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While Feinstein receives high job marks, voters hold mixed views about whether a re-election bid would be good for the state. Age a factor to some. Governor Brown the leading Democrat for Senate if Feinstein chooses not to run.

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While a large majority of Californians approves of the job that Dianne Feinstein is doing as U.S. Senator, voters offer a mixed assessment when asked whether her seeking a sixth term would be a good thing for the state. In addition, assessments turn negative when reminded that the Senator will be 84 years old next year. Nevertheless, most voters would be inclined to back Feinstein were she to run again.

The latest *Berkeley IGS Poll* finds that 59% of the state's registered voters view Feinstein's performance in office positively. However, about half (48%) think that a Feinstein re-election bid in 2018 would be good thing for the state, while 52% feel it would be a bad thing. When voters are reminded of Feinstein's age, the proportion offering a negative assessment increases to 62%.

When asked whether they would support the senior Senator if she were to seek a sixth full term in 2018, 56% say they would. However, this declines slightly to 50% among voters made aware of her age. Preferences are highly partisan, with large majorities of Democrats supportive and about eight in ten Republicans opposed.

The poll finds that Governor Jerry Brown, who himself will turn 80 next year, is the Democrat with the highest level of voter support for Senate were Feinstein to choose not to run.

In addition, when asked to assess the job that the state's other U.S. Senator, Kamala Harris, is doing, twice as many voters approve (53%) as disapprove (27%), although 20% are unable to offer an assessment.

These results come from a *Berkeley IGS Poll* conducted online among 1,000 California registered voters in English and Spanish March 13-20.

Californians give high job marks to both of their U.S. Senators

Voters view the job performance of both of their U.S. Senators in a positive light. Nearly six in ten registered voters (59%) approve of the job that Feinstein is doing, while 41% disapprove. Harris, who was first elected to the Senate in 2016, is also viewed favorably, with 53% of voters approving and just 27% disapproving. Another 20% have no opinion.

Views of the state's two Democratic Senators vary considerably across party lines. Democrats offer an overwhelmingly positive view of the performance of both, with 82% approving of Feinstein and 77% viewing Harris favorably. By contrast, among Republicans 76% disapprove of the job Feinstein is doing, and 61% disapprove of Harris.

Table 1
Job performance ratings of California's two U.S. Senators among registered voters (March 2017)

| | Dianne Feinstein | | Kamala Harris | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Approve % | Disapprove % | Approve % | Disapprove % | No opinion % |
| Total registered voters | 59 | 41 | 53 | 27 | 20 |
| Party registration | | | | | |
| Democrats | 82 | 18 | 77 | 8 | 15 |
| Republicans | 24 | 76 | 18 | 61 | 21 |
| No party preference/other | 54 | 46 | 48 | 28 | 24 |

Views about a Feinstein re-election bid are mixed and affected by her age

Voters in this survey were divided into two random subsamples when asked their opinions about a possible Feinstein re-election bid next year. Half of the sample was asked whether they thought it would be a good thing or bad thing for California if she were to seek re-election to a sixth term, without any reference to her age. Voters in the other sample were asked the same question, but were reminded that Feinstein will be 84 years old next year.

Among the sample of voters not reminded of her age, opinions about Feinstein running for a sixth term are mixed, with 48% saying this would be a good thing for the state and 52% believing it would be a bad thing. However, opinions of a Feinstein re-election bid turn negative among the sample of voters reminded of Feinstein's age, with 62% saying her running again would be a bad thing for California and just 38% feeling it would be a good thing in this setting.

Democrats appear to be the segment most affected by mention of Feinstein's age. Among Democrats not reminded of her age, 73% say that it would be a good thing for the state were she to

run for re-election. However, among the sample of Democrats reminded of her age, only half (52%) feel another Feinstein re-election bid next year would be a good thing for the state.

Table 2
Would it be a good thing or bad thing for California if Feinstein were to seek re-election to a sixth term to the U.S. Senate in 2018

| | Among voters <i>not</i> reminded of Feinstein's age | | Among voters reminded of Feinstein's age | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------|--|-------------|
| | Good Thing % | Bad Thing % | Good Thing % | Bad Thing % |
| Total registered voters | 48 | 52 | 38 | 62 |
| Party registration | | | | |
| Democrats | 73 | 27 | 52 | 48 |
| Republicans | 12 | 88 | 20 | 80 |
| No party preference/other | 40 | 60 | 34 | 66 |

Most would support Feinstein in a re-election bid: preferences are highly partisan

A majority of voters (56%) say they would be inclined to support Feinstein should she run again for the Senate next year. This declines slightly to 50% among the subsample of voters who were made aware of her age.

Preferences are strongly affected by the party registration of voters, with large majorities of Democrats inclined to back her, while about eight in ten Republicans are not.

