

JANUARY 2007

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY

CALIFORNIA

Public
Policy
Institute of
California

Californians & their government

in collaboration with
The James Irvine Foundation

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The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) is a private operating foundation established in 1994 with an endowment from William R. Hewlett. The Institute is dedicated to improving public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research.

PPIC's research agenda focuses on three program areas: population, economy, and governance and public finance. Studies within these programs are examining the underlying forces shaping California's future, cutting across a wide range of public policy concerns: California in the global economy; demography; education; employment and income; environment, growth, and infrastructure; government and public finance; health and social policy; immigrants and immigration; key sectors in the California economy; and political participation.

PPIC was created because three concerned citizens—William R. Hewlett, Roger W. Heyns, and Arjay Miller—recognized the need for linking objective research to the realities of California public policy. Their goal was to help the state's leaders better understand the intricacies and implications of contemporary issues and make informed public policy decisions when confronted with challenges in the future. PPIC does not take or support positions on any ballot measure or on any local, state, or federal legislation, nor does it endorse, support, or oppose any political candidates for public office.

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ABOUT THE SURVEY

The PPIC Statewide Survey series provides policymakers, the media, and the general public with objective, advocacy-free information on the perceptions, opinions, and public policy preferences of California residents. Inaugurated in April 1998, this is the 74th PPIC Statewide Survey in a series that has generated a database that includes the responses of more than 154,000 Californians. This survey is the 21st in our *Californians and Their Government* series, which is conducted periodically to examine the social, economic, and political trends that underlie public policy preferences and ballot choices. It is supported by funding from The James Irvine Foundation.

The current survey seeks to raise public awareness, inform decisionmakers, and stimulate public discussion on state and national issues and the current state budget. It also examines Californians' attitudes towards the elected representatives who represent them in Sacramento and Washington. It looks at residents' attitudes towards the governor's state budget plan, plans to fund improvements of the state's infrastructure, health care policy proposals, and perceptions of other state and national issues. This report presents the responses of 2,014 California adult residents throughout the state on topics including:

- State issues, including approval ratings for Governor Schwarzenegger and the state legislature; the governor's approval ratings on specific issues; perceptions of the most important issues for the governor and legislature and whether they will be able to accomplish a lot in 2007; general direction of the state, and the outlook for the state's economy; attitudes towards the governor's State of the State address and towards proposals on health care, infrastructure, and global warming; and overall satisfaction with the governor's budget and related proposals.
- California's budget, including perceptions of the severity of the state budget situation and the fiscal direction in the past two years; priorities for state spending; preferences for the governor's approach to the state budget, compared to Democratic and Republican legislators'; and overall preferences for higher or lower taxes and more or fewer services.
- National issues, including perceptions of the overall direction of the country and the outlook for the U.S. economy; overall approval ratings for President Bush and his handling of the war in Iraq; health care policy; federal budget and taxes; overall approval ratings of Congress; perceptions of the Democratic leadership and Speaker Nancy Pelosi; whether the president and Congress will be able to accomplish a lot in 2007; attitudes towards the Iraq war and new Iraq proposals by President Bush; and preferences for health care coverage for Americans.
- The extent to which Californians – based on their political party affiliation, region of residence, race/ethnicity, and other demographics – may differ with regard to perceptions, attitudes, and preferences involving state and national issues and state budget issues.

Copies of this report may be ordered by e-mail (order@ppic.org) or phone (415-291-4400). Copies of this and earlier reports and the survey database are posted on the publications page of the PPIC web site (www.ppic.org). For questions about the survey, please contact survey@ppic.org.

PRESS RELEASE

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<http://www.ppic.org/main/pressreleaseindex.asp>

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Worried About Washington, Californians Pin Hopes on Sacramento

ATTITUDE ABOUT IRAQ GOES FROM BAD TO WORSE;
GROWING SUPPORT – AND EXPECTATIONS – FOR GOVERNOR, LEGISLATURE

SAN FRANCISCO, California, January 24, 2007 — Despite Californians' support for the stunning congressional power shift, they remain deeply unhappy about the direction of the country and skeptical about their national leaders' ability to work together, according to a survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) with funding from The James Irvine Foundation. Much – but not all – of this distress may arise from their increasingly bleak assessment of the situation in Iraq.

The shift in power notwithstanding, Californians have decidedly mixed feelings about the performance of the U.S. Congress: 42 percent approve; 44 percent disapprove of the way Congress is doing its job. Still, this is higher than the 37 percent approval rating that residents gave Congress in September 2006. What's driving the improvement? The recent leadership change is an important factor: Residents seem to like the ideas presented by the new Democratic majority in Congress, with 56 percent approving of their policies and plans for the future. Many Californians are also upbeat about Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi: Half of all adults (49%) and likely voters (51%) say they have a favorable impression of the San Francisco Democrat.

Nevertheless, these positive developments haven't dispelled the pessimism that Californians were feeling before the November election: Six in ten adults (60%) today, as in October 2006 (62%), say the United States is headed in the wrong direction. More Californians (53%) prefer to see Democratic congressional leaders rather than President George W. Bush (30%) take the lead in solving the nation's problems. But no matter who calls the shots, a significant majority of state residents (56%) believe that the president and Congress will not be able to work together in the coming year. "Californians are skeptical that the change in congressional leadership will result in the kind of bipartisan productivity at the national level that they've come to expect in Sacramento," says PPIC statewide survey director Mark Baldassare.

Moreover, decreasing approval of President Bush's performance in office reinforces pessimism about the country's direction and national leadership. The president's approval ratings have hit a new low: Only 29 percent of Californians now approve of the way he is handling his job (compared to 32 percent in October 2006); 68 percent disapprove. Majorities of state residents also disapprove of his handling of the federal budget and taxes (59%) and health care policy (58%). However, Californians deliver the most stinging assessment of the president's performance for his handling of Iraq. Three in four state residents (75%) and likely voters (72%) – including 91 percent of Democrats, 45 percent of Republicans, and 78 percent of independents – disapprove of the way he is handling this situation. Disapproval of President Bush's Iraq policy has grown by 10 points since January 2006 (65%).

STRONG OPPOSITION TO IRAQ TROOP SURGE

When asked how things are going for the U.S. in Iraq, most Californians (78%) say poorly. For the first time in a PPIC statewide survey, a majority of state residents (52%) say things in Iraq are not going at all well, with another 26 percent saying they are not going too well. Although the percentages vary, majorities of Democrats (89%), Republicans (63%), and independents (76%) all describe the situation in negative terms. California is more pessimistic than the nation as a whole about Iraq: According to a recent Pew Research Center poll, six in 10 Americans think things are not going well.

Adding to the gloom, many Californians don't see light at the end of tunnel for the U.S. in Iraq. Only 31 percent say it is likely that a stable democratic government will be established there; 65 percent say it is unlikely. This perception may contribute to the growing sentiment that it was not worth going to war in the first place: 69 percent of Californians hold this view, up from 62 percent in January 2006.

Against this bleak backdrop, it is not surprising that 70 percent of Californians oppose the president's proposal to increase the size of U.S. military forces in Iraq; only 26 percent support the proposal. This overwhelming opposition masks some significant partisan differences: Majorities of Democrats (87%) and independents (71%) oppose the plan, while a majority of Republicans (59%) support it. Overall, however, Californians are more negative than Americans to this plan: An ABC News-*Washington Post* poll found that 65 percent of Americans opposed it.

SUPPORT FOR BIPARTISAN APPROACH IN SACRAMENTO

Californians' negative assessment of the national scene is all the more stark when compared to their generally upbeat assessment of the state of the state. Many Californians think the state is headed in the right direction (55%) and expect good economic times in the coming 12 months (50%). And after a year in which Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the state legislature shared a number of major legislative accomplishments, including passage of a historic bond package and legislation to combat global warming, Californians are far more positive in their ratings of state officials. Forty percent say they approve of the way the state legislature is doing its job, a better rating than at any time in 2005 or 2006. Ratings have also increased for Governor Schwarzenegger: Today, 58 percent of state residents approve of his performance in office, an 11-point increase since October (47%) and an 18-point increase from a year ago. And the governor gets his highest marks ever on a number of specific issues – including the environment (55%), transportation (43%), and K-12 education (40%).

