

MARCH 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

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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 75<sup>th</sup> PPIC Statewide Survey in a series that has generated a database that includes the responses of more than 156,000 Californians. This survey is the 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 California presidential primary in February 2008. The survey examines Californians' political trust in the state and federal governments and their opinions of the elected officials who represent them in Sacramento and Washington. It also looks at residents' attitudes toward legislative reforms and public policy issues such as health care coverage, foreign policy, and immigration. This report presents the responses of 2,000 California adult residents throughout the state on the following topics:

- State issues, including approval ratings for Governor Schwarzenegger and the state legislature; perceptions of the most important issues facing California today; opinions about the general direction of the state and the outlook for the state's economy; trust in state government; attitudes toward legislative redistricting and legislative term limits. We also consider the issue of health care reform, including perceptions of whether changes to the health care system are needed and the level of concern about providing health care to all Californians; attitudes toward shared responsibility in providing a statewide health care plan; and preferences for specific health care proposals.
- National issues, including overall approval ratings for President Bush and his handling of the situations in Iraq, Iran, and North Korea; preferences for U.S. policy in Iran and Iraq; overall approval ratings of California's U.S. Senators, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and each respondent's own U.S. House representative; trust in federal government; attitudes toward immigration policy; opinions about California's presidential primary in February 2008; and early candidate preferences in the Democratic and Republican presidential primary.
- 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.

Copies of this report may be ordered online ([www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org)) or by phone (415-291-4400). For questions about the survey, please contact [survey@ppic.org](mailto:survey@ppic.org). View our searchable PPIC Statewide Survey database online at <http://www.ppic.org/main/survAdvancedSearch.asp>.



# PRESS RELEASE

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## SURVEY ON CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

### If You Lead, Will They Follow? Voters, Leaders Not On Same Reform Page

PRIMARY MOVE A VOTER YAWN; RESISTANCE TO TERM LIMITS REFORM;  
GIULIANI, CLINTON EARLY FRONT RUNNERS FOR '08

SAN FRANCISCO, California, March 28, 2007 — Much of the political reform activity that has absorbed Sacramento's time and energy recently is underwhelming many state residents, according to a survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), conducted with funding from The James Irvine Foundation.

Passionate as state leaders have been about moving the state's presidential primary from June to February, residents are barely convinced that the move is worthwhile. Moreover, they are downright resistant to ideas being floated for changing the rules on term limits. In contrast, a large majority is ready to wrest redistricting from the hands of the governor and legislature.

"The state's residents and leaders seem to be marching to different drummers," says PPIC president and CEO Mark Baldassare. "A lot of this dissonance springs from distrust of their leaders' ability to lead."

### YES, NO, MAYBE: DIVERGING SUPPORT FOR REFORM PROPOSALS

Just under half (49%) of all Californians and slightly over half (52%) of likely voters think moving the primary forward is a good thing. Residents are equally lukewarm about one effect of the move – holding three elections in 2008: Half (50%) of residents and fewer likely voters (46%) like the idea of going to the polls three different times next year.

Tepid support turns to flat resistance when it comes to reforming term limits. Over two-thirds of likely voters (68%) believe those limits, on the books since 1990, have been a good thing for the state. And a strong majority of them (64%) oppose a term limits reform initiative that proponents hope to put on the February 2008 primary ballot. That resistance is unambiguous across party lines, with majorities of Republicans (70%), independents (68%), and Democrats (61%) saying they would oppose the initiative.

Redistricting is the one reform proposal that Californians are rallying around. A full two-thirds (66%) of likely voters think the current redistricting process needs at least minor changes. Nearly four in 10 (39%) believe it needs major changes. And 66 percent say they would favor the reform that gives an independent commission of citizens the power to determine legislative districts.

### DISTRUST IN GOVERNMENT GOES FROM BAD AT THE STATE LEVEL...

Californians' ambivalence toward reform efforts reflects deep reservations about their state political leaders. On the one hand, with some slippage since January, residents give Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger good marks and are less disapproving of the state legislature than they have been in some time. Fifty-one percent of all Californians and 56 percent of likely voters approve of the governor's job performance (a 7% and 5% decline, respectively, since January). The legislature is also doing relatively well in the eyes of residents and voters – in fact, the legislature's approval ratings among all adults (41%) are nearing their highest point in recent years (43% in October 2004). While approval is

lower among likely voters (39% approve, 47% disapprove), it remains significantly higher than it was one year ago (23% approve, 65% disapprove).

On the other hand, and at odds with the approval ratings, most Californians and even more likely voters continue to express low levels of trust in state government. Fewer than one-third of residents (32%) and likely voters (30%) believe that the government in Sacramento can be trusted to do the right thing most or just about all of the time. Nearly two in three (64%) Californians say that state government is run by a few big interests rather than for the benefit of all the people (28%).

### **... TO WORSE AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL**

Californians' feelings about their state leaders and government are almost starry-eyed compared with their feelings about national leadership. President George Bush's approval ratings have reached an all-time low in the state, with only 28 percent of residents saying they approve of the way he is handling his job and nearly seven in 10 (69%) saying they disapprove.

Level of trust in the federal government is strongly linked to opinions of the president. Among Californians who disapprove of President Bush, only 19 percent say they trust the federal government at least most of the time; among those who approve, 51 percent say they do. Californians trust in the federal government has deteriorated across the board: Fewer than three in 10 (28%) believe they can trust the government at least most of the time – a 10 point drop since February 2003. Moreover, 68 percent of Californians think the federal government wastes a lot of their tax money (a 10-point increase since the PPIC survey first asked this question in January 2000).

### **AXIS OF BAD APPROVAL RATINGS**

Even more Californians believe the Bush Administration is dropping the foreign policy ball. When asked how we're doing against the "axis of evil," majorities say they disapprove of the way President Bush is handling the situations in Iraq (74%), Iran (68%), and North Korea (54%). Although there are sharp partisan differences over Iraq, Republican support (56% approve, 40% disapprove) is not nearly as clear-cut as opposition from Democrats (9% approve, 90% disapprove) or independents (18% approve, 78% disapprove). Clear majorities of all Californians (62%) and likely voters (59%) oppose the administration's recent move to increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq.

Particularly striking, Californians seem to be leery of following the path in Iran that the United States is following in Iraq. Likely voters say it is more important to avoid a military conflict with Iran (54%) than it is to take a firm stand against Iranian actions (39%). Partisan divisions, however, are stark: Democrats and independents largely prefer avoiding military conflict (68% and 61% respectively), while a majority of Republicans (62%) say it is more important to take a firm stand.

Ironically, despite the diplomatic efforts and military actions of the past five years, Californians still put the "axis of evil" at the top of the list when asked to name the country that poses the greatest danger to the United States: Most respondents name Iran (20%), followed closely by North Korea (19%) and Iraq (15%). The most ironic comment of all on U.S. foreign policy? Respondents rated the United States a greater danger to itself (8%) than Al Qaeda or terrorist groups (2%).

### **CONCERNS AT THE GRASSROOTS?**

While political reform dominates conversation in the state capitol, Californians say immigration (19%) is the most important issue facing the state today, followed by jobs and the economy (13%), and education (12%). Despite their concerns about immigration, a majority of residents (60%) also believe immigrants are a benefit to the state because of their hard work and job skills, while one-third (33%) say they are a burden because of their use of public services.



Residents' focus on immigration comes at a time when Congress and the president are preparing to discuss immigration reform. One key element of the debate – one with potentially heavy consequences for California – is allowing illegal immigrants to obtain work permits. A solid majority (64%) of Californians think immigrants who are in the United States illegally should be allowed to apply for work permits. Underlying the overall support, however, there are differences between political parties, and particularly between Latinos and whites, with Latinos being far more likely than whites (90% to 55%) to support work permits for illegal immigrants.

