PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Rachel Lawler, and Deja Thomas

Supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation and the James Irvine Foundation
# Table of Contents

- Key Findings .................................................. 3
- Top Issues and Overall Mood ............................... 4
- Personal Finances ............................................. 6
- Russia's Invasion of Ukraine ............................... 10
- State Budget .................................................. 12
- Midterm Elections ............................................. 15
- Approval Ratings ............................................. 19
- Regional Map .................................................. 21
- Methodology .................................................... 22
- Questions and Responses .................................... 26
- Authors and Acknowledgments ............................ 33
- PPIC Statewide Advisory Committee ...................... 34
- PPIC Board of Directors .................................... 35
Key Findings

Every California voter has received a June 7 primary ballot in the mail and they have been weighing their election choices in the midst of disturbing news and unsettling circumstances. Inflation continues to take a daily toll on consumers and dampens their economic outlook. Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has turned into a deadly and protracted military conflict. The latest omicron variant is resulting in yet another surge in COVID cases. And Californians are being asked to conserve water in response to the drought while bracing themselves for wildfire season. The one bright spot is Governor Newsom’s May revision, which includes a record-setting surplus of revenues available for the state budget.

These are among the key findings of a statewide survey on state and national issues that was conducted from May 12 to 22 by the Public Policy Institute of California:

- **Californians name inflation, jobs, and the economy as the top issue facing the state today.** Californians are deeply divided along party lines about whether the state is headed in the right direction. Meanwhile, 30 percent think the US is headed in the right direction and 22 percent expect the US to have good times financially during the next 12 months.

- **More than one in three say that rising prices are causing serious financial hardship for their households.** Thirty-seven percent say they are financially worse off today than they were a year ago. For lower-income residents, 53 percent say that rising prices are causing serious financial hardship, and 46 percent say their finances are worse now than they were a year ago.

- **About half of Californians support sanctions on Russia even if they lead to higher energy prices.** Slightly less than half approve of how President Biden has handled Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, while a plurality say the US is offering the right amount of support to Ukraine. Seven in ten are in favor of admitting thousands of Ukrainian refugees into the US.

- **Partisans are divided on how to spend the state’s surplus revenues.** Democrats prefer to increase funding for education and health and human services, while Republicans prefer to refund some of the money to residents. A solid majority of Californians favor the governor’s proposal to spend $18 billion to address inflation, mostly through vehicle-owner tax rebates and three months of free public transit.

- **Fifty-five percent of California likely voters would support the Democratic candidate in their local US House race.** About six in ten likely voters, and eight in ten Democrats, are more likely to support a candidate who wants Roe v. Wade kept in place. Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to say they are extremely or very enthusiastic about voting for Congress this year.
Top Issues and Overall Mood

When asked to name the most important issue facing the state today, one in three Californians mention either jobs, the economy, and inflation (27%) or gasoline prices (7%), while about one in four mention housing costs and availability (12%) or homelessness (11%). Across regions, parties, and demographic groups, Californians name jobs, the economy, and inflation as the top issue.

Jobs, the economy, and inflation are the top issue for Californians

When it comes to the general direction of the state, more Californians and likely voters say that the state is headed in the wrong direction (50%) than the right direction. The last time we asked this question, in February, half of Californians (50%) were optimistic (45% wrong direction). Today, across regions, about half or more Californians say that the state is headed in the wrong direction, except in the San Francisco Bay Area, where 61 percent say the state is headed in the right direction. There is a wide partisan divide: six in ten Democrats are optimistic (62%) about the direction of the state, while six in ten independents (62%) and nearly nine in ten Republicans (87%) are pessimistic. Men (56%) are more likely than women (44%) to say the state is headed in the wrong direction. Across demographic groups, the share saying the state is headed in the right direction only reaches a majority among Asian Americans (59%) and college graduates (54%).

