



# Californians & Their Government

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## CONTENTS

Press Release	3
November 2016 Election	6
State and National Issues	14
Regional Map	20
Methodology	21
Questionnaire and Results	23

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**PPIC**

PUBLIC POLICY  
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

The PPIC Statewide Survey provides a voice for the public and likely voters—informing policymakers, encouraging discussion, and raising awareness on critical issues of the day.

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## News Release

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### PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

## Clinton Has Big Lead Amid Strong Interest in Debates

HARRIS AHEAD IN SENATE RACE—MAJORITIES FAVOR MARIJUANA MEASURE, TAXES ON CIGARETTES AND HIGH EARNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO, September 21, 2016—California's likely voters favor Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump by a wide margin, and most say they are very interested in the upcoming presidential debates. When likely voters are asked what they would like to hear the candidates talk about, they are more likely to name jobs and the economy than any other issue.

These are among the top findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), with funding from The James Irvine Foundation.

Clinton leads Trump by 16 points (47% to 31%) among California likely voters. Her lead was 16 points in July (46% Clinton, 30% Trump), when the survey did not include the names of the candidates' running mates, Democrat Tim Kaine and Republican Mike Pence. The Libertarian ticket, Gary Johnson and Bill Weld, has 10 percent support among likely voters, and the Green Party's Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka have 5 percent. Clinton leads Trump in all age, education, and income groups. Among other results:

- Clinton and Trump have strong majority support in their own parties: 83 percent of Democrats favor Clinton and 73 percent of Republicans favor Trump. Clinton leads slightly among independents (40% to 32%).
- Men support Clinton over Trump (41% to 30%), and women favor her by an even larger margin (52% to 32%).
- Across racial/ethnic groups, whites are divided (39% Clinton, 37% Trump). Clinton leads Trump by large margins among Latinos (62% to 19%) and other racial/ethnic groups (59% to 19%). Sample sizes of Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis.

An overwhelming majority of likely voters (90%) say they are interested in the presidential debates, and 62 percent say they are very interested. Jobs and the economy ranks as the top issue (30%) likely voters would like the candidates to talk about. Immigration and illegal immigration is a distant second (16%). Democrats (31%), Republicans (30%), and independents (28%) all name jobs and the economy as their top issue. Two other issues were mentioned by 5 percent or more of likely voters: foreign policy (8%) and terrorism and national security (7%).

"Most likely voters have made up their minds in the presidential race, but they are still very interested in the upcoming debates," said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. "Californians across the partisan divide most want to hear from the presidential candidates about jobs and the economy."

Echoing their strong interest in the debates, 61 percent of likely voters say they are following news about the candidates very closely—a higher percentage than in previous presidential races (48% September 2000, 51% September 2004, 52% September 2008, 53% September 2012).

While likely voters' interest in the election is high, their satisfaction with the choice of candidates is low. Only 42 percent are satisfied (64% September 2008, 66% September 2012). A slim majority of Democrats (52%) are satisfied, compared to fewer Republicans (42%) and even fewer independents (28%).

## Majorities across Parties Favor a Path for Undocumented to Stay

Picking up a major theme in the presidential race, the survey asks questions about immigration policy. A strong majority of likely voters (80%) say that there should be a way for undocumented immigrants to stay in the country legally if certain requirements are met, and just 18 percent say they should not be allowed to stay legally. Majorities across parties say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay (93% Democrats, 78% independents, 61% Republicans). Among likely voters supporting Trump, 52 percent say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay and 45 percent say they should not. Among Clinton supporters, 95 percent say these immigrants should be allowed to stay.

The survey also asks if a wall should be built along the entire border with Mexico, as Trump has proposed. Among likely voters, 34 percent favor the idea and 64 percent are opposed. Most Republicans (66%) are in favor, and most Democrats (90%) and independents (62%) are not. Trump supporters overwhelmingly favor building a wall (82%) and Clinton supporters overwhelmingly oppose it (92%).

## Harris Leads Sanchez, But 24 Percent Say They Won't Vote for Either

In the US Senate race, Kamala Harris leads Loretta Sanchez by 7 points (32% to 25%) among likely voters, with 19 percent undecided. Harris was ahead by 18 points (38% to 20%) in July, but the race was closer in May, when Harris led by 8 points (34% to 26%). Today, 24 percent volunteer that they would not vote for either candidate. When this group is excluded, Harris leads by 10 points (43% to 33%).

Half of Democrats (50%) support Harris, while independents are more divided (30% Harris, 25% Sanchez) and 42 percent of Republicans volunteer that they would not vote in this race. Sanchez leads Harris among Latinos (58% to 16%), while Harris is ahead among whites (33% to 17%) and other racial/ethnic groups (46% to 19%).

About half of likely voters (48%) are satisfied with their choice of candidates in this election. Democrats (75%) are overwhelmingly satisfied, while far fewer independents (39%) express this view. Just 26 percent of Republicans are satisfied with their candidate choice.

"This is an unusual statewide race between two candidates of the same party," Baldassare said.

"Kamala Harris continues to lead, with about one in three supporting her US Senate candidacy. At the same time, many Republicans and independents say they're still undecided or won't vote."

## Just under Half Support School Bond Initiative

The survey asks about four initiatives on the November ballot— all require simple majorities to pass.

- **Proposition 51.** When likely voters are read the ballot title and label, 47 percent would vote yes and 43 percent would vote no on this measure, which would authorize the state to issue \$9 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of K–12 schools and community college facilities. Support among public school parents (52%) and those with no children in the household (46%) is similar. When asked about the importance of the outcome of the vote on Proposition 51, 42 percent say it is very important. Those who would vote yes are more likely than those would vote no to say the outcome is very important (49% to 34%).

- **Proposition 55.** A majority of likely voters (54%) say they would vote yes on this measure, which would extend by 12 years the temporary tax increase on earnings over \$250,000 (38% no). Revenue would be allocated to public schools, community colleges, and, in certain years, health care. This tax was enacted as part of Proposition 30 in 2012 and is set to expire in 2018. Asked to assess the importance of the outcome on this measure, 41 percent say it is very important to them—those who would vote yes and those who would vote no are similarly likely to hold this view.
- **Proposition 56.** A majority of likely voters (59%) support this measure to increase the cigarette tax by \$2 per pack to fund health care, prevention of tobacco use, and law enforcement (36% no). There is majority support among Democratic and independent voters, while Republicans are more divided. Women (63%) are somewhat more likely than men (55%) to favor Proposition 56. Latinos (76%) and members of other racial/ethnic groups (68%) are more likely than whites (52%) to support it. How important is the outcome on this measure? Very important, according to 43 percent of likely voters. Those who would vote yes are more likely than those who would vote no to say so (50% to 35%).
- **Proposition 64.** A majority of likely voters (60%) would vote yes on this measure to legalize marijuana use under state law by adults 21 and older and tax sales and cultivation (36% no). Most Democratic (65%) and independent (64%) likely voters support the proposition. Republicans are divided (46% yes, 52% no). Just over half of Latinos would vote yes, while support among whites and other racial/ethnic groups is slightly higher. Support is higher among those 18 to 34 years old (74%) than among older voters (59% 35–54, 54% 55 and older). Half of likely voters (50%) say the outcome on Proposition 64 is very important. Those who would vote yes are much less likely to say the outcome is very important than those who would vote no (46% to 59%).

