



THE CLEAR PATH

Public Opinion Research

CALIFORNIA BLACK WOMEN'S QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

FINAL WEIGHTED TOPLINE*

Survey Sample Size: 1,258 California Black Women Voters

May 24 – June 6, 2023

Margin of Sampling Error: ± 2.76%

** Results have been weighted by party, age, and region to reflect the estimated distribution of Black Women who are registered voters in California . All numbers are percentages. Some may not sum precisely or to 100% due to rounding.*

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

ETHNICITY: How would you describe your ethnic or racial background?

Black or African American -----	84
Mixed/Biracial-----	6
Black and American Indian/Indigenous/Native American -----	4
Afro-Latina-----	4
Afro-Caribbean -----	1
African -----	<1
Of African Descent -----	1

GENDER IDENTITY: How would you describe your gender?

Woman (Binary)-----	99
Woman/Female (Non-Binary)-----	1

SECTION II: PERCEPTIONS OF STATE DIRECTION AND LEADERSHIP

1. Please indicate if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of the following. If you don't have enough information to offer an opinion, select "can't rate."

		VERY FAV.	SMWHT. FAV.	SMWHT. UNFAV.	VERY UNFAV.	NEVER HEARD OF	CAN'T RATE	TOTAL FAV	TOTAL UNFAV.
[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]									
[]a.	President Joe Biden	27	38	16	15	<1	4	40	31
[]b.	Vice President Kamala Harris	33	33	16	13	<1	5	66	29
[]c.	Governor Gavin Newsom	38	36	11	11	<1	4	74	22
[]d.	Senator Diane Feinstein	16	31	20	14	6	14	47	34
[]e.	Senator Alex Padilla	16	30	9	8	10	28	46	17
[]f.	The Democratic Party	31	38	17	11	<1	3	69	28
[]g.	The Republican Party	4	9	18	64	1	5	13	82

2. When it comes to addressing issues important to Black women, how would you rate the job being done by Governor Gavin Newsom?

TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD ----- 32
 Excellent----- 10
 Good ----- 22

TOTAL FAIR/POOR----- 52
 Fair ----- 28
 Poor ----- 24

 Don't know ----- 15
 Prefer not to say ----- 1

3. In your opinion, what is the best thing about being a Black woman? Please share your thoughts below [**OPEN-END; VERBATIM COMMENTS PROVIDED SEPARATELY**]

4. How important are each of the following issues when it comes to improving the quality of life of Black women and girls in California?

	EXT. IMPT.	VERY IMPT.	SMWHT. IMPT	NOT TOO IMPT.	NOT IMPT.	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL/VERY EXT.
[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]							
[] a. Doing more to protect Black women and girls from violence	85	11	2	<1	1	<1	96
[] b. Expanding access to free and low-cost childcare	72	19	6	1	1	<1	91
[] c. Expanding access to affordable fresh, healthy food	80	14	3	1	1	<1	94
[] d. Making housing more affordable	86	10	2	1	1	<1	96
[] e. Expanding programs for rent subsidies and other financial resources to help women and families maintain stable housing	75	15	5	1	2	1	90
[] f. Expanding access to quality affordable health care	84	11	4	1	1	<1	95
[] g. Expanding access to mental health services	80	15	3	1	1	<1	95
[] h. Ensuring that Black women earn equal pay for equal work compared to men and women of other backgrounds	88	8	1	1	1	1	96

	EXT. IMPT.	VERY IMPT.	SMWHT. IMPT	NOT TOO IMPT.	NOT IMPT.	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL/ VERY EXT.
[]i. Strengthening the economic and social services safety net	70	20	6	1	2	1	90
[]j. Supporting policies that bridge the gap between the living wage and the cost of living in California	84	10	3	1	2	1	94
[]k. Expanding financial literacy and financial education programs to help Black women achieve financial security and build wealth	79	16	4	1	1	<1	95
[]l. Expanding access to job training, re-training, and professional development for Black women	77	16	5	1	1	<1	94
[]m. Reforming the criminal justice system	68	22	6	1	1	1	90
[]n. Reducing crime	76	17	5	1	<1	<1	93
[]o. Expanding services to support children, parents, spouses, partners, and family members who have incarcerated loved ones	55	24	14	3	2	1	79
[]p. Improving the quality of education in traditional and charter public schools	78	15	4	1	1	1	93
[]q. Making college/higher education more affordable	79	14	5	1	1	-	93
[]r. Expanding programs to support and provide opportunities for Black	74	18	5	1	1	<1	92

