



Californians & the Environment

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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 THE ENVIRONMENT

Strong Support for Global Warming Law and for Expanding Its Goals

MOST WILLING TO PAY MORE FOR ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES

SAN FRANCISCO, July 27, 2016—Ten years after California enacted AB 32, the landmark law mandating the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, strong majorities of residents support its goals and favor a proposal to expand on them. These are among the key findings in a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

When Californians are asked if they favor or oppose the law requiring the state to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020, 69 percent are in favor (19% oppose, 13% don't know). Among likely voters, 62 percent favor the law. There is a striking partisan divide. Majorities of Democrats (80%) and independents (56%) favor the law, compared to 44 percent of Republicans. When the survey first asked this question in 2006, support was similar across parties (65% Republicans, 67% Democrats, 68% independents).

With the state on track to meet AB 32's goals, a proposed new law would set more ambitious targets. It would require a reduction in emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. When asked about this proposal, 68 percent of adults and 59 percent of likely voters favor it. Across parties, Democrats (78%) are twice as likely as Republicans (39%) to favor the expanded goals (59% independents in favor).

Californians couple their support for reducing emissions with an expectation of higher costs. Most adults and likely voters (59% each) say state action to reduce global warming will cause gasoline prices around the state to increase. Among Californians who say gas prices will rise, 64 percent favor AB 32's goals and 63 percent favor expanding them. Also, majorities of adults and likely voters (56% each) say that, to reduce global warming, they are willing to pay more for electricity if it is generated by renewable sources like solar or wind. Democrats (68%) and independents (51%) are more likely to be willing than Republicans (38%) to pay more.

"We find strong support today for the state's greenhouse gas emissions targets set 10 years ago," said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. "The commitment to help reduce global warming includes a surprising willingness on the part of majorities of Californians to pay higher prices."

Most Californians don't expect actions to reduce warming to cost the state jobs: 40 percent of adults say the result will be more jobs and 29 percent predict there will be no effect on the number of jobs. Just 20 percent think there will be fewer jobs because of the state's actions.

Most Favor Cap and Trade

A majority of Californians (55%) say they have heard nothing about the state's cap-and-trade system—a major part of the effort to achieve AB 32's emissions reduction goal. After hearing a short description

of the system, 54 percent of adults say they favor it. Transportation fuels have been included in the cap-and-trade system since 2015, and the Legislative Analyst estimated earlier this year that this has added 11 cents per gallon to the price of gasoline. After hearing this cost estimate along with a brief list of programs that receive state cap-and-trade revenues, 52 percent of adults and 49 percent of likely voters favor including transportation fuels in the system (36% adults, 40% likely voters oppose). A portion of cap-and-trade revenue is required by law to be spent on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities. Half of Californians (51%) and 46 percent of likely voters say it is very important to spend some of the revenue this way.

Most Californians (81% adults, 75% likely voters) say global warming is a very serious or somewhat serious threat to the state's future economy and quality of life. And most (64% adults, 64% likely voters) say the effects of warming have already begun, while fewer (25% adults, 21% likely voters) say there will be effects in the future. Far fewer (8% adults, 13% likely voters) say they will never happen. Most residents (65%) say global warming has contributed to California's current wildfires.

Clinton Leads Trump 46%–30%; Environmental Stances Seen as Important

With the November election approaching, likely voters were asked about their choices in the presidential and US Senate races and the importance of candidates' views on the environment. In the presidential race, likely voters favor Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump (46% to 30%)—a larger margin than in the May survey (49% to 39%), which did not ask about third-party candidates. Clinton has strong support among Democratic likely voters (81%) and leads Trump among independents (37% to 24%). Trump has strong support among Republicans (76%). The race is close among white likely voters, while Clinton has a large lead over Trump among Latinos and other racial/ethnic groups (sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis). Most likely voters say the candidates' positions on the environment are very important (45%) or somewhat important (38%) in making their choice.

In the US Senate matchup, which pits two Democrats against one another, likely voters prefer Kamala Harris to Loretta Sanchez (38% to 20%)—a larger margin than in May (34% to 26%). Harris has majority support among Democrats (53%) and leads Sanchez among independents (37% to 19%). Half of Republicans (50%) volunteer that they do not plan to vote in this race. Sanchez leads among Latinos, and Harris has large leads among whites and other racial/ethnic groups. Harris leads Sanchez by 25 points overall (53% to 28%) when excluding the 28 percent of survey respondents who volunteer that they won't vote in this race. Again, most likely voters say the candidates' positions on the environment are very (40%) or somewhat (43%) important in determining their vote.

Majorities Support Brown, Obama

The survey also asked about elected leaders at the state and national level.

- **Governor Jerry Brown.** Majorities of adults (54%) and likely voters (53%) approve of the way he is doing his job. About half (49% adults, 51% likely voters) approve of the way he is handling environmental issues.
- **The state legislature.** California lawmakers have a job approval rating of 45 percent among all adults and 42 percent among likely voters. The approval rating for the legislature's handling of environmental issues is similar (48% adults, 42% likely voters).
- **President Barack Obama.** Majorities (60% adults, 56% likely voters) approve of the president's job performance and have similar opinions of how he is handling environmental issues (60% adults, 55% likely voters).
- **US Congress.** Congress has much lower approval ratings for job performance (28% adults, 17% likely voters) and handling of environmental issues (31% adults, 17% likely voters).

Fewer Are Worried about Water, But It's Still Top Environmental Issue

What is the most important environmental issue facing the state? Water supply and drought tops the list among Californians (38%), followed by air pollution (13%). The proportion of residents naming drought and water supply as the top issue has dropped 20 points since July 2015 (58%). Nonetheless, 62 percent of residents and 71 percent of likely voters say the supply of water is a big problem in their part of the state. Residents in the Central Valley (71%) are the most likely to hold this view and those in the San Francisco Bay Area (51%) are the least likely. Now that statewide mandatory water reduction targets have been lifted, residents are asked to assess government action on the drought. Majorities (58% adults, 63% likely voters) say state and local governments are not doing enough to respond.

"Water supply continues to top the list of environmental issues facing California even after an El Niño year," Baldassare said. "With water restrictions lifted, many Californians are still calling for state and local governments to do more in responding to the drought."

Many See Water, Air Pollution as Health Threats in Lower-Income Areas

Asked about pollution of drinking water, 59 percent of Californians and 48 percent of likely voters say it is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas in their part of the state. Latinos (76%), African Americans (65%), and Asian Americans (61%) are more likely than whites (46%) to express this view.

On the topic of air pollution, majorities (60% adults, 60% likely voters) say it is a big problem or somewhat of a problem in their part of the state. Latinos (68%) and African Americans (62%) are more likely than whites (54%) and Asian Americans (51%) to call it a problem. Half of adults (50%) and 42 percent of likely voters say air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than elsewhere in their part of the state. Latinos (65%) are more likely than Asian Americans and African Americans (52% each) to express this view and far more likely than whites (37%). And 53 percent of residents say air pollution is a very serious or somewhat serious threat to themselves and their immediate families. Among racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (62%) and African Americans (61%) are the most likely to hold this view.

"Many Californians perceive that lower-income communities face more serious health threats from air and water pollution," Baldassare said. "Latino residents are the most likely to express these concerns."

Opposition to Fracking Reaches Record High

The survey asks a series of questions about energy policy.

