

2019 COLLABORATIVE KENTUCKY EXIT POLL: TOPLINE RESULTS

November 6, 2019

The 2019 Collaborative Kentucky Exit Poll (CKEP) was administered by a joint collaboration of researchers at Centre College, University of Pennsylvania, the University of Kentucky, Morehead State University, Campbellsville University, and the University of Cincinnati. The survey was directed by Dr. Benjamin Knoll of Centre College and Drs. Michele Margolis and Dan Hopkins at the University of Pennsylvania.

Other research collaborators included Drs. Jaclyn Johnson and Ryan Lloyd of Centre College, Dr. Michael Hail of Morehead State University, Drs. Josiah Marineau and Shawn Williams of Campbellsville University, Drs. Andrew Lewis and Jack Mewhirter of the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Mike Zillis of the University of Kentucky, and David Azizi of the University of Pennsylvania.

Surveys were fielded from 6:00 AM through 6:00 PM local time surveying voters as they left the polls in selected locations in Boone, Boyle, Campbell, Fayette, Kenton, Pulaski, Taylor, and Rowan counties. Respondents were randomly selected by interviewers to participate in the survey. In all, 3,913 Kentucky voters participated in the exit poll.

It should be noted that this is an exit poll of voters only and therefore these figures should not be interpreted as fully representative of all adults in Kentucky, but rather of 2019 Election Day. The margin of error for the full sample is $\pm 2\%$ and approximately $\pm 3\%$ for subsamples.

METHODOLOGY:

All figures presented here are statistically weighted by education levels and partisanship as per the [2018 CCES survey](#) (weighted and voter-validated) results of Kentucky voters in the 2018 midterm election. This is a [standard procedure](#) in public opinion survey research to increase the representativeness of public opinion polling samples.

Demographic breakdown of survey respondents:

Do you think of yourself as a (an): 37.4% Democrat, 3.8% Independent but lean Democrat, 6.3% pure Independent, 10.3% Independent but lean Republican, 42.2% Republican (for the purposes of this report, partisan leaners are combined with partisans); 53.1% of survey respondents were female, 46.9% male; 54.3% report an income over \$50K/year, 24.4% between \$20-50K/year, 21.3% report an income under \$20K/year; 28.2% report never attending religious services, 20.9% attending occasionally, 50.8% report attending once a week or more; 88.7% report white

ethnicity with 7.4% reporting African-American ethnicity; 41.1% report a high school education or less, 31.7% some college, 27.1% college degree; 30.8% reported being under 40 years old, 43.9% reported being between 40-64 years old, 25.4% report being 65+; Evangelical Protestants make up 35.1% of the sample, with non-“born again” or other Christians 17.7%, 15.8% Catholic, 19.4% “nothing in particular,” 12% “other” religion.

For more information, please contact Dr. Benjamin Knoll, Associate Professor of Politics, Centre College, benjamin.knoll@centre.edu

VOTING FOR GOVERNOR: DEMOGRAPHICS

The following tables are read going across. Example: 52.4% of men voted for Bevin compared to 44.4% who voted for Beshear, while 41.8% of women voted for Bevin compared to 56.7% who voted for Beshear.

Figures due not round to 100% due to a small number of write-in candidates for each office.

| | MATT BEVIN (R) | ANDY BESHEAR (D) | JOHN HICKS (L) |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Male | 52.4% | 44.4% | 3.1% |
| Female | 41.8% | 56.7% | 1% |
| White | 49.5% | 48.1% | 2.1% |
| Black | 14.3% | 85.7% | 0% |
| Other race/ethnicity | 35.6% | 62.3% | 2.1% |
| Income over \$50K/year | 40.9% | 56.1% | 3% |
| Income \$20K-\$50K/year | 49.1% | 47.9% | 2.5% |
| Income under \$20K/year | 47.9% | 50% | 1.7% |
| High school or less | 53.3% | 42.6% | 3.4% |
| Some college | 45% | 53.9% | 1% |
| College degree | 38.6% | 59.8% | 1.5% |
| Age under 40 | 33.7% | 62.1% | 3.6% |
| Age 40-64 | 51.9% | 46.1% | 1.9% |
| Age over 65 | 52.9% | 46.7% | 0.4% |
| Attend religious services weekly or more | 58.7% | 39% | 1.9% |
| Attend religious services sometimes | 45.9% | 51.8% | 1.6% |
| Attend religious services never | 25.9% | 71.1% | 3% |
| Consider yourself an Evangelical or 'born-again' Christian? | 62.1% | 35.8% | 1.7% |
| Do NOT consider yourself an Evangelical or 'born-again' Christian | 30.3% | 67% | 2.7% |

