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PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY

CALIFORNIA

Public
Policy
Institute of
California

Californians & the future

in collaboration with
The James Irvine Foundation

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CA2025

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

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

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

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ABOUT THE SURVEY

The PPIC Statewide Survey series provides policymakers, the media, and the general public with objective, advocacy-free information on the perceptions, opinions, and public policy preferences of California residents. Inaugurated in April 1998, this is the 70th PPIC Statewide Survey in a series that has generated a database that includes the responses of more than 146,000 Californians. The current survey is the first in a series of four surveys on the topic of *Californians and the Future*, supported by funding from The James Irvine Foundation.

California has 37 million residents today and is expected to add about 10 million more people over the next 20 years, according to the Department of Finance. On November 7th, California voters will make important decisions about the state's future in a statewide election that involves the selection of a governor and members of other executive branch offices, 100 members of the California Legislature, one U.S. Senator and 53 Congressional representatives. The state ballot will also present the voters with 13 state propositions on a wide range of topics, including funding for the state's infrastructure and public works projects. The November ballot has five state bond measures placed before the voters by the legislature and through the citizens' initiative process that total about \$43 billion, for transportation, education, water, housing, and parks. Other propositions on the state ballot call for tax, spending, and regulatory measures in other areas.

The three pre-election surveys that we are conducting in August, September, and October are designed to provide information on Californians' attitudes toward the future, their perceptions of the November election and support for state ballot measures, and the role of government trust in shaping public opinion about ballot choices and attitudes toward the future. This survey series seeks to raise public awareness, inform decisionmakers, and stimulate public discussion about the state's future, current governance and fiscal systems, and fiscal and governance reforms.

This report presents the responses of 2,001 California adults on a wide range of issues:

- The November 7th election, including preferences in the governor's election and satisfaction with the candidates, views about the most important issues, awareness of election news, and voters' attitudes toward state bonds in general and the bond measures placed on the ballot by the state legislature (Propositions 1B, 1C, 1D, 1E), and through the initiative process (Proposition 84).
- Californians and the future, including perceptions of the current and future population of the state and the effects of growth, priorities for future planning and infrastructure, outlook for the future, preferences for transportation, education, and water policies, and the role of state and local government and elected officials and voters in making decisions about growth issues.
- State issues, including attitudes toward the citizens' initiative process in California, approval ratings for Governor Schwarzenegger and the state legislature, the general direction of the state and outlook for the state's economy, and trust in state government and its effectiveness.
- The extent to which Californians – based on their political party affiliation, region of residence, race/ethnicity, and other demographics – may differ with regard to perceptions, attitudes, and preferences involving the November election, the state's future, and current state issues.

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

PRESS RELEASE

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

SURVEY ON CALIFORNIANS AND THE FUTURE

Oh, We of Little Faith! Californians in Funk over Future, Lukewarm to Big Bond Bucks

TRUST IN GOVERNMENT REMAINS AT HISTORIC LOW;
SCHWARZENEGGER MAINTAINS LEAD IN RACE FOR GOVERNOR

SAN FRANCISCO, California, August 30, 2006 — Californians are overwhelmed by the future, but underwhelmed by the plan to deal with it, according to a survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), with funding from The James Irvine Foundation. State residents question the wisdom of throwing dollars at growth, as well as government's ability to provide leadership, leaving the outcome for California's historic infrastructure bond package up in the air.

Between now and 2025, the state's population is expected to grow from 37 million to 47 million. Few Californians are aware of the dimensions of the population growth facing the state: Only 17 percent place the state's current population in the 30 to 39 million range and a mere 9 percent put the population at 40 to 49 million in 20 years. How do they feel about this population increase when they hear about it? Fifty-six percent say it will be a bad thing for them and their families; only 14 percent think it will be a good thing. And nearly half (46%) think the state will be a worse place to live in 2025 than it is today; only 24 percent say it will be a better place.

Adding to the gloom about the future is a profound lack of faith in government: Four in 10 residents (38%) have little or no confidence in the state government's ability to plan for California's future growth. But how would state residents choose to manage this growth? Here, they are in general agreement, preferring mostly to manage existing systems more efficiently rather than undertake costly new projects: 70 percent of state residents prefer to focus on making more efficient use of freeways and highways and expanding mass transit rather than building new freeways; 56 percent say their region should focus on using existing public education facilities more efficiently instead of building more public schools and universities; and 54 percent want to use the current water supply more efficiently rather than building new water storage systems.

Against this backdrop, voters are being asked to vote on a package of growth-related bond measures. Although each of the four infrastructure measures that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and state legislature put on the ballot are supported by at least 50 percent of likely voters, that support is far from overwhelming:

- Proposition 1B (\$19.9 billion transportation bond): 50 percent yes, 38 percent no
- Proposition 1C (\$2.85 billion affordable housing bond): 57 percent yes, 32 percent no
- Proposition 1D (\$10.4 billion education facilities bond): 51 percent yes, 39 percent no
- Proposition 1E (\$4.1 billion water and flood control bond): 56 percent yes, 35 percent no

A fifth measure – Proposition 84 – would provide about \$5.4 billion in state bonds for water, flood control, natural resources, parks, and conservation projects. Voters are currently split over this initiative (40% yes, 45% no). While likely voters generally like the idea of using state bonds to pay for infrastructure projects, support is lower today than it was four years ago (59% today from 69% in September 2002). The sheer size of the package may also be a reason for the tepid response: 59 percent of likely voters say the \$43 billion price tag for the five bond measures on the ballot is too much.

"There is really a disconnect between Californians' preferences and the choices they are being presented with," says PPIC survey director Mark Baldassare. "The conversation took place without them, but they'll have the last word."

State Leaders Dinged for Poor Planning; Schwarzenegger Remains Frontrunner in Governor's Race

Dissatisfaction with the government response to future challenges is reflected in Californians' approval ratings for the governor and state legislature: Residents are more likely today than they were two years ago to say they disapprove of the way the state legislature (54% today from 47% in August 2004) and governor (46% today from 30% in 2004) are handling plans and policies for the state's future. The state legislature fares poorly overall, with majorities of adults (53%) and likely voters (61%) unhappy with its performance. But Governor Schwarzenegger's star has risen in recent months: Residents are now as likely to approve as they are to disapprove (44% to 46%) of the job he is doing, an 8-point improvement since May. The governor's approval rating among likely voters is also up by eight points, with 50 percent approving and 42 percent disapproving of his performance in office.

Republican Governor Schwarzenegger leads his Democratic challenger, State Treasurer Phil Angelides, by a 13-point margin among likely voters (45% to 32%). Voter preferences have changed little since one month ago (43% to 30%). Possible explanations for Schwarzenegger's lead? While 82 percent of Republicans favor Schwarzenegger, only 58 percent of Democrats choose Angelides. Independents are choosing Schwarzenegger over Angelides by a wide margin (42% to 23%). Schwarzenegger's lead in Republican-leaning areas is commanding – 30 points in the Central Valley and 23 points in the Southern California counties outside of Los Angeles. Angelides' performance in key Democratic enclaves is less convincing: He leads by 10 points in the San Francisco Bay Area, while Schwarzenegger actually enjoys a slight lead in Los Angeles (41% to 36%). And finally, Democrats (42%) are much less likely than Republicans (58%) to be satisfied with their gubernatorial choices.

Despite their varying levels of enthusiasm for the candidates, Democrats (65%), Republicans (63%), and likely voters generally (64%) are equally likely to say they are very or fairly closely following news about the election in November. However, this level of interest is low by historical standards. In August 2002 – prior to the last scheduled gubernatorial election – 74 percent of likely voters were closely following election news. As a barometer of voter interest, this comparison is worrisome: The 2002 governor's election had the lowest general election turnout of registered voters in the state's history.

Disillusioned with Government, Californians Want to be the Deciders

What's fueling the lack of interest in the November election? Californians' deep distrust of state government may have something to do with it. Only 31 percent of state residents – and 23 percent of likely voters – say they trust state government to do what is right just about always or most of the time. Strong majorities of state residents (63%) and likely voters (72%) say they trust government only some of the time. Faith in government has plummeted in recent years: In January 2002, 47 percent of Californians said they trust government to do what is right always or some of the time. In keeping with their negative views of state leadership, many residents believe the state wastes a lot of their tax dollars (58%) and is run by a few big interests (66%). One exception to this perception? Latinos are far more likely than are whites to trust state government just about always or most of the time (45% to 24%) and to believe that state government is run for the benefit of all the people (38% to 22%).

Given their lack of faith in government, it's no wonder that Californians remain attached to the initiative process. Overwhelming majorities of state residents (71%) and likely voters (74%) say it is a good thing that voters can make laws and change public policies by passing initiatives. And six in 10 residents (59%) believe decisions made by voters through the initiative process are probably better than those made by the governor and state legislature.

