

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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Supported with funding from The James Irvine
Foundation and the PPIC Donor Circle



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Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Election and national issues
- State and fiscal issues
- Conclusions

PPIC Statewide Survey mission

- Provide timely, relevant, nonpartisan data on political, social, and economic opinions
- Inform and improve state policymaking, raise awareness, encourage discussion
- Provide a voice for all Californians in important state policy debates
 - 320,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 150+ general, issue, and regional surveys

Californians and Their Government

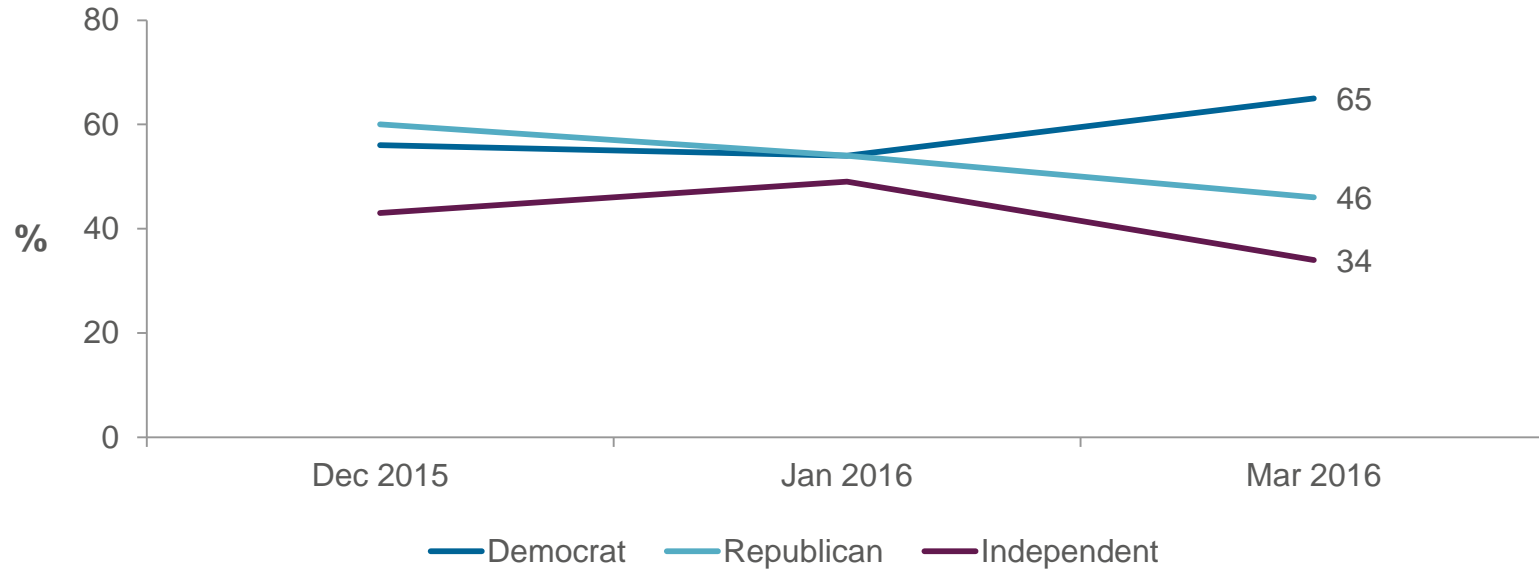
- General series funded by The James Irvine Foundation
- Election and national issues
 - Preferences in presidential and U.S. Senate primaries
 - Approval ratings and role of government
- State and fiscal issues
 - Approval ratings and overall mood
 - State and local tax system, state spending and revenues
- Telephone interviews, March 6–15, 2016
 - 50% landline, 50% cell phone
 - 1,710 adults, $\pm 3.6\%$ margin of error
 - 1,039 likely voters, $\pm 4.4\%$ margin of error

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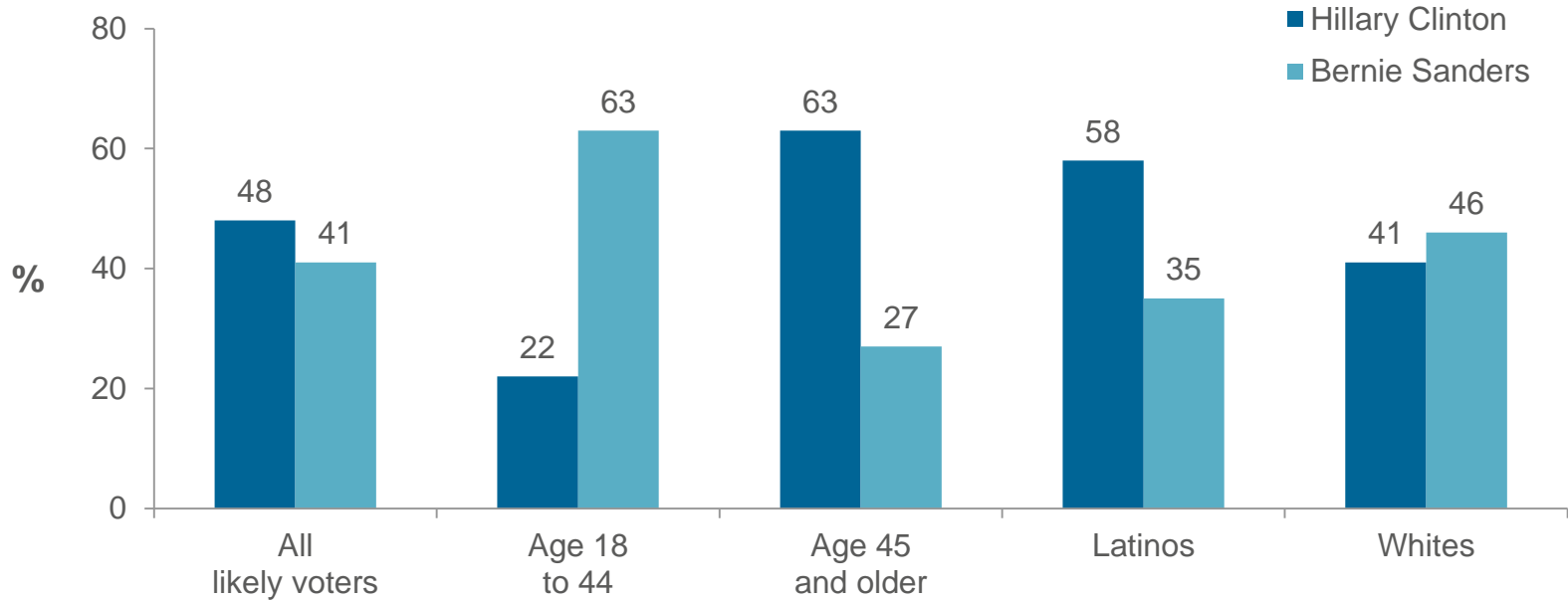
Satisfaction with choices of presidential candidates

In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for U.S. president in 2016?



Democratic presidential primary preferences

If the 2016 Democratic primary for president were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?



