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30 YEARS



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STATEWIDE SURVEY · JUNE 2023

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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

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## Key Findings

State and federal fiscal issues took center stage in late May as key deadlines loomed for passing the California state budget and increasing the federal debt limit in June. Governor Gavin Newsom delivered his May budget revision to the legislature with solutions to address a multi-billion-dollar shortfall. President Joe Biden met with Speaker Kevin McCarthy to find a bipartisan solution to pay the federal bills coming due. The economy is sending mixed signals—with job growth but also ongoing inflation—while bank failures underscore recession fears. Having weathered the historic winter storms and spring flood season, Californians face the prospect of extreme weather events that could bring severe heat waves and wildfires this summer.

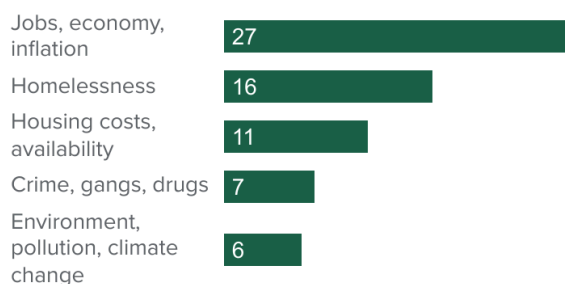
This is the 25th year of the PPIC Statewide Survey. These are the key findings of the *Californians and Their Government* survey on state and national issues conducted from May 17 to 24, 2023:

- **Californians name economic conditions, homelessness, and housing as the most important issues facing the people of California today.** Californians have mixed views about whether the state is going in the right or wrong direction. Strong majorities believe that the state will have bad times financially in the next 12 months. Majorities approve of Governor Newsom's job performance, while about half approve of the state legislature and their own legislator.

- **Nearly six in ten Californians believe that the state is in an economic recession, with most thinking that it is moderate in nature.** Partisans differ in their perceptions of whether the state is in an economic recession. About six in ten adults say that they have experienced financial hardships due to rising prices, with lower-income residents far more likely to say that rising prices have caused serious hardships. About half of adults say their finances are in excellent or good shape today and that their finances have not changed in the past year; lower-income residents are much more likely to hold negative views. Forty-six percent say that housing places a financial strain on them; about six in ten are in favor of changing California's environmental regulations and local permitting processes as a way to make housing more affordable in their part of the state.

### Californians name economic conditions and homelessness as the top issues facing the state

Top five issues mentioned



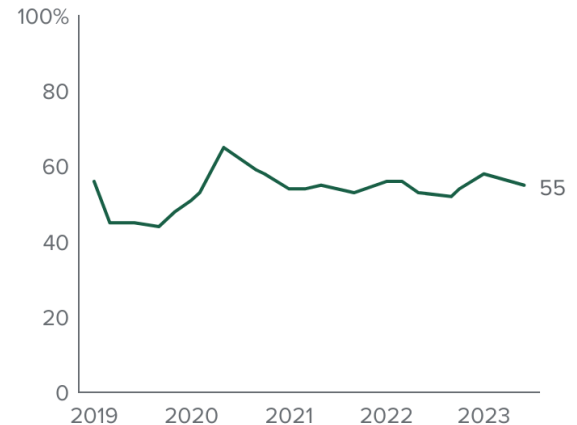
➤ **Nearly four in ten Californians say the state's budget situation is a big problem.** Majorities favor the governor's budget plan for the next fiscal year, but approval varies across partisan groups. Most say that not accessing the Rainy Day Fund to address the current budget shortfall is a good idea, while fewer than half think that the proposed combination of spending cuts, delayed spending, and shifts in funding sources is a good idea. Half of likely voters favor raising state taxes on some of the largest California corporations, with partisans divided.

➤ **Most Californians say they are somewhat knowledgeable about disaster preparedness.** About six in ten say they are worried about personal injury, damage, and disruption from disasters. Four in ten say they have a disaster kit and three in ten have a disaster plan—with lower-income residents and women less likely to have these items. Most adults say they have a great deal or some confidence in state and local government readiness to respond to disasters.

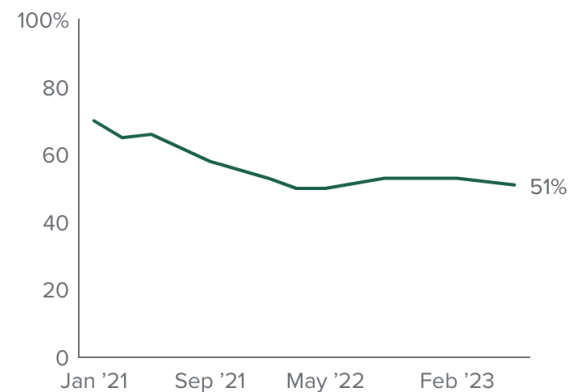
➤ **By a wide margin, Californians view immigrants as a benefit rather than a burden to the state.** Californians overwhelmingly favor a path to citizenship for undocumented residents and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) protections from deportation for immigrants brought to the US as children. Majorities are in favor of providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants in California, but there is a partisan divide.

➤ **Overwhelming majorities of adults and likely voters have gloomy views of the state of the nation.** Solid majorities across party lines say that the US is headed in the wrong direction and expect bad economic times in the US in the next year. About six in ten want the issues of debt payment and federal spending handled separately; partisans are divided on this issue. About half approve of President Joe Biden, Senator Alex Padilla, and their local US House member, while fewer approve of Senator Dianne Feinstein, Speaker Kevin McCarthy, and the US Congress. Former President Trump has a large lead in the Republican presidential primary while President Joe Biden has a wide lead over Donald Trump in a potential rematch.

### Majorities continue to approve of the job Gavin Newsom is doing as governor



### Continuing the trend seen throughout 2022, about half of Californians approve of the job Joe Biden is doing as president



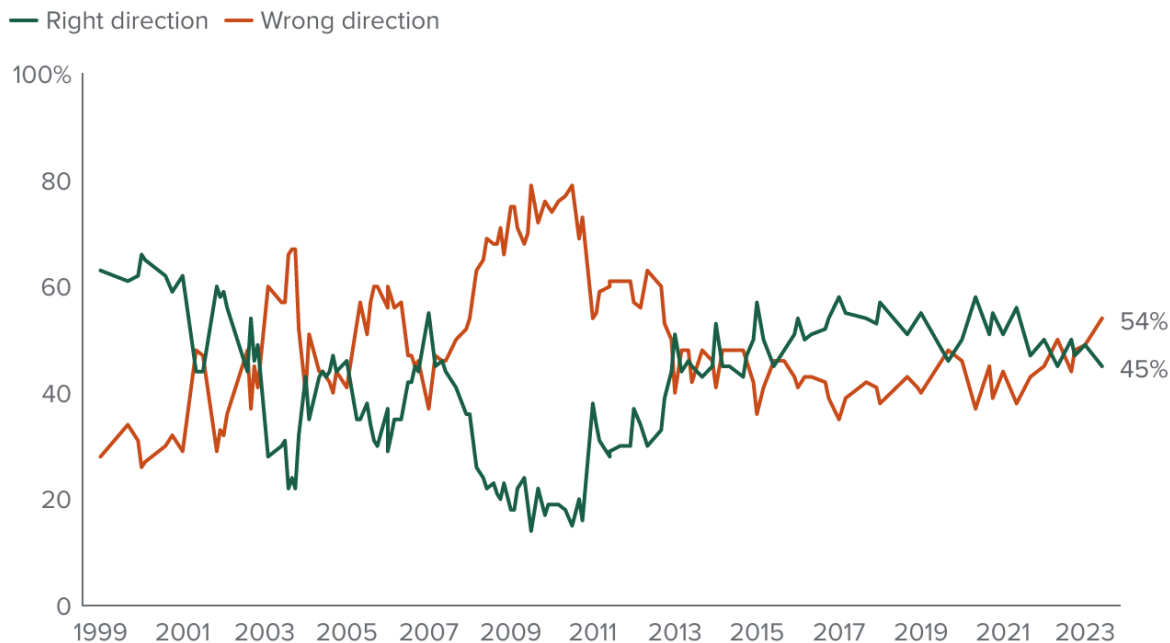
## State of the State

When asked about the most important issue facing people in California today, Californians are most likely to name jobs, the economy, and inflation (27%), homelessness (16%), and housing costs and availability (11%). Fewer Californians mention crime, gangs, and drugs (7%), the environment (6%), the state budget (5%), or government in general (5%). Across regions, residents are most likely to mention jobs, the economy, and inflation. Thirty percent of Democrats and about a quarter of Republicans and independents mention jobs,

the economy, and inflation. Across partisan groups, Republicans are the most likely to mention crime, while Democrats and independents are the most likely to mention housing costs and availability.

Californians are somewhat more likely to say that the state is generally going in the wrong direction than the right direction. The outlook for the state varies by party, with strong majorities of Democrats optimistic (68%) and overwhelming shares of Republicans pessimistic (89%); strong majorities of independents are pessimistic (68%). Across regions, about six in ten residents in the Central Valley (61%), Orange/San Diego (57%), and the Inland Empire (56%) think things are going in the wrong direction; residents in Los Angeles (49% right direction, 50% wrong direction) and the San Francisco Bay Area (51% right direction, 48% wrong direction) are more divided. A majority of Asian Americans (56%) are optimistic, while Latinos (45% right direction, 53% wrong direction) and African Americans (48% right direction, 50% wrong direction) are divided, and a majority of whites (59%) are pessimistic.