About half of Californians continue to approve of Governor Newsom and President Biden. About half approve of the state legislature while one in three approve of the US Congress. Approval ratings of federal and state elected officials vary widely across partisan groups.
Californians are divided on whether the state is headed in the right direction or not

While there are glimmers of optimism regarding the direction of the state, pessimism prevails when it comes to how Californians feel about the nation’s direction and economic outlook. Thirty percent think the US is headed in the right direction and 22 percent expect the US to have good times financially during the next 12 months. About four in ten or fewer across parties, regions, and demographic groups think the nation is headed in the right direction, while one in three or fewer across these groups expect good times for the US in the next 12 months. In February, Californians were more optimistic with 38 percent saying the nation was headed in the right direction and expecting good economic times.

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).
Few Californians are optimistic about the nation's direction and economic outlook

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US is headed in right direction</th>
<th>Expect US to have good times financially</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All adults</strong></td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF Bay Area</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $40,000</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $79,999</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).

**Personal Finances**

Two in three Californians say that rising prices are causing hardship for their households, with more than one in three saying they are experiencing serious hardship. In March, findings were similar (35% serious hardship; 32% hardship, but not serious). Today, Republicans (49%) are twice as likely as Democrats (25%) to say they are experiencing serious hardship. Across regions, the share experiencing serious hardship is
highest in the Central Valley (48%) and lowest in the San Francisco Bay Area (26%). African Americans are the most likely across racial/ethnic groups to report experiencing serious hardship due to rising prices. Californians with lower incomes are much more likely to report serious hardship than those with higher incomes.

### Most Californians say rising prices are causing financial hardship for their households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Serious hardship</th>
<th>Hardship, but not serious</th>
<th>No hardship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under $40,000</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $79,999</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).

When asked about their personal finances, few Californians (15%) say they are better off than they were a year ago, while nearly half (48%) say their finances are about the same and 37 percent say they are worse off than a year ago. Republicans (60%) are far more likely than independents (39%) and Democrats (25%) to say their finances are worse off. Across regions, the share saying their finances are worse off is highest in the Inland Empire (49%) and lowest in the San Francisco Bay Area (30%) (41% Central Valley, 34% Los Angeles, 34% Orange/San Diego). Whites and Latinos are more likely than African Americans and Asian Americans to say their finances are worse off, and this perception is much higher among lower-income residents.
Income inequality has been a persistent issue in California, and today seven in ten Californians believe that the state is divided into haves and have-nots. Since 2011, more than six in ten Californians have held this view in our surveys. Today, the belief that the state is divided into two economic groups is widespread, with two in three or more across parties, regions, and demographic groups holding this view. When asked which group they belong to, Californians are slightly more likely to say they are part of the have-nots (45%) than the haves (39%). Across partisan and demographic groups, Democrats (53%), those with household incomes greater than $80,000 (62%), college graduates (58%), Asian Americans (49%), and whites (48%) are more likely to say they are part of the haves, rather than the have-nots. Sixty-four percent of those with household incomes of less than $40,000 say they are part of the have-nots, rather than the haves.
Most think the state is divided into economic haves and have-nots

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Think the state is divided into haves and have-nots</th>
<th>Think they are part of the haves</th>
<th>Think they are part of the have-nots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF Bay Area</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $40,000</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $79,999</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).
Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Three months after Russia began its invasion of Ukraine, seven in ten Californians support the US and European allies imposing sanctions on Russia, including half who support sanctions, even if they lead to higher energy prices. The share supporting sanctions was slightly higher in March (56% support, even if higher energy prices; 4% support, no opinion if higher energy prices; 16% support, but not if higher energy prices; 19% oppose; 5% don’t know). About half or more across partisan groups support sanctions even if it means higher energy prices, although Democrats are more likely than Republicans or independents to do so. Majorities in Los Angeles (54%) support sanctions even if it means higher energy prices, compared to about half in the San Francisco Bay Area (51%), Orange/San Diego (48%), and the Inland Empire (47%) and fewer in the Central Valley (41%). Support—even if it leads to higher energy prices—increases with rising age, education, and income levels. Across racial/ethnic groups, majorities of whites (66%) and African Americans (53%) are supportive, compared to fewer Asian Americans (43%) and Latinos (36%).

Widespread majorities support sanctions on Russia, but feelings are mixed if the sanctions lead to higher energy prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support, even if higher energy prices</th>
<th>Support, no opinion if higher energy prices</th>
<th>Support, but oppose if higher energy prices</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $40,000</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $79,999</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).

In thinking about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, 70 percent of California adults and 72 percent of likely voters support the idea of admitting thousands of Ukrainian refugees into the United States. About half or more are in favor, although the level of support varies widely across partisan groups (79% Democrats, 70% independents, 49% Republicans). Across regions and demographic groups, solid majorities are in favor of admitting Ukrainian refugees. Statewide results were similar to findings in a national survey by the Pew Research Center in March (69% favor).

Overall, 47 percent of Californians approve of President Biden’s handling of the situation involving Ukraine.
and Russia—similar to his overall approval rating. Partisans are sharply divided on this issue, and approval across regions is higher in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area than in the Central Valley, Inland Empire, and Orange/San Diego. Approval of Biden’s handling of this situation increases with rising income levels and is similar among men and women. Across racial/ethnic groups, a solid majority of Asian Americans (61%) approve of the president’s handling of the invasion, compared to fewer than half in other racial/ethnic groups.

**Californians are divided on how President Biden is handling Russia’s invasion of Ukraine**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>Disapprove</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF Bay Area</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).

When asked about the level of support the United States is providing to Ukraine to combat Russia’s invasion efforts, a plurality (35%) of Californians say the US is providing about the right amount of support; fewer say not enough support (20%) or too much support (13%), while about one-third are not sure. Among partisans, a plurality of Democrats and independents say the US is providing about the right amount of support, while Republicans are divided. Across demographic groups, pluralities say the US is providing about the right amount of support, while fewer than two in ten in any group think the US is providing too much support, while fewer than one in four say not enough support. About a quarter or more across demographic groups say they are unsure how to answer the question.
A plurality of Californians say the US is offering about the right amount of support to Ukraine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Too much support</th>
<th>Not enough support</th>
<th>About the right amount</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF Bay Area</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $40,000</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $79,999</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).

State Budget

Earlier this month, Governor Newsom released a $300.6 billion spending plan and announced an estimated
$97.5 billion state budget surplus. A record-low 35 percent of adults (39 percent of likely voters) say the state budget situation is a big problem (somewhat of a problem: 38% adults, 35% likely voters; not a problem: 18% adults, 22% likely voters). Similar shares held this view last May (36%) and the share of adults saying it is a big problem has been declining in recent years. Today, 23 percent of Democrats say the budget situation is a big problem, compared to an overwhelming majority of Republicans (72%) and forty-four percent of independents. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans and whites (46% each) are much more likely than Asian Americans (21%) and Latinos (27%) to say it is a big problem. Across regions, Californians in the Central Valley (44%), Orange/San Diego (44%), and the Inland Empire (43%) are the most likely to say the budget is a big problem (32% Los Angeles, 23% San Francisco Bay Area). Similar shares of men (35%) and women (36%) say this, and older adults are more likely to say this than younger adults.

The share of Californians saying the state budget situation is a big problem has declined in recent years and is at a record low

Californians are divided when asked how to use the nearly $100 billion budget surplus. One in three want to increase funding for education and health and human services, while 27 percent want to refund some of the money to the people of California and 22 percent favor one-time state spending for transportation, water, and infrastructure. Just 13 percent want to pay down state debt and build up the reserve. Partisans hold differing views: Democrats are the most likely to favor funding education and health and human services, and Republicans are the most supportive of refunding money to Californians; independents are more divided. Residents in the Inland Empire prefer to refund some of the money, while residents in other regions are more likely to prefer increased funding for education and health and human services. A plurality of Latinos want to increase funding for education and health and human services, while African Americans, Asian Americans, and whites are more divided.
Part of Governor Newsom’s budget plan includes a proposal to spend $18 billion to address inflation, with most of this funding going toward tax rebates for vehicle owners and free public transportation for three months. A majority of adults and likely voters favor this proposal. Partisans offer opposing views, with an overwhelming majority of Democrats and about half of independents in favor, compared to 33 percent of Republicans. Majorities across regions favor the proposal. Half or more across age, education, gender, homeownership, income, and racial/ethnic groups are in favor, but support declines with rising age and income levels.

