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## IGS Poll

**Title**

Release #2021-11: Voters support allowing some businesses to require vaccine verification of its patrons and certain types of its employees.

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# *Voters support allowing some businesses to require vaccine verification of its patrons and certain types of its employees.*
### *Divided views about the role government should play in the verification process.*

by Mark DiCamillo, Director, *Berkeley IGS Poll*
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Two in three Californians (63%) approve of allowing some businesses, such as concert venues, sports stadiums, cruise ships and casinos, to verify that its patrons are vaccinated or have tested negative for Covid-19 before they can obtain entry, while 33% disapprove. The latest *Berkeley IGS Poll* also finds that a similar majority (61%) supports allowing employers to require that employees in certain job categories to get vaccinated for Covid-19.  Another 33% are opposed.

Yet, there is no such consensus as to the role government should play in the vaccine verification process.  A third of the state's registered (35%) favors the government assuming overall responsibility for establishing a uniform nationwide vaccine verification system that all Americans can use.  However, nearly as many (32%) feel government should play a more limited role, and only ensure that the vaccine verification process meets certain minimum standards for security, privacy and accessibility. And still one in four (25%) hold to the view that government should not be involved at all in the vaccine verification process.

Voter opinions on each of these issues divide sharply along partisan and ideological lines, and are also tied to the vaccination status of the individual.  For example, Democrats, liberals and voters who have already been vaccinated overwhelmingly support both allowing some businesses to verify that patrons have been vaccinated before they can obtain entry, and allowing employers to require that certain types of its employees be vaccinated.  By contrast, large majorities of Republicans, strong conservatives and voters who say they are unlikely to get vaccinated stand opposed to these policies.  Majorities of Republicans and strong conservatives also feel that government should not be involved at all in the vaccine verification process, while Democrats and liberal voters support some form of government involvement.

IGS Co-Director G. Cristina Mora notes "The findings show that even at this later stage, politics powerfully shapes the way that Californians think about vaccination and the reopening of society."

**<u>Two-to-one majority approves of allowing some businesses to verify that individuals be vaccinated or have tested negative for Covid-19 before they can obtain entry</u>**

About two-thirds of voters (63%) approve of allowing some types of businesses, such as concert venues, sports stadiums, cruise ships and casinos, to require that individuals verify that they have either been vaccinated or have tested negative for Covid-19 before they can obtain entry. However, a significant minority, 33% disapprove.

Opinions about this are sharply divided along partisan and ideological lines, with greater than eight in ten Democrats and liberals approving of businesses allowing businesses to verify that their patrons have been vaccinated or have tested negative for the virus, while greater than two-to-one majorities of Republicans and strong conservatives are opposed.

Opinions are also directly tied to a voter's self-reported vaccination status. For example, seven in ten voters who either have already been vaccinated or say they are very likely to become vaccinated approve of the policy of allowing some businesses to verify that their patrons have been vaccinated before they can obtain entry. This contrasts sharply with the overwhelmingly negative reaction to this policy by voters who say they personally are not too or not at all likely to be vaccinated.

**Table 1**
**Do you approve or disapprove of allowing some businesses\* to verify that individuals have been vaccinated or have tested negative for Covid-19 before they can obtain entry**
**(among California registered voters)**

|  | Approve % | Disapprove % | No opinion % |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total registered voters** | 63 | 33 | 4 |
| Party registration |  |  |  |
|    Democrats | 82 | 15 | 3 |
|    Republicans | 31 | 66 | 3 |
|    No party preference | 67 | 27 | 6 |
|    Other parties | 37 | 56 | 7 |
|   |  |  |  |
| Political ideology |  |  |  |
|    Strongly conservative | 31 | 66 | 3 |
|    Somewhat conservative | 42 | 55 | 3 |
|    Moderate | 62 | 33 | 5 |
|    Somewhat liberal | 85 | 14 | 1 |
|    Strongly liberal | 85 | 11 | 4 |
|   |  |  |  |
| Vaccination status |  |  |  |
|    Already vaccinated | 78 | 18 | 4 |
|    Very likely to get vaccinated | 70 | 26 | 4 |
|    Somewhat likely to get vaccinated | 26 | 67 | 7 |
|    Not too likely to get vaccinated | 16 | 82 | 2 |
|    Not at all likely to get vaccinated | 7 | 91 | 2 |

\* *The types of businesses included concert venues, sports stadiums, cruise ships, and casinos.*

**Greater than six in ten support allowing employers to require that employees in certain job categories be vaccinated**

Six in ten Californians (61%) also support the idea of allowing employers to require that employees in certain job categories get vaccinated for Covid-19, while 33% are opposed.

The profile of voters in favor or allowing employers to set this requirement is similar to voter views about requiring vaccine verification, with eight in ten Democrats and liberals supporting this policy, while two in three Republicans and strong conservatives are opposed.

Similarly, large majorities of voters who have already been vaccinated or say it is very likely that they will do so favor allowing employers to establish this requirement. By contrast, greater than eight in ten of those who say they are unlikely to get vaccinated are opposed to this policy.

