

UC Berkeley

IGS Poll

Title

Release #2025-13 President Trump and Trump Administration Policies

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/82c1v510>

Author

DiCamillo, Mark

Publication Date

2025-08-27



Institute of Governmental Studies
126 Philosophy Hall
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720
Tel: 510-642-6835
Email: igs@berkeley.edu

Release #2025-13

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Little change in Californians' highly negative views of the job President Trump is doing

By Mark DiCamillo
Director, *Berkeley IGS Poll*

The latest *Berkeley IGS Poll* of California registered voters finds little change in voters' highly negative opinions of the job Donald Trump is doing as president. Nearly seven in ten (69%) now disapprove of his performance overall, with 62% strongly disapproving. Just 29% approve. These findings are remarkably similar to the findings of seven previous statewide surveys conducted by the *Berkeley IGS Poll* about Trump both earlier this year and throughout his first term as president.

Views about the president and the overall direction of the country are highly partisan, with the state's Democrats nearly unanimous in offering a negative opinion, while the state's GOP voters hold a much more positive view.

Voters here are also reacting negatively to the changes the federal government has made to the Medicaid health insurance program for low-income residents and the disabled, referred to in California as Medi-Cal. For example, greater than six in ten (61%) oppose a change requiring that most recipients of Medi-Cal ages 18-64 be required to work at least 80 hours per month to continue receiving their benefits. In addition, by a 52% to 43% margin, Californians also oppose another change that prohibits offering new Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented immigrants who are not already covered.

There are also high levels of anxiety among Medi-Cal recipients about losing their health insurance coverage due to the changes the Trump administration is making to the program. Statewide, 67% of voters with a Medi-Cal recipient in their family express worries about this, 48% being very worried.

Voter opinions of the changes being made to Medi-Cal are highly partisan, with Democrats overwhelmingly opposed, while Republicans are just as one-sided in support.

Partisanship also colors the views that Californians have about the impact that the Trump administration's tariffs on imported goods are having on their own family's spending. Among Democrats, 71% report that the tariffs have negatively affected their family's spending, while among the state's Republicans, 76% say they have had no effect.

When told of the Trump administration's withdrawal of \$4 billion in federal funding for the state's high speed rail project, Californians offer mixed views about whether the project should continue.

Only about half (49%) of the voters polled favored continuing with its construction despite this revenue loss, while 42% are opposed. The poll finds that voters in the Central Valley, where construction is now underway, oppose its continuation 51% to 41%, while majorities of voters in Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Bay Area are supportive.

Observed IGS Co-Director Eric Schickler, “There is no doubt that California voters are highly polarized in their views of Donald Trump and his policies, and there are few signs of any realignment. To the contrary, the Democratic coalition is united in opposing the President just as Republicans are united in their support.

Little change in Californians’ highly negative view of President Trump’s job performance

California voters have long held a very negative view of the job Trump has been doing as president, and the latest poll shows little change. At present, 69% of the state’s voters say they disapprove of his performance overall, with 62% disapproving strongly. These ratings are very similar to those observed in April of this year and the ratings he received from California voters throughout his first term as president.

The state’s Democratic voters are nearly unanimous in offering negative assessments of the president, with 96% in the latest poll disapproving, nearly all of whom disapprove strongly. Just 4% approve. By contrast, greater than eight in ten of the state’s GOP voters (83%) approve of the job Trump is doing, while 16% disapprove. The state’s independent voters not affiliated with either party hold views that are more closely aligned to those of the state’s Democrats, with 74% disapproving and 23% approving in the latest poll.

Table 1
Trend of Donald Trump’s job performance ratings as President
(among California registered voters)

	Approve (total) %	Approve strongly %	Disapprove somewhat %	Disapprove (total) %	Disapprove somewhat %	Disapprove strongly %
<u><i>Current term</i></u>						
August 2025	29	18	11	69	7	62
April 2025	30	15	15	68	9	59
<u><i>First term</i></u>						
September 2020	30	20	10	70	8	62
Late July 2020	29	18	11	71	8	63
January 2020	33	22	11	67	10	57
November 2019	32	20	12	68	10	58
September 2019	31	19	12	69	11	58
June 2019	33	21	12	67	10	57
April 2018	31	18	13	67	8	59
December 2017	30	18	12	66	9	57
<u><i>Party registration</i></u> (August 2025)						
Democrats	4	2	2	96	6	90
Republicans	83	57	26	16	6	10
No Party Preference/other	23	10	13	74	12	62

Note: The differences between the sum of each row’s percentages and 100% equal the proportion with no opinion.

