

# UC Berkeley

## IGS Poll

### **Title**

Tabulations from a September 2019 Survey of California Likely Voters in the November 2020 General Election the Repeal of the State's New Bail Reform Law

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**Tabulations from a September 2019 Survey  
of California Likely Voters in the November 2020 General Election  
the Repeal of the State's New Bail Reform Law**

*by the*  
***Berkeley IGS Poll***  
**Institute of Governmental Studies**  
**University of California, Berkeley**

**September 13-18, 2019**

## Introduction

The statistical tabulations in this volume are based on a *Berkeley IGS Poll* completed by the Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) at the University of California, Berkeley. The poll was completed online September 13-18, 2019 among 3,945 voters who are considered likely to vote in the November 2020 general election.

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. They were then programmed onto Qualtrics, a survey platform frequently used by the University of California, Berkeley when distributing emails as part of an opinion research study. Each email invited voters to participate in a non-partisan survey conducted by IGS. Voters were provided a link to the IGS website where the survey was housed. Reminder emails were distributed to non-responding voters over a six-day 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 listings were derived from information included on the state's official voter registration rolls. The statewide sample of registered voters 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 in data processing. At the conclusion of data processing, post-stratification weights were applied to align the sample to the population characteristics of the state's overall registered voter population. Likely voters were then identified based on each voter's stated intention to vote in next year's elections and factoring in their history of voting in past elections.

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 would be subject to larger margins of sampling error.



## Survey Questions

**(IF LIKELY TO VOTE IN NOVEMBER 2020 GENERAL ELECTION)** In the November general election Californians may be asked to vote on a referendum relating to a newly enacted state law that does away with the posting of bail by criminal defendants, leaving decisions about the release of defendants largely to local judges. Defendants charged with violent crimes would still be held without bail. Supporters of the referendum say that posting bail is unfair to poor and indigent defendants who are less able to pay to stay out of jail while awaiting trial. Opponents say the bail system provides more protections to the public and creates greater motivation for defendants released on bail to appear in court. A YES on the referendum would keep the new law, while a NO vote would overturn it and reinstate the bail payment system. If you were voting today would you vote YES or NO on this referendum?

### 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>.

Table 46-1  
September 2019 Berkeley IGS Fall

Q18 - In the November general election Californians may be asked to vote on a referendum relating to a newly enacted state law that does away with the posting of bail by criminal defendants, leaving decisions about the release of defendants largely to local judges...If you were voting today, would you vote YES or NO on this referendum?

	Area											Region					Party registration			Likely voter in 2020 primary				Likely voter in 2020 general	
	Total	Coastal counties		Inland counties		Los Angeles County	San Diego County	Orange County	Inland Empire	Other South	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Other North	Democ- ratic Party	Repub- lican Party	pre- ference /other	Not likely primary voter	Total likely primary voters	Likely in GDP primary	Likely in Dem primary	Net elec- tion voter	Likely general elec- tion voter			
Unweighted Base	3945	2988	957	897	498	332	387	205	564	923	198	2052	805	1088	1650	2085	628	2257	-	-	3945				
Likely voter in November general election	3423	2456	868	854	309	279	330	187	590	724	141	1557	871	995	1657	2357	678	1678	-	-	3423				
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%			
YES, to keep the new law and do away with the bail payment system	1325	992	333	330	125	95	108	76	210	330	51	777	140	409	369	957	85	872	-	-	1325				
	38.7%	40.4%	34.4%	38.2%	40.4%	34.1%	32.9%	40.7%	35.6%	45.5%	35.2%	49.9%	16.0%	41.1%	34.6%	40.6%	12.5%	51.9%	-	-	38.7%				
NO, to overturn the new law and reinstate the bail payment system	1110	738	372	260	109	105	121	59	231	183	45	273	555	282	357	753	467	286	-	-	1110				
	32.4%	30.0%	38.5%	30.1%	35.2%	37.5%	36.7%	31.6%	39.1%	25.3%	30.1%	17.5%	63.7%	28.3%	33.5%	32.0%	69.8%	17.1%	-	-	32.4%				
Undecided	987	725	261	273	75	79	99	52	149	211	48	506	176	304	341	646	127	519	-	-	987				
	28.8%	29.5%	27.0%	31.6%	24.3%	28.4%	30.1%	27.6%	25.3%	29.2%	33.7%	32.5%	20.2%	30.6%	32.0%	27.4%	19.7%	30.9%	-	-	28.8%				
No answer	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1				
	*	*	0.1%	0.1%	-	-	0.3%	-	-	-	-	0.1%	-	0.1%	-	0.1%	-	0.1%	-	-	*				



Table 46-2  
September 2019 Berkeley IGS Poll

Q18 - In the November general election Californians may be asked to vote on a referendum relating to a newly enacted state law that does away with the posting of bail by criminal defendants, leaving decisions about the release of defendants largely to local judges... If you were voting today, would you vote YES or NO on this referendum?