“Californians view the outcome of Proposition 64 as the most important of the four initiatives that we tested,” Baldassare said. “It’s interesting that the opponents of the marijuana legalization initiative are more likely than its proponents to say the outcome is very important to them.”

As Californians prepare to vote on 17 state propositions, most likely voters (61%) say they are satisfied with the way the initiative process is working, although just 12 percent say they are very satisfied. Despite their general satisfaction, most (57%) say there are too many propositions on the state ballot. Most (64%) also say special interests have a lot of control over the initiative process. An even larger majority (79%) say the wording for initiatives is often too complicated and confusing.

## Legislature’s Job Approval Lower Than Brown’s But Better Than in 2014

A majority of likely voters (55%) approve of the way Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor. The legislature fares less well: 42 percent of likely voters approve and 48 percent disapprove of its job performance. But this is a higher rating than the legislature received before the last legislative election (32% approved in September 2014). Asked to rate their own representatives in the state assembly and senate, about half of likely voters (49%) approve, a higher share than two years ago (38% October 2014).

As the end of President Obama’s second term approaches, 54 percent of California likely voters approve of the way he is doing his job. They give Congress an approval rating of 16 percent—identical to the rating in September 2014, before the last congressional election. California likely voters today are much more likely to approve of their own representatives in the US House (47%) than of Congress overall.

## Divided on the State’s Direction

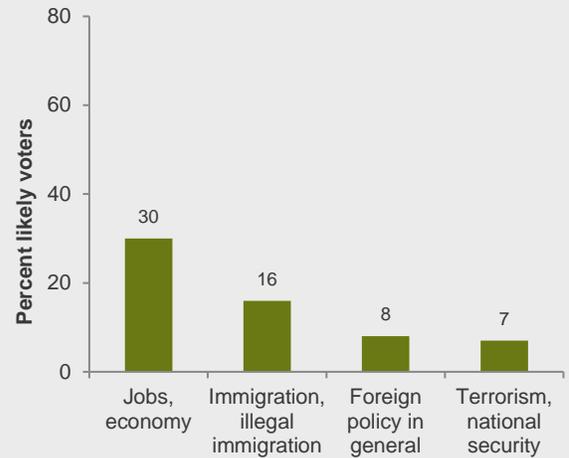
The election comes at a time when fewer than half of likely voters (45%) say things in the state are going in the right direction (52% wrong direction), and a similar share (47%) expect California to have good times financially in the next year (42% bad times). Supporters of Clinton are more likely to say California is headed in the right direction (73%) and to expect good times financially (65%). Most Trump supporters say California is headed in the wrong direction (90%) and expect bad economic times in the year ahead (69%).

# November 2016 Election

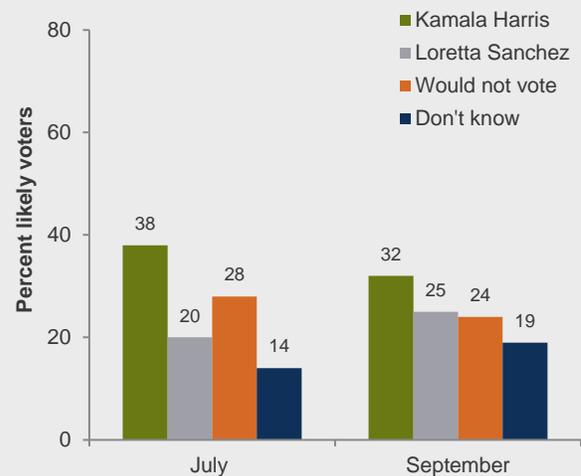
## Key Findings

- Hillary Clinton continues to lead Donald Trump by a wide margin (47% to 31%) in the presidential race. A majority of likely voters are not satisfied with their choice of candidates. Six in ten are very interested in the upcoming presidential debates, and just under half would most like to hear the candidates talk about jobs and the economy or immigration. *(pages 8, 9)*
- Kamala Harris leads Loretta Sanchez in the US Senate race (32% to 25%), with about four in ten likely voters undecided (19%) or saying they will not vote for US senator (24%). *(page 9)*
- Forty-seven percent of likely voters would vote yes on Proposition 51 (school bond to fund construction projects), 43 percent would vote no, and 10 percent are unsure. Forty-two percent of likely voters say the outcome of the vote on Proposition 51 is very important. *(page 10)*
- Fifty-four percent of likely voters would vote yes on Proposition 55 (tax extension on high incomes), 38 percent would vote no, and 8 percent are unsure. Forty-one percent of likely voters say the outcome of the vote on Proposition 55 is very important. *(page 11)*
- Fifty-nine percent of likely voters would vote yes on Proposition 56 (cigarette tax increase), and 36 percent would vote no. Forty-three percent of likely voters say the outcome of the vote on Proposition 56 is very important. *(page 12)*
- Sixty percent of likely voters would vote yes on Proposition 64 (legalizing marijuana), and 36 percent would vote no. Fifty percent of likely voters say the outcome of the vote on Proposition 64 is very important. *(page 13)*

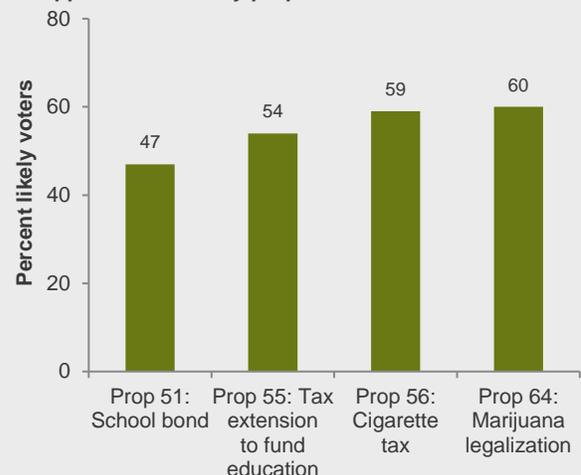
Issue you would most like to hear candidates talk about during presidential debates



US Senate race



Support for some key propositions



## Presidential Election

As the presidential election enters the fall season, California likely voters favor Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump by 16 points (47% to 31%). Clinton’s lead was also 16 points in the July PPIC Survey (46% Clinton, 30% Trump), when we were not including the vice presidential running mates. Today, Clinton has strong support among Democrats (83%), Trump has strong support among Republicans (73%), and Clinton leads slightly among independents (40% to 32%). Clinton’s lead is wider among women (52% to 32%) than among men (41% to 30%). Clinton leads Trump by larger margins among Latinos and other racial/ethnic groups (sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis), while the race is close among whites. Clinton is ahead of Trump in all age, education, and income groups. She leads by wide margins in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area, while the race is close in Orange/San Diego, the Inland Empire, and the Central Valley.