The governor's State of the State address was also well received: About half of adults (47%) and likely voters (51%) say they had a favorable impression. The public reaction to two specific – and largely bipartisan – proposals in the State of the State speech is even more positive: 76 percent of Californians favor the creation of a low carbon fuel standard that would reduce vehicular greenhouse gas emissions and 63 percent support selling \$43.3 billion in new infrastructure bonds for the construction of schools, prisons, reservoirs, and other projects.

Two in three Californians (68%) say they are satisfied with the budget proposal, released January 10th by Governor Schwarzenegger, that called for increased spending without new taxes. But there is a twist: Despite their high approval of his performance and policies, state residents are more likely to prefer the approach of Democrats in the legislature (38%) rather than of the governor (22%) in making tough budget choices. "Californians have high hopes for their state leaders – as long as they continue to chart a moderate path together," says Baldassare. "Schwarzenegger's success depends heavily on continuing to find common ground with the Democratic legislature." In sharp contrast with their view of national leadership dynamics, most Californians are optimistic about Sacramento bipartisanship: 62 percent think the governor and state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year.

IMMIGRATION STATUS COMPLICATES SUPPORT FOR HEALTH PROPOSAL

Health care is increasingly on the minds of Californians. When asked to name the one issue that is most important for the governor and legislature to work on this year, state residents say immigration (22%), education and schools (18%), and health care (13%). A year ago, only 5 percent mentioned health care as a top issue.

On January 8th, Governor Schwarzenegger outlined a proposal requiring all Californians to have health insurance, with costs shared by employers, health care providers, and individuals. Most state residents (71%) – including majorities of Democrats (79%), Republicans (55%), independents (68%), and likely voters (65%) – support the governor’s plan. Californians are even more enthusiastic about the governor’s proposal to guarantee medical coverage for children in low-income families: 79 percent of state residents and 72 percent of likely voters say they favor it. Support for this proposal drops substantially, however, when residents are asked specifically about providing medical coverage to lower-income children—regardless of their immigration status. Fifty-six percent of Californians still approve in this case, but 40 percent are opposed. Among likely voters, opposition exceeds support (50% to 46%). Latinos strongly support the proposal (86% favor, 12% oppose), while a majority of whites oppose it (54% oppose, 41% favor).

Four in ten Californians (43%) say they approve of Governor Schwarzenegger’s performance when it comes to health policy, but only 29 percent like the way President Bush is handling the issue. Still, most state residents believe both the state (55%) and the federal government (61%) are spending too little on health care. Californians prefer a universal health insurance system – in which people are covered under a government program like Medicare – to the current system in which most health insurance is provided by employers or purchased privately. And they are willing to ante up to get it: Six in 10 adults (63%) and likely voters (59%) say they favor such a system even if it means raising taxes.

MORE KEY FINDINGS

■ Little support for prisons in boosting state spending — Page 13 and 14

Prodded by the federal courts, Governor Schwarzenegger has made spending on corrections a priority in his budget. However, Californians are not convinced: 54 percent of state residents – including majorities of Democrats (55%), Republicans (53%), and independents (60%) – oppose using the state’s additional revenue to increase funding for prisons and corrections, while 41 percent favor the proposal. Most residents would prefer to use the extra dollars to boost spending on K-12 education (79%) or to reduce the amount of state debt (78%). These preferences are consistent with Californians’ budget priorities generally: Majorities of residents say state government should spend more money on K-12 public education (68%), health and human services (60%), roads and infrastructure (58%), and public colleges and universities (55%). Only 34 percent believe the state should devote more resources to the prisons and corrections system, while 29 percent would have the state spend less in this area.

■ Small majority likes big government — Page 13

A slim majority of state residents (53%) say they prefer paying more taxes and having state government provide more services. Still, a substantial proportion of adults in the state (40%) want lower taxes and fewer services. Likely voters are more divided than are residents in general on this issue: 49 percent favor more services and 44 percent want fewer.

■ Residents see improvement on state budget — Page 15

Fewer than half of Californians today (45%) believe that the state budget is a big problem, a vast improvement from January 2004 and 2005 when 70 percent viewed the budget situation as a crisis. Still, most residents (87%) say the state budget remains at least somewhat of a problem.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The purpose of the PPIC Statewide Survey is to develop a profile of the social, economic, and political forces affecting California elections and public policy preferences. This survey was supported by funding from The James Irvine Foundation. Findings are based on a telephone survey of 2,014 California adult residents interviewed between January 11 and January 18, 2007. Interviews were conducted in English or Spanish. The sampling error for the total sample is +/- 2%. The sampling error for the 1,180 likely voters is +/- 3%. For more information on methodology, see page 25.

Mark Baldassare is research director at PPIC, where he holds the Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Chair in Public Policy. He is founder of the PPIC Statewide Survey, which he has directed since 1998.

PPIC is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving public policy through objective, nonpartisan research on the economic, social, and political issues that affect Californians. The institute was established in 1994 with an endowment from William R. Hewlett. PPIC does not take or support positions on any ballot measure or on any local, state, or federal legislation, nor does it endorse, support, or oppose any political parties or candidates for public office.

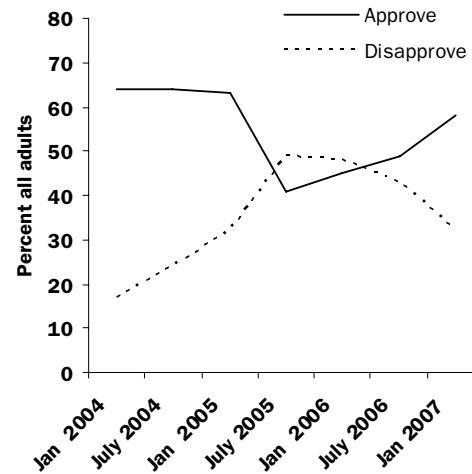
This report will appear on PPIC's website (www.ppic.org) after 10 p.m. on January 24.

STATE ISSUES

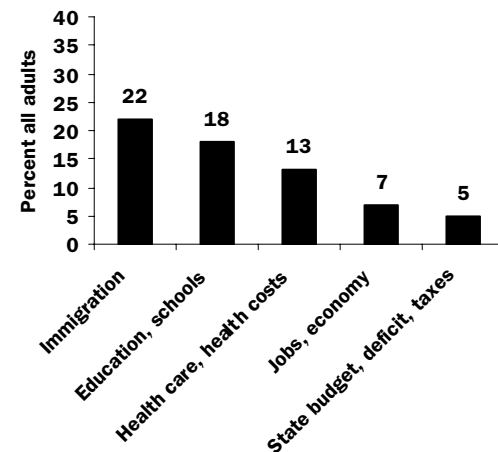
KEY FINDINGS

- Approval ratings for Governor Schwarzenegger and the state legislature have improved since last year. The governor also receives his highest approval ratings yet on environmental issues, transportation, and K-12 public education. (pages 8-9)
- After a year of considerable bipartisanship and productivity, most Californians are optimistic that the governor and legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in 2007. (page 10)
- Californians express favorable opinions of the governor's state of the state speech, as well as his proposals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to issue \$43.3 billion in infrastructure bonds. More than seven in 10 favor health insurance for all Californians, including a health plan to cover lower-income children, but support for the latter proposal drops sharply when it includes children regardless of their immigration status. (pages 10-12)
- Most Californians are satisfied with the governor's budget plan. When asked how to use additional revenue, nearly eight in 10 favor increased spending on K-12 schools and on reducing the state's debt, while a majority oppose increased spending on corrections. (pages 12-13)
- Residents favor increased state funding for K-12 education, health and human services, infrastructure, and public colleges and universities. They are split on whether the state should spend more on prisons and corrections and are divided along party lines on whether to provide more services through higher taxes. (pages 13-15)

