

FOR RELEASE: APRIL 11, 2019

**DEATH PENALTY DIVIDES CALIFORNIA VOTERS,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS;  
GOVERNOR SHOULD INVESTIGATE HORSE RACING, VOTERS SAY**

California voters are divided on a life or death issue, as 41 percent prefer the death penalty for people convicted of murder while 48 percent prefer life in prison with no chance of parole, according to a Quinnipiac University Poll released today.

Men are divided as 43 percent prefer the death penalty and 46 prefer life without parole, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll finds. Women prefer life without parole 51 – 39 percent. Republicans prefer the death penalty 68 – 22 percent as Democrats back life without parole 69 – 24 percent. Among independent voters, 47 percent prefer the death penalty and 42 percent prefer life without parole.

The strongest support for the death penalty is inland and in the Valley, where 47 percent prefer the death penalty and 43 percent back life without parole. The strongest support for life without parole is in Los Angeles County, where 56 percent back life and 34 percent prefer death.

California voters also are divided on Gov. Gavin Newsom’s suspension of the death penalty as 44 percent support the move and 46 percent oppose it. Men oppose the suspension 50 – 42 percent. Women are divided as 47 percent support the suspension, with 43 percent opposed. Support for the suspension is 64 – 27 percent among Democrats. Opposition is 77 – 16 percent among Republicans and 50 – 41 percent among independent voters.

“The governor has spoken, but California voters are closely divided on whether to put the lights back on in San Quentin’s death chamber, 13 years after the last execution,” said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“They also are divided on the question of execution vs. life without parole.”

California voters approve 40 – 33 percent of the job Gov. Gavin Newsom is doing, compared to a 39 – 28 percent approval rating in a February 6 Quinnipiac University poll. Democrats approve 71 – 8 percent, while Republicans disapprove 75 – 6 percent. Among independent voters, 31 percent approve and 41 percent disapprove.

**-More-**

## **Quinnipiac University Poll/April 11, 2019 – page 2**

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein gets a 47 – 37 percent approval rating.

U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris has a 47 – 30 percent job approval rating.

### **Horse Racing**

California voters say 55 – 35 percent that Gov. Newsom should create an independent panel to investigate the deaths of race horses in the state. Support is 60 – 31 percent among women and 50 – 39 percent among men.

Only 19 percent of voters have a favorable opinion of horseracing, with 20 percent unfavorable and 59 percent expressing no opinion.

“After the deaths of 23 race horses at California’s most storied race track, the governor wants answers and so do voters,” Malloy said.

### **Sanctuary Cities**

California voters are divided on the issue of sanctuary cities as 46 percent say these cities should be able to deal with immigrants as they see fit, while 47 percent say these cities should be forced to comply with federal immigration efforts.

Support for sanctuary cities is strongest in Los Angeles County, 53 – 40 percent, and in the Bay Area, 52 – 39 percent. Support for enforcing federal immigration efforts is strongest in Southern California, 55 – 40 percent, and inland and in the Valley, 53 – 40 percent.

Voters oppose 70 – 23 percent closing the entire border between the U.S. and Mexico. Republicans support closing the border 59 – 29 percent, the only listed party, gender, racial, regional or age group to support this measure.

Climate change is an emergency, California voters say 63 – 33 percent, but only 16 percent support the “Green New Deal,” with 27 percent opposed and 56 percent who haven’t heard enough about it to decide.

“No argument from Californians on climate change; it’s a clear and present danger,” Malloy said. “But voters are opposed or don’t know enough about the ‘Green New Deal.’”

From April 3 – 8, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,005 California voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts gold standard surveys using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones. The Quinnipiac University Poll conducts nationwide surveys and polls in more than a dozen states on national and statewide elections, as well as public policy issues.

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
Approve	40%	6%	71%	31%	37%	43%	41%	45%	
Disapprove	33	75	8	41	34	32	39	27	
DK/NA	27	19	21	28	28	25	21	28	
AREA.....									
		Inlnd/	Bay	L.A.	Sthrn	AGE IN	YRS.....		
	Coastl	Valley	Area	County	Cali	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	39%	35%	49%	51%	30%	33%	45%	39%	47%
Disapprove	35	37	26	22	44	21	33	45	35
DK/NA	26	28	25	27	26	46	21	16	18

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
Approve	47%	8%	76%	42%	41%	53%	42%	56%	
Disapprove	37	75	16	38	39	35	48	27	
DK/NA	16	17	8	20	20	12	10	18	
AREA.....									
		Inlnd/	Bay	L.A.	Sthrn	AGE IN	YRS.....		
	Coastl	Valley	Area	County	Cali	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	44%	42%	53%	55%	41%	43%	54%	43%	51%
Disapprove	36	45	31	32	39	25	31	49	43
DK/NA	20	13	16	14	20	32	15	8	6

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Kamala Harris is handling her job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
Approve	47%	8%	77%	39%	43%	51%	44%	50%	
Disapprove	30	68	8	32	32	28	38	24	
DK/NA	23	23	14	29	25	21	18	26	
AREA.....									
		Inlnd/	Bay	L.A.	Sthrn	AGE IN	YRS.....		
	Coastl	Valley	Area	County	Cali	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Approve	44%	41%	64%	55%	35%	44%	57%	43%	46%
Disapprove	29	39	15	25	38	23	25	36	39
DK/NA	27	20	21	19	27	34	19	21	15