**“If the November 8 presidential election were being held today, would you vote for: the Democratic ticket of Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine, the Republican ticket of Donald Trump and Mike Pence, the Libertarian ticket of Gary Johnson and Bill Weld, or the Green Party ticket of Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka?”**

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Clinton-Kaine	Trump-Pence	Johnson-Weld	Stein-Baraka	Someone else (volunteered)	Would not vote for president (volunteered)	Don't know
All likely voters		47%	31%	10%	5%	2%	2%	4%
<i>Party</i>	Democrats	83	3	3	5	1	1	5
	Republicans	10	73	7	1	3	2	4
	Independents	40	32	16	6	–	3	3
<i>Gender</i>	Men	41	30	13	7	1	2	5
	Women	52	32	6	2	2	2	4
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	Latinos	62	19	5	8	1	1	4
	Whites	39	37	10	4	2	2	5
	Other groups	59	19	13	3	–	3	2

About four in ten likely voters (42%) are satisfied with their choices of presidential candidates—similar to the last time we asked this question in May, shortly before the California primary (42%). However, satisfaction levels today are far lower than they were four or eight years ago (66% September 2012, 64% September 2008). Today, half of Democrats (52%), fewer Republicans (42%), and even fewer independents (28%) are satisfied. Satisfaction is lower among those who describe themselves as political moderates (29%) than among liberals (42%) or conservatives (50%). Satisfaction is below 50 percent among whites (40%), Latinos (45%), and other racial/ethnic groups (48%). Satisfaction declines as education levels rise (37% college graduates) and increases with age.

**“In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for US president in 2016?”**

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Age		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and older
Satisfied	42%	52%	42%	28%	28%	35%	54%
Not satisfied	56	46	57	69	72	61	45
Both (volunteered)	1	2	1	2	–	3	1
Don't know	–	1	–	1	–	–	1

## Presidential Election *(continued)*

The first of three highly anticipated debates between Clinton and Trump will be held on September 26. When asked about the one issue they would most like to hear the candidates talk about in the presidential debates, likely voters are about twice as likely to mention jobs and the economy (30%) as immigration and illegal immigration (16%). Two other issues were mentioned by more than 5 percent: foreign policy (8%) and terrorism and national security (7%).

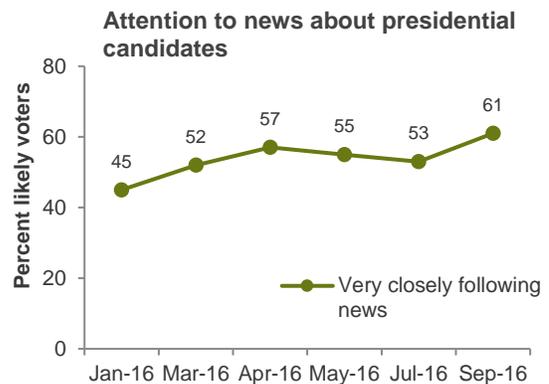
Similar shares of Democrats (31%), Republicans (30%), and independents (28%) say that they want to hear the presidential candidates talk about jobs and the economy. Trump supporters (34%) and Clinton supporters (31%) are about equally likely to mention jobs and the economy, while more Trump supporters (24%) want to hear about immigration and illegal immigration (15% Clinton supporters).

Nine in ten California likely voters say they are interested in the upcoming presidential debates, and about six in ten say they are very interested. Majorities of Republicans (66%), Democrats (58%), and independents (64%) say they are very interested in the upcoming presidential debates. However, Trump supporters (71%) are more likely than Clinton supporters (60%) to say they are very interested. The proportion who say they are very interested in the upcoming presidential debates rises slightly with age (64% for 55 and older), while it is similarly high among renters and homeowners and across education and income levels. About six in ten whites (64%), Latinos (57%), and other racial/ethnic groups (61%) say they are very interested in the upcoming presidential debates.

**“How interested, if at all, are you in the upcoming presidential debates: very interested, somewhat interested, not so interested, or not at all interested?”**

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Age		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and older
Very interested	62%	58%	66%	64%	57%	61%	64%
Somewhat interested	28	32	28	22	33	29	25
Not so interested	6	8	2	8	8	6	5
Not at all interested	4	2	5	6	2	4	5

About six in ten likely voters say they are very closely following the news about presidential candidates. While the current findings reflect an increase from our polling before the California primary in June and the national party conventions this summer, most likely voters have been very closely following the news about presidential candidates since March. Majorities across parties say they are following the news about the presidential candidates very closely (66% Republicans, 57% Democrats, 57% independents), as are Trump supporters (69%) and Clinton supporters (58%). The proportion who are very closely following the news about the presidential candidates is higher among older adults (66% 55 and older), college graduates (64%), homeowners (64%), and higher-income adults (67% for \$80,000 or more). It is higher among whites (64%) than among Latinos (56%) and other racial/ethnic groups (54%). The 2016 presidential election is attracting a higher level of interest compared to previous election cycles (48% September 2000, 51% September 2004, 52% September 2008, 53% September 2012, 61% today).



## US Senate Election

In the two-person, one-party California US Senate election, likely voters prefer Kamala Harris over Loretta Sanchez by 7 points (32% to 25%), compared to an 18 point margin in the July PPIC Statewide Survey (38% to 20%). In May, the race was closer, with Harris leading Sanchez by 8 points (34% to 26%). Today, excluding the 24 percent who volunteer they would not vote for either Democratic candidate, Harris leads Sanchez by 10 points (43% to 33%). Harris has strong support among Democrats (50%), while independents are more divided, and 42 percent of Republicans volunteer they will not vote in the US Senate race. Sanchez leads Harris among Latinos, while Harris leads Sanchez among whites and other racial/ethnic groups. Harris’s support increases with age, education, and income and is similar among men and women. Clinton supporters favor Harris over Sanchez (51% to 28%), while nearly half of Trump supporters (47%) say they will not cast a vote for US senator.

### “If the November 8 US Senate election were being held today, would you vote for Kamala Harris, a Democrat, or Loretta Sanchez, a Democrat?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Kamala Harris	Loretta Sanchez	Would not vote for US senator (volunteered)	Don't know
All likely voters		32%	25%	24%	19%
<i>Party</i>	Democrats	50	30	4	16
	Republicans	16	22	42	20
	Independents	30	25	27	18
<i>Income</i>	Less than \$40,000	28	38	10	24
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	32	28	22	17
	\$80,000 or more	36	17	29	17
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	Latinos	16	58	11	15
	Whites	33	17	29	21
	Other groups	46	19	22	13

About half of likely voters (48%) are satisfied with their choices of candidates in the US Senate election—a 9 point decline since we last asked this question in May, shortly before the California primary (57%). Democrats (75%) are overwhelmingly satisfied, while just under four in ten independents (39%) and about one in four Republicans (26%) are satisfied with their candidate choices. Satisfaction with candidate choices is much higher among Clinton supporters (72%) than Trump supporters (24%). Latinos (66%) and other racial/ethnic groups (58%) are more likely to express satisfaction than whites (42%). Satisfaction is higher in Los Angeles (56%) than in other regions and lowest in the Central Valley (39%).