	Race/Ethnicity																	
	Gender			Age						75 or older	White non-Hispanic (total)	Latino (total)	Latino (total)				Black/Afric. Amer.	Asian/Pac. Isle
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-54	65-74	Latino Spanish dominant				English dominant	Latino Spanish dominant	Black/Afric. Amer.	Asian/Pac. Isle		
Unweighted Base	3945	1826	2119	629	734	627	1105	576	274	2430	871	129	742	155	368			
Likely voter in November general election	3423	1596	1827	407	558	523	984	606	346	2057	782	212	570	180	217			
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%			
YES, to keep the new law and do away with the bail payment system	1325	648	677	182	271	191	377	181	123	798	304	78	226	85	110			
	38.7%	40.5%	37.0%	44.8%	48.5%	36.5%	38.3%	29.9%	35.4%	38.8%	38.9%	37.0%	39.5%	47.0%	39.8%			
NO, to overturn the new law and reinstate the bail payment system	1110	551	559	84	119	156	359	255	126	701	232	50	182	43	67			
	32.4%	34.5%	30.6%	20.8%	21.3%	31.7%	36.5%	42.1%	36.5%	34.1%	29.6%	23.5%	31.0%	23.7%	24.3%			
Undecided	987	397	590	140	169	155	247	169	97	558	245	84	161	53	95			
	28.8%	24.9%	32.3%	34.4%	30.2%	31.5%	25.1%	27.9%	28.1%	27.1%	31.3%	39.5%	28.3%	29.3%	35.7%			
No answer	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1			
	*		0.1%			0.1%	0.1%				0.1%		0.2%		0.2%			

Table 46-3  
September 2019 Berkeley ISS Poll

Q18 - In the November general election Californians may be asked to vote on a referendum relating to a newly enacted state law that does away with the posting of bail by criminal defendants, leaving decisions about the release of defendants largely to local judges...If you were voting today, would you vote YES or NO on this referendum?

	Political ideology					Education						Income					Marital status		
	Total	Very	Some-	Score-	Very	High	Some	Col-	Post	Less	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$60,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	Mar-	Sepa-	Single
		conservative	what	what															
Unweighted Base	3945	292	548	957	1163	975	315	1060	1322	1239	272	389	465	899	1179	655	2471	567	893
Likely voter in November general election	3423	349	596	956	836	673	753	1234	909	718	289	394	473	790	924	434	2137	617	658
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
YES, to keep the new law and do away with the bail payment system	1325	47	96	314	415	449	262	406	299	354	124	171	170	297	341	188	804	210	309
	38.7%	13.4%	16.1%	32.9%	49.6%	66.7%	34.8%	32.9%	42.2%	49.4%	42.9%	43.4%	36.0%	37.6%	36.9%	43.4%	37.6%	34.0%	47.5%
NO, to overturn the new law and reinstate the bail payment system	1110	227	357	327	137	59	274	454	205	172	74	106	142	255	350	137	750	212	143
	32.4%	65.0%	59.8%	34.2%	16.4%	8.8%	36.4%	36.8%	28.9%	24.0%	25.5%	21.0%	30.0%	32.3%	37.8%	31.6%	35.1%	34.3%	21.7%
Undecided	987	75	143	315	283	165	217	373	205	191	91	116	161	237	233	109	582	194	206
	28.8%	21.5%	24.1%	32.9%	33.8%	24.5%	28.8%	30.2%	28.9%	26.6%	31.6%	29.5%	34.1%	30.0%	25.2%	25.0%	21.2%	31.5%	31.3%
No answer	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	-
	*				0.2%			0.1%	0.1%					0.1%	0.1%		*	0.1%	



Table 45-4  
September 2019 Berkeley IGS Poll

Q18 - In the November general election Californians may be asked to vote on a referendum relating to a newly enacted state law that does away with the posting of bail by criminal defendants, leaving decisions about the release of defendants largely to local judges...If you were voting today, would you vote YES or NO on this referendum?

	Party identification																
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent/other	Independent/Leans Democratic	Independent/Leans Republican	Independent/Pure Independent	Evangelical Christian		Union affiliation		Nativity		Tenure		Parental status	
								Yes	No	Yes	No	Born in U.S.	Born in another country	Home-owner	Renter/other	Parent of child under 18	Non-parent
Unweighted Base	3945	2005	660	1271	614	311	346	604	3317	940	3000	3342	597	1937	2006	983	2954
Likely voter in November general election	3423	1522	751	1142	521	308	313	633	2759	775	2544	2818	601	1665	1759	849	2567
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
YES, to keep the new law and do away with the bail payment system	1325	776	137	412	253	34	65	148	1171	317	1008	1092	233	605	720	321	1004
	38.7%	51.0%	18.3%	36.1%	55.3%	10.9%	21.3%	23.4%	42.4%	40.9%	38.1%	38.8%	38.8%	36.3%	41.0%	37.8%	39.1%
NO, to overturn the new law and reinstate the bail payment system	1110	251	473	383	61	196	125	320	775	235	872	940	169	616	494	273	833
	32.4%	16.5%	63.0%	33.6%	11.8%	63.8%	40.1%	50.4%	28.1%	30.3%	33.0%	33.4%	28.0%	37.0%	28.1%	32.1%	32.4%
Undecided	987	494	140	347	167	78	102	165	812	223	762	784	199	444	543	255	730
	28.8%	32.4%	18.7%	30.4%	32.0%	25.3%	32.6%	26.1%	29.4%	28.8%	28.8%	27.8%	33.1%	26.7%	30.9%	30.0%	28.4%
No answer	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1
	*	0.1%	0.1%					0.1%	*		0.1%	*	0.1%		0.1%	0.1%	*