Table 3
Voter inclination to support Feinstein should she run for re-election to the U.S. Senate in 2018

| | Among voters <i>not</i> reminded of Feinstein's age | | Among voters reminded of Feinstein's age | |
|---------------------------|---|----------------|--|----------------|
| | Inclined to support % | Not inclined % | Inclined to support % | Not inclined % |
| Total registered voters | 56 | 44 | 50 | 50 |
| Party registration | | | | |
| Democrats | 82 | 18 | 72 | 28 |
| Republicans | 15 | 85 | 21 | 79 |
| No party preference/other | 49 | 51 | 41 | 59 |

Governor Brown the leading Democrat for Senate if Feinstein chooses not to run

Voters in the poll were asked whom they would be inclined to support for U.S. Senate among a list of ten possible candidates in a June 2018 open primary were Feinstein to decide not to run for re-election

Governor Brown is the Democrat receiving the highest level of voter support (23%) in this setting. Each of the eight other Democrats listed obtains only single-digit support, with Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (8%), San Mateo County Congresswoman Jackie Speier (7%), Los Angeles County Congressman Adam Schiff (5%) and state Attorney General Xavier Becerra (4%) receiving the next highest levels of support.

Former Fresno Mayor Ashley Swarengin, the lone Republican included in the mix, is backed by 22% of the electorate, mainly due to the strong backing of GOP voters in this setting.

Table 4
Voter preferences for U.S. Senate in the June 2018 open primary when presented with a list of 10 possible candidates, should Feinstein not seek re-election

| | Total registered voters % | Democrats % | Republicans % | No party preference/ other % |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Jerry Brown, Governor (D) | 23 | 36 | 2 | 21 |
| Ashley Swarengin, former Fresno Mayor (R) | 22 | 2 | 65 | 15 |
| Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles Mayor (D) | 8 | 12 | 3 | 6 |
| Jackie Speier, San Mateo County Congresswoman (D) | 7 | 10 | 1 | 8 |
| Adam Schiff, Los Angeles County Congressman (D) | 5 | 6 | * | 8 |
| Xavier Becerra, California Attorney General (D) | 4 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State (D) | 3 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| Kevin de Leon, California Senate, President <i>Pro Tem</i> (D) | 3 | 4 | * | 2 |
| Tom Steyer, Bay Area businessman/ environmentalist (D) | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Eric Swalwell, Alameda County Congressman (D) | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Undecided | 20 | 14 | 21 | 29 |

*less than 1/2 of 1%

About the Survey

The findings in this report are based on a survey of 1,000 California registered voters conducted by the Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) at the University of California, Berkeley. The *Berkeley IGS Poll* was administered online by YouGov March 13-20, 2017 in English and Spanish. According to YouGov, results from the overall sample have a margin of error of +/-3.6%. Some of the results in this release are based on two random subsamples of 500 registered voters each.

YouGov conducted the survey by inviting California registered voters included among its online panel of over 1.5 million Americans to participate in the poll. Panelists were recruited using a variety of methods, including telephone-to-web and mail-to-web recruitment, partner-sponsored solicitations, web-based advertising and email campaigns, as well as through telephone and mail surveys. Eligible voters were chosen to participate in the poll using a proprietary sampling technology frame that establishes interlocking demographic and regional targets, so that the characteristics of those polled approximate the profile of the state's overall registered voter population. After survey administration, YouGov also applied statistical weights to align the sample to demographic and regional characteristics of the state's registered voter population. IGS was responsible for the development and translation into Spanish of all questions included in the survey. The results in this report are based on answers given by California voters to the following questions:

In last year's statewide election, California voters elected Kamala Harris to the U.S. Senate. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Kamala Harris is handling her job as U.S. Senator so far?

California's other U.S. Senator is Dianne Feinstein. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as U.S. Senator?

Subsample in which no reference was made to voters of Feinstein's age

Dianne Feinstein will be completing her fifth full term as U.S. Senator next year. Do you feel it would be a good thing or a bad thing for California if Feinstein were to seek re-election to the U.S. Senate again in 2018?

Suppose Feinstein decides to run for re-election to the U.S. Senate next year. As things stand now, if the election were being held today, would you be inclined or not inclined to support her?

Subsample in which reference made to voters of Feinstein's age

Dianne Feinstein will be completing her fifth full term as U.S. Senator next year and will be 84 years old. Do you feel it would be a good thing or a bad thing for California if Feinstein were to seek re-election to the U.S. Senate again in 2018?

Suppose Feinstein decides to run for re-election to the U.S. Senate next year. As things stand now, if the election were being held today, would you be inclined or not inclined to support her?

Suppose Feinstein decides not to seek re-election to the U.S. Senate next year. Below are some prominent Californians who are possible candidates in the June 2018 open primary election. Please indicate who would be your first choice for U.S. Senate, and who would be your second choice if Feinstein chose not to run? (See release for potential candidates listed) (Ordering of candidates randomized)

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, it is the oldest organized research unit in the UC system and the oldest public policy research center in the state. For a complete listing of all poll stories issued by the Berkeley IGS Poll during 2017, go to <https://igs.berkeley.edu/news/berkeley-igs-poll-results>.