

---

**FOR RELEASE: MARCH 1, 2023**

**HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING, TOP OF MIND AS MOST URGENT ISSUES IN CALIFORNIA, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY CALIFORNIA POLL FINDS; 7 IN 10 VOTERS DON'T WANT GOV. NEWSOM TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT IN 2024**

Asked to choose the most urgent issue facing California today, 22 percent say homelessness followed by affordable housing (17 percent) and inflation (10 percent), according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University poll of registered voters in California released today. No other issue reached double digits.

There are wide gaps by political party.

Among Republicans, the top issues are immigration (17 percent), homelessness (14 percent), taxes (14 percent), affordable housing (11 percent), and crime (10 percent).

Among Democrats, the top issues are homelessness (26 percent), affordable housing (24 percent), and climate change (13 percent).

Among independents, the top issues are homelessness (23 percent), affordable housing (15 percent), crime (12 percent), inflation (12 percent), and taxes (11 percent).

“What worries the Golden State most? Dealing with the homeless crisis and finding a home Californians can afford to live in,” said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

Eighty-four percent of voters think homelessness in California is a very serious problem, while 14 percent think it is a somewhat serious problem, 2 percent think it is not a very serious problem, and 1 percent think it is not a problem at all.

Nearly 7 out of 10 voters (69 percent) think California is doing too little to help homeless people, while 14 percent think it is doing too much and 11 percent think California is doing about the right amount to help homeless people.

Voters say 82 – 14 percent that there is a housing crisis in California, up from 78 – 15 percent in a Quinnipiac University poll in July 2019.

**ECONOMY**

Forty percent of voters describe the state of California’s economy these days as either excellent (6 percent) or good (34 percent), while 59 percent describe it as either not so good (28 percent) or poor (31 percent).

This is a reversal from a Quinnipiac University poll in February 2019 when 58 percent described the economy as either excellent (12 percent) or good (46 percent) and 38 percent described it as either not so good (21 percent) or poor (17 percent).

Asked about their own personal finances, 15 percent of voters say they are getting better, while 39 percent say they are getting worse, and 46 percent say they are staying about the same.

### **LIVING IN CALIFORNIA**

Voters say 53 – 45 percent that they feel like they can afford to live in California.

If given the financial means to do so, more than 4 in 10 voters (43 percent) say they would move out of California to somewhere else, while 55 percent say they would not.

“If they could afford to pack up their bags and put California in the rear-view mirror, they would, say 43 percent of voters. And who wants out the most? Overwhelmingly, Republicans,” added Malloy.

### **VOTING IN PRISON**

Nearly two-thirds of voters (64 percent) oppose California allowing citizens to vote while they are serving time for felonies in prison, while 32 percent support it.

### **IMMIGRATION**

Two-thirds of voters (67 percent) believe that immigration is good for the country, while 23 percent believe that immigration is bad for the country. This is a change from a Quinnipiac University poll in February 2019 when 76 percent said immigration was good for the country and 14 percent said immigration was bad for the country.

Voters say 53 – 39 percent that California does not have effective border security along the border with Mexico. In Quinnipiac University’s February 2019 poll, voters were split 46 – 46 percent.

Nearly 4 in 10 voters (39 percent) think that undocumented immigrants are provided with too much protection in California, while 27 percent think they are not provided with enough protection, and 27 percent think undocumented immigrants are provided with the right amount of protection.

### **GUNS**

Voters support 58 – 39 percent stricter gun laws in California.

Voters support 61 – 36 percent a ban on assault weapons in the state.

Voters think 66 – 31 percent that the state should set limits on where people can carry guns in public.

Voters think 77 – 21 percent that people under the age of 21 should be restricted from obtaining a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

Forty-two percent of voters think that gun violence in California is a crisis, while 47 percent think it is a problem but not a crisis, and 8 percent think it is not a problem at all.

Seven out of 10 voters (70 percent) say they do not personally own a gun, while 24 percent say they do own one.

Among those who do not own a gun, 25 percent say they are considering acquiring one.

“About 40 percent of California voters own a gun or are thinking about getting one,” added Malloy.

