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30 YEARS



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STATEWIDE SURVEY · FEBRUARY 2022

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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

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*Supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation and the James Irvine Foundation*

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## Key Findings

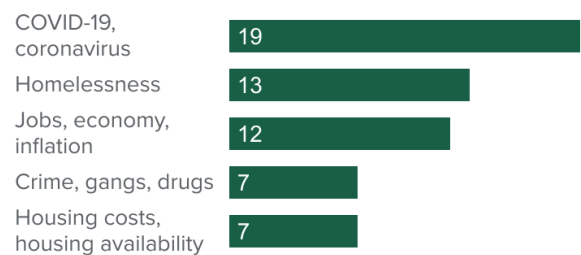
This year began with the omicron surge, which is causing disruption, uncertainty, and stress for many Californians. Although encouraging signs of an economic recovery are present, rising prices are a worrisome trend for consumers. Governor Newsom and the state legislature are working with a large surplus of revenues for state spending, while President Biden and the US Congress are unable to pass major legislation as partisan divisions loom large following the one-year anniversary of the Capitol insurrection.

These are the key findings of a statewide survey on state and national issues conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California from January 16 to 25, 2022:

- **COVID-19, homelessness, and jobs, the economy, and inflation top the list when we asked Californians to name the most important issues for the governor and legislature to work on in 2022.** Majorities continue to approve of the way that Governor Newsom and President Biden are handling COVID-19, although partisans are deeply divided in their assessments.

### COVID-19 remains top issue

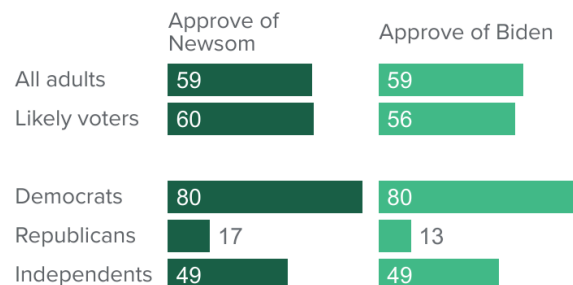
Issues with more than 5% of mentions



- **Half of Californians think the state is headed in the right direction—similar to a year ago.** A majority believe that the governor and legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot this year. Solid majorities favor the governor's budget plan and COVID spending package.
- **Two in three say the worst is behind us in the coronavirus outbreak—a significant decline since last May.** About four in ten are concerned about getting the coronavirus and requiring hospitalization—a significant increase since last May. In the midst of the omicron surge, there continue to be demographic, political, and regional disparities in COVID vaccinations.

- **About half of Californians say that the state is in a recession—a significant decline from a year ago.** Forty-seven percent of all adults—compared to 28 percent of lower-income residents—say they are in excellent or good shape financially. One in five Californians—compared to one in three lower-income residents—say that recent price increases have caused severe financial hardship.

### Nearly six in ten approve of Newsom and Biden's handling of the coronavirus outbreak



- **A majority of Californians approve of President Biden's performance in office—similar to approval ratings for Governor Newsom.** One in three approve of the US Congress, while approval ratings are much higher for the California Legislature.
- **About four in ten say that the nation is headed in the right direction.** A similar share say that they expect good economic times in the US during the next 12 months.
- **Fifty-three percent are at least somewhat satisfied with the way that US democracy is working—with**

**partisans divided.** Californians are divided about the prospects of Americans coming together and resolving their political differences, and 40 percent say political violence in the US will increase in the next few years.

## State of the State

Californians most often name COVID-19 (19%) as the most important issue for the governor and legislature to work on in 2022. Additionally, more than one in ten Californians name homelessness (13%) or jobs, the economy, and inflation (12%) as most important. Fewer mention crime, gangs, and drugs (7%), or housing costs and availability (7%). Across partisan groups, Democrats are most likely to mention COVID-19; Republicans are most likely to mention jobs, the economy, and inflation, or crime, gangs, and drugs; and independents are equally as likely to mention COVID-19 or homelessness. Half of Californians say the state is headed in the right direction, with Democrats far more likely than Republicans and independents to say this. Half or more in Los Angeles, Orange/San Diego, and the San Francisco Bay Area say things are going in the right direction, compared to about four in ten in the Central Valley and Inland Empire. Among racial/ethnic groups, majorities of Latinos (61%), African Americans (55%), and Asian Americans (54%) say this, compared to 41 percent of whites. The overall share saying things are going in the right direction remains similar to last January.

### Half say things in California are going in the right direction

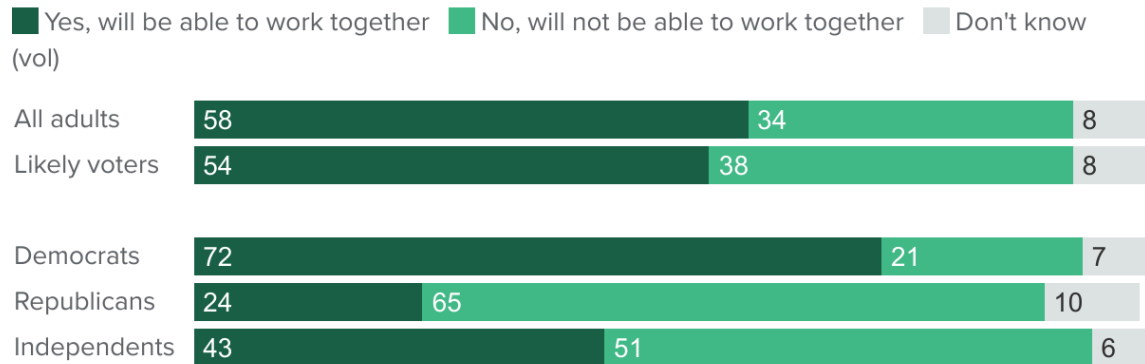


**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Surveys, 1998–2022.

A majority of Californians (58% adults, 54% likely voters) are optimistic that Governor Newsom and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot over the next year. A similar share (62% adults, 57% likely voters) said this in January 2021. Today, Democrats are far more optimistic about this than are independents and Republicans. Half or more across age, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups hold this optimistic view. More than half across regions are optimistic that Newsom and the state legislature can work together, with the exception of 49 percent of residents in the Central Valley. After hearing a summary of

Governor Newsom's budget proposal, which includes \$213.1 billion in General Fund spending, a solid majority of Californians (63%) and likely voters (60%) are in favor. Strong majorities of Californians (73%) and likely voters (69%) are in favor of Governor Newsom's \$2.7 billion COVID-19 Emergency Response Package.

