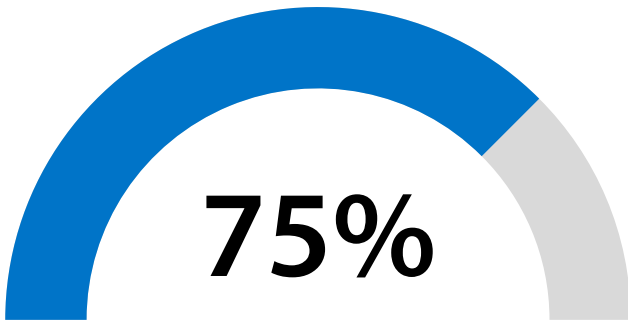


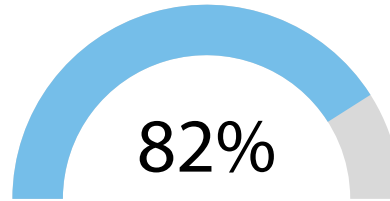
“How Scared Are You?”

Mapping the Threat Environment of San Diego’s Elected Officials

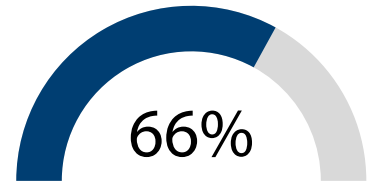
Targeted threats and the perpetration of physical violence against elected officials have been increasing steadily around the world. Democracy cannot function without individuals serving in elected governance. The presence and growth of threats and harassment undermines community cohesion, further undermining our ability to address our collective challenges.



of elected officials report being threatened/harassed

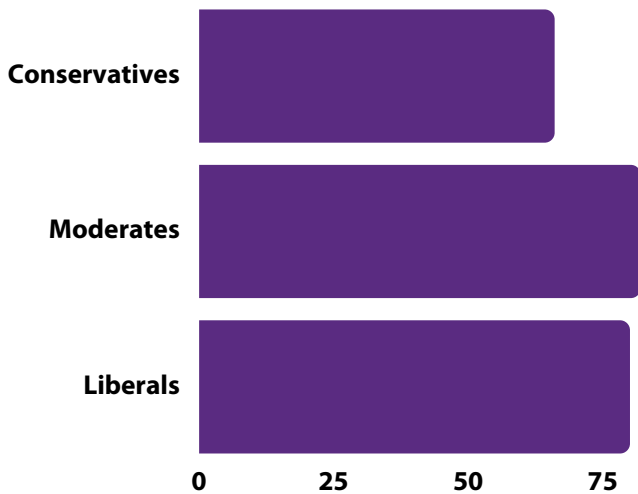


of women



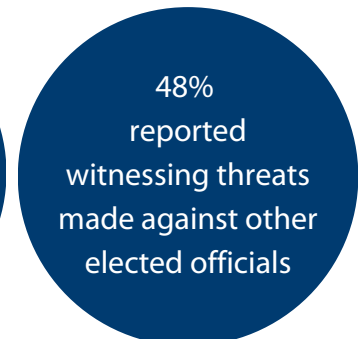
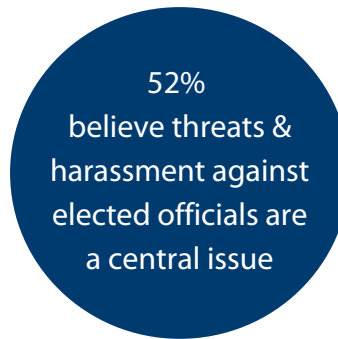
of men

A Bipartisan Issue



A Problem for Democracy

Of those who reported *never being* threatened or harassed:



78% of all respondents believe that either all or most elected officials get threatened or harassed

How Did We Do This?

This mixed-methods project surveyed 328 elected officials in San Diego County, including school and community college representatives, city council members, mayors, and the board of supervisors. Additionally, a literature review, key informant interviews, traditional media review, and social media review were conducted.*

66%

say threats and harassment have **INCREASED** since they started public service

23%

of respondents say they are **LESS** likely to speak their minds about policy due to threats and harassment while 14% say they are **MORE** likely.

Why Are Demographic Differences Important?

If targeted attacks are successful, under-represented individuals are likely to leave public office, undermining efforts towards inclusion.

52%

of those who have received threats have considered leaving public service due to them

32% of men

61% of women

What's Next?

Forty-five percent of respondents think we need new solutions to handle the problem. In May-June 2023, we will host community conversations around San Diego County to discuss findings and explore solutions. Our full report will include recommendations for how we should move forward as a community.

Learn More

This study was led by the University of San Diego's Violence, Inequality, and Power Lab (VIP Lab) and Institute for Civil Civic Engagement (ICCE) to create a comprehensive understanding of the threat environment of locally elected officials in San Diego County. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Rachel Locke at the VIP Lab: rlocke@sandiego.org



*The data points included here are only from the survey collection. A full report including data findings from all data methods will be produced in summer 2023.