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Education: Existing vs. Alternatives

2019 LOS ANGELES PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY REPORT



THOMAS AND DOROTHY LEAVEY CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES

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ABOUT US

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

LMU is a private Catholic university with 6,250 undergraduates, 2,150 graduate students and 1,100 law students from diverse backgrounds and many perspectives. Our seven colleges and schools boast best-in-the-nation programs in film and television, business, education and more. Our stunning campus in West Los Angeles is a sun-soaked oasis overlooking the Pacific coast and a model of sustainability. We're rooted in the heart of Los Angeles, a global capital for arts and entertainment, innovation and technology, business and entrepreneurship. Our mission is grounded in a centuries-old Jesuit educational tradition that produces extraordinary men and women dedicated to service and social justice. We're proud of more than 92,000 LMU alumni whose professional achievements are matched by a deep commitment to improving the lives of others.

For more LMU news and events, please visit www.lmu.edu/news.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF LOS ANGELES

The Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles (StudyLA) at Loyola Marymount University is one of the leading undergraduate research centers in the nation. We are a respected leader in public opinion surveys, exit polling, and leadership and community studies. Founded in 1996, StudyLA conducts groundbreaking research through its LA Votes exit poll project, LA Riots Anniversary Studies, and LA Public Opinion and Leaders Surveys. We provide rigorous, mentored research experiences for undergraduate students at Loyola Marymount University with an emphasis on hands-on field research. As the preamble to the LMU mission states, "We benefit from our location in Los Angeles, a dynamic city that brings into sharp focus the issues of our time and provides an ideal context for study, research, creative work, and active engagement. We invite men and women diverse in talents, interests, and cultural backgrounds to enrich our educational community." StudyLA brings this mission alive, taking pride in our work's emphasis on understanding and communicating the issues of our time.

For more information about the results or methodology from this or other datasets from the Center for the Study of Los Angeles, please contact Brianne Gilbert, Associate Director, at brianne.gilbert@lmu.edu.

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ABOUT THIS STUDY

The annual Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey conducted by StudyLA involved 20-minute telephone sessions and online surveys with more than 2,000 adults (1,200 phone and 800 online) living in Los Angeles County. Survey respondents were asked about quality-of-life perceptions, personal economic wellbeing, economic concerns, overall life satisfaction, and various civic issues. The margin of error is $\pm 3.0\%$ for the entire sample.

For more information on study methodology, see Appendix section at the end of this report.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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QUESTION(S) INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Answer options randomized)

TOPLINES

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

Focus on improving the existing public schools	75.1
Focus on giving families more alternatives	24.9

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

CROSSTABS

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	LAUSD	Other school district
Focus on improving the existing public schools	74.9	75.2
Focus on giving families more alternatives	25.1	24.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	City of LA	Rest of LA County
Focus on improving the existing public schools	74.5	75.5
Focus on giving families more alternatives	25.5	24.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	English	Spanish	Mandarin	Korean
Focus on improving the existing public schools	75.2	78.5	66.1	61.9
Focus on giving families more alternatives	24.8	21.5	33.9	38.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Black	Asian	White	Latina/o	Other
Focus on improving the existing public schools	76.3	71.7	69.4	79.5	79.1
Focus on giving families more alternatives	23.7	28.3	30.6	20.5	20.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
Focus on improving the existing public schools	76.3	76.9	73.9	71.9
Focus on giving families more alternatives	23.7	23.1	26.1	28.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Rent home	Own home
Focus on improving the existing public schools	74.4	76.2
Focus on giving families more alternatives	25.6	23.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Working full-time	Working part-time	Student	Homemaker	Retired	Self-employed	Not working
Focus on improving the existing public schools	73.8	73.3	80.5	85.4	69.9	82.1	82.5
Focus on giving families more alternatives	26.2	26.7	19.5	14.6	30.1	17.9	17.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Union household	Non-union household
Focus on improving the existing public schools	78.6	74.1
Focus on giving families more alternatives	21.4	25.9
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Single	Married/domestic partnership	Divorced/separated/widowed
Focus on improving the existing public schools	77.7	73.7	72.7
Focus on giving families more alternatives	22.3	26.3	27.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	No children in household	One or more children in household
Focus on improving the existing public schools	74.3	76.2
Focus on giving families more alternatives	25.7	23.8
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Focus on improving the existing public schools	78.6	76.9	66.7
Focus on giving families more alternatives	21.4	23.1	33.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Registered to vote	Not registered to vote
Focus on improving the existing public schools	72.8	82.8
Focus on giving families more alternatives	27.2	17.2
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	High school or less	College degree	Graduate degree
Focus on improving the existing public schools	76.4	72.3	75.2
Focus on giving families more alternatives	23.6	27.7	24.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Lived here 5 years or less	Lived here 6-15 years	Lived here 16-25 years	Lived here 25+ years
Focus on improving the existing public schools	75.0	74.3	71.5	76.6
Focus on giving families more alternatives	25.0	25.7	28.5	23.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Under \$40K	\$40K-<\$70K	\$70K-<\$100K	\$100K-<\$150K	\$150K+
Focus on improving the existing public schools	77.6	76.1	68.3	72.5	80.7
Focus on giving families more alternatives	22.4	23.9	31.7	27.5	19.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Upper class	Middle class	Lower class
Focus on improving the existing public schools	69.7	75.4	76.6
Focus on giving families more alternatives	30.3	24.6	23.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Male	Female
Focus on improving the existing public schools	70.4	79.7
Focus on giving families more alternatives	29.6	20.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

With which statement do you most agree? The school districts should focus on improving the existing public schools OR The school districts should focus on giving families more alternatives such as additional charter school options. (Options randomized)

