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Race Relations Data Brief

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Loyola Marymount University

RACE RELATIONS DATA BRIEF

2020 LA VOTES PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY EXIT POLL









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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 an 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.

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 2020 Presidential Primary Election Exit Poll asked LA County voters about whom they voted for in the Presidential and District Attorney Races, how they voted on various measures, their overall voting experience at their respective vote centers, and what their opinions were on a few questions. The following data brief reports on questions related to public opinion on changes in race relations over the past four years. The data brief consists of two sections: (1) toplines for the questions, and (2) crosstabs, or each question crossed by respondent demographics.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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QUESTIONS INCLUDED IN THIS DATA BRIEF

Over the past four years, are race relations: better/about the same/worse? In your neighborhood | In Los Angeles | In the United States

TOPLINES

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	Better	About the same	Worse
In your neighborhood	21.5	68.4	10.1
In LA	15.6	57.2	27.2
In the US	10.5	25.3	64.2

Note: Note: Sub-question rows total 100 percent.

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	2008	2010	2012	2013	2014	2016	2020
In your neighborhood							
Better	30.8	27.7	34.8	30.6	29.7	26.2	21.5
About the same	10.2	63.9	58.7	61.0	62.5	63.6	68.4
Worse	59.0	8.4	6.5	8.3	7.7	10.1	10.1
In LA							
Better	30.5	28.3	34.1	31.6	27.3	24.8	15.6
About the same	16.1	55.7	54.5	57.0	59.2	51.5	57.2
Worse	53.4	16.0	11.3	11.4	13.4	23.8	27.2

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 15,434 respondents of the 2008-2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit

CROSSTABS

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	Democratic	Republican	Decline to state/other
In your neighborhood			
Better	20.1	33.4	17.3
About the same	69.4	61.1	70.7
Worse	10.5	5.5	12.0
In LA			
Better	13.9	22.7	16.3
About the same	60.1	52.1	52.5
Worse	26.0	25.2	31.3
In the US			
Better	7.0	30.1	9.5
About the same	24.4	36.6	21.6
Worse	68.5	33.4	68.9

	Liberal	Moderate	Republican
In your neighborhood			
Better	18.3	18.5	33.6
About the same	69.9	72.2	60.1
Worse	11.7	9.3	6.3
In LA			
Better	13.0	13.2	25.8
About the same	58.9	60.8	48.6
Worse	28.0	26.0	25.5
In the US			
Better	6.1	7.7	28.6
About the same	19.2	29.7	36.2
Worse	74.8	62.6	35.3

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	First time voter	Voted 2-3 times	Voted 4+ times
In your neighborhood			
Better	29.0	28.2	19.0
About the same	61.8	63.1	70.4
Worse	9.3	8.8	10.6
In LA			
Better	22.6	21.0	13.6
About the same	60.6	56.9	56.5
Worse	16.8	22.0	29.9
In the US			
Better	14.9	13.4	9.3
About the same	41.3	30.6	22.1
Worse	43.8	56.0	68.6

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+
In your neighborhood				
Better	22.0	17.0	22.7	25.7
About the same	70.5	72.7	64.7	65.9
Worse	7.4	10.3	12.6	8.4
In LA				
Better	19.3	14.0	13.9	16.2
About the same	59.5	61.9	51.4	57.6
Worse	21.1	24.1	34.7	26.3
In the US				
Better	11.4	8.7	10.2	13.2
About the same	31.9	22.7	21.1	27.6
Worse	56.7	68.6	68.7	59.2

	Black	Asian	White	Latina/o
In your neighborhood				
Better	22.0	23.9	17.4	26.0
About the same	68.1	69.1	73.5	63.6
Worse	9.9	7.0	9.1	10.4
In LA				
Better	13.9	16.6	13.8	18.6
About the same	58.0	57.9	59.5	56.1
Worse	28.1	25.6	26.7	25.3
In the US				
Better	8.3	10.6	10.6	11.6
About the same	22.1	29.2	22.9	29.0
Worse	69.6	60.1	66.4	59.5

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	Born in the USA	Born in another country
In your neighborhood		
Better	20.5	26.8
About the same	70.0	60.1
Worse	9.4	13.1
In LA		
Better	15.3	16.6
About the same	57.7	55.5
Worse	26.9	27.9
In the US		
Better	10.0	13.4
About the same	25.1	27.2
Worse	64.9	59.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	Both parents born in the USA	Only 1 parent born in the USA	Both born in another country
In your neighborhood			
Better	18.8	22.6	25.1
About the same	70.9	70.2	64.6
Worse	10.3	7.1	10.3
In LA			
Better	14.0	14.8	18.6
About the same	57.9	56.0	56.5
Worse	28.2	29.2	24.9
In the US			
Better	11.1	7.4	10.3
About the same	23.8	24.0	28.0
Worse	65.0	68.6	61.7

