

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

Mark Baldassare
Senior Fellow and Survey Director

December 1999

**Public
Policy
Institute
of
California**

The Public Policy Institute of California is a private, nonprofit research organization established in 1994 with an endowment from William R. Hewlett. The Institute conducts independent, objective, nonpartisan research on the economic, social, and political issues affecting Californians. The Institute's goal is to raise public awareness of these issues and give elected representatives and other public officials a more informed basis for developing policies and programs.

Public Policy Institute of California

500 Washington Street, Suite 800 • San Francisco, California 94111

Telephone: (415) 291-4400 • Fax: (415) 291-4401

info@ppic.org • www.ppic.org

Preface

California is in the midst of historic changes that will profoundly affect its future. To understand these changes and how they influence voters' choices at the ballot box, PPIC is conducting a series of comprehensive statewide surveys on the theme of "Californians and Their Government." This report presents the results of the third of these statewide surveys, which will continue up to the November 2000 election. The first survey in this series was conducted in September. The second survey—a special edition that focused on the Central Valley—was conducted in November.

The purpose of the PPIC Statewide Survey is to develop an in-depth profile of the social, economic, and political forces affecting California elections and public policy preferences. The surveys are intended to provide the public, the media, and policymakers with relevant, non-partisan, and advocacy-free information on the following:

- What Californians know about government at all levels, how they rate elected officials and public services, and what government actions they prefer.
- The public's interest in civic affairs and politics, their current and preferred information sources, their attention to state political news, and their ratings of the media.
- How growing regions and groups—such as the Central Valley, suburban regions, Latinos, and independent voters—affect the state's elections and policy debates.
- The political attitudes and perceptions that are tied to "voter distrust" of government and the social, economic, and political factors that explain low voter turnout in state elections.
- The role of political, social, and economic attitudes in public support for citizens' initiatives and government reform proposals.

Copies of the September or November reports or additional copies of this report may be ordered by calling (800) 232-5343 [mainland U.S.] or (415) 291-4415 [Canada, Hawaii, overseas].

Contents

Preface	i
Press Release	v
California 2000 Election	1
California State Government	13
California in the New Millennium	21
Political, Social, and Economic Trends	27
Survey Methodology	33
Survey Questions and Results	35
Survey Advisory Committee	40

Press Release

CALIFORNIANS HAVE SPLIT VISION FOR STATE IN NEW MILLENNIUM

Today's Optimism Fades When Residents Gaze Into Future;

Bradley, McCain Pick Up Steam As March Primary Nears

SAN FRANCISCO, California, December 14, 1999 — Bladerunner or techno-utopia? Despite boom conditions, Californians are surprisingly ambivalent about the future of their state, according to a new survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California.

In the short term, Californians are bullish. Sixty-two percent say that the state is generally headed in the right direction, and three in four say they expect good financial times in the coming year. Californians are also more likely than the nation as a whole to believe that Y2K will create no problems (24% to 14%).

However, when state residents are asked to look ahead twenty years, evidence of a far more divided vision emerges. In the year 2020, large majorities believe they are likely to see improvements in the public education system (63%), race relations (61%), and job opportunities and economic conditions (60%) in their regions. At the same time, substantial numbers of Californians also expect to see a growing gap between rich and poor (72%), a decline in the quality of the environment (60%), and an increase in the crime rate (55%). Higher income residents are more likely than others to say that the economy will improve, but they are also the most likely to say that the income gap will grow.

Overall, more Californians are pessimistic than optimistic about the state's long-term outlook. In 2020, 43 percent expect the state to be a worse place to live than it is today, while 25 percent think it will be a better place. Latinos are the exception, with slightly more believing that the state will be a better place to live in 2020 than a worse place (34% to 31%).

"Looking ahead to life in the new millennium, Californians see cause for hope but also for great anxiety," said PPIC Statewide Survey Director Mark Baldassare. "Although California is the locus of a booming new economy, concerns about quality of life and the perception of a widening gulf between haves and have-nots has led to deep uncertainty about the Golden State's future."

Indeed, this uncertainty extends to a more fundamental confusion about the changing social landscape of the state. Most residents do not know the current population of the state (about 34 million) and even fewer have a sense of what it will look like two decades from now (the Department of Finance estimates 45 million). Only four percent of Californians have a handle on the state's current and future population projections. Interestingly, individuals who correctly estimate the state's current or future population also happen to be among the most pessimistic about California's condition in the year 2020.

Whose Vision?

While they appear to be mostly satisfied with the status quo in the short term, Californians are clearly uncomfortable with the current balance of power in Sacramento. When residents are asked who has the most influence over public policy in state government today, 37 percent name the legislature, 33 percent the Governor, and 20 percent state ballot initiatives. When asked to describe the balance of power they *prefer*, many residents make clear that they would like to reserve the

policy influence for themselves. Forty-two percent say they would like ballot initiatives to have the most influence, while 30 percent mention the legislature as their top choice, and 21 percent name the Governor.

Although they may prefer their vision to his, 51 percent of Californians still give Governor Gray Davis excellent or good marks. Only 37 percent say the state legislature is doing an excellent or good job. President Clinton's job performance ratings remain unchanged since September, with 55 percent of residents saying he is doing an excellent or good job. Californians are less pleased with the performance of the U.S. Congress, but their excellent or good ratings have climbed nine points since hitting a low in September (from 26% to 35%).

Underdogs Emerging as Political Forces in Primary

Although they still trail far behind the leading presidential contenders in the March primary, Bill Bradley and Senator John McCain have made substantial gains since PPIC's September survey. Both have more than doubled their support in California, with Bradley now receiving 15 percent and McCain 9 percent among likely voters. Governor George W. Bush now holds a narrow lead over Vice President Al Gore (28% to 24%) and has made strong gains against Gore among Latinos.

In head-to-head general election match-ups, Bush finds himself in a statistical dead heat with Bradley (46% to 44%). In September, Bush led Bradley by 13 percent. California voters continue to show a slight preference for Bush over Gore in a head-to-head match-up (48% to 44%). Bush shows considerable strength in the Central Valley and in Southern California (excluding Los Angeles) — two crucial areas for Republicans. Both Gore and Bradley are running strong in the San Francisco Bay Area, but they lack majority support in the Democratic stronghold of Los Angeles County. Men favor Bush over Gore and Bradley by more than 10 points, while women favor Gore and Bradley over Bush by narrow margins.

“With more than three months to go until the March primary, it seems we have the makings of a competitive presidential contest in the state,” said Baldassare. “The majority of Californians are looking for a candidate who can connect with people like them. There is clearly room for an underdog who is willing to devote major energy and resources to getting to know people in this vast and diverse state.”

In the race for U.S. Senate, incumbent Senator Dianne Feinstein is running strong with 50 percent support, while underdog challenger Congressman Tom Campbell receives 12 percent, and 30 percent of likely voters remain undecided. Feinstein and Campbell currently receive almost equal support among Republicans (20% to 21%). Feinstein is buoyed by strong job performance ratings: 58 percent approve of her job as a U.S. Senator and 33 percent disapprove. Campbell's chances could be hurt by the fact that a greater number of Californians disapprove of the job performance of Republican leaders in Congress than approve of it (55% to 37%).

Internet Politics Still in Infancy

One in five Californians say they have surfed the net to gather news and information about politics and elections, but only 7 percent say they often go on-line for this reason. However, there is reason to believe that gathering political news and information on the Internet is a growing phenomenon: The practice is twice as common among younger residents (25% for those who are 18 to 24) than among older residents (13% for those 55 and older). Candidates have their work cut out for them if

they hope to entice potential supporters to their web sites: Only 9 percent of Californians have visited the web sites of presidential candidates, with just 1 percent saying they visit candidate sites often.

