



Californians & Higher Education

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

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News Release

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PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Concerned about College Affordability, Satisfied with Quality

MAJORITY SAY INSTITUTIONS SHOULD DO MORE TO ENSURE STUDENT HOUSING IS AFFORDABLE

SAN FRANCISCO, November 1, 2017—Many Californians say the public higher education system in California is going in the wrong direction, but they are more likely to express concern about affordability than about the quality of the state's colleges and universities. These are among the key findings of an annual statewide survey on higher education released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

Asked about the direction of public higher education, 45 percent of adults and a majority of likely voters (53%) say it is generally going in the wrong direction (right direction: 46% adults, 38% likely voters). In the view of 45 percent of adults and half of likely voters (51%), the system needs major changes.

Most state residents (56%) say affordability is a big problem in California's public colleges and universities. Although most adults (61%) say that almost anyone who needs financial help can get loans and financial aid, large majorities say that the price of college keeps students who are qualified and motivated from attending (75%) and that students have to borrow too much money to pay for their college education (79%). An overwhelming majority of residents (85%) say colleges and universities should do more to make sure that all students have affordable housing options.

"In response to the state's housing crisis, Californians want colleges and universities to do more to make sure that students have affordable options," said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO.

In contrast to Californians' views about college affordability, just 18 percent of adults say overall quality in the state's public colleges and universities is a big problem. Solid majorities of adults give excellent or good ratings to each branch of the state's higher education system: community colleges (68%), California State University (CSU) (65%), and University of California (UC) (63%). The ratings for the community colleges and CSU have increased slightly since November 2011 (62% community colleges, 56% CSU, 59% UC).

Most Californians (62% adults, 60% likely voters) say the level of state funding for the public higher education system is not high enough. Across parties, Democrats (70%) and independents (64%) are far more likely than Republicans (43%) to say the current level of state funding is not adequate. At the same time, about a third of residents (32%) and 40 percent of likely voters say the state's public colleges and universities waste a lot of money. An additional 36 percent of adults and 38 percent of likely voters say these institutions waste some money.

Baldassare summed up: "Many say the public higher education system is going in the wrong direction and needs to change, with concerns being raised about affordability, funding, and spending."

How would Californians increase funding if the state government said it needed more money for the higher education system? An overwhelming majority of adults (79%) are unwilling to increase student

fees. Across parties, regions, and demographic groups, majorities oppose a fee increase. A majority of Californians (53%) are also unwilling to pay higher taxes. A majority of Democrats (57%) say they would pay higher taxes, but fewer independents (40%) and Republicans (26%) are willing to do so. Less than half across income and racial/ethnic groups are willing to pay higher taxes. Californians are more supportive of a potential state bond measure for construction projects in the higher education system. Most (57%) say they would vote yes, with majorities across regions as well as age and education groups in favor. However, fewer than half of whites (47%) and those with household incomes of \$80,000 or more (49%) would vote yes on a bond measure for higher education construction projects.

Half Are Very Concerned about Immigration Enforcement and Undocumented Students

The survey asks about a number of other issues that have surfaced on campuses around the nation. In the wake of stepped-up federal immigration enforcement, half of Californians (51%) say they are very concerned that these efforts will affect undocumented college and university students, including those with DACA status. Most Californians (57%) also say that the racial justice issues being raised on campus today are very important to them. There is a wide partisan divide on these questions: Democrats (62%) are far more likely than Republicans (30%) to say they are very concerned about the impact of immigration enforcement. And Democrats (70%) are far more likely than Republicans (28%) to say that racial justice issues raised on campus are very important to them.

Majorities of Californians say they are dissatisfied with the way college and university officials are handling three other issues:

- **Free speech.** A slim majority of Californians (52%) are dissatisfied with the way campus officials are handling this issue (39% satisfied). Republicans (69%) are more likely than independents (55%) and Democrats (47%) to be dissatisfied. Across education and income groups, about half are dissatisfied, and the prevalence of this perception increases with age.
- **Sexual assault.** A solid majority (64%) are dissatisfied with the way campus officials are handling this issue. Across parties and regions and across age, education, and income groups, majorities express this opinion.
- **Hate crimes.** Most Californians (57%) are also dissatisfied with the handling of hate crimes; majorities across parties and regions as well as age and income groups hold this view.

When asked about the impact that colleges and universities are having on the way things are going in the country these days, 59 percent of Californians say the effect is positive. There are sharp differences across parties: 70 percent of Democrats and 54 percent of independents say colleges and universities are having a positive effect, compared to just 38 percent of Republicans.

“Reflecting the nation’s polarization, Californians are divided along party lines when asked about the impact of college and the way free speech is handled by campus officials,” Baldassare said.

Is College Necessary? Many Don’t Think So

Californians express their concerns about higher education at a time when they are divided about the necessity of college. Half of adults (50%) and 43 percent of likely voters say that a college education is necessary for a person to be successful in today’s work world, while 48 percent of adults and 55 percent of likely voters say there are many ways to succeed without a college education.

Partisans hold very different opinions on this question. Half of Democrats (51%) say a college education is necessary, while most Republicans (67%) and independents (59%) say there are many other ways to succeed. There are also strong differences across racial/ethnic groups. Two-thirds of Latinos (67%), 54 percent of Asian Americans, and 51 percent of African Americans say college is necessary. Just 35 percent

of whites express this view. The belief that college is necessary is more widely held among those in households with annual incomes of \$40,000 or less (59%) than among those with higher incomes (40% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 42% \$80,000 or more).

The survey asks how well certain certificates or degrees prepare students for well-paying jobs in today's economy. Large majorities say that a certificate in a professional, technical, or vocational field (81%) or a four-year college degree (83%) prepares a student very well or somewhat well. Fewer (58%) say that a two-year degree from a college or university prepares students very or somewhat well.

Views on Higher Education Seen as Very Important in Governor's Race

Despite doubts among many residents that college is necessary for an individual's success, a large majority of Californians (80%) say the state's higher education system is very important to the future quality of life and economic vitality of the state. Strong majorities across parties concur. And nearly half (48%) say the state will face a shortage of college-educated residents for the jobs likely to be in demand in the future. PPIC research has shown that the state will be short 1.1 million college-educated workers by 2030.

Notably, Californians whose current job requires a college degree are more likely than those whose current job does not require a degree to anticipate a shortage of educated workers (54% to 46%). Most state residents have a great deal of confidence (16%) or some confidence (40%) in the state government's ability to plan for the future of higher education.