## A majority think Newsom and the legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16–25, 2022.

## Californians most often name COVID-19 as the top issue facing the state

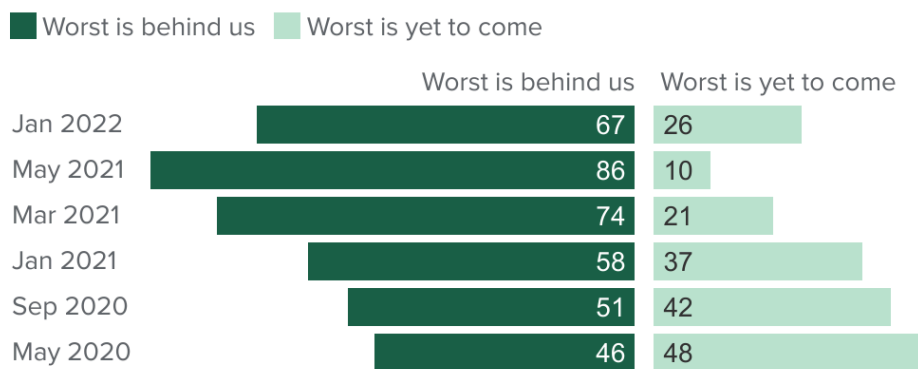
	COVID-19, coronavirus	Homelessness	Jobs, economy, inflation	Crime, gangs, drugs	Housing costs, availability
<b>All adults</b>	19%	13%	12%	7%	7%
<b>Likely voters</b>	15	15	11	7	7
<b>Democrats</b>	21	16	11	4	8
<b>Republicans</b>	13	13	15	15	2
<b>Independents</b>	16	16	12	9	9
<b>Central Valley</b>	25	14	12	5	7
<b>Inland Empire</b>	16	10	22	3	1
<b>Los Angeles</b>	22	16	9	10	8
<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	18	12	14	7	6
<b>SF Bay Area</b>	16	13	12	8	9
<b>Men</b>	20	14	12	8	5
<b>Women</b>	19	13	13	6	8
<b>African Americans</b>	13	28	13	2	8
<b>Asian Americans</b>	20	10	14	14	9
<b>Latinos</b>	26	10	13	6	7
<b>Whites</b>	16	16	10	6	6
<b>Less than \$40,000</b>	24	16	11	3	7
<b>\$40,000 to \$79,999</b>	21	11	14	5	7
<b>\$80,000 or more</b>	15	14	11	13	8

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16–25, 2022.

## COVID-19 Pandemic

As the US continues to grapple with the omicron variant and high case numbers nationwide, two in three Californians (67%) say that, when it comes to where the country stands in the coronavirus outbreak, the worst is behind us. About a quarter (26%) say the worst is yet to come. In May 2021, the share saying the worst is behind us peaked at 86 percent—a share that has since decreased by 19 percentage points. Across partisan groups, three in four Republicans—compared to two in three Democrats and independents—say the worst is behind us. Majorities across regions and across age, education, gender, income, and race/ethnicity groups are optimistic that the worst is behind us.

### Amid a recent surge in cases, many adults are optimistic about where the US stands in the coronavirus outbreak

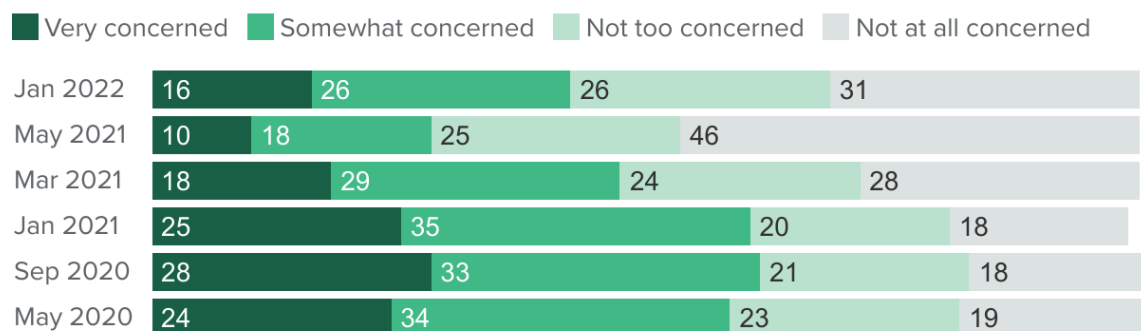


SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2020–2022.

While an overwhelming majority of Californians say they have been vaccinated, more than one in ten say that they will definitely not (12%) or probably not (2%) receive the coronavirus vaccine. Among adults who have received the vaccine, 61 percent say they have also received a booster or additional dose after being fully vaccinated. There continue to be demographic, political, and regional disparities in COVID vaccinations. When asked whether the omicron variant makes them more likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine, most unvaccinated adults (86%) expressed that it does not make them more likely to get vaccinated (11% say it makes them more likely to be vaccinated).

With high vaccine rates reported across the state, 57 percent of Californians are not too (26%) or not at all (31%) concerned that they will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization, compared to fewer who are very (16%) or somewhat concerned (26%). The share of Californians expressing concern declined steadily from September 2020 through May 2021—but it has increased 14 percentage points since last May. Some groups are more likely than others to be very concerned. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (21%), Asian Americans (19%), and African Americans (17%) are somewhat more likely than whites (11%) to say they are very concerned. The share saying they are very concerned declines as education and income levels increase.

## Concern about getting the coronavirus has increased after a steady decline during the last year



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2020–2022.



