

CID Survey: Voter Messaging in the Time of Covid-19



Introduction

The Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID) at USC, led by Professor Mindy Romero, is conducting a research study examining the opinions of eligible voters in California. If you agree to participate, you will read some information and answer a set of survey questions. Research records will be confidential to the extent allowed by law. Your information will be protected by Professor Romero and the Center for Inclusive Democracy. Participation is entirely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or withdraw at any time without penalty. If you would like additional information or have research-related questions about this study, you may reach Professor Romero at 530-665-3010.

S1 Section I:

Please mark the choice that best answers the question. Please note that a vote-by-mail ballot is also sometimes called an absentee ballot.

- Q1 Are you registered to vote at your current address, registered at a different address, or not currently registered?**
- Registered at my current address (1)
 - Registered at a different address (2)
 - Not currently registered (3)
 - Don't know (4)
- Q2 How many years have you been registered to vote at [this/that] address? {enter 0 if response is less than 1 year}**
- Number of Years: (1) _____
 - Don't know (2)
- Q3 If you are not registered to vote, do you intend to register to vote before the November 2020 presidential election?**
- Yes, intend to register (4)
 - No, do not intend to register (5)
 - Don't know (6)
- Q3b If you are registered at a different address, do you intend to register to vote at your current address before the November 2020 presidential election?**
- Yes, intend to register (1)
 - No, do not intend to register (4)
 - Don't know (5)
- Q4 Some people don't vote in every election. How often do you vote?**
- Always (1)
 - Usually or most of the time (2)
 - Sometimes (3)
 - Not often or rarely (4)
 - Never (5)
 - I voted for the first time in the March 2020 primary election (6)
 - Don't know (7)
- Q5 Did you vote in the March primary election held this year?**
- Yes (1)
 - No (2)

- Q6 Did you vote in the presidential election held in November 2016 between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump?**
- Yes, voted (1)
 - No, did not vote (2)
- Q7 How likely are you to vote in the November 2020 presidential election?**
- Extremely likely (1)
 - Somewhat likely (6)
 - Neither likely nor unlikely (7)
 - Somewhat unlikely (8)
 - Extremely unlikely (9)
- Q8 For the November 2020 presidential election, every registered voter in California will automatically receive their ballot in the mail. Would you prefer to receive your vote-by-mail ballot in a language other than English?**
- Yes (1)
 - No (2)
 - Don't know (3)
- Q9 In what languages would you prefer to receive your vote-by-mail ballot?**
- Spanish (1)
 - Chinese (2)
 - Tagalog/ Filipino (3)
 - Japanese (4)
 - Korean (5)
 - Other: (6) _____
- Q10 Do you have any concerns when it comes to casting your ballot in the November 2020 presidential election?**
- Yes (1)
 - No (2)
 - Don't know (3)
- Q11 What kinds of concerns do you have when it comes to casting your ballot in the November 2020 presidential election? (check all that apply)**
- I might get infected with COVID-19/coronavirus if I vote in person (1)
 - I might have to stand in a long line to cast my ballot in person (2)
 - I might not receive a vote-by-mail ballot in the mail even though one was supposed to be mailed to me (3)
 - My in-person voting location might not be accessible (4)
 - I might not be able to find my in-person voting place when I am ready to vote in person or drop off my vote-by-mail ballot (5)
 - My vote-by-mail ballot might not be counted accurately (6)
 - I do not trust the USPS mail service to deliver my vote-by-mail ballot safely and on time (7)
 - My vote-by-mail ballot might be tampered with and my vote changed (8)
 - I might want to cast a vote-by-mail ballot but don't know how to do so (9)
 - I would not be comfortable casting my ballot being in a language other than my native language (10)
 - Other: (11) _____
- Q12 Are you aware that your county elections office provides a Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail option? This option allows voters with disabilities to cast their vote privately and independently from home.**
- Yes (1)
 - No (2)
- Q13 Do you happen to know where to find information on the locations of where to vote in-person in your community?**
- Yes (1)
 - No (2)
 - Don't know (3)
 - I vote by mail or not at a polling place (4)

Q14 In the March 2020 primary election, how did you cast your ballot?

- Filled out my vote-by-mail ballot at home and mailed it in (1)
- Voted at a voting location on Election Day (2)
- Voted at a voting location before Election Day (3)
- Dropped off my vote-by-mail ballot at a voting location on Election Day (4)
- Dropped off my vote-by-mail ballot at a voting location before Election Day (5)
- Dropped off my vote-by-mail ballot in a ballot drop-off box (6)
- Other: (7) _____

Q15 Prior to the March 2020 primary election, how did you typically vote?

