



Californians & Their Government

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PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

The PPIC Statewide Survey provides a voice for the public and likely voters—informing policymakers, encouraging discussion, and raising awareness on critical issues of the day.

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News Release

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PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Majority Oppose Trump's Travel Ban

FEW SEE TERRORISM, SECURITY AS A BIG PROBLEM IN CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO, March 22, 2017—Most Californians disapprove of President Donald Trump's order banning travel to the US by people from six majority Muslim countries, according to a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) with funding from the James Irvine Foundation.

When Californians are asked about the president's revised order to temporarily ban travelers from the six nations, 58 percent disapprove while 37 percent approve. There is a sharp partisan divide on the question: 85 percent of Republicans approve, 81 percent of Democrats disapprove, and independents are more likely to disapprove (54%) than approve (42%).

"As the new administration's terrorism policies take shape, most Californians are opposed to the travel ban involving six Muslim majority countries," said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO.

When Californians are asked to assess how Trump is handling terrorism and homeland security, 57 percent disapprove (37% approve).

Most Californians say the federal government is doing very well (19%) or fairly well (38%) at reducing the threat of terrorism. More than half of residents across parties, regions, and demographic groups say the government is doing well. This view is most widely held among Republicans (70%) and residents of the Inland Empire (67%), where the terrorist attack in San Bernardino occurred in December 2015.

Only about a quarter of state residents (27%) today call terrorism and security a big problem in California. The percentage of Californians characterizing terrorism as a big problem has dropped 16 points since January 2016 and is now similar to what it had been in periodic surveys dating back to December 2001. Across regions, residents in the Inland Empire (34%) are the most likely to call terrorism a big problem and those in the San Francisco Bay Area (21%) the least likely.

Regarding another aspect of anti-terrorism policies, about half of Californians (52%) say the government has gone too far in restricting civil liberties, while 36 percent say the government has not gone far enough to protect the country.

Two-Thirds Favor Path to Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants

A strong majority of Californians (68%) say that undocumented immigrants living in the US should be allowed to stay and eventually apply for citizenship, while 12 percent say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay legally but not be allowed to apply for citizenship. Only 15 percent say these immigrants should be required to leave. Across parties, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (82%) and a solid majority of independents (62%) say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to eventually apply for citizenship, as do 46 percent of Republicans.

How important is immigration policy to Californians? When asked to name the most important issue facing the state, immigration or illegal immigration is No. 2 (16%), behind jobs and the economy (20%).

Just a quarter of Californians (25%) favor building a wall along the entire border with Mexico, as the president proposes. A strong majority of Republicans (68%) are in favor of the wall, while overwhelming majorities of independents (73%) and Democrats (92%) oppose it. Majorities across racial/ethnic groups, regions, and age, education, and income groups are opposed.

“The proposal to build a wall along the entire Mexican border is not gaining any traction in California,” Baldassare said.

Most Support Business, Environmental Regulation

As President Trump focuses on reducing government regulations, the survey asks Californians what they think about government regulation of business. Most state residents (56%) say it is necessary to protect the public interest, while 37 percent say it does more harm than good. Across partisan groups, 69 percent of Democrats say business regulation is necessary and 65 percent of Republicans say it does more harm than good. In the area of environmental regulation, just over half of Californians (54%) say stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the costs, while 37 percent say stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy.

A Third Approve of Trump’s Job Performance

About a third of Californians (31% all adults, 35% likely voters) approve of the job President Trump is doing. His approval rating is unchanged from January (30% adults, 34% likely voters). Partisan divisions today remain deep (82% Republicans approve, 91% Democrats and 57% independents disapprove). Men are 15 points more likely than women to approve (39% to 24%), and whites (45%) are more likely than Latinos (17%) and African Americans (16%) to approve. Asked whether Trump is trustworthy, 31 percent of adults and 35 percent of likely voters say yes; 64 percent of adults and likely voters say no.

Slightly more than a third of California adults (36%) and a quarter of likely voters (27%) approve of the way Congress is handling its job. Republicans (48%) are much more likely than Democrats (23%) or independents (28%) to approve. Among Republicans, approval has increased 9 points since January (39%). About half of Californians (51% adults, 49% likely voters) approve of their own representative to the US House.

Half of Californians (49% adults, 51% likely voters) approve of Senator Dianne Feinstein’s job performance. As Senator Kamala Harris begins her term, she has a 46 percent approval rating from all adults and 49 percent from likely voters. Notably, about 30 percent of adults and 25 percent of likely voters are unsure how to rate Harris.

How much trust do Californians place in the federal government in Washington? Just under a third say they can trust government to do what is right just about always (7%) or most of the time (22%). Most (62%) say they can trust it some of the time, and 7 percent say none of the time. In periodic surveys since 1998, fewer than half have said they trust the government just about always or most of the time.

Majorities Approve of Governor

Governor Jerry Brown has a job approval rating of 58 percent among all adults and 61 percent among likely voters. His rating is similar to January (62% both all adults and likely voters) and higher than last March (51% adults, 53% likely voters). Today his approval rating is 79 percent among Democrats, 53 percent among independents, and 26 percent among Republicans. About half of Californians (51% adults, 48% likely voters) approve of the way the legislature is doing its job. Similar proportions of residents (53% adults, 52% likely voters) approve of their representatives in the assembly and senate.

Most Favor Spending on Flood Management

In the aftermath of widespread flooding and a crisis at Oroville Dam, a solid majority of residents (61%) say it is very important for California to spend more money on water and flood management infrastructure in their part of the state. An additional 27 percent say this is somewhat important. Majorities across regions say more spending in this area is very important.

"After the recent rains, many Californians have added water and flood management to their wish list for meeting the state's infrastructure needs," Baldassare said.

Asked about the governor's proposal to build tunnels in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Valley Delta, about half (51%) say it is very important (26% somewhat important, 14% not too important or not at all important). There are wide regional differences: 64 percent of Los Angeles residents call the tunnels very important but just 40 percent in the Central Valley express this view. Opinion within the Central Valley varies: in the San Joaquin Valley 79 percent of residents say the tunnels are at least somewhat important, while 58 percent of Sacramento Metro and North Valley residents express this view.

Residents Split on High-Speed Rail

Californians are closely divided between favoring (48%) and opposing (46%) construction of a high-speed rail system in California. A total of 66 percent say they would favor high-speed rail if it cost less than the current estimate of \$64 billion over the next 20 years. Across regions, support for high-speed rail is highest in Los Angeles (56%) and lowest in the Central Valley (39%).

Most Say Criminal Justice System Inequitable

A quarter of residents (25%) call violence and street crime a big problem in their communities (35% somewhat of a problem). In January 2016, 20 percent called it a big problem. The view that crime is a big problem is more common in the Central Valley (32%) and Los Angeles (29%) than in Orange/San Diego (20%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (19%). It is also somewhat more common among Latinos (32%) and African Americans (30%) than among whites (22%) and other racial/ethnic groups (19%).