## Most Californians say they have already received the coronavirus vaccine

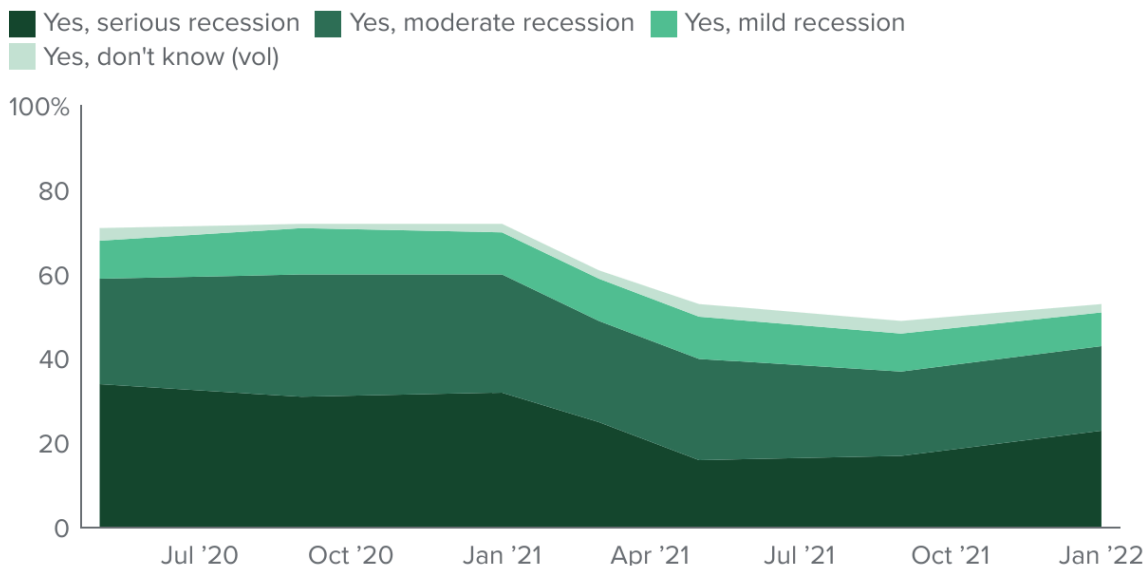
	Already got vaccine	Definitely get vaccine	Probably get vaccine	Probably not get vaccine	Definitely not get vaccine
<b>All adults</b>	82%	2%	2%	2%	12%
<b>Likely voters</b>	85	0	1	3	10
<b>Democrats</b>	94	2	1	0	3
<b>Republicans</b>	65	0	1	5	27
<b>Independents</b>	75	0	2	4	18
<b>Central Valley</b>	78	3	2	1	15
<b>Inland Empire</b>	70	2	2	6	18
<b>Los Angeles</b>	86	1	2	1	10
<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	77	1	2	2	17
<b>SF Bay Area</b>	90	1	1	3	5
<b>Men</b>	78	1	3	3	14
<b>Women</b>	85	2	1	2	9
<b>African Americans</b>	79	1	6	3	10
<b>Asian Americans</b>	90	0	1	2	8
<b>Latinos</b>	82	4	3	2	9
<b>Whites</b>	80	0	1	4	14
<b>Less than \$40,000</b>	80	2	4	3	11
<b>\$40,000 to \$79,999</b>	81	2	2	4	11
<b>\$80,000 or more</b>	86	0	0	1	13

**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16–25, 2022.

## Economic Conditions

About half of Californians think that California is in an economic recession, with more saying it is a serious or moderate recession rather than a mild recession. About six in ten Californians in the Central Valley, Inland Empire, and Orange/San Diego—compared to fewer than half elsewhere—think the state is in a recession. Republicans are far more likely than Democrats and independents to hold this view. In recent months, about half of Californians have said the state was in a recession, while earlier in the pandemic the share saying this was much higher.

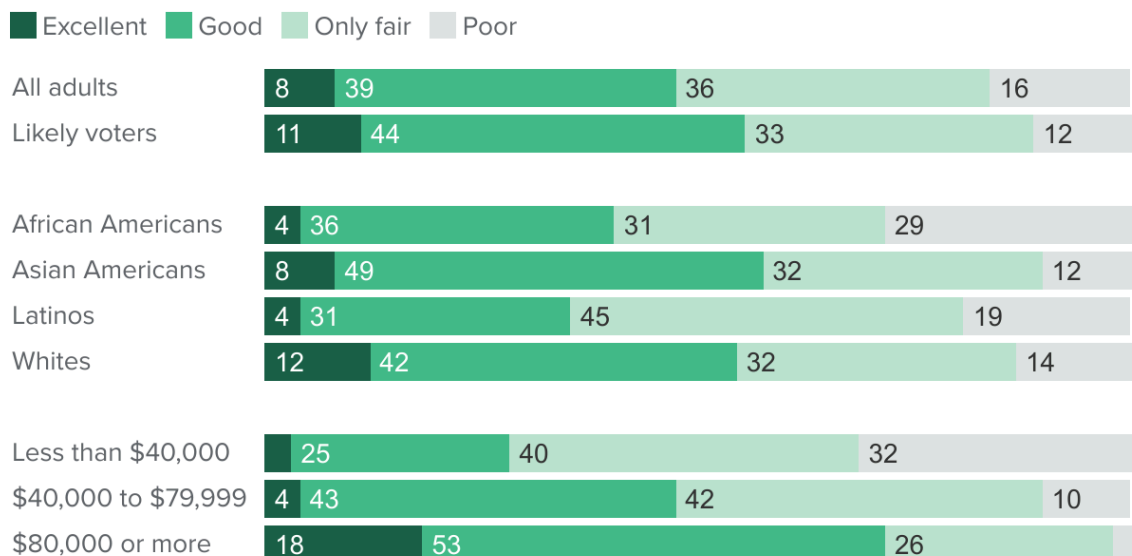
### Most Californians think the state is in a recession



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2020–2022.

Fewer than half of Californians rate their financial situation as excellent or good—just as they have each time we've asked this question during the pandemic. There are stark differences across demographic groups. Notably, four in ten or fewer African Americans and Latinos say their finances are in excellent or good shape, compared to majorities of Asian Americans and whites. There are also sharp differences across income and education groups; Californians with lower income levels and less formal education are less likely to rate their personal finances positively.

## Ratings of personal finances vary by income and race/ethnicity



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16–25, 2022.

About six in ten Californians say that recent price increases have caused their household severe (20%) or moderate (41%) financial hardship. This hardship is more common among women than men, Latinos than other racial/ethnic groups, and in the Central Valley and Inland Empire than elsewhere in the state. Republicans are more likely than Democrats or independents to say price increases have caused hardship. There are also sharp differences across income groups, with lower-income residents much more likely than higher-income residents to say price increases have caused severe hardship.

## Recent price increases have caused financial hardship for most Californians

	Severe hardship	Moderate hardship	No hardship
<b>All adults</b>	20	41	38
<b>Likely voters</b>	17	37	45
<b>Democrats</b>	13	38	49
<b>Republicans</b>	26	41	33
<b>Independents</b>	18	39	42
<b>Central Valley</b>	23	44	33
<b>Inland Empire</b>	31	40	28
<b>Los Angeles</b>	17	44	38
<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	20	41	39
<b>SF Bay Area</b>	16	38	46
<b>Men</b>	19	39	42
<b>Women</b>	22	44	34
<b>African Americans</b>	17	41	42
<b>Asian Americans</b>	9	40	51
<b>Latinos</b>	26	48	26
<b>Whites</b>	18	38	44
<b>Less than \$40,000</b>	33	44	23
<b>\$40,000 to \$79,999</b>	17	46	37
<b>\$80,000 or more</b>	7	36	58