Californians are split on the issue of Internet voting. Forty-seven percent favor a system that would allow state residents to vote in elections electronically, while 48 percent oppose such a system. Surprisingly, there is a lack of overwhelming support for Internet voting even among Internet regulars. Internet users are more likely than nonusers to support on-line voting (54% to 37%), but almost half of the Internet's savvy users are opposed or undecided. If they had a choice, 46% of Californians say they would prefer to vote at their local polling place rather than by absentee ballot (23%) or over the Internet (30%).

About the Survey

The purpose of the PPIC Statewide Survey is to develop an in-depth profile of the social, economic, and political forces affecting California elections and public policy preferences. PPIC will conduct large-scale public opinion surveys on a regular basis leading up to the November 2000 election.

Findings are based on a telephone survey of 2,009 California adult residents interviewed from November 29 to December 8, 1999. Interviews were conducted in English or Spanish. The sampling error for the total sample is +/- 2%. The sampling error for the 1,529 voters is +/- 2.5% and for the 949 likely voters is +/- 3.5%. For additional information on survey methodology, see page 33.

Dr. Mark Baldassare is a senior fellow at PPIC. He is founder and director of the Orange County Annual Survey at UC Irvine. For over two decades, he has conducted surveys for major news organizations, including the Orange County Edition of the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Orange County Register*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, KCAL-TV, and KRON-TV. Dr. Baldassare is the author of a forthcoming book on the changing social and political landscape of California (expected in February 2000).

PPIC is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to objective, nonpartisan research on economic, social, and political issues that affect the lives of Californians. The Institute was established in 1994 with an endowment from William R. Hewlett.

###

California 2000 Election

Presidential Primary

The presidential primary in California is becoming more competitive. Voters most likely to go to the polls now give Texas Governor George W. Bush (28%) a narrow lead over Vice President Al Gore (24%), but the biggest change is that both Bill Bradley (15%) and Senator John McCain (9%) have made substantial gains since September. Likely voters give little support to the other presidential candidates and 14 percent are undecided.

Among Democratic voters, less than half (43 %) support Gore, and 23 percent support Bradley. Just over half (52 %) of Republican voters support Bush, compared to 12 percent for McCain. Independent voters are fairly evenly divided among Bush, Gore, and Bradley. Across regions, Gore leads Bush (33% to 16%) in the San Francisco Bay Area; they are tied in Los Angeles County (27% each); and Bush leads Gore (35% to 17%) in the rest of Southern California and in the Central Valley (32% to 21%). Latinos favor Gore over Bush by nine points (35% to 26%). Men favor Bush over Gore (29% to 20%), while women give equal support to Bush and Gore (27% each).

Democrats' support for Gore and Bradley varies by gender. Gore is more likely to get the nod from Democratic women (47%) than from Democratic men (38%), while Bradley has more support among Democratic men (27%) than Democratic women (20%). Bush has equal support among Republican men (53%) and Republican women (52%), while McCain does better among Republican men (16%) than Republican women (8%).

Since last December, Bush has gained voters (21% to 28%) while Gore has lost them (31% to 24%). Bush's support increased among Republicans (40% to 52%), while Gore's support declined among Democrats (53% to 43%). Gore's support held steady only in the San Francisco Bay area, while Bush made gains in the Central Valley and Southern California. Among Latinos, Gore's support dropped (50% to 35%), while Bush made gains (16% to 26%).

"If the Presidential Primary were held today, who would you vote for?"

	<u>Likely Voters</u>		
	Dec 98	Sep 99	Dec 99
George W. Bush	21%	27%	28%
Al Gore	31	27	24
Bill Bradley	–	7	15
John McCain	–	4	9
Steve Forbes	4	3	3
Gary Bauer	–	1	2
Donald Trump	–	–	1
Someone else *	25	17	4
Don't know	19	14	14

* In earlier surveys, "someone else" includes candidates who have since left the race.

"If the Presidential Primary were held today, who would you vote for?"

	<u>Likely Voters (Dec 99)</u>							
	<u>Party</u>			<u>Region</u>				<u>Latino</u>
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
George W. Bush	9%	52%	18%	32%	16%	27%	35%	26%
Al Gore	43	3	22	21	33	27	17	35
Bill Bradley	23	5	21	12	20	15	14	17
John McCain	6	12	10	9	11	7	9	6
Steve Forbes	1	5	2	4	0	2	5	1
Gary Bauer	0	3	3	1	1	3	1	0
Donald Trump	1	1	4	2	1	1	2	2
Someone else	1	7	5	4	3	4	3	1
Don't know	16	12	15	15	15	14	14	12

Leading Presidential Candidates

Although Democrats have an edge in California voter registration, it isn't evident when likely voters consider their choice in head-to-head general election match-ups between Bush and Bradley or Gore. California voters favor Bush slightly over Gore (48% to 44%), if they were the presidential candidates in November 2000. This is unchanged from the September survey. However, Bush is now in a statistical tie with Bradley (46% to 44%), given the margin of error for the survey. In September, Bush had a 13-point lead over Bradley.

When matched against Bradley or Gore, Bush is supported by more than eight in 10 Republicans, one in three independents, and one in six Democrats. Bradley and Gore both have the support of about three in four Democrats, half of the independents, and very few Republicans.

Bush shows considerable strength in two key regions that Republicans need to win—the Central Valley and the Southern California region outside of Los Angeles. Both Gore and Bradley are running strong in the San Francisco Bay area. Both Democrats fall short of majority support in Los Angeles County, a region crucial to a Democrat's success in statewide elections. In both hypothetical match-ups, Bush would get the vote of about one in three Latinos, which is a decent showing given recent registration and voting trends among Latinos. A majority of Latino voters support both Gore and Bradley when matched against Bush.

There are gender differences in presidential preferences, with men favoring Bush over Gore (52% to 40%), while women support Gore over Bush (48% to 44%). In a similar pattern, men also favor Bush over Bradley (51% to 41%), while women support Bradley over Bush (46% to 42%).

"If these were the candidates in the Presidential Election in November 2000, who would you vote for?"

	<u>Likely Voters</u>		
	Dec 98	Sep 99	Dec 99
George W. Bush	47%	49%	48%
Al Gore	45	44	44
Don't know	8	7	8
George W. Bush	–	51%	46%
Bill Bradley	–	38	44
Don't know	–	11	10

	<u>Likely Voters (Dec 99)</u>							
	<u>Party</u>			<u>Region</u>				<u>Latino</u>
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
George W. Bush	16%	87%	37%	58%	32%	43%	58%	33%
Al Gore	76	7	48	35	59	49	33	59
Don't know	8	6	15	7	19	8	9	8
George W. Bush	16%	84%	34%	54%	30%	44%	55%	38%
Bill Bradley	71	10	51	36	59	42	38	53
Don't know	13	6	15	10	11	14	7	9

Presidential Candidate Qualifications

What qualifications matter most to voters when they choose among presidential candidates? Among likely voters, 58 percent say that a candidate's stands on the issues is the deciding factor. Twenty-two percent give the nod to a candidate's character, and 13 percent value experience in office the most.

While stands on the issues is the top qualification for every voter group, a higher percent of Republicans (33%) and independents (22%) than Democrats (12%) give first place to the candidate's character. Character is mentioned as a top priority more often in the Central Valley than elsewhere. Latinos are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to rate experience the highest (27% to 10%).