### Californians are divided on what to do with surplus budget funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Build up the reserve</th>
<th>Increase state funding for education, health and human services</th>
<th>One-time state spending for transportation, water, infrastructure</th>
<th>Refund some of the money to the people of California</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under $40,000</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $79,999</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,178 likely voters).
A solid majority of Californians favor the proposal to spend $18 billion in funding to address inflation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF Bay Area</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $40,000</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $79,999</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).

**Midterm Elections**

With the June primary just a week and a half away, nearly four in ten likely voters are extremely or very enthusiastic about voting for Congress this year. This level of enthusiasm is much higher among Republicans than among Democrats or independents. The share of Californians saying they are extremely or very enthusiastic is roughly similar across regions, with slightly higher levels of enthusiasm in the Central
An overwhelming majority of likely voters are at least somewhat enthusiastic about voting for Congress this year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Extremely enthusiastic</th>
<th>Very enthusiastic</th>
<th>Somewhat enthusiastic</th>
<th>Not too enthusiastic</th>
<th>Not at all enthusiastic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All likely voters</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF Bay Area</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).

**NOTES:** Among likely voters only.

With a leaked draft opinion from the Supreme Court showing that *Roe v. Wade* may be on the verge of being overturned, what role will this decision play in upcoming elections? Likely voters—by a four-to-one margin—say they are more likely to support a candidate who wants *Roe v. Wade* kept in place (58%) than one who wants the landmark decision overturned (14%). About one in five likely voters (23%) say a candidate’s position on this issue does not matter much. There is a wide partisan divide, with eight in ten Democratic likely voters, along with about half of independents, saying they are more likely to support a candidate who wants *Roe* kept in place, while about four in ten Republicans are more likely to support a candidate who wants *Roe* overturned. Men (48%) are much less likely than women (66%) to say they would likely prefer a candidate who wants *Roe* kept in place. Latinos (43%) are much less likely than whites (59%) and members of other racial/ethnic groups (70%) to be supportive of a candidate who wants to keep *Roe*. (Sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis.)

Half of likely voters in Republican-held districts are more likely to support a candidate who wants the decision kept in place (50%), while six in ten in Democratic-held districts (60%) hold this view. In the ten competitive California districts as defined by the *Cook Political Report*, likely voters (59% kept in place, 15% overturned, 19% does not matter much) hold similar opinions to likely voters statewide. The *April PPIC*
Statewide Survey found that 76 percent of likely voters (90% Democrats, 51% Republicans, 76% independents) would not like to see the Supreme Court overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision.

A majority of likely voters are more likely to support a candidate who wants *Roe v. Wade* kept in place

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wants <em>Roe v. Wade</em> kept in place</th>
<th>Wants <em>Roe v. Wade</em> overturned</th>
<th>A candidate’s position does not matter much</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All likely voters</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF Bay Area</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).

**NOTES:** Among likely voters only.

If the 2022 election for the US House of Representatives were held today, 55 percent of likely voters would vote for or lean toward the Democratic candidate, while 35 percent would vote for or lean toward the Republican candidate. An overwhelming majority of partisans support their party’s candidate, while independents are more divided (38% Republican/lean Republican, 44% Democrat/lean Democrat). Democratic candidates are preferred by a 26-point margin (59% to 33%) in Democratic-held districts, while Republican candidates are preferred by a 10-point margin (50% to 40%) in Republican-held districts. In competitive districts, the Democratic candidate is preferred by a 9-point margin (49% to 40%).
If the election for the US House of Representatives were held today, a majority of likely voters would vote for the Democratic candidate in their district.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Republican/lean Republican</th>
<th>Democrat/lean Democrat</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All likely voters</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF Bay Area</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other racial/ethnic</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $40,000</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $79,999</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).

**NOTES:** Among likely voters only.
Approval Ratings

Roughly five months before the midterm election that could give Governor Newsom a second term, 53% of adults and 52% of likely voters approve of the governor’s job performance. Similar shares held this view one year ago and approval of Governor Newsom among all adults has remained above 50 percent since January 2020. Seventy-five percent of Democrats approve of Newsom, while 82 percent of Republicans disapprove; independents are divided. Approval is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area and lowest in the Inland Empire. The share approving of the governor is higher among women (58%) than men (48%); it is also higher among Latinos (65%), Asian Americans (61%), and African Americans (52%) than whites (44%). Adults with some college education are less likely than those with a high school degree only and college graduates to approve. Approval decreases as age increases.

Forty-nine percent of adults and 47 percent of likely voters approve of the state legislature; views were similar last March. Approval reaches a majority among Democrats, San Francisco Bay Area residents, women, Asian Americans, Latinos, adults with a high school education, college graduates, adults making less than $40,000, and adults age 18 to 34.

About half continue to approve of Governor Newsom, while fewer approve of the legislature

About half of Californians (50%) and likely voters (48%) approve of the job Joe Biden is doing as president—much lower than a year ago when 66 percent of adults and 60 percent of likely voters approved. Today, 66 percent of Democrats approve of the president while most Republicans disapprove; independents are divided. Majorities of residents in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles approve, while majorities of residents in Orange/San Diego and the Inland Empire disapprove; Central Valley residents are divided in their views. The president's approval rating is higher among women (55%) than men (46%); it is also higher among Latinos (59%) and Asian Americans (56%) than among whites (45%) and
African Americans (38%). In a recent NBC News poll, 39 percent of adults nationwide approved of President Biden’s job performance.

In California, 32 percent of adults and 20 percent of likely voters approve of the job Congress is doing. Notably, approval fails to reach 50 percent across parties, regions, and demographic groups. In a March Gallup poll, 21 percent of adults nationwide approved of Congress’s job performance.

Half of Californians continue to approve of President Biden, while approval of Congress has declined considerably

![Graph showing approval ratings of President Biden and Congress from January 2021 to May 2022.]

**Source:** PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2021–2022.
Regional Map

This map highlights the five geographic regions for which we present results; these regions account for approximately 90 percent of the state population. Residents of other geographic areas (in gray) 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Governor Newsom</th>
<th>State Legislature</th>
<th>President Biden</th>
<th>US Congress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF Bay Area</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $40,000</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $79,999</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, n=1,179 likely voters).
Methodology

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California. Coauthors of this report include associate survey director and research fellow Dean Bonner, who was the project manager for this survey; survey analyst Rachel Lawler; and survey analyst Deja Thomas. The Californians and Their Government survey is supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation and the James Irvine Foundation. The PPIC Statewide Survey invites input, comments, and suggestions from policy and public opinion experts and from its own advisory committee, but survey methods, questions, and content are determined solely by PPIC’s survey team.

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 1,702 California adult residents, including 1,267 interviewed on cell phones and 435 interviewed on landline telephones. The sample included 556 respondents reached by
calling back respondents who had previously completed an interview in PPIC Statewide Surveys in the last six months. Interviews took an average of 20 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from May 12–22, 2022.

Cell phone interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of cell phone numbers. Additionally, we utilized a registration-based sample (RBS) of adults who are registered to vote in California. All cell phone numbers with California area codes were eligible for selection. After a cell phone user was reached, the interviewer 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. Additionally, we utilized a registration-based sample (RBS) of adults who are registered to vote in California. All landline telephone exchanges in California were eligible for selection. After a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using the "last birthday method" to avoid biases in age and gender.

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 2016–2020 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 2019 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 region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, telephone service, and party registration groups.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ±3.9 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,702 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.9 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,480 registered voters, the sampling error is ±4.2 percent; for the 1,179 likely voters, it is ±4.9. For the sampling errors of additional subgroups, please see the table at the end of this section. 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 results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 41 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 16 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 no party preference or 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, intentions to vote this year, attention to election news, and current interest in politics.

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

Numerous questions were adapted from national surveys by CBS News, Gallup, ABC News/Washington Post, and the Pew Research Center. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.
**Unweighted N-size and margin of error**

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022. Survey was fielded from May 12–22, 2022 (n=1,702 adults, 1,179 likely voters). PPIC Statewide Survey, May 2022.