- At a polling place (1)
- Mailed in my vote-by-mail ballot (2)
- Dropped off my vote-by-mail ballot at a voting location (3)
- Dropped off my vote-by-mail ballot at a drop-off location or drop-off box (4)
- Used different methods in different elections (5)
- I did not vote prior to the March 2020 primary election (6)

Q16 Did your county change the options for how and where you could cast your ballot in the March 2020 primary election?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Q17 How did you hear about the new voting options in your county in the March 2020 primary election? (choose all that apply)

- Political campaigns/candidates (1)
- Community groups (2)
- My county elections office (3)
- Media (newspapers or television news) (4)
- Social media (5)
- Friends or family (6)
- Flyer in the mail (7)
- Billboard (8)
- Text message (9)
- Email (10)
- Phone call (11)
- Not sure from whom (12)

Q18 Why did you vote in-person at a voting location in the March 2020 primary election? (choose all that apply)

- To receive language assistance (1)
- To use an accessible voting machine for voters with disabilities (2)
- To register to vote or update an existing registration record (3)
- To fill out a replacement ballot for the one I received in the mail (4)
- To receive an "I Voted" sticker (5)
- To be seen representing my community (6)
- I don't trust the mail to deliver my ballot (7)
- Other: (8) _____

Q19 About how many minutes did you travel to an in-person voting location?

Q20 How did you get to the in-person voting location where you voted or dropped off your vote-by-mail ballot in the March 2020 primary election?

- Walked/bicycled (1)
- Drove (2)
- Got a ride/Uber/Lyft (3)
- Public transit (4)
- Paratransit (5)
- Other: (6) _____

Q21 Why did you choose that specific in-person voting location to vote or drop off your vote-by-mail ballot? (choose all that apply)

- Assigned location to vote by county elections office (1)
- Convenient operating days/hours (2)
- Close to home (3)
- Close to work (4)
- Close to school or my children's school (5)
- Close to social activities (6)
- Close to shopping (7)
- Close to public transportation routes (8)
- Availability of parking (9)
- Other: (10) _____

Q22 How did you specifically learn about the in-person location where you voted or dropped off your vote-by-mail ballot? (choose all that apply)

- County voter information guide (1)
- The county website (2)
- Vote-by-mail packet (3)
- Called my county elections office (4)
- Saw/heard advertisements in the media (TV, newspapers or billboards) (5)
- Social media online (6)
- Called by a community group (7)
- Texted by a community group (8)
- Emailed by a community group (9)
- Visited by a community group (10)
- Poster at old polling place (11)
- Friends or family (12)
- Saw signage outside location (14)
- Other: (13) _____

Q23 Approximately how long did you wait in line before voting or dropping off your vote-by-mail ballot at that location?

- No wait (1)
- Less than 5 min. (2)
- 5 - 10 min. (3)
- 10 - 15 min. (4)
- 15 - 30 min. (5)
- 30 - 60 min (6)
- Longer than 60 min. (7)
- Other: (8)

Q24 Did you visit multiple in-person voting locations to avoid lines on the day you cast your ballot?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I voted by mail (3)
- Don't know (4)

Q25 Prior to the March 2020 primary election, how did you typically learn about in-person voting locations? (choose all that apply)

- County voter information guide (1)
- The county website (2)
- Vote-by-mail packet (3)
- Called in to my county elections office (4)
- Saw/heard advertisements from community groups (5)
- Saw/heard advertisements in the media (TV, newspapers or billboards) (6)
- Social media online (7)
- Was contacted by a community group (8)
- Poster at old polling place (9)
- Friends or family (10)
- Saw signage outside location (13)
- No typical way, different ways in different elections (11)
- Other: (12) _____

Q26 Where do you typically turn to for help with questions about registration or voting procedures, or important election dates? (choose all that apply)

- County voter information guide (1)
- The county website (2)
- Vote-by-mail packet (3)
- Call in to my county elections office (4)
- Advertisements from community groups (5)
- Advertisements in the media (TV, newspapers or billboards) (6)
- Social media online (7)
- Contact a community group (8)
- Posters at voting location (9)
- Friends or family (10)
- No typical way, different sources in different elections (11)
- None (13)
- Don't know (14)
- Other: (12) _____

Q27 Thinking ahead to the November 2020 presidential election, what would be your most preferred way to cast a ballot?

- Voting at an in-person voting location on Election Day (1)
- Voting early at an in-person voting location sometime in the three days before Election Day (2)
- Mailing in a ballot that was automatically sent to my home a month before Election Day (3)
- Dropping off my vote-by-mail ballot at an in-person voting location, after having that ballot automatically mailed to my home a month before Election Day (4)
- Dropping off my vote-by-mail ballot in a ballot drop-off box, after having that ballot automatically mailed to my home a month before Election Day (5)
- Using different voting methods in different elections (6)
- None (7)
- Don't know (8)

Q28 Thinking ahead to the November 2020 presidential election, what would give you the most confidence that your ballot would be counted correctly?