	Identify as LGBTQ	Do not identify as LGBTQ
Focus on improving the existing public schools	72.1	75.3
Focus on giving families more alternatives	27.9	24.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Appendix

DEMOGRAPHICS

LAUSD or other school district

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
LAUSD	517	42.4
Other school district	489	57.6

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

City of LA or rest of LA County

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
City of LA	507	40.3
Rest of LA County	499	59.7

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Survey language

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
English	795	82.1
Spanish	84	12.4
Mandarin	48	2.2
Korean	79	3.2

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Age categories

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
18-29	183	24.4
30-44	223	28.0
45-64	245	31.2
65+	316	16.3

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Race/ethnicity

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Black	187	8.4
Asian	273	15.3
White	267	30.1
Latina/o	260	43.6
Other	11	2.6

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you rent your home, are you buying it with a mortgage, or is it entirely paid for?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Rent home	474	51.1
Own home	513	48.9

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How would you describe your current work status: working full-time, working part-time, student, homemaker, fully-retired, semi-retired, self-employed, or not working?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Working full-time	331	41.8
Working part-time	123	13.1
Student	48	5.4
Homemaker	44	4.5
Retired	325	19.4
Self-employed	65	8.0
Not working	65	7.8

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Is someone in your household a member of a union?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Union household	223	23.6
Non-union household	771	76.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Are you currently single, married, divorced, separated, widowed, or in a domestic partnership?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Single	310	34.6
Married/domestic partnership	494	50.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	192	14.8

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How many children 17 years or younger live in your household?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
No children in household	681	60.2
One or more children in household	321	39.8

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Politically, do you consider yourself to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Liberal	378	40.5
Moderate	299	30.5
Conservative	279	28.9

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Are you a registered voter?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Registered to vote	800	77.5
Not registered to vote	203	22.5

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

What is the last grade or level you completed in school?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
High school or less	527	56.4
College degree	339	31.3
Graduate degree	134	12.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

How many years have you lived in the Los Angeles region?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Lived here 5 years or less	81	8.7
Lived here 6-15 years	99	9.7
Lived here 16-25 years	204	24.5
Lived here 25+ years	616	57.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

I am going to read some income categories. Please stop me when I reach the category that best describes your total household income.

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Under \$40K	393	39.5
\$40K-<\$70K	176	20.8
\$70K-<\$100K	152	17.7
\$100K-<\$150K	110	11.9
\$150K+	83	10.1

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

If you were asked to use one of these five commonly used names for the social classes, which would you say you belong in:

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Upper class	151	15.0
Middle class	435	46.1
Lower class	378	38.9

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

What is your gender

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Male	407	48.1
Female	595	51.9

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you personally identify as a member of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer) community?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Identify as LGBTQ	79	9.3
Do not identify as LGBTQ	901	90.7

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1006 adult respondents of the 2019 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

2019 PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY METHODOLOGY

As part of Forecast LA's unique approach to forecasting in the Los Angeles region, the Center for the Study of Los Angeles conducted an outlook survey. The Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey involved 20-minute telephone sessions and online surveys with more than 2,000 adults (phone and online) living in Los Angeles County. Survey respondents were asked about quality-of-life perceptions, personal economic wellbeing, economic concerns, overall life satisfaction, and various civic issues.

The survey included both questions asked of the entire sample (2,008 respondents) as well as battery questions. Questions in battery 1 were asked of 1,006 respondents and questions in battery 2 were asked of 1,002 respondents. Battery number was assigned at random.

SAMPLING

Since the primary purpose of this study was to gather representative input from adult residents within the Los Angeles region, an initial random digit dial (RDD) sample was employed. The RDD sample was drawn by determining the active phone exchanges (the first three numbers of a seven-digit phone number) and blocks within a given sampling area (in this case, by the zip codes that comprise the county). A random list of all active residential and cell phone numbers in the area was produced. This method included both listed and unlisted phone numbers. Listed samples were used to meet particular quotas for racial/ethnic categories and geographic location.

The online portion was comprised of responses from double opt-in respondents who have agreed to participate in surveys. Real-time sampling and survey publishing services were also used to target respondents outside of the initial reach. Finally, listed samples were used to fill gaps within racial/ethnic and geographic quotas. For all methods, adult respondents in LA County were targeted and then randomly selected within their group.

SCREENERS

The protocol for this study involved asking potential respondents a series of questions, referred to as screeners, which were used to ensure that the person lived within the county and was at least 18 years old. The target sample size was 1,000 residents from the city of Los Angeles and 1,000 residents from Los Angeles County who live outside the city of LA. The first quota was a random digit dialing of approximately 475 residents (with 80% cell phone). The online survey ran concurrently with a target sample size of 800 respondents. The remaining racial/ethnic and geographic quotas were determined based on the fallout: 350 African American residents, 500 Asian residents, and 400 residents from the San Fernando Valley (only within the city of Los Angeles). Given the demographic proportion of Latino/a and white residents in the region, as expected, both groups naturally fell out from the initial wave of online and phone respondents.

DATA COLLECTION

Telephone surveys were conducted the first four full weeks in January 2019 and first two weeks in February between the hours of 4:30pm and 9pm during the week, 10am to 4pm on Saturday, and 10am to 5pm on Sunday. The survey was translated into Spanish, Mandarin, and Korean. Translators who spoke Spanish, Mandarin, and Korean were available to conduct interviews for residents who only spoke, or were more comfortable speaking any of those languages. The online survey ran concurrent with the phone survey and were available in both English and Spanish.

The margin of error is $\pm 3.0\%$ for the entire sample of 2,008 residents, not adjusted for weighting or design effects. The 2,008 responses collected for this survey were weighted based on respondents' self-identified racial and ethnic group, gender, age, and geographic location matching them to the most recently available population parameters from the American Community Survey (ACS) estimates.