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Black Lives Matter movement viewed favorably greater than 2 to 1.
- About seven in ten Californians think both Blacks and Latinos are more likely than whites to experience police violence -

by Mark DiCamillo, Director, *Berkeley IGS Poll*
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Voter expressions of concern about the issue of race relations in California have spiked in response to the death of George Floyd and the protests that have followed in its aftermath. Ten years ago, just 14% of the state's registered voters reported being extremely concerned about race relations in California. But according to the latest *Berkeley IGS Poll* the proportion who now feels this way has increased nearly threefold to 49%, while another 34% report that they are somewhat concerned.

Results from the poll also demonstrate broad support for the Black Lives Matter movement. By a greater than two-to-one margin (63% to 30%) Californians say they have a favorable opinion of the movement. The belief that Blacks in California are more likely than whites to experience violence at the hands of the police is also widely shared, with seven in ten voters (70%) holding to this view. Nearly as many (67%) think Latinos are also more likely than whites to experience police violence.

Nearly all Black voters (92%) maintain that their fellow Blacks are more likely than whites to experience police violence, and 83% express a favorable view of the Black Lives Matter movement. Yet, it is also noteworthy that large majorities of whites, Latinos and Asian Americans express favorable views of the Black Lives Matter movement and believe that Blacks, as well as Latinos, are more likely than whites to experience police violence. Voter views about the movement, however, tend to be highly partisan and ideologically based.

"The findings show that Californians are concerned about racial disparities in the state, especially as they relate to policing and law enforcement in Black and Latino communities," said Cristina Mora, co-director of the Institute of Governmental Studies.

Big increase in voter concerns about the state of race relations in California

Californians express much greater concern about the issue of race relations than they did ten years ago. A statewide *Field Poll* conducted in January 2010 reported that just 14% of the state's registered voters were extremely concerned about the issue. However, when an identical question was posed to registered voters in the latest poll, the proportion saying this increased nearly threefold to 49%, with another 34% saying that they are somewhat concerned. Just 17% of Californians reported not being concerned about the state of race relations in the latest poll, down from 49% in 2010.

Table 1
Voter concerns about the issue of race relations in California
January 2010 vs. July 2020 (among California registered voters)

	July 2020 %	January 2010 %
Extremely concerned	49	14
Somewhat concerned	34	36
Not too concerned	10	30
Not at all concerned	7	19

Note: 2010 results from a January 2010 Field Poll, conducted among 1,232 California registered voters, as reported in Release #2327 by Field Research Corporation, January 28, 2010.

Voters across nearly all major voter subgroups now express high levels of concern about the state of race relations in California

Californians' growing concern about the state of race relations is broad-based, with majorities or pluralities of voters across nearly all major demographic and regional subgroups saying they are extremely concerned, and most of the rest saying they are somewhat concerned.

Blacks express the highest levels of concern, with 70% saying they are extremely concerned. Republicans and conservative voters are the only exceptions, with fewer than one in three expressing a high level of concern about the issue.

Table 2
Concerns about race relations in California
across major demographic and regional subgroups
(among California registered voters)

	Extremely concerned %	Somewhat concerned %	Not too/not at all concerned %
Total statewide	49	34	17
White non-Hispanic	45	36	19
Latino	54	31	15
Asian/Pacific Islander	50	38	12
Black	70	21	10
Democrat	64	30	6
Republican	25	34	41
No Party Preference	48	38	14
All other parties	45	38	17
Very conservative	31	26	43
Somewhat conservative	32	37	30
Moderate	46	38	16
Somewhat liberal	59	34	7
Very liberal	73	24	3
Los Angeles County	55	30	14
San Diego County	41	39	20
Orange County	42	38	20
Inland Empire	49	29	22
Other Southern California	41	42	17
Central Valley	48	33	19
San Francisco Bay Area	53	34	13
Other Northern California	46	38	15
Male	42	36	22
Female	56	31	12
18-29	51	33	16
30-39	52	32	16
40-49	52	33	15
50-64	48	33	19
65 or older	46	36	18

Black Lives Matter movement viewed favorably more than two to one

When California voters are asked about their overall opinion of the Black Lives Matter movement, 63% say they view it favorably, while 30% hold an unfavorable opinion. Of those offering an opinion, most hold to their views strongly, with 42% reporting a very favorable view of the movement, while 21% say their opinion of it is very unfavorable.

Blacks are the subgroup most likely to regard the movement favorably, with 83% viewing it favorably, of whom 67% saying their opinion is very favorable.

Views about the Black Lives Matter movement, however, are highly partisan and ideologically based. For example, while greater than eight in ten Democrats (86%) hold a favorable opinion of the movement, just 15% of Republicans say this. The views of voters not affiliated with either major party are generally similar to those of the overall electorate, with more viewing the movement positively than negatively greater than two-to-one.

Similar wide differences are observed when comparing voters who consider themselves liberal in politics to those who are conservative. Among very liberal voters nearly all (98%) view the Black Lives Matter movement favorably, as do 90% of voters describing themselves as somewhat liberal.

This contrasts sharply with the views of self-described conservatives. Just 18% of very conservative voters and 27% of those who are somewhat conservative voters say they view the movement favorably. The opinions of political moderates generally mirror those of the overall electorate, with 62% viewing it favorably and 28% unfavorably.