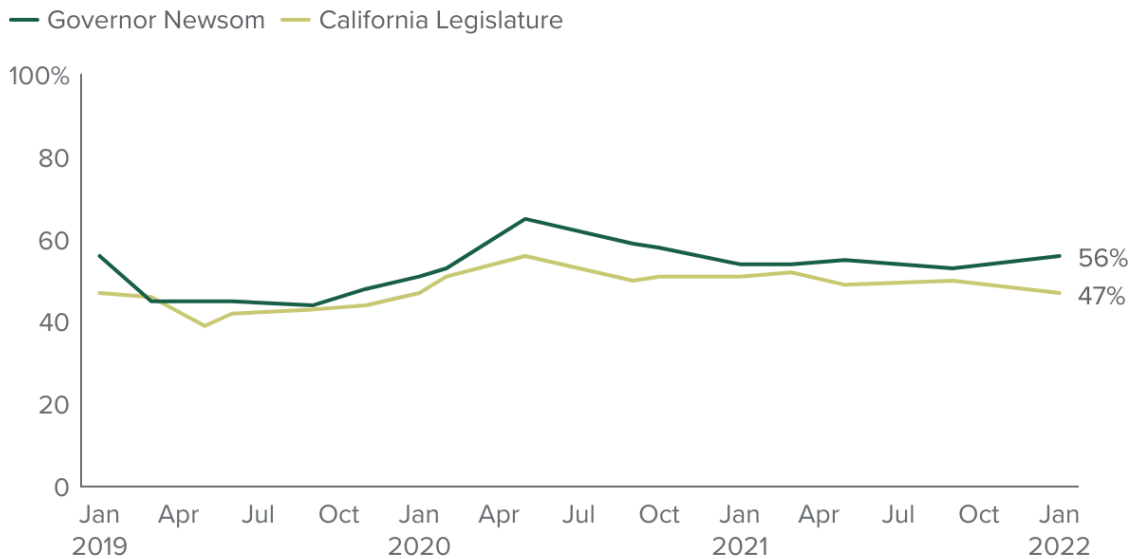
**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16-25, 2022.

## Approval of Elected Officials

Four months after Gavin Newsom beat back an attempt to recall him from office, 56 percent of Californians approve of his job performance as governor. Approval of Governor Newsom has remained above 50 percent since January 2020. Eight in ten Democrats and 45 percent of independents approve of Newsom, while more than eight in ten Republicans disapprove. Approval is higher in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area than elsewhere and much higher among African Americans and Latinos than Asian

Americans and whites. Notably, women continue to be more likely than men to approve of the governor. Fewer than half of Californians (47%) approve of the state legislature, a share that has remained in this range for the past two years.

## Most Californians continue to approve of Governor Newsom

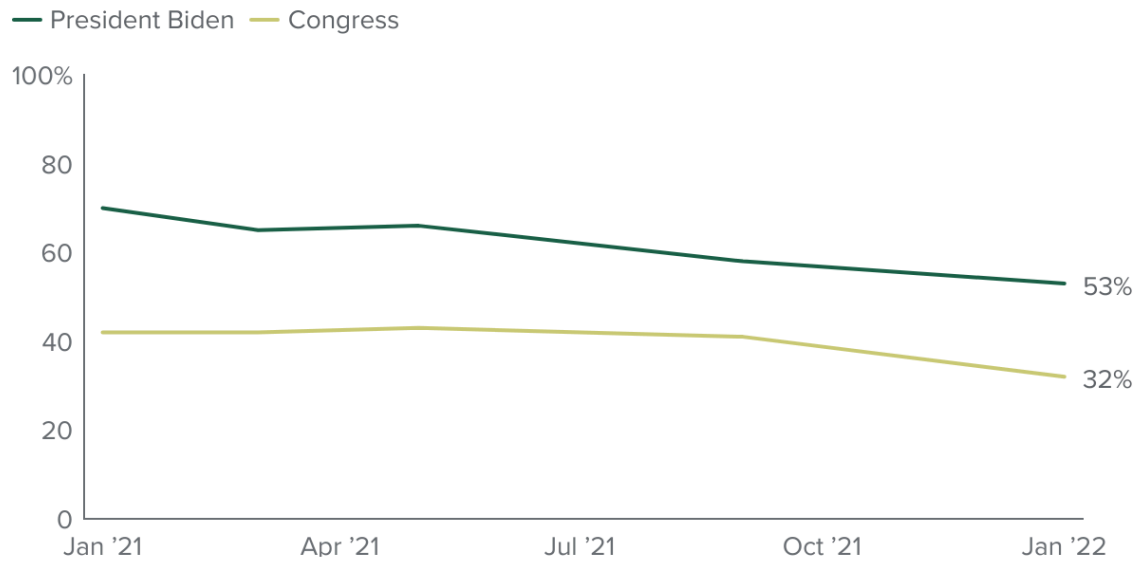


SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2019–2022.

As President Biden enters his second year in office, 53 percent of Californians approve of the job he is doing as president—much lower than a year ago and similar to approval of Governor Newsom today. Democrats remain far more likely than Republicans or independents to approve of President Biden. While more than six in ten Latinos and African Americans approve of President Biden, about half of Asian Americans and whites do so. Women are somewhat more likely than men, and residents in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles are somewhat more likely than those elsewhere, to approve of the president. Approval of Congress remains low, with a 32 percent approval rating. Notably, across parties, regions, and demographic groups, approval only rises above half among Latinos.

About six in ten Californians approve of the way that Governor Newsom and President Biden are handling the coronavirus outbreak, which was named as the state's top issue.

## Approval of President Biden has declined during the last year



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2021–2022.

## Majorities approve of Governor Newsom and President Biden

	Governor Newsom	California Legislature	President Biden	US Congress
All adults	56%	47%	53%	32%
Likely voters	57	44	49	19
Democrats	80	65	74	30
Republicans	12	12	9	11
Independents	45	36	42	27
Central Valley	43	42	45	27
Inland Empire	51	42	48	31
Los Angeles	60	51	56	36
Orange/San Diego	53	43	50	29
SF Bay Area	66	51	59	31
Men	50	42	49	31
Women	61	52	57	33
African Americans	75	55	63	29
Asian Americans	54	38	50	35
Latinos	70	62	66	53
Whites	46	40	46	17
Less than \$40,000	62	56	61	44
\$40,000 to \$79,999	54	44	44	30
\$80,000 or more	57	44	52	21