	EXT. IMPT.	VERY IMPT.	SMWHT. IMPT	NOT TOO IMPT.	NOT IMPT.	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL/ VERY EXT.
women-owned businesses and Black women who are entrepreneurs							
[]s. Ensuring that there are more Black women in elected office and other positions of power.	65	19	10	2	3	<1	84

5. How much opportunity is there in California today for Black women to get ahead?

TOTAL GREAT DEAL/GOOD AMOUNT -----	24
A great deal-----	8
A good amount-----	16
Some-----	45
TOTAL LITTLE/NONE -----	27
A little -----	22
None-----	5
Don't know-----	3
Prefer not to say-----	<1

6. In your opinion are Black women generally viewed positively or negatively in society today?

TOTAL POSITIVELY -----	23
Very positively-----	4
Somewhat positively-----	19
TOTAL NEGATIVELY -----	75
Somewhat negatively-----	44
Very negatively-----	31
Don't know-----	3
Prefer not to say-----	1

SECTION III: QUALITY OF LIFE

7. As you think about how things are for you and your household, is there anything that worries you or keeps you up at night? Please share your thoughts below [**OPEN-END; VERBATIM COMMENTS PROVIDED SEPARATELY**]

8. Listed below are things that some people worry about and others do not. Please indicate how worried, or not, you are about each one.

	VERY WRYD.	SMWHT. WRYD.	NOT TOO WRYD.	NOT WRYD. AT ALL	DON'T KNOW	PNTS	TOTAL VERY/ SMWHT
[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]							
[]a. Being able to make ends meet	42	28	18	11	<1	<1	70
[]b. Maintaining or achieving financial stability	49	26	15	8	<1	1	75
[]c. Not being able to maintain stable housing	37	23	24	15	1	<1	60
[]d. *Being able to obtain a good education for your children	29	20	15	15	<1	1	49
[]e. Being a victim of a violent crime	34	33	24	7	1	1	67
[]f. Being discriminated against or treated unfairly because you are a Black woman	51	30	12	7	1	<1	81
[]g. Having to take responsibility for, or care for, an aging family member	27	26	23	20	2	1	53
[]h. *Having to take responsibility for, or care for, the children or child of a family member	21	18	25	22	1	<1	39

		VERY WRYD.	SMWHT. WRYD.	NOT TOO WRYD.	NOT WRYD. AT ALL	DON'T KNOW	PNTS	TOTAL VERY/ SMWHT
[i].	Being diagnosed with a chronic illness or serious health condition	37	31	19	11	1	1	68
[j].	Not having enough money saved for retirement	53	24	13	9	1	1	77
[k].	Not being able to advance in your career	30	23	21	22	2	2	53

*Q8D included “Does not apply” as an answer option: 21%.

*Q8H included “Does not apply” as an answer option: 11%.

SECTION IV: FINANCIAL SECURITY

The next few questions are about how you and your household are doing with basic expenses in the current economy.

When thinking about basic expenses, please just include the essentials, such as housing, food, utilities, childcare, medical expenses, and transportation.