- Voting at an in-person voting location on Election Day (1)
- Voting early at an in-person voting location sometime in the three days before Election Day (2)
- Mailing in a ballot that was automatically sent to my home a month before Election Day (3)
- Dropping off my vote-by-mail ballot at an in-person voting location, after having that ballot automatically mailed to my home a month before Election Day (4)
- Dropping off my vote-by-mail ballot in a ballot drop-off box, after having that ballot automatically mailed to my home a month before Election Day (5)
- The ability to track my ballot and confirm it was counted (6)
- None (7)
- Don't know (8)

Q29 Thinking ahead to the November 2020 presidential election, what would give you the least confidence that your ballot would be counted correctly?

- Voting at an in-person voting location on Election Day (1)
- Voting early at an in-person voting location sometime in the three days before Election Day (2)
- Mailing in a ballot that was automatically sent to my home a month before Election Day (3)
- Dropping off my vote-by-mail ballot at an in-person voting location, after having that ballot automatically mailed to my home a month before Election Day (4)
- Dropping off my vote-by-mail ballot in a ballot drop-off box, after having that ballot automatically mailed to my home a month before Election Day (5)
- The ability to track my ballot and confirm it was counted (6)
- None (7)
- Don't know (8)

Q30 During a typical week, how many days do you watch, read, or listen to news on TV, radio, newspapers, social media, or the Internet, not including sports?

- None (1)
- One day (2)
- Two days (3)
- Three days (4)
- Four days (5)
- Five days (6)
- Six days (7)
- Seven days (8)

Q31 How do you typically consume news?

- TV (1)
- Radio (2)
- Newspapers (3)
- Social media (4)
- Internet news sites (5)
- Community newsletters (6)
- Family and friends (7)

Q32 In which county do you live?

Q33 For research purposes, please enter your 5-digit ZIP code in the box below, if you do not know it you can find it on a piece of mail addressed to you.

S2 Section II: Voting Experience

Please mark the choice that best answers the question. Please note that a vote-by-mail ballot is also sometimes called an absentee ballot.

Q34 How satisfied were you with the process of casting your ballot in the March 2020 primary election?

- Very satisfied (1)
- Somewhat satisfied (2)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (3)
- Very dissatisfied (4)
- Don't know (5)

Q35 What aspect of the voting process did not satisfy you in the March 2020 primary election? (choose all that apply)

- Operating hours for in-person voting (1)
- Location of in-person voting location or difficulty of getting to an in-person voting location (2)
- Lack of available parking (3)
- Assistance by election workers (4)
- Lack of voting materials in preferred language (5)
- The flow of the process for casting my ballot (6)
- Did not feel confident that my ballot will be counted correctly (7)
- Do not trust the USPS mail service to deliver my vote-by-mail ballot safely and on time (8)
- Atmosphere of the in-person voting location (9)
- Length of waiting time (10)
- Ability to register to vote and cast my ballot all at the same time (11)
- None - I did not dislike anything (12)
- Other: (13) _____

Q36 In the future, what features would you likely use if you vote at an in-person voting location? (choose all that apply)

- Voting in-person (1)
- Dropping off my vote-by-mail ballot (2)
- Language assistance (3)
- Accessible voting machine for voters with disabilities (4)
- Registering to vote (5)
- None, I would not vote in-person at a voting location (6)
- Other: (7) _____

ITC Section III: The November Election

Please mark the choice that best answers the question. Please note that a vote-by-mail ballot is also sometimes called an absentee ballot.

If you vote in-person in the November 2020 presidential election, when are you most likely to vote?

- The first weekend before Election Day (4)
- The day before Election Day (7)
- Election Day (8)
- The first week before Election Day, if this option was made available (9)
- Don't know (10)
- Other: (11) _____

IT1 Section III: The November Election

Now we would like tell you some information about this year's presidential election.

Voting is easier than ever before. You choose how and when to vote. Every registered voter in California will automatically get a ballot in the mail, even if they did not request one. You have three options to return your ballot. You can return it by mail, drop it off at a ballot drop-box or a voting location near you. You can also vote in-person at a voting location starting the weekend before Election Day and through Election Day.

IT2 Section III: The November Election

Now we would like tell you some information about this year's presidential election.

Voting is easier than ever before. Every registered voter in the state will get a ballot in the mail, even if they did not request one. You have three options to return your ballot. You can return it by mail, drop it off at a ballot drop box or a voting location near you through 8pm on Election Day.

IT3 Section III: The November Election

Now we would like tell you some information about this year's presidential election.

