

The County of Orange Report

Prepared for the Mesa Water District

February 18, 2021
by Lewis Consulting Group

Dueling Polls - Governor Newsom Won't/Might Be Recalled

As proponents of recalling Governor Gavin Newsom are inching ever closer to qualifying the recall effort, two different polls have varying conclusions on how that might fare at the ballot box.

Berkeley IGS Poll [Institute of Governmental Studies] taken January 23-29 with a sample size of 10,000 registered voters and a margin of error +/- 2%.

Trend of voter opinions of Gavin Newsom's job performance as Governor (among California registered voters)			
	Late-January 2021 %	September 2020 %	June 2019 %
Approve	46	64	57
Approve strongly	14	25	15
Approve somewhat	32	39	42
Disapprove	48	36	42
Disapprove somewhat	17	13	17
Disapprove strongly	31	23	25
No opinion	6	<0.5%	1

Public Policy Institute of California poll [PPIC] taken January 21-31 with a sample of 1,703 adults and a margin of error of +/- 3.3%.

Which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2021?

- 43% COVID-19, coronavirus
- 13% jobs, economy
- 5% homelessness
- 4% housing costs, availability

- 4% immigration, illegal immigration
- 3% education, schools, teachers
- 3% government in general, problems with elected officials, political parties
- 3% health care, health insurance
- 3% state budget, deficit, state spending
- 3% environment, pollution, global warming
- 11% other
- 5% don't know

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor of California?

- 54% approve
- 36% disapprove
- 10% don't know

Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not?

- 72% yes
- 32% yes, serious recession
- 28% yes, moderate recession
- 10% yes, mild recession
- 2% yes, don't know
- 23% no, not in an economic recession
- 6% don't know

When it becomes available to you, will you definitely get the coronavirus vaccine, probably get it, probably not get it, or definitely not get it?

- 43% definitely get the vaccine
- 25% probably get the vaccine
- 11% probably not get the vaccine
- 13% definitely not get the vaccine
- 5% already got the vaccine
- 2% don't know

Do you think that climate change is a major threat, a minor threat, or not a threat to the well-being of the United States?

- 60% major threat
- 21% minor threat
- 16% not a threat
- 3% don't know





The February LAFCO meeting was one of the shortest meetings in memory, lasting 30 minutes. It marked the first meeting for Yorba Linda Mayor Peggy Huang, a new City Commissioner.

During the meeting, there were some free flowing discussions regarding legislative attempts to allow for the dismemberment of small water agencies without LAFCO approval. There was also discussion about San Diego Water's attempt to utilize the LAFCO process to rein in the Metropolitan Water District.

The most important agenda item was the 2nd Quarter Comprehensive Report, however it was a non-discussed consent calendar item. One of the highlighted items is a more robust communication plan utilizing social media platforms, web-based resources and an improved agency media kit.

A review of OCLAFCO's budget was also included. The total approved budget for fiscal year 2020/2021 is \$1,257,510. The vast majority of LAFCO's revenue, \$1,124,500 comes from funding agencies apportionments. The balance comes from fees, interest income and the additional drawing down of reserves. The largest expenditures are salaries and hourly employees \$547,220 along with benefits and insurance \$327,880.



Update

The February 9, 2021 meeting of the Board of Supervisors did not differ from the types of meetings held the last several months. The meeting featured an agenda again devoid of controversy, as there were no split votes.

The meeting again was highlighted by the County's ongoing response to COVID-19. Although there are still many complaints regarding the County's website Othena, it appears that most of the early trouble is behind it. As of now, there are over 600,000 people signed up through Othena. Now the bigger problem is receiving sufficient vaccines to keep the vaccination pods running at full capacity. The State also keeps a

more comprehensive list of those vaccinated, but Supervisor Bartlett noted when they have transferred the data, it does not include zip codes.

In recognition of the fact that 75% of the Orange County deaths are among those 65 and older, the County has been heavily promoting vaccines for those in this age category. Currently, 100,000 seniors have been vaccinated. Going forward, the County will utilize the following vaccination locations:

- 2 large PODS - Disneyland and Soka University
- 2 medium PODS - Santa Ana College and Christ Cathedral
- 5 mobile PODS - concentrating on the under served communities, especially Santa Ana and Anaheim

So far, somewhere between 10%-13% of Orange Countians have been vaccinated.