## **GAVIN NEWSOM IN 2024?**

Voters say 70 – 22 percent they would not like to see Governor Gavin Newsom run for president in 2024.

Among Democrats, 54 percent say they do not want to see Newsom run for president in 2024, while 35 percent say they would like to see him run.

“A resounding thumbs down from the home team as California voters tell the Governor: if you have designs on the big job beyond Sacramento, we’re not on board,” added Malloy.

### **JOB APPROVALS**

Voters are split on the way Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor, with 44 percent approving and 43 percent disapproving. Thirteen percent did not offer an opinion. This compares to July 2019 when 39 percent approved, 38 percent disapproved, and 24 percent did not offer an opinion.

Voters give Senator Dianne Feinstein a negative 37 – 44 percent job approval rating, with 19 percent not offering an opinion. This compares to a 41 – 41 percent job approval rating, with 18 percent not offering an opinion in July 2019.

Voters give Senator Alex Padilla a 38 – 29 percent job approval rating, with 33 percent not offering an opinion.

They give President Biden a split 48 – 47 percent job approval rating.

They give Vice President Kamala Harris a negative 42 – 48 percent job approval rating.

Voters give U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy a negative 33 – 48 percent job approval rating, with 19 percent not offering an opinion.

### **U.S. SENATE RACE**

When voters were asked how closely they have been following news about the U.S. Senate race in California to succeed Senator Feinstein, who announced she is not running for re-election in 2024, 15 percent say very closely, 34 percent say somewhat closely, and 49 percent say not too closely.

Voters were asked whether they had a favorable or unfavorable opinion of:

- Adam Schiff: 31 percent favorable, 30 percent unfavorable, 38 percent haven’t heard enough about him;
- Katie Porter: 30 percent favorable, 11 percent unfavorable, 59 percent haven’t heard enough about her;
- Barbara Lee: 18 percent favorable, 11 percent unfavorable, 71 percent haven’t heard enough about her.

If Rep. Katie Porter is elected United States Senator from California in 2024, 39 percent of voters say they would be either very enthusiastic (15 percent) or somewhat enthusiastic (24 percent), while 35 percent say they would be either not so enthusiastic (12 percent) or not enthusiastic at all (23 percent). Twenty-six percent did not offer an opinion.

If Rep. Adam Schiff is elected United States Senator from California in 2024, 35 percent of voters say they would be either very enthusiastic (15 percent) or somewhat enthusiastic (20 percent), while 52 percent say

they would be either not so enthusiastic (16 percent) or not enthusiastic at all (36 percent). Twelve percent did not offer an opinion.

If Rep. Barbara Lee is elected United States Senator from California in 2024, 34 percent of voters say they would be either very enthusiastic (8 percent) or somewhat enthusiastic (26 percent), while 40 percent say they would be either not so enthusiastic (16 percent) or not enthusiastic at all (24 percent). Twenty-six percent did not offer an opinion.

1,091 California self-identified registered voters were surveyed from February 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> with a margin of error of +/- 3.0 percentage points.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Doug Schwartz, Ph.D. since 1994, conducts independent, non-partisan national and state polls on politics and issues. Surveys adhere to industry best practices and are based on random samples of adults using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones.

**Visit [poll.qu.edu](http://poll.qu.edu) or [www.facebook.com/quinnipiacpoll](https://www.facebook.com/quinnipiacpoll)  
Email [poll@qu.edu](mailto:poll@qu.edu), or follow us on [Twitter](#) @QuinnipiacPoll.**

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	44%	4%	78%	36%	37%	50%
Disapprove	43	86	9	51	53	34
DK/NA	13	10	13	13	10	16

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as United States Senator?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	37%	15%	61%	32%	28%	45%
Disapprove	44	68	19	56	53	35
DK/NA	19	17	20	12	19	19

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Alex Padilla is handling his job as United States Senator?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	38%	12%	64%	29%	33%	42%
Disapprove	29	54	7	37	33	25
DK/NA	33	35	30	34	34	33

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	48%	6%	86%	39%	40%	55%
Disapprove	47	91	12	54	55	40
DK/NA	5	3	2	7	5	5