In addition, when asked whether they believe the country is heading in the right direction or off on the wrong track, 68% of voters in the overall electorate feel the U.S. is on the wrong track, while just 26% feel it is moving in the right direction.

Voters oppose changes being made to Medi-Cal, the state's health insurance program for low-income residents

As part of the passage of the Trump budget bill recently approved by the U.S. Congress, the federal government made changes to the Medicaid health insurance program for low-income residents and the disabled, referred to in California as Medi-Cal. Six in ten Californians (61%) oppose the change requiring that most recipients ages 18-64 work at least 80 hours per month to continue receiving their benefits.

In addition, by a 52% to 43% margin, Californians also oppose another change to the state's Medi-Cal program to prohibit offering new coverage to undocumented immigrants who are not already covered.

Views about both changes are highly partisan with Democrats overwhelmingly opposed to these changes, while Republicans are similarly one-sided in their support of the changes.

<i>Table 2</i> Reactions to changes being made to the Medicaid (<i>Medi-Cal in California</i>) health insurance program for low-income residents (among California registered voters)				
	Total statewide %	Democrats %	Republicans %	No Party Pref./others %
Changing Medi-Cal to require that most recipients ages 18-64 to work at least 80 hours per month to continue receiving benefits				
Approve	36	13	80	34
Disapprove	61	85	18	61
No opinion	3	2	2	5
Changing Medi-Cal to prohibit new coverage to undocumented immigrants who are not already covered				
Approve	43	19	87	42
Disapprove	52	76	11	51
No opinion	5	5	2	7

Two in three voters with a family member as a Medi-Cal recipient are worried about losing health insurance coverage

Voters who report that they or a family member are a Medi-Cal recipient express anxiety about possibly losing their health insurance coverage due to the changes the Trump administration is making to the program. Statewide, 67% of these voters say they worried about this, with 48% very worried.

Expressing the greatest amount of concern are recipients with annual household incomes of less than \$40,000, Democrats and women, as well as Black voters and Latinos.

Table 3
**Voter worries about losing health insurance coverage
due to changes in Trump administration policies**
(among Medi-Cal recipient families in California)

	Very worried %	Somewhat worried %	Not very/Not at all worried %	No opinion %
Total statewide	48	19	31	2
<u>Party registration</u>				
Democrats	69	20	11	*
Republicans	14	14	71	1
No party preference/other	47	23	28	2
<u>Annual household income</u>				
Less than \$40,000	58	19	21	2
\$40,000-\$99,999	47	19	33	1
\$100,000 or more	33	21	46	*
<u>Gender</u>				
Female	54	19	25	2
Male	40	19	41	1
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
White	40	19	41	*
Latino	55	18	25	2
Black	61	18	18	3
Asian/Pacific Islander	41	27	32	*

* Less than 1%

Views of Californians about the impact that the Trump administration's tariffs is having on own family's spending are largely partisan

About half of the state's voters (52%) believe the tariffs that the Trump administration is imposing on imported goods have had a negative impact on their own family's spending, while 37% say they have not.

While somewhat larger proportions of low or middle income voters, women, younger voters and Latino and Black voters than others report this, voters' party registration is a much stronger correlate to responses to this question than these other demographic characteristics. For example, among Democrats 71% report that the tariffs have negatively affected their family's spending, while just 17% say they have not. The reverse is true among the state's Republicans, of whom 76% say that the tariffs have had no effect, while just 17% say they have.

<i>Table 4</i> Have the tariffs that the Trump administration has imposed on countries for products imported in the U.S. had a negative impact on your family's spending? <i>(among California registered voters)</i>			
	Yes	No	Don't know
	%	%	%
Total statewide	52	37	11
<u>Party registration</u>			
Democrats	71	17	2
Republicans	17	76	7
No party preference/other	53	33	14
<u>Annual household income</u>			
Less than \$40,000	59	25	6
\$40,000-\$99,999	55	34	11
\$100,000 or more	46	43	11
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	46	43	11
Latino	61	29	10
Asian/Pacific Islander	53	31	16
Black	61	26	13
<u>Gender</u>			
Female	58	30	12
Male	45	44	11
<u>Age</u>			
18-29	60	23	17
30-39	55	34	11
40-49	56	34	10
50-64	47	44	9
65 or older	44	45	11

Californians offer mixed views about continuing the state's high speed rail project now that the Trump administration has withdrawal of \$4 billion in federal funding for the project

In July the Trump administration announced that it was withdrawing \$4 billion in federal funding that had originally been committed to the state's high speed rail project. When asked about this, the latest poll finds that just 49% of the state's voters favor California continuing on with the project's construction despite this loss in revenue, but nearly as many (42%) are opposed.