Attitudes go the other way on providing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. Fifty-four percent of Californians, and 64 percent of likely voters, say they would oppose state legislation allowing illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses. The partisan divide runs deep on this issue: Republicans and independents are clearly opposed (82% and 59% respectively), while Democrats are divided (49% favor, 47% oppose).

State residents also do not support providing health care coverage to illegal immigrants. A majority (53%) say they oppose the idea while 43 percent support it. An overwhelming majority of Republicans (83%) are opposed, compared to a lesser majority (57%) of independents and a minority (44%) of Democrats.

### **WITH HEALTH CARE FOR ALL?**

Although not at the top of their concerns, most Californians (71%) think the state's health care system is in need of major changes – and this view is held strongly both by those who are currently covered by health insurance (70%) and those who are not (73%).

There is strong support for many of the specific health care reform proposals put forward by the governor and legislative leaders. For instance, 65 percent of likely voters say they would favor a plan that requires all Californians to have health insurance, with the costs shared by employers, individuals, and providers. Only 29 percent would oppose such a plan. Sixty-seven percent of likely voters also think it's a good idea to require employers to either provide health insurance to their employees or pay a fee to the state. One key component of the proposed plan that meets strong resistance, however, is the requirement that physicians and hospitals pay a fee to the state to help cover health care costs: 63 percent of likely voters think this is a bad idea, compared to just 30 percent who think it is a good idea.

"The overriding message we get from these findings is that people do have angst about the current system, and that they seem willing to support some very different policy directions in order to see more Californians covered," says Baldassare. Indeed, 85 percent of all respondents say they are at least somewhat concerned about providing health care to all residents, including 60 percent who say they are very concerned.

### **MORE KEY FINDINGS**

- **Californians See Storm Clouds for Economy** — Page 8  
About half (51%) of Californians think bad economic times are coming in the next 12 months. This is a significant 12 point jump since January, when only 39 percent of residents were expecting bad economic times. The deteriorating mood is also evident when it comes to the present direction of the state: Today, less than a majority (45%) of residents say the state is going in the right direction, down from 55 percent in January.
- **Voters Approve of Madam Speaker, Madam Senators** — Pages 18 and 19  
A majority (53%) of likely voters approve of the job performance so far of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Equal numbers of likely voters (53%) approve of the job Senator Barbara Boxer is doing, and even greater numbers (59%) say Senator Dianne Feinstein is handling her job well.
- **Clinton, Giuliani Early Front Runners in '08** — Page 22  
Among likely voters, Hillary Rodham Clinton (35%) is the favored Democratic presidential candidate,

leading Barack Obama (24%), John Edwards (14%), and Bill Richardson (6%). On the Republican side, Rudy Giuliani (33%) holds a comfortable early lead over John McCain (19%), Newt Gingrich (14%), and Mitt Romney (7%).

■ **California's First Lady a Ratings Hit... And a Question Mark** — Page 27

First Lady Maria Shriver earns high marks from a majority (53%) of Californians, while very few (14%) see her in an unfavorable light. The rest? A full one-third (33%) say they don't know.

**ABOUT THE SURVEY**

This edition of the PPIC Statewide Survey – the 22<sup>nd</sup> in PPIC's *Californians and Their Government* series – is supported by funding from The James Irvine Foundation. This survey is intended to raise public awareness, inform decisionmakers, and stimulate public discussions about state and national issues as well as about the California presidential primary in February 2008. Findings are based on a telephone survey of 2,000 California adult residents interviewed between March 13 and March 20, 2007. Interviews were conducted in English or Spanish. The sampling error for the total sample is +/- 2%. The sampling error for the 1,122 likely voters is +/- 3%. For more information on methodology, see page 25.

Mark Baldassare is the president and CEO of 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. He conducted this survey with coauthors Dean Bonner, Jennifer Paluch, and Sonja Petek.

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](http://www.ppic.org)) after 10 p.m. on March 28.

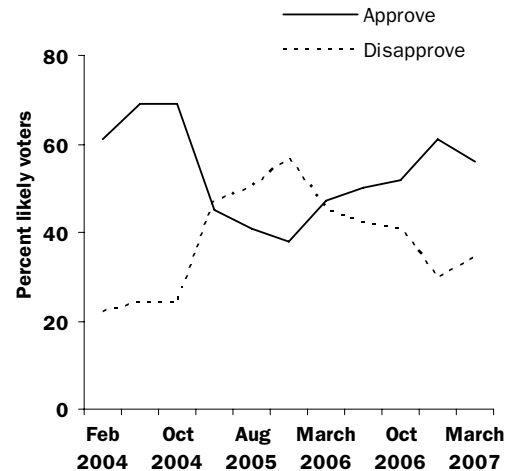
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# STATE ISSUES

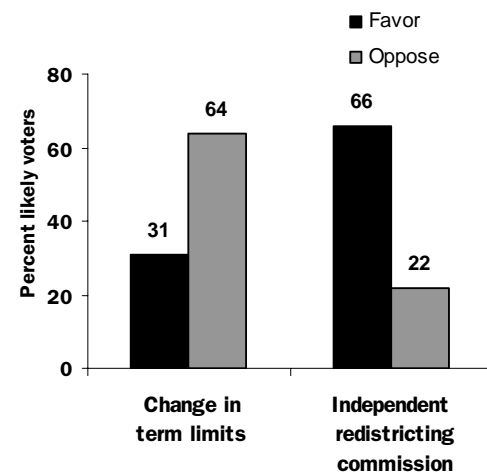
## KEY FINDINGS

- Negative views about the state's economic outlook and its direction have increased since January. Californians say that immigration, jobs and the economy, and education are the most important issues today. (page 8)
- Majorities of all adults and likely voters approve of the governor's job performance, while four in 10 approve of the legislature. Nearly half of adults (47%) and likely voters (46%) approve of their own representatives in the state legislature. (page 9)
- Only one in three adults say they mostly trust the state government to do what is right, and majorities believe the state government wastes a lot of money and is run by a few big interests. (page 10)
- Six in 10 Californians say that legislative term limits have been a good thing, and a majority oppose a proposal for change. In contrast, six in 10 Californians believe that changes are needed in the redistricting process, and a majority favor independent redistricting. (pages 11, 12)
- Most Californians think changes are needed in the health care system and express concern about the issue of providing health care for all Californians. Seven in 10 support the concept of requiring all Californians to have health coverage, with responsibility shared by employers, health care providers, and individuals. (pages 13, 14)

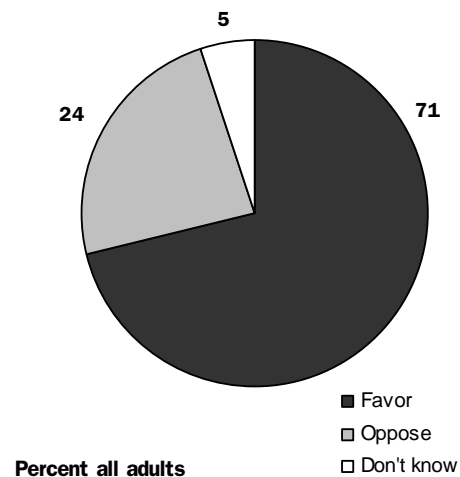
## Governor's Approval Ratings



## Legislative Reforms



## Require All Californians to Have Health Insurance with Shared Costs



## OVERALL MOOD

Californians have grown more pessimistic about the state's economy for the coming year. Half of all adults (51%) now think bad economic times are to come. In January, 39 percent of all adults expected bad economic times. Today, residents in the Other Southern California region (53%) are the most likely to expect bad times, followed by the Central Valley (51%), Los Angeles (50%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (47%). Democrats (59%) and independents (52%) are more pessimistic than Republicans (42%). Pessimism is higher among Latinos (54%) than whites (48%) and women (55%) than men (46%).