9. Which of the following statements best describes your current situation, even if none matches your situation exactly:

- TOTAL BARELY COVER/CANNOT COVER EXPENSES ----- 43**
- Sometimes, I don't have enough at the end of the month to cover basic expenses ----- 24
- I just barely cover basic expenses every month ----- 19

- TOTAL COVER EXPENSES ----- 53**
- I cover basic expenses every month with just a little left over for other things ----- 29
- I cover basic expenses every month with more than a little left over for other things ----- 24

- Don't know ----- 1

- Prefer not to say ----- 3

10. Thinking about the last 12 months, have you had difficulty with any of the following?
[PROGRAM AS INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS]

	YES	NO	DOES NOT APPLY	DON'T KNOW	PNTS
[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]					
[]a. Having enough food to eat	31	59	9	1	1
[]b. Maintaining stable housing	30	56	12	1	2
[]c. Paying weekly or monthly bills	52	40	6	<1	2
[]d. Maintaining steady employment or finding employment	29	40	29	1	2
[]e. Finding or paying for childcare	10	23	65	<1	1
[]f. Access to safe and reliable transportation	25	57	17	<1	1
[]g. Finding or accessing health care services	66	27	4	1	1
[]h. Finding or accessing mental health services	31	42	25	1	1
[]i. Managing stress	66	27	4	1	1
[]j. Dealing with the impact of COVID-19 and/or the pandemic	50	40	7	2	1
[]k. Finding resources to help you improve your financial stability	53	29	15	2	1
[]l. Dealing with inflation and the rising cost of living	80	17	2	1	1
[]m. Finding a balance between work and family responsibilities	45	27	26	1	1
[]n. Some other concern [Open-End]	-	-	-	-	-

11. Do you have an emergency or rainy-day fund that would cover your household expenses for at least three months in case of sickness, job loss, economic downturn or other emergencies?

Yes ----- 28
 No ----- 66
 Don't know ----- 2
 Prefer not to answer ----- 5

12. About how much of your household income do you spend on each of the following expenses. Please enter a percentage for each expense, totaling to 100%. **[PROGRAM TO SUM TO 100; ALLOW RESPONDENT TO SKIP THE QUESTION]**

OPEN END—RESULTS PROVIDED SEPARATELY

MEDIAN

Rent/Mortgage payments ----- %
 Utilities ----- %
 Food/Groceries ----- %
 Health care and/or health insurance ----- %
 Car payments/Transportation ----- %
 Childcare ----- %
 Personal care/self-care, such as hair, nails, etc. ----- %
 Education ----- %
 Recreation/Leisure ----- %
 Other ----- %

SECTION V: EXPERIENCES WITH DISCRIMINATION

The next few questions are about experiences you may, or may not, have had with discrimination.

13. Have you ever experienced discrimination due to any of the following personal characteristics?

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	PREFER NOT TO SAY
[]a. Race or ethnicity	80	13	5	1
[]b. Your skin tone	64	27	8	1
[]c. The way you wear your hair	51	39	10	1

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	PREFER NOT TO SAY
[]d. Age	46	42	11	1
[]e. Weight or body type	44	43	12	1
[]f. Gender or gender identity	38	55	7	1
[]g. Sexual orientation	18	73	8	1
[]h. Assumptions people made about your income or level of education	71	18	10	1
[]i. Some other reason	19	39	32	10

14. Thinking about the last 12 months, have you experienced racism and/or discrimination in any of the following places: **[PROGRAM AS INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS]**

	YES	NO	DOES NOT APPLY	DON'T KNOW	PNTS
[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]					
[]a. At work	39	35	22	3	1
[]b. In the hiring or job search process	32	32	26	9	1
[]c. At school or some other educational setting for yourself or your child/children	29	37	30	3	1
[]d. While trying to rent or lease an apartment or purchase a home	27	37	32	4	1
[]e. When applying for credit, a loan, or a mortgage	27	40	22	11	<1
[]f. Access to safe and reliable transportation	58	32	3	6	<1
[]g. While shopping	45	43	5	7	<1
[]h. While receiving health care	36	49	5	9	<1
[]i. During interactions with the police	26	44	26	3	1

	YES	NO	DOES NOT APPLY	DON'T KNOW	PNTS
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[]j. Some other context or situation [Open-End]	-	-	-	-	-
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15. In your day-to-day life, how often do any of the following things happen to you because you are a Black woman?