Vote Safe California. Voting is safer than ever before. You choose how and when to vote. Every registered voter in California will automatically get a ballot in the mail, even if they did not request one. You have three options to return your ballot. You can return it by mail, drop it off at a ballot drop box or a voting location near you. Voters who can vote-by-mail will help ensure safe physical distancing at voting locations. You can also vote in person at a voting location starting the weekend before Election Day and through Election Day. Social distancing and health measures will be in place at voting locations.

IT4 Section III: The November Election

Now we would like tell you some information about this year's presidential election.

Voting is easier than ever before. You choose how and when to vote. Every registered voter in California will automatically get a ballot in the mail, even if they did not request one. You have three options to return your ballot. You can return it by mail, drop it off at a ballot drop box or a voting location near you. You can also vote in-person at a voting location starting the weekend before Election Day and through Election Day. The future is ours to build by voting together. We have work to do. The first step is to vote. We must vote for our families. Vote for our communities. Vote for our future.

IT5 Section III: The November Election

Now we would like tell you some information about this year's presidential election.

A message from California civil rights organizations:

Voting is easier than ever before. You choose how and when to vote. Every registered voter in California will automatically get a ballot in the mail, even if they did not request one. You have three options to return your ballot. You can return it by mail, drop it off at a ballot drop box or a voting location near you. You can also vote in-person at a voting location starting the weekend before Election Day and through Election Day.

IT6 Section III: The November Election

Now we would like tell you some information about this year's presidential election.

A message from California civil rights organizations:

In order to protect each person's right to vote and offer safe and secure way to vote, every registered voter in California will automatically get a ballot in the mail, even if they did not request one. You have three options to return your ballot. You can return it by mail, drop it off at a ballot drop box or a voting location near you. You can also safely vote in-person at a voting location starting the weekend before Election Day and through Election Day.

Q37 Please mark the choice that best answers the question. Please note that a vote-by-mail ballot is also sometimes called an absentee ballot.

How likely are you to vote in the November 2020 presidential election?

- Extremely likely (1)
- Somewhat likely (2)
- Neither likely nor unlikely (3)
- Somewhat unlikely (4)
- Extremely unlikely (5)

Q38 According to the information in Section III, what are the ways you can cast your vote in the upcoming November 2020 presidential election?

- You can return your ballot by mail (1)
- You can drop off your ballot at a ballot drop box or a voting location near you (2)
- You can vote in-person at a voting location (3)
- All of the above (4)
- Not Sure (5)

Q39 If you vote in-person in the November 2020 presidential election, when are you most likely to vote?

- The first weekend before Election Day (1)
- The day before Election Day (2)
- Election Day (3)
- The first week before election day, if this option was made available (4)
- Don't know (5)
- Other: (6) _____

Q40 Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, not affiliated with a political party, or other?

- Republican (1)
- Democrat (2)
- Not affiliated with a political party (3)
- Other party: (4) _____

Q41A Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- Strong (1)
- Not very strong (2)

Q41B Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?

- Strong (1)
- Not very strong (2)

Q41C Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or to the Democratic Party?

- Republican Party (1)
- Democratic Party (3)
- Neither (4)

S4 Section IV: Demographics

Please mark the choice that best answers the question.

Q42 What is your sex or gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Non-binary (3)
- Decline to state (4)
- Other: (5) _____

Q43 What is your age?

- 18-24 (1)
- 25-34 (2)
- 35-44 (3)
- 45-54 (4)
- 55-64 (5)
- 65-74 (6)
- 75+ (7)

Q44 What is the highest level of schooling that you have completed?

- Less than high school (1)
- High school diploma/GED (2)
- 2-year degree or vocational training (3)
- Bachelor's degree (4)
- Graduate degree (5)
- Don't know (6)

Q45 What language do you most often speak at home?

- English (1)
- Spanish (2)
- Chinese (3)
- Vietnamese (4)
- Tagalog/ Filipino (5)
- Japanese (6)
- Korean (7)
- Hindi (8)
- Other: (9) _____

Q46 What is your race or ethnicity?

- African American (1)
- Asian American (2)
- Pacific Islander (3)
- Latino (Hispanic) (4)
- White (Not Latino/Hispanic) (5)
- Two or more races (6)
- Other: (7) _____

Q47 Were you born outside of the United States?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Decline to state (3)

Q48 Do you have difficulties with any of the following activities? (choose all that apply)

- Hearing (1)
- Seeing (2)
- Walking (3)
- Standing (4)
- Using your hands (5)
- Reading (6)
- Talking (7)
- Thinking (8)
- Remembering (9)
- None (10)
- Other: (11) _____

Q49 What is your annual household income?

- \$0 to \$39,999 (1)
- \$40,000 to \$74,999 (2)
- \$75,000 to \$99,999 (3)
- \$100,000 to \$149,999 (4)
- \$150,000 to \$249,999 (5)
- \$250,000 or over (6)

End Thank you! That concludes our survey.