

# PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY

MARCH 2015

# Californians & their government



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in collaboration with  
The James Irvine Foundation



**PPIC**

PUBLIC POLICY  
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

# ABOUT THE SURVEY

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The PPIC Statewide Survey provides policymakers, the media, and the public with objective, advocacy-free information on the perceptions, opinions, and public policy preferences of California residents. This is the 148th PPIC Statewide Survey in a series that was inaugurated in April 1998 and has generated a database of responses from more than 310,000 Californians.

This is the 66th in the *Californians and Their Government* series. The survey is conducted periodically to examine the social, economic, and political trends that influence public policy preferences and ballot choices. Supported with funding from The James Irvine Foundation, the series seeks to inform decisionmakers, raise public awareness, and stimulate policy discussions and debate about important state and national issues.

The context for this survey includes ongoing discussions on funding for higher education and transportation projects. Governor Brown and UC President Janet Napolitano have differing views on public university funding. Governor Brown highlighted the maintenance of roads in his inaugural address, and lawmakers are looking for ways to fund transportation projects. With the state mired in a drought, the governor and legislature announced \$1 billion in drought relief just after our interviews were complete. Discussions are taking place to boost voter turnout, following record low participation in recent elections. At the national level, the Senate failed to override President Obama's veto of the Keystone XL project. The Supreme Court has begun hearing a case that could end health care subsidies in a majority of states under the Affordable Care Act. Immigration action taken by President Obama is facing legal battles in some states. Growing inequality remains a concern.

The survey presents the responses of 1,706 adult residents throughout California, interviewed in English or Spanish by landline or cell phone. It includes findings on the following topics:

- State government, including approval ratings of elected officials; opinions on extending Proposition 30 taxes; assessments of the current state and local tax system; views on the current and future water supply, and whether people are doing enough in response to the drought; opinions about the condition of roads, highways, and bridges, the importance of more spending to maintain them, and proposals to raise money for this purpose; perceptions of the high-speed rail system; preferences on using the budget surplus; views on the conditions under which the state should increase funding to public universities; and reasons for not registering to vote, or not voting in all elections.
- Federal government, including approval ratings of elected officials; overall outlook; opinions on the 2010 health reform law and concern about not being able to afford health care; opinions on immigration policy, including President Obama's recent executive action; attitudes toward income inequality and the government's role in reducing it; seriousness of global warming as a threat to the nation, support for the Keystone XL pipeline; and views on marijuana.
- Time trends, national comparisons, and the extent to which Californians may differ in their perceptions, attitudes, and preferences regarding state and federal government based on political party affiliation, likelihood of voting, region of residence, race/ethnicity, and other demographics.

This report may be downloaded free of charge from our website ([www.ppic.org](http://www.ppic.org)). If you have questions about the survey, please contact [survey@ppic.org](mailto:survey@ppic.org). Try our PPIC Statewide Survey interactive tools online at [www.ppic.org/main/survAdvancedSearch.asp](http://www.ppic.org/main/survAdvancedSearch.asp).

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PDT on Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

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<http://www.ppic.org/main/pressreleaseindex.asp>

### **PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT**

## **Californians Say Their Neighbors Aren't Doing Enough About Drought**

FEW SUPPORT RAISING GAS TAX, SLIM MAJORITY FAVOR LEGALIZING MARIJUANA

SAN FRANCISCO, March 25, 2015—Large majorities of Californians say the supply of water in their part of the state is a big problem and that people in their regions are not doing enough to respond to the drought, according to a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) with funding from The James Irvine Foundation.

Two-thirds of adults (66%) say the regional water supply is a big problem, near the record high reached last October (68%) on this question. Another 19 percent say it is somewhat of a problem (14% not much of a problem). Central Valley residents are the most likely to see the water supply as a big problem (76%), followed by Orange/San Diego (71%), the San Francisco Bay Area (63%), Los Angeles (60%), and the Inland Empire (56%). Asked about the water supply in their area 10 years from now, 69 percent expect it to be somewhat inadequate (26%) or very inadequate (43%) for what is needed. The share of residents saying the supply will be very inadequate has increased 12 points since last March.

Two-thirds of Californians (66%) say people in their part of the state are not doing enough to respond to the drought (24% right amount, 6% too much). Majorities across regions, parties, and racial/ethnic, education, and income groups say not enough is being done.

What is the most important issue facing people in California today? Residents are equally likely to name water and the drought (23%) as jobs and the economy (24%). They are much less likely to name other issues (education and schools 6%, immigration 6%, crime 5%).

“The ongoing drought is raising concerns about the long-term water supply,” said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. “Most Californians think their neighbors could be doing more to save water today.”

### **OPPOSED TO PAYING MORE FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE, DIVIDED ON HIGH-SPEED RAIL**

Governor Jerry Brown emphasized the maintenance of the state's roads and infrastructure in his inaugural address. How do Californians view the condition of roads, highways and bridges? About a third (34%) say it is a big problem in their part of the state, another third (33%) say it's somewhat of a problem, and a third (32%) say it is not much of a problem. Majorities of Californians (53% adults, 58% likely voters) say spending more money to maintain state roads, highways, and bridges is very important for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California. But when asked about three ways to increase state funding for this purpose, most Californians did not favor any of them. Just 18 percent favor increasing the state's gas tax, 23 percent favor increasing the vehicle registration fee, and 47 percent favor issuing bonds paid for through the state's general fund.

“Californians agree with the governor that highway, road, and bridge maintenance is important to the state's future,” Baldassare said. “But they are reluctant to invest their money in state infrastructure projects.”

The survey asks about another transportation issue, high-speed rail. When read a brief description of the project and its associated costs, residents are divided: 47 percent favor it and 48 percent are opposed. Support for high-speed rail has hovered around 50 percent in recent years. When those who oppose it are asked how they would feel if it cost less, support increases to 64 percent. Just 28 percent say high-speed rail is very important for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California—down from previous years (33% March 2012, 36% March 2013, 35% March 2014).

### **HALF SUPPORT EXTENDING PROPOSITION 30—TEMPORARILY**

The share of Californians saying the budget is a big problem is 45 percent—the lowest since May 2007. The survey asks about extending the temporary Proposition 30 tax increases that have helped improve the budget picture. About half of Californians (51%) and likely voters (48%) favor extending these increases in sales taxes and the income taxes of high earners, which are set to fully expire in 2018. But when those who favor extending the taxes are asked about making them permanent, support drops from 51 percent to 35 percent among all adults, and from 48 percent to 32 percent among likely voters. Regardless of their opinions on the issue, 66 percent of adults and 68 percent of likely voters say state voters should decide whether to extend the tax increases.

### **HALF FAVOR MORE HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING—IF FEES DON'T RISE**

With a budget surplus projected over the next several years, the survey asks whether Californians prefer spending it to pay down debt and build a reserve or restore some funding for public colleges and universities. Most adults (56%) choose restoring higher education funding. Likely voters are divided (48% pay down debt, 47% higher education funding).

The governor has proposed increasing funding for California's public colleges and universities if they freeze tuition and fees for the next four years. When asked their views, 48 percent of adults and 52 percent of likely voters say state funding should be increased only if tuition and fees are not increased. Fewer (28% adults, 27% likely voters) say the state should not increase funding or that funding should be increased even if tuition and fees go up (19% adults, 18% likely voters).

### **RECORD-HIGH SUPPORT FOR LEGALIZING MARIJUANA**

As advocates for legalizing marijuana again consider putting the issue on the ballot, support for legalization is at its highest point since PPIC began asking this question in May 2010. Today, 53 percent of residents say marijuana should be legal and 45 percent say it should not. Slim majorities supported legalization in October 2014 (51%) and September 2013 (52%). Among likely voters, 55 percent favor legalization. About three-quarters of adults (74%) who have tried marijuana say it should be legal, while only a third (35%) who have never tried it favor legalization. Residents aged 18 to 34 (61%) are more likely than older adults to say marijuana use should be legal (47% age 35 to 54, 52% age 55 and older). Most adults without children under 18 (59%) favor legalization. Most parents with children (54%) are opposed.

If marijuana were legal, 53 percent of adults say it would not bother them if a store or business selling it opened up in their neighborhood, while 44 percent say it would. Most parents (54%) would be bothered.

### **BROWN, OBAMA HAVE 55 PERCENT APPROVAL**

The governor's job approval rating is 55 percent among adults (28% disapprove, 17% don't know) and 56 percent among likely voters (36% disapprove, 8% don't know). This is down from his record high in January (61% adults, 58% likely voters) but higher than his rating a year ago (49% adults, 52% likely voters in March 2014). The legislature's approval rating has also dipped since January. Today it is 45 percent among adults and 39 percent among likely voters (49% adults, 41% likely voters in January).

President Obama’s approval rating among adults matches the governor’s, at 55 percent, but disapproval of his job performance is higher (41%, 4% don’t know). Likely voters are divided (49% approve, 48% disapprove). Californians continue to disapprove of the U.S. Congress’ job performance. Just 24 percent of adults and 16 percent of likely voters approve.

Half of adults (50%) say things in California are generally going in the right direction (41% wrong direction), and 52 percent say we will have good times financially in the next year. Adults are more pessimistic about the direction of the nation, with 54 percent saying things are going in the wrong direction (40% right direction). Their opinion of the nation’s economic outlook mirrors their view for the state: 53 percent say the U.S. will have good times financially in the next year (41% bad times).

