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Residents' Support for Sanctuary Cities: 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey Report

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Residents' Support for Sanctuary Cities

2017 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 6,000 undergraduates, 2,200 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 85,000 LMU alumni whose professional achievements are matched by a deep commitment to improving the lives of others.

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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 Region 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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QUESTION(S) INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation? *Even parts city of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County responses, n=1202.* Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAJORITY OF L.A. COUNTY RESIDENTS SUPPORT LOCAL 'SANCTUARY CITIES,' LMU SURVEY FINDS

More than two-thirds of Los Angeles County residents support the idea of making their hometown a "sanctuary city" where undocumented immigrants could be shielded from deportation, according to a survey conducted by Loyola Marymount University researchers.

Forty percent of those surveyed said they "strongly support" a sanctuary city where they live, with 28 percent saying they "somewhat support" the idea. Among opponents, 15 percent said they "somewhat oppose" a sanctuary city in their town, and 17 percent "strongly oppose."

"With such a high level of support for sanctuary cities, ICE's enforcement would be more difficult. In our survey people are sending a clear message that ICE is not welcome here," said Fernando Guerra, professor of political science and director of the study.

The question was one of dozens asked by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles as part of its Forecast LA conference, which includes a wide-ranging survey of Angelenos about the region's economic outlook and political climate. The conference will be held at LMU on April 19.

The issue has been at the forefront of national politics since President Trump not only promised to increase deportations of undocumented immigrants, but also threatened to cut off funding to sanctuary cities.

There is no clear definition of what a sanctuary city is, but Los Angeles and many other cities in California have refused to assist efforts to identify undocumented immigrants for deportation, such as holding them after they've served jail sentences or allowing local police to question residents about their immigration status.

The survey found Latino respondents were the strongest backers of sanctuary cities: 84 percent said they strongly or somewhat supported the idea. African Americans were at 67 percent, and Asian Americans had 57 percent support. White respondents were nearly split, with 51 percent supporting and 49 percent opposing.

"We found as the generations get younger, the support increases," said StudyLA Associate Director Brianne Gilbert. "While all generations were supportive of their city being a sanctuary city, millennials were the most supportive, at 74 percent."

The survey was conducted by telephone and online in January and February, among 1,200 Los Angeles city residents and 1,200 residents in the rest of the county. The margin of error is +/- 3.0 percent.

Toplines

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

Strongly support	40.4
Somewhat support	27.6
Somewhat oppose	14.9
Strongly oppose	17.1

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Crosstabs

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Survey taken in English	Survey taken in Spanish	Survey taken in Mandarin	Survey taken in Korean
Strongly support	37.0	72.2	9.6	38.2
Somewhat support	28.2	24.6	20.9	38.5
Somewhat oppose	16.5	2.1	23.2	13.5
Strongly oppose	18.4	1.1	46.3	9.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Black	Asian	White	Latino	Other
Strongly support	35.8	26.6	26.3	55.7	35.5
Somewhat support	31.4	29.6	25.0	28.1	28.0
Somewhat oppose	19.0	16.7	18.0	11.5	11.0
Strongly oppose	13.8	27.2	30.7	4.7	25.6
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. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	City of LA only	LA County not City of LA
Strongly support	43.4	38.5
Somewhat support	28.4	27.1
Somewhat oppose	13.2	15.9
Strongly oppose	14.9	18.5
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Rent home	Own home
Strongly support	49.3	30.8
Somewhat support	26.3	29.2
Somewhat oppose	13.4	16.5
Strongly oppose	11.0	23.4
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Working full-time	Working part-time	Student	Homemaker	Retired	Self-employed	Not working
Strongly support	39.6	40.8	58.3	45.7	33.7	44.9	32.4
Somewhat support	28.1	30.6	19.9	33.9	22.7	21.3	37.6
Somewhat oppose	17.9	12.3	14.4	7.1	14.5	10.7	15.4
Strongly oppose	14.4	16.2	7.4	13.4	29.1	23.1	14.6
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. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Union household	Non-union household
Strongly support	39.9	40.1
Somewhat support	31.5	26.5
Somewhat oppose	11.1	16.1
Strongly oppose	17.5	17.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Single	Married/domestic partnership	Divorced/separated/widowed
Strongly support	44.9	37.5	36.7
Somewhat support	26.3	27.5	33.6
Somewhat oppose	18.8	13.8	9.6
Strongly oppose	10.0	21.2	20.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	No children in household	One or more children in household
Strongly support	37.7	43.9
Somewhat support	26.3	30.0
Somewhat oppose	15.4	13.8
Strongly oppose	20.6	12.3
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Strongly support	50.7	29.6	34.4
Somewhat support	27.5	34.5	20.8
Somewhat oppose	12.7	21.3	12.2
Strongly oppose	9.2	14.6	32.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Registered to vote	Not registered to vote
Strongly support	36.5	53.8
Somewhat support	27.5	28.3
Somewhat oppose	16.4	9.3
Strongly oppose	19.7	8.6
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	High school diploma or less	College degree	Graduate degree
Strongly support	47.4	29.7	32.7
Somewhat support	25.2	32.7	25.6
Somewhat oppose	13.7	15.9	17.7
Strongly oppose	13.6	21.7	24.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Ages 18-29	Ages 30-44	Ages 45-64	Ages 65+
Strongly support	52.6	40.2	36.0	31.3
Somewhat support	22.1	30.2	31.1	25.0
Somewhat oppose	20.2	16.4	9.9	12.3
Strongly oppose	5.1	13.2	23.0	31.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Lived here 5 years or less	Lived here 6-15 years	Lived here 16-25 years	Lived here 25+ years
Strongly support	48.8	37.2	50.7	35.4
Somewhat support	15.9	35.1	24.9	28.5
Somewhat oppose	18.2	17.0	16.2	12.8
Strongly oppose	17.1	10.8	8.2	23.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Under \$40K	\$40K-<\$70K	\$70K-<\$100K	\$100K-<\$150K	\$150K+
Strongly support	47.0	39.5	31.4	30.4	35.5
Somewhat support	24.9	30.0	36.0	21.2	31.5
Somewhat oppose	14.5	13.9	15.5	18.9	15.2
Strongly oppose	13.6	16.6	17.0	29.5	17.8
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. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	U.S.-born	Foreign-born
Strongly support	35.4	48.2
Somewhat support	28.7	26.7
Somewhat oppose	16.8	11.4
Strongly oppose	19.0	13.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Catholic	Jewish	Protestant	Agnostic/atheist/none	Other
Strongly support	50.4	21.2	32.5	38.5	33.0
Somewhat support	27.1	35.0	29.5	25.7	23.5
Somewhat oppose	9.8	17.6	15.5	18.6	24.7
Strongly oppose	12.7	26.2	22.5	17.1	18.9
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. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Do you support or oppose being a sanctuary city to protect undocumented immigrants from deportation?