Consistent with views about the significance of the higher education system, most residents (63%) say that in the upcoming governor's race, views of the candidates on higher education are very important to them (28% somewhat important).

Asked to rate the performance of current state leaders, majorities of Californians (55% adults, 56% likely voters) approve of the job Governor Jerry Brown is doing. Fewer approve of his handling of higher education (45% adults, 39% likely voters). The legislature has an approval rating of 48 percent among adults and 45 percent among likely voters. Ratings for the legislature's handling of higher education are also lower: 41 percent among adults and 34 percent among likely voters.

Most Haven't Heard of State's Master Plan for Higher Education

In 1960, California's Master Plan for Higher Education laid out the principles that forged the three types of institutions into a system with three different sets of admission standards. Today, just 37 percent of Californians have heard about the Master Plan. But when they are read a brief description, a solid majority (68%) favor the separate roles the plan established for the community colleges, CSU, and UC.

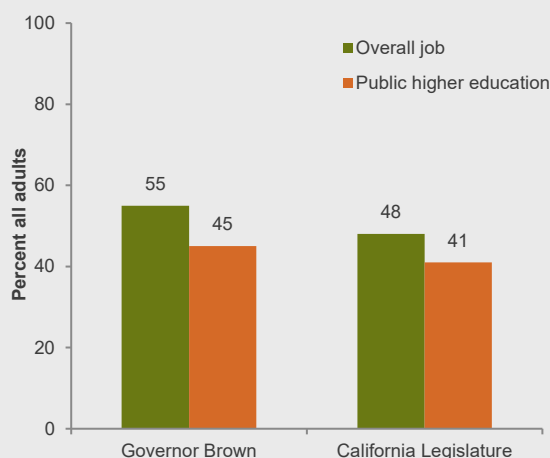
Just as the Master Plan envisioned that every state resident with a high school degree could attend college, the Cal Grant program provides residents attending a qualifying college, university, or technical school—public or private—with student aid if they meet financial and academic requirements. An overwhelming majority of Californians (87%) favor the program.

California's Public Higher Education System

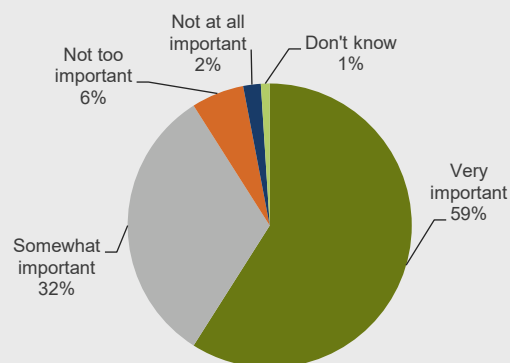
Key Findings

- Fifty-five percent of Californians approve of Governor Jerry Brown and 48 percent approve of the California Legislature. Approval is lower for the governor's (45%) and the legislature's (41%) handling of public higher education. *(page 7)*
- Majorities of likely voters say the public higher education system in California is going in the wrong direction and that it needs major changes. Six in ten Californians say that the gubernatorial candidates' positions on higher education are very important to them. *(page 8)*
- More than six in ten adults and likely voters give excellent or good ratings to the California Community Colleges system, the California State University system, and the University of California system. *(page 9)*
- Fewer than one in five Californians say the quality of education in public colleges and universities is a big problem, while more than half say affordability is a big problem. *(page 10)*
- Six in ten Californians say the current level of state funding for public higher education is not enough. Forty percent of likely voters say the state's public colleges and universities waste a lot of money. *(page 11)*
- Forty-four percent of likely voters are willing to pay higher taxes to increase funding for higher education, while less than one in five favor an increase in student fees. A majority of Californians would vote yes on a state construction bond for higher education. *(page 12)*
- Most Californians have not heard about the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education. Majorities favor the separate roles and admission pools for the three systems and support the Cal Grant program. *(page 13)*

Approval ratings of state elected officials

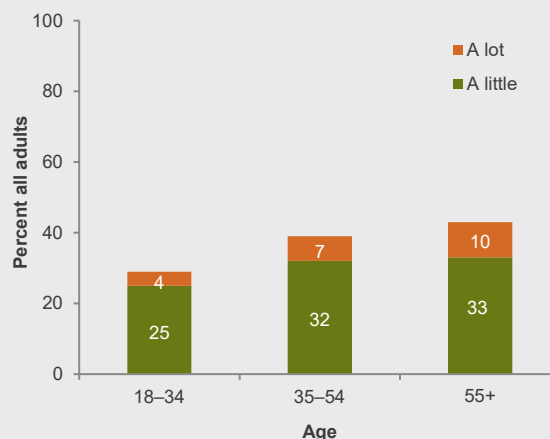


Importance of candidates' positions on higher education for 2018 governor's race



Percent likely voters

Californians who have heard of the 1960 California Master Plan for Higher Education



Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

Majorities of Californians (55% adults, 56% likely voters) approve of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor. Approval ratings were similar in September (55% adults, 55% likely voters) and last December (57% adults, 59% likely voters). Today, Democrats (75%) are much more likely than independents (49%) and Republicans (29%) to approve. Approval is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (67%) than elsewhere (59% Los Angeles, 53% Inland Empire, 49% Central Valley, 42% Orange/San Diego), and lower among whites (48%) than African Americans (64%), Latinos (63%), and Asian Americans (58%).

Fewer than half approve of Governor Brown's handling of California's public college and university system (45% adults, 39% likely voters), and one in five say they don't know (24% adults, 21% likely voters). Approval ratings were similar a year ago (45% adults, 41% likely voters) and much lower in November 2011 (31% adults, 29% likely voters). Today, Democrats (59%) are more likely than independents (36%) and Republicans (20%) to approve. Fewer than half across age, education, income, and regional groups express approval.

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

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
His job as governor of California	Approve	55%	75%	29%	49%	56%
	Disapprove	27	13	65	37	36
	Don't know	18	12	6	13	8
California's public college and university system	Approve	45	59	20	36	39
	Disapprove	32	19	65	43	41
	Don't know	24	22	15	22	21

Forty-eight percent of Californians and 45 percent of likely voters approve of the way the California Legislature is handling its job. Approval ratings were similar in September (49% adults, 44% likely voters) and last December (49% adults, 45% likely voters). Today, Democrats (63%) are much more likely than independents (40%) or Republicans (21%) to approve. Approval is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (55%) and Los Angeles (52%, 47% Orange/San Diego, 40% Inland Empire, 39% Central Valley)—and higher among Latinos (58%) and Asian Americans (56%) than among African Americans (45%) and whites (41%).

