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***Majority support for the state's all-electric car mandate
- New vehicle buying intentions align with views about the mandate -***

by Mark DiCamillo, Director, *Berkeley IGS Poll*
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A 55% majority of California voters endorse the state's recently enacted requirement for all new vehicles sold in the state to be all electric or plug-in hybrids by the year 2035. About four in ten voters (39%) are opposed. Views about the new mandate are highly partisan, with greater than three in four registered Democrats (77%) supportive while 81% of Republicans are opposed.

When asked what type of vehicle they would most likely buy when making their next new car purchase, the responses of voters are in close alignment with their views about the state's all-electric vehicle mandate. Statewide 59% of voters say they would likely buy an all-electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle when making their next new car purchase. This increases to 72% among the state's registered Democrats, while only half as many Republicans (36%) say they would do so.

IGS C-Director G. Cristina Mora notes that "the findings show how everyday issues, such as what type of car to drive, can become highly partisan in our contemporary, politically polarized reality."

The poll finds less partisan rancor about a new state law to extend the life of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant for another five years beyond its originally scheduled closing date. Extending the life of the plant is favored three to one in (56% to 19%) although 25% are undecided. Republicans and conservatives overwhelmingly back the extension, as do somewhat smaller pluralities of Democrats and liberals.

Support for California's all-electric mandate

The new state requirement that all new vehicles sold in California by the year 2035 be all electric or plug-in hybrids receives the backing of 55% of the state's voters, with one in three (33%) strongly in favor. This compares to 39% who oppose the requirement, which would be phased in over the next 12 years.

Opinions of the mandate are highly partisan and ideological. For example, while 77% of registered Democrats and 88% of voters considering themselves strongly liberal in politics endorse this transition, 81% of Republicans and 79% of strong conservatives oppose the law, most of whom oppose it strongly.

These partisan differences are reflected in how voters regionally support the mandate. Support is strongest among voters in the state's two most Democratic regions – the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles County. By contrast, the views of voters in the state's interior regions, including the Central Valley, Inland Empire, and major parts of North Coast/Sierras region, hold more mixed views about the mandate.

Educational attainment also appears to play a role, as college graduates and those who have completed post graduate work offer greater support for the mandate than non-college graduates.

Table 1
Views about the new state mandate that all new vehicles sold
in California be all electric or plug-in hybrids by the year 2035
(among registered voters)

	Favor (net) %	Favor strongly %	Favor somewhat %	Oppose (net) %	Oppose somewhat %	Oppose strongly %
Total registered voters	55	33	22	39	12	27
<u>Party registration</u>						
Democrats	77	49	28	17	10	7
Republicans	14	6	8	81	13	68
No party preference/others	53	29	24	41	14	27
<u>Political ideology</u>						
Strongly conservative	17	11	6	79	5	74
Somewhat conservative	26	12	14	69	17	52
Moderate	53	27	26	40	15	25
Somewhat liberal	78	50	28	17	11	6
Strongly liberal	88	63	25	8	5	3
<u>Region</u>						
Los Angeles County	58	36	22	35	13	22
San Diego County	53	33	20	43	12	31
Orange County	51	30	21	40	9	31
Inland Empire	45	26	19	47	12	35
Central Coast	52	31	21	42	11	31
Central Valley	48	26	22	49	12	37
San Francisco Bay Area	68	43	25	28	10	18
North Coast/Sierras	40	29	11	55	19	36
<u>Education</u>						
High school grad or less	48	27	21	43	13	30
Some college/trade school	48	27	21	45	13	32
College graduate (BA)	62	39	23	35	12	23
Post graduate work	68	47	21	28	10	18
<u>Gender</u>						
Male	54	33	21	41	11	30
Female	56	34	22	38	13	25
<u>Age</u>						
18-29	58	35	23	31	12	19
30-39	57	34	23	37	12	25
40-49	53	31	22	41	12	29
50-64	50	30	20	46	12	34
65 or older	56	34	22	40	11	29
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>						
White	53	33	20	44	11	33
Latino	56	32	24	36	14	22
Asian/Pacific Islander	65	37	28	27	11	16
Black	60	42	18	30	12	18

Note: Differences between 100% and the sum of favor and oppose percentages equal proportions with no opinion.

New vehicle buying intentions align with voter views about the new state mandate

When asked what type of vehicle voters would most likely buy when making their next new car purchase, the distribution of replies is in general alignment with their views about the all-electric vehicle mandate itself.

