



President's Message

Oakland Business Review | November/December 2019

– Barbara Leslie, President & CEO

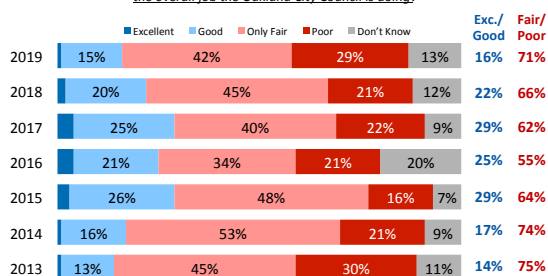
Each fall the Chamber embarks in a combination of efforts to glean information from our members, Oakland businesses at large, and Oakland voters on a host of issues germane to their business and personal interests to ensure that we are representing our members' priorities and that our elected and appointed leadership receive timely information on what is important to Oakland voters. These efforts include partnering with a data research firm to conduct an online and telephone poll of 600 Oakland residents as well as the release of a Chamber online membership and business survey. We then can ensure that Chamber programming and advocacy represents aligned priorities and learn more from Oakland businesses what they need to operate effectively. This year was no exception and for those of use who love this stuff, we look forward to welcoming fall not for the shorter days, darker nights, but for the excitement that our annual poll season brings.

On the following pages you will find information from our voter poll presented to over 100 attendees at our annual Pulse of Oakland breakfast this past week. Generally speaking, poll results were mixed. While Oaklanders are still proud to call our beautiful city home and continue to remain hopeful and optimistic about its future, there is a growing sense of concern and uncertainty on the part of voters – conveyed by the majority of respondents indicating we are on the wrong track for the first time in many years. Homelessness and housing security continue to be the most pressing issues. Voters see the nexus - and support - increasing housing density as a way to address this crisis, with majority support across all city council districts, ideologies and ethnicities. We also asked about voters' knowledge and feelings about Oakland sports teams. More than three quarters of voters, 77 percent responded it's important to keep the Oakland Athletics in Oakland. Most notably also were the 61 percent of those with an opinion who indicated their opposition to the City's lawsuit filed against the County

to block the A's from purchasing the County's portion of the 100-acre Coliseum Complex. The Chamber's poll information was reported over the weekend in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and subsequently the City chose to drop the lawsuit this week. Although crime has dropped over the years as a key voter issue, this year's trend indicated voters feel less safe both in their neighborhoods as well as in the City as whole, with majority support for increasing the number of Police in Oakland. Voters continue to have an overall negative rating of the City Council as a whole, but have positive views of their specific elected - albeit with less enthusiasm than prior years. This, and the fact that voters continue to support City Council term limits, will make for an interesting 2020 election year. The Chamber will of course continue to provide relevant information to our members regarding the 2020 elections as well as continue to focus on the issues you have identified as most important as business owners and residents of Oakland. ■

Voters offer overall negative ratings of the job being done by the City Council.

Using a scale of excellent, good, only fair, or poor, how would you rate the overall job the Oakland City Council is doing?



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While remaining positive, favorability margins have gotten narrower for most councilmembers.

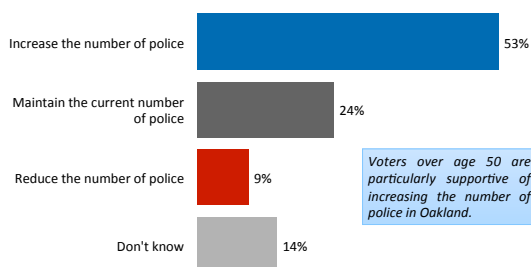
Demographic Group	2017	2018	2019
City Council District			
	Favorable – Unfavorable Margin		
1 – Dan Kalb	+41%	+22%	+14%
2 – Nikki Fortunato Bas	--	--	+14%
3 – Lynette Gibson McElhaney	+6%	0%	0%
4 – Sheng Thao	--	--	+8%
5 – Noel Gallo	+25%	+36%	+30%
6 – Loren Taylor	--	--	+21%
7 – Larry Reid	+30%	+13%	+31%
*Rebecca Kaplan	+38%	+25%	+10%

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A majority, however, says that the City should increase the number of police in Oakland.

Do you think the City of Oakland should:



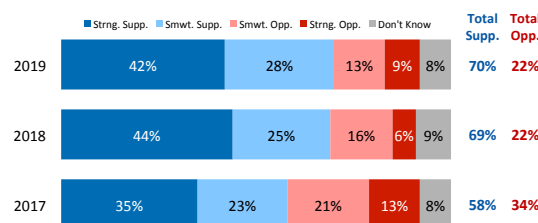
Voters over age 50 are particularly supportive of increasing the number of police in Oakland.

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Voters continue to offer strong support for City Council term limits.

There are currently no limits on the number of four-year terms Oakland City Councilmembers can serve on the council. Some people have proposed a limit of two four-year terms for Councilmembers. Does this sound like something you would support or oppose?



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