



September 1, 2021: California Survey, Californians for Solutions to Homelessness and Mental Health Support

David Binder Research recently completed a survey of California voters for Californians for Solutions to Homelessness and Mental Health Support. The survey interviewed 2400 likely November 2022 voters between July 14-22, 2021, by telephone and online methods. The survey explored Californians’ attitudes on creating a fund to address homelessness and mental health through revenues generated by allowing regulated online sports wagering in the state.

Californians were asked if they would vote yes or no on a measure that would establish a fund dedicated to addressing homelessness and mental health, paid for by allowing regulated entities to offer sports wagering online and on mobile devices. Results indicate a strong majority of voters support the measure (62% Yes), with one quarter of voters indicating they would oppose the measure. There is strong support for the measure among Democrats (76% Yes) and Independent (59% Yes) voters, while Republican (41% Yes) voters are more divided in their opinion.

Fund For Homelessness, Mental Health Addiction Measure.

Establishes a dedicated fund to address homelessness and mental health. Funds can only be used on programs to provide permanent shelter for homeless people and to increase mental health and addiction services. Paid for by allowing regulated entities to offer sports wagering online and on mobile devices throughout California. Subject to independent audits and oversight.

Fiscal impact: Increase in state revenues of hundreds of millions of dollars annually

If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this measure, or are you undecided?	Percent	
	Yes	No
Total	62%	25%
Democrat	76	13
Republican	41	44
Independent	59	28

Further, strong supporters outnumber strong opponents by over two-to-one. 36% of voters say they will definitely vote yes on this measure compared to only 15% who say they will definitely oppose. 26% lean toward support, 10% lean toward oppose and 12% are undecided.

After a basic messaging point from supporters: “Supporters say that this measure will provide funding to address the homelessness crisis by increasing mental health and addiction services and to ensure that enough shelters are available to move homeless people from the street into long-term permanent housing. Funds can only be spent to increase mental health services and programs to address addiction, as well as providing more shelters to house the homeless. Independent audits and oversight will ensure the money is spent appropriately.” **66% say they will vote yes and 24% oppose. Majority support is noted from women and men, across all age groups, ethnic groups, and geographic areas of the state.**

** David Binder Research (DBR) conducted a survey of 2400 California voters between July 14-22, 2021, cell phone, landline, SMS and online. The margin of error for the survey is ±2.0%.*

The strong support for the measure that would create a fund to address homelessness, mental health and addiction is consistent with the extremely high level of importance that Californians assign to these issues. Over two-thirds of California voters believe that these issues need more funding than is currently received from the state budget.

Do you think the state of California needs to spend more money, less money, or not change the amount spent for the following purposes?	Percent			
	Should Spend MORE	Should Spend the SAME	Should Spend LESS	No Opinion
Reducing homelessness	71%	13%	13%	3%
Increasing mental health services	81	11	5	3
Increasing programs to fight addiction	68	18	9	5

The desire of Californians to spend more funds to address these issues is not divided by partisanship. For example, 91% of Democrats want to spend more on mental health, as do 78% of independents and 67% of Republicans. Voter research in California has consistently indicated that homelessness, along with COVID, are the top issues facing the state, and voters believe that programs to address mental health and addiction are a necessary corollary to fighting homelessness.

When presented with an opportunity to raise funds to reduce homelessness, increase mental health services and fight addiction, funded by allowing online sports betting in the state with oversight and accountability to ensure funds are spent appropriately, the vast majority of Californians say yes.