### “In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for US Senate in 2016?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Satisfied	48%	75%	26%	39%	66%	42%	58%
Not satisfied	35	14	57	36	22	40	24
Both (volunteered)	1	1	–	1	1	1	–
Don't know	16	10	17	24	10	17	18

## Proposition 51

Proposition 51 is a citizens’ initiative that would authorize the state to issue \$9 billion in bonds to fund construction and modernization of K–12 schools and community college facilities. It is estimated that it would cost \$17.6 billion to pay off the principal and interest on the bonds. This measure requires a simple majority to pass. When read the Proposition 51 ballot title and label, 47 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes, 43 percent would vote no, and 10 percent are undecided. Support for Proposition 51 is similar among public school parents (52%) and those with no children in the household (46%). A solid majority of Democratic likely voters (62%) would vote yes, while a similar share of Republicans (64%) would vote no. Independent likely voters are more likely to say they would vote yes (50%) than no (42%). Latino likely voters (63%) are much more likely than whites (41%) to support Proposition 51. Support declines as age increases and is far higher among renters than homeowners (64% to 39%).

**“Proposition 51 is called the ‘School Bonds. Funding for K–12 School and Community College Facilities. Initiative Statute.’ If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 51?”\***

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don't know
All likely voters		47%	43%	10%
Public school parents		52	34	13
<i>Party</i>	Democrats	62	26	12
	Republicans	29	64	6
	Independents	50	42	8
<i>Region</i>	Central Valley	38	53	9
	San Francisco Bay Area	54	34	12
	Los Angeles	51	40	9
	Orange/San Diego	47	44	10
	Inland Empire	41	49	10
<i>Income</i>	Under \$40,000	57	36	7
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	45	44	11
	\$80,000 or more	48	42	11

*\*For complete text of proposition question, see p. 25.*

Forty-two percent of likely voters say the outcome of Proposition 51 is very important to them. Across parties, this perception is lowest among independents. Those who would vote yes on Proposition 51 are more likely than those who would vote no to say the outcome is very important to them.

**“How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 51?”**

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Vote on Proposition 51	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	42%	45%	40%	34%	49%	34%
Somewhat important	40	38	41	43	39	42
Not too important	11	10	11	13	9	16
Not at all important	4	3	6	6	2	7
Don't know	3	4	2	5	1	1

The response to our tracking question among likely voters indicates that support for Proposition 51 (47%) is lower than the level of general support for a state school bond (61%).

## Proposition 55

Proposition 55 is a citizens’ initiative that would extend by 12 years the temporary tax increase on earnings over \$250,000 that was enacted in 2012 as part of Proposition 30 and is set to expire in 2018. Revenue from the tax increase would be allocated to K–12 schools, community colleges, and—in certain years—health care. It requires a simple majority to pass. When read the Proposition 55 ballot title and label, 54 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes, 38 percent would vote no, and 8 percent are undecided. Proposition 55 has overwhelming support among Democratic likely voters, while half of independents would vote yes and a solid majority of Republicans would vote no. About six in ten public school parents say they would vote yes. Latinos (68%) and members of other racial/ethnic groups (66%) are much more likely than whites (48%) to support Proposition 55. Support is higher among younger likely voters and those making less than \$40,000 than among older and more affluent likely voters.

**“Proposition 55 is called the ‘Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.’ If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 55?”\***

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don't know
All likely voters		54%	38%	8%
Public school parents		58	34	7
<i>Party</i>	Democrats	78	15	7
	Republicans	33	61	6
	Independents	51	42	7
<i>Region</i>	Central Valley	46	45	9
	San Francisco Bay Area	63	28	9
	Los Angeles	61	33	6
	Orange/San Diego	47	43	10
	Inland Empire	42	54	4
<i>Income</i>	Under \$40,000	68	25	7
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	56	36	8
	\$80,000 or more	50	41	8

\*For complete text of proposition question, see p. 25.

Forty-one percent of likely voters say the outcome of Proposition 55 is very important to them. Similar shares of those who would vote yes and no hold this opinion. Across parties, Democrats are the most likely to say the outcome is very important.

**“How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 55?”**

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Vote on Proposition 55	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	41%	47%	37%	33%	45%	40%
Somewhat important	43	41	45	50	48	39
Not too important	10	7	12	12	6	14
Not at all important	3	2	5	4	1	7
Don't know	3	4	1	2	–	–

Responses to our tracking question among likely voters indicate that support for Proposition 55 (54%) is similar to the level of general support for raising state income taxes on high incomes (59%).

## Proposition 56

Proposition 56 would increase the cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack to fund health care, tobacco use prevention, and law enforcement. Previous cigarette tax measures fell short of the simple majority needed to pass in November 2006 (Proposition 86: 48.3% yes) and June 2012 (Proposition 29: 49.8% yes). When read the Proposition 56 ballot title and label, 59 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes, 36 percent would vote no, and 5 percent are undecided. There is majority support among Democratic and independent likely voters, while Republicans are more divided. There is majority support across regions, except in the Inland Empire. More than 55 percent of likely voters across age, education, and income groups would vote yes. Women (63%) are somewhat more likely to be in favor than men (55%), and Latinos (76%) and members of other racial/ethnic groups (68%) are more likely than whites (52%) to support Proposition 56.

**“Proposition 56 is called the ‘Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research, and Law Enforcement. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.’ If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 56?\*\*\***

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don't know
All likely voters		59%	36%	5%
<i>Party</i>	Democrats	76	18	5
	Republicans	44	53	3
	Independents	58	37	5
<i>Region</i>	Central Valley	55	41	4
	San Francisco Bay Area	62	31	7
	Los Angeles	65	31	4
	Orange/San Diego	57	37	6
	Inland Empire	47	51	1
<i>Income</i>	Under \$40,000	58	37	5
	\$40,000 to \$80,000	60	37	4
	\$80,000 or more	61	33	6

*\*For complete text of proposition question, see p. 25.*

Forty-three percent of likely voters call the outcome of Proposition 56 very important. Across parties, Democrats are most likely to hold this view. Those who would vote yes are more likely than those who would vote no on Proposition 56 to call the outcome very important to them (50% to 35%).

**“How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 56?”**

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Vote on Proposition 56	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	43%	50%	41%	34%	50%	35%
Somewhat important	37	32	36	43	38	34
Not too important	14	12	15	19	11	20
Not at all important	5	4	7	4	2	11
Don't know	2	2	2	1	–	–

Responses to our tracking question among likely voters indicate that support for Proposition 56 (59%) is similar to the level of general support for increasing the state taxes on the purchase of cigarettes (64%).

## Proposition 64

Proposition 64 would legalize marijuana under state law for use by adults age 21 or older and impose state taxes on sales and cultivation. A measure that would legalize marijuana failed six years ago (Proposition 19: 46.5% yes). When read the Proposition 64 ballot title and label, 60 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes, 36 percent would vote no, and 4 percent are undecided. Majorities of Democratic and independent likely voters support Proposition 64, while Republicans are more divided (46% yes, 52% no). Support is above half in all regions. While just over half of Latinos would vote yes, support among whites and other racial/ethnic groups is slightly higher. Support is highest among younger likely voters (74% age 18 to 34), but majorities of older likely voters also favor it (59% age 35 to 54, 54% 55 and older). Support is much higher among those who say they have tried marijuana than among those who have never tried it (70% to 48%).