Of the 13 percent of likely voters who say that experience is most important, Gore (42%) is favored over Bush (19%) and Bradley (15%). Of the 22 percent who name character as their top priority, most choose Bush (41%) over Gore (11%) and Bradley (10%). Of the 58 percent who most value the candidate's stands on the issues, support is divided between Bush (25%), Gore (24%), and Bradley (18%).

Even though a majority rates "stands on the issues" as important, half of the likely voters also say it is "very important" for them to learn about how well a candidate connects with people like themselves. Democrats (60%) are more likely than Republicans (46%) or independents (51%) to place a high priority on the "human side" of the candidates. Across regions, the candidate's connection with people is more highly valued in Los Angeles than elsewhere. Latinos are much more likely than non-Hispanic whites (75% to 47%) to say it is very important for them to learn about how well a candidate connects with them.

"People have different ideas about the qualifications they want when they vote for presidential candidates. Which of these is most important to you?"

Likely Voters (Dec 99)	
Stands on the issues	58%
Character	22
Experience	13
Political party	5
Other, don't know	2

	Likely Voters (Dec 99)							
	Party			Region				Latino
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Stands on the issues	65%	49%	60%	51%	62%	60%	58%	50%
Character	12	33	22	29	17	21	22	15
Experience	17	9	13	13	16	13	12	27
Political party	4	6	3	5	3	4	6	6
Other, don't know	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2

"How important is it for you to learn about how well a candidate connects with people like you?"

Likely Voters (Dec 99)	
Very important	53%
Somewhat important	34
Not important	11
Don't know	2

	Likely Voters (Dec 99)							
	Party			Region				Latino
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Very important	60%	46%	51%	53%	50%	59%	49%	75%
Somewhat important	28	42	31	33	37	29	37	16
Not important	10	11	15	11	10	11	14	8
Don't know	2	1	3	3	3	1	0	1

U.S. Senate Race

In the open primary for the U.S. Senate seat, incumbent U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein has a large lead over other candidates. In a race where there is currently no Democratic challenger, 50 percent of likely voters would vote for Feinstein. Among the Republicans, Congressman Tom Campbell leads the other three GOP candidates, but has only 12 percent of the total vote. Thirty percent of voters are still undecided.

Seventy-eight percent of Democrats say they would vote for Feinstein in the March Primary, while one in six are undecided. Almost half of the Republicans are undecided, while those who have made up their minds favor Campbell over the other three GOP candidates. At this point, as many Republicans favor Democratic Senator Feinstein as support Campbell. Half of the independents say they will vote for Feinstein, while 11 percent favor Campbell and three in 10 are undecided.

Feinstein has similar support among men (48%) and women (52%), while Campbell also has equal support among men (13%) and women (10%). Within the parties, Democratic men (77%) and Democratic women (79%) show equal support for Feinstein, while Republican men (22%) and Republican women (19%) thus far give similar support to Campbell.

Support for both Feinstein and Campbell is strongest on their home turf—the San Francisco Bay area. Feinstein's support is considerably weaker in the Central Valley and in Southern California outside of Los Angeles County because of a large number of undecided voters in these two more Republican-leaning regions. Support for Feinstein is much higher among Latinos (67%) than among non-Hispanic whites (44%). In the latter group, 34 percent of voters say they are undecided.

"If the March 2000 Primary election for the U.S. Senate were being held today, who would you vote for?"

Likely Voters (Dec 99)	
Dianne Feinstein	50%
Tom Campbell	12
Ray Haynes	3
Bill Horn	2
J.P. Gough	0
Other	3
Don't know	30

"If the March 2000 Primary election for the U.S. Senate were being held today, who would you vote for?"

	<u>Likely Voters (Dec 99)</u>							
	<u>Party</u>			<u>Region</u>				<u>Latino</u>
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Dianne Feinstein	78%	20%	48%	42%	64%	54%	42%	67%
Tom Campbell	3	21	11	8	16	6	13	9
Ray Haynes	0	6	4	7	3	2	4	0
Bill Horn	1	3	2	3	0	2	2	1
J.P. Gough	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	1	3	7	2	3	2	4	1
Don't know	17	47	28	37	14	34	35	22

Approval Ratings

The high approval ratings (58%) for the incumbent Senator point to an uphill battle for any Republican challenger. Eighty-one percent of Democrats, 53 percent of the independent voters, and 34 percent of the Republicans have a favorable impression of Feinstein's job performance. Latinos (70%) have an even more positive impression than non-Hispanic whites (53%) of Feinstein.

An additional difficulty for GOP Congressman Campbell is that the voters have a mostly negative impression of Republican leaders in the U.S. Congress. Fewer than four in 10 approve while over half disapprove of their job performance. Seventy percent of Democrats and independent voters and 32 percent of Republicans disapprove. Disapproval is about equal among Latinos (49%) and non-Hispanic whites (53%).

<u>Likely Voters (Dec 99)</u>	
<i>"Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Dianne Feinstein is doing as a U.S. Senator?"</i>	
Approve	58%
Disapprove	33
Don't know	9
<i>"Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Republican leaders in Congress are doing?"</i>	
Approve	37%
Disapprove	55
Don't know	8

Proposition 22: "Limit on Marriage" Initiative

The "Limit on Marriage Initiative," Proposition 22, would require that only a marriage between a man and a woman be recognized in the state. Californians still strongly favor this initiative, but by a somewhat smaller margin than in previous PPIC statewide surveys. Fifty-eight percent of likely voters are in favor of Proposition 22, while 38 percent are opposed.

The initiative's title was recently changed by the Attorney General from "Definition of Marriage" to "Limit on Marriage." The wording of the question in the most recent survey was changed to reflect the new title. It is possible that the new ballot title could have been a factor in reducing the level of voter support over time, although there may be other reasons for the decline.

About half of the Democrats and independents oppose this initiative while Republicans overwhelmingly support it. San Francisco Bay Area voters are split, while voters in the Central Valley are most strongly in favor of the initiative. Latinos (59%) and non-Hispanic whites (56%) show similar support, as do men (60%) and women (56%).

Despite their positive feelings about an initiative that would ban gay and lesbian marriages in California, a solid majority of voters (57%) support the recent state legislation to legally recognize and extend rights to domestic partnerships for gays and lesbians. Seventy percent of Democrats and 68 percent of independent voters support this new legislation, while 56 percent of Republicans oppose it. Latinos (69%) are even more supportive than non-Hispanic whites (56%).

Moreover, eight in 10 voters approve of state legislation that makes it unlawful to discriminate in employment or housing based on a person's sexual orientation. Eighty-eight percent of Democrats, 76 percent of the independent voters, and 69 percent of Republicans are in favor of these new legal protections for gays and lesbians. Once again, Latinos (85%) are even more supportive of this new state legislation than are non-Hispanic whites (78%).

"Proposition 22, the 'limit on marriage' initiative on the March 2000 ballot, adds a provision to the family code providing that only a marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 22?"

	<u>Likely Voters</u>		
	Dec 98*	Sep 99*	Dec 99
Yes	64%	63%	58%
No	33	34	38
Don't know	3	3	4

* Referred to as "Definition of Marriage" initiative in previous surveys

If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 22?"

