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Interviews: 901 voters, including 107 among Asians,
125 among African Americans, and 269 among Latinx
Dates: October 15-22, 2019

FINAL

Study #12762a
Los Angeles Business Council Institute Homelessness Survey
October 2019

47 Male
53 Female
[109]

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

1a. Are you currently registered to vote in Los Angeles County?

Yes, registered	100	CONTINUE	[139]
No, not registered	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure	-		

1b. Is your household within the Los Angeles County limits?

Yes	100	CONTINUE	[140]
No	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure	-		

1c. Does anyone in this household work for a radio station, a television station, a newspaper, an advertising agency, a market research firm, or as an active political campaign worker?

No	100	CONTINUE	[141]
Yes	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure	-		

1d. For statistical purposes only, and to ensure that we have a representative sample, would you please tell me how old you are? (IF "REFUSED," ASK:) Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?

18-24	11	[142-143]
25-29	10	
30-34	9	
35-39	9	
40-44	10	
45-49	6	
50-54	9	
55-59	7	
60-64	7	
65-69	7	
70-74	8	
75 and over	6	
Not sure/refused	1	

1ef. To ensure that we have a representative sample, would you please tell me whether you are Latino? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS "NO" OR "NOT SURE," ASK:)** And again, for statistical purposes only, what is your race--white, black or African American, Asian, or something else?

White	45	[146]
Black/African American	7	
Latino/Hispanic	35	
Asian	9	
Other	3	
Not sure/refused	1	

PARTY REGISTRATION FROM FILE	
Democrat	54
Republican	18
No party	22
Other	6

2. Do you feel that things in Los Angeles County are generally going in the right direction today, or do you feel that the county is on the wrong track?

Right direction	32	[147]
Wrong track	46	
Not sure	22	

3. Let me read you a list of five major accomplishments Los Angeles has achieved over the past thirty years. Which ONE of those do you feel best represents Los Angeles overcoming an obstacle to make the L.A. area a better place to live? **(IF MORE THAN ONE, ASK:)** Well, if you had to choose JUST ONE, which would it be?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Achieving better air quality and the reduction in smog levels	28	[148]
Developing better mass transit and public transportation	23	
Becoming a good place to raise a family and to live and work	12	
Addressing race relations and racism	11	
Diversifying the region's economy	9	
All (VOL).....	6	
Other (VOL).....	4	
Not sure.....	7	

3bc. Now I'm going to read you some issues facing Los Angeles. For each one, please tell me whether you think it is a very serious problem, a serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY SERIOUS PROBLEM

	Total Serious Problem	<u>Very Serious Problem</u>	<u>Serious Problem</u>	<u>Somewhat Of A Problem</u>	<u>Not At All A Problem</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Homelessness.....	95	74	21	3	2	-	[149/157]
Housing affordability.....	85	60	25	10	4	1	[150/158]
Traffic congestion	88	58	30	9	2	1	[151/159]
Climate change. **.....	65	41	24	17	17	1	[164]
Quality of public schools. **	57	32	25	24	10	9	[162]
Taxes.	57	31	26	23	17	3	[153/161]
Immigration. **.....	47	29	18	21	27	5	[163]
Public safety.....	53	22	31	31	13	3	[152/160]
Air quality. *	52	21	31	28	18	2	[154]
Jobs and economic development. *	43	19	24	32	21	4	[156]
Availability of parks and open space. *	28	15	13	33	37	2	[155]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

4a. When it comes specifically to the problem of homelessness, would you say it affects you directly, it affects you indirectly, OR that it's a problem in the region but does not affect you personally?

Directly	28	[165]
Indirectly	28	
Problem in the region but does not affect me personally	43	
Not a problem (VOL)	1	
Not sure	-	
Total Affects Me Directly/Indirectly	56	

4b. Have you or has someone you know experienced homelessness or housing insecurity in the past year? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS "YES," PROBE:)** And is that you, or someone else you know?

