PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

Jui Shrestha

June 2013
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?
Effect of state budget cuts on local services

Would you say that your local government services—such as those provided by city and county governments and public schools—have or have not been affected by recent state budget cuts? (If they have: Have they been affected a lot or somewhat?)

- All adults: 59%
- Inland Empire: 70%
- Los Angeles: 64%
- Central Valley: 62%
- Orange/San Diego: 52%
- San Francisco Bay Area: 48%
Governor Brown recently released a revised budget plan for the current and next fiscal year that will increase spending on K–12 schools, higher education, health and human services, and corrections and rehabilitation, create a $1.1 billion reserve, and pay down the state’s debt. In general, do you favor or oppose the governor’s budget plan?
Governor Brown’s budget plan proposes to pay down state debt and build up the reserve. In general, do you prefer the governor’s plan to pay down state debt and build up the reserve, or would you prefer to use some of this money to restore some funding for social service programs that were cut in recent years?
Funds for implementation of Common Core State Standards

As part of his revised budget plan, Governor Brown proposes providing K–12 schools with $1 billion in one-time revenues to support the implementation of the “Common Core State Standards,” a new set of English and math standards that the state will roll out in 2014. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

- All adults: 73%
- Public school parents: 83%
- Latinos: 86%
- Blacks: 80%
- Asians: 70%
- Whites: 64%
Extra funding for districts with more disadvantaged students

Governor Brown proposes giving each K–12 public school district more funding than they received in 2011–12 and providing additional funding to school districts that have more English language learners and lower-income students. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>% Favor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school parents</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blacks</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asians</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>69</td>
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</tbody>
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% favor
Conclusions

- Californians still see the state budget situation as a big problem and say their local services have been affected by state budget cuts.
- Majorities favor Governor Brown’s revised budget proposal.
- Californians prefer paying down debt and building a reserve over restoring cuts to social service programs.
- Strong majorities support the governor’s K–12 plan, which directs funds to
  - Districts with more disadvantaged students
  - Implementing Common Core State Standards
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Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.