

California Voter Survey

BASELICE & ASSOCIATES, INC.
CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT
N equals 800 interviews

STUDY # 21969 Calif ESA v%

Hello, I am _____ of Baselice & Associates, a national survey research firm, and we're talking to voters long distance today about issues facing us all. We would like to include your responses to this survey, which will be kept confidential, with the responses of several hundred other voters such as yourself.

A1. To begin, are you registered to vote in California?

If No, ask: Is there someone else at home who is registered to vote in California?

If Yes, ask: May I speak with him/her? And return to introduction)

Yes (**continue**)

No (**thank & terminate**)

A2. In which county do you currently reside?

Programming to provide interviewer with a dropdown box of all 58 counties in alpha order.

Terminate refused

D. Do state and county records show you to be registered as... (**Rotate first two choices**)?

27% Republican
47% Democrat
17% Other / Independent
8% Unsure / refused (**vol**)

Version X: Ask Questions 1 - 15 before Question 16

Version Y: Ask Question 16 before Questions 1 -15

(ROTATE NEXT TWO QUESTIONS)

1. Thinking back before the COVID-19 pandemic came to the United States, would you rate the job that was being done by public schools in California as...? (**Read top-to-bottom / bottom-to-top**)

8% Excellent
34% Good
31% Fair
17% Poor
10% Unsure / refused (**vol**)

2. Thinking back over the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic, would you rate the job being done by public schools in California as...? (**Read top-to-bottom / bottom-to-top**)

9% Excellent
22% Good
30% Fair
26% Poor
12% Unsure / refused (**vol**)

End rotation

3. Do you have any children 5 to 18 years of age? **(Record only)**

24% Yes
75% No
1% Unsure / refused

4. Do you have any children 19 years of age or older? **(Record only)**

45% Yes
54% No
1% Unsure / refused

5. **IF YES (value 1) IN Q3, ASK:** Do you have any children in kindergarten through twelfth grade enrolled in:
IF NO, UNSURE/REFUSED (Value 2 or 3) in Q3 and YES (value 1) IN Q4, ASK: Did you have any children who attended: **(Randomize questions A-C and then ask D)**

(n=487)

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Dk/Ref</u>	
67%	32%	0%	A. a public school
10%	88%	2%	B. a charter school
13%	85%	2%	C. online, non-classroom based charter school
18%	80%	2%	D. a private or religious school
8%	90%	3%	E. a home school

6. **IF YES IN Q3, ASK:** Would you rate the education they received over the past year as...?
(Read top-to-bottom / bottom-to-top)

(n=192)

17% Excellent
25% Good
28% Fair
28% Poor
3% Unsure / refused **(vol)**

7. **IF YES IN Q3, ASK:** Which of the following generally describes how much time they are currently spending being taught in-person at a school? **(Read top-to-bottom / bottom-to-top)**

(n=192)

26% Full day
20% Just over four hours a day
30% Fewer than four hours a day
22% Not back at school yet
2% Unsure / refused **(vol)**

8. **IF YES IN Q3, ASK:** Have you supplemented your child's education over the past year with any of the following?

(n=192)

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Dk/Ref</u>	
23%	77%	0%	A. Hired a tutor
67%	33%	0%	B. Provided one-on-one help
10%	90%	0%	C. Moved to another school
9%	88%	3%	D. Other (If other response, ask: Can you tell me about that?)

9. California's public schools are the least open in the country, second only to those in Hawaii. California's COVID-19 case rate is the lowest in the US. Which of the following describes when you think California's public schools should fully reopen? **(read top-to-bottom / bottom-to-top)**

- 16% Now
- 29% In the fall
- 5% Once we know COVID is not coming back
- 24% When the majority of the population has been fully vaccinated
- 21% They should have already fully reopened
- 1% Other **(vol)**
- 4% Unsure / refused **(vol)**

10. Which of the following do you think should decide when and how to reopen California schools? **(randomize)**

- 22% The local school board
- 19% Parents
- 9% Governor Gavin Newsom
- 3% The state legislature
- 2% President Joe Biden
- 9% The teachers union
- 24% CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- 7% Other **(vol)**
- 5% Unsure / refused **(vol)**

Now I would like to read you the names of several groups. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person or group and if so, whether you have a positive or a negative impression of them. If you do not recognize the name, just say so. Here is the first name...

Wait for response, then ask: Would that be a strong or just somewhat (positive/negative) impression?