Yes, I have	6	[166]
Yes, I know someone who has	27	
Both (VOL)	1	
No	65	
Not sure	1	
Total Yes	34	

5aA. What are one or two steps you would support or ideas you would propose to address the issue of homelessness?

(PROBE:) Are there any programs or actions you think should be taken to address homelessness? [167] *

Affordable housing, low-income housing options, Section 8 housing	28
More shelters, facilities for the poor, the homeless	16
Help for mental illness, mental health screenings, resources, facilities	15
Better jobs, better job opportunities, help them find work	7
Better healthcare/access to treatment/more healthcare facilities	6
Build more housing, make houses for the homeless, more facilities	5
Don't know; no response	13%

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

5aB. When you hear that someone is homeless, what comes to your mind? What are your initial thoughts and reactions when you hear that someone is homeless? [208] **

Sad, feel sorry for them, feel bad for them, empathy	30
Concerned about their mental health, have mental illness	14
They don't have a home/don't have a place to stay/lack of shelter	11
Drugs, drug abuse, most of them have problems with drugs	11
CA is too expensive/price of housing is out of control/can't afford it	10
They need help, find a way to help them	5
Don't know; no response	2%

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

5b. If you had to choose, do you think solving the problem of homelessness in Los Angeles is primarily a responsibility of local officials, regional officials, state officials, or national officials?

Local officials	29	[219]
Regional officials	12	
State officials	30	
National officials	20	
Not sure	9	

5c. Which of the following statements comes closest to your perspective?

Homelessness is primarily a result of a person's individual actions and decisions that may lead them to the street	26	[220]
Homelessness is primarily a result of a lack of affordable housing and wages that aren't keeping up with the cost of living	49	
Some of both (VOL)	21	
Neither of these (VOL)	3	
Not sure.....	1	

6a. Using scale of negative five to positive five, I'd like to know how you feel when it comes to the ability of political and civic leaders in Los Angeles to adequately address the problem of street homelessness. On this scale, a negative five means that you are very pessimistic that Los Angeles can address the problem of street homelessness, a positive five means you are very optimistic that Los Angeles can address the problem of street homelessness, and a zero is right in the middle.

-5, very pessimistic	24	[221-222]
-3 to -4	10	
-1 to -2	7	
0.....	22	
+1 to +2.....	12	
+3 to +4.....	8	
+5, very optimistic.....	16	
Not sure	1	
Total Pessimistic	41	
Total Optimistic	36	
Mean	-0.4	

6bc. As you think about the issue of homelessness, do you feel that society has **(A)** gone too far in upholding the rights of homeless residents at the expense of housed residents, **(B)** struck about the right balance between homeless residents and housed residents, OR **(C)** gone too far in upholding the rights of housed residents at the expense of homeless residents? If you think there is no real difference between the interests of housed residents and homeless residents, just say so.

(A) Go too far in upholding rights of homeless	30	[225]
(B) Strikes about the right balance	19	
(C) Go too far in direction of upholding rights of housed	24	
No difference between interests of both	12	
Not sure	15	

7. Which of the following three statements comes closest to your perspective on the root cause of homelessness?

Statement A: Homelessness is primarily a result of the lack of housing people can afford. Spikes in rent have forced people out of their homes and onto the streets	28	[226]
Statement B: Homelessness is primarily a result of the lack of available mental health and social service resources for the most vulnerable in our community	44	
Statement C: Homelessness is primarily a result of a decline in society's willingness to enforce the law and maintain public order, and it should be handled primarily by law enforcement	12	
Some of each/mixed (VOL)	12	
None of these (VOL)	2	
Not sure	2	

8a. Which of the following proposals do you believe is a better use of existing funds for dealing with homelessness? *

Concentrate on building long-term housing for the homeless, even though that takes years longer	39	[227]
Focus on building emergency, short-term shelters to get people off the streets, even though that doesn't solve the long-term problem	39	
Both of these (VOL)	13	
Neither of these (VOL)	7	
Not sure.....	2	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

8b. In dealing with homelessness, officials face a tradeoff--short-term policies, such as renting temporary shelter for homeless people, are faster and cost less initially, but there are yearly fixed costs. Long-term policies, such as permanent housing, take much longer and cost more up front, but hold out the hope of a permanent solution that might save money in the long run.

