Californians and Their Government

- Funded by The James Irvine Foundation
- Tracks attitudes toward state government
- Provides a voice for all Californians in important state policy debates

- Telephone interviews, January 15–22
  - 1,704 adults / 1,116 likely voters
    - ± 3.5% margin of error for adults
    - ± 4.2% for likely voters
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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Somewhat of a problem</th>
<th>Big problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
New revenue sources have been proposed to address the state budget situation. For each of the following, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal. How about...?

- Increasing cigarette taxes: 70% favor, 28% oppose
- Raising corporate taxes: 54% favor, 41% oppose
- Extending sales tax to services: 32% favor, 61% oppose
Fiscal reforms have been proposed to address the structural issues in the state budget and local budget issues. For each of the following, please say if you think the proposal is a good idea or a bad idea. How about...?

- **Shifting responsibilities to local level**: 71% good idea, 22% bad idea
- **Strictly limiting state spending**: 68% good idea, 25% bad idea
- **Lowering vote to pass parcel taxes to 55%**: 57% good idea, 37% bad idea
State and Local Fiscal Relations

Confidence in local governments to handle prisoner shift from state to local level

- Very confident: 25
- Somewhat confident: 40
- Not too confident: 24
- Not at all confident: 9
- Don't know: 2

Confidence in local school districts to use state funding wisely if given more flexibility

- Very confident: 23
- Somewhat confident: 48
- Not too confident: 18
- Not at all confident: 1
- Don't know: 1

All adults
Governor Brown proposed a budget plan for the next fiscal year that will increase spending on K–12 schools, higher education, and health and human services, create a $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 includes new K–12 school funding that will mostly go to local school districts that have more English language learners and lower-income students. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?
Governor Brown’s budget plan includes $4.2 billion to pay down state debt and creates a $1 billion 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?

- Pay down debt, build up reserve: 55%
- Restore funding for social services: 38%
- Don't know: 6%

All adults
Conclusions

- Most still see budget situation as a big problem
- Support for increasing cigarette and corporate taxes; opposition to taxing services
- Majorities support three possible fiscal reforms
- Governor Brown’s budget proposal popular with Californians
PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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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.

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