

Press Release



The Policy, Research, & Practice Initiative



May 27, 2018

Contact: Zaneta Smith, 323-841-0377,

zaneta@policyresearchpractice.org

NEW STATEWIDE SURVEY RESULTS: Black Voters Lean Toward Newsom/Feinstein in June Primary Contest, Increase Intensity Of Concern for Access to Mental Health Services

Los Angeles, CA – On Friday, the Policy, Research and Practice Initiative (PRPI) released the California African American Policy Priorities Survey ahead of the June 5, 2018 Statewide Primary (CAAPPS 2018).

The survey highlights respondent sentiments on a variety of issues important to Black voters. The issues include housing availability and affordability, improved public education, law enforcement accountability, access to mental health services, as well as preferences on candidates for select statewide offices. It is a valuable tool for understanding Black voter attitudes in the state of California.

“The electoral power of the Black voter is what makes CAAPPS 2018, timely, relevant and worthy of attention.” said Shakari Byerly, Managing Director of EVITARUS, a Los Angeles-based public opinion research firm.

Survey Information: Between April 28 and May 14, 1,350 Black voters throughout California were surveyed, by telephone (41%) and online (59%), including 621 likely June Primary voters and 729 lower propensity voters. Results were weighted to match the age, partisanship, gender, and geographic location of registered Black voters.

Survey Error: The margin of sampling error was ± 2.67 percent at a 95% confidence level.

The report serves as a key barometer of where statewide primary candidates currently stand relative to their potential share of the Black vote. It also highlights a range of public policy issues that are most important to Black voters in the state.

CAAPPS 2018 is the only statewide survey that captures such a large segment of Black voters while simultaneously providing a robust sample size of both high and low propensity voters.

“California’s African American electorate has a voice through this poll. Our voices, perspectives, and interests are now at the forefront of state policy and politics. African American voters appear positioned to have noteworthy impact on who will be the next Governor and United States Senator from California. This could be a significant Wakanda moment in statewide politics,” said PRPI’s Director Sebastian Ridley-Thomas.

“The CAAPPS fills an important void in public opinion research in the state of California and the nation, especially as African Americans offer a voting base necessary for success in a historically polarized electorate,” said Dr. Chris Towler, Assistant Professor of Political Science at California State University Sacramento.

Added Dr. James Taylor, Chair of the Department of Politics of the University of San Francisco, “What I find most interesting about the survey results is the strong support for Gavin Newsom, among respondents who were overwhelmingly Southern Californians, where Antonio Villaraigosa is better known.”

Key findings related to the June Primary showed:

Governor

Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom	35%
Former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa	19%
State Treasurer John Chiang	9%
Undecided	19%

US State Senate

U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein	65%
State Senator Kevin de León	12%

Key findings with respect to public policy revealed “extremely high” policy priorities include:

Public Education	78%
Eliminating racial profiling	75%
Law enforcement accountability	74%
Making housing more affordable	72%
Fighting discrimination and institutional racism	71%
Creating good paying jobs and reducing unemployment	65%
Expanding access to mental health services	65%
Expanding access to quality health care	63%
Reducing homelessness	61%

For more information regarding CAAPPS 2018 can be found at <https://goo.gl/cr1vsp>

PRPI is an African American-focused think tank, polling, voter research, civic engagement, and policy analysis organization. We seek to provide critical input on how pressing state and local public policy considerations impact African American Californians. PRPI convenes thought leaders and media to inform civic, economic, and cultural dialogues. Our policy areas of greatest focus are equal rights, employment, business development, community safety, criminal justice reform, homelessness, healthcare, education, and the social safety net.