom is doing, women, voters under the age of 40, and African Americans offer the most positive assessment.

Table 6
Job performance of Governor Gavin Newsom across voter subgroups
(among registered voters in California)

| | Approve % | Disapprove % |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Total registered voters | 60 | 39 |
| Party registration | | |
| Democrats | 86 | 13 |
| Republicans | 17 | 83 |
| No party preference/other | 57 | 42 |
| Political ideology | | |
| Very conservative | 17 | 82 |
| Somewhat conservative | 23 | 77 |
| Moderate | 56 | 44 |
| Somewhat liberal | 87 | 13 |
| Very liberal | 89 | 10 |
| Region | | |
| Los Angeles County | 66 | 32 |
| Orange/San Diego counties | 55 | 44 |
| Other Southern California | 52 | 47 |
| Central Valley | 51 | 49 |
| San Francisco Bay Area | 70 | 29 |
| Other Northern California | 55 | 44 |
| Gender | | |
| Male | 54 | 45 |
| Female | 65 | 34 |
| Age | | |
| 18-29 | 69 | 30 |
| 30-39 | 65 | 34 |
| 40-49 | 53 | 47 |
| 50-64 | 59 | 41 |
| 65 or older | 57 | 43 |
| Race/ethnicity | | |
| White non-Hispanic | 56 | 43 |
| Latino | 65 | 34 |
| Asian American | 67 | 32 |
| African American | 75 | 24 |

Questions Asked

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Gavin Newsom is handling his job as Governor of California?

How concerned are you that the recent outbreak of measles in California will become more widespread?

Currently state law requires most parents to have their children vaccinated for diseases like measles, mumps and rubella before they can attend a public or private school or enroll in day care. While exemptions are allowed for doctor-approved reasons, to reduce the risk of an outbreak a new bill has been proposed that would require exemptions to be subject to review and rejection by the California Department of Public Health for schools or day care centers in areas where immunization rates are less than 95%. Do you favor or oppose this new bill?

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 September 13-18, 2019 among 4,527 registered voters statewide.

The survey was administered by distributing email invitations to stratified random samples of the state's registered voters. Once the questionnaire and email invitations had been finalized, they were translated into the Spanish and reviewed for cultural appropriateness. Each email invited voters to participate in a non-partisan survey conducted by IGS and provided a link to the IGS website where the survey was housed. Reminder emails were distributed to non-responding voters over the data collection period. An opt out link was provided at the bottom of each invitation for voters not wishing to participate or not wanting to receive future emails from IGS about the survey.

Samples of registered voters with email addresses were provided to IGS by Political Data, Inc., a leading supplier of registered voter lists in California. The email addresses of voters were derived from information contained on the state's official voter registration rolls. The overall sample of registered voters with email addresses was stratified in an attempt to obtain a proper balance of survey respondents across major segments of the registered voter population by age, gender and race/ethnicity.

To protect the anonymity of survey respondents, voters' email addresses and all other personally identifiable information were purged from the data file and replaced with a unique and anonymous identification number during data processing. At the conclusion of the data processing phase, post-stratification weights were applied to align the sample 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 the post-stratification weighting. Nevertheless, it is likely that the results from the overall registered voter sample are subject to a sampling error of approximately +/- 2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Results based on subgroups of this population are subject to larger margins of sampling error.

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

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 (UC) 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. The co-directors of the Institute of Governmental Studies 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>.