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Prior to Kamala Harris' announced withdrawal from the presidential race, 61% of likely voters in California's Democratic primary felt she should suspend her campaign

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In a *Berkeley IGS Poll* conducted one week prior to Tuesday's announcement by Kamala Harris that she was withdrawing her bid for the Democratic presidential nomination, a large majority of Californians likely to vote in this state's Democratic primary favored Harris suspending her campaign.

When asked whether they felt it would be better for California if Harris continued her presidential campaign or suspend it and return to her duties as the state's U.S. Senator, 61% of likely voters favored her suspending her campaign and just 24% felt she should press on.

Two in three or more of the likely voters supporting the other leading Democrats candidates in the poll favored Harris suspending her campaign, while her own supported favored her remaining in the race by a wide margin.

The poll was conducted online in English and Spanish November 21-27, 2019 among 1,694 Californians considered likely to vote in the state's upcoming Democratic presidential primary.

Table 1			
Would it be better for California for Kamala Harris to continue her campaign for President or suspend her campaign and return to her duties as U.S. Senator			
	Suspend her campaign	Continue campaigning	No opinion
	%	%	%
Total likely voters	61	24	15
1st choice preference for the Democratic nomination			
Sanders voters	66	17	17
Warren voters	64	19	17
Biden voters	64	23	13
Buttigieg voters	76	17	7
Harris voters	10	79	11

Biden and Warren, the chief California beneficiaries of Harris’ withdrawal

The poll found that just 7% of the state’s likely voters were supporting Harris’ candidacy. When the second-choice preferences of these voters are allocated to the other candidates, Biden and Warren appear to be the chief beneficiaries in California of her withdrawal. Over a third (35%) of the likely voters who initially chose Harris as their favored candidate chose Biden as their second choice, while about one in four (24%) chose Warren. Sanders and Buttigieg each received a 14% share of Harris’ supporters.

Table 2	
Who Harris’ supporters were choosing as their second choice in California’s Democratic presidential primary	
(among likely voters in California’s Democratic primary election)	
	%
Joe Biden	35
Elizabeth Warren	24
Bernie Sanders	14
Pete Buttigieg	14
Cory Booker	5
Others (<i>each less than 3%</i>)	8

NOTE: The *Berkeley IGS Poll* will be releasing the complete results from its latest survey examining California likely voter preferences in the state’s Democratic presidential primary on Thursday morning, December 5.

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 November 21-27, 2019 among 3,482 registered voters statewide, 1,694 of whom are considered likely voters in California's Democratic presidential primary.

The survey was administered by distributing email invitations to stratified random samples of the state's registered voters. Once the survey questionnaire and email invitations had been finalized, they were translated into Spanish. 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 participate.

Samples of registered voters with email addresses were provided to IGS by Political Data, Inc., a leading supplier of voter listings derived from information contained on the state's official voter registration rolls. Prior to the distribution of emails, the overall sample of voter listings was stratified in an attempt 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. At the conclusion of the data processing, post-stratification weights were applied to align the sample of voters responding to the survey to population characteristics of the state's overall registered voter population. Likely voters were identified based on a voter's stated intention to vote in next year's primary election 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 likely Democratic presidential primary electorate are subject to an approximate sampling error of +/- 4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Questions Asked

Thinking about California's March 2020 Democratic primary election for president. Which candidates are you currently considering supporting? Select as many names as those you are giving some consideration to supporting? If California's Democratic primary for president were being held today, who would be your first choice? Who would be your second choice?

One of California's two U.S. Senators, Kamala Harris, is among the Democratic candidates campaigning for next year's Presidential nomination. Do you feel it would be better for California for Harris to continue campaigning for President next year or would it be better for her to suspend her campaign and return to her duties as U.S. Senator?

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 acting 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, 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>.