

UMass Lowell  
Survey of California Democratic Primary Likely Voters

February 12-20, 2020

**N=450 California Democratic Primary Likely Voters**

**The sample has an adjusted margin of error +/-6.7% for LVs**

See <http://uml.edu/polls> for full questionnaire/topline results and detailed methodology disclosure.

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Do you have a question about this poll? If so, tweet @UML\_CPO and we'll get back to you.

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## HIGHLIGHTS

*Sanders leads the field by 8 points; Warren in 2<sup>nd</sup> place*

In a new poll of likely Democratic primary voters in California, Bernie Sanders has a lead over his closest competitor, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren. Sanders receives the support of 24% of California likely primary Democratic voters while Warren comes in second at 16%. Close behind is former Vice President Joe Biden at 13%, followed by former South Bend, Indiana Mayor Pete Buttigieg and former New York Mayor and Billionaire Michael Bloomberg, who are both at 12%. Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota is at 7%, Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard is at 4% and Billionaire and activist Tom Steyer is at 2%; another 6% of California Democratic likely voters remain undecided, while 3% say they will vote for someone else.

Californians get their chance to participate in this year's primary on Super Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The poll, part of series of Super Tuesday poll releases, was written and conducted by the University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Public Opinion, a nationally recognized non-partisan polling center.

As has been his strength in other states, Sanders does well among young voters; he receives 31% of the vote from those under 45, compared to 20% of the vote of those 45 and older. We find a similar pattern for Warren, who gets 22% of the under 45 vote, but only 12% of the 45 and over vote. Biden has more balanced support with 15% of 18-44 year-olds and 13% of those 45 and over.



Sanders also leads in the Golden State because of strong support from Latinos (32%) compared to Warren (16%) and Biden (15%). Among white voters, however, Sanders leads by only 3 points, 21% to Warren's 18%.

Additionally, Sanders also appears to be strongest among Democrats; he wins 27% of Democrats, but only 12% of Independents who will take the Democratic ballot. His message of democratic socialism and economic populism seems to resonate among those voters from the lowest income rung – voters who make less than \$50,000 a year support him at 36% compared to 19% of those who make \$50,000-\$100,000 and 15% of those who make more than \$100,000 per year.

### *How the Race Might Change/Vote Stability*

With Super Tuesday less than two weeks away, our survey asked voters how certain their vote choice is or if there's a chance they might still change their mind and vote for another candidate. About a third (32%) say they could still change their minds compared to 68% who say they will definitely support the candidate they currently support.

Sanders supporters, as has been found in other states, are the most committed voters; 81% of those supporting Sanders say they will definitely vote for the Vermont Senator. Close behind him, however, is Senator Elizabeth Warren; 74% of her supporters say they will definitely vote for her. For Biden, this number is 65% and for Bloomberg 68%. The two candidates who appear to have the softest support are Buttigieg (40% will definitely vote for him) and Klobuchar (49% will definitely vote for him).

### *Momentum*

In this survey, respondents were also asked who is likely to be the eventual Democratic nominee. Here, we see that Sanders has emerged as the frontrunner among Democratic primary voters; 31% expect Sanders to win the Democratic nomination compared to 14% Biden and 12% Bloomberg. Another 28% say that they are unsure, reflecting the very real uncertainty in the Democratic nominating contest overall.

We also see a part of the reason for this indecision is that most of the candidates are well liked and have positive net favorability ratings; all of them, except for Michael Bloomberg, score above 50% favorability. Sanders is a net +33 (63% fav, 30% unfav). Warren, who trails him, bests him in terms of favorability numbers with a +42 net favorability rating (64% fav, 22% unfav). Biden is net +36 (61% fav, 25% unfav), Bloomberg is +11 (45% fav, 34% unfav), Buttigieg is +36 (56% fav, 20% unfav), and Klobuchar is +43 (54% fav, 11% unfav). Several candidates have the problem of still being relatively unknown and having more than 20% of voter either say they have "no opinion" of them or that they have "never heard of" of them. This includes



Steyer (34% no opinion/never heard of), Klobuchar (29% no opinion/never heard of), Buttigieg (24% no opinion/never heard of), and Bloomberg (21% no opinion/never heard of).