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Kamala Harris is handling her job as vice president?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	42%	7%	73%	37%	31%	52%
Disapprove	48	89	15	53	59	38
DK/NA	10	4	11	9	10	11

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Kevin McCarthy is handling his job as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	33%	70%	18%	28%	31%	35%
Disapprove	48	16	65	51	51	45
DK/NA	19	14	17	21	18	20

7. Would you like to see Gavin Newsom run for president in 2024, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	22%	7%	35%	21%	17%	27%
No	70	90	54	72	76	64
DK/NA	8	3	11	7	7	10

8. As you may know, United States Senator Dianne Feinstein is not running for re-election in 2024. How closely have you been following news about the U.S. Senate race in California to succeed Senator Feinstein; very closely, somewhat closely, or not too closely?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very closely	15%	12%	20%	15%	15%	15%
Somewhat closely	34	29	34	38	35	33
Not too closely	49	59	44	47	49	50
DK/NA	1	-	2	-	1	1

9. How would you feel if - Barbara Lee is elected United States Senator from California in 2024; very enthusiastic, somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very enthusiastic	8%	3%	15%	6%	5%	11%
Smwht enthusiastic	26	19	36	22	21	31
Not so enthusiastic	16	15	15	19	19	13
Not enthus at all	24	37	14	26	31	18
DK/NA	26	26	20	27	25	26

10. How would you feel if - Katie Porter is elected United States Senator from California in 2024; very enthusiastic, somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very enthusiastic	15%	4%	27%	12%	13%	18%
Smwht enthusiastic	24	20	30	23	21	26
Not so enthusiastic	12	11	13	13	13	11
Not enthus at all	23	35	13	23	28	18
DK/NA	26	30	17	29	24	27

11. How would you feel if - Adam Schiff is elected United States Senator from California in 2024; very enthusiastic, somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very enthusiastic	15%	1%	33%	7%	14%	17%
Smwht enthusiastic	20	12	26	23	17	24
Not so enthusiastic	16	12	16	18	13	18
Not enthus at all	36	67	10	41	47	26
DK/NA	12	9	15	10	9	15

12. Is your opinion of Barbara Lee favorable, unfavorable, or haven't you heard enough about her?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	18%	8%	29%	17%	16%	21%
Unfavorable	11	18	6	13	14	8
Hvn't hrd enough	71	74	65	70	70	71
REFUSED	-	-	-	-	-	-

13. Is your opinion of Katie Porter favorable, unfavorable, or haven't you heard enough about her?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	30%	10%	47%	26%	27%	32%
Unfavorable	11	19	5	12	14	9
Hvn't hrd enough	59	71	48	61	59	59
REFUSED	1	-	-	1	1	1

14. Is your opinion of Adam Schiff favorable, unfavorable, or haven't you heard enough about him?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	31%	6%	53%	25%	29%	32%
Unfavorable	30	61	3	36	39	22
Hvn't hrd enough	38	32	42	36	30	45
REFUSED	2	-	2	2	1	2

15. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in California today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very satisfied	8%	-	16%	5%	7%	9%
Smwht satisfied	32	11	51	31	28	36
Smwht dissatisfied	22	18	22	24	20	23
Very dissatisfied	37	70	10	39	44	31
DK/NA	1	-	1	1	1	1

16. In your opinion, what is the most urgent issue facing California today: gun violence, climate change, abortion, inflation, unemployment, homelessness, immigration, health care, racial inequality, schools, affordable housing, taxes, or crime?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Gun violence	5%	3%	7%	4%	4%	6%
Climate change	8	3	13	6	6	9
Abortion	2	3	2	2	2	2
Inflation	10	9	9	12	10	10
Unemployment	1	2	-	2	-	2
Homelessness	22	14	26	23	20	23
Immigration	6	17	1	5	6	6
Health care	3	1	5	2	3	3
Racial inequality	1	-	1	1	-	2
Schools	3	6	1	3	4	2
Affordable housing	17	11	24	15	15	19
Taxes	9	14	1	11	13	5
Crime	8	10	4	12	10	7
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	3	6	3	2	5	2
DK/NA	2	2	3	2	1	3

