

UC Berkeley

IGS Poll

Title

Release #2024-21: Trump and Harris Conceding Defeat

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/0h77g286>

Author

DiCamillo, Mark

Publication Date

2024-11-05



Institute of Governmental Studies
102 Philosophy Hall, #2370
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-2370
Tel: 510-642-1473
Email: igs@berkeley.edu

Release #2024-21

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Two in three Californians believe Harris will concede defeat if she loses the election, while two in three think Trump won't.

-Supporters and opponents of the two candidates hold very different opinions.

by Mark DiCamillo
Director, *Berkeley IGS Poll*

Two in three California voters (68%) believe that if Republican Donald Trump wins the presidential election by receiving enough votes in enough states to win the election that his opponent Democrat Kamala Harris *will* concede defeat. However, should Harris prevail in the election, a similar proportion (64%) thinks that Trump *will not* concede.

Among California voters supporting Harris, greater than nine in ten (92%) believe Trump will not concede defeat should he lose the election, while just 2% think he will. By contrast, when Harris supporters are asked whether Harris will concede defeat should she lose, they are just as one-sided in thinking that she will (91% to 2%).

Trump voters are divided in their opinions of whether he will concede defeat, with 44% believing that he will, 20% thinking that he will not, and 36% saying they aren't sure. Trump voters are also divided about whether Harris will concede defeat should she lose, with 32% agreeing that she will, 37% believing she would not concede, and 31% unsure.

Among the relatively small proportion of California voters supporting third-party candidates or are undecided in the presidential race, most hold opinions closer to those of Harris supporters when asked whether each of the two major party candidates will concede defeat should they lose. Six in ten of these voters (60%) believe Trump will not concede defeat, while just 14% think he will, whereas 65% think Harris will concede were she to lose the election and only 10% believe she will not.

IGS co-director Eric Schickler notes that the findings “speak to the gulf in voter perceptions that now exists among Americans when thinking about elections. Prior to 2020, it is very unlikely that there would have been this kind of gap between the major parties’ voters about whether the candidate receiving fewer votes would concede defeat.”

Table 1
Voter views of whether or not Kamala Harris and Donald Trump
will concede defeat if they lose this year’s presidential election
(among likely voters in California)

	Total likely voters %	Harris voters %	Trump voters %	Others/ Undecided %
<u>Will Kamala Harris concede defeat?</u>				
Yes	68	91	32	65
No	15	2	37	10
Unsure/No opinion	17	7	31	25
<u>Will Donald Trump concede defeat?</u>				
Yes	18	2	44	14
No	64	92	20	60
Unsure/No opinion	18	6	36	26

About the Survey

The findings in this report are based on a *Berkeley IGS Poll* completed by the Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) at the University of California, Berkeley. The poll was administered online in English and Spanish October 22-29, 2024, among 4,341 Californians considered likely to vote or had already voted in the state’s November 2024 general election. Funding for the poll was provided in part by the *Los Angeles Times*.

The poll was conducted by distributing email invitations to stratified random samples of the state’s registered voters. Each email invited voters to participate in a non-partisan survey conducted by the University and provided a link to the IGS website where the survey was housed. Reminder emails were distributed to non-responding voters and an opt out link was provided for voters not wishing to receive further email invitations.

The latest poll also included an oversampling of registered voters in Los Angeles County, administered using the same methods, to enable the poll to examine some election contests facing voters in Los Angeles County and to the *Times*. After the completion of data collection, the results were weighted to realign the Los Angeles County oversample to its actual share of the statewide registered voter population.

Samples of California registered voters with email addresses were derived from information contained on the official voter registration rolls and provided to IGS by Political Data, Inc., a leading supplier of registered voter lists. To protect the anonymity of respondents, voters’ email addresses and all other personally identifiable information derived from the original voter listing were purged from the data file and replaced with a unique and anonymous identification number during data processing. In addition, after the completion of data collection, post-stratification weights were applied to the survey data file to align the sample of registered voters to population characteristics of the registered voters statewide and within major regions of the state.

The sampling error associated with the survey results is difficult to calculate precisely because of sample stratification and post-stratification weighting. Nevertheless, it is likely that findings from

the overall likely voter sample have a sampling error of about +/-2 points at the 95% confidence level.

Question wording

(ORDERING ROTATED)

If Kamala Harris wins the election – by receiving enough votes cast by eligible voters in enough states – do you think Donald Trump will accept the results and publicly acknowledge that Harris won?

If Donald Trump wins the election – by receiving enough votes cast by eligible voters in enough states – do you think Kamala Harris will accept the results and publicly acknowledge that Trump won?

About the Institute of Governmental Studies

The Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) is an interdisciplinary organized research unit that pursues a vigorous program of research, education, publication and public service. A component of the University of California system's flagship Berkeley campus, IGS is the oldest organized research unit in the UC system and the oldest public policy research center in the state. IGS's co-directors are Professor Eric Schickler and Associate Professor Cristina Mora.

IGS conducts periodic surveys of public opinion in California on matters of politics and public policy through its *Berkeley IGS Poll*. The poll, which is disseminated widely, seeks to provide a broad measure of contemporary public opinion, and to generate data for subsequent scholarly analysis. The director of the *Berkeley IGS Poll* is Mark DiCamillo. For a complete listing of stories issued by the *Berkeley IGS Poll* go to <https://www.igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll>.