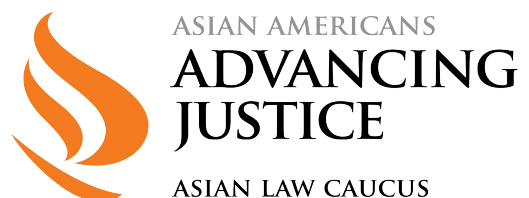




# VISION ACT (AB 937) POLL RESULTS

August 2, 2021

Tom K. Wong, PhD



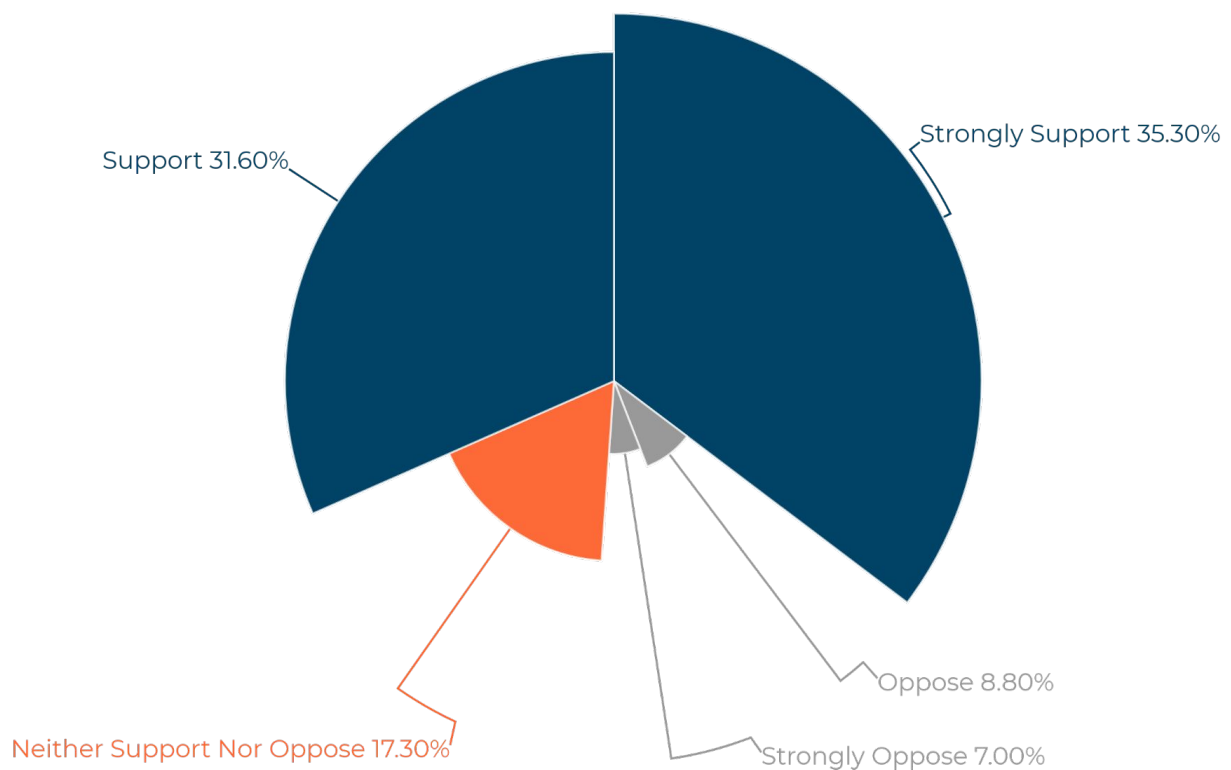
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This data and policy brief reports the results of a new survey of Californians (n = 1,004) and their opinions about immigration detention and the VISION Act, AB 937, which is pending legislation authored by Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo (CA-51). The VISION Act would ensure that an immigrant who is eligible to be released from a California state prison or a local jail would not be turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody. This includes a person who has completed their sentence, been granted parole, had charges dropped, or been granted release by a judge. The survey was fielded from June 24<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>. The U.S. Immigration Policy Center (USIPC) at UC San Diego conducted the poll. The poll was commissioned by Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus (ALC). There are an estimated 22.15 million registered voters in California, which makes the margin of error +/- 3.1%.