	POSITIVE			NEGATIVE			No <u>Opinion</u>	Never <u>heard of</u>
	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Smwht</u>	Total	<u>Smwht</u>	<u>Strong</u>	Total		
11. California Teachers Association	20%	27%	47%	10%	15%	26%	18%	10%
12. United Teachers Los Angeles	8%	8%	16%	5%	11%	16%	20%	48%
13. The teachers union in your school district	17%	23%	40%	8%	13%	21%	21%	18%

(End randomization)

Rotate next two questions

14. Do you think teachers unions... **(randomize choices)**

- 38% Improve student outcomes
 - 27% Hurt student outcomes
 - 15% Have no effect on student outcomes
 - 20% Unsure / refused **(vol)**
-

15. Do you think teachers unions have... **(randomize choices)**

- 34% Too much influence
 - 23% Too little influence
 - 28% The right amount of influence
 - 15% Unsure / refused **(vol)**
-

16. In California, many private and charter schools have been teaching students all day, in-person, since the fall. Most traditional public schools allowed students to return a few hours a week beginning last month. In your own words, please tell me why this is the right approach or the wrong approach for public schools.
(Probe: Please tell me more about that)

	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Right approach	292	36.4%
Wrong approach	287	35.9%
Unclear	43	5.3%
Other comments	76	9.5%
Don't know / No answer	102	12.8%

INITIAL BALLOT on ESAs

17. A possible statewide initiative would use revenues currently dedicated to fund public education to establish Education Savings Accounts for every kindergarten through twelfth grade student that would allow parents to use those funds to enroll their student in a public, private, charter or religious school, pay for tutoring and books, and to use any savings left after the student graduates from high school to pay for college. If an election was held today, would you vote yes, in favor or no, against the initiative establishing Education Savings Accounts in California? **If choice made, ask:** Is that strongly or somewhat (Yes / No)?

- 33% Yes, in favor / Strongly
 - 21% Yes, in favor / Somewhat
 - 54% TOTAL YES, IN FAVOR

 - 10% No, against / Somewhat
 - 24% No, against / Strongly
 - 34% TOTAL NO, AGAINST

 - 4% Depends **(vol)**
 - 8% Unsure / refused **(vol)**
-

ELEMENTS of the ESA INITIATIVE

Version A: Read Questions in order / Version B: Read question 18, and then randomize 19 thru Q24.

Please tell me if each element I now read makes you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the Education Savings Account initiative. Here is the first statement...

	FAVOR			OPPOSE			No Diff. (vol)	Unsure (vol)	Net Favor
	Strong	Smwht	Total	Smwht	Strong	Total			
18. The state of California currently spends over twenty thousand dollars per student enrolled in K through 12 public schools each year. This measure creates an Education Savings Account for each school-aged child with between twelve and fifteen thousand dollars in each account.	24%	28%	52%	11%	22%	33%	5%	10%	+19%
19. Education Savings Accounts do not require any different or additional money as they would be funded by existing state and local education dollars.	34%	24%	58%	9%	21%	30%	4%	7%	+28%
Read next two questions as a block									
20. Only low-income families and students with learning disabilities would be eligible to receive an Education Savings Account.	22%	19%	41%	15%	36%	51%	2%	5%	-11%
21. Students from low-income families and those with learning disabilities will be eligible to receive the Education Savings Accounts in the first year of the program, with students from higher-income families being phased-in in later years. =====	24%	24%	48%	14%	27%	41%	3%	7%	+7%
22. Students who are home schooled will be eligible for Education Savings Accounts to pay for pre-approved expenses for curriculum, supplements, books, and tutoring.	32%	27%	58%	12%	22%	34%	3%	5%	+25%
23. Any unused funds at the end of the school year can be rolled over to the next school year, and upon graduating from high school, any savings in the student's Education Savings Account can be used to pay for college or vocational school.	54%	18%	72%	6%	16%	22%	2%	4%	+50%
24. Education Savings Account dollars can only be used by parents at schools that are accredited, participate in standardized testing, and publish both test results and financial reporting for complete transparency.	38%	27%	65%	8%	19%	27%	2%	6%	+38%

(End randomization)

INTERMEDIATE BALLOT

25. Having heard more about the elements in this measure, would you vote yes, in favor or no, against the initiative establishing Education Savings Accounts in California? **If choice made, ask:** Is that strongly or somewhat (Yes / No)?