Still, Californians are not blinded by their affection for the initiative process: While most residents (61%) describe themselves as somewhat satisfied with the way the process is working today, only a few (11%) express great satisfaction and a quarter (25%) say they are not satisfied. And they also see the influence of the process as limited: Residents say that the state legislature (41%) has more influence over public policy in the state today than does the governor or the initiative process (24% each). However, the initiative process is gaining ground: One year ago, only 19 percent of Californians named the initiative process as having the most influence over policy in the state, while 34 percent named the governor and 35 percent said the legislature.

MORE KEY FINDINGS

■ Immigration a key issue in 2006 Governor's Race — Page 9

Immigration (21%) and education (18%) continue to top the list of issues likely voters want to hear their gubernatorial candidates discuss in the coming months, followed distantly by jobs and the economy (9%), the state budget (8%), and the environment (6%). Democrats (23%) are more likely to cite education as their top issue, while Republicans (32%) name immigration. Latinos (32%) are more likely than whites (20%) to say they want to hear the candidates talk about immigration.

■ Economy, jobs the priority for California in 2025 — Pages 17, 18

In planning for the population growth that will take place over the next two decades, Californians think improving the economy and jobs (34%) should be the most important priority, followed by providing roads, schools and water systems (23%), protecting the environment (15%), and creating a more equal society (10%). Affordable housing (32%) is seen as a higher priority for funding than are school facilities (25%), surface transportation (21%), or water systems and flood control (12%). Residents are not of one mind when it comes to which type of surface transportation should receive first priority for dollars as the state girds for new growth: 50 percent opt for transit oriented projects, including light rail (36%), and public bus systems (14%), while 40 percent choose road-oriented solutions, including freeways (25%), local streets and roads (9%), and carpool lanes (6%).

■ Mixed reviews for state's economic prospects, direction — Page 28

Residents are divided about California's economic conditions: 43 percent expect good times in the next 12 months and 46 percent foresee bad times. Although hardly a cause for celebration, these findings are an improvement over those from one year ago (38% good times, 51% bad times). Californians today are in a more optimistic mood overall, with 42 percent saying the state is headed in the right direction compared to 34 percent last year. Still seems low? Consider the national mood: According to a recent AP poll, only 26 percent of Americans say the U.S. is on the right track.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

This edition of the PPIC Statewide Survey – a survey on Californians and the future – is the first in a four-survey series made possible with funding from The James Irvine Foundation. This survey is intended to raise public awareness, inform decisionmakers, and stimulate public discussions about issues related to California's future, trust in government, and the November election. Findings of this survey are based on a telephone survey of 2,001 California adult residents interviewed between August 16 and August 23, 2006. Interviews were conducted in English or Spanish. The sampling error for the total sample is +/- 2% and for the 989 likely voters is +/- 3%. For more information on methodology, see page 31.

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

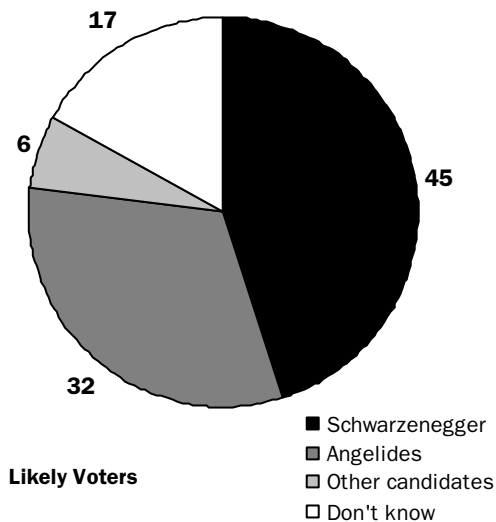
PPIC is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving public policy through objective, nonpartisan research on the economic, social, and political issues that affect Californians. The institute was established in 1994 with an endowment from William R. Hewlett. PPIC does not take or support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

NOVEMBER ELECTION

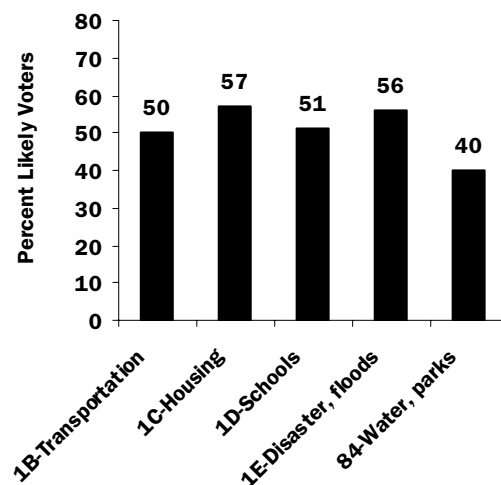
KEY FINDINGS

- Arnold Schwarzenegger continues to hold a 13-point lead over Phil Angelides in the governor's race. Republicans are more satisfied than Democrats with the choice of gubernatorial candidates. (page 8)
- Likely voters most want to hear the gubernatorial candidates talk about immigration and education. Republicans are most interested in immigration, and Democrats are most interested in education. About six in 10 likely voters are very or fairly closely following election news. (page 9, 10)
- The four infrastructure bonds placed on the ballot by the legislature each have support from at least 50 percent of likely voters, with disaster/flooding and affordable housing bonds leading by wider margins than the transportation and education bonds. (pages 10, 11, 12)
- Proposition 84, the citizen's initiative that would provide state bonds for water and parks, is the one bond measure with fewer yes votes than no votes. Fewer than half of Democrats would vote yes, while six in 10 Republicans would vote no. (page 12)
- Six in 10 likely voters say it is a good idea to issue state bonds for infrastructure projects, but a similar number believe that the \$43 billion amount on the ballot is too much. Nearly half of Democrats say the total amount is too much. (page 13)

Governor's Race



Percent Voting Yes on Propositions



GOVERNOR'S RACE

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is ahead of State Treasurer Phil Angelides in the governor's race (45% to 32%), maintaining the 13-point margin he held last month (43% to 30%). One in six likely voters remains undecided and six percent name another candidate. While 82 percent of Republicans favor Schwarzenegger, 58 percent of Democrats support Angelides. Independents currently lean toward Schwarzenegger.

Schwarzenegger holds a 30-point lead over Angelides in the Central Valley and a 23-point lead in the Other Southern California region. Angelides has a 10-point margin over Schwarzenegger in the San Francisco Bay Area. The governor's race is close in Los Angeles (41% Schwarzenegger, 36% Angelides).

There is a gender gap in this race, with Schwarzenegger receiving much more support among men than women. There are also racial/ethnic differences, with Angelides favored over Schwarzenegger among Latinos (39% to 25%) and whites supporting Schwarzenegger over Angelides (51% to 29%). Support for Schwarzenegger tends to increase with age, education, homeownership, and income. Liberals favor Angelides by a wide margin, and conservatives are strongly supporting Schwarzenegger, while political moderates are more divided (38% Schwarzenegger, 32% Angelides, 30% other/don't know).

"If the election for governor were being held today, who would you vote for ..." *

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Arnold Schwarzenegger	Phil Angelides	Other Candidates	Don't know
All Likely Voters		45%	32%	6%	17%
Party	Democrat	18	58	5	19
	Republican	82	3	3	12
	Independent	42	23	12	23
Region	Central Valley	55	25	5	15
	San Francisco Bay Area	32	42	8	18
	Los Angeles	41	36	5	18
	Other Southern California	49	26	7	18
Gender	Men	51	29	7	13
	Women	40	35	5	20
Race/Ethnicity	Latinos	25	39	8	28
	Whites	51	29	6	14

* For complete text of question, see p. 33.

GOVERNOR'S RACE (CONTINUED)

Forty-seven percent of likely voters say they are satisfied with the choice of candidates in the governor's election this year, while 42 percent are not satisfied. Republicans are more likely to say they are satisfied, while Democrats and independents are more likely to say they are not satisfied. Latinos are divided on this question; whites are more likely to say they are satisfied than dissatisfied (50% to 41%). In our August 2002 survey, during the campaign between Gray Davis and Bill Simon, 38 percent of likely voters were satisfied and 54 percent were not satisfied with the choice of candidates for governor.

"Would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with the choices of candidates in the election for governor on November 7th?"

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Latinos
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Satisfied	47%	42%	58%	37%	42%
Not satisfied	42	48	31	51	41
Don't know	11	10	11	12	17

VOTERS' PRIORITIES

Likely voters continue to place immigration (21%) and education (18%) at the top of the list of issues they would most like the candidates for governor to talk about this year. Fewer than one in 10 name any other single issue, including jobs and the economy, the state budget and taxes, and environment and pollution. Democrats are most interested in hearing about education, while Republicans are most interested in hearing about immigration. Independents are divided on these issues. The priorities voiced in our May survey were similar.

One in three conservatives names immigration as the top issue, compared to far fewer moderates (19%) and liberals (10%). This issue is mentioned more often in Los Angeles and the Other Southern California region than elsewhere. Latinos (32%) are more likely than whites (20%) to say they want to hear the candidates talk about immigration.

