

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

Newsom Edges Maldonado, Props 19 and 20 Winning

Raleigh, N.C. – Some have speculated that Gavin Newsom would have been a better candidate to rally the Democratic troops to retake the governor’s mansion than Jerry Brown. But PPP’s latest poll of likely voters shows that Newsom has an even tougher fight on his hands to hold off Abel Maldonado for lieutenant governor than Brown does against Meg Whitman. Newsom leads Maldonado only 39-36, with 24% still undecided. As in the gubernatorial contest, the Republican pulls a little more crossover support than the Democrat, but the race could hinge on independents, who lean to Maldonado, 35-31, with 34% still unsure of their vote, accounting for 6% of the projected electorate.

Democrats also lead Republicans, 51-38, on the generic congressional ballot. Independents give a narrow 34-29 lead to the Republicans, but 37% are undecided. With this lead, most of California’s Democratic incumbents should be safe, but up to four Democratic-held seats and two GOP seats are being closely contested this fall, all in swing districts barely favorable to one side or another.

By a narrow 46-44 margin, likely voters in this fall’s election support gay marriage. The level of support is the same as PPP’s survey of registered voters in July, but the amount of opposition has fallen from 47%. Considering the margin of error and the similar internal figures, the shift is likely just statistical noise. It is safe to say Californians are still very split on the issue.

In July, PPP also asked whether voters “support or oppose” Proposition 19, which would legalize, tax, and regulate marijuana under state law. Then, 52% supported it, and 36% opposed it. When asked this month how they plan to vote on the prop, 47% said they will vote yes, and 38% no, with 14% undecided. Democrats and Republicans both seem less willing to say they will actually vote for the prop than say they support the idea, but independents have not moved.

There is much wider support for Prop 20, which would cede congressional redistricting from the legislature’s control to a bipartisan independent commission. 42% plan to vote in favor, though nearly as many, 41%, are still undecided. 16% are opposed.

PPP surveyed 630 likely California voters from September 14th to 16th. The margin of error is +/-3.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



California Survey Results

Q1 The candidates for Lieutenant Governor are Republican Abel Maldonado and Democrat Gavin Newsom. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Abel Maldonado 36% *Undecided*..... 24%
Gavin Newsom..... 39%

Q2 Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal or illegal?

Legal..... 46%
Illegal 44%
Not sure 10%

Q3 Proposition 19 would legalize marijuana under California but not federal law. It would permit local governments to regulate and tax commercial production, distribution, and sale of marijuana. Will you vote yes or no on Proposition 19?

Yes..... 47%
No..... 38%
Undecided..... 14%

Q4 Proposition 20 would remove elected representatives from process of establishing congressional districts and transfers that authority to a recently-authorized 14-member redistricting commission comprised of Democrats, Republicans, and representatives of neither party. Will you vote yes or no on Proposition 20?

Yes..... 42%
No..... 16%
Undecided..... 41%

Q5 If there was an election for Congress today, would you vote Democratic or Republican?

Democratic..... 51%
Republican..... 38%
Undecided..... 11%

Q6 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 36%
Barack Obama..... 57%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

Q7 If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 27%
Moderate..... 39%
Conservative..... 34%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q9 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 49%
Republican..... 33%
Independent/Other..... 18%

Q10 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If Asian, press 4. If other, press 5.

Hispanic..... 20%
White 62%
African-American 8%
Asian..... 6%
Other..... 4%

Q11 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 11%
30 to 45..... 28%
46 to 65..... 39%
Older than 65..... 23%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Maldonado/Newsom				
Abel Maldonado	36%	69%	17%	26%
Gavin Newsom	39%	8%	62%	20%
Undecided	24%	23%	22%	54%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gay Marriage				
Legal	46%	13%	69%	31%
Illegal	44%	78%	22%	56%
Not sure	10%	9%	9%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Prop 19				
Yes	47%	28%	59%	53%
No	38%	60%	25%	30%
Undecided	14%	12%	16%	17%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Prop 20				
Yes	42%	44%	42%	32%
No	16%	14%	17%	25%
Undecided	41%	41%	41%	43%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Generic Cong. Ballot				
Democratic	51%	3%	84%	25%
Republican	38%	90%	5%	36%
Undecided	11%	6%	11%	39%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Maldonado/Newsom				
Abel Maldonado	36%	7%	33%	63%
Gavin Newsom	39%	76%	41%	9%
Undecided	24%	16%	26%	28%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gay Marriage				
Legal	46%	85%	49%	13%
Illegal	44%	12%	41%	73%
Not sure	10%	3%	10%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Prop 19				
Yes	47%	74%	47%	27%
No	38%	14%	37%	59%
Undecided	14%	12%	16%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Prop 20				
Yes	42%	42%	44%	41%
No	16%	16%	18%	15%
Undecided	41%	42%	38%	44%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Generic Cong. Ballot				
Democratic	51%	88%	55%	17%
Republican	38%	5%	26%	78%
Undecided	11%	8%	18%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Maldonado/Newsom			
Abel Maldonado	36%	32%	41%
Gavin Newsom	39%	43%	35%
Undecided	24%	25%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage			
Legal	46%	49%	43%
Illegal	44%	39%	50%
Not sure	10%	12%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Prop 19			
Yes	47%	42%	53%
No	38%	40%	36%
Undecided	14%	18%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Prop 20			
Yes	42%	34%	51%
No	16%	14%	19%
Undecided	41%	52%	30%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Cong. Ballot			
Democratic	51%	55%	47%
Republican	38%	35%	42%
Undecided	11%	10%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Maldonado/New som				
Abe I Maldonado	36%	17%	67%	35%
Gavin New som	39%	61%	11%	31%
Undecided	24%	22%	21%	34%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage				
Legal	46%	66%	15%	47%
Illegal	44%	25%	76%	41%
Not sure	10%	9%	9%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Prop 19				
Yes	47%	56%	30%	54%
No	38%	28%	57%	32%
Undecided	14%	15%	13%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Prop 20				
Yes	42%	39%	47%	43%
No	16%	16%	15%	20%
Undecided	41%	45%	38%	37%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Cong. Ballot				
Democratic	51%	87%	8%	29%
Republican	38%	7%	89%	34%
Undecided	11%	6%	4%	37%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Maldonado/New som						
Abel Maldonado	36%	27%	42%	15%	28%	48%
Gavin New som	39%	36%	37%	69%	48%	20%
Undecided	24%	37%	21%	15%	24%	32%

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Gay Marriage						
Legal	46%	40%	50%	38%	44%	35%
Illegal	44%	37%	44%	58%	48%	53%
Not sure	10%	22%	6%	4%	8%	12%

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Prop 19						
Yes	47%	42%	49%	46%	44%	57%
No	38%	39%	38%	38%	44%	31%
Undecided	14%	19%	13%	15%	12%	12%

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Prop 20						
Yes	42%	30%	48%	42%	32%	29%
No	16%	16%	16%	15%	24%	18%
Undecided	41%	54%	36%	42%	44%	53%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Generic Cong. Ballot						
Democratic	51%	64%	44%	77%	56%	35%
Republican	38%	24%	47%	15%	28%	35%
Undecided	11%	12%	9%	8%	16%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Maldonado/Newsom					
Abel Maldonado	36%	22%	40%	34%	43%
Gavin Newsom	39%	39%	44%	40%	34%
Undecided	24%	39%	16%	27%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage					
Legal	46%	71%	51%	41%	37%
Illegal	44%	21%	41%	46%	56%
Not sure	10%	7%	8%	13%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Prop 19					
Yes	47%	67%	49%	50%	32%
No	38%	24%	38%	36%	49%
Undecided	14%	9%	13%	14%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Prop 20					
Yes	42%	47%	35%	44%	46%
No	16%	17%	21%	13%	15%
Undecided	41%	36%	44%	42%	38%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Cong. Ballot					
Democratic	51%	62%	52%	49%	47%
Republican	38%	18%	35%	40%	48%
Undecided	11%	20%	13%	11%	5%

