Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- State Issues
- California State Budget
- 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
  - 248,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 100+ general, issue, and regional surveys
Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The Irvine Foundation
- State issues
  - Overall mood; approval ratings; state and local trust; initiative process
- California state budget
  - Spending and taxation; raising revenues
  - Governor’s budget plan
- Telephone interviews, May 17–24
  - 2,005 adults / 989 likely voters
    - ± 3.6% margin of error for adults
    - ± 4.3% for likely voters
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Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

Governor Brown

Legislature

January  
February  
March  
April  
May  

26  
24  
24  
21  
23  

41  
34  
34  
40  
42  

%
Waste in State and Local Government

Do you think the people in ________ government waste a lot of the money paid in taxes, waste some of it, or don’t waste very much of it?

% saying a lot is wasted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Trust in State and Local Government

How much of the time do you think you can trust ______ government to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

% saying only some or none of the time

% saying only some or none of the time

- All adults: 72% State, 63% Local
- Dem: 73% State, 63% Local
- Rep: 87% State, 68% Local
- Ind: 77% State, 66% Local
- Likely voters: 81% State, 65% Local
State and Local Government Run by a Few Big Interests?

Would you say the _____government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all of the people?

% saying a few big interests

<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>State</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>77%</td>
<td></td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All adults: 67; Dem: 66; Rep: 77; Ind: 74; Likely voters: 72, 53
State and Local Relationship

Do you think that the relationship between state and local government is in need of major changes, minor changes, or is it basically fine the way it is?

- Minor changes
- Major changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Minor Changes</th>
<th>Major Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Bay Area</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Southern California</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Control Over State Money at Local Level

Who do you think should have the most control in deciding how money from the state government is spent at the local level?

- Local government
- State government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Local Government</th>
<th>State Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Bay Area</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Southern California</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Perceptions of the 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Somewhat of a problem</th>
<th>Big problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dealing with the Budget Gap

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

- Mix of cuts and taxes
- Mostly spending cuts
- Mostly tax increases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Mix of cuts and taxes</th>
<th>Mostly spending cuts</th>
<th>Mostly tax increases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?
Preferences for Major Budget Areas

Likely voters

- **K–12 education**: 25% would support spending cuts, 63% would pay higher taxes.
- **Higher education**: 34% would support spending cuts, 51% would pay higher taxes.
- **Health & human services**: 36% would support spending cuts, 51% would pay higher taxes.
- **Prisons & corrections**: 70% would support spending cuts, 18% would pay higher taxes.
Governor’s Budget Plan

...In general, do you favor or oppose the governor’s budget plan?

- All adults: 64% Favor, 30% Oppose
- Dem: 77% Favor, 20% Oppose
- Rep: 44% Favor, 51% Oppose
- Ind: 59% Favor, 34% Oppose
- Likely voters: 62% Favor, 34% Oppose
Governor Brown’s Proposed Special Election

Governor Brown has proposed having a special election this year for voters to vote on a tax and fee package to prevent additional state budget cuts. In general, do you think the special election is a good idea or bad idea?

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**Graph:**

- **Likely voters**
- **January:** 66%
- **March:** 51%
- **April:** 56%
- **May:** 62%

- **Good idea**
- **Bad idea**

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Governor’s Tax and Fee Package

In a special election, voters would be asked to pass a tax and fee package that includes an extension of temporary increases—for five years—in the state sales tax and vehicle license fee, and beginning in 2012 a temporary increase—for four years—in state personal income taxes. If voters reject the proposal, additional cuts to services would be made. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?
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Conclusions

- Trust in local government is higher than trust in state government
- Most support the initiative process, but many also support initiative reforms
- Most Californians think voters should have a say in budget decisions this year
- Strong majorities oppose cuts to K–12 education, higher education, and health and human services
- Majorities favor Governor Brown’s overall budget proposal and his idea for a special election, but fewer than half support his tax and fee package
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:

Mark Baldassare or Dean Bonner: surveys@ppic.org

Thank you for your interest in this work.

May 2011