## CALIFORNIANS DIVERGE FROM ADULTS NATIONWIDE ON KEY ISSUES

The survey asks about four other issues being discussed at both the state and federal levels. Compared to adults nationwide, Californians are more likely to:

- **View health care reform favorably.** About half of Californians (52%) have a generally favorable opinion of the health reform law (42% generally unfavorable). In a national Kaiser Family Foundation poll, 41 percent had a favorable view. The PPIC survey also asks Californians how concerned they are about being able to afford necessary health care when a family gets sick. A strong majority are at least somewhat concerned (51% very concerned, 23% somewhat).
- **View global warming as a very serious problem.** Most Californians (60%) say global warming will be a very serious problem for the U.S. if nothing is done to reduce it, compared to 44 percent of adults nationwide in a recent New York Times/Stanford/RFF poll. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (75%) are most likely to see global warming as very serious, followed by blacks (70%), Asians (58%), and whites (46%). Adults age 55 and older (47%) are less likely than younger Californians to view global warming as a serious problem (65% age 18 to 34, 66% age 35 to 54).
- **Support Obama’s executive order on immigration.** A strong majority of Californians (70%) support the president’s order protecting up to 4 million undocumented immigrants from deportation. A December ABC News/Washington Post poll showed support at 52 percent nationally. Across all regions and demographic groups, an overwhelming majority of Californians (80%) support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who meet certain requirements.
- **Say the government should do more to reduce income inequality.** Asked about the gap between rich and poor, 72 percent of Californians say it is growing—similar to their national counterparts in the January CBS News poll (69% getting larger). However, Californians (61%) are slightly more likely than adults nationwide (55%) to say the government should do more about it. California’s likely voters (80%) are more likely than state residents overall to say the income gap is growing—but less likely (51%) to say that government should do more to reduce it.

## MORE KEY FINDINGS

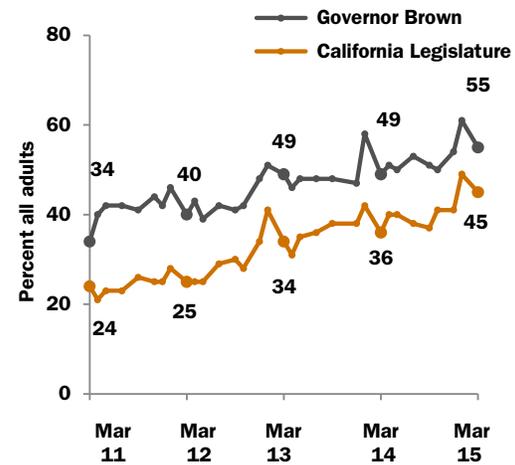
- **Most say they’re paying more taxes than they should—page 9**  
Half of Californians say the state and local tax system is fair, but 57 percent say they are paying much more or somewhat more than they feel they should.
- **Top reason adults aren’t registered to vote? Lack of citizenship—page 15**  
When Californians are asked why they don’t register to vote, the most frequently cited reason is not being a U.S. citizen (34%), followed by the view that voting doesn’t change things (13%).
- **A majority favor the Keystone XL pipeline—page 22**  
In the wake of Obama’s veto of the pipeline bill, 54 percent say they favor building the pipeline.

# STATE GOVERNMENT

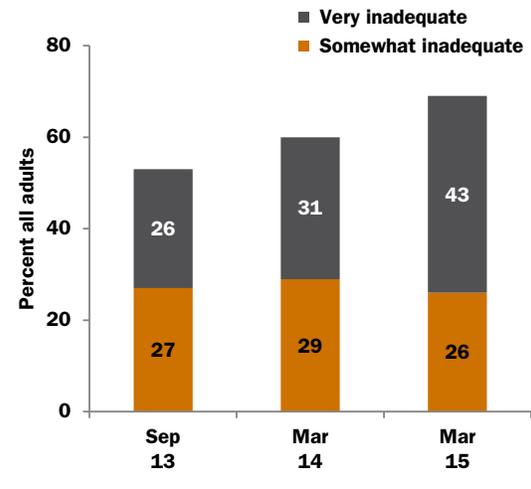
## KEY FINDINGS

- A majority of Californians (55%) approve of Governor Brown, and 45 percent approve of the legislature—both ratings have declined from their highest point in January. *(page 7)*
- The ongoing drought continues to concern Californians. Today, a quarter of adults (23%) name water and drought as the top issue facing the state. *(page 8)*
- A majority of adults (57%) say they pay more state and local taxes than they should and 37 percent believe California ranks near the top in state and local tax burden per capita. *(page 9)*
- Half of adults (51%) favor extending the Proposition 30 tax increases. One in three Californians (35%) favor making the increases permanent. *(page 10)*
- Seven in 10 Californians expect the supply of water in their area to be inadequate in the future. Two in three adults say people in their part of California are not doing enough in response to the drought. *(page 11)*
- Despite a majority of adults (53%) saying that spending money on infrastructure maintenance is very important, there is little support for increasing the gasoline tax (18%) or vehicle registration fees (23%) to pay for infrastructure projects. *(page 12)*
- Today, only 47 percent of adults favor building the high-speed rail system in California, marking a decline from last year when 53 percent favored the project. *(page 13)*
- Half of Californians (48%) think the state should increase funding to public universities only if the universities freeze tuition and fees. *(page 14)*

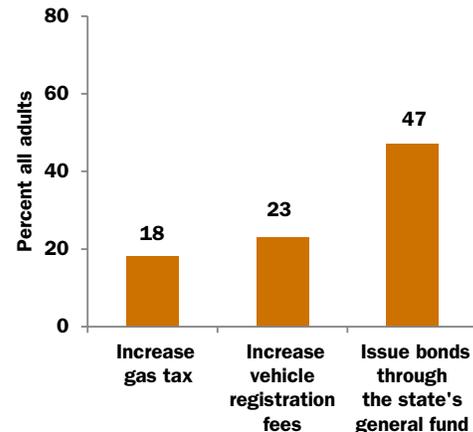
Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials



Perception That Area Water Supply Will Be Inadequate in the Next 10 Years



Support for Ways to Raise Funds for Roads, Highways, and Bridges



## APPROVAL RATINGS OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Fifty-five percent of adults and 56 percent of likely voters approve of the way Jerry Brown is handling his job as California's governor. In January, the governor's approval rating among adults (61%) was at its highest point, and a similar share of likely voters (58%) approved. Last March, approval was lower (49% adults, 52% likely voters). Today, approval is far higher among Democrats (75%) than among independents (47%) and Republicans (32%). Approval is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (64%) than in Los Angeles (58%), the Inland Empire (52%), Orange/San Diego (51%), and the Central Valley (48%). Majorities of Asians (62%), blacks (58%), Latinos (58%), and whites (51%) approve.

### “Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?”

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
<b>All adults</b>	55%	28%	17%
<b>Likely voters</b>	56	36	8
<b>Party</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	75	12
	<b>Republicans</b>	32	56
	<b>Independents</b>	47	38
<b>Region</b>	<b>Central Valley</b>	48	30
	<b>San Francisco Bay Area</b>	64	23
	<b>Los Angeles</b>	58	26
	<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	51	32
	<b>Inland Empire</b>	52	31

Forty-five percent of adults and 39 percent of likely voters approve of the way the California Legislature is handling its job. Approval was at a higher point in January (49% adults, 41% likely voters) but it was lower in March 2014 (36% adults, 32% likely voters). Today, Democrats (58%) are more likely than independents (36%) and Republicans (18%) to approve of the legislature. San Francisco Bay Area residents (52%) are the most likely to approve of the legislature, followed by those in Los Angeles (49%), the Inland Empire (47%), Orange/San Diego (40%), and the Central Valley (34%). Majorities of Asians (58%) and Latinos (54%)—but fewer blacks (46%) and whites (34%)—approve of the legislature.

### “Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?”

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
<b>All adults</b>	45%	39%	16%
<b>Likely voters</b>	39	50	11
<b>Party</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	58	28
	<b>Republicans</b>	18	67
	<b>Independents</b>	36	50
<b>Region</b>	<b>Central Valley</b>	34	45
	<b>San Francisco Bay Area</b>	52	32
	<b>Los Angeles</b>	49	41
	<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	40	39
	<b>Inland Empire</b>	47	42

## OVERALL MOOD

Californians are equally likely to name either jobs and the economy (24%) or water and the drought (23%) as the most important issues facing people in California today, followed by education and schools (6%), immigration (6%), and crime (5%). In March 2014, jobs and the economy (32%) topped the list, followed by water and the drought (15%); fewer than 10 percent mentioned any other issue. Water and the drought are mentioned more often today in the Central Valley (32%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (32%) than in other regions. Views are similar among likely voters and all adults.

**“Thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?”**

Top five issues mentioned	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
<b>Jobs, economy</b>	24%	17%	15%	29%	27%	35%	23%
<b>Water, drought</b>	23	32	32	13	22	15	24
<b>Education, schools, teachers</b>	6	7	8	4	7	4	7
<b>Immigration, illegal immigration</b>	6	5	2	9	7	3	8
<b>Crime, gangs, drugs</b>	5	5	4	8	6	5	2

Fifty percent of all adults and 49 percent of likely voters say that things in California are generally going in the right direction. This response is lower than it was in January for all adults (57%) but was identical among likely voters (49%). Results among adults and likely voters are slightly higher than they were in March 2014 (45% adults, 41% likely voters). Today, Democrats (69%) are far more likely than independents (47%) and Republicans (21%) to say that things are going in the right direction. San Francisco Bay Area residents (62%) are more likely than Los Angeles (51%), Inland Empire (49%), Orange/San Diego (43%), and Central Valley (42%) residents to hold this view. Half or more of Asians (62%), Latinos (58%), and blacks (50%)—but fewer whites (41%)—say the state is going in the right direction. Across income groups, half or more of all adults say that things in California are generally going in the right direction (52% less than \$40,000, 51% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 50% \$80,000 or more).