17. Would you support or oppose California allowing citizens to vote while they are serving time for felonies in prison?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	32%	17%	47%	25%	28%	35%
Oppose	64	82	48	70	70	58
DK/NA	4	1	5	5	2	7

18. Would you describe the state of California's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Excellent	6%	1%	10%	6%	6%	7%
Good	34	16	53	27	36	32
Not so good	28	30	24	29	25	29
Poor	31	51	13	37	32	30
DK/NA	1	2	1	1	1	2

19. Do you feel like you can afford to live in California, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	53%	47%	64%	44%	55%	51%
No	45	51	34	54	43	46
DK/NA	2	2	2	2	1	3



20. Would you say your own personal finances are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Better	15%	4%	19%	15%	14%	15%
Worse	39	56	25	42	39	38
The same	46	40	56	42	46	46
DK/NA	-	-	-	1	-	-

21. If given the financial means to do so, would you move out of California to somewhere else, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Would move out	43%	63%	25%	47%	46%	41%
No	55	34	74	50	52	58
DK/NA	2	2	1	3	2	1

22. Do you think that there is a housing crisis in California, or don't you think so?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Housing crisis	82%	70%	93%	82%	78%	87%
No	14	25	5	15	19	10
DK/NA	3	6	2	3	3	3

23. In general, how serious a problem do you think homelessness is in California; a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not a problem at all?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very serious	84%	81%	85%	85%	78%	89%
Somewhat serious	14	16	12	13	18	10
Not very serious	2	2	2	2	3	1
Not a problem at all	1	-	-	-	1	-
DK/NA	-	-	-	-	1	-

24. Do you think California is doing too much, too little, or about the right amount to help homeless people?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Too much	14%	30%	4%	13%	19%	9%
Too little	69	58	76	71	67	71
About right	11	8	13	12	11	12
DK/NA	6	5	7	4	3	8

25. Overall, do you believe that immigration is good for the country or bad for the country?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Good	67%	43%	84%	66%	69%	66%
Bad	23	42	12	23	23	24
DK/NA	10	15	4	11	9	10

26. Do you think that undocumented immigrants are provided with too much protection in California, not enough protection, or are undocumented immigrants provided with the right amount of protection in California?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Too much	39%	74%	10%	49%	47%	32%
Not enough	27	9	43	18	19	34
Right amount	27	14	38	24	28	26
DK/NA	7	2	9	8	6	8

27. Do you think that California has effective border security along the border with Mexico, or don't you think so?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Effective	39%	25%	57%	30%	39%	39%
No	53	73	33	63	55	52
DK/NA	8	2	10	7	6	9

28. Do you support or oppose stricter gun laws in California?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	58%	32%	88%	46%	44%	71%
Oppose	39	65	10	51	54	26
DK/NA	3	3	2	3	2	3

29. Do you support or oppose a ban on assault weapons in California?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	61%	37%	85%	55%	49%	71%
Oppose	36	58	13	41	48	25
DK/NA	4	5	3	4	3	4

30. Do you think the state should set limits on where people can carry guns in public, or don't you think so?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Set limits	66%	43%	83%	62%	58%	73%
No	31	53	14	35	40	23
DK/NA	3	5	2	3	2	4

31. Do you think people under the age of 21 should be restricted from obtaining a permit to carry a concealed weapon, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Be restricted	77%	75%	86%	73%	70%	84%
No	21	24	13	25	29	14
DK/NA	1	-	1	2	1	1

32. Do you think gun violence in California is a crisis, a problem but not a crisis, or not a problem at all?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Crisis	42%	33%	55%	35%	30%	52%
Problem/Not crisis	47	52	40	52	54	41
Not a problem at all	8	14	3	10	14	3
DK/NA	2	1	2	3	1	3

33. Do you personally own a gun, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Own	24%	34%	14%	27%	35%	13%
No	70	59	85	65	57	83
DK/NA	6	7	1	9	8	4

33a. (If don't own gun q33) Are you considering acquiring a gun, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	DON'T OWN GUN Q33.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Considering	25%	39%	14%	32%	31%	21%
No	74	60	86	67	68	77
DK/NA	1	-	1	1	1	1