How are local police doing in controlling crime? Two-thirds of residents say police are doing an excellent job (30%) or a good one (35%). African Americans (38%) are far less likely to say police are doing an excellent or good job than are Latinos (62%), whites (74%), and members of other racial/ethnic groups (63%). Solid majorities across parties say police are doing an excellent or good job.

Two-thirds of residents (66%) say that blacks and other minorities do not receive treatment equal to whites in the criminal justice system—up from 55 percent in January 2015. Today, 90 percent of African Americans express this view, as do solid majorities of Latinos, whites, and Californians in other racial/ethnic groups. This view is also more common among younger adults than older ones (74% age 18–34, 68% 35–54, 56% 55 and older).

"While most Californians give excellent or good ratings to their local police, there is a large and growing belief that there are racial disparities in the criminal justice system," Baldassare said.

State, Local Tax System Considered Fair

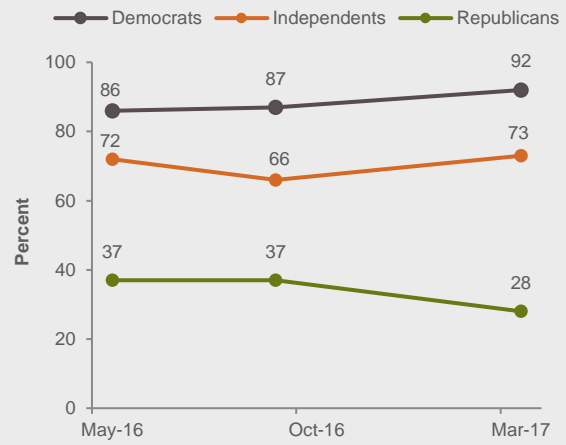
As the April tax filing deadline approaches, most Californians say the state and local tax system is fair (6% very fair, 49% moderately fair). However, most residents also say they pay more taxes to state and local governments than they feel they should (35% much more, 23% somewhat more). At the same time, less than half (42%) say major changes are needed in the state and local tax systems.

Federal Issues

Key Findings

- Thirty-one percent of California adults approve of President Trump and 36 percent approve of Congress. About half approve of their own representatives to the House of Representatives (51%), Senator Dianne Feinstein (49%), and Senator Kamala Harris (46%). *(pages 7, 8)*
- An overwhelming majority of Californians say that undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States should be allowed to stay in the country and eventually apply for citizenship (68%) or should be allowed to stay but without prospects for citizenship (12%). Fifteen percent think these immigrants should be required to leave the US. Most (72%) oppose building a wall along the entire Mexico border. *(pages 8, 9)*
- One in four Californians (27%) view terrorism and security as a big problem in the state today; 35 percent say it is somewhat of a problem and 35 percent say it is not much of a problem. Six in ten say the US government is doing very (19%) or fairly well (38%) in reducing the threat of terrorism. Fewer than four in ten approve of President Trump’s handling of terrorism (37%) or his revised travel ban (37%). *(page 10)*
- A majority of Californians say that government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest (56%). A similar majority thinks that stricter environmental laws are worth the costs (54%). *(page 11)*
- Trust in the federal government remains low. Majorities say they can trust the federal government to do what is right only some or none of the time (69%), that government is run by a few big interests (70%), and that a lot of taxpayer money is wasted (61%). Sixty-four percent view President Trump as not trustworthy. *(page 12)*

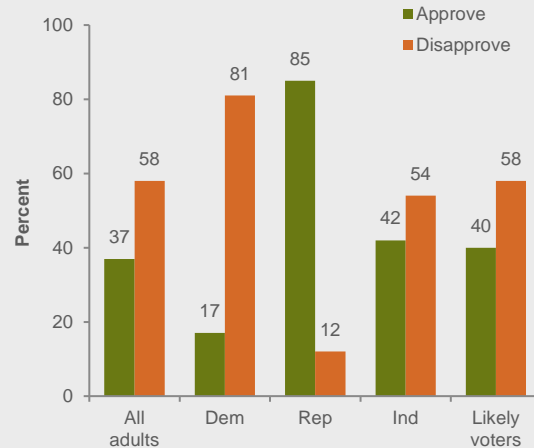
Opposition to building a border wall



Preferred options for undocumented immigrants



Support for President Trump’s revised travel ban



Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

Donald Trump’s low approval ratings (31% adults, 35% likely voters) are unchanged from January (30% adults, 34% likely voters). Today, an overwhelming majority of Republicans (82%) approve of President Trump while an overwhelming majority of Democrats (91%) disapprove. Independents are far more likely to disapprove (57%) than to approve (36%). Fewer than four in ten Californians across all regions approve. Men are 15 points more likely than women to approve (39% to 24%), and whites (45%) are much more likely than Latinos (17%) and African Americans (16%) to approve. In a recent Gallup weekly tracking poll, adults nationwide (42%) are more likely to approve of President Trump.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling his job as president?”

| | | Approve | Disapprove | Don't know |
|---------------|------------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| All adults | | 31% | 61% | 7% |
| Likely voters | | 35 | 62 | 3 |
| Party | Democrats | 8 | 91 | 2 |
| | Republicans | 82 | 14 | 4 |
| | Independents | 36 | 57 | 7 |
| Region | Central Valley | 39 | 51 | 9 |
| | San Francisco Bay Area | 28 | 64 | 7 |
| | Los Angeles | 26 | 70 | 5 |
| | Orange/San Diego | 32 | 60 | 8 |
| | Inland Empire | 37 | 51 | 12 |

Slightly more than a third of adults (36%) and a quarter of likely voters (27%)—similar to January (33% adults, 25% likely voters)—approve of the way the US Congress is handling its job. Republicans (48%) are much more likely than Democrats (23%) and independents (28%) to approve. Notably, among Republicans, approval of Congress has increased 9 points since January (39%). Approval for Congress declines as income levels rise (42% under \$40,000, 38% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 28% \$80,000 or more); the same is true with education. According to a March CNN/ORC poll, a somewhat lower share of adults nationwide approve of Congress (28% approve, 69% disapprove).

About half of California adults (51%) and likely voters (49%) approve of their own representatives to the US House. Approval ratings were similar in September (51% adults, 47% likely voters) and January 2016 (54% adults, 51% likely voters). Democrats (56%) are more likely than Republicans and independents (46% each) to approve of their own representatives. About half across regions approve (53% San Francisco Bay Area, 51% Central Valley, 50% Los Angeles, 50% Orange/San Diego, 48% Inland Empire).

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of ...?”

| | | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| the way the US Congress is handling its job | Approve | 36% | 23% | 48% | 28% | 27% |
| | Disapprove | 55 | 72 | 42 | 63 | 68 |
| | Don't know | 9 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 6 |
| the way your own representative to the US House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job | Approve | 51 | 56 | 46 | 46 | 49 |
| | Disapprove | 32 | 31 | 42 | 36 | 38 |
| | Don't know | 17 | 14 | 12 | 18 | 13 |

Approval Ratings of California’s US Senators

About half of Californians (49%) and likely voters (51%) approve of the way Senator Dianne Feinstein is handling her job, while one in three Californians and four in ten likely voters disapprove. Senator Feinstein’s approval rating was slightly higher in January 2016 (56% adults, 56% likely voters). Today, majorities of Democrats (67%) and independents (53%) approve of her performance, compared to 25 percent of Republicans.

Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (64%) are much more likely than those in other regions to approve of Senator Feinstein (50% Los Angeles, 48% Orange/San Diego, 40% Central Valley, 40% Inland Empire). Senator Feinstein’s approval rating is slightly higher among older Californians (43% 18 to 34; 50% 35 to 54, 52% 55 and older) and college graduates (44% high school or less; 48% some college; 57% college graduate).

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as US Senator?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Approve | 49% | 67% | 25% | 53% | 51% |
| Disapprove | 32 | 18 | 64 | 38 | 39 |
| Don't know | 19 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

As Kamala Harris begins her tenure as California’s junior senator, 46 percent of adults and 49 percent of likely voters approve of her performance. Notably, three in ten adults and a quarter of likely voters are not sure how to rate Senator Harris. Across parties, Democrats (64%) are much more likely than independents (46%) and Republicans (25%) to approve.

Across regions, Senator Harris’s approval rating is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (53%) and Los Angeles (51%), than elsewhere (43% Central Valley, 41% Orange/San Diego, 38% Inland Empire). Across demographic groups, approval of Senator Harris is slightly higher among college graduates (44% high school, 45% some college, 52% college graduates) and is highest among African Americans (63%).

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Kamala Harris is handling her job as US Senator?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Approve | 46% | 64% | 25% | 46% | 49% |
| Disapprove | 23 | 15 | 44 | 27 | 26 |
| Don't know | 30 | 20 | 31 | 26 | 25 |

Immigration Policy

On January 25, President Trump issued an executive order aimed at tightening border security and immigration enforcement. Today, a strong majority of Californians (68%) say that undocumented immigrants living in the US should be allowed to stay and eventually apply for citizenship; 12 percent say they should be allowed to stay legally, but not allowed to apply for citizenship. Only 15 percent say that undocumented immigrants currently living in the US should be required to leave. Across parties, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (82%) and a solid majority of independents (62%) say

undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay and eventually apply for citizenship—as do a plurality of Republicans (46%). A similar question in a February CBS News poll found that adults nationwide are somewhat less likely to say that undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay and eventually apply for citizenship (60%), while 13 percent say they should be able to stay legally but not allowed to apply for citizenship and 23 percent say they should be required to leave.

At least six in ten Californians across all regions say that undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay and have a path to citizenship. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (82%) are the most likely to say that undocumented immigrants should have a path to citizenship, followed by African Americans (76%), whites (62%), and other racial/ethnic groups (58%). Majorities across all age, education, and income groups say that undocumented immigrants should be able to eventually apply for citizenship, though those age 55 and older are less likely than 18-to-34-year-olds, college graduates are less likely than those with only a high school education, and Californians with incomes over \$80,000 per year are less likely than those with an annual income under \$40,000 to say so.

“Which comes closest to your view about undocumented immigrants who are living in the US? They should be allowed to stay in the US and eventually apply for citizenship, they should be allowed to stay in the US legally, but not be allowed to apply for citizenship, or they should be required to leave the US?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Stay and eventually apply for citizenship | 68% | 82% | 46% | 62% | 66% |
| Stay legally but not allowed to apply for citizenship | 12 | 10 | 10 | 14 | 11 |
| Required to leave the US | 15 | 6 | 36 | 19 | 19 |
| Don't know | 5 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 |

Twenty-five percent of Californians and 29 percent of likely voters favor building a wall along the entire border with Mexico. Responses were similar in September (25% adults, 34% likely voters) and May (26% adults, 33% likely voters). Today, a strong majority of Republicans (68%) are in favor, while overwhelming majorities of independents (73%) and Democrats (92%) are opposed. Solid majorities across racial/ethnic groups are opposed, with Latinos (86%) most likely to hold this view. More than six in ten adults across regions and age, education, and income groups oppose building a wall along the border with Mexico. Among those who approve of President Trump, 65 percent favor building a wall. Among those who disapprove of the president, 94 percent are opposed. In a February Pew Research Center poll, 35 percent of adults nationwide favored building a wall while 62 percent were opposed.

“All in all, would you favor or oppose building a wall along the entire border with Mexico?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Favor | 25% | 6% | 68% | 26% | 29% |
| Oppose | 72 | 92 | 28 | 73 | 69 |
| Don't know | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 |

Terrorism

About one in four Californians think that terrorism and security present a big problem in California today; 35 percent say terrorism is somewhat of a problem and 35 percent say it is not much of a problem. The share calling terrorism a big problem has dropped 16 points since January 2016—shortly after the terrorist attack in San Bernardino—but is similar to the share in surveys dating back to December 2001. Republicans (44%) are more than twice as likely as Democrats (18%) to view this as a big problem. Across regions, Inland Empire residents (34%) are the most likely—and San Francisco Bay Area residents (21%) least likely—to call terrorism a big problem.

“How much of a problem is terrorism and security in California today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-----------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Big problem | 27% | 18% | 44% | 25% | 24% |
| Somewhat of a problem | 35 | 35 | 33 | 37 | 35 |
| Not much of a problem | 35 | 45 | 20 | 34 | 39 |
| Don't know | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 |

When it comes to the government’s handling of terrorism, about six in ten Californians say the US government is doing very (19%) or fairly well (38%) in reducing the threat. A similar share held this view in January 2016 (24% very, 37% fairly). More than half of Californians across parties, regions, and demographic groups think the government is doing well—this perception is most widely held among Republicans (70%) and Inland Empire residents (67%).

Regarding the government’s anti-terrorism policies, 52 percent of Californians think that they have gone too far in restricting the average person's civil liberties, while 36 percent think that they have not gone far enough to protect the country. Partisans are divided on this issue, while pluralities among nearly all demographic groups (except those age 55 and older) say policies have gone too far.

“In general, how well do you think the US government is doing in reducing the threat of terrorism?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-----------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Very well | 19% | 12% | 17% | 16% | 14% |
| Fairly well | 38 | 41 | 53 | 38 | 44 |
| Not too well | 24 | 25 | 16 | 29 | 22 |
| Not at all well | 15 | 18 | 12 | 14 | 16 |
| Don't know | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 |

Thirty-seven percent of Californians approve of the way that President Trump is handling terrorism and homeland security issues (57% disapprove). An overwhelming majority of Republicans (80%) approve, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (86%) disapprove, and independents are more evenly divided (45% approve, 52% disapprove). Fewer than half across regions and demographic groups approve. When it comes to President Trump’s revised travel ban, 37 percent approve and 58 percent disapprove. Likely voters hold similar opinions (40% approve, 58% disapprove). Most Republicans (85%) approve, most Democrats (81%) disapprove, and independents are more likely to disapprove (54%) than approve (42%). Fewer than half across regions and demographic groups approve of the president’s travel ban.