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

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Right direction</b>	50%	69%	21%	47%	49%
<b>Wrong direction</b>	41	24	73	46	47
<b>Don't know</b>	8	8	6	7	5

When asked about economic conditions in California, 52 percent of all adults and 49 percent of likely voters say that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially. Optimistic responses were higher in January (58% adults, 54% likely voters) and lower in March 2014 (46% adults, 42% likely voters). Today, San Francisco Bay Area residents (63%) are more likely to expect good times than those in Los Angeles (53%), the Inland Empire (51%), Orange/San Diego (48%), and the Central Valley (45%). Democrats (61%) are more likely than independents (45%) and Republicans (29%) to expect good times. Majorities of Asians (62%), blacks (58%), and Latinos (56%)—but fewer whites (45%)—say that we will have good economic times. Upper-income residents are the most likely to say that California will have good times financially (50% less than \$40,000, 52% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 58% \$80,000 or more).

## STATE AND LOCAL TAX SYSTEM

With the April 15 income tax deadline looming, half of California adults (3% very, 47% moderately) and likely voters (3% very, 47% moderately) say the present state and local tax system is fair. However, six in 10 adults (57%) and likely voters (58%) say they are paying much more or somewhat more than they feel they should pay in state and local taxes. Last March, a similar 60 percent of all adults and 58 percent of likely voters said that they pay much or somewhat more than they should. Fewer than half of adults (46%) said that they paid more than they should in January 2012, while majorities had this perception in January 2011 (53%) and January 2010 (56%). Today, Republicans (48%) are more likely than independents (32%) and Democrats (22%) to say that they pay much more than they should. Across income groups, higher-income adults are the most likely to say they pay much more than they should (29% less than \$40,000, 34% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 36% \$80,000 or more).

**“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?”**

	All adults	Household income			Likely voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
<b>Much more than you should</b>	32%	29%	34%	36%	35%
<b>Somewhat more</b>	25	24	28	25	23
<b>About the right amount</b>	36	37	34	34	35
<b>Less than you should</b>	5	6	4	5	5
<b>Don't know</b>	2	4	–	1	2

Most Californians say that their state is a national leader in high taxes. Solid majorities (62% adults, 71% likely voters) say that California ranks near the top or is above average in the per capita state and local tax burden compared to other states. The public’s perceptions are in line with the fiscal facts: California’s state and local tax collections per capita in 2012 were ranked 15th highest in the nation (Tax Policy Center, 2015). A similar share said that California is near the top or above average in state and local tax burden in March 2014 (60% percent adults, 70% likely voters) and in May 2006 (57% adults, 64% likely voters). Today, upper-income adults are more likely to say the state ranks near the top or is above average (53% less than \$40,000, 61% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 81% \$80,000 or more). When asked about the state and local tax system, a majority of adults (78%) say that the state and local tax system is in need of major (47%) or minor (31%) changes, and 84 percent of those who say that California ranks near the top or is above average say that major (49%) or minor (35%) changes are needed.

**“Where do you think California currently ranks in state and local tax burden per capita? Compared to other states, is California's tax burden per capita near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?”**

	All adults	Household income			Likely voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
<b>Near the top</b>	37%	32%	34%	52%	45%
<b>Above average</b>	25	21	27	29	26
<b>Average</b>	19	27	19	8	13
<b>Below average</b>	6	7	7	2	4
<b>Near the bottom</b>	4	6	4	2	4
<b>Don't know</b>	8	8	9	6	7

## STATE BUDGET SITUATION

As the economy continues to improve, so does the state budget situation in California. Today, the share of Californians saying the state budget is a big problem is at its lowest point since May 2007: 45 percent call the budget a big problem, 36 percent say it is somewhat of a problem, and 11 percent say it is not a problem. Between January 2008 and May 2013, more than 60 percent of adults viewed the budget as a big problem. Today, Republicans (66%) are much more likely than independents (54%) and far more likely than Democrats (30%) to call the budget a big problem. Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (37%) are less likely than those elsewhere to hold this view (46% Orange/San Diego, 48% Central Valley, 48% Inland Empire, 49% Los Angeles).

With the improving budget situation due in part to Proposition 30 tax revenues, some in Sacramento are discussing extending these temporary tax increases, which are set to fully expire in 2018. Half of Californians (51%) are in favor and four in 10 are opposed to extending these taxes. Findings among adults were similar this January (50% favor, 42% oppose) and in December 2014 (53% favor, 40% oppose). Likely voters are divided (48% favor, 45% opposed). Democrats (61%) and independents (52%) are in favor, while most Republicans (64%) are opposed. San Francisco Bay Area residents (59%) are the most likely to be in favor, followed by those in Los Angeles (51%), the Inland Empire (48%), Orange/San Diego (48%), and the Central Valley (47%). When those who are in favor are asked if they approve of making the tax increases permanent, support drops from 51 to 35 percent. Support for making the tax increases permanent falls short of a majority across all groups, but is highest among Democrats (46%) and San Francisco Bay Area residents (45%).

**“As you may know, voters passed Proposition 30 in November 2012. It increased taxes on earnings over \$250,000 for seven years and sales taxes by one quarter cent for four years, to fund schools and guarantee public safety realignment funding. Do you favor or oppose extending the Proposition 30 tax increases which are set to fully expire in 2018? (If favor: And would you favor or oppose making the Proposition 30 tax increases permanent?)”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor (total)</b>	51%	61%	28%	52%	48%
<i>Favor, even if it is permanent</i>	35	46	16	37	32
<i>Favor, but oppose if it is permanent</i>	16	15	12	15	16
<b>Oppose</b>	40	31	64	42	45
<b>Don't know</b>	8	7	8	5	7

Regardless of how they feel about the issue, two in three Californians (66%) and likely voters (68%) favor having California voters decide whether to extend the Proposition 30 tax increases by placing a state proposition on the November 2016 ballot. Solid majorities across parties, regions and demographic groups agree.

**“Regardless of how you feel personally about the issue, do you favor or oppose having California voters decide whether to extend the Proposition 30 tax increases with a state proposition in the November 2016 election?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Favor</b>	66%	69%	64%	75%	68%
<b>Oppose</b>	28	25	32	23	28
<b>Don't know</b>	6	6	4	2	4

## STATE WATER SUPPLY

In the midst of a severe drought and more restrictions on water use, 66 percent of Californians say that the supply of water in their part of California is a big problem, 19 percent say it is somewhat of a problem, and 14 percent say it is not much of a problem. This marks a slight increase from January (59%) and is near the record high reached in October 2014 (68%). While majorities across regions say their regional water supply is a big problem, Central Valley residents (76%) are the most likely to call their regional water supply a big problem, followed by those in Orange/San Diego (71%), the San Francisco Bay Area (63%), Los Angeles (60%), and the Inland Empire (56%). Inland (69%) and coastal residents (65%) have similar views. Three in four whites (77%)—compared to fewer than 6 in 10 blacks (59%), Asians (58%), and Latinos (56%)—say their regional water supply is a big problem. Residents age 55 and older (72%), those with at least some college education (72%), and those with household incomes greater than \$40,000 (72%) are more likely than others to view their regional water supply as a big problem.

**“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?”**

	All adults	Region					Inland/Coastal	
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	Inland	Coastal
<b>Big problem</b>	66%	76%	63%	60%	71%	56%	69%	65%
<b>Somewhat of a problem</b>	19	14	23	21	21	21	16	21
<b>Not much of a problem</b>	14	9	14	16	8	23	14	13
<b>Don't know</b>	1	1	–	3	–	–	1	1

When asked about the water supply in their area 10 years from now, 26 percent say it will be adequate for what is needed, while 69 percent say it will be somewhat inadequate (26%) or very inadequate (43%). The share saying the water supply will be very inadequate has increased 12 points since last March and 17 points since September 2013. Central Valley residents (59%) are much more likely than those elsewhere to say the supply of water will be very inadequate (44% Los Angeles, 42% San Francisco Bay Area, 39% Orange/San Diego, 30% Inland Empire). Notably, a plurality of Inland Empire (39%) residents think their water supply will be adequate. Republicans (58%) are more likely than Democrats (47%) and independents (44%) to say the water supply will be very inadequate. Whites (56%) are far more likely than blacks (36%), Asians (35%), and Latinos (31%) to say the supply will be very inadequate.

Even though most Californians say their water supply is a big problem, two in three (66%) say that people in their part of California are not doing enough to respond to the current drought. More than six in 10 across regions, parties, and racial/ethnic, education, and income groups say not enough is being done.