	VERY OFTEN	SMWHT. OFTEN	ONCE IN A WHILE	NEVER	CAN'T RECALL	PNTS	TOTAL VERY/SMWHT
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[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

[]a. You are treated with less respect than other people	18	20	41	11	10	<1	38
[]b. You receive poorer service than other people at restaurants or stores	32	32	26	9	1	-	64
[]c. You receive poorer service or treatment than other people when accessing public services	17	17	31	15	19	1	34

16. In what ways, if any, has racism and/or discrimination hindered your ability to get ahead? Please select all that apply. **[ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES]**

Unfairly denied promotions/raises-----	36
Not hired for a job for which you are qualified-----	39
Unable to continue your education -----	12
Damaging to your physical or mental health-----	36
Unfairly arrested or convicted of a crime-----	6
Limited your income or earning capacity -----	40
Other -----	7
None of the above-----	25

17. [VALIDATION CHECK]

SECTION VI: VIOLENCE AND SAFETY

The next few questions will ask about your experiences with issues related to safety.

18. In general, how safe do you feel in the following situations?

	VERY SAFE	SMWHT. SAFE	SMWHT. UNSAFE	VERY UNSAFE	CAN'T RECALL	DK/PNTS	TOTAL UNSAFE
[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]							
[]a. Living in your current neighborhood	25	48	17	9	<1	1	26
[]b. Walking in your neighborhood during the day	31	46	15	7	<1	1	22
[]c. Walking in your neighborhood at night	9	34	25	28	1	3	53
[]d. Interacting with police or law enforcement	12	32	28	22	2	4	50

19. In the last 12 months, have you been a victim of physical, psychological, or emotional violence or abuse?

Yes -----	23
No -----	72
Can't recall-----	3
Prefer not to say -----	2

20. In the last 12 months, have you experienced any of the following specific forms of violence or abuse?

	YES	NO	PREFER NOT TO SAY
[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]			
[]a. Gun violence	5	94	1

	YES	NO	PREFER NOT TO SAY
[]b. Physical violence or abuse	8	90	2
[]c. Emotional or psychological abuse	31	67	2
[]d. Intimate partner violence or abuse	8	90	2
[]e. Sexual violence or assault	4	94	2
[]f. Police violence	4	94	2
[]g. Some other form of violence [Open-End]	-	-	-

SECTION VII: DEMOGRAPHICS

21. In what year were you born? Please enter the four-digit year (for example, 1984). [**OPEN-END; RESPONSES CODED INTO CATEGORIES**]

22. When it comes to politics, which of the following best describes you?

- Progressive ----- 17
- Liberal ----- 26
- Moderate----- 27
- Conservative -----9
- Other -----6
- Don't know-----8
- Prefer not to say -----7

23. Do you currently own the home or apartment where you live, do you rent, do you live with family, or in a dorm, residence hall, or group housing setting, or do you not have stable housing?

- Own ----- 34
- Rent ----- 47
- Live with family----- 13
- Live in a dorm or residence hall -----1
- Live in a group housing setting -----1
- Don't have stable housing -----2
- Prefer not to say -----2

24. Over the course of the last year, have you worried about losing stable housing and becoming homeless?

- Yes ----- 38
- No ----- 58

Don't know -----2
 Prefer not to say -----2

25. Have you ever had a friend or family member stay with you because they did not have a place of their own and were at risk of becoming homeless?

Yes ----- 63
 No ----- 36
 Prefer not to say -----1

26. Including yourself, how many people currently live in your household?

One ----- 24
 Two----- 30
 Three ----- 18
 Four ----- 12
 Five -----6
 Six -----4
 Seven-----1
 Eight or more -----2
 Prefer not to say -----3

27. Do you have any children in the following age ranges? Please select all that apply. **[MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]**

Age 0-4 -----8
 Age 5-10----- 11
 Age 11-17 ----- 16
 Age 18 or older ----- 42
 I do not have any children ----- 35
 Prefer not to say -----5

28. Do any of your children have special needs? For example, this might include, but not be limited to, the following major types of special needs:

- Physical – muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, chronic asthma, epilepsy, or some other physical condition.
- Developmental – down syndrome, autism, dyslexia, processing disorders, or some other developmental condition.
- Behavioral/Emotional – Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), bi-polar disorder, or some other behavior or emotional condition.