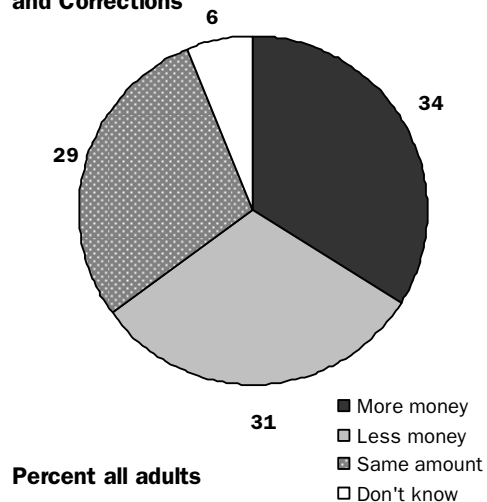
Governor's Approval Ratings



Most Important Issue for Governor and Legislature to Work On



Preference for State Spending on Prisons and Corrections



JOB PERFORMANCE RATINGS FOR STATE OFFICIALS

The new legislative session opens with the legislature enjoying a significant boost in its job approval rating, although it still lags far behind the job approval ratings of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. California adults are now divided in their overall assessment of the legislature (40% approve, 44% disapprove) compared to far more negative reviews in our October pre-election survey (30% approve, 52% disapprove) and our January 2006 survey (29% approve, 57% disapprove). The legislature's approval ratings are more positive today than at any time in 2005 and 2006.

Democrats today are more likely than independents or Republicans to approve of the legislature's job performance. Legislative approval ratings are also higher among Latinos than whites (52% to 35%). Approval ratings decline with age, education, homeownership, and income. Likely voters are similar to all adults in their approval of the legislature's job performance.

"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California legislature is handling its job?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	40%	46%	32%	37%	37%
Disapprove	44	39	55	51	49
Don't know	16	15	13	12	14

At the start of his second term, Governor Schwarzenegger has seen a sharp increase in his approval rating. Today, 58 percent of adults approve of his overall performance in office, an 11-point increase since our October survey (47%) and an 18-point increase from a year ago (40%). In fact, his approval ratings are now higher than at any time since January 2005, when they stood at 60 percent.

Today, the GOP governor has the support of a majority of Democrats and independents as well as solid majority support among Republicans. His job approval ratings are higher among whites than Latinos (66% to 45%), and his approval ratings also increase with age, education, income, and homeownership. More than half of residents in all four major regions of the state approve of his job performance. We find little difference in his approval ratings between likely voters and all adults.

"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Arnold Schwarzenegger is handling his job as governor of California?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	58%	55%	72%	60%	61%
Disapprove	32	35	21	29	30
Don't know	10	10	7	11	9

As Californians look forward in the new year, 55 percent think the state is heading in the right direction, while 37 percent believe it is heading in the wrong direction. Views about the state economy are similarly optimistic: 50 percent of California adults are expecting good economic times over the next 12 months, while 39 percent anticipate bad economic times. Last October, 44 percent said the state was headed in the right direction, and 50 percent expected good economic times. A year ago, only 37 percent said the state was headed in the right direction, while 48 percent expected good economic times.

GOVERNOR'S REPORT CARD

The governor's approval ratings on five specific issues show a range of public support. However, the time trends point to recent improvements in the governor's report card. Today, 55 percent of adults approve of the way he is handling environmental issues (the governor has already signed legislation and is now proposing new legislation to address the issue of global warming). Majorities of Democrats, Republicans, independents, and likely voters approve of his job performance on environmental issues. The governor's current job approval ratings on environmental issues are the highest recorded in PPIC Statewide Surveys in two and a half years (39% July 2004, 32% July 2005, 39% July 2006, 55% today).

Nearly half of all state residents (47%) approve of the governor's handling of the state budget and taxes. Republicans offer a more favorable assessment than Democrats or independents but overall, the assessments by likely voters and all adults are similar. The governor's current performance ratings on the budget are the highest he's received in PPIC Statewide Surveys since January 2005 (48% approve).

The governor receives mixed reviews on his handling of health care policy, both among all residents (43% approve, 40% disapprove) and among likely voters (43% approve, 42% disapprove). He receives slightly higher ratings from Democrats and independents than from Republicans. We currently have no data on trends over time for health care policy.

In the wake of the recent passage of the infrastructure bonds in November, Californians are much more likely to approve than disapprove of the governor's handling of transportation and traffic congestion (43% to 34%), while nearly one in four are undecided. The ratings offered by likely voters and all adults are similar. Republicans are more likely than independents or Democrats to give the governor positive ratings on this issue. The governor's ratings today are higher than last year (38%) or two years ago (35%).

The governor's handling of K-12 education trails other specific ratings, as it did in January 2005 and January 2006, with adults and likely voters today about evenly divided. The proportion of Republicans offering positive ratings is far higher than among Democrats or independents. The governor's approval ratings on public education are the highest since we began asking this question in January 2005.

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Schwarzenegger is handling ..."

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Environmental issues in California?	Approve	55%	54%	63%	56%	57%
	Disapprove	25	27	19	26	25
	Don't know	20	19	18	18	18
The issue of the state budget and taxes?	Approve	47	41	62	50	50
	Disapprove	39	44	26	40	37
	Don't know	14	15	12	10	13
The issue of health care policy in California?	Approve	43	44	39	43	43
	Disapprove	40	40	43	42	42
	Don't know	17	16	18	15	15
The issue of transportation and traffic congestion?	Approve	43	36	53	42	41
	Disapprove	34	40	24	36	34
	Don't know	23	24	23	22	25
The state's kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system?	Approve	40	31	51	33	38
	Disapprove	39	47	30	44	41
	Don't know	21	22	19	23	21

GOVERNOR AND STATE LEGISLATURE IN 2007

When Californians were asked to name the most important issue for the governor and legislature to work on this year (see chart on page 7), residents most often mentioned immigration (22%) and education and schools (18%), followed closely by health care (13%). Lower percentages mentioned jobs and the economy (7%), the state budget and taxes (5%), and other issues such as crime, the environment, gas prices, housing, and infrastructure. A year ago, more Californians were concerned about education (25%) and the state budget (12%), and fewer mentioned immigration (11%) and health care (5%).

After a year in which bipartisan agreements were reached on many bills and on infrastructure bond measures for the ballot, six in 10 adults (62%) and likely voters (60%) are optimistic that the governor and legislature will be able to work together during the new legislative session. Majorities of Californians across political, regional, age, education, gender, homeownership, income, and racial/ethnic groups expect that the governor and legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot. Expectations that the legislature and governor could work together were similar among election voters in November (58%), but were much lower among adults (43%) and likely voters (41%) last January.

“Do you think that Governor Schwarzenegger and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Yes, will be able to work together	62%	63%	58%	63%	60%
No, will not be able to work together	29	25	34	31	30
Don't know	9	12	8	6	10

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

As Governor Schwarzenegger begins his second term in office, about half of adults (47%) and likely voters (51%) say they have a favorable impression of the governor's State of the State address. Opinions of his annual speech are much more favorable than they were a year ago (34%) and higher than in 2005 (42%) and 2004 (44%). Today, Republicans (54%), independents (49%), and Democrats (46%) all express generally positive reactions, but responses to specific proposals in the speech are even more positive.

More than three in four adults (76%) and likely voters (77%) favor the governor's proposal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by creating a low carbon standard for motor vehicle fuel. Supporters outnumber opponents by more than four to one, with fewer than one in five opposed. Strong majorities in all political parties support this proposal, although favor is higher among Democrats (86%) and independents (79%) than Republicans (62%). More than seven in 10 in all regions and demographic groups favor this proposal.

“How about the creation of a low carbon fuel standard that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by vehicles?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	76%	86%	62%	79%	77%
Oppose	18	9	32	16	18
Don't know	6	5	6	5	5

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS (CONTINUED)

In the wake of the passage of five infrastructure bonds in November, 63 percent of adults and 58 percent of likely voters favor the governor's proposal to sell another \$43.3 billion in bonds for construction of schools, prisons, reservoirs, and other infrastructure projects. Three in 10 adults and 35 percent of likely voters are opposed. Again, support is higher among Democrats (66%) and independents (61%) than among Republicans (54%). A majority in all regions and demographic groups approve of the idea.