**“Overall, do you think that the people in your part of California are doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to respond to the current drought in California?”**

	All adults	Region					Inland/Coastal	
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	Inland	Coastal
<b>Too much</b>	6%	8%	8%	6%	2%	5%	6%	5%
<b>Right amount</b>	24	28	24	17	27	22	27	23
<b>Not enough</b>	66	62	63	72	68	69	64	67
<b>Don't know</b>	4	2	5	6	3	4	3	4

## ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Governor Brown emphasized the maintenance of the state’s roads and infrastructure in his inaugural address. Californians have mixed views on the condition of roads, highways, and bridges in their part of the state: 34 percent say it is a big problem, 33 percent say somewhat of a problem, and 32 percent say not much of a problem. Likely voters are slightly more likely to call it a big problem (41%) than are all adults (34%). A majority of blacks (56%) see the condition of roads, highways, and bridges in their area as a big problem, but fewer whites (42%) and far fewer Latinos (26%) and Asians (22%) share this view. Strong majorities across regions consider infrastructure at least somewhat of a problem.

**“Would you say the condition of roads, highways, and bridges is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
<b>Big problem</b>	34%	30%	38%	37%	30%	33%	41%
<b>Somewhat of a problem</b>	33	36	30	30	35	36	37
<b>Not much of a problem</b>	32	34	31	32	34	31	21
<b>Don’t know</b>	1	–	1	1	1	–	1

A majority of Californians (53%) think spending more money on maintaining the state’s roads, highways, and bridges is very important for the future quality of life and economic vitality of the state (35% somewhat important, 8% not too important, 2% not at all important). Across regions, Inland Empire (60%) residents are the most likely to consider this spending to be very important to the state’s future, while those in Orange/San Diego (47%) are least likely to do so. A majority of Democrats (58%) and Republicans (55%) as well as a plurality of independents (47%) view spending in this area as very important. The perception that spending more money to maintain roads is very important increases as age increases. Blacks (60%) are the most likely, followed by whites (56%), Latinos (53%), and Asians (46%), to consider it very important to spend money in this area.

**“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—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
<b>Very important</b>	53%	55%	53%	57%	47%	60%	58%
<b>Somewhat important</b>	35	32	33	37	37	31	32
<b>Not too important</b>	8	8	13	5	12	7	8
<b>Not at all important</b>	2	5	1	1	2	1	2
<b>Don’t know</b>	1	–	–	1	2	1	1

We asked about support for three different ways to increase state funding for California’s roads, highways, and bridges. Only 18 percent of Californians favor increasing the state gas tax, while 23 percent favor increasing the vehicle registration fee. Forty-seven percent favor issuing new bonds paid through the state’s general fund. Across parties, fewer than three in 10 Californians favor increasing the state gas tax and increasing the vehicle registration fee. Democrats (51%) and independents (45%) are more likely than Republicans (38%) to favor issuing bonds. San Francisco Bay Area residents are much more likely than Californians in other regions to favor raising the gas tax (33%) and increasing the vehicle registration fee (35%). Fewer than one in four Californians support these proposals in other regions.

## HIGH-SPEED RAIL

Seven years after passing a \$10 billion state bond for the planning and construction of a high-speed rail system, how do Californians view this project? Three in 10 adults (28%) say that the high-speed rail system is very important for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California. The share of adults who consider the high-speed rail system very important to the state has declined from past years (33% March 2012, 36% March 2013, 35% March 2014, 28% today). Today, the share of likely voters (25%) who consider the project very important is similar to the share of adults overall (28%). Across regions, San Francisco Bay Area residents (41%) are much more likely than those in Los Angeles (29%), the Inland Empire (26%), Orange/San Diego (21%), and the Central Valley (20%) to consider the high-speed rail system very important. Democrats (34%) and independents (31%) are much more likely than Republicans (15%) to hold this view. Whites (21%) are less likely than Latinos (31%), Asians (38%), and blacks (38%) to consider the high-speed rail system very important for California's future.

**“Thinking ahead, how important is the high-speed rail system for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
<b>Very important</b>	28%	20%	41%	29%	21%	26%	25%
<b>Somewhat important</b>	36	40	28	39	40	35	33
<b>Not too important</b>	18	15	17	17	23	21	17
<b>Not at all important</b>	17	23	14	13	15	18	24
<b>Don't know</b>	1	1	–	2	1	–	1

When read a brief description of the high-speed rail project and the costs associated with it, Californians are divided (47% favor, 48% oppose) over building it. Support has hovered around 50 percent with a similar question in earlier polls (51% March 2012, 48% March 2013, 53% March 2014, 47% today). Today, likely voters (48% favor, 48% oppose) have opinions similar to all adults on this issue. A majority of San Francisco Bay Area residents (60%) favor building high-speed rail, while those in the Inland Empire (57%), the Central Valley (55%), and Orange/San Diego (51%) oppose it. Los Angeles residents are evenly divided (47% favor, 47% oppose). Democrats favor (61%) the project, Republicans oppose (74%) it, and independents are divided (50% favor, 48% oppose).

When those who oppose the high-speed rail system are asked how they would feel if it cost less, overall support increases to 64% among all adults and 61% among likely voters. A majority across regions would favor the project if it cost less. Three in four Democrats (76%) and a strong majority of independents would also favor (68%) the project in this case, but support falls short of a majority among Republicans (48%) even if the high-speed rail system cost less.

**“As you may know, California voters passed a \$10 billion state bond in 2008 for planning and construction of a high-speed rail system from Southern California to the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area. The estimated costs associated with the high speed rail system are about \$68 billion over the next 20 years. Do you favor or oppose building a high-speed rail system in California?”**

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
<b>Favor</b>	47%	43%	60%	47%	41%	40%	48%
<b>Oppose</b>	48	55	38	47	51	57	48
<b>Don't know</b>	5	3	2	6	9	2	4

## PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

The state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars over the next several years. We asked Californians whether they preferred to spend the surplus on paying down debt and building a reserve or on restoring some funding for public colleges and universities. A majority of adults would prefer using this money to restore funding for higher education (56%) over paying down debt (39%). Likely voters are divided: 47 percent say restore funding for higher education, 48 percent say pay down debt. Democrats (67%) prefer to restore funding while Republicans prefer paying down debt (72%). Independents are divided (49% restore funding, 48% debt payment). Solid majorities of Asians (61%), Latinos (71%), and blacks (75%) prefer restoring higher education funding; a majority of whites (56%) prefer paying down debt. A majority of Californians age 18 to 34 (58%) and age 35 to 54 (64%) prefer restoring funding; those age 55 and older are divided (45% restoring funding, 47% debt payment). Californians in low-income (63%) and middle-income (56%) households prefer restoring funding; those in high-income households are divided (48% restoring funding, 47% debt payment).

**“The state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars over the next several years. In general, how would you prefer to use this extra money? Would you prefer 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 California’s public colleges and universities that were cut in recent years?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Pay debt, build reserve	39%	28%	72%	48%	48%
Restore some funding for public colleges and universities	56	67	21	49	47
Don’t know	5	5	6	3	5

Governor Brown has proposed increasing state funding for California’s public universities only if they freeze tuition and fees for the next four years. When asked about the conditions under which the state should increase funding for public universities, 48 percent of Californians say that state funding should be increased only if public universities freeze their tuition and fees, 28 percent say the state should not increase the level of funding, and 19 percent say funding should be increased even if tuition and fees increase. A majority of Democrats and independents (56% each) say that state funding to public universities should be increased only if they freeze their tuition and fees. Among Republicans, 43 percent say that funding should be increased only if public universities freeze tuition and 36 percent say that the level of funding should not be increased at all. Californians who have some college education (54%) or are college graduates (57%) think that state funding for public universities should be increased only if there is a tuition freeze. Those with a high school degree or less are as likely to say funding should increase if there is a tuition freeze (38%) as to say that it should not be increased at all (35%).

**“Governor Brown has proposed increasing state funding for California’s public universities if they freeze tuition and fees for the next four years. Which of the following statements is closer to your view about increasing funding for California’s public universities – The state should only increase funding to public universities if they freeze their tuition and fees, the state should increase funding to public universities even if they raise their tuition and fees, or the state should not increase the level of funding to public universities?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Increase only if they freeze their tuition and fees	48%	56%	43%	56%	52%
Increase even if they raise their tuition and fees	19	19	16	18	18
Should not increase the level of funding	28	20	36	24	27
Don’t know/Other (specify)	6	4	5	2	4

## VOTING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Low voter turnout in recent elections has sparked discussion on how to increase registration and turnout. To address this issue effectively, it is important to understand the reasons behind low registration and turnout.

The top reason Californians give for not being registered to vote is that they are not U.S. citizens (34%). Other top reasons include the belief that voting does not change things (13%), not having the time (9%), not having confidence in government (6%), and a lack of interest in politics (5%). Some other reasons have to do with not knowing enough about the choices or issues (4%), religion (3%), having moved recently (2%), and not wanting to be called for jury duty (2%). Those ages 18 to 44 (18%) are more likely than older unregistered Californians (5%) to say that voting does not change things. Men (16%) are more likely than women (9%) to hold this view. Men (10%) are also more likely than women (1%) to say they have no confidence in government. Latinos (43%) are more likely than unregistered adults overall (34%) to say they don't vote because they are not U.S. citizens.