While younger voters and females view the movement more favorably than men and older voters, large majorities across of voters across most of the state's other major subgroups of the electorate hold a positive opinion of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Table 3
Overall opinion of the Black Lives Matter movement statewide
and across major demographic and regional subgroups
(among California registered voters)

	Very favorable %	Somewhat favorable %	Somewhat unfavorable %	Very unfavorable %
Total statewide	42	21	9	21
White non-Hispanic	39	22	9	26
Latino	43	21	7	17
Asian/Pacific Islander	44	25	11	13
Black	67	16	5	6
Democrat	62	24	4	3
Republican	6	9	15	63
No Party Preference	40	28	10	14
All other parties	44	18	10	17
Very conservative	15	3	7	67
Somewhat conservative	12	15	17	49
Moderate	32	30	12	16
Somewhat liberal	61	29	4	2
Very liberal	86	12	*	1
Los Angeles County	46	21	8	17
San Diego County	40	22	11	22
Orange County	32	23	8	30
Inland Empire	36	21	10	28
Other Southern California	39	21	13	21
Central Valley	39	19	9	27
San Francisco Bay Area	50	24	8	13
Other Northern California	43	20	8	25
Male	36	23	10	25
Female	48	20	7	17
18-29	55	18	8	12
30-39	47	22	9	16
40-49	40	22	10	21
50-64	36	21	9	26
65 or older	38	23	8	26

*Note: In this and succeeding tables the differences between 100% and the sum of percentages represents the proportion of voters with no opinion. * less than ½ of 1%*

Widely shared belief that Blacks are more likely than whites to experience police violence

Large majorities of voters across nearly all major demographic and regional subgroups believe that Blacks are more likely than whites to experience violence from the police in California. The exceptions are Republicans and conservative voters, most of whom say they see no difference between how Blacks and whites are treated.

Nearly all of the Black voters polled (92%) believe their fellow Blacks are more likely to encounter police violence than whites. Large majorities of voters in virtually every major region and demographic subgroup hold to this view.

Table 4 Compared to whites, are Blacks in California more likely or less likely to experience police violence or is there not much difference? (among California registered voters)			
	More likely than whites %	Not much difference %	Less likely than whites %
Total statewide	70	21	2
White non-Hispanic	70	23	2
Latino	67	21	3
Asian/Pacific Islander	75	17	2
Black	92	5	1
Democrat	89	6	1
Republican	30	54	7
No Party Preference	75	17	1
All other parties	72	19	2
Very conservative	27	54	10
Somewhat conservative	41	45	4
Moderate	70	20	2
Somewhat liberal	93	4	*
Very liberal	98	1	*
Los Angeles County	72	18	2
San Diego County	70	22	2
Orange County	64	26	3
Inland Empire	66	27	3
Other Southern California	72	20	3
Central Valley	64	26	4
San Francisco Bay Area	78	14	1
Other Northern California	69	26	1
Male	67	23	3
Female	73	19	1
18-29	80	13	2
30-39	73	18	3
40-49	69	21	2
50-64	65	25	3
65 or older	68	24	2

* Less than ½ of 1%

Latinos also seen as more likely than whites to experience police violence

Two in three voters (67%) also believe Latinos in California are more likely than whites to experience violence by the police. Views about this are generally similar to those comparing police violence between Blacks and whites, with large majorities across most major regions and demographic subgroups holding to this view. The lone exceptions are again Republicans and conservative voters, most of whom do not see much difference in how the police treat Latinos and whites.

Table 5
Compared to whites, are Latinos in California more likely or less likely to experience police violence or is there not much difference?
(among California registered voters)

	More likely than whites %	Not much difference %	Less likely than whites %
Total statewide	67	24	2
White non-Hispanic	62	29	1
Latino	71	20	3
Asian/Pacific Islander	70	19	2
Black	90	6	1
Democrat	87	8	1
Republican	26	60	4
No Party Preference	69	20	2
All other parties	68	23	1
Very conservative	28	58	5
Somewhat conservative	39	49	3
Moderate	64	24	2
Somewhat liberal	88	7	*
Very liberal	96	2	*
Los Angeles County	73	19	2
San Diego County	65	25	2
Orange County	60	31	3
Inland Empire	60	33	2
Other Southern California	68	25	1
Central Valley	58	31	2
San Francisco Bay Area	74	18	1
Other Northern California	61	30	2
Male	63	28	2
Female	71	21	1
18-29	76	16	2
30-39	71	20	2
40-49	64	26	2
50-64	62	28	1
65 or older	64	28	2

* Less than ½ of 1%

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 July 21-27, 2020 among 8,328 California registered voters.

The survey was administered by distributing email invitations to stratified random samples of the state's registered voters. 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 state's official voter registration rolls. Prior to the distribution of emails, the overall sample was stratified by age and gender in an attempt to obtain a proper balance of survey respondents across major segments of the registered voter population. To protect the anonymity of respondents, voters' email addresses and all other personally identifiable information derived from the voter rolls 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 due to the effects of sample stratification and the post-stratification weighting. Nevertheless, it is likely that findings based on the overall sample are subject to a sampling error of approximately +/-2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Question wording

How concerned are you about the issue of race relations in California? (1) extremely concerned, (2) somewhat concerned, (3), not too concerned, (4) not at all concerned.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the Black Lives Matters movement? (1) very favorable, (2) somewhat favorable, (3) somewhat unfavorable, (4) very unfavorable, (5) no opinion.

Compared to whites, do you think (Blacks (Latinos) in California are more likely or less likely to experience police violence, or is there not much difference? (1) more likely, (2) less likely, (3) about the same, (4) don't know.

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. Professor Eric Schickler and Associate Professor Cristina Mora are IGS's co-directors.

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 listing of stories issued by the *Berkeley IGS Poll* go to <https://www.igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll>.