Government Regulation

Given President Trump’s focus on reducing government regulations, how do Californians perceive government regulation of business? A majority of Californians (56%) think government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest, while 37 percent think it does more harm than good. Findings were similar last March (60% necessary), but somewhat lower in March 2012 (48% necessary). There is a deep divide between partisans, with 69 percent of Democrats saying regulation is necessary and 65 percent of Republicans saying it does more harm than good. The belief that regulation is necessary is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (63%) and lowest in the Inland Empire (48%). A plurality of Californians across demographic groups think regulation is necessary. Notably, Californians across age groups hold similar views, while college graduates are more likely than others to think that the regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest.

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

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|--|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Necessary to protect the public interest | 56% | 69% | 31% | 49% | 56% |
| Does more harm than good | 37 | 24 | 65 | 47 | 39 |
| Don't know | 7 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 5 |

Differences between state policy and emerging federal policy appear to be developing in the area of environmental regulation. President Trump has proposed instituting changes at the Environmental Protection Agency, including rolling back regulations on water and fuel economy standards as well as altering the role that climate change plays in environmental rules. Slightly more than half of Californians (54%) think stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost, while fewer (37%) think stricter laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy. Findings today are similar to March 2014 (55% worth costs, 38% too costly) and pluralities have said they are worth the cost in surveys since 1998. Most Democrats (71%) think these laws are worth the cost while most Republicans (61%) say they are too costly. Pluralities across regional, age, and income groups think these laws and regulations are worth the cost. Notably, Californians age 18 to 34 (59%) are more likely than those age 55 and older (49%) to say they are worth the cost.

Among those who approve of President Trump, about six in ten say government regulation of business does more harm than good (60%) and that stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy (58%).

“Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right—stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy, or stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Cost too many jobs and hurt the economy | 37% | 23% | 61% | 42% | 34% |
| Worth the cost | 54 | 71 | 34 | 52 | 61 |
| Don't know | 9 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 |

Trust in Federal Government

President Trump is viewed as trustworthy by 31 percent of adults, while 64 percent view him as untrustworthy. In a Pew Research Center national survey in February, 37 percent said he was trustworthy and 59 percent said he was untrustworthy. In California, most Democrats (91%) and independents (60%) view him as untrustworthy while most Republicans (81%) view him as trustworthy. Majorities across regions and demographic groups view him as untrustworthy. Among likely voters, 35 percent say that President Trump is trustworthy and 64 percent say that he is untrustworthy.

Three in ten California adults say they can trust the federal government to do what is right just about always (7%) or most of the time (22%), while seven in ten say it can be trusted some (62%) or none (7%) of the time. Fewer than half have said that they trust the government just about always or most of the time in surveys dating back to 1998. While most Republicans view Donald Trump as trustworthy, three in ten say they can trust government most of the time or just about always. Fewer Democrats hold this view, as do fewer than four in ten across regions and demographic groups.

“Next, how much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington today to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|--|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Just about always | 7% | 3% | 5% | 4% | 2% |
| Most of the time | 22 | 15 | 24 | 18 | 18 |
| Some of the time | 62 | 71 | 63 | 73 | 69 |
| None of the time <i>(volunteered)</i> | 7 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Don't know | 2 | 1 | 2 | — | 1 |

Nearly all Californians think the federal government wastes a lot of (61%) or some (27%) taxpayer money; just 8 percent say it does not waste very much. The belief that the federal government wastes a lot of money was similar in October (55%); a majority has held this view dating back to 1998. Majorities across parties think that the government wastes a lot (59% Democrats, 69% independents, 71% Republicans). Majorities across regions and demographic groups agree, with at least six in ten across education and income groups holding this view.

A strong majority of Californians (70%) think that the federal government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves rather than for the benefit of all the people (25%). This belief was similar in October (64%); a majority has maintained this view in surveys since 1998. Partisans are once again distrustful of government, with more than two in three saying government is run by a few big interests. More than two in three across regions hold this view, as do more than six in ten across age, education, and income groups.

“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?”

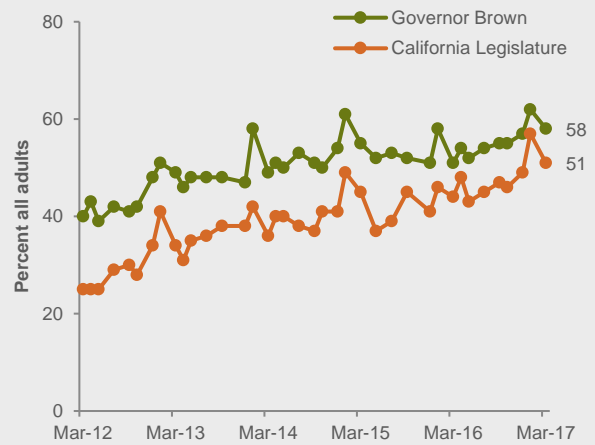
| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| A few big interests | 70% | 78% | 68% | 78% | 79% |
| Benefit of all the people | 25 | 19 | 28 | 19 | 17 |
| Don't know | 5 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 |

State Issues

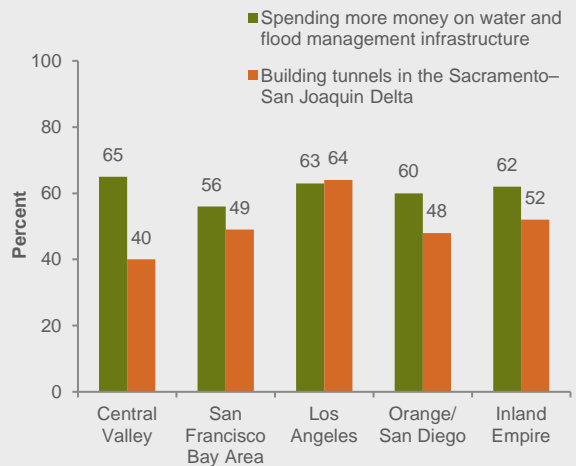
Key Findings

- Governor Brown has the approval of 58 percent of Californians, while slight majorities approve of the state legislature (51%) and their own legislators in the state assembly and senate (53%). *(page 14)*
- Californians are most likely to name jobs and the economy (20%) and immigration (16%) as the most important issues. More than half of Californians think the state is heading in the right direction (55%) and that there will be good economic times in the next 12 months (51%). *(page 15)*
- While more than half of Californians think the state and local tax system is very (6%) or moderately fair (49%), a similar share also think they pay much more (35%) or somewhat more (23%) than they should in state and local taxes. *(page 16)*
- Most Californians (61%) think that it is very important for the state to spend more money on water and flood management infrastructure in their part of California. About half (51%) say it is very important to build tunnels in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta to improve the reliability of water supplies. *(page 17)*
- Californians are divided on the high-speed rail system (48% favor, 46% oppose). One in three say it is very important for California’s future quality of life and economic vitality. *(page 18)*
- One in four (25%) Californians view violence and street crime in their local community as a big problem; 35 percent say it is somewhat and 39 percent say it is not much of a problem. Two in three adults think their local police are doing an excellent or good job in controlling crime, but two in three think minorities do not receive equal treatment in the criminal justice system. *(page 19)*