Fewer Californians approve of the legislature's handling of California's public college and university system (41% adults, 34% likely voters). Approval ratings were similar last December (42% adults, 35% likely voters) and much lower in November 2011 (21% adults, 14% likely voters). Today, Democrats (52%) are much more likely than independents (29%) and Republicans (20%) to approve. Fewer than half across age, education, and regional groups approve of the way the legislature is handling the public higher education system.

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

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Its job	Approve	48%	63%	21%	40%	45%
	Disapprove	36	24	70	48	45
	Don't know	16	13	9	12	10
California's public college and university system	Approve	41	52	20	29	34
	Disapprove	41	32	68	56	51
	Don't know	17	16	12	15	15

Overall Direction and Election Importance

When asked about California's public higher education system overall, fewer than half of California adults say it is generally going in the wrong direction (45% adults, 53% likely voters). Responses were similar last December (45% adults, 54% likely voters) and more negative when we first asked this question in November 2011 (62% adults, 60% likely voters). Today, Democrats (38%) are much less likely than independents (55%) and Republicans (69%) to say it is going in the wrong direction. The perception that the system is generally going in the wrong direction is somewhat less common in the San Francisco Bay Area (39%) and Los Angeles (41%) than elsewhere (47% Orange/San Diego, 53% Inland Empire, 58% Central Valley)—and more common among whites (53%) and African Americans (47%) than other racial/ethnic groups (37% Latinos, 32% Asian Americans).

“Thinking about the public higher education system overall in California today, do you think it is generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Right direction	46%	52%	27%	36%	38%
Wrong direction	45	38	69	55	53
Don't know	9	9	5	9	9

Forty-five percent of Californians and half of likely voters say that the public higher education system in California is in need of major changes. The results were similar when we last asked this question in November 2009 (50% adults, 51% likely voters). Today, Democrats (40%) are less likely than independents (52%) or Republicans (61%) to say that major changes are needed. The perception that major changes are needed in the public higher education system is similar across regions (43% San Francisco Bay Area, 44% Los Angeles, 45% Orange/San Diego, 47% Central Valley, 49% Inland Empire), while it is less common among Asian Americans (33%) than other racial/ethnic groups (43% Latinos, 47% whites, 52% African Americans).

“Overall, do you think the public higher education system in California is in need of major changes, minor changes, or that it is basically fine the way it is?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Major changes	45%	40%	61%	52%	51%
Minor changes	38	42	29	35	39
Fine the way it is	14	15	8	10	7
Don't know	4	3	2	3	4

In the context of the upcoming gubernatorial election in 2018, how important are the candidates' positions on higher education to the public? About six in ten Californians say that the candidates' positions are very important (63% adults, 59% likely voters), while another three in ten say they are somewhat important (28% adults, 32% likely voters). Majorities of Democrats (66%), independents (59%), and Republicans (54%) say the gubernatorial candidates' positions on higher education are very important. Majorities across regions and age, education, and racial/ethnic groups hold this view. When we asked this question eight years ago, a similar proportion of likely voters said that the gubernatorial candidates' positions on higher education were very important (52% November 2009, 59% today).

Institutional Ratings

While many express concern about the direction of public higher education and support making major changes, solid majorities of California adults give excellent or good ratings to each branch of California's public higher education system: 68 percent for California Community Colleges (CCC), 65 percent for California State University (CSU), and 63 percent for University of California (UC). These institutional ratings were similar last December (66% CCC, 66% CSU, 65% UC) and in October 2007 (66% CCC, 66% CSU, 67% UC), when we first asked these questions. However, the current ratings reflect an uptick for the CCC and CSU since November 2011 (62% CCC, 56% CSU, 59% UC).

“Overall, is the _____ doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job?”

<i>All adults</i>	California Community Colleges system	California State University system	University of California system
Excellent	16%	12%	16%
Good	52	53	47
Not so good	18	21	21
Poor	6	7	8
Don't know	8	7	7

When asked about the CCC system, an overwhelming majority of likely voters (71%) say it is doing an excellent or good job. Majorities across regions and age, education, income, partisan, and racial/ethnic groups give the CCC system a positive rating. Among those who have attended a California community college, an overwhelming majority (76%) say the system is doing an excellent or good job.

A solid majority of likely voters (65%) say the CSU system is doing an excellent or good job. Majorities across regions and age, education, income, partisan, and racial/ethnic groups give positive ratings. For CSU attendees, an overwhelming majority (70%) say the system is doing an excellent or good job.

The UC system also receives excellent or good ratings from a solid majority of likely voters (61%). Majorities of Democrats (69%) and independents (56%)—and fewer Republicans (48%)—give positive ratings, as do majorities across regions and age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups. Among those who have attended a UC school, an overwhelming majority (78%) say the system is doing an excellent or good job.

<i>Percent saying excellent/good</i>		California Community Colleges system	California State University system	University of California system
All adults		68%	65%	63%
Likely voters		71	65	61
Party	Democrats	75	70	69
	Republicans	62	54	48
	Independents	63	59	56
Race/Ethnicity	African Americans	67	67	61
	Asian Americans	69	70	77
	Latinos	69	68	65
	Whites	69	62	58
Age	18–34	67	66	69
	35–54	68	65	63
	55 and older	72	61	58

Quality and Affordability

Californians express much less concern about the quality than about the affordability of the state's public colleges and universities. Eighteen percent of adults say the overall quality of education in California's public colleges and universities is a big problem, and 36 percent say it is somewhat of a problem. The perception of quality as a big problem today is similar to last December (15%), slightly lower than in December 2014 (25%) and November 2011 (24%), and similar to October 2007 (18%). By contrast, 56 percent of adults say the overall affordability of public higher education in California is a big problem, and 29 percent say it is somewhat of a problem. The perception of affordability as a big problem today is similar to last December (57%), December 2014 (59%), November 2011 (61%), and October 2007 (53%).

“How about the overall _____ of education in California's public colleges and universities today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?”

<i>All adults</i>	Quality	Affordability
Big problem	18%	56%
Somewhat of a problem	36	29
Not much of a problem	42	14
Don't know	4	1

When it comes to educational quality, 21 percent of likely voters say it is a big problem. Fewer than one in three across age, education, income, partisan, racial/ethnic, and regional groups—and among CCC, CSU, and UC attendees—hold this view. The affordability of public higher education is rated as a big problem by 62 percent of likely voters. Half or more across age, income, and partisan groups as well as CCC, CSU, and UC attendees say that affordability is a big problem, while at least half of whites (63%), African Americans (52%), and Latinos (50%), and fewer Asian Americans (45%) have this perception.