“How about a plan for \$43.3 billion in new infrastructure bonds to increase funding for education facilities, corrections and prisons, water storage and flood control, courthouses, and other infrastructure projects?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	63%	66%	54%	61%	58%
Oppose	30	28	39	31	35
Don't know	7	6	7	8	7

GOVERNOR'S HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL

Seven in 10 adults and 65 percent of likely voters say they favor a plan mentioned by the governor on January 8th that would require all Californians to have health insurance, with costs shared by employers, health care providers, and individuals. Fewer than one in three adults (23%) and likely voters (28%) are opposed to this idea. While a majority in all political groups approve of the governor's health care plan, Democrats (79%) and independents (68%) are considerably more enthusiastic than Republicans (55%). More than six in 10 residents in all regions and demographic groups favor the proposal. However, support is higher among Latinos than whites (86% to 62%) and declines with age, education, and income.

“How about a plan requiring all Californians to have health insurance, with costs shared by employers, health care providers, and individuals?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	71%	79%	55%	68%	65%
Oppose	23	15	39	27	28
Don't know	6	6	6	5	7

Californians are even more favorably disposed toward the governor's proposal to have the state provide medical coverage for children in lower-income families (under \$60,000 annual income for a family of four). More than three in four adults (79%) and 72 percent of likely voters favor this idea. Fewer than one in four is opposed. As with the health insurance proposal noted above, majorities in all political groups favor providing state medical coverage to low-income children, but support is stronger among Democrats (86%) and independents (77%) than among Republicans (59%). At least 70 percent in all regions and demographic groups favor this policy.

Support for this proposal drops markedly, however, when residents are asked specifically about providing medical coverage to low-income children regardless of their immigration status. In this case, 56 percent of adults favor the idea, while 40 percent are opposed. Among likely voters, opposition exceeds support (50% to 46%). Democrats continue to favor the proposal (65%), but independents are more divided (48% favor, 47% oppose) and a solid number of Republicans are opposed (68%).

GOVERNOR'S HEALTH CARE PROPOSAL (CONTINUED)

When asked about providing medical coverage for low-income children without regard to their immigration status, residents in Los Angeles (61% favor, 36% oppose) and the San Francisco Bay Area (60% favor, 36% oppose) remain favorable, while those in the Central Valley (50% favor, 45% oppose) and Other Southern California region (50% favor, 46% oppose) are more divided. Latinos strongly support this proposal (86% favor, 12% oppose), while most white residents oppose it (54% oppose, 41% favor). Support also declines among older, more affluent, and more educated Californians. Overall, of those who favor providing state medical coverage to lower-income children, two in three are still in favor if coverage extends to all children, regardless of immigration status, while three in 10 become opposed.

“Please say whether you favor or oppose the following plans and policies presented by Governor Schwarzenegger ...”

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>A plan to guarantee medical coverage for children of low-income families, that is a family of four earning under \$60,000 a year?</i>	Favor	79%	86%	59%	77%	72%
	Oppose	18	11	36	18	24
	Don't know	3	3	5	5	4
<i>What if this plan covered children of low-income families regardless of their immigration status?</i>	Favor	56	65	27	48	46
	Oppose	40	31	68	47	50
	Don't know	4	4	5	5	4

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

Two in three Californians are satisfied with the 2007-08 budget proposal released by the governor on January 10th, which calls for increased funding in the four largest budget categories (K-12 education, health and human services, higher education, and prisons and corrections) without raising taxes. Satisfaction with the budget proposal this year is higher than it was last January for last year's budget proposal among all adults (68% to 60%) and among likely voters (65% to 58%). Reactions this year are much more favorable than they were in January 2005 (38% satisfied) and are even more positive than in 2004 (57% satisfied). This year, strong majorities of residents in all political groups are satisfied with the proposed new budget.

“In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the governor's budget plan?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Satisfied	68%	65%	69%	71%	65%
Dissatisfied	23	25	23	22	25
Haven't heard anything about the budget (vol.)	3	3	2	1	2
Don't know	6	7	6	6	8

As for the specific use of additional revenues proposed in the governor's budget, 79 percent of adults and 73 percent of likely voters favor increasing funding for K-12 public schools. The percentages in January 2006 were nearly identical (78% of adults, 73% of likely voters). Although majorities in all parties favor using the additional revenues for schools, support is higher among Democrats (86%) and independents (80%) than Republicans (63%). Latinos are more in favor of using additional revenues for schools than are whites (91% to 73%), and support declines with age, education, and income.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL (CONTINUED)

A similar 78 percent of adults favor using the additional revenues to reduce the amount of state debt. More than eight in 10 likely voters (83%) also favor this option. This is similar to the support expressed in January 2006, when 76 percent of adults and 83 percent of likely voters wanted to pay down debt. As in January 2006, Republicans today are especially positive about using additional state revenues for this purpose (87%), but more than three in four independents (79%) and Democrats (78%) also favor this idea. Support for this use of additional revenues increases with age, income, and education.

Californians, however, appear to part ways with their governor on the issue of using additional revenues for prisons and corrections. Only about four in 10 adults and likely voters approve of using additional revenues for this purpose. While opposition exceeds support across all political parties and in all regions, opposition increases with education and income, and Latinos are as likely to oppose (47%) as to favor (49%) this particular use of additional revenues. This question was not asked in 2006.

“The state will have somewhat more revenue this year than was expected. Do you favor or oppose the following proposals for how to use this year’s additional money in next year’s budget?”

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Increase K-12 public education funding	Favor	79%	86%	63%	80%	73%
	Oppose	19	11	35	20	25
	Don't know	2	3	2	-	2
Reduce the amount of state debt	Favor	78	78	87	79	83
	Oppose	18	18	9	19	13
	Don't know	4	4	4	2	4
Increase funding for prisons and corrections	Favor	41	39	44	38	38
	Oppose	54	55	53	60	57
	Don't know	5	6	3	2	5

GENERAL FISCAL PREFERENCES AND PRIORITIES

Californians appear to be willing to embrace most of the governor’s proposals that do not include any new taxes, but are instead funded through existing general fund revenues and new borrowing through state bonds. Were his proposals to include new taxes, residents’ responses may be different: 53% of Californians say they would prefer paying more taxes and having a state government that provides more services, while 40 percent would prefer paying lower taxes and having fewer government services. Likely voters are more divided on this issue (49% higher taxes, 44% lower taxes).

“In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more – I’d rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, or I’d rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services ...”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Higher taxes and more services	53%	69%	27%	53%	49%
Lower taxes and fewer services	40	24	67	40	44
Don't know	7	7	6	7	7

GENERAL FISCAL PREFERENCES AND PRIORITIES (CONTINUED)

Between February 2003 through May 2005, the preference for higher taxes among adults ranged from 43 percent to 51 percent. Support for higher taxes was highest in January 2006 (61%) but has been declining since (55% May 2006, 53% today).

Today, Democrats (69%) and liberals (75%) strongly favor higher taxes and more services, while Republicans (67%) and conservatives (55%) favor lower taxes and fewer services. Independents favor higher taxes and more services (53%), while 49 percent of moderates favor higher taxes and 42 percent favor lower taxes. Preference for higher taxes and more government services is lower among whites (47%) than Latinos (65%) and declines with increasing age, education, income, and homeownership.

When asked about five of the state's largest areas of spending, majorities of Californians say they believe the state should spend more money than it does now on K-12 public education (68%), health and human services (60%), roads and other infrastructure (58%), and public colleges and universities (55%). Only in the area of prisons and corrections are residents more divided (34% more money, 31% less money, 29% same amount). This prioritization of state spending preferences is consistent with past years, except in the area of infrastructure, which ranked below public colleges and universities in February 2003.

“For each of the following, please tell me if you think the state government should spend more money than it does now, the same amount as now, or less money than now ...”