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

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<b>Good times</b>	40%	39%	45%	40%	38%	41%
<b>Bad times</b>	51	51	47	50	53	49
<b>Don't know</b>	9	10	8	10	9	10

Californians say the most important issue facing the state today is immigration (19%), followed by jobs and the economy (13%), and education (12%). Fewer mentioned health care (9%), gasoline prices (7%), or other issues. Among likely voters, immigration (21%) remains a top concern, followed by education (14%), jobs and the economy, and health care (11% each).

Regionally, immigration is the top concern among residents in the Other Southern California region (23%), Los Angeles (21%), and the Central Valley (17%), while education and schools are most important to those in the San Francisco Bay Area (19%). Across political parties, voters have differing views about the state's most important issue. Republicans see immigration (31%) as the top concern, but only 10 percent of Democrats agree. Democrats mention the economy and jobs (15%) and health care (14%) as their top concerns, but Republicans are far less likely to agree (7% each). Latinos (19%) and whites (21%) are about as likely to name immigration as the most important issue facing California.

**“Thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?”**

<i>Top five issues mentioned</i>	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<b>Immigration, illegal immigration</b>	19%	17%	12%	21%	23%	21%
<b>Jobs, economy</b>	13	14	13	13	12	11
<b>Education, schools</b>	12	11	19	12	8	14
<b>Health care, health costs</b>	9	11	10	8	7	11
<b>Gasoline prices</b>	7	7	7	4	8	5

Californians are currently divided when asked about the present direction of the state, with 45 percent saying it is going in the right direction and 47 percent saying it is going in the wrong direction. In January, 55 percent of all adults said the state was going in the right direction and 37 percent said it was going in the wrong direction. Across political parties today, Republicans lean toward wrong direction (50% wrong, 43% right), while independents (46% each direction) and Democrats are split (44% wrong, 47% right).

## JOB PERFORMANCE RATINGS FOR STATE OFFICIALS

Today, 51 percent of California adults and 56 percent of likely voters approve of Governor Schwarzenegger's job performance. In January, 58 percent of all adults and 61 percent of likely voters approved of his overall job performance. Still, the governor's approval ratings today are much higher than they were a year ago among all adults (37%) and likely voters (47%). Across parties today, majorities of Republicans (70%) and independents (57%) approve of the governor's performance, while Democrats are divided (43% approve, 46% disapprove).

Across regions, more residents in the Central Valley (59%) and the Other Southern California region (54%) than in the San Francisco Bay Area (46%) and Los Angeles (45%) approve of the governor's job performance. His job approval ratings are higher among whites than Latinos (61% to 31%) and among men than women (53% to 48%). Approval of his performance increases with age, education, and income. Among residents who say the state is headed in the right direction, 70 percent approve of the governor, and among residents who expect good economic times ahead, 64 percent approve.

### "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	
<b>Approve</b>	51%	43%	70%	57%	56%
<b>Disapprove</b>	38	46	22	33	34
<b>Don't know</b>	11	11	8	10	10

Californians are divided on their overall assessment of the legislature (41% approve, 42% disapprove), while likely voters are more negative (39% approve, 47% disapprove). Still, its approval ratings are higher than they were a year ago (25% all adults, 23% likely voters), and the legislature's ratings are at the highest point since October 2004 (43%). Today, Democrats are more likely than independents or Republicans to approve of the legislature's job performance. Legislative approval ratings are higher among Latinos than whites (50% to 37%). Approval ratings decline with age, education, and income. Among residents who say the state is headed in the right direction, 60 percent approve of the legislature's performance, and among residents who expect good economic times ahead, 50 percent approve.

### "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	
<b>Approve</b>	41%	48%	31%	36%	39%
<b>Disapprove</b>	42	36	54	48	47
<b>Don't know</b>	17	16	15	16	14

Higher approval ratings go to individual representatives, with almost half of all adults (47%) and likely voters (46%) approving of their legislators' job performance. A majority of Democrats (53%) approve of their legislators, while fewer Republicans (42%) and independents (47%) do. Regionally, half of those in the San Francisco Bay Area (51%) and the Central Valley (50%) approve of their legislators' performance, while approval is lower in Los Angeles (46%) and the Other Southern California region (43%). As with the legislature as a whole, approval ratings for individual legislators are higher among Latinos (54%) than whites (45%). The ratings of individual representatives have not been this high since May 2005 (47%).

## TRUST IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Californians continue to express low levels of trust in state government, with 32 percent saying they trust the government in Sacramento to do what is right just about always (4%) or most of the time (28%). Trust in state government was near 50 percent in January 2001 (46%) and January 2002 (47%), but dropped below 40 percent in August 2002. It has hovered around 30 percent since September 2003.

Across parties, independents (29%) are the least likely to say they trust the state government, followed by Democrats (32%) and Republicans (34%). Residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (30%) express less trust than those in the Other Southern California region (32%), Los Angeles (33%), and the Central Valley (36%). Trust is lower among whites (30%) than Latinos (38%) and decreases with age, education, and income. Trust is higher among those who approve of their state elected officials' job performances.

### "How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Sacramento to do what is right?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Just about always</b>	4%	3%	4%	1%	2%
<b>Most of the time</b>	28	29	30	28	28
<b>Only some of the time</b>	61	63	60	63	64
<b>None of the time (volunteered)</b>	5	3	5	8	5
<b>Don't know</b>	2	2	1	-	1

Californians are also pessimistic about the fiscal efficiency of state government: Majorities of adults and likely voters (55% each) say the people in state government waste a lot of taxpayer money. Since February 2003, a majority of all adults have expressed this viewpoint. At least half of all adults across party lines and demographic groups hold this view, but Republicans (59%) and independents (58%) are more likely than Democrats (51%) to do so. Regionally, residents in Los Angeles (60%) and the Central Valley (57%) are more likely than those in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Other Southern California region (51% each) to hold this view.

### "Do you think the people in state government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>A lot</b>	55%	51%	59%	58%	55%
<b>Some</b>	35	39	34	35	38
<b>Don't waste very much</b>	7	8	4	4	4
<b>Don't know</b>	3	2	3	3	3

And the pessimism continues: Nearly two in three Californians say that the state government is pretty much run by a few big interests (64%) rather than for the benefit of all the people (28%). This finding has been consistently above 60 percent since January 2004, while fewer held this belief in January 2001 (60%) and January 2002 (54%). Today, independents (70%) and Democrats (67%) are more likely than Republicans (60%) to say the state government is run by big interests, but this perception is held by over 60 percent of all adults across political ideologies and demographic groups.

## TERM LIMITS REFORM

Because of a voter initiative passed in 1990, state legislators are currently limited in the number of terms they can spend in office. Most residents today (62%) believe that term limits are a good thing for the state, as we have found in recent surveys (61% September 2004, 57% October 2005, 60% May 2006).

There are partisan differences in the perceptions of term limits' effects. Today, Republicans (75%) and independents (70%) are much more likely than Democrats (56%) to believe in the benefits of term limits. But only minor regional differences exist, with majorities favoring term limits in the Central Valley (64%), the Other Southern California region (64%), Los Angeles (60%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (59%). Across racial/ethnic groups, whites are far more likely than Latinos to favor term limits (68% to 50%). The belief that term limits are beneficial increases with education, income, and homeownership.

**“The California legislature has operated under term limits since 1990, meaning that members of the state senate and state assembly are limited in the number of terms they can hold their elected office. Do you think that term limits are a good thing or a bad thing for California, or do they make no difference?”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Good thing</b>	62%	56%	75%	70%	68%
<b>Bad thing</b>	12	19	9	12	16
<b>No difference</b>	21	20	12	16	13
<b>Don't know</b>	5	5	4	2	3

A term limits reform initiative is currently under review by the California attorney general's office and is pending circulation. Proponents hope to qualify this initiative for the February 2008 primary election ballot. If passed, the initiative would alter the present term limit structure. Currently, legislators are limited to six years in the state assembly and eight years in the state senate. The new law would allow them to serve a total of 12 years in either legislative branch.