In dealing with the problem of homelessness in Los Angeles, which of those do you believe officials should prioritize--short term policies or long-term policies? **

Short-term policies	23	[228]
Long-term policies	59	
Both (VOL)	10	
Neither (VOL)	4	
Not sure	4	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

9a. Now I'm going to read you some solutions that people have proposed that cities, the county, or the state could implement to help homeless individuals. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the solution. *

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT SUPPORT

	Total Support	Total Oppose	Strongly Support	Some- what Support	Some- what Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure	
Speed up development of temporary housing, such as emergency shelters and placement of trailers on public land.....	75	23	45	30	12	11	2	[230]
Allow for higher density, mixed-income housing, like four- to seven-story apartment buildings to be built in commercial and residential areas located near bus and rail lines	74	22	40	34	10	12	4	[233]
Provide safe overnight parking areas to allow people to live out of their cars or campers while seeking permanent housing	71	27	38	33	11	16	2	[231]
Encourage the use of shared housing	67	25	33	34	14	11	8	[229]
Provide money to help renters avoid eviction from their apartments.....	60	36	30	30	15	21	4	[232]
Ban the conversion of apartment buildings to condominiums until the housing crisis is resolved	51	41	30	21	19	22	8	[234]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

9b. Now I'm going to read you some solutions that people have proposed that cities, the county, or the state could implement to help homeless individuals. For each one, please tell me whether you think it would be very effective, somewhat effective, somewhat ineffective, or very ineffective. **

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE

	<u>Total Effective</u>	<u>Total Ineffective</u>	<u>Very Effective</u>	<u>Some-what Effective</u>	<u>Some-what Ineffective</u>	<u>Very Ineffective</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Speed up development of temporary housing, such as emergency shelters and placement of trailers on public land..	77	19	41	36	8	11	4	[236]
Allow for higher density, mixed-income housing, like four- to seven-story apartment buildings to be built in commercial and residential areas located near bus and rail lines	68	26	35	33	10	16	6	[239]
Provide safe overnight parking areas to allow people to live out of their cars or campers while seeking permanent housing	64	32	34	30	13	19	4	[237]
Encourage the use of shared housing	63	30	24	39	15	15	7	[235]
Provide money to help renters avoid eviction from their apartments.....	61	35	31	30	14	21	4	[238]
Ban the conversion of apartment buildings to condominiums until the housing crisis is resolved	50	41	23	27	18	23	9	[240]

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

10. When it comes to addressing the issue of homelessness, please tell me which approach comes closest to your point of view.

GROUP A feels that Southern California basically has the right set of policies in place to deal with the homelessness problem. We need to execute them more effectively and also recognize that solving the problem will take time.

GROUP B feels that Southern California faces an emergency situation with homelessness, for which current policies and funding are inadequate. We need to break with long-standing practices, even if doing so might require major changes to some neighborhoods.

Which comes closer to your point of view--the GROUP A approach, or the GROUP B approach?

GROUP A approach	26	[241]
GROUP B approach	63	
Both (VOL)	4	
Neither (VOL)	3	
Not sure	4	

11a. In 2016, L.A. voters passed Measure HHH, a one-point-two-billion-dollar bond to build approximately ten thousand units of supportive housing in the City of Los Angeles. In 2017, voters in Los Angeles County passed Measure H, a sales tax to raise an estimated three hundred and fifty-five million dollars a year for ten years to help homeless individuals transition into planned affordable housing.

Based on what you know, do you think the money is being spent very effectively, somewhat effectively, somewhat ineffectively, or very ineffectively?