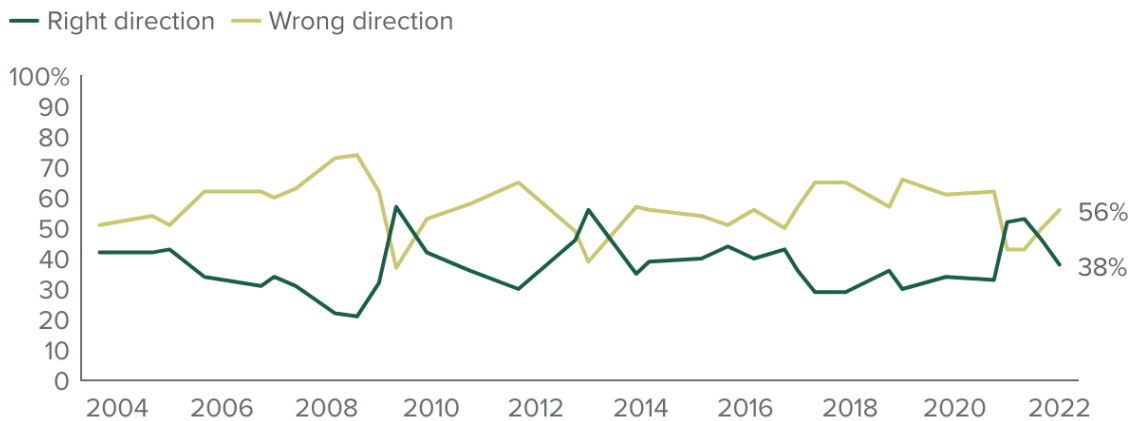
SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16–25, 2022.

## State of the Nation

Fifty-six percent of adults and 66 percent of likely voters think things in the US are going in the wrong direction (right direction: 38% adults, 30% likely voters). A year ago, fewer said things were going in the

wrong direction (43% adults, 50% likely voters). Today, strong majorities of Republicans (89%) and independents (69%) hold this negative view, while Democrats are divided (47% right direction, 48% wrong direction). Majorities across regions think the country is going in the wrong direction, ranging from 51 percent in Los Angeles to 66 percent in the Inland Empire. Most African Americans, Asian Americans, and whites believe the US is going in the wrong direction, while 52 percent of Latinos think it is going in the right direction. Californians making more than \$40,000 are more likely to feel things are going in the wrong direction, compared to those making less than \$40,000.

## Most Californians think things in the US are headed in the wrong direction

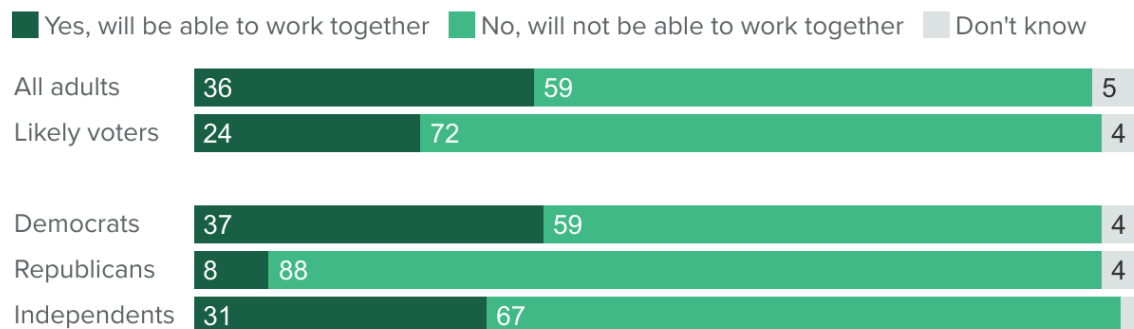


SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2003–2022.

Fifty-nine percent of adults and 72 percent of likely voters think President Biden and the US Congress will *not* be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year (will be able to work together and accomplish a lot: 36% adults, 24% likely voters). Last January, shortly after President Biden took office, far fewer adults (26%) and likely voters (32%) doubted the working relationship between the president and Congress. Today, majorities across political parties, regions, gender, and age groups believe the president and Congress will not be able to work together, and the share with this opinion increases sharply as income levels rise. Across racial/ethnic groups, solid majorities of Asian Americans and whites say President Biden and Congress will not be able to work together, while most Latinos say the opposite; African Americans are divided.



## Across partisan groups, most Californians believe the president and Congress will not be able to accomplish a lot in the next year



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16–25, 2022.

A majority of Californians (54%) believe the US will experience bad economic times in the next 12 months (38% good times). These negative views were similar last January (49%, 45% good times). Half or more across political parties, regions, and demographic groups expect bad times, with the exception of Democrats, Latinos, and those with at most a high school education, who are more divided in their views of the country's financial outlook.

## Majorities expect bad economic times for the US in the next 12 months

	Good times	Bad times	Don't know
<b>All adults</b>	38%	54%	8%
<b>Likely voters</b>	34	59	7
<b>Democrats</b>	48	45	7
<b>Republicans</b>	14	83	3
<b>Independents</b>	29	68	4
<b>Central Valley</b>	26	63	11
<b>Inland Empire</b>	38	60	2
<b>Los Angeles</b>	40	50	10
<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	38	54	8
<b>SF Bay Area</b>	41	53	6
<b>Men</b>	37	56	7
<b>Women</b>	38	52	9
<b>African Americans</b>	42	53	5
<b>Asian Americans</b>	27	63	10
<b>Latinos</b>	49	41	10
<b>Whites</b>	33	60	7
<b>Less than \$40,000</b>	40	51	8
<b>\$40,000 to \$79,999</b>	33	58	9
<b>\$80,000 or more</b>	38	56	7

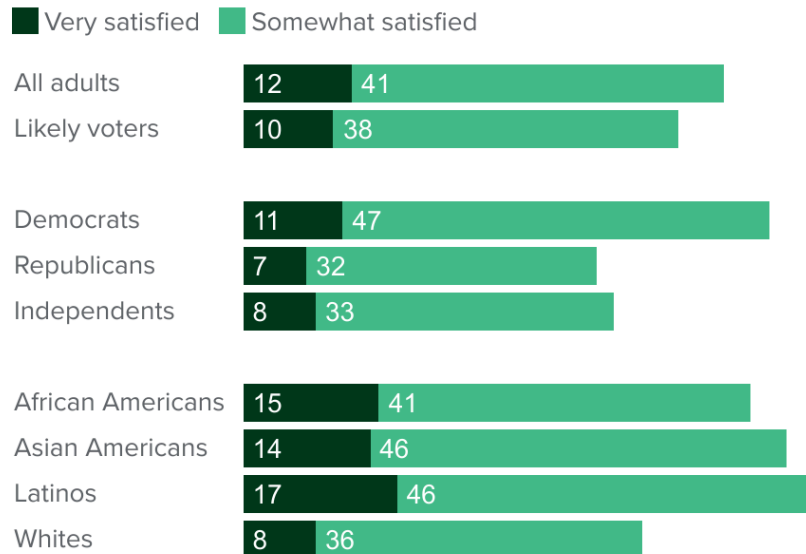
SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16-25, 2022.