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
How about the K-12 public education system?	More money	68%	77%	50%	70%	63%
	Same amount of money	22	18	31	22	24
	Less money	7	2	15	6	9
	Don't know	3	3	4	2	4
How about health and human services?	More money	60	71	34	60	54
	Same amount of money	23	19	35	24	26
	Less money	12	5	26	14	16
	Don't know	5	5	5	2	4
How about roads and other infrastructure projects?	More money	58	61	60	59	60
	Same amount of money	30	28	30	31	30
	Less money	8	7	7	10	7
	Don't know	4	4	3	-	3
How about public colleges and universities?	More money	55	62	37	53	50
	Same amount of money	32	29	44	32	34
	Less money	10	5	16	12	12
	Don't know	3	4	3	3	4
How about the state's corrections system, including prisons?	More money	34	33	37	31	33
	Same amount of money	31	29	35	34	32
	Less money	29	30	22	32	30
	Don't know	6	8	6	3	5

GENERAL FISCAL PREFERENCES AND PRIORITIES (CONTINUED)

As in past years, more than six in 10 residents today believe the state should spend more money on K-12 public education, although Democrats (77%) are more likely than independents (70%) and Republicans (50%) to favor this idea. Solid majorities of Democrats (71%) and independents (60%) also favor increased spending on health and human services, while Republicans are more divided (34% more spending, 35% the same, 26% less). Since the governor began promoting the issue of infrastructure in January 2006, support for increased spending in this particular budget area has increased. Today, about six in 10 across parties believe that infrastructure spending should be increased. And while majorities of Democrats (62%) and independents (53%) would also like to see more state spending on higher education, Republicans prefer the status quo (44% the same, 37% more spending).

Although the governor has made spending on corrections a priority in his recent budget discussions, residents are not convinced that the state should spend more money in this area (34% more, 31% the same, 29% less). Still, they are less opposed to spending more money than in previous years.

Residents were also asked about whether they think the state budget situation in California (the balance between government spending and revenues) is a problem today. Fewer than half believe it is a big problem (45%), which is far fewer than in January 2006 (61%), and especially January 2005 (70%) and January 2004 (70%). These findings reflect the state's fiscal reality. In 2004 and 2005, the state faced multibillion dollar deficits. These deficits have declined significantly since then. Residents are also more positive about the budget situation than they were last year—32 percent believe the situation has improved in the past two years, compared to 26 percent in May 2006 and 21 percent in January 2006.

Despite the governor's improving job approval rating and the high level of public satisfaction with his proposed budget, Californians are more likely to say they prefer the approach of Democrats in the legislature (38%) when it comes to making tough budget choices. Twenty-two percent prefer the governor's approach and 21 percent prefer the approach of Republican legislators.

“When it comes to the tough choices involved in the state budget, both in deciding how much Californians should pay in taxes and how to fund state programs, whose approach do you most prefer — Governor Schwarzenegger's, the Democrats' in the legislature, or the Republicans' in the legislature?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Democrats' approach	38%	67%	7%	28%	38%
Governor's approach	22	14	33	26	23
Republicans' approach	21	5	48	23	24
None (volunteered)	3	3	1	6	4
Other (specify)	2	1	2	2	2
Don't know	14	10	9	15	9

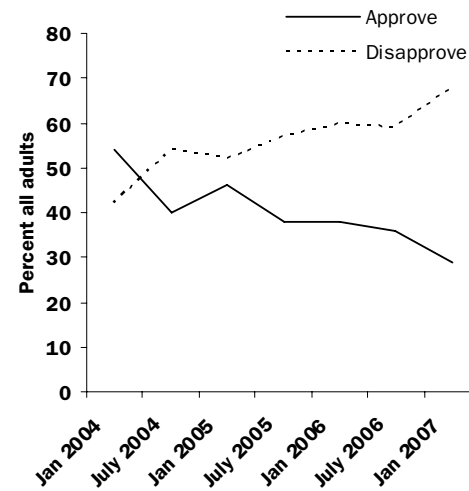
In January 2004, residents favored the governor (33%) over legislative Democrats (27%), and in May 2004, they were more divided (30% governor, 31% Democrats) when asked whose approach they most preferred. Since January 2005, pluralities of adult residents have favored the Democratic legislators in each of five PPIC Statewide Surveys. Across parties today, a strong majority of Democrats (67%) prefer the legislative Democrats' approach, Republicans generally prefer the approach of legislative Republicans (48%), and independents are divided (28% Democrats', 26% governor's, 23% Republicans'). Across regions and demographic groups, pluralities prefer the legislative Democrats' budgetary approach.

NATIONAL ISSUES

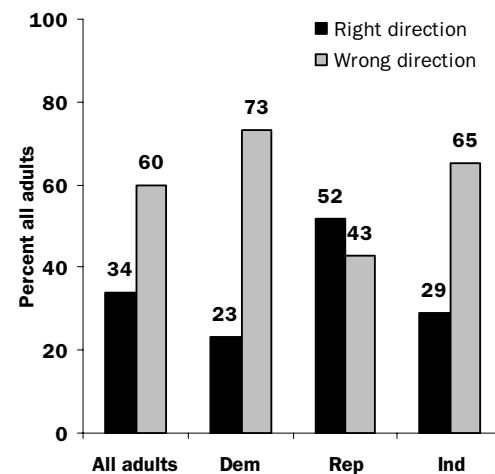
KEY FINDINGS

- Ratings of Congress remain mixed (42% approve, 44% disapprove) but have gained five points since the November election. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has favorable ratings from about half of state residents and likely voters. (page 18)
- Majorities of California adults (56%) and likely voters (52%) approve of Democratic congressional leaders' plans and policies for the future. Fewer, however, think the President and Congress will be able to work together. (page 19)
- President Bush's job approval ratings continue to decline, with nearly seven in 10 California adults and likely voters disapproving. About six in 10 disapprove of his handling of health care policy. Only one in five approves of his handling of Iraq – a new low. (page 20)
- Pessimism about Iraq is at a new high. A majority of Californians (52%) say that things in Iraq are going "not at all well." Nearly seven in 10 adults think it was not worth going to war in Iraq. (page 21)
- Californians strongly oppose Bush's proposal to send additional troops to Iraq (70%). Nearly nine in 10 Democrats, seven in 10 independents, and 36 percent of Republicans are opposed. (page 22)
- A solid majority of Californians believe the federal government spends too little on health care. A majority would prefer a universal health insurance system over the current system, and they favor this change even if it increases taxes. (page 23)

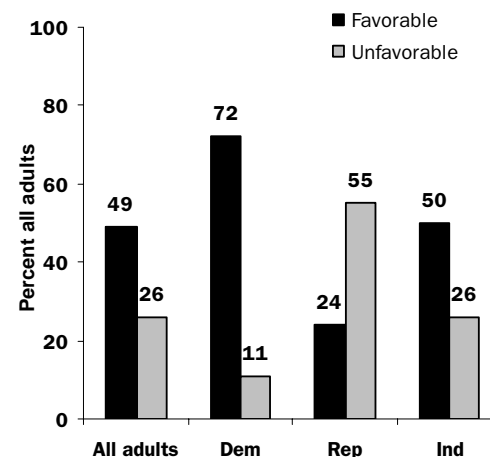
President's Approval Ratings



Direction of the Country



**Impression of Speaker of the House
Nancy Pelosi**



ATTITUDES TOWARD U.S. CONGRESS

As the new congressional session gets started, how do Californians view Congress? Residents give mixed ratings, with 42 percent approving of the way Congress is handling its job and 44 percent disapproving. Likely voters are inclined to be more negative: A majority (51%) disapproves while 37 percent approves. Nonetheless, these ratings represent a sizeable improvement from last September, before the midterm election, when fewer adults (37%) and likely voters (31%) had a favorable view of Congress. Californians' approval today is similar to the high point seen when we first asked this question in October 2005 (42% approve, 46% disapprove), and to Americans nationwide, according to a January 2007 *Washington Post*-ABC News poll (43% approve, 50% disapprove).

