



2006 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER PROFILES

December 2006

Voters were mostly white, older, and affluent ... and many were “blue.”

The November 7th general election included about 8.6 million voters or 54 percent of California’s registered voters. Turnout this year was somewhat higher than the record low in California’s last gubernatorial election (2002). Similar to past elections, voters were predominantly older, white, college-educated, affluent, and homeowners. Men and women turned out about equally, and one in four voter households included a union member. Reflecting voter registration trends, more Democrats than Republicans voted in this election, while 14 percent were independents.

Governor Schwarzenegger cruised to an easy reelection victory.

Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger easily defeated Democratic State Treasurer Phil Angelides (56% to 39%) because of the support he received outside of his party. While nearly all Republicans voted for Schwarzenegger, so did three in 10 Democrats and over half of independent voters. One in three Latinos, about two in three whites, and majorities of both men and women also voted for Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger was favored over Angelides among the majorities of general election voters who believe that California is headed in the right direction, that the state will enjoy good economic times, and who approve of the governor’s job performance.

Proposition 1B: Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security.

Proposition 1B, a \$20 billion bond, was approved by voters by a 22-point margin (61% yes, 39% no). There was majority support for this proposition across all political and demographic groups, with stronger support found among more-educated and liberal voters and renters. Proposition 1B was supported by more Democrats (69%) and liberals (71%) than Republicans (54%) and conservatives (53%) and was more strongly supported by Latinos than whites (71% to 62%).

Proposition 1C: Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund.

Proposition 1C, a bond for nearly \$3 billion, was approved by voters by a 16-point margin (58% yes, 42% no). The vote on this measure was strongly divided across partisan lines. Democrats (69%) and independents (57%) supported the measure, while just 40 percent of Republicans voted yes. Women, younger voters, less affluent voters, Latinos, and renters were among the groups most supportive of Proposition 1C. Those who disapprove of the governor’s performance in office were more likely to support this proposition than those who approve of his performance.

Proposition 1D: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities.

Proposition 1D, a school facilities bond for about \$10 billion, was approved by a 14-point margin (57% yes, 43% no). Again, most Democrats (71%) and liberals (76%) supported this bond measure, compared to four in 10 Republicans and conservatives (41% each). Latinos were more likely than whites (74% to 55%), college graduates were more likely than those without a college degree (61% to 53%), and voters under 35 were more likely than older voters (73% to 56%) to favor it. Those who disapprove of the governor’s job performance were more likely than those who approve of his performance to vote yes on this bond.

Proposition 1E: Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond.

Of the four bonds placed on the ballot as part of the infrastructure package, Proposition 1E, a flood prevention bond of about \$4 billion, enjoyed the highest level of support, passing by a 28-point margin (64% yes, 36% no). Support for Proposition 1E was highest among Democrats (74%), women (67%), and renters (69%). Most voters who feel California is headed in the right direction, approve of the governor, and believe the infrastructure bond package was a good idea voted yes on 1E. Solid majorities across demographic and political groups also supported this bond.

2006 General Election Voter Profiles

	% of General Election Voters	<u>Proposition</u>			
		1B	1C	1D	1E
Percentage Voting “Yes” on a Proposition		61	58	57	64
<i>Gender</i>	Men	48	63	53	57
	Women	52	62	60	67
<i>Age</i>	18-34 years old	11	65	64	73
	35-54 years old	41	59	54	56
	55 years or older	48	65	57	56
<i>Education</i>	High school only	19	59	57	53
	Some college	27	58	55	53
	College graduate	54	65	57	61
<i>Household income</i>	Under \$40,000	28	65	64	61
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	35	65	57	58
	\$80,000 or higher	37	61	51	57
<i>Race/ethnicity</i>	White	72	62	54	55
	Latino	14	71	67	74
<i>Own/rent</i>	Own	79	60	51	55
	Rent	21	72	75	68
<i>Union household</i>	Yes	24	58	57	59
	No	76	64	56	57
<i>Party</i>	Democrat	47	69	69	71
	Republican	37	54	40	41
	Independent	14	63	57	57
<i>Ideology</i>	Liberal	32	71	76	76
	Middle-of-the-road	28	66	59	63
	Conservative	40	53	39	41
<i>Job performance of Gov. Schwarzenegger</i>	Approve	60	65	54	55
	Disapprove	32	58	61	63
<i>Opinion of infrastructure bonds package</i>	Good Idea	61	84	76	77
	Bad Idea	31	20	18	21
<i>Direction of California</i>	Right direction	53	72	62	64
	Wrong direction	39	49	48	52

Sources: (1) PPIC Statewide Survey of 2,000 general election voters conducted from November 8th to 19th with a +/-2% margin of error for the total sample. Sample sizes for African Americans, Asian Americans, multiracial groups, other political parties, and undecided responses for governor's approval, opinions of the bond package, and direction of California are not large enough for separate statistical analysis; (2) California Secretary of State, November 2006, for percentage voting "yes" on a proposition through November 28, 2006 (actual results on the propositions presented for general election voters).