



California Statewide Survey Re: Poll Results of Likely 2020 Presidential Voters

Topline Findings

A survey of likely November 2020 California voters conducted in March 2019 shows extraordinary support for stronger protections controlling the use of face recognition and similar biometric information, and a strong belief that the purpose of officer-worn body cameras should NOT be to track the public. The results are clear:

- 1) The government should NOT be using face recognition to monitor and track individuals.
- 2) Face recognition should NOT be added to public video cameras to identify and track persons within view of the camera.
- 3) Body cameras should be used as a tool for public oversight and accountability, but NOT to identify and track citizens.

Concerns over the use of face and other biometric information by the government, on public video cameras, such as officer-worn body cameras, is consistent across Democrats, Republicans and Independents, both men and women, in all regions of California, and across generations.

The full questions are shown below.

Highlight One:

82% of likely voters disagree with the government being able to monitor and track a person using biometric information. About two-thirds (65%) *strongly* disagree, demonstrating a level of intensity of feeling about the use of face recognition to monitor and track individuals. Only 16% agree that the government should be using biometric information in this way.

<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>		
Agree, strongly	5%	→16%
Agree, Somewhat	11	
Disagree, Somewhat	17	→82%
Disagree, Strongly	65	
Don't know	2	

In a time of heightened partisanship, there is bipartisan consensus opposing this use of biometric information.

Further, across generations, areas of California, and for both men and women, there is consistently strong disagreement with the government use of face and other biometric information in this way. Notably, as highlighted below, the intensity of those strongly disagreeing is also consistent across each of the segments.

<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		
	% Disagree, Strongly	% Disagree, Total
Democrats	69%	87%
Republicans	64	78
Independents (No Party Preference)	61	79
Age Group		
Millennials and Younger (18-38)	60	81
Generation X (39-54)	66	82
Boomers (55-73)	66	81
Silent Generation (74+)	75	90
Region		
Bay Area	63	79
Southern California	65	82
Central Valley and Sacramento	66	86
Gender		
Female	67	83
Male	62	82

Highlight Two:

63% of likely voters oppose face recognition and other biometric surveillance being added to public video cameras to identify and track individuals within view of a camera, with 43% strongly opposed.

<i>Please tell me if you support or oppose biometric surveillance, like face recognition, being used in this way. Added to public video cameras to identify and track you if you are within view of a camera.</i>		
Support, strongly	11%	→33%
Support, Somewhat	22	
Oppose, Somewhat	20	→63%
Oppose, Strongly	43	
Don't know	4	

Across the diverse electorate of California, majorities oppose face and other biometric surveillance being added to public video cameras to identify and track individuals. Democrats, Independents, Generation X voters, and millennials are the most strongly opposed.

<i>Added to public video cameras to identify and track you if you are within view of a camera.</i>		
Party Affiliation		
	% Support	% Oppose
Democrats	27%	67%
Republicans	42	55
Independents (No Party Preference)	32	63
Age Group		
Millennials and Younger (18-38)	28	68
Generation X (39-54)	28	69
Boomers (55-73)	38	57
Silent Generation (74+)	40	52

Region		
Bay Area	29	64
Southern California	33	62
Central Valley and Sacramento	33	63
Gender		
Female	34	60
Male	31	65

Highlight Three:

Over 60% believe that the purpose of body cameras should be to record how police treat people, and provide a tool for public oversight and accountability; only 9% believe the purpose should be to give law enforcement a tool to identify and track people.

<i>Thinking about body cameras worn by police and other law enforcement, which do you believe should be the purpose of body cameras ...</i>		
To record how police treat people and provide a tool for public oversight and accountability	46% Much More	→62%
	16% Somewhat More	
To give law enforcement a tool to identify and track people	3% Somewhat More	→9%
	6% Much More	
Both (volunteered response)	26%	
Neither (volunteered response)	3%	
Don't Know	1%	

There is widespread agreement across the California electorate that the purpose of body cameras should be as a tool for public oversight and accountability.

<i>Thinking about body cameras worn by police and other law enforcement, which do you believe should be the purpose of body cameras ...</i>		
Party Affiliation		
	% Accountability	% Track People
Democrats	72%	9%
Republicans	45	14
Independents (No Party Preference)	62	8
Age Group		
Millennials and Younger (18-38)	67	6
Generation X (39-54)	61	8
Boomers (55-73)	62	8
Silent Generation (74+)	54	17
Region		
Bay Area	63	7
Southern California	62	9
Central Valley and Sacramento	62	12
Gender		
Female	60	10
Male	64	9

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. Latino 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.