

- **VOTER REGISTRATION IS UP: DEMOCRATS STILL MORE NUMEROUS; INDEPENDENTS REACH NEW HIGH.**  
At the close of registration for the May 2009 special election, 17.2 million of the 23.4 million eligible voters in the state were registered to vote: 45% as Democrats, 31% as Republicans, 20% as independents, and 4% with other parties. The number of registered voters in the state has grown by one million since June 2008. The number of registered Democrats has grown from 7.1 to 7.6 million, the number of independents from 3.1 to 3.4 million, and the number of Republicans from 5.2 to 5.3 million.
- **CALIFORNIANS TEND TO BE CONSERVATIVE, BUT IDEOLOGY DIFFERS ACROSS PARTY LINES.**  
Among California's likely voters, 38% report they are conservative, 32% liberal, and 30% moderate. Among the state's "infrequent" voters, 36% self-identify as conservative, 33% as moderate, and 31% as liberal. Among those *not* registered to vote, 37% self-identify as conservative, 33% as moderate, and 30% as liberal. However, ideology varies sharply by party affiliation: A majority of Democratic likely voters say they are liberal (53%), while a large majority of Republican likely voters say they are conservative (69%). Independent likely voters lean more toward the Democratic than the Republican Party (42% vs. 28%), although 30% say they lean toward neither party.
- **PERCENTAGES OF LIKELY VOTERS AND UNREGISTERED ADULTS VARY ACROSS REGIONS OF THE STATE.**  
Los Angeles County is home to the largest share of the state's adult population (27%), and 25% of the state's likely voters reside in the county. However, Los Angeles also—and disproportionately—includes the largest percentage of residents in the state not registered to vote (34%). The San Francisco Bay Area constitutes 20% of the state's adult population but claims 23% of the state's likely voters and only 14% of those not registered to vote. On the other hand, the proportions of the overall adult population and likely voters are similar in the Central Valley, Orange/San Diego Counties, and the Inland Empire. For example, Orange/San Diego Counties include 17% of the state's adult population, 17% of its likely voters, and 15% of those not registered to vote.
- **LIKELY VOTERS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY WHITE, UNREGISTERED ADULTS DISPROPORTIONATELY LATINO.**  
Although whites represent less than half (47%) of California's adult population, they constitute 68% of likely voters. Despite the fact that Latinos represent about one-third of California's adult population, they constitute only 17% of likely voters and 66% of those not registered to vote. Asians also make up a lower proportion of likely voters than their share of the population (6% vs. 13%). Blacks represent both 6% of the population and likely voters.
- **LIKELY VOTERS ARE OLDER, MORE AFFLUENT THAN THOSE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE.**  
About one-third of California's adult population are between the ages of 18 and 34, but only 20% of likely voters fall in this age group. The share of likely voters ages 35 to 54 (41%) is similar to the adult population (39%), while the share of likely voters ages 55 and older (39%) is much higher than the share of state residents in this age group (29%). Most infrequent voters (47%) and residents not registered to vote (50%) are under age 35. Over half of likely voters (54%) are college graduates, compared to 25% of infrequent voters and 16% of those not registered to vote. Three-quarters of likely voters (76%) have household incomes over \$40,000 a year, compared to 28% of those not registered to vote. A substantial number of likely voters are homeowners (76%), while most of those who are not registered to vote are renters (66%).



## California Voter Profiles

		Registered Voters		Not Registered to Vote
		Likely Voters	Infrequent Voters	
<b>Party registration</b>	Democrat	44	46	–
	Republican	35	23	–
	Independent	18	27	–
	Other	3	4	–
<b>Major party leanings among independents and those not registered to vote</b>	Republican Party	28	24	18
	Democratic Party	42	44	52
	Neither/don't know	30	32	30
<b>Ideology</b>	Liberal	32	31	30
	Middle-of-the-road	30	33	33
	Conservative	38	36	37
<b>Region</b>	Los Angeles	25	26	34
	SF Bay Area	23	17	14
	Central Valley	16	19	18
	Orange/San Diego	17	16	15
	Inland Empire	10	13	11
	Other	9	9	8
<b>Age</b>	18 to 34	20	47	50
	35 to 54	41	35	38
	55 and older	39	18	12
<b>Gender</b>	Men	49	50	51
	Women	51	50	49
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	White	68	43	20
	Latino	17	36	66
	Black	6	9	3
	Asian	6	9	9
	Other	3	3	2
<b>Education</b>	No college	16	54	70
	Some college	30	21	14
	College graduate	54	25	16
<b>Income</b>	Under \$40,000	24	52	72
	\$40,000 to \$79,999	31	26	17
	\$80,000 or more	45	22	11
<b>Own/rent</b>	Own	76	43	34
	Rent	24	57	66
<b>Nativity</b>	U.S.-born	85	71	29
	Immigrant	15	29	71

**Note:** “Likely voters” are registered voters meeting criteria on interest in politics, attention to issues, voting behavior, and intention to vote; “infrequent voters” are registered voters who do not meet these criteria.

**Sources:** Eleven PPIC Statewide Surveys, August 2008–July 2009, including 14,108 likely voters, 4,901 infrequent voters, and 5,330 unregistered adults. California Secretary of State, Report of Registration, May 2009. California Department of Finance, Race/Ethnic Population with Age and Sex Detail, 2000–2050, July 2007.

**Contact:** [surveys@ppic.org](mailto:surveys@ppic.org)



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PUBLIC POLICY  
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

[www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org)