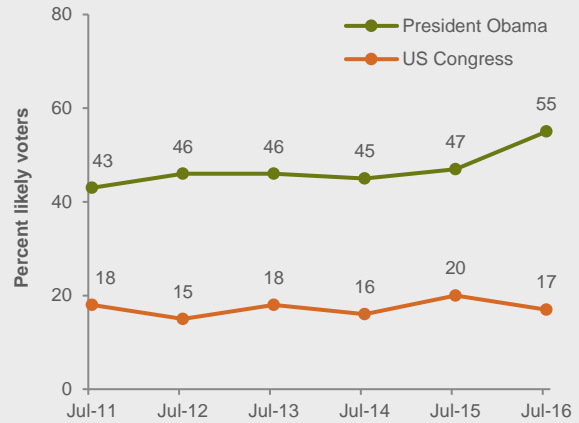
- **Fracking.** Majorities (58% adults, 60% likely voters) oppose the increased use of hydraulic fracturing—a record high since the survey first began asking this question in 2013.
- **Oil drilling.** Similar numbers of Californians (59% adults, 61% likely voters) oppose increased oil drilling off the California coast.
- **Power plant emissions.** Strong majorities (74% adults, 69% likely voters) favor setting stricter emission limits on power plants to address climate change.
- **Solar power.** Overwhelming majorities favor increasing tax credits and financial incentives for rooftop solar panels in California (76% adults, 77% likely voters) and building more solar power stations in the state (85% adults, 79% likely voters).
- **Electric vehicles.** The new state budget does not include money to extend subsidies for electric vehicle purchases. When asked about increasing tax credits and financial incentives for buying an electric vehicle, most adults and likely voters (68% each) are in favor. Most (77% adults, 74% likely voters) also favor building more charging stations and infrastructure to support electric vehicles. How many Californians have thought about buying or leasing an electric vehicle? Just under half (47%) say they have seriously considered it.

2016 Election and Environmental Issues

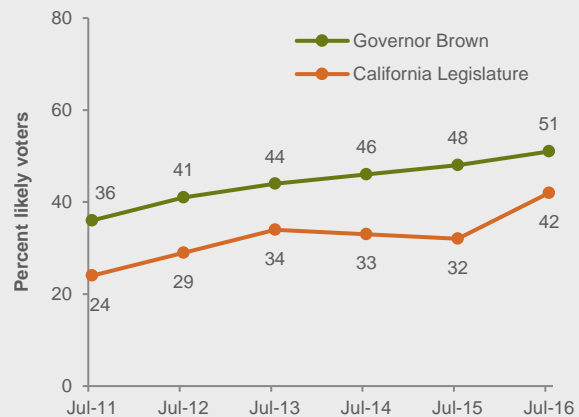
Key Findings

- Among California likely voters, 46 percent would vote for Hillary Clinton in the presidential election, and 30 percent would vote for Donald Trump. Forty-five percent say the candidates' positions on the environment are very important in determining their vote. *(page 7)*
- In the California US Senate election, 38 percent of likely voters support Kamala Harris, 20 percent support Loretta Sanchez, and 14 percent say they are undecided. More than a quarter volunteer they would not vote in the Senate race. Forty percent say the candidates' positions on the environment are very important in determining their vote. *(page 8)*
- Fifty-six percent of likely voters approve of President Obama's job performance and 55 percent approve of his handling of environmental issues. Seventeen percent of likely voters approve of Congress, both overall and on its handling of environmental issues. *(page 9)*
- Fifty-three percent of likely voters approve of Governor Brown's job performance and 51 percent approve of his handling of environmental issues. Forty-two percent of likely voters approve of the California Legislature overall and on its handling of environmental issues. *(page 10)*
- More than four in ten likely voters say the drought is the most important environmental issue facing the state; 10 percent say water pollution is most important. *(page 11)*
- Six in ten adults say air pollution is a problem in their part of the state. African Americans and Latinos are more likely than Asian Americans and whites to say that air pollution is a very serious threat to themselves and their families. *(page 12)*

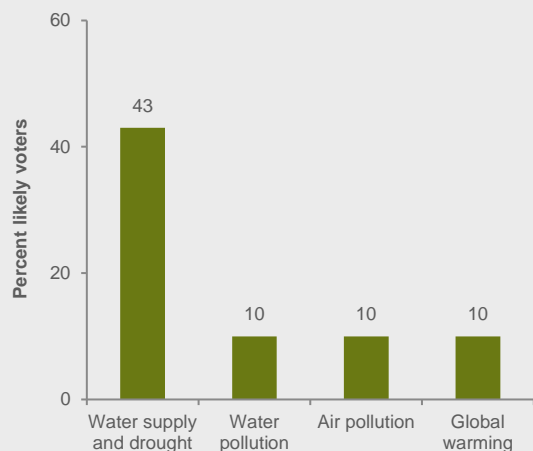
Approval ratings of federal elected officials on environmental issues



Approval ratings of state elected officials on environmental issues



Most important environmental issue



Presidential Election

In the presidential election, eight in ten likely voters say the candidates' positions on the environment are important (45% very, 38% somewhat) in determining their vote. Democrats (60%) are far more likely than independents (40%) and Republicans (27%), and Latinos (65%) are far more likely than whites (43%) and other racial/ethnic groups (42%), to say the environment is very important (sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis). Among those who plan to vote for Hillary Clinton, 61 percent say that the candidates' positions on the environment are very important, compared to 26 percent among those who plan to vote for Donald Trump.

“In thinking about the presidential election in November, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the environment in determining your vote—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Very important	45%	60%	27%	40%	65%	43%	42%
Somewhat important	38	32	44	41	24	39	43
Not too important	16	8	29	19	10	18	15
Don't know	–	–	1	–	2	–	–

Today, California likely voters favor Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump for US president (46% to 30%) by a larger margin than in our May survey (49% to 39%) when we did not ask about third-party candidates. Clinton has strong support among Democrats (81%) and leads Trump among independents (37% to 24%). Trump has strong support among Republicans (76%). Clinton leads Trump by a 20 point margin among women (49% to 29%) and a 13 point margin among men (43% to 30%). Clinton leads Trump by large margins in Los Angeles (53% to 17%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (57% to 25%). Trump leads in the Inland Empire (49% to 34%), while the race is closer in the Central Valley (32% Clinton, 38% Trump) and Orange/San Diego (40% Clinton, 38% Trump). The race is close among whites (41% Clinton, 37% Trump), while Clinton has a large lead over Trump among Latinos (68% to 12%) and other racial/ethnic groups (48% to 21%) with sample sizes too small for separate analysis.

“If the November 8 presidential election were being held today, would you vote for: Hillary Clinton, the Democrat; Donald Trump, the Republican; Gary Johnson, the Libertarian; or Jill Stein, the Green Party candidate?”

Likely voters only		Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump	Gary Johnson	Jill Stein	Someone else (volunteered)	Would not vote for president (volunteered)	Don't know
		All likely voters	46%	30%	7%	6%	2%	2%
Party	Democrats	81	3	1	6	1	1	6
	Republicans	7	76	6	2	1	3	6
	Independents	37	24	10	5	7	4	13
Gender	Men	43	30	11	6	2	2	5
	Women	49	29	3	5	2	2	9
Race/Ethnicity	Latinos	68	12	4	5	4	2	5
	Whites	41	37	9	5	1	3	5
	Other groups	48	21	2	10	3	1	16

California US Senate Election

Eight in ten likely voters say the US Senate candidates' positions on the environment are important (40% very, 43% somewhat) in determining their vote. Democrats (51%) are much more likely than independents (38%) and Republicans (26%), and Latinos (61%) are far more likely than whites (36%) and other racial/ethnic groups (39%), to say the environment is very important (sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis). About half of those who plan to vote for Kamala Harris (49%) or Loretta Sanchez (47%) say the candidates' positions on the environment are very important, compared to 25 percent for those who volunteer that they would not vote in this race.