Democrats (46%) and independents (40%) are more positive than Republicans (36%) toward the new Democratic-majority Congress. Approval is also higher in Los Angeles (46%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (44%) than in the Other Southern California (43%) region and the Central Valley (38%). Latinos (56%) are far more likely to approve of Congress than are whites (36%). Approval ratings for Congress decrease among older, more educated, and higher-income residents.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	42	46	36	40	37
Disapprove	44	40	53	49	51
Don't know	14	14	11	11	12

Most Californians give positive responses when asked about their early impressions of Nancy Pelosi, the new speaker of the House. About half of all adults (49%) and likely voters (51%) give the California congresswoman a favorable rating, while 26 percent of all adults and 32 percent of likely voters give her an unfavorable one. A national survey by *Newsweek* earlier this month found Pelosi's ratings to be 36 percent favorable and 23 percent unfavorable among all adults. Pelosi's favorability ratings are highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (63%), which includes her congressional district, and drop to 49 percent in Los Angeles, 43 percent in the Other Southern California region, and 39 percent in the Central Valley. A strong partisan divide exists, with 72 percent of Democrats and 50 percent of independents viewing Pelosi favorably, and 55 percent of Republicans viewing her unfavorably.

“Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi?”

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Favorable	49	39	63	49	43	51
Unfavorable	26	29	21	24	29	32
Don't know	25	32	16	27	28	17

Who should take the lead in solving the nation's problems? California adults (53%) and likely voters (50%) pick Democratic congressional leaders as their top choice, while about one in three adults (30%) and likely voters (32%) say President Bush should take the lead. Californians' preferences for leadership in solving the nation's problems are similar to Americans as a whole, according to a November 2006 Pew Research Center poll (29% Bush, 51% Democrats in Congress).

ATTITUDES TOWARD U.S. CONGRESS (CONTINUED)

Californians may be divided in their assessment of the job performance of Congress as a whole, but so far they appear to like the ideas presented by the new Democratic leaders in Congress. A majority of adults (56%) and likely voters (52%) approve of the Democrats' plans and policies. Not surprisingly, approval is much higher among Democrats (78%) and independents (57%) than among Republicans (20%). Californians are slightly more approving of Democratic leaders' plans than are adults nationwide, according to the November 2006 Pew Research Center poll (50% approve, 21% disapprove).

Approval is higher in the more Democratic-leaning areas of the state, including the San Francisco Bay Area (63%) and Los Angeles (58%), than in the Other Southern California region (51%) or in the Central Valley (48%), which are more Republican in their political leanings. Latinos (69%) are much more approving of the Democratic congressional leaders' plans and politics than are whites (48%). Among residents who approve of the Democrats' plans and policies, 75 percent would like to see the Democratic Congress take the lead in solving the nation's problems, while among those who disapprove, 63 percent prefer to have President Bush take the lead.

"As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Democratic congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	56	78	20	57	52
Disapprove	28	9	61	26	32
Don't know	16	13	19	17	16

Californians are not optimistic about President Bush and Congress working together in the next year. Only 38 percent of all adults, and even fewer likely voters (30%), think that they will be able to work together and accomplish a lot. In a relatively rare instance of agreement, Californians are similarly pessimistic across political parties. This response is very different from the expectation of bipartisan cooperation that Californians have for their own state leaders (62% say governor and legislature will work together, 29% say they will not). Latinos (58%) are more optimistic than whites (29%) about cooperation between the president and Congress this year. Pessimism increases sharply with age, education, income, and homeownership. This negative outlook is similar in California and across the nation. According to a CBS News Poll earlier this month, only 41 percent nationwide thought the president and Congress would be able to work together, while 51 percent thought they would not. Among California adults who think the two branches of government will not be able to accomplish much this year, 74 percent think the country is going in the wrong direction.

"Do you think President Bush and the U.S. Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Yes, will be able to work together	38	34	35	35	30
No, will not be able to work together	56	61	61	59	65
Don't know	6	5	4	6	5

PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL RATINGS

Overall, six in 10 Californians (60%) think things in the country are headed in the wrong direction and only 34 percent think they are headed in the right direction, with voters divided along party lines (see chart on page 17). Californians are more optimistic than adults nationwide, according to the January *Washington Post*-ABC News poll (26% right direction). Californians' views are similar today as in October 2006 (62% wrong direction), but more are pessimistic than in January 2005 (51% wrong direction).

Approval of President Bush has reached a new low among Californians: Only 29 percent approve of his job performance, while 68 percent disapprove. Bush's approval ratings have now hit a new low three times in a row, dropping from 33 percent in September 2006 to 32 percent in October 2006 to 29 percent today. Since January 2002, his approval has fallen 51 points. Californians are similar to the nation, according to the *Washington Post*-ABC News poll (33% approve, 65% disapprove).

Among California residents, sharp partisan differences exist in ratings of Bush. Nine in 10 Democrats (89%) and seven in 10 independents (69%) disapprove of his performance, while 58 percent of Republicans approve. Still, six in 10 or more in all regions and demographic groups disapprove of Bush.

Ratings of Bush's performance on health care policy are also negative, with 29 percent approving and 58 percent disapproving of his handling of this area. As with Bush's overall rating, a strong majority of Democrats (79%) and independents (64%) disapprove, while 48 percent of Republicans approve.

Bush's approval ratings are even lower when it comes to the situation in Iraq. Only 22 percent of Californians approve of the way he is handling this issue, while three in four disapprove. Nationwide, Americans are more approving, according to the *Washington Post*-ABC News poll (29% approve, 70% disapprove). Californians' disapproval of the president's Iraq policies has risen since September 2006 when the disapproval level was 68 percent and has climbed 10 points since January 2006 when it stood at 65 percent. Again, a sharp partisan divide exists, with nine in 10 Democrats (91%) and eight in 10 independents (78%) disapproving, while 51 percent of Republicans approve.

"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that George W. Bush is handling..."

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
His job as president of the United States?	Approve	29	9	58	29	29
	Disapprove	68	89	37	69	68
	Don't know	3	2	5	2	3
Health care policy?	Approve	29	14	48	24	27
	Disapprove	58	79	35	64	62
	Don't know	13	7	17	12	11
The situation in Iraq?	Approve	22	7	51	18	26
	Disapprove	75	91	45	78	72
	Don't know	3	2	4	4	2

Californians are also negative about Bush's handling of the federal budget and taxes, with 32 percent approving and 59 percent disapproving. His approval in this area was similar in October 2005 (30%); it is down from two years ago (40% January 2005). Today, eight in 10 Democrats (79%) and six in 10 independents (62%) disapprove, while 60 percent of Republicans like the way he is handling fiscal issues.

SITUATION IN IRAQ

With the Iraq war almost four years old, what do Californians now think about it? When asked how things are going for the U.S. in Iraq, only one in five residents says that things are going very well (3%) or somewhat well (17%), while nearly eight in 10 think that things are going not too well (26%) or not at all well (52%). This marks the first time in a PPIC Statewide Survey that more than half of Californians think things are going not at all well, and is a 15-point increase in this response from last January (37%). Californians are more pessimistic about Iraq than is the rest of nation. According to a recent Pew Research Center poll, six in 10 Americans think things are going not too well (32%) or not at all well (30%).

In California today, there are sharp partisan differences over this issue. About seven in 10 Democrats (71%) and more than of independents (53%) say things are going not at all well, compared to one in four Republicans (25%) who say things are going not at all well for the U.S. in Iraq. Still, among Republicans this highly negative assessment has increased by 15 points since last January (10%). About one in four or fewer adults across regions of the state express positive sentiments about the situation in Iraq. About three in four or more adults across age, education, income, racial/ethnic, and gender groups are pessimistic, with nearly half in all groups saying things are going not at all well.

“In general, how would you say things are going for the U.S. in Iraq?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Very well	3	1	5	3	3
Somewhat well	17	9	30	20	19
Not too well	26	18	38	23	24
Not at all well	52	71	25	53	53
Don't know	2	1	2	1	1

A majority of California adults (69%) continue to think that it was not worth going to war in Iraq. Positive sentiments have dipped to a new low, with only 27 percent of Californians thinking the war was worth it. These findings are slightly more negative than those in September 2006 (30% worth it, 65% not worth it) and positive assessments have dropped seven points since last January. In the January 2007 *Los Angeles Times*/Bloomberg Poll, Americans as a whole were more positive (34% worth it, 62% not worth it) than Californians about the worthiness of the war.

