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Topline Findings
Berkeley IGS Poll of Los Angeles County Registered Voters About the Wildfires
(N=5,184 registered voters unless otherwise noted)
February 17-26, 2025

This survey deals with the recent fires that have taken place across Los Angeles County.

1. To what extent were you and your immediate family personally affected by the fires?
7% A great deal
24 Somewhat
35 Only a little
33 Not at all

2. Since the onset of the fires to what extent, if at all, has it changed your day-to-day activities and behaviors?
8% A great deal
19 Somewhat
28 Only a little
45 Not at all

3. Did you and your immediate family need to be evacuated from your home or place of residence at any time during the fires?
14% Yes
86 No

4. Do you believe the severity of the fires had more to do with the impact of climate change on extreme weather or more to do with inadequate preparations and resource management by Los Angeles and its property owners?
26% Impact of climate change on extreme weather
29 Inadequate preparations and resource management
37 Both equally
8 Don't know/No opinion

5. Did the fires do any structural damage to your home or any other property owned by your immediate family?

- 5% Yes (net)
2 Yes, place of primary residence
2 Yes, other property
1 Yes, primary residence and other property
69 No damage to property
26 Do not own property

IF YES: (N=558)

6. How many people were displaced because of damage to your home or property? Please include all family members, renters, subletters and others residing there?

- 17% One
14 Two
16 Three
24 Four
19 Five or more
10 Don't know

6A. How much damage did your property sustain from the fires?

- 28% Total loss
24 Major damage
48 Minor damage

8. Were you employed either full or part-time at the time of the fire?

- 67% Employed (net)
16 Yes, self-employed
46 Yes, employed by other
5 Yes, both self-employed and employed by another
33 No

IF Q8=1 (SELF-EMPLOYED OR BOTH) (N=1,172)

9. Did the fires cause any damage to your business?

- 79% No
17% Yes (net)
9 Yes, minor damage
5 Yes, significant damage
3 Yes, business completely shut down
4 Not yet determined

IF Q8=2 (EMPLOYED BY OTHER OR BOTH) (N=2,676)

10. Did the fires affect your ability to continue working for your employer?

- 72% No
- 27 Yes (net)
- 22 Yes, but only for a short time
- 3 Yes, for an extended period
- 2 Yes, lost job
- 1 Not yet determined

11. During the time of the fires, how much additional stress did the fires put on you personally? Please answer using scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means you felt no additional stress and 10 means you felt an extremely high level of additional stress? You can choose any number between 1 and 10 for your answer.

- 30% High levels of additional stress (net)
- 11 10
- 5 9
- 13 8
- 40% Moderate levels of additional stress (net)
- 12 7
- 8 6
- 12 5
- 30% Low levels of additional stress (net)
- 8 4
- 11 3
- 8 2
- 11 1

12. Did you or anyone else in your household need to be treated by a medical doctor for an illness or injury resulting from the fires?

- 6% Yes
- 94 No

13. Do you feel your physical health or the physical health of any of your family members was harmed by the wildfire smoke?

- 38% Yes
- 62 No

14. Please indicate how well you feel each of the following public leaders and groups have done in responding to the wildfires. Enter “No opinion” if you don’t know enough about their response to the fires to offer an opinion? (RANDOMIZE ORDERING OF THE LIST)

	Excellent <u>job</u>	Good <u>job</u>	Fair <u>job</u>	Poor <u>job</u>	Very poor <u>job</u>	No <u>opinion</u>
(1) Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass	6%	12%	18%	14%	30%	20%
(2) Governor Gavin Newsom.....	16%	19%	16%	9%	23%	16%
(3) The Los Angeles County fire department	49%	24%	9%	4%	3%	11%
(4) The Los Angeles City fire department.....	47%	23%	10%	4%	4%	11%
(5) Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	7%	14%	15%	11%	14%	39%
(6) The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors	6%	13%	18%	11%	17%	35%
(7) The Los Angeles City Council.....	5%	13%	18%	12%	19%	33%
(8) Southern California Edison.....	5%	12%	17%	15%	19%	32%
(9) Los Angeles Department of Water and Power	9%	18%	18%	12%	14%	30%

15. How long have you lived in Los Angeles County?

- 4% 3 years or less
- 11 4-10 years
- 20 11-20 years
- 20 21-30 years
- 45 More than 30 years

16. Despite the fires, how satisfied are you with the quality of life in Los Angeles overall?

- 19% Very satisfied
- 38 Somewhat satisfied
- 25 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 16 Very dissatisfied
- 2 No opinion

17. How satisfied are you with the quality of life in your neighborhood?

- 33% Very satisfied
- 38 Somewhat satisfied
- 17 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 10 Very dissatisfied
- 1 No opinion

18. Have you considered moving out of the Los Angeles area because of the fires?

- 23% Yes
- 65 No
- 12 Not sure

IF YES:

19. How seriously are you considering such a move?

- 23% Yes, considered moving (net)
- 9 Very seriously
- 11 Somewhat seriously
- 3 Not too seriously