	Rent	Own
In your neighborhood		
Better	21.0	23.3
About the same	69.2	66.6
Worse	9.8	10.2
In LA		
Better	16.1	15.4
About the same	57.6	56.4
Worse	26.3	28.2
In the US		
Better	10.0	11.5
About the same	25.7	22.4
Worse	64.4	66.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	Working full-time	Working part-time	Student	Unemployed, looking for work	Retired	Unemployed, not looking for work
In your neighborhood						
Better	20.6	17.9	25.6	24.4	25.8	16.7
About the same	69.4	70.7	65.3	69.0	66.1	72.3
Worse	10.0	11.3	9.1	6.6	8.1	11.0
In LA						
Better	14.6	16.9	20.9	15.8	17.1	7.8
About the same	58.3	55.4	59.5	60.0	56.2	51.9
Worse	27.1	27.7	19.7	24.2	26.6	40.3
In the US						
Better	10.0	9.3	12.1	8.3	13.9	3.4
About the same	24.3	22.9	30.0	33.9	26.3	29.6
Worse	65.7	67.7	57.9	57.8	59.8	67.0

	I or someone in my household is a member of a union	No one in my household belongs to a union
In your neighborhood		
Better	22.4	21.0
About the same	66.4	69.9
Worse	11.2	9.2
In LA		
Better	14.8	16.3
About the same	55.7	58.5
Worse	29.5	25.3
In the US		
Better	9.4	11.1
About the same	24.7	25.8
Worse	65.9	63.1

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	Single	Married	Divorced/separated/widowed
In your neighborhood			
Better	21.2	22.0	21.7
About the same	70.2	67.7	65.4
Worse	8.7	10.3	12.9
In LA			
Better	17.4	14.6	12.8
About the same	59.3	55.8	55.3
Worse	23.3	29.6	31.9
In the US			
Better	9.7	10.9	11.6
About the same	27.8	23.0	25.0
Worse	62.5	66.1	63.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	High school diploma or less	College degree	Graduate degree
In your neighborhood			
Better	28.3	19.8	15.3
About the same	63.4	70.2	72.5
Worse	8.3	9.9	12.2
In LA			
Better	19.9	13.8	13.3
About the same	55.6	57.0	59.9
Worse	24.5	29.2	26.7
In the US			
Better	14.4	9.1	8.0
About the same	32.3	22.5	21.5
Worse	53.3	68.4	70.5

	HH Income: <\$40K	HH Income: \$40K-<\$80K	HH Income: \$80K-<\$150K	HH Income: \$150K+
In your neighborhood				
Better	27.7	21.6	20.1	17.1
About the same	63.9	69.2	68.7	73.2
Worse	8.3	9.3	11.2	9.7
In LA				
Better	19.6	14.2	15.8	12.5
About the same	54.9	58.7	55.9	62.0
Worse	25.4	27.1	28.2	25.6
In the US				
Better	13.0	9.4	9.0	9.9
About the same	32.6	28.0	21.5	19.4
Worse	54.4	62.6	69.5	70.7

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	5 years or fewer	6 to 10 years in	11 to 14 years in	15 to 19 years in	20 years or more
	in LA	LA	LA	LA	in LA
In your neighborhood					
Better	20.9	17.1	22.6	18.5	22.3
About the same	71.1	71.6	70.8	70.8	67.5
Worse	8.0	11.3	6.6	10.7	10.2
In LA					
Better	21.6	16.6	16.5	15.4	14.6
About the same	59.3	61.2	56.8	59.5	56.4
Worse	19.1	22.2	26.7	25.1	29.0
In the US					
Better	13.1	8.3	14.0	10.0	10.0
About the same	24.6	18.1	18.8	28.4	26.4
Worse	62.2	73.6	67.2	61.7	63.6

	Has disability/medical condition	No disability/medical condition
In your neighborhood		
Better	21.4	21.4
About the same	67.5	68.8
Worse	11.1	9.7
In LA		
Better	14.5	15.8
About the same	53.5	57.8
Worse	32.0	26.4
In the US		
Better	13.0	10.1
About the same	28.9	25.0
Worse	58.1	64.9

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Over the past four years, are race relations:

	Male	Female
In your neighborhood		
Better	25.4	18.5
About the same	65.3	71.6
Worse	9.4	9.9
In LA		
Better	19.4	12.5
About the same	58.1	57.6
Worse	22.5	29.9
In the US		
Better	14.2	7.5
About the same	26.4	25.0
Worse	59.4	67.5

Appendix

2020 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION EXIT POLL

METHODOLOGY

As Los Angeles continues to change and grow, accurate exit polling becomes a vital tool for understanding, developing theory on, and improving voter experience, behavior, preferences, and opinions. Los Angeles Votes is a series of exit polls and vote center studies in Los Angeles known for the use of a breakthrough sampling methodology – the racially stratified homogenous precinct approach – and becoming the largest per-capita exit poll in the nation. Since 2005, StudyLA has conducted sixteen projects, resulting in some of the most accurate exit polling results of every major election in Los Angeles.