Opinions about the project are highly partisan, with Democrats supporting its construction 66% to 25%, while Republicans are opposed 77% to 16%. Interestingly, the poll finds that voters in the Central Valley, where construction is now underway and who stand the most to benefit from the project's scaled back goal of providing train service from Bakersfield to Merced early next decade, display greater opposition to its continued construction than voters in most other major regions of the state. Among the Central Valley voters polled, 51% are opposed, while just 41% are in favor. By contrast, the project receives its greatest support in the Democratic-heavy regions of Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Bay Area.

<i>Table 5</i> Last month the Trump administration withdrew \$4 billion in federal funding to the state’s high-speed rail project. Do you favor or oppose California continuing to build the high-speed rail project? <i>(among California registered voters)</i>			
	Favor	Oppose	Don’t know
	%	%	%
Total statewide	49	42	9
<u>Party registration</u>			
Democrats	66	25	9
Republicans	16	77	7
No party preference/other	49	39	12
<u>Region</u>			
Los Angeles County	54	37	9
San Diego County	43	49	8
Orange County	42	46	12
Inland Empire	44	47	9
Central Coast	48	42	10
Central Valley	41	51	8
San Francisco Bay Area	58	34	8
North Coast/Sierras*	39	49	12

* Relatively small sample size.

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 August 11 – 17, 2025, among 4,950 California registered voters. Funding for the poll was provided in part by the *Los Angeles Times*.

Data collection for the poll was completed by distributing email and text message invitations to stratified random samples of the state’s registered voters. Each email or text 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. Reminders were distributed to non-responding voters and an opt out link was provided for voters not wishing to receive further email invitations.

Samples of the state’s registered voters 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 official voter registration rolls. The sample was stratified by age and gender to obtain a proper balance of survey respondents.

To protect the anonymity of respondents, the personally identifiable information of each voter that was listed on their voting record was purged from the data file and replaced with a unique and anonymous identification number during data processing. In addition, after the completion of data collection, post-stratification weights were applied to the survey data file to align the sample of registered voters to population characteristics of the registered voters both statewide and within major regions of the state.

The sampling error associated with the survey results are difficult to calculate precisely because of sample stratification and the post-stratification weighting. It is likely that findings based on the overall registered voter sample are subject to a sampling error of about +/-1.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. A more complete description of the survey methods used by the poll can be found at https://igs.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/survey_methods_of_the_berkeley_igs_poll_2025.pdf.

Question wording

Generally speaking, do you think things in the United States are headed in the right direction or is the country off on the wrong track?

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President overall?

As part of the Trump budget bill recently approved by the Congress, most recipients ages 18-64 of the Medicaid health insurance program for low-income residents (referred to as Medi-Cal in California) will be required to work at least 80 hours per month in order to continue receiving their benefits. Do you approve or disapprove of this new requirement?

Another change to the Medi-Cal health insurance program is that it now prohibits new coverage of undocumented immigrants who are not already covered. Do you approve or disapprove of this change?

Do you or do any of your immediate family members currently receive their health insurance coverage through Medi-Cal? (This does not include anyone covered under Medicare, the government's health insurance program for seniors, which is a different program.)

IF YES: How worried are you that you or someone in your immediate family will lose their health insurance coverage under Medi-Cal due to the changes the Trump administration is now making to the program?

In 2008 California voters approved bonds to begin designing and building a high-speed rail system. The project was originally intended to connect San Francisco to Los Angeles, but because of significant cost overruns, current plans seek to provide train service from Bakersfield to Merced in the Central Valley by the year 2030. However, last month the Trump administration withdrew \$4 billion in federal funding that had originally been committed to the project. As things stand now, do you now favor or oppose California continuing to build the state's high-speed rail project?

As you know, President Trump has been imposing tariffs on countries for products imported into the United States. Have the tariffs had a noticeable negative impact on your family's spending?

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 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. Veteran pollster Mark DiCamillo serves as director of the *Berkeley IGS Poll*. For a listing of reports issued by the *Berkeley IGS Poll*, go to <https://www.igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll>.