Although the language of this proposal has not been finalized, our survey asked about the general idea of changing term limits to a 12-year total in either branch. Two in three adults (66%) and likely voters (64%) are opposed to this idea, including strong majorities across parties (61% Democrats, 68% independents, 70% Republicans). In the past, we have asked if residents would favor a change that would allow legislators 14 years total in either branch and opposition was over 60 percent each time (62% October 2005, 68% May 2006, 72% October 2006).

Today, nearly six in 10 or more residents across demographic groups oppose this change to 12-year term limits. Residents in the Other Southern California region (72%) and Los Angeles (70%) are more likely than those in the Central Valley (60%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (59%) to hold this view. Among the 62 percent overall who believe that term limits are a good thing, 76 percent oppose this change.

**“Under current term limits, a legislator is allowed to serve six years in the state assembly and eight years in the state senate. Would you favor or oppose a change in term limits that would allow members to serve up to 12 years of total legislative service in either branch?”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	29%	35%	25%	27%	31%
<b>Oppose</b>	66	61	70	68	64
<b>Don't know</b>	5	4	5	5	5

## REDISTRICTING REFORM

Since Governor Schwarzenegger took office, one of his goals has been to change the way the physical boundaries of legislative districts are drawn. Currently, the governor and legislature are responsible for this process after each census. Voters defeated a November 2005 initiative supported by Governor Schwarzenegger that would have shifted this responsibility to a three-person panel of retired judges. However, today two in three adults (37% major changes, 27% minor changes) and likely voters (39% major changes, 27% minor changes) say the redistricting process is in need of change. Similar proportions of adults have expressed a desire for change each time we've asked this question (64% May 2005, 67% October 2005, 63% May 2006, 64% today).

Solid majorities across parties and demographic groups currently believe the redistricting process needs reform. However, residents in Los Angeles (69%) and the Other Southern California region (67%) are more likely than those in the San Francisco Bay Area and Central Valley (59% each) to hold this view. Residents in Los Angeles are the most likely to say major changes are needed. The belief that major changes are needed increases with age and is far higher among those who disapprove of the governor or legislature than among those who approve of them.

**“As you may know, redistricting is the process in which the physical boundaries of voting districts are changed. Do you think the way the governor and legislature go about the redistricting process in California is in need of major changes, minor changes, or is it fine the way it is?”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Major changes	37%	38%	39%	35%	39%
Minor changes	27	26	29	29	27
Fine the way it is	21	21	17	20	19
Don't know	15	15	15	16	15

Another initiative under review by the California attorney general's office, and pending circulation for inclusion on the February 2008 ballot, would create an independent commission of citizens to establish a redistricting plan. Although the language for this initiative is not final, our survey asked about the idea in general and found that strong majorities of all adults (64%) and likely voters (66%) favor it, including over six in 10 across party lines. In PPIC Statewide Surveys since the November 2005 special election, majorities of adults have expressed support for this idea (60% May 2006, 54% October 2006). When asked a similar question in September 2004, adults were divided (39% favor, 40% oppose).

Today, strong majorities across demographic groups favor creating an independent redistricting commission, and among those who believe the redistricting process needs major changes, 75 percent support this idea.

**“Would you favor or oppose a redistricting reform that requires an independent commission of citizens, instead of the state legislature and governor, to adopt a new redistricting plan after each census?”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	64%	62%	65%	63%	66%
Oppose	22	25	22	25	22
Don't know	14	13	13	12	12



## HEALTH CARE REFORM

Governor Schwarzenegger and the Democratic-controlled legislature have made health care reform a priority this year, but where do residents stand on this issue? Nearly nine in 10 believe the state health care system is in need of change, with an overwhelming majority (71%) calling for major changes. Although most across party lines believe the system is in need of change, Democrats (82%) are more likely than independents (74%) and far more likely than Republicans (58%) to say it needs major changes.

Most residents across all demographic groups believe the health care system needs major or minor changes. Across regions, residents in Los Angeles (74%) are the most likely to say major changes are needed, followed by those in the San Francisco Bay Area (70%), the Other Southern California region (68%), and the Central Valley (67%). Women (74%) are more likely than men (67%) to say major changes are needed, and residents age 35 and older are more likely than younger residents to hold this view. Insured residents (70%) are about as likely as uninsured residents (73%) to believe the system needs major changes.

### “Do you think California’s health care system is in need of major changes or minor changes or that it is basically fine the way it is?”

	All Adults	Party			Covered by Health Insurance	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
<b>Major changes</b>	71%	82%	58%	74%	70%	73%
<b>Minor changes</b>	16	10	24	19	17	12
<b>Fine the way it is</b>	9	6	13	4	9	14
<b>Don't know</b>	4	2	5	3	4	1

Eighty-five percent of Californians are very (60%) or somewhat (25%) concerned about the issue of providing health care to all Californians. Likely voters are similarly concerned (61% very, 22% somewhat). While strong majorities across parties are at least somewhat concerned about this issue, Democrats (72%) are far more likely than independents (57%) or Republicans (47%) to be very concerned.

Across regions and demographic groups, over 80 percent are at least somewhat concerned about health care. Los Angeles residents (65%) are the most likely to be very concerned, followed by residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (62%), the Central Valley (58%), and the Other Southern California region (57%). Women express greater concern than men (64% to 56%). Uninsured residents (65%) are somewhat more likely than insured residents (59%) to be very concerned.

Among those who believe the health care system in California is in need of major changes, 70 percent are very concerned about this issue.

### “How concerned are you about the issue of providing health care to all Californians?”

	All Adults	Party			Covered by Health Insurance	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
<b>Very concerned</b>	60%	72%	47%	57%	59%	65%
<b>Somewhat concerned</b>	25	20	26	28	25	26
<b>Not too concerned</b>	7	4	13	7	8	5
<b>Not at all concerned</b>	6	3	11	7	7	3
<b>Don't know</b>	2	1	3	1	1	1

## HEALTH CARE REFORM (CONTINUED)

There are several health care proposals currently under discussion in state government, all with the common goal of increasing the number of insured Californians. Some of these plans, including a proposal by the governor, would require that all Californians have some form of health coverage. Most adults (71%) and likely voters (65%) say they favor requiring coverage, with costs shared by employers, health care providers, and individuals. In January, after the governor proposed such a plan in his annual state of the state speech, public support for this proposal was identical (71% adults, 65% likely voters).

Today, Democrats (79%) are more likely than independents (70%) and Republicans (52%) to favor coverage for all Californians. While solid majorities across demographic groups favor this plan, Los Angeles residents are more likely than others to support it. Support is higher among Latinos (86%) than whites (63%) and among women (74%) than men (67%).

### “Would you favor or oppose 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	
<b>Favor</b>	71%	79%	52%	70%	65%
<b>Oppose</b>	24	16	42	26	29
<b>Don't know</b>	5	5	6	4	6

What about the details? Similar proportions of adults (76%) and likely voters (69%) say it is a good idea to require all Californians to have health insurance, with programs available for low-income people. But Republicans (54%) are less likely than independents (77%) or Democrats (83%) to say this is a good idea. Similarly, strong majorities of adults (75%) and likely voters (67%) say it is a good idea to require employers to provide health insurance for employees or pay a fee to the state to help cover health care costs. Republicans (56%) are less likely than independents (75%) or Democrats (82%) to support this idea. In contrast, requiring physicians and hospitals to pay fees to the state to help cover the costs of health care garners the support of just 41 percent of adults and 30 percent of likely voters. Republicans (71%) are far less likely than independents (58%) or Democrats (42%) to say this is a good idea.