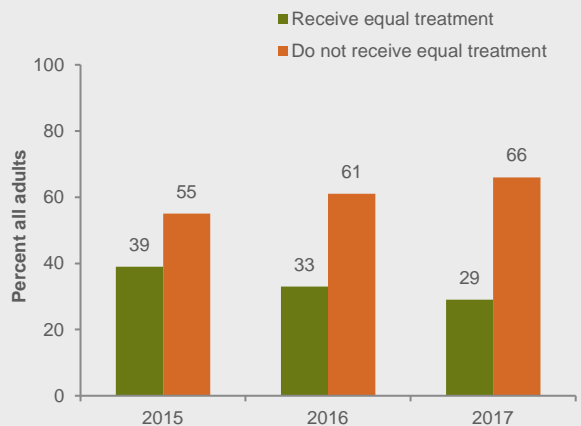
Approval ratings of state elected officials



Water policy options viewed as very important



Minorities in the criminal justice system



Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

About six in ten Californians (58% adults, 61% likely voters) approve of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as California governor. The governor’s approval rating was similar in January (62% adults, 62% likely voters) and lower last March (51% adults, 53% likely voters). Today, the governor’s approval rating is 79 percent among Democrats, 53 percent among independents, and 26 percent among Republicans. More than half across regions, age, and racial/ethnic groups say they approve.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?”

| | | Approve | Disapprove | Don't know |
|---------------|------------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| All adults | | 58% | 25% | 17% |
| Likely voters | | 61 | 32 | 7 |
| Party | Democrats | 79 | 9 | 12 |
| | Republicans | 26 | 65 | 8 |
| | Independents | 53 | 35 | 12 |
| Region | Central Valley | 52 | 31 | 17 |
| | San Francisco Bay Area | 64 | 21 | 15 |
| | Los Angeles | 60 | 21 | 19 |
| | Orange/San Diego | 56 | 30 | 13 |
| | Inland Empire | 53 | 28 | 19 |

Fifty-one percent of adults and 48 percent of likely voters approve of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job. Approval of the legislature was in a similar range in January (57% adults, 50% likely voters) and lower last March (44% adults, 38% likely voters). Today, 66 percent of Democrats, compared to 43 percent of independents and 24 percent of Republicans, say that they approve. Half or more adult residents in almost all regions (55% San Francisco Bay Area, 53% Orange/San Diego, 51% Los Angeles, 50% Central Valley)—with the exception of the Inland Empire (40%)—approve of the legislature.

Similarly, 53 percent of adults and 52 percent of likely voters approve of the way that their own state legislators are representing them. The shares holding this view were similar in September 2016 (52% adults, 49% likely voters) and approval was slightly lower among likely voters in January 2016 (49% adults, 45% likely voters). Today, 66 percent of Democrats, 45 percent of independents, and 35 percent of Republicans approve of their legislators. Half or more adult residents in almost all regions (61% San Francisco Bay Area, 52% Central Valley, 52% Los Angeles, 50% Orange/San Diego)—with the exception of the Inland Empire (46%)—approve of their legislators.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of ...?”

| | | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| the way that the California Legislature is handling its job | Approve | 51% | 66% | 24% | 43% | 48% |
| | Disapprove | 33 | 19 | 67 | 45 | 41 |
| | Don't know | 16 | 15 | 10 | 12 | 11 |
| the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time | Approve | 53 | 66 | 35 | 45 | 52 |
| | Disapprove | 32 | 22 | 54 | 42 | 38 |
| | Don't know | 16 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 11 |

Overall Mood

Californians are most likely to name jobs and the economy (20% adults, 19% likely voters) and immigration (16% adults, 15% likely voters) as the most important issues facing people in California today; fewer than one in ten name other issues including government, water, and health care. In March 2016, jobs and the economy (27% adults, 29% likely voters) and water and the drought (20% adults, 23% likely voters) were the top two issues while fewer named immigration (7% adults, 8% likely voters). Today, jobs and the economy and immigration are the top two issues in all regions.

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

| Top 5 issues | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Central Valley | San Francisco Bay Area | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | Inland Empire | |
| Jobs, economy | 20% | 21% | 23% | 18% | 18% | 21% | 19% |
| Immigration, illegal immigration | 16 | 13 | 15 | 19 | 17 | 17 | 15 |
| Government, elected officials | 8 | 8 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 10 |
| Water, drought | 8 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| Health care, health insurance | 7 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 10 |

Fifty-five percent of adults and 53 percent of likely voters say that things in California are generally going in the right direction. The view that the state is headed in the right direction was similar in January (58% adults, 58% likely voters) and lower among likely voters last March (50% adults, 45% likely voters). Today, Democrats (71%) are far more likely than independents (48%) and Republicans (24%) to say that things are going in the right direction. Half or more adult residents in all regions (62% San Francisco Bay Area, 55% Inland Empire, 55% Orange/San Diego, 54% Los Angeles) with the exception of the Central Valley (46%) say that things in California are generally going in the right direction.

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

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-----------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Right direction | 55% | 71% | 24% | 48% | 53% |
| Wrong direction | 39 | 23 | 72 | 48 | 43 |
| Don't know | 6 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

Half of Californians (51% adults, 50% likely voters) today are saying that California will have good times financially in the next 12 months. Expectations for good economic times were in similar ranges in January (53% adults, 51% likely voters) and last March (51% adults, 46% likely voters). Today, about half of independents (52%) and Democrats (49%) are optimistic; 44 percent of Republicans expect good times. About half or more across age and education groups are optimistic. About half or more across the state’s regions (55% Orange/San Diego, 54% Central Valley, 51% Los Angeles, 49% San Francisco Bay Area), with the exception of the Inland Empire (43%), expect good times financially in California. Men are much more likely than women to be optimistic (57% to 45%) and African Americans (27%) are by far the least optimistic across racial/ethnic groups.

State and Local Tax System

As the April 18 deadline for income tax returns approaches and as the Trump administration considers a federal tax overhaul, how do Californians perceive their state and local tax system? The present state and local tax system is viewed as moderately or very fair by majorities of California adults (6% very, 49% moderately) and likely voters (4% very, 49% moderately). Californians gave similar responses last March (56% adults, 54% likely voters said very or moderately fair). Today, Democrats (60%) and independents (53%) are much more likely than Republicans (39%) to say that the state and local tax system is very or moderately fair. Majorities across income groups say that the state and local tax system is very or moderately fair.

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

| | All adults | Household income | | | Likely voters |
|-----------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| | | Under \$40,000 | \$40,000 to under \$80,000 | \$80,000 or more | |
| Very fair | 6% | 7% | 5% | 5% | 4% |
| Moderately fair | 49 | 51 | 52 | 49 | 49 |
| Not too fair | 24 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 26 |
| Not at all fair | 18 | 16 | 16 | 21 | 19 |
| Don't know | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |

However, almost six in ten Californians say they pay more taxes to state and local governments than they feel they should (35% much more and 23% somewhat more for adults; 34% much more and 25% somewhat more for likely voters). The public’s perceptions of paying much or somewhat more than they should in state and local taxes were similar last March (56% adults, 61% likely voters) before the passage of Proposition 55 (Proposition 30 tax extension) last fall. Today, Republicans (77%) are more likely than independents (67%) and far more likely than Democrats (48%) to say that they pay much or somewhat more than they should. Majorities across income groups say they are paying much more or somewhat more than they should; lower-income residents are the least likely to hold this perception.