“In thinking about the California US Senate election in November, how important to you are the candidates’ positions on the environment in determining your vote—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Very important	40%	51%	26%	38%	61%	36%	39%
Somewhat important	43	43	43	42	28	45	45
Not too important	17	6	30	20	11	18	16
Don't know	–	–	1	–	–	1	–

In the US Senate matchup today, likely voters prefer Kamala Harris over Loretta Sanchez (38% to 20%) by a larger margin than in May (34% to 26%). Harris has majority support among Democrats (53%) and leads Sanchez among independents (37% to 19%); Republicans are split (16% to 15%). Notably, 50 percent of Republicans and 34 percent of independents say they would not vote in this race. Sanchez leads Harris among Latinos. Harris has large leads among whites and other racial/ethnic groups and in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Clinton supporters favor Harris over Sanchez (54% to 28%); 51 percent of Trump supporters say they would not vote in this race. Harris has a 25 point lead over Sanchez when excluding those who volunteer they would not vote (53% to 28%).

“If the November 8 US Senate election were being held today, would you vote for Kamala Harris, a Democrat or Loretta Sanchez, a Democrat?”

Likely voters only		Kamala Harris	Loretta Sanchez	Would not vote for US senator (volunteered)	Don't know
All likely voters		38%	20%	28%	14%
Party	Democrats	53	26	7	13
	Republicans	16	15	50	19
	Independents	37	19	34	10
Region	Central Valley	31	25	32	13
	San Francisco Bay Area	48	15	21	15
	Los Angeles	41	21	25	12
	Orange/San Diego	31	21	34	14
Race/Ethnicity	Inland Empire	31	22	34	12
	Latinos	29	45	16	11
	Whites	41	14	31	14
	Other groups	39	19	24	18

Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

Majorities of California adults (60%) and likely voters (56%) approve of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president. Approval was similar in May (61% adults, 52% likely voters) and last July (57% adults, 51% likely voters). Today, 86 percent of Democrats approve, compared to 49 percent of independents and 18 percent of Republicans. Residents living in Los Angeles (73%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (64%) are more likely than those living in other regions to approve. African Americans (87%), Latinos (71%), and Asian Americans (70%) are more likely than whites (47%) to approve. The president's approval rating was at 56 percent in a July ABC News/Washington Post national poll.

Majorities of California adults (60%) and likely voters (55%) approve of President Obama's handling of environmental issues. Approval in this area was slightly lower last July (53% adults, 47% likely voters). Today, 80 percent of Democrats approve of President Obama's handling of environmental issues, compared to 45 percent of independents and 24 percent of Republicans. San Francisco Bay Area (67%) and Los Angeles (64%) residents are more likely than those living in other regions to approve. African Americans (79%), Latinos (71%), and Asian Americans (64%) are more likely than whites (49%) to approve.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barack Obama is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
His job as president of the United States	Approve	60%	86%	18%	49%	56%
	Disapprove	35	12	80	44	42
	Don't know	4	2	2	7	2
Environmental issues in the United States	Approve	60	80	24	45	55
	Disapprove	31	13	68	45	39
	Don't know	9	8	8	10	6

The US Congress has low approval ratings among Californians (28% adults, 17% likely voters). Approval of the way the US Congress is handling its job was similar in May (28% adults, 15% likely voters) and last July (29% adults, 17% likely voters). Today, approval of the US Congress is similarly low across parties and also falls short of a majority across all regions and demographic groups. Approval of the US Congress was at 15 percent in a July CBS News/New York Times national poll.

The US Congress' handling of environmental issues also receives low approval ratings (31% adults, 17% likely voters), which were similar last July (33% adults, 20% likely voters). Today, approval of the US Congress' handling of environmental issues is similarly low across parties and falls short of a majority across all regional, age, education, and income groups.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Its job	Approve	28%	22%	17%	16%	17%
	Disapprove	66	73	78	78	80
	Don't know	6	5	5	6	3
Environmental issues in the United States	Approve	31	25	18	19	17
	Disapprove	59	67	72	71	75
	Don't know	10	9	10	10	8

Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

Majorities of California adults (54%) and likely voters (53%) approve of the way Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California. Brown’s approval ratings were similar in May (52% adults, 50% likely voters) and last July (53% adults, 55% likely voters). Today, Democrats (71%) are much more likely than independents (47%) and Republicans (28%) to approve. Los Angeles (62%) and San Francisco Bay Area residents (57%) are more likely than those living in other regions to approve. Latinos (62%) and African Americans (58%) are slightly more likely than Asian Americans (52%) and whites (48%) to approve.

About half of Californians approve of the way Governor Brown is handling environmental issues (49% adults, 51% likely voters), similar to last July (47% adults, 48% likely voters). Today, Democrats (66%) are much more likely than independents (39%) and Republicans (27%) to approve. About half in all regions except for the Central Valley (41%) approve of Brown’s handling of environmental issues. Latinos (55%) are slightly more likely than Asian Americans (47%), whites (47%) and African Americans (44%) to approve.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
His job as governor of California	Approve	54%	71%	28%	47%	53%
	Disapprove	27	14	60	36	36
	Don't know	20	16	12	17	11
Environmental issues in California	Approve	49	66	27	39	51
	Disapprove	29	17	57	40	35
	Don't know	22	17	16	21	14

Forty-five percent of adults and 42 percent of likely voters approve of the legislature. Approval was similar in May (43% adults, 38% likely voters) and lower last July (39% adults, 32% likely voters). Today, Democrats (57%) are much more likely than independents (33%) and Republicans (22%) to approve. Across regions, approval is above 50 percent in the Inland Empire (51%) and lower elsewhere (48% San Francisco Bay Area, 44% Central Valley, 44% Los Angeles, 39% Orange/San Diego). Latinos (60%) are more likely to express approval than Asian Americans (45%), African Americans (39%), and whites (36%).

Approval ratings for the legislature’s handling of environmental issues today (48% adults, 42% likely voters) are higher than last July (42% adults, 32% likely voters). Today, Democrats (56%) are much more likely than independents (41%) and Republicans (25%) to express approval. About half in all regions except for the Central Valley (42%) approve of their handling of environmental issues. Latinos (59%) and Asian Americans (54%) are more likely than African Americans (45%) and whites (40%) to approve.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way the California Legislature is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Its job	Approve	45%	57%	22%	33%	42%
	Disapprove	40	28	73	51	48
	Don't know	15	15	5	15	10
Environmental issues in California	Approve	48	56	25	41	42
	Disapprove	36	27	66	49	46
	Don't know	15	16	9	11	13

Most Important Environmental Issue: Water

As the current California drought enters its fifth year, 38 percent of Californians and 43 percent of likely voters say that the most important environmental issue facing California is the drought and water supply. The proportion of Californians naming drought and the water supply has decreased by 20 percentage points since July 2015 when 58 percent cited it as the most important issue. Nonetheless, when asked specifically about the supply of water in their part of the state, 62 percent of Californians and 71 percent of likely voters say it is a big problem. The share of Californians saying water supply is a big problem was slightly higher last July (68%).

