

TO Interested Parties

FROM Dave Metz and Miranda Everitt
FM3 Research

RE: California Voter Views of Current Legislative Issues

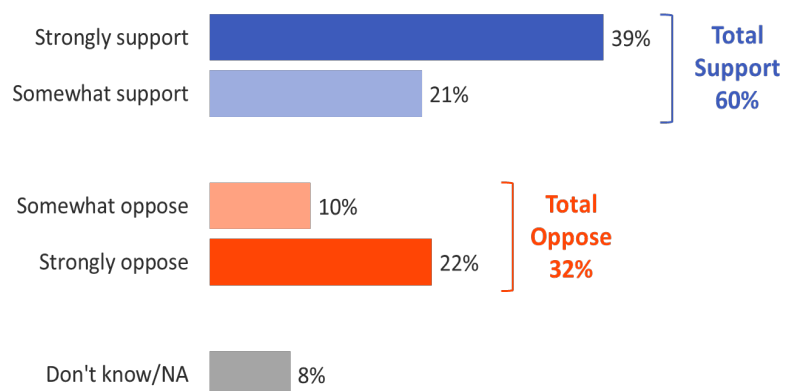
DATE June 7, 2018

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) recently completed a survey of likely November 2018 general election voters on current issues facing the California State Legislature, including the cash bail system, the state's community colleges, and phasing out oil drilling in certain areas.¹ **The study shows that after balanced messaging on each side of these issues, California voters support ending cash bail, establishing online community college, changing the community college funding formula and phasing out oil drilling near homes and schools.** Detailed findings include the following:

- **Californians support ending the cash bail system by a nearly two-to-one margin.** As shown in Figure 1, three in five voters (60%) support ending the cash bail system, with nearly two in five (39%) "strongly" in support. The results shown are *after* voters had heard a balanced set of pro and con messaging.

Figure 1: Support for Proposal to End Cash Bail, After Pro/Con

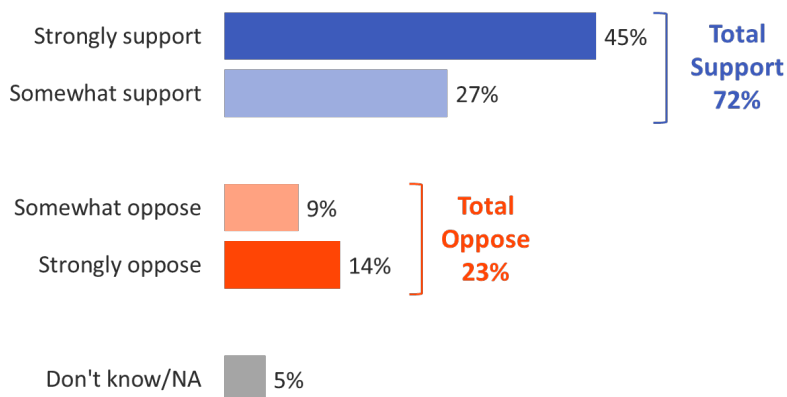
Currently, people in California are held in jail while awaiting trial or sentencing unless they pay bail, a substantial cash payment made by a defendant to authorities, which the defendant will lose if they do not show up for their day in court. This means that thousands of Californians are in county jail simply because they cannot afford to pay bail. Some people have proposed reforming the system to end cash bail, and to determine bail amounts based on standards of community safety and reliability of appearances in court instead. This proposal would also require counties to provide pre-trial services to help defendants comply. Would you support a proposal to reform California's cash bail system in this way?



- **Strong majorities support proposal to create an online community college providing short-term certificates.** After pros and cons, more than seven in ten (72%) support a proposal to create an online community college, and 45 percent "strongly" support such an idea. Fewer than one-quarter (23%) oppose the idea.

Figure 2: Support for Proposal to Establish Online Community College (After Pro/Con)

