



David Binder Research

California Statewide Survey Re: Poll Results of Likely 2020 Voters

Topline Findings

A survey of likely November 2020 California voters conducted in March 2019 shows extraordinary support for greater transparency, open debate, and a vote by lawmakers prior to surveillance technology being obtained or used by the government or law enforcement. Bay Area voters strongly support this proposal.

Voters also strongly believe that the government should NOT be using face recognition and similar biometric information, such as your DNA, your voice or the way you walk, to monitor and track individuals. Bay Area voters strongly believe this as well.

On both of these critical questions, there is consistent agreement among Democrats, Republicans and Independents, across voters of all ethnicities and generations, and throughout urban, suburban and rural areas.

The full questions are shown below. Numbers for the Bay Area include the nine Bay Area Counties.

Highlight One:

Three-quarters of voters statewide and in the Bay Area support a law to require public debate and a vote by lawmakers before any surveillance technology is obtained or used by government and law enforcement. Half of voters statewide and in the Bay Area *strongly* support this proposal.

Please tell support or oppose this proposal relating to limiting and requiring oversight for government and law enforcement surveillance.				
<i>Pass a law to require public debate and a vote by lawmakers before any surveillance technology is obtained or used by government and law enforcement.</i>				
	Statewide, Likely voters		Bay Area, Likely Voters	
Support, strongly	50%	→76%	51%	→76%
Support, Somewhat	26		25	
Oppose, Somewhat	9	→19%	7	→17%
Oppose, Strongly	10		10	
Don't know	5		7	

Across the diverse electorate of California, majorities support the proposal to pass a law to require public debate and a vote by lawmakers on these surveillance issues. Particularly in a city like San Francisco with significant racial diversity, the consistency in support for this proposal among all ethnic groups is striking.

<i>Pass a law to require public debate and a vote by lawmakers before any surveillance technology is obtained or used by government and law enforcement.</i>		
Party Affiliation		
	% Support	% Oppose
Democrats	82%	14%
Republicans	64	27
Independents (No Party Preference)	76	19
Age Group		
Millennials and Younger (18-38)	82	17
Generation X (39-54)	76	18
Boomers (55-73)	72	21
Silent Generation (74+)	69	22
Ethnicity		
White	73	22
Latinx	79	15
Asian	72	23
African American* (small sample size)	88	9
Area of Residence		
Urban Area	76	19
Suburb	78	16
Small Town	71	24
Rural Area	77	18

Highlight Two:

82% of likely voters statewide and 79% in the Bay Area disagree with the government being able to monitor and track a person using biometric information. Fewer than 20% of voters statewide and in the Bay Area agree that the government should be using biometric information in this way.

Over 60% of voters statewide and in the Bay Area *strongly* disagree, demonstrating intense opposition to government use of biometric information to monitor and track individuals.

<i>The government should be able to monitor and track who you are and where you go using your biometric information. Do you agree or disagree?</i>				
	Statewide, Likely voters		Bay Area, Likely Voters	
Agree, strongly	5%	→16%	7%	→19%
Agree, Somewhat	11		12	
Disagree, Somewhat	17	→82%	16	→79%
Disagree, Strongly	65		63	
Don't know	2		2	

In a time of heightened partisanship, there is a consensus across political party that the government should not conduct biometric surveillance.

Further, across political parties, ethnic groups, generations, and rural and urban areas of California, there is consistently strong disagreement with the government use of biometric surveillance.

<i>The government should be able to monitor and track who you are and where you go using your biometric information. Do you agree or disagree?</i>		
Party Affiliation		
	% Agree	% Disagree
Democrats	12%	87%
Republicans	21	78
Independents (No Party Preference)	20	79

Age Group		
Millennials and Younger (18-38)	18	81
Generation X (39-54)	16	82
Boomers (55-73)	17	81
Silent Generation (74+)	7	90
Ethnicity		
White	13	85
Latinx	18	80
Asian	27	73
African American* (small sample size)	22	75
Area of Residence		
Urban Area	16	82
Suburb	17	81
Small Town	14	85
Rural Area	16	82

Methodology

David Binder Research conducted a survey of 800 likely November 2020 voters between March 9th and 13th, 2019. Interviews were conducted online, and by cell phone and landline. Latinx respondents were given the choice to take the survey in English or Spanish. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.5%, and this survey represents a current snapshot of views on this issue. The margin of error is higher for subgroups of the electorate.