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

| | All adults | Household income | | | Likely voters |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| | | Under \$40,000 | \$40,000 to under \$80,000 | \$80,000 or more | |
| Much more than you should | 35% | 32% | 34% | 40% | 34% |
| Somewhat more than you should | 23 | 19 | 23 | 28 | 25 |
| About the right amount | 37 | 44 | 37 | 29 | 36 |
| Less than you should | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Don't know | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

About four in ten Californians (42% adults, 44% likely voters) say major changes are needed in the state and local tax system, compared to about half in May 2015 (49% adults, 54% likely voters). Today, fewer than half of homeowners (44%) and those earning \$80,000 or more (43%) say major changes are needed. Democrats (31%) are much less likely than independents (46%) and Republicans (62%) to hold this view.

State Water Supply

California’s wet season brought on flooding across the state and an infrastructure crisis at Oroville Dam. Today, a solid majority of Californians (61%) say it is very important for the state to be spending more money on water and flood management infrastructure in their part of California. An additional 27 percent see this spending as somewhat important, and only one in ten say it is not too (7%) or not at all important (3%). Majorities across regions say more water and flood management infrastructure spending is very important, ranging from 56 percent in the San Francisco Bay Area to 65 percent in the Central Valley. About six in ten across parties, age, education, and income groups say the same.

“How important do you think it is for the state to be spending more money on water and flood management infrastructure in your part of California?”

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
|----------------------|------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Central Valley | San Francisco Bay Area | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | Inland Empire | |
| Very important | 61% | 65% | 56% | 63% | 60% | 62% | 60% |
| Somewhat important | 27 | 25 | 28 | 28 | 30 | 22 | 30 |
| Not too important | 7 | 5 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 6 |
| Not at all important | 3 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Don't know | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | – | – | 1 |

Californians are less likely to view the governor’s specific proposal to improve the reliability of water supplies by building tunnels in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta as very important. Slightly more than half (51%) say it is very important, 26 percent say it is somewhat important, and 14 percent say it is not too or not at all important. Responses were similar a year ago (54% adults, 45% likely voters said very important). Today, we find wide differences across regions, with 64 percent in Los Angeles calling the tunnels very important and 40 percent saying the same in the Central Valley. There is a difference in opinion within the Central Valley itself, with residents of the San Joaquin Valley (48% very, 31% somewhat) more likely than residents of Sacramento Metro and the North Valley (39% very, 19% somewhat) to say the tunnels are important.

Across parties, Democrats (51%) and independents (49%) are slightly more likely than Republicans (43%) to say the tunnels are very important, and those who approve of the governor are much more likely than those who disapprove to hold this view (57% to 40%). The view that the tunnels are very important is less common among those with higher incomes than among those with lower incomes (40% \$80,000 or more; 56% \$40,000 to \$80,000; 58% under \$40,000). Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (63%) and African Americans (55%) are more likely than whites (42%) to express this view.

“The governor has proposed to improve the reliability of water supplies by building tunnels in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. How important is this proposal for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California?”

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
|----------------------|------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Central Valley | San Francisco Bay Area | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | Inland Empire | |
| Very important | 51% | 40% | 49% | 64% | 48% | 52% | 47% |
| Somewhat important | 26 | 28 | 23 | 22 | 31 | 30 | 25 |
| Not too important | 7 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 8 |
| Not at all important | 7 | 15 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| Don't know | 9 | 8 | 12 | 6 | 11 | 6 | 11 |

High-Speed Rail

In November 2008, California voters passed Proposition 1A—the Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century—with 53 percent support. Today, about three in ten Californians (33% adults, 28% likely voters) say the state’s high-speed rail system is very important for the state’s future quality of life and economic vitality. In our surveys since 2012, between 28 and 36 percent of adults have said the same. In our current survey, Democrats (37%) are nearly three times as likely as Republicans (13%) to say the high-speed rail system is very important for the state’s future (31% among independents). Across regions, Los Angeles residents (42%) are most likely to say it is very important. The likelihood of saying high-speed rail is very important declines with increasing age and income.

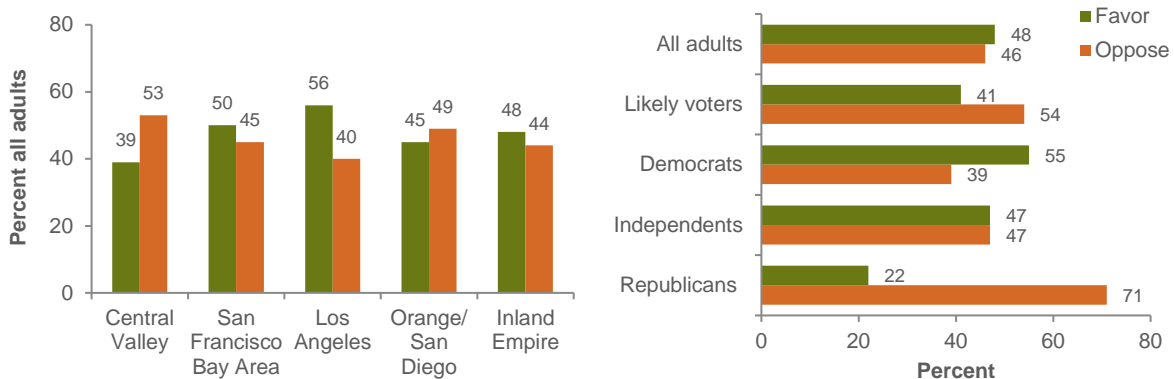
“Thinking ahead, how important is the high-speed rail system for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California?”

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
|----------------------|------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Central Valley | San Francisco Bay Area | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | Inland Empire | |
| Very important | 33% | 28% | 32% | 42% | 33% | 27% | 28% |
| Somewhat important | 31 | 29 | 33 | 28 | 32 | 33 | 29 |
| Not too important | 16 | 15 | 14 | 14 | 17 | 27 | 16 |
| Not at all important | 17 | 25 | 18 | 14 | 18 | 11 | 25 |
| Don't know | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

Californians are closely divided between favoring (48%) and opposing (46%) a high-speed rail system in California. A total of 66 percent say they would be in favor if the system cost less, while 28 percent would still be opposed. Among likely voters, a majority oppose building a high-speed rail system (54%), and 37 percent would still be opposed if it cost less. In response to a similar question last year, 52 percent of adults and 44 percent of likely voters said they favored building the system.

Across regions today, support for the system is highest in Los Angeles (56%) and lowest in the Central Valley (39%). Democrats (55%) and independents (47%) are far more likely than Republicans (22%) to be in favor, and Latinos (54%) and African Americans (49%) are somewhat more likely than whites (41%) to be in favor. Across age groups, a majority of young Californians favor the system (57% 18 to 34), and support declines with increasing age (47% 35 to 54, 40% 55 and older). Those who approve of Governor Brown are much more likely than those who disapprove to favor the system (59% to 20%).