**“Proposition 64 is called the ‘Marijuana Legalization. Initiative Statute.’ If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 64?”\***

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don't know
All likely voters		60%	36%	4%
<i>Party</i>	Democrats	65	29	6
	Republicans	46	52	2
	Independents	64	32	4
<i>Region</i>	Central Valley	55	42	3
	San Francisco Bay Area	65	31	3
	Los Angeles	57	37	6
	Orange/San Diego	60	38	2
	Inland Empire	55	37	7
<i>Race/Ethnicity</i>	Latinos	54	38	8
	Whites	62	35	3
	Other groups	61	35	4

\*For complete text of proposition question, see p. 26.

Fifty percent of likely voters say the outcome of Proposition 64 is very important to them—this share is somewhat higher than the shares expressing the same view about Proposition 51 (42%), Proposition 55 (41%), and Proposition 56 (43%). Across parties, independents are most likely to hold this view. Those who would vote yes are much less likely than those who would vote no on Proposition 56 to call the outcome very important to them (46% to 59%).

**“How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 64?”**

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Vote on Proposition 64	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	50%	52%	46%	55%	46%	59%
Somewhat important	32	28	40	28	40	20
Not too important	12	15	9	13	12	13
Not at all important	4	4	4	4	1	7
Don't know	1	2	1	1	–	–

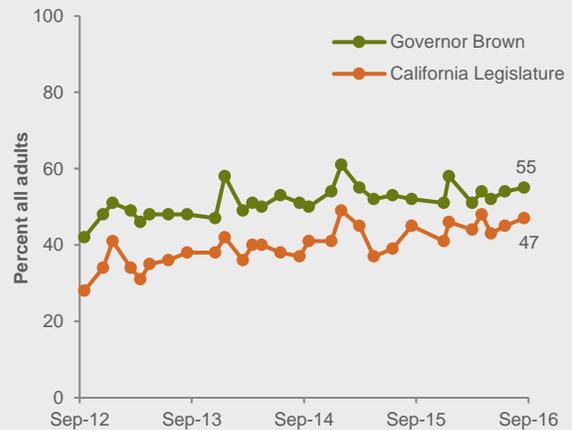
Responses to our tracking question among likely voters indicate that support for Proposition 64 (60%) is nearly identical to the level of general support for legalizing the use of marijuana (61%).

# State and National Issues

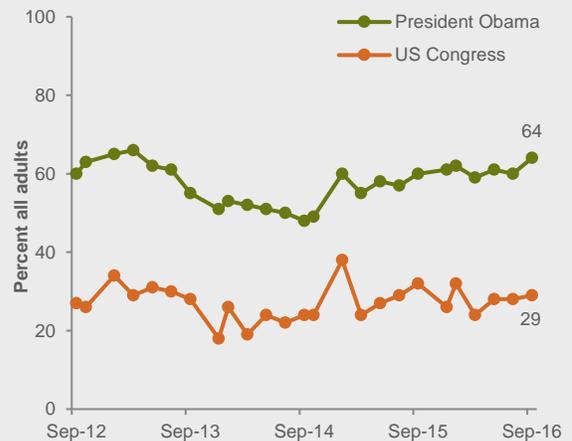
## Key Findings

- Californians are somewhat more likely to approve of Governor Jerry Brown (55%) than of the state legislature overall (47%). Fifty-two percent of Californians approve of the state legislators representing their assembly and senate districts. *(page 15)*
- A solid majority of Californians (64%) approve of President Barack Obama, but only 29 percent approve of the US Congress. About half of Californians (51%) approve of their representative to the US House. *(page 16)*
- Half of Californians and 45 percent of likely voters think things in the state are going in the right direction. Forty-eight percent of adults think that the state will have good times financially during the next 12 months. *(page 17)*
- Californians (64%) continue to be satisfied with the way the state’s initiative process is working, although only 13 percent are very satisfied. Majorities across party lines say special interests have a lot of control over the initiative process (69% Republicans, 61% independents, 54% Democrats). A solid majority (59%) agrees that there are too many propositions, while even more (74%) agree that the state ballot wording is often too complicated and confusing. *(page 18)*
- Solid majorities across party lines think that undocumented immigrants living in the United States should be allowed to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met (91% Democrats, 82% independents, 59% Republicans). Only one in four Californians favor building a wall along the entire border with Mexico; Republicans and Democrats are divided on this issue. *(page 19)*

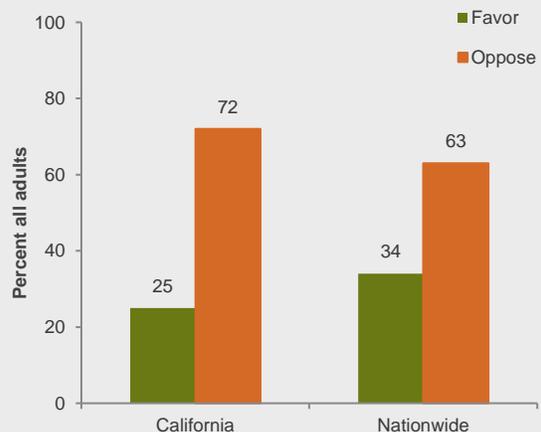
Approval ratings of state elected officials



Approval ratings of federal elected officials



Support for building a wall along the entire border with Mexico



\*September 2016, ABC News/Washington Post poll

## Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

Today, 55 percent of adults and likely voters approve of the way Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California. Approval of the governor was similar in July (54% adults, 53% likely voters) and a year ago (52% adults, 55% likely voters). In our current survey, three in four Democrats approve of Governor Brown, compared to 31 percent of Republicans and 47 percent of independents. Across regions, approval is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (63%) than elsewhere (57% Los Angeles, 52% Inland Empire, 51% Central Valley, 48% Orange/San Diego). Solid majorities of Latinos (64%), Asian Americans (61%), and African Americans (60%) approve, while fewer than half of whites (46%) do so.

In November, all seats in the California State Assembly and half of the seats in the California State Senate will be up for election. Today, 47 percent of Californians and 42 percent of likely voters approve of how the state legislature is handling its job. Approval of the legislature was similar in July (45% adults, 42% likely voters) and a year ago (45% adults, 39% likely voters), but it is higher now than it was in September 2014 (37% adults, 32% likely voters), prior to the last statewide general election. A solid majority of Democrats (64%) approve of the legislature today, compared to fewer than half of independents (38%) and only 20 percent of Republicans. Across regions, Central Valley residents (41%) are the least likely to approve of the legislature (52% San Francisco Bay Area, 50% Los Angeles, 49% Inland Empire, 47% Orange/San Diego).