	<u>Likely Voters (Dec 99)</u>							
	<u>Party</u>			<u>Region</u>				<u>Latino</u>
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Yes	47%	74%	46%	64%	48%	59%	60%	59%
No	48	22	50	32	46	35	37	38
Don't know	5	4	4	4	6	6	3	3

Likely Voters (Dec 99)	
"The Governor recently signed state legislation giving recognition and rights to domestic partnerships for gays and lesbians, including the establishment of a statewide registry for domestic partnerships, providing hospital visitation rights for domestic partners, and providing health benefits for the domestic partners of state employees. Do you approve or disapprove of this state legislation?"	
Approve	57%
Disapprove	39
Don't know	4
"The Governor also recently signed state legislation that makes it unlawful to discriminate against someone in employment or housing based on the person's sexual orientation. Do you approve or disapprove of this state legislation?"	
Approve	78%
Disapprove	20
Don't know	2

Proposition 26: Simple Majority Vote

The priority voters give to improving education tests their loyalty to the two-thirds vote rule imposed by Proposition 13. They continue to give strong support to an initiative that would change the requirement for passing local school bonds from two-thirds to a simple-majority vote. Two in three of the voters most likely to go to the polls say they would support Proposition 26, the "School Facilities, Local Majority Vote" initiative on the March 2000 ballot.

Since the September survey, support for this initiative has dropped by 12 points and opposition has increased by 11 points. However, the proposition still leads by nearly a two-to-one margin.

There is at least majority support for this initiative across all voter registration groups and regions of the state. Support is stronger among Democrats (73%) and independents (63%) than among Republicans (56%). There are no significant differences across regions. Latinos (77%) are more supportive than non-Hispanic whites (61%).

Voters are not only willing to make it easier to pass local public school bonds, but are also inclined to vote for local school bond measures if they are placed on the March 2000 ballot. Seventy-two percent say that they would vote yes if their local school district had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for school construction projects, while only 22 percent would vote no. Support is 80 percent among Democrats, 69 percent among independent voters, and 64 percent among Republicans. Both women (74%) and men (69%) are strongly supportive, as are Latinos (84%) and non-Hispanic whites (69%).

However, the deep loyalty to Proposition 13 reasserts itself when voters are asked about the general idea of changing the vote requirements needed to raise local taxes. They strongly oppose (69% to 27%) changing Proposition 13 to allow local special taxes to pass with a simple majority instead of a two-thirds vote. A majority of Democrats (59%), Republicans (76%), and independent voters (80%) are opposed. Latinos and non-Hispanic whites are equally opposed (69% each) to the simple majority vote.

"Proposition 26, the 'school facilities, local majority vote' initiative on the March 2000 ballot, would authorize school and community college districts and county education offices to issue bonds for construction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities if approved by a simple majority of local voters.

Currently, a two-thirds majority is required to pass local school bonds. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 26?"

	<u>Likely Voters</u>	
	Sep 99	Dec 99
Yes	76%	64%
No	20	31
Don't know	4	5

If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 26?"

	<u>Likely Voters (Dec 99)</u>							
	<u>Party</u>			<u>Region</u>				<u>Latino</u>
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Yes	73%	56%	63%	67%	64%	64%	64%	77%
No	22	39	34	32	30	30	32	17
Don't know	5	5	3	1	6	6	4	6

Likely Voters (Dec 99)	
"Suppose your local school district had a bond measure on the March 2000 ballot to pay for school construction projects. Would you vote yes or no?"	
Yes	72%
No	22
Don't know	6
"Under Proposition 13, a two-thirds vote at the ballot box is required to pass any local special tax increases. Do you favor or oppose allowing local special tax increases to pass with a simple majority instead of a two-thirds vote?"	
Favor	27%
Oppose	69
Don't know	4

News Stories About the Presidential Election

How much attention are voters paying to the lead-up to the presidential primary? About two-thirds of likely voters are paying at least some attention. One in six are "very closely" following the news stories about the candidates. The biggest group—about half—are following them "fairly closely," but one in three have yet to focus on the presidential sweepstakes.

Right now, Republicans (72%) are a little more likely than Democrats (64%) and other likely voters (66%) to be at least fairly closely following the presidential primaries. There are no significant differences across regions. Latino voters (58%) are less likely than non-Hispanic white voters (70%) to be very closely or fairly closely following the election.

Among the *general public*, attention to news stories about candidates for the 2000 presidential election is much lower. Almost half of Californians say they follow this type of political news very closely (11%) or fairly closely (37%). More than half follow the news about presidential candidates either not too closely (36%) or not at all closely (16%). There are large age differences: Only 36 percent of 18 to 34 year olds are very or fairly closely following the presidential election news, compared to 46 percent of 35 to 54 year olds and 68 percent of those 55 and older.

"How closely have you been following the news stories about candidates for the 2000 presidential election?"

Likely Voters (Dec 99)	
Very closely	16%
Fairly closely	52
Not too closely	26
Not at all closely	6
Don't know	0

	Likely Voters (Dec 99)							
	Party			Region				Latino
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Very closely	13%	18%	15%	10%	16%	17%	17%	14%
Fairly closely	51	54	51	56	54	51	51	44
Not too closely	29	23	28	29	23	26	26	33
Not at all closely	7	5	6	5	6	6	6	8
Don't know	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

California State Government

Most Important Issue for 2000

When asked to name the one issue that the Governor and State Legislature should work on in 2000, Californians are most likely to mention schools. Twenty-eight percent rank schools as the most important issue, while less than one in 10 mentions immigration (8%), crime (7%), health care and HMO reform (5%), and jobs and the economy (5%). Other issues such as poverty, taxes, and traffic receive even fewer mentions. Seventeen percent are not sure what issue is most in need of attention. Schools are named as the top priority for state government in every region, among both Latinos and non-Hispanic whites, and by Republicans, Democrats, and independent voters. One year ago, 36 percent said that schools should be the top priority for the Governor and State Legislature in 1999, indicating that public concern about this issue has declined somewhat since December 1998.

“Which one issue facing California today do you think is most important for the Governor and State Legislature to work on in 2000?”

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Schools, education	28%	25%	30%	30%	27%	25%
Immigration, illegal immigration	8	6	5	10	9	7
Crime, gangs	7	8	4	11	6	12
Health care, HMO reform	5	5	6	3	6	3
Jobs, the economy	5	5	2	6	5	8
Poverty, the homeless, the poor, welfare	4	6	6	3	4	5
Taxes	4	7	3	3	5	2
Environment, pollution	3	3	5	3	2	1
Traffic and transportation	3	3	7	2	3	2
Growth, overpopulation	2	1	3	1	3	0
Housing costs, housing availability	2	0	5	1	1	0
Race relations, ethnic tensions	2	2	0	2	2	5
Drugs	1	3	1	1	2	3
Government regulations	1	1	2	1	1	1
Guns, gun control	1	2	0	1	1	2
State and local finance	1	1	0	0	1	1
State budget	1	1	0	1	1	2
State government, governor, legislature	1	1	1	1	1	1
Water	1	1	0	1	1	0
Other	3	2	2	4	3	2
Don't know	17	17	18	15	16	18

Job Performance Ratings for State Officials

Although a slim majority of Californians give high marks to Governor Gray Davis, even fewer think highly of the Legislature's performance. Fifty-one percent rate Governor Davis's performance in office as excellent or good, one-third say he is doing a fair job, and 12 percent rate his job performance as poor. In the September survey, 51 percent also gave Davis excellent or good ratings.

The Governor's positive ratings are fairly consistent across all regions of the state. Latinos (62%) are more likely than non-Hispanic whites (48%) to give Davis high marks. Democrats (61%) give the Governor more excellent or good grades than do independent voters (48%) or Republicans (39%).

In contrast, only 37 percent say the California Legislature is doing an excellent or good job. Four in 10 rate the legislative body of California government as doing a fair job, and 13 percent rate it as doing poorly. In the September survey, 32 percent gave the State Legislature excellent or good ratings.

The ratings of the Legislature are similar in all regions. Latinos (48%) are more likely than non-Hispanic whites (33%) to give the Legislature excellent or good grades. Democrats (43%) give higher marks to the Legislature than independent voters (32%) or Republicans (29%).