<i>Percent saying big problem</i>		Quality	Affordability
<i>All adults</i>		18%	56%
Likely voters		21	62
Party	Democrats	15	61
	Republicans	31	60
	Independents	22	59
Household income	Under \$40,000	18	50
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	17	56
	\$80,000 or more	17	61
Race/Ethnicity	African Americans	21	52
	Asian Americans	9	45
	Latinos	17	50
	Whites	20	63
Age	18–34	15	57
	35–54	18	54
	55 and older	21	57

State Funding

Six in ten adults say that the level of state funding for California's public colleges and universities is not enough. One in four say the level of funding is just enough (23%) while one in ten say it is more than enough (11%). The share saying that there is not enough funding was similar in December 2016 (67%) but higher in November 2011 (74%). Today, 60 percent of likely voters say that the funding level for public colleges and universities is not enough.

Across parties, Democrats (70%) and independents (64%) are far more likely than Republicans (43%) to say the current level of state funding is not adequate. Majorities across regions say that the level of funding is not enough. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (73%) are the most likely to say that current funding is not enough, followed by Latinos (67%), whites (58%), and Asian Americans (54%).

“Do you think the current level of state funding for California’s public colleges and universities is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
More than enough	11%	6%	26%	14%	15%
Just enough	23	20	24	18	19
Not enough	62	70	43	64	60
Don't know	5	4	8	5	6

While most Californians say that the current level of state funding for public higher education is not enough, nearly a third say that California's public colleges and universities waste a lot of money. An additional 36 percent say that public colleges and universities waste some money, while 24 percent say they do not waste very much. Likely voters (40%) are somewhat more likely than adults overall (32%) to say that public colleges and universities waste a lot of money.

Across parties, a majority of Republicans (53%) and a plurality of independents (42%) say the state's public colleges and universities waste a lot of money, compared to only 25 percent of Democrats who say the same. Californians age 55 and older (38%) are more likely than those age 18 to 34 (27%) to say colleges waste a lot of money. Similarly, those with a household income of \$80,000 or above are more likely than those with a household income under \$40,000 to say colleges and universities waste a lot of money (38% to 29%).

Among the six in ten Californians who say that the current level of state funding for higher education is not enough, 31 percent say that the state's colleges and universities waste a lot of money and another 39 percent say they waste some money.

“Overall, do you think that California’s public colleges and universities waste a lot of money, waste some money, or don’t waste very much money?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
A lot	32%	25%	53%	42%	40%
Some	36	43	29	36	38
Don't waste very much	24	26	12	15	15
Don't know	8	7	6	7	6

Raising Revenue

To provide more money for the state’s public higher education system, only 19 percent of Californians are willing to increase student fees; an overwhelming majority (79%) are not willing to do so. When it comes to higher taxes as a way to increase funding for public higher education, 44 percent of Californians are willing to pay higher taxes, while a slight majority (53%) say they are unwilling to do so. When asked about a potential bond measure on the state ballot for higher education construction projects, a majority of adults (57%) say they would vote yes, while 37 percent would vote no. Results are similar for likely voters (16% increase student fees, 44% pay higher taxes, 53% yes on bonds). Support for a bond was somewhat higher in December 2016 (65% adults, 60% likely voters).

**“What if the state government said it needed more money to increase funding for California’s public higher education system, would you be willing to _____ for this purpose, or not?
If the state ballot had a bond measure to pay for construction projects in California’s higher education system, would you vote yes or no?”**

<i>All adults</i>	Increase student fees	Pay higher taxes	Bond measure for construction projects
Yes	19%	44%	57%
No	79	53	37
Don’t know	2	3	5

There is a strong consensus against raising student fees. Indeed, fewer than one in four across all parties, regions, and demographic groups express a willingness to increase fees. Though a majority of Democrats (57%) are willing to pay higher taxes, fewer independents and Republicans are willing to do so. Fewer than half across income and racial/ethnic groups and those 35 and older are willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose. While a strong majority of Democrats would vote yes on a state bond, half of independents and fewer Republicans would do so. Majorities across age, education, and regional groups would vote yes on a bond for higher education construction projects. Fewer than half of whites and those with household incomes of \$80,000 or above would vote yes on a state bond.

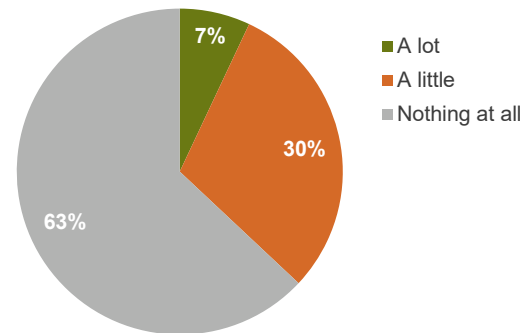
<i>Percent saying yes</i>		Increase student fees	Pay higher taxes	Bond measure for construction projects
<i>All adults</i>		19%	44%	57%
<i>Likely voters</i>		16	44	53
<i>Party</i>	Democrats	17	57	69
	Republicans	18	26	36
	Independents	16	40	50
<i>Household income</i>	Under \$40,000	21	46	66
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	14	49	56
	\$80,000 or more	20	42	49
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	African Americans	20	38	66
	Asian Americans	20	44	56
	Latinos	22	47	69
	Whites	16	43	47
<i>Age</i>	18–34	18	53	58
	35–54	21	41	59
	55 and older	18	39	56

California Master Plan for Higher Education of 1960

Fifty-seven years after California adopted the Master Plan for Higher Education of 1960, how many Californians are familiar with the framework establishing that every California resident with a high school degree can attend college? Today, only 7 percent of adults have heard a lot about the Master Plan, while 30 percent say they have heard a little. Sixty-three percent have heard nothing at all.

Though only 37 percent of Californians have heard about the Master Plan, a solid majority (68%) favor the separate roles the plan establishes for the California Community Colleges system, the California State University system, and the University of California system. Indeed, at least six in ten across regions, political parties, and demographic groups favor the separate roles for each system. Those who attended a UC are more likely than those who attended CCC or CSU to favor the separate roles established in the Master Plan.

How much, if anything, have you heard about the 1960 California Master Plan for Higher Education?