### “Overall, do you approve or disapprove of ...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California	Approve	55%	75%	31%	47%	55%
	Disapprove	28	14	58	31	38
	Don't know	18	11	11	22	7
the way that the California Legislature is handling its job	Approve	47	64	20	38	42
	Disapprove	37	24	71	44	48
	Don't know	16	13	9	18	9

How do Californians feel about their own state assemblymember and state senator? Fifty-two percent of adults and 49 percent of likely voters approve of the job that their own state legislators are doing. Approval was similar in January (49% adults, 45% likely voters), but it is higher today than it was in October 2014 (43% adults, 38% likely voters), prior to the last statewide general election. Following the partisan trends for overall approval ratings of the state legislature, Democrats (64%) are much more likely than independents (41%) and Republicans (36%) to approve of their own state legislators. Residents of Los Angeles (56%), the San Francisco Bay Area (55%), and Orange/San Diego (54%) are slightly more likely than others (48% Central Valley, 47% Inland Empire) to express approval.

### “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	52%	64%	36%	41%	49%
Disapprove	32	24	55	40	40
Don't know	15	12	9	19	11

## Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

With President Obama approaching the end of his eight years in office, how do Californians feel about his job performance? Sixty-four percent of adults and 54 percent of likely voters approve of the president, similar to July (60% adults, 56% likely voters) and a year ago (60% adults, 53% likely voters). Eighty-nine percent of Democrats approve of the president, as do a majority of independents (60%). But only 17 percent of Republicans approve. Across racial/ethnic groups, an overwhelming majority of African Americans (89%) approve, along with about three in four Latinos (75%) and Asian Americans (74%), and half of whites (50%). Majorities across age, education, and income groups approve, with Californians age 18 to 34 (71%), those with no college (74%), and those with annual incomes below \$40,000 (71%) most likely to approve. Among likely voters supporting Hillary Clinton, 94 percent approve of Barack Obama, while 95 percent of Donald Trump’s supporters disapprove. Nationally, 58 percent of adults approve of the president, according to a September ABC News/Washington Post poll.

In November, all 53 of California’s seats in the US House of Representatives and one of California’s seats in the US Senate will be up for election. Today, 29 percent of Californians and 16 percent of likely voters approve of the way the US Congress is handling its job. Approval of Congress was similar in July (28% adults, 17% likely voters) and prior to the last Congressional elections (24% adults, 16% likely voters in September 2014). Across parties and regions, one in three or fewer approve of Congress. Approval is below half across racial/ethnic, age, education, and income groups, with whites (15%), older Californians (21% age 55 or older), and high-income Californians (17% \$80,000 or more) less likely than others to approve. According to a September Gallup poll, 20 percent of adults nationwide approve.

### “Overall, do you approve or disapprove of ...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States	Approve	64%	89%	17%	60%	54%
	Disapprove	33	10	80	38	45
	Don't know	3	1	3	2	1
the way the US Congress is handling its job	Approve	29	25	12	21	16
	Disapprove	65	71	83	75	81
	Don't know	6	4	5	4	3

Californians (51% adults, 47% likely voters) are much more likely to approve of their representative in the US House than of the Congress overall (29% adults, 16% likely voters). Approval was similar in January (54% adults, 51% likely voters) and prior to the last Congressional elections (48% adults, 47% likely voters in October 2014). Today, Democrats (61%) are more likely to approve than independents (45%) or Republicans (34%). Approval is at 54 percent in the San Francisco Bay Area, and about half in other regions (51% Central Valley, 50% Orange/San Diego, 49% Los Angeles, 49% Inland Empire).

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

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	51%	61%	34%	45%	47%
Disapprove	36	28	59	40	44
Don't know	13	12	8	15	9

## Overall Mood

As the November election approaches, Californians are somewhat divided about the direction of the state. Fifty-two percent of all adults and 45 percent of likely voters say that things in California are generally going in the right direction. Optimism about the direction of the state was similar in May (51% adults, 45% likely voters) and in September 2015 (48% adults, 43% likely voters). Today, a strong majority of Democrats (68%) say things in California are generally going in the right direction, while fewer than half of independents (48%) and fewer than one in five Republicans (17%) hold this positive view. Regionally, San Francisco Bay Area (58%) and Los Angeles (57%) residents are somewhat more likely than those in Orange/San Diego (50%), the Central Valley (47%), and the Inland Empire (46%) to say that the state is headed in the right direction. Across racial/ethnic groups, Asian Americans (71%) and Latinos (61%) are more optimistic about the direction of the state than are African Americans (39%) and whites (42%).

Among likely voters who say they will be voting for Hillary Clinton, 73 percent say the state is headed in the right direction. Conversely, among likely voters who say they will be voting for Donald Trump, 90 percent say the state is headed in the wrong direction. In the US Senate election, 64 percent of Kamala Harris supporters say the state is headed in the right direction, while Loretta Sanchez supporters are more divided when asked how things are going in California (46% right direction, 52% wrong 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	52%	68%	17%	48%	45%
Wrong direction	42	27	80	49	52
Don't know	6	5	3	3	3

When asked about the state’s economic condition, fewer than half of adults (48%) and likely voters (47%) say that California will have good times financially in the next 12 months. Expectations for good economic times were similar in May (50% adults, 45% likely voters) and in September 2015 (48% adults, 46% likely voters). Today, a solid majority of Democrats (59%) expect good economic times, but fewer than half of independents (48%) and about one in four Republicans (28%) have this expectation. Regionally, economic optimism ranges from 56 percent in Orange/San Diego to 40 percent in the Inland Empire. Among likely voters, Hillary Clinton supporters are more likely to have a positive economic outlook for the state (65% good times), while most Donald Trump supporters have negative expectations (69% bad times).

### “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	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Good times	48%	59%	28%	48%	47%
Bad times	40	32	62	43	42
Don't know	12	9	10	8	11

## Initiative Process

As Californians prepare to vote on 17 state propositions in November, a majority of adults are satisfied with the way the state’s initiative process is working. More than six in ten adults (64%) and likely voters (61%) are satisfied, although only 13 percent of adults and 12 percent of likely voters say they are very satisfied. In twelve surveys since October 2000, a majority have been satisfied with the initiative process. Notably, while majorities across parties are satisfied with the initiative process, Republicans (36%) are more likely than Democrats (23%) to say they are not satisfied with the process.

Despite general satisfaction with the initiative system, a majority of Californians (54% adults, 64% likely voters) say that special interests have a lot of control over the state’s initiative process. Majorities have expressed this view when asked this question in eight surveys since 2001. Today, majorities across regions—excluding the Inland Empire—hold this view. Republicans (69%) and independents (61%) are more likely than Democrats (54%) to say that special interests have a lot of control. Across racial/ethnic groups, whites (63%) are the most likely to say special interests have a lot of control, followed by African Americans (52%), Latinos (47%), and Asian Americans (46%). The share of adults saying special interests have a lot of control increases as education increases. Among those who are very satisfied with the initiative process, 54 percent say that special interests have a lot of control.