### “Please tell me if each of the following ideas to reform health care in California is a good idea or a bad idea...”

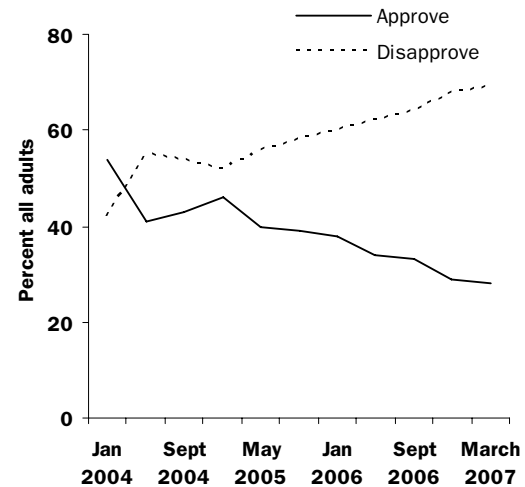
		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>All California residents should be required to have health insurance, with public programs available for low-income persons</i>	<b>Good idea</b>	76%	83%	54%	77%	69%
	<b>Bad idea</b>	21	14	43	21	28
	<b>Don't know</b>	3	3	3	2	3
<i>Employers should be required to provide health insurance for their employees or pay a fee to the state to help cover the costs of health care</i>	<b>Good idea</b>	75	82	56	75	67
	<b>Bad idea</b>	22	14	40	23	28
	<b>Don't know</b>	3	4	4	2	5
<i>Physicians and hospitals should be required to pay a fee to the state to help cover the costs of health care</i>	<b>Good idea</b>	41	42	24	38	30
	<b>Bad idea</b>	53	50	71	58	63
	<b>Don't know</b>	6	8	5	4	7

# NATIONAL ISSUES

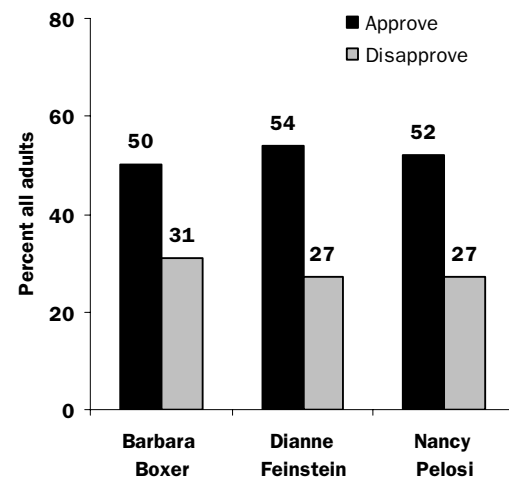
## KEY FINDINGS

- President Bush's job approval ratings continue to drop: Nearly seven in 10 of all adults (69%) and likely voters (68%) disapprove of his performance in office. Bush receives mostly negative marks for his handling of the situation in Iraq (74% all adults, 71% likely voters disapprove), Iran (68% all adults, 64% likely voters disapprove) and North Korea (54% all adults, 51% likely voters disapprove). (page 16)
- On relations with Iran, Californians express a preference for avoiding a military conflict (57% all adults, 54% likely voters) over taking a firm stand (35% all adults, 39% likely voters). As for the war in Iraq, about six in 10 adults and likely voters oppose sending more U.S. troops. (page 17)
- Majorities of California adults and likely voters approve of the job performances of Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and their local member of the U.S. House of Representatives. (pages 18, 19)
- Just three in 10 adults trust the federal government to do what is right, and seven in 10 say the federal government wastes a lot of taxpayer money. (page 20)
- Most Californians view immigrants as a benefit and favor work permits for illegal immigrants, while majorities oppose health coverage and driver's licenses for illegal immigrants. Democratic voters differ from Republicans on these issues. (page 21)
- Half of California's voters like the idea of holding the presidential primary in February, with Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani the early favorites in the party races. (page 22)

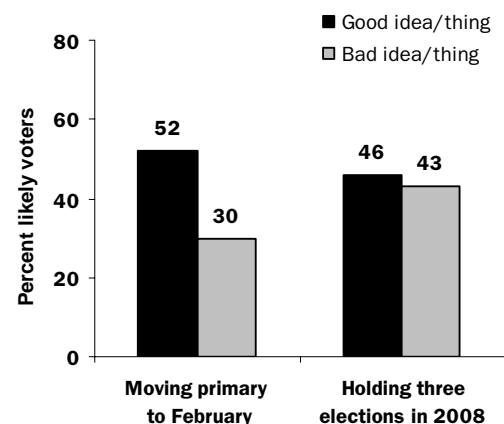
## President's Approval Ratings



## Approval Ratings of National Representatives



## 2008 Presidential Primary



## PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL RATINGS

President Bush's job approval ratings have reached a new low in California: Only 28 percent of residents and 29 percent of likely voters approve of the job he is doing as president; nearly seven in 10 of all adults (69%) and likely voters (68%) disapprove. The president's approval ratings have dropped five points since September (33% to 28%). Californians are more disapproving of President Bush than are Americans nationwide, according to a March *Newsweek* poll (30% approve, 60% disapprove, 10% unsure). While a majority of California Republicans approve (62%) of his performance, most independents (75%) and Democrats (87%) disapprove. Majorities in all regions and demographic groups give the president a negative rating, with disapproval highest in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Latinos are more disapproving than whites (74% to 63%).

**"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that George W. Bush is handling his job as president of the United States?"**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Approve</b>	28%	11%	62%	21%	29%
<b>Disapprove</b>	69	87	34	75	68
<b>Don't know</b>	3	2	4	4	3

Ratings of Bush's performance in handling the situation in Iraq are even lower than his overall approval, with 23 percent of adults and 27 percent of likely voters approving, and more than seven in 10 in both groups disapproving. His approval ratings among all adults on this issue are similar to January (22%) but have dropped five points since September (28%) and 10 points since January 2006 (33%). Adults nationwide were somewhat more approving of the president on Iraq in a March *Newsweek* poll (27% approve, 69% disapprove). Mirroring the president's overall rating, strong majorities of independents (78%) and Democrats (90%) disapprove, while a majority of Republicans (56%) approve of his Iraq policy.

As for Bush's handling of Iran, one in four residents approve while 68 percent disapprove. Likely voters are slightly more approving (30%). Again, sharp partisan differences exist, with 61 percent of Republicans approving and most independents (74%) and Democrats (84%) disapproving.

On Bush's handling of North Korea, 31 percent of all adults approve, 54 percent disapprove, and 15 percent say they don't know. Nationwide, 47 percent approve, according to an October 2006 CNN poll.

**"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Bush is handling the situation in..."**

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Iraq?</b>	<b>Approve</b>	23%	9%	56%	18%	27%
	<b>Disapprove</b>	74	90	40	78	71
	<b>Don't know</b>	3	1	4	4	2
<b>Iran?</b>	<b>Approve</b>	25	10	61	19	30
	<b>Disapprove</b>	68	84	31	74	64
	<b>Don't know</b>	7	6	8	7	6
<b>North Korea?</b>	<b>Approve</b>	31	18	62	29	37
	<b>Disapprove</b>	54	69	24	58	51
	<b>Don't know</b>	15	13	14	13	12

## U.S. POLICY IN IRAQ AND IRAN

More Californians name Iran (20%) and North Korea (19%) rather than Iraq (15%) or China (11%) when asked what country represents the greatest danger to the United States. Nationwide, a Pew Research Center survey in February also found Iran (25%) to be viewed as the top threat, followed by Iraq (19%), North Korea (17%), and China (14%).

As the situation between Iran and the United States has recently become more tense, Californians are more likely to say that avoiding military conflict (57%) is more important than taking a firm stand against Iran (35%). Adults nationwide are divided, with an equal proportion choosing to avoid military conflict (43%) as opting for a firm stand (43%), according to the Pew Research Center survey in February.

Most California Democrats (68%) and independents (61%) view avoiding conflict as more important, while Republicans (62%) prefer taking a firm stand. While residents in all regions and demographic groups prefer avoiding military conflict, this preference is voiced more often in the San Francisco Bay Area (68%) and Los Angeles (61%) than in the Central Valley (48%) or the Other Southern California region (52%). Latinos are more likely than whites to advocate avoiding military conflict (71% to 49%).