Very effectively	5	[242]
Somewhat effectively.....	17	
Somewhat ineffectively.....	25	
Very ineffectively	41	
Not sure.....	12	
Total Effectively	22	
Total Ineffectively	66	

11bc. Once the current funding from these measures expires, do you think we should expand the funding, renew the funding at current levels, or let the funding expire?

Expand the funding	25	[245]
Renew the funding at current levels..	33	
Let the funding expire.....	27	
Not sure.....	15	
Total Expand/Renew Funding	58	

12ab. By some estimates, the region needs more than five hundred thousand new units to meet the current housing demand. Here are a few proposals to add to the housing stock or make housing more affordable in Los Angeles. For each one, please tell me whether you totally favor, mostly favor, feel mixed, mostly oppose, or totally oppose the proposal.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY TOTALLY OR MOSTLY FAVOR

	Total Favor	Total Oppose	<u>Totally Favor</u>	<u>Mostly Favor</u>	<u>Feel Mixed</u>	<u>Mostly Oppose</u>	<u>Totally Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Offering incentives to apartment building owners to extend affordable housing contracts that keep rents low for a period of time *	68	16	37	31	12	7	9	4	[248]
Promoting the building of more affordable housing by letting developers construct larger buildings along major commercial corridors if they include low-cost housing, as they currently can do near transit hubs	63	13	31	32	19	5	8	5	[247/250]
Passing a rent-control ordinance that would limit rent increases to no more than the annual change in the consumer price index, a measure of inflation **	61	20	42	19	13	8	12	6	[251]
Suspending the use of apartment units for vacation rental use, and requiring building owners to lease them to renters	38	34	20	18	21	15	19	7	[246/249]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

13ab. Now I am going to read you some statements that have been made recently about homelessness and homeless individuals. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the statement.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY AGREE

	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Strongly Agree	Some-what Agree	Some-what Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure	
Mental illness and substance abuse are underlying causes of homelessness. We should expand treatment facilities to help. *	90	6	72	18	3	3	4	[256]
Homeless individuals need shelter and medical attention now. We should focus on getting them a place where they can live and get help immediately and then figure out long-term solutions. **	85	7	61	24	2	5	8	[263]
We need to respond to the homeless crisis as we would a natural disaster. In this case, that means setting up temporary homeless shelters on available government property in urban areas around the region without lengthy government approvals	76	18	49	27	9	9	6	[254/260]
In addition to the public sector, the private sector--such as non-profits and businesses--should also be playing an active role in addressing homelessness. * ...	78	16	48	30	8	8	6	[257]
Law enforcement should be more involved in helping clean up our streets in order to address the health crisis that is mounting due to unsanitary conditions caused by homeless encampments	65	29	39	26	13	16	6	[253/259]
We can't allow homeless people to degrade residential neighborhoods or block access to offices and commercial buildings, so police departments should prevent people from sleeping on the streets	63	30	39	24	15	15	7	[255/261]
There would be faster and cheaper progress toward addressing homelessness if the government relied more on the private sector. **	52	32	27	25	14	18	16	[262]
As long as we don't have enough homes or shelters to house everyone, homeless Angelenos have the right to live on sidewalks and keep their property with them even if that makes it inconvenient for local store owners or nearby pedestrians	33	60	15	18	19	41	7	[252/258]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

14. Some states have a law that establishes a legal right to shelter, meaning that the government is required to provide temporary shelter to any homeless person who wishes to come indoors. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose enacting a right to shelter law here in California?