Again, Democrats (88%) and independents (70%) are much more likely than Republicans (36%) to think it was not worth going to war in Iraq. More than six in 10 residents in all regions say the war was not worth it. Latinos are considerably more negative than whites (77% to 62%), and women are somewhat more negative than men (71% to 66%) about this issue.

“All in all, do you think it was worth going to war in Iraq, or not?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Yes, worth it	27	10	58	27	31
No, not worth it	69	88	36	70	65
Don't know	4	2	6	3	4

SITUATION IN IRAQ (CONTINUED)

The need for additional U.S. military forces was the focal point of the president's recent proposal on Iraq. What do Californians think about this new policy? Seven in 10 Californians (70%) oppose an increase in troops, while 26 percent support it. Once again, Californians are more negative than the rest of the country. Nationwide, 65 percent of Americans opposed this policy and 34 percent supported it in the *Washington Post*-ABC News poll.

As with other attitudes about the Iraq war, deep partisan divisions are present in California. Democrats (87%) and independents (71%) are much more likely than Republicans (36%) to oppose a troop increase. Across the state at least six in 10 or more residents in each region oppose this policy, with Los Angeles (77%) and the San Francisco Bay Area residents (73%) voicing the greatest opposition. Latinos are much more likely than whites (83% to 61%) and women are more likely than men (74% to 66%) to oppose this policy. Support for sending more troops to Iraq increases with higher age and income.

“Do you support or oppose President Bush's proposal to send approximately 22,000 additional U.S. military forces to Iraq?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Support	26	10	59	24	32
Oppose	70	87	36	71	64
Don't know	4	3	5	5	4

Most Californians are not optimistic when asked about the likelihood of a stable democratic government being established in Iraq, with 31 percent saying that it is likely (7% very, 24% somewhat) and 65 percent stating that is not too (32%) or not at all (33%) likely. In a recent Associated Press/Ipsos Poll, 38 percent of Americans said a stable Iraq is likely, while 60 percent said it is unlikely.

Sentiment regarding a stable democratic government in Iraq is sharply divided across political parties in California, with at least seven in 10 Democrats (74%) and independents (70%) stating that stability in Iraq is not too likely or not at all likely, while only 46 percent of Republicans hold this view. Fewer than four in 10 residents across the state's regions think it is very likely or somewhat likely that a stable government in Iraq will be established; residents of the Other Southern California region are the most optimistic. More than six in 10 residents across age, education, income, racial/ethnic, and gender groups think it is not too likely or not at all likely that a stable democratic government will be established in Iraq.

“How likely is it that a stable democratic government will be established in Iraq?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Very likely	7	4	8	5	5
Somewhat likely	24	18	45	24	28
Not too likely	32	31	28	36	31
Not at all likely	33	43	18	34	33
Don't know	4	4	1	1	3

HEALTH CARE POLICY

As California's state policymakers consider a variety of proposals to extend health coverage for the state's residents, a majority of Californians (61%) think that the federal government is spending too little on health care. Democrats (73%) and independents (60%) are far more likely to hold this view than Republicans (39%). In a national survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation last November, 67 percent of adults nationwide said that the federal government spends too little on health care.

Californians prefer a universal health insurance system, in which everyone is covered under a government program like Medicare, over the current system in which most health insurance is provided by employers or purchased privately. While three in 10 residents prefer the current system, six in 10 would opt for a universal health plan. Opinions regarding this issue vary sharply across party lines, with strong support for the current health insurance system among Republicans (58%) but strong support among independents (59%) and even more so among Democrats (73%) for changing to a universal health insurance program. Preference for a change to a universal health insurance program today is similar to the PPIC Statewide Surveys in September 2005 (59%) and September 2004 (60%).

“Which would you prefer: (1) the current health insurance system in the United States, in which most people get their health insurance from private employers, but some people have no insurance, (or) (2) a universal health insurance program, in which everyone is covered under a program like Medicare that is run by the government and financed by taxpayers?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Current system	31	18	58	32	37
Universal health insurance system	61	73	36	59	54
Don't know	8	9	6	9	9

In addition, 63 percent of all adults and 59 percent of likely voters say they favor the U.S. government guaranteeing health insurance for all citizens even if it means raising taxes. While Republicans are opposed to raising taxes for this purpose, Democrats and independents are strongly in favor of it. The preference for this proposal among adults today is the same as it was in September 2005 (63% favor).

“Do you favor or oppose the U.S. government guaranteeing health insurance for all citizens, even if it means raising taxes?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	63	76	41	64	59
Oppose	34	20	56	32	38
Don't know	3	4	3	4	3

A majority of Californians (55%) also believe the state government is spending too little on health care. More Democrats (68%) hold this perspective than independents (53%), while only 33 percent of Republicans have this perception about the level of state spending on health care. Moreover, 71 percent of Californians favor the state government making its own policies, separate from the federal government, to address the issue of health care. A strong preference for separate state government policies to address the issue of health care is found among likely voters (75%), across all political groups (77% Democrats, 68% Republicans, 74% independents), and the major regions of the state, and age, education, gender, homeownership, income, and racial/ethnic groups.

REGIONAL MAP



METHODOLOGY

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, research director and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance in research and writing from Jennifer Paluch, project manager for this survey, and survey research associates Dean Bonner and Sonja Petek. The surveys were conducted with funding from The James Irvine Foundation and benefited from discussions with foundation staff and grantees; however, survey methods, questions, and content of this report were solely determined by Mark Baldassare.

The findings of this survey are based on a telephone survey of 2,014 California adult residents interviewed January 11-18, 2007. Interviewing took place on weekday nights and weekend days, using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. All telephone exchanges in California were eligible. Telephone numbers in the survey sample were called up to six times to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using the “last birthday method” to avoid biases in age and gender. Each interview took an average of 18 minutes to complete. Interviewing was conducted in English or Spanish. *Accent on Languages* translated the survey into Spanish with assistance from Renatta DeFever. Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc. conducted the telephone interviewing.

We used recent U.S. Census and state figures to compare the demographic characteristics of the survey sample with characteristics of California’s adult population. The survey sample was closely comparable to the census and state figures. The survey data in this report were statistically weighted to account for any demographic differences.

The sampling error for the total sample of 2,014 adults is +/- 2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 2 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for subgroups is larger: For the 1,567 registered voters, it is +/- 2.5 percent; for the 1,180 likely voters it is +/- 3 percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

Throughout the report, we present results for four geographic regions accounting for approximately 90 percent of the state population. “Central Valley” includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. “San Francisco Bay Area” includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. “Los Angeles” refers to Los Angeles County, and “Other Southern California” includes Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Residents from other geographic areas are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters. However, sample sizes for these less populated areas are not large enough to report separately in tables and text. We present specific results for Latinos because they account for about 30 percent of the state’s adult population and constitute one of the fastest growing voter groups. The sample sizes for African Americans and Asians are not large enough for separate analysis. We do compare the opinions of registered Democrats, Republicans, and independents (those who are registered to vote as “decline to state”). We also include the responses of “likely voters”—those who are most likely to vote in the state’s elections based on past voting, current interest, and vote intentions. We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey responses to earlier PPIC Statewide Surveys and we compare PPIC Statewide Survey responses to those in national surveys by Associated Press/Ipsos, *Washington Post*-ABC News, CBS News, Kaiser Family Foundation, *Los Angeles Times*/Bloomberg, *Newsweek* and the Pew Research Center.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

January 11-18, 2007

2,014 California Adult Residents:
English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR +/-2% AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE

1. First, which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2007?

[code, don't read]

22% immigration, illegal immigration
18 education, schools
13 health care, health costs
7 jobs, economy
5 state budget, deficit, taxes
4 crime, gangs, drugs
4 environment, pollution
4 infrastructure, traffic, transportation
2 gas prices
11 other
10 don't know

2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Arnold Schwarzenegger is handling his job as governor of California?

58% approve
32 disapprove
10 don't know

[rotate questions 3 to 7]

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Schwarzenegger is handling the issue of the state budget and taxes?

47% approve
39 disapprove
14 don't know

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Schwarzenegger is handling the state's kindergarten through 12th grade public education system?