Central Valley residents (71%) are the most likely to say the water supply is a big problem in their region, while residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (51%) are the least likely to say this. The likelihood of saying that the water supply is a big problem increases as age and income increase. About seven in 10 Californians across political parties say the supply of water is a big problem. Notably, across racial/ethnic groups, whites (73%) are much more likely than Asian Americans (57%), Latinos (53%), and African Americans (52%) to say the supply of water is a big problem.

“Next, would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
Big problem	62%	71%	51%	64%	59%	63%	71%
Somewhat of a problem	24	20	31	25	27	17	22
Not much of a problem	13	9	16	11	13	18	7
Don't know	1	1	2	–	1	2	–

In May, following some improvement of drought conditions, the State Water Resources Control Board lifted the statewide mandatory water reduction target. Today, 58 percent of adults and 63 percent of likely voters say that the state and local governments are not doing enough to respond to the current drought; the share holding this view was similar when we last asked this question in January 2015 (59% adults, 63% likely voters). Half or more across the state’s regions today say the state and local governments are not doing enough.

“Overall, do you think that the state and local governments are doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to respond to the current drought in California?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
Too much	7%	6%	5%	6%	8%	14%	7%
The right amount	29	24	34	28	35	21	27
Not enough	58	63	51	63	53	59	63
Don't know	6	6	11	3	4	6	3

When asked about the pollution of drinking water, 59 percent Californians and 48 percent of likely voters say that it is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas in their part of California. Latinos (76%), African Americans (65%), and Asian Americans (61%) are more likely than whites (46%) to say this.

Air Pollution

Thirteen percent of Californians cite air pollution as the most important environmental issue facing California. When asked specifically about air pollution in their part of California, six in 10 adults say air pollution is a problem (25% big problem, 35% somewhat). These findings are similar to July 2015 (24% big problem, 34% somewhat). Democrats (31% big problem, 38% somewhat) are more likely to say air pollution is a problem than independents or Republicans. Regionally, residents of Los Angeles (39% big problem, 33% somewhat) are the most likely to say that air pollution is a problem. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (31% big problem, 37% somewhat) and African Americans (27% big, 35% somewhat) are more likely than whites and Asian Americans to view air pollution as a problem.

“We are interested in the part of California that you live in. Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your part of California?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
Big problem	25%	28%	12%	39%	18%	29%	24%
Somewhat of a problem	35	35	43	33	33	34	36
Not a problem	39	35	45	27	47	34	40
Don't know	1	2	–	–	2	3	–

Half of California adults and 42 percent of likely voters say that air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than elsewhere in their part of California. Findings among all adults were similar last July (48% yes, 47% no). There are stark partisan differences with Democrats (58%) much more likely than independents (41%), and far more likely than Republicans (29%), to say air pollution is a more serious threat in lower-income areas. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (65%) are more likely than Asian Americans and African Americans (52% each) and far more likely than whites (37%) to hold this view. The likelihood of saying air pollution is a bigger threat in lower-income areas decreases as income increases. While majorities of residents in Los Angeles (58%), Orange/San Diego (54%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (52%) hold this view, majorities in the Central Valley (58%) and the Inland Empire (55%) say air pollution is not a greater threat in lower-income communities.

“Do you think that air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your part of California, or not?”

	All adults	Household income			Race/Ethnicity			
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Yes	50%	57%	47%	37%	52%	52%	65%	37%
No	45	39	47	57	41	41	33	57
Don't know	6	4	6	6	7	7	2	6

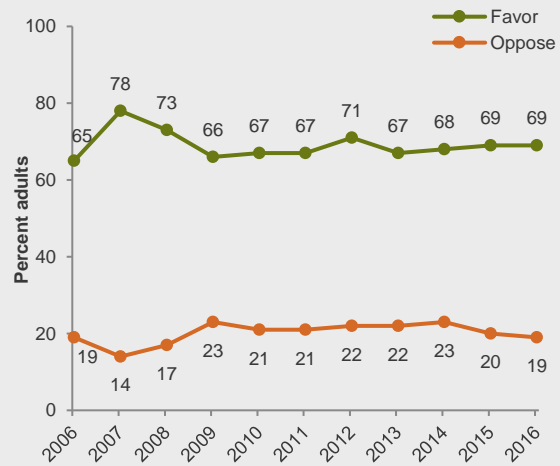
Fifty-three percent of Californians say that air pollution is a serious threat (21% very serious, 32% somewhat serious) to themselves and their immediate families. Across the state’s regions, residents of the Los Angeles area (28% very serious, 38% somewhat serious) are the most likely to say air pollution is a serious threat. Latinos (27% very serious, 35% somewhat serious) and African Americans (29% very serious, 32% somewhat serious) are far more likely than Asian Americans and whites to see air pollution as a serious threat to themselves and their immediate families.

Climate Change and Energy Policy

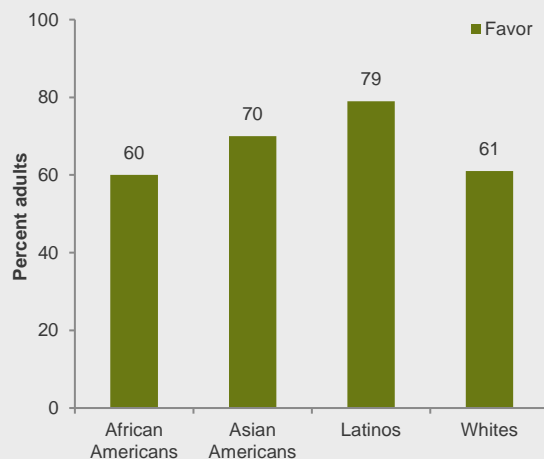
Key Findings

- About two in three Californians say the effects of global warming have already begun, with Democrats and independents far more likely than Republicans to say so. Two in three say global warming has contributed to the current wildfires. *(page 14)*
- Sixty-nine percent of Californians favor the emission reduction goals of AB 32 and 68 percent favor further reducing emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Fifty-six percent say they are willing to pay more for electricity from renewable sources to reduce global warming. *(page 15)*
- Two in three Californians favor the state making its own policies to address global warming. A plurality say state efforts would result in more jobs around the state, while six in ten say such efforts would cause gasoline prices to increase. *(page 16)*
- Fifty-five percent of adults say they have heard nothing about the state’s cap-and-trade system. After hearing a brief description, 54 percent favor the system. *(page 17)*
- Fifty-two percent of Californians favor including transportation fuels in the state’s cap-and-trade system, and about half say it is very important that some cap-and-trade revenues are used in lower-income communities. *(page 18)*
- At least two in three adults and likely voters favor a series of proposals to support electric vehicles and solar power in California. *(pages 19, 20)*
- Six in ten adults and likely voters oppose more oil drilling off the coast, and about as many oppose the increased use of fracking. About seven in ten favor setting stricter emission limits on power plants. *(pages 20, 21)*