**“There are many reasons why people don’t register to vote.  
Could you please tell me the main reason why you’re not registered to vote?”**

<i>Unregistered adults only (top 5 reasons)</i>	All unregistered	Age		Gender		Latinos
		18 to 44	45 and older	Men	Women	
<b>Not a U.S. citizen</b>	34%	32%	37%	29%	39%	43%
<b>Voting doesn’t change things/ my vote doesn’t matter</b>	13	18	5	16	9	13
<b>Too busy to register/no time</b>	9	8	10	9	8	6
<b>No confidence in government, politics, or politicians</b>	6	5	7	10	1	2
<b>Not interested in politics</b>	5	7	2	5	5	7

Among registered adults who do not always vote, 29 percent say they did not vote because they got too busy. Other top reasons for not voting are a lack of interest in the issues or the particular election (12%), not knowing enough about the choices or issues involved (9%), a lack of interest in politics (8%), and the belief that voting does not matter (6%). Other reasons include not liking the candidates (5%), lack of transportation (3%), and health (3%). Republicans are more likely than others to cite a lack of interest in the issues or a particular election (20%) and not knowing enough about the choices and issues (16%). Democrats (13%) are more likely than Republicans (4%) and independents (3%) to state a lack of interest in politics. Californians age 18 to 34 (33%) are more likely than older adults to mention time constraints. Men are somewhat more likely than women to mention time constraints (33% to 26%) and a lack of interest in the particular issues (16% to 9%). Latinos (38%) are more likely than whites (23%) to mention time constraints.

**“There are many reasons why people aren’t able to vote.  
Could you please tell me the main reason why you don’t always vote?”**

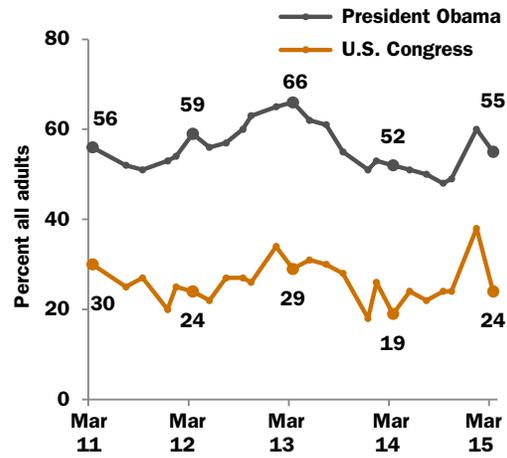
<i>Registered adults who say they do not always vote (top 5 reasons)</i>	Registered voters	Party			Age		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and older
<b>Too busy/no time</b>	29%	29%	28%	28%	32%	26%	28%
<b>Lack of interest in the issues/ particular election</b>	12	8	20	5	14	11	13
<b>Don’t know enough about the choices or issues</b>	9	7	16	6	10	8	7
<b>Not interested in politics</b>	8	13	4	3	9	9	6
<b>Voting doesn’t change things/ my vote doesn’t matter</b>	6	8	6	5	4	11	3

# FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

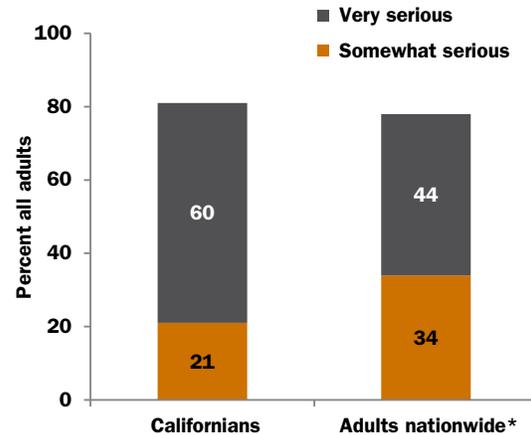
## KEY FINDINGS

- President Obama’s approval rating is at 55 percent; approval of the U.S. Congress is at 24 percent—both ratings have declined since January. *(page 17)*
- While a majority of Californians (54%) say that the country is headed in the wrong direction, a similar proportion (53%) expect good times financially in the next 12 months. *(page 18)*
- Half of Californians (52%) have a favorable view of the health care reform law. A similar share (51%) are very concerned about being able to afford health care if a family member gets sick. *(page 19)*
- An overwhelming majority of Californians (80%) favor providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants who meet certain conditions. Seven in 10 support President Obama’s executive action. *(page 20)*
- Seventy-two percent of Californians say the income gap between the rich and the poor in the U.S. is getting larger. Sixty-one percent say the government should do more to reduce the income gap. *(page 21)*
- Six in 10 Californians think that global warming will be a very serious problem for the United States in the future. A majority of adults in the state (54%) favor building the Keystone XL pipeline. *(page 22)*
- Support for marijuana legalization has reached a record high—53 percent of Californians say that marijuana should be legal. If it were legal, 53 percent say they would not be bothered if a business selling marijuana opened up in their neighborhood. *(page 23)*

Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

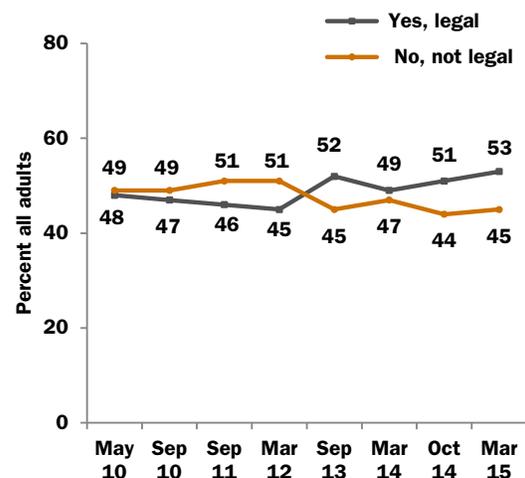


Global Warming as a Serious Problem for the United States



\*Stanford/NYT/RFF Poll, January 2015

Support for Legalizing Marijuana



## APPROVAL RATINGS OF FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

Most Californians continue to view the president in a positive light. Fifty-five percent approve of his job performance, while 41 percent disapprove. Likely voters are divided (49% approve, 48% disapprove). Approval among adults was higher in January (60%) and similar in March 2014 (52%). Adults nationwide in a recent CNN/ORC poll were less approving (46% approve, 51% disapprove). An overwhelming share of Democrats (78%) approve of the president, while the share of Republicans (86%) who disapprove is even higher; independents are divided (46% approve, 49% disapprove). Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (67%) and Los Angeles (62%) are more likely to approve than those in Orange/San Diego (52%), the Inland Empire (47%), and the Central Valley (43%). Blacks (88%) are the most likely racial/ethnic group to approve, followed by Latinos (69%), Asians (59%), and whites (38%).

**“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States?”**

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
<b>All adults</b>		55%	41%	4%
<b>All likely voters</b>		49	48	3
<b>Party</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	78	18	5
	<b>Republicans</b>	12	86	2
	<b>Independents</b>	46	49	5
<b>Region</b>	<b>Central Valley</b>	43	55	2
	<b>San Francisco Bay Area</b>	67	28	5
	<b>Los Angeles</b>	62	33	5
	<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	52	46	2
	<b>Inland Empire</b>	47	49	4

Californians continue to be critical of the U.S. Congress: just 24 percent approve of its job performance—a 14 point decline since January—while 69 percent disapprove. Approval today is similar to March 2014 (19%). Partisans are in agreement, with fewer than one in four Democrats (23%) and Republicans (20%) approving. Across regions, three in 10 or fewer approve. Adults nationwide in a recent Gallup poll (18% approve, 75% disapprove) were even more negative than Californians in our survey.

**“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?”**

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
<b>All adults</b>		24%	69%	7%
<b>All likely voters</b>		16	80	4
<b>Party</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	23	71	6
	<b>Republicans</b>	20	75	5
	<b>Independents</b>	20	73	7
<b>Region</b>	<b>Central Valley</b>	19	72	9
	<b>San Francisco Bay Area</b>	30	63	7
	<b>Los Angeles</b>	27	67	6
	<b>Orange/San Diego</b>	17	75	8
	<b>Inland Empire</b>	21	73	5

## NATIONAL OUTLOOK

Californians are more likely to say that things in the United States are going in the wrong direction (54%) than to say they are headed in the right direction (40%). Views today are similar to those in March 2014 (39% right direction, 56% wrong direction) and December 2013 (35% right direction, 57% wrong direction). But views were far more positive in January 2013, shortly after the 2012 presidential election (56% right direction, 39% wrong direction). In a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, Americans nationwide were more negative (32% right direction, 60% wrong track) than the Californians in our survey.

Likely voters (34% right direction, 61% wrong direction) are more negative than adults overall. More than half of Democrats (55%) think the nation is headed in the right direction, while just 35 percent of independents and 13 percent of Republicans hold this view. Optimism about the direction of the nation is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (50%), followed by Los Angeles (44%), the Inland Empire (37%), the Central Valley (36%), and Orange/San Diego (32%). Blacks (72%), Asians (56%), and Latinos (49%) are far more likely than whites (23%) to say the nation is headed in the right direction.

**“Do you think things in the United States are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Right direction</b>	40%	55%	13%	35%	34%
<b>Wrong direction</b>	54	40	84	59	61
<b>Don't know</b>	6	5	3	6	5

When it comes to the economic outlook of the United States, half of Californians (53%) expect good times in the next 12 months, while four in 10 (41%) expect bad times. This marks an 8 point increase in optimism since March 2014 (45% good times, 48% bad times). Likely voters are similarly optimistic (50% good times, 42% bad times).

Majorities of Democrats (65%) and independents (52%) are optimistic about the economic outlook, while just 29 percent of Republicans hold this view. There are also wide regional differences: residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (66%) are the most optimistic, followed by those in Los Angeles (56%), the Inland Empire (52%), Orange/San Diego (47%), and the Central Valley (39%). Men (60%) are much more optimistic than women (46%), and those with household incomes below \$40,000 (56%) and above \$80,000 (59%) are much more optimistic than middle-income Californians (43%).