Strongly support	49	[264]
Somewhat support	26	
Somewhat oppose	8	
Strongly oppose	11	
Not sure	6	
Total Support	75	
Total Oppose	19	

15a. Now I am going to read you some policies that have been proposed or implemented in other cities to address homelessness. For each one, please tell me whether you would strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this change here in Los Angeles. If you do not know enough to say, please just say so.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT FAVOR

	Total Favor	Total Oppose	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Some-what Favor</u>	<u>Some-what Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Don't Know Enough To Say</u>	
Speeding up the development of permanent alternative housing, such as apartments built out of factory-built modular units, tiny houses, trailers, and other structures	75	14	47	28	6	8	11	[265]
Using emergency relief tents, like those used by the Red Cross and FEMA, which can fit up to two hundred people at a time until residents are connected to more permanent housing.....	73	17	41	32	8	9	10	[266]
Opening up National Guard armories and other public property for temporary shelters, like is done during natural disasters and other emergencies.....	73	18	42	31	10	8	9	[267]

15b. Now I am going to read you some other policies that have been proposed or implemented in other cities to address homelessness. This time, please tell me whether you would strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this change in YOUR neighborhood. If you do not know enough to say, please just say so.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT FAVOR

	Total Favor	Total Oppose	Strongly Favor	Some-what Favor	Some-what Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know Enough To Say	
Providing public bathrooms and showers to support homeless residents until longer-term solutions can be found	76	15	51	25	4	11	9	[271]
Using shed-like cabins, known as "Community Cabins," equipped with cots, electricity, and plumbing as temporary housing for up to forty people at a time until individuals are connected to more permanent housing.....	63	25	33	30	9	16	12	[268]
Allowing the conversion of single-family homes to dorm-style housing developments where multiple tenants share kitchen, living and bathroom spaces, but have their own beds and micro-storage.....	55	35	27	28	12	23	10	[269]
Allowing the construction of apartments on single-family parcels	43	40	22	21	14	26	17	[270]

16. Once again, using scale of negative five to positive five, I'd like to know how you feel when it comes to the ability of political and civic leaders in Los Angeles to adequately address the problem of street homelessness. On this scale, a negative five means that you are very pessimistic that Los Angeles can address the problem of street homelessness, a positive five means you are very optimistic that Los Angeles can address the problem of street homelessness, and a zero is right in the middle.

	Q.16	Initial Rating (Q.6a)	
-5, very pessimistic.....	20	24	[272-273]
-3 to -4.....	8	10	
-1 to -2.....	7	7	
0.....	22	22	
+1 to +2.....	14	12	
+3 to +4.....	11	8	
+5, very optimistic	16	16	
Not sure.....	2	1	
Total Pessimistic	35	41	
Total Optimistic	41	36	
Mean	0.0	-0.4	

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1. Thinking about your general approach to issues, do you consider yourself to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal	17	[274]
Somewhat liberal	23	
Moderate	27	
Somewhat conservative	13	
Very conservative	10	
Not sure	10	
Total Liberal	40	
Total Conservative	23	

F2. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school	2	[275-276]
Some high school	3	
High school graduate	19	
Some college, no degree	19	
Vocational training/2-year college	9	
4-year college/Bachelor's degree	27	
Some postgraduate work, no degree	2	
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree.....	10	
Doctoral/law degree	3	
Not sure/refused	6	

F3a. Do you own or rent the house, condominium, or apartment that you live in?

Own	46	[277]
Rent	40	
Other/live with family members (VOL)	6	
Not sure/refused	8	

F3b. How long have you lived in Los Angeles County?

Less than one year	-	[278]
One to three years	4	
Four to ten years	11	
Eleven to twenty years	16	
Twenty-one to thirty years	17	
Thirty-one years or more	45	
Not sure/refused	7	

F4. How would you describe your area of Los Angeles County?

High-density urban	30	[279]
Lower-density urban	20	
Suburban	33	
Rural	5	
Not sure/refused	12	

F5. For statistical purposes only, would you please tell me whether your total household income for last year was more than or less than \$75,000? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS "MORE THAN \$75,000," ASK:)** Would you say that your total household income was more than or less than \$100,000? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS "LESS THAN \$75,000," ASK:)** Would you say that your total household income was more than or less than \$50,000?

More than \$100,000	29	[310]
\$75,000-\$100,000	11	
\$50,000-\$75,000	15	
Less than \$50,000	23	
Not sure	22	