**“Thinking about Iran for a moment, in your opinion, which is more important: to take a firm stand against Iranian actions or to avoid a military conflict with Iran?”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Take a firm stand</b>	35%	24%	62%	32%	39%
<b>Avoid a military conflict</b>	57	68	30	61	54
<b>Both (volunteered)</b>	1	1	2	1	2
<b>Neither (volunteered)</b>	1	1	1	2	1
<b>Don't know</b>	6	6	5	4	4

As the Iraq war rolls into its fifth year, six in 10 Californians (62%) and likely voters (59%) oppose the Bush Administration's current increase in U.S. troops. California is similar to the nation, according to a February *USA Today*/Gallup Poll that found 60 percent of Americans opposing the troop increase.

California Democrats (80%) and independents (66%) are much more likely than Republicans (27%) to oppose this troop increase. While majorities across regions and demographic groups oppose a troop increase, opposition is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (70%) and Los Angeles (69%) than in the Other Southern California region (56%) and the Central Valley (55%). Opposition is also stronger among Latinos than whites (74% to 54%), women than men (66% to 58%), among the less affluent, and among adults younger than 55.

**“Thinking about Iraq for a moment, as you may know, the Bush administration has begun to significantly increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq to help stabilize the situation there. Do you favor or oppose this?”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	34%	17%	70%	31%	37%
<b>Oppose</b>	62	80	27	66	59
<b>Don't know</b>	4	3	3	3	4

## RATINGS OF CALIFORNIA'S SENATORS

This past November, Californians reelected Sen. Dianne Feinstein by a wide margin. Today, 54 percent of residents and 59 percent of likely voters approve of her job performance, while about three in 10 disapprove. Since our September 2006 survey, Feinstein's approval ratings have increased six points among likely voters (53% to 59%) and three points among all adults (51% to 54%).

The senator's ratings are higher today in the San Francisco Bay Area (65%) than in Los Angeles (55%), the Central Valley (51%) and the Other Southern California region (48%). Sharp differences exist by party, with 73 percent of Democrats and 53 percent of independents approving, while 55 percent of Republicans disapprove. Majorities in all demographic groups give the senator a positive assessment, with whites and Latinos, and men and women, voicing similar approval levels.

### "Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as U.S. Senator?"

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<b>Approve</b>	54%	51%	65%	55%	48%	59%
<b>Disapprove</b>	27	30	24	24	31	31
<b>Don't know</b>	19	19	11	21	21	10

Sen. Barbara Boxer receives positive job performance ratings from about half of all adults (50% approve) and likely voters (53% approve). Since September 2006, her approval ratings have increased four points among all adults (46% to 50%) and six points among likely voters (47% to 53%).

Regionally, Sen. Boxer receives the highest job ratings today in the San Francisco Bay Area (61%) and Los Angeles (53%). Her approval falls below a majority in the Central Valley (45%) and in the Other Southern California region (42%). Partisan differences again are apparent: A strong majority of Democrats (70%) and nearly half of independents (48%) approve of Boxer's performance, while most Republicans disapprove (63%). Latinos are more approving of Boxer than are whites (55% to 47%), and women are more favorable than men (53% to 47%).

### "Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barbara Boxer is handling her job as U.S. Senator?"

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<b>Approve</b>	50%	45%	61%	53%	42%	53%
<b>Disapprove</b>	31	36	26	26	35	36
<b>Don't know</b>	19	19	13	21	23	11

## RATINGS OF CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Most Californians are pleased with Rep. Nancy Pelosi's performance as Speaker of the House, with half of all adults (52%) and likely voters (53%) approving of the way she is handling the job. Californians are more positive about Speaker Pelosi than adults nationwide, according to a March survey by CNN (46% approve, 30% disapprove, 25% unsure).

In January, when we asked residents how favorably they viewed the new Speaker, 49 percent of all adults and 51 percent of likely voters had a positive impression.

Pelosi's approval ratings today are highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (64%), a region that includes her congressional district, and are just below a majority across the other major regions. A solid majority of Democrats (70%) and nearly half of independents approve (48%), while a majority of Republicans disapprove (54%). More Latinos approve of the Speaker's job performance than whites (61% to 48%), and women are more likely than men to say they approve (54% to 49%).

### "Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is handling her job?"

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<b>Approve</b>	52%	49%	64%	48%	47%	53%
<b>Disapprove</b>	27	30	24	27	28	31
<b>Don't know</b>	21	21	12	25	25	16

When asked to rate their own representative in the U.S. House, 55 percent of all adults and 59 percent of likely voters say they approve. These findings are nearly identical to September's (55% all adults, 60% likely voters), and ratings have remained at similar levels since we began asking this question in October 2005. Today, more residents approve of their representatives than disapprove in all regions, with more residents approving in the San Francisco Bay Area (60%) and the Central Valley (58%) than in the other major regions of the state. Democrats and Republicans are equally favorable toward their representative (59% each), with independents slightly less approving (53%). Latinos (56%) and whites (57%) are similarly positive about their House representative, while more men (57%) than women (52%) approve.

### "Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?"

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<b>Approve</b>	55%	58%	60%	52%	50%	59%
<b>Disapprove</b>	24	20	23	25	26	25
<b>Don't know</b>	21	22	17	23	24	16

## TRUST IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Californians continue to be mistrustful of the federal government. Fewer than three in 10 adults (28%) or likely voters (24%) think they can trust the government in Washington to do what is right just about always or most of the time. Perceptions today are similar to October 2006, when 26 percent of adults and 23 percent of likely voters expressed trust in the federal government, but they reflect a 10-point drop among all adults since February 2003 (38%).

Democrats and independents (22% each) are less likely than Republicans (36%) to trust the government in Washington to do what is right. Trust is low across all regions, with residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (25%) expressing the least trust. Latinos (43%) are much more likely than whites (23%) to say they trust the federal government just about always or most of the time. Trust in the federal government decreases with age, education, and income. Trust in the federal government is strongly linked to opinions of the president—among those who approve of Bush's job performance in office, 51 percent trust the federal government just about always or most of the time, while among those who disapprove of Bush, only 19 percent think they can trust the federal government just about always or most of the time.

**“People have different ideas about the government in Washington. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington today to do what is right?”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Just about always</b>	5%	4%	5%	2%	3%
<b>Most of the time</b>	23	18	31	20	21
<b>Only some of the time</b>	64	71	61	70	70
<b>None of the time (volunteered)</b>	5	6	3	7	6
<b>Don't know</b>	3	1	-	1	0

Negative perceptions of the federal government extend to its fiscal performance. Reaching a new high today, about seven in 10 adults (68%) and likely voters (71%) think the federal government wastes a lot of the money paid in taxes. This marks a 10-point increase among all adults since we first asked this question in January 2000 (58%). At least six in 10 in all parties, regions, and demographic groups say the federal government wastes a lot of tax money. Democrats (72%) and independents (71%) are slightly more likely than Republicans (66%) to think the federal government is wasteful. Across regions, San Francisco Bay Area residents are the most critical of the federal government's fiscal performance.

**“Do you think the people in the federal government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>A lot</b>	68%	72%	66%	71%	71%
<b>Some</b>	26	24	30	27	26
<b>Don't waste very much</b>	4	3	3	2	2
<b>Don't know</b>	2	1	1	0	1



## IMMIGRATION POLICY

As Congress and the president prepare to discuss immigration reform, most Californians (60%) and likely voters (54%) view immigrants as a benefit to the state because of their hard work and job skills, while 33 percent of adults and 39 percent of likely voters call immigrants a burden because they use public services. Majorities of residents have consistently viewed immigrants as a benefit to California since we first asked this question in February 2000.