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>"How do you rate the job performance of Governor Gray Davis at this time?"</i>						
Excellent	9%	7%	7%	13%	8%	19%
Good	42	46	44	43	41	43
Fair	31	31	36	27	31	26
Poor	12	11	9	11	13	6
Don't know	6	5	4	6	7	6
<i>"How do you rate the job performance of the California legislature at this time?"</i>						
Excellent	3%	2%	3%	4%	3%	7%
Good	34	33	34	35	34	41
Fair	41	45	43	40	41	38
Poor	13	13	11	11	14	7
Don't know	9	7	9	10	8	7

Knowledge of Partisanship

How much does partisanship figure in people's perceptions of California government? About seven in 10 Californians know that Governor Davis is a Democrat. Twelve percent think he is a Republican and 19 percent are uncertain. Knowledge of the Governor's party affiliation is slightly higher in the San Francisco Bay area and in Los Angeles than in other regions. About half of Latinos know the Governor's party affiliation, compared to 73 percent of non-Hispanic whites. Democrats (78%) and Republicans (79%) are more aware than independent voters (57%) and those who are not registered to vote (48%) that Davis is a Democrat.

Only 42 percent of Californians know that the California Legislature is currently controlled by the Democrats. Twenty-three percent think the Republicans are in charge, while 35 percent are unsure. Fewer than half of those surveyed know which political party is currently in control of the State Legislature. Latinos (34%) are less likely than non-Hispanic whites (47%) to know. Interestingly, Republicans (57%) are more knowledgeable about the Democrats being in power, while fewer than half of the Democrats (43%), independent voters (39%), and those who are not registered to vote (24%) named the Democrats.

There are large differences in political knowledge across age groups. Among those 18 to 34 years old, 54 percent know that the Governor is a Democrat and 34 percent are aware that the Legislature is controlled by the Democrats. Among those 35 to 54 years old, 72 percent know that Davis is a Democrat and 43 percent know who runs the Legislature. Among those 55 and older, 83 percent know the party of the Governor and 51 percent know the party controlling the Legislature.

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>"Do you happen to know if California Governor Gray Davis is a Democrat or a Republican?"</i>						
Democrat	69%	66%	73%	71%	66%	56%
Republican	12	15	11	12	12	17
Don't know	19	19	16	17	22	27
<i>"Do you happen to know if the California legislature is controlled by the Democrats or the Republicans?"</i>						
Democrats	42%	39%	43%	44%	39%	34%
Republicans	23	24	19	23	25	27
Don't know	35	37	38	33	36	39

Perceptions of Political Views

Californians hold a wide variety of perceptions about the political views of their state officials, but most see them as occupying the middle of the political spectrum. One in three see Governor Davis as a liberal, one in three see him as middle-of-the-road, and one in four see him as a conservative. The most common perception of Governor Davis—held by 59 percent of residents—is that his political views are either somewhat liberal or middle-of-the-road.

Republicans (46%) are much more likely than Democrats (32%) or independent voters (31%) to perceive Governor Davis as a liberal. About one-third of Republicans (32%), Democrats (37%), and independents (35%) see him as middle-of-the-road. Fewer Republicans (16%) than Democrats (24%) and independent voters (30%) see him as a conservative.

A similar one in three perceive the Legislative leadership as liberal, one in three see them as middle-of-the-road, and one in four see them as conservative. The most common perception of the Legislative leadership is that they are somewhat liberal or middle-of-the-road (56%).

Republicans (50%) are much *more* likely than Democrats (29%) or independent voters (32%) to perceive the Legislative leadership as liberal. Republicans (27%) are *less* likely than Democrats (33%) and independents (30%) see them as middle-of-the-road. Fewer Republicans (14%) than Democrats (29%) and independent voters (30%) see their State Legislative leaders as conservative.

There is not much difference across regions in political perceptions of state leaders. Latinos are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to see the Governor and State Legislature as conservative. Most Californians (58%) describe their own political beliefs as middle-of-the-road to somewhat conservative. Half see the Governor (51%) and Legislative leaders (50%) in this way.

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>“Would you consider Governor Gray Davis to be politically....”</i>						
Very liberal	9%	8%	8%	9%	9%	4%
Somewhat liberal	26	29	25	27	25	22
Middle-of-the-road	33	32	38	27	36	25
Somewhat conservative	18	16	20	22	15	26
Very conservative	6	8	3	7	5	11
Don't know	8	7	6	8	10	12
<i>“Would you consider the leadership in the California Legislature to be politically....”</i>						
Very liberal	9%	11%	7%	10%	8%	7%
Somewhat liberal	25	28	27	25	22	25
Middle-of-the-road	31	31	35	25	33	22
Somewhat conservative	19	17	18	21	18	24
Very conservative	5	3	5	8	5	10
Don't know	11	10	8	11	14	12

“Undivided” State Government

California has had a divided state government for most of the past 16 years: From 1983 through 1998, the state had a Republican Governor, but both houses of the Legislature were controlled by the Democrats during most of that time. How do Californians rate the policy impact of now having a Democratic governor and a Legislature controlled by the Democrats? To most, the change that took place in early 1999 is irrelevant. Nearly half say it has made no difference for public policymaking to have the same party in control of the executive and legislative branches of state government. Of those who think that one-party rule has made a difference, more are likely to say it has been a good thing rather than a bad thing (30% to 19%).

As would be expected, the Democrats are more likely to say that “undivided” government is a good thing rather than a bad thing for policymaking (43% to 8%), while Republicans are more likely to say it is a bad thing (38% to 16%). Independents are more likely to say one-party rule has been a good thing rather than a bad thing for policymaking (27% to 17%). In all voter groups, though, the most frequent response is that having the Governor and Legislature from the same party makes no difference.

The regional trends reflect the regional variations in party registration. In the Democratic regions of the state (i.e., the San Francisco Bay area, Los Angeles) residents are more inclined to say that “undivided government” is a good thing, while in the more Republican regions (i.e., the Central Valley, Southern California suburbs) residents are more likely to say that having the one party in control of state government is a bad thing. Latinos are less likely than non-Hispanic whites to say that unified government is a bad thing (8% to 25%). In all regions of the state and across racial and ethnic groups, again, people are most likely to say that one-party rule makes no difference.

“At this time, the California Governor is a Democrat and the California legislature is controlled by the Democrats. In terms of public policymaking, do you think that it is a good thing or a bad thing to have the Governor and the California Legislature from the same party, or does it make no difference?”

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Good thing	30%	23%	36%	33%	26%	36%
Bad thing	19	23	17	16	22	8
No difference	47	50	43	46	47	51
Don't know, it depends	4	4	4	5	5	5

Policy Influence

When they consider the forces that influence public policy, Californians evidently would like to see a shift in the balance of power. Currently they believe that the Legislature (37%) has more influence than the Governor (33%) or the initiative process (20%).

San Francisco Bay area residents are the least likely to say that the Governor has the most influence (27%). Latinos are the most likely to say that the Governor (44%) has the most influence, while non-Hispanic whites more often mention the Legislature (40%). Democrats are equally likely to say that the Governor or the Legislature have the most power over public policy (34% to 36%) while Republicans (42% to 29%) and independent voters (40% to 33%) are more likely to say that the Governor is more powerful than the Legislature. Those who are not registered to vote are also more likely to believe that the Governor is more important than the Legislature (39% to 30%).

However, the perceived status quo is not what most Californians would prefer. Forty-two percent would like the initiative process to have the most influence on public policy. Fewer mention the Legislature (30%) as their top choice for state policy influence and even fewer name the Governor (21%).