**“Turning to economic conditions, do you think that during the next 12 months the United States will have good times financially or bad times?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
<b>Good times</b>	53%	65%	29%	52%	50%
<b>Bad times</b>	41	29	64	42	42
<b>Don't know</b>	6	6	7	6	8

Californians’ opinions of the economic outlook for the nation (53% good times, 41% bad times) mirror their opinions about the state (52% good times, 38% bad times). However, Californians are more negative about the direction of the nation (40% right direction, 54% wrong direction) than about the direction of the state (50% right direction, 41% wrong direction).

## HEALTH CARE REFORM

Today, 52 percent of California adults have a generally favorable opinion of the health reform law and 42 percent have a generally unfavorable opinion. These opinions are nearly identical to those in our January survey (51% generally favorable, 41% generally unfavorable) but different than our previous seven surveys dating back to 2013 when Californians were divided on this topic. Compared to adults nationally in a Kaiser Family Foundation poll, Californians are more likely to view the health care law favorably (41% nationally, 52% California). A strong majority of Democrats (70%) have a favorable opinion, while a strong majority of Republicans (75%) have an unfavorable one; independents are divided (46% favorable, 47% unfavorable). Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (70%) are the most likely to have a favorable opinion, followed by Latinos (61%), Asians (58%), and whites (40%). Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (61%) and Los Angeles (59%) are more likely to have a favorable opinion, compared to those in the Central Valley (43%), Orange/San Diego (43%), and the Inland Empire (42%). While the majority of residents with health insurance (53%) have a favorable opinion of the law, among those without health insurance, 49 percent have an unfavorable opinion of it.

**“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?”**

	All adults	Party			Have health insurance?	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
<b>Generally favorable</b>	52%	70%	17%	46%	53%	44%
<b>Generally unfavorable</b>	42	24	75	47	41	49
<b>Don't know</b>	6	6	7	7	6	7

A strong majority of Californians are at least somewhat concerned (51% very concerned, 23% somewhat concerned) about being able to afford the necessary health care when a family member gets sick, while a quarter are not too concerned (12%) or not at all concerned (13%). In September 2004, the share of adults who were very concerned was at 57 percent; in June 2007 it was 56 percent. Concern is higher among those with incomes below \$40,000 (62%) than among those with higher incomes. Adults with a high school degree or less are more likely than residents with some college education (52%) and far more likely than those with a college degree (36%) to be very concerned (61%). Latinos (63%) are more likely than blacks (52%) and far more likely than Asians (47%) and whites (43%) to be very concerned. Inland Empire residents (60%) are the most likely to be concerned, followed by those in Los Angeles (54%), the Central Valley (51%), Orange/San Diego (46%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (43%). Those without insurance are far more likely to be very concerned (69%) than those who have insurance (48%). Adults who are very concerned about being able to afford health care are divided in their opinions of the 2010 health care law (49% generally favorable, 44% generally unfavorable).

**“How concerned are you personally about being able to afford necessary health care when a family member gets sick?”**

	All adults	Household income			Have health insurance?	
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	Yes	No
<b>Very concerned</b>	51%	62%	48%	38%	48%	69%
<b>Somewhat concerned</b>	23	24	22	21	23	24
<b>Not too concerned</b>	12	7	13	20	13	5
<b>Not at all concerned</b>	13	7	17	20	15	2
<b>Don't know</b>	1	1	1	1	1	–

## IMMIGRATION POLICY REFORM

An overwhelming majority of Californians (80%) are in favor of providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the U.S. if they meet certain requirements, while one in four residents (19%) are opposed. Since we first asked this question in September 2013, more than eight in 10 Californians have expressed support for providing a path to citizenship (85% September 2013, 83% January 2014, 86% March 2014, 82% September 2014). Today, strong majorities across all regions and demographic groups say they support offering a path to citizenship. Democrats (85%) are more likely than independents (77%) and far more likely than Republicans (66%) to hold this view. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (90%) are the most likely to favor a path to citizenship, followed by blacks (82%), Asians (77%), and whites (73%). More than seven in 10 across age, education, and income groups express support.

**“Would you favor or oppose providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the U.S. if they met certain requirements including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, passing criminal background checks, and learning English?”**

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
<b>Favor</b>	80%	85%	66%	77%	77%	82%	90%	73%
<b>Oppose</b>	19	13	30	22	20	15	9	25
<b>Don't know</b>	2	2	4	1	3	3	1	1

Although President Obama’s executive order on immigration has been challenged in the courts, a strong majority of Californians (70%) support the president’s order, which protects as many as 4 million undocumented immigrants from deportation; 27 percent are opposed. Fifty-seven percent of likely voters support the president’s action. Support was similar in January (69% support, 30% oppose). According to a December ABC News/Washington Post Poll, adults nationally are less supportive of the president’s actions on immigration than Californians in our survey (52% nationally, 70% California). Majorities across regions and demographic groups say they support the president’s actions on this issue. But there are sharp differences across parties: strong majorities of Democrats (80%) and independents (68%) say they support action on immigration, while a solid majority of Republicans (65%) say they oppose it. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (88%) and blacks (81%) are much more likely than Asians (69%) and whites (55%) to support executive action on immigration.

**“President Obama has taken an executive action under which as many as four million of the country’s undocumented immigrants will not face deportation over the next three years if they pass a background check and meet other requirements. Most will need to show that they have been in the United States for at least five years and have children who were born here. Do you support or oppose this immigration program?”**

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Asians	Blacks	Latinos	Whites
<b>Support</b>	70%	80%	30%	68%	69%	81%	88%	55%
<b>Oppose</b>	27	17	65	30	27	18	10	40
<b>Don't know</b>	3	3	5	2	4	1	2	5

## INCOME INEQUALITY

Seven in 10 Californians (72%) and eight in 10 likely voters (80%) think that the gap between the rich and poor in the United States is getting larger. These findings are similar to a January CBS News poll in which 69 percent of Americans said the gap is getting larger. Across all parties, at least seven in 10 say the gap between the rich and poor is growing. Californians with household incomes of \$80,000 or more (80%) are more likely than those with household incomes under \$40,000 (67%) to say that the gap is getting larger. Similarly, college graduates (85%) are more likely than those with a high school diploma or less (57%) to say that the gap between the rich and poor is growing. Latinos (57%) are far less likely than whites (81%), Asians (80%) or blacks (77%) to say that the gap is getting larger.

**“Do you think the gap between the rich and the poor in the U.S. is getting larger, getting smaller, or has it stayed the same?”**

	All adults	Party			Household income		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
<b>Getting larger</b>	72%	77%	70%	83%	67%	75%	80%
<b>Getting smaller</b>	4	3	4	1	6	3	2
<b>Stayed the same</b>	21	17	22	14	24	20	15
<b>Don't know</b>	3	3	4	2	3	3	3

Californians (61%) are slightly more likely than adults nationwide (55%) in the CBS News poll to think the government should do more to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. While California likely voters are more likely than adults overall to say the gap is growing, they are less likely to say that the government should do more to reduce this gap (51%). There are notable partisan differences on this issue: majorities of Democrats (72%) and independents (60%) believe the government should do more, while 69 percent of Republicans say that this is not a role for government.

Although whites are the most likely racial/ethnic group to say the gap between rich and poor is getting larger, they are the least likely to say the government should do more to address it (49% whites, 69% Asians, 69% Latinos, 79% blacks). Californians earning less than \$40,000 are less likely than higher earners to say the gap between the rich and the poor is growing, yet they are the most likely to say that the government should do more to address the gap.

**“Should the government do more to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in this country, or is this something the government should not be doing?”**

	All adults	Party			Household income		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more
<b>Should do more</b>	61%	72%	27%	60%	68%	56%	55%
<b>Should not be doing</b>	34	22	69	35	27	38	41
<b>Don't know</b>	5	6	5	5	5	5	4

Californians are divided on whether everyone has a fair chance to get ahead in today's economy (49%) or whether just a few people at the top have a chance (48%). Republicans (63%) are more likely than independents (51%) and Democrats (42%) to say that everyone has a fair chance. While a majority of homeowners (55%) say that everyone has a fair chance, only 43 percent of renters hold this view. Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (63%) are far more likely than whites (49%), Asians (49%), and Latinos (45%) to say that only a few people at the top have a chance to get ahead.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY POLICY

Six in 10 Californians (60%) think that global warming will be a very serious problem for the United States if nothing is done to reduce it. Likely voters (52%) are slightly less likely than adults overall to say that it will be a very serious problem. Californians (60%) are more likely than adults nationwide (44%) to say that global warming will be a very serious problem according to a recent New York Times/Stanford University/RFF poll. Notably, fewer than two in 10 Californians think global warming will not present a serious problem. There are strong partisan differences in California with seven in 10 Democrats (70%) and half of independents (51%) saying that it will be a very serious problem, compared to less than three in 10 Republicans (29%) who say the same.

Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (75%) are the most likely to see global warming as a very serious problem, followed by blacks (70%), Asians (58%) and whites (46%). Adults age 55 and older (47%) are less likely than younger Californians to say that global warming will be a very serious problem (65% age 18 to 34, 66% age 35 to 54). Parents of children 18 and under (67%) are more likely than those without (55%) to think global warming will present a very serious problem for the United States.