## US Democracy

Fifty-three percent of Californians and about half of likely voters (48%) are very or somewhat satisfied with the way democracy is working in the United States. Democrats are much more likely to be at least somewhat satisfied than are Republicans or independents. Half or more across regions are very or somewhat satisfied. Majorities of African Americans, Asian Americans, and Latinos hold this view, compared to 44 percent of whites. The share of Californians who are very or somewhat satisfied with the way

democracy is working declines as age, education, and income levels increase and is much higher among renters (59%) than homeowners (47%).

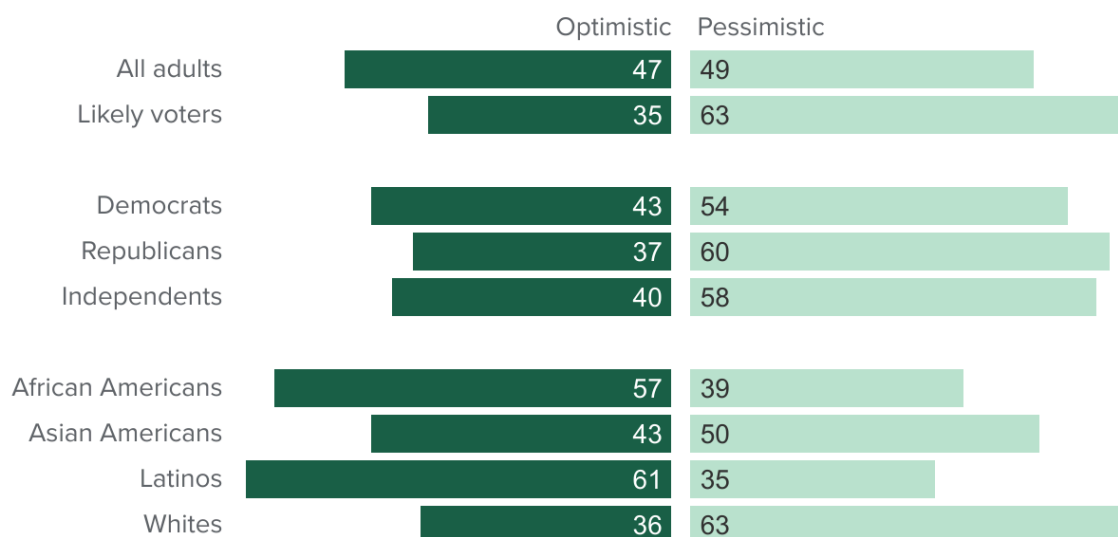
## About half of Californians are at least somewhat satisfied with the way democracy is working in the US



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16-25, 2022.

Californians are divided about whether Americans of different political views can come together and work out their differences (47% optimistic, 49% pessimistic). This division remains nearly unchanged from March 2021 (49% optimistic, 48% pessimistic). Today, majorities across political parties hold pessimistic views. Across racial/ethnic groups, a solid majority of whites and half of Asian Americans are pessimistic, while about six in ten African Americans and Latinos are optimistic. Regionally, half or more in the Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Bay Area are pessimistic about Americans coming together, while a slim majority in the Central Valley are optimistic; Orange/San Diego residents are divided. The share of Californians holding pessimistic views increases sharply as education and income levels rise.

## Californians are divided about whether Americans with different political views can come together and work out their differences



**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16-25, 2022.

Slightly more than a year after the attack on the US Capitol, 40 percent of Californians and about half of likely voters (48%) think there will be an increase in political violence in the US in the next few years. Forty percent of Californians and 36 percent of likely voters think there will be the same amount of political violence as there is now. Few think there will be a decrease in political violence (14% adults, 12% likely voters). Similar shares across political parties and regions as well as gender and age groups say political violence will increase. Among racial/ethnic groups, Asian Americans and whites are much more likely than African Americans and Latinos to say violence will increase, and the shares with this view increase as education levels rise. Those making more than \$40,000 are more likely to believe that political violence will grow, compared with those making less than \$40,000.

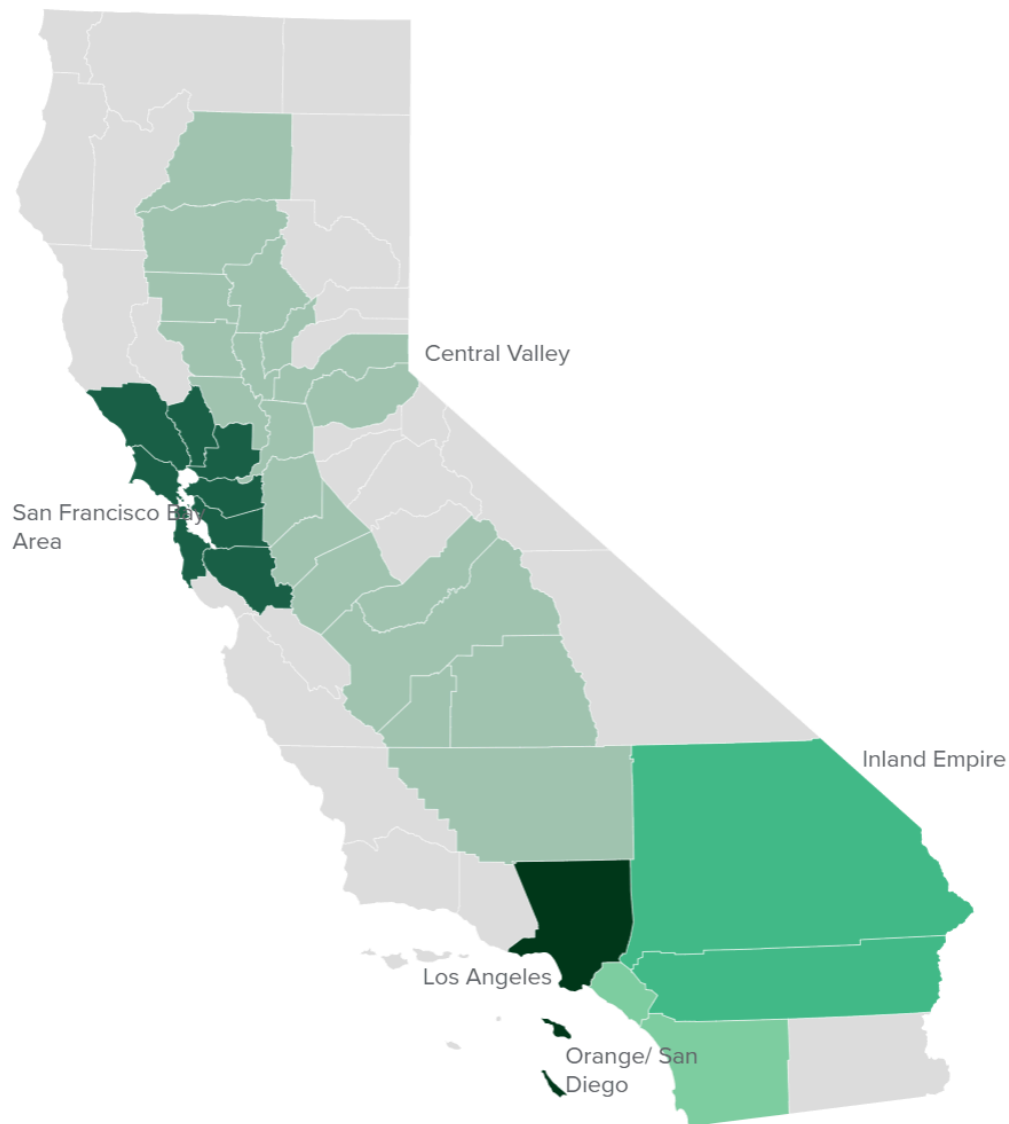
## Four in ten Californians think political violence will increase in the next few years

