

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY

MAY 2014

Californians & their government



Mark Baldassare

Dean Bonner

Sonja Petek

Jui Shrestha

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in collaboration with
The James Irvine Foundation



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
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ABOUT THE SURVEY

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 142nd PPIC Statewide Survey in a series that was inaugurated in April 1998 and has generated a database of responses from more than 297,000 Californians.

This is the 62nd 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.

This survey was conducted in the midst of an ongoing drought emergency, in the wake of the suspension of three Democratic state senators accused of wrongdoing, and just weeks before the June primary. During our interview period, Governor Brown, who is seeking an unprecedented fourth term, released a revised state budget proposal for 2014–15. The governor and legislature held a special session to discuss changes to the state’s rainy day fund. Just before our survey, they agreed upon a proposal that would replace an existing rainy day proposal on the November 2014 ballot. At the national level, the deadline to sign up for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act passed, and enrollment exceeded eight million nationally—including more than three million in California. A government report on climate change highlighting the detrimental effects of climate change across the nation was released just before we began interviewing. And national energy policy remains a highly contentious issue in Congress.

The survey presents the responses of 1,702 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; overall mood; perceptions of fiscal issues; preferences for raising new revenues; perceptions of the state budget, including views on reducing debt and building the reserve instead of restoring social service cuts; opinions on the governor’s revised budget and rainy day fund proposals; views on regional water supply, attention to news about the drought emergency, and degree of water use reduction; trust in state government; and preferences in the gubernatorial primary.
- Federal government, including approval ratings of elected officials; trust in federal government; opinions on health care reform, including views on the state’s health care exchange; support for fracking and the Keystone XL pipeline; views on poverty and the government’s role in reducing it; and perceptions of political parties and their leaders.
- 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). If you have questions about the survey, please contact survey@ppic.org. Try our PPIC Statewide Survey interactive tools online at <http://www.ppic.org/main/survAdvancedSearch.asp>.

NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PDT on Wednesday, May 21, 2014.

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

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Likely Voters Would Rather Pay Down Debt than Restore Funding for Services

WEEKS BEFORE PRIMARY, BROWN LEADS RACE WITH 27 PERCENT UNDECIDED

SAN FRANCISCO, May 21, 2014—California likely voters would rather use the projected state budget surplus to pay down debt and build up the reserve than restore some funding for social service programs that were cut in recent years. These are among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), with funding from The James Irvine Foundation.

With the state projected to have a surplus of several billion dollars over the next several years, 57 percent of likely voters prefer to pay down the debt and build the reserve, compared to 39 percent who favor restoring some social service funding. Californians overall are divided on this question (46% pay debt and build reserve, 48% restore funding for services). There is also a partisan divide: 59 percent of Democrats prefer restoring social service funding, while 76 percent of Republicans and 54 percent of independents prefer paying down debt and building up the reserve. Underlying Californians' views on how to spend the surplus is continuing concern over the state budget situation: 58 percent of likely voters view it as a big problem, as do 52 percent of all adults.

Governor Brown released his revised budget proposal on May 13, during the survey interview period. The revision is largely similar to his January plan but also calls for increased funding for Medi-Cal, more drought-related spending, and increases in contributions to the California State Teachers' Retirement System. When read a brief description, 73 percent of likely voters and 74 percent of all adults support the plan. Majorities across parties, regions, and demographic groups favor it.

Three-quarters of likely voters (74%) and all adults (76%) also approve of changes to the state's rainy day fund reached in a bipartisan agreement earlier this month. These changes include setting aside 1.5 percent of general fund revenues every year and any capital gains revenues that exceed 8 percent of general fund revenues. For the next 15 years half of the money would be used to pay off debt. Majorities across parties (81% Democrats, 73% independents, 67% Republicans) favor this plan.

"The proposal for a rainy day fund has struck a chord with voters of all political stripes," said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. "Still, Californians are deeply divided along party lines when it comes to the tradeoff of paying down debt versus restoring funding for services."

BROWN'S JOB APPROVAL AT 54 PERCENT—HE MAINTAINS BIG PRIMARY LEAD

Just weeks before the primary election, the governor has a job approval rating of 54 percent among likely voters (35% disapprove, 11% don't know). The governor's approval rating is down from his record high of 60 percent reached in January. Last May, likely voters gave him an approval rating of 48 percent.

The governor continues to lead the primary race among primary likely voters, with 48 percent saying they would vote for him. Far fewer favor Republicans Tim Donnelly (15%) or Neel Kashkari (10%), although support for each has grown slightly since April (Donnelly 9%, Kashkari 2%). About a quarter of likely primary voters (27%) are undecided. Most Democratic primary likely voters (79%) would vote for Brown. Among Republicans, support is somewhat higher for Donnelly (30%) than Kashkari (21%), but 34 percent are still undecided—down from 58 percent in April. Among independents, 41 percent favor Brown, 35 percent are undecided, and 24 percent would vote for one of the Republican candidates.

Half of primary likely voters (53%) are satisfied with their choice of candidates, with Democrats being far more likely to be satisfied (65%) than Republicans (43%). Among independents, 48 percent are satisfied. Less than half of primary likely voters (46%) say they are following news about the candidates very or fairly closely—a much smaller share than in May 2010 (67%).

DEMOCRATIC SCANDALS HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON VIEWS OF LEGISLATURE

In the aftermath of political scandals that resulted in the suspension of three Democratic state senators, 36 percent of likely voters say they approve of the way the California Legislature is handling its job—about the same as in January (33%) and higher than last May (29%). Asked about the job performance of their own representatives in the assembly and state senate, 43 percent of likely voters approve, about the same as in January (45%) and up slightly from 38 percent last May.

How much do likely voters trust their state government? A majority (61%) say it can be trusted to do what is right only some of the time. Others (11%) volunteer that it can be trusted “none of the time.” Far fewer say state government can be trusted just about always (3%) or most of the time (24%). A strong majority says state government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves (68%), while just 24 percent say it is run for the benefit of all the people. This level of distrust is high, but it is about the same as it was in December (76% can trust government some or none of the time, 71% government run by a few big interests). A slim majority of likely voters (53%) say the state government wastes a lot of taxpayer money, a slight decline since December, when 60 percent of likely voters held this view.

“Distrust in government runs high among Californians,” Baldassare said. “In this context, the recent unprecedented suspension of three Democratic state senators has had little to no effect on legislative approval ratings and party perceptions.”

The survey asked whether each of the following phrases better describes the Republican Party and its leaders or the Democratic Party and its leaders, and likely voters responded this way:

- **Governs in a more honest and ethical way?** 28 percent choose the Republicans, 46 percent choose the Democrats.
- **Is more concerned with the needs of people like me?** 32 percent choose the Republicans, 51 percent choose the Democrats.
- **Is more extreme in its positions?** 54 percent choose the Republicans, 33 percent choose the Democrats.
- **Is more influenced by lobbyists and special interests?** 42 percent choose the Republicans, 27 percent choose the Democrats, and 25 percent volunteer that this describes both parties.

OBAMA JOB APPROVAL HOVERS NEAR HIS RECORD LOW

Half of likely voters (50%) approve of the job President Obama is doing, similar to his record low of 46 percent in January. Approval of Congress is at 14 percent, up 5 points from the record low of 9 percent in March. In May 2010 before the last midterm elections, approval was at 26 percent. And 48 percent of likely voters approve of the way their own representative in the U.S. House is handling his or her job.

Levels of trust in the federal government are lower than in the state government. An overwhelming majority of California likely voters either say the government in Washington can be trusted to do what is right only some of the time (68%) or volunteer “none of the time” (11%). A strong majority (67%) say the government wastes a lot of taxpayer money.

DROUGHT HITS HOME—MOST SAY THEY’RE USING LESS WATER

In the midst of a severe drought, 66 percent of Californians say they are following news about it closely. A record-high 59 percent say water supply in their area is a big problem (26% somewhat of a problem, 15% not much of a problem). This is a view held by majorities of coastal residents (59%) and inland residents (58%) alike. An overwhelming majority of residents say they are using less water (40% a lot less, 39% a little less) on indoor activities like showers, baths, and washing dishes, while 19 percent say they are not reducing indoor water use. A strong majority are using less water (38% a lot less, 28% a little less) on lawn care and landscaping, while 11 percent say they are not. Another 23 percent say they have no outdoor space or are not responsible for its upkeep. Across regions, Central Valley residents are the most likely to say they are using a lot less water indoors (45%) or out (47%).

CALIFORNIANS PESSIMISTIC ON IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

On the heels of a government report on the impact of climate change across the nation, the survey asked Californians their views on global warming. Most (61%) say global warming will pose a serious threat to them or their way of life in their lifetime, while 35 percent say it will not. A March survey by Gallup found nearly the opposite among adults nationwide (36% yes, 64% no). California likely voters are less pessimistic than residents overall, with half (51%) saying global warming will pose a serious threat in their lifetime.

As the legislature considers a temporary moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, about a third of Californians (30%) favor increasing its use, while 54 percent are opposed. Support for increased fracking has declined (39% May 2013, 35% July 2013, 32% September 2013, 30% today). Californians are more likely to be in favor of building the Keystone XL pipeline (46%) than opposed (38%)—although support has declined somewhat (53% May 2013, 51% July 2013, 46% today).

MAJORITY SAY COVERED CALIFORNIA IS WORKING WELL

In the survey’s first assessment of views on health care reform since open enrollment ended, opinion on the law is relatively unchanged. Today, 48 percent of Californians have a generally favorable opinion of it and 42 percent have a generally unfavorable one. Adults with health insurance are divided (49% favorable, 41% unfavorable), while those without it are more likely to feel unfavorably (52% unfavorable, 41% favorable). When they are asked to assess California’s health insurance exchange, Covered California, a majority of adults (54%) say it is working well (14% very well, 40% fairly well), a third say it has not been working well (23% not too well, 12% not at all well), and 11 percent don’t know. Younger Californians—age 18 to 34—are much more likely (65%) than older Californians to say the state’s insurance exchange is working well (47% age 35–54, 50% age 55 and older).

MORE KEY FINDINGS

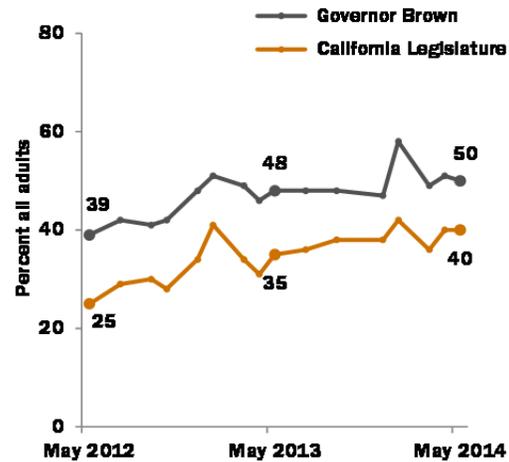
- **Proposition 13 remains popular among all adults, likely voters—page 9**
Most residents also believe state voters should make some fiscal decisions about at the ballot box.
- **Support for raising cigarette, alcohol taxes—but not for a tax on oil and natural gas extraction, vehicle license fees—page 10**
Improving fiscal and economic conditions have not changed Californians’ views on state taxes.
- **Most say poverty is a big problem—page 21**
The share of Californians who say poverty is a big problem is 68 percent—up 11 points since January 2006, before the recession.

STATE GOVERNMENT

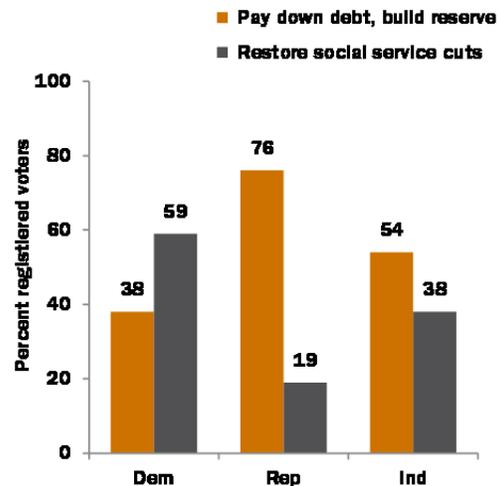
KEY FINDINGS

- Fifty percent of Californians approve of Governor Brown; 40 approve of the legislature overall and 43 percent approve of their own legislators. *(page 7)*
- A plurality of Californians continue to name jobs and the economy as the most important issue facing the state; 12 percent name water and drought. *(page 8)*
- Fourteen percent of Californians say they know a lot about how state and local governments raise and spend money; 76 percent say voters should have some say in state budget issues. *(page 9)*
- Solid majorities of Californians favor increasing taxes on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages. Fewer than half favor taxing the extraction of oil and natural gas; eight in 10 oppose raising the vehicle license fee. *(page 10)*
- Fifty-two percent of Californians think the state budget situation is a big problem. Californians are divided on what to do with the budget surplus, but three in four favor the governor's revised budget proposal and the recently agreed upon rainy day fund proposal. *(pages 11, 12)*
- Most Californians express distrust in state government and about half think it wastes a lot of taxpayer money. *(page 13)*
- Six in 10 Californians say the supply of water is a big problem in their part of California and most say they are using less water on both indoor and outdoor activities. *(page 14)*
- Jerry Brown (48%) leads in the gubernatorial primary among primary likely voters, with one in four voters undecided. *(page 15)*

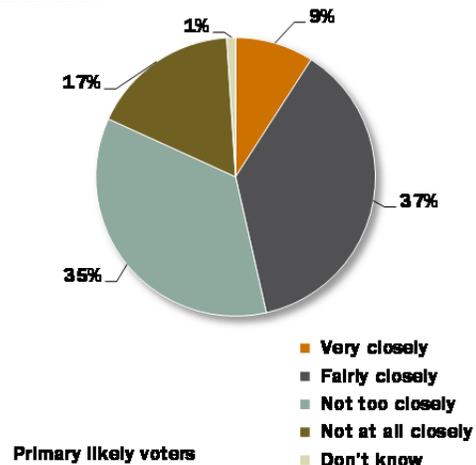
Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials



How to Use Surplus Budget Funds?



Following News about 2014 Gubernatorial Candidates



APPROVAL RATINGS OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

With only a few weeks before the California June primary, 50 percent of adults and 54 percent of likely voters approve of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as California governor. The governor’s approval ratings had reached a record-high 58 percent among adults and 60 percent among likely voters in our January poll. Last May, 48 percent of both adults and likely voters approved of Jerry Brown’s job performance. Today, the governor’s approval rating is far higher among Democrats (70%) than among independents (46%) and Republicans (27%). Approval is at 50 percent for men and women. His approval rating is also higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (58%) and Los Angeles (53%) than in other regions (46% Central Valley, 44% Orange/San Diego, 41% Inland Empire). Pluralities express approval across age, education, and income groups.

In the wake of recent political scandals that resulted in the suspension of three Democratic state senators, 40 percent of California adults and 36 percent of likely voters approve of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job. The legislature’s approval ratings today have changed little since January (42% adults, 33% likely voters) and are higher than they were last May (35% adults, 29% likely voters). Today, 51 percent of Democrats express approval, compared to 32 percent of independents and 17 percent of Republicans. San Francisco Bay Area (45%) and Los Angeles residents (45%) express higher approval ratings than residents in other regions do (35% Inland Empire, 34% Orange/San Diego, 34% Central Valley). Whites (27%) express lower approval than other racial/ethnic groups do.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California</i>	Approve	50%	70%	27%	46%	54%
	Disapprove	30	16	57	33	35
	Don’t know	20	14	16	21	11
<i>The California Legislature is handling its job</i>	Approve	40	51	17	32	36
	Disapprove	44	33	73	54	54
	Don’t know	16	16	10	15	11

Forty-three percent of adults and likely voters approve of the job of their own state legislators. These approval ratings were at 48 percent for adults and 45 percent for likely voters in January, and 43 percent for adults and 38 percent for likely voters last May. Today, Democrats (56%) give higher approval ratings to their state legislators than do independents (35%) and Republicans (31%). San Francisco Bay Area (50%) and Los Angeles (46%) residents give higher ratings than residents in other regions (40% Inland Empire, 38% Central Valley, 33% Orange/San Diego).

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	43%	56%	31%	35%	43%
Disapprove	40	28	55	52	44
Don’t know	17	17	14	13	13

OVERALL MOOD

What is the most important issue facing the people of California today? Californians are most likely to mention jobs and the economy (33%), followed by water and the drought (12%). These findings are similar to those in our March survey (32% jobs and economy, 15% water and drought). Other issues mentioned today include education (8%), the state budget and taxes (7%), immigration (5%), crime and gangs (4%), housing costs (3%), the environment (2%), health care (2%), and homelessness (2%). Water and the drought feature as the top issue most often in the Central Valley (20%), followed by the San Francisco Bay Area (13%), the Inland Empire (10%), Orange/San Diego (9%), and Los Angeles (8%).

Today, 45 percent of adults and 44 percent of likely voters say things in California are generally going in the right direction. In our January poll, 53 percent of adults said that the state was going in the right direction, while 46 percent held this view last May. Currently, 61 percent of Democrats say that things are going in the right direction, compared to 40 percent of independents and 24 percent of Republicans. San Francisco Bay Area residents (53%) and Los Angeles residents (52%) are the most likely to say that things are going in the right direction, followed by those living in Orange/San Diego (40%), the Central Valley (39%), and the Inland Empire (23%). Whites (34%) are much less likely than Latinos (50%) to say that things are going in the right direction. (Sample sizes for Asians and blacks are too small for separate analysis.) Sixty-seven percent of those who approve of Governor Brown say that things in California are generally going in the right direction.

“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	
Right direction	45%	61%	24%	40%	44%
Wrong direction	48	31	73	54	50
Don't know	7	8	3	6	6

Currently, 44 percent of adults and likely voters say the state will have good times financially in the next 12 months. In January, 49 percent of adults expected good times financially, while 48 percent held this outlook last May. Today, San Francisco Bay Area residents (56%) are more likely to expect good economic times than those living in Los Angeles (47%), Orange/San Diego (41%), the Central Valley (35%), and the Inland Empire (31%). There is a partisan divide on this issue, with Democrats (53%) expressing much more optimism about future economic conditions in the state than independents (36%) and Republicans (34%). The expectation for good economic times is higher among men (50%) than women (38%). College graduates and those in households earning \$80,000 or more are more likely than others to expect good economic times. Sixty-two percent of those who approve of Governor Brown expect good times financially in the state during the next 12 months.

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

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
Good times	44%	35%	56%	47%	41%	31%	44%
Bad times	47	56	32	45	51	60	46
Don't know	9	10	12	8	9	9	10

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF FISCAL ISSUES

California voters are making major tax and spending decisions at the ballot box, such as passing the Proposition 30 tax initiative in November 2012. This November they will be asked to vote on a rainy day fund measure and a state water bond is scheduled for this ballot as well. Do Californians consider themselves knowledgeable on fiscal issues? Fourteen percent of adults and 18 percent of likely voters say they know a lot about how the state and their local governments spend and raise money. Four in 10 adults (38%) say they know something about these issues, while nearly half say they know very little (35%) or nothing (12%). The share saying they know a lot or some about state and local fiscal issues increases as age, education, and income rise; it is higher among those who own their own homes.

“In general, how much would you say you know about how your state and local governments spend and raise money?”

	All adults	Education			Likely voters
		High school or less	Some college	College graduate	
A lot	14%	13%	11%	18%	18%
Some	38	28	43	50	53
Very little	35	42	35	24	26
Nothing	12	14	11	7	2
Don't know	2	2	1	1	1

Californians have a strong preference for state voters weighing in on issues involving spending and taxes, even though most don't perceive themselves as knowing a lot about state and local finance. Who should make the tough choices involved in the state budget this year? Seventy-six percent of adults say that California voters should make some of the decisions about spending and taxes at the ballot box. Only 16 percent say the governor and legislature should make all of the decisions. Likely voters hold similar views. In four surveys since May 2011, more than three in four adults have preferred that voters make some of the fiscal decisions. Large majorities across political, regional, racial/ethnic, age, education, income, and homeowner/renter groups hold this view.

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

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Governor and legislature	16%	20%	12%	18%	18%
California voters	76	75	83	73	76
Other/Both (volunteered)	5	3	2	6	4
Don't know	4	2	3	3	2

Thirty-six years after the Proposition 13 property tax initiative passed in June 1978, Californians continue to have an overall positive view of this historic measure. Majorities of adults (56%) and likely voters (63%) say Proposition 13 has been mostly a good thing for California. In the eight times that we have asked this question since February 2003, majorities of adults have said that Proposition 13 has been mostly a good thing—with the sole exception of May 2005, when 47 percent said that Proposition 13 was mostly a good thing. Pluralities across the state's regions today and at least half across political, age, education, income, and homeowner/renter groups say that Proposition 13 has been mostly a good thing.

RAISING STATE REVENUES

Have Californians' attitudes toward raising state taxes changed in light of improving fiscal and economic conditions? We asked about raising the state's cigarette taxes, alcoholic beverage taxes, oil and natural gas extraction taxes, and the vehicle license fee. More than six in 10 adults are in favor of increasing taxes on the purchase of cigarettes and alcoholic beverages. Public support for taxing the extraction of oil and natural gas falls short of a majority, and fewer than one in five would favor increasing the vehicle license fee. The overall trends from our previous polls are similar. At least six in 10 adults have been in favor of raising the cigarette tax since we began asking this question in January 2006, while majorities have been opposed to increasing the vehicle license fee since we began asking about it in February 2003. Today's views on taxes for alcoholic beverages and the extraction of oil and natural gas in California were similar to those in March 2013, the first time these questions were asked.

“For each of the following, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal.”

	Increasing state taxes on the purchase of cigarettes	Increasing state taxes on the purchase of alcoholic beverages	Taxing the extraction of oil and natural gas in California	Increasing the California vehicle license fee
Favor	69%	61%	43%	18%
Oppose	30	37	51	79
Don't know	1	2	7	3

Majorities of likely voters, Democrats, independents, and Californians across regions and income groups favor increasing state taxes on the purchase of cigarettes and alcoholic beverages. Thirty-two percent of cigarette smokers and 76 percent of nonsmokers favor a state cigarette tax increase. About half of Democrats, independents, San Francisco Bay Area residents, college graduates, and upper-income Californians favor taxing oil and natural gas extraction. Support for a vehicle license fee increase falls far short of a majority among likely voters and is low across all political, regional, and income groups.

“For each of the following, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal.”

<i>Percent saying favor</i>		Increasing state taxes on the purchase of cigarettes	Increasing state taxes on the purchase of alcoholic beverages	Taxing the extraction of oil and natural gas in California	Increasing the California vehicle license fee
All adults		69%	61%	43%	18%
Likely voters		68	58	48	17
Party	Democrats	76	67	53	17
	Republicans	58	46	26	9
	Independents	65	56	50	24
Region	Central Valley	63	62	38	15
	San Francisco Bay Area	71	62	51	29
	Los Angeles	69	60	42	14
	Orange/San Diego	68	55	43	17
	Inland Empire	66	62	28	9
Household income	Under \$40,000	68	64	38	16
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	63	59	40	13
	\$80,000 or more	75	58	54	27

STATE BUDGET SITUATION

Californians continue to think that the state budget situation in California is a problem—52 percent say it is a big problem and 38 percent say it is somewhat of a problem. Just 5 percent say it is not a problem. Likely voters hold similar views (58% big problem, 34% somewhat of a problem). Findings were similar in January (50% big problem, 40% somewhat of a problem), but Californians were more pessimistic last May (61% big problem, 30% somewhat of a problem). Partisans are divided on the budget situation, with more Republicans (76%) than independents (51%) or Democrats (45%) saying it is a big problem. Residents in Orange/San Diego (59%) are the most likely to think the budget situation is a big problem, followed by those in the Inland Empire (55%), Los Angeles (53%), the Central Valley (52%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (45%). Younger, less educated, and less affluent Californians are less likely than their older, more educated, and more affluent counterparts to say the budget is a big problem. Governor Brown released his May budget revision on May 13. Among those interviewed before the May revision, 55 percent said the budget situation is a big problem; among those interviewed afterward, 48 percent said this.

“Do you think the state budget situation in California—that is, the balance between government spending and revenues—is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem for the people of California today?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Big problem	52%	45%	76%	51%	58%
Somewhat of a problem	38	45	21	34	34
Not a problem	5	6	2	10	5
Don't know	4	3	–	4	2

California is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars over the next several years. How would Californians prefer to use this extra money? Residents are divided: 46 percent would prefer to pay down state debt and build up the reserve, while 48 percent would prefer to restore some funding for social service programs that were cut in recent years. Likely voters are much more likely to prefer paying down debt and building up the reserve (57%) than restoring social service funding (39%). Preference for paying down the debt has been higher in the past (55% January 2013, 55% May 2013, 54% January 2014, 46% today). Partisans are divided on this issue: 59 percent of Democrats prefer restoring social service funding, while 76 percent of Republicans and 54 percent of independents prefer paying down debt and building up the reserve. Half of men (52%) prefer paying down debt (43% restore social services), while half of women (53%) prefer restoring social service funding (41% pay down debt). Support for paying down the debt rises as income levels increase. Among those who call the budget a big problem, 56 percent prefer paying down debt.

“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 social service programs that were cut in recent years?”

	All adults	Household income			Likely voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
Pay debt, build reserve	46%	36%	50%	61%	57%
Restore some funding for social service programs	48	59	44	35	39
Don't know	5	6	6	3	5

GOVERNOR BROWN’S BUDGET PROPOSAL

Governor Brown released his revised state budget proposal for the next fiscal year on May 13. The revision, which is largely similar to his January plan, calls for increased funding for Medi-Cal, more money for drought-related expenditures, and increases in contributions to the California State Teachers’ Retirement System. Beginning May 13 we asked about the revised budget plan; after hearing a brief summary of the plan, three in four Californians (74%) are in favor and one in five are opposed (18%). More than six in 10 across parties (84% Democrats, 76% independents 62% Republicans) and strong majorities across regions and demographic groups favor the revised proposal. Before May 13 we asked a similar question about the January budget proposal and a similar 70 percent of Californians were in favor.

“Governor Brown recently released a revised budget plan for the next fiscal year that will increase spending on K–12 and higher education and Medi-Cal. It also modestly increases spending on prisons and courts and health and human services, increases contributions to the California State Teachers’ Retirement System, and allocates money for drought-related expenditures. The plan includes \$11 billion to pay down the state’s debt, including repayment of previously deferred payments to K–12 schools and paying off economic recovery bonds that were passed in 2004 to balance the budget. The plan puts \$1.6 billion into the state’s rainy day fund and includes no new taxes. In general, do you favor or oppose the governor’s budget plan?”

	Favor	Oppose	Don’t know	
All adults	74%	18%	7%	
Likely voters	73	20	7	
Party	Democrats	84	11	5
	Republicans	62	31	7
	Independents	76	16	9
Region	Central Valley	81	13	6
	San Francisco Bay Area	74	13	12
	Los Angeles	71	22	7
	Other Southern California*	71	22	7

**Due to sample size constraints for this question, we combined Inland Empire and Orange/San Diego into “Other Southern California.”*

Just before we began our survey the governor and the legislature agreed on a bipartisan plan that would change the state’s rainy day fund. The plan includes setting aside 1.5 percent of general fund revenues every year, along with any capital gains revenues that exceed 8 percent of general fund revenues. For the next 15 years, half of the money will be used to pay off debt. It also establishes a Proposition 98 reserve fund for schools. After hearing a brief description of the plan, 76 percent of Californians and 74 percent of likely voters are in favor. There is bipartisan support for the plan (81% Democrats, 67% Republicans); 73 percent of independents are also in favor. Across regions, strong majorities support the plan, as do at least seven in 10 across demographic groups.

“The governor and the legislature are placing a measure on the November 2014 ballot that would change the state’s rainy day fund. The plan includes setting aside 1.5 percent of general fund revenues every year and any capital gains revenues that exceed 8 percent of general fund revenues. For the first 15 years, half the money would be used to pay off debt. The plan also sets limits on how funds can be withdrawn during a recession and creates a reserve for K–12 schools. In general, do you favor or oppose this plan?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	76%	81%	67%	73%	74%
Oppose	16	12	21	20	17
Don’t know	8	7	12	7	9

TRUST IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Has distrust in the state government increased in the wake of the recent, unprecedented suspensions of three state senators? A strong majority of Californians continue to think that the state government in Sacramento can be trusted only some of the time (59%) or volunteer it can be trusted none of the time (8%). These levels of distrust were similar in December 2013 (71%) and last May (66%); in periodic surveys since August 2002, more than six in 10 Californians have expressed distrust. Republicans (85%) are more likely than independents (68%) and Democrats (60%) to say they can trust state government only some of the time or never. Across regional, age, education, and income groups at least six in 10 express distrust. Among racial/ethnic groups, whites (77%) are much more likely than Latinos (60%) to express distrust.

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

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Just about always	5%	5%	4%	3%	3%
Most of the time	25	35	10	27	24
Only some of the time	59	57	69	57	61
None of the time (volunteered)	8	3	16	11	11
Don't know	2	1	2	2	1

Six in 10 Californians (60%) and two in three likely voters (68%) say the state government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves; fewer say it is run for the benefit of all the people (32% Californians, 24% likely voters). Today's view among all adults that state government is run by a few big interests is similar to that in December 2013 (65%) and last May (61%); nearly every time we have asked this question since 1999 at least six in 10 Californians have held this view (54% in January 2002 is the only exception). Republicans (77%) are more likely than independents (61%) and Democrats (57%) to say that state government is run by a few big interests. Whites (71%) are much more likely than Latinos (53%) to say this.

About half of Californians (48%) think the people in state government waste a lot of taxpayer money, another 41 percent say state government wastes some, and just 6 percent say they don't waste very much of it. In December 2013 and May 2013, slightly more than half of Californians (54% each time) said that a lot of money is wasted. Today, the share saying that a lot is wasted has dropped below 50 percent for the first time since January 2002 (38%). Republicans (70%) are far more likely than independents (47%) or Democrats (36%) to think a lot of money is wasted. Residents in the Central Valley (57%) are the most likely to think a lot is wasted, followed by those in the Inland Empire (55%), Los Angeles (48%), Orange/San Diego (46%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (43%).

“Do you think the people in state government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
A lot	48%	36%	70%	47%	53%
Some	41	52	23	49	39
Don't waste very much	6	9	3	1	5
Don't know	5	4	4	3	3

STATE WATER SUPPLY

In the midst of today’s severe drought, a record-high share of Californians (59%) say that the water supply in their part of the state is a big problem, one in four (26%) say it is somewhat of a problem, and 15 percent say it is not a problem. In March, 55 percent of Californians viewed water supply as a big problem. In December 2009, during the last drought, 44 percent held this view. Across regions today, a majority of Californians (except in the Inland Empire: 47%), view 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	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	Inland	Coastal
Big problem	59%	67%	55%	57%	59%	47%	58%	59%
Somewhat of a problem	26	20	30	28	23	33	26	25
Not much of a problem	15	12	14	14	18	19	15	15
Don’t know	1	1	–	1	1	1	1	1

Governor Brown first declared a drought emergency in January and made a second proclamation in April, making it easier for water agencies to take necessary steps to manage water use. Two in three Californians (66%) say they are following news about the drought emergencies closely (25% very closely, 41% fairly closely); one in three say they are not (22% not too closely, 12% not at all closely).

Eight in 10 Californians say they and their family are using less water (40% a lot less, 39% a little less) on indoor activities like showers, baths, and washing dishes; 19 percent say they are not reducing indoor water use. Slightly more than four in 10 residents in the Central Valley (45%), Los Angeles (41%), and Orange/San Diego (41%) report using a lot less water indoors; somewhat fewer say this in the San Francisco Bay Area (35%) and Inland Empire (33%).

Two in three Californians report using less water (38% a lot less, 28% a little less) on lawn care and landscaping, while 11 percent say they are not; 23 percent say they have no outdoor space or are not responsible for its upkeep. Central Valley residents (47%) are the most likely to say they are using a lot less water outdoors, followed by those in the Inland Empire (39%), Los Angeles (38%), the San Francisco Bay Area (35%), and Orange/San Diego (30%). Close to three in 10 residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (28%), Orange/San Diego (27%), and Los Angeles (26%) say they do not have outdoor space to tend.

“Are you and your family using less water on...?”

		All adults	Region					Inland/Coastal	
			Central Valley	San Francisco	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	Inland	Coastal
Indoor activities like showers, baths, and washing dishes	A lot less	40%	45%	35%	41%	41%	33%	41%	39%
	A little less	39	37	42	37	40	41	38	40
	No	19	16	19	20	18	25	20	19
	Don’t know	2	2	4	1	2	–	1	2
Lawn care and landscaping	A lot less	38	47	35	38	30	39	44	34
	A little less	28	31	23	25	32	27	29	27
	No	11	10	12	9	10	14	11	11
	No outdoor space	23	12	28	26	27	17	14	27
	Don’t know	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1

JUNE GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY

Less than a month before the June primary, 46 percent of primary likely voters say they are following news about the candidates closely (9% very, 37% fairly closely). The share of primary likely voters closely following candidate news has grown somewhat from previous months (37% March, 38% April, 46% today). Today, close attention to this news is far lower than it was May 2010 (67%) or May 2006 (68%) just before the June gubernatorial primaries. Democrats and independents (52% each) are more likely than Republicans (39%) to report following news about the primary candidates very or fairly closely.

Governor Jerry Brown (48%) continues to lead in the June primary election for governor. Far fewer primary likely voters would vote for Republican candidates Tim Donnelly (15%) or Neel Kashkari (10%), although support for each is up slightly since April (from 9% to 15% for Donnelly and from 2% to 10% for Kashkari). Twenty-seven percent are undecided (down from 38% in April) and 1 percent name other candidates. Most Democratic primary likely voters (79%) would vote for Brown. Among Republicans, support is somewhat higher for Donnelly (30%) than for Kashkari (21%); 34 percent are still undecided, but this is down from 58 percent in April. Among independents, a plurality would vote for Brown (41%), 35 percent are undecided, and 24 percent would vote for one of the Republican candidates. A majority of Latino (57%) and a plurality of white (41%) primary likely voters would vote for Brown. Governor Brown leads across regions, but the race is much closer in the Inland Empire (28% Brown, 24% Kashkari, 21% Donnelly, 25% undecided) than elsewhere. Pluralities across age, income, and education groups would vote for Brown.

“...If the June primary for governor were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?”

Primary likely voters only	All primary likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites
Jerry Brown, a Democrat	48%	79%	13%	41%	57%	41%
Tim Donnelly, a Republican	15	2	30	16	16	16
Neel Kashkari, a Republican	10	1	21	8	5	12
Someone else	1	–	1	–	1	1
Don't know	27	17	34	35	21	31

Half of primary likely voters (53%) are satisfied with their gubernatorial candidate choices in the primary election, 32 percent are not satisfied, and 15 percent are unsure. Satisfaction has increased by 11 points since March (42%). A solid majority of Democrats (65%) are satisfied with their candidate choices. Among Republicans, 43 percent say they are satisfied and 37 percent say they are not; 20 percent are unsure. A plurality of independents (48%) are satisfied, 40 percent say they are not satisfied, and 12 percent are unsure. At least half of Latino (59%) and white (50%) primary likely voters are satisfied. Among those who are not satisfied, a plurality (46%) say they are unsure of who they will vote for.

“In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the primary election for governor this June?”

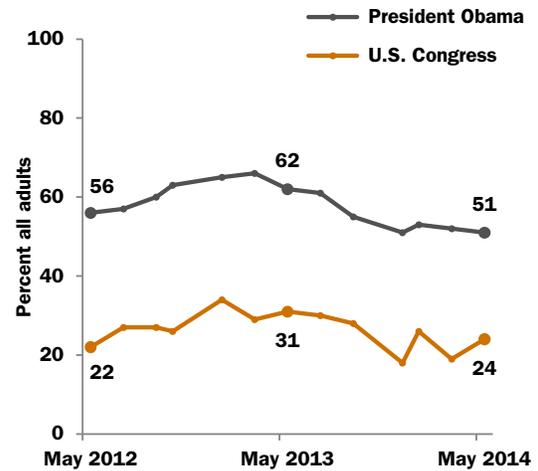
Primary likely voters only	All primary likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites
Satisfied	53%	65%	43%	48%	59%	50%
Not satisfied	32	23	37	40	29	35
Don't know	15	12	20	12	12	15

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

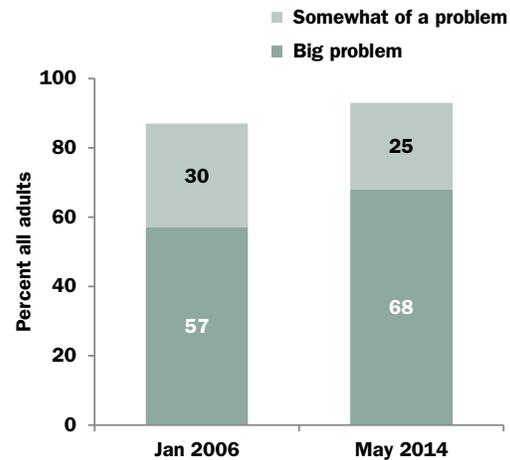
KEY FINDINGS

- Half of Californians (51%) approve of President Obama's job performance, matching December 2013's record low. While one in four Californians approve of Congress overall, about half approve of their own House representative. *(page 17)*
- Seven in 10 Californians say they cannot trust the federal government to do what is right, and nearly all residents say it wastes at least some taxpayer money. Seven in 10 Californians say the federal government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves. *(page 18)*
- Californians continue to be divided over the health reform law; 54 percent say the state health insurance exchange, Covered California, is working very or fairly well. *(page 19)*
- A solid majority of Californians say global warming will pose a serious threat to them in their lifetime, but voters are deeply divided along party lines. A majority of Californians (54%) oppose the increased use of fracking; 46 percent favor (and 38% oppose) building the Keystone XL pipeline. *(page 20)*
- Nearly seven in 10 Californians say poverty is a big problem in our society and most say government policies and programs can reduce poverty at least to some extent. *(page 21)*
- Californians are deeply divided along partisan lines when it comes to perceptions of the Republican and Democratic Parties. *(pages 22, 23)*

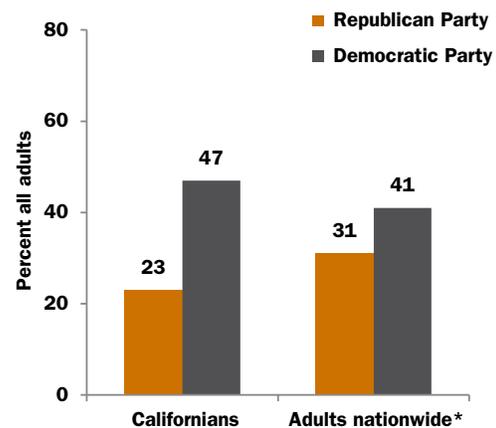
Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials



Seriousness of Poverty in Our Society



Governs in a More Honest and Ethical Way



*Pew Research Center, Jan 2014

APPROVAL RATINGS OF FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

President Obama’s approval rating among Californians is at 51 percent, matching the record low reached in December 2013. Last May, his approval was at 62 percent. This year, approval of President Obama has held steady (53% January, 52% March, 51% today). Approval among likely voters (50%) is nearly identical to that of all adults (51%). In a recent CNN/ORC poll, 43 percent of adults nationwide approved and 55 percent disapproved of the way President Obama is handling his job. Among Democrats, the president’s approval is at 78 percent; 80 percent of Republicans disapprove. Among independents, 46 percent approve and 50 percent disapprove. Across regions, approval is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles (54% each) than in other areas (48% Inland Empire, 47% Orange/San Diego, 45% Central Valley). Whites (40%) are much less likely than other racial/ethnic groups to approve.

Approval of the U.S. Congress is at 24 percent, up slightly from record lows in March 2014 (19%) and December 2013 (18%). Last May, approval was at 31 percent. Among likely voters, approval of the U.S. Congress is at 14 percent, up five points from a record low 9 percent in March 2014. In May 2010, before the last mid-term elections, 26 percent of likely voters expressed approval of Congress. Across parties, strong majorities disapprove. According to a recent Gallup poll, adults nationwide (13% approve, 83% disapprove) were less likely than Californians in our survey to approve of Congress.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States	Approve	51%	78%	19%	46%	50%
	Disapprove	45	18	80	50	48
	Don't know	4	5	1	4	1
The U.S. Congress is handling its job	Approve	24	21	16	10	14
	Disapprove	69	73	79	83	82
	Don't know	7	6	5	7	4

Forty-eight percent of adults and likely voters approve of the way their own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives is handling his or her job. In January (51%) and last May (53%), about half of Californians said they approved of their own House representative. Democrats (60%) are far more likely than Republicans (40%) or independents (37%) to approve. Residents in Los Angeles (58%) are much more likely than those in other regions to approve of their representative to Congress (44% San Francisco Bay Area, 43% Inland Empire, 41% Central Valley, 41% Orange/San Diego). Among those who approve of their own representative in Congress, 42 percent approve of the U.S. Congress; among those who disapprove, only 6 percent approve of the U.S. Congress.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	48%	60%	40%	37%	48%
Disapprove	36	26	44	46	39
Don't know	16	14	16	17	13

TRUST IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Californians continue to be distrustful of the federal government. About seven in 10 Californians say they think the federal government can be trusted only some of the time (64%) or volunteer that it can never be trusted (8%); just 26 percent say the federal government can be trusted just about always (5%) or most of the time (21%). Likely voters are slightly more distrustful (68% only some of the time, 11% none of the time). Californians held similar views last December (65% only some of the time, 10% none of the time) just after the government shutdown. At least six in 10 Californians have expressed distrust since August 2002. Although there are high levels of distrust across parties, Republicans (86%) and independents (80%) are much more likely than Democrats (68%) to express distrust. More than two in three across regions and at least six in 10 across demographic groups think they can trust the federal government only some of the time or never.

“How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Just about always	5%	6%	1%	5%	3%
Most of the time	21	25	11	13	16
Only some of the time	64	65	71	66	68
None of the time (volunteered)	8	3	15	14	11
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1

Seven in 10 Californians (70%) and nearly eight in 10 likely voters (79%) say the federal government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves; fewer think that it is run for the benefit of all the people (23% adults; 14% likely voters). Today’s findings among adults are similar to those in December 2013 (73%); about seven in 10 have said the federal government is run by a few big interests each of the five times we have asked this question since October 2010. Republicans (82%) and independents (81%) are much more likely than Democrats (65%) to say that the federal government is run by a few big interests; at least two in three across regions agree. Whites (82%) are far more likely than Latinos (57%) to say the federal government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.

Distrust extends to government spending. Nearly six in 10 Californians (58%) think that the people in the federal government waste a lot of taxpayer money; one in three (33%) say they waste at least some. Likely voters are more pessimistic (67% a lot, 28% some). Today’s findings among adults are similar to those in December 2013 (61%). Republicans (81%) are far more likely than independents (60%) and Democrats (54%) to think a lot of money is wasted. Whites (68%) are much more likely than Latinos (50%) to hold this view.

“Do you think the people in the federal government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
A lot	58%	54%	81%	60%	67%
Some	33	35	16	36	28
Don't waste very much	6	8	1	2	3
Don't know	3	3	2	2	2

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Californians are divided in their views of the 2010 health reform law: 48 percent view it favorably and 43 percent view it unfavorably. This is the first time that we have assessed opinions on the health reform law since the law's open enrollment period ended in March. But opinion has remained relatively unchanged since we began asking this question in December 2013 (44% generally favorable, 44% generally unfavorable). We asked a similar question before December 2013, and about half of Californians expressed support. According to an April Kaiser Family Foundation poll, adults nationwide (38% favorable, 46% unfavorable) held less favorable views of the law than Californians in our survey. There are divisions across parties, with seven in 10 Democrats (70%) saying they have generally favorable opinions and a similar share of Republicans (73%) saying they have generally unfavorable views. Those with health insurance are divided (49% favorable, 42% unfavorable), while half of those who remain without health insurance hold generally unfavorable opinions (41% favorable, 52% unfavorable). College graduates are more likely than others to hold favorable views.

“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
Generally favorable	48%	70%	20%	48%	49%	41%
Generally unfavorable	43	23	73	44	42	52
Don't know	9	6	7	8	9	7

When asked to assess Covered California, California's health insurance exchange, a majority of Californians (54%) say that it is working well (14% very well, 40% fairly well), a third say it has not been working well (23% not too well, 12% not at all well), and one in 10 (11%) are unsure. In January, 46 percent said California's health insurance exchange had been working well, and 39 percent said it had not. Today, seven in 10 Democrats (71%) and a plurality of independents (49% working well, 38% not working well) say Covered California has been working well; half of Republicans (51%) say it has not been working well. Fifty-six percent of those with health insurance say that Covered California has been working well; those who remain without insurance are divided (48% working well, 46% not working well). Those ages 18 to 34 (65%) are much more likely than older Californians say the state's insurance exchange is working well (47% ages 35 to 54, 50% 55 and older).

“As you may know, as part of the 2010 health care law the government has set up health insurance exchanges around the country that people can use to compare plans and purchase health insurance. Just your impression, how well has California's health insurance exchange called 'Covered California' been working?”

	All adults	Party			Have health insurance	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very well	14%	23%	6%	12%	14%	15%
Fairly well	40	48	25	37	42	33
Not too well	23	17	27	25	22	31
Not at all well	12	7	24	13	11	15
Don't know	11	5	18	13	11	7

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY POLICY

Just before our interviews began, the Obama Administration released the third National Climate Assessment, a scientific report describing climate changes already under way. Six in 10 Californians (61%) say global warming will pose a serious threat to them or their way of life in their lifetime; 35 percent say it will not. While the share of Californians saying global warming will pose a serious threat was similar last May (57%), it has grown 16 points since July 2003 (45%). Today, likely voters (51%) are less pessimistic than all adults (61%). Californians are deeply divided along party lines: 72 percent of Democrats (and 56% of independents) say global warming will pose a serious threat while 68 percent of Republicans say it will not. Residents in Los Angeles (67%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (66%) are more likely than those in other regions to say global warming represents a serious threat (59% Central Valley, 54% Orange/San Diego, 52% Inland Empire). Latinos (81%) are far more likely than whites (48%) to say global warming will pose a serious threat. Californians younger than age 55 (67% yes) are more pessimistic than those age 55 and older (50% yes). A March survey by Gallup found only 36 percent of adults nationwide saying global warming will pose a serious threat.

Fracking remains controversial in the state: proponents tout economic benefits and opponents express concerns about water quality and usage, as well as earthquakes. Legislation to impose a temporary moratorium while its effects are studied is under debate. Today, 30 percent of Californians favor the increased use of fracking, while 54 percent are opposed. Support among adults has declined since last May (39% May 2013, 35% July 2013, 32% September 2013, 30% today). While most Democrats (66%) and independents (62%) oppose the increased use of fracking, 54 percent of Republicans favor it. Opposition is higher in Los Angeles (62%) than in other regions (56% Central Valley, 50% San Francisco Bay Area, 47% Orange/San Diego, 45% Inland Empire), but in no region does a majority favor it.

“Do you favor or oppose increased use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations?”

	All adults	Party			Global warming a serious threat in lifetime	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Favor	30%	22%	54%	28%	22%	46%
Oppose	54	66	29	62	65	38
Don't know	15	12	17	10	13	17

Californians are more likely to favor (46%) than oppose (38%) building the Keystone XL pipeline. In a March survey by the Pew Research Center, 61 percent of adults nationwide supported starting this controversial federal energy project. Support among Californians for this proposal has declined somewhat since last May (53% May 2013, 51% July 2013, 46% today). A strong majority of Republicans (74%) favor building the Keystone XL pipeline, while Democrats are more likely to oppose (51%) than favor (34%) doing so. Among independents, 47 percent favor it and 41 percent are opposed.

“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			Global warming a serious threat in lifetime	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Favor	46%	34%	74%	47%	36%	66%
Oppose	38	51	17	41	46	24
Don't know	16	15	9	12	18	10

POVERTY AND GOVERNMENT POLICY

Nearly all Californians believe that poverty is a problem in our society today, with 68 percent saying it is a big problem and 25 percent saying it is somewhat of a problem. Since we last asked this question in January 2006, the share of Californians saying it is a big problem has grown 11 points (57% to 68%). Overwhelming majorities of Californians across parties, regions, and demographic groups consider poverty to be at least somewhat of a problem. Across parties, Democrats (79%) are the most likely to say it is a big problem, followed by independents (68%) and Republicans (58%). Across regions, Central Valley residents (78%) are the most likely to say it is a big problem, followed by residents in Los Angeles (72%), Orange/San Diego (69%), the San Francisco Bay Area (61%), and the Inland Empire (59%). About two in three or more across income groups say poverty is a big problem. Across racial/ethnic groups, majorities hold this view. Women are much more likely than men (75% to 61%) to consider poverty a big problem in our society today.

**“How big a problem is poverty in our society today?
Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?”**

	All adults	Household income			Likely voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
Big problem	68%	70%	72%	65%	70%
Somewhat of a problem	25	24	19	28	24
Not much of a problem	7	5	9	7	6
Don't know	–	–	–	–	–

Fifty years after the War on Poverty began, federal leaders are debating government's role in combatting poverty, which affects a higher share of Americans today than it did in the recent past. Among Californians, three in four think that government policies and programs can either do a lot (46%) or some (31%) to reduce poverty in this country. In a January survey by the Pew Research Center, four in 10 adults nationwide said government policies and programs could do a lot (40% a lot, 37% some) to reduce this problem. Majorities across parties say government policies and programs could help at least some, but Democrats (54%) are much more likely than independents (39%) or Republicans (29%) to say they could help a lot. Latinos (58%) are far more likely than whites (35%) to say programs and policies can do a lot to reduce poverty. Those with annual household incomes that are less than \$80,000 are more likely than higher-income residents to hold this view (51% less than \$40,000, 49% \$40,000 to less than \$80,000, 38% \$80,000 or more). Among those who say poverty is a big problem, 53 percent say government policies and programs could do a lot to ameliorate it.

**“How much do you think government policies and programs can do to
reduce poverty in this country—a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
A lot	46%	54%	29%	39%	40%
Some	31	34	32	33	31
Not much	14	9	25	16	17
Nothing at all	7	3	11	10	10
Don't know	2	–	3	1	1

PERCEPTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

By a two-to-one margin, Californians are more likely to ascribe the phrase “governs in an honest and ethical way” to the Democratic Party and its leaders (47%) than to the Republican Party and its leaders (23%). Fifteen percent volunteer that the phrase describes neither party, and 6 percent volunteer that it describes both parties. When this same question was asked in January by the Pew Research Center, adults nationwide were also more likely to choose Democrats, but by a smaller margin (41% Democratic Party, 31% Republican Party). In March 2006 (the last time we asked this question), 41 percent of Californians chose the Democratic Party and its leaders, while 26 percent chose the Republican Party and its leaders.

Today, Democrats (76%) are more likely than Republicans (54%) to say that their own party and its leaders govern in an honest and ethical way. Independents are more divided (37% Democratic Party, 31% Republican Party). Among likely voters, the Democratic Party is perceived to be more honest and ethical than the Republican Party (46% to 28%). By wide a margin, Latinos (52% to 19%) say the Democratic Party is more aptly described by this phrase than the Republican Party; whites are divided (38% Democratic Party, 31% Republican Party).

“Please tell me if you think each of the following phrases better describes the Republican Party and its leaders or the Democratic Party and its leaders: Governs in a more honest and ethical way.”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Republican Party	23%	8%	54%	31%	28%
Democratic Party	47	76	14	37	46
Both (volunteered)	6	2	4	8	5
Neither (volunteered)	15	11	20	16	17
Don't know	9	4	9	8	4

Californians are twice as likely to say that the Democratic Party and its leaders are better described by the phrase “is more concerned with the needs of people like me” than to choose the Republican Party and its leaders. Findings among adults nationwide were similar in the Pew Research Center survey in January (52% Democratic Party, 32% Republican Party). In previous PPIC Statewide Surveys, most Californians chose the Democratic Party (57% in both September 2004 and March 2013) over the Republican Party (30% and 25%, respectively). About eight in 10 Democrats (83%) say this phrase describes the Democratic Party and a plurality of independents agree (46% Democratic Party, 29% Republican Party); two in three Republicans (65%) say this phrase describes their own party. Pluralities across racial/ethnic groups say the Democratic Party is more concerned with the needs of people like them.

“Is more concerned with the needs of people like me.”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Republican Party	27%	10%	65%	29%	32%
Democratic Party	52	83	17	46	51
Both (volunteered)	3	1	2	2	3
Neither (volunteered)	9	4	10	16	11
Don't know	8	2	6	7	3

PERCEPTIONS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Californians are far more likely to say that the Republican Party and its leaders (51%) are described by the phrase “is more extreme in its positions” than the Democratic Party and its leaders (29%). In the Pew Research Center’s January survey, adults nationwide also said the Republican Party was more likely than the Democratic Party to hold extreme positions (54% to 35%). This is the first time this question has been asked in our surveys. Across parties, 76 percent of Democrats and 55 percent of independents say the Republican Party is more extreme; 61 percent of Republicans hold this view of the Democratic Party. Republicans (26%) are more likely than Democrats (16%) to say that their own party is extreme. Californians across racial/ethnic groups are more likely to say that the Republican Party rather than the Democratic Party is extreme.

“Please tell me if you think each of the following phrases better describes the Republican Party and its leaders or the Democratic Party and its leaders. Is more extreme in its positions.”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Republican Party	51%	76%	26%	55%	54%
Democratic Party	29	16	61	29	33
Both (volunteered)	7	3	7	8	9
Neither (volunteered)	3	2	2	1	1
Don’t know	9	3	4	8	3

On a final characteristic—“is more influenced by lobbyists and special interests”—Californians are more likely to choose the Republican Party and its leaders (42%) than the Democratic Party and its leaders (28%); 17 percent volunteer that this phrase describes both parties. In Pew’s January survey, nearly half of adults nationwide selected the Republican Party (47%) while three in 10 said the Democratic Party (30%) and one in 10 volunteered “both” (11%). This is the first time this question has been asked in our surveys. Democrats (68%) are much more likely to say that the Republican Party is influenced by lobbyists and special interests than Republicans (48%) are to say that the Democratic Party is influenced in this way. Republicans (25%) are more likely than Democrats (11%) to say both parties are influenced. Among independents, a plurality say that the Republican Party (37%) is more influenced by special interests while 28 percent say that the Democratic Party is; 28 percent volunteer that it is true of both parties.

“Is more influenced by lobbyists and special interests.”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Republican Party	42%	68%	18%	37%	42%
Democratic Party	28	15	48	28	27
Both (volunteered)	17	11	25	28	25
Neither (volunteered)	2	–	2	2	1
Don’t know	11	6	7	6	5

REGIONAL MAP



METHODOLOGY

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 Dean Bonner, project manager for this survey, and survey research associates Sonja Petek and Jui Shrestha. 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 1,702 California adult residents, including 1,192 interviewed on landline telephones and 510 interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took an average of 20 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from May 8–15, 2014.

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, with assistance from Renatta DeFever.

Abt SRBI uses the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010–2012 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 2012 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 2013 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 ± 3.6 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,702 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.6 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,360 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 4.0 percent; for the 1,038 likely voters, it is ± 4.6 percent; for the 901 primary likely voters, it is ± 4.9 percent. For question 21 (978 respondents), asked from May 8–12, it is ± 4.7 percent. For question 21a (724 respondents), asked from May 13–15, it is ± 5.4 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, likely voters, and primary 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 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. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Asians, blacks, and Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, likely voters, and primary 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 by their responses to voter registration survey questions, previous election participation, and current interest in politics.

Results for questions 9, 10, and 11 are based on primary likely voters. In addition to criteria used to determine likely voters, we used responses to questions about following news about the candidates for the gubernatorial election and intention to vote in the June primary as criteria to identify primary likely voters. For the gubernatorial primary (question 9), the candidate list was based on news coverage, campaign publicity, and the secretary of state’s certified list of candidates. In addition, respondents could name candidates who were not on our list.

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 CNN/ORC, Gallup, Kaiser Family Foundation, and the Pew Research Center. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

May 8–15, 2014

1,702 California Adult Residents:
English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 3.6\%$ 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]
 - 33% jobs, economy
 - 12 water, drought
 - 8 education, schools, teachers
 - 7 state budget, deficit, taxes
 - 5 immigration, illegal immigration
 - 4 crime, gangs, drugs
 - 3 housing costs, availability
 - 2 environment, pollution, global warming
 - 2 health care, health reform, Obamacare
 - 2 homelessness
 - 19 other
 - 3 don't know
2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?
 - 50% approve
 - 30 disapprove
 - 20 don't know
3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?
 - 40% approve
 - 44 disapprove
 - 16 don't know
4. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time?
 - 43% approve
 - 40 disapprove
 - 17 don't know
5. Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?
 - 45% right direction
 - 48 wrong direction
 - 7 don't know
6. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?
 - 44% good times
 - 47 bad times
 - 9 don't know
7. Next, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?
 - 65% yes *[ask q7a]*
 - 35 no *[skip to q8b]*

7a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

- 45% Democrat *[ask q8]*
- 29 Republican *[skip to q8a]*
- 4 another party (specify) *[skip to q9]*
- 22 independent *[skip to q8b]*

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

- 58% strong
- 40 not very strong
- 2 don't know

[skip to q9]

8a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 51% strong
- 45 not very strong
- 4 don't know

[skip to q9]

8b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 23% Republican Party
- 46 Democratic Party
- 24 neither (volunteered)
- 7 don't know

[questions 9 to 11 reported for primary likely voters]

9. *[primary likely voters only]* As you may know, California now has a top-two primary system in which voters can cast ballots for any candidate, regardless of party, and the two candidates receiving the most votes—regardless of party—will advance to the general election. If the June primary for governor were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for? *[rotate names and then ask: “or someone else?”]*

- 48% Jerry Brown, a Democrat
- 15 Tim Donnelly, a Republican
- 10 Neel Kashkari, a Republican
- 1 someone else (specify)
- 27 don't know

10. *[primary likely voters only]* How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2014 governor’s election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 9% very closely
- 37 fairly closely
- 35 not too closely
- 17 not at all closely
- 1 don't know

11. *[primary likely voters only]* In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the primary election for governor this June?

- 53% satisfied
- 32 not satisfied
- 15 don't know

12. On another topic, in general, how much would you say you know about how your state and local governments spend and raise money—a lot, some, very little, or nothing?

- 14% a lot
- 38 some
- 35 very little
- 12 nothing
- 2 don't know

13. And when it comes to the tough choices involved in the state budget this year, would you prefer—*[rotate]* (1) that the governor and legislature make all of the decisions about spending and taxes; *[or]* (2) that California voters make some of the decisions about spending and taxes at the ballot box?

- 16% governor and legislature make all of the decisions
- 76 California voters make some of the decisions
- 2 other (specify)
- 3 both (volunteer)
- 4 don't know

14. Next, Proposition 13 is the 1978 ballot measure that limits the property tax rate to 1 percent of assessed value at time of purchase and annual tax increases to no more than 2 percent until the property is sold. Overall, do you feel passing Proposition 13 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?

- 56% mostly a good thing
- 26 mostly a bad thing
- 2 mixed (*volunteered*)
- 15 don't know

For each of the following, please say if you favor or oppose the proposal.

[rotate questions 15 to 18]

15. How about increasing state taxes on the purchase of alcoholic beverages?

- 61% favor
- 37 oppose
- 2 don't know

16. How about taxing the extraction of oil and natural gas in California?

- 43% favor
- 51 oppose
- 7 don't know

17. How about increasing state taxes on the purchase of cigarettes?

- 69% favor
- 30 oppose
- 1 don't know

18. How about increasing the California vehicle license fee?

- 18% favor
- 79 oppose
- 3 don't know

19. 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?

- 52% big problem
- 38 somewhat of a problem
- 5 not a problem
- 4 don't know

20. 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 social service programs that were cut in recent years?

- 46% pay down debt and build up reserve
- 48 restore funding for social services
- 5 don't know

21. **[asked from May 8 to 12]** Governor Brown proposed a budget plan for the next fiscal year that will increase spending on K–12 and higher education, and modestly increase spending on health and human services, prisons, and courts. The plan includes \$11 billion to pay down the state's debt, including repayment of previously deferred payments to K–12 schools and paying off economic recovery bonds that were passed in 2004 to balance the budget. The plan puts \$1.6 billion into the state's rainy day fund and includes no new taxes. In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?

- 70% favor
- 24 oppose
- 2 haven't heard anything about the budget (*volunteered*)
- 4 don't know

21a. **[asked starting May 13]** Governor Brown recently released a revised budget plan for the next fiscal year that will increase spending on K–12 and higher education and Medi-Cal. It also modestly increases spending on prisons and courts and health and human services, increases contributions to the California State Teachers’ Retirement System, and allocates money for drought-related expenditures. The plan includes \$11 billion to pay down the state’s debt, including repayment of previously deferred payments to K–12 schools and paying off economic recovery bonds that were passed in 2004 to balance the budget. The plan puts \$1.6 billion into the state’s rainy day fund and includes no new taxes. In general, do you favor or oppose the governor’s budget plan?

- 74% favor
- 18 oppose
- 2 haven’t heard anything about the budget (*volunteered*)
- 5 don’t know

22. The governor and the legislature are placing a measure on the November 2014 ballot that would change the state’s rainy day fund. The plan includes setting aside 1.5 percent of general fund revenues every year and any capital gains revenues that exceed 8 percent of general fund revenues. For the first 15 years, half the money would be used to pay off debt. The plan also sets limits on how funds can be withdrawn during a recession and creates a reserve for K–12 schools. In general, do you favor or oppose this plan?

- 76% favor
- 16 oppose
- 8 don’t know

23. 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?

- 59% big problem
- 26 somewhat of a problem
- 15 not much of a problem
- 1 don’t know

24. How closely are you following news about the drought emergencies that Governor Brown has recently declared—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 25% very closely
- 41 fairly closely
- 22 not too closely
- 12 not at all closely
- 1 don’t know

[rotate questions 24a and 24b]

24a. Are you and your family using less water on indoor activities like showers, baths, and washing dishes, or not? (**if yes:** Have you been using a lot less or a little less water?)

- 79% total yes
- 40 a lot less
- 39 a little less
- 19 no
- 2 don’t know

24b. Are you and your family using less water on lawn care and landscaping, or not, or do you not have outdoor space at your home? (**if yes:** Have you been using a lot less or a little less water?)

- 66% total yes
- 38 a lot less
- 28 a little less
- 11 no
- 21 do not have outdoor space at home
- 2 have outdoor space, but not responsible for taking care of it (*volunteered*)
- 1 don’t know

Changing topics,

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

- 5% just about always
- 25 most of the time
- 59 only some of the time
- 8 none of the time (*volunteered*)
- 2 don't know

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

- 60% a few big interests
- 32 benefit of all of the people
- 7 don't know

27. Do you think the people in state government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?

- 48% a lot
- 41 some
- 6 don't waste very much
- 5 don't know

28. 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?

- 51% approve
- 45 disapprove
- 4 don't know

29. 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

30. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?

- 48% approve
- 36 disapprove
- 16 don't know

31. Next, how much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington today to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

- 5% just about always
- 21 most of the time
- 64 only some of the time
- 8 none of the time (*volunteered*)
- 1 don't know

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

- 70% a few big interests
- 23 benefit of all of the people
- 7 don't know

33. Do you think the people in the federal government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?

- 58% a lot
- 33 some
- 6 don't waste very much
- 3 don't know

Next,

34. 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?

- 48% generally favorable
- 43 generally unfavorable
- 9 don't know

35. As you may know, as part of the 2010 health care law the government has set up health insurance exchanges around the country that people can use to compare plans and purchase health insurance. Just your impression, how well has California's health insurance exchange called "Covered California" been working—very well, fairly well, not too well, or not at all well?

- 14% very well
- 40 fairly well
- 23 not too well
- 12 not at all well
- 11 don't know

36. Next, do you think that global warming will pose a serious threat to you or your way of life in your lifetime?

- 61% yes
- 35 no
- 3 don't know

[rotate questions 37 and 38]

37. Do you favor or oppose increased use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations?

- 30% favor
- 54 oppose
- 15 don't know

38. 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?

- 46% favor
- 38 oppose
- 16 don't know

Please tell me if you think each of the following phrases better describes **[rotate]** (1) the Republican Party and its leaders **[or]** (2) the Democratic Party and its leaders.

[rotate questions 39 to 41a]

39. Governs in a more honest and ethical way.

- 23% Republican Party
- 47 Democratic Party
- 6 both (*volunteered*)
- 15 neither (*volunteered*)
- 9 don't know

40. Is more concerned with the needs of people like me.

- 27% Republican Party
- 52 Democratic Party
- 3 both (*volunteered*)
- 9 neither (*volunteered*)
- 8 don't know

41. Is more extreme in its positions.

- 51% Republican Party
- 29 Democratic Party
- 7 both (*volunteered*)
- 3 neither (*volunteered*)
- 9 don't know

41a. Is more influenced by lobbyists and special interests.

- 42% Republican Party
- 28 Democratic Party
- 17 both (*volunteered*)
- 2 neither (*volunteered*)
- 11 don't know

Changing topics,

42. How big a problem is poverty in our society today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

- 68% big problem
- 25 somewhat of a problem
- 7 not much of a problem
- don't know

43. How much do you think government policies and programs can do to reduce poverty in this country—a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

- 46% a lot
- 31 some
- 14 not much
- 7 nothing at all
- 2 don't know

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

- 12% very liberal
- 21 somewhat liberal
- 32 middle-of-the-road
- 21 somewhat conservative
- 11 very conservative
- 3 don't know

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

- 17% great deal
- 37 fair amount
- 36 only a little
- 10 none
- 1 don't know

46. Next, do you smoke cigarettes?

- 15% yes
- 85 no

[d1 to d5: demographic questions]

D6. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time?

D6a. Which of the following is your main source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your employer, a plan through your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself either from an insurance company or the state or federal marketplace, are you covered by Medicare or Medi-CAL, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

- 83% yes, covered by health insurance
 - 29 through employer
 - 14 Medicare
 - 13 Medi-Cal
 - 10 through spouse's employer
 - 9 self-purchased plan *[ask d6b]*
 - 4 through parents/mother/father *(volunteered)*
 - 3 somewhere else *(specify)*
 - 1 other government plan *(volunteered)*
- 15 not insured
- 2 don't know/refused

D6b. *[of those who purchased a plan themselves]* Did

you purchase your plan directly from an insurance company, from the marketplace known as healthcare.gov or Covered California, or through an insurance agent or broker? *(if agent or broker: Do you know if the plan you purchased through a broker was a plan from the state or federal health insurance marketplace known as healthcare.gov or Covered California, or was it a plan purchased directly from an insurance company and not through an exchange or marketplace?)*

- 43% from an insurance company, either directly or through a broker
- 53 from healthcare.gov/Covered California, either directly or through a broker
- 4 don't know/refused

Summary of D6, D6a, D6b

- 83% yes, covered by health insurance
 - 29 through employer
 - 14 Medicare
 - 13 Medi-Cal
 - 10 through spouse's employer
 - 9 self-purchased plan
 - 4 from an insurance company, either directly or through a broker
 - 5 from healthcare.gov/Covered California, either directly or through a broker
 - 4 through parents/mother/father *(volunteered)*
 - 3 somewhere else *(specify)*
 - 1 other government plan *(volunteered)*
- 15 not insured
- 2 don't know/refused

[d7 to d18: demographic questions]

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INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

The Public Policy Institute of California is dedicated to informing and improving public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research on major economic, social, and political issues. The institute's goal is to raise public awareness and to give elected representatives and other decision makers a more informed basis for developing policies and programs.

The institute's research focuses on the underlying forces shaping California's future, cutting across a wide range of public policy concerns, including economic development, education, environment and resources, governance, population, public finance, and social and health policy.

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Mark Baldassare is President and CEO of PPIC.
Donna Lucas is Chair of the Board of Directors.

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San Francisco, CA

PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA
500 Washington Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, California 94111
phone: 415.291.4400
fax: 415.291.4401

PPIC SACRAMENTO CENTER
Senator Office Building
1121 L Street, Suite 801
Sacramento, California 95814
phone: 916.440.1120
fax: 916.440.1121

www.ppic.org
survey@ppic.org