**Table 2**
**Should employers be allowed to require that employees in certain**
**job categories get vaccinated for Covid-19?**
**(among California registered voters)**

|  | Yes % | No % | No opinion % |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total registered voters** | 61 | 33 | 6 |
| Party registration |  |  |  |
| Democrats | 79 | 17 | 4 |
| Republicans | 33 | 63 | 4 |
| No party preference | 62 | 31 | 7 |
| Other parties | 40 | 51 | 9 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Political ideology |  |  |  |
| Strongly conservative | 30 | 66 | 4 |
| Somewhat conservative | 42 | 52 | 6 |
| Moderate | 58 | 35 | 7 |
| Somewhat liberal | 80 | 16 | 4 |
| Strongly liberal | 85 | 11 | 4 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Vaccination status |  |  |  |
| Already vaccinated | 76 | 19 | 5 |
| Very likely to get vaccinated | 67 | 26 | 7 |
| Somewhat likely to get vaccinated | 25 | 60 | 15 |
| Not too likely to get vaccinated | 12 | 82 | 6 |
| Not at all likely to get vaccinated | 4 | 92 | 4 |

**No consensus regarding the role government should play in verifying that individuals have been vaccinated**

There is no consensus among the state's voters as to the role that government should play in verifying that individuals have indeed been vaccinated.

About a third of the state's voters (35%) favor having government assuming responsibility for establishing a uniform nationwide vaccine verification system that all Americans can use. Another third (32%) feel government should only play a limited role, and only ensure that the vaccine verification applications created for this purpose meet minimum standards for security, privacy and accessibility. This contrasts with the opinions of another 25% of voters who believe government should not be involved at all in the vaccine verification process.

Voter views about the role government should play on this are again sharply divided along partisan and ideological lines. Nearly nine in ten Democrats and liberals favor some government involvement in the process, with most supporting the government taking overall responsibility for establishing the verification system. Very few Democrats or liberals support no government involvement at all.

By contrast, majorities of Republicans and strong conservatives favor no government involvement in this process, and very few support the government assuming overall responsibility for establishing the verification system.

Voters who have already been vaccinated or are very likely to become vaccinated generally support government involvement in some form, while those who say they are unlikely to be vaccinated prefer no government involvement in the process.

**Table 3**
**Role that government should play in verifying that individuals**
**have been vaccinated for Covid-19**
**(among California registered voters)**

| | Should be responsible for establishing a uniform verification system % | Should play only a limited role* % | Should not be involved at all % | No opinion % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total registered voters** | **35** | **32** | **26** | **7** |
| Party registration | | | | |
| Democrats | 50 | 36 | 8 | 6 |
| Republicans | 12 | 21 | 59 | 8 |
| No party preference | 34 | 37 | 21 | 8 |
| Other parties | 20 | 25 | 46 | 9 |
| | | | | |
| Political ideology | | | | |
| Strongly conservative | 14 | 14 | 64 | 8 |
| Somewhat conservative | 18 | 27 | 46 | 9 |
| Moderate | 35 | 32 | 24 | 9 |
| Somewhat liberal | 44 | 45 | 7 | 4 |
| Strongly liberal | 55 | 35 | 4 | 6 |
| | | | | |
| Vaccination status | | | | |
| Already vaccinated | 42 | 36 | 16 | 6 |
| Very likely to get vaccinated | 38 | 31 | 19 | 12 |
| Somewhat likely to get vaccinated | 24 | 34 | 31 | 11 |
| Not too likely to get vaccinated | 8 | 28 | 48 | 16 |
| Not at all likely to get vaccinated | 5 | 8 | 78 | 9 |

*\* Government's "limited role" referred to ensuring that the vaccine verification applications created for this purpose meet minimum standards for security, privacy and accessibility.*

**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. Funding for the poll was provided in part by the *Los Angeles Times.*

The poll was administered online in English and Spanish April 29-May 5, 2021 among 10,289 California registered voters. To cover a broad range of issues and still minimize respondent fatigue the overall sample was divided into two random samples of 5,036 and 5,253 voters each when measuring the job performance of Governor Newsom in specific areas.

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 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 due to the effects of sample stratification and the post-stratification weighting. Nevertheless, it is likely that findings based on the overall sample of California registered voters are subject to a sampling error of approximately +/-2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, while the sampling error applicable to findings from the random subsamples is approximately +/- 2.5 percentage points.

## Question wording

Have you received the COVID-19 vaccine or not? (IF NOT:) How likely are you to get vaccinated against COVID-19 when it becomes available to you?

Do you think employers should be allowed to require employees in certain job categories to get vaccinated for COVID-19 or should employers not be allowed to require any of their employees to get vaccinated?

*(Asked of a random subsample of 5,253 registered voters statewide)*
Several companies and technology groups have begun developing smartphone apps or systems for individuals to upload onto their phones to verify that they have received COVID-19 tests and/or vaccinations.   They could then be used by individuals to enter concert venues, sports stadiums, cruise ships, hotels, casinos and other businesses that might require them for entry.  Do you approve or disapprove of the idea of allowing certain private businesses to require individuals to verify that they have either been vaccinated or have tested negative for COVID-19 before they can obtain entry?

If companies do begin to market systems for individuals to use to verify that they have been vaccinated or tested negative for COVID-19, what role should the government play in this?
- The government should not be involved at all.
- The government should play a limited role to ensure that the vaccine verification apps meet minimum standards for security, privacy and accessibility.
-  The government should take responsibility for establishing a uniform nationwide vaccine verification system that all Americans can use.

**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 copy of the detailed tabulations to this report or a listing of past poll reports issued by the *Berkeley IGS Poll,* please visit the poll's website at https://www.igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll.