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For more information, please contact:
Greg Gatlin at 617-573-8428; ggatlin@suffolk.edu

Suffolk/*LA Times* Poll Shows Majority of Los Angeles Residents Approve of Mayor Bass’s Efforts to Address Homelessness in First 100 Days

BOSTON — A majority of Los Angeles residents say they approve of the job newly elected Mayor Karen Bass is doing to address the crisis of urban homelessness affecting an estimated 69,000 city dwellers, according to new Suffolk University/*Los Angeles Times* CityView poll.

More than half of residents say they approve of Bass’s job performance after 100 days in office, with 14% disapproving, and 35% still undecided on whether the new mayor is delivering on her chief campaign promise to immediately ease the city’s housing crisis. Bass’s approval ratings increased to 55% among residents with some college education, as well as among college graduates and those with advanced degrees.

“Residents are open to Mayor Bass’s efforts to immediately address homelessness,” said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center. “So far people are optimistic about improvements going forward, and younger, college-educated residents are leading that charge and calling for more spending and prioritizing this issue over others.”

As one of her first acts in office, Mayor Bass declared a state of emergency regarding homelessness in December as a way of fast-tracking the process for opening motel rooms and creating more affordable housing. While 53% of survey respondents feel the action has had no immediate impact on homelessness, 28% say Bass’s declaration has improved the situation. Only 4% said her action worsened the situation.

A majority of those polled —54%—say more city funding should be used to help the homeless, even if that means cutting other city programs. Among residents with college education and advanced degrees, support for spending on alleviating homelessness over other city services rose to 60%. Among younger residents aged 18-34 years, 65% of residents want city resources to be shifted to programs to help people struggling with housing insecurity or homelessness.

Overall, residents expressed optimism about the city’s ability to make at least some progress on housing hundreds of thousands of vulnerable citizens in the near future. More than six in 10 residents say they believe that over the next four years the city will make progress, while 30% predict no progress will be made or that the homelessness crisis will get worse.

“With the issue dominating public debate, there will be a lot of pressure on Mayor Bass to deliver results on homelessness for the city. She declared a state of emergency and has said publicly that she wants to be judged on her ability fix this problem,” Paleologos said.

More than 35% of Los Angeles residents said they—or someone they knew personally—has struggled with housing insecurity or homelessness. A city plan to construct more than 450,000 new homes in the city by 2029 would make the city “a better place” to live, according to 35% of residents, and 67% of those polled favored new, recently passed rules making it harder to evict tenants.

The poll is part of [Suffolk University’s CityView](#) series examining attitudes toward urban issues in major cities across the United States.

Methodology

This survey of 500 Los Angeles residents was conducted March 9-12, using live interviews of cellphone and landline users, and is based on live telephone interviews of adults 18 years of age or older, residing in all 15 city council districts in the city of Los Angeles. Quota and demographic information—including region, race, and age—were determined from census and American Community Survey data. Surveys were administered in English and Spanish. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is +/- 4.4 percentage points. Error margins increase for smaller subgroups in the cross-tabulation document. All surveys may be subject to other sources of error, including but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Suffolk University poll students Ava Cabana, Maria-Angelica Patsouras, and James Byrne all contributed questions for this survey.

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