

AUGUST 2008

- **AGE GAP STILL APPARENT IN REGISTRATION RATES, LIKELIHOOD OF VOTING.**

Although the 2008 presidential campaign has sparked enthusiasm among young adults, this group is still registering to vote at a much lower rate than older adults. Compared to Californians age 65 and older, a stunningly lower number of 18 to 24 year olds are registered (92% vs. 56%). Likely voter rates reveal an even greater disparity: A mere 24% of adults ages 18 to 24 are considered likely voters, while 78% of adults age 65 and older are likely to participate in elections.

- **YOUNGER ADULTS MORE INDEPENDENT, LIBERAL. OLDER ADULTS MORE PARTISAN, CONSERVATIVE.**

California registered voters under age 25 are less likely to register to vote with a political party (30% say they are independents, compared to 12% of adults age 65 and older). Identification with the Republican Party increases with age (24%, ages 18 to 24; 42%, age 65 and older). While those in the 55 to 64 age group (45%) are the most likely to say they are Democrats, the percentage of those who say they belong to the Democratic Party is somewhat similar across age groups. Young adults (38%) are the most likely to say they are either very liberal or somewhat liberal, while those in the oldest age group (25%) are the least likely. The percentage of adults who describe themselves as politically moderate is similar across most age groups, although those in the 35 to 44 year old group (36%) are the most likely to consider themselves middle-of-the-road. Conservatism, however, increases with age: 32% of young California adults say they are either somewhat conservative or very conservative, compared to 45% of adults over age 65.

- **YOUNGER ADULTS MORE TRUSTING, LESS APPROVING OF GOVERNOR, LESS INTERESTED IN POLITICS.**

Young adults in California are the most trusting of state government, with 43% saying they trust the government just about always (7%) or most of the time (36%). Adults ages 55 to 64 are the least trusting of state government (3% say just about always, 21% say most of the time). At the same time, fewer than half (46%) of adults under age 25 approve of the way Arnold Schwarzenegger is handling his job as governor of California, while a strong majority of Californians age 65 and older (62%) approve of the governor. Interest in politics increases with age: Only 18% of 18 to 24 year olds say they have a great deal of interest in politics, compared to 34% of those age 65 and older.

- **AGE GAP APPARENT IN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, EDUCATION, HOMEOWNERSHIP.**

California adults in the youngest age group (64%) are far more likely than those in older age groups to earn less than \$40,000 a year. Adults in the 45 to 54 age group are the most likely to be affluent (43% have household incomes over \$80,000 per year), followed by 35 to 44 year olds and 55 to 64 year olds (40% each). Middle-aged adults are the most likely to have graduated from college. Older residents are the most likely to own their homes: Most adults age 65 and older (81%) are homeowners, while an overwhelming proportion of young adults (72%) rent their homes.

- **CALIFORNIA'S RACIAL/ETHNIC AND IMMIGRANT COMPOSITION VARIES ACROSS AGE GROUPS.**

California's racial/ethnic diversity and immigrant status reflect a rapidly changing social landscape. Latinos outnumber whites in the youngest age category (49% to 33%), while whites outnumber Latinos in the oldest age category (76% to 12%). The proportions of blacks and Asians are similar across all age groups. Californians in the 25 to 44 age range are the most likely to be immigrants; Californians age 65 and older (17%) are the least likely.

Demographic/Political Profile of California Adults by Age Group

		18 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 +
All Adults		14%	18%	20%	19%	14%	15%
Registered to vote	Yes	56	63	70	83	89	92
	No	44	37	30	17	11	8
Likely to vote	Yes	24	35	48	66	76	78
	No	76	65	52	34	24	22
Party registration	Democrat	41	41	40	42	45	44
	Republican	24	26	31	35	35	42
	Independent	30	25	23	18	17	12
	Other	5	8	6	5	3	2
Ideology	Very liberal	14	13	9	10	12	9
	Somewhat liberal	24	23	21	19	19	16
	Middle-of-the-road	30	32	36	32	31	30
	Somewhat conservative	22	23	24	27	24	26
	Very conservative	10	9	10	12	14	19
Interest in politics	Great deal	18	20	23	29	34	34
	Fair amount	35	37	37	41	43	43
	Only a little/none	47	43	40	30	23	23
Trust in state government	Just about always	7	5	6	4	3	3
	Most of the time	36	30	26	23	21	25
	Only some of the time	54	61	64	66	69	65
	None of the time (vol.)	3	4	4	7	7	7
Governor approval	Approve	46	48	51	55	56	62
	Disapprove	54	52	49	45	44	38
Race/ethnicity	White	33	37	46	61	68	76
	Latino	49	47	38	24	18	12
	Black	7	5	5	5	5	5
	Asian	9	9	9	7	6	5
	Other	2	2	2	3	3	2
Education	No college	60	42	37	30	24	33
	Some college	28	20	20	24	29	28
	College graduate	12	38	43	46	47	39
Income	Under \$40,000	64	46	33	29	29	48
	\$40,000 to \$79,999	23	29	27	28	31	32
	\$80,000 or more	13	25	40	43	40	20
Own/rent	Own	28	39	60	73	78	81
	Rent	72	61	40	27	22	19
Nativity	U.S.-born	71	60	59	73	79	83
	Immigrant	29	40	41	27	21	17

Sources: Ten PPIC Statewide Surveys, July 2007 - July 2008, including 22,522 adult residents. California Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000-2050, July 2007.

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