- A large majority of Californians support strengthening the protections immigrant Californians have against ICE enforcement, as approximately two-thirds (67%) of respondents say that they “*support*” or “*strongly support*” the VISION Act. This includes nearly six out of every ten, or 59%, of self-described moderates. This also includes just under half, or 48%, of registered Republican voters
- An even larger majority support the principles that undergird the VISION Act, as a robust 80% of respondents say that they “*agree*” or “*strongly agree*” with the statement: “*Regardless of what country a person was born in, they should be released from prison or jail after completing their sentences.*” This includes majorities across the political spectrum, including 76% of self-described conservative voters and 54% of registered Republican voters (54%)
- Moreover, over six out of every ten respondents, or 61%, say that “*After an immigrant who is convicted of a crime serves their prison or jail time, they should be allowed to return to their community here in California and rebuild their life*” comes closest to their own views. This includes 59% of self-described moderate voters and 63% of registered Independent voters. Additionally, respondents who are “*unsure*” about re-electing Governor Newsom are the group who most agree with this statement, with 76% in agreement

# MAJORITY OF CALIFORNIANS SUPPORT THE VISION ACT

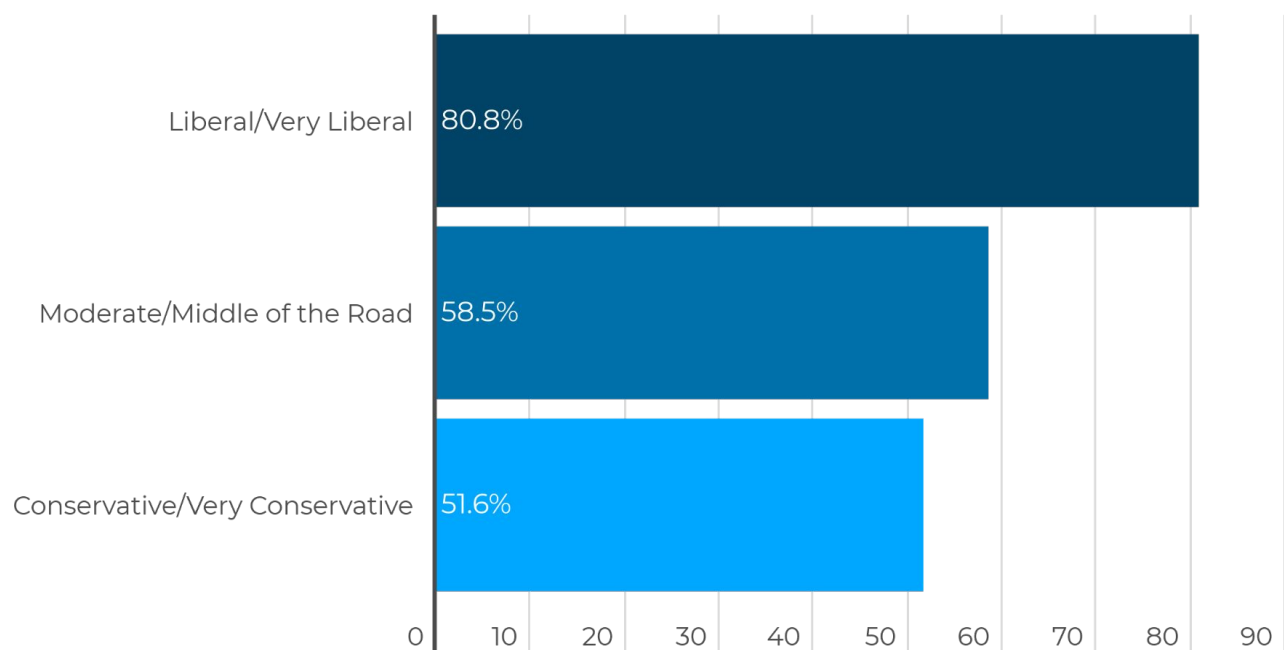
The results make clear that Californians support strengthening the protections immigrant Californians have against ICE enforcement, as two-thirds (67%) say that they “support” or “strongly support” the VISION Act.