34% Yes, in favor / Strongly
 25% Yes, in favor / Somewhat
 59% TOTAL YES, IN FAVOR

9% No, against / Somewhat
 23% No, against / Strongly
 32% TOTAL NO, AGAINST

2% Depends (vol)
 7% Unsure / refused (vol)

ATTITUDINAL STATEMENTS

For each item I read, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with that statement. Here is the first statement... **(Randomize questions)**

	AGREE			DISAGREE			Depends / No Diff. (vol)	Unsure (vol)	Net Agree
	Strong	Smwht	Total	Smwht	Strong	Total			
26. Despite spending over twenty thousand dollars per student, California's public schools are not performing well. We need to give parents better options to educate their children - especially when their local school is failing.	46%	23%	69%	10%	12%	22%	2%	7%	+47%
27. The Education Savings Account measure is nothing more than a glorified private school voucher system that will destroy public schools in California.	20%	17%	37%	19%	32%	51%	2%	9%	-14%
28. This proposal is just a trick by charter and private schools to get more taxpayer subsidies so they can make more money.	18%	19%	36%	20%	29%	50%	3%	11%	-13%

(End randomization)

ARGUMENTS FOR and AGAINST the INITIATIVE

Please tell me if each of the following statements makes you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the Education Savings Account initiative. Here is the first statement...(Randomize questions)

	FAVOR			OPPOSE			No Diff. (vol)	Unsure (vol)	Net Favor
	Strong	Smwht	Total	Smwht	Strong	Total			
29. Competition, not just more money, will improve our public schools. Education Savings Accounts will give parents the tools to make public and private schools compete to educate their children.	32%	23%	55%	10%	19%	29%	6%	10%	+26%
30. The public school system is failing poor, inner city children. We need to give inner city families better education options, and this measure is a good start by making schools affordable to them. (Ver X: private and religious / Ver Y: other)	Ver X: 39%	23%	62%	8%	16%	25%	4%	10%	+38%
	Ver Y: 39%	21%	60%	10%	18%	28%	3%	9%	+33%
	Total: 39%	22%	61%	9%	17%	26%	3%	9%	+35%
31. Parents know better than bureaucrats how to help their kids succeed, and this measure puts parents back in charge of their children's education.	33%	23%	57%	14%	16%	30%	4%	9%	+26%
32. This measure is a great way for families to save money and pay for college without going into debt, thereby making college affordable to every Californian.	36%	22%	59%	9%	19%	28%	5%	8%	+31%
33. Ver X: Because of the quality of schools during COVID-19, this is a solution allowing poorer families to help their kids like wealthy ones did during the pandemic. / Ver Y: The pandemic has shown people that there are other ways to educate kids than through traditional public schools.	Ver X: 32%	25%	56%	9%	18%	27%	5%	12%	+30%
	Ver Y: 35%	27%	62%	12%	15%	27%	4%	7%	+34%
	Total: 33%	26%	59%	11%	17%	27%	4%	10%	+32%
34. All Education Savings Account purchases, including those made by home schooling families, would come from a pre-approved list to prevent fraud. Similar to purchases made with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or Health Savings Accounts debit cards, unapproved expenses would be rejected at time of purchase.	33%	24%	56%	7%	18%	25%	5%	14%	+32%
35. (-) Creating individual private accounts for every K through 12 student in California will cost millions of dollars and create a massive new bookkeeping bureaucracy in the state department of education.	25%	20%	45%	15%	24%	39%	5%	11%	+6%
36. (-) There really won't be any way to regulate how parents spend the Education Savings Account dollars and some parents might cheat the system and spend the money on things unrelated to their kid's education.	21%	22%	43%	15%	26%	41%	6%	10%	+2%

		FAVOR			OPPOSE			No Diff. (vol)	Unsure (vol)	Net Favor
		Strong	Smwht	Total	Smwht	Strong	Total			
37.	Inner city students won't have any real private school options so they'll be stuck in underfunded inner city schools while more well-off suburban families will have lots of choices.	19%	17%	36%	16%	28%	45%	6%	13%	-8%
38.	This measure is just a clever way to get taxpayer money into religious schools.	15%	14%	28%	20%	33%	53%	6%	12%	-25%
39.	As more students opt out of the public school system, those who are left will find schools that can't pay their bills and teaching will suffer, public schools will lose billions of dollars, and many schools will have to close.	18%	20%	38%	17%	27%	44%	6%	12%	-6%

(End randomization)