Get the data
Questions and Responses

May 12–22, 2022
1,702 California adult residents; 1,179 California likely voters
English, Spanish

Margin of error ±3.9% at 95% confidence level for the total sample, ±4.9% for likely voters.
Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

1. First, thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today? [code, don’t read]
   27% economy, jobs, inflation
   12% housing costs, housing availability
   11% homelessness
   7% gasoline prices, oil prices
   6% water, water availability/quality, drought
   4% crime, gangs, drugs
   4% environment, pollution, climate change
   4% state budget, deficit, spending
   3% government in general, problems with elected officials, political parties
   3% immigration, illegal immigration
   2% COVID-19, coronavirus, mandates
   2% education, teachers, schools
   2% electricity costs, energy supply
   11% other (specify)
   2% don’t know

2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor of California?
   53% approve
   35% disapprove
   12% don’t know

3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?
   49% approve
   38% disapprove
   13% don’t know

4. Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?
   45% right direction
   50% wrong direction
   6% don’t know

Changing topics,
5. Thinking about your own personal finances. Would you say that you and your family are financially better off, worse off, or just about the same as a year ago?

15% better off
37% worse off
48% same
1% don’t know

6. Have recent price increases caused any financial hardships for you or others in your household, or not? (If yes, ask: “Has that been a serious hardship, or not?”)

36% yes, serious
31% yes, not serious
32% no
1% don’t know

Next,

7. Some people think that California is divided into economic groups, the haves and have-nots, while others think it is not divided that way. Do you think that California is divided into haves and have-nots, or do you think that California is not divided that way?

71% divided into haves and have-nots
25% not divided that way
4% don’t know

8. If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in— the haves or have-nots?

39% haves
45% have-nots
10% neither (volunteered)
6% don’t know

Next,

9. 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?

35% big problem
38% somewhat of a problem
18% not a problem
8% don’t know

10. The state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars. In general, how would you prefer to use this extra money? [rotate] [1] Would you prefer to pay down state debt and build up the reserve [or] [2] would you prefer to increase state funding for education, health, and human service programs [or] [3] would you prefer one-time state spending for transportation, water, and infrastructure projects [or] [4] would you prefer to refund some of this money to the people of California?
33% increase state funding for education, health, and human services
27% refund some money to the people of California
22% one-time state spending for transportation, water, infrastructure
13% pay down debt and build up reserve
2% other (volunteered)
3% don’t know

11. As part of the May Revision to the state budget, Governor Newsom has proposed spending $18 billion in funding to address inflation with most of the money going towards tax rebates for vehicle owners and making public transportation free for three months. Overall, do you favor or oppose this plan?

62% favor
33% oppose
5% don’t know

Changing topics,

12. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Joe Biden is handling his job as president?

50% approve
44% disapprove
5% don’t know

13. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Joe Biden is handling Russia’s invasion of Ukraine?

47% approve
41% disapprove
12% don’t know

Next,

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

32% approve
59% disapprove
9% don’t know

Next,

15. Do you think things in the United States are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

30% right direction
63% wrong direction
6% don’t know

16. Turning to economic conditions, do you think that during the next 12 months the United States will have good times financially or bad times?

22% good times
70% bad times
8% don’t know

On another topic,

17. How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington today to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

5% just about always
20% most of the time
60% only some of the time
12% none of the time (volunteered)
3% don’t know

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

73% a few big interests
22% benefit of all of the people
5% don’t know

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

54% a lot
32% some
10% don’t waste very much
4% don’t know

Changing topics,

20. Thinking about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, would you favor or oppose the US admitting thousands of refugees into the US?

70% favor
23% oppose
7% don’t know

21. 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?

81% favor
15% oppose
4% don’t know

22. Would you favor or oppose providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the US if they met certain requirements including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, and passing criminal background checks?
82% favor
15% oppose
3% don't know

On another topic,

23. [likely voters only] If the 2022 election for US House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for [rotate] [1] the Republican candidate [or] [2] the Democratic candidate in your district? (ask if 'other' or 'don't know': “As of today, do you lean more toward [read in same order as above] [1] the Republican candidate [or] [2] the Democratic candidate?”)

35% Republican/lean Republican
55% Democrat/lean Democrat
10% don't know

24. [likely voters only] In general, are you more likely to support a candidate who [rotate 1 and 2] [1] wants Roe v. Wade kept in place [or] [2] wants Roe v. Wade overturned [3] or does a candidate’s position not matter much?