**“Overall, how much would you say that the initiative process in California today is controlled by special interests?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
A lot	54%	54%	69%	61%	64%
Some	32	35	24	29	29
Not at all	7	7	3	3	4
Don't know	7	5	4	7	3

How do Californians feel about the number of propositions on the state ballot? Today, 59 percent of adults and 57 percent of likely voters agree that there are too many propositions on the state ballot. Findings were similar in August 2004 (60% adults, 60% likely voters), when there were 16 propositions on the November ballot. While a majority of Californians feel there are too many propositions, an even larger proportion of adults (74%) and likely voters (79%) agree that the wording for citizens’ initiatives is often too complicated and confusing. Majorities across parties and demographic groups hold this view. Among those who are very satisfied with the initiative process, 58 percent agree that there are too many propositions and 76 percent agree that the wording for citizens’ initiatives is too complicated.

**“For the following items, please say if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.”**

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
There are too many propositions on the state ballot	Agree	59%	56%	61%	57%	57%
	Disagree	33	40	36	40	40
	Don't know	8	4	4	3	4
The ballot wording for citizens’ initiatives is often too complicated and confusing for voters to understand what happens if the initiative passes	Agree	74	79	78	81	79
	Disagree	21	18	21	18	19
	Don't know	5	3	1	1	2

## Immigration Policy

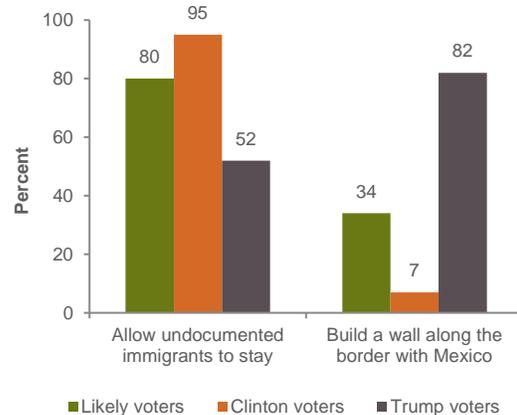
Immigration, particularly the issue of undocumented immigrants living in the United States, has been a major theme of the presidential race. Eighty-three percent of Californians say that there should be a way for undocumented immigrants to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met. Only 15 percent say they should not be allowed to stay legally. Responses were similar in May (83% allowed to stay), before the California primary, and in January (82% allowed to stay), before the presidential nominating contests began. Majorities across parties say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay, with 37 percent of Republicans saying they should not be allowed to stay. Among likely voters supporting Donald Trump, 52 percent say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay and 45 percent say they should not. Ninety-five percent of Hillary Clinton supporters say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay. At least three in four across regions and racial/ethnic, age, education, and income groups say they should be allowed to stay.

**“Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are living in the US? There should be a way for them to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met or they should not be allowed to stay in this country legally?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Allowed to stay legally	83%	91%	59%	82%	80%
Not allowed to stay legally	15	8	37	16	18
Don't know	2	2	3	2	2

Donald Trump has promised to build a wall along the US border with Mexico if he is elected president. Twenty-five percent of Californians and 34 percent of likely voters favor building a wall along the entire border. Responses were similar in May (26% adults, 33% likely voters), before the California primary. Today, a solid majority of Republicans (60%) are in favor, while strong majorities of Democrats (87%) and independents (66%) are opposed. Trump supporters (82%) overwhelmingly favor building a wall, while Clinton supporters (92%) overwhelmingly oppose a wall. Solid majorities across racial/ethnic groups are opposed, with Latinos (88%) and African Americans (79%) most likely to be opposed. At least six in ten are opposed across regions, as are strong majorities across age, education, and income groups. In a September ABC News/Washington Post poll, adults nationwide (34%) are slightly more likely to favor building a wall than are Californians in our survey (25%).

**Support for immigration policy proposals**



**“All in all, would you favor or oppose building a wall along the entire border with Mexico?”**

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	25%	11%	60%	31%	34%
Oppose	72	87	37	66	64
Don't know	3	1	3	3	3

# 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 associate survey director Dean Bonner, project manager for this survey, and survey research associates David Kordus and Lunna Lopes. The Californians and Their Government series is supported with funding from The James Irvine Foundation and the PPIC Donor Circle. 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 851 interviewed on landline telephones and 851 interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took an average of 18 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from September 9–18, 2016.

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 US Census Bureau's 2010–2014 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 2014 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 2015 estimates for the West Census Region in the latest NHIS report. The estimates for California were then compared against landline and cell phone service reported in this survey. We also used voter registration data from the California Secretary of State to compare the party registration of registered voters in our sample to party registration statewide. The landline and cell phone samples were then integrated using a frame integration weight, while sample balancing adjusted for differences across regional, age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, telephone service, and party registration groups.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is  $\pm 3.5$  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 3.5 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,350 registered voters, the sampling error is  $\pm 4.0$  percent; for the 1,055 likely voters, it is  $\pm 4.5$  percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

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

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

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

We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey results to those in our earlier surveys and to those in national surveys by ABC News/Washington Post and Gallup. Additional details about our methodology can be found at [www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf) and are available upon request through [surveys@ppic.org](mailto:surveys@ppic.org).

# Questionnaire and Results

## CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

September 9–18, 2016

1,702 California Adult Residents:

English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR  $\pm 3.5\%$  AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE  
PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

1. **First, overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?**
  - 55% approve
  - 28 disapprove
  - 18 don't know
2. **Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?**
  - 47% approve
  - 37 disapprove
  - 16 don't know
3. **Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time?**
  - 52% approve
  - 32 disapprove
  - 15 don't know
4. **Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?**
  - 52% right direction
  - 42 wrong direction
  - 6 don't know
5. **Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?**
  - 48% good times
  - 40 bad times
  - 12 don't know
6. **Next, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?**
  - 62% yes *[ask Q6a]*
  - 38 no *[skip to Q7b]*
- 6a. **Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?**
  - 43% Democrat *[ask Q7]*
  - 28 Republican *[skip to Q7a]*
  - 5 another party *(specify) [skip to Q8]*
  - 24 independent *[skip to Q7b]*

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

- 60% strong
- 38 not very strong
- 1 don't know

*[skip to Q8]*

**7a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?**

- 60% strong
- 37 not very strong
- 3 don't know

*[skip to Q8]*

**7b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?**

- 23% Republican Party
- 49 Democratic Party
- 19 neither (*volunteered*)
- 9 don't know

**8. *[likely voters only]* If the November 8 presidential election were being held today, would you vote for: *[rotate]* (1) the Democratic ticket of Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine, (2) the Republican ticket of Donald Trump and Mike Pence, (3) the Libertarian ticket of Gary Johnson and Bill Weld, *[or]* (4) the Green Party ticket of Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka?**

- 47% Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine
- 31 Donald Trump and Mike Pence
- 10 Gary Johnson and Bill Weld
- 5 Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka
- 2 someone else (*specify*)
- 2 would not vote for president (*volunteered*)
- 4 don't know

**9. *[likely voters only]* In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for US president in 2016?**

- 42% satisfied
- 56 not satisfied
- 1 both (*volunteered*)
- don't know

**10. *[likely voters only]* How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2016 presidential election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?**