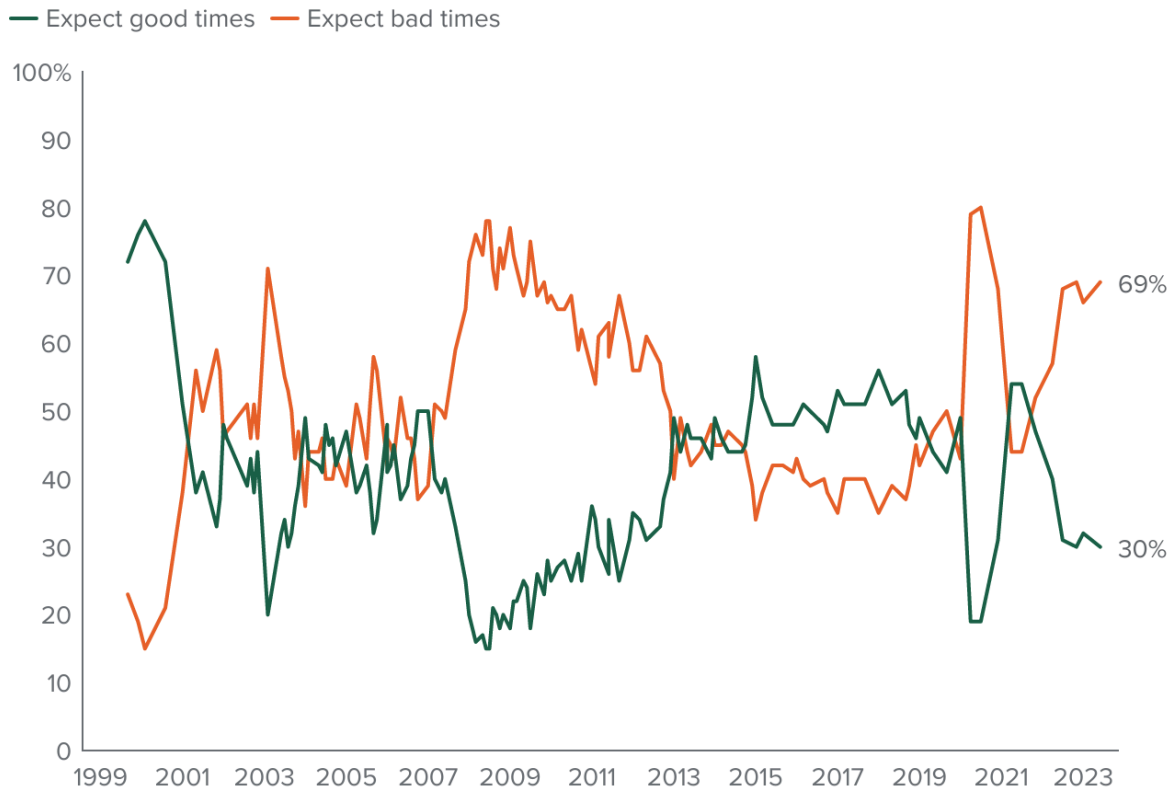
### Continuing the trend seen in recent years, half or fewer Californians say the state is going in the right direction



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Surveys, 1998–2023.

When asked about the economic outlook for the state, about seven in ten Californians (69%) expect bad economic times in the next year, while three in ten expect good times. Majorities across partisan groups are pessimistic about the economy, but Republicans (90%) and independents (77%) are far more likely than Democrats (52%) to be pessimistic. Two in three or more across regions—and more than six in ten across demographic groups—expect bad economic times in the next year.

## Economic pessimism remains high



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Surveys, 1999–2023.

On the heels of the May budget revision, majorities of adults (55%) and likely voters (56%) continue to approve of the way Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor, while fewer disapprove (43% adults and likely voters). Approval was similar last May (53% adults, 52% likely voters) and has been above 50 percent since the beginning of 2020. About eight in ten Democrats approve, while about eight in ten Republicans disapprove; independents are slightly more likely to disapprove than approve. Majorities of residents in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Orange/San Diego approve of Newsom, while Inland Empire and Central Valley residents are more divided. Majorities across demographic groups—with the exception of whites—approve of the way Governor Newsom is handling his job.

Californians are divided when it comes to the state legislature and their own state legislator, with about half approving and half disapproving of each. For both the legislature and their own legislator, about seven in ten Democrats approve, while majorities of Republicans and independents disapprove. Majorities in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area approve, while residents in Orange/San Diego are more divided; elsewhere in the state, residents are more likely to disapprove than approve of the legislature and their own legislator.

## About half or more approve of Governor Newsom, the state legislature, and their own state legislators

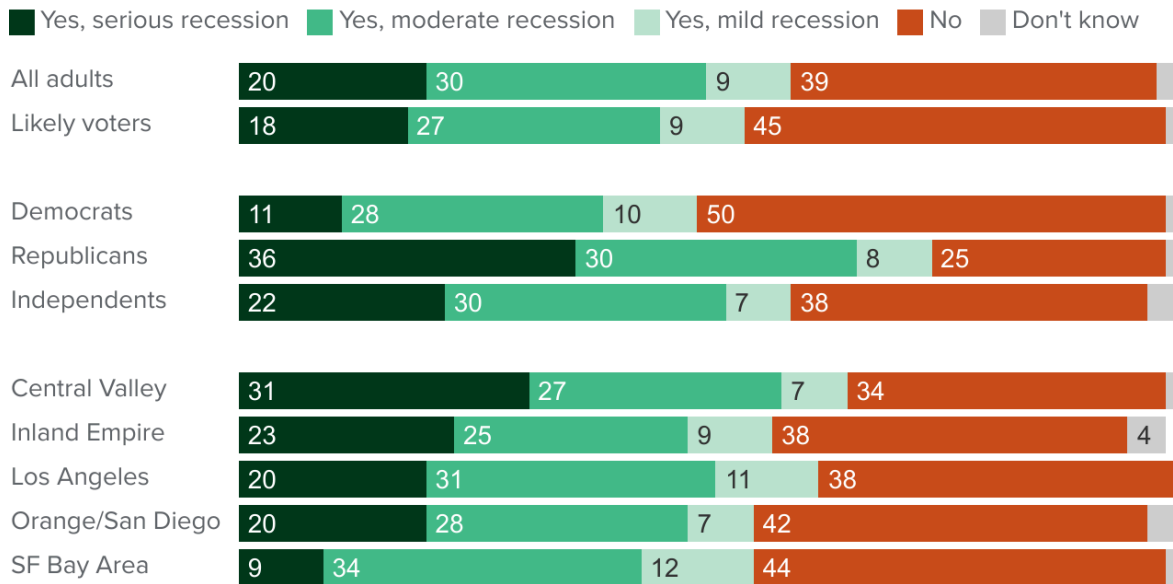
	Governor Newsom	State legislature	Own legislators
All adults	55%	49%	50%
Likely voters	56	50	52
Democrats	81	74	71
Republicans	16	14	20
Independents	46	39	41
Central Valley	46	41	42
Inland Empire	50	41	43
Los Angeles	61	54	52
Orange/San Diego	55	48	48
SF Bay Area	58	56	57
Men	56	49	52
Women	54	49	47
African Americans	70	52	48
Asian Americans	65	60	60
Latinos	59	51	49
Whites	46	43	46
Less than \$40,000	58	48	49
\$40,000 to \$79,999	53	48	43
\$80,000 or more	55	50	53

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

## Economic Conditions and Personal Finances

A majority of Californians think the state is in an economic recession—with most saying that it is in a moderate recession. About four in ten think the state is not in a recession. Results were similar in [February](#) of this year and in [February 2022](#). Across parties, Republicans (74%) are much more likely than independents (59%) or Democrats (49%) to think California is in a recession, and are also much more likely to say it is serious in nature. Majorities across regions and demographic groups think that the state is in a recession.

## Many across the state think California is in a recession

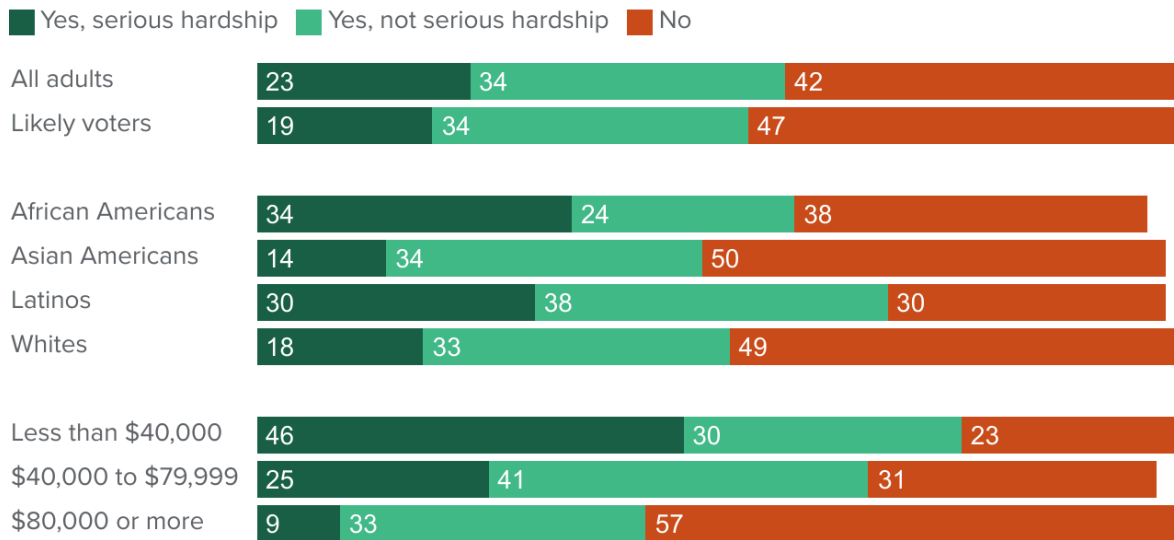


**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

Despite inflation cooling in recent months, nearly six in ten Californians say that price increases have caused hardship—with about one in four saying this has been a serious hardship and about one in three saying it has not been a serious hardship. Overall findings were similar in February, but somewhat fewer Californians today say that the hardship has been serious. Independents and Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say they have experienced hardship. Across regions, more than six in ten in the Central Valley (35% serious, 30% not serious), Inland Empire (28% serious, 40% not serious), and Los Angeles (24% serious, 39% not serious) say they have experienced hardship, while fewer say this in Orange/San Diego (14% serious, 35% not serious) and the San Francisco Bay Area (11% serious, 26% not serious). Latinos are the most likely among racial/ethnic groups to report having experienced hardship, followed by African Americans, whites, and Asian Americans. The share of Californians experiencing serious hardship from rising prices is far higher among lower-income residents.



## Many across the state have experienced financial hardships due to rising prices



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

In addition, nearly half of Californians (46%)—including 63 percent of lower-income Californians—say the cost of their housing places a financial strain on them and their family. Three in ten Californians (29%) say the cost of housing places “a lot” of strain on their family; this view is most prevalent among African Americans, Latinos, those whose highest level of education is a high school diploma, those with household incomes of less than \$40,000, and those with children 18 and under in their household. About six in ten adults are in favor of changing California’s environmental regulations and local permitting processes as a way to make housing more affordable in their part of California. Similar shares are in favor of reducing state government regulations by changing CEQA—the California Environmental Quality Act—as a way to make housing more affordable in their part of California. Half or more are in favor these two proposals across partisan, age, education, and income groups, among homeowners and renters, and across the state’s regions.

With many experiencing financial strain, how do Californians view their personal finances? Half of Californians describe their personal financial situation as excellent or good, but just one in ten say it is excellent. About half say it is fair or poor, with most saying fair. Views today are similar to February 2022, when nearly half had positive views (8% excellent, 39% good). Today, at least half across partisan groups say their financial situation is excellent or good. Across regions, positive assessments are much more common among residents in Orange/San Diego and the San Francisco Bay Area than elsewhere in the state. The share saying their personal financial situation is excellent or good increases with rising income and educational attainment, and is much higher among whites and Asian Americans than African Americans and Latinos.

When asked to compare their current financial situation to a year ago, about half (53%) say it is about the same, one in three say they are worse off (33%), and 14 percent say they are better off. Views were similar the last time we asked this question in [November 2022](#) (54% about the same, 29% worse off, 16% better off).

## Ratings of personal finances vary across groups

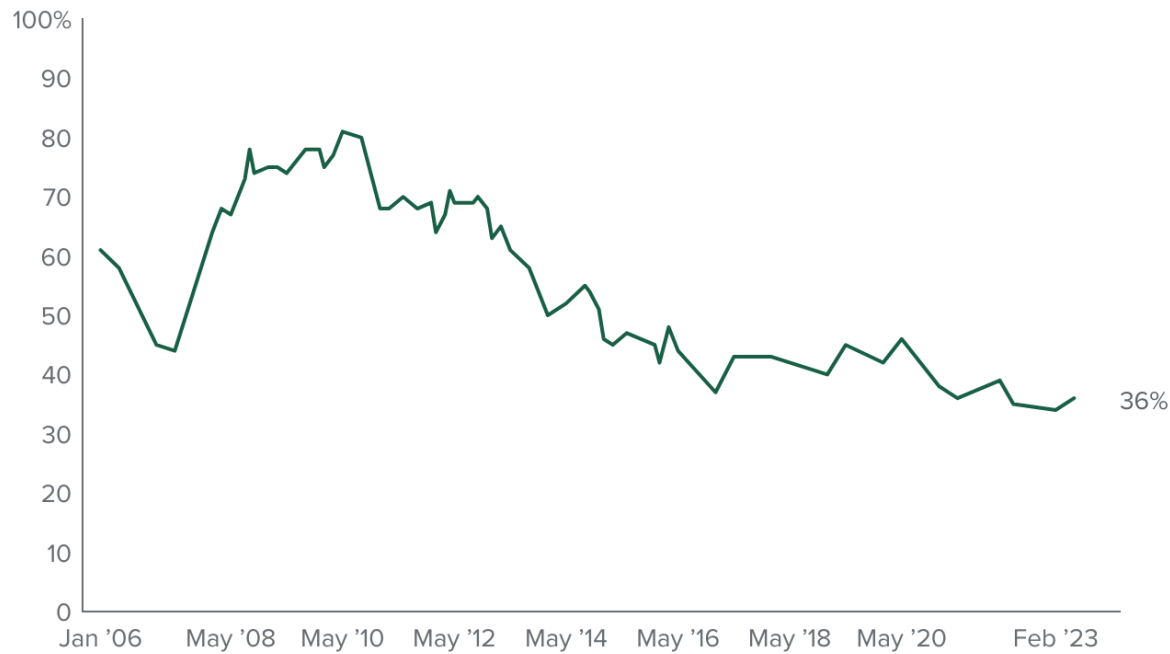
	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor
<b>All adults</b>	9%	42%	37%	12%
<b>Likely voters</b>	13	46	30	10
<b>Democrats</b>	11	45	33	11
<b>Republicans</b>	11	45	34	9
<b>Independents</b>	11	39	35	15
<b>Central Valley</b>	7	33	45	15
<b>Inland Empire</b>	3	39	41	13
<b>Los Angeles</b>	5	42	38	15
<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	15	46	28	11
<b>SF Bay Area</b>	14	45	35	6
<b>Men</b>	10	42	36	11
<b>Women</b>	7	41	38	13
<b>African Americans</b>	2	38	40	18
<b>Asian Americans</b>	12	46	31	11
<b>Latinos</b>	4	30	50	15
<b>Whites</b>	12	50	29	8
<b>Less than \$40,000</b>	1	24	45	30
<b>\$40,000 to \$79,999</b>	1	37	50	11
<b>\$80,000 or more</b>	16	53	27	3

## State Budget and the Governor's May Revise

Earlier this month, Governor Newsom unveiled a revised \$306.5 billion budget and announced that the state budget shortfall had grown to \$31.5 billion, up from previous estimates of a \$22.5 billion deficit. Thirty-six percent of adults and 39 percent of likely voters say the state budget situation is a big problem (somewhat of a problem: 52% adults, 49% likely voters; not a problem: 10% adults, 12% likely voters). Similar shares held this view in February (34% adults, 38% likely voters) and in recent years when there was a record budget surplus. Today, 24 percent of Democrats say the budget situation is a big problem, compared to a solid majority of Republicans (64%) and four in ten independents. Four in ten or fewer across regions and demographic groups say the state budget is a big problem, with the exception of African Americans (42%) and those age 55 or older (41%).

## Despite a budget shortfall, the share of Californians saying the state budget situation is a big problem remains similar to recent years when there was a record surplus

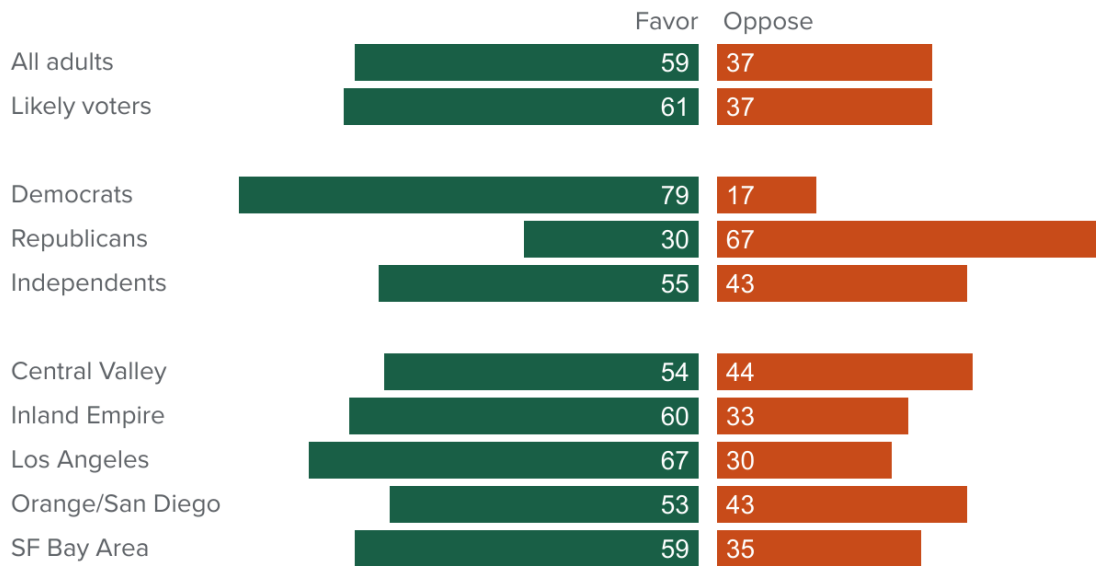
Percent saying big problem



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2006–2023.

After reading a brief summary of Governor Newsom’s revised budget proposal, a majority of adults (59%) and likely voters (61%) are in favor; views are almost identical to opinions about the governor’s initial proposal in our February survey (60% adults, 62% likely voters). In addition to the \$224 billion in planned spending and solutions to address the \$31.5 billion budget shortfall, the proposal contains \$3.9 billion in “trigger reductions,” or cuts that would be restored in the future if economic conditions improve. The plan currently includes no new general taxes. Majorities of Democrats and independents favor the plan, compared to just three in ten Republicans. Across regions, support for the budget plan is highest in Los Angeles and lowest in Orange/San Diego. Majorities across demographic groups favor the proposal.

## Most Californians favor Governor Newsom's proposed budget plan



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

To help address the budget deficit, Governor Newsom has included a combination of cuts, delayed spending, and shifts in funding sources to bridge the gap between spending and revenues in his revised budget. Currently, the plan calls for spending cuts in areas such as workforce training, transportation, housing programs, and efforts to fight climate change. A majority of adults (55%) and likely voters (56%) think these cuts and spending delays are a bad idea, while about four in ten think they are a good idea (42% adults, 42% likely voters). Californians were more divided over these cuts in February (good idea: 48% adults, 49% likely voters; bad idea: 50% adults, 50% likely voters). Today, majorities across partisan groups say the cuts and spending delays are a bad idea. Regionally, about six in ten in the Central Valley, Inland Empire, and the San Francisco Bay Area hold this view, while residents in Los Angeles and Orange/San Diego are more divided. Half or more across all demographic groups believe that spending cuts and deferred spending are a bad idea.

The governor's plan refrains from accessing the \$22.4 billion in the state's Rainy Day Fund to partially address the current budget shortfall. A strong majority of adults (68%) and likely voters (72%) say not using the Rainy Day Fund is a good idea (bad idea: 28% adults, 25% likely voters). Similar shares said this three months ago (good idea: 70% adults, 73% likely voters; bad idea: 26% adults, 24% likely voters). There is agreement across partisan groups, but Democrats and independents are more likely than Republicans to say it is a good idea. Solid majorities across regions and all demographic groups hold this view, but men (74%) are more likely to say this than are women (63%). The shares saying it is a good idea to not use the Rainy Day Fund increase as educational attainment and income levels rise.

Although it is currently not part of Governor Newsom's plan, some legislators have proposed raising state taxes on some of the largest corporations as a way to help reduce the gap between spending and revenues. Forty-seven percent of adults and 50 percent of likely voters favor doing so while nearly equal shares are opposed (51% adults, 48% likely voters). Partisans are divided on this proposed state tax increase.

## A strong majority think not using the Rainy Day Fund is a good idea, but fewer think this about cuts, delayed spending, and funding shifts

% saying "good idea"

	Includes a combination of cuts, delayed spending, and shifts in funding sources to bridge the gap between spending and revenues	Refrains from accessing the Rainy Day Fund to partially address the current budget shortfall
All adults	42%	68%
Likely voters	42	72
Democrats	44	77
Republicans	41	58
Independents	43	69
Central Valley	35	63
Inland Empire	32	70
Los Angeles	50	72
Orange/San Diego	51	68
SF Bay Area	38	65
Men	48	74
Women	36	63
African Americans	39	61
Asian Americans	41	71
Latinos	45	68
Whites	41	68
Less than \$40,000	40	64
\$40,000 to \$79,999	40	66
\$80,000 or more	45	71

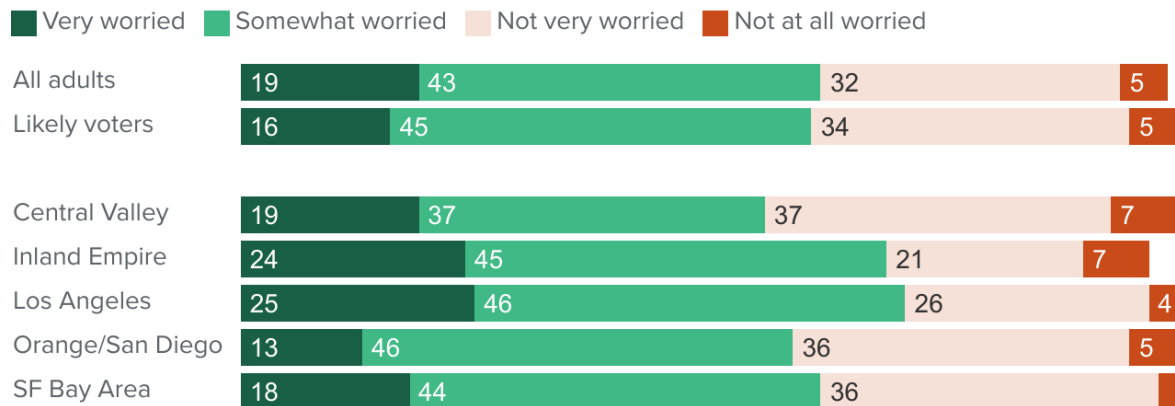
**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

## Natural Disasters

After experiencing devastating floods earlier this year, Californians are now facing the potential for more catastrophic flooding as the record-breaking snowpack in the Sierra Nevada begins to melt. The summer months also bring other possible natural disasters to the forefront, such as severe heat waves and wildfires. When asked how worried they are about injury, property damage, or a major disruption to their routine due to natural disasters like earthquakes, wildfires, or floods, about six in ten adults say they are at least somewhat worried, including about one in five saying they are very worried. One in three are not very

worried, but few say they are not at all worried. Californians were somewhat more likely to say they were very worried when we last asked this question in September 2019 (28%). Across regions today, the share who are very worried is highest in Los Angeles and lowest in Orange/San Diego; in the Central Valley, where recent floods have been severe, 19 percent are very worried. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (30%) are the most likely to be very worried (23% African Americans, 22% Asian Americans, 10% whites). The shares saying they are very worried decline as age, educational attainment, and income levels increase.

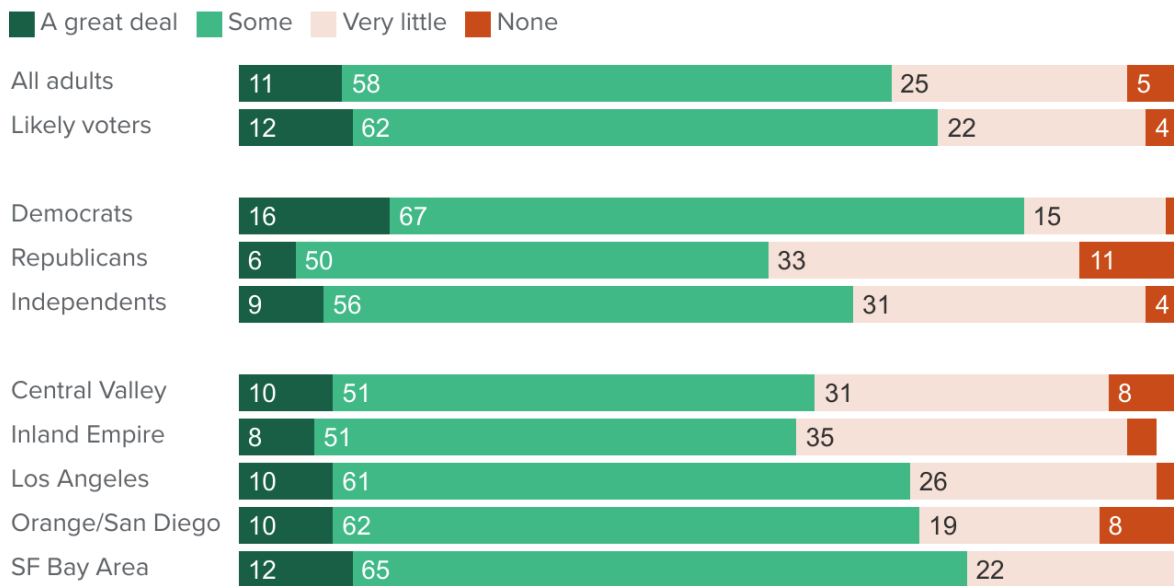
## Most Californians are at least somewhat worried about personal injury, property damage, or a major disruption to their routine due to a natural disaster



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

A strong majority (69%) of adults have at least some confidence in state and local government readiness to respond to disasters (11% a great deal, 58% some). Three in ten say they have either very little confidence (25%) or no confidence (5%). When we last asked this question in [September 2014](#), more than twice as many Californians said they had a great deal of confidence (27%, 46% some, 18% very little, 7% none). Majorities across regions as well as partisan and demographic groups have at least some confidence, and the shares expressing a great deal of confidence are highest among Democrats (16%) and lowest among Asian Americans (5%) and 18-to-34-year-olds (5%).

## A strong majority have at least some confidence in state and local governments' readiness to respond to natural disasters



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

Although an overwhelming majority of adults say they are at least somewhat knowledgeable (12% very knowledgeable, 62% somewhat knowledgeable) about steps they can take to prepare for a disaster, most Californians do not have a disaster supplies kit at home or a definite disaster plan in place. Forty-one percent of adults say they have a disaster kit (58% do not have a kit), while 31 percent have a definite plan in case of an earthquake, fire, flood, or other disaster (69% do not have a plan). The shares with a kit (61%) or a plan (50%) have declined since [September 2019](#). Majorities across all regions, partisan groups, and demographic groups report not having a kit, with the exception of likely voters (50% yes, 50% no) and adults age 55 and older (50% yes, 50% no). Solid majorities across regions as well as partisan and demographic groups say they do not have a disaster plan in place. One in four Californians say that they have *both* a plan and a kit, while 52 percent report having *neither*. The shares with *both* a plan and a kit are highest among likely voters, adults age 55 and older, and whites (30% each), while the shares with *neither* are highest among 18-to-34-year-olds (64%) and are higher among Asian Americans (61%) and Latinos (56%) than among African Americans (48%) and whites (46%).

## A slim majority of Californians have neither a disaster preparedness kit or plan

	Have disaster kit	Have disaster plan	Have both	Have neither
All adults	41%	31%	24%	52%
Likely voters	50	38	30	42
Democrats	43	33	26	50
Republicans	47	36	29	46
Independents	42	33	25	50
Central Valley	37	30	24	57
Inland Empire	45	25	19	45
Los Angeles	42	32	25	51
Orange/San Diego	40	30	27	57
SF Bay Area	43	30	24	51
Men	46	35	28	47
Women	37	26	20	57
African Americans	41	34	25	48
Asian Americans	32	21	14	61
Latinos	38	27	22	56
Whites	48	36	30	46
Less than \$40,000	29	26	18	63
\$40,000 to \$79,999	41	29	23	52
\$80,000 or more	47	34	28	47

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

## Immigration Policies

When the COVID-19 national public health emergency ended recently, Title 42, the pandemic-era law that allowed the US to expel migrants before they could ask for asylum, also expired. Amid mass migration and displacement largely in Latin America and the Caribbean, the US has received more than 1.5 million applications for the migrant sponsorship program—which has a monthly cap of 30,000 arrivals—in just a few months.

