



Where Strategy Meets Science

To: Interested Parties

From: Brenda Gianiny

President, Axis Research

Date: November 17, 2023

RE: Recent Statewide Polling on The Homelessness, Drug Addiction And Theft Reduction Act

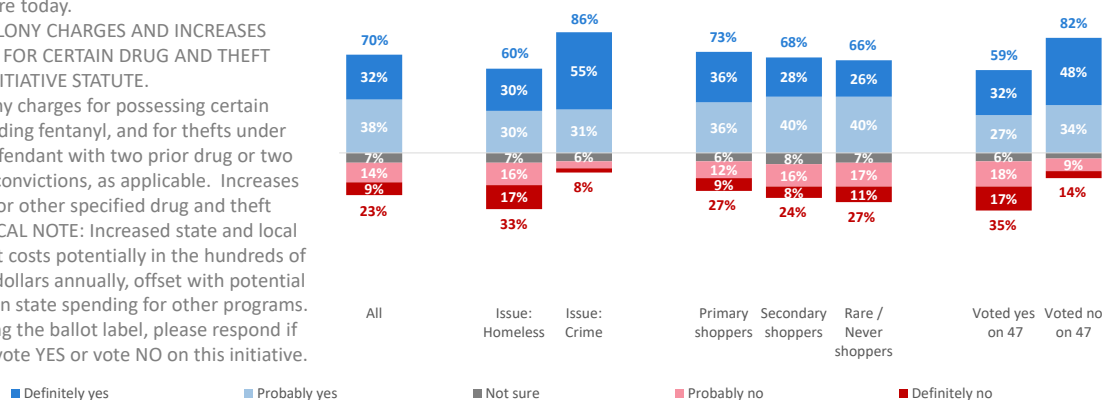
Poll Findings

A recent statewide poll of 1,204 California voters showed an electorate that is focused on crime and overwhelmingly supports the title and summary description of the Homelessness, Drug Addiction and Theft Reduction Act. **After reading the ballot label, 70% of California voters say they would vote “yes” on the initiative.** In contrast, just 23% say they would vote “no”, including just 9% who are a “definite no”. Support is consistent across all regions of the state, including **71% of LA County voters who plan to vote “yes” and 72% of voters in the Bay Area.** In fact, the initiative has majority support in every region of the state.

Please read the full ballot label below for this initiative and mark how you would vote if the election were today.

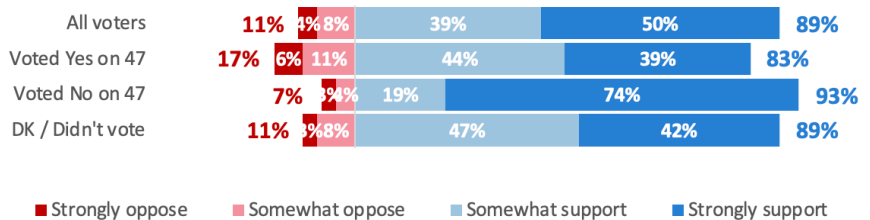
ALLOWS FELONY CHARGES AND INCREASES SENTENCES FOR CERTAIN DRUG AND THEFT CRIMES. INITIATIVE STATUTE.

Allows felony charges for possessing certain drugs, including fentanyl, and for thefts under \$950 for defendant with two prior drug or two prior theft convictions, as applicable. Increases sentences for other specified drug and theft crimes. FISCAL NOTE: Increased state and local government costs potentially in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually, offset with potential reductions in state spending for other programs. After reading the ballot label, please respond if you would vote YES or vote NO on this initiative.





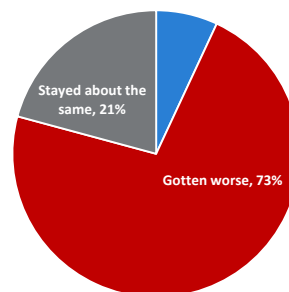
Support is also strong among voters who voted “yes” on Proposition 47 back in 2014. When asked if there should be changes to Prop 47 to allow for stronger penalties for those engaged in the trafficking of hard drugs or for repeat offenders of retail theft, voters support changes at a margin of 8 to 1. This includes 83% of those who votes “yes” on Prop 47 who now support changes to the law.



Additionally, **there is near universal support (94% of voters) for adding fentanyl to existing laws that prohibit the trafficking of large quantities of hard drugs**, a key component of The Homelessness, Drug Addition And Theft Reduction Act.

This is consistent with voters’ belief that crime has “gotten worse” in the state over the past year. As shown, **a significant 73% of voters say crime has gotten worse in California. Voters are also clear in who/what they blame for a rise in retail crime in the state – state laws that are too weak and/or local law enforcement that aren’t enforcing penalties.** Sixty-two percent (62%) of voters point to one of these two drivers behind the uptick in crime over other factors like social media, poor investments by retailers and store owners or national laws, proving voters understand this is a uniquely Californian problem, created by Californian laws and Californian policies. Indeed, the primary reasons for supporting the potential ballot measure are wanting to see accountability and consequences for the increase in crime, followed by getting individuals the treatment and job training to help them begin new lives.

Thinking just about crime, in the past year, would you say crime in California has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?



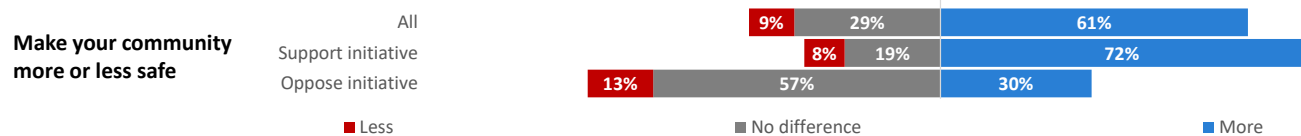
As expressed by one respondent in the Bay Area, “[We] need tougher stance on crime especially theft. Theft and vandalism have closed down local restaurants and businesses. We can’t continue like this.” When reminded of Prop 47, voters recognize that some of the components of Prop 47 went too far and are hurting the state today. When asked if voters support or oppose changes to Proposition 47 “to



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allow for stronger penalties for those engaged in the trafficking of hard drugs or for repeat offenders of retail theft”, nearly nine-out-of-ten voters (89%) are supportive; a rare 90/10 issue in California!

Finally, voters believe the passage of The Homelessness, Drug Addiction And Theft Reduction Act would make their communities safer. Even among those opposed to the initiative, more say its passage would make their community “more safe” (30%) than say it would make their community “less safe” (13%).



Methodology

These results are from a statewide poll of 1,204 registered voters distributed proportionate to the population in terms of region, ethnicity/race, gender, age, and political affiliation. The poll was fielded online from November 8th through November 13th, 2023.

The margin of error on these results is $\pm 2.28\%$.