Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- California Budget and Fiscal Attitudes
- State and National Political Context
- 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
  - 260,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 120+ general, issue, and regional surveys
Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The Irvine Foundation
- California budget and fiscal attitudes
  - Assessments of current budget situation, attitudes toward spending and taxes
  - Governor’s budget proposal and tax initiative
- State and national political context
  - Approval ratings, 2012 elections
- Telephone interviews, Jan. 10–17
  - 2,002 adults / 894 likely voters
    - ± 3.4% margin of error for adults
    - ± 4.2% for likely voters
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- California Budget and Fiscal Attitudes
- State and National Political Context
- Conclusions
Closing the Budget Deficit

How would you prefer to deal with the state's budget gap?

- Mostly spending cuts
- Mix of cuts and taxes
- Mostly tax increases
- OK to borrow, run deficit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All adults</th>
<th>Dem</th>
<th>Rep</th>
<th>Ind</th>
<th>Likely voters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mostly spending cuts</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mix of cuts and taxes</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mostly tax increases</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OK to borrow, run deficit</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thinking about these four areas of state spending, I’d like you to name the one you most want to protect from spending cuts.

- K–12 public education
- Higher education
- Health and human services
- Prisons and corrections
- Don't know

All adults
In general, do you think the state government could spend less and still provide the same level of services, or not?

% of likely voters saying yes:
- 2004: 67%
- 2005: 61%
- 2008: 65%
- 2010: 59%
- 2012: 55%
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?
State Spending Limit

Fiscal reforms have been proposed to address the structural issues in the state budget. Do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to strictly limit the amount of money that state spending could increase each year?

% saying good idea

- All adults: 59%
- Dem: 53%
- Rep: 72%
- Ind: 62%
- Likely voters: 62%
Raising Taxes for Specific Areas

What if the state said it needed more money just to maintain current funding for ...? Would you be willing to pay higher taxes for this purpose, or not?

% of likely voters saying yes

- K–12 education: 62%
- Health and human services: 49%
- Higher education: 46%
- Prisons and corrections: 12%

PPIC
Raising Revenues

Tax and fee increases could be used to help reduce the state’s large gap between spending and revenues. For each of the following, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal.

- Raise state sales tax: Favor 35, Oppose 64
- Raise income taxes on the wealthiest: Favor 68, Oppose 31
Raising Revenues

Tax and fee increases could be used to help reduce the state’s large gap between spending and revenues. For each of the following, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal.

- Tax commercial properties at market value: 60% favor, 34% oppose
- Raise corporate taxes: 61% favor, 36% oppose
- Extend sales tax to services: 39% favor, 54% oppose
Governor Brown proposed a budget plan for the current and next fiscal year to close the state’s projected $9.2 billion budget deficit. ... In general, do you favor or oppose the governor’s budget plan?
Proposed Cuts to Social Services

Do you favor or oppose Governor Brown’s proposed spending cuts to welfare, child care, Medi-Cal, and other social service programs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Governor Brown's proposed tax initiative on the November ballot includes... Do you favor or oppose the proposed tax initiative?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Favor</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposed Trigger Cuts to K–12

If voters reject the proposed tax initiative on the November ballot, Governor Brown has said that automatic spending cuts will be made to K–12 public schools. Do you favor or oppose these automatic spending cuts to K–12 public schools?
Confidence in Local Government to Handle Realignment

% very or somewhat confident

- All adults: 59% overall, 50% very or somewhat confident
- Central Valley: 55% overall, 41% very or somewhat confident
- San Francisco Bay Area: 62% overall, 56% very or somewhat confident
- Los Angeles: 56% overall, 46% very or somewhat confident
- Other Southern California: 61% overall, 48% very or somewhat confident
- Likely voters: 60% overall, 49% very or somewhat confident
Perceptions of Tax System

Overall, how fair do you think our present state and local tax system is?

- 50% Very fair
- 27% Moderately fair
- 14% Not too fair
- 3% Not at all fair
- 2% Don't know

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?

- 21% Much more
- 47% Somewhat more
- 25% About right amount
- 6% Less
- 2% Don't know

All adults
Knowledge of State Budget

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.

- Prisons and corrections: 16
- Health and human services: 47
- K–12 education*: 5
- Higher education: 5
- Don't know: 27

I’m going to name some of the largest areas for state revenues. Please tell me the one that represents the most revenue for the state budget.

- Personal income tax*: 6
- Sales tax: 18
- Motor vehicle fees: 19
- Corporate tax: 29
- Don't know: 28

* Correct answer
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- California Budget and Fiscal Attitudes
- State and National Political Context
- Conclusions
Which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2012?

- Jobs, economy: 38%
- State budget, deficit, taxes: 18%
- Education, schools: 16%
- Immigration, illegal immigration: 7%
Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

- All adults: 37% Right direction, 57% Wrong direction
- Dem: 51% Right direction, 43% Wrong direction
- Rep: 14% Right direction, 80% Wrong direction
- Ind: 29% Right direction, 68% Wrong direction
- Likely voters: 29% Right direction, 66% Wrong direction
Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

Governor Brown
Legislature

%
Prospects for Working Together: Governor and Legislature

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prospects for Working Together: President and Congress

Do you think that President Obama and the U.S. Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

- President Obama
- Congress

- Mar 09: 71%
- Sep 09: 63%
- Mar 10: 58%
- Sep 10: 52%
- Mar 11: 56%
- Sep 11: 51%
- Jan 12: 54%

- Mar 09: 43%
- Sep 09: 39%
- Mar 10: 24%
- Sep 10: 26%
- Mar 11: 30%
- Sep 11: 27%
- Jan 12: 25%
Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?

- **All adults**: 46% approve, 39% disapprove
- **Central Valley**: 44% approve, 46% disapprove
- **SF Bay Area**: 45% approve, 36% disapprove
- **Los Angeles**: 47% approve, 38% disapprove
- **Other Southern California**: 44% approve, 41% disapprove
- **Likely voters**: 47% approve, 41% disapprove
Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that ... is handling her job as U.S. senator?

Dianne Feinstein

- Approve: 18
- Disapprove: 47
- Don't know: 35

Barbara Boxer

- Approve: 17
- Disapprove: 46
- Don't know: 38

All adults
If the 2012 Republican primary for president were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?

- Mitt Romney: 37
- Newt Gingrich: 18
- Rick Santorum: 15
- Ron Paul: 11
- Other/Don't know: 18

GOP likely voters
Satisfaction with Candidate Choices

In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for U.S. President in 2012?

- **All likely voters**
  - Satisfied: 53%
  - Not satisfied: 42%

- **Dem**
  - Satisfied: 67%
  - Not satisfied: 28%

- **Rep**
  - Satisfied: 44%
  - Not satisfied: 52%

- **Ind**
  - Satisfied: 39%
  - Not satisfied: 51%
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- California Budget and Fiscal Attitudes
- State and National Political Context
- Conclusions
Conclusions, Budget and Fiscal Attitudes

- Californians want to protect K–12 education
  - Would pay higher taxes to maintain funding
- General support for raising taxes on wealthy
- General opposition to raising state sales tax
- Governor’s budget plan has mixed reviews
  - Majorities favor his proposed tax initiative, but oppose trigger cuts to K–12
Conclusions, State and National Issues

- Most Californians pessimistic about state elected officials or federal elected officials working together and accomplishing a lot in the next year
- Romney leads GOP primary
- Democrats more satisfied than Republicans with candidate choices
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:

surveys@ppic.org

Thank you for your interest in this work.

January 2012
PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Sonja Petek, Jui Shrestha

January 2012