**“If nothing is done to reduce global warming in the future, how serious a problem do you think it will be for the United States—very serious, somewhat serious, not so serious, or not serious at all?”**

	All adults	Party			Age		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and above
<b>Very serious</b>	60%	70%	29%	51%	65%	66%	47%
<b>Somewhat serious</b>	21	23	24	26	22	16	25
<b>Not so serious</b>	8	4	15	10	6	9	7
<b>Not serious at all</b>	10	2	30	12	6	8	18
<b>Don't know</b>	2	1	2	1	1	1	3

Following President Obama’s veto of the Keystone XL pipeline bill, a majority of Californians (54%) continue to favor the building of the pipeline. These findings are similar to July 2014 when 53 percent of adults expressed support for building the pipeline. While an overwhelming majority of Republicans (80%) and a slight majority of independents (55%) favor building the Keystone XL pipeline, Democrats are divided on the issue (44% favor, 47% oppose).

Support for the Keystone XL pipeline increases with age: younger adults (age 18 to 34) are divided on the proposed pipeline (49% favor, 43% oppose), while majorities of older Californians favor building it (55% age 35 to 54, 58% age 55 and older). Regionally, support for the Keystone XL pipeline is highest in the Inland Empire (66%) and lowest in Orange/San Diego (49%). Asians (61%) are the most likely racial/ethnic group to favor the pipeline, followed by whites (55%), blacks (52%), and Latinos (49%).

**“Do you favor or oppose building the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada’s oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas?”**

	All adults	Party			Age		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and above
<b>Favor</b>	54%	44%	80%	55%	49%	55%	58%
<b>Oppose</b>	35	47	10	37	43	32	30
<b>Don't know</b>	11	10	10	8	8	13	12

## MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Support for legalizing marijuana is at its highest point since we began asking about it in May 2010. Today, 53 percent of Californians think that the use of marijuana should be legal (45% not legal). Slim majorities supported legalization in October 2014 (51%) and September 2013 (52%), and Californians were divided in the other five times we asked about it. With ballot measures once again being considered, 55 percent of likely voters currently favor making it legal. Majorities of Democrats (63%) and independents (57%) think that it should be legal; a majority of Republicans (54%) think it should be illegal. Nearly three in four residents who have tried marijuana (74%) think that it should be legal. Only a third of adults who have never tried it (35%) say the same. Adults age 18 to 34 (61%) are more likely than older adults to think marijuana use should be legal (47% age 35 to 54, 52% age 55 and older). More than half of parents with children 18 and under say that it should not be legal (54%), while a majority of adults without children under 18 (59%) favor legalization. Blacks (69%) and whites (64%) are far more likely than Latinos (42%) and Asians (39%) to favor legalization.

**“Next, in general, do you think the use of marijuana should be legal, or not?”**

		Yes, legal	No, not legal	Don't know
<b>All adults</b>		53%	45%	2%
<b>All likely voters</b>		55	43	3
<b>Party</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	63	36	2
	<b>Republicans</b>	44	54	2
	<b>Independents</b>	57	38	5
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Asians</b>	39	56	5
	<b>Blacks</b>	69	30	1
	<b>Latinos</b>	42	56	2
	<b>Whites</b>	64	33	3
<b>Ever tried marijuana?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	74	24	2
	<b>No</b>	35	63	3

If marijuana were legal, 44 percent of adults say that it would bother them if a store selling it opened up in their neighborhood while 53 percent say it would not. Republicans (47%) are the most likely to say they would be bothered by a business selling marijuana in their neighborhood, followed by Democrats (40%) and independents (37%). Only a third of Californians age 18 to 34 (32%) say they would be bothered if a business selling marijuana opened in their neighborhood, compared to about half of older Californians. Three in four Californians (74%) who have tried marijuana say that they would not be bothered, while only 35 percent of those who have never tried it say the same. Notably, a majority of parents with children 18 and under (54%) say that they would be bothered by a store selling marijuana in their neighborhood.

**“If marijuana were legal, would it bother you if a store or a business selling marijuana opened up in your neighborhood or would this not bother you?”**

	All adults	Age			Ever tried marijuana?	
		18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and above	Yes	No
<b>Yes, would bother me</b>	44%	32%	53%	47%	23%	63%
<b>No, would not bother me</b>	53	66	44	51	74	35
<b>Depends (volunteered)</b>	2	2	3	2	2	2
<b>Don't know</b>	–	–	–	1	1	–

# REGIONAL MAP

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# METHODOLOGY

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The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance from Lunna Lopes and Jui Shrestha, co-project managers for this survey, Dean Bonner, associate survey director, and survey research associate Renatta DeFever. The *Californians and their Government* series is supported with funding from the James Irvine Foundation. The PPIC Statewide Survey invites input, comments, and suggestions from policy and public opinion experts and from its own advisory committee, but survey methods, questions, and content are determined solely by PPIC's survey team.

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 1,706 California adult residents, including 1,025 interviewed on landline telephones and 681 interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took an average of 20 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from March 8–17, 2015.

Landline interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. All landline telephone exchanges in California were eligible for selection, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as six times to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using the “last birthday method” to avoid biases in age and gender.

Cell phone interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of cell phone numbers. All cell phone numbers with California area codes were eligible for selection, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as eight times to increase the likelihood of reaching an eligible respondent. Once a cell phone user was reached, it was verified that this person was age 18 or older, a resident of California, and in a safe place to continue the survey (e.g., not driving).

Cell phone respondents were offered a small reimbursement to help defray the cost of the call. Cell phone interviews were conducted with adults who have cell phone service only and with those who have both cell phone and landline service in the household.

Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted by Abt SRBI, Inc., in English and Spanish, according to respondents' preferences. Accent on Languages, Inc., translated new survey questions into Spanish.

Abt SRBI uses the U.S. Census Bureau's 2011–2013 American Community Survey's (ACS) Public Use Microdata Series for California (with regional coding information from the University of Minnesota's Integrated Public Use Microdata Series for California) to compare certain demographic characteristics of the survey sample—region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education—with the characteristics of California's adult population. The survey sample was closely comparable to the ACS figures. To estimate landline and cell phone service in California, Abt SRBI used 2013 state-level estimates released by the National Center for Health Statistics—which used data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the ACS—and 2014 estimates for the West Census Region in the latest NHIS report. The estimates for California were then compared against landline and cell phone service reported in this survey. We also used voter registration data from the California Secretary of State to compare the party registration of registered voters in our sample to party registration statewide. The landline and cell phone samples were then integrated using a frame integration weight, while sample balancing adjusted for differences across regional, age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, telephone service, and party registration groups.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is  $\pm 3.7$  percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,706 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.7 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,427 registered voters, the sampling error is  $\pm 4.0$  percent; for the 1,064 likely voters, it is  $\pm 4.7$  percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

We present results for five geographic regions, accounting for approximately 90 percent of the state population. “Central Valley” includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. “San Francisco Bay Area” includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. “Los Angeles” refers to Los Angeles County, “Inland Empire” refers to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and “Orange/San Diego” refers to Orange and San Diego Counties. Residents of other geographic areas are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes for these less populous areas are not large enough to report separately. In several places, we refer to coastal and inland counties. The coastal region refers to the counties along the California coast from Del Norte County to San Diego County and includes all the San Francisco Bay Area counties. All other counties are included in the inland region.

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 43 percent of the state’s adult population, and also for Latinos, who account for about a third of the state’s adult population and constitute one of the fastest-growing voter groups. We also present results for non-Hispanic Asians, who make up about 15 percent of the state’s adult population, and non-Hispanic blacks, who comprise about 6 percent. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes are not large enough for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in other parties are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated per their responses to voter registration survey questions, previous election participation, and current interest in politics.

The percentages presented in the report tables and in the questionnaire may not add to 100 due to rounding.

We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey results to those in our earlier surveys and to those in national surveys by ABC News/Washington Post, CBS News, CNN/ORC, Gallup, Kaiser Family Foundation, NBC News/Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times/Stanford University/Resources for the Future Poll on Global Warming. Additional details about our methodology can be found at [www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf) and are available upon request through [surveys@ppic.org](mailto:surveys@ppic.org).

# QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

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## CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

March 8–17, 2015

1,706 California Adult Residents:  
English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR  $\pm 3.7\%$  AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE  
PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

1. First, thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?  
  
*[code, don't read]*  
24% jobs, economy  
23 water, drought  
6 education, schools, teachers  
6 immigration, illegal immigration  
5 crime, gangs, drugs  
4 state budget, deficit, taxes  
3 environment, pollution, global warming  
3 health care, health reform, Obamacare  
3 government in general  
3 housing costs, availability  
2 infrastructure  
12 other  
6 don't know
2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?  
  
55% approve  
28 disapprove  
17 don't know
3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?  
  
45% approve  
39 disapprove  
16 don't know
4. Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?  
  
50% right direction  
41 wrong direction  
8 don't know
5. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?  
  
52% good times  
38 bad times  
10 don't know
6. Next, 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?  
  
45% big problem  
36 somewhat of a problem  
11 not a problem  
8 don't know

7. As you may know, voters passed Proposition 30 in November 2012. It increased taxes on earnings over \$250,000 for seven years and sales taxes by one quarter cent for four years, to fund schools and guarantee public safety realignment funding. Do you favor or oppose extending the Proposition 30 tax increases which are set to fully expire in 2018 (**if favor, ask:** And would you favor or oppose making the Proposition 30 tax increases permanent?)