The California Master Plan for Higher Education also established different admission pools for the three public systems. After being read a brief description, 59 percent of adults favor the admission standards for the three systems as established by the Master Plan, while a third of residents oppose the standards. Majorities across parties and regions favor the admission standards. Across racial/ethnic groups, Asian Americans (71%) are the most likely to favor the admission standards, followed by Latinos (62%), whites (55%), and African Americans (48%). Those who attended a California community college (55%) are much less likely than those who attended a CSU (77%) or UC (72%) to favor the admission standards established by the Master Plan.

An overwhelming majority of Californians (87%) favor the Cal Grant program, which provides residents attending a qualifying public or private college, university, or career or technical school with student aid if they meet financial and academic requirements. More than three in four across parties and more than eight in ten across regions and all demographic groups favor the program.

“As you may know, according to the California Master Plan...”

		All adults	Attended			Likely voters
			California Community College	California State University	University of California	
The CCCs, the CSUs, and the UCs each have their own focus. Do you favor or oppose having these separate roles for each system?*	Favor	68%	70%	79%	92%	73%
	Oppose	21	23	16	4	19
	Don't know	11	7	5	4	7
The CCCs admit any student capable of benefiting, the CSUs admit the top third, and the UCs admit the top eighth. Overall, do you favor or oppose these admission standards?*	Favor	59	55	77	72	58
	Oppose	33	40	20	24	36
	Don't know	8	5	3	4	6
California residents in a public or private college are eligible for student aid through the Cal Grants program. Do you favor or oppose this state-funded program?*	Favor	87	89	86	87	88
	Oppose	10	8	11	8	11
	Don't know	3	3	3	6	1

*For the full text of these questions, see p. 25.

Planning for the Future

Eight in ten Californians (80%) and likely voters (79%) say that the state's higher education system is very important to the quality of life and economic vitality of the state. Another 14 percent of adults and 15 percent of likely voters say it is somewhat important. Findings have been similar since we first asked this question in 2007. Strong majorities across parties say higher education is very important to the state's future (85% Democrats, 81% independents, 68% Republicans). More than seven in ten across regions and demographic groups hold this view.

“In general, how important is California’s higher education system to the quality of life and economic vitality of the state over the next 20 years?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Likely voters
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	
Very important	80%	81%	79%	85%	76%	79%
Somewhat important	14	16	13	11	16	15
Not too important	3	2	2	2	5	3
Not at all important	2	1	5	2	1	1
Don't know	1	–	1	–	2	1

PPIC research has shown that the state will have a shortage of 1.1 million college-educated workers by 2030. Nearly half of Californians (48%) and a majority of likely voters (52%) say that the state will face a shortage of the college-educated residents needed for jobs that will be in demand in the future. The share of Californians who say the state will face a shortage was similar last December (45%). Pluralities across regions say the state will not have enough college-educated workers. Across parties, majorities of Democrats (56%) and independents (56%) anticipate a shortage of college-educated workers, while fewer Republicans (45%) say the same. The likelihood of saying the state will not have enough college-educated workers increases as household income rises. Notably, Californians whose current job requires a college degree are somewhat more likely than those whose current job does not require a degree to anticipate a shortage of college-educated workers (54% to 46%).

“In thinking ahead 20 years, if current trends continue, do you think California will have more than enough, not enough, or just enough college-educated residents needed for the jobs and skills likely to be in demand?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Not enough	48%	49%	49%	46%	46%	50%	52%
Just enough	32	31	29	33	35	32	31
More than enough	15	13	17	16	17	14	13
Don't know	4	6	5	4	2	4	4

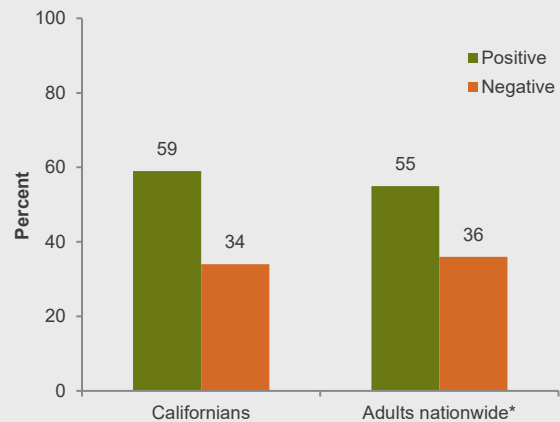
Most Californians have either a great deal (16% adults, 12% likely voters) or some (40% adults, 44% likely voters) confidence in the state government's ability to plan for the future of higher education, while four in ten have very little or none (41% adults, 43% likely voters). Findings for adults are similar to December 2016 (59% a lot or some). Today, Democrats (71%) are more likely than independents (49%) and Republicans (37%) to have at least some confidence. Majorities across age, education, and racial/ethnic groups have at least some confidence in the state government's ability to plan for the future of the higher education system.

Higher Education Perceptions and Attitudes

Key Findings

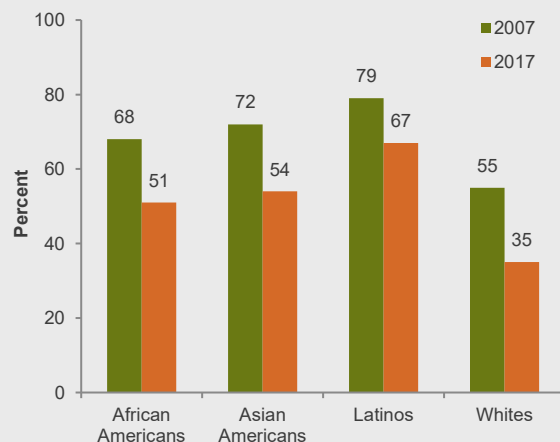
- Most Californians say that colleges and universities are having a positive effect on the way things are going in the country; Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to hold this view. Californians are divided on whether college is necessary or if there are many ways to succeed without a college education. *(page 16)*
- Eight in ten Californians say a certificate in a professional, technical, or vocational field (81%) or a four-year degree from a college and university (83%) prepares a student at least somewhat well for a well-paying job in today's economy, while six in ten feel this way about a two-year degree from a college or university (58%). *(page 17)*
- Californians overwhelmingly agree that the price of a college education keeps students who are qualified and motivated from going to college (75%) and that students have to borrow too much money to pay for their college education (79%). Most Californians (85%) agree that colleges and universities should do more to make sure that all students have affordable housing options. *(page 18)*
- Half of Californians—and a particularly high share of Latinos—are very concerned that increased federal immigration enforcement efforts will impact undocumented college and university students, including those with DACA status. Fifty-seven percent of Californians—and large shares of African Americans and Latinos—say that the racial justice issues that students are raising on campus are very important. Most are dissatisfied with the way college and university officials are handling free speech, hate crimes, and sexual assaults on campus. *(page 19)*