In our August 2002 survey, during the last governor's election campaign, the top two issues were education (17%) and jobs and the economy (13%). Only three percent named immigration.

"Which one issue would you most like to hear the gubernatorial candidates talk about before the November 7th election?"

<i>Top five issues mentioned</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Latinos
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Immigration, illegal immigration	21%	13%	32%	20%	32%
Education, schools	18	23	12	22	21
Jobs, economy	9	12	7	9	7
State budget, deficit, taxes	8	6	10	10	3
Environment, pollution	6	6	5	4	1

VOTERS' PRIORITIES (CONTINUED)

News about the governor's race is generating less interest now than at the same point in the 2002 governor's election. Today, 64 percent of likely voters are very (15%) or fairly (49%) closely following the news about the candidates. In our August 2002 survey, 74 percent of likely voters were very (22%) or fairly (52%) closely following news about the candidates. The November 2002 governor's election had the lowest turnout of registered voters for a governor's election in the state's history.

Today, there are little differences across parties in the level of attention to gubernatorial election news. Interest in news about the gubernatorial candidates is higher in Los Angeles (70%) than elsewhere, increases with education and income, and is much higher among whites than Latinos (67% to 50%).

"How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2006 governor's election?"

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party		
		Dem	Rep	Ind
Very closely	15%	13%	20%	9%
Fairly closely	49	52	43	52
Not too closely	28	27	28	30
Not at all closely	7	7	8	7
Don't know	1	1	1	2

INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS

The four infrastructure bonds placed on the November ballot for funding of transportation, affordable housing, education facilities, and water and flood control are currently receiving support from at least 50 percent of likely voters when they were read each of the ballot titles and labels in their entirety.

The bond measures with lower amounts of funding are supported more strongly by the voters. For example, the transportation and education bonds, which have higher funding levels, receive less support than the water and flood controls and affordable housing bonds. We found a partisan divide in terms of support for all four of these bond measures, more so for housing and education than transportation and water and flood controls.

Proposition 1B, the transportation bond (about \$19.9 billion), is supported by 50 percent of voters and opposed by 38 percent. Sixty percent of Democrats compared to 48 percent of independents would vote yes on 1B. Republicans oppose the bond measure by an 8-point margin (48% no, 40% yes).

Proposition 1C, the affordable housing bond (\$2.85 billion), is favored by 57 percent of likely voters, while 32 percent would vote no. Seventy-one percent of Democrats and 58 percent of independents would vote yes on 1C. Fifty percent of Republicans oppose this measure; 40 percent would vote yes.

Proposition 1D, the education facilities bond (about \$10.4 billion), is supported by 51 percent of likely voters and opposed by 39 percent. Two in three Democrats and 50 percent of independents would vote yes on 1D. Republicans are opposed by a nearly two-to-one margin (61% no, 32% yes).

INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS (CONTINUED)

Proposition 1E, the water and flood control bond (about \$4.1 billion), receives a 56 percent vote of yes and a 35 percent vote of no. Sixty-six percent of Democrats and 56 percent of independents favor the bond measure. Republicans are divided (46% yes, 47% no).

“If the election were held today, how would you vote on ...” *

<i>Likely voters only</i>		All Likely Voters	Party		
			Dem	Rep	Ind
Proposition 1B <i>Transportation</i>	Yes	50%	60%	40%	48%
	No	38	29	48	39
	Don't know	12	11	12	13
Proposition 1C <i>Affordable housing</i>	Yes	57	71	40	58
	No	32	19	50	30
	Don't know	11	10	10	12
Proposition 1D <i>Education facilities</i>	Yes	51	67	32	50
	No	39	23	61	35
	Don't know	10	10	7	15
Proposition 1E <i>Water facilities</i>	Yes	56	66	46	56
	No	35	25	47	34
	Don't know	9	9	7	10

* For complete text of proposition questions, see pp. 34-36.

When we asked about these four infrastructure bonds in our May survey, we mentioned only the type of infrastructure concerned and the amount of spending (since the ballot titles and labels had not yet been made public). We found higher levels of support among likely voters in May than today for the transportation (65%), education (68%), and flood protection (62%) bonds and less support for the affordable housing bond (49%).

Voter support for these bond measures varies across state regions, reflecting in some degree the partisan differences between these areas but perhaps also variations in the perceived severity of regional problems. Proposition 1B (transportation) has the most support in Los Angeles and the least in the Other Southern California region, while Proposition 1C (affordable housing) has the most support and the least opposition in the San Francisco Bay Area. Voters are more divided on Proposition 1D (education facilities) in the Central Valley and the Other Southern California region than in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Proposition 1E (water and flood controls) has more support in the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Area than Los Angeles and the Other Southern California region.

INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS (CONTINUED)

“If the election were held today, how would you vote on ...” *

Likely voters only		All Likely Voters	Region			
			Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California
Proposition 1B Transportation	Yes	50%	49%	53%	56%	44%
	No	38	37	35	35	44
	Don't know	12	14	12	9	12
Proposition 1C Affordable housing	Yes	57	56	60	59	56
	No	32	38	26	29	36
	Don't know	11	6	14	12	8
Proposition 1D Education facilities	Yes	51	50	56	54	47
	No	39	42	30	36	43
	Don't know	10	8	14	10	10
Proposition 1E Water facilities	Yes	56	59	59	54	52
	No	35	34	29	37	39
	Don't know	9	7	12	9	9

* For complete text of proposition questions, see pp. 34-36.

PROPOSITION 84: WATER AND PARKS BOND INITIATIVE

Californians will also vote on a citizens' initiative that was placed on the ballot by its supporters. This initiative seeks to provide about \$5.4 billion in state bonds for water, flood control, natural resources, parks, and conservation projects. When read the ballot title and label for Proposition 84, voters are split in their opinions (40% yes, 45% no) and deeply divided along party lines. Support falls short of a majority across regions, as well as income and education groups, and declines with age (53% support among those under age 35, 39% among ages 35 to 54, and 36% among those age 55 and older). The proposition has more support among Latinos (52%) than whites (38%).

“If the election were held today, how would you vote on Proposition 84?” *

Likely voters only	All Likely Voters	Party		
		Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	40%	49%	28%	44%
No	45	36	59	40
Don't know	15	15	13	16

* For complete text of proposition question, see pp. 36.

ATTITUDES TOWARD STATE BONDS

The idea of using state bonds to pay for infrastructure projects was debated in the legislature earlier this year. Bond opponents claimed that it was passing on debt to future generations. Bond supporters pointed to the need for large amounts of cash to make long-term investments. Californians support the concept of using state bonds for such purposes by a nearly two-to-one margin. About six in 10 likely voters in every region of the state think it is a good idea for the state to issue bonds to pay for infrastructure projects, while about three in 10 think it is a bad idea.

Republicans are divided on this issue (46% good idea, 43% bad idea), while Democrats (69%) and independents (58%) think it's a good idea. There is little difference across age, education, income, or homeownership groups.

Still, it is important to note that support among likely voters for using state bonds for this purpose is lower today than it was in September 2002 (69% good idea, 22% bad idea), also in the context of several state propositions involving billions of dollars in state bonds on the November ballot.

“In general, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the state government to issue bonds to pay for infrastructure improvements such as schools, roads, and water projects?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Region			
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California
Good idea	59%	60%	61%	60%	57%
Bad idea	31	33	27	29	31
Don't know	10	7	12	11	12

Does the total amount of debt (about \$43 billion) in the five state bond measures on the November 2006 ballot give voters some pause for thought in supporting this method of funding? Six in 10 likely voters (76% of Republicans, 56 %of independents, 48% of Democrats) consider the amount presented on the ballot too much. Majorities of voters across regions, age, education, homeownership, income, and racial/ethnic groups say the amount on the ballot is too much.

Among those who say it is a good idea for the state to issue bonds, 46 percent say that the \$43 billion total on the November ballot is too much. Many who say they would vote yes on the individual bond measures think the total amount is too much (46% for 1B, 51% for 1C, 44% for 1D, 51% for 1E, 43% for 84). Among those who currently plan to vote no on these measures, about eight in 10 say the total amount on the ballot is too much.

**“On the November ballot, there are five bond measures totaling about \$43 billion.
Do you think this bond amount is ...”**

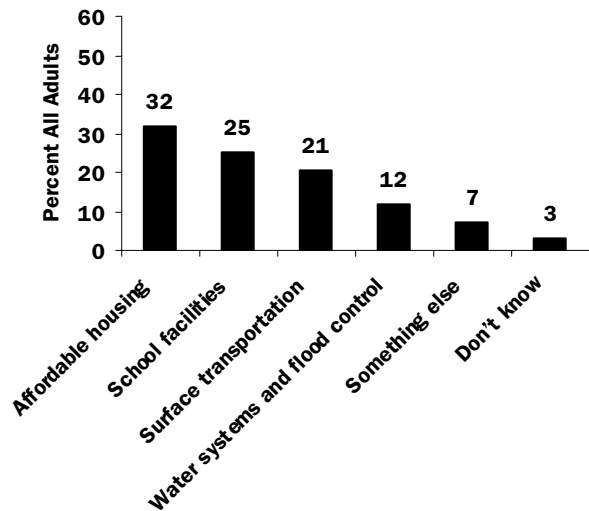
<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party		
		Dem	Rep	Ind
Too much	59%	48%	76%	56%
Too little	4	5	2	6
Right amount	21	28	9	25
Don't know	16	19	13	13

CALIFORNIANS AND THE FUTURE

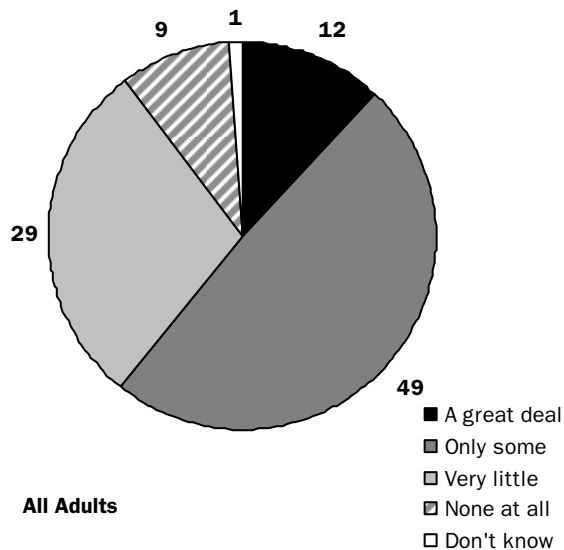
KEY FINDINGS

- Only one in six Californians know the state's population is between 30 to 39 million, and few know that growth is predicted to lead to 40 to 49 million people by 2025. Most are pessimistic about growth and the future. (page 16)
- Residents rank infrastructure behind jobs and the economy in planning for the future. Californians say their infrastructure priority in planning for the future is affordable housing— followed by schools, transportation, and water systems. Light rail systems are seen as a higher transportation priority than freeways and highways. (pages 17, 18)
- Few residents express a great deal of confidence in the state government's ability to plan for the future or for growth, and four in 10 have little or no confidence in state government's ability to plan for the future. (page 19)
- Most Californians choose the more efficient use of existing education facilities, roads, and water facilities over building new infrastructure. (pages 19, 20, 21)
- Most residents agree that local governments should work together on regional planning; however, Republicans and Democrats disagree on the role of state government. (pages 21, 22)
- About seven in 10 residents, across regions of the state, want local voters to make important decisions on growth issues at the ballot box, rather than rely on their local elected officials. (page 22)

Infrastructure Priorities



Confidence in Planning for the State's Future



POPULATION TODAY AND IN 2025

Few Californians know what the state's population is today or by how much it may grow by 2025. Currently, about 37 million people live in the state, but fewer than 2 percent of residents named this number, while 17 percent placed the population somewhere between 30 to 39 million residents. Thirty percent of residents think the current population is less than 30 million, 23 percent think it is 40 million or more, and 30 percent are unwilling to make a guess. Knowledge of the state's current population increases somewhat with age, education, homeownership, and income.

The state's population is estimated to increase by about 10 million residents by 2025, from 37 million to about 47 million, according to the state's Department of Finance. When asked about the size of the state's population in 2025, only 9 percent of residents say it will be between 40 and 49 million, 34 percent think it will be 50 million or more, 25 percent think it will be fewer than 40 million, and one in three is unsure.

Californians are more likely today (17%) than they were two years ago (11%) to say the state's population is currently 50 million or more and will be 50 million or more in 2025 (27% in 2004, 34% today).

**“What do you think the state of California’s population is today—in millions?”
and “Could you please tell me what the state of California’s population
will be about 20 years from now—in millions?”**

<i>All adults</i>	California Population Today	California Population 2025
Under 10 million	10%	5%
10-19 million	9	7
20-29 million	11	7
30-39 million	17	6
40-49 million	7	9
50 million or more	16	34
Don't know	30	32

With California already the most populous state in the nation, how do residents feel about adding another 10 million people? When told the state's population will increase by about 10 million residents between now and 2025, relatively few residents have a positive response. Fifty-six percent of residents say this population growth is a bad thing, 14 percent say it is a good thing, and 25 percent say it will make no difference to themselves and their families.

Across political groups, majorities think this level of population growth is a bad thing (64% Republicans, 60% Democrats, 55% independents). Whites (62%) are more negative about this expected growth than are Latinos (45%), and negative opinions on population growth increase with age, education, and income. Sixty percent of U.S.-born residents say this growth is a bad thing, compared to 45 percent of foreign-born residents. Californians are about as likely today as they were in 2004 to say that an increase in population of 10 million would be a bad thing (59% 2004, 56% today).

FUTURE PRIORITIES

In anticipation of adding 10 million residents to California by 2025, we asked residents what they think the state's most important priority should be in planning for this expected population growth. Thirty-four percent of residents and 30 percent of likely voters say improving jobs and the economy should be the top priority.

Among other priorities we asked about, 23 percent of residents think infrastructure such as roads, schools, and water systems should be the top priority, 15 percent think protecting the environment should be of highest concern, 10 percent want to see the state work to create a more equal society, and 15 percent mention other priorities for the state, including closing the borders and stopping illegal immigration (4%). Two years ago, a similar one in three residents (34%) named jobs and the economy as the state's most important priority.

Today, improving jobs and the economy is the highest priority in all party groups and across three regions (40% Los Angeles, 33% Other Southern California, and 31% Central Valley), and is ahead of infrastructure. Among San Francisco Bay Area residents, similar proportions place their highest priority on improving jobs and the economy (27%) and providing infrastructure (25%), while one in five mentions the environment.

“In planning for the expected population growth between now and 2025, what do you think should be the state's most important priority?”

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Improving jobs and the economy	34%	31%	27%	40%	33%	30%
Providing roads, schools, and water systems	23	23	25	21	23	26
Protecting the environment	15	15	20	13	15	15
Creating a more equal society	10	11	11	11	9	8
Closing border, stopping illegal immigration (volunteered)	4	3	4	4	5	6
Other	11	13	12	9	12	12
Don't know	3	4	1	2	3	3

FUTURE PRIORITIES *(CONTINUED)*

When asked which of four infrastructure projects should have top funding priority in planning for 2025, all adults place affordable housing (32%) before school facilities (25%), surface transportation (21%), and water systems and flood control (12%). Likely voters rank housing, schools, and transportation about equally and place a lower priority on water systems.

In response to a list of potential surface transportation projects, more residents choose light rail systems (36%) than freeways and highways (25%), public bus systems (14%), local streets and roads (9%), or carpool lanes (6%). Likely voters have similar priorities for transportation funding. Light rail systems are mentioned most often in all regions. Other Southern California residents (29%) are the most likely to name freeways and highways. Two years ago, light rail (32%) and freeways and highways (31%) were named almost equally.

“What type of surface transportation project do you think should have the top priority for public funding as California gets ready for the growth that is expected by 2025?”

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Light rail system	36%	36%	41%	33%	33%	43%
Freeways and highways	25	24	23	26	29	26
Public bus system	14	12	13	17	14	9
Local streets and roads	9	10	7	8	9	8
Carpool lanes	6	4	4	8	7	4
Other	5	7	8	3	5	6
Don't know	5	7	4	5	3	4

OUTLOOK FOR 2025

Overall, residents are not overly optimistic about California in 2025. Nearly half of all residents (46%) think the state will be a worse place to live than it is now, 24 percent think it will be a better place, and 24 percent think there will be no change. Likely voters are slightly more pessimistic about the future. Opinions were similar two years ago (25% better place, 49% worse place, 20% no change).

“Overall, do you think that in 2025 California will be a better place to live than it is now or a worse place to live than it is now or will there be no change?”

	All Adults	Education			Likely Voters
		High School	Some College	College Graduate	
Better place	24%	29%	23%	21%	21%
Worse place	46	41	46	49	51
No change	24	24	26	23	23
Don't know	6	6	5	7	5

Residents of Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area are the most optimistic about the state in 2025 (27% each, better place) while residents of the Central Valley are the most pessimistic (21% better place). Fewer whites (20%) than Latinos (34%) say California will be a better place to live in the future. Optimism about the future decreases with education, age, and income, and pessimism is higher

OUTLOOK FOR 2025 (CONTINUED)

among homeowners than renters (49% to 41%). Residents with children under 18 (50%) are more likely than residents without children under 18 (43%) to say that California in 2025 will be a worse place to live than it is now.

Only 12 percent of residents have a great deal of confidence in the state government's ability to plan for California's future and growth, while 49 percent have only some, and four in 10 have little or no confidence. Residents expressed similar confidence levels two years ago (12% great deal, 46% only some, 31% very little, 9% none at all).