Orange County COVID-19 Stats

ORANGE COUNTY COVID-19 STATS	AS OF 2/18/2021	AS OF 1/21/2021
CUMULATIVE CASES TO DATE	243,665	217,849
CUMULATIVE DEATHS TO DATE	3,685	2,546
DEATHS REPORTED TODAY	41	38
CUMULATIVE TESTS TO DATE	2,913,132	2,494,463
TESTS REPORTED TODAY	13,950	20,166
CASES CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED	663 *	1,935 *
CASES CURRENTLY IN ICU	230	517
CUMULATIVE RECOVERED TO DATE	220,609 *	149,396 *

* = INCLUDES *ICU* CASES

Where Orange County Ranks [as of 2/18/2021]

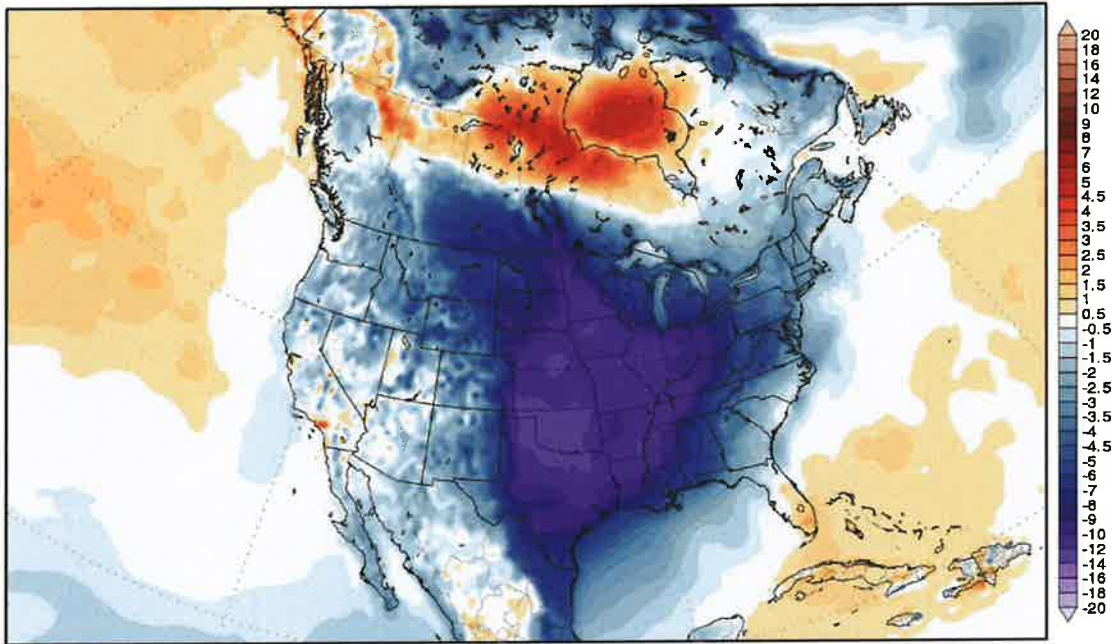
LOCATION	POPULATION	CONFIRMED CASES	DEATHS
CALIFORNIA	40,129,160	3,421,720	47,924
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	10,247,557	1,139,786	19,368
ORANGE COUNTY	3,228,519	243,665	3,685
RIVERSIDE COUNTY	2,468,145	276,289	3,577
SAN DIEGO COUNTY	3,370,418	254,177	3,099
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY	2,217,398	278,461	2,457

The BIG Chill

The Great Lakes are rapidly freezing after an extremely slow start. Record low temperatures encompassed the South. Most Americans are bundling up. Numerous cold temperature records are being set as some sites report temperatures 50 degrees below normal. All of this is attributed to an Arctic outbreak, as cold air has escaped the North Pole and invaded the United States.

February 18-25, 2021 Average of Departure from Normal Temperatures

Temperature anomaly 2m (°C)



Mid-afternoon February 18, 2021