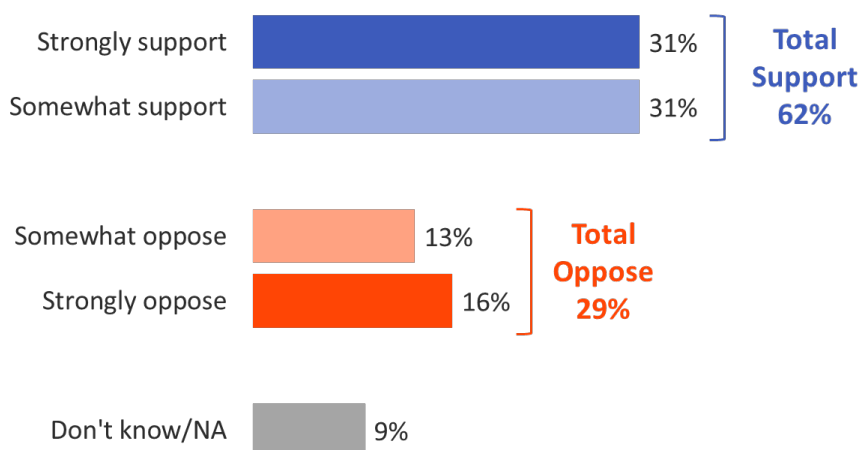
Currently, there are millions of working California adults who have no college degree and are unable to attend college in person or access traditional online offerings that strictly follow the traditional academic calendar due to work or family obligations. Would you support a proposal to create an online community college offering career or technical education short-term certificates for workers who would otherwise be unable to attend community college?



- **Three in five support changing community college funding to base it on student success rather than simply enrollment.** As shown in Figure 3, after a set of balanced pro and con messages, 62 percent support the proposal, three in ten (31%) strongly. Fewer than three in ten (29%) oppose the policy.

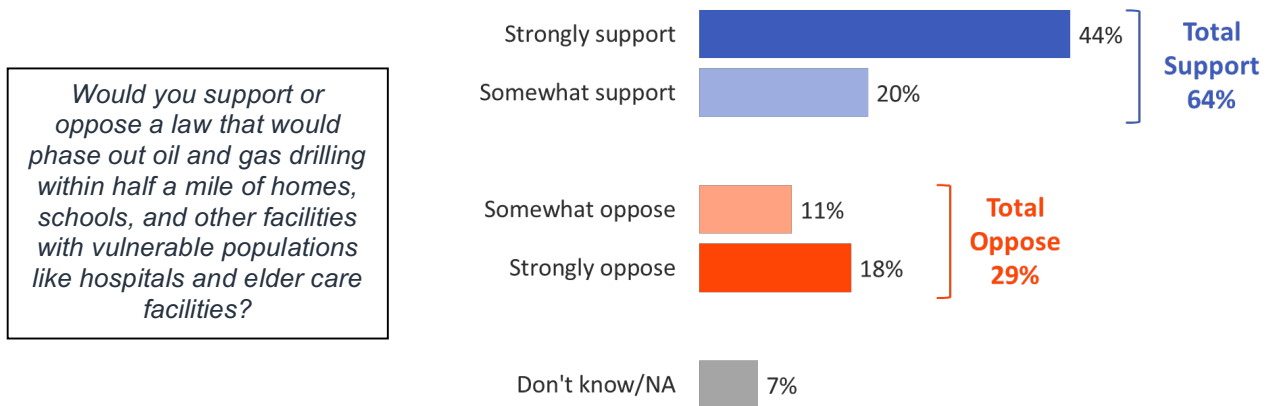
Figure 3: Support for Community College Funding Change After Pro/Cons

Next, California currently funds community colleges based on how many students they enroll. Currently, fewer than half of California community college students complete any certificate, degree, or transfer requirements after six years of enrollment, with even lower completion rates for Black, Latino, and low-income students. As a result, some people have proposed changing community college funding to base it not just on enrollment numbers, but on a college's success in helping its students stay in school and graduate. Would you support a proposal to determine community college funding based on clearly defined state goals to improve student success, close opportunity gaps faced by under-served students, and prepare them for meaningful careers?



- **Nearly two-thirds support phasing out oil and gas drilling near homes, schools and vulnerable populations.** After balanced arguments for and against the idea, 64 percent support such a law, with more than two in five (44%) strongly supportive of such an idea. Only three in ten (29%) oppose the proposal.

Figure 4: Support for Phasing Out Drilling Near Homes, Schools and Vulnerable Populations, After Pro/Con



In sum, California voters support a variety of progressive legislative issues, including ending cash bail, establishing community college options for working people, changing community college funding to prioritize student success rather than just enrollment, and phasing out oil and gas drilling near vulnerable locations. These levels of support are also after voters have heard a set of balanced pros and cons about each idea, demonstrating the durability of support as voters learn more about the issues.

ⁱ **Methodology:** From May 16-20, 2018, FM3 conducted 800 live telephone interviews with California voters likely to participate in the November 2018 election. Interviews were conducted on landline and wireless phones. The margin of sampling error is +/-3.5% at the 95% confidence level. Some percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.