LA Votes began as a response to exit poll discrepancies in the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections. Ethnic breakdowns from exit polls conducted during these elections skewed Latino voters towards the Republican candidate while no other data supported this trend. StudyLA researchers designed the racially stratified homogenous precinct approach to address this sampling anomaly and more accurately reflect ethnic voting patterns discovered by exit polls. In contrast to conventional sampling methodologies, the racially stratified homogenous precinct approach places an emphasis on location when it comes to racial and ethnic voting patterns. Voting patterns of a racial or ethnic group living within a racial or ethnic enclave are different from voting patterns of a racial or ethnic group living within a racial or ethnic enclave dissimilar to their own.

The 2020 Presidential Primary Election Exit Poll asked voters about whom they voted for in the Presidential and District Attorney Races, how they voted on various measures, and their overall voting experience at their respective vote centers. In addition, voters were asked about various civic concerns. They were also asked for general demographic information such as race/ethnicity, political ideology, education, income, employment status, etc.

VOTE CENTER SELECTION

Field researchers collected surveys at 50 vote centers located in Los Angeles County. Twenty-five vote centers were selected via the racially stratified homogenous precinct approach, while the remaining 25 were selected randomly. Geographic location matching for the racially stratified homogenous precinct approach used the most recently available population figures from the American Community Survey (ACS) estimates. This sampling methodology results in five vote centers of each racial/ethnic category in Los Angeles County: white, African American, Latino, Asian American, and mixed precincts.

SAMPLING

This study is only of at-poll voters. Field researchers were instructed to ask every other person who exited the vote center to participate in the survey either in English or Spanish. Researchers collected surveys from 7am till 8pm (if no voters were left in line) or 9pm (if there were still voters in line after 8pm).

DATA COLLECTION

The 2020 Presidential Primary Election Exit Poll was conducted on March 3, 2020. More than 250 LMU students served as field researchers, distributing surveys in both English and Spanish from 7:00am to 8:00pm at 50 randomly selected vote centers in Los Angeles County.

REPORTING DATA

The margin of error for the entire sample is ± 2%. Responses collected from the 25 racially stratified locations are weighted based on respondent self-identified racial/ethnic group, gender, age, and political party, matching them to the most recently available population parameters and voting demographic estimates. All numbers represent percentages, unless otherwise indicated. Due to rounding and multiple response questions, not all rows or columns total 100%.

SURVEY APPROVAL

Approval to begin survey administration was granted from the Institutional Review Board at Loyola Marymount University.

DEMOGRAPHICS

With which political party are you currently registered?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Democratic	2,652	64.8
Republican	362	13.3
Decline to state/other	421	21.9

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Which best describes your political ideology/beliefs?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Liberal	1,475	51.8
Moderate	772	29.6
Conservative	407	18.6

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Including this election, in how many elections have you voted?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
First time voter	277	7.8
Voted 2-3 times	660	18.9
Voted 4+ timed	2,559	73.3

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Age categories

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
18-29	859	24.6
30-44	914	26.8
30-44 45-64	1,072	31.8
65+	443	16.8

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Race

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Black	579	13.5
Asian	279	8.7
White	1,288	39.9
Latina/o	1,116	37.9

Where were you born?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Born in the USA	2,401	86.7
Born in another country	330	13.3

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Where were you parents born?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Both parents bor in the USA	1,572	56.3
Only 1 born in the USA	275	10.7
Both born in another country	858	33.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Regarding home ownership, do you:

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Rent	1,317	48.6
Own	1,229	51.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll

Which best describes your employment? [Select only 1]

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Employed, full time	1,559	56.7
Employed, part-time	358	12.9
Student	225	7.5
Unemployed, looking for work	104	3.5
Retired	384	16.8
Unemployed, not looking for work	66	2.6

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Which best describes your household's experience in labor unions?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
I or someone in my household is a member of a union	960	36.7
No one in my household belongs to a union	1,696	63.3

Which is your marital status?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Single	1,246	43.0
Married/domestic partnership	1,219	46.6
Divorced/separated/widowed	287	10.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

How many children under 18 currently live in your household?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
No children in household	1,851	68.5
One or more children in household	883	31.5

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll

Which is the highest level of education you have completed?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
High school diploma or less	898	33.3
College degree	1,183	42.9
Graduate degree	654	23.9

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

Which was your total household income in 2019 (before tax)?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Under \$40K	630	24.4
\$40K-<\$80K	616	24.1
\$80K-<\$150K	769	30.7
\$150K+	522	20.9

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll.

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

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
5 years or fewer	273	8.9
6 to 10 years	194	6.4
11 to 14 years	152	5.6
15 to 19 years	187	6.9
20 years or more	1,945	72.2

What is your gender?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Male	1,534	46.8
Female	1,850	53.2

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 3,596 adult respondents of the 2020 LA Votes Presidential Primary Exit Poll

Do you have a disability (physical, intellectual, psychiatric or sensory) or medical condition?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Has disability/medical condition	347	12.9
No disability/medical condition	2,371	87.1