Latinos (20%) are more likely than whites (8%) to say they have a great deal of confidence in the state government's ability to plan for the future. Twenty percent of foreign-born residents say they have a great deal of confidence in the state government in this regard, compared to only eight percent of U.S.-born residents. Having a great deal of confidence in state government declines with age, education, and income.

"How much confidence do you have in the state government's ability to plan for the state's future and growth?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
A great deal	12%	8%	11%	9%	7%
Only some	49	54	48	51	53
Very little	29	28	28	31	29
None at all	9	8	12	8	11
Don't know	1	2	1	1	0

Confidence levels are low across the regions and differences in confidence levels across political parties are small. Confidence in the state government's future planning abilities is strongly related to the perception of what kind of place the state will be in 2025. Nearly six in 10 of the residents who have very little or no confidence in the state government's ability to plan say California will be a worse place to live in 2025.

TRADEOFFS FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES

Over the next 20 years, California is expected to increase its population by about 10 million people. This level of population growth will require the state to make choices about such infrastructure as schools, transportation, and water. These choices include how to spend money on new construction and how to manage existing systems to accommodate population growth. In the context of current discussions about state infrastructure bonds, we repeated a series of three "trade-off" questions from a PPIC survey in 2004 to understand how Californians are thinking about these planning issues today.

When asked to consider focusing either on building more public schools and universities or on more efficient use of existing facilities in planning for 2025, majorities of Californians (56%) and likely voters (62%) say that the focus should be on more efficient use of existing facilities. Preferences today are similar to when we first asked this question in 2004 (42% build more, 55% efficiency).

Residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (63%) and the Central Valley (60%) are more likely than those in the Other Southern California region (54%) and Los Angeles (50%) to want to focus on greater efficiency rather than on more building. Among political groups, Democrats (42%) are somewhat more

TRADEOFFS FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES *(CONTINUED)*

likely than independents (37%) or Republicans (30%) to want to focus on building more public schools and universities. Whites (62%) are much more likely than Latinos (43%) to believe that the focus should be on efficiency rather than on building. The choice of more efficiency over more building increases with age, education, and income. Residents with children under 18 prefer building more public schools and universities.

“Which one of the following is closest to your views about planning for 2025 in your part of California...”*

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Focus on building more public schools and universities	39%	36%	34%	45%	41%	34%
Focus on more efficient use of existing facilities	56	60	63	50	54	62
Don't know	5	4	3	5	5	4

*For full question text see p.38.

TRADEOFFS FOR TRANSPORTATION

Seven in 10 California adults and likely voters want the focus of planning for 2025 in their region to be on expanding mass transit and on making more efficient use of existing freeways and highways rather than on building more freeways and highways. These opinions about future transportation planning were similar in PPIC's 2004 survey (30% build more, 67% efficiency).

“Which one of the following is closest to your views about planning for 2025 in your part of California...”*

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Focus on building more freeways and highways	27%	30%	18%	30%	29%	25%
Focus on expanding mass transit and more efficient use	70	66	79	66	68	71
Don't know	3	4	3	4	3	4

*For full question text see p.38.

Residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (18%) are the least likely to state that California should build more freeways and highways, while about three in 10 residents in other major regions prefer this option.

Democrats and independents (74% each) are more likely than Republicans (63%) to state that California should focus on mass transit and more efficient use of existing freeways and highways.

Whites are more likely than Latinos (72% to 64%), and women are more likely than men (72% to 67%), to say that the focus should be on efficiency. The belief that California should build more freeways and highways decreases with age and education; however, there are no differences across income levels.

TRADEOFFS FOR WATER SYSTEMS

Californians are somewhat more divided in their opinions about the need for increased building when it comes to future planning for water systems. More than half of Californians and likely voters (54% each) state that the focus should be on more efficiently using the current water supply, while four in 10 adults

and likely voters (41% each) believe it should be on building new water storage systems. Results today are similar to when we first asked this question in 2004 (55% more efficiency, 41% more building).

Across the state's regions, residents of the Central Valley (49%) are more likely than those in other regions to want to focus on building new water storage systems. Residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (58%) are the most likely to want to focus on more efficient use of the current water supply.

Republicans (48%) and independents (45%) are more likely than Democrats (37%) to want to focus on building new water storage systems instead of increasing efficiency. Women (57%) are more likely than men (51%) to favor focusing on more efficient use of the current water supply. Focus on efficiency decreases with age and increases with education; there are no differences across income groups.

“Which one of the following is closest to your views about planning for 2025 in your part of California...”*

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Focus on building new water storage systems	41%	49%	37%	40%	41%	41%
Focus on more efficiently using the current water supply	54	47	58	54	55	54
Don't know	5	4	5	6	4	5

*For full question text see p.38.

GROWTH AND POLICY MAKING

When asked how local governments should go about planning for growth, Californians believe that local governments should work together and have a common regional plan (77%) rather than working independently on their own plans (20%). Identical preferences for how local governments should plan for growth were expressed in PPIC's 2004 survey (77% work together, 20% work independently).

Vast majorities across political parties (Democrats 82%, independents 79%, Republicans 71%) want local governments to have a regional plan. This preference is similarly high across regions and age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups.

“Which statement comes closer to your views...”*

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Local governments should work together and have a common regional plan	77%	82%	71%	79%	79%
Local governments should work independently and each have its own local plan	20	16	26	18	19
Don't know	3	2	3	3	2

GROWTH AND POLICY MAKING (CONTINUED)

We also asked about the role of the state government in planning for local growth. About half of Californians (51%) believe the state should provide guidelines for local housing and land use planning, while about four in 10 (43%) believe the state government should not be involved. The percentage believing the state should not be involved in local planning has increased since PPIC's 2004 survey (37% 2004, 43%, today), while the percentage believing the state should provide guidelines has decreased (57% 2004, 51% today).

Democrats (59%) are much more likely than Republicans (39%) and independents (46%) to think that the state government should provide guidelines for local housing and land use planning.

Residents of the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles (56% each) are more likely than those in the Other Southern California region (48%) and the Central Valley (45%) to think that the state government should provide local guidelines. Whites (49%) are less likely than Latinos (53%) to believe that the government should be involved in local housing and land use planning. The belief that the state government should be involved declines with age, but it is similar across education groups.

"Which statement comes closer to your views..." *

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
The state government should provide guidelines for local housing and land use planning	51%	59%	39%	46%	46%
The state government should not be involved in local housing and land use planning	43	37	58	50	50
Don't know	6	4	3	4	4

*For full question text see pg. 39.

When asked who should make the important decisions at the local level, seven in 10 Californians and likely voters believe that local voters should do so at the ballot box, while about one in four adults and likely voters believe that local elected officials should provide leadership by making the most important decisions. Opinions today are similar to 2004 when an overwhelming proportion of residents favored local voters making important decisions at the ballot box (73% local voters, 23% local officials).

Although preferences are similar across regions, residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (64%) are the least likely to state that important decisions should be made by local voters. Democrats (28%) are slightly more likely than Republicans (25%) or independents (24%) to think that local officials should make the important decisions. A strong preference for voters to make the decisions occurs across all political and demographic groups in the survey.

"Which statement comes closer to your views..." *

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Local elected officials should provide leadership and make the most important decisions	26%	27%	32%	25%	25%	26%
Local voters should make the important decisions at the ballot box	69	70	64	70	71	71
Don't know	5	3	4	5	4	3

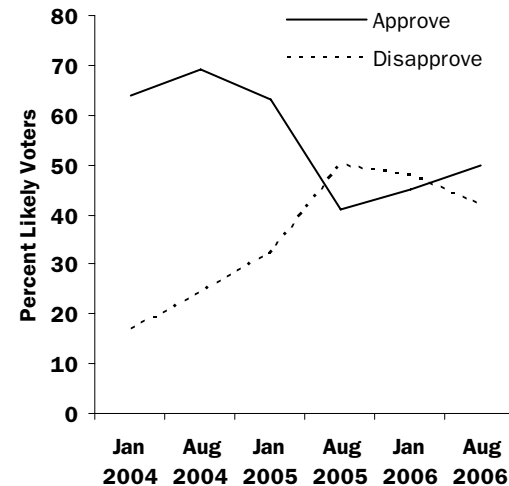
*For full question text see pg. 39.

STATE ISSUES

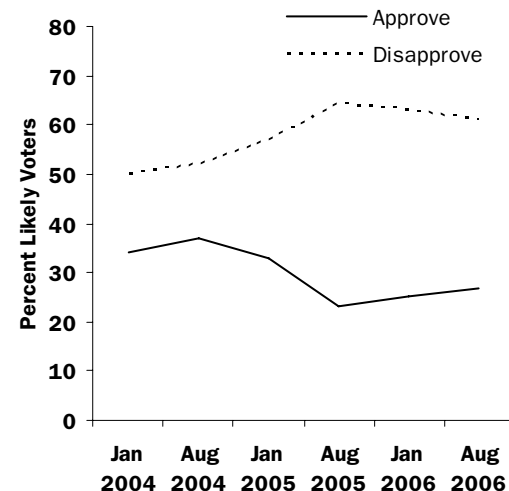
KEY FINDINGS

- The legislature is seen as having more influence in policymaking than either the governor or the initiative process. Most Californians think the initiative process is a good thing, but few are very satisfied with the way it is working. (pages 24, 25)
- The governor's approval rating continues to improve, reaching 50 percent for likely voters, though it is well below the high level of two years ago. There are large partisan differences in approval. (page 26)
- Majorities of likely voters disapprove of the legislature and of its handling of plans and policies for the future. Californians across the state's regions give the legislature low approval. (page 27)
- Californians' overall feelings about the direction of the state and the economy remain mixed, but show improvement compared to one year ago. (page 28)
- The public's trust in state government to do what is right, not to waste money, and to be run for the benefit of all the people remains near historic lows. (page 29)

Governor Schwarzenegger's Approval Ratings



California Legislature's Approval Ratings



CITIZENS' INITIATIVES

Despite the prevalence of citizens' initiatives on statewide election ballots, Californians do not believe initiatives have the most influence over public policy; they are more likely to say that the state legislature (41%) has the most influence, and are as likely to name the governor (24%) as ballot initiatives (24%). Across political parties and among likely voters, most residents believe the legislature carries the most weight in policymaking. Republicans are more likely than Democrats or independents to name the legislature and less likely to name the governor as most influential in the policy arena.

In the past, residents have been more divided about whether the governor or legislature has the most influence, while initiatives were seen as less influential. In August 2005, 34 percent named the governor, 35 percent named the legislature, and 19 percent named initiatives. In 2004, more residents named the governor than the legislature (39% to 31%), and 18 percent mentioned initiatives as the most influential.

"In California state government today, which of the following do you think has the most influence over public policy?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
The governor	24%	27%	16%	27%	20%
The legislature	41	39	53	45	47
Initiatives on the state ballot	24	24	25	20	25
Other (specify)	2	3	2	2	2
Don't know	9	7	4	6	6

While they may believe that initiatives have less influence over public policy than the legislature, overwhelming majorities of adults (71%) and likely voters (74%) maintain that it is a good thing that voters can make laws and change public policy by passing initiatives, while fewer than one in four in either group say it is a bad thing. Since we first asked this question in October 2000, more than two in three adults have said that it is a good thing that voters can use the initiative process (69% October 2000, 74% August 2004, 68% August 2005).

Across political parties today, Republicans (77%) are more likely than independents (73%) or Democrats (69%) to say that it is a good thing voters can make laws and change public policies. More than two in three residents across regions and racial/ethnic, gender, age, education, and income groups also say that this is a good thing.

"In general, do you think it is a good thing or a bad thing that a majority of voters can make laws and change public policies by passing initiatives?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Good thing	71%	69%	77%	73%	74%
Bad thing	22	24	18	21	21
Other (specify)	1	2	0	1	1
Don't know	6	5	5	5	4

CITIZENS' INITIATIVES (CONTINUED)

Californians not only think it is a good thing that voters can make policy, but they also express a great deal of faith in the decisions that voters make at the ballot box. Six in 10 adults (59%) and likely voters (60%) believe public policy decisions made by voters through initiatives are probably better than policy decisions made by the governor and state legislature, while one in four in each group believes voters' decisions are probably worse. This belief has remained constant over time, with nearly six in 10 adults saying voters' decisions are probably better than elected officials' decisions the previous three times this question was asked (56% October 2000, 59% August 2004, 57% August 2005).

Democrats (57%) are somewhat less likely than independents (63%) or Republicans (64%) to say that the voters' decisions are probably better. The belief that voters make better policy decisions declines among those with college degrees (61% high school, 67% some college, 53% college graduate).

“Overall, do you think public policy decisions made through the initiative process by California voters are probably better or probably worse than public policy decisions made by the governor and state legislature?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Probably better	59%	57%	64%	63%	60%
Probably worse	24	27	23	20	24
Same (volunteered)	5	6	3	7	6
Don't know	12	10	10	10	10

Seven in 10 Californians are satisfied with the way the initiative process is working in California today, but few are highly satisfied. Most Californians (61%) are somewhat satisfied, 11 percent are very satisfied, and one in four (25%) are not satisfied. Satisfaction has been similar in the past, with 68 percent saying they were very or somewhat satisfied with the initiative process in October 2000 (10% very, 58% somewhat), August 2004 (11% very, 57% somewhat), and August 2005 (10% very, 58% somewhat).

Although relatively few respondents in any political or demographic group say they are very satisfied with the initiative process, strong majorities say they are somewhat satisfied. Across parties, Democrats (30%) are more likely than independents (25%) and Republicans (21%) to say they are not satisfied. Across regions, residents of the San Francisco Bay Area are less likely to say they are satisfied than residents in other regions. Of those who believe it is a good thing that voters can make policy, 79 percent are very (12%) or somewhat satisfied (67%) with the process; of those who think it is a bad thing, about half (47%) are not satisfied with the process.

“Generally speaking, would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or not satisfied with the way the initiative process is working in California today?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Very satisfied	11%	9%	12%	10%	10%
Somewhat satisfied	61	58	65	63	61
Not satisfied	25	30	21	25	27
Don't know	3	3	2	2	2

GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL RATINGS

Approval ratings for Governor Schwarzenegger have increased from a low point of 32 percent after last fall's special election. Adults today are about as likely to approve (44%) as they are to disapprove (46%) of his overall performance. While approval has increased eight points since May (36%), it is well below what it was two years ago (65% August 2004). Today, more likely voters approve (50%) than disapprove (42%) of the governor's overall performance in office. Among likely voters, approval is similar to July (49%), and eight points higher than in May (42%), but it is 19 points lower than in August 2004 (69%).

Significant differences in approval ratings of the governor still exist across political parties, with three in four Republicans (76%) saying they approve and six in 10 Democrats (61%) saying they disapprove. Independents are more likely to approve (47%) than disapprove (40%).

Across regions, residents in Los Angeles (36%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (42%) are less likely to approve of the way Governor Schwarzenegger is handling his job compared to residents in the Other Southern California region (47%) and the Central Valley (50%).

Approval of the governor's job performance is higher among whites than Latinos (54% to 28%) and men than women (48% to 41%) and increases with age, homeownership, and income.

Of likely voters who plan to vote for Schwarzenegger in November's gubernatorial election, 87 percent approve of his job as governor. Of likely voters who plan to vote for Phil Angelides, 79 percent disapprove of the governor's job performance.

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

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	44%	30%	76%	47%	50%
Disapprove	46	61	18	40	42
Don't know	10	9	6	13	8

As the governor focuses attention on infrastructure in 2006, residents offer mixed evaluations of his handling of plans and policies for the future (40% approve, 46% disapprove). Likely voters are somewhat more positive (46% approve, 41% disapprove). Just as overall approval ratings have declined significantly from two years ago, so have approval ratings for his handling of plans and policies for the future (55% approve 30% disapprove, August 2004). Today, seven in 10 Republicans (69%) approve while six in 10 Democrats (60%) disapprove, and independents are divided (44% approve, 40% disapprove). Approval for the governor's planning efforts increases with age, education, and income, and is higher among men than women (44% to 36%) and whites than Latinos (50% to 25%).

"Overall, from what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Schwarzenegger is handling plans and policies for California's future?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	40%	26%	69%	44%	46%
Disapprove	46	60	19	40	41
Don't know	14	14	12	16	13

LEGISLATURE'S APPROVAL RATINGS

With the legislative session near its end, we asked residents how they rate the state legislature overall. Majorities of adults (53%) and likely voters (61%) disapprove of the way the legislature is handling its job. Although approval ratings continue to be low, (31% all adults, 27% likely voters), they have improved slightly since May (26% all adults, 23% likely voters). Approval sank to an all-time low last fall (25% October 2005) and has remained there most of the past year. A year ago, a similar share of residents said they approved (27%) of the way the legislature was handling its job. The last time the scales tipped to the legislature's side was October 2004 (43% approve, 41% disapprove).

While Democrats and independents (33% each) are more likely than Republicans (23%) to approve of the job the legislature is doing, at least half across all parties disapprove. Gains in approval since May among Democrats (26% to 33%) and independents (24% to 33%) account for the legislature's slightly better marks this month. Republican sentiment is unchanged since May.

Across regions, disapproval is higher in the Central Valley (58%) than in Los Angeles (53%), the San Francisco Bay Area (52%), and the Other Southern California region (52%). Among racial/ethnic groups, whites are more negative than Latinos (56% to 46%), and disapproval increases with age, education and income. Men are more likely than women to disapprove (57% to 50%).