The initiative process draws its greatest support from two regions with very different political profiles—the San Francisco Bay area and the Southern California suburban region. Moreover, the initiative process is the top choice for independent voters (48%), Republicans (45%), Democrats (42%), and those who are not registered to vote (35%). Latinos want the Governor (37%) to have more influence than initiatives (32%) or the Legislature (21%). However, non-Hispanic whites opt for initiatives (46%) over the Legislature (34%) or the Governor (15%).

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>“In California state government today, which of the following do you think has the most influence over public policy?”</i>						
The governor	33%	35%	27%	36%	33%	44%
The legislature	37	39	40	34	36	27
Initiatives on the state ballot	20	16	23	19	23	20
Other answer	2	2	3	2	2	2
Don't know	8	8	7	9	6	7
<i>“Which of the following would you prefer to have the most influence over public policy in California State Government?”</i>						
The governor	21%	24%	16%	26%	18%	37%
The legislature	30	29	32	28	31	21
Initiatives on the state ballot	42	40	46	38	46	32
Other answer	2	2	2	1	1	1
Don't know	5	5	4	7	4	9

News Stories About State Government

About one in three Californians pays close attention to news stories about the Governor and California Legislature, but only 6 percent say they very closely follow this type of news. Two in three adult residents pay little or no attention to state government news.

By contrast, more Californians (48%) say they are very closely or fairly closely following news about the presidential election than about their state government.

There is slightly more attention to news about the Governor and State Legislature in the Central Valley than elsewhere in the state. Latinos are less likely than non-Hispanic whites to say they very closely or fairly closely follow this news (33% to 40%).

Democrats (42%) and Republicans (43%) are more likely than independents (31%) and those who are not registered to vote (26%) to follow state government news at least fairly closely. Still, fewer than one in 10 in any voter group is avid for state government news.

There are large differences across age groups. Only 28 percent of 18 to 34 year olds either very closely or fairly closely follow state government news, compared to 38 percent of 35 to 54 year olds, and 49 percent of those 55 and older.

These results provide a benchmark for monitoring trends over time in the California public's attention to news about the Governor and State Legislature.

“How closely have you been following the news stories about the Governor and California Legislature?”

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Very closely	6%	5%	5%	8%	6%	8%
Fairly closely	31	37	33	28	30	25
Not too closely	45	45	47	45	45	48
Not at all closely	17	13	15	19	18	18
Don't know	1	0	0	0	1	1

California in the New Millennium

Population Today and in 2020

Californians lack a common perception about the current population and future growth of their state. California currently has about 34 million residents, but only 13 percent of Californians place today's state population within the 30 million-to-35 million range. Almost half of the residents think that the state's population is below 30 million, one in five believe it is more than 35 million, and 22 percent admit they don't know.

Most have a perception of the state's population that is very dated. The state's population reached 10.6 million in 1950, 20 million in 1970, and 29.9 million in 1990. Yet, 22 percent of residents think that the state has 10 million or fewer inhabitants today, and 24 percent say that between 11 million and 29 million people live in California.

When asked for their best guess about California's population in 2020, the survey respondents gave widely varying and some highly unlikely estimates. The California Department of Finance (DOF) estimates 45 million residents in 2020. Only 10 percent of Californians expect the state's population to be between 40 million and 49 million. Twenty-seven percent expect the population to be under 30 million, which is smaller than the California population today. Twenty-two percent expect the state's population to reach 60 million or more by the year 2020, while current California DOF forecasts do not put the state's population at that level before 2040. Again, about one in four admit that they don't know what to expect for California's population in the year 2020.

To put these results further in perspective, consider how many Californians have a grasp on *both* current population and future projections. Only 4 percent say the state population is between 30 million and 35 million today and will be between 40 million and 49 million in 2020.

"Could you tell me what the state of California's population is today?"

"What do you think the state of California's population will be in 2020?"

(All Adults)	California Population Today	California Population in 2020
10 million or under	22%	10%
11-19 million	8	6
20-29 million	16	11
30-35 million	13	8
36-39 million	1	1
40-49 million	4	10
50-59 million	4	8
60 million or more	10	22
Don't know	22	24

Regional Conditions in 2020

Looking ahead to life in their region in the year 2020, Californians see cause for both hope and concern. Large majorities of Californians think that the public education system will improve (63%), that race and ethnic relations will improve (61%), and that job opportunities and economic conditions (60%) will improve in their regions. However, large majorities also believe that the gap between rich and poor will grow (72%), that the quality of the natural environment will worsen (60%), and that the crime rate will increase (55%) in their regions.

Expectations for the year 2020 differ significantly by region. For example, San Francisco Bay Area residents are the most likely to think that race relations will improve (66%) and that the crime rate will decline (47%). Central Valley residents are the most likely to think that the crime rate will increase (60%), and they are more likely to believe that the public education system will improve (70%).

Latinos and non-Hispanic whites have different views about future conditions in their regions. Latinos are more likely to think that the public education system will improve (70% to 62%), that the quality of the natural environment will improve (42% to 36%), and that the gap between the rich and the poor will get smaller (33% to 19%). Latinos and non-Hispanic whites have similar expectations on the issues of improving race and ethnic relations, decreasing the crime rate, and improving job opportunities and economic conditions.

There are also age and income differences in perceptions of life in 2020. Younger Californians are more likely than those over 35 to think that race relations will improve, but younger people are more likely to think the crime rate will increase and the quality of the natural environment will get worse. Higher-income residents are more likely than others to believe that the gap between rich and poor will grow but that economic conditions and job opportunities will also improve in the year 2020.

Those who say that the state's population in 2020 will reach the predicted 40 million to 49 million mark are more likely than others to believe that the income gap will grow (82%), and they are less likely (50%) to believe that race and ethnic relations will improve in their regions.

"Looking ahead to the year 2020, which is more likely to happen in your region?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>The public education system will ...</i>						
Improve	63%	70%	62%	62%	61%	70%
Get worse	34	27	34	34	36	27
Neither/no change	1	2	1	2	1	1
Don't know	2	1	3	2	2	2
<i>Race and ethnic relations will ...</i>						
Improve	61%	59%	66%	59%	61%	62
Get worse	34	35	29	37	33	32
Neither/no change	3	3	3	2	4	3
Don't know	2	3	2	2	2	3
<i>Job opportunities and economic conditions will ...</i>						
Improve	60%	57%	62%	58%	62%	59%
Get worse	35	38	32	36	34	36
Neither/no Change	3	3	4	3	2	4
Don't know	2	2	2	3	2	1
<i>The gap between rich and poor will ...</i>						
Grow	72%	70%	76%	72%	71%	60%
Get smaller	23	26	21	23	24	33
Neither/no change	3	3	2	4	3	5
Don't know	2	1	1	1	2	2
<i>The quality of the natural environment will ...</i>						
Improve	37%	35%	37%	41%	35%	42%
Get worse	60	62	59	56	62	55
Neither/no change	2	2	4	2	2	2
Don't know	1	1	0	1	1	1
<i>The crime rate will ...</i>						
Increase	55%	60%	48%	55%	57%	56%
Decrease	41	36	47	40	40	40
Neither/no change	2	2	3	3	1	2
Don't know	2	2	2	2	2	2

Overall Outlook

Even though they have mixed expectations about life in their regions, many Californians are pessimistic about the long-term outlook for the state. Forty-three percent expect California to be a worse place to live in the year 2020 than it is today, while 25 percent think it will be a better place. This amounts to an 18-point gap between pessimists and optimists. Thirty percent expect no change.

In every major region, those expecting that California will be a better place to live are outnumbered by those expecting things will get worse. There are no differences across age groups.

Once again, Latinos are more optimistic about the future than non-Hispanic whites. Latinos are equally likely to say that California will be a better place (34%), a worse place (31%), or be unchanged (33%) in 2020. In contrast, most non-Hispanic whites think California will be a worse place (48%) rather than a better place (21%) in 2020, while 29 percent expect no change.

Those who see California in 2020 as a worse place to live overwhelmingly believe that the income gap will grow (87%), that crime will increase (74%), and that the quality of the natural environment will get worse (75%) in their regions. Most of those who think California will be a better place to live by the year 2020 expect to see improvements in the public education system (87%), increases in job opportunities (82%), and improvements in race and ethnic relations (83%).

Pessimism is greatest among those with the most accurate sense of the state's current and future population. Most who estimate that today's state population is between 30 million and 35 million say that California will be a worse place rather than a better place to live in the future (51% to 19%). And of those who think the state's population in 2020 will reach 40 million to 49 million, most believe the state will be a worse rather than a better place to live (52% to 16%).

"Overall, do you think that in 2020 California will be a better place to live than it is now or a worse place to live than it is now, or will there be no change?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Better place	25%	24%	21%	26%	25%	34%
Worse place	43	44	42	39	46	31
No change	30	30	34	33	27	33
Don't know	2	2	3	2	2	2

The Y2K Bug

With the much-ballyhooed Y2K computer bug now only weeks away from a reality test, Californians generally dismiss the probability that it will significantly affect their lives. Only 8 percent think that the Y2K bug will cause major problems, while two in three expect some minor problems from millennial computer glitches. When compared to the nation as a whole, according to a recent NSF/USA Today Poll, Californians are more likely to say they expect no Y2K problems (24% to 14%).

Nevertheless, many Californians are still planning to take precautions against computer failures. Four in 10 plan to stockpile food and water and one in three will withdraw cash from the bank. At the same time, as further evidence that they expect only minor problems, few are planning on having “a lot” of food, water, or money on hand for the new millennium. Californians are as likely as the nation to plan to stockpile food and water (41% to 40%).

The only regional difference is that San Francisco Bay Area residents will be less likely than others to stockpile food and water (66% to 57%). There are significant differences between Latinos and non-Hispanic whites. Latinos are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to think that Y2K will cause major problems (16% to 4%). Their heightened concerns are reflected by the fact that Latinos are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to say that they will stockpile a lot food and water (23% to 4%) and withdraw a lot of cash (14% to 4%). Those with higher incomes and educations are less concerned about Y2K problems and less likely to say they plan to stockpile food, water, and cash.

Those who are closest to computers are not very worried up the Y2K bug. Of those who say they often use computers and the Internet, only one in 20 predict major Y2K problems, while seven in 10 expect minor problems, and one in four think there will be no problems at all. Moreover, two in three say they will not stockpile food and water or take out extra cash as Y2K precautions.

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>“Do you think the Y2K issue will cause...”</i>						
Major problems	8%	7%	7%	9%	7%	16%
Minor problems	67	67	66	65	68	60
No problems at all	24	25	25	24	24	21
Don't know	1	1	2	2	1	3
<i>“As a Y2K precaution, do you plan to stockpile food and water?”</i>						
Yes, a lot	9%	10%	5%	11%	7%	23%
Yes, some	32	31	28	36	28	39
No	58	59	66	51	63	34
Don't know	1	0	1	2	2	4
<i>“As a Y2K precaution, do you plan to withdraw cash from the bank?”</i>						
Yes, a lot	7%	6%	6%	7%	7%	14%
Yes, some	29	26	30	30	26	31
No	63	66	62	61	66	54
Don't know	1	2	2	2	1	1

Political, Social, and Economic Trends

Job Performance Ratings for Federal Officials

As President Clinton approaches his final year in office, most Californians continue to give him high marks for his job performance. They are much less generous in their ratings of the U.S. Congress.

Fifty-five percent say President Clinton is doing an excellent or good job in office. That is exactly the same rating he received in our September survey and very similar to the ratings he received in December 1998 (59%). The President's ratings, however, are sharply different by party. Most Democrats (72%) and independent voters (52%), but few Republicans (28%), give him excellent or good ratings. The party differences correspond with higher job performance ratings in Los Angeles County (62%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (61%) than in the rest of Southern California (49%) or the Central Valley (45%). President Clinton gets much higher job performance ratings from Latinos (71%) than from non-Hispanic whites (50%).

In contrast, only 35 percent of Californians give the U.S. Congress excellent or good marks. However, this is higher than the ratings Congress received in September (26%), and similar to the rating Congress received in May (33%), October (39%), and December (33%) of 1998 during the Clinton impeachment by the House of Representatives and the Senate trial. The Congressional ratings do not vary much by either party or region, but approval ratings are higher among Latinos (46%) than among non-Hispanic whites (32%).

"How do you rate the job performance of ..."

(All Adults)	President Clinton				U.S. Congress			
	Oct 98	Dec 98	Sep 99	Dec 99	Oct 98	Dec 98	Sep 99	Dec 99
Excellent	26%	26%	16%	18%	5%	4%	2%	5%
Good	34	33	39	37	34	29	24	30
Fair	19	20	27	25	40	42	48	44
Poor	21	20	18	19	19	22	21	18
Don't know	0	1	0	1	2	3	5	3

Mood of the State

In contrast to opinions about life in California in the year 2020, seen earlier, Californians remain optimistic about the current state of their state. Sixty-two percent say that things are going in the right direction in California, while 31 percent think that things are going in the wrong direction. The positive sentiments today are similar to those in last September's survey (61%), and in the survey a year ago in December 1998 (63%). The mood is brighter in the San Francisco Bay Area than in other regions, and higher among Latinos than among non-Hispanic whites (67% to 60%). Attitudes are uniformly positive across age, income, gender, and political groups.

The state's residents are also very bullish about the California economy in the next year. Those who expect good times (76%) outnumber those who expect bad times (19%) by nearly four to one. The mood varies across the state's major regions, with those living in the San Francisco Bay Area the most optimistic (83%) and those living in the Central Valley the least optimistic (66%). Latinos (68%) are less likely than non-Hispanic whites (78%) to expect good economic times in the next year. The vast majority in all age, income, and racial and ethnic groups are optimistic about the state's economy in 2000.

"Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Right direction	62%	57%	67%	61%	62%	67%
Wrong direction	31	36	24	31	32	25
Don't know	7	7	9	8	6	8

"Do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Good times	76%	66%	83%	72%	80%	68%
Bad times	19	28	12	22	15	27
Don't know	5	6	5	6	5	5

Computers and the Internet

How pervasive is computer and Internet use in the state? Three in four Californians have used a computer, while 55 percent say they "often" use a computer at home, school, or work. San Francisco Bay Area residents (65%) are more likely than others to be frequent computer users. With regard to frequent computer use, there is a large "digital divide" across race and ethnic groups. Specifically, Latinos are much less likely than non-Hispanic whites to use a computer on a frequent basis (37% to 59%). Frequent computer use increases with higher household income: For instance, 38 percent of those with incomes under \$40,000 often use computers, compared to 82 percent with incomes of \$80,000 or more. Frequent computer use is highly evident among those 18 to 54 (63%) and much less common among those 55 and older (33%).

Six in 10 Californians have used the Internet, while 43 percent say they "often" go on line. The San Francisco Bay Area (52%) leads all other regions in frequent use of the Internet. As with overall computer usage, Latinos lag far behind non-Hispanic whites in frequent use of the Internet (22% to 50%). Frequent Internet use increases with higher household income: For instance, 26 percent of those with household incomes under \$40,000 often use it, compared to 72 percent of those with incomes of \$80,000 or more. Frequent Internet use is found among half of the adult residents who are 18 to 54 (50%), while it is more rare among those who are 55 and older (25%).