“As you may know, California voters passed a \$10 billion state bond in 2008 for planning and construction of a high-speed rail system from Anaheim to the Central Valley and San Francisco. The estimated costs associated with this 520 mile phase of the high-speed rail system are about \$64 billion over the next 20 years. Do you favor or oppose building a high-speed rail system in California?”



Crime, Police, and Race

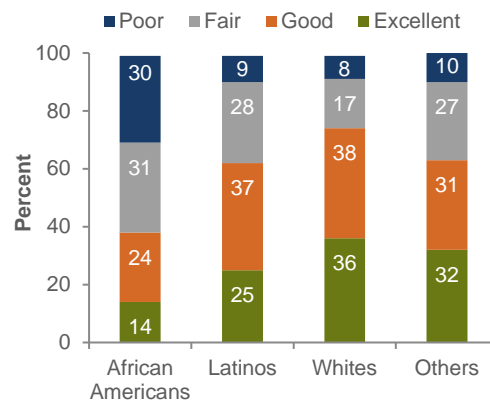
One in four Californians say that violence and street crime are a big problem in their local community. Californians are slightly more likely today than they were in January 2016 to say crime is a big problem (20% adults, 15% likely voters). Across regions, the view that crime is a big problem is somewhat more common in the Central Valley and Los Angeles than in Orange/San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area. It is also somewhat more common among Latinos (32%) and African Americans (30%) than among whites (22%) and members of other racial/ethnic groups (19%). College graduates and those with annual incomes of \$80,000 or more (13% each) are much less likely than others to say crime is a big problem.

“How much of a problem are violence and street crime in your local community today?”

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Central Valley | San Francisco Bay Area | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | Inland Empire | |
| Big problem | 25% | 32% | 19% | 29% | 20% | 26% | 20% |
| Somewhat of a problem | 35 | 38 | 43 | 35 | 26 | 33 | 35 |
| Not much of a problem | 39 | 29 | 38 | 36 | 55 | 41 | 44 |
| Don't know | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – |

Two in three Californians say their local police are doing an excellent (30%) or good (35%) job controlling crime in their community. Responses were similar in January 2016 (29% excellent, 36% good). Today, African Americans (38%) are far less likely than Latinos (62%), whites (74%), and members of other racial/ethnic groups (63%) to say the police are doing an excellent or good job. Across regions, responses range from 59 percent saying excellent or good in the San Francisco Bay Area to 71 percent saying the same in Orange/San Diego. Across parties, Republicans (78%) are most likely to say police are doing an excellent or good job (70% independents, 63% Democrats).

“How would you rate the job your local police are doing in controlling crime in your community?”



Two in three Californians say blacks and other minorities do not receive treatment equal to whites in the criminal justice system. That is up from 55 percent in January 2015. Today, 90 percent of African Americans express this view, as do solid majorities of Latinos, whites, and members of other racial/ethnic groups. This view is much more common among younger than older adults (74% 18 to 34, 68% 35 to 54, 56% 55 and older). Strong majorities of Democrats and independents say blacks and other minorities are treated differently, while a majority of Republicans say they are not.

“Do you think blacks and other minorities receive equal treatment as whites in the criminal justice system or not?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Race/Ethnicity | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|-------------------|---------|--------|--------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | African Americans | Latinos | Whites | Others |
| Receive equal treatment | 29% | 12% | 56% | 32% | 6% | 24% | 36% | 32% |
| Do not receive equal treatment | 66 | 86 | 34 | 65 | 90 | 70 | 60 | 65 |
| Don't know | 5 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 |

Regional Map



Methodology

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance from associate survey director Dean Bonner, project manager for this survey, and survey research associates David Kordus and Lunna Lopes. The Californians and Their Government survey is supported with funding from the James Irvine Foundation, the California Endowment, and the PPIC Donor Circle. The PPIC Statewide Survey invites input, comments, and suggestions from policy and public opinion experts and from its own advisory committee, but survey methods, questions, and content are determined solely by PPIC's survey team.

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 1,706 California adult residents, including 1,106 interviewed on cell phones and 600 interviewed on landline telephones. Interviews took an average of 18 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from March 5–14, 2017.

Cell phone interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of cell phone numbers. All cell phone numbers with California area codes were eligible for selection, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as eight times to increase the likelihood of reaching an eligible respondent. Once a cell phone user was reached, it was verified that this person was age 18 or older, a resident of California, and in a safe place to continue the survey (e.g., not driving).

Cell phone respondents were offered a small reimbursement to help defray the cost of the call. Cell phone interviews were conducted with adults who have cell phone service only and with those who have both cell phone and landline service in the household.

Landline interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. All landline telephone exchanges in California were eligible for selection, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as 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.

For both landlines and cell phones, Survey Sampling International estimates which phone numbers are likely to be associated with Asian American individuals. These phone numbers are called up to three additional times to increase our ability to interview Asian American adults.

Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted by Abt SRBI, Inc., in English and Spanish, according to respondents' preferences. Accent on Languages, Inc., translated new survey questions into Spanish, with assistance from Renatta DeFever.

Abt SRBI uses the US Census Bureau's 2011–2015 American Community Survey's (ACS) Public Use Microdata Series for California (with regional coding information from the University of Minnesota's Integrated Public Use Microdata Series for California) to compare certain demographic characteristics of the survey sample—region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education—with the characteristics of California's adult population. The survey sample was closely comparable to the ACS figures. To estimate landline and cell phone service in California, Abt SRBI used 2015 state-level estimates released by the National Center for Health Statistics—which used data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the ACS—and 2016 estimates for the West Census Region in the latest NHIS report. The estimates for California were then compared against landline and cell phone service reported in this survey. We also used voter registration data from the California Secretary of State to compare the party registration of registered voters in our sample to party registration statewide. The landline and cell phone samples were then integrated using a frame integration weight, while sample balancing

adjusted for differences across regional, age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, telephone service, and party registration groups.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ± 3.3 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,706 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.3 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,500 adults asked Q22b (travel ban) from March 6–14, the sampling error is ± 3.5 percent; for the 1,385 registered voters, it is ± 3.7 percent; for the 1,069 likely voters, it is ± 4.2 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.

We present results for five 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, “Inland Empire” refers to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and “Orange/San Diego” refers to Orange and San Diego Counties. We also refer to two geographic subregions within the Central Valley. “Sacramento Metro and the North Valley” includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, Yolo, and Yuba counties. “San Joaquin Valley” includes Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties. Residents of other geographic areas are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes for these less populous areas are not large enough to report separately.

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 43 percent of the state’s adult population, and also for Latinos, who account for about a third of the state’s adult population, and non-Hispanic African Americans, who comprise about 6 percent. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as non-Hispanic Asian Americans and Native Americans—are combined into an “other” category; they are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes are not large enough for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in other parties are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated per their responses to survey questions about voter registration, previous election participation, and current interest in politics.

The percentages presented in the report tables and in the questionnaire may not add to 100 due to rounding.