	Increase	Decrease	Same amount	Don't know
<b>All adults</b>	40%	14%	40%	6%
<b>Likely voters</b>	48	12	36	4
<b>Democrats</b>	44	15	36	5
<b>Republicans</b>	45	11	38	6
<b>Independents</b>	44	15	39	3
<b>Central Valley</b>	40	12	43	4
<b>Inland Empire</b>	47	17	33	2
<b>Los Angeles</b>	38	13	42	7
<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	41	15	37	8
<b>SF Bay Area</b>	39	16	42	4
<b>Men</b>	39	15	42	4
<b>Women</b>	41	13	38	7
<b>African Americans</b>	31	18	47	4
<b>Asian Americans</b>	44	8	42	6
<b>Latinos</b>	31	19	45	5
<b>Whites</b>	46	12	37	5
<b>Less than \$40,000</b>	35	18	43	4
<b>\$40,000 to \$79,999</b>	44	15	37	3
<b>\$80,000 or more</b>	45	7	43	4

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16–25, 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.



## 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 survey analyst Deja Thomas, who was the project manager for this survey; associate survey director and research fellow Dean Bonner; and survey analyst Rachel Lawler. 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 1,640 California adult residents, including 1,266 interviewed on cell phones and 374 interviewed on landline telephones. The sample included 585 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 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from January 16–25, 2022.

Cell phone interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of cell phone numbers. All cell phone numbers with California area codes were eligible for selection. 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. 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 2015–2019 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  $\pm 3.5$  percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,640 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.5 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,349 registered voters, the sampling error is  $\pm 3.9$

percent; for the 1,048 likely voters, it is  $\pm 4.6$ . 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 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 Gallup, ABC News/Washington Post, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and the Pew Research Center. 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>1,640</b>	<b>3.5%</b>
Registered voters	1,349	3.9%
Democrats	616	5.9%
Republicans	301	7.9%
No Party Preference/ Independents	359	7.6%
Central Valley	294	8.5%
Inland Empire	167	11.8%
Los Angeles	431	6.4%
Orange/San Diego	272	8.1%
SF Bay Area	313	7.7%
Men	905	4.7%
Women	735	5.1%
African Americans	92	13.4%
Asian Americans	106	11.4%
Latinos	515	5.7%
Whites	752	5.3%
Less than \$40,000	472	6%
\$40,000 to \$79,999	376	7.5%
\$80,000 or more	536	6.3%
<b>All likely voters</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>4.6%</b>
Democrats	508	6.4%
Republicans	246	9%
No Party Preference/ Independents	250	9.7%
Central Valley	198	11%
Inland Empire	103	17.2%
Los Angeles	257	8.8%
Orange/San Diego	180	9.6%
SF Bay Area	202	10%
Men	558	6.4%
Women	490	6.6%
Latinos	205	10%
Whites	621	6%
Other racial/ethnic groups	179	11%
Less than \$40,000	218	10.1%
\$40,000 to \$79,999	246	9.6%
\$80,000 or more	452	6.9%

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2022. Survey was fielded from January 16-25, 2022.

# Questions and Responses

January 16–25, 2022

1,640 California adult residents; 1,048 California likely voters:

English, Spanish

Margin of error  $\pm 3.5\%$  at 95% confidence level for the total sample and  $\pm 4.6\%$  for likely voters.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

**1. First, which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2022? [code, don't read]**

19% COVID-19, coronavirus, mandates

13% homelessness

12% jobs, economy, inflation

7% crime, gangs, drugs

7% housing costs, availability

5% education, schools, teachers

5% state budget, deficit, state spending

4% immigration, illegal immigration

3% environment, pollution, global warming

3% health care, health insurance

2% gasoline prices, oil prices

2% government in general, problems with elected officials, political parties

2% government regulations

2% infrastructure

2% water, water availability, drought

7% other (*specify*)

5% don't know

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

56% approve

34% disapprove

10% don't know

**3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Newsom is handling the coronavirus outbreak?**

59% approve

36% disapprove

5% don't know

(question 4 not asked)

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

47% approve  
39% disapprove  
14% don't know

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

58% yes, will be able to work together  
34% no, will not be able to work together  
8% don't know

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

50% right direction  
45% wrong direction  
5% don't know

**8. 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?")**

23% yes, serious recession  
20% yes, moderate recession  
8% yes, mild recession  
2% yes, don't know (volunteered)  
40% no, not in an economic recession  
7% don't know

**Next,**

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

8% excellent  
39% good  
36% only fair  
16% poor  
– don't know

(questions 10 and 11 not asked)

**12. Have recent price increases caused any financial hardship for you or your household? (If yes ask: "Is that a severe hardship that affects your ability to maintain your current standard of living, or is it a moderate hardship that affects you somewhat but does not jeopardize your current standard of living?")**

20% severe hardship  
41% moderate hardship  
38% no hardship  
– don't know

**On another topic,**

**13. 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?**

39% big problem  
36% somewhat of a problem  
19% not a problem  
7% don't know

**14. Governor Newsom recently proposed a budget plan for the next fiscal year that includes \$213.1 billion in general fund spending, and a \$45.7 billion surplus. The governor's proposal—which also revises the existing budget—includes funding for COVID-19 vaccines and testing, expanding healthcare access, strengthening efforts against climate change, confronting homelessness, tackling the cost of living, and increasing public safety. The proposed plan puts \$34.5 billion into the state's various reserve funds including \$20.9 billion in the state's rainy day fund. In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?**

63% favor  
28% oppose  
3% haven't heard anything about the budget (volunteered)  
6% don't know