Effect of colleges and universities on the country

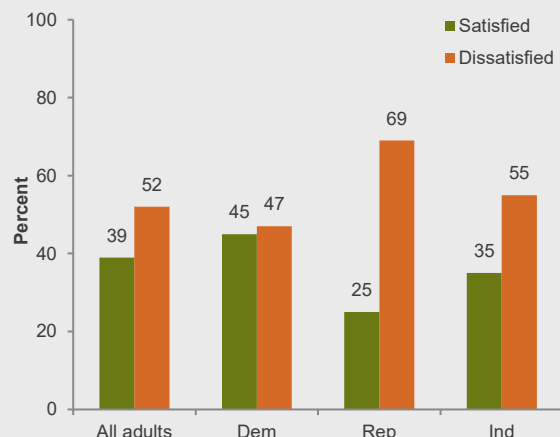


*Pew Research Center poll, June 2017

View that a college education is necessary for success in the workforce



Satisfaction with how college officials are handling free speech on campus



Effect and Importance of College

When asked about the impact that colleges and universities are having on the way things are going in the country these days, six in ten Californians (59%) say that they are having a positive effect while one in three say they are having a negative effect. A similar 55 percent of adults nationwide in a July Pew Research Center survey said the effect was positive.

There are sharp differences across parties: seven in ten Democrats (70%), compared to about four in ten Republicans (38%), say colleges and universities are having a positive effect; a majority of independents (54%) hold this view. While at least half of residents across California's regions say higher education institutions are having a positive effect, this sentiment is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (64%). Majorities of Californians across demographic groups say colleges and universities are having a positive effect, but there are differences across groups. Asian Americans (75%) are much more likely than those in other racial/ethnic groups (58% Latinos, 55% whites, 54% African Americans) to say colleges have a positive effect. Positivity is highest among younger Californians (65% 18 to 34, 59% 35 to 54, 52% 55 and older) and those with more education (68% college graduates, 59% some college, 53% high school or less).

“Are colleges and universities having a positive or negative effect on the way things are going in the country these days?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Positive effect	59%	70%	38%	54%	56%
Negative effect	34	25	56	36	37
Don't know	7	5	7	10	6

While majorities of Californians say colleges and universities have a positive effect, they are more divided on the necessity of a college education. Fifty percent of Californians think a college education is necessary for a person to be successful in today's work world, while 48 percent think there are many ways to succeed in today's work world without a college education. Since this question was first asked in 2007, the perception that college is necessary has decreased 14 points.

Partisans hold very different opinions, with half of Democrats (51%) saying a college education is necessary, while two in three Republicans (67%) and six in ten independents (59%) think there are many ways to succeed without a college education. There are also differences across racial/ethnic groups. Two in three Latinos (67%) and about half of Asian Americans (54%) and African Americans (51%) say college is necessary, compared to 35 percent of whites. The belief that college is necessary is more prevalent among those in households making \$40,000 or less (59%) than those with higher incomes (40% \$40,000 to \$80,000; 42% \$80,000 or more). Across educational levels, those with some college (58%) are more likely than those with no college education (41%) and college graduates (47%) to say there are many ways to succeed.

“Do you think that a college education is necessary for a person to be successful in today's work world, or do you think that there are many ways to succeed in today's work world without a college education?”

	All adults	Household income			Likely Voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
College is necessary	50%	59%	40%	42%	43%
Many ways to succeed without a college education	48	39	58	56	55
Don't know	2	2	2	2	2

Workforce Preparation

Californians think all three of the certificate or degree options we asked about prepare someone at least somewhat for a well-paying job in today's economy. However, Californians are more likely to say a certificate in a professional, technical, or vocational field (81%) or a four-year degree (83%) prepares someone at least somewhat well, compared to a two-year degree (58%).

“How well do you think a _____ from a college or university prepares someone for a well-paying job in today's economy? Does it prepare someone very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not at all well?”

<i>All adults</i>	Certificate in a professional, technical, or vocational field	Two-year degree from a college or university	Four-year degree from a college or university
Very well	33%	13%	30%
Somewhat well	48	45	53
Not too well	12	28	11
Not at all well	4	10	3
Depends on the person/job (<i>volunteered</i>)	2	2	2
Don't know	1	1	1

Partisans hold similar views on how well a certificate in a professional, technical, or vocational field prepares someone for a well-paying job, with more than eight in ten saying very or somewhat well. In fact, at least three in four Californians across regions and demographic groups hold this view. Majorities across parties and in all regions except Orange/San Diego (47%) think that a two-year degree prepares someone at least somewhat well. Majorities across racial/ethnic, age, and education groups hold this view, but this perception declines with higher household income (62% under \$40,000, 58% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 49% \$80,000 or more). Overwhelming majorities of Democrats (87%), independents (80%), and Republicans (78%) and Californians across regions and demographic groups say a four-year degree prepares people at least somewhat well.

<i>Percent saying very/somewhat well</i>		Certificate in a professional, technical, or vocational field	Two-year degree from a college or university	Four-year degree from a college or university
All adults		81%	58%	83%
Likely voters		83	57	83
Party	Dem	80	57	87
	Rep	86	57	78
	Ind	81	55	80
Race/Ethnicity	African Americans	77	64	83
	Asian Americans	75	52	86
	Latinos	82	64	85
	Whites	84	55	80
Income	Under \$40,000	83	62	85
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	85	58	78
	\$80,000 or more	78	49	84

College Affordability

Most Californians view cost as an obstacle to getting a college education. Three in four Californians (75%) agree that the price of a college education keeps students who are qualified and motivated to go to college from doing so. Findings have been similar since 2007. Today, seven in ten or more across regions and racial/ethnic, age, education, and income groups agree. Solid majorities across parties agree, although Democrats (76%) are somewhat more likely than Republicans (68%) and independents (68%) to do so.

An overwhelming majority of Californians (79%) continue to agree with the statement that students have to borrow too much money to pay for a college education. Majorities have agreed on this issue since October 2007, when we first asked this question. Today, college graduates (87%) and those with some college (87%) are more likely to agree than those with less education (68%). Partisans agree on this issue (87% Democrats, 86% Republicans, 81% independents), as do more than seven in ten across regions. Two in three or more across age, education, and income groups agree. African Americans (92%) and whites (91%) are much more likely than Asian Americans (76%) and Latinos (64%) to agree.