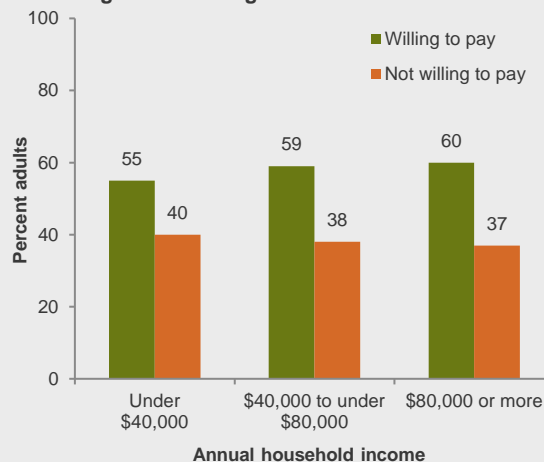
AB 32 reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020



Reducing emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030



Pay more for electricity from renewable sources to reduce global warming



Perceptions of Global Warming

As Governor Brown and state policymakers continue to debate how the state can further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, how do Californians perceive global warming? A solid majority of Californians (64%) say the effects of global warming have already begun, while one in four say they will happen in the future (25%), and relatively few (8%) say they will never happen. Since we began asking this question in July 2005, majorities of Californians have said that the effects have already begun. Adults nationwide in a March Gallup survey held similar opinions (59% already happening, 31% will happen in future, 10% will never happen). California Democrats (77%) and independents (63%) are far more likely than Republicans (43%) to think the effects have already begun. Notably, one in four Republicans say the effects will never happen. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (72%) are the most likely—and African Americans (54%) the least likely—to say the effects have already begun.

“Which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen...?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Likely voters
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	
Already begun	64%	54%	62%	72%	62%	64%
Within a few years	5	4	5	7	3	5
Within your lifetime	6	10	4	5	7	3
Not within lifetime, but will affect future	14	21	19	13	12	13
Will never happen	8	8	8	2	13	13
Don't know	2	2	1	2	3	2

Eight in ten Californians think that global warming is a very serious (54%) or somewhat serious (27%) threat to California’s future economy and quality of life. Since we began asking this question in July 2005, more than seven in ten Californians have said that the threat is at least somewhat serious. Partisan differences are stark, with Democrats (71%) about three times as likely as Republicans (24%) to call the threat very serious; half of independents (51%) hold this view. About six in ten Latinos (62%) and half in all other racial/ethnic groups think the threat is very serious.

“How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California’s future—do you think that it is a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious of a threat?”

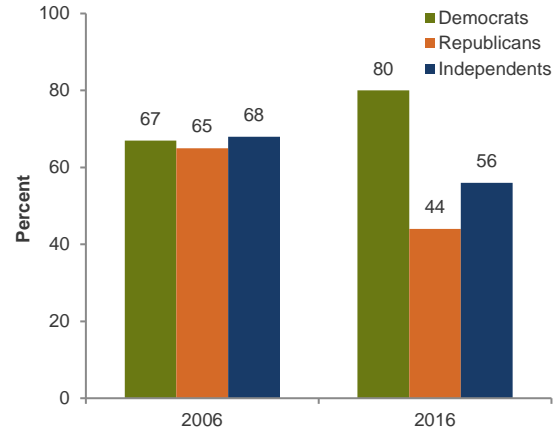
	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Likely voters
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	
Very serious	54%	52%	52%	62%	49%	51%
Somewhat serious	27	21	36	30	25	24
Not too serious	11	14	7	7	14	11
Not at all serious	7	7	6	1	11	12
Don't know	1	6	–	1	2	1

Two in three Californians (65%) think that global warming has contributed to California’s current wildfires. Democrats (76%) and independents (57%) are far more likely than Republicans (28%) to hold this view. Majorities across regions and demographic groups say it has contributed to current wildfires.

California’s Emissions Policy

As the 10th anniversary of Assembly Bill (AB) 32 approaches, Californians continue to offer positive assessments of this landmark legislation. As they have each July since 2006, a strong majority of Californians (69%) favor AB 32’s goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Sixty-two percent of likely voters are in favor. When we first asked this question in 2006, there was support across parties (65% Republicans, 67% Democrats, 68% independents). Today there is a striking partisan divide, with majorities of Democrats (80%) and independents (56%) in favor compared to 44 percent of Republicans. Still, it is noteworthy that majorities today across regional, age, income, and racial/ethnic groups favor the emission targets in AB 32.

Support for AB 32 emission reduction goal



“Next, to address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by the year 2020?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Likely voters
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	
Favor	69%	54%	70%	77%	65%	62%
Oppose	19	25	16	13	22	26
Don't know	13	21	13	10	13	11

The California Air Resources Board has indicated that California is on track to meet the goal set by AB 32. With this initial goal set to be met, policymakers are looking to further reduce emissions. When asked about a proposed state law that requires reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, 68 percent of adults and 59 percent of likely voters are in favor. Support for this proposal closely mirrors support for the emission targets in AB 32. Democrats (78%) are twice as likely as Republicans (39%) to support the proposed goal. There were similar levels of support for reducing emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 last July (69% adults, 62% likely voters).

“To address global warming, the state legislature is currently considering legislation that would require California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030. Overall, do you favor or oppose this proposal?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	68%	78%	39%	59%	59%
Oppose	22	12	52	28	30
Don't know	10	10	9	12	10

To help reduce global warming, a majority of adults and likely voters (56% each) say they are willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable sources like solar or wind energy. Majorities are willing across age, home ownership, and income groups. Willingness to pay more is higher among Democrats (68%) and independents (51%) than among Republicans (38%). Adults nationwide in a November CBS News/New York Times poll (55% willing) held similar views to Californians.

Perceived Impact of California’s Emissions Policy

Most Californians (67%) and likely voters (65%) support the state making its own policies to address the issue of global warming. Since we first asked this question in July 2005 there has been majority support among Californians and likely voters for state action. Majorities of Democrats (78%) and independents (55%) are in favor while Republicans are divided (49% favor, 46% oppose). More than six in ten across regions as well as majorities across demographic groups favor the state making its own policies.

Four in ten adults think that California taking action to reduce global warming would cause there to be more jobs for people around the state and three in ten (29%) say it would not affect the number of jobs; two in ten say taking action will result in fewer jobs. A plurality of Californians have said that state action would result in more jobs since we began asking this question in July 2010, with a high point of 47 percent in July 2011 and a low point last year (38%). A plurality of Democrats (49%) say there would be more jobs, a plurality of Republicans (40%) say there would be fewer jobs; independents’ views are more mixed (33% more jobs, 31% no effect, 23% fewer jobs). Pluralities across regions as well as age, education, and income groups say there would be more jobs. A majority of African Americans (53%) as well as pluralities of Latinos (45%) and whites (37%) say there would be more jobs, while a plurality of Asian Americans (43%) say there would be no impact on the number of jobs.

“Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause there to be more jobs for people around the state, would cause there to be fewer jobs, or wouldn’t affect the number of jobs for people around the state?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
More jobs	40%	39%	43%	38%	37%	41%	35%
Fewer jobs	20	23	12	20	24	26	23
Wouldn’t affect the number of jobs	29	29	34	29	30	25	30
Don’t know	10	9	11	12	9	8	12

Majorities of Californians and likely voters (59% each) say state action to reduce global warming would increase gasoline prices. Majorities across party, regional, age, education, and income groups say gasoline prices would increase. Latinos (68%) are more likely than whites (58%), African Americans (49%), and Asian Americans (47%) to hold this view. Among those who say that state action would increase gasoline prices, six in 10 favor AB 32’s goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions (64%) and the proposal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 (63%).