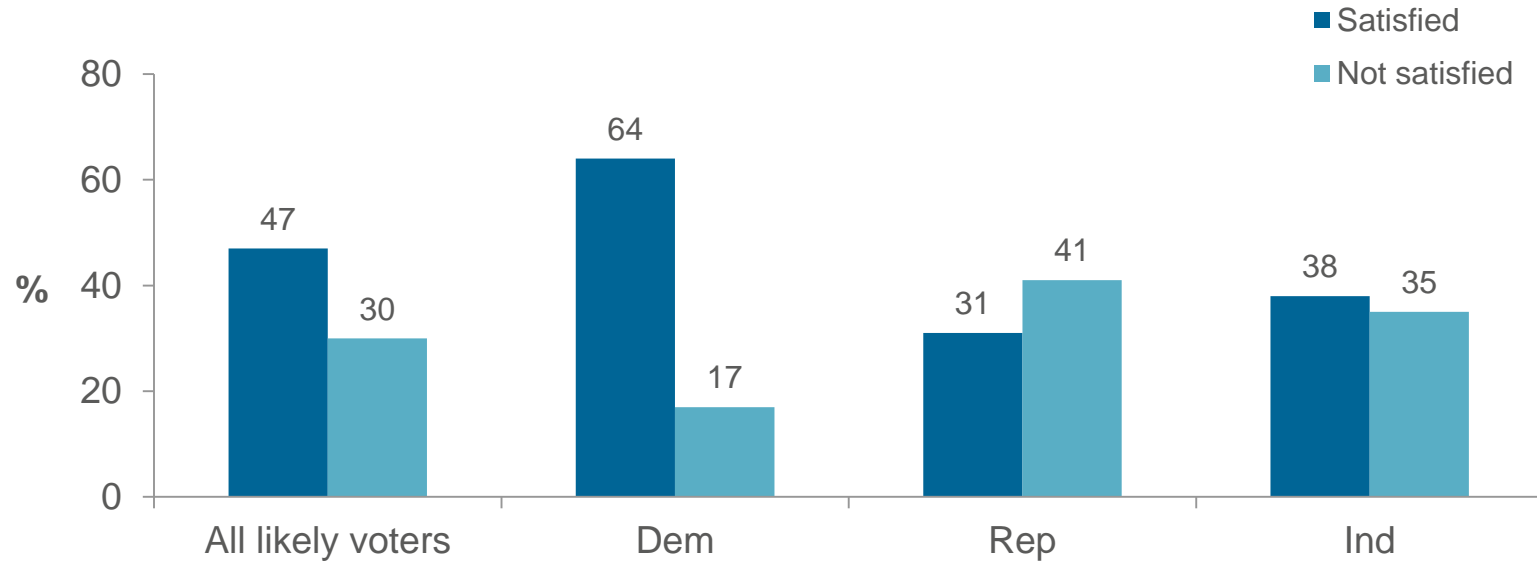
Republican presidential primary preferences

<i>Republican primary likely voters only</i>	Including candidate Rubio	Excluding candidate Rubio*	Change with Rubio supporters' second choices included
Donald Trump	38%	38%	+0
Ted Cruz	19	27	+8
John Kasich	12	14	+2
Marco Rubio	12	—	—
Someone else	10	11	+1
Don't know	9	9	+0

**Totals recalculated to show Rubio supporters' second choice*

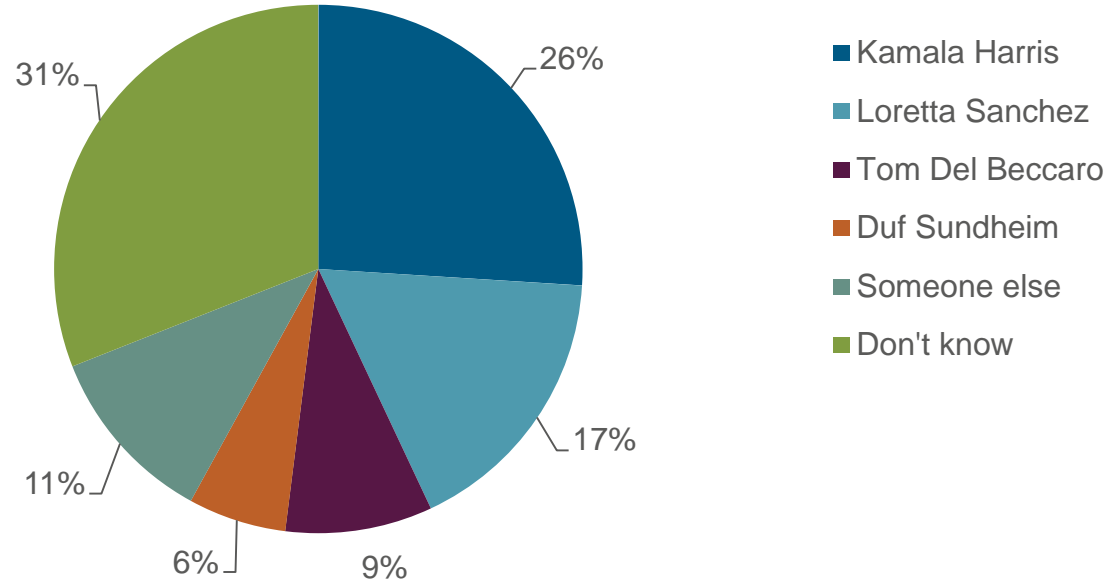
Satisfaction with choices of Senate candidates

In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for U.S. Senate in 2016?



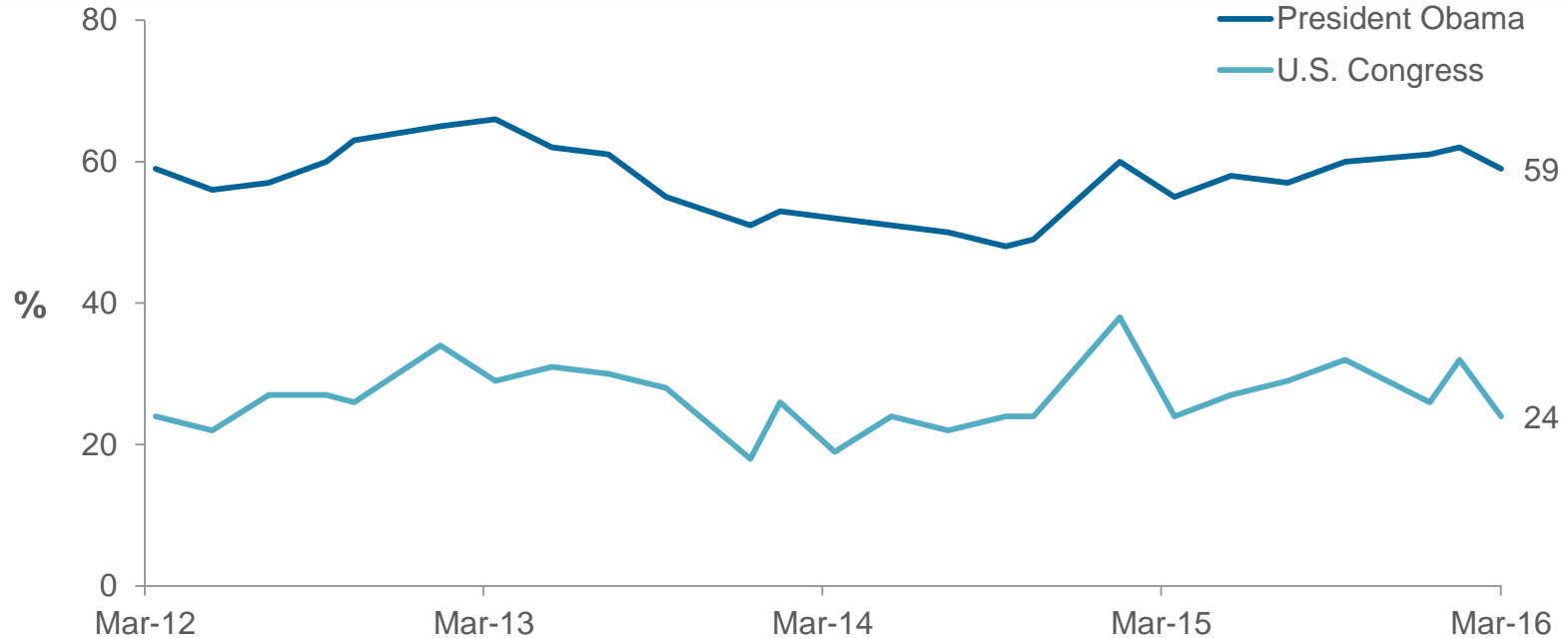
U.S. Senate primary preferences

If the June primary for U.S. senator were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?