58% wants Roe v. Wade kept in place
14% wants Roe v. Wade overturned
23% a candidate’s position does not matter much
5% don't know

25. [likely voters only] How enthusiastic would you say you are about voting for Congress this year—extremely enthusiastic, very enthusiastic, somewhat enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not at all enthusiastic?

17% extremely enthusiastic
21% very enthusiastic
34% somewhat enthusiastic
15% not too enthusiastic
12% not at all enthusiastic
1% don't know

On another topic,

26. Given Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, do you support or oppose the United States and its European allies imposing economic sanctions on Russia? (if support, ask: “Do you support or oppose the economic sanctions against Russia if they result in higher energy prices in the United States?”)

49% support, even if higher energy prices
16% support, but not if higher energy prices
6% support, but don’t know
20% oppose
8% don't know

27. When it comes to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, do you think that the US is providing [randomize 1 and 2
and always ask 3 and 8 last: [1] too much support to Ukraine, [2] not enough support to Ukraine, or [3] about the right amount of support to Ukraine or [8] are you not sure?

13% too much support
20% not enough support
35% about the right amount of support
32% not sure

(questions 28 through 30 not asked)

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

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

55% probably better
29% probably worse
4% same (volunteered)
11% don't know

Next,

[rotate questions 32 to 34]

32. [likely voters only] Proposition 11 is the 2008 ballot measure passed by voters that established a citizens’ commission to redraw the physical boundaries of the state’s voting districts rather than having the state legislature and governor make these redistricting decisions. Overall, do you feel that passing Proposition 11 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?

53% mostly a good thing
19% mostly a bad thing
3% mixed (volunteered)
25% don’t know

33. [likely voters only] Proposition 13 is the 1978 ballot measure that limits the property tax rate to 1 percent of assessed value at time of purchase and annual tax increases to no more than 2 percent until the property is sold. Overall, do you feel passing Proposition 13 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?

64% mostly a good thing
21% mostly a bad thing
2% mixed (volunteered)
12% don’t know

34. [likely voters only] Proposition 14 is the 2010 ballot measure passed by voters that changed California’s state primary elections from a partially closed system to a top-two primary system in which voters now cast primary election ballots for any candidate—regardless of party—and the two candidates receiving the most
votes—regardless of party—advance to the general election. Overall, do you feel that passing Proposition 14 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?

62% mostly a good thing
25% mostly a bad thing
1% mixed (volunteered)
12% don't know

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

76% yes [ask q35a]
24% no [skip to q35b]

35a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

46% Democrat [ask q36]
24% Republican [ask q36a]
6% another party (specify) [skip to q37]
23% decline-to-state/independent [skip to 36b]

[likely voters only]
48% Democrat [ask q36]
24% Republican [ask q36a]
7% another party (specify) [skip to q37]
21% decline-to-state/independent [skip to 36b]

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

55% strong
42% not very strong
2% don’t know

[skip to q37]

36a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

56% strong
39% not very strong
5% don’t know

[skip to q37]

36b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

28% Republican Party
45% Democratic Party
20% neither (volunteered)
7% don’t know

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

15% very liberal
20% somewhat liberal
29% middle-of-the-road
18% somewhat conservative
15% very conservative
3% don’t know

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

23% great deal
34% fair amount
32% only a little
10% none
– don’t know

[d1–d15 demographic questions]

Authors

Mark Baldassare is president and CEO of the Public Policy Institute of California, where he holds the Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Chair in Public Policy. He is a leading expert on public opinion and survey methodology, and has directed the PPIC Statewide Survey since 1998. He is an authority on elections, voter behavior, and political and fiscal reform, authoring ten books and numerous reports on these topics. He often provides testimony before legislative committees and state commissions, and regularly hosts PPIC’s Speaker Series, a public forum featuring in-depth interviews with state and national leaders. Previously, he served as PPIC’s director of research. Before joining PPIC, he was a professor of urban and regional planning at the University of California, Irvine, where he held the Johnson Chair in Civic Governance. He has conducted surveys for the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, and the California Business Roundtable. He holds a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dean Bonner is associate survey director and research fellow at PPIC, where he coauthors the PPIC Statewide Survey—a large-scale public opinion project designed to develop an in-depth profile of the social, economic, and political attitudes at work in California elections and policymaking. He has expertise in public opinion and survey research, political attitudes and participation, and voting behavior. Before joining PPIC, he taught political science at Tulane University and was a research associate at the University of New Orleans Survey Research Center. He holds a PhD and MA in political science from the University of New Orleans.