We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey results to those in our earlier surveys and to those in national surveys by Gallup, CBS News, CNN/ORC, and the Pew Research Center. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

Questionnaire and Results

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

March 5–14, 2017

1,706 California Adult Residents:
English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR ±3.3% AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE
PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

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]

- 20% jobs, economy
- 16 immigration, illegal immigration
- 8 government in general, problems with elected officials, parties
- 8 water, drought
- 7 health care, health insurance
- 5 education, schools, teachers
- 5 infrastructure
- 4 homelessness
- 4 housing costs, availability
- 3 crime, gangs, drugs
- 3 environment, pollution, global warming
- 3 state budget, deficit, taxes
- 2 race relations, racial and ethnic issues
- 8 other (*specify*)
- 4 don't know

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

- 58% approve
- 25 disapprove
- 17 don't know

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

- 51% approve
- 33 disapprove
- 16 don't know

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

- 53% approve
- 32 disapprove
- 16 don't know

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

- 55% right direction
- 39 wrong direction
- 6 don't know

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

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

Next,

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

- 6% very fair
- 49 moderately fair
- 24 not too fair
- 18 not at all fair
- 3 don't know

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

- 35% much more
- 23 somewhat more
- 37 about the right amount
- 2 less than you should
- 3 don't know

9. Overall, do you think the state and local tax system is in need of major changes, minor changes, or do you think it is fine the way it is?

- 42% major changes
- 37 minor changes
- 18 fine the way it is
- 3 don't know

On another topic,

[rotate questions 10 and 11]

10. How important do you think it is for the state to be spending more money on water and flood management infrastructure in your part of California—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 61% very important
- 27 somewhat important
- 7 not too important
- 3 not at all important
- 1 don't know

11. The governor has proposed to improve the reliability of water supplies by building tunnels in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. How important is this proposal for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 51% very important
- 26 somewhat important
- 7 not too important
- 7 not at all important
- 9 don't know

On another topic,

12. Next, as you may know, California voters passed a \$10 billion state bond in 2008 for planning and construction of a high-speed rail system from Anaheim to the Central Valley and San Francisco. The estimated costs associated with this 520 mile phase of the high-speed rail system are about \$64 billion over the next 20 years. Do you favor or oppose building a high-speed rail system in California? (If oppose, ask: "What if the high-speed rail system cost less, would you favor or oppose building it?")

- 48% favor
- 18 oppose, but would favor if it cost less
- 28 oppose, even if it cost less
- 6 don't know

13. Thinking ahead, how important is the high-speed rail system for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 33% very important
- 31 somewhat important
- 16 not too important
- 17 not at all important
- 2 don't know

On another topic,

14. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

- 31% approve
- 61 disapprove
- 7 don't know

14a. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Trump is handling terrorism and homeland security issues?

- 37% approve
- 57 disapprove
- 6 don't know

14b. Please tell me which of the following best reflects your impression of Donald Trump so far. Does Donald Trump impress you as trustworthy or not trustworthy?

- 31% trustworthy
- 64 not trustworthy
- 5 don't know

[rotate questions 15 and 16]

15. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as US senator?

- 49% approve
- 32 disapprove
- 19 don't know

16. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Kamala Harris is handling her job as US senator?

- 46% approve
- 23 disapprove
- 30 don't know

17. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling its job?

- 36% approve
- 55 disapprove
- 9 don't know

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

- 51% approve
- 32 disapprove
- 17 don't know

Changing topics,

19. Which comes closest to your view about undocumented immigrants who are living in the US? [rotate order] (1) they should be allowed to stay in the US and eventually apply for citizenship, (2) they should be allowed to stay in the US legally, but not be allowed to apply for citizenship, [or], (3) they should be required to leave the US.

- 68% they should be allowed to stay in the US and eventually apply for citizenship
- 12 they should be allowed to stay in the US legally, but not be allowed to apply for citizenship
- 15 they should be required to leave the US
- 5 don't know

20. All in all, would you favor or oppose building a wall along the entire border with Mexico?

- 25% favor
- 72 oppose
- 3 don't know

21. On another topic, how much of a problem is terrorism and security in California today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

- 27% big problem
- 35 somewhat of a problem
- 35 not much of a problem
- 3 don't know

22. In general, how well do you think the US government is doing in reducing the threat of terrorism—very well, fairly well, not too well, or not at all well?

- 19% very well
- 38 fairly well
- 24 not too well
- 15 not at all well
- 4 don't know

22a. What concerns you more about the government's anti-terrorism policies-- [rotate] (1) that they have not gone far enough to protect the country [or] (2) that they have gone too far in restricting the average person's civil liberties?

- 36% not gone far enough
- 52 gone too far
- 6 neither (*volunteered*)
- 7 don't know

22b. [asked beginning March 6] As you may know, Donald Trump has issued a revised executive order that temporarily bans most people from entering the US who are from the countries of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. Do you approve or disapprove of this action?

- 37% approve
- 58 disapprove
- 5 don't know

Changing topics,

For each of the following issues, please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

[rotate questions 23 and 24]

23. [rotate] (1) Government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest; [or] (2) Government regulation of business does more harm than good.

- 56% government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest
- 37 government regulation of business does more harm than good
- 7 don't know

24. [rotate] (1) Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy [or] (2) Stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost.

- 37% stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy
- 54 stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost
- 9 don't know

25. Next, how much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington today to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

- 7% just about always
- 22 most of the time
- 62 only some of the time
- 7 none of the time (*volunteered*)
- 2 don't know

26. 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
- 25 benefit of all of the people
- 5 don't know

27. 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?

- 61% a lot
- 27 some
- 8 don't waste very much
- 3 don't know

28. On another topic, how much of a problem are violence and street crime in your local community today—a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

- 25% big problem
- 35 somewhat of a problem
- 39 not much of a problem
- don't know

29. How would you rate the job your local police are doing in controlling crime in your community—excellent, good, fair, or poor?

- 30% excellent
- 35 good
- 24 fair
- 10 poor
- 1 don't know

30. Do you think blacks and other minorities receive equal treatment as whites in the criminal justice system or not?

- 29% receive equal treatment
- 66 do not receive equal treatment
- 5 don't know

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

- 69% yes *[ask q31a]*
- 31 no *[skip to q32b]*

31a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or as an independent?

- 45% Democrat *[ask q32]*
- 26 Republican *[skip to q32a]*
- 5 another party *(specify) [skip to q33]*
- 25 independent *[skip to q32b]*

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

- 60% strong
- 39 not very strong
- 1 don't know

[skip to q33]

32a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 58% strong
- 39 not very strong
- 3 don't know

[skip to q33]

32b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 28% Republican Party
- 46 Democratic Party
- 20 neither *(volunteered)*
- 6 don't know

33. Would you consider yourself to be politically:

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 15% very liberal
- 21 somewhat liberal
- 26 middle-of-the-road
- 23 somewhat conservative
- 11 very conservative
- 3 don't know

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

- 26% great deal
- 38 fair amount
- 26 only a little
- 10 none
- don't know

[d1-d15 demographic questions]

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