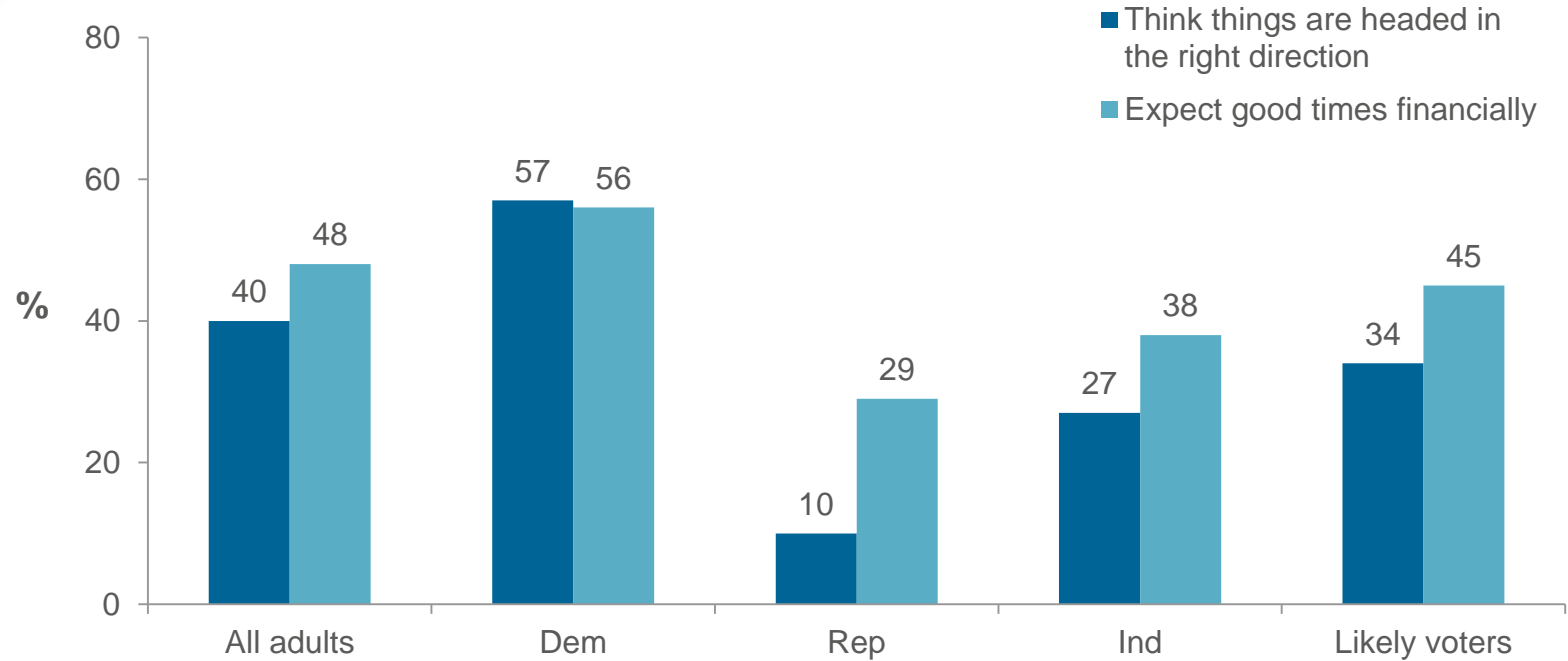


Likely voters

Approval of federal elected officials

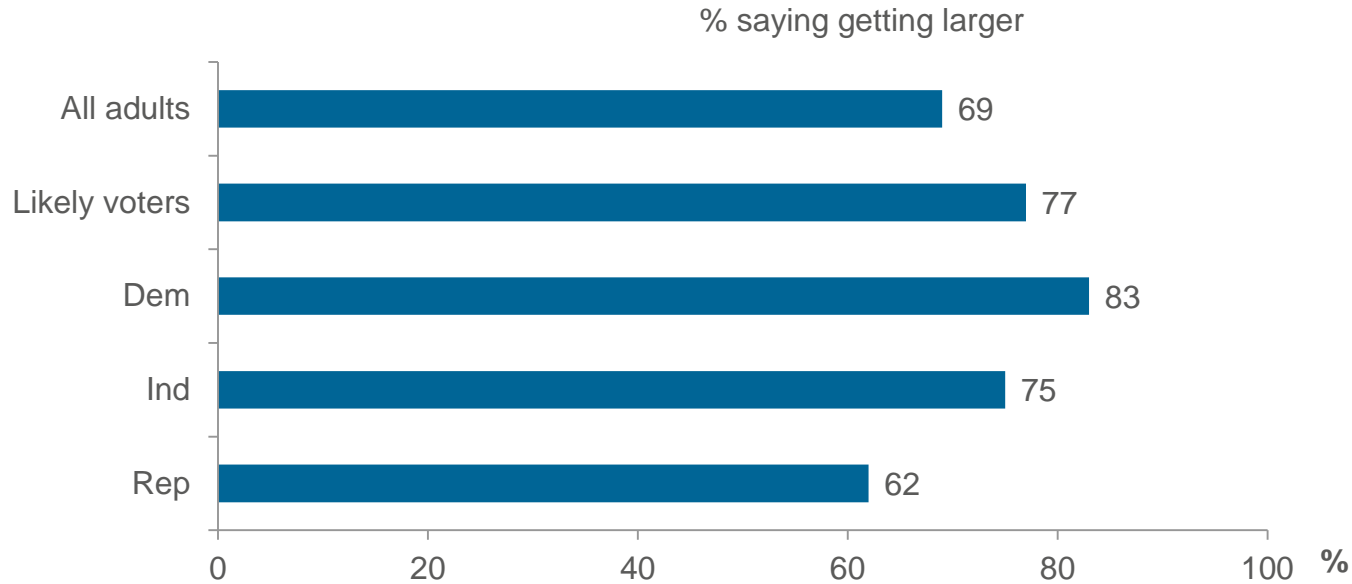


Outlook for the nation



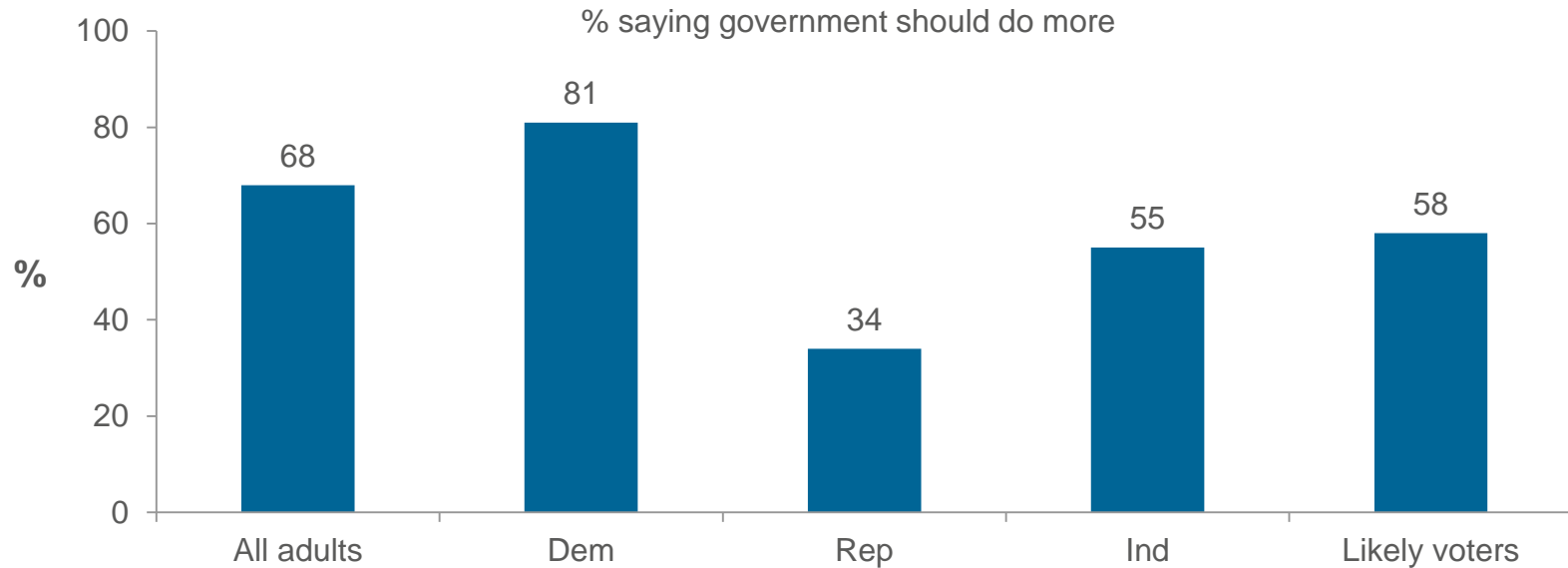
Income inequality: gap between rich and poor

Do you think the gap between the rich and the poor in the U.S. is getting larger, getting smaller, or has it stayed the same?