“Please say if you agree or disagree with the following statements...”

		All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Household income		
			African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
The price of a college education keeps students who are qualified and motivated to go to college from doing so.	Agree	75%	72%	81%	73%	76%	77%	75%	70%
	Disagree	24	25	18	26	22	22	23	29
	Don't know	2	3	1	1	2	2	2	1
Students have to borrow too much money to pay for their college education.	Agree	79	92	76	64	91	72	84	89
	Disagree	20	7	24	36	7	27	16	9
	Don't know	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	2

While three in four Californians think the cost of college is a barrier to a college education, six in ten (61%) agree that almost anyone who needs financial help to go to college can get loans and financial aid. This perception is shared by majorities across parties, regions, and demographic groups, although those with no college education (70%), Latinos (70%), Asian Americans (69%), and African Americans (68%) are the most likely to agree. In PPIC surveys since 2008, at least half have held this view.

On the issue of affordable housing, an overwhelming majority of Californians agree that more should be done by colleges and universities to make sure all students have affordable housing options. More than seven in ten Californians across parties (90% Democrats, 78% independents, 71% Republicans) and across regions and racial/ethnic, age, education, and income groups hold this view.

“Please say if you agree or disagree with the following statements.... Colleges and universities should do more to make sure that all students have affordable housing options.”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Household income		
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
Agree	85%	87%	84%	94%	79%	91%	83%	79%
Disagree	14	11	16	6	19	8	16	21
Don't know	1	2	1	—	2	1	1	1

College Students and Campus Issues

Amid increased federal immigration enforcement efforts, half of Californians are very concerned about undocumented college and university students, including those with DACA status. Democrats (62%) are more than twice as likely as Republicans (30%) to be very concerned. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (71%) are by far the most likely to be very concerned. Residents in Los Angeles (56%) are the most likely to be very concerned, followed by those in the Inland Empire (51%), the Central Valley (50%), the San Francisco Bay Area (48%), and Orange/San Diego (44%). About half across age groups are very concerned; this level of concern is less likely to be expressed among those with higher levels of education and income. In April, a similar share of Californians (46%) were very concerned that these efforts would impact undocumented students and families in their local K–12 public schools.

“How concerned are you that increased federal immigration enforcement efforts will impact undocumented college and university students—including those with DACA status?”

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Very concerned	51%	62%	30%	43%	47%	37%	71%	40%
Somewhat concerned	25	21	29	31	35	26	18	29
Not too concerned	11	10	15	13	10	23	5	12
Not at all concerned	12	6	25	12	9	11	6	17
Don't know	1	1	1	2	–	1	–	2

Most Californians (57%) say the racial justice issues that students are raising on campus are very important to them. An overwhelming 70 percent of Democrats view these issues as very important, compared to 54 percent of independents and 28 percent of Republicans. African Americans and Latinos are far more likely than Asian Americans and whites to hold this view. Majorities across age groups say these issues are very important. This view is more prevalent among less-educated Californians (64%) than among those with at least some college education (54%), and becomes less prevalent with rising income.

“How important to you are the racial justice issues that students are raising on campus today?”

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Very important	57%	70%	28%	54%	77%	43%	76%	43%
Somewhat important	25	21	34	24	15	36	16	29
Not too important	8	5	14	10	4	12	4	10
Not at all important	9	2	23	10	3	9	2	15
Don't know	2	2	1	1	1	–	2	3

Majorities are dissatisfied with the way that college and university officials are handling free speech (52%, 39% satisfied), hate crimes (57%, 31% satisfied), and sexual assaults on campus (64%, 26% satisfied). Republicans (69%) are more likely than independents (55%) and Democrats (47%) to be dissatisfied about free speech, while partisans are similarly dissatisfied when it comes to hate crimes and sexual assaults on campus. About half of Californians across education and income groups are dissatisfied with the handling of free speech on campus; this perception becomes more prevalent with age. Majorities across regions and age and income groups say they are dissatisfied with the way that college and university officials are handling hate crimes and sexual assaults on campus.

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, and associate survey director Dean Bonner. The *Californians and Higher Education* survey is supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances Miller Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, and John and Louise Bryson. 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 1,107 interviewed on cell phones and 596 interviewed on landline telephones. Interviews took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from October 8–17, 2017.

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

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ± 3.3 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,703 adults. This means that 95 times out

of 100, the results will be within 3.3 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,435 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.6 percent; for the 1,095 likely voters, it is ± 4 percent; for the 433 respondents who attended a California community college, it is ± 6.4 percent; for the 294 who attended a California State University school, it is ± 8.6 percent; for the 184 who attended a University of California school, it is ± 10.7 percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

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

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 43 percent of the state’s adult population, and also for Latinos, who account for about a third of the state’s adult population and constitute one of the fastest-growing voter groups. We also present results for non-Hispanic Asian Americans, who make up about 15 percent of the state’s adult population, and non-Hispanic African Americans, who comprise about 6 percent. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes are not large enough for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in other parties are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated per their responses to 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 the Pew Research Center. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

Questionnaire and Results

CALIFORNIANS AND HIGHER EDUCATION

October 8–17, 2017

1,703 California Adult Residents:

English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 3.3\%$ AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE

PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

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

55% approve
27 disapprove
18 don't know

- 2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Brown is handling California's public college and university system?**

45% approve
32 disapprove
24 don't know

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

48% approve
36 disapprove
16 don't know

- 4. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling California's public college and university system?**

41% approve
41 disapprove
17 don't know

- 5. Thinking about the public higher education system overall in California today, do you think it is generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?**

46% right direction
45 wrong direction
9 don't know

- 6. Overall, do you think the public higher education system in California is in need of major changes, minor changes, or that it is basically fine the way it is?**

45% major changes
38 minor changes
14 fine the way it is
4 don't know

- 7. In thinking about the upcoming California governor's election in 2018, how important to you are the candidates' positions on higher education—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?**

63% very important
28 somewhat important
5 not too important
2 not at all important
2 don't know

I'm going to read you a list of issues people have mentioned when talking about California's public higher education system today. For each one, please tell me if you think it is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem. First...

[rotate questions 8 and 9]

- 8. How about the overall quality of education in California's public colleges and universities today?**

18% big problem
36 somewhat of a problem
42 not much of a problem
4 don't know

- 9. How about the overall affordability of education for students in California's public colleges and universities today? (Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?)**

56% big problem
29 somewhat of a problem
14 not much of a problem
1 don't know

As you may know, California's public higher education system has three branches—the California Community College system, the California State University system, and the University of California system.