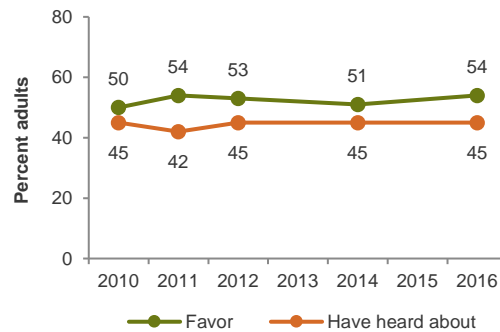
“Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause gasoline prices at the pump around the state to increase, or to decrease, or wouldn’t affect gasoline prices at the pump around the state?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
Increase gasoline prices	59%	66%	54%	54%	65%	70%	59%
Decrease gasoline prices	14	13	14	13	16	13	10
Wouldn’t affect gasoline prices	20	15	21	27	14	13	24
Don’t know	7	6	11	6	5	4	7

Cap and Trade: Awareness and Favorability

California’s cap-and-trade system is a major part of the state’s efforts to achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction goal of AB 32. Forty-five percent of Californians say they have heard either a lot (12%) or a little (33%) about cap and trade. The share who have heard of the policy has remained steady since 2010, over a period when it has moved from discussion to implementation in California. Today, Republicans (19%) and independents (18%) are more likely than Democrats (9%) to say they have heard a lot about the policy.

Cap and trade awareness and favorability



“How much, if anything, have you heard about the state government policy called ‘cap and trade’ that sets limits on carbon dioxide emissions? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
A lot	12%	9%	19%	18%	18%
A little	33	37	36	46	42
Nothing at all	55	53	44	36	40
Don't know	1	–	–	1	1

After hearing a short description of California’s cap-and-trade system, 54 percent of adults say they favor it. Between 49 and 54 percent of adults have been in favor since 2009. As we have found in previous surveys, support among likely voters today is somewhat lower than among adults overall (46% to 54%). A solid majority of Democrats (62%) and a plurality of independents (47%) favor the system, while a slight majority of Republicans (51%) oppose it. Regionally, majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (61%), Orange/San Diego (58%), and Los Angeles (54%) favor the system, while fewer do so in the Central Valley (49%) and the Inland Empire (41%). Across racial/ethnic groups, support is higher among Asian Americans (64%) and Latinos (58%) than among whites (51%) and African Americans (45%). Support for the cap-and-trade system decreases with age (68% 18–34, 54% 35–54, 41% 55 and older).

Those who have heard a lot (53%), a little (57%), or nothing at all (53%) about cap and trade are about equally likely to say they favor the system after hearing a brief description, although those who have heard a little or nothing are more likely to have no opinion than are those who have heard a lot. A solid majority of those opposed to the emission reduction goal of AB 32 (61%) also oppose the cap-and-trade system. Among those favoring the emission reduction goal of AB 32, 65 percent favor the system.

“In the system called ‘cap and trade,’ the California state government issues permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out. Companies that do not use all their permits can sell them to other companies. The idea is that many companies will find ways to put out less greenhouse gases, because that will be cheaper than buying permits. Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	54%	62%	33%	47%	46%
Oppose	32	25	51	38	38
Don't know	13	13	17	15	16

Cap and Trade: Revenues and Spending

Transportation fuels have been included in California’s cap-and-trade system since 2015. The Legislative Analyst estimated earlier this year that adding transportation fuels to the cap-and-trade system has added 11 cents per gallon to the cost of gasoline. After hearing that estimate, along with a brief list of programs that receive state cap-and-trade revenue, most adults (52% favor, 36% oppose) and likely voters (49% favor, 40% oppose) express support for including transportation fuels in cap and trade. Notably, majorities across income levels support including transportation fuels in the system. Across racial/ethnic groups, Asian Americans (65%) are most likely to be in favor (52% Latinos, 50% whites, 45% African Americans). A strong majority of Democrats (68%) are in favor, while a solid majority of Republicans (60%) are opposed; independents are more closely divided (45% favor, 42% oppose). Across regions, San Francisco Bay Area residents (63%) are most likely to be in favor (52% Los Angeles, 52% Orange/San Diego, 47% Central Valley, 40% Inland Empire). Among those who favor cap and trade overall, 71 percent favor having transportation fuels in the state’s cap-and-trade system.

“Cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as affordable housing near public transit, energy efficiency, high speed rail, and public transit. The Legislative Analyst estimated that having transportation fuels in the cap-and-trade system has added 11 cents per gallon to gasoline costs. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose having transportation fuels in the state’s cap-and-trade system?”

	All adults	Household income			Race/Ethnicity			
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Favor	52%	53%	51%	58%	45%	65%	52%	50%
Oppose	36	35	38	35	48	26	37	39
Don't know	11	12	11	7	7	9	11	11

A portion of cap-and-trade revenues are designated by statute to be spent on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities. Half of Californians (51%) and 46 percent of likely voters say it is very important to spend some of the revenue this way. An additional 30 percent of adults and likely voters say it is somewhat important. Democrats (66%) are far more likely than independents (43%) or Republicans (24%) to say it is very important. African Americans (75%) and Latinos (65%) are far more likely than whites (43%) and Asian Americans (37%) to say the same. Across regions, Inland Empire residents (60%) are most likely to say it is very important to spend revenues this way (53% San Francisco Bay Area, 53% Los Angeles, 47% Orange/San Diego, 43% Central Valley). The likelihood of saying it is very important to spend cap-and-trade revenues to improve environmental conditions in lower-income communities decreases with rising income levels.

“Next, how important to you is it that some of the cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?”

	All adults	Household income			Race/Ethnicity			
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Very important	51%	62%	49%	37%	75%	37%	65%	43%
Somewhat important	30	25	37	34	14	42	26	33
Not too important	15	9	14	26	10	20	5	21
Don't know	3	4	1	2	2	1	4	2

Electric Vehicles

The state budget passed in June did not include funds to extend subsidies for electric vehicle purchases. When asked about increasing tax credits and financial incentives for purchasing electric vehicles, 68 percent of adults and likely voters are in favor. We found similar levels of support for such incentives a year ago (67% adults, 64% likely voters). Half of Republicans (49%) are in favor, and support is much higher among independents (70%) and Democrats (77%). At least six in ten are in favor across regional, age, education, and income groups. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (70%) and whites (70%) are more likely than Asian Americans (62%) or African Americans (51%) to be in favor.

“How about increasing tax credits and financial incentives for electric vehicle purchases in California? (Do you favor or oppose this proposal?)”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	68%	77%	49%	70%	68%
Oppose	29	20	47	27	29
Don't know	4	3	4	3	3

Overwhelming majorities of Californians (77%) and likely voters (74%) favor building more charging stations and infrastructure to support electric vehicles in California. Support was similar last July (81% adults, 75% likely voters). Today, majorities across parties are in favor of building more charging stations and electric vehicle infrastructure (84% Democrats, 72% independents, 57% Republicans), and at least two in three across regional, racial/ethnic, age, education, and income groups are in favor.