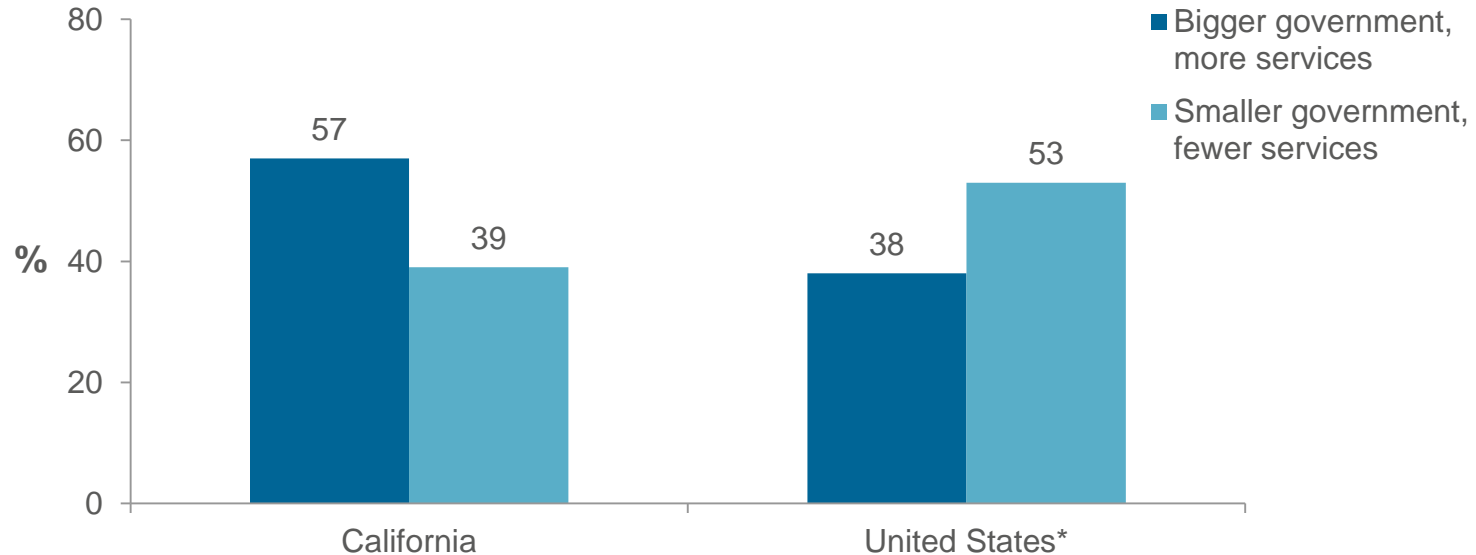
Income inequality: role of government

Should the government do more to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in this country, or is this something the government should not be doing?



Size of government

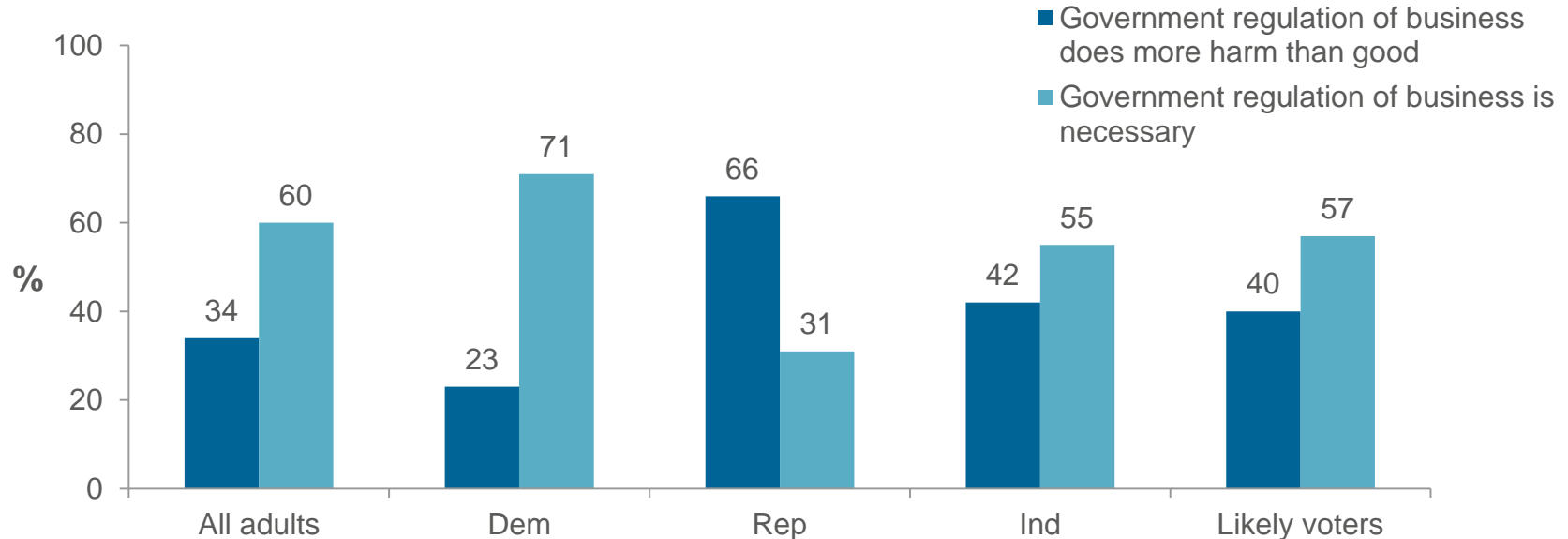
If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?