Question: “There is currently a proposal in the California State legislature called the VISION Act. The VISION Act would ensure that an immigrant who is eligible to be released from a California state prison or a local jail would not be turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody. This includes a person who has completed their sentence, been granted parole, had charges dropped, or been granted release by a judge. Do you support or oppose the VISION Act?”

# MAJORITIES ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM SUPPORT THE VISION ACT

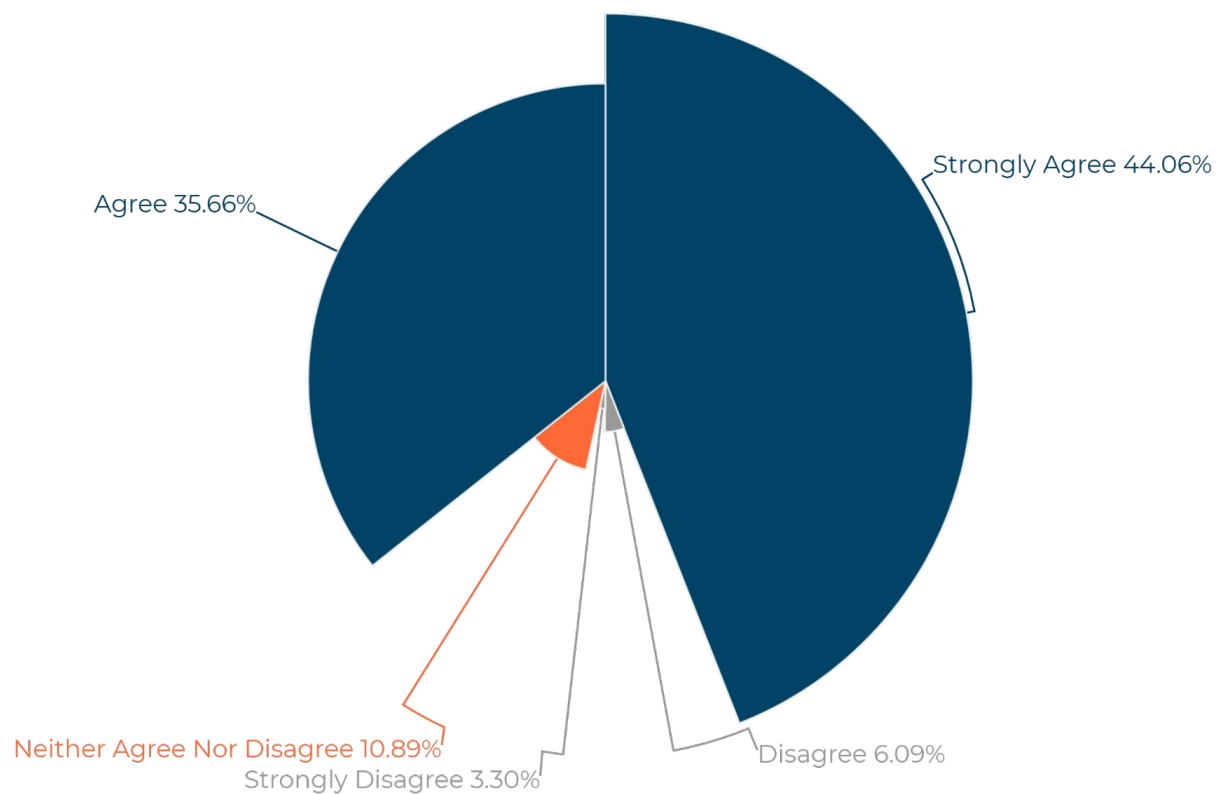
Not only do the results make clear that Californians support strengthening the protections that immigrant Californians have against ICE enforcement, but majorities across the political spectrum, including 59% of self-described moderates and 52% of self-described conservatives, support or strongly support the VISION Act.



Question: "There is currently a proposal in the California State legislature called the VISION Act. The VISION Act would ensure that an immigrant who is eligible to be released from a California state prison or a local jail would not be turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody. This includes a person who has completed their sentence, been granted parole, had charges dropped, or been granted release by a judge. Do you support or oppose the VISION Act?"