“How about building more charging stations and infrastructure to support electric vehicles in California? (Do you favor or oppose this proposal?)”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	77%	84%	57%	72%	74%
Oppose	19	13	38	24	22
Don't know	4	3	5	3	4

Forty-seven percent of Californians say that they have seriously considered getting an electric vehicle the next time they purchase or lease a vehicle and 39 percent say they have not considered it. Younger Californians are far more likely than Californians age 55 and older to say they have seriously considered it (54% 18–34, 54% 35–54, 34% 55 and older), and those with annual incomes below \$40,000 (46%) are slightly less likely than those with higher incomes (52%) to say they have considered it. Those who have seriously considered getting an electric vehicle are far more likely than those who have not considered it to favor increasing tax credits and financial incentives for electric vehicle purchases (83% to 50%). They are also far more likely to favor building more charging stations and infrastructure to support electric vehicles in California (89% to 60%).

Solar Power

Californians are generally supportive of policies which would increase solar power generation within the state. More than three in four California adults (76%) and likely voters (77%) favor increasing tax credits and financial incentives for rooftop solar panels in California. These findings are similar to those in July 2015, when 78 percent of adults and likely voters favored this proposal. Though strong majorities across parties support this proposal, Democrats (86%) are more likely than independents (76%) and Republicans (65%) to be in favor. Californians across racial/ethnic groups favor increasing incentives for rooftop solar (79% whites, 76% Latinos, 73% African Americans, 70% Asian Americans). Indeed, support appears to be widespread: at least seven in ten Californians across all demographic groups say they favor increasing tax credits and financial incentives. Support for this proposal is similar among renters (78%) and homeowners (74%). Notably, 66 percent of those who say they are not willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable sources favor increasing tax credits for rooftop solar panels.

“How about increasing tax credits and financial incentives for rooftop solar panels in California? (Do you favor or oppose this proposal?)”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	76%	86%	65%	76%	77%
Oppose	19	12	32	17	19
Don't know	5	2	4	7	5

Overwhelming majorities of Californians (85%) and likely voters (79%) favor building more solar power stations in California. Across parties, overwhelming majorities of Democrats (92%) and independents (80%) favor this proposal, along with a strong majority of Republicans (69%). Support for building more solar power stations is widespread, with more than three in four adults across regions and demographic groups saying they favor this proposal. Indeed, it has strong support even among those who say they would not be willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated from renewable sources (75%).

“How about building more solar power stations in California? (Do you favor or oppose this proposal?)”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	85%	92%	69%	80%	79%
Oppose	10	5	26	12	15
Don't know	5	3	4	8	6

Fossil Fuels and Energy Policy

Thirty-six percent of Californians support more oil drilling off the California coast. Support was similarly low last July (38%), following the oil spill off the Santa Barbara coast, and in 2010 (36%), following the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Majorities of Democrats (72%) and independents (65%) oppose more oil drilling, while a majority of Republicans (55%) are in favor. Majorities across all age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups are opposed. Opposition is highest in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area (65% each), followed by the Inland Empire (60%), Central Valley (52%) and Orange/San Diego (49%). Among Californians who oppose the

emission reduction targets in AB 32, 54 percent favor more offshore drilling. Among those who favor AB 32, 64 percent oppose more offshore drilling.

“How about more oil drilling off the California coast? (Do you favor or oppose this proposal?)”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	36%	27%	55%	25%	35%
Oppose	59	72	39	65	61
Don't know	6	1	6	9	4

Today, 58 percent of Californians and 60 percent of likely voters oppose the increased use of hydraulic fracturing. This marks a record high since we first began asking this question in 2013. Across parties, majorities of Democrats (69%) and independents (61%) oppose fracking, compared to 40 percent of Republicans. With the exception of the Inland Empire (40% favor, 44% oppose), majorities across regions oppose the increased use of fracking. Among racial/ethnic groups, whites (63%) are the most likely to oppose, followed by Latinos (56%), Asian Americans (54%), and African Americans (52%). Majorities across all age, education, and income groups oppose the increased use of fracking.

“How about the increased use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations? (Do you favor or oppose this proposal?)”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	30%	21%	50%	27%	30%
Oppose	58	69	40	61	60
Don't know	12	9	10	13	10

Seventy-four percent of Californians and 69 percent of likely voters favor setting stricter emission limits on power plants in order to address climate change. Findings among all adults were similar last July (73% favor) and in July 2014 (75% favor). There are notable partisan differences: an overwhelming majority of Democrats (85%) and strong majority of independents (69%) favor this proposal, while just half of Republicans (51%) say the same. At least seven in ten Californians across regions and across education, income, and racial/ethnic groups are in favor of stricter limits on power plants. Support for stricter emission limits decreases as age increases. Among those who support the emission targets in AB 32, 85 percent favor stricter power plant emission limits. Among those opposed to the emission targets in AB 32, 42 percent are in favor.

“How about setting stricter emission limits on power plants in order to address climate change? (Do you favor or oppose this proposal?)”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	74%	85%	51%	69%	69%
Oppose	21	12	44	25	27
Don't know	5	3	5	6	5

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 survey research associate David Kordus, project manager for this survey, associate survey director Dean Bonner, and survey research associate Lunna Lopes. This *Californians and the Environment* survey is supported with funding from The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Heising-Simons Foundation, the Pisces Foundation, and the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation. 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 1,703 California adult residents, including 853 interviewed on landline telephones and 850 interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from July 10–19, 2016. Midway through our fielding period, Donald Trump announced his choice of running mate. Hillary Clinton announced her choice afterward.

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.

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.

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 2010–2014 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 2014 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 2015 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 ± 3.5 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,703 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.5 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,373 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.8 percent; for the 1,056 likely voters, it is ± 4.3 percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

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. 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 constitute one of the fastest-growing voter groups. We also present results for non-Hispanic Asian Americans, who make up about 15 percent of the state's adult population, and non-Hispanic African Americans, who comprise about 6 percent. In our likely voter findings, we present results for non-Hispanic whites, for Latinos, and for members of all other racial/ethnic groups combined. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Native Americans—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 voter registration survey questions, 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 ABC News/Washington Post, CBS News/New York Times, and Gallup. 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 THE ENVIRONMENT

July 10–19, 2016

1703 California Adult Residents:

English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 3.5\%$ AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE
PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

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

54% approve
27 disapprove
20 don't know

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

49% approve
29 disapprove
22 don't know

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

45% approve
40 disapprove
15 don't know

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling environmental issues in California?

48% approve
36 disapprove
15 don't know

5. Next, what do you think is the most important environmental issue facing California today?

[code, don't read]

38 water supply, drought, reservoirs
13 air pollution, vehicle emissions, smog
9 water pollution of ocean, rivers, lakes, streams, beach pollution
7 global warming, climate change, greenhouse gases
3 landfills, garbage, sewage, waste, recycling
2 loss of forests, forest fires, wildfires
2 energy, fossil fuels, solar, nuclear, wind, alternative
2 fracking, hydraulic fracturing
2 pollution in general
14 other (*specify*)
8 don't know

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

62% yes *[ask Q6a]*
38 no *[skip to Q7b]*

6a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

43% Democrat *[ask Q7]*
28 Republican *[skip to Q7a]*
5 another party (*specify*) *[skip to Q8]*
24 independent *[skip to Q7b]*

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

- 61% strong
- 37 not very strong
- 2 don't know

[skip to Q8]

7a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 56% strong
- 39 not very strong
- 5 don't know

[skip to Q8]

7b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 22% Republican Party
- 46 Democratic Party
- 24 neither (*volunteered*)
- 9 don't know

8. *[likely voters only]* If the November 8 presidential election were being held today, would you vote for: *[rotate]* (1) Hillary Clinton, the Democrat, (2) Donald Trump, the Republican, (3) Gary Johnson, the Libertarian, *[or]* (4) Jill Stein, the Green Party candidate?