A key element of the immigration debate over the past year has been the question of work permits for illegal immigrants. A solid majority of Californians (64%) today think immigrants who are in the United States illegally should be allowed to apply for work permits that would allow them to stay and work here. Most Democrats (69%) and independents (58%) support immigrant work permits, but a majority of Republicans disagree (51%). Support is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles. Latinos are more likely than whites (90% to 55%) and foreign-born residents are more likely than those born in the U.S. (83% to 57%) to think illegal immigrants should be allowed to apply for work permits.

**“Should immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally be allowed to apply for work permits which would allow them to stay and work in the United States, or shouldn’t they be allowed to do that?”**

	All Adults	Party			Latinos
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Should be allowed</b>	64%	69%	46%	58%	90%
<b>Should not be allowed</b>	32	26	51	39	8
<b>Don't know</b>	4	5	3	3	2

The immigration issue has also proven contentious in the governor’s recently proposed universal health care plan, with debate over health coverage for illegal immigrants. A majority of Californians (53%) oppose providing health care coverage for illegal immigrants, while 43 percent are in favor of it.

Republicans (83%) and independents (57%) oppose this idea, while Democrats are somewhat in favor (51% favor, 44% oppose). Across regions, Los Angeles (52%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (50%) residents are more likely than Other Southern California (36%) and Central Valley (33%) residents to favor this idea. Latinos are much more likely than whites (81% to 27%) and foreign-born residents are much more likely than native-born residents (73% to 32%) to favor health coverage for illegal immigrants.

**“Do you favor or oppose providing health care coverage for illegal immigrants in California?”**

	All Adults	Party			Latinos
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	43%	51%	13%	39%	81%
<b>Oppose</b>	53	44	83	57	15
<b>Don't know</b>	4	5	4	4	4

Another controversial issue in the immigration debate within California is whether illegal immigrants should be permitted to obtain driver’s licenses. More than half of Californians (54%) and likely voters (64%) would oppose state legislation allowing an illegal immigrant to get a California driver’s license, while 43 percent of adults and 34 percent of likely voters would favor it. Republicans (82%) and independents (59%) are opposed, while Democrats are divided (49% favor, 47% oppose). As with health coverage for illegal immigrants, Latinos (82%) and foreign-born residents (73%) are much more likely than whites (28%) and native-born residents (32%) to favor allowing illegal immigrants to get driver’s licenses.

## 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

In an effort to increase California's influence in selecting the next president, Governor Schwarzenegger and the legislature recently decided to move up the 2008 presidential primary from June to February. About half of Californians (49%) and likely voters (52%) think moving the primary forward is a good thing, with similar margins in all parties agreeing. As for having three elections in 2008, half of Californians (50%) and 46 percent of likely voters are also favorable. Democrats (51%) and independents (50%) are more likely than Republicans (41%) to think having three elections in 2008 is a good idea.

With the Democratic presidential primary campaign in its early stages, Hillary Rodham Clinton (35%) is the front runner, followed by Barack Obama (24%), John Edwards (14%), and Bill Richardson (6%). Californians are similar to the nation as a whole, according to a March *TIME* poll which found Clinton leading Obama 34 percent to 26 percent. In California, Clinton's support is greater among women than men (40% to 28%), while men are more likely than women to prefer Obama (31% to 18%).

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

<i>Democratic primary likely voters only</i>	Likely Voters	Ideology		Gender	
		Liberal	Others	Men	Women
<b>Hillary Rodham Clinton</b>	35%	34%	35%	28%	40%
<b>Barack Obama</b>	24	28	19	31	18
<b>John Edwards</b>	14	15	13	16	13
<b>Bill Richardson</b>	6	4	8	9	4
<b>Other candidates</b>	8	7	9	8	8
<b>Don't know</b>	13	12	16	8	17

On the Republican side, Rudy Giuliani (33%) leads in the presidential primary race, followed by John McCain (19%), Newt Gingrich (14%), and Mitt Romney (7%). Giuliani has similar support among men and women, and conservatives and others. Gingrich has more support among conservatives and men, while McCain has similar support among men and women, but less support among conservatives than others. In a national survey, Giuliani led McCain by 40 percent to 20 percent, according to the March *TIME* poll.

### "If the Republican primary for president were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?"

<i>Republican primary likely voters only</i>	Likely Voters	Ideology		Gender	
		Conservatives	Others	Men	Women
<b>Rudy Giuliani</b>	33%	32%	35%	33%	33%
<b>John McCain</b>	19	15	27	17	21
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	14	18	6	18	9
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	7	9	5	9	6
<b>Other candidates</b>	14	11	19	14	14
<b>Don't know</b>	13	15	8	9	17



# REGIONAL MAP

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# METHODOLOGY

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The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance in research and writing from Dean Bonner, project manager for this survey, and survey research associates Jennifer Paluch and Sonja Petek. This survey was 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 in this report are based on a telephone survey of 2,000 California adult residents interviewed from March 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 data 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 2,000 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 1,542 registered voters, it is +/- 2.5 percent; for the 1,122 likely voters it is +/- 3 percent; for the 498 Democratic presidential primary likely voters it is 5%; for the 374 Republican presidential primary likely voters it is 5%. 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 voting intentions. We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey responses to those in earlier PPIC Statewide Surveys and in national surveys conducted by CNN/Opinion Research, Newsweek, the Pew Research Center, *TIME*, and USA Today/Gallup.



# QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

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## CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

**March 13-20, 2007**

**2,000 California Adult Residents:  
English, Spanish**

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

1. First, thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?

*[code, don't read]*

19% immigration, illegal immigration  
13 jobs, economy  
12 education, schools  
9 health care, health costs  
7 gasoline prices  
6 crime, gangs, drugs  
4 housing costs  
3 environment, pollution  
3 state budget, deficit, taxes  
3 traffic, transportation, infrastructure  
14 other  
7 don't know

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

51% approve  
38 disapprove  
11 don't know

3. Overall, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of Maria Shriver, California's First Lady?

53% favorable  
14 unfavorable  
33 don't know

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

41% approve  
42 disapprove  
17 don't know

5. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and state senate districts are doing at this time?

47% approve  
35 disapprove  
18 don't know

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

45% right direction  
47 wrong direction  
8 don't know

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

40% good times  
51 bad times  
9 don't know

8. Next, how much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Sacramento to do what is right?

4% just about always  
28 most of the time  
61 only some of the time  
5 none of the time (*volunteered*)  
2 don't know

9. Would you say the state government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all of the people?

64% a few big interests  
28 benefit of all of the people  
8 don't know

10. Do you think the people in state government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?

55% a lot  
35 some  
7 don't waste very much  
3 don't know

On another topic,

**[rotate 2 sets of questions randomly: (1) questions 11 and 12 and (2) questions 13 and 14]**

11. The California legislature has operated under term limits since 1990, meaning that members of the state senate and state assembly are limited in the number of terms they can hold their elected office. Do you think that term limits are a good thing or a bad thing for California, or do they make no difference?

62% good thing  
12 bad thing  
21 no difference  
5 don't know

12. Under current term limits, a legislator is allowed to serve six years in the state assembly and eight years in the state senate. Would you favor or oppose a change in term limits that would allow members to serve up to 12 years of total legislative service in either branch?

29% favor  
66 oppose  
5 don't know

13. As you may know, redistricting is the process in which the physical boundaries of voting districts are changed. Do you think the way the governor and legislature go about the redistricting process in California is in need of major changes, minor changes, or is it fine the way it is?

37% major changes  
27 minor changes  
21 fine the way it is  
15 don't know

14. Would you favor or oppose a redistricting reform that requires an independent commission of citizens, instead of the state legislature and governor, to adopt a new redistricting plan after each census?

64% favor  
22 oppose  
14 don't know

15. Changing topics, do you think California's health care system is in need of major changes or minor changes or that it is basically fine the way it is?

71% major changes  
16 minor changes  
9 fine the way it is  
4 don't know

- 15a. How concerned are you about the issue of providing health care to all Californians?