# EVEN LARGER MAJORITY OF CALIFORNIANS SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLES THAT UNDERGIRD THE VISION ACT

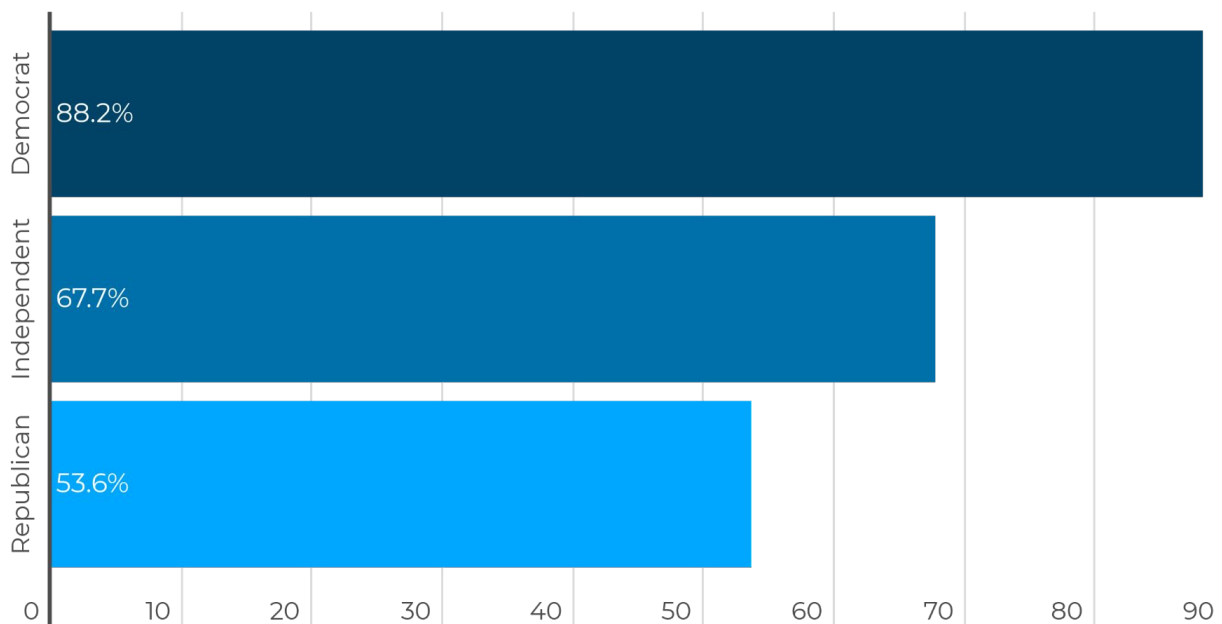
A robust 80% of respondents say that they “agree” or “strongly agree” with the statement, “Regardless of what country a person was born in, they should be released from prison or jail after completing their sentences.”



Question: “Immigrants who have served their prison or jail sentences are often turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody. California’s state prisons automatically turn immigrants over to ICE custody where they are placed in detention and face deportation after they complete their sentences. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Regardless of what country a person was born in, they should be released from prison or jail after completing their sentences.”

# MAJORITIES ACROSS POLITICAL PARTY SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLES THAT UNDERGIRD THE VISION ACT