Rachel Lawler is a survey analyst at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she works with the statewide survey team. Prior to joining PPIC, she was a client manager in Kantar Millward Brown’s Dublin, Ireland office. In that role, she led and contributed to a variety of quantitative and qualitative studies for both government and
corporate clients. She holds an MA in American politics and foreign policy from the University College Dublin and a BA in political science from Chapman University.

Deja Thomas is a survey analyst at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she works with the statewide survey team. Prior to joining PPIC, she was a research assistant with the social and demographic trends team at the Pew Research Center. In that role, she contributed to a variety of national quantitative and qualitative survey studies. She holds a BA in psychology from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

Acknowledgments

This survey was supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation and the James Irvine Foundation.

PPIC Statewide Advisory Committee

Ruben Barrales
Senior Vice President, External Relations
Wells Fargo

Angela Glover Blackwell
Founder in Residence
PolicyLink

Mollyann Brodie
Executive Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer
Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Bruce E. Cain
Director
Bill Lane Center for the American West
Stanford University

Jon Cohen
Chief Research Officer
SurveyMonkey

Joshua J. Dyck
Co-Director
Center for Public Opinion
University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Lisa García Bedolla
Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and

Robert Lapsley
President
California Business Roundtable

Carol S. Larson
President Emeritus
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Donna Lucas
Chief Executive Officer
Lucas Public Affairs

Sonja Petek
Fiscal and Policy Analyst
California Legislative Analyst’s Office

Lisa Pitney
Vice President of Government Relations
The Walt Disney Company

Robert K. Ross, MD
President and CEO
The California Endowment

Jui Shrestha
Survey Specialist Consultant
World Bank

Most Reverend Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento
Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento

Helen Iris Torres
CEO
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
Dean of the Graduate Division  
University of California, Berkeley

Russell Hancock  
President and CEO  
Joint Venture Silicon Valley

Sherry Bebitch Jeffe  
Professor  
Sol Price School of Public Policy  
University of Southern California

David C. Wilson, PhD  
Dean and Professor  
Richard and Rhoda Goldman School of Public Policy  
University of California, Berkeley

PPIC Board of Directors

Steve Merksamer, Chair  
Of Counsel  
Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gross & Leoni LLP

Mark Baldassare  
President and CEO  
Public Policy Institute of California

Ophelia Basgal  
Affiliate  
Terner Center for Housing Innovation  
University of California, Berkeley

Louise Henry Bryson  
Chair Emerita, Board of Trustees  
J. Paul Getty Trust

A. Marisa Chun

Chet Hewitt  
President and CEO  
Sierra Health Foundation

Phil Isenberg  
Former Chair  
Delta Stewardship Council

Mas Masumoto  
Author and Farmer

Steven J. Olson  
Partner  
O’Melveny & Myers LLP

Leon E. Panetta  
Chairman  
The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

Gerald L. Parsky  
Chairman, Aurora Capital Group

Kim Polese  
Chairman, ClearStreet, Inc.

Cassandra Walker Pye  
President  
Lucas Public Affairs

Helen Iris Torres  
CEO  
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality

Gaddi H. Vasquez  
Retired Senior Vice President, Government Affairs  
Edison International  
Southern California Edison
Copyright

© 2022 Public Policy Institute of California

The Public Policy Institute of California is dedicated to informing and improving public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research.

PPIC is a public charity. It does not take or support positions on any ballot measures or on any local, state, or federal legislation, nor does it endorse, support, or oppose any political parties or candidates for public office.

Short sections of text, not to exceed three paragraphs, may be quoted without written permission provided that full attribution is given to the source.

Research publications reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of our funders or of the staff, officers, advisory councils, or board of directors of the Public Policy Institute of California.