- 46% Hillary Clinton, the Democrat
- 30 Donald Trump, the Republican
- 7 Gary Johnson, the Libertarian
- 6 Jill Stein, the Green Party candidate
- 2 someone else (*specify*)
- 2 would not vote for president (*volunteered*)
- 7 don't know

9. *[likely voters only]* In thinking about the presidential election in November, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the environment in determining your vote—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?

- 45% very important
- 38 somewhat important
- 16 not too important
- don't know

10. *[likely voters only]* How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2016 presidential election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 53% very closely
- 38 fairly closely
- 7 not too closely
- 2 not at all closely
- don't know

11. *[likely voters only]* If the November 8 election for the US Senate were being held today, would you vote for: *[rotate]* (1) Kamala Harris, a Democrat *[or]* (2) Loretta Sanchez, a Democrat?

- 38% Kamala Harris, a Democrat
- 20 Loretta Sanchez, a Democrat
- 28 neither/would not vote for US senator (*volunteered*)
- 14 don't know

12. *[likely voters only]* In thinking about the California US Senate election in November, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the environment in determining your vote—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?

- 40% very important
- 43 somewhat important
- 17 not too important
- don't know

13. Next, would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?

- 62% big problem
- 24 somewhat of a problem
- 13 not much of a problem
- 1 don't know

14. Overall, do you think that the state and local governments are doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to respond to the current drought in California?

- 7% too much
- 29 the right amount
- 58 not enough
- 6 don't know

15. Do you think that pollution of drinking water is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your part of California, or not?

- 59% yes
- 31 no
- 10 don't know

Next,

16. We are interested in the part of California that you live in. Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your part of California?

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

17. How serious a health threat is air pollution in your region to you and your immediate family—do you think it is a very serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious of a health threat?

- 21% very serious
- 32 somewhat serious
- 45 not too serious
- 1 not at all serious (*volunteered*)
- 1 don't know

18. Do you think that air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your part of California, or not?

- 50% yes
- 45 no
- 6 don't know

19. On another topic, which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen—[rotate] (1) they have already begun to happen; (2) they will start happening within a few years; (3) they will start happening within your lifetime; (4) they will not happen within your lifetime, but they will affect future generations; [or] (5) they will never happen?

- 64% already begun
- 5 within a few years
- 6 within your lifetime
- 14 not within lifetime, but will affect future generations
- 8 will never happen
- 2 don't know

20. How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California's future—do you think that it is a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious of a threat?

- 54% very serious
- 27 somewhat serious
- 11 not too serious
- 7 not at all serious
- 1 don't know

20a. Do you think global warming has contributed to California's current wildfires or not?

- 65% yes, has contributed
- 29 no, has not contributed
- 6 don't know

21. Next, to address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by the year 2020?

- 69% favor
- 19 oppose
- 13 don't know

22. To address global warming, the state legislature is currently considering legislation that would require California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030. Overall, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

- 68% favor
- 22 oppose
- 10 don't know

23. Do you favor or oppose the California state government making its own policies, separate from the federal government, to address the issue of global warming?

- 67% favor
- 26 oppose
- 6 don't know

24. Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause there to be more jobs for people around the state, would cause there to be fewer jobs, or wouldn't affect the number of jobs for people around the state?

- 40% more jobs
- 20 fewer jobs
- 29 wouldn't affect the number of jobs
- 10 don't know

25. Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause gasoline prices at the pump around the state to increase, or to decrease, or wouldn't affect gasoline prices at the pump around the state?

- 59% increase gasoline prices
- 14 decrease gasoline prices
- 20 wouldn't affect gasoline prices
- 7 don't know

26. In order to help reduce global warming, would you be willing or not willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable sources like solar or wind energy?

- 56% willing
- 40 not willing
- 4 don't know

27. How much, if anything, have you heard about the state government policy called "cap and trade" that sets limits on carbon dioxide emissions? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

- 12% a lot
- 33 a little
- 55 nothing at all
- 1 don't know

28. In the system called "cap and trade," the California state government issues permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out. Companies that do not use all their permits can sell them to other companies. The idea is that many companies will find ways to put out less greenhouse gases, because that will be cheaper than buying permits. Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?

- 54% favor
- 32 oppose
- 13 don't know

28a. Cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as affordable housing near public transit, energy efficiency, high speed rail, and public transit. The Legislative Analyst estimated that having transportation fuels in the cap-and-trade system has added 11 cents per gallon to gasoline costs. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose having transportation fuels in the state's cap-and-trade system?

- 52% favor
- 36 oppose
- 11 don't know

29. Next, how important to you is it that some of the cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?

- 51% very important
- 30 somewhat important
- 15 not too important
- 3 don't know

Next, do you favor or oppose the following proposals?

[rotate questions 30 to 33]

30. How about increasing tax credits and financial incentives for electric vehicle purchases in California?

68% favor
29 oppose
4 don't know

31. How about building more charging stations and infrastructure to support electric vehicles in California?

77% favor
19 oppose
4 don't know

32. How about building more solar power stations in California?

85% favor
10 oppose
5 don't know

33. How about increasing tax credits and financial incentives for rooftop solar panels in California?

76% favor
19 oppose
5 don't know

34. Changing topics, overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States?

60% approve
35 disapprove
4 don't know

35. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Obama is handling environmental issues in the United States?

60% approve
31 disapprove
9 don't know

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

28% approve
66 disapprove
6 don't know

37. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling environmental issues in the United States?

31% approve
59 disapprove
10 don't know

Next, do you favor or oppose the following proposals?

[rotate questions 38 to 40]

38. How about more oil drilling off the California coast?

36% favor
59 oppose
6 don't know

39. How about the increased use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations?

30% favor
58 oppose
12 don't know

40. How about setting stricter emission limits on power plants in order to address climate change?

74% favor
21 oppose
5 don't know

Next,

41. [asked of a random half sample] How much do you personally worry about global warming—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all?

- 35% a great deal
- 31 a fair amount
- 17 only a little
- 16 not at all
- 1 don't know

41a. [asked of a random half sample] How much do you personally worry about climate change—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or not at all?

- 37% a great deal
- 29 a fair amount
- 20 only a little
- 15 not at all
- don't know

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

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 13% very liberal
- 19 somewhat liberal
- 29 middle-of-the-road
- 24 somewhat conservative
- 12 very conservative
- 4 don't know

43. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or none?

- 24% great deal
- 37 fair amount
- 30 only a little
- 9 none
- don't know

[d1–d5a: demographic questions]

D5b. [asked of those employed full- or part-time] How do you usually commute to work—drive alone, carpool, take public bus or transit, walk, or bicycle?

- 66% drive alone
- 14 carpool
- 7 take public bus or transit
- 4 walk
- 2 bicycle
- 6 work at home (*volunteered*)

D5c. Would you say that you have or have not seriously considered getting an electric vehicle the next time you buy or lease a vehicle, or do you already have one?

- 47% have considered
- 39 have not considered
- 8 already have one
- 4 don't drive/don't have a car/won't be buying another vehicle (*volunteered*)
- 1 don't know

[D6-d16: demographic questions]

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