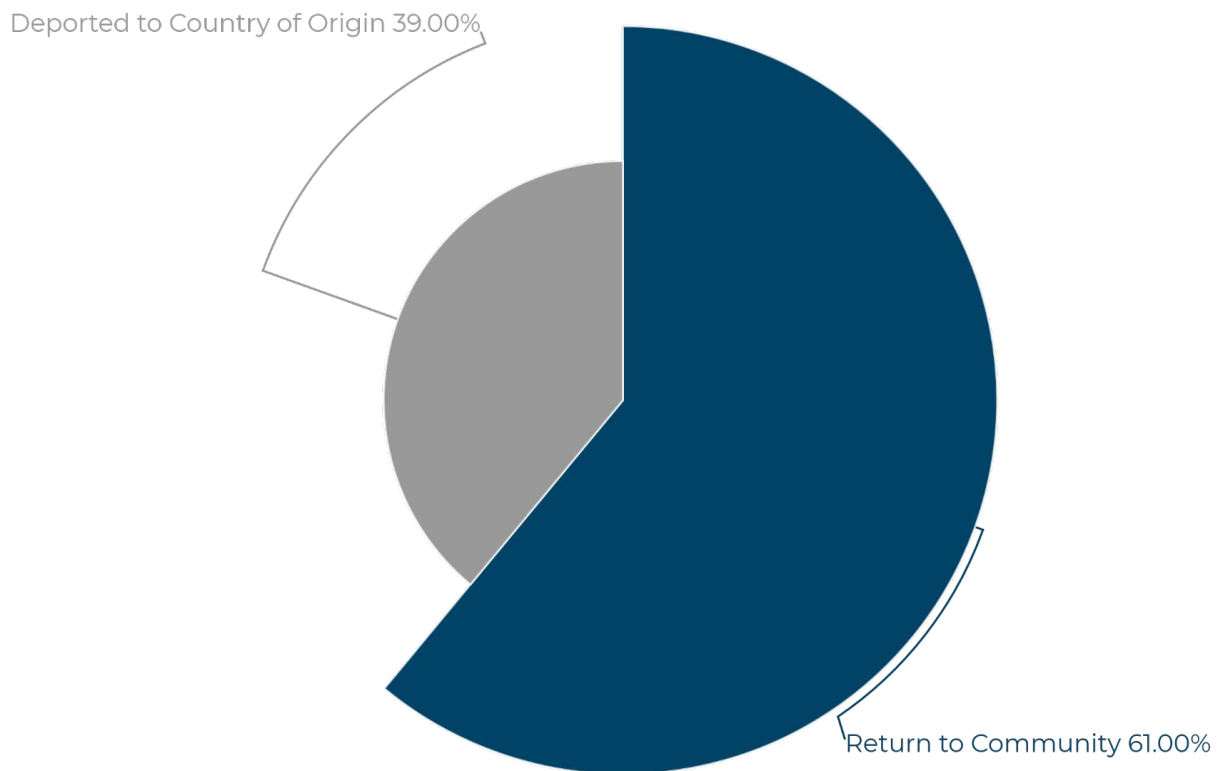
Not only do a robust 80% of respondents say that they “agree” or “strongly agree” with the statement, “*Regardless of what country a person was born in, they should be released from prison or jail after completing their sentences,*” but majorities of Democrats (88%), Republicans (54%), and Independents (68%) also agree or strongly agree



Question: “Immigrants who have served their prison or jail sentences are often turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody. California’s state prisons automatically turn immigrants over to ICE custody where they are placed in detention and face deportation after they complete their sentences. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Regardless of what country a person was born in, they should be released from prison or jail after completing their sentences.”

## MAJORITY OF CALIFORNIANS SAY IMMIGRANTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES AFTER SERVING THEIR PRISON TIME, NOT BE DEPORTED

Over six out of every ten of respondents, or 61%, say that *“After an immigrant who is convicted of a crime serves their prison or jail time, they should be allowed to return to their community here in California and rebuild their life”* comes closest to their own views.



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Question: "Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
"Regardless of what country a person was born in, they should be released from prison  
or jail after completing their sentences."

# METHODOLOGY

This survey was fielded from June 24<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>. The total sample size is 1,004. There are an estimated 22.15 million registered voters in California, which makes the margin of error +/- 3.1%. Registered voters were identified using voter files obtained from L2 and the registered voters in the sample were validated by Wong. All surveys were conducted online via an panel constructed by LUCID Labs. Several survey experiments were embedded into the questionnaire and can be made available upon request, including all audio/visual content used. Because some of these survey experiments included audio/visual content, attention checks were also embedded into the questionnaire. Respondents who failed the attention checks were removed from the sample. Raw tabulations are reported here. The raw data are also weighted to reflect the registered voter population by party, by age group (18-34, 35-55, 55+), and by sex.

Jon Rodney, Narrative Strategy Director, Comm/Unity network, consulted on this project.





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