**Pew Research Center, September 2015*

Government regulation of business

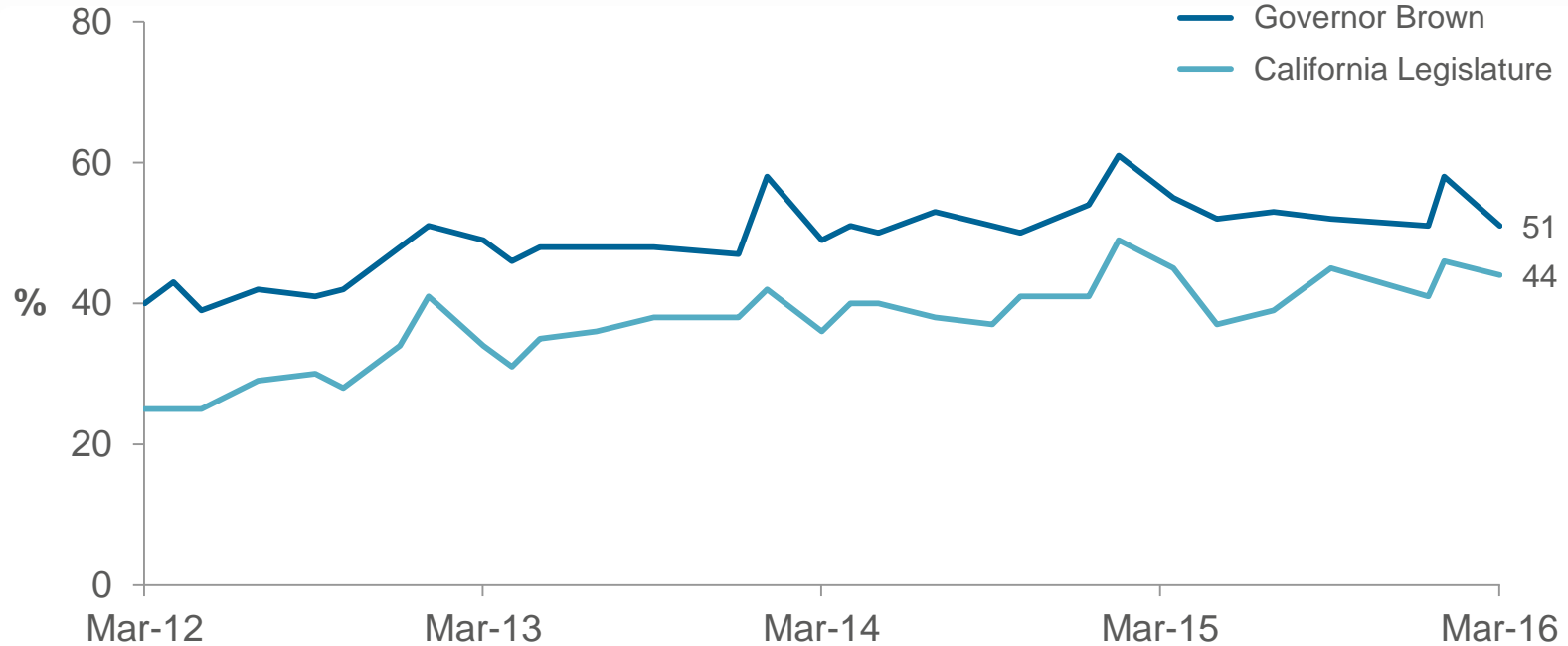
Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right: government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest; or government regulation of business does more harm than good.



Outline

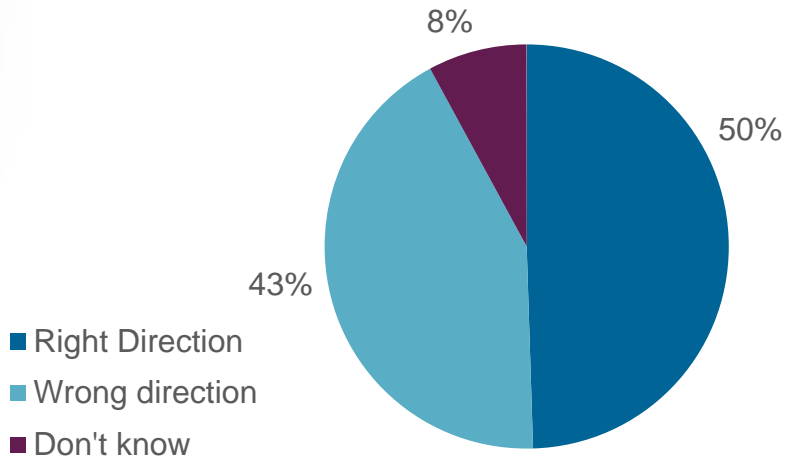
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Approval of state elected officials

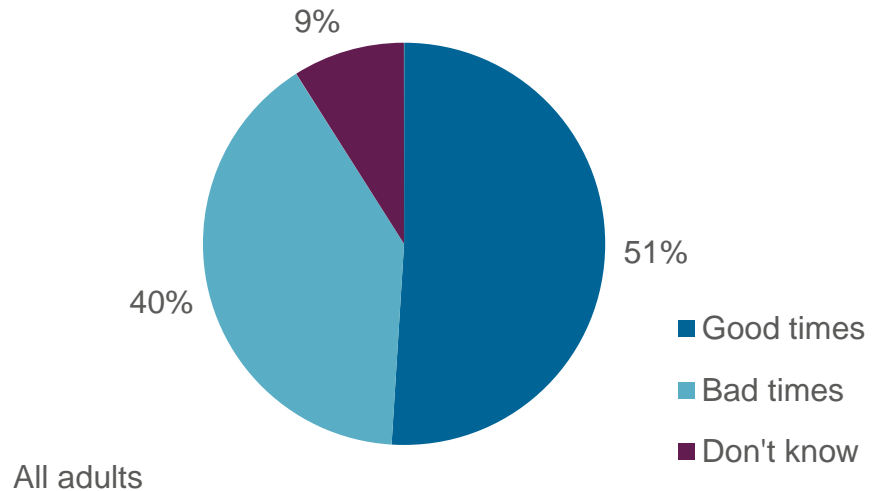


Outlook for the state

Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

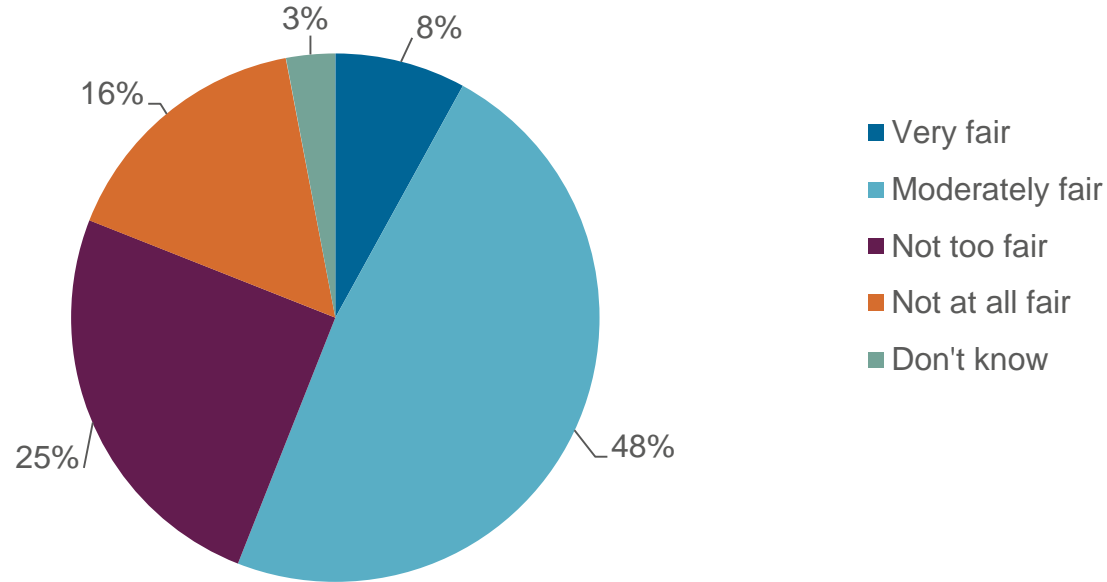


Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?



