



August 2024 - Presidential Polling Memo

Two large sample polls of likely California voters were fielded in the days before and after the Democratic National Convention. The initial poll was conducted August 13-15 (N=1,844) with a nearly identical follow-up poll from August 23-26 (N=3,154). These surveys were conducted by Paul Mitchell, Vice-President of Political Data and owner of Redistricting Partners on behalf of CA 120 / Capitol Weekly under the nonprofit organization [Open California](#). No campaign or organization has paid for any part of this survey or had any input on its design or distribution.

Methodology: All surveys were conducted using voter file data maintained by PDI. Voters were sent either a text message or an email, routing them to an online survey. This methodology has been utilized by Capitol Weekly / CA 120 for the past eight years for over 35 different polls. Initially these were only conducted with emails sent to voters, but this year we began including text message sending as well. Surveys were then weighted to match the [24G6 likely voter universe](#) maintained by PDI. These likely voter universes have historically performed exceptionally well at predicting the demographic makeup of the final electorate.

Questions: The survey included questions about voters likelihood to vote, interest in state and national events, if they watched the Democratic convention, views on the presidential contest, the vice presidential picks, deeper looks into the characteristics of the two major party candidates, favorability for the candidates on the presidential ticket and other California-based elected officials and potential 2026 gubernatorial candidates.

Survey Findings

Democratic Debate: Among Likely Voters, 54% of Democrats and 17% of Republicans watched the Democratic convention. In contrast, in an earlier survey, 63% of Republicans watched their convention.

Did you watch the Democratic Convention?					
	<i>Total</i>		<i>Dem</i>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>NPP/Other</i>
Yes, watched most of it.	38%		54%	17%	26%
Yes, watched some of it.	26%		25%	25%	26%
Only saw clips of it	37%		21%	57%	48%



Fully 89% of Democrats and 56% of Republicans saw all or some of the Harris convention speech, similar to the 54% of Democrats who saw all or some of the Trump speech in a prior survey.

Did you see Kamala Harris' Democratic Convention Speech?					
	<i>Total</i>		<i>Dem</i>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>NPP/Other</i>
Yes	52%		69%	29%	43%
Only portions	24%		20%	27%	26%
No	25%		11%	43%	31%

Presidential Vote: California voters have not elected a Republican statewide in 18 years, and not voted for a Republican presidential candidate in 36 years. During the two past presidential elections, Trump has received a 32-34% share of the electorate. This is below the 38-41% share of the electorate that has regularly voted Republican in the past four gubernatorial elections.

Trump is performing better than his 2016 and 2020 vote totals, with a combined 36% of the vote from the two surveys. However, Harris did gain 1-point and Trump lost 1-point from the initial pre-convention survey to the post-convention survey, resulting in a 2-point shift. If this is the Harris post-convention bump, it is smaller than some might have anticipated.

If the 2024 Presidential election were held today, who would you vote for if the candidates were:				
	<i>Combined</i>		<i>Pre-Convention</i>	<i>Post-Convention</i>
Kamala Harris, Democratic Party	57%		57%	58%
Donald Trump, Republican Party	36%		37%	36%
Robert Kennedy Jr., American Independent Party	4%		5%	4%
Jill Stein, Green Party	2%		2%	2%
Claudia de la Cruz, Peace and Freedom Party	1%		1%	2%

Candidate Characteristics: The survey provided two separate batteries of questions where voters were asked the same set of questions for each candidate that speak to their caring about the needs of people like them, having the temperament to be president, an ability to be trusted in international affairs, and if they are seen as a strong or weak leader.

While the questions were all asked separately, the following tables have the combined results.



When asked, 32% of California likely voters believe Trump cares about people like them “a great deal” of the time or “a lot” of the time. This number is 46% for Harris. While 57% give Trump the lowest ranking of “none at all” there are 30% that attribute that to Harris. There is a clear partisan breakdown to this, with 50% of Democrats agreeing with the “great deal” for Harris, and 70% of Republicans attributing that to Trump.

How much do you believe [Donald Trump] / [Kamala Harris] cares about the needs and problems of people like you?			
	Trump	Harris	Harris Margin
A great deal	26%	30%	+4%
A lot	6%	16%	+9%
A moderate amount	5%	13%	+8%
A little	4%	9%	+5%
None at all	57%	30%	-27%
Not sure	1%	2%	+1%

When gauging if either candidate has the temperament to be President, Harris enjoys a 24% advantage among all voters with 59% while 62% say Trump does not have the temperament required. Independent voters in the survey view Trump not having the temperament to be President by a 54-41 margin. Looking by age groups, voters aged 18-34 believe by a 4-pt margin that Trump has the temperament to be President (52 yes – 48 no) but Seniors by a nearly 50-pt margin do not agree (25 yes-72 no).

Do you think [Donald Trump] / [Kamala Harris] has the temperament to be president?			
	Trump	Harris	Trump Margin
Yes	35%	59%	+24%
No	62%	35%	-27%
Not Sure	3%	6%	+3%

Confidence in their ability to deal with an international crisis followed a similar pattern with overall voters favoring Harris, albeit by a smaller margin than the temperament question. We see Black voters being the most strongly polarized on this question, with 69% saying they were confident in Harris’ ability to deal with an international crisis, compared to 70% who said that they were not comfortable with Trump in the same situation. Looking at the breakdown by age group, Seniors were the most confident in Harris (62%) and the least confident in Trump (25%).



Are you confident in [Donald Trump's] / [Kamala Harris'] ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about [his/her] approach?			
	Trump	Harris	Trump Margin
Confident	36%	53%	-17%
Uneasy	61%	41%	20%
Not Sure	3%	6%	-3%

Finally, we asked voters if they thought each of the major party candidates was seen as a strong or weak leader. The combined “Very strong” and “Somewhat strong” total favored Harris at 57% to 44%, but isolating the “Very strong” figure, Trump has a 3-pt lead at 37%-34%.

Would you say [Donald Trump] / [Kamala Harris] is a strong or a weak leader?			
	Trump	Harris	Trump Margin
Very strong	34%	37%	-4%
Somewhat strong	8%	20%	-12%
Somewhat weak	7%	6%	1%
Very weak	49%	33%	15%
Not sure	3%	3%	-1%

There are several subgroups where Trump dominates on the “Very strong” characteristic, including Independents (Trump 36%, Harris 21%), Men (Trump 37%, Harris 30%), and Latinos aged 35-44 (Trump 47%, Harris 27%)

Crosstabs: Extensive crosstabs for the pre-convention polling, the post-convention polling, and the combined polling of both, with additional questions not summarized here, can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/CA120ConventionPolls>