

To: James V. Lacy
From: John McLaughlin
Re: California Statewide Survey – Executive Summary
Date: June 23, 2021

Survey Summary:

Voters in the State of California disapprove of abolishing the death penalty for convicted murderers and would vote against an amendment abolishing the death penalty. A majority of voters support the application of the death penalty in cases of extremely heinous crimes.

Thinking ahead to the 2022 mid-term elections, the California State Legislature is considering placing an amendment to the State Constitution on the ballot to formally abolish the death penalty. If this vote were held today, how would you vote on the Constitutional amendment to abolish the death penalty for murderers in California?

	Total
Vote Yes to Abolish	43.8
Definitely	30.3
Probably	9.3
Lean	4.2
Vote No Against Abolishing	49.0
Definitely	32.0
Probably	9.5
Lean	7.5
Undecided	7.2

Do you approve or disapprove of abolishing the death penalty for convicted murderers in the State of California?

	Total
Approve	43.0
Strongly	30.7
Somewhat	12.3
Disapprove	47.8
Somewhat	12.5
Strongly	35.3
D.K./Refused	9.2

Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Gavin Newsom’s 2019 executive order issuing a moratorium on all death penalty executions in California?

	Total
Approve	42.3
Strongly	28.8
Somewhat	13.5
Disapprove	41.2
Somewhat	9.0
Strongly	32.2
D.K./Refused	16.5

Many prosecutors say they only reserve the death penalty as a punishment for murderers convicted of the most heinous crimes such as child murderers, mass shooters, serial killers, cop killers and 9/11-like terrorists.

In your own personal opinion, do you believe the death penalty should be used for anyone convicted of murder, reserved only for those convicted of the most heinous crimes, or, should it never be used?

	Total
Use Death Penalty	62.2
Apply to any murder	13.5
Reserve for most heinous	48.7
Never Be Used	30.2
D.K./Refused	7.7

In your own personal opinion, which of the following penalties do you favor as a punishment for extremely heinous crimes like child murderers, mass shooters, serial killers and 9/11-like terrorists?

	Total
The Death Penalty	51.8
Life Imprisonment	38.8
D.K./Refused	9.3

If California politicians promise to eliminate the death penalty for convicted murderers and replace it with life in prison without parole, do you think that these convicted murderers will serve life sentences, or will they be released early?

	Total
Serve Life Sentences	41.7
Be Released Early	40.7
D.K./Refused	17.7

If you knew that nearly 20,000 convicted felons, including violent predators such as murderers, rapists and child predators currently serving life sentences without the possibility of parole in California are now eligible to be released from prison early, would you still prefer life imprisonment without parole or the death penalty for extremely heinous crimes?

	Total
The Death Penalty	51.3
Life Imprisonment	38.0
D.K./Refused	10.7

Support for voting against abolishing the death penalty increases and support for voting to abolish the death penalty diminishes after voters are informed of extremely heinous crimes where the death penalty could be applied.

Now, I am going to read you a series of statements summarizing major crimes that have occurred in recent years. Please indicate whether you would approve or disapprove of applying the death penalty against the convicted murderers in each case.

	Total	
	Approve	Disapprove
<i>In 2015, Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife Tashfeen Malik, perpetrated a mass shooting and an attempted bombing at a San Bernardino County Department of Public Health event, killing 14 people and injuring 22.</i>	63.3	29.7
<i>In 2013, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and his brother Tamerlan planted two pressure cooker bombs near the finish line of the Boston Marathon, which killed three people including an 8-year old boy and injured and maimed 264, and also shot and killed an MIT campus police officer. While Tamerlan was killed during a shootout with police, Dzhokhar was arrested charged and convicted of these crimes.</i>	62.8	30.3

<i>Anthony Avalos was a ten-year-old boy who suffered chronic physical and emotional abuse at the hands of his mother and her boyfriend who hit him with belts, vacuum cords and withheld food from him. In 2018, Anthony suffered a brain bleed after being continuously held in the air upside down and dropped on his head by his mother's boyfriend which ultimately caused his death.</i>	61.2	32.3
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Now considering what you have heard, if the 2022 mid-term election were held today, how would you vote on the Constitutional amendment to abolish the death penalty in California?

	Total	Initial	Net
Vote Yes to Abolish	40.5	43.8	-3.3
Definitely	29.7	30.3	-0.6
Probably	5.7	9.3	-3.6
Lean	5.2	4.2	+1.0
Vote No Against Abolishing	53.3	49.0	+4.3
Definitely	39.8	32.0	+7.8
Probably	8.3	9.5	-1.2
Lean	5.2	7.5	-2.3
Undecided	6.2	7.2	-1

Conclusions:

Voters in California do not want to see the death penalty abolished and support the application of the death in cases of extremely heinous and violent crimes such as child murders, mass shootings and 9-11 like terrorism.

Methodology:

This poll of 600 likely general election voters in California, was conducted from June 5th, 2021 through June 7th, 2021. All interviews were conducted via telephone by professional interviewers. All interviews were conducted via telephone by professional interviewers. Interview selection was random within predetermined election units. Thirty-three percent (33.3%) of interviews were live interviews completed on traditional landlines, 33.3% were live interviews conducted on cell-phones, and the remaining 33.3% of interviews were text-to-cell. Twelve percent (12.2%) of interviews were conducted in Spanish by Spanish-speaking interviewers. These samples were then combined and structured to correlate with actual voter turnout in a general election. This poll of 600 likely general election voters in California, has an accuracy of +/- 4.0% at a 95% confidence interval.

Key Demographics:

Gender:

	Total
Men	47.0
Women	53.0

Party:

	Total
Republican	25.3
Democrat	46.2
Ind./N.P.P./Other/Ref.	28.5

Religion:

	Total
Catholic	20.7
Protestant	30.5
Jewish	3.2
Atheist/Agnostic/Secular	24.7
Other	7.2
Refused	13.8

Race:

	Total
White	53.8
Hispanic	28.0
African American/Black	8.3
Asian	5.8
Other	1.5
Refused	2.5

Age:

	Total
18-29	15.8
30-40	17.8
41-55	23.2
56-65	17.5
Over 65	24.0
Refused	1.7
Mean	49.29