Fairness of state and local tax system

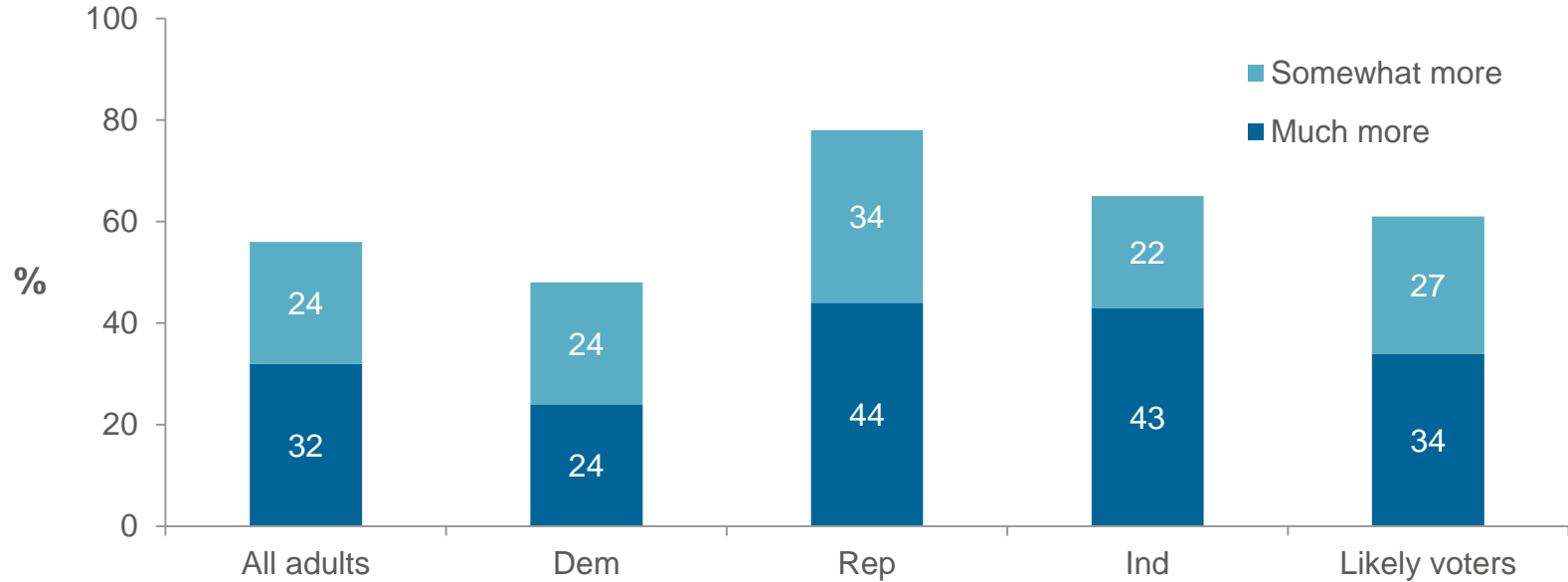
Overall, how fair do you think our present state and local tax system is—would you say it is very fair, moderately fair, not too fair, or not at all fair?



All adults

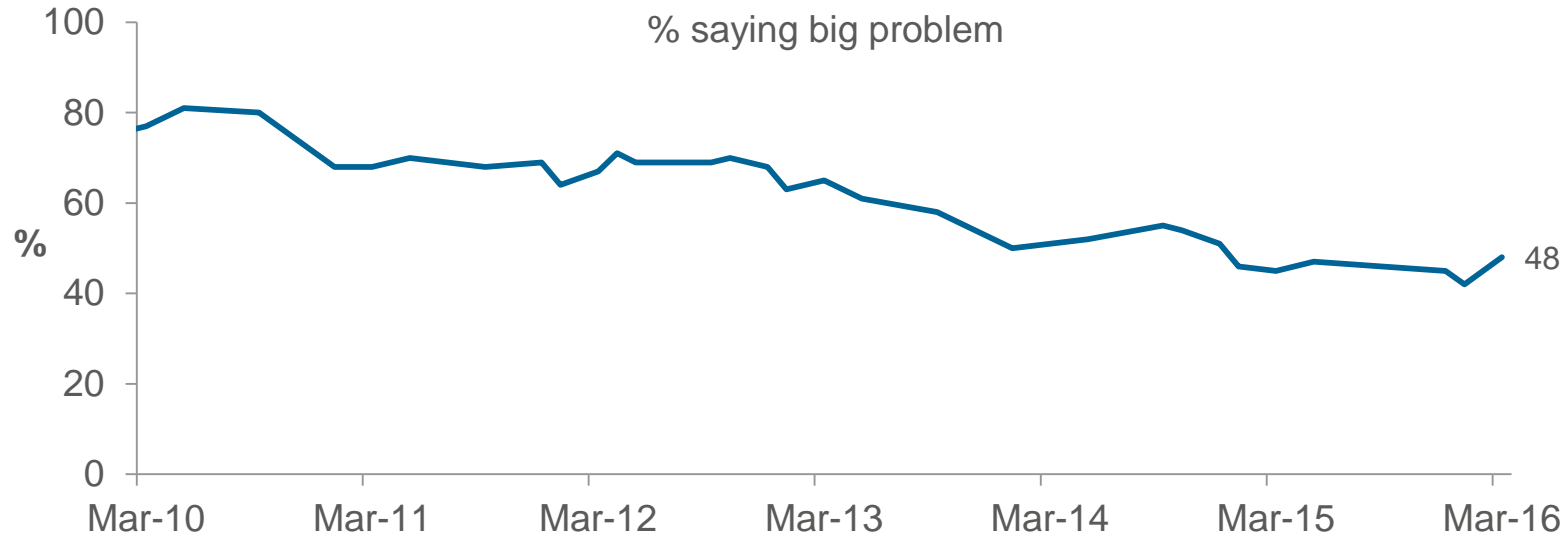
Personal tax burden

When you combine all of the taxes you pay to state and local governments, do you feel that you pay much more than you should, somewhat more than you should, about the right amount, or less than you should?



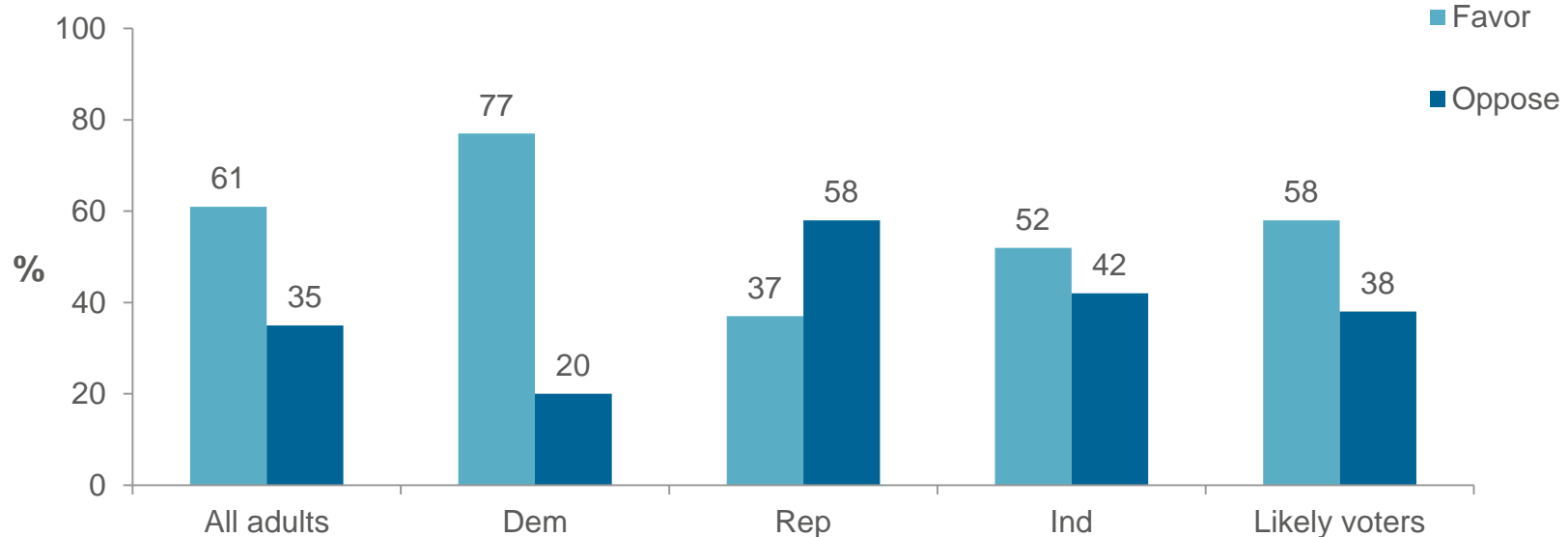
State budget situation

Do you think the state budget situation in California—that is, the balance between government spending and revenues—is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem for the people of California today?