[rotate questions 10 to 12]

- 10. Overall, is the California Community College system doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job?**

16% excellent
52 good
18 not so good
6 poor
8 don't know

- 11. Overall, is the California State University system doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job?**

12% excellent
53 good
21 not so good
7 poor
7 don't know

- 12. Overall, is the University of California system doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job?**

16% excellent
47 good
21 not so good
8 poor
7 don't know

- 13. Next, do you think the current level of state funding for California's public colleges and universities is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?**

11% more than enough
23 just enough
62 not enough
5 don't know

- 14. Overall, do you think that California's public colleges and universities waste a lot of money, waste some money, or don't waste very much money?**

32% a lot
36 some
24 don't waste very much
8 don't know

What if the state government said it needed more money to increase funding for California's public higher education system?

[rotate questions 15 and 16]

- 15. Would you be willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose, or not?**

44% yes
53 no
3 don't know

- 16. Would you be willing to increase student fees for this purpose, or not?**

19% yes
79 no
2 don't know

- 17. If the state ballot had a bond measure to pay for construction projects in California's public higher education system, would you vote yes or no?**

57% yes
37 no
5 don't know

- 18. Next, how much, if anything, have you heard about the 1960 California Master Plan for Higher Education which established the principle that every California resident with a high school degree could attend college? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?**

7% a lot
30 a little
63 nothing at all
— don't know

- 19. As you may know, according to the California Master Plan, the California Community Colleges focus on two-year associate degrees and transfer to four-year colleges and offer vocational training and certificates. The California State University focuses on bachelor's degrees and offers some master's degrees. The University of California serves as a research university and offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Do you favor or oppose having these separate roles for each system today?**

68% favor
21 oppose
11 don't know

- 20. As you may know, according to the California Master Plan, the California Community Colleges admit any student capable of benefiting from instruction, the California State University admits the top one third (33.3%) of California high school graduates, and the University of California admits the top one eighth (12.5%) of California high school graduates. Overall, do you favor or oppose these admission standards?**

59% favor
33 oppose
8 don't know

- 20a. As you may know, California residents attending a qualifying California public or private college, university, career or technical school are eligible for student aid through the Cal Grants Program if they meet financial and academic requirements. In general, do favor or oppose this state-funded program?**

87% favor
10 oppose
3 don't know

Next,

- 21. In general, how important is California's higher education system to the quality of life and economic vitality of the state over the next 20 years—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?**

80% very important
14 somewhat important
3 not too important
2 not at all important
1 don't know

- 22. In thinking ahead 20 years, if current trends continue, do you think California will have [rotate 1 and 2] (1) more than enough, (2) not enough, [or] just enough college-educated residents needed for the jobs and skills likely to be in demand?**

15% more than enough
48 not enough
32 just enough
4 don't know

- 23. How much confidence do you have in the state government's ability to plan for the future of California's public higher education system—a great deal, only some, very little, or none?**

16% a great deal
40 only some
27 very little
14 none
3 don't know

- 24. Next, do you think that a college education is necessary for a person to be successful in today's work world, or do you think that there are many ways to succeed in today's work world without a college education?**

50% college is necessary
48 many ways to succeed without a college education
2 don't know

[rotate questions 25 to 27]

- 25. In general, how well do you think a four-year degree from a college or university prepares someone for a well-paying job in today's economy? Does it prepare someone very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not at all well?**

30% very well
53 somewhat well
11 not too well
3 not at all well
2 depends on the person/job (volunteered)
1 don't know

- 26. In general, how well do you think a two-year degree from a community college prepares someone for a well-paying job in today's economy? (Does it prepare someone very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not at all well?)**

13% very well
45 somewhat well
28 not too well
10 not at all well
2 depends on the person/job (volunteered)
1 don't know

- 27. In general, how well do you think a certificate in a professional, technical or vocational field prepares someone for a well-paying job in today's economy? Does it prepare someone very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not at all well?**

33% very well
48 somewhat well
12 not too well
4 not at all well
2 depends on the person/job (volunteered)
1 don't know

Next, please say if you agree or disagree with the following statements.

[rotate questions 28 to 31]

- 28. The price of a college education keeps students who are qualified and motivated to go to college from doing so?**

75% agree
24 disagree
2 don't know

- 29. Almost anyone who needs financial help to go to college can get loans or financial aid.**

61% agree
36 disagree
3 don't know

- 30. Colleges and universities should do more to make sure that all students have affordable housing options.**

85% agree
14 disagree
1 don't know

- 31. Students have to borrow too much money to pay for their college education. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)**

79% agree
20 disagree
1 don't know

- 32. Next, are colleges and universities having a positive or negative effect on the way things are going in the country these days?**

59% positive effect
34 negative effect
7 don't know

Next, we want to know your opinion about issues involving students and campus life.

- 33. How concerned are you that increased federal immigration enforcement efforts will impact undocumented college and university students—including those with DACA status? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?**

51% very concerned
25 somewhat concerned
11 not too concerned
12 not at all concerned
1 don't know

33a. How important to you are the racial justice issues that students are raising on campus today—are they very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

57% very important
25 somewhat important
8 not too important
9 not at all important
2 don't know

[rotate questions 34 to 36]

34. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way that college and university officials are handling the issue of freedom of speech on campus?

39% satisfied
52 dissatisfied
8 don't know

35. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way that college and university officials are handling hate crimes on campus?

31% satisfied
57 dissatisfied
12 don't know

36. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way that college and university officials are handling sexual assaults on campus?

26% satisfied
64 dissatisfied
10 don't know

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

70% yes *[ask q37a]*
30 no *[skip to q38b]*

37a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or as an independent?

45% Democrat *[ask q38]*
25 Republican *[skip to q38a]*
5 another party *(specify) [skip to q39]*
25 independent *[skip to q38b]*

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

58% strong
41 not very strong
1 don't know

[skip to q39]

38a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

57% strong
41 not very strong
2 don't know

[skip to q39]

38b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

18% Republican Party
44 Democratic Party
26 neither *(volunteered)*
12 don't know

39. Would you consider yourself to be politically:

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

16% very liberal
20 somewhat liberal
29 middle-of-the-road
20 somewhat conservative
11 very conservative
3 don't know

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

28% great deal
34 fair amount
29 only a little
9 none
1 don't know

[d1-d16 demographic questions]

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