- Sensory Impairment – blindness, visually impaired, deaf, limited hearing, or some other sensory impairment.

Yes ----- 25
 No ----- 72
 Prefer not to say -----2

[IF CODE 4 IN Q27 IS SELECTED, ASK Q29]

29. Do you currently have children over the age of 18 living at home with you?

Yes ----- 50
 No ----- 49
 Prefer not to say -----2

30. Do you consider yourself a single parent?

Yes ----- 55
 No ----- 43
 Prefer not to say -----1

[RESUME ASKING ALL RESPONDENTS]

31. Are you a caregiver for a family member, friend, or someone else in your household who requires special care due to a serious illness, chronic health condition, cognitive decline, or some other physical or mental health condition or disability?

Yes ----- 24
 No ----- 73
 Don't know -----<1
 Prefer not to say -----2

32. Which of the following best describes you?

Married ----- 23
 Living with a partner -----8
 Divorced or separated ----- 20
 Single, never married, and not living with a partner ----- 40
 Prefer not to say -----9

33. Are you or is someone in your household currently earning income through work or self-employment?

Yes, myself----- 38
 Yes, myself and another member of my household----- 25
 Yes, a household member, but not me personally----- 11

No, no one in my household is earning income ----- 19
 Prefer not to say -----7

[IF Q33=1 OR 2, THEN Q34]

34. Would you consider yourself the primary income-earner or “breadwinner” in your household? A primary income-earner is one who earns about 80% or more of the household’s combined income.

Yes ----- 66
 No ----- 31
 Not sure-----2
 Prefer not to say -----2

35. Do you currently work more than one job to make ends meet or supplement your income? This might include a “side hustle” such as hair braiding, tutoring, driving for Uber or Lyft, selling jewelry or products like Mary Kay, doing nails or lashes on the side, but not as your primary occupation.

Yes ----- 37
 No ----- 61
 Prefer not to say -----2

[IF Q35=1, THEN Q36]

36. Which of the following best describes why you work more than one job?

It’s essential, I would not be able to make ends meet or cover basic needs, such as housing, food, utilities, and transportation without it 62
 It helps me meet basic needs, but is not essential ----- 13
 I can meet basic needs without it, but it helps me build financial security----- 15
 It generates supplemental income, but I can live comfortably without it -----6
 Something else-----4
 Prefer not to say -----0

[RESUME ASKING ALL RESPONDENTS]

37. What was your total household income before taxes in 2022?

Less than \$20,000----- 15
 \$20,000 or more, but less than \$30,000----- 19
 \$30,000 or more, but less than \$50,000----- 17

\$50,000 or more, but less than \$75,000-----	14
\$75,000 or more, but less than \$100,000 -----	12
\$100,000 or more -----	18
Don't know/Can't recall -----	2
Prefer not to say -----	12

38. What is the last grade or highest level of education you completed in school?

Some grade school or middle school -----	<1
Some high school -----	2
High school graduate/GED -----	8
Technical/Vocational school -----	7
Some college or community college -----	23
2-year college degree -----	11
4-year college degree -----	28
Post-graduate degree (M.A., M.B.A., J.D., M.D., Ph.D.) -----	19
Prefer not to say -----	2

VOTER FILE INFORMATION

PARTY REGISTRATION

Democrat-----	73
Republican -----	6
No Party Preference -----	13
Other -----	8

REGION

Los Angeles -----	52
Inland Empire -----	6
San Diego/Orange/Imperial Counties-----	7
Bay Area -----	23
Central Coast -----	5
Central Valley -----	2
Sacramento/North -----	4
Far North-----	1