"Do you yourself ever use a computer at home, at work, or at school?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Yes, often	55%	51%	65%	51%	56%	37%
Yes, sometimes	21	21	19	22	22	30
No	24	28	16	27	22	33

"Do you ever go on line to access the Internet or World-Wide Web?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Yes, often	43%	37%	52%	37%	46%	22%
Yes, sometimes	18	20	19	16	20	20
No	15	15	13	19	12	25
Don't use Computers	24	28	16	28	22	33

Internet Politics

The Internet has great potential as a source of information and news about politics. However, it has not yet become a major source. One in five Californians have gone on-line to gather news and information about politics and elections, although only 7 percent say they often "surf the net" for this purpose. Thirty-seven percent of those who often or sometimes use the Internet have searched for political and election news.

There are no major differences across political parties. As would be expected, voters are more likely than those not registered to vote to look to the net for political information (24% to 14%). Latinos are less likely than non-Hispanic whites to use the Internet to gather political information (15% to 24%). Gathering political news and information from the Internet is more common among those who are 18 to 54 (25%) than those who are 55 and older (13%). This type of Internet activity is lower among those with incomes under \$40,000 (13%) than with those earning \$80,000 or more (37%).

One in 11 Californians has thus far visited the web sites of presidential candidates, and only 1 percent often use the Internet for this purpose. Fifteen percent of Internet users have looked at the web sites. Once again, there are differences between voters and those who are not registered to vote and little variation across political parties. Few Latinos (8%) and non-Hispanic whites (9%) use the Internet to visit the web sites of presidential candidates. Similarly, small numbers of visits to these sites are reported across all age and income groups.

These results are intended to provide "benchmark" data. The question will be repeated next year to monitor trends in political information gathering on the Internet during the 2000 election.

"Do you ever go on-line to ..."

	All Adults	Party Registration				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Other	Not Registered	
"Get news and information about politics and elections?"						
Yes, often	7%	7%	6%	8%	5%	5%
Yes, sometimes	15	14	20	17	9	10
No	40	38	41	48	37	27
Don't use Internet	38	41	33	27	49	58
"To visit the web sites of the presidential candidates?"						
Yes, often	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%
Yes, sometimes	8	8	7	11	5	5
No	53	49	60	60	45	34
Don't use Internet	38	41	32	28	49	58

Internet Voting

Although there is some groundswell of interest in voting over the Internet, Californians are split over the issue. Slim majorities of Democrats (50%), independents (52%), and residents who are not registered to vote (53%) are in favor of Internet voting. A majority of Republicans are opposed to allowing voting over the Internet (56%). Despite their comparative lack of connection with the Internet, Latinos favor Internet voting more than non-Hispanic whites (50% to 45%).

Even among Internet users, there is a lack of overwhelming support for Internet voting. Internet users (54%) are more likely than nonusers (37%) to support Internet voting. Still, almost half of the Internet users are opposed or undecided.

Demographic trends reflect Internet use. Public support for allowing voting over the Internet is highest among 18 to 34 year olds (59%) and 35 to 54 year olds (50%), but there is little support for Internet voting among those 55 and older (27%). There is less support for Internet voting among those with incomes under \$80,000 (47%) than among those with incomes of \$80,000 or more (57%).

If Internet voting were made available, 30 percent of those surveyed say they would prefer this method rather than the more traditional ballot box and absentee ballot options. Democrats (29%) and Republicans (24%) are less likely to prefer voting over the Internet than independent and other party voters (36%) and those who are not registered to vote (37%). Latinos (27%) and non-Hispanic whites (29%) show an equal preference for voting over the Internet.

Internet users are as likely to prefer the Internet (40%) as the ballot box (41%), while nonusers of the Internet overwhelmingly would opt for the ballot box (54%) followed by absentee ballots (31%). Again, demographic trends follow Internet use. The preference for voting over the Internet is much higher among those 18 to 34 (42%) and 35 to 54 (32%) than among those 55 and older (10%). Those with incomes under \$40,000 (25%) are much less likely than those with incomes of \$80,000 or more (43%) to say they would prefer to vote over the Internet.

	All Adults	Party Registration				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Other	Not Registered	
<i>“Do you favor or oppose a system that would allow Californians to vote in elections over the Internet?”</i>						
Favor	47%	50%	40%	52%	53%	50%
Oppose	48	45	56	44	41	45
Don't know	5	5	4	4	6	5
<i>“If you had the choice, would you prefer to vote in elections at the ballot box, by absentee mail ballot, or over the Internet?”</i>						
Ballot box	46%	47%	49%	45%	39%	47%
Absentee ballot	23	23	26	19	21	23
Internet	30	29	24	36	37	27
Don't know	1	1	1	0	3	3

Survey Methodology

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California, with research assistance from Jonathan Cohen and Christopher Hoene. The findings of this survey are based on a telephone survey of 2,009 California adult residents interviewed from November 29 to December 8, 1999. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights, using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers, ensuring that both listed and unlisted telephone numbers were called. All telephone exchanges in California were eligible for calling. Telephone numbers in the survey sample were called up to five times to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing by using the “last birthday method” to avoid biases in age and gender. Each interview took an average of 20 minutes to complete. Interviewing was conducted in English or Spanish. Maria Tello translated the survey into Spanish.

We used recent U.S. Census and state figures to compare the demographic characteristics of the survey sample with characteristics of California's adult population. The survey sample was closely comparable to U.S. Census and state figures. The survey data in this report were statistically weighted to account for any demographic differences.

The sampling error for the total sample of 2,009 adults is +/- 2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 2 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for subgroups is larger. The sampling error for the 1,529 registered voters is +/- 2.5% and for the 949 likely voters is +/- 3.5%. Sampling error is just 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.

Throughout the report, we refer to four geographic regions. “Central Valley” includes Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. “SF 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, and “Other Southern California” includes the mostly suburban regions of Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. These four regions were chosen for analysis because they are the major population centers of the state, accounting for approximately 90 percent of the state population; moreover, the growth of the Central Valley and “Other Southern California” regions have given them increasing political significance.

We present specific results for Latinos because they account for about 24 percent of the state's adult population and constitute one of the fastest growing voter groups. For likely voters, the sample sizes for the African American and Asian subgroups are not large enough for separate statistical analysis. We contrast the opinions of Democrats and Republicans with “other” or “independent” registered voters. This third category includes those who are registered to vote as “decline to state” as well as a fewer number who say they are members of other political parties.

In some cases we compare PPIC Statewide Survey responses to responses recorded in national surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center in 1998 and 1999 and the National Science Foundation/*USA Today* in 1999. We adapted questions about state government asked by the Florida Annual Policy Survey in 1997 and the Texas Poll in 1998. We used 1998 and 1999 PPIC Statewide Surveys to analyze trends over time in California.

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT
NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 8
2,009 CALIFORNIA ADULT RESIDENTS; ENGLISH AND SPANISH
MARGIN OF ERROR +/- 2% AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE

[Responses recorded for first 15 questions are from likely voters. All other responses are from all adults.]

1. In March 2000, California will hold an open primary. That means the voters will be able to vote for anyone they choose, regardless of the candidate's party. If the presidential primary were held today, who would you vote for? (*rotate names, then ask, "or someone else"*)

28%	George W. Bush, Republican
24	Al Gore, Democrat
15	Bill Bradley, Democrat
9	John McCain, Republican
3	Steve Forbes, Republican
2	Gary Bauer, Republican
1	Orrin Hatch, Republican
1	Alan Keyes, