



Californians & Their Government

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*Supported with funding from the James Irvine Foundation,
the California Endowment, and the PPIC Donor Circle*



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

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

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News Release

EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PST on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

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PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Newsom, Villaraigosa in Virtual Tie, Feinstein Leads de León by Double Digits

LIKELY VOTERS DIVIDED ON REPEALING GAS TAX, EASING PROPOSITION 13 LIMITS FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

SAN FRANCISCO, February 7, 2018—Democrats Gavin Newsom and Antonio Villaraigosa are running a close race among likely voters in the gubernatorial primary. Senator Dianne Feinstein continues to lead fellow Democrat Kevin de León, state senate president pro tem, by double digits. However, many voters in both primary contests are undecided.

These are among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

Newsom (23%) and Villaraigosa (21%) are the top two candidates in the June primary for governor, with 24 percent of likely voters undecided. Fewer would vote for Democrat John Chiang (9%), Republican Travis Allen (8%), Republican John Cox (7%), Democrat Delaine Eastin (4%), or Republican Doug Ose (3%). Results were similar in December, before Ose entered the race, with Newsom (23%) and Villaraigosa (18%) in the lead. Today, Newsom and Villaraigosa are tied at 32 percent each among Democratic likely voters. Among Republican likely voters, Allen receives 24 percent and Cox 20 percent, with 35 percent undecided. Among independents, Newsom gets 24 percent and Villaraigosa 17 percent, with 35 percent undecided. Nearly half of Latino likely voters (48%) support Villaraigosa.

“Two Democrats are in a virtual tie in the top-two gubernatorial primary. But a quarter of likely voters are undecided—as many as support either of the front-runners,” said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO.

Most likely voters (54%) are satisfied with their choice of candidates in the gubernatorial primary. But there are strong partisan differences: 71 percent of Democrats are satisfied, compared to 38 percent of Republicans and 44 percent of independents. Only about a third of likely voters say they are following news about the gubernatorial candidates very closely (7%) or fairly closely (23%).

Before being asked about the primary election, likely voters were asked for their impressions of the gubernatorial candidates. They were given each candidate’s name and commonly used title because official ballot titles have not yet been announced. While 40 percent have favorable opinions of Newsom, California’s lieutenant governor, and Villaraigosa, former Los Angeles mayor, majorities say they have no opinion or have never heard of Allen, Chiang, Cox, Eastin, or Ose. Villaraigosa’s favorability rating among likely voters is up slightly from December (40% today, up from 31%).

As Dianne Feinstein seeks a fifth term in the US Senate, she leads de León (46% to 17%), with a third of likely voters (33%) undecided. (The PPIC survey includes only candidates with significant news coverage and resources.) Two-thirds of Democratic likely voters (67%) support Feinstein, 19 percent support de

León, and 13 percent are undecided. With no prominent Republicans in the race, about two-thirds of Republican likely voters (65%) are undecided. Among independent likely voters, 41 percent favor Feinstein, 16 percent favor de León, and 39 percent are undecided. Feinstein leads de León by double digits across regions and racial/ethnic groups, and among men (39% to 16%) and women (51% to 18%).

A majority of likely voters (52%) have a favorable opinion of Feinstein (38% unfavorable). A majority also say they either have never heard of de León (45%) or don't know enough about him to have an opinion (19%). Just 16 percent view him favorably (19% unfavorably).

Most Value Candidates' Experience in Elected Office, Stands on Issues

Which qualification is more important in a candidate for statewide office: experience as an elected official or experience running a business? A solid majority of likely voters (62%) prefer experience in elected office. This is a high mark in PPIC surveys and a notable increase from December 2015 (49% elected office, 43% running a business) and September 2010 (44% elected office, 43% running a business), when Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman vied for the governor's seat. Partisans are sharply divided on this question: 84 percent of Democratic likely voters prefer experience in elected office and 65 percent of Republican likely voters prefer experience running a business. Independents are more likely to prefer experience as an officeholder (56% to 36%). Across all racial/ethnic groups and regions, majorities of likely voters prefer experience in elected office. Likely voters ages 18 to 34 are more likely than older voters to express this view (76% 18 to 34, 59% 35 to 54, 57% 55 and older).

When choosing a statewide leader, such as governor or US senator, 60 percent of likely voters say a candidate's stands on the issues is the most important qualification, while 17 percent say a candidate's experience, 16 percent say a candidate's character, and 6 percent say a candidate's party affiliation.

Divided on Gas Tax Repeal, Proposition 13 Change

Likely voters are divided (47% favor, 48% oppose) when asked whether they favor repeal of the recently passed increase in the state gasoline tax, a measure that could be on the ballot this fall. Majorities of Republican (61%) and independent (52%) likely voters favor repeal, compared to 39 percent of Democratic likely voters.

Likely voters are also divided about the idea of easing the strict limits on commercial property taxes imposed by Proposition 13. A proposed measure would tax commercial properties according to their fair market value but not lift Proposition 13 limits on residential property taxes—creating a “split roll” tax system. While 46 percent favor the idea, 43 percent are opposed and 11 percent don't know. Support for this proposal is at its lowest point among likely voters since PPIC began asking about it in January 2012 (60% in favor). Today, a majority of Democratic likely voters (53%) are in favor, compared to 45 percent of independent and 34 percent of Republican likely voters. Support is similar among homeowners (47%) and renters (44%).

Immigration Seen as Top Issue for State Leaders to Tackle

Californians name immigration as the most important issue for the governor and legislature to work on this year (20% all adults, 23% likely voters). Other issues are named by less than 10 percent of residents (9% jobs, economy; 8% education, schools, teachers; 7% state budget, deficit; 6% infrastructure). Immigration is the most frequently named issue across the state's major regions and across partisan groups (28% Republicans, 20% Democrats, 18% independents).

The survey—taken just after California became a sanctuary state on January 1—asked whether the state and local governments should make their own policies and take action separate from the federal government to protect the legal rights of undocumented immigrants in California. Majorities (65% adults, 58% likely voters) are in favor. Partisan divisions on this question are stark (83% Democrats, 53%

independents, 21% Republicans are in favor). Majorities across regions and age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups are in favor.

Overwhelming majorities (85% adults, 81% likely voters) favor the protections given by DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, to undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children. Majorities of state residents across parties, regions, and demographic groups favor the program, which President Trump has announced will end.

“Californians across regions are most likely to name immigration as the top issue facing California today, and majorities across party lines are in favor of the DACA protections,” Baldassare said.

Divided Views of Legislative Leaders’ Actions on Sexual Misconduct

Nearly half of adults (46%) are closely following news about sexual harassment and misconduct in the legislature. Likely voters are even more likely (59%) to be following news of this issue—much larger than the percentage following news about the gubernatorial candidates (30%). Californians are divided in their views about how Democratic leaders in the legislature are addressing sexual harassment (39% adults approve, 36% disapprove; 38% likely voters approve, 38% disapprove). Democrats (52%) are far more likely than independents (28%) or Republicans (18%) to approve. Women and men have similar views: 40 percent of women and 38 percent of men approve of Democratic leaders’ handling of the issue.

“Many Californians are closely following news about sexual misconduct in the state legislature, and they are divided about how Democratic leaders are handling this issue so far,” Baldassare said.

Majorities Approve of Brown, Proposed Budget

As Jerry Brown begins his final year as governor, 56 percent of adults and 57 percent of likely voters approve of the way he is handling his job. An overwhelming majority of Democrats (76%), nearly half of independents (47%), and a quarter of Republicans (26%) approve of the governor’s job performance.

About two-thirds of Californians (67% adults, 66% likely voters) approve of the governor’s budget when they are read a brief description of the plan, which projects a one-time surplus and would bring the rainy day fund to 100 percent of its constitutional target. Strong majorities (70% adults, 65% likely voters) favor the governor’s proposal to spend \$4.6 billion from the recently passed gas tax and vehicle fees to repair roads, highways, and bridges; improve commute corridors; and improve local rail and public transit systems.

Half of Californians (51% adults, 50% likely voters) approve of the job the legislature is doing. Most Democrats (69%) approve, while far fewer independents (37%) and Republicans (24%) express support. Will the governor and legislature be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year? Most (60% adults, 58% likely voters) say yes.

Low Ratings for Trump, Congress—and Pessimism about Collaboration

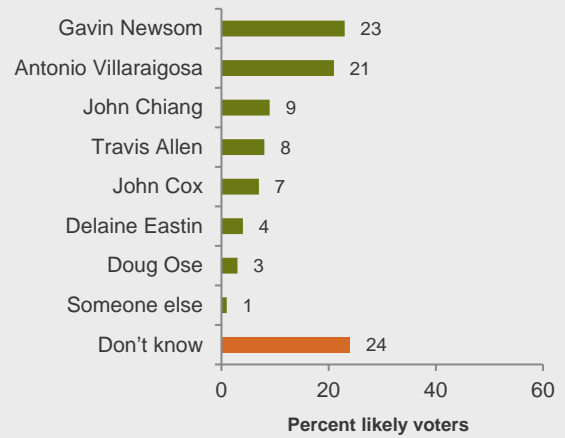
In contrast, far fewer Californians (29% adults, 27% likely voters) say that President Trump and the US Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year. At the close of the president’s first year in office, his approval rating in California is 26 percent among adults and 32 percent among likely voters. A strong majority of Republicans (72%) approve of the president’s job performance, while just 31 percent of independents and 7 percent of Democrats concur. Congress’s approval rating is lower than the president’s: 21 percent among all adults, 15 percent among likely voters. Negative views of Congress are held across parties: just 27 percent of Republicans, 18 percent of independents, and 10 percent of Democrats approve of the way the Republican-led Congress is doing its job.

2018 California Election

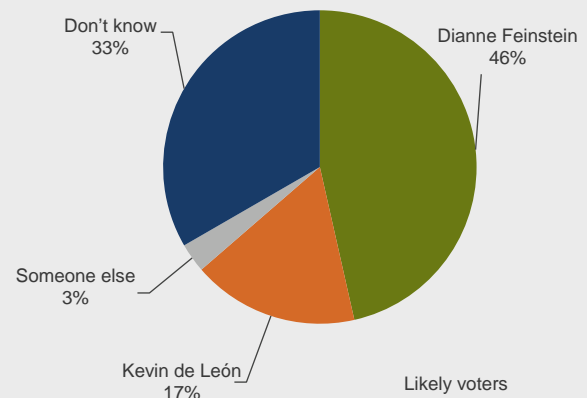
Key Findings

- Democrats Gavin Newsom and Antonio Villaraigosa are currently the top two candidates in the gubernatorial primary, while a quarter of likely voters are unsure how they would vote. A majority of likely voters are satisfied with their choices of gubernatorial candidates. *(page 7)*
- Likely voters are more likely to have favorable opinions of Democrats Gavin Newsom (40%) and Antonio Villaraigosa (40%) than of other candidates. Majorities of likely voters have not heard of the other gubernatorial candidates or don't know enough to have an opinion. *(page 8)*
- In the US Senate primary race, incumbent Dianne Feinstein (46%) is favored over challenger Kevin de León (17%), while one in three are undecided. Senator Feinstein is viewed favorably by 52 percent of likely voters, while 16 percent view de León favorably. Notably, 64 percent of likely voters have never heard of de León or don't know enough to have an opinion. *(page 9)*
- Six in ten likely voters say they prefer a candidate to have experience in elected office (62%), while three in ten prefer experience running a business (31%). When asked to select the candidate quality they see as most important, six in ten likely voters choose the candidate's positions on the issues. *(page 10)*
- California likely voters are divided on whether or not to repeal the recently passed increase in the state gas tax—47 percent favor this proposal while 48 percent are opposed. Likely voters are similarly divided on whether to allow commercial properties to be taxed according to their current market value—46 percent favor this proposal while 43 percent are opposed. Democrats and Republicans strongly differ on these two tax proposals. *(page 11)*

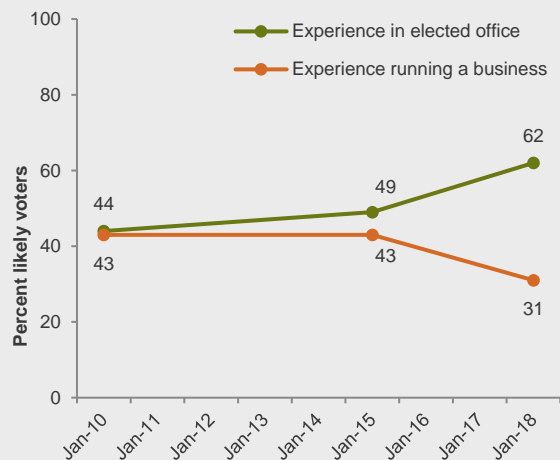
June 2018 gubernatorial primary



June 2018 US Senate primary



Preference for type of candidate experience



June Gubernatorial Primary

As we enter a gubernatorial election year, just three in ten likely voters are following news about the gubernatorial candidates very (7%) or fairly (23%) closely. Attention remains low across all parties and regions. Among likely voters, attention to news about the candidates was similarly low in December 2017 (7% very closely, 18% fairly closely) but was higher in January 2010 (11% very closely, 34% fairly closely) when California last had an open gubernatorial election.

A majority of likely voters (54%) are satisfied with their choices of candidates in the primary election for governor this June; 26 percent are not satisfied and 20 percent are unsure. While seven in ten Democrats are satisfied, fewer than half of independents and fewer than four in ten Republicans are satisfied with the choices of candidates for governor. Latino likely voters are more likely than whites and members of other racial/ethnic groups to say they are satisfied (sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis). Across regions, residents in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area (59% each) are the most likely to be satisfied with the choices of candidates (50% Central Valley, 48% Orange/San Diego, 45% Inland Empire).

“In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the primary election for governor this June?”

| Likely voters only | All likely voters | Party | | | Race/Ethnicity | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Latinos | Whites | Other groups |
| Satisfied | 54% | 71% | 38% | 44% | 69% | 50% | 54% |
| Not satisfied | 26 | 15 | 36 | 33 | 24 | 29 | 20 |
| Don't know | 20 | 14 | 26 | 23 | 7 | 21 | 25 |

With limited attention being paid to news about the gubernatorial election, a quarter of likely voters remain unsure (24%) about who they would vote for in the June primary. Democrats Gavin Newsom (23%) and Antonio Villaraigosa (21%) are the top two candidates, while fewer prefer Democrat John Chiang (9%), Republican Travis Allen (8%), Republican John Cox (7%), Democrat Delaine Eastin (4%), or Republican Doug Ose (3%). Results were similar in December, before Ose entered the race, with Newsom (23%) and Villaraigosa (18%) leading. Today, among Democratic likely voters, Newsom and Villaraigosa are tied at 32 percent. Among Republican likely voters, 24 percent support Allen and 20 percent prefer Cox, while 35 percent remain unsure. Among independent likely voters, 24 percent would vote for Newsom and 17 percent would vote for Villaraigosa, with 35 percent unsure. Nearly half of Latino likely voters support Villaraigosa.

“If the June primary for governor were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?”

| Likely voters only | All likely voters | Party | | | Race/Ethnicity | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Latinos | Whites | Other groups |
| Gavin Newsom, a Democrat | 23% | 32% | 4% | 24% | 13% | 27% | 22% |
| Antonio Villaraigosa, a Democrat | 21 | 32 | 6 | 17 | 48 | 12 | 19 |
| John Chiang, a Democrat | 9 | 14 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 18 |
| Travis Allen, a Republican | 8 | 2 | 24 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 4 |
| John Cox, a Republican | 7 | 1 | 20 | 7 | 4 | 10 | 2 |
| Delaine Eastin, a Democrat | 4 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| Doug Ose, a Republican | 3 | – | 7 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Someone else (<i>specify</i>) | 1 | 1 | 1 | – | 1 | 1 | – |
| Don't know | 24 | 14 | 35 | 35 | 16 | 25 | 28 |

Gubernatorial Candidate Favorability

Before they were asked about the primary election, likely voters were asked about their impression of seven gubernatorial candidates. They were provided with each person’s name and commonly used job title (the official titles that will appear on the ballots have not yet been announced by the Secretary of State). Four in ten likely voters have a favorable opinion of lieutenant governor Gavin Newsom and former mayor of Los Angeles Antonio Villaraigosa. Notably, majorities of likely voters say they have never heard of Allen, Chiang, Cox, Eastin, or Ose, or they don’t know enough to have an opinion. Favorability ratings for Allen, Chiang, Cox, Eastin, and Newsom were similar in December—but there has been a slight increase in the proportion of likely voters with a favorable opinion of Villaraigosa (40%, up from 31%).

“Please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these candidates for governor. If you’ve never heard of the person please tell me. How about...”

| Likely voters only | Travis Allen | John Chiang | John Cox | Delaine Eastin | Gavin Newsom | Doug Ose | Antonio Villaraigosa |
|--|--------------|-------------|----------|----------------|--------------|----------|----------------------|
| Favorable | 13% | 27% | 11% | 14% | 40% | 8% | 40% |
| Unfavorable | 8 | 17 | 11 | 16 | 30 | 11 | 29 |
| Never heard of | 62 | 35 | 60 | 55 | 19 | 67 | 18 |
| Can't rate/don't know enough to have an opinion/don't know | 17 | 21 | 18 | 15 | 11 | 14 | 13 |

Majorities of Democratic likely voters have a favorable opinion of Newsom (55%) and Villaraigosa (55%). A third of Democratic likely voters have a favorable opinion of Chiang, while more than half say they have never heard of Eastin. Among Republican likely voters, 22 percent have a favorable opinion of Allen, while 19 percent have a favorable view of Cox. Notably, majorities of Republican likely voters have never heard of John Cox or Doug Ose. Among independent likely voters, 34 percent view Newsom favorably, 39 percent view Villaraigosa favorably, and 25 percent view Chiang favorably.

Latino likely voters are more likely to have a favorable opinion of Villaraigosa (67%) than of Newsom (37%). Among white likely voters, 38 percent have a favorable opinion of Newsom, while 29 percent view Villaraigosa favorably. Californians ages 18 to 34 are slightly more likely to have a favorable view of Villaraigosa (45%) than of Newsom (38%), while those ages 55 and older are slightly more likely to have a favorable opinion of Newsom (41%) than of Villaraigosa (34%).

| % favorable | Travis Allen | John Chiang | John Cox | Delaine Eastin | Gavin Newsom | Doug Ose | Antonio Villaraigosa | |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------|----------|----------------|--------------|----------|----------------------|----|
| All likely voters | 13% | 27% | 11% | 14% | 40% | 8% | 40% | |
| Party | Democrats | 11 | 36 | 9 | 19 | 55 | 7 | 55 |
| | Republicans | 22 | 18 | 19 | 9 | 16 | 11 | 15 |
| | Independents | 9 | 25 | 9 | 9 | 34 | 11 | 39 |
| Age | 18 to 34 | 12 | 19 | 9 | 14 | 38 | 15 | 45 |
| | 35 to 54 | 16 | 28 | 13 | 15 | 40 | 5 | 45 |
| | 55 and older | 11 | 30 | 11 | 13 | 41 | 7 | 34 |
| Race/Ethnicity | Latinos | 23 | 24 | 19 | 17 | 37 | 9 | 67 |
| | Whites | 11 | 25 | 11 | 10 | 38 | 8 | 29 |
| | Other groups | 10 | 36 | 5 | 21 | 48 | 10 | 44 |

June US Senate Primary and Candidate Favorability

Senator Dianne Feinstein, who is seeking her fifth full term as US senator, continues to lead fellow Democrat and state senate president pro tempore Kevin de León (46% to 17%) among likely voters. (Only candidates with significant news coverage and resources were included in this survey.) A third of likely voters are undecided. Findings were similar in December (45% Feinstein, 21% de León, 33% don't know). Among Democratic likely voters, two in three support Feinstein (67%), while 19 percent support de León and 13 percent are unsure. With no prominent Republicans having entered the race, nearly two in three Republican likely voters (65%) are undecided, while 13 percent support de León and 18 percent support Feinstein. Four in ten independent likely voters support Feinstein, while 16 percent prefer de León and 39 percent are unsure. Feinstein leads de León by double digits across all racial/ethnic groups and among both men (39% to 16%) and women (51% to 18%). Feinstein has majority support among likely voters in the San Francisco Bay Area (56% Feinstein, 7% de León) and Los Angeles (53% Feinstein, 18% de León) and leads by double digits across other regions (Inland Empire 34% to 20%, Orange/San Diego 40% to 21%, Central Valley 35% to 20%).

“Keeping in mind that California has the top-two primary system, if the June primary for US Senator were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?”

| Likely voters only | All likely voters | Party | | | Race/Ethnicity | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Latinos | Whites | Other groups |
| Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat | 46% | 67% | 18% | 41% | 47% | 43% | 53% |
| Kevin de León, a Democrat | 17 | 19 | 13 | 16 | 29 | 18 | 6 |
| Someone else (<i>specify</i>) | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| Don't know | 33 | 13 | 65 | 39 | 17 | 36 | 40 |

Fifty-two percent of likely voters have a favorable opinion of Feinstein and 38 percent have an unfavorable view. A majority of likely voters have never heard of Kevin de León (45%) or don't know enough about him to have an opinion (19%), while 16 percent view him favorably and 19 percent view him unfavorably. Favorability ratings for both Feinstein and de León were similar in December. Today, fewer than one in four likely voters across regions and racial/ethnic groups have a favorable view of de León. Likely voters in the San Francisco Bay Area (62%) are the most likely to have a favorable opinion of Feinstein, while those in the Inland Empire (33%) are the least likely to hold this view.

“Please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these candidates for US senator. If you've never heard of the person please tell me. How about...”

| Likely voters only | | All likely voters | Party | | | Race/Ethnicity | | |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Latinos | Whites | Other groups |
| Kevin de León | Favorable | 16% | 25% | 6% | 13% | 23% | 13% | 20% |
| | Unfavorable | 19 | 15 | 27 | 17 | 24 | 20 | 12 |
| | Never heard of | 45 | 43 | 42 | 50 | 40 | 45 | 50 |
| | Can't rate/don't know enough to have an opinion/don't know | 19 | 17 | 25 | 20 | 13 | 22 | 18 |
| Dianne Feinstein | Favorable | 52 | 74 | 23 | 48 | 55 | 50 | 56 |
| | Unfavorable | 38 | 15 | 70 | 40 | 27 | 45 | 27 |
| | Never heard of | 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 15 | 2 | 11 |
| | Can't rate/don't know enough to have an opinion/don't know | 4 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 6 |

Gubernatorial and US Senate Candidate Qualities

When asked to select the qualifications that are most important in a candidate for statewide office, 62 percent of likely voters prioritize experience in elected office, while 31 percent prefer experience running a business. The preference for experience in elected office is at its highest point in PPIC surveys and has increased notably from December 2015 (49% elected office, 43% running a business) and September 2010 (44% elected office, 43% running a business)—during the gubernatorial race between Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman. It is also much higher than when we first asked this question in April 1998 (43% elected office, 40% running a business). Today, partisans are sharply divided: 84 percent of Democratic likely voters prefer experience in elected office, while 65 percent of Republicans prefer experience running a business. Independent likely voters are more likely to prefer experience in elected office than experience running a business (56% to 36%). Across all racial/ethnic groups and regions, majorities of likely voters prefer experience in elected office. Likely voters ages 18 to 34 are more likely than older likely voters to prefer experience in elected office (76% 18 to 34, 59% 35 to 54, and 57% 55 and older).

“People have different ideas about the qualifications they want when they vote for candidates for statewide office, such as governor or US senator. Which of these is most important to you—that the candidate has experience in elected office, or that the candidate has experience running a business?”

| Likely voters only | All likely voters | Party | | | Race/Ethnicity | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Latinos | Whites | Other groups |
| Experience in elected office | 62% | 84% | 25% | 56% | 72% | 55% | 71% |
| Experience running a business | 31 | 11 | 65 | 36 | 18 | 37 | 23 |
| Both (<i>volunteered</i>) | 5 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| Don't know | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |

Six in ten likely voters select a candidate’s stands on the issues as most important to them when deciding who to vote for in statewide elections for positions such as governor and US senator. Seventeen percent choose the candidate’s experience, 16 percent prioritize the candidate’s character, and 6 percent choose the candidate’s party affiliation. Responses were similar when we first asked this question in September 1998 (61% stands on the issues, 18% character, 14% experience, 5% political party). A majority across parties and regions say that a candidate’s stands on the issues matter the most to them, as do at least half across racial/ethnic groups. Latino likely voters are more likely than those in other racial/ethnic groups to select experience as most important to them.

“People have different ideas about the qualifications they want when they vote for candidates for statewide office, such as governor or US senator. Which of these is most important to you—would it be...?”

| Likely voters only | All likely voters | Party | | | Race/Ethnicity | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|----------------|--------|--------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Latinos | Whites | Other groups |
| The candidate's stands on the issues | 60% | 57% | 61% | 61% | 50% | 63% | 58% |
| The candidate's experience | 17 | 21 | 9 | 18 | 30 | 12 | 18 |
| The candidate's character | 16 | 15 | 18 | 19 | 17 | 16 | 18 |
| The candidate's political party | 6 | 6 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| Other/depends (<i>volunteered</i>) | 1 | 1 | 2 | – | 2 | – | 2 |
| Don't know | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | – |

Potential Ballot Issues

As we enter 2018, California voters are likely to see a number of initiatives and referenda on the state ballot. When asked about repealing the recently passed increase in the state gas tax, likely voters are divided (47% favor, 48% oppose). Majorities of Republican (61%) and independent (52%) likely voters favor the repeal, compared to fewer Democratic likely voters (39%). Across regions, support for the repeal ranges from 37 percent in the Inland Empire to 52 percent in Orange/San Diego. Latinos (35%) are less likely to favor the repeal than are whites (49%) and other racial/ethnic groups (51%). Among those who support the repeal, 52 percent favor the plans for spending these new tax funds when read a brief description of the transportation projects included in the governor’s budget proposal.

“In 2017, the California legislature passed and Governor Brown signed into law an increase in the state’s gasoline tax. Do you favor or oppose repealing the recently passed increase in the state gas tax?”

| Likely voters only | All likely voters | Party | | | Region | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|----------------|---------------|------------|------------------|------------------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Central Valley | Inland Empire | Los Angles | Orange/San Diego | San Francisco Bay Area |
| Favor | 47% | 39% | 61% | 52% | 46% | 37% | 50% | 52% | 42% |
| Oppose | 48 | 56 | 36 | 43 | 48 | 62 | 46 | 41 | 53 |
| Don't know | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 5 |

As the 40th anniversary of the passage of Proposition 13 approaches, a proposed initiative would change how commercial property taxes are assessed. When asked about a proposal to have commercial properties taxed according to their current market value, California likely voters are divided: 46 percent are in favor and 43 percent are opposed. Support for this proposal today is somewhat lower than in September 2015 (55% likely voters) and is at its lowest point among likely voters since we began asking this question in January 2012 (60% likely voters). Today, a majority of Democratic likely voters (53%) favor this proposal, compared to fewer independents (45%) and Republicans (34%). Across regions, likely voters in the San Francisco Bay Area (56%) are the most likely to favor this proposal, while those in the Central Valley (38%) are the least likely to express support. Support for changing Proposition 13’s commercial property tax limits is similar among homeowners (47%) and renters (44%) and declines as age increases (57% 18 to 34, 47% 35 to 54, 41% 55 and older).

“Under Proposition 13, residential and commercial property taxes are both strictly limited. What do you think about having commercial properties taxed according to their current market value? Do you favor or oppose this proposal?”

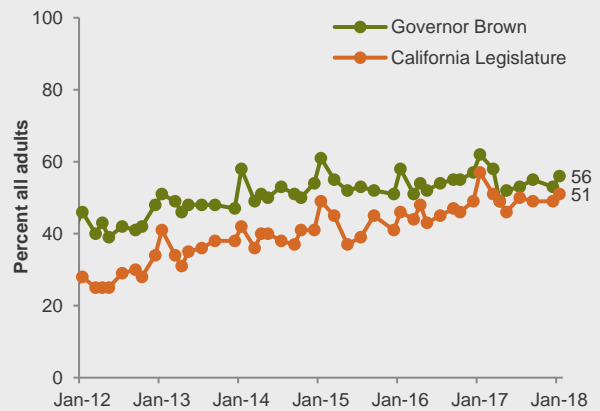
| Likely voters only | All likely voters | Party | | | Region | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|----------------|---------------|------------|------------------|------------------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Central Valley | Inland Empire | Los Angles | Orange/San Diego | San Francisco Bay Area |
| Favor | 46% | 53% | 34% | 45% | 38% | 52% | 44% | 47% | 56% |
| Oppose | 43 | 39 | 56 | 39 | 45 | 42 | 43 | 46 | 33 |
| Don't know | 11 | 8 | 10 | 16 | 16 | 6 | 13 | 7 | 11 |

State and National Issues

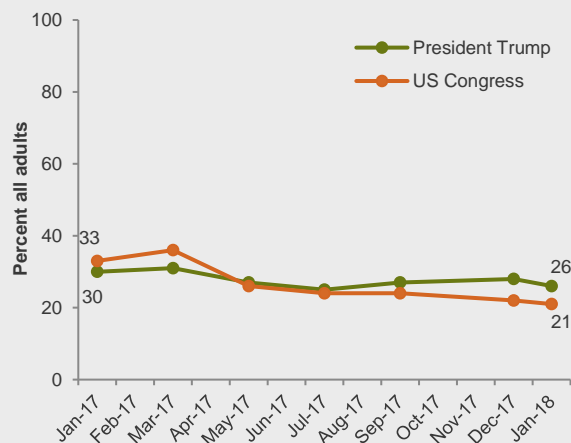
Key Findings

- Fifty-six percent of Californians approve of Governor Brown’s job performance, while 51 percent approve of the state legislature. *(page 13)*
- Californians name immigration (20%) as the top issue for the governor and legislature to address this year. Six in ten adults are optimistic that the governor and legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the coming year. *(page 14)*
- A majority of Californians (57%) say that the state is generally headed in the right direction. Fifty-six percent expect the state to experience good times financially in the next 12 months. *(page 15)*
- Forty-three percent of adults think the state budget situation is a big problem. When read a summary of the governor’s proposed 2018–19 budget, two in three adults and likely voters are in favor. Strong majorities of adults and likely voters favor spending \$4.6 billion from the recent increase in the state gas tax to fund transportation infrastructure. *(page 16)*
- Forty-six percent of Californians have been following news about sexual harassment and misconduct in the state legislature either very or fairly closely. Thirty-nine percent approve of the way Democratic leaders in the state legislature are currently handling the issue and 36 percent disapprove, while one in four are undecided. *(page 17)*
- Twenty-six percent of Californians approve of President Trump’s job performance, while 21 percent approve of Congress. *(page 18)*
- A strong majority of Californians favor state and local governments making their own policies to protect the legal rights of undocumented immigrants. Eight-five percent favor the DACA protections—a slight increase from last September (78%). *(page 19)*

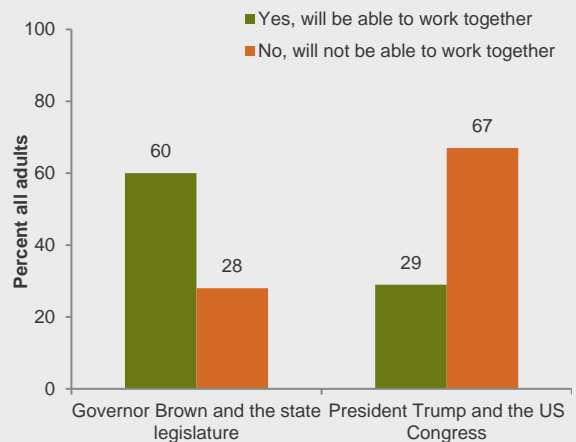
Approval ratings of state elected officials



Approval ratings of federal elected officials



Prospects for working together and accomplishing a lot in 2018



Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

As Jerry Brown begins the final year of his fourth term as governor of California, 56 percent of adults and 57 percent of likely voters approve of the way that he is handling his job. The governor’s approval rating was similar in December (53% adults, 53% likely voters) and higher last January (62% adults, 62% likely voters). Today, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (76%), almost half of independents (47%), and about one in four Republicans (26%) approve. Approval is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (65%) and Los Angeles (60%) than in other regions. Asian Americans (64%), African Americans (64%), and Latinos (63%) are more likely than whites (48%) to approve.

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

| | | Approve | Disapprove | Don't know |
|---------------|------------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| All adults | | 56% | 29% | 15% |
| Likely voters | | 57 | 36 | 6 |
| Party | Democrats | 76 | 15 | 9 |
| | Republicans | 26 | 61 | 13 |
| | Independents | 47 | 41 | 12 |
| Region | Central Valley | 56 | 28 | 16 |
| | Inland Empire | 48 | 33 | 19 |
| | Los Angeles | 60 | 28 | 12 |
| | Orange/San Diego | 48 | 33 | 19 |
| | San Francisco Bay Area | 65 | 21 | 14 |

In the last year of the 2017–18 legislative session, 51 percent of adults and 50 percent of likely voters approve of the way the California Legislature is handling its job. Californians’ approval of the state legislature was similar in December (49% adults, 46% likely voters) and last January (57% adults, 50% likely voters). Today, a majority of Democrats (69%) approve, while far fewer independents (37%) and Republicans (24%) approve. Approval is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (59%) and Los Angeles (55%) than in other regions. Asian Americans (63%), Latinos (60%), and African Americans (55%) are more likely than whites (40%) to approve.

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

| | | Approve | Disapprove | Don't know |
|---------------|------------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| All adults | | 51% | 33% | 16% |
| Likely voters | | 50 | 41 | 9 |
| Party | Democrats | 69 | 21 | 10 |
| | Republicans | 24 | 62 | 14 |
| | Independents | 37 | 49 | 15 |
| Region | Central Valley | 42 | 36 | 22 |
| | Inland Empire | 48 | 40 | 12 |
| | Los Angeles | 55 | 29 | 16 |
| | Orange/San Diego | 47 | 36 | 17 |
| | San Francisco Bay Area | 59 | 25 | 16 |

Top Issues, Prospect of State Leaders Working Together in 2018

One in five Californians name immigration (20% adults, 23% likely voters) as the most important issue for the governor and legislature to work on in 2018. No issue other than immigration was mentioned by at least 10 percent of Californians. Other issues for the governor and legislature to work on in 2018 that were each mentioned by more than 5 percent of Californians include jobs and the economy (9% adults, 8% likely voters), education, schools, and teachers (8% adults, 7% likely voters), the state budget and deficit (7% adults, 9% likely voters), and infrastructure (6% adults, 7% likely voters).

Last January, Californians were equally likely to name jobs and the economy (14% adults, 13% likely voters) and immigration (14% adults, 13% likely voters) as the most important issues for the governor and legislature to work on in 2017. In January 2016, water and the drought (17% adults, 18% likely voters) and jobs and the economy (16% adults, 19% likely voters) were the top two issues. Today, only 3 percent of adults and 3 percent of likely voters mention water and the drought as the top issue in 2018.

Immigration is the most mentioned issue across the state’s major regions and is the top issue across partisan groups (28% Republicans, 20% Democrats, 18% independents). Latinos (24%) and whites (21%) are more likely to mention immigration as the top issue than are Asian Americans (10%) and African Americans (8%). Homelessness is the most mentioned issue among African Americans (24%).

“Which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2018?”

| Top 5 issues | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | | Central Valley | Inland Empire | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | San Francisco Bay Area | |
| Immigration, illegal immigration | 20% | 18% | 22% | 19% | 24% | 16% | 23% |
| Jobs, economy | 9 | 10 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 11 | 8 |
| Education, schools, teachers | 8 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| State budget, deficit | 7 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 5 | 9 |
| Infrastructure | 6 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 7 |

With the 2018 election looming, Democrats are seeking to maintain control of the governor’s office and regain a two-thirds majority in both the state senate and assembly. Sixty percent of adults and 58 percent of likely voters say they think that Governor Brown and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year. Californians were slightly more likely to hold this view in January 2017 (66% adults, 64% likely voters); similar proportions held this view when Governor Brown entered office in January 2011 (58% adults, 52% likely voters). Today, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (75%) and far fewer independents (49%) and Republicans (36%) hold this view. Majorities across regions and across age, education, gender, and income groups expect the governor and legislature to work together and accomplish a lot in 2018, as do at least half across racial/ethnic groups.

“Do you think that Governor Brown and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Yes, will be able to | 60% | 75% | 36% | 49% | 58% |
| No, will not be able to | 28 | 18 | 54 | 40 | 33 |
| Don’t know | 12 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 9 |

State of the State

Majorities of adults (57%) and likely voters (54%) say that things in California are generally going in the right direction. Californians had similar perceptions in September (54% adults, 51% likely voters) and last January (58% adults, 58% likely voters). Today, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (76%), and fewer independents (48%) and Republicans (24%), say that things are going in the right direction. Majorities across all regions except the Inland Empire (47%) hold this view. Majorities of Asian Americans (71%), Latinos (63%), and African Americans (60%)—and fewer whites (47%)—hold this view.

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

| | | Right direction | Wrong direction | Don't know |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| All adults | | 57% | 38% | 6% |
| Likely voters | | 54 | 43 | 3 |
| Party | Democrats | 76 | 21 | 3 |
| | Republicans | 24 | 72 | 4 |
| | Independents | 48 | 47 | 5 |
| Region | Central Valley | 53 | 40 | 7 |
| | Inland Empire | 47 | 50 | 3 |
| | Los Angeles | 57 | 37 | 6 |
| | Orange/San Diego | 56 | 39 | 5 |
| | San Francisco Bay Area | 65 | 27 | 8 |

When asked about economic conditions in California, majorities of adults (56%) and likely voters (56%) say the state will have good times financially during the next 12 months. Californians had similar perceptions in September (51% adults, 51% likely voters) and last January (53% adults, 51% likely voters). Today, majorities of Democrats (63%) and independents (54%) and 46 percent of Republicans are optimistic. Majorities across regions expect good times, with those in the San Francisco Bay Area (61%) the most likely to be optimistic. Majorities of Asian Americans (62%), Latinos (57%), African Americans (56%), and whites (53%) expect good times financially during 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?”

| | | Good times | Bad times | Don't know |
|---------------|------------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| All adults | | 56% | 35% | 10% |
| Likely voters | | 56 | 34 | 10 |
| Party | Democrats | 63 | 28 | 9 |
| | Republicans | 46 | 43 | 11 |
| | Independents | 54 | 38 | 8 |
| Region | Central Valley | 56 | 39 | 5 |
| | Inland Empire | 51 | 38 | 11 |
| | Los Angeles | 55 | 34 | 10 |
| | Orange/San Diego | 55 | 36 | 10 |
| | San Francisco Bay Area | 61 | 27 | 12 |

State Budget

Governor Brown unveiled the 2018–19 state budget on January 10. It projects a one-time surplus and proposes to bring the state’s rainy day fund to 100 percent of its constitutional target. Despite this rosy outlook, Governor Brown emphasized fiscal caution. Today, 43 percent of Californians say the state budget situation is a big problem—a 6 point increase from last January. Across parties, about two in three Republicans (68%, up from 61% in January 2017) say the budget situation is a big problem, while fewer independents (47%, up from 37%) and Democrats (38%, up from 26%) hold this view.

Governor Brown’s budget proposes increased spending on K–14 and higher education, health and human services, and prisons and corrections. It would put \$5 billion into the state’s reserves—including \$3.5 billion to bring the rainy day fund to 100 percent of its constitutional target—and it proposes no new taxes. After being read a brief description, two in three Californians and likely voters are in favor.

An overwhelming majority of Democrats and six in ten independents favor the plan; fewer than four in ten Republicans hold this view (39%). Majorities across regions and demographic groups favor the budget plan but support is lower in Orange/San Diego (59%) and among whites (60%) and those 55 and older (61%). Among those who call the state budget situation a big problem, 50 percent are in favor of the governor’s budget proposal.

“In general, do you favor or oppose the governor’s budget plan?”*

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Favor | 67% | 81% | 39% | 62% | 66% |
| Oppose | 24 | 15 | 49 | 27 | 28 |
| Don't know/have not heard anything about the budget | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 |

*For complete question text, see p. 26.

As part of his budget plan, the governor proposes spending \$4.6 billion from the recently passed increase in the gas tax and vehicle fees to repair roads, highways, and bridges; improve commute corridors; and improve local rail and public transit systems. After hearing a brief description of this proposal, seven in ten Californians and 65 percent of likely voters are in favor. Democrats (80%) are twice as likely as Republicans (40%) to favor this proposal and 68 percent of independents are in favor. There is strong majority support for this proposal across regions and age, education, and income groups. More than six in ten across racial/ethnic groups are in favor (76% Latinos, 75% Asian Americans, 65% African Americans, 64% whites). Among those who call the state budget situation a big problem, 55 percent are in favor of this proposal. Among likely voters who oppose a repeal of the recently passed gas tax increase, 75 percent are in favor.

“The governor’s proposed budget plan includes spending \$4.6 billion from the recently passed gas tax and vehicle fees to repair roads, highways and bridges; improve commute corridors; and improve local rail and public transit systems. Overall, do you favor or oppose this proposal?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Favor | 70% | 80% | 40% | 68% | 65% |
| Oppose | 26 | 18 | 55 | 28 | 33 |
| Don't know | 4 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 |

Sexual Harassment in the State Legislature

During fall 2017, the #MeToo movement took the entertainment, sports, and business worlds by storm. Statehouses across the nation were also affected. Here in California, allegations of sexual harassment in the state legislature came to light and led to resignations. Eventually, the state senate and assembly created a joint committee charged with evaluating the legislature's procedures for handling sexual complaints. Today, nearly half of Californians are following news about sexual harassment and misconduct in the state legislature very (18%) or fairly (28%) closely; 31 percent are following the news not too closely and 21 percent not at all closely.

Majorities of Democrats (56%) and Republicans (56%) are closely following news about sexual harassment and misconduct, but Democrats are about twice as likely to be following the news very closely. Women (49%) and men (43%) are similar in how closely they are following the news. African Americans (52%) and whites (52%) are more likely to be paying close attention, compared to fewer Latinos (40%) and Asian Americans (38%). Attention is highest among those in Los Angeles (55%) and lowest in the Inland Empire (38%).

Likely voters are even more likely than all Californians to be following news about sexual harassment closely (22% very, 37% fairly). This becomes more notable when compared to the 30 percent of likely voters who are closely following news about candidates for governor in the 2018 election (7% very, 23% fairly).

“How closely are you following news about sexual harassment and misconduct in the California State Legislature —very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Gender | | Likely voters |
|--------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|--------|--------|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Male | Female | |
| Very closely | 18% | 27% | 14% | 13% | 16% | 20% | 22% |
| Fairly closely | 28 | 29 | 42 | 35 | 27 | 29 | 37 |
| Not too closely | 31 | 27 | 27 | 29 | 32 | 31 | 26 |
| Not at all closely | 21 | 16 | 16 | 23 | 23 | 20 | 15 |
| Don't know | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |

When it comes to the way that Democratic leaders in the state legislature are handling the issue of sexual harassment and misconduct, Californians’ opinions are divided (39% approve, 36% disapprove), with 25 percent unsure. Democrats (52%) are far more likely than independents (28%) and Republicans (18%) to approve. Notably, women (40% approve) and men (38% approve) hold similar views. Fewer than half of Californians across regions and age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups approve. There are some differences across racial/ethnic groups, with whites (30%) much less likely than African Americans (44%), Asian Americans (46%), and Latinos (47%) to approve.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Democratic leaders in the state legislature are currently handling the issue of sexual harassment and misconduct in the California State Legislature?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Gender | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|--------|--------|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | Male | Female | |
| Approve | 39% | 52% | 18% | 28% | 38% | 40% | 38% |
| Disapprove | 36 | 26 | 52 | 44 | 37 | 35 | 38 |
| Don't know | 25 | 22 | 29 | 28 | 25 | 25 | 25 |

Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

As President Trump completes his first year in office, his approval rating (26% adults, 32% likely voters) remains relatively unchanged from December (28% adults, 34% likely voters) and is similar to last January (30% adults, 34% likely voters). Today, 72 percent of Republicans, 31 percent of independents, and 7 percent of Democrats approve of President Trump. Regionally, approval is lower in the San Francisco Bay Area (19%) and Los Angeles (20%) than elsewhere (34% Orange/San Diego, 32% Inland Empire, 30% Central Valley). Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (6%), Latinos (12%), and Asian Americans (23%) are much less likely than whites (41%) to approve. A recent Gallup weekly tracking poll found that 38 percent of adults nationwide approve of President Trump.

Approval ratings are also low for the US Congress (21% adults, 15% likely voters). Approval of the US Congress was similarly low in December (22% adults, 15% likely voters) and higher last January (33% adults, 25% likely voters). Today, across parties and regions, fewer than three in ten approve of Congress (27% Inland Empire, 26% Central Valley, 25% Orange/San Diego, 17% San Francisco Bay Area, 16% Los Angeles). Approval of Congress declines as education levels rise. Among adults nationwide, approval of the US Congress was at 18 percent in a recent January CNN poll.

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

| | | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Donald Trump is handling his job as president | Approve | 26% | 7% | 72% | 31% | 32% |
| | Disapprove | 71 | 93 | 26 | 67 | 67 |
| | Don't know | 3 | – | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| The US Congress is handling its job | Approve | 21 | 10 | 27 | 18 | 15 |
| | Disapprove | 72 | 86 | 66 | 76 | 81 |
| | Don't know | 7 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 3 |

Fewer than three in ten Californians (29% adults, 27% likely voters) say that President Trump and the US Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year. When President Trump first took office in January 2017, about half of Californians (50% adults, 55% likely voters) were upbeat about potential cooperation at the federal level. Today, optimism is far lower than in January 2010 (56% adults, 48% likely voters), following the end of President Obama’s first year in office. Today, Republicans (58%) are far more likely than independents (27%) and Democrats (12%) to believe that the president and the US Congress will be able to work together. Across regions, residents in Los Angeles (21%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (21%) are the least likely to say the president and Congress will be able to accomplish a lot together (35% Central Valley, 35% Orange/San Diego, 37% Inland Empire). Notably, solid majorities across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups are pessimistic.

“Do you think that President Trump and the US Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Yes, will be able to | 29% | 12% | 58% | 27% | 27% |
| No, will not be able to | 67 | 86 | 35 | 68 | 69 |
| Don't know | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 |

Immigration Policy

During President Trump’s first year, perhaps no issue caused more conflict between the state and federal government than immigration. On January 1, California became a sanctuary state. How do residents feel about the state and local governments making their own policies and taking actions, separate from the federal government, to protect the legal rights of undocumented immigrants? Most Californians are in favor (65% adults, 58% likely voters), similar to last January (65% adults, 58% likely voters). Today, eight in ten Democrats are in favor, compared to half of independents and two in ten Republicans. Majorities across regions and age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups are in favor. Latinos and African Americans are more likely than Asian Americans and whites to be in favor.

“Do you favor or oppose the California state and local governments making their own policies and taking actions, separate from the federal government, to protect the legal rights of undocumented immigrants in California?”

| | | Favor | Oppose | Don't know |
|----------------|-------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| All adults | | 65% | 31% | 4% |
| Likely voters | | 58 | 39 | 3 |
| Party | Democrats | 83 | 15 | 2 |
| | Republicans | 21 | 73 | 6 |
| | Independents | 53 | 42 | 5 |
| Race/Ethnicity | African Americans | 77 | 22 | 1 |
| | Asian Americans | 65 | 30 | 5 |
| | Latinos | 80 | 17 | 3 |
| | Whites | 54 | 42 | 4 |

In September, the Trump administration announced an end to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), which includes protections for some undocumented immigrants who were brought to the US as children. Those who qualify and pass a background check can receive protection from deportation and a work permit. Eighty percent of Californians—with majority bipartisan agreement—favor the protections offered by DACA. Across regions and demographic groups, at least three in four adults are in favor. Support among adults has increased slightly since September (78% favor, 19% oppose).

“Thinking about undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children, do you favor or oppose the protections given by ‘DACA’—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—which includes protection from deportation and a work permit, if they pass a background check?”

| | | Favor | Oppose | Don't know |
|----------------|-------------------|-------|--------|------------|
| All adults | | 85% | 13% | 2% |
| Likely voters | | 81 | 17 | 2 |
| Party | Democrats | 95 | 4 | 1 |
| | Republicans | 58 | 38 | 4 |
| | Independents | 80 | 16 | 4 |
| Race/Ethnicity | African Americans | 89 | 8 | 2 |
| | Asian Americans | 90 | 8 | 2 |
| | Latinos | 95 | 4 | 1 |
| | Whites | 75 | 22 | 3 |

Regional Map



Methodology

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

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 1,705 California adult residents, including 1,194 interviewed on cell phones and 511 interviewed on landline telephones. Interviews took an average of 17 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from January 21–30, 2018.

Cell phone interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of cell phone numbers. All cell phone numbers with California area codes were eligible for selection. Once a cell phone user was reached, it was verified that this person was age 18 or older, a resident of California, and in a safe place to continue the survey (e.g., not driving). Cell phone respondents were offered a small reimbursement to help defray the cost of the call. Cell phone interviews were conducted with adults who have cell phone service only and with those who have both cell phone and landline service in the household.

Landline interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. All landline telephone exchanges in California were eligible for selection. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using a “youngest male/female” method to avoid biases in age and gender.

For both cell phones and landlines, telephone numbers were called as many as eight times. When no contact with an individual was made, calls to a number were limited to six. Also, to increase our ability to interview Asian American adults, we made up to three additional calls to phone numbers estimated by Survey Sampling International as likely to be associated with Asian American individuals.

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

Abt Associates uses the US Census Bureau's 2012–2016 American Community Survey's (ACS) Public Use Microdata Series for California (with regional coding information from the University of Minnesota's Integrated Public Use Microdata Series for California) to compare certain demographic characteristics of the survey sample—region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education—with the characteristics of California's adult population. The survey sample was closely comparable to the ACS figures. To estimate landline and cell phone service in California, Abt Associates used 2016 state-level estimates released by the National Center for Health Statistics—which used data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the ACS. 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 ± 3.2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,705 adults. This means that 95 times out

of 100, the results will be within 3.2 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,367 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.7 percent; for the 1,042 likely voters, it is ± 4.35 percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

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

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 42 percent of the state’s adult population, and also for Latinos, who account for about a third of the state’s adult population and constitute one of the fastest-growing voter groups. We also present results for non-Hispanic Asian Americans, who make up about 15 percent of the state’s adult population, and non-Hispanic African Americans, who comprise about 6 percent. 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. Results for African American and Asian American likely voters are combined with those of other racial/ethnic groups because sample sizes for African American and Asian American likely voters are too small for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in other parties are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated per their responses to survey questions about voter registration, previous election participation, and current interest in politics.

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

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

Questionnaire and Results

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

January 21–30, 2018
 1,705 California Adult Residents:
 English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR ±3.2% AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE
 PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

1. First, which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2018?

[code, don't read]

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

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

- 56% approve
- 29 disapprove
- 15 don't know

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

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

4. Do you think that Governor Brown and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?

- 60% yes, will be able to work together
- 28 no, will not be able to work together
- 12 don't know

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

- 57% right direction
- 38 wrong direction
- 6 don't know

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

- 56% good times
- 35 bad times
- 10 don't know

7. 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 q7a]*
- 31 no *[skip to q8b]*

7a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

- 45% Democrat *[ask q8]*
- 26 Republican *[skip to q8a]*
- 5 another party *(specify) [skip to q9]*
- 25 independent *[skip to q8b]*

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

- 60% strong
- 36 not very strong
- 3 don't know

[skip to q9]

8a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 59% strong
- 37 not very strong
- 5 don't know

[skip to q9]

8b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 20% Republican Party
- 49 Democratic Party
- 24 neither (*volunteered*)
- 7 don't know

Next, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these candidates for governor. If you've never heard of the person please tell me.

[rotate questions 9 to 15]

9. [likely voters only] How about Travis Allen, California state assemblyman?

- 13% favorable
- 8 unfavorable
- 62 never heard of
- 17 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

10. [likely voters only] How about John Chiang, California state treasurer?

- 27% favorable
- 17 unfavorable
- 35 never heard of
- 21 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

11. [likely voters only] How about John Cox, businessman?

- 11% favorable
- 11 unfavorable
- 60 never heard of
- 18 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

12. [likely voters only] How about Delaine Eastin, former California state superintendent of public instruction?

- 14% favorable
- 16 unfavorable
- 55 never heard of
- 15 can't rate/don't know enough about her to have an opinion/don't know

13. [likely voters only] How about Gavin Newsom, lieutenant governor?

- 40% favorable
- 30 unfavorable
- 19 never heard of
- 11 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

14. [likely voters only] How about Doug Ose, small business owner?

- 8% favorable
- 11 unfavorable
- 67 never heard of
- 14 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

15. [likely voters only] How about Antonio Villaraigosa, former mayor of Los Angeles?

- 40% favorable
- 29 unfavorable
- 18 never heard of
- 13 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

16. [likely voters only] As you may know, California now has a top-two primary system for statewide races in which voters can cast ballots for any candidate, regardless of party, and the two candidates receiving the most votes—regardless of party—will advance to the general election. If the June primary for governor were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for? [rotate names and then ask “or someone else?”]

- 23% Gavin Newsom, a Democrat
- 21 Antonio Villaraigosa, a Democrat
- 9 John Chiang, a Democrat
- 8 Travis Allen, a Republican
- 7 John Cox, a Republican
- 4 Delaine Eastin, a Democrat
- 3 Doug Ose, a Republican
- 1 someone else (specify)
- 24 don't know

17. [likely voters only] How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2018 governor’s election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 7% very closely
- 23 fairly closely
- 39 not too closely
- 30 not at all closely
- don't know

18. [likely voters only] In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the primary election for governor this June?

- 54% satisfied
- 26 not satisfied
- 20 don't know

Next, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these candidates for US senator. If you’ve never heard of the person please tell me.

[rotate questions 19 and 20]

19. [likely voters only] How about Kevin de León, California Senate president pro tempore?

- 16% favorable
- 19 unfavorable
- 45 never heard of
- 19 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

20. [likely voters only] How about Dianne Feinstein, US senator?

- 52% favorable
- 38 unfavorable
- 7 never heard of
- 4 can't rate/don't know enough about her to have an opinion/don't know

21. [likely voters only] Keeping in mind that California has the top-two primary system, if the June primary for US senator were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for? [rotate names and then ask “or someone else?”]

- 46% Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat
- 17 Kevin de León, a Democrat
- 3 someone else (specify)
- 33 don't know

[rotate questions 22 and 23]

22. [likely voters only] People have different ideas about the qualifications they want when they vote for candidates for statewide office, such as governor or US senator. Which of these is most important to you? [rotate] (1) that the candidate has experience in elected office, [or] (2) that the candidate has experience running a business?

- 62% experience in elected office
- 31 experience running a business
- 5 both (volunteered)
- 2 don't know

23. [likely voters only] People have different ideas about the qualifications they want when they vote for candidates for statewide office, such as governor or US senator. Which of these is most important to you? Would it be [rotate] (1) the candidate’s experience, (2) the candidate’s character, (3) the candidate’s political party, [or] (4) the candidate’s stands on the issues?

- 60% the candidate’s stands on the issues
- 17 the candidate’s experience
- 16 the candidate’s character
- 6 the candidate’s political party
- 1 other (specify)
- it depends (volunteered)
- 1 don’t know

Next,

[rotate questions 24 and 25]

24. [likely voters only] In 2017, the California Legislature passed and Governor Brown signed into law an increase in the state’s gasoline tax. Do you favor or oppose repealing the recently passed increase in the state gas tax?

- 47% favor
- 48 oppose
- 5 don’t know

25. [likely voters only] Under Proposition 13, residential and commercial property taxes are both strictly limited. What do you think about having commercial properties taxed according to their current market value? Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

- 46% favor
- 43 oppose
- 11 don’t know

Changing topics,

26. 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?

- 43% big problem
- 35 somewhat of a problem
- 15 not a problem
- 7 don’t know

27. Governor Brown recently proposed a budget plan for the next fiscal year that includes \$132 billion in general fund spending. The proposed budget will increase spending on K-14 and higher education, health and human services, and prisons and corrections. The proposed budget plan puts \$5 billion into the state’s reserves, which includes \$3.5 billion in additional funds to bring the rainy day fund to 100 percent of its constitutional target and includes no new taxes. In general, do you favor or oppose the governor’s budget plan?

- 67% favor
- 24 oppose
- 3 haven’t heard anything about the budget (volunteered)
- 6 don’t know

28. The governor’s proposed budget plan includes spending \$4.6 billion from the recently passed gas tax and vehicle fees to repair roads, highways and bridges; improve commute corridors; and improve local rail and public transit systems. Overall, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

- 70% favor
- 26 oppose
- 4 don’t know

Next,

29. How closely are you following news about sexual harassment and misconduct in the California state legislature—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 18% very closely
- 28 fairly closely
- 31 not too closely
- 21 not at all closely
- 2 don’t know

30. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Democratic leaders in the state legislature are currently handling the issue of sexual harassment and misconduct in the California State Legislature?

- 39% approve
- 36 disapprove
- 25 don’t know

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

- 26% approve
- 71 disapprove
- 3 don't know

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

- 21% approve
- 72 disapprove
- 7 don't know

33. Do you think that President Trump and the US Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?

- 29% yes, will be able to work together
- 67 no, will not be able to work together
- 4 don't know

On another topic,

34. Do you favor or oppose the California state and local governments making their own policies and taking actions, separate from the federal government, to protect the legal rights of undocumented immigrants in California?

- 65% favor
- 31 oppose
- 4 don't know

35. Thinking about undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children, do you favor or oppose the protections given by “DACA”—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—which includes protection from deportation and a work permit, if they pass a background check?

- 85% favor
- 13 oppose
- 2 don't know

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

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 16% very liberal
- 20 somewhat liberal
- 31 middle-of-the-road
- 18 somewhat conservative
- 10 very conservative
- 5 don't know

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

- 20% great deal
- 36 fair amount
- 32 only a little
- 11 none
- don't know

[d1-d16 demographic questions]

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