60% very concerned  
25 somewhat concerned  
7 not too concerned  
6 not at all concerned  
2 don't know

16. Would you favor or oppose a plan requiring all Californians to have health insurance, with costs shared by employers, health care providers and individuals?

71% favor  
24 oppose  
5 don't know



Next, please tell me if each of the following ideas to reform health care in California is a good idea or a bad idea.

**[rotate questions 17 to 19]**

17. All California residents should be required to have health insurance, with public programs available for low-income persons.

76% good idea  
21 bad idea  
3 don't know

18. Employers should be required to provide health insurance for their employees or pay a fee to the state to help cover the costs of health care.

75% good idea  
22 bad idea  
3 don't know

19. Physicians and hospitals should be required to pay a fee to the state to help cover the costs of health care.

41% good idea  
53 bad idea  
6 don't know

20. 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?

28% approve  
69 disapprove  
3 don't know

**[rotate questions 21 to 23]**

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

23% approve  
74 disapprove  
3 don't know

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

25% approve  
68 disapprove  
7 don't know

23. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Bush is handling the situation in North Korea?

31% approve  
54 disapprove  
15 don't know

**[rotate questions 24 and 25]**

24. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as U.S. Senator?

54% approve  
27 disapprove  
19 don't know

25. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barbara Boxer is handling her job as U.S. Senator?

50% approve  
31 disapprove  
19 don't know

26. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is handling her job?

52% approve  
27 disapprove  
21 don't know

27. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?

55% approve  
24 disapprove  
21 don't know

28. On another topic, people have different ideas about the government in Washington. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington today to do what is right?

- 5% just about always
- 23 most of the time
- 64 only some of the time
- 5 none of the time, not at all
- 3 don't know

29. Would you say the federal government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all of the people?

- 70% a few big interests
- 24 benefit of all of the people
- 6 don't know

30. Do you think the people in the federal government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?

- 68% a lot
- 26 some
- 4 don't waste very much
- 2 don't know

31. Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view—even if neither is exactly right: **[rotate]** [1] Immigrants today are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills **[or]** [2] Immigrants today are a burden to California because they use public services.

- 60% immigrants are a benefit to California
- 33 immigrants are a burden to California
- 7 don't know

32. Should immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally be allowed to apply for work permits which would allow them to stay and work in the United States, or shouldn't they be allowed to do that?

- 64% should be allowed
- 32 should not be allowed
- 4 don't know

33. Do you favor or oppose providing health care coverage for illegal immigrants in California?

- 43% favor
- 53 oppose
- 4 don't know

34. Would you favor or oppose state legislation allowing illegal immigrants to get a California driver's license?

- 43% favor
- 54 oppose
- 3 don't know

35. Changing topics, thinking about the world for a moment—what country in the world, if any, represents the greatest danger to the United States?

**[code, don't read]**

- 20% Iran
- 19 North Korea
- 15 Iraq
- 11 China
- 8 United States
- 2 Al Qaeda/terrorist groups
- 2 Russia/former Soviet Union
- 4 none/not just one country
- 7 other
- 12 don't know

36. Next, people have different ideas about United States foreign policy. Thinking about Iran for a moment, in your opinion, which is more important: **[rotate]** [1] to take a firm stand against Iranian actions **[or]** [2] to avoid a military conflict with Iran?

- 35% take a firm stand
- 57 avoid a military conflict
- 1 both (volunteered)
- 1 neither (volunteered)
- 6 don't know

36a. Now, thinking about Iraq for a moment, as you may know, the Bush Administration has begun to significantly increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq to help stabilize the situation there. Do you favor or oppose this?

34% favor  
62 oppose  
4 don't know

37. Changing topics, the governor and legislature have recently decided to move the 2008 presidential primary from June to February. Do you think this move is a good idea or a bad idea?

49% good idea  
30 bad idea  
21 don't know

38. In 2008, there will be three statewide elections—the February presidential primary, the June primary, and the November general election—do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?

50% good thing  
36 bad thing  
14 don't know

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

77% yes [ask q39a]  
22 no [skip to q40f]  
1 don't know [skip to q40f]

39a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or as an independent?

43% Democrat [ask q40a]  
31 Republican [skip to q40b]  
6 another party (specify) [skip to q42]  
20 independent [skip to 40c]

40a. 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 q41a]

40b. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

52% strong  
45 not very strong  
3 don't know

[skip to q41b]

40c. Would you join a political party if it was a good reflection of your political views or do you prefer to be unaffiliated with any specific party?

27% join a political party  
71 remain unaffiliated  
2 don't know

40d. And, were you previously registered with a major party or have you always been an independent?

44% previously registered [ask q40e]  
55 always been an independent [skip to q40f]  
1 don't know [skip to q40f]

40e. And what party were you previously registered with?

[code, don't read]

46% Republican Party  
51 Democratic Party  
2 other  
1 don't know

40f. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

25% Republican Party  
40 Democratic Party  
26 neither (volunteered)  
9 don't know

[delayed skip: if q39=no or don't know, skip to q42]

40g. California voters like yourself will be able to choose between voting in the Democratic primary, or selecting a nonpartisan ballot on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Both ballots include state proposition measures. Do you plan to vote in the Democratic primary or on the nonpartisan ballot?

- 21% Democratic primary *[ask q41a]*
- 60 nonpartisan ballot *[skip to q42]*
- 2 not planning to vote *[skip to q42]*
- 17 don't know *[skip to q42]*

41a. If the Democratic primary for president were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?

***[rotate names and then ask "or someone else"]***

- 35% Hillary Rodham Clinton
- 24 Barack Obama
- 14 John Edwards
- 6 Bill Richardson
- 8 someone else *(specify)*
- 13 don't know

***[skip to q42]***

41b. If the Republican primary for president were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?

***[rotate names and then ask "or someone else"]***

- 33% Rudy Giuliani
- 19 John McCain
- 14 Newt Gingrich
- 7 Mitt Romney
- 14 someone else *(specify)*
- 13 don't know

42. How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2008 presidential election?

- 18% very closely
- 38 fairly closely
- 31 not too closely
- 13 not at all closely

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

***[read list, rotate order top to bottom]***

- 12% very liberal
- 20 somewhat liberal
- 32 middle-of-the-road
- 22 somewhat conservative
- 11 very conservative
- 3 don't know

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

- 22% great deal
- 43 fair amount
- 29 only a little
- 6 none

45. How often would you say you vote?

- 53% always
- 19 nearly always
- 8 part of the time
- 5 seldom
- 15 never

46. Changing topics, do you yourself ever use a computer at home, at work, or at school?

***If yes:*** Do you use a computer often or only sometimes?

- 64% yes, often *[ask q47]*
- 16 yes, sometimes *[ask q47]*
- 20 no *[skip to q48]*

47. Do you ever go online to access the Internet or worldwide web or send or receive email?

***If yes:*** Do you do this often or only sometimes?

- 59% yes, often
- 16 yes, sometimes
- 25 no/don't use a computer

48. Do you have any type of personal computer, including laptops, in your home? These do not include game machines.

**If yes:** Do you use your home computer often, only sometimes, or never?

- 57% yes, often *[ask q49]*
- 13 yes, sometimes *[ask q49]*
- 5 yes, never use *[ask q49]*
- 25 no computer at home/never use *[skip to q50]*

49. What kind of Internet connection do you have at home? Do you use a dial-up telephone line, or do you have some other type of connection, such as a DSL-enabled phone line, a cable modem, or a T-1 or fiber optic connection?

- 35% DSL-enabled phone line
- 19 cable modem
- 13 dial-up telephone line
- 1 T-1 or fiber optic connection
- 2 other *(specify)*
- 27 no computer at home/do not have Internet access
- 3 don't know

50. Recently, some local governments have considered providing wireless broadband Internet access to all residents at no cost. Is it a good idea or a bad idea for local governments to provide Internet access to its residents?

- 58% good idea
- 32 bad idea
- 10 don't know

**[d1-d12: demographic questions]**

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