Californians and Their Government

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Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner,
David Kordus, Lunna Lopes

Supported with funding from the James Irvine
Foundation and the PPIC Donor Circle
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Federal government
- State government
- 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
  - 330,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 160+ general, issue, and regional surveys
Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by the James Irvine Foundation
- Federal government
  - Approval ratings and overall mood
  - Immigration policy, climate change, abortion access
- State government
  - Approval ratings and overall mood
  - Budget proposal and transportation funding
- Telephone interviews, January 22–31, 2017
  - 40% landline, 60% cell phone
  - 1,702 adults, ± 3.3% margin of error
  - 1,107 likely voters, ± 4.1% margin of error
Outline

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Approval of federal elected officials

<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>President Trump</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Congress</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supreme Court</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The chart shows the percentage of adults and likely voters approving President Trump, US Congress, and the Supreme Court, categorized by political affiliation.
Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Donald Trump?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Favorable</th>
<th>Unfavorable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How much confidence do you have in President Trump to make the right decisions for the country's future—a great deal of confidence, a good amount, just some, or none at all?

Confidence in President Trump

- All adults: 13% Good amount, 15% Great deal
- Dem: 6% Good amount, 3% Great deal
- Rep: 31% Good amount, 47% Great deal
- Ind: 14% Good amount, 18% Great deal
- Likely voters: 15% Good amount, 19% Great deal
Do you think that President Trump and the US Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?
Outlook for the nation

- **All adults**:
  - Think things are headed in the right direction: 36%
  - Expect good times financially: 52%

- **Dem**:
  - Think things are headed in the right direction: 20%
  - Expect good times financially: 38%

- **Rep**:
  - Think things are headed in the right direction: 61%
  - Expect good times financially: 83%

- **Ind**:
  - Think things are headed in the right direction: 43%
  - Expect good times financially: 55%

- **Likely voters**:
  - Think things are headed in the right direction: 37%
  - Expect good times financially: 54%
Do you favor or oppose the California state and local governments making their own policies and taking actions, separate from the federal government, to protect the legal rights of undocumented immigrants in California?
Undocumented immigrants in America

Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are living in the US? There should be a way for them to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met or they should not be allowed to stay in this country legally.

- **Allowed to stay legally**
- **Not allowed to stay legally**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Allowed to stay legally</th>
<th>Not allowed to stay legally</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opinion of Affordable Care Act

Generally favorable
Generally unfavorable
Do you think Congress should vote to repeal the 2010 health care law, or should they not vote to repeal it? (If yes: should lawmakers vote to repeal the law immediately and work out the details of a replacement plan later or should lawmakers wait to vote to repeal the law until the details of a replacement plan have been announced?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes, repeal and work out details later</th>
<th>Yes, repeal but wait for details</th>
<th>No, should not vote to repeal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

%
Do you think that global climate change is a major threat, a minor threat, or not a threat to the well-being of the United States?

*Pew Research Center, January 2017*
Support for California making its own policies to address global warming
Government and abortion access

Which of the following statements comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right? The government should pass more laws that restrict the availability of abortion; or the government should not interfere with a woman’s access to abortion?

- Government should pass more laws
- Government should not interfere with access

![Bar chart showing responses by group](chart.png)
In 1973, the *Roe v. Wade* decision established a woman’s constitutional right to an abortion, at least in the first three months of pregnancy. Would you like to see the Supreme Court completely overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision, or not?
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Governor Brown
California Legislature

Jan-12 Jan-13 Jan-14 Jan-15 Jan-16 Jan-17

% 40 20 0

Governor Brown:
California Legislature:

62 57
Do you think that Governor Brown and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?

- **All adults**: 66% yes, 22% no
- **Dem**: 74% yes, 15% no
- **Rep**: 44% yes, 47% no
- **Ind**: 59% yes, 25% no
- **Likely voters**: 64% yes, 25% no
Top issue for the governor and legislature

Which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2017?

- Jobs, economy: 16% (2016), 14% (2017)
- Immigration, illegal immigration: 9% (2016), 14% (2017)
- Education, schools, teachers: 9% (2016), 11% (2017)
- Healthcare, health insurance: 3% (2016), 7% (2017)
- Water, drought: 17% (2016), 6% (2017)
Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Right direction</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrong direction</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All adults

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good times</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad times</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All adults
I’m going to name some of the largest areas for state spending. Please tell me the one that represents the most spending in the state budget.

Thinking about these four areas of state spending, I’d like you to name the one you think should have the highest priority when it comes to state spending.
Preference for size of government

In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more? I’d rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, or I’d rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services.

- **All adults**
  - Higher taxes and more services: 52%
  - Lower taxes and fewer services: 43%

- **Dem**
  - Higher taxes and more services: 68%
  - Lower taxes and fewer services: 26%

- **Rep**
  - Higher taxes and more services: 20%
  - Lower taxes and fewer services: 77%

- **Ind**
  - Higher taxes and more services: 50%
  - Lower taxes and fewer services: 46%

- **Likely voters**
  - Higher taxes and more services: 49%
  - Lower taxes and fewer services: 47%
Perception that the state budget situation is a big problem

![Graph showing percentage of people perceiving the state budget situation as a big problem from Jan-12 to Jan-17. The percentage decreases over time, reaching 37% in Jan-17.](image-url)
In general, do you favor or oppose the governor’s budget proposal?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Governor’s transportation proposal

To address a multibillion-dollar shortfall in California infrastructure improvements, Governor Brown has proposed about $43 billion of additional spending for state and local transportation projects over the next 10 years with a focus on repair and maintenance of roads, highways, and bridges and also public transit…. In general, do you favor or oppose this proposal?
Importance of spending more money on maintaining surface transportation

Thinking ahead, how important is spending more money on the maintenance of California’s roads, highways, and bridges for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California?
To significantly improve the quality of California's roads and surface transportation, which of the following statements do you agree with the most?

- Use existing funds more wisely (51%)
- Increase the amount of state funding (7%)
- Use funds more wisely and increase the amount of state funding (40%)
- Don't know (2%)

All adults
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Conclusions

- About one in three Californians offer positive assessments of President Trump.
- Half of Californians think President Trump and Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot.
- Solid majorities of Californians want independent state action to protect the rights of undocumented immigrants and to address global warming.
- About half of Californians have a favorable view of the Affordable Care Act and a similar share do not want to see it repealed.
- A record-high share of Californians approve of Governor Brown and think the governor and legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot.
- Fewer than half approve of Governor Brown’s budget proposal or his transportation proposal.
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:

Your name (bonner@ppic.org; 415-291-4497)

Thank you for your interest in this work.