**15. As part of his budget, the governor proposes a \$2.7 billion COVID-19 Emergency Response Package—including \$1.4 billion in immediate funding. This proposal seeks to bolster testing capacity, increase vaccination rates, support frontline workers, and strengthen the health care system. In general, do you favor or oppose this proposal?**

73% favor  
23% oppose  
4% don't know

**On another topic,**

**16. *[likely voters only]* Overall, would you say the September 2021 governor's recall election has made you feel better, feel worse, or no different about California politics and elections?**

18% feel better  
39% feel worse  
41% no different  
2% don't know

**Please tell me if you would support or oppose the following changes to the way the recall process works in California. Currently, supporters need to gather signatures from registered voters equal to 12 percent of the total votes cast in the previous election for that office to qualify a recall election. For the September recall election, 1.5 million signatures were required. If there is an effort to reform the recall process...**

*[rotate questions 17 and 18]*

**17. *[likely voters only]* Would you support or oppose raising the signature requirement to 20 percent of the total votes cast in the previous election for that office? This would have been 2.5 million signatures to qualify the September recall election. Do you support or oppose this proposal?**

50% support  
46% oppose  
4% don't know

**18. [likely voters only]** Would you support or oppose changing the signature requirement to 10 percent of all registered voters in California? This would have been 2.1 million signatures to qualify the September recall election. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

43% support

52% oppose

5% don't know

**Currently, if a majority vote “yes” on part one of the recall ballot, the governor is removed from office, and the candidate who receives the most votes on part two of the recall ballot is elected as the replacement for the governor. If a majority vote to recall the governor...**

*[rotate questions 19 and 20]*

**19. [likely voters only]** Would you support or oppose changing the law to appoint the lieutenant governor as governor for the remainder of the four-year term?

50% support

44% oppose

6% don't know

**20. [likely voters only]** Would you support or oppose changing the law to appoint the lieutenant governor as governor and having a special ballot measure to replace the governor in the next statewide election?

50% support

42% oppose

8% don't know

**21. [likely voters only]** A joint legislative committee is holding hearings and will make recommendations for improving the recall process that would require voter approval. Generally speaking, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to have state propositions about changing the recall process on the 2022 election ballot?

60% good idea

35% bad idea

5% don't know

**Changing topics,**

**22. How much of a problem are violence and street crime in your local community today—a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?**

34% big problem

31% somewhat of a problem

35% not much of a problem

1% don't know

**23. How would you rate the job your local police are doing in controlling crime in your community: excellent, good, fair, or poor?**

18% excellent

37% good

32% fair

11% poor  
2% don't know

**24. Do you think the police in your local community treat all racial and ethnic groups fairly almost always, most of the time, only some of the time, or almost never?**

28% almost always  
28% most of the time  
21% only some of the time  
11% almost never  
2% always (volunteered)  
1% never (volunteered)  
10% don't know

**Onto another topic,**

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

53% approve  
43% disapprove  
3% don't know

**26. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Biden is handling the coronavirus outbreak?**

59% approve  
39% disapprove  
2% don't know

(question 27 not asked)

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

32% approve  
60% disapprove  
8% don't know

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

36% yes, will be able to work together  
59% no, will not be able to work together  
5% don't know

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

38% right direction  
56% wrong direction  
6% don't know

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

38% good times  
54% bad times  
8% don't know

(question 27 not asked)

**Changing topics,**

**34. How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in the United States? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied?**

12% very satisfied  
41% somewhat satisfied  
24% not too satisfied  
20% not at all satisfied  
2% don't know

**35. These days, do you feel *[rotate]* [1] (optimistic) *[or]* [2] (pessimistic) that Americans of different political views can still come together and work out their differences?**

47% optimistic  
49% pessimistic  
4% don't know

**36. Do you think in the next few years you will see an increase in political violence in the US, a decrease in political violence in the US, or the same amount there already is?**

40% increase in political violence in the US  
14% decrease in political violence in the US  
40% the same amount there already is  
6% don't know

**On another topic,**

**37. How concerned, if at all, are you that you will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?**

16% very concerned  
26% somewhat concerned  
26% not too concerned  
31% not at all concerned  
1% have already been hospitalized due to coronavirus (volunteered)  
– don't know

**38. Which comes closer to your view about where the US stands in the coronavirus outbreak: *[rotate]* (1) the worst is behind us *[or]* (2) the worst is yet to come?**

67% the worst is behind us  
26% the worst is yet to come  
8% don't know

**39. Have you personally received the COVID-19 vaccine, or not? *[If yes, ask: “Did you receive a single-dose vaccine, the first of two doses, or have you received both doses of a two-dose vaccine?”]***

7% yes, single-dose vaccine *[skip to q40]*  
6% yes, first of two doses *[skip to q40]*  
69% yes, both doses of two doses *[skip to q40]*  
17% no  
– don't know

**39a. The coronavirus vaccine is now available to all individuals 5 and older. Will you definitely get the coronavirus vaccine, probably get it, probably not get it, or definitely not get it?**

2% definitely get the vaccine *[skip to q41]*  
2% probably get the vaccine *[skip to q41]*  
2% probably not get the vaccine *[skip to q41]*  
12% definitely not get the vaccine *[skip to q41]*  
82% already got the vaccine *[if q39=yes, code q39a="already got the vaccine"]*  
1% don't know *[skip to q41]*

**40. Have you personally received a booster or additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine after you were already fully vaccinated, or not? This could include receiving a third dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or receiving another vaccine after getting the one-dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine.**

61% yes *[skip to q42]*  
39% no *[skip to q42]*  
– don't know *[skip to q42]*

**41. Does news about the omicron variant of the coronavirus make you more likely to get a COVID-19 vaccine, or not?**

11% yes, makes me more likely to get vaccinated  
86% no, does not make me more likely to get vaccinated  
3% don't know

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

78% yes *[ask q42a]*  
22% no *[skip to q43b]*

**42a. 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 q43]*  
24% Republican *[skip to q43a]*  
6% another party *(specify) [skip to q44]*  
25% decline-to-state/independent *[skip to 43b]*

**[likely voters only]**

48% Democrat *[ask q43]*  
25% Republican *[skip to q43a]*  
6% another party *(specify) [skip to q44]*  
21% decline-to-state/independent *[skip to 43b]*



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

54% strong  
42% not very strong  
3% don't know

*[skip to q44]*

**43a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?**

64% strong  
31% not very strong  
5% don't know

*[skip to q44]*

**43b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?**

22% Republican Party  
44% Democratic Party  
27% neither (volunteered)  
7% don't know

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

12% very liberal  
22% somewhat liberal  
31% middle-of-the-road  
21% somewhat conservative  
9% very conservative  
4% don't know

**45. 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  
37% fair amount  
31% only a little  
9% 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.

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