Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Election and national issues
- State and fiscal issues
- Conclusions
PPIC Statewide Survey mission

- Provide timely, relevant, nonpartisan data on political, social, and economic opinions
- Inform and improve state policymaking, raise awareness, encourage discussion
- Provide a voice for all Californians in important state policy debates
  - 320,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 150+ general, issue, and regional surveys
Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The James Irvine Foundation
- Election and national issues
  - Preferences in presidential and U.S. Senate primaries
  - Approval ratings and role of government
- State and fiscal issues
  - Approval ratings and overall mood
  - State and local tax system, state spending and revenues
- Telephone interviews, March 6–15, 2016
  - 50% landline, 50% cell phone
  - 1,710 adults, ± 3.6% margin of error
  - 1,039 likely voters, ± 4.4% margin of error
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Election and national issues
- State and fiscal issues
- Conclusions
In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for U.S. president in 2016?
If the 2016 Democratic primary for president were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hillary Clinton</th>
<th>Bernie Sanders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All likely voters</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18 to 44</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 45 and older</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Republican presidential primary preferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Republican primary likely voters only</th>
<th>Including candidate Rubio</th>
<th>Excluding candidate Rubio*</th>
<th>Change with Rubio supporters’ second choices included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donald Trump</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>+0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ted Cruz</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>+8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Kasich</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marco Rubio</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone else</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>+0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Totals recalculated to show Rubio supporters’ second choice
Satisfaction with choices of Senate candidates

In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for U.S. Senate in 2016?
If the June primary for U.S. senator were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?

- Kamala Harris: 31%
- Loretta Sanchez: 26%
- Tom Del Beccaro: 11%
- Duf Sundheim: 9%
- Someone else: 6%
- Don't know: 17%

Likely voters
Approval of federal elected officials

- President Obama
- U.S. Congress

Graph showing approval percentages from Mar-12 to Mar-16.
Outlook for the nation

- **Think things are headed in the right direction**
- **Expect good times financially**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>All adults</th>
<th>Dem</th>
<th>Rep</th>
<th>Ind</th>
<th>Likely voters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Think direction</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expect</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PPIC
Do you think the gap between the rich and the poor in the U.S. is getting larger, getting smaller, or has it stayed the same?

- **All adults**: 69%
- **Likely voters**: 77%
- **Dem**: 83%
- **Ind**: 75%
- **Rep**: 62%
Income inequality: role of government

Should the government do more to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in this country, or is this something the government should not be doing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>% saying government should do more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

*Pew Research Center, September 2015
Government regulation of business

Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right: government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest; or government regulation of business does more harm than good.

- Government regulation of business does more harm than good
- Government regulation of business is necessary
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Election and national issues
- State and fiscal issues
- Conclusions
Approval of state elected officials

Governor Brown
California Legislature

Mar-12  Mar-13  Mar-14  Mar-15  Mar-16
%  40  51
  30  44
  20
  10
  0
Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

- Right Direction: 50%
- Wrong direction: 43%
- Don't know: 8%

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

- Good times: 51%
- Bad times: 40%
- Don't know: 9%
Overall, how fair do you think our present state and local tax system is—would you say it is very fair, moderately fair, not too fair, or not at all fair?

- Very fair: 3%
- Moderately fair: 16%
- Not too fair: 25%
- Not at all fair: 48%
- Don't know: 8%

All adults
When you combine all of the taxes you pay to state and local governments, do you feel that you pay much more than you should, somewhat more than you should, about the right amount, or less than you should?
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?

% saying big problem
As you may know, voters passed Proposition 30 in November 2012. It increased taxes on earnings over $250,000 until 2018 and sales taxes by one-quarter cent until 2016. Do you favor or oppose extending for 12 years the tax increase on earnings over $250,000 to fund education and healthcare?
Importance of four major areas to California’s future

How important is … to the future quality of life and economic vitality of California?

% saying very important

- Public higher education: 80%
- Maintenance of roads and bridges: 62%
- Delta tunnels: 54%
- High-speed rail: 34%
Which of the following types of surface transportation projects do you think should have the top priority for additional state funding: freeways and highways, public bus and transit systems, carpool lanes, or local streets and roads?
Overall, do you think that the people in your part of California are doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to respond to the current drought in California?
As you may know, California voters passed a $10 billion state bond in 2008… Do you favor or oppose building a high-speed rail system in California?
Do you think that a college education is necessary for a person to be successful in today’s work world, or do you think that there are many ways to succeed in today’s work world without a college education?
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Election and national issues
- State and fiscal issues
- Conclusions
Conclusions

- Striking partisan differences in satisfaction with candidate choices in presidential and senate primaries
- Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton garner the most support in presidential primaries
- Democrats Kamala Harris and Loretta Sanchez lead the top-two primary for the U.S. Senate; nearly one in three are undecided
- Democrats and Republicans are divided on the outlook for the nation and on both the appropriate role and size of government
- A majority of Californians and likely voters favor extending the Proposition 30 tax increase on earnings over $250,000 to fund education and healthcare
- Most Californians view increased spending on the maintenance of roads, highways, and bridges as very important to the state’s future
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:

Dean Bonner (bonner@ppic.org; 415-291-4497)

Thank you for your interest in this work.