INFORMED BALLOT on ESAs

40.	Having learned more about the measure, would you vote yes, in favor or no, against an initiative establishing Education Savings Accounts in California? If choice made, ask: Is that strongly or somewhat (Yes / No)?								
		29%	Yes, in favor / Strongly						
		23%	Yes, in favor / Somewhat						
		52%	TOTAL YES, IN FAVOR						
		10%	No, against / Somewhat						
		27%	No, against / Strongly						
		37%	TOTAL NO, AGAINST						
		3%	Depends (vol)						
		8%	Unsure / refused (vol)						

IF VALUE 1 OR 2 (Yes) IN PREVIOUS QUESTION, ASK:

40A. And in your own words, please tell me why you would vote yes, in favor of this measure?
(Probe: Please tell me more about that)

	Cases	Percent
Competition / Gives choice	111	13.9%
Helps students / Quality education	80	10.0%
Financial help / Pay for college	78	9.8%
Public schools are bad / System broken	65	8.2%
General support / Good idea	45	5.6%
Other comments	28	3.6%
Don't know / No answer	9	1.1%
Not asked	383	47.8%

IF VALUE 3 OR 4 (No) IN PREVIOUS QUESTION, ASK:

40B. And in your own words, please tell me why you would vote no, against this measure?
(Probe: Please tell me more about that)

	Cases	Percent
Focus on improving public schools	100	12.5%
Bad idea / Won't work	90	11.2%
Don't know enough	26	3.3%
It's another tax	19	2.4%
Helps rich / Doesn't help poor	17	2.1%
Other comments	36	4.5%
No answer	5	0.7%
Not asked	506	63.3%

Now just a few questions to make sure we have a representative sample...

D1. In what year were you born? (9999 equals REFUSED)

19%	18-34
15%	35-44
17%	45-54
20%	55-64
28%	65 or older
2%	Refused (vol)

D2. What is the highest level of education you have completed? **(Do not read, record only)**

2%	Less than high school
16%	High school grad / vocational school
23%	Some college
31%	College graduate
26%	Post graduate (master's or higher)
1%	Unsure
1%	Refused

D6. Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic or Latino descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Central or Latin American background? **(Do not read, record only)**

25% Yes
73% No
1% Unsure **(vol)**
2% Refused **(vol)**

D7. And is your race Anglo, African-American, Asian, or some other race? **(Do not read, record only)**

57% Anglo / White
7% African-American / Black
6% Asian
12% Latino **(vol)**
1% American Indian **(vol)**
13% Other **(vol)**
2% Unsure **(vol)**
3% Refused **(vol)**

D8. We want to classify people into broad income groups only. Would you estimate your total household income last year before taxes to be above or below eighty thousand dollars?

45% Below \$80,000
46% Above \$80,000
4% Unsure **(vol)**
5% Refused **(vol)**

D8a. **IF VALUE 1 in D8, ASK:** And was your total household income above or below forty thousand dollars?

17% Below \$40,000
26% Above \$40,000
1% Unsure **(vol)**
0% Refused **(vol)**
55% Not asked

D8b. **IF VALUE 2 in D8, ASK:** And was your total household income above or below one hundred and fifty thousand dollars?

24% Below \$150,000
19% Above \$150,000
1% Unsure **(vol)**
1% Refused **(vol)**
54% Not asked

Combination of D8 above is displayed below:

17% Below \$40,000
26% \$40,000 - \$79,999
24% \$80,000 - \$149,999
19% \$150,000 or over
13% Income unknown

D9. Do you consider yourself to be... **(Read list by rotating top-to-bottom / bottom-to-top)**

14% Very conservative
17% Somewhat conservative
26% Moderate
23% Somewhat liberal
16% Very liberal
5% Unsure / refused **(vol)**

D11. Which of the following do you MOST regularly use as a source for news and information on current events?
(Randomize choices) If choice made, ask: And which do you use next most often?

QA	QB		
Most	Next	Total	
21%	13%	34%	News websites
15%	16%	31%	National cable TV news
17%	16%	33%	Local TV news
5%	8%	13%	Broadcast TV news
8%	9%	17%	The radio
9%	10%	18%	Local newspaper
15%	14%	29%	Social media
4%	3%	8%	Other (vol)
3%	4%	7%	None (vol) (to next Q)
2%	2%	5%	Unsure (vol) (to next Q)
	5%		No second response

D15. Gender **(By observation) Ask of everyone:** Are you currently employed, self-employed, not employed, a homemaker, or retired?

29% Male / employed or self-employed
16% Male / not-employed / homemaker / retired
1% Male / unsure - refused to say
27% Female / employed or self-employed
25% Female / not-employed / homemaker / retired
2% Female / unsure - refused to say
