

UC Berkeley

IGS Poll

Title

IGS Poll Finds Support for Gun Control, Marijuana Legalization

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7xx7k7jk>

Author

Institute of Governmental Studies

Publication Date

2016-08-17



For immediate release

IGS Poll Finds Support for Gun Control, Marijuana Legalization

August 17, 2016

California voters overwhelmingly support a sweeping gun control measure on the November ballot, including strong majorities of both parties and independent voters, according to a new poll released today by the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

On another hot-button social issue that will be on the ballot in the fall, voters also strongly support legalizing marijuana for recreational use, the survey found.

The poll used online English-language questionnaires to survey 3,020 respondents from June 29 to July 18. All respondents were registered California voters, and the responses were then weighted to reflect the statewide distribution of the California population by gender, race/ethnicity, education and age.

Gun Control

Proposition 63 on the November ballot would require a background check for ammunition purchases, require ammunition sales to occur through licensed dealers, and prohibit large-capacity magazines.

The measure was supported by 82.2 percent of respondents, including 92.8 percent of Democrats, 79.3 percent of independents, and 64.9 percent of Republicans. Strong majorities supported the measure across all ethnic groups, educational and income levels, and age groups. Women (88.5 percent) were more likely than men to support the measure, but even among men, 74.1 percent were in favor.

Marijuana Legalization

Proposition 64 would legalize recreational marijuana use, with regulation by specified government agencies. Almost two in three respondents (63.8 percent) supported that idea, a level of support extremely similar to last year, when the IGS Poll asked the identical question.

Support included 73.8 percent of Democrats and 62.2 percent of independents. Republicans opposed legalization, 53 percent to 47 percent, but this was less GOP opposition than was registered by the same question last year. Last year Republicans opposed legalization by 61.6 percent to 38.4 percent.

Support for legalization was highest among African-Americans (71.9 percent) and Latinos (69.3 percent) and lowest among Asian-Americans (57.7 percent). Support for legalization was also highest among 18- to 24-year-olds, and lowest among those over 65.

For full results of the poll, please go to the IGS website at igs.berkeley.edu.

CONTACTS

Jack Citrin, IGS director, (510) 642-4692

Ethan Rarick, IGS associate director, (510) 642-5158

Gabe Lenz, associate professor of political science, (510) 575-9971

Appendix

Gun Control

A proposed ballot measure would require people to pass a background check to buy ammunition, require ammunition sales to occur through licensed dealers, and would prohibit large-capacity magazines. Would you favor or oppose such a measure?

Sample size: 3,020

	Percent
Favor	82.2%
Oppose	17.8%

By Partisanship

	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Favor	92.8%	79.3%	64.9%
Oppose	7.2%	20.7%	35.1%

By Income

	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000- \$99,999	\$100,000+
Favor	82.5%	80.6%	82.4%
Oppose	17.5%	19.4%	17.6%

By Age

	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-64	Age 65+
Favor	89.5%	80.5%	82.2%	80.6%	80.6%
Oppose	10.5%	19.5%	17.8%	19.4%	19.4%

By Race/Ethnicity

	Asian	Black	Latino	White
Favor	88.6%	91.2%	85.1%	77.8%
Oppose	11.4%	8.8%	14.9%	22.2%

By Education

	Less than high school	High school degree or equivalent	Some college	Bachelor's degree	Advanced degree
Favor	81%	79.1%	79.5%	82.4%	86%
Oppose	19%	20.9%	20.5%	17.6%	14%

By Gender

	Female	Male
Favor	88.5%	74.1%
Oppose	11.5%	25.9%

Marijuana Legalization

Do you support or oppose the following statement about politics and public policy?
"Marijuana should be legal for adults to purchase and use recreationally, with government regulation similar to the regulation of alcohol."

Sample size: 3,020

	Percent
Support	63.8%
Oppose	36.2%

By Partisanship

	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Support	73.8%	62.2%	47%
Oppose	26.2%	37.8%	53%

By Income

	Less than \$40,000	\$40,000- \$99,999	\$100,000+
Support	67.9%	63.3%	62.2%
Oppose	32.1%	36.7%	37.8%

By Age

	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-64	Age 65+
Support	74.5%	71.3%	65.4%	61.7%	57.8%
Oppose	25.5%	28.7%	34.6%	38.3%	42.2%

By Race/Ethnicity

	Asian	Black	Latino	White
Support	57.7%	71.9%	69.3%	62.1%
Oppose	42.3%	28.1%	30.7%	37.9%

By Education

	Less than high school	High school degree or equivalent	Some college	Bachelor's degree	Advanced degree
Support	79.7%	66.2%	65.6%	59.2%	61.2%
Oppose	20.3%	33.8%	34.4%	40.8%	38.8%

By Gender

	Female	Male
Support	63.3%	65.1%
Oppose	36.7%	34.9%