- 61% very closely
- 33 fairly closely
- 5 not too closely
- 1 not at all closely
- don't know

**11. *[likely voters only]* Next, there will be a series of presidential debates leading up to the November 8<sup>th</sup> election. Which one issue would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about during the presidential debates?**

*[code, don't read]*

- 30% jobs, economy
- 16 immigration, illegal immigration
- 8 foreign policy in general
- 7 terrorism, Islamic State, national security
- 4 candidate issues, government in general, partisanship, ethics, corruption
- 3 education, schools, teachers
- 3 health care, health costs, Obamacare
- 2 abortion
- 2 environment, pollution, global warming
- 2 federal budget, deficit spending, deficit
- 2 race relations, racial and ethnic issues
- 14 other (*specify*)
- 7 don't know

*[question 12 not asked]*

**13. *[likely voters only]* How interested, if at all, are you in the upcoming presidential debates: very interested, somewhat interested, not so interested or not at all interested?**

- 62% very interested
- 28 somewhat interested
- 6 not so interested
- 4 not at all interested
- don't know

14. *[likely voters only]* If the November 8 election for the US Senate were being held today, would you vote for: *[rotate]*

- (1) Kamala Harris, a Democrat *[or]*
- (2) Loretta Sanchez, a Democrat?

32% Kamala Harris, a Democrat  
 25 Loretta Sanchez, a Democrat  
 24 neither/would not vote for US senator *(volunteered)*  
 19 don't know

15. *[likely voters only]* In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for US Senate in 2016?

48% satisfied  
 35 not satisfied  
 1 both *(volunteered)*  
 16 don't know

Next, we have a few questions to ask you about some of the propositions on the November ballot.

16. *[likely voters only]* Proposition 51 is called the “School Bonds. Funding for K–12 School and Community College Facilities. Initiative Statute.” It authorizes \$9 billion in general obligation bonds for new construction and modernization of K–12 public school facilities, charter schools and vocational education facilities, and California Community Colleges facilities. The fiscal impact is state costs of about \$17.6 billion to pay off both the principal of \$9 billion and interest of \$8.6 billion on the bonds with payments of about \$500 million per year for 35 years. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 51?

47% yes  
 43 no  
 10 don't know

17. *[likely voters only]* How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 51—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

42% very important  
 40 somewhat important  
 11 not too important  
 4 not at all important  
 3 don't know

18. *[likely voters only]* Proposition 55 is called the “Tax Extension to Fund Education and Healthcare. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.” It extends by 12 years the temporary personal income tax increases enacted in 2012 on earnings over \$250,000, with revenues allocated to K–12 schools, California Community Colleges, and, in certain years, healthcare. The fiscal impacts are increased state revenues of \$4 to \$9 billion annually from 2019 through 2030—depending on the economy and stock market—and increased funding for schools, community colleges, health care for low-income people, budget reserves, and debt payments. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 55?

54% yes  
 38 no  
 8 don't know

19. *[likely voters only]* How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 55—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

41% very important  
 43 somewhat important  
 10 not too important  
 3 not at all important  
 3 don't know

20. *[likely voters only]* Proposition 56 is called the Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research, and Law Enforcement. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.” It increases the cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack, with an equivalent increase on other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine. The fiscal impacts are additional net state revenue of \$1 to \$1.4 billion in the next fiscal year, with potentially lower revenues in future years. This revenue would be used primarily to augment spending on health care for low-income Californians. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 56?

59% yes  
 36 no  
 5 don't know

**21. [likely voters only] How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 56—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?**

- 43% very important
- 37 somewhat important
- 14 not too important
- 5 not at all important
- 2 don't know

**22. [likely voters only] Proposition 64 is called the “Marijuana Legalization. Initiative Statute.” It legalizes marijuana under state law, for use by adults 21 or older and imposes state taxes on sales and cultivation. It also provides for industry licensing and establishes standards for marijuana products and allows local regulation and taxation. The fiscal impacts are additional tax revenues ranging from high hundreds of millions of dollars to over \$1 billion annually, mostly dedicated to specific purposes and reduced criminal justice costs of tens of millions of dollars annually. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 64?**

- 60% yes
- 36 no
- 4 don't know

**23. [likely voters only] How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 64—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?**

- 50% very important
- 32 somewhat important
- 12 not too important
- 4 not at all important
- 1 don't know

On another topic, California uses the direct initiative process, which enables voters to bypass the legislature and have issues put on the ballot—as state propositions—for voter approval or rejection.

**24. Generally speaking, would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or not satisfied with the way the initiative process is working in California today?**

- 13% very satisfied
- 51 somewhat satisfied
- 27 not satisfied
- 9 don't know

**25. Overall, how much would you say that the initiative process in California today is controlled by special interests—a lot, some, or not at all?**

- 54% a lot
- 32 some
- 7 not at all
- 7 don't know

For the following items, please say if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

*[rotate questions 26 and 27]*

**26. There are too many propositions on the state ballot.**

- 24% strongly agree
- 35 somewhat agree
- 22 somewhat disagree
- 11 strongly disagree
- 8 don't know

**27. The ballot wording for citizens' initiatives is often too complicated and confusing for voters to understand what happens if the initiative passes.**

- 38% strongly agree
- 36 somewhat agree
- 14 somewhat disagree
- 7 strongly disagree
- 5 don't know

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

*[rotate 28 and 29]*

**28. Do you favor or oppose raising the top rate of the state income tax paid by the wealthiest Californians?**

- 64% favor
- 33 oppose
- 4 don't know

**29. Do you favor or oppose increasing state taxes on the purchase of cigarettes?**

- 68% favor
- 29 oppose
- 2 don't know

Next,

**30. If the state ballot had a bond measure to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?**

- 74% yes
- 21 no
- 5 don't know

**31. 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?**

- 64% approve
- 33 disapprove
- 3 don't know

**32. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling its job?**

- 29% approve
- 65 disapprove
- 6 don't know

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

- 51% approve
- 36 disapprove
- 13 don't know

Changing topics,

**34. Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are living in the US? [rotate] (1) There should be a way for them to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met [or] (2) They should not be allowed to stay in this country legally.**

- 83% allowed to stay legally
- 15 not allowed to stay legally
- 2 don't know

**35. All in all, would you favor or oppose building a wall along the entire border with Mexico?**

- 25% favor
- 72 oppose
- 3 don't know

On another topic,

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

- 56% yes, legal
- 42 no, not legal
- 2 don't know

**36a. Keeping in mind that all of your answers in the survey are confidential, have you ever tried marijuana? (if yes, ask: have you used marijuana in the last 12 months?)**

- 22% yes have tried marijuana, used in the past year
- 24 yes, have tried marijuana, not in the past year
- 54 no, have not tried marijuana
- 1 don't know

**37. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically:**

*[read list, rotate order top to bottom]*

- 13% very liberal
- 19 somewhat liberal
- 28 middle-of-the-road
- 25 somewhat conservative
- 12 very conservative
- 3 don't know

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

- 27% great deal
- 36 fair amount
- 30 only a little
- 7 none
- don't know

*[d1–18: demographic questions]*

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