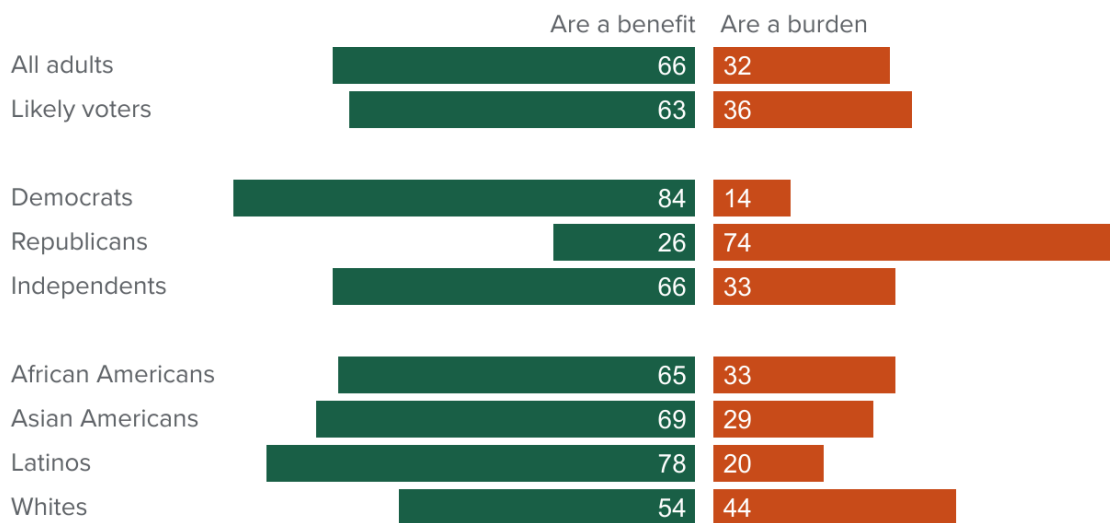
With tensions rising at US borders, about two in three California adults and likely voters say that immigrants are a benefit to the state because of their hard work and job skills, while roughly one in three adults and likely voters say immigrants are a burden because they use public services. While a solid majority hold positive views, the share saying that immigrants are a benefit has decreased since our [January 2021](#) survey



(78% of adults, 75% of likely voters). Despite some fluctuations in this finding, majorities of Californians have considered immigrants a benefit since February 2000.

Today, strong majorities of Democrats and independents say immigrants are a benefit, while three in four of Republicans say they are a burden. Majorities across demographic groups say immigrants are a benefit to California. Majorities across the state's major regions view immigrants as a benefit to the state because of their hard work and job skills, with those in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area the most likely to say this.

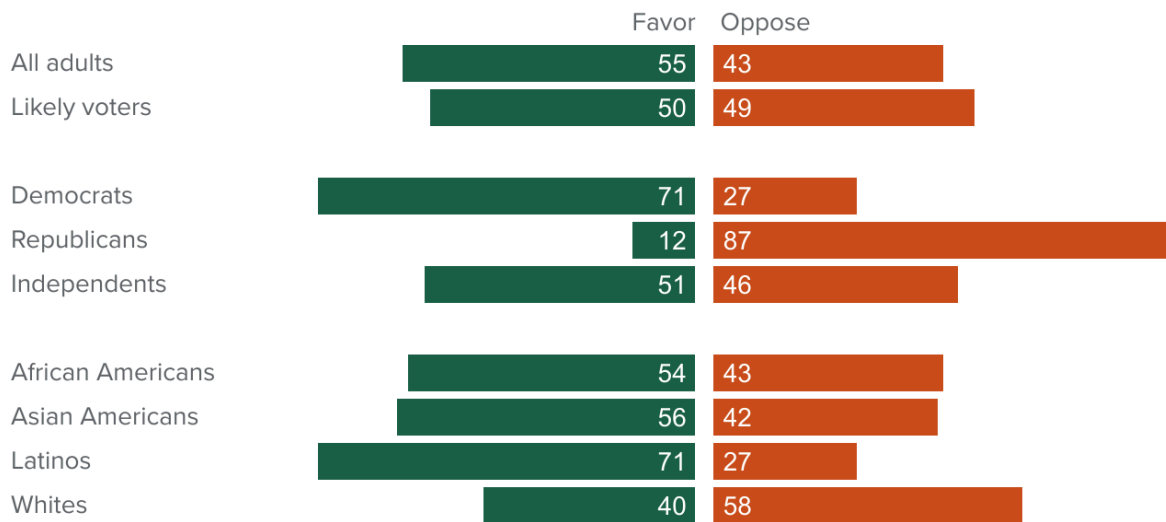
## Most Californians continue to believe immigrants are a benefit to the state because of their hard work and job skills



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

Fifty-five percent of Californians and half of likely voters support health care for undocumented immigrants. However, the share in favor has declined from March 2021, when 66 percent of adults and 58 percent of likely voters expressed support. Most Democrats and about half of independents favor this proposal, while nearly nine in ten Republicans oppose it. Half or more across most demographic groups are in favor; however, whites and adults 55 and older are more likely to oppose this proposal, and adults with incomes of \$80,000 or more are split on the issue. Across the state's major regions, majorities in Los Angeles (65%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (58%) are in favor, compared to about half elsewhere.

## Californians are divided over providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants in the state



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

Overwhelming majorities of adults (75%) and likely voters (74%) continue to favor DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) protections of undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children, which includes protection from deportation and a work permit, provided they pass a background check. Most Democrats and independents are in support, while a majority of Republicans are opposed. Strong majorities across demographic and regional groups are in favor.

Similarly, overwhelming majorities of adults (80%) and likely voters (81%) continue to favor providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the US if they meet certain requirements, including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, and passing criminal background checks. Majorities across partisan, regional, and demographic groups are in favor.

## Californians overwhelmingly favor the DACA protections and providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants

% favor

	Protections given by DACA	Providing a path to citizenship
All adults	75%	80%
Likely voters	74	81
Democrats	93	94
Republicans	43	59
Independents	72	79
Central Valley	70	76
Inland Empire	71	82
Los Angeles	79	83
Orange/San Diego	70	75
SF Bay Area	81	85
Men	73	79
Women	77	82
African Americans	67	73
Asian Americans	72	73
Latinos	86	89
Whites	67	77
Less than \$40,000	75	79
\$40,000 to \$79,999	76	83
\$80,000 or more	74	80

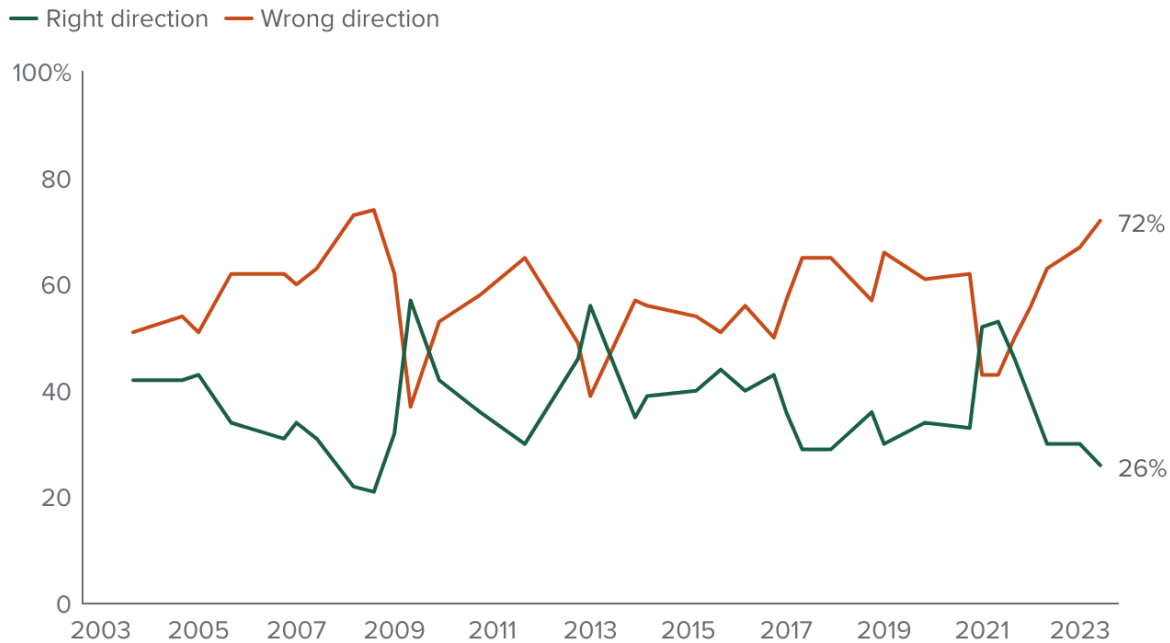
**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

## State of the Nation

There is sustained pessimism about the state of the nation, with more than seven in ten adults (72%) and likely voters (74%) thinking things in the US are generally going in the wrong direction. About one in four say things are going in the right direction (26% adults, 25% likely voters). The share saying things are going in the wrong direction is similar to the record high of 74 percent of adults in [August 2008](#), during the Great Recession. Earlier this year, 71 percent of US adults said things were on the wrong track, according to a January NBC News poll with similar language (23% right direction).

Partisans in California continue to be pessimistic today, with solid majorities of Democrats, Republicans, and independents saying things are headed in the wrong direction. Strong majorities across demographic and regional groups say this.

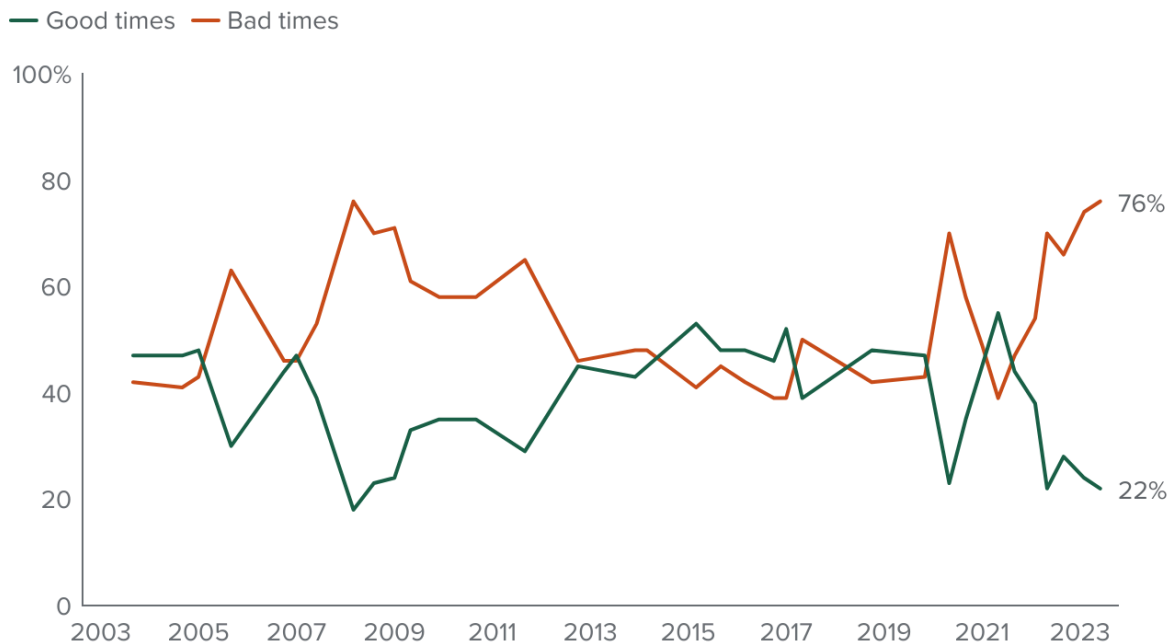
## An overwhelming majority of Californians think things in the US are headed in the wrong direction



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2003–2023.

Thinking about economic conditions, about three in four adults (76%) and likely voters (75%) believe the US will experience bad times financially in the next 12 months (good times: 22% adults, 23% likely voters). The share saying there will be bad economic times ahead is similar to the share in our February survey and matches the record high in March 2008 (76%). Today, most across partisan, demographic, and regional groups say there will be bad economic times ahead.

## Most Californians continue to believe the US will experience bad economic times in the next 12 months



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2003–2023.

Half of California adults and a majority of likely voters (56%) approve of the way President Biden is handling his job, and this share has remained similar since the beginning of this year (53% adults, 56% likely voters). Most Democrats approve, while a majority of independents and most Republicans disapprove. Approval ratings vary across demographic and regional groups, and approval is highest among college graduates, African Americans, Asian Americans, San Francisco Bay Area residents, and Los Angeles residents.

About three in ten California adults and likely voters approve of Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy. Earlier in the year, a similar 28 percent of adults and 27 percent of likely voters said they held a favorable opinion of newly elected Speaker McCarthy. Today, most Democrats and independents disapprove, while a majority of Republicans approve of the Speaker. Majorities across demographic and regional groups disapprove of Speaker McCarthy.

A majority of Californians (59%) think that the issues of debt limit and federal spending should be handled separately, while 36 percent think that Congress should allow the federal government to pay its debts only if Biden agrees to spending cuts; partisans are divided on this policy question.

While Senator Dianne Feinstein has recently announced that she will not run for reelection next year, there have been calls for her to resign as she has experienced some health problems. About three in ten adults and likely voters approve of the way she is handling her job. The share approving has decreased since October 2022 (41% adults, 41% likely voters). Today, majorities across partisan, demographic, and regional groups disapprove.

About half of adults and a majority of likely voters approve of Senator Alex Padilla. Approval among both groups is the highest it has ever been in the four times we have asked this question since 2021. Today,

about half or fewer approve of Senator Padilla across many demographic, partisan, and regional groups, though majorities of Democrats, Latinos, Asian Americans, college graduates, higher-income residents, and Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay Area residents approve.

Slightly more than two in ten adults and likely voters approve of the way the US Congress is handling its job; this share is similar to the approval level earlier this year, but it is the lowest it has been since July 2018 (18%). One-third or fewer across partisan, regional, and demographic groups approve.

About half of adults and a majority of likely voters approve of their own US House representative (disapprove: 47% adults, 43% likely voters). Most Republicans and a slim majority of independents disapprove, while most Democrats approve. Across regions, approval of local House representatives is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area and lowest in the Central Valley. Four in ten or more among demographic groups approve, with majority approval among Asian Americans, adults age 55 and older, college graduates, and adults with incomes of \$80,000 or more.

In early readings on the 2024 presidential election, Former President Donald Trump has a large lead over his challengers in the Republican presidential primary, while President Joe Biden has a wide lead over the former president in a potential rematch of the 2020 presidential election.

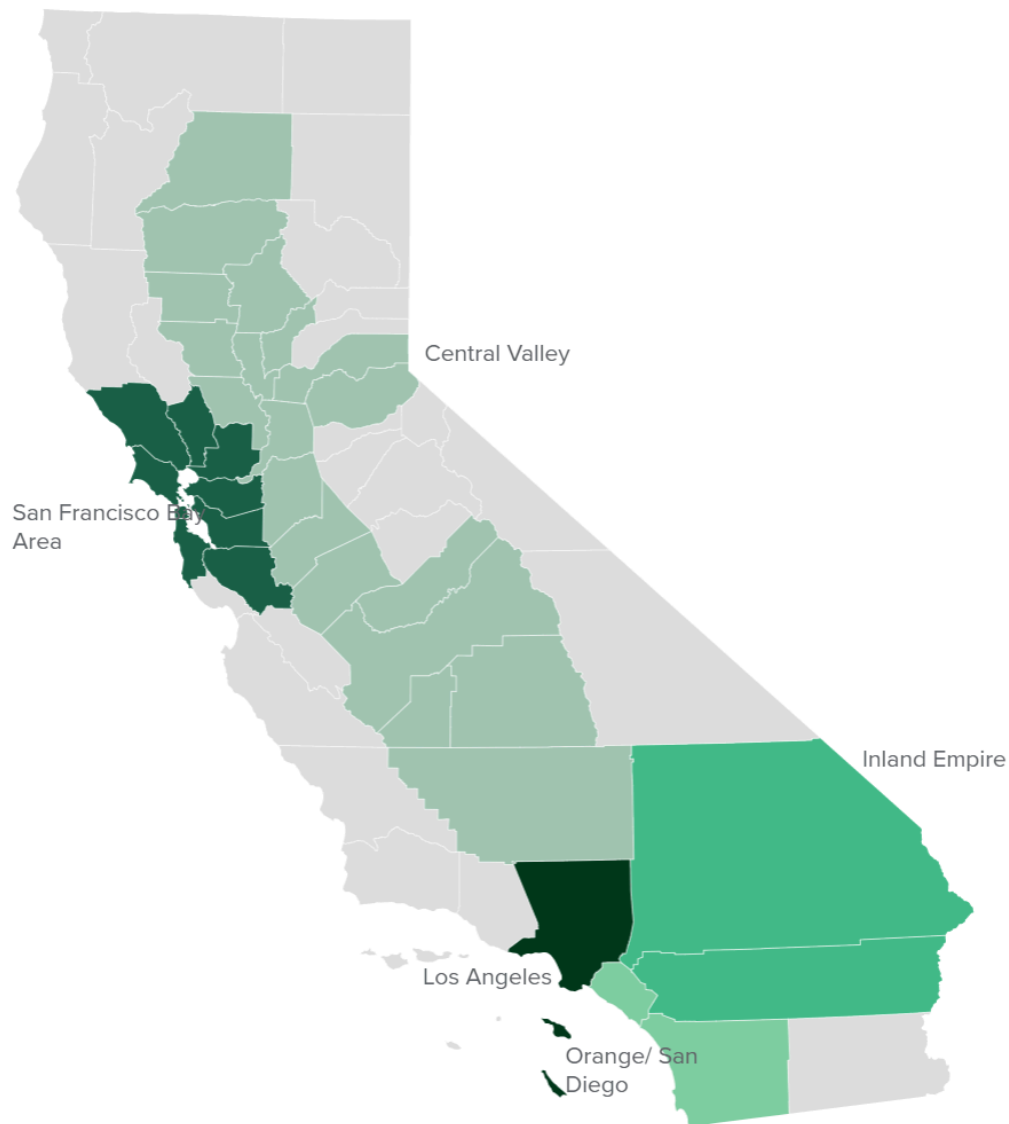
**About half approve of President Biden, Senator Padilla, and their own representative, while fewer approve of Congress, Senator Feinstein, and Speaker McCarthy**

	President Biden	US Congress	Senator Feinstein	Senator Padilla	Speaker McCarthy	Own representative
<b>All adults</b>	51%	24%	31%	48%	30%	47%
<b>Likely voters</b>	56	21	27	56	32	55
<b>Democrats</b>	79	24	41	74	16	61
<b>Republicans</b>	11	22	9	13	57	35
<b>Independents</b>	43	20	26	41	26	41
<b>Central Valley</b>	36	26	28	38	35	39
<b>Inland Empire</b>	46	26	28	45	32	43
<b>Los Angeles</b>	58	27	36	52	32	50
<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	50	19	30	48	34	47
<b>SF Bay Area</b>	62	22	28	57	23	54
<b>Men</b>	50	22	26	48	30	50
<b>Women</b>	52	27	36	48	31	45
<b>African Americans</b>	64	22	37	47	22	40
<b>Asian Americans</b>	59	19	27	51	20	55
<b>Latinos</b>	54	33	41	54	37	48
<b>Whites</b>	44	19	23	43	29	45
<b>Less than \$40,000</b>	49	29	33	43	35	42
<b>\$40,000 to \$79,999</b>	49	24	37	49	29	44
<b>\$80,000 or more</b>	53	22	26	52	29	52

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

## 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.



## Methodology

This is the 25th year of the PPIC Statewide Survey. Coauthors of this report include survey director Mark Baldassare, who holds the Miller Chair in Public Policy; associate survey director and research fellow Dean Bonner and survey analyst Rachel Lawler, who were co–project managers for this survey; 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 1,576 California adult residents. The median time to complete the survey was 20 minutes. Interviews were conducted from May 17–24, 2023.

The survey was conducted by Ipsos, using its online KnowledgePanel, in English and Spanish according to respondents' preferences. KnowledgePanel members are recruited through probability-based sampling and include both those with internet access and those without. KnowledgePanel provides internet access for those who do not have it and, if needed, a device to access the internet when they join the panel. KnowledgePanel members are primarily recruited using address-based sampling (ABS) methodology, which improves population coverage, particularly for hard-to-reach populations such as young adults and minority groups. ABS-recruited Latinos are supplemented with a dual-frame random digit dialing (RDD) sampling methodology that targets telephone exchanges associated with areas with a higher concentration of Latinos to provide the capability to conduct representative online surveys with Latinos, including those who speak only Spanish. KnowledgePanel's recruitment was originally based on a national RDD frame and switched to the primarily ABS-based methodology in 2009. KnowledgePanel includes households with landlines and cell phones, including those with cellphones only and those without phones. ABS allows probability-based sampling of addresses from the US Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File (DSF). The DSF-based sampling frame used for address selection is enhanced with a series of refinements—such as the appendage of various ancillary data to each address from commercial and government data sources—to facilitate complex stratification plans. Taking advantage of such refinements, quarterly samples are selected using a stratified sampling methodology that aims to retain the representativeness of the panel. KnowledgePanel recruits new panel members throughout the year to offset panel attrition.

To qualify for the survey, a panel member must be age 18 or older and reside in California. A general population sample of Californians was selected using Ipsos's PPS (probability proportional to size) sampling procedure to select study-specific samples. Briefly, to select such samples, the panel is first weighted to population benchmarks and those panel weights are used as the measure of size for a PPS sample selection that yields a fully representative sample. A total of 1,621 qualified respondents completed the survey out of 3,084 panelists who were sampled, for a response rate of 53 percent. To ensure the highest data quality, we flagged respondents who sped through the survey, which we defined as completing the survey in one-fourth of the overall median time (less than 4.9 minutes). We also flagged respondents if their self-reported age or gender did not match the data stored in their profile. A total of 45 cases were removed after this review process, resulting in 1,576 total qualified and valid cases.

Accent on Languages, Inc., translated new survey questions into Spanish, with assistance from Renatta DeFever.

Ipsos uses the US Census Bureau's 2017–2021 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. 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 sample of Californians is first weighted using an initial sampling or base weight that corrects for any differences in the probability of selecting various segments of the KnowledgePanel sample. This base weight

is further adjusted using an iterative proportional fitting (raking) procedure that aligns sample demographics to population benchmarks from the 2017–2021 ACS data as well as party registration benchmarks from the California Secretary of State’s voter registration file.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is  $\pm 3.2$  percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,576 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.2 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,341 registered voters, the sampling error is  $\pm 3.5$  percent; for the 1,062 likely voters, it is  $\pm 3.9$  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 results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 40 percent of the state’s adult population, and also for Latinos, who account for 36 percent 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 5 percent. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes are not large enough for separate analysis. Results for African American and Asian American likely voters are combined with those of other racial/ethnic groups because sample sizes for African American and Asian American likely voters are too small for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in other parties are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated per their responses to survey questions about voter registration, previous election participation, intentions to vote this year, attention to election news, and current interest in politics.

Sample sizes and margins of error for each subgroup are presented in the table below.

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 national surveys conducted by NBC News. Numerous questions were adapted from national surveys by Gallup, the Pew Research Center, and the Kaiser Family Foundation. Additional details about our methodology can be found at [www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/SurveyMethodology.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/SurveyMethodology.pdf) and are available upon request through [surveys@ppic.org](mailto:surveys@ppic.org).

## Unweighted N-size and margin of error

Group	Unweighted N-size	Margin of Error
<b>All adults</b>	<b>1,576</b>	<b>3.2%</b>
Registered voters	1,341	3.5%
Democrats	641	5.1%
Republicans	295	7%
No Party Preference/ Independents	374	6.8%
Central Valley	323	7%
Inland Empire	190	9.8%
Los Angeles	372	6.4%
Orange/San Diego	219	8.3%
SF Bay Area	314	7.7%
Men	769	4.8%
Women	807	4.4%
African Americans	140	11.1%
Asian Americans	164	9.7%
Latinos	421	5.9%
Whites	798	4.4%
Less than \$40,000	304	7.1%
\$40,000 to \$79,999	369	6.4%
\$80,000 or more	827	4.5%
<b>All likely voters</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
Democrats	526	5.7%
Republicans	235	7.5%
No Party Preference/ Independents	273	7.7%
Central Valley	214	8.3%
Inland Empire	121	12.1%
Los Angeles	243	8.2%
Orange/San Diego	151	9.7%
SF Bay Area	235	8.1%
Men	554	5.5%
Women	508	5.4%
Latinos	212	8.4%
Whites	628	4.7%
Other*	222	8.9%
Less than \$40,000	150	10.1%
\$40,000 to \$79,999	220	8.4%
\$80,000 or more	643	4.9%

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2023. Survey was fielded from May 17–24, 2023 (n=1,576 adults, n=1,062 likely voters).

NOTES: \*Sample sizes for African American and Asian American likely voters are too small for separate analysis.

# Questions and Responses

May 17–24, 2023

1,576 California adult residents

English, Spanish

Margin of error  $\pm 3.2\%$  at 95% confidence level for total sample

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

## **1. First, thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?**

27% jobs, the economy, inflation

16% homelessness

11% housing costs, availability

7% crime, gangs, drugs

6% environment, pollution, climate change

5% state budget, deficit, spending, taxes

5% government in general

4% immigration, illegal immigration

2% water, water quality, availability, drought

12% other (*specify*)

6% don't know

## **2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor of California?**

55% approve

43% disapprove

2% don't know

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

49% approve

49% disapprove

2% don't know

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

50% approve

48% disapprove

2% don't know

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

45% right direction

54% wrong direction

1% don't know

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

30% good times

69% bad times

2% don't know

**7. Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not? (if yes, ask: "Do you think it is in a serious, a moderate, or a mild recession?")**

20% yes, serious recession

30% yes, moderate recession

9% yes, mild recession

39% no, not in an economic recession

2% don't know

**8. Now 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 you were a year ago?**

14% better off

33% worse off

53% about the same

– don't know

**9. How would you describe your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape, or poor shape financially?**

9% excellent

42% good

37% only fair

12% poor

– don't know

**10. 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?")**

23% yes, serious

34% yes, not serious

1% yes, don't know how serious (*volunteered*)

42% no, have not caused hardship

1% don't know

**11. 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?**

68% divided into haves and have-nots

30% not divided that way

2% don't know

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

49% haves

48% have-nots

1% neither (*volunteered*)

1% don't know

**13. If you were asked to use one of these commonly used names for the social classes, which would you say you belong in: the upper class, upper-middle class, middle class, lower-middle class, or lower class?**

*[rotate order top to bottom]*

2% upper class

14% upper-middle class

40% middle class

32% lower-middle class

11% lower class

1% don't know

**14. How much of a problem is poverty in your part of California? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?**

42% big problem

48% somewhat of a problem

9% not much of a problem

1% don't know

**15. Do you think the gap between the rich and the poor in your part of California is getting larger, getting smaller, or has it stayed the same?**

70% getting larger

5% getting smaller

24% stayed the same

1% don't know

**16. Should the state government be doing more to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in California, or is this something that the state government should not be doing?**

70% should do more

29% should not do more

2% don't know

**Changing topics,**

**17. Does the cost of your housing place a financial strain on you and your family today? (*if yes, ask: "Is that a lot of financial strain or only a little?"*)**

29% yes, a lot

17% yes, only a little

53% no  
1% don't know

**Next, please indicate if you favor or oppose the following state government proposals to provide more affordable housing in your part of California?**

*[rotate questions 18 and 19]*

**18. Do you favor or oppose reducing state government regulations by changing CEQA—the California Environmental Quality Act—as a way to make housing more affordable in your part of California?**

59% favor  
37% oppose  
4% don't know

**19. Do you favor or oppose changing California's environmental regulations and local permitting process as a way to make housing more affordable in your part of California?**

63% favor  
34% oppose  
3% don't know

**Changing topics,**

**20. 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?**

36% big problem  
52% somewhat of a problem  
10% not a problem  
2% don't know

**21. Governor Newsom recently released a revised budget plan for the next fiscal year that includes \$224 billion in general fund spending and a \$31.5 billion budget shortfall. The plan also contains \$3.9 billion in “trigger reductions,” or cuts from the budget that would be restored in the future if economic conditions improve. Despite the projected shortfall, the plan currently includes no new taxes. In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?**

59% favor  
37% oppose  
1% haven't heard anything about the budget (*volunteered*)  
3% don't know

**22. Governor Newsom's budget plan includes a combination of cuts, delayed spending, and shifts in funding sources to bridge the gap between spending and revenues. Currently, the plan calls for spending cuts to areas such as workforce training, transportation, housing programs, and efforts to fight climate change. In general, do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?**

42% good idea  
55% bad idea  
3% don't know

**23. Currently, California's total budgetary reserves are \$37.2 billion, which includes \$22.3 billion in the Budget Stabilization Account or "Rainy Day Fund." Given concerns about a possible nationwide recession, as part of the budget proposal Governor Newsom refrained from accessing the Rainy Day Fund to partially address the current budget shortfall. In general, do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?**

68% good idea  
28% bad idea  
4% don't know

**24. Tax and fee increases could be used to help reduce the state's large gap between spending and revenues. Do you favor or oppose raising the state taxes paid by some of the largest California corporations?**

47% favor  
51% oppose  
2% don't know

**Changing topics, we have a few questions to ask you about how prepared you are personally for earthquakes, wildfires, floods, and disasters.**

**25. First, how knowledgeable would you say you are about steps you can take to prepare for a disaster, such as a major earthquake, wildfire, or flood?**

12% very knowledgeable  
62% somewhat knowledgeable  
21% not very knowledgeable  
4% not at all knowledgeable  
– don't know

**[rotate questions 26 and 27]**

**26. Does your household have a disaster supplies kit equipped with food, water, and other essential supplies?**

41% yes  
58% no  
– don't know

**27. Does your household have a definite disaster plan in case of an earthquake, wildfire, flood, or other disaster?**

31% yes  
69% no  
– don't know



**28. How worried are you that you and the members of your household will experience personal injury, property damage or a major disruption of your routine if there is a disaster, such as a major earthquake, wildfire, or flood?**