VOTING FOR GOVERNOR: PARTISANSHIP AND POLITICAL VIEWS

| | MATT BEVIN (R) | ANDY BESHEAR (D) | JOHN HICKS (L) |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Republican | 81.1% | 16% | 2.2% |
| Democrat | 5.6% | 93.6% | 0.8% |
| Independent | 31.1% | 58.1% | 10.8% |
| Favorable view of Donald Trump | 82.3% | 15.4% | 1.9% |
| Unfavorable view of Donald Trump | 5.9% | 91.4% | 2.6% |
| Voted for Cameron (R) for Attorney General | 80.9% | 15.6% | 3.4% |
| Voted for Stumbo (D) for Attorney General | 6.1% | 92.9% | 0.6% |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| Voted for Adams (R) for Sec of State | 83.4% | 12.8% | 3.4% |
| Voted for Henry (D) for Sec of State | 10.1% | 88.6% | 0.9% |

Who were the Republicans who voted for Beshear?

A total of 8.3% of all Kentucky voters were Republicans who voted for Beshear. One of the key factors was age. The average age of Republican Beshear voters was 46 compared to 53 for Republican Bevin voters. Looking at it a different way, 37.5% of Republican Beshear voters were under age 40 compared to 22.6% of Republican Bevin voters.

Did Libertarian John Hicks cost Bevin the election?

In this survey, 53.2% of Hicks voters identified as Republican compared to 15.3% who identified as Democrats and 31.5% who identified as Independent. Assuming that the roughly half of Hicks voters who identify as Republican chose to vote for Bevin instead, Bevin would have easily beat Andy Beshear by close to 10,000 votes.

COMPARISON OF GUBERNATORIAL PARTISAN VOTING WITH OTHER STATE-WIDE OFFICES:

| KY GOVERNOR | MATT BEVIN (R) | ANDY BESHEAR (D) | JOHN HICKS (L) |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Republicans | 81.1% | 16% | 2.2% |
| Democrats | 5.6% | 93.6% | 0.8% |
| Independents | 31.1% | 58.1% | 10.8% |

| KY ATTORNEY GENERAL | DANIEL CAMERON (R) | GREGORY STUMBO (D) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Republicans | 91.3% | 8.2% |
| Democrats | 8.3% | 91.3% |
| Independents | 54.7% | 41.9% |

| KY SEC OF STATE | MICHAEL ADAMS (R) | HEATHER FRENCH HENRY (D) |
|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Republicans | 86% | 13.9% |
| Democrats | 4.4% | 95.2% |
| Independents | 42% | 54.5% |

OPINIONS TOWARD 2020 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

The following table is read going across. Example: 41.2% of voters have a “very favorable” view of Donald Trump, 13.1% of a “somewhat favorable view,” etc.

“Please tell us how you feel about:”

| | Very favorable | Somewhat favorable | Somewhat unfavorable | Very unfavorable |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| President Donald Trump | 41.2% | 13.1% | 6.5% | 39.1% |
| Senator Mitch McConnell | 20.5% | 24.9% | 13.4% | 41.1% |
| Senator Elizabeth Warren | 12.9% | 31.7% | 16.1% | 39.3% |
| Former Vice President Joe Biden | 16.7% | 29.5% | 16.9% | 36.9% |
| Senator Bernie Sanders | 15.9% | 26.4% | 15.1% | 42.7% |

Could the Republicans who voted for Beshear also be persuaded to vote for the Democratic nominee in the 2020 election?

Among Republican-Beshear voters: 42% see Joe Biden as either somewhat or very favorably, 34% see Elizabeth Warren somewhat/very favorably, and 27% see Bernie Sanders somewhat/very favorably. In contrast, only 55% of Republican-Beshear voters see Donald Trump as either somewhat or very favorable (compared to 95% of Republican-Bevin voters).

| DONALD TRUMP | Very favorable | Somewhat favorable | Somewhat unfavorable | Very unfavorable |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Republicans | 69.5% | 18.4% | 6.5% | 5.6% |
| Democrats | 5.2% | 6.1% | 6.1% | 82.6% |
| Independents | 34.1% | 13.5% | 9.5% | 42.9% |

| MITCH MCCONNELL | Very favorable | Somewhat favorable | Somewhat unfavorable | Very unfavorable |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Republicans | 35% | 39.1% | 13.7% | 12.3% |
| Democrats | 3.4% | 7.1% | 12.2% | 77.3% |
| Independents | 16.1% | 27.6% | 18.9% | 37.4% |