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Californians & their government



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in collaboration with
The James Irvine Foundation



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The PPIC Statewide Survey provides policymakers, the media, and the public with objective, advocacy-free information on the perceptions, opinions, and public policy preferences of California residents. This is the 137th PPIC Statewide Survey in a series that was inaugurated in April 1998 and has generated a database of responses from more than 288,000 Californians.

This is the 58th in the *Californians and Their Government* series. The survey is conducted periodically to examine the social, economic, and political trends that influence public policy preferences and ballot choices. Supported with funding from The James Irvine Foundation, the series seeks to inform decisionmakers, raise public awareness, and stimulate policy discussions and debate about important state and national issues.

The survey began on the day President Obama gave his address on Syria and as the legislative session in California entered its final week. Per a federal court order, Governor Brown has until the end of December to reduce prison overcrowding. The governor and legislature are asking for an extension that would allow them to focus on rehabilitation efforts. If this request is denied, space will be leased in private, county, and out-of-state prisons to prevent the early release of about 10,000 prisoners. A state water bond for the 2014 ballot is being debated and a bill to regulate fracking was just signed into law. As part of “realignment” (a series of changes in the way state and local governments divide responsibilities), the current budget gives local school districts more flexibility over spending decisions, and over the past two years counties have taken on what were previously state corrections responsibilities by housing more low-level offenders in county jails. In October, California begins its open enrollment period for uninsured residents under the Affordable Care Act. The U.S. Congress is debating the U.S. response to the Syrian crisis; it also faces an October 1 deadline to pass a budget and a mid-October deadline to raise the debt ceiling. Looking ahead, comprehensive immigration reform will be back under discussion.

In this context, this survey presents the responses of 1,703 adult residents throughout California, interviewed in English or Spanish by landline or cell phone. It includes findings on these topics:

- State government, including overall outlook, approval ratings of state elected officials, views on more local control of K–12 education funding and the shift of prisoners from state prisons to county jails; support for the plan to ease overcrowding in state prisons; attitudes toward fracking; views on water management, including support for a possible water bond in 2014; and preferences for paying for water and other infrastructure projects.
- Federal government, including approval ratings of federal elected officials; assessment of the way President Obama and the Republicans in Congress are handling the federal deficit and debt ceiling; opinions on plans for a resolution to the situation in Syria; opinions on health care reform; views on immigration reform; and attitudes toward abortion access and legalizing marijuana and same-sex marriage.
- Time trends, national comparisons, and the extent to which Californians may differ in their perceptions, attitudes, and preferences regarding state and federal government based on political party affiliation, likelihood of voting, region of residence, race/ethnicity, and other demographics.

This report may be downloaded free of charge from our website (www.ppic.org). If you have questions about the survey, please contact survey@ppic.org. Try our PPIC Statewide Survey interactive tools online at <http://www.ppic.org/main/survAdvancedSearch.asp>.

NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PDT on Wednesday, September 25, 2013.

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

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Amid Concerns About Crime, Half Favor Plan to Ease Prison Crowding

MAJORITIES WANT FRACKING REGULATED AND—FOR FIRST TIME—MARIJUANA LEGALIZED

SAN FRANCISCO, September 25, 2013—Half of Californians support the plan approved by the governor and legislature to reduce prison overcrowding, according to a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), with funding from The James Irvine Foundation. At the same time, overwhelming majorities are concerned about the possible early release of thousands of prisoners that the plan is designed to prevent.

When read a description of the corrections plan, 52 percent of adults and likely voters are in favor, while 39 percent of adults and 40 percent of likely voters are opposed. Levels of support are similar across parties, with 53 percent of Democrats, 55 percent of Republicans, and 50 percent of independents in favor. The plan calls for Governor Jerry Brown to ask federal judges for a three-year extension of their order to reduce the prison population by nearly 10,000 inmates by the end of December. The goal is to give the state more time to expand rehabilitation programs aimed at reducing the number of repeat offenders. If the governor's request is denied, California would expand prison capacity by leasing space in private, local, and out-of-state facilities—and avoid early release of the inmates.

Most Californians are very concerned (47%) or somewhat concerned (31%) about the early release of the prisoners. Just 21 percent are not too (14%) or not at all (7%) concerned. Strong majorities across parties are at least somewhat concerned.

Californians express these views of the corrections plan at a time when local governments have taken on a new public safety role. Under the corrections realignment implemented in October 2011, the state shifted lower-risk felons from state prisons to county jails to reduce prison overcrowding and cut costs. Californians' confidence in their local governments' ability to handle these new tasks has declined since realignment began. Today, less than half are confident (7% very, 33% somewhat) about their local government's ability to do so. Confidence was higher in September 2011 (48%), December 2011 (53%), January 2012 (50%), and January 2013 (49%) than it is today (40%).

"Crime and public safety issues are surfacing in California today," said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. "Public confidence in local governments to handle the responsibilities of state-local corrections realignment is declining, while many also express concern about the possible early release of state prisoners."

Half of Californians are concerned about violence and street crime in their communities, with 22 percent saying it is a big problem and 30 percent saying it is somewhat of a problem (48% not much of a problem). Black and Latino Californians are much more likely to see violence and street crime as at least somewhat of a problem (64% each) than are Asians (46%) and whites (44%). Across regions, 64 percent

of residents in the Central Valley and 61 percent in the Inland Empire see violence and street crime as at least somewhat of a problem, while fewer in the San Francisco Bay Area (53%), Los Angeles (46%), and Orange/San Diego (44%) hold this view.

How do Californians feel about their local government's efforts to reduce violence and street crime? Half (50%) say their local government is doing the right amount, while 41 percent say it is not doing enough (5% too much). Race/ethnicity is a key factor in how residents view efforts to combat crime: while most whites (59%) and Asians (56%) say their local government is doing the right amount, blacks (56%) and Latinos (49%) are more likely to say their government is not doing enough.

MOST CONFIDENT THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS WILL SPEND NEW FUNDS WISELY

In another area where responsibilities have shifted to the local level, school districts are getting more control over how state education dollars are spent. A majority of adults (60%) are very or somewhat confident that their districts will use the money wisely. Confidence was higher earlier this year, when larger majorities said they were at least somewhat confident (January 71%, April 73%).

Despite increases in state funding for education, 86 percent of adults say the state budget situation is at least somewhat of a problem for the state's public schools. Adults express overwhelming support (72%) for the part of the state budget that gives each K-12 school district more money than in 2011-12 and directs additional funding to districts with more English Learners and lower-income students.

OPPOSED TO MORE FRACKING, DIVIDED ON WATER POLICY

The PPIC survey began as legislators entered the final week of their session and were debating a bill to regulate fracking. The bill, SB4, passed and was signed by the governor. More Californians (53%) continue to oppose than favor (32%) increased use of fracking. Support for stricter state regulation of fracking has increased slightly since July, from 50 percent of adults (and 56% of likely voters) to 56 percent today (61% likely voters). When asked specifically about two components of SB4—requiring oil companies to obtain permits and requiring them to disclose information on chemicals used in oil extraction techniques—most (80% adults, 87% likely voters) are in favor.

There is less agreement among Californians on water policy. About half (53%) say the water supply for their part of the state will be somewhat or very inadequate in 10 years. And residents are divided about how to plan for the future. About half (49%) say we should focus on conservation, user allocation, and other strategies to manage water more efficiently, while 45 percent say we need to build new water storage systems. How should the state increase funding for water and infrastructure projects? Half (48%) prefer that the state issue bonds, 25 percent say user fees and charges should be increased, and 13 percent say taxes for all Californians should be raised. Asked about a proposed \$6.5 billion bond measure to fund water projects, 55 percent of adults and 50 percent of likely voters would vote yes.

SLIM MAJORITY FAVOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

As House Republicans press a campaign to defund the Affordable Care Act, a slim majority of Californians (53%) support the changes to the health care system enacted by President Barack Obama and Congress. Support has been around 50 percent since September 2009, about six months before the law's passage. Today, slightly more than half of those who have insurance (52%) and those who do not (56%) support the law. Those with government-based insurance, such as Medicare or Medi-Cal, are more likely than those with employer-based coverage to express support (63% to 49%). How do Californians feel their families will fare under the law? About a quarter (26%) say they will be better off, a quarter (24%) say they will be worse off, and 43 percent do not expect the law to make much difference.

With a potential government shutdown on October 1 and the deadline to raise the debt limit soon after, Californians are divided over the way Obama is handling this issue (46% approve, 46% disapprove). This

is a decline from January, when 56 percent approved of the president's handling of the deficit and debt ceiling. A solid majority (63%) disapprove of the way congressional Republicans are handling the issue, the same as in January (63% disapprove).

Although comprehensive immigration reform appears to be stalled in Congress, 85 percent of Californians support a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants who fulfill certain requirements, including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, passing criminal background checks, and learning English. Majorities across parties, regions, and demographic groups favor this idea. Asked whether border security or addressing the status of illegal immigrants should be a higher priority, 51 percent choose addressing immigrants' status and 41 percent favor securing the nation's border.

Baldassare notes: "At a time when Californians are deeply divided along party lines on health care reform, there's overwhelming support for a path to citizenship as part of a federal immigration reform package."

There is also consensus among Californians on a key aspect of U.S. policy in response to the Syrian crisis: 70 percent of Californians say they are opposed to military air strikes, a view held across parties, regions, and age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups. Asked about the Russian proposal to deal with Syria's chemical weapons, half of Californians (52%) are at least somewhat optimistic that it will succeed.

RECORD-HIGH SUPPORT FOR LEGALIZING MARIJUANA, SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Majorities of Californians support legalizing marijuana and same-sex marriage and preserving access to abortion—three social issues that have been contentious across the nation. A slim majority of adults (52%) say marijuana use should be legalized—a record high and the first time support has been above 50 percent. A larger majority of likely voters (60%) favor legalization. Democrats (64%), independents (60%), and men (57%) are more likely than Republicans (45%) and women (47%) to favor legalization. Majorities (61% adults, 68% likely voters) also say the U.S. government should not enforce federal marijuana laws in the states that allow marijuana use.

Support for same-sex marriage is also at a record high, with 61 percent of adults and 64 percent of likely voters in favor. Strong majorities of Democrats (76%) and independents (67%) favor allowing gays and lesbians to legally marry, while 53 percent of Republicans are opposed. Although support continues to be higher among young Californians, a majority of those age 55 and older (55%) are also in favor for the first time. Support has increased 15 points among mainline Protestants since May (55% to 70%).

Large majorities (70% adults, 79% likely voters) say the government should not interfere with a woman's access to abortion. This view is held by majorities across parties, regions, and demographic groups. And 69 percent say the Supreme Court should leave access to abortion the way it is now (49%) or make it more accessible (20%), compared to 27 percent who would like the court to make it less accessible.

MORE KEY FINDINGS

■ **Governor's approval rating holds steady**—page 7

Half of adults (48%) and likely voters (49%) approve of Brown's job performance, similar to the previous six surveys. The legislature's approval rating (adults 38%, likely voters 32%) is up from September 2012 (adults 30%, likely voters 22%). And 42 percent of adults (40% likely voters) approve of the job their own legislative representatives are doing.

■ **Obama's approval rating dips below 60 percent among all adults**—pages 16 and 17

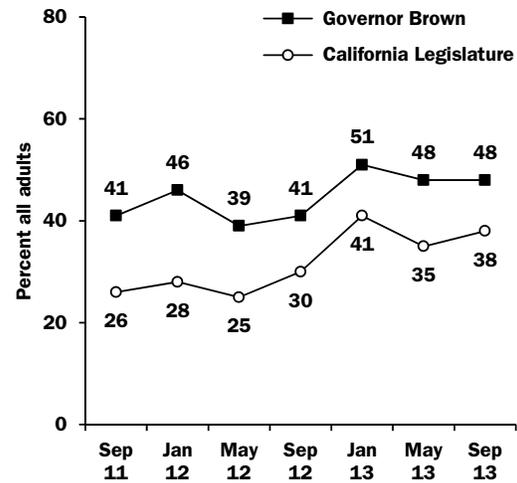
While a majority of Californians (55%) approve of the president's job performance, his approval rating is below 60 percent for the first time since July 2012. Congress' job approval rating remains low, at 28 percent. Californians are more approving of their own representative in Congress (47% approve). Senator Dianne Feinstein's approval rating is 49 percent and Senator Barbara Boxer's is 47 percent.

STATE GOVERNMENT

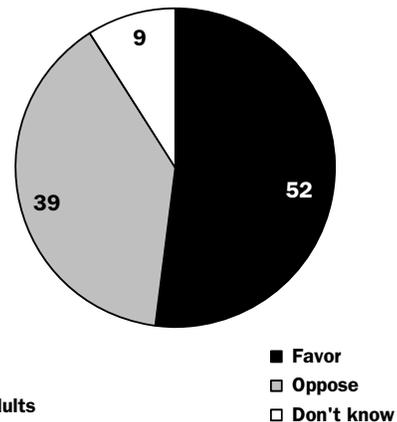
KEY FINDINGS

- Governor Brown's approval ratings are at 48 percent, while 42 percent approve of their own legislators and 38 percent approve of the state legislature overall. *(page 7)*
- Local school districts now have increased spending flexibility, and six in 10 Californians are very or somewhat confident that districts will spend state funding wisely. In contrast, four in 10 adults are confident about their local government's ability to handle the shift of some lower-risk inmates from state prisons to county jails. *(pages 9, 10)*
- About half (52%) favor the governor and legislature's plan to reduce prison overcrowding. Overwhelming majorities are concerned about the possible early release of prisoners. *(page 11)*
- Blacks and Latinos are much more likely than Asians and whites to say their local government is not doing enough to reduce violence and street crime. *(page 12)*
- A majority of Californians favor stricter regulations on fracking in the state. There is overwhelming support for requiring oil companies to obtain permits and disclose information about chemicals in fracking and other oil extraction methods. *(page 13)*
- To plan for the future, Californians are divided between building new water storage systems (45%) and using the current supply more efficiently (49%). A plurality prefer paying for water projects by issuing state bonds (48%) over introducing user fees and charges (25%) or increasing taxes for all (13%). When asked about a possible water bond, 50 percent of likely voters would vote yes. *(page 14)*

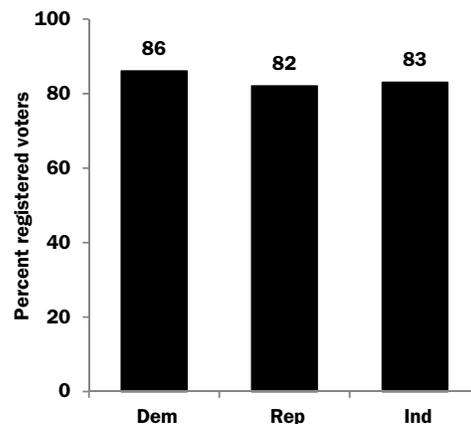
Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials



Opinion on Plan to Reduce Prison Overcrowding



Support for Requiring Permits and Disclosure of Chemicals Used in Fracking and Other Oil Extraction Techniques



APPROVAL RATINGS OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor Brown has the approval of half of all adults (48%) and likely voters (49%) today. Among all adults, the governor’s approval rating was slightly lower last September (41%) and last October (42%). Since the November 2012 election, the governor’s approval rating has been similar over seven monthly polls (48% December, 51% January, 49% March, 46% April, 48% May, 48% July, 48% today). Today, the governor’s approval rating is at 65 percent for Democrats, 48 percent for independents, and just 23 percent for Republicans. Approval is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (61%) and Los Angeles (50%) than in the Inland Empire and the Central Valley (41% each) and Orange/San Diego (40%). Asians (57%) are more likely than blacks and Latinos (49% each) and whites (45%) to express approval.

Thirty-eight percent of California adults and 32 percent of likely voters approve of the way that the legislature is handling its job. Among all adults, the legislature’s approval was somewhat lower last September (30%) and last October (28%). Since the November 2012 election, approval of the legislature has been above 30 percent (34% December, 41% January, 34% March, 31% April, 35% May, 36% July, 38% today). Today, 51 percent of Democrats express approval of the legislature, but only 29 percent of independents and 14 percent of Republicans do so. Residents in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, and the Inland Empire express similar levels of approval (43% each), while lower levels of approval are found in the Central Valley (32%) and Orange/San Diego (31%). Asians and Latinos (50% each) and blacks (44%) are much more likely than whites (27%) to approve of the legislature.

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

| | | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| <i>Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California</i> | Approve | 48% | 65% | 23% | 48% | 49% |
| | Disapprove | 31 | 19 | 60 | 32 | 39 |
| | Don't know | 22 | 16 | 17 | 20 | 12 |
| <i>The California Legislature is handling its job</i> | Approve | 38 | 51 | 14 | 29 | 32 |
| | Disapprove | 45 | 36 | 75 | 55 | 57 |
| | Don't know | 17 | 14 | 10 | 16 | 10 |

Four in 10 adults (42%) and likely voters (40%) approve of the job performance of the state legislators representing their assembly and senate districts. Approval among all adults was slightly lower last September (36%) compared to today (42%) and earlier this year (45% January, 43% May). Fifty-five percent of Democrats approve of their state legislators today, but fewer independents (39%) and Republicans (23%) do so. Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (48%), the Inland Empire (46%), and Los Angeles (43%) express similar levels of approval, while lower levels are found in the Central Valley (37%) and Orange/San Diego (33%). Latinos (50%), Asians (49%), and blacks (44%) are more likely than whites (36%) to approve of the job performance of their state legislative representatives.

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

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Approve | 42% | 55% | 23% | 39% | 40% |
| Disapprove | 39 | 31 | 61 | 42 | 49 |
| Don't know | 19 | 13 | 17 | 19 | 12 |

OVERALL MOOD

Californians are most likely to name jobs and the economy (46%) as the most important state issue. Pluralities across parties, regions, and demographic groups name jobs and the economy as the top issue facing the state. Education and schools (7%), immigration (7%), the state budget (6%), and crime (4%) are among the other top issues mentioned today. Last October, jobs and the economy were named by 56 percent, followed by the state budget (10%), education and schools (9%), immigration (3%), and crime (2%).

When it comes to the state's overall direction, 43 percent of Californians say that things are going in the right direction and 48 percent say that they are going in the wrong direction. Likely voters have slightly more negative perceptions (40% right direction, 54% wrong direction). Californians were much more negative in their assessments last September (33% right direction, 60% wrong direction), but since the November 2012 election more than four in 10 adults have said that things are going in the right direction (44% December, 51% January, 44% March, 46% May, 45% June, 43% today). Today, Democrats (58%) are much more likely than independents (40%) and far more likely than Republicans (18%) to say that things are going in the right direction. San Francisco Bay Area (54%) residents are more likely than those in Los Angeles (45%), the Central Valley (42%), Orange/San Diego (40%), and the Inland Empire (30%) to have an optimistic outlook. Asians and Latinos (50% each) are much more likely than blacks (38%) and whites (37%) to say that things are going in the right direction.

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

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Right direction | 43% | 58% | 18% | 40% | 40% |
| Wrong direction | 48 | 35 | 77 | 52 | 54 |
| Don't know | 9 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 6 |

As for the economic outlook, 46 percent say the state will have good times in the next 12 months and 44 percent say it will have bad times. Likely voters hold similar views (44% good times, 46% bad times). Californians were much less likely to predict good times last September (33%) but more than four in 10 adults have predicted good times since the November 2012 election (41% December, 49% January, 44% March, 48% May, 46% June, 46% today). Today, Democrats (60%) are much more likely than independents (41%) and far more likely than Republicans (27%) to expect good economic times ahead. San Francisco Bay Area (54%) residents are more likely than those in Los Angeles (48%), the Central Valley (46%), the Inland Empire (41%), and Orange/San Diego (40%) to have a positive outlook. Asians (55%), Latinos (50%), and blacks (50%) are somewhat more likely than whites (42%) to expect good economic times in the next 12 months.

“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 | 46% | 60% | 27% | 41% | 44% |
| Bad times | 44 | 32 | 62 | 50 | 46 |
| Don't know | 10 | 8 | 11 | 9 | 10 |

STATE-LOCAL RELATIONSHIP: K-12 EDUCATION FUNDING

Even though residents' overall outlook for the state has improved over the last year, nine in 10 California adults today continue to say that the state budget situation is a big problem (58%) or somewhat of a problem (33%). In this context, 86 percent of Californians say the state budget situation is at least somewhat of a problem for the state's K-12 public schools, with 60 percent of adults and 61 percent of public school parents calling it a big problem. Majorities across regions and parties, as well as across age, income, and racial/ethnic groups, say that the state budget situation is a big problem for California's K-12 public schools. Perceptions of the impact of the overall state budget situation on K-12 schools have remained fairly constant, with similar findings in April 2012 (65% big problem), April 2013 (57% big problem), and today (60% big problem).

There is overwhelming support for the recently passed state budget plan that gives each K-12 school district more money than it had in 2011-12 and provides additional funding to districts with more English Learners and lower-income students: 72 percent of adults and 75 percent of public school parents are in favor. Support is higher among Democrats (85%) and independents (65%) than Republicans (44%). More than two in three across regions say they favor the plan. Blacks (86%), Latinos (84%), and Asians (72%) are more likely than whites (62%) to support it. We also found overwhelming support earlier this year, with similar questions that asked about giving new funding mostly to school districts with more English Learners and lower-income students (75% January, 71% April, 77% May).

“The current state budget gives each K-12 public school district more funding than they received in 2011-12 and provides additional funding to school districts that have more English language learners and lower-income students. Do you favor or oppose this plan?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Public school parents |
|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Favor | 72% | 85% | 44% | 65% | 75% |
| Oppose | 22 | 12 | 50 | 30 | 22 |
| Don't know | 6 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 4 |

When asked about giving local school districts more flexibility over how state funding is spent, 60 percent of California adults and 62 percent of public school parents say they are very or somewhat confident that local school districts will use this money wisely. Majorities across regions, parties, and demographic groups are at least somewhat confident that local school districts will use this money wisely. It is noteworthy that, in comparison to today (60%), larger majorities in January (71%) and April (73%) said that they were at least somewhat confident that local school districts would use this money wisely.

“The state is giving local school districts more flexibility over how state funding is spent. How confident are you that local school districts will use this money wisely? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?”

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Public school parents |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| | | Central Valley | San Francisco Bay Area | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | Inland Empire | |
| Very confident | 13% | 15% | 14% | 12% | 11% | 13% | 14% |
| Somewhat confident | 47 | 51 | 46 | 44 | 48 | 46 | 48 |
| Not too confident | 23 | 18 | 28 | 25 | 22 | 23 | 23 |
| Not at all confident | 14 | 13 | 8 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 12 |
| Don't know | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

STATE-LOCAL RELATIONSHIP: CORRECTIONS REALIGNMENT

How do Californians perceive the corrections realignment that began in October 2011 when some of the state’s lower-risk inmates were shifted from state prisons to county jails? Forty percent of Californians say they are following news about the shift either very (14%) or fairly (26%) closely; 57 percent say they are following this news not too (30%) or not at all (27%) closely. Central Valley (51%) residents are the most likely to be following the news very or fairly closely, followed by those in Orange/San Diego (44%), the Inland Empire (42%), the San Francisco Bay Area (36%), and Los Angeles (35%). Blacks (58%) and whites (51%) are much more likely than Latinos (31%) and Asians (19%) to be very or fairly closely following this news, and attention to this news increases as age increases (23% age 18 to 34, 42% age 35 to 54, 58% age 55 and older). In December 2011, a similar 45 percent of Californians said they were following news about this issue very (19%) or fairly (26%) closely; 53 percent said they were following this news not too (27%) or not at all (26%) closely.

“How closely are you following news about the shift of some inmates from state prisons to county jails?”

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Central Valley | San Francisco | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | Inland Empire | |
| Very closely | 14% | 17% | 13% | 11% | 15% | 21% | 18% |
| Fairly closely | 26 | 34 | 23 | 24 | 29 | 21 | 37 |
| Not too closely | 30 | 31 | 33 | 32 | 29 | 26 | 26 |
| Not at all closely | 27 | 17 | 31 | 29 | 26 | 31 | 18 |
| Don't know | 2 | 2 | – | 4 | 1 | – | 1 |

How much confidence do Californians have in their local governments’ ability to take on the responsibilities of corrections realignment? Four in 10 Californians are confident (7% very, 33% somewhat) in their local governments’ ability to handle this responsibility, while 57 percent are not too (32%) or not at all (25%) confident. Democrats (47%) are more likely than independents (37%) or Republicans (28%) to express confidence in local governments taking on this responsibility. Public confidence is higher in Los Angeles (47%) and the Inland Empire (46%) than in the San Francisco Bay Area (37%), Orange/San Diego (37%), and the Central Valley (36%). Asians (49%), blacks (47%), and Latinos (45%) are much more likely than whites (35%) to express confidence. Public confidence is much higher among those age 18 to 34 (52%) than among older residents (37% age 35 to 54, 35% age 55 and older). The public’s confidence in their local governments’ ability to handle this responsibility was higher in September 2011 (48%), December 2011 (53%), January 2012 (50%), and January 2013 (49%) than it is today (40%).

“As you may know, state funding is being provided to shift some of the lower-risk inmates from state prisons to county jails to reduce prison overcrowding and lower state costs. How confident are you that your local government is able to take on this responsibility?”

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Central Valley | San Francisco | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | Inland Empire | |
| Very confident | 7% | 6% | 7% | 10% | 5% | 10% | 6% |
| Somewhat confident | 33 | 30 | 30 | 37 | 32 | 36 | 31 |
| Not too confident | 32 | 33 | 39 | 28 | 33 | 30 | 32 |
| Not at all confident | 25 | 28 | 22 | 23 | 27 | 23 | 29 |
| Don't know | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

STATE PRISON SYSTEM

A three-judge federal court panel ordered Governor Brown to reduce prison overcrowding by the end of the year, possibly resulting in the early release of about 10,000 inmates. The governor and legislature passed a compromise plan to meet the federal court order while preventing the early release of inmates. They are requesting a three-year extension to ensure rehabilitation programs are in place that would potentially reduce the number of repeat offenders. If this request is denied, they plan to expand prison capacity by leasing space in private, local, and out-of-state facilities, thus preventing the early release of inmates. They have allocated up to \$315 million for the plan this year.

Half of adults and likely voters (52% each) say they support the plan, while four in 10 oppose it (39% adults, 40% likely voters). Levels of support are similar across parties: 53 percent of Democrats, 55 percent of Republicans, and 50 percent of independents favor this plan. Across regions, about half support this plan, except in the Inland Empire where support is higher (62%). Support for the plan increases slightly as income levels rise (48% less than \$40,000, 54% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 58% \$80,000 or more). Across racial/ethnic groups, about half favor this proposal (54% whites, 51% blacks, 51% Latinos, 47% Asians).

“As you may know, a federal court ordered the early release of about 10,000 inmates from the state’s prisons by the end of the year to prevent overcrowding. The governor and the legislature plan to spend up to \$315 million to address this issue. They have proposed asking the court for a three year extension to reduce the prison population by providing rehabilitation programs in an effort to reduce the number of repeat offenders. If the court denies this request, they propose moving inmates to private, local, and out-of-state facilities to prevent the early release of inmates. Do you favor or oppose this plan?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Favor | 52% | 53% | 55% | 50% | 52% |
| Oppose | 39 | 40 | 38 | 38 | 40 |
| Don’t know | 9 | 7 | 7 | 12 | 8 |

When asked about the possible early release of state prisoners, nearly eight in 10 Californians are very (47%) or somewhat (31%) concerned, while one in five are not too (14%) or not at all (7%) concerned. Although strong majorities of voters across parties are at least somewhat concerned, Republicans (69%) are far more likely than independents (46%) and Democrats (37%) to be very concerned. Inland Empire (55%) and Central Valley residents (54%) are the most likely to be very concerned, followed by those in Orange/San Diego (47%), the San Francisco Bay Area (42%), and Los Angeles (41%). Among racial/ethnic groups, overwhelming majorities express at least some concern. Blacks (52%) are the most likely to be very concerned, followed by Latinos (48%), whites (45%), and Asians (43%). Among those who are at least somewhat concerned about the possible early release of state inmates, 57 percent favor the plan proposed by the governor and legislature to prevent prison overcrowding.

“How concerned are you about the possible early release of these state prisoners—very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Very concerned | 47% | 37% | 69% | 46% | 48% |
| Somewhat concerned | 31 | 36 | 22 | 26 | 29 |
| Not too concerned | 14 | 17 | 7 | 18 | 15 |
| Not at all concerned | 7 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| Don’t know | 1 | 1 | – | 1 | 1 |

LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY

How much of a problem do Californians think violence and street crime are in their local community? Twenty-two percent see them as a big problem, 30 percent as somewhat of a problem, and 48 percent think they are not much of a problem for their local community today. Assessments were similar when we last asked this question in February 2011 (23% big, 33% somewhat, 43% not much of a problem). Sixty-four percent of blacks and Latinos see violence and street crime as a big or somewhat of a problem, compared to 46 percent of Asians and 44 percent of whites. Independents are somewhat more likely to see it as a big or somewhat of a problem (55%) than not much of a problem (44%). Slim majorities of Democrats (47% big/somewhat, 52% not much) and Republicans (46% big/somewhat, 53% not much) say violence and street crime are not a problem. More than six in 10 residents in the Central Valley (64%) and Inland Empire (61%) see violence and street crime as a big or somewhat of a problem, while fewer in the San Francisco Bay Area (53%), Los Angeles (46%), and Orange/San Diego (44%) hold this view. The perception that violence and street crime are a big or somewhat of a problem declines as education levels increase. Those with household incomes less than \$80,000 (58% less than \$40,000, 53% \$40,000 to \$80,000) are much more likely than those with higher incomes (39%) to say violence and street crime are a big or somewhat of a problem in their local community.

**“How much of a problem are violence and street crime in your local community today?
Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?”**

| | All adults | Race/Ethnicity | | | | Likely voters |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------|--------|---------|--------|---------------|
| | | Asians | Blacks | Latinos | Whites | |
| Big problem | 22% | 18% | 28% | 31% | 17% | 18% |
| Somewhat of a problem | 30 | 28 | 36 | 33 | 27 | 30 |
| Not much of a problem | 48 | 49 | 36 | 36 | 56 | 52 |
| Don't know | 1 | 5 | – | – | 1 | 1 |

When asked about their local government’s involvement in reducing violence and street crime, 5 percent say it is doing too much, 50 percent say the right amount, and 41 percent say not enough. In February 2011, the findings were nearly identical (6% too much, 50% right amount, 42% not enough). Most whites (59%) and Asians (56%) say their local government is doing the right amount, while most blacks (56%) and Latinos (49%) say their local government is not doing enough. Democrats (56%) and Republicans (54%) say their local government is doing the right amount, while independents are divided (45% right amount, 49% not enough). More than half of Californians in Orange/San Diego (54%), Los Angeles (53%), and the Inland Empire (52%) say their local government is doing the right amount, while Central Valley residents (50%) say their government is not doing enough to reduce violence and street crime. Those living in the San Francisco Bay Area are divided (47% right amount, 45% not enough). The share saying their local government is not doing enough declines as education and income levels increase.

**“Do you think that your local government is doing too much, the right amount,
or not enough to reduce violence and street crime in your local community?”**

| | All adults | Race/Ethnicity | | | | Likely voters |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|--------|---------|--------|---------------|
| | | Asians | Blacks | Latinos | Whites | |
| Too much | 5% | 2% | 1% | 11% | 3% | 3% |
| Right amount | 50 | 56 | 40 | 38 | 59 | 55 |
| Not enough | 41 | 36 | 56 | 49 | 34 | 39 |
| Don't know | 4 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 |

FRACKING POLICY

The use of fracking for oil extraction has become a contentious issue in the state. More Californians continue to oppose (53%) than favor (32%) increased use of fracking to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations (May: 47% oppose, 39% favor; July: 51% oppose, 35% favor). Today, majorities of Democrats (67%) and independents (55%) oppose fracking, while a majority of Republicans are in favor (57%). San Francisco Bay Area residents (62%) are most likely to oppose increased use of fracking, followed by those in the Inland Empire (53%), Los Angeles (52%), the Central Valley (49%), and Orange/San Diego (44%). Residents living along the north-central coast (61%) are more likely to oppose it than those living along the south coast (49%) or inland (52%). Women (60%) are much more likely than men (45%) to oppose increased use of fracking.

“Do you favor or oppose 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?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Favor | 32% | 20% | 57% | 32% | 36% |
| Oppose | 53 | 67 | 29 | 55 | 53 |
| Don't know | 15 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 11 |

There have been legislative efforts to regulate fracking in the state. Majorities support stricter state regulations on fracking, with 56 percent of all adults and 61 percent of likely voters holding this view. In July, support for stricter regulations was at 50 percent for adults and 56 percent for likely voters. Far more Democrats (67%) and independents (62%) than Republicans (37%) favor stricter regulations. San Francisco Bay Area residents (60%) are the most likely to favor stricter state regulations on fracking, followed by those in the Central Valley (57%), Orange/San Diego (54%), Los Angeles (53%), and the Inland Empire (47%). Among those who favor increased use of fracking, 47 percent favor stricter regulations. Among those opposed to increased use of fracking, 69 percent are in favor of stricter regulations.

“As you may know, fracking is currently taking place in California. Do you favor or oppose stricter state regulation of fracking in California?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Favor | 56% | 67% | 37% | 62% | 61% |
| Oppose | 30 | 21 | 48 | 22 | 29 |
| Don't know | 13 | 12 | 15 | 16 | 10 |

Senate Bill 4, introduced by Senator Fran Pavley and passed by the legislature, was signed into law by the governor after the survey interviews were completed. Two key features of this law include requiring oil companies to obtain permits and requiring them to disclose information on chemicals used in fracking and other oil extraction techniques. When asked about these two components, most Californians (80%) and likely voters (87%) are in favor. There is overwhelming partisan support, with more than eight in 10 Democrats (86%), independents (83%), and Republicans (82%) in favor. Strong majorities across regions and demographic groups are in favor of requiring oil companies to obtain permits and disclose information. Nearly everyone who favors stricter state regulations on fracking supports these components (90%). Even among those who oppose stricter state regulations on fracking, 69 percent favor requiring permits and disclosure of chemicals used in the process.

WATER POLICY

Thirty-nine percent of Californians say that the water supply available for their part of California will be adequate for what is needed ten years from now; 53 percent think it will be somewhat (27%) or very inadequate (26%). Views were similar in December 2009 and September 1998.

When choosing between two approaches to manage water supply, 49 percent of Californians opt for focusing on conservation, user allocation, and other strategies to use the current water supply more efficiently, while 45 percent prefer building new water storage systems. The margin for preferring efficiency has narrowed in recent years (14 points August 2004, 13 points August 2006, 7 points July 2009, 3 points December 2012, 4 points today). Majorities of Democrats and independents prefer more-efficient use (56% each); Republicans have a slight preference for new storage (50% new storage, 42% efficiency). Among those who say the water supply in their region will be inadequate, opinion is divided.

“Which of the following statements is closer to your views about planning for the future in your part of California? We should focus on building new water storage systems and increasing the water supply; or we should focus on water conservation, user allocation, pricing, and other strategies to more efficiently use the current water supply.”

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
|--|------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Central Valley | San Francisco Bay Area | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | Inland Empire | |
| Build new water storage systems | 45% | 42% | 42% | 43% | 47% | 52% | 43% |
| Focus on efficiency | 49 | 51 | 51 | 52 | 48 | 42 | 52 |
| Don't know | 6 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 5 |

When asked about ways that the state government can increase the level of current funding for water and other infrastructure projects, 48 percent of Californians prefer that the state issue bonds, 25 percent say it should increase user fees and charges, and 13 percent say it should increase taxes for all Californians. Republicans (39%) are less likely than Democrats (50%) and independents (49%) to prefer issuing state bonds. Across regions and demographic groups, pluralities prefer issuing state bonds.

“How would you most prefer that the state government increase the level of current funding for water and other infrastructure projects: increase taxes for all Californians; increase user fees and charges, or issue state bonds paid for through the state's general fund?”

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
|--|------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | Central Valley | San Francisco Bay Area | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | Inland Empire | |
| Increase taxes for all Californians | 13% | 16% | 12% | 13% | 12% | 9% | 13% |
| Increase user fees and charges | 25 | 23 | 26 | 24 | 23 | 27 | 25 |
| Issue state bonds | 48 | 44 | 47 | 50 | 49 | 51 | 44 |
| Other (volunteered) | 6 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 11 |
| Don't know | 8 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 8 |

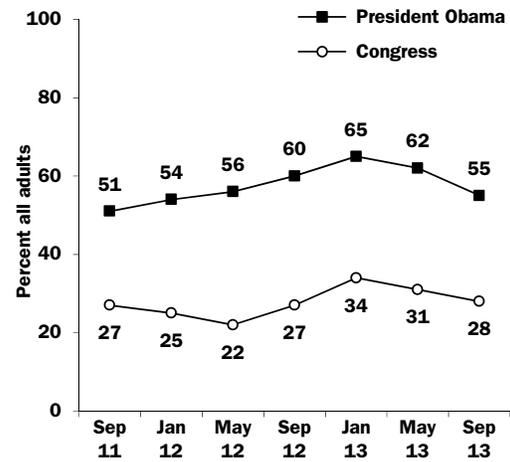
Lawmakers introduced a new proposal, which is still under consideration, for an approximately \$6.5 billion bond measure for water projects, to be placed on the November 2014 ballot. This reduces the bond amount from an earlier proposal. When asked how they would vote on this bond measure, 55 percent of all adults and 50 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes (33% no for all adults, 38% no for likely voters). In March 2012, when given a brief description of the project, with a bond amount of \$11.1 billion, 51 percent of likely voters said yes (35% no). This March, support for the \$11.1 billion bond declined to 42 percent (51% no), and when those who said they would vote no were asked how they would vote if the bond amount was lower, overall support increased to 55 percent.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

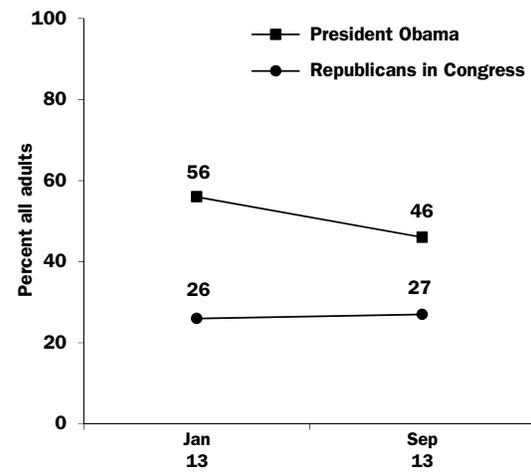
KEY FINDINGS

- Approval of the president is at 55 percent; 47 percent of Californians approve of their individual House representative and 28 percent approve of the U.S. Congress overall. *(page 16)*
- Californians today are less approving than in January of President Obama's handling of the federal deficit and debt ceiling (56% January, 46% today). *(pages 17, 18)*
- Half of Californians are optimistic about a plan proposed by Russia to deal with Syria's chemical weapons. *(page 18)*
- Fifty-three percent favor the health care reform enacted by Congress and the president. A plurality (43%) say the new health reform law will not make much of a difference for them. *(page 19)*
- There is overwhelming support for a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants if certain conditions are met. Californians are more likely to say addressing the status of illegal immigrants currently in the U.S. (51%) is a higher priority right now than securing the border (41%). *(page 20)*
- Seven in 10 Californians, including solid majorities across parties, say the government should not interfere with a woman's access to abortion. *(page 21)*
- A record-high 52 percent of Californians say marijuana should be legalized. Six in 10 say that the U.S. government should not enforce federal law in states where its use is allowed. *(page 22)*
- A record-high 61 percent favor allowing same-sex marriage; a similar share approve of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to uphold a lower court ruling allowing gay marriage in California. *(page 23)*

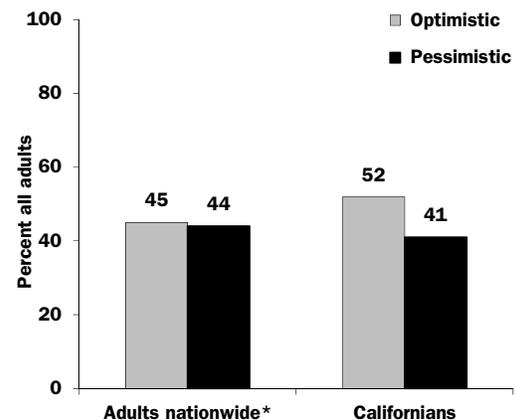
Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials



Approval Ratings on Handling Federal Deficit and Debt Ceiling



Outlook for International Plan to Destroy Syria's Chemical Weapons



*Gallup Poll, Sep 11-12

APPROVAL RATINGS OF FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

A majority of Californians (55%) and half of likely voters (51%) approve of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president. However, his approval among all adults is below 60 percent for the first time since July 2012 (57% July 2012, 60% September 2012, 63% October 2012, 65% January 2013, 66% March, 62% May, 61% July, 55% today). According to a recent ABC News/Washington Post poll, adults nationwide are more divided (47% approve, 47% disapprove). In California, there is a wide partisan divide: 80 percent of Democrats approve and 78 percent of Republicans disapprove. Independents are more divided (46% approve, 52% disapprove), but disapproval is at a record high among this group. At least half of Californians approve of President Obama in all regions except Orange/San Diego (43% approve, 52% disapprove). Majorities of blacks (88%), Latinos (63%), and Asians (59%) approve, while a majority of whites disapprove (54%).

Approval of the U.S. Congress continues to be low, with 28 percent of adults and 18 percent of likely voters approving. Approval among adults was similar last September (27%) and has been below 40 percent since September 2009. Today, strong majorities of Democrats (68%), independents (75%), and Republicans (79%) disapprove. Majorities across regions disapprove, as do at least half of Californians across age groups and education and income levels. Majorities of Asians (54%), blacks (66%), and whites (80%) disapprove, while Latinos are divided (44% approve, 48% disapprove).

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

| | | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States | Approve | 55% | 80% | 19% | 46% | 51% |
| | Disapprove | 42 | 18 | 78 | 52 | 46 |
| | Don't know | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| The U.S. Congress is handling its job | Approve | 28 | 25 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| | Disapprove | 65 | 68 | 79 | 75 | 79 |
| | Don't know | 8 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 3 |

Californians are more approving of their own representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives: 47 percent approve and 35 percent disapprove. Likely voters hold similar opinions (47% approve, 38% disapprove). Approval among all adults was similar in May (53%) and last September (48%). Democrats (63%) are far more likely than independents (33%) and Republicans (35%) to approve. Regionally, half of residents in Los Angeles (51%), the San Francisco Bay Area (51%), and the Inland Empire (50%) approve, compared to about four in 10 in the Central Valley (40%) and Orange/San Diego (37%). Half of Latinos (52%), Asians (51%), and blacks (50%) approve, while whites are divided (41% approve, 40% disapprove). Approval across age groups and income levels is less than 50 percent.

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

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Approve | 47% | 63% | 35% | 33% | 47% |
| Disapprove | 35 | 23 | 45 | 48 | 38 |
| Don't know | 19 | 14 | 20 | 19 | 15 |

CALIFORNIA’S U.S. SENATORS

Nearly a year after her reelection, Senator Dianne Feinstein’s approval rating is at 49 percent. Approval today is similar to January (54%) and last September (51%). Half of likely voters (51%) approve; 42 percent disapprove. Three in four Democrats (75%) approve, while seven in 10 Republicans (68%) disapprove. Independents are divided (42% approve, 42% disapprove). Approval is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (58%) and Los Angeles (53%), while fewer in other regions approve (46% Orange/San Diego, 45% Inland Empire, 38% Central Valley). Majorities of Latinos (52%), Asians (55%), and blacks (77%) approve, while whites are divided (43% approve, 46% disapprove). Older Californians (56% age 55 and older) and college graduates (57%) are more approving than younger (46% age 18–54) and less educated Californians (47% high school degree or less, 44% some college).

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

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Approve | 49% | 75% | 21% | 42% | 51% |
| Disapprove | 33 | 14 | 68 | 42 | 42 |
| Don’t know | 17 | 11 | 11 | 16 | 8 |

Senator Barbara Boxer has the approval of 47 percent of California adults and 48 percent of likely voters. Approval was similar in January (52%) and last September (48%). Most Democrats (72%) approve, while most Republicans (74%) disapprove; independents are divided (42% approve, 43% disapprove). San Francisco Bay Area (58%) and Los Angeles (50%) residents are more approving than adults elsewhere (46% Inland Empire, 43% Orange/San Diego, 35% the Central Valley). Latinos (50%), Asians (53%), and blacks (72%) approve, while whites are somewhat more likely to disapprove (48%) than approve (40%). Senator Boxer’s approval ranges from 42 percent to 48 percent across age and income groups.

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

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Approve | 47% | 72% | 17% | 42% | 48% |
| Disapprove | 36 | 16 | 74 | 43 | 44 |
| Don’t know | 17 | 12 | 10 | 15 | 8 |

FEDERAL DEFICIT AND DEBT CEILING

With a potential government shutdown on October 1 and a mid-October deadline to raise the debt limit, how do Californians rate the way President Obama and the Republicans in Congress are handling the federal deficit and the debt ceiling? Californians are divided when it comes to President Obama (46% approve, 46% disapprove), while a solid majority of Californians disapprove of Republicans in Congress in this area (27% approve, 63% disapprove). Ratings of President Obama on this issue are more negative than in January (56% approve, 38% disapprove), while attitudes toward the Republicans in Congress are similar to January (26% approve, 63% disapprove).

Most Democrats (66%) approve of President Obama’s handling of the federal deficit and debt ceiling, while most Republicans (82%) and independents (62%) disapprove. About half of residents in Los Angeles (53%), the San Francisco Bay Area (49%), and the Inland Empire (48%) approve of the president on this issue, compared to about four in 10 in the Central Valley (39%) and Orange/San Diego (41%).

FEDERAL DEFICIT AND DEBT CEILING (CONTINUED)

More than half of Asians (52%), Latinos (52%), and blacks (72%) approve of the president’s handling of the deficit and debt ceiling, while 60 percent of whites disapprove. Disapproval increases as household income rises. Republicans in Congress receive negative ratings from Democrats (79%) and independents (76%), and even half of Republicans (50%) disapprove. Majorities across regions and demographic groups disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress are handling the federal deficit and debt ceiling.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that...is/are handling the federal deficit and debt ceiling?”

| | | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| President Obama | Approve | 46% | 66% | 17% | 31% | 43% |
| | Disapprove | 46 | 28 | 82 | 62 | 53 |
| | Don’t know | 8 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| Republicans in Congress | Approve | 27 | 15 | 42 | 16 | 22 |
| | Disapprove | 63 | 79 | 50 | 76 | 73 |
| | Don’t know | 10 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 5 |

CRISIS IN SYRIA

In the wake of reports that the Syrian government used chemical weapons, the U.S. was considering military airstrikes against Syria. While that plan is currently on hold as diplomatic options are considered, what do Californians think of the idea of military airstrikes? Seven in 10 Californians (70%)—including solid majorities across parties (61% Democrats, 74% independents, 78% Republicans)—oppose military airstrikes against Syria. There is majority opposition across regions and across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups. Nationally, 63 percent of adults opposed airstrikes in an early September Pew Research Center/USA Today poll.

The U.S., along with the United Nations and other countries, is exploring diplomatic options. Russia has proposed the formation of an international team that would destroy Syria’s stockpile of chemical weapons. Half of Californians are very (15%) or somewhat (37%) optimistic that this plan will succeed, while four in 10 are somewhat (21%) or very (20%) pessimistic. (We began asking about this plan on September 13, midway through our interview period; findings are based on interviews with 1,154 adults.) Across parties, Democrats (60%) are more optimistic than Republicans (44%) and independents (48%). At least half of residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (50%), Los Angeles (52%), the Central Valley (53%), and the Inland Empire (66%) are optimistic; slightly more than half of Orange/San Diego residents are pessimistic (54%). Most Latinos (56%) are optimistic, while half of whites (51%) are pessimistic about the plan. In a recent Gallup poll, adults nationwide were more divided (45% optimistic, 44% pessimistic).

“As you may know, Russia has proposed a plan that an international team take over and destroy Syria’s stockpile of chemical weapons. Are you optimistic or pessimistic that this plan will succeed?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Very optimistic | 15% | 17% | 15% | 11% | 14% |
| Somewhat optimistic | 37 | 43 | 29 | 37 | 36 |
| Somewhat pessimistic | 21 | 23 | 27 | 23 | 25 |
| Very pessimistic | 20 | 11 | 28 | 25 | 21 |
| Don’t know | 7 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 4 |

HEALTH CARE REFORM

A slim majority of Californians (53%) and half of likely voters (50%) support the changes to the health care system that were enacted by Congress and the Obama administration. Support among all adults has been around 50 percent since this question was first asked in September 2009, about six months before the passage of the legislation (51% September 2009, 52% December 2009, 50% March 2010, 51% February 2011, 47% March 2012, 55% January 2013, 53% today). The highly contentious political divide over the Affordable Care Act (for example, House Republicans have voted to defund it) is reflected in California: 79 percent of Republicans are opposed and 75 percent of Democrats are in favor. Independents are divided (46% support, 46% oppose). Slightly more than half of those who have insurance (52%) and those who do not (56%) support the law. Those with government-based insurance, such as Medicare or Medi-Cal, are more likely than those with employer-based coverage to express support (63% to 49%).

“Changing topics, overall, given what you know about them, would you say you support or oppose the changes to the health care system that have been enacted by Congress and the Obama administration?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Have health insurance | |
|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Yes | No |
| Support | 53% | 75% | 18% | 46% | 52% | 56% |
| Oppose | 39 | 19 | 79 | 46 | 41 | 32 |
| Don't know | 8 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 11 |

One in four Californians (26%) say they and their families will be better off under the health reform law; a similar share (24%) say they will be worse off. A plurality (43%) expect it will not make much difference. Expectations have changed little since January (25% better off, 23% worse off, 48% no difference). In an August Kaiser Family Foundation poll, pessimism among adults nationwide was higher (23% better off, 34% worse off, 37% no difference). In our survey, Republicans (61%) are the only group in which a majority say they will be worse off. Across other voter groups, regions, and demographic groups, pluralities expect no difference. Those who give their current health insurance coverage good, not so good, or poor ratings are more likely than those who give excellent ratings to say they will be better off (27% to 16%).

“Do you think that you and your family will be better off or worse off under the health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference?”

| | | Better off | Worse off | Not make much difference | Don't know |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------|
| All adults | | 26% | 24% | 43% | 7% |
| Likely voters | | 22 | 34 | 40 | 3 |
| Party | Democrat | 35 | 9 | 51 | 5 |
| | Republican | 6 | 61 | 30 | 3 |
| | Independent | 20 | 32 | 42 | 6 |
| Age | 18-34 | 30 | 15 | 45 | 10 |
| | 35-54 | 27 | 29 | 40 | 5 |
| | 55 and older | 20 | 29 | 44 | 7 |
| Household income | Under \$40,000 | 32 | 15 | 42 | 11 |
| | \$40,000 to \$80,000 | 27 | 29 | 38 | 5 |
| | \$80,000 or more | 16 | 36 | 46 | 2 |
| Have health insurance | Yes | 23 | 26 | 44 | 7 |
| | No | 36 | 18 | 37 | 9 |

IMMIGRATION REFORM

In the three months since the U.S. Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform bill, there has been little talk of immigration reform in Washington. When asked about providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the U.S. if they met certain requirements including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, passing criminal background checks, and learning English, overwhelming majorities of Californians (85%) and likely voters (79%) are in favor. There is strong majority support for this proposal—which is similar to the Senate bill—across parties and overwhelming support across demographic groups and regions. Nationally, 78 percent of adults favor this proposal, according to a July CBS News Poll.

“Would you favor or oppose providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the U.S. if they met certain requirements including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, passing criminal background checks, and learning English?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Favor | 85% | 91% | 69% | 78% | 79% |
| Oppose | 14 | 8 | 30 | 18 | 19 |
| Don't know | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 |

Do Californians think securing the nation’s border or addressing the status of illegal immigrants currently in the U.S. should be the higher priority? Half of adults (51%) say addressing the status of illegal immigrants should be the higher priority, while four in 10 (41%) say border security. Six in 10 Democrats prioritize the status of illegal immigrants, while six in 10 Republicans prioritize border security; independents are divided. Among those who favor a path to citizenship, 56 percent prioritize the status of immigrants; of those who oppose a path to citizenship, 67 percent prioritize border security. In the CBS News poll, a majority of adults (56%) nationwide prioritize securing the border; 37 percent prioritize addressing the status of immigrants.

“Which should be the higher priority now: securing the nation's border, or addressing the status of illegal immigrants currently in the U.S.?”

| | | Border security | Addressing the status of illegal immigrants | Both (vol) | Neither (vol) | Don't know |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|---|------------|---------------|------------|
| All adults | | 41% | 51% | 5% | 1% | 2% |
| Likely voters | | 48 | 45 | 6 | – | 1 |
| Party | Democrat | 36 | 58 | 4 | – | 1 |
| | Republican | 61 | 32 | 6 | – | 1 |
| | Independent | 44 | 41 | 10 | 3 | 2 |
| Race/ethnicity | Asians | 43 | 46 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| | Blacks | 62 | 30 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| | Latinos | 27 | 67 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| | Whites | 47 | 46 | 5 | – | 2 |
| Region | Central Valley | 42 | 51 | 5 | – | 2 |
| | San Francisco Bay Area | 41 | 47 | 7 | 2 | 4 |
| | Los Angeles | 36 | 57 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| | Orange/San Diego | 48 | 47 | 5 | – | 1 |
| | Inland Empire | 46 | 49 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| View on path to citizenship for illegal immigrants | Favor | 36 | 56 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| | Oppose | 67 | 27 | 4 | – | 2 |

ABORTION

Overwhelming majorities of Californians (70%) and likely voters (79%) say the government should not interfere with a woman’s access to abortion, while far fewer (26% all adults, 19% likely voters) say the government should pass more laws that restrict the availability of abortion. The preference for the government to not interfere with access is nearly identical to the first time this question was asked in January 2000 (71% should not interfere, 27% should pass more restrictive laws). The percentage saying the government should not interfere dipped somewhat in 2008 and 2009, reaching a low of 61 percent in February 2009, but climbed back to 69 percent by September 2011. Similar to earlier surveys, bipartisan majorities say the government should not inhibit access. Majorities across regions and demographic groups share this view. The groups most likely to say the government should pass more laws restricting access are Central Valley residents (41%), conservatives (42%), Latinos (44%), those with a high school education or less (42%), and evangelical Protestants (43%).

“Which of the following statements comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right? The government should pass more laws that restrict the availability of abortion; or the government should not interfere with a woman’s access to abortion.”

| | All adults | Party | | | Gender | |
|---|------------|-------|-----|-----|--------|-------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Men | Women |
| Should pass more laws | 26% | 12% | 32% | 15% | 28% | 24% |
| Should not interfere with access | 70 | 86 | 64 | 82 | 68 | 73 |
| Don’t know | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 3 |

Echoing attitudes toward abortion policy, seven in 10 Californians say the Supreme Court should leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now (49%) or make it easier (20%). Twenty-seven percent would like the high court to make it harder. Since we first asked this question in August 2005, a plurality of Californians (ranging from 46% to 54% over six surveys) have preferred the status quo. Support for the court making it harder to get an abortion was highest in February 2009 (36%). Support for the court making it easier is highest today (20%).

“Would you like to see the Supreme Court make it harder to get an abortion than it is now, make it easier to get an abortion than it is now, or leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now?”

| | | Harder | Easier | Same | Don’t know |
|---|--------------------------------|--------|--------|------|------------|
| All adults | | 27% | 20% | 49% | 4% |
| Likely voters | | 21 | 25 | 51 | 3 |
| Party | Democrat | 14 | 33 | 51 | 2 |
| | Republican | 38 | 12 | 45 | 5 |
| | Independent | 16 | 18 | 64 | 2 |
| Gender | Men | 30 | 20 | 45 | 6 |
| | Women | 24 | 20 | 53 | 3 |
| Religion | Evangelical Protestants | 46 | 5 | 46 | 2 |
| | Mainline Protestants | 18 | 20 | 57 | 5 |
| | Catholics | 37 | 14 | 46 | 4 |
| | No religion | 10 | 35 | 51 | 4 |
| View on government involvement on abortion | Restrict access | 70 | 5 | 22 | 2 |
| | Should not interfere | 10 | 27 | 60 | 4 |

MARIJUANA

Nearly a year after voters in Colorado and Washington approved initiatives to legalize marijuana, support for legalization is above 50 percent for the first time among Californians (52%), while 45 percent are opposed. Support for legalization is even higher among likely voters (60% legal, 38% not legal). In a Pew Research Center survey this past March, support among adults nationwide (52% favor, 45% oppose) was also at a record high. California adults were closely divided leading up to the November 2010 election, in which a state ballot proposition to legalize marijuana was defeated. In September 2011 (46% legal, 51% not legal) and March 2012 (45% legal, 51% not legal), findings were the reverse of today. Democrats (64%), independents (60%), and men (57%) are more likely than Republicans (45%) and women (47%) to favor legalization. About six in 10 whites (63%) and blacks (61%) are in favor, Asians are divided (48% legal, 45% not legal), and about six in 10 Latinos are opposed (62%). About half across age groups think marijuana use should be legal.

“In general, do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?”

| | | Yes, legal | No, not legal | Don't know |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| All adults | | 52% | 45% | 3% |
| Likely voters | | 60 | 38 | 2 |
| Party | Democrat | 64 | 33 | 3 |
| | Republican | 45 | 53 | 2 |
| | Independent | 60 | 36 | 4 |
| Race/Ethnicity | Asians | 48 | 45 | 8 |
| | Blacks | 61 | 34 | 5 |
| | Latinos | 36 | 62 | 2 |
| | Whites | 63 | 35 | 2 |
| Age | 18-34 | 53 | 44 | 2 |
| | 35-54 | 52 | 45 | 3 |
| | 55 and older | 50 | 47 | 3 |

More than six in 10 Californians (61%) and likely voters (68%) think the federal government should not enforce federal marijuana laws in states that allow its use, while far fewer say it should enforce federal laws (35% adults, 31% likely voters). Californians are again remarkably similar to the adults nationwide who were surveyed by Pew last March (60% should not enforce, 35% should enforce). In our survey, more than six in 10 across parties say the federal government should not enforce federal laws and majorities across nearly all demographic groups and regions agree. Among those who oppose legalizing marijuana, 55 percent say the federal government should enforce these laws and 44 percent say it should not.

“As you may know, some states have decided to allow marijuana use, but it is still prohibited under federal law. Do you think the federal government should or should not enforce federal marijuana laws in these states?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|--|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Should enforce federal laws | 35% | 29% | 39% | 33% | 31% |
| Should not enforce federal laws | 61 | 68 | 61 | 64 | 68 |
| Don't know | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 |

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

In the first PPIC survey since a U.S. Supreme Court ruling made same-sex marriage legal again in California, record-high majorities of adults (61%) and likely voters (64%) say they favor allowing gay marriage. In response to a similar question by CBS News in July, 55 percent of adults nationwide said it should be legal for same-sex couples to marry (39% should not be legal). When PPIC first asked about same-sex marriage in January 2000, a majority were opposed (39% in favor, 55% opposed). Over time the opinion gap narrowed, and in the last four and half years support has grown 17 points (from 44% in March 2009 to 61% today). Strong majorities of Democrats (76%) and independents (67%) favor allowing same-sex marriage, compared to 44 percent of Republicans (53% oppose). Although support continues to be higher among young Californians, a majority of those age 55 and older (55%) are also in favor for the first time. Support has increased 15 points among mainline Protestants since May (from 55% to 70%). Support falls short of a majority among Republicans (44%), conservatives (39%), Central Valley residents (49%), blacks (44%), those with lower educations (48%), and evangelical Protestants (23%).

“Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to be legally married?”

| | | Favor | Oppose | Don't know |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| All adults | | 61% | 34% | 5% |
| Likely voters | | 64 | 32 | 4 |
| Party | Democrat | 76 | 20 | 4 |
| | Republican | 44 | 53 | 3 |
| | Independent | 67 | 29 | 4 |
| Age | 18–34 | 68 | 29 | 3 |
| | 35–54 | 58 | 36 | 6 |
| | 55 and older | 55 | 39 | 6 |
| Religion | Evangelical Protestants | 23 | 67 | 10 |
| | Mainline Protestants | 70 | 24 | 5 |
| | Catholics | 59 | 36 | 5 |
| | No religion | 82 | 16 | 1 |

About six in 10 Californians (59%) and likely voters (63%) say they approve of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to let stand a lower court ruling that allows gay marriage in California. Californians are somewhat more likely to approve than adults nationwide, according to a June ABC News/Washington Post poll (51% approve, 45% disapprove). In our survey, Democrats (77%) are the most likely party group to approve of the decision, followed by independents (59%) and Republicans (40%). Majorities across regions and other groups approve, except Central Valley residents (48% approve), conservatives (35%), blacks (45%), less educated adults (48%), and evangelical Protestants (23%).

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision letting stand a lower court ruling that allows gay marriage in California?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Approve | 59% | 77% | 40% | 59% | 63% |
| Disapprove | 36 | 21 | 56 | 35 | 35 |
| Don't know | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 |

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 Jui Shrestha, project manager for this survey, and survey research associates Dean Bonner and Sonja Petek. The *Californians and Their Government* series is supported with funding from The James Irvine 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 1,190 interviewed on landline telephones and 513 interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took an average of 20 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from September 10–17, 2013.

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 phones were included in this survey to account for the growing number of Californians who use them. These 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.

With assistance from Abt SRBI, we used data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2009–2011 American Community Survey (ACS) through 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 2011 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 2012 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 ± 3.7 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 3.7 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: For the 1,429 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 4.0 percent; for the 1,102 likely voters, it is ± 4.5 percent. For question 29a (1,154 adults), asked starting September 13, it is ± 4.4 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 populated areas are not large enough to report separately. In one place, we refer to coastal and inland counties. Within coastal counties, the “north/central coast” region refers to the counties along the California coast northward from San Luis Obispo County to Del Norte County and includes all the San Francisco Bay Area counties. The “south coast” region includes Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties. All other counties are included in the “inland” region.

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites 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 Asians, who make up about 14 percent of the state’s adult population, and non-Hispanic blacks, who comprise about 6 percent. 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 by 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, Gallup, Kaiser Family Foundation, Pew Research Center, and Pew Research Center/USA Today. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

September 10–17, 2013

1,703 California Adult Residents:
English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 3.7\%$ AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE
PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

1. First, thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?
[code, don't read]
 - 46% jobs, economy
 - 7 education, schools
 - 7 immigration, illegal immigration
 - 6 state budget, deficit, taxes
 - 4 crime, gangs, drugs
 - 3 government in general
 - 3 health care, health reform
 - 2 environment, pollution, global warming
 - 2 water, water supply, drought
 - 16 other
 - 4 don't know
2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?
 - 48% approve
 - 31 disapprove
 - 22 don't know
3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?
 - 38% approve
 - 45 disapprove
 - 17 don't know
- 3a. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time?
 - 42% approve
 - 39 disapprove
 - 19 don't know
4. Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?
 - 43% right direction
 - 48 wrong direction
 - 9 don't know
5. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?
 - 46% good times
 - 44 bad times
 - 10 don't know
6. Next, do you think the state budget situation in California—that is, the balance between government spending and revenues—is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem for the people of California today?
 - 58% big problem
 - 33 somewhat of a problem
 - 5 not a problem
 - 4 don't know

7. Next, how much of a problem is the overall state budget situation for California’s K–12 public schools today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?
- 60% big problem
 - 26 somewhat of a problem
 - 9 not much of a problem
 - 5 don’t know
8. The current state budget gives each K–12 public school district more funding than they received in 2011–12 and provides additional funding to school districts that have more **[rotate]** English language learners **[and]** lower-income students. Do you favor or oppose this plan?
- 72% favor
 - 22 oppose
 - 6 don’t know
9. The state is giving local school districts more flexibility over how state funding is spent. How confident are you that local school districts will use this money wisely? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?
- 13% very confident
 - 47 somewhat confident
 - 23 not too confident
 - 14 not at all confident
 - 3 don’t know
10. Changing topics, how closely are you following news about the shift of some inmates from state prisons to county jails—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?
- 14% very closely
 - 26 fairly closely
 - 30 not too closely
 - 27 not at all closely
 - 2 don’t know
11. As you may know, state funding is being provided to shift some of the lower-risk inmates from state prisons to county jails to reduce prison overcrowding and lower state costs. How confident are you that your local government is able to take on this responsibility? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?
- 7% very confident
 - 33 somewhat confident
 - 32 not too confident
 - 25 not at all confident
 - 3 don’t know
12. As you may know, a federal court ordered the early release of about 10,000 inmates from the state’s prisons by the end of the year to prevent overcrowding. The governor and the legislature plan to spend up to \$315 million to address this issue. They have proposed asking the court for a three year extension to reduce the prison population by providing rehabilitation programs in an effort to reduce the number of repeat offenders. If the court denies this request, they propose moving inmates to private, local, and out-of-state facilities to prevent the early release of inmates. Do you favor or oppose this plan?
- 52% favor
 - 39 oppose
 - 9 don’t know
13. How concerned are you about the possible early release of these state prisoners—very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?
- 47% very concerned
 - 31 somewhat concerned
 - 14 not too concerned
 - 7 not at all concerned
 - 1 don’t know

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

- 22% big problem
- 30 somewhat of a problem
- 48 not much of a problem
- 1 don't know

15. Do you think that your local government is doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to reduce violence and street crime in your local community?

- 5% too much
- 50 the right amount
- 41 not enough
- 4 don't know

Changing topics,

16. Do you favor or oppose 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?

- 32% favor
- 53 oppose
- 15 don't know

17. As you may know, fracking is currently taking place in California. Do you favor or oppose stricter state regulation of fracking in California?

- 56% favor
- 30 oppose
- 13 don't know

18. Do you favor or oppose requiring oil companies to obtain permits and disclose information about the chemicals used in fracking and other oil extraction techniques in California?

- 80% favor
- 17 oppose
- 4 don't know

On another topic,

19. Do you think that the water supply that is available for your part of California will be adequate or inadequate for what is needed ten years from now? (**if inadequate:** Is that somewhat inadequate or very inadequate?)

- 39% adequate
- 27 somewhat inadequate
- 26 very inadequate
- 8 don't know

20. The legislature is considering an approximately \$6.5 billion bond measure for the November 2014 ballot to pay for state water projects. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on this state water bond?

- 55% yes
- 33 no
- 13 don't know

21. Which of the following statements is closer to your views about planning for the future in your part of California? [**rotate**] (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.

- 45% building new water storage systems
- 49 more efficiently use the current water supply
- 6 don't know

22. How would you most prefer that the state government increase the level of current funding for water and other infrastructure projects [**rotate**] (1) increase taxes for all Californians, (2) increase user fees and charges, [**or**] (3) issue state bonds paid for through the state's general fund?

- 13% increase taxes for all Californians
- 25 increase user fees and charges
- 48 issue state bonds paid for through the state's general fund
- 4 other (*specify*)
- 2 use existing state funds (*volunteered*)
- 8 don't know

23. On another topic, overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States?

55% approve
42 disapprove
3 don't know

[rotate questions 24 and 25]

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

49% approve
33 disapprove
17 don't know

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

47% approve
36 disapprove
17 don't know

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

28% approve
65 disapprove
8 don't know

26a. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?

47% approve
35 disapprove
19 don't know

[rotate questions 27 and 28]

27. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Obama is handling the federal deficit and debt ceiling?

46% approve
46 disapprove
8 don't know

28. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the Republicans in Congress are handling the federal deficit and debt ceiling?

27% approve
63 disapprove
10 don't know

Changing topics,

29. Do you favor or oppose the U.S. conducting military airstrikes against Syria in response to reports that the Syrian government used chemical weapons?

24% favor
70 oppose
6 don't know

29a. **[asked starting September 13]** As you may know, Russia has proposed a plan that an international team take over and destroy Syria's stockpile of chemical weapons. Are you optimistic or pessimistic that this plan will succeed? Are you very (optimistic/pessimistic), or only somewhat (optimistic/pessimistic)?

15% very optimistic
37 somewhat optimistic
21 somewhat pessimistic
20 very pessimistic
7 don't know

30. Changing topics, overall, given what you know about them, would you say you support or oppose the changes to the health care system that have been enacted by **[rotate]** Congress **[and]** the Obama administration?

53% support
39 oppose
8 don't know

31. Do you think that you and your family will be **[rotate]** [better off] **[or]** [worse off] under the health reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference?

26% better off
24 worse off
43 not much difference
7 don't know

On another topic,

32. Would you favor or oppose providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the U.S. if they met certain requirements including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, passing criminal background checks, and learning English?

85% favor
14 oppose
1 don't know

33. Which should be the higher priority now:
[rotate] (1) securing the nation's border, **[or]** (2) addressing the status of illegal immigrants currently in the U.S.?

41% securing the border
51 status of illegal immigrants
5 both (*volunteered*)
1 neither (*volunteered*)
2 don't know

Changing topics,

34. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right? **[rotate]** (1) The government should pass more laws that restrict the availability of abortion; **[or]** (2) the government should not interfere with a woman's access to abortion.

26% government should pass more laws
70 government should not interfere with access
3 don't know

35. Would you like to see the Supreme Court make it harder to get an abortion than it is now, make it easier to get an abortion than it is now, or leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now?

27% harder
20 easier
49 same
4 don't know

36. Next, in general, do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?

52% yes, legal
45 no, not legal
3 don't know

37. As you may know, some states have decided to allow marijuana use, but it is still prohibited under federal law. Do you think the federal government should or should not enforce federal marijuana laws in these states?

35% should
61 should not
3 don't know

38. Changing topics, do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to be legally married?

61% favor
34 oppose
5 don't know

39. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision letting stand a lower court ruling that allows gay marriage in California?

59% approve
36 disapprove
5 don't know

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

69% yes **[ask q40a]**
31 no **[skip to q41b]**

40a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

44% Democrat **[ask q41]**
29 Republican **[skip to q41a]**
5 another party (*specify*) **[skip to q42]**
22 independent **[skip to q41b]**

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

51% strong
47 not very strong
2 don't know

[skip to q42]

41a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 46% strong
- 51 not very strong
- 3 don't know

[skip to q42]

41b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 26% Republican Party
- 43 Democratic Party
- 23 neither (*volunteered*)
- 8 don't know

42. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically: **[read list, rotate order top to bottom]**

- 11% very liberal
- 23 somewhat liberal
- 27 middle-of-the-road
- 23 somewhat conservative
- 13 very conservative
- 3 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?

- 21% great deal
- 35 fair amount
- 35 only a little
- 8 none
- 1 don't know

[d1 to d6a: demographic questions]

D6b. **[of those who have health insurance]** How would you rate your overall health insurance coverage—excellent, good, not so good or poor?

- 37% excellent
- 50 good
- 10 not so good
- 3 poor
- 1 don't know

[d7 to d18: demographic questions]

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PPIC

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INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

The Public Policy Institute of California is dedicated to informing and improving public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research on major economic, social, and political issues. The institute's goal is to raise public awareness and to give elected representatives and other decisionmakers a more informed basis for developing policies and programs.

The institute's research focuses on the underlying forces shaping California's future, cutting across a wide range of public policy concerns, including economic development, education, environment and resources, governance, population, public finance, and social and health policy.

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Mark Baldassare is President and CEO of PPIC.
Donna Lucas is Chair of the Board of Directors.

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