40% approve
39 disapprove
21 don't know

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Schwarzenegger is handling the issue of transportation and traffic congestion?

43% approve
34 disapprove
23 don't know

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Schwarzenegger is handling environmental issues in California?

55% approve
25 disapprove
20 don't know

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Schwarzenegger is handling the issue of health care policy in California?

43% approve
40 disapprove
17 don't know

8. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California legislature is handling its job?

40% approve
44 disapprove
16 don't know

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

55% right direction
37 wrong direction
8 don't know

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

50% good times
39 bad times
11 don't know

11. On another topic, 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?

45% big problem
42 somewhat of a problem
7 not a problem
6 don't know

12. In the past two years, do you think the state budget situation has improved, gotten worse, or stayed the same?

32% improved
24 gotten worse
36 stayed the same
8 don't know

Now, I am going to ask about specific areas where the State of California spends money. For each area, please tell me if you think that the state government should spend more money than it does now, the same amount as now, or less money than now.

[rotate questions 13 to 17]

13. How about the state's corrections system, including prisons?

34% more money
31 same amount of money
29 less money
6 don't know

14. How about the K-12 public education system?

68% more money
22 same amount of money
7 less money
3 don't know

15. How about public colleges and universities?

55% more money
32 same amount of money
10 less money
3 don't know

16. How about health and human services?

60% more money
23 same amount of money
12 less money
5 don't know

17. How about roads and other infrastructure projects?

58% more money
30 same amount of money
8 less money
4 don't know

18. When it comes to the tough choices involved in the state budget, both in deciding how much Californians should pay in taxes and how to fund state programs, whose approach do you most prefer—**[rotate]** (1) Governor Schwarzenegger's, (2) the Democrats' in the legislature, **[or]** (3) the Republicans' in the legislature?

38% Democrats'
22 Governor Schwarzenegger's
21 Republicans'
3 none (*volunteered*)
2 other (*specify*)
14 don't know

19. And, in general, which of the following statements do you agree with more—I'd rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, or I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services?

53% higher taxes and more services
40 lower taxes and fewer services
7 don't know

20. Overall, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of the plans and policies for California that Governor Schwarzenegger presented in his recent State of the State speech?

47% favorable
24 unfavorable
20 haven't heard about the speech
(volunteered)
9 don't know

Next, please tell me if you favor or oppose the following plans and policies that the governor presented in his speech.

[rotate questions 21 to 24; rotate questions 22 to 23 as a set]

21. How about a plan for \$43.3 billion in new infrastructure bonds to increase funding for education facilities, corrections and prisons, water storage and flood control, courthouses, and other infrastructure projects?

63% favor
30 oppose
7 don't know

[question 22a must follow 22]

22. How about a plan to guarantee medical coverage for children of low-income families, that is, a family of four earning under \$60,000 a year?

79% favor
18 oppose
3 don't know

22a. What if this plan covered children of low-income families regardless of their immigration status?

56% favor
40 oppose
4 don't know

23. How about a plan requiring all Californians to have health insurance, with costs shared by employers, health care providers, and individuals?

71% favor
23 oppose
6 don't know

24. How about the creation of a low carbon fuel standard that would reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by vehicles?

76% favor
18 oppose
6 don't know

25. Do you think that Governor Schwarzenegger and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?

62% yes, will be able to work together
29 no, will not be able to work together
9 don't know

26. Recently, Governor Schwarzenegger proposed a budget plan for the next fiscal year that includes increased spending on K-12 education, health and human services, higher education, and corrections and prisons. The plan includes no new taxes. In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the governor's budget plan?

68% satisfied
23 dissatisfied
3 haven't heard anything about the budget (volunteered)
6 don't know

The state will have somewhat more revenue this year than was expected. Do you favor or oppose the following proposals for how to use this year's additional money in next year's budget, which begins on July 1, 2007?

[rotate questions 27 to 29]

27. Do you favor or oppose using some of this additional money to increase funding for prisons and corrections?

41% favor
54 oppose
5 don't know

28. Do you favor or oppose using some of this additional money to increase K-12 public education funding?

79% favor
19 oppose
2 don't know

29. Do you favor or oppose using some of this additional money to reduce the amount of state debt?

78% favor
18 oppose
4 don't know

30. Changing topics, overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that George W. Bush is handling his job as president of the United States?

29% approve
68 disapprove
3 don't know

[rotate questions 31 to 33]

31. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Bush is handling the federal budget and taxes?

32% approve
59 disapprove
9 don't know

32. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Bush is handling the situation in Iraq?

22% approve
75 disapprove
3 don't know

33. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Bush is handling health care policy?

29% approve
58 disapprove
13 don't know

34. Do you think things in the United States are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

34% right direction
60 wrong direction
6 don't know

35. Turning to economic conditions, do you think that during the next 12 months the United States will have good times financially or bad times?

47% good times
46 bad times
7 don't know

36. In general, how would you say things are going for the U.S. in Iraq?

3% very well
17 somewhat well
26 not too well
52 not at all well
2 don't know

37. All in all, do you think it was worth going to war in Iraq, or not?

27% yes, worth it
69 no, not worth it
4 don't know

38. Do you support or oppose President Bush's proposal to send approximately 22,000 additional U.S. military forces to Iraq?

26% support
70 oppose
4 don't know

39. How likely is it that a stable, democratic government will be established in Iraq?

- 7% very likely
- 24 somewhat likely
- 32 not too likely
- 33 not at all likely
- 4 don't know

40. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?

- 42% approve
- 44 disapprove
- 14 don't know

41. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi?

- 49% favorable
- 26 unfavorable
- 25 don't know *[skip to q42]*

41a. Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

- 24% strongly favorable
- 25 somewhat favorable
- 10 somewhat unfavorable
- 16 strongly unfavorable
- 25 don't know

42. Who in Washington do you think should take the lead in solving the nation's problems—President Bush, or the Democratic congressional leaders?

- 53% Democratic congressional leaders
- 30 President Bush
- 6 both *(volunteered)*
- 6 neither *(volunteered)*
- 5 don't know

43. As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Democratic congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?

- 56% approve
- 28 disapprove
- 16 don't know

44. Do you think President Bush and the U.S. Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?

- 38% yes, will be able to work together
- 56 no, will not be able to work together
- 6 don't know

Next, I'd like to ask you a few questions about the health care system.

[rotate questions 45 and 46]

45. Do you think the federal government spends too much, too little, or the right amount on health care?

- 13% too much
- 61 too little
- 18 the right amount
- 8 don't know

46. Do you think the state government spends too much, too little, or the right amount on health care?

- 14% too much
- 55 too little
- 22 the right amount
- 9 don't know

47. Do you favor or oppose the California state government making its own policies, separate from the federal government, to address the issue of health care?

- 71% favor
- 22 oppose
- 7 don't know

48. Which would you prefer—***[rotate]*** [1] the current health insurance system in the United States, in which most people get their health insurance from private employers, but some people have no insurance ***[or]*** [2] a universal health insurance program, in which everyone is covered under a program like Medicare that is run by the government and financed by taxpayers?

- 31% current system
- 61 universal health insurance system
- 8 don't know

49. Do you favor or oppose the U.S. government guaranteeing health insurance for all citizens, even if it means raising taxes?

63% favor
34 oppose
3 don't know

50. Next, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote?

78% yes *[ask q51a]*
21 no *[skip to q52a]*
1 don't know *[skip to q52a]*

51a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or as an independent?

42% Democrat *[skip to q52b]*
33 Republican *[skip to q52c]*
5 another party *(specify) [skip to q53]*
20 independent *[ask q52a]*

52a. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

21% Republican party
49 Democratic party
23 neither *(volunteered)*
7 don't know

[skip to q53]

52b. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?

56% strong
41 not very strong
3 don't know

[skip to q53]

52c. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

45% strong
53 not very strong
2 don't know

53. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically:

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

10% very liberal
20 somewhat liberal
31 middle-of-the-road
23 somewhat conservative
12 very conservative
4 don't know

54. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics?

27% great deal
43 fair amount
24 only a little
5 none
1 don't know

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