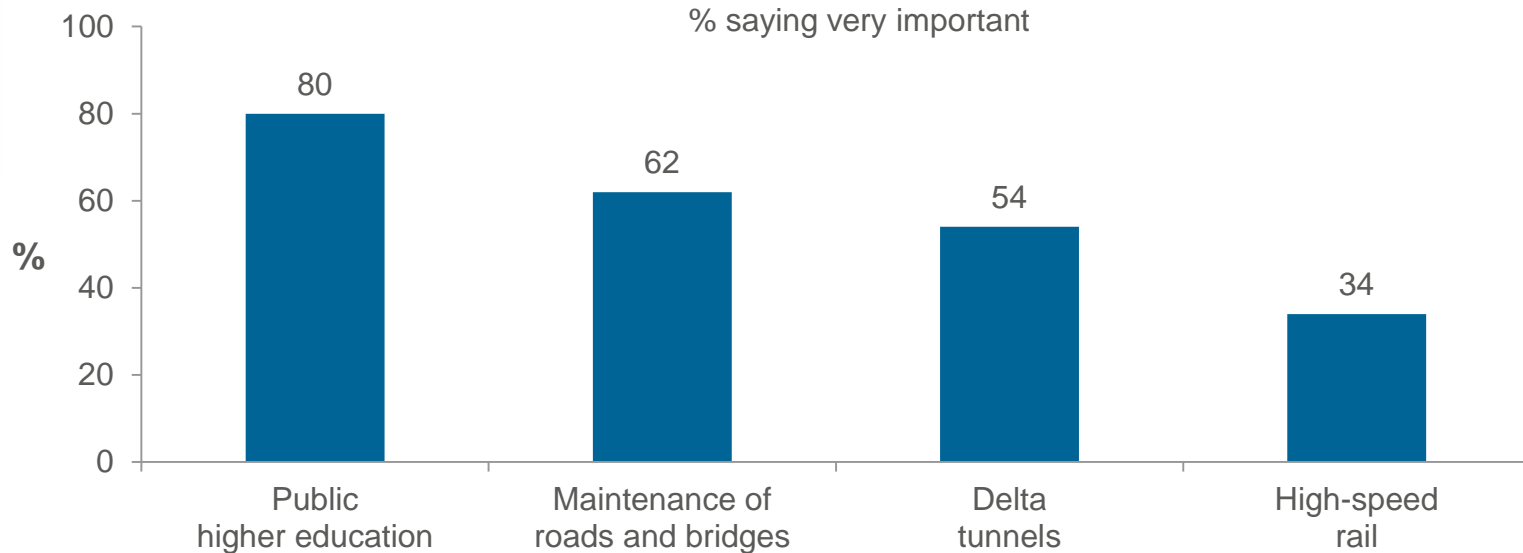
Extending the Proposition 30 income tax increase

As you may know, voters passed Proposition 30 in November 2012. It increased taxes on earnings over \$250,000 until 2018 and sales taxes by one-quarter cent until 2016. Do you favor or oppose extending for 12 years the tax increase on earnings over \$250,000 to fund education and healthcare?



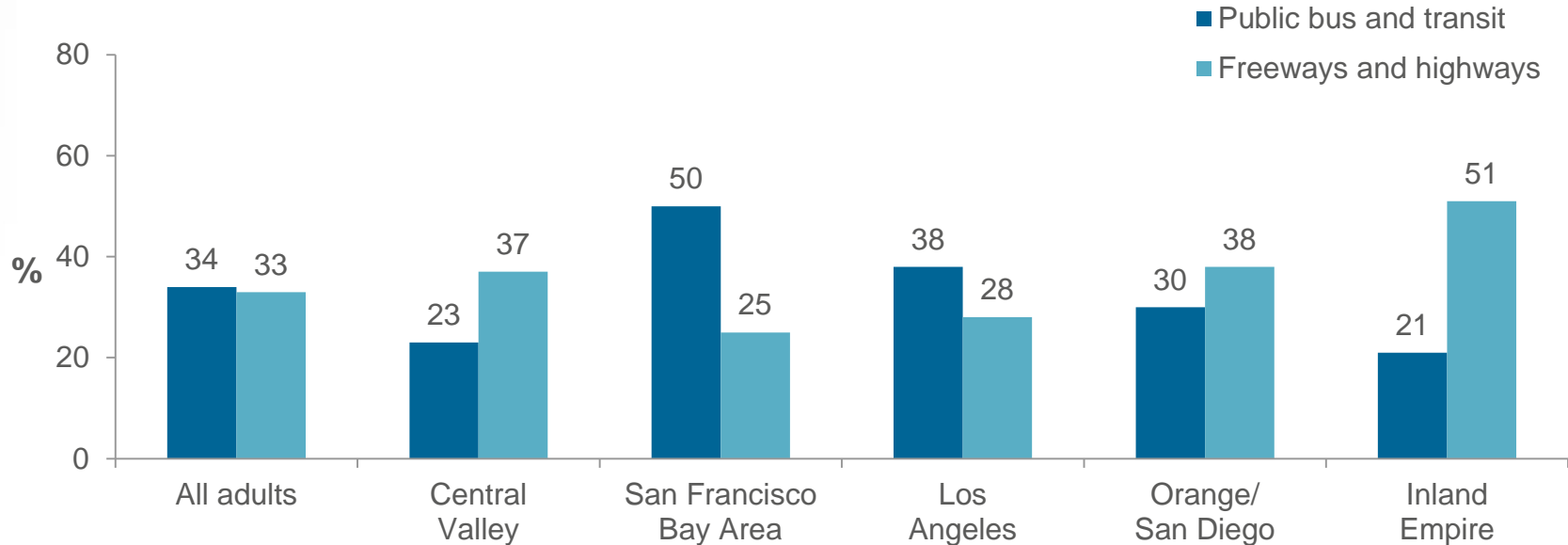
Importance of four major areas to California's future

How important is ... to the future quality of life and economic vitality of California?



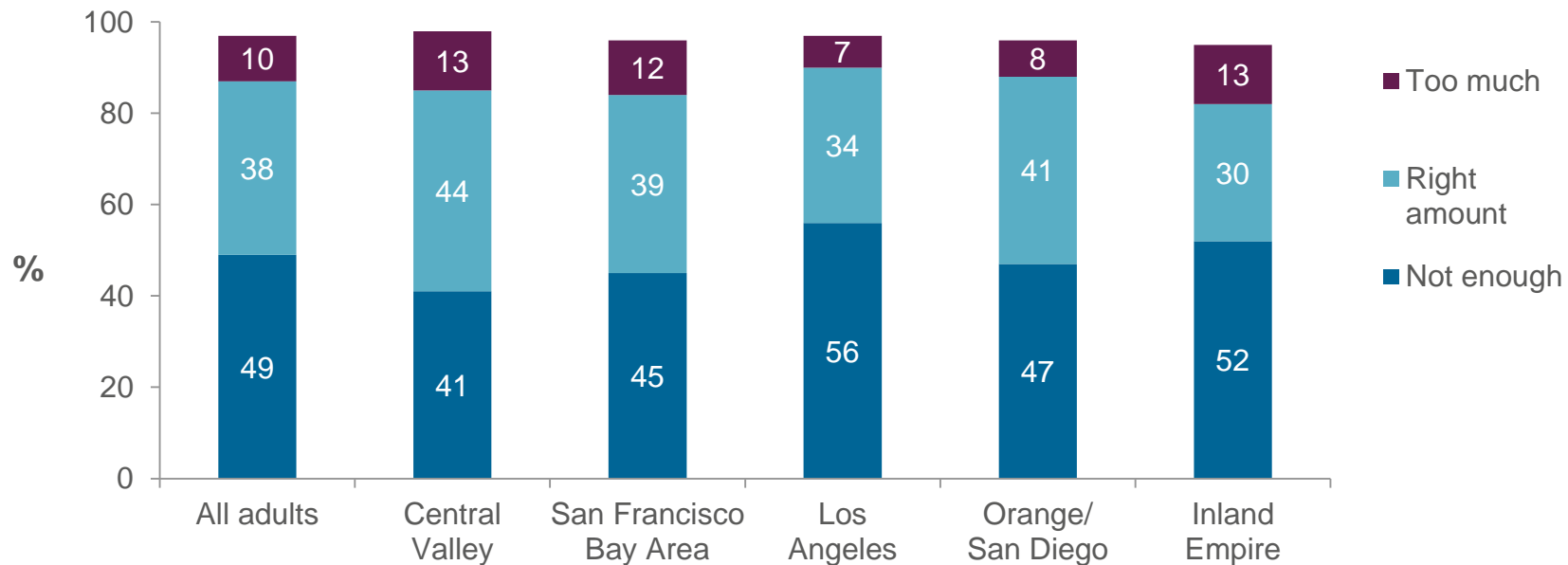
Funding priority for surface transportation