19% very worried  
43% somewhat worried  
32% not very worried  
5% not at all worried  
– don't know

**29. How much confidence do you have in the state and local government in terms of their readiness to respond to disasters, such as a major earthquake, wildfire, or flood?**

11% a great deal  
58% some  
25% very little  
5% none  
– don't know

**On another topic,**

**30. How concerned are you about the threat of a mass shooting in the area where you live?**

23% very concerned  
41% somewhat concerned  
28% not too concerned  
8% not at all concerned  
– don't know

**31. Would you support or oppose a nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons?**

68% support  
31% oppose  
1% don't know

**Changing topics,**

**32. Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view—even if neither is exactly right: *[rotate]* [1] Immigrants today are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills [OR] [2] Immigrants today are a burden to California because they use public services?**

66% immigrants are a benefit  
32% immigrants are a burden  
2% don't know

**33. 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?**

75% favor  
24% oppose  
1% don't know

**34. 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?**

80% favor  
19% oppose  
1% don't know

**35. Do you favor or oppose providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants in California?**

55% favor  
43% oppose  
2% don't know

**Changing topics,**

**36. How big a problem is racism in the US today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, a small problem, or not a problem at all?**

42% big problem  
37% somewhat of a problem  
14% not much of a problem  
6% not a problem at all  
1% don't know

**37. How much do you think that racial and ethnic discrimination contributes to economic inequality in this country?**

32% a great deal  
39% a fair amount  
20% not too much  
7% not at all  
1% don't know

**38. How much, if at all, do you think the legacy of slavery affects the position of Black people in American society today?**

23% a great deal  
30% a fair amount  
26% not too much  
19% not at all  
2% don't know

**39. As you may know, California established a Reparations Task Force to study how the legacy of slavery affects Black people in California today and will present recommendations to the governor and legislature for**

**appropriate remedies or compensation. In general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of California having a Reparations Task Force?**

43% favorable  
54% unfavorable  
3% don't know

**40. Do you support or oppose the California legislature and governor offering a formal apology for human rights violations and crimes against humanity on African slaves and their descendants?**

*[rotate order top to bottom]*

25% strongly support  
34% somewhat support  
19% somewhat oppose  
20% strongly oppose  
3% don't know

**41. From what you've read and heard, how do you feel about the Black Lives Matter movement?**

*[rotate order top to bottom]*

21% strongly support  
38% somewhat support  
16% somewhat oppose  
23% strongly oppose  
2% don't know

**Changing topics,**

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

51% approve  
47% disapprove  
2% don't know

*[rotate questions 43 and 44]*

**43. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Alex Padilla is handling his job as US Senator?**

48% approve  
45% disapprove  
7% don't know

**44. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as US Senator?**

31% approve  
65% disapprove  
4% don't know

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

24% approve  
72% disapprove  
4% don't know

**46. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy is handling his job?**

30% approve  
65% disapprove  
5% don't know

**47. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the US House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?**

47% approve  
47% disapprove  
6% don't know

**Next,**

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

26% right direction  
72% wrong direction  
2% don't know

**49. 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  
76% bad times  
2% don't know

**Next,**

**50. Congress typically passes legislation on a regular basis to allow the government to pay its debts. Without this step, the government could default on its debts. How concerned are you that a government default on its debts could seriously damage the economy?**

35% very concerned  
46% somewhat concerned  
12% not so concerned  
5% not at all concerned  
1% don't know

**51. Do you think that Congress should allow the federal government to pay its debts only if the Biden Administration also agrees to cut federal spending, or should the issues of debt payment and federal spending be handled separately?**

36% allow the federal government to pay debts only if Biden agrees to cut spending  
59% issues of debt payment and federal spending be handled separately  
5% don't know

**Changing topics,**

**52. In general, do you think the use of marijuana should be legal, or not?**

64% yes, legal  
35% no, not legal  
2% don't know

**53. Regardless of your views on legalizing marijuana in California, do you favor or oppose retail sales of recreational marijuana in your city or community?**

56% favor  
42% oppose  
1% it depends (*volunteered*)  
1% don't know

**54. Proposition 64 is the 2016 ballot measure passed by the voters that legalized marijuana under state law, for use by adults 21 and older, and imposed state taxes on sales and cultivation. Overall, do you feel that passing Proposition 64 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?**

61% mostly a good thing  
35% mostly a bad thing  
4% don't know

**55. [*likely voters only*] On another topic, California has the referendum process, which enables voters to approve or reject a new law that was passed by the legislature. In general, do you think it is a good thing or a bad thing that a majority of voters can approve or reject a new law that was passed by the legislature in California through the referendum process?**

79% good thing  
19% bad thing  
2% don't know

**56. [*likely voters only*] Once a referendum is on the ballot, the law is repealed only if voters cast more NO votes than YES votes on the law in question. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagrees with the following statement: Referendums are often too complicated or confusing for voters to understand what happens if the referendums pass?**

27% strongly agree  
50% somewhat agree  
15% somewhat disagree  
6% strongly disagree  
2% don't know

**57. *[likely voters only]* Overall, how much would you say the referendum process in California today is controlled by special interests?**

56% a lot  
40% some  
1% not at all  
2% don't know

**Reforms have been suggested to address issues in California's referendum process. Please indicate if you favor or oppose the following proposals.**

***[rotate questions 58 and 59]***

**58. *[likely voters only]* Would you favor or oppose a new law requiring that unpaid volunteers gather at least 10 percent of the signatures to qualify referendums for the ballot?**

64% favor  
32% oppose  
4% don't know

**59. *[likely voters only]* Would you favor or oppose a new law requiring paid signature gathers to complete training and wear badges with identification numbers, and to disclose the top-three funders of the referendum campaign?**

83% favor  
15% oppose  
3% don't know

**60. *[likely voters only]* There will be a referendum on the November 2024 ballot challenging the 2022 law that authorized the creation of a council to set minimum wage and working standards for fast-food workers. If the election were held today, would you vote yes to approve the law or no to reject the law?**

56% yes  
40% no  
4% don't know

**Changing topics,**

**61. How much of a problem is the quality of education in California's K–12 public schools today?**

39% big problem  
47% somewhat of a problem  
12% not much of a problem  
2% don't know

**62. Over the past few years, do you think the quality of education in California's K–12 public schools has improved, gotten worse, or stayed the same?**

7% improved  
57% gotten worse

35% stayed the same  
12% don't know

**63. Next, overall, how would you rate the quality of public schools in your neighborhood today? If you had to give your local public schools a grade, would it be A, B, C, D, or F? Think of grades A to F as a scale where A is the best and F is failing.**

8% A  
30% B  
37% C  
14% D  
7% F  
3% don't know

**On another topic,**

**64. Do you think the current level of state funding for your local public schools is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?**

11% more than enough  
34% just enough  
51% not enough  
3% don't know

**65. *[likely voters only]* If the state ballot had a bond measure to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?**

62% yes  
37% no  
2% don't know

***[rotate questions 66 and 67]***

**66. *[likely voters only]* If your local school district had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?**

60% yes  
39% no  
1% don't know

**67. *[likely voters only]* What if there was a measure on your local ballot to increase local parcel taxes to provide more funds for the local public schools? Would you vote yes or no?**

43% yes  
56% no  
1% don't know

**68. *[parents of children younger than 18 only]* Thinking about four school types... *[rotate]* One is *[1]* traditional public schools. Another is *[2]* charter schools, which are publicly funded but run outside of the public school**

**system. The third is [3] religious or parochial schools. And the fourth is [4] private schools. Imagine you could send your youngest child to any one of these four kinds of schools and cost and location were not an issue. All things equal, which would you pick?**

40% public school  
13% charter school  
14% religious school  
32% private school  
1% don't know

**69. [parents of children younger than 18 only] Next, what do you hope will be the highest grade level that your youngest child will achieve?**

3% some high school  
6% high school graduate  
12% two-year community college graduate or career technical training  
35% four-year college graduate  
44% a graduate degree after college  
– don't know

**70. 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 q70a]  
24% no [skip to q71b]

**70a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?**

47% Democrat [ask q71]  
24% Republican [skip to q71a]  
2% another party (specify) [skip to q72]  
28% decline-to-state/independent [skip to q71b]

**[likely voters only]**

50% Democrat [ask q71]  
24% Republican [skip to q71a]  
2% another party (specify) [skip to q72]  
24% decline-to-state/independent [skip to q71b]

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

53% strong  
47% not very strong  
– don't know

**[skip to q72]**



**71a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?**

58% strong  
42% not very strong  
– don't know

**[skip to q72]**

**71b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?**

15% Republican Party  
34% Democratic Party  
50% neither  
– don't know

**[question 72 deleted]**

**73. [Republican likely voters only] If the 2024 Republican primary for president were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?**

**[randomize list]**

50% Donald Trump, former president  
21% Ron DeSantis, Florida governor  
10% Mike Pence, former vice president  
7% Liz Cheney, former Wyoming Congresswoman  
3% Nikki Haley, former South Carolina governor  
2% Kristi Noem, South Dakota governor  
2% Tim Scott, US Senator  
1% Chris Christie, former governor of New Jersey  
1% Vivek Ramaswamy, entrepreneur and author  
1% Chris Sununu, New Hampshire governor  
1% someone else (*specify*)  
2% don't know

**74. [likely voters only] If the 2024 presidential election were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?**

**[randomize candidates]**

58% Joe Biden  
25% Donald Trump  
16% someone else (*specify*)  
1% don't know

**75. Would you consider yourself to be politically: [rotate order top to bottom]**

13% very liberal  
20% somewhat liberal

41% middle-of-the-road  
16% somewhat conservative  
9% very conservative  
1% don't know

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

15% a great deal  
34% fair amount  
36% only a little  
15% none  
— don't know

*[d1–d18 demographic questions]*

## Authors

**Mark Baldassare** is survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, where he holds the Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Chair in Public Policy. For the previous 15 years, he also served as president and CEO of PPIC. Prior to that, he served as PPIC's director of research. 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. 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.

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