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

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	31%	33%	23%	33%	27%
Disapprove	53	50	66	54	61
Don't know	16	17	11	13	12

With its bond package placed on the November ballot, we asked residents to rate the legislature for its handling of plans and policies for the future. Fewer than three in 10 adults (28%) and likely voters (23%) approve of its performance in this area, while majorities of both groups disapprove. Approval was seven points higher two years ago (35% approve, 47% disapprove). Majorities across parties disapprove today although Republicans are the most likely to disapprove. Regional differences in approval are small (26% Central Valley, 26% Other Southern California region, 28% Los Angeles, 30% San Francisco Bay Area) as are gender differences (29% men, 27% women). Approval is lower among whites (24%) than Latinos (37%) and it decreases with age, education, and income.

"Overall, from what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California legislature is handling plans and policies for California's future?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	28%	29%	21%	27%	23%
Disapprove	54	52	67	56	62
Don't know	18	19	12	17	15

OVERALL MOOD

Californians' overall mood about the direction of the state remains mixed, with 42 percent of all adults saying the state is headed in the right direction and 47 percent saying it's going in the wrong direction. Likely voter findings are similar to those of all adults. The mood today is more optimistic compared to a year ago (34% right, 57% wrong), and is somewhat similar to August 2004 (44% right, 42% wrong).

Across regions, residents express similarly mixed views on the direction of the state, with an equal number or more in each region saying the state is headed in the wrong direction than the right direction. Republicans (45%) and independents (43%) are somewhat more likely to say things are headed in the right direction than Democrats (39%). Men (45%) are more likely than women (39%) to say things are going in the right direction. There is little difference between Latinos (41%) and whites (44%) in their views on the direction of the state.

Of residents who say they approve of Governor Schwarzenegger's job performance, 56 percent say the state is headed in the right direction, while of those who say they disapprove, 62 percent say it is headed in the wrong direction.

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

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Right direction	42%	42%	45%	40%	41%	42%
Wrong direction	47	48	45	49	47	49
Don't know	11	10	10	11	12	9

Californians also continue to express mixed views on the state's economic conditions. Forty-three percent of residents think we will have good times financially in the next 12 months while 46 percent think we will have bad times. Likely voters are also divided (45% good times, 43% bad). Our findings today are an improvement from a year ago (38% good times, 51% bad), and almost as positive as in August 2004 (45% good times, 40% bad). Republicans (54%) are much more likely than independents (41%) and Democrats (36%) today to expect good times. Of those who approve of the governor, 57 percent expect good economic times, while 58 percent of those who disapprove expect bad times.

Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (49%) are more likely than others to say they expect good financial times in the next year while Los Angeles residents are the least likely (38%). Among racial/ethnic groups, whites and Latinos are similarly divided about the prospects for good economic times. Optimism about the state's economic outlook increases with income.

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

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Good times	43%	36%	54%	41%	45%
Bad times	46	51	37	50	43
Don't know	11	13	9	9	12

TRUST IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Consistent with their disapproval of the legislature, only about three in 10 Californians (31%) and one in four likely voters (23%) trust the government in Sacramento to do what is right just about always or most of the time. The share of Californians who say they trust the state government always or most of the time is similar to last August (30%) and has stayed between 27 and 37 percent since August 2002. By comparison, almost half expressed this level of trust in January 2001 (46%) and January 2002 (47%).

Trust in state government is slightly lower among Republicans (23%) than Democrats (27%) and independents (28%). Across regions, trust is similarly low (29% San Francisco Bay Area, 31% Los Angeles, 32% Central Valley, 32% Other Southern California region). Latinos (45%) are far more likely than whites (24%) to trust the state government just about always or most of the time, while distrust increases with age, education, and income.

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

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Just about always	7%	4%	5%	4%	3%
Most of the time	24	23	18	24	20
Only some of the time	63	66	72	66	72
None of the time (volunteered)	4	5	5	4	5
Don't know	2	2	0	2	0

Many Californians also have negative views of the fiscal efficiency of state government, with nearly six in 10 saying that those in state government waste a lot of taxpayer money. Perceptions of government waste were similar last August (61%), and have remained above 50 percent since February 2003; it was less than a majority earlier. Republicans (67%) are more likely than Democrats (53%) or independents (59%) to believe state government wastes a lot of taxpayer money. The belief in a lot of government waste increases with age and decreases with education.

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

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
A lot	58%	53%	67%	59%	61%
Some	35	40	31	32	34
Don't waste very much	4	4	1	7	4
Don't know	3	3	1	2	1

When asked if the state government is pretty much run by a few big interests or is run for the benefit of all of the people, about two in three adults say that it is run by a few big interests (66%). This perception of state government is similar to last August (65%) and is unchanged since January 2004, while fewer held this belief in January 2001 (60%) and January 2002 (54%). Today, the belief that state government is run by a few big interests is similar across partisan groups. Latinos (55%) are much less likely than whites (71%) to hold this view. Men (69%) are more likely than women (63%) to think the state is run by a few big interests, and this perception increases with age, education and income.

REGIONAL MAP



METHODOLOGY

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

The findings of this survey are based on a telephone survey of 2,001 California adult residents interviewed August 16-23, 2006. Interviewing took place on weekday nights and weekend days, using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. All telephone exchanges in California were eligible. Telephone numbers in the survey sample were called up to six times to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using the “last birthday method” to avoid biases in age and gender. Each interview took an average of 20 minutes to complete. Interviewing was conducted in English or Spanish. *Accent on Languages* translated the survey into Spanish with assistance from Renatta DeFever. Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc. conducted the telephone interviewing.

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

The sampling error for the total sample of 2,001 adults is +/- 2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 2 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for subgroups is larger: For the 1,530 registered voters, it is +/- 2.5 percent; for the 989 likely voters it is +/- 3 percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

Throughout the report, we present results for four geographic regions accounting for approximately 90 percent of the state population. “Central Valley” includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. “SF Bay Area” includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. “Los Angeles” refers to Los Angeles County, and “Other Southern California” includes Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Residents from other geographic areas are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters. However, sample sizes for these less populated areas are not large enough to report separately in tables and text.

We present specific results for Latinos because they account for about 30 percent of the state’s adult population and constitute one of the fastest growing voter groups. The sample sizes for African Americans and Asians are not large enough for separate statistical analysis. We do compare the opinions of registered Democrats, Republicans, and independents. The “independents” category includes those who are registered to vote as “decline to state.” We also include the responses of “likely voters”—those who are most likely to vote in the state’s elections based on past voting, current interest, and vote intentions. We compare PPIC Statewide Survey responses to earlier PPIC Statewide Surveys to analyze trends over time in California.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

CALIFORNIANS AND THE FUTURE

August 16-23, 2006

**2,001 California Adult Residents:
English, Spanish**

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

*[Responses recorded for questions 1-12 are
for likely voters only. All other responses are
from all adults, except where noted.]*

1. First, I have a few questions about the November 7th general election. If the election for governor were being held today, would you vote for...?

[rotate names, then ask "or someone else"]

- 45% Arnold Schwarzenegger, Republican, Governor
- 32 Phil Angelides, Democrat, State Treasurer
- 3 Peter Miguel Camejo, Green, Financial Advisor
- 1 Art Olivier, Libertarian, Engineer
- 1 Edward C. Noonan, American Independent, Computer Shop Owner
- 1 someone else (specify)
- 17 don't know

2. Would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with the choices of candidates in the election for governor on November 7th?

- 47% satisfied
- 42 not satisfied
- 11 don't know

3. Which one issue would you most like to hear the gubernatorial candidates talk about before the November 7th election?

[code don't read]

- 21% immigration, illegal immigration
- 18 education, schools
- 9 jobs, economy
- 8 state budget, deficit, taxes
- 6 environment, pollution
- 4 health care, health costs
- 3 gas prices
- 2 electricity costs, supply, energy
- 18 other
- 11 don't know

4. How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2006 governor's election?

- 15% very closely
- 49 fairly closely
- 28 not too closely
- 7 not at all closely
- 1 don't know

5. Which one of the state propositions on the November 7th ballot are you most interested in?

[code response; do not read list]

2% Proposition 1A
 1 Proposition 1B
 1 Proposition 1C
 3 Proposition 1D
 0 Proposition 1E
 3 Proposition 83
 1 Proposition 84
 1 Proposition 85
 4 Proposition 86
 12 Proposition 87
 1 Proposition 88
 1 Proposition 89
 1 Proposition 90
 11 no, none of them
 2 all equally
 3 other answer (*specify*)
 53 don't know

Next, we have a few questions to ask you about some of the propositions on the November ballot.

[rotate Q6 through Q10]

6. Proposition 1B is called the "Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006." This act makes safety improvements and repairs to state highways, upgrades freeways to reduce congestion, repairs local streets and roads, upgrades highways along major transportation corridors, improves seismic safety of local bridges, expands public transit, helps complete the state's network of carpool lanes, reduces air pollution, and improves anti-terrorism security at shipping ports by providing for a bond issue not to exceed nineteen billion nine hundred twenty-five million dollars (\$19,925,000,000). There would be state costs of approximately \$38.9 billion over 30 years to repay bonds and additional unknown state and local operations and maintenance costs.

If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 1B?