20. Looking ahead, how much confidence do you have in the ability of Los Angeles to recover from the fires?

- 34% Great deal of confidence
- 34 Some confidence
- 16 Only a little confidence
- 13 Not much confidence
- 4 No opinion

21. How much confidence do you have in the following individuals and groups to help in guiding Los Angeles through its recovery? (RANDOMIZE ORDERING OF THE LIST)

	<u>Great deal of confidence</u>	<u>Some confidence</u>	<u>A little confidence</u>	<u>Not much confidence</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
(1) Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass.....	10%	21%	16%	38%	14%
(2) Governor Gavin Newsom.....	23%	23%	14%	30%	10%
(3) The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors ...	9%	24%	19%	26%	22%
(4) The Los Angeles City Council.....	8%	23%	21%	27%	21%

22. As the Los Angeles region rebuilds, a number of proposals have been made about ways to reduce the dangers of wildfires for residences and businesses in the future. Please indicate whether you support or oppose each proposal. (RANDOMIZE ORDER OF PROPOSALS)

	Support <u>strongly</u>	Support <u>somewhat</u>	Oppose <u>somewhat</u>	Oppose <u>strongly</u>	No <u>opinion</u>
(1) Strengthen local building codes to make new homes more fire resistant, even if it adds to building costs	50%	30%	8%	6%	6%
(2) Impose greater restrictions on building homes in high fire risk areas.....	40%	30%	11%	10%	9%
(3) Encourage the building of more high-density housing in urban areas rather than in suburban areas more prone to fires	27%	28%	15%	15%	15%
(4) Provide greater funding for city and county fire departments even if it means increasing taxes	31%	34%	14%	15%	7%
(5) As the region rebuilds, policymakers should prioritize assisting the low- and middle-income families displaced by the fires	59%	25%	5%	4%	7%
(6) Allow insurance companies to increase their rates for fire insurance if this enables them to offer insurance for everyone.....	11%	28%	22%	30%	9%
(7) Create a tax structure that requires people in areas of high risk for fire to pay more for public services	19%	27%	19%	24%	10%

23. When rebuilding housing in the areas affected by the fires, which of the following two approaches do you favor more?

- 13% Homes should be rebuilt pretty much as they were before
- 77 New fireproof standards should be required for new building construction
- 10 No opinion

About the Survey

The findings are based on a *Berkeley IGS Poll* of Los Angeles County registered voters completed by the Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) at the University of California, Berkeley on behalf of the *Los Angeles Times*. A total of 5,184 Los Angeles County registered voters completed the survey in English and Spanish February 17-26, 2025. This total included oversamples of 272 registered voters living in the Palisades fire zone and 293 registered voters living in the Eaton fire zone to enable the poll to examine and compare their reactions to the fires to other voters countywide. After the completion of data collection, the results from each oversampled region were weighted to realign them to estimates of their actual share of the county's registered voter population.

The poll was administered by distributing email invitations and text reminders to stratified random samples of Los Angeles County registered voters. Each email and text message reminder invited voters to participate in a non-partisan survey conducted by IGS and provided a link to the website where the survey questionnaire was housed. Prior to completing the survey questionnaire, voters were asked to give their consent to participate in the poll and were also provided with an opt out link for those not wishing to receive further email invitations and reminders.

Political Data, Inc. (PDI) provided IGS with stratified random samples of the email address and cell phone listings of Los Angeles County voters from information contained on the county's official voter registration rolls. PDI was also responsible for distributing the email invitations and text reminders to voters on behalf of IGS during data collection.

Mark DiCamillo, Director of the Berkeley IGS Poll, was responsible for overseeing all phases of the poll, working with IGS's co-directors and graduate student assistants and with PDI Vice President Paul Mitchell. Mr. DiCamillo also consulted with editors and reporters of the *Los Angeles Times* during the development of the survey questionnaire.

To protect the anonymity of respondents, voters' contact information and all other personally identifiable information derived from their voter listing were purged from the data file and replaced with a unique and anonymous identification number during data processing. Post-stratification weights were also applied to the survey data file to align the registered voter sample to population characteristics of Los Angeles County voters both countywide and within major regions of the county.

The sampling error associated with the survey results is difficult to calculate precisely because of pre-survey stratification of the sample listings and post-survey weighting. Nevertheless, it is likely that findings based on the overall Los Angeles County voter sample are subject to an estimated sampling error of approximately +/-2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, while estimates of the sampling error for each of the Palisades and Eaton fire zone subsamples are +/- 4 percentage points.

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 G. Cristina Mora.

IGS conducts periodic surveys of California public opinion on matters of politics and public policy through its *Berkeley IGS Poll*. The poll seeks to provide objective, non-partisan survey data for public benefit and for scholarly analysis. Veteran pollster Mark DiCamillo serves as director of the *Berkeley IGS Poll*. A complete listing of the reports of the Berkeley IGS Poll can be found by visiting the weblink: <https://igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll>.