Statewide about six in ten voters (59%) say they would likely buy an all-electric or plug-in hybrid car or truck when making their next new vehicle purchase. This increases to greater than seven in ten among Democrats and liberals, the voter subgroups most in support of the new mandate, but declines to only about one in three among Republicans and strong conservatives, where support for the mandate is weakest.

Table 2
What type of vehicle would you most likely buy
when purchasing your next new car or truck
(among registered voters)

	Electric or Plug-in hybrid (net) %	All-electric %	Plug-in hybrid %	Traditional gas-powered %
Total registered voters	59	20	39	29
<u>Party registration</u>				
Democrats	72	26	46	15
Republicans	36	7	29	55
No party preference/other	47	20	27	31
<u>Political ideology</u>				
Strongly conservative	34	8	26	59
Somewhat conservative	41	8	33	49
Moderate	59	19	40	27
Somewhat liberal	74	28	46	15
Strongly liberal	78	32	46	9

Note: Differences between 100% and the sum of net electric/plug-in hybrids and traditional gas-powered vehicles equal proportions who didn't know what type of vehicle they would buy.

Partisanship and political ideology frame views about the pace of the state's climate change policies

Partisanship also plays a major role in framing voter views about the pace of California policies aimed at combating climate change. Statewide, six in ten voters (61%) feel current state policies aimed at reducing climate change are about right or are not moving fast enough. This compares to 27% who feel these policies are moving too fast.

Greater than eight in ten Democrats and more than nine in ten liberals describe the pace of current state policies about climate change as being about right or not fast enough. By contrast, 64% of Republicans and 69% of strong conservatives believe state policies on climate change are moving too fast.

Table 3
Voter views about the pace of California's policies
aimed at combating climate change
(among registered voters)

	About right /not fast enough (net) %	Not fast enough %	About right %	Moving too fast %
Total registered voters	61	36	25	27
Party registration				
Democrats	84	51	33	7
Republicans	10	11	9	64
No party preference/other	58	32	26	29
<u>Political ideology</u>				
Strongly conservative	19	12	7	69
Somewhat conservative	33	16	17	52
Moderate	58	31	27	25
Somewhat liberal	90	50	40	5
Strongly liberal	93	66	27	3

Less partisan rancor about extending the life of Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant

The poll finds significantly less partisan rancor about the state's plan to extend the life of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant for another five years beyond its original scheduled closing date in 2025. Among the overall electorate, extending the life of the plant is favored three to one in (56% to 19%) while 25% are undecided or have no opinion.

Republicans and conservatives overwhelmingly back the extension, with about seven in ten in favor. But support for the extension also includes pluralities of Democrats and liberals, although by somewhat smaller margins and with more undecided. The views of No Party Preference voters generally mirror those of the overall electorate.

<p>Table 4 Voter views about extending the life of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant an additional five years (among registered voters)</p>			
	Favor	Oppose	Undecided
	%	%	%
Total registered voters	56	19	25
<u>Party registration</u>			
Democrats	46	24	30
Republicans	71	10	19
No party preference/other	59	19	22
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Strongly conservative	70	12	18
Somewhat conservative	67	15	18
Moderate	53	17	30
Somewhat liberal	52	21	27
Strongly liberal	43	29	28

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 22-27, 2022, among 8,725 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 sample of registered voters are subject to a sampling error of approximately +/-2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Question wording

California had originally planned to shut down the operations of PG&E's nuclear power plant at Diablo Canyon in the year 2025. But in its latest session the legislature passed a law that will enable PG&E to extend the life of Diablo Canyon for an additional five years. Do you favor or oppose this action?

The California Air Resources Board also voted to require that at least 35% of all the new vehicles sold in California be all-electric or plug-in hybrid models by the year 2026, increasing to 68% by 2030 and then by the year 2035 all new vehicles sold in California would be required to be all-electric vehicles or plug-in hybrids. Owners of older gasoline powered vehicles would still be allowed to keep driving their vehicles and to buy and sell used ones. When fully implemented it is estimated that the new rule will reduce emissions from passenger vehicles in California by at least 50%. Do you favor or oppose this action?

Which of the following represents your opinion of California's policies aimed at combatting climate change?

Moving too fast in its efforts to combat climate change

Its policies on climate change are about right

Not moving fast enough in its efforts to combat climate change

Thinking about the next time you or your family are in the market to purchase a new or used car or truck. As things stand now what type of vehicle do you think you would most likely buy?

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 G. 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. A complete listing of stories issued by the *Berkeley IGS Poll* is at <https://www.igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll>.