	Male	Female
Strongly support	38.3	42.4
Somewhat support	24.9	30.2
Somewhat oppose	17.6	12.3
Strongly oppose	19.3	15.1
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 1202 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Appendix

2017 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 2,400 adults (1,800 phone and 600 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.

Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey 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 with 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 1,200 residents from the city of Los Angeles and 1,200 residents from Los Angeles County who live outside the city of LA. The first quota was a random digit dialing of approximately 750 residents (with 66% cell phone). The online survey ran concurrently with a target sample size of 600 respondents. The remaining racial/ethnic and geographic quotas were determined based on the fallout: 400 African American residents, 600 Asian residents, 400 residents from the San Fernando Valley (only within the city of Los Angeles) and 400 residents from the San Gabriel Valley. Given the demographic proportion of Latino 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 2017 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 from January 13 to January 26 and was available in English and Spanish.

The margin of error is $\pm 3.0\%$ for the entire sample of 2,404 residents.

Demographics

Language survey was administered in.

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Survey taken in English	1,870	79.9
Survey taken in Spanish	234	13.2
Survey taken in Mandarin	175	4.6
Survey taken in Korean	125	2.3

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Which ethnic group do you consider yourself a part of or feel closest to?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Black	439	8.6
Asian	569	15.5
White	666	30.2
Latino	663	43.5
Other	67	2.2

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Regional quotas.

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
City of LA only	1,203	40.3
LA County not City of LA	1,201	59.7

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 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	1,159	51.5
Own home	1,179	48.5

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

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

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Working full-time	822	41.7
Working part-time	248	12.4
Student	121	7.0
Homemaker	135	6.5
Retired	699	17.1
Self-employed	146	6.9
Not working	190	8.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Is someone in your household a member of a union?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Union household	480	21.3
Non-union household	1,855	78.7

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

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

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Single	705	34.1
Married/domestic partnership	1,215	52.0
Divorced/separated/widowed	436	13.9

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

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

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
No children in household	1,615	59.9
One or more children in household	747	40.1

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 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	933	41.2
Moderate	630	28.6
Conservative	661	30.2

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Are you a registered voter?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Registered to vote	1,924	77.7
Not registered to vote	441	22.3

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

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

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
High school diploma or less	1,281	57.7
College degree	784	31.0
Graduate degree	290	11.3

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Age group, based on question asking respondent's birth year.

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Ages 18-29	369	24.2
Ages 30-44	487	28.3
Ages 45-64	745	32.3
Ages 65+	668	15.2

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 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	130	6.4
Lived here 6-15 years	284	14.3
Lived here 16-25 years	489	24.9
Lived here 25+ years	1,442	54.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 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	874	39.9
\$40K-<\$70K	466	23.5
\$70K-<\$100K	339	17.2
\$100K-<\$150K	209	10.5
\$150K+	180	8.9

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

Are you a U.S.-born citizen, a foreign-born naturalized citizen, or are you not a citizen?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
U.S.-born	1,482	64.2
Foreign-born	846	35.8

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

What is your religious preference?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Catholic	599	34.3
Jewish	89	4.0
Protestant	891	35.5
Agnostic/atheist/none	371	18.8
Other	186	7.4

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

What is your gender?

	Unweighted frequencies	Weighted percentages
Male	1,051	48.5
Female	1,353	51.5

Source: Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. 2404 adult respondents of the 2017 Los Angeles Public Opinion Survey.

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