Which of the following types of surface transportation projects do you think should have the top priority for additional state funding: freeways and highways, public bus and transit systems, carpool lanes, or local streets and roads?



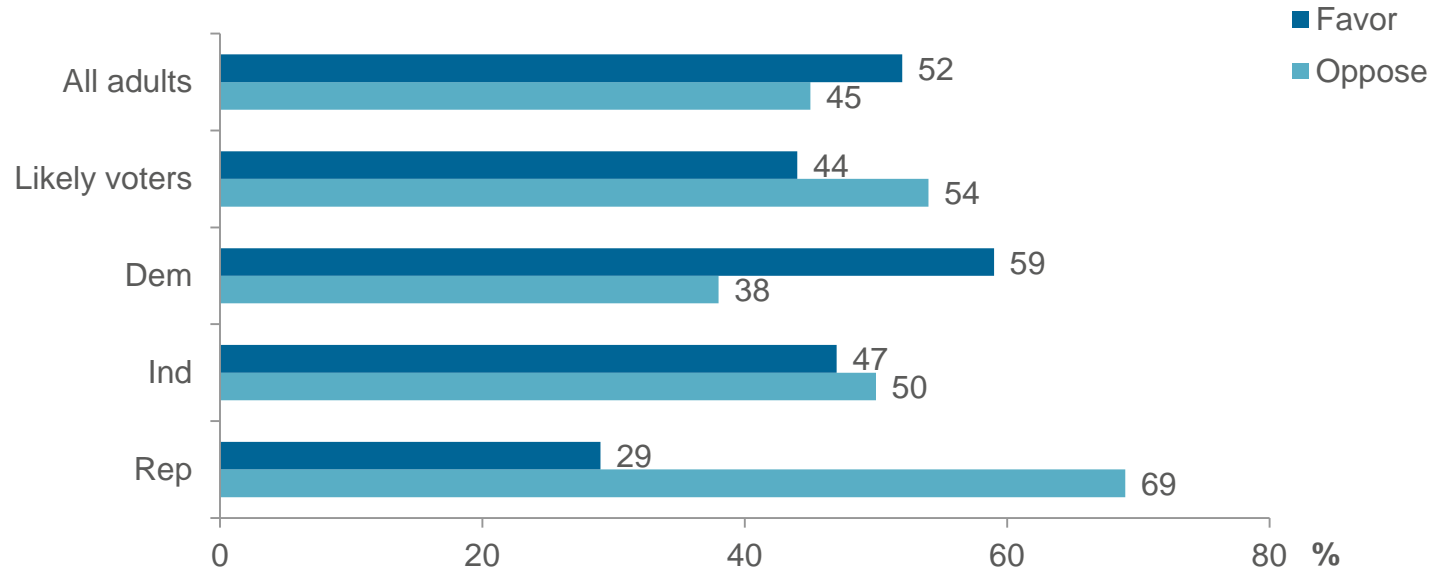
Response to the current drought

Overall, do you think that the people in your part of California are doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to respond to the current drought in California?



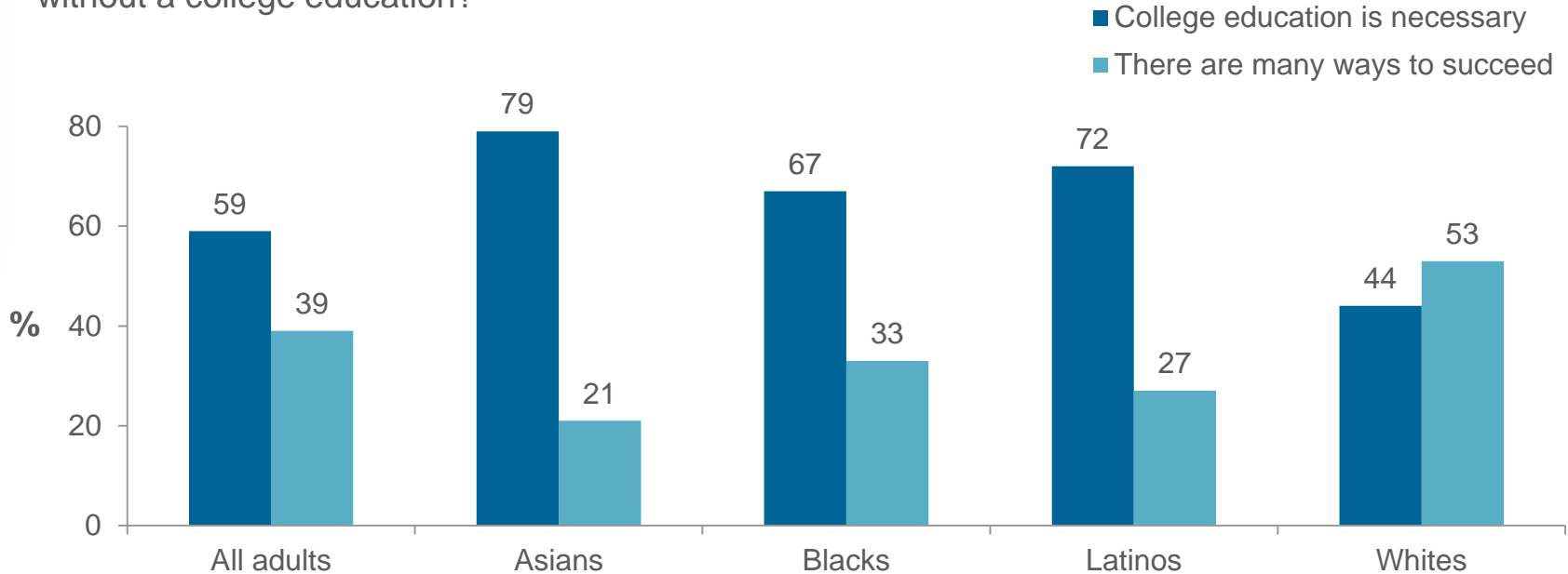
High-speed rail system

As you may know, California voters passed a \$10 billion state bond in 2008.... Do you favor or oppose building a high-speed rail system in California?



Public higher education

Do you think that a college education is necessary for a person to be successful in today's work world, or do you think that there are many ways to succeed in today's work world without a college education?



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Conclusions

- Striking partisan differences in satisfaction with candidate choices in presidential and senate primaries
- Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton garner the most support in presidential primaries
- Democrats Kamala Harris and Loretta Sanchez lead the top-two primary for the U.S. Senate; nearly one in three are undecided
- Democrats and Republicans are divided on the outlook for the nation and on both the appropriate role and size of government
- A majority of Californians and likely voters favor extending the Proposition 30 tax increase on earnings over \$250,000 to fund education and healthcare
- Most Californians view increased spending on the maintenance of roads, highways, and bridges as very important to the state's future

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Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.