16. As you may know, some cities are refusing to assist the federal government in its efforts to detain or deport undocumented immigrants. These are sometimes called "sanctuary cities." Do you think these cities should be able to deal with immigrants as they see fit, or should these cities be forced to comply with federal immigration efforts?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
As they see fit	46%	8%	73%	37%	43%	49%	40%	52%	
Comply with efforts	47	88	19	57	51	43	53	44	
DK/NA	7	3	7	5	6	8	7	4	
AREA.....									
		Inlnd/ Bay	L.A.	Sthrn	AGE IN	YRS.....			
	Coastl	Valley Area	County	Cali	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	
As they see fit	45%	40%	52%	53%	40%	58%	48%	31%	45%
Comply with efforts	46	53	39	40	55	39	42	62	47
DK/NA	9	7	9	7	5	3	9	7	8

17. Do you support or oppose closing the entire border between the United States and Mexico?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
Support	23%	59%	6%	23%	22%	24%	30%	17%	
Oppose	70	29	93	66	69	71	64	79	
DK/NA	7	12	1	11	9	5	6	4	
AREA.....									
		Inlnd/ Bay	L.A.	Sthrn	AGE IN	YRS.....			
	Coastl	Valley Area	County	Cali	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	
Support	22%	29%	18%	24%	23%	13%	15%	31%	33%
Oppose	69	67	73	72	69	81	79	58	63
DK/NA	9	4	9	4	9	6	6	10	4

18. Do you think that climate change is an emergency, or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
Yes/Emergency	63%	20%	89%	60%	59%	67%	59%	71%	
No	33	76	10	35	37	29	39	26	
DK/NA	4	4	1	4	4	4	2	3	
AREA.....									
		Inlnd/ Bay	L.A.	Sthrn	AGE IN	YRS.....			
	Coastl	Valley Area	County	Cali	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	
Yes/Emergency	58%	57%	74%	70%	55%	75%	70%	53%	55%
No	41	37	24	26	40	24	24	44	39
DK/NA	2	6	2	4	5	1	6	3	6

19. Do you support or oppose the Green New Deal, or haven't you heard enough about it to decide?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Support	16%	1%	26%	16%	18%	14%	17%	12%
Oppose	27	64	7	29	32	22	33	20
Hvn't hrd enough	56	35	66	54	49	62	49	69
REFUSED	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-

AREA.....

		Inlnd/ Bay	L.A.	Sthrn	AGE IN	YRS.....			
	Coastl	Valley Area	County	Cali	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	
Support	17%	15%	24%	16%	12%	15%	19%	13%	15%
Oppose	35	28	21	21	34	20	26	33	31
Hvn't hrd enough	47	55	55	63	53	65	55	53	54
REFUSED	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	-

20. Is your opinion of horse racing favorable, unfavorable or don't you have an opinion on that?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Favorable	19%	26%	18%	16%	20%	17%	26%	14%
Unfavorable	20	12	23	21	17	22	22	19
No opinion	59	59	58	59	61	58	51	64
DK/NA	2	3	1	3	3	2	1	3

AREA.....

		Inlnd/ Bay	L.A.	Sthrn	AGE IN	YRS.....			
	Coastl	Valley Area	County	Cali	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	
Favorable	17%	16%	19%	17%	22%	11%	22%	19%	25%
Unfavorable	20	20	17	25	16	15	24	22	19
No opinion	61	64	59	57	58	72	51	58	53
DK/NA	2	-	5	1	4	2	3	1	2

21. As you may know, 23 horses have died at the Santa Anita racetrack since December of 2018. Do you think that Governor Newsom should create an independent panel to investigate this issue, or not?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp
Yes/Investigate	55%	36%	65%	57%	50%	60%	52%	66%
No	35	54	25	33	39	31	39	30
DK/NA	10	10	10	11	11	10	10	5

AREA.....

		Inlnd/ Bay	L.A.	Sthrn	AGE IN	YRS.....			
	Coastl	Valley Area	County	Cali	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	
Yes/Investigate	55%	53%	51%	67%	48%	64%	51%	53%	56%
No	37	40	33	24	41	25	38	39	34
DK/NA	7	7	16	9	11	11	11	8	10

22. Which punishment do you prefer for people convicted of murder: the death penalty or life in prison with no chance of parole?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
Death penalty	41%	68%	24%	47%	43%	39%	41%	42%	
Life/No parole	48	22	69	42	46	51	49	49	
DK/NA	11	10	7	11	11	10	10	9	
AREA.....									
		Inlnd/	Bay	L.A.	Sthrn	AGE IN	YRS.....		
	Coastl	Valley	Area	County	Cali	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Death penalty	35%	47%	42%	34%	44%	34%	45%	47%	38%
Life/No parole	52	43	50	56	44	56	42	45	53
DK/NA	14	10	8	10	12	10	13	8	10

23. Do you support or oppose Governor Newsom's suspension of the death penalty in California?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Hsp	
Support	44%	16%	64%	41%	42%	47%	44%	41%	
Oppose	46	77	27	50	50	43	48	50	
DK/NA	9	7	8	8	9	10	8	9	
AREA.....									
		Inlnd/	Bay	L.A.	Sthrn	AGE IN	YRS.....		
	Coastl	Valley	Area	County	Cali	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+
Support	49%	41%	54%	51%	34%	44%	47%	42%	44%
Oppose	35	52	41	36	59	40	46	54	48
DK/NA	16	8	5	13	8	15	8	4	9