PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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Supported with funding from The James Irvine Foundation
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
  - 302,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 140+ general, issue, and regional surveys
Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The James Irvine Foundation
- November 2014 Election
  - gubernatorial election
  - Proposals 1, 2, 45, and 47
- State and national issues
  - approval ratings and overall mood
  - State budget situation, initiative process, health care
- Telephone interviews, September 8 to 15
  - 1,702 adults, ± 3.6% margin of error
  - 916 likely voters, ± 4.9% margin of error
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- November 2014 election
- State and national issues
- Conclusions
Support for gubernatorial candidates has not changed

If the November 4th election for governor were being held today, would you vote for Jerry Brown, a Democrat, or Neel Kashkari, a Republican?

- July: 52% Jerry Brown, 33% Neel Kashkari, 4% Would not vote for governor (volunteered), 11% Don't know
- September: 54% Jerry Brown, 33% Neel Kashkari, 2% Would not vote for governor (volunteered), 11% Don't know
Partisan support for gubernatorial candidates

If the November 4th election for governor were being held today, would you vote for Jerry Brown, a Democrat, or Neel Kashkari, a Republican?

- **Jerry Brown**
- **Neel Kashkari**
- **Would not vote for governor (volunteered)**
- **Don't know**

![Bar chart showing partisan support for gubernatorial candidates](image)
Satisfaction with gubernatorial candidates

In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for governor on November 4th?

- **All likely voters**: 55% satisfied
- **Dem**: 71% satisfied
- **Ind**: 49% satisfied
- **Rep**: 38% satisfied
Views on Democratic supermajority

If the Democrats in the state legislature gained a two-thirds majority as a result of the November 2014 election, do you think that this would be a good thing for California, a bad thing for California, or does it make no difference?
Preferred outcome of congressional elections

What is your preference for the outcome of this year's congressional elections: a Congress controlled by Republicans or a Congress controlled by Democrats?
Proposition 1 is called the “Water Bond. Funding for Water Quality, Supply, Treatment, and Storage Projects.”

If the election were being held today would you vote yes or no on Proposition 1?
Proposition 2 is called the “State Budget. Budget Stabilization Account Legislative Constitutional Amendment.” If the election were being held today would you vote yes or no on Proposition 2?
Proposition 45
Healthcare insurance rate changes

Proposition 45 is called the “Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes Initiative Statute.” If the election were being held today would you vote yes or no on Proposition 45?
Proposition 47
Criminal sentences

Proposition 47 is called the “Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties. Initiative Statute.” If the election were being held today would you vote yes or no on Proposition 47?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All likely voters</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Approval of state elected officials

Governor Brown
California Legislature

- Sep 2012: 41%
- Sep 2013: 48%
- Sep 2014: 51%

- Sep 2012: 30%
- Sep 2013: 38%
- Sep 2014: 37%
Outlook for the state

Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

- Right direction: 43%
- Wrong direction: 48%
- 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: 44%
- Bad times: 45%
- Don't know: 10%

All adults
Seriousness of state budget situation

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?

- **All adults**: 32% big problem, 40% somewhat of a problem
- **Democrats (Dem)**: 55% big problem, 46% somewhat of a problem
- **Republicans (Rep)**: 80% big problem, 18% somewhat of a problem
- **Independents (Ind)**: 62% big problem, 30% somewhat of a problem
- ** Likely voters**: 29% big problem, 62% somewhat of a problem
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?

- Pay higher taxes, have more services
- Pay lower taxes, have fewer services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All adults</th>
<th>Likely voters</th>
<th>Dem</th>
<th>Ind</th>
<th>Rep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pay higher taxes, have more services:</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay lower taxes, have fewer services:</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Likely voters

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?

- Pay higher taxes, have more services
- Pay lower taxes, have fewer services

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<thead>
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<th>Pay higher taxes, have more services:</th>
<th>Pay lower taxes, have fewer services:</th>
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<td>All adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voters making state budget decisions

And when it comes to the tough choices involved in the state budget this year, would you prefer that the governor and legislature make all of the decisions about spending and taxes or that California voters make some of the decisions about spending and taxes at the ballot box?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Governor and legislature</th>
<th>California voters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overall, how much would you say that the initiative process in California today is controlled by special interests—a lot, some, or not at all?

- **All adults**: 55%
- **Likely voters**: 65%
- **Rep**: 68%
- **Dem**: 63%
- **Ind**: 58%
Would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?

- Dec 09: 44%
- May 10: 42%
- Mar 12: 35%
- Mar 14: 55%
- May 14: 59%
- July 14: 54%
- Sep 14: 65%
Support for local water district bond measures

If your local water district had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for water supply infrastructure projects, would you vote yes or no?

- All adults: 72% Yes, 19% No
- Central Valley: 72% Yes, 19% No
- San Francisco Bay Area: 77% Yes, 17% No
- Los Angeles: 72% Yes, 19% No
- Orange/San Diego: 70% Yes, 15% No
- Inland Empire: 69% Yes, 24% No
- Likely voters: 67% Yes, 23% No
Approval of federal elected officials

- President Obama
- U.S. Congress

- Sep 12: 60%
- Sep 13: 55%
- Sep 14: 48%

- Sep 12: 27%
- Sep 13: 28%
- Sep 14: 24%
Approval of California’s U.S. senators

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as U.S. Senator?

- Approve: 47%
- Disapprove: 33%
- Don't know: 20%

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barbara Boxer is handling her job as U.S. Senator?

- Approve: 41%
- Disapprove: 37%
- Don't know: 21%

All adults
As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?
Impact of health care reform

So far, would you say the health reform law has directly helped you and your family, directly hurt you and your family, or has it not had a direct impact?

- All adults
  - Directly helped: 20%
  - Directly hurt: 19%
  - No direct impact: 58%

- Dem
  - Directly helped: 29%
  - Directly hurt: 13%
  - No direct impact: 55%

- Rep
  - Directly helped: 37%
  - Directly hurt: 3%
  - No direct impact: 56%

- Ind
  - Directly helped: 18%
  - Directly hurt: 17%
  - No direct impact: 63%

- Uninsured
  - Directly helped: 13%
  - Directly hurt: 21%
  - No direct impact: 58%
Impact of immigrants on California

Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view: Immigrants today are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills; or immigrants today are a burden to California because they use public services.
Priorities for immigration policy

Which should be the higher priority now: securing the nation's border, or addressing the status of illegal immigrants currently in the U.S.?

*CBS News Poll, Aug 2014
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Conclusions

- Governor Brown still leads in a gubernatorial election being followed very closely by one in 10 likely voters.
- Majorities support the water bond (Prop. 1) and a measure to ease some crime penalties (Prop. 47).
- Fewer than half support Proposition 2, which would establish a budget stabilization account.
- Six in 10 Californians say immigrants benefit the state.
- Californians remain divided over health care reform.
- The electorate is much more upbeat about the state than it was two years ago.
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.
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