- 35% favor, even if it is permanent
- 16 favor, but oppose if it is permanent
- 40 oppose
- 8 don't know

7a. Regardless of how you feel personally about the issue, do you favor or oppose having California voters decide whether to extend the Proposition 30 tax increases with a state proposition in the November 2016 election?

- 66% favor
- 28 oppose
- 6 don't know

Next,

8. Overall, do you think the state and local tax system is in need of major changes, minor changes, or do you think it is fine the way it is?

- 47% major changes
- 31 minor changes
- 18 fine the way it is
- 4 don't know

8a. Overall, how fair do you think our present state and local tax system is—would you say it is very fair, moderately fair, not too fair, or not at all fair?

- 3% very fair
- 47 moderately fair
- 31 not too fair
- 16 not at all fair
- 2 don't know

9. 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?

- 32% much more
- 25 somewhat more
- 36 about the right amount
- 5 less than you should
- 2 don't know

10. Where do you think California currently ranks in state and local tax burden per capita? Compared to other states, is California's tax burden per capita near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?

- 37% near the top
- 25 above average
- 19 average
- 6 below average
- 4 near the bottom
- 8 don't know

11. On another topic, 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?

- 66% big problem
- 19 somewhat of a problem
- 14 not much of a problem
- 1 don't know

12. Do you think the water supply that is available for your part of California will be adequate or inadequate for what is needed ten years from now? (**if inadequate, ask:** Is that somewhat inadequate or very inadequate?)

- 26% adequate
- 26 somewhat inadequate
- 43 very inadequate
- 5 don't know

12a. Overall, do you think that the people in your part of California are doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to respond to the current drought in California?

- 6% too much
- 24 the right amount
- 66 not enough
- 4 don't know

On another topic,

13. Would you say the condition of roads, highways, and bridges is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?

- 34% big problem
- 33 somewhat of a problem
- 32 not much of a problem
- 1 don't know

13a. 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—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?

- 53% very important
- 35 somewhat important
- 8 not too important
- 2 not at all important
- 1 don't know

Next, please tell me if you favor or oppose each of the following proposals to increase state funding for California's roads, highways and bridges.

**[rotate question 14a to 14c]**

14a. How about increasing the state gasoline tax?

- 18% favor
- 81 oppose
- 1 don't know

14b. How about increasing vehicle registration fees?

- 23% favor
- 74 oppose
- 3 don't know

14c. How about issuing new state bonds paid for through the state's general fund?

- 47% favor
- 42 oppose
- 11 don't know

15. Next, as you may know, California voters passed a \$10 billion state bond in 2008 for planning and construction of a high-speed rail system from Southern California to the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area. The estimated costs associated with the high-speed rail system are about \$68 billion over the next 20 years. Do you favor or oppose building a high-speed rail system in California? (**if oppose, ask:** What if the high-speed rail system cost less, would you favor or oppose building it?)

- 47% favor
- 17 oppose, but would favor if it cost less
- 31 oppose, even if it cost less
- 5 don't know

16. Thinking ahead, how important is the high-speed rail system for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 28% very important
- 36 somewhat important
- 18 not too important
- 17 not at all important
- 1 don't know

Changing topics,

17. The state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars over the next several years. In general, how would you prefer to use this extra money? *[rotate]*  
 (1) Would you prefer to pay down state debt and build up the reserve *[or]* (2) would you prefer to use some of this money to restore some funding for California's public colleges and universities that were cut in recent years?

- 39% pay down debt and build up reserve
- 56 restore funding for public colleges and universities
- 5 don't know

18. Governor Brown has proposed increasing state funding for California's public universities if they freeze tuition and fees for the next four years. Which of the following statements is closer to your view about increasing funding for California's public universities—*[rotate]* (1) The state should only increase funding to public universities if they freeze their tuition and fees, (2) The state should increase funding to public universities even if they raise their tuition and fees, *[or]* (3) The state should not increase the level of funding to public universities.

- 48% only increase funding to public universities if they freeze their tuition and fees
- 19 increase funding to public universities even if they raise their tuition and fees
- 28 state should not increase the level of funding to public universities
- 2 other (*specify*)
- 4 don't know

19. On another topic, overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States?

- 55% approve
- 41 disapprove
- 4 don't know

20. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?

- 24% approve
- 69 disapprove
- 7 don't know

21. Do you think things in the United States are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

- 40% right direction
- 54 wrong direction
- 6 don't know

22. Turning to economic conditions, do you think that during the next 12 months the United States will have good times financially or bad times?

- 53% good times
- 41 bad times
- 6 don't know

Next,

23. 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 *[rotate]* (1) [generally favorable] *[or]* (2) [generally unfavorable] opinion of it?

- 52% generally favorable
- 42 generally unfavorable
- 6 don't know

24. How concerned are you personally about being able to afford necessary health care when a family member gets sick?

- 51% very concerned
- 23 somewhat concerned
- 12 not too concerned
- 13 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

Next,

25. Would you favor or oppose providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the U.S. if they met certain requirements including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, passing criminal background checks, and learning English?

- 80% favor
- 19 oppose
- 2 don't know

26. President Obama has taken an executive action under which as many as four million of the country's undocumented immigrants will not face deportation over the next three years if they pass a background check and meet other requirements. Most will need to show that they have been in the United States for at least five years and have children who were born here. Do you support or oppose this immigration program?

- 70% support
- 27 oppose
- 3 don't know

On another topic,

27. Do you think the gap between the rich and the poor in the U.S. is getting larger, getting smaller, or has it stayed the same?

- 72% getting larger
- 4 getting smaller
- 21 stayed the same
- 3 don't know

28. Should the government do more to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in this country, or is this something the government should not be doing?

- 61% should do more
- 34 should not be doing
- 5 don't know

28a. Which comes closer to your view? [rotate]

(1) In today's economy, everyone has a fair chance to get ahead in the long run [or] (2) In today's economy, it's mainly just a few people at the top who have a chance to get ahead.

- 49% everyone has a fair chance
- 48 just a few people at the top have a chance
- 3 don't know

Changing topics,

29. If nothing is done to reduce global warming in the future, how serious a problem do you think it will be for the United States—very serious, somewhat serious, not so serious or not serious at all?

- 60% very serious
- 21 somewhat serious
- 8 not so serious
- 10 not serious at all
- 2 don't know

30. Do you favor or oppose building the Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada's oil sands region through the Midwest to refineries in Texas?

- 54% favor
- 35 oppose
- 11 don't know

31. Next, in general, do you think the use of marijuana should be legal, or not?

- 53% yes, legal
- 45 no, not legal
- 2 don't know

31a. If marijuana were legal, would it bother you if a store or a business selling marijuana opened up in your neighborhood or would this not bother you?

- 44% yes, would bother me
- 53 no, would not bother me
- 2 depends (volunteered)
- don't know

32. Keeping in mind that all of your answers in the survey are confidential, have you ever tried marijuana? (*if yes, ask:* have you used marijuana in the last 12 months?)

- 17% yes have tried marijuana, used in the past year
- 29 yes, have tried marijuana, not in the past year
- 54 no, have not tried marijuana
- don't know

33. Next, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?

- 66% yes [*ask q33a*]
- 34 no [*skip to q34b*]

33a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

- 44% Democrat [*ask q34*]
- 28 Republican [*ask q34a*]
- 5 another party (*specify*) [*skip to q35*]
- 24 independent [*skip to q34b*]

34. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?

- 50% strong
- 48 not very strong
- 2 don't know

[*skip to q35*]

34a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 43% strong
- 52 not very strong
- 5 don't know

[*skip to q35*]

34b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 26% Republican Party
- 48 Democratic Party
- 21 neither
- 6 don't know

34c. [*unregistered adults only*] There are many reasons why people don't register to vote. Could you please tell me the main reason why you're not registered to vote?

[*code, don't read*]

- 34% not a U.S. citizen
- 13 voting doesn't change things/my vote doesn't matter
- 9 too busy to register/no time
- 6 no confidence in government, politics, or politicians
- 5 not interested in politics
- 4 don't know enough about the choices or issues
- 3 just don't want to
- 3 religious reasons
- 2 avoid jury duty
- 2 felony, parole
- 2 in transition, just turned 18
- 2 recently moved/relocated
- 2 registered in another state
- 9 something else (*specify*)
- 4 don't know

35. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically: [*read list, rotate order top to bottom*]

- 12% very liberal
- 22 somewhat liberal
- 30 middle-of-the-road
- 23 somewhat conservative
- 12 very conservative
- 2 don't know

36. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or none?

- 20% great deal
- 37 fair amount
- 32 only a little
- 11 none
- don't know

37a. **[among those who say they do not always vote]**

There are many reasons people aren't able to vote. Could you please tell me the main reason why you don't always vote?

**[code, don't read]**

- 29% too busy to vote/no time
- 12 lack of interest in the issues/  
particular election
- 9 don't know enough about the choices  
or issues
- 8 not interested in politics
- 6 voting does not change things/my  
vote doesn't matter
- 5 didn't like the candidates
- 3 illness
- 3 in transition, just moved, just old  
enough, just registered
- 3 no way to get to polls
- 3 no confidence in government, politics,  
or politicians
- 2 forgot to vote
- 2 traveling
- 2 unfamiliar with the process, particular  
election, undecided
- 9 something else (*specify*)
- 4 don't know

**[d1 to d17:demographic questions]**

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