50% yes
 38 no
 12 don't know

7. Proposition 1C is called the "Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006." For the purpose of providing shelters for battered women and their children, clean and safe housing for low-income senior citizens; homeownership assistance for the disabled, military veterans, and working families and repairs and accessibility improvements to apartment for families and disabled citizens the state shall issue bonds totaling two billion eight hundred fifty million dollars (\$2,850,000,000) paid from existing state funds at an average annual cost of two hundred and four million dollars (\$204,000,000) per year over the 30 year life of the bonds. Requires reporting and publication of annual independent audited reports showing use of funds, and limits administration and overhead costs.

If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 1C?

57% yes
32 no
11 don't know

8. Proposition 1D is called the "Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006." This ten billion four hundred sixteen million dollar (\$10,416,000,000) bond issue will provide needed funding to relieve public school overcrowding and to repair older schools. It will improve earthquake safety and fund vocational educational facilities in public schools and bond funds must be spent according to strict accountability measures. Funds will also be used to repair and upgrade existing public college and university buildings and to build new classrooms to accommodate the growing student enrollment in the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University. Fiscal impacts are state costs of about \$20.3 billion to pay off both the principal (\$10.4 billion) and interest (\$9.9 billion) on the bonds and payments of about \$680 million per year.

If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 1D?

51% yes
39 no
10 don't know

9. Proposition 1E is called the “Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006.” This act rebuilds and repairs California’s most vulnerable flood control structures to protect homes and prevent loss of life from flood-related disasters, including levee failures, flash floods, and mudslides; it protects California’s drinking water supply system by rebuilding delta levees that are vulnerable to earthquakes and storms; by authorizing a \$4.09 billion bond act. Fiscal impacts are state costs of approximately \$8 billion over 30 years to repay bonds, reduction in local property tax revenues of potentially up to several million dollars annually and additional unknown state and local operations costs.

If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 1E?

56% yes
35 no
9 don’t know

10. Proposition 84 is called the “Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements. Bonds. Initiative Statute.” It funds water, flood control, natural resources, park and conservation projects by authorizing \$5,388,000,000 in general obligation bonds. Includes emergency drinking water safety provisions. Fiscal impacts include a state cost of \$10.5 billion over 30 years to repay bonds, reduced local property tax revenues of several million dollars annually and unknown state and local operations and maintenance costs, potentially tens of million of dollars annually.

If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 84?

40% yes
45 no
15 don’t know

[rotate Q11 and Q12]

11. In general, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the state government to issue bonds to pay for infrastructure improvements such as schools, roads, and water projects?

59% good idea
31 bad idea
10 don’t know

12. On the November ballot there are five bond measures totaling about \$43 billion. Do you think this bond amount is too much, too little, or the right amount?

59% too much
4 too little
21 right amount
16 don’t know

Changing topics,

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

44% approve
46 disapprove
10 don’t know

14. Overall, from what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Schwarzenegger is handling plans and policies for California’s future?

40% approve
46 disapprove
14 don’t know

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

31% approve
53 disapprove
16 don’t know

16. Overall, from what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California legislature is handling plans and policies for California's future?

28% approve
54 disapprove
18 don't know

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

42% right direction
47 wrong direction
11 don't know

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

43% good times
46 bad times
11 don't know

19. On another topic, what do you think the state of California's population is today—in millions?

[code directly to nearest million]

10% under 10 million
9 10-19 million
11 20-29 million
17 30-39 million
7 40-49 million
16 50 million or more
30 don't know

20. Could you please tell me what you think the state of California's population will be about 20 years from now—that is, in 2025—in millions?

[code directly to nearest million]

5% under 10 million
7 10-19 million
7 20-29 million
6 30-39 million
9 40-49 million
34 50 million or more
32 don't know

21. Between now and 2025, California's population is estimated to increase by about 10 million people from 37 million to about 47 million. On balance, do you think this population growth is a good thing or a bad thing or does it make no difference to you and your family?

14% good thing
56 bad thing
25 no difference
5 don't know

22. In planning for the expected population growth between now and 2025, what do you think should be the state's most important priority?

[read rotated list, then ask, "or something else?"]

34% improving jobs and the economy
23 providing roads, schools, and water systems
15 protecting the environment
10 creating a more equal society
4 closing borders, stopping illegal immigration (*volunteered*)
11 something else (*specify*)
3 don't know

23. As you may know, the term "infrastructure" refers to a variety of public works projects. Which of the following infrastructure projects do you think should have the top priority for public funding as California gets ready for the population growth that is expected by 2025?

[read rotated list, then ask, "or something else?"]

32% affordable housing
25 school facilities
21 surface transportation
12 water systems and flood control
7 something else (*specify*)
3 don't know

24. What type of surface transportation project do you think should have the top priority for public funding as California gets ready for the growth that is expected by 2025?

[read rotated list, then ask, “or something else?”]

- 36% light rail system
- 25 freeways and highways
- 14 public bus system
- 9 local streets and roads
- 6 carpool lanes
- 5 something else (*specify*)
- 5 don't know

25. How much confidence do you have in the state government's ability to plan for the state's future and growth—a great deal, only some, very little, or none at all?

- 12% great deal
- 49 only some
- 29 very little
- 9 none at all
- 1 don't know

26. Overall, do you think that in 2025 California will be a better place to live than it is now or a worse place to live than it is now or will there be no change?

- 24% better place
- 46 worse place
- 24 no change
- 6 don't know

Many people say there are tradeoffs involved in growth and infrastructure issues, meaning that you have to give up some things in order to have other things. For each of the following pairs of statements, which one is closest to your views about planning for 2025 in your part of California?

[rotate questions and statements for q27-q29]

27. (1) We should focus on building more public schools and universities; [or] (2) We should focus on repairs and renovation, year-round schools, and other strategies to more efficiently use the existing public education facilities.

- 39% focus on building more public schools and universities
- 56 focus on more efficient use
- 5 don't know

28. (1) We should focus on building more freeways and highways; [or] (2) We should focus on expanding mass transit and using carpool lanes, pricing, and other strategies to more efficiently use the existing freeways and highways.

- 27% building more freeways and highways
- 70 expanding mass transit and more efficient use of freeways and highways
- 3 don't know

29. (1) We should focus on building new water storage systems and increasing the water supply; [or] (2) We should focus on water conservation, user allocation, pricing, and other strategies to more efficiently use the current water supply.

- 41% building new water storage systems
- 54 more efficiently use the current water supply
- 5 don't know

People have different views about growth issues. Please tell me if the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your views—even if neither is exactly right.

[rotate q30 to q32 and statements]

30.(1) Local governments should work together and have a common regional plan; [or] (2) Local governments should work independently and each have its own local plan.

77% local governments should work together
20 local governments should work independently
3 don't know

31.(1) The state government should provide guidelines for local housing and land use planning; [or] (2) The state government should not be involved in local housing and land use planning.

51% state government should provide guidelines
43 state government should not be involved
6 don't know

32.(1) Local elected officials should provide leadership and make the most important decisions; [or] (2) Local voters should make the important decisions at the ballot box.

26% local officials make decisions
69 local voters make decisions
5 don't know

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

7% just about always
24 most of the time
63 only some of the time
4 none of the time, not at all
2 don't know

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

66% a few big interests
27 benefit of all of the people
7 don't know

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

58% a lot
35 some
4 don't waste very much
3 don't know

36.On another topic, in California state government today, which of the following do you think has the most influence over public policy?

[rotate]

24% the governor
41 the legislature
24 initiatives on the state ballot
2 other (specify)
9 don't know

California uses the direct initiative process, which enables voters to bypass the legislature and have issues put on the ballot—as state propositions—for voter approval or rejection.

37.In general, do you think it is a good thing or a bad thing that a majority of voters can make laws and change public policies by passing initiatives?

71% good thing
22 bad thing
1 other (specify)
6 don't know

38.Overall, do you think public policy decisions made through the initiative process by California voters are probably better or probably worse than public policy decisions made by the governor and state legislature?

59% probably better
24 probably worse
5 same (volunteered)
12 don't know

39. Generally speaking, would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or not satisfied with the way the initiative process is working in California today?

- 11% very satisfied
- 61 somewhat satisfied
- 25 not satisfied
- 3 don't know

40. On another topic, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote?

- 77% yes *[ask q41a]*
- 23 no *[skip to q42a]*

41a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or as an independent?

- 45% Democrat *[skip to q43]*
- 34 Republican *[skip to q43]*
- 19 independent *[ask q42a]*
- 2 another party *(specify) [skip to q43]*

42a. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 25% Republican Party
- 49 Democratic Party
- 19 neither *(volunteered)*
- 7 don't know

43. On another topic, would you consider yourself to be politically:

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 10% very liberal
- 20 somewhat liberal
- 32 middle-of-the-road
- 25 somewhat conservative
- 11 very conservative
- 2 don't know

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

- 22% great deal
- 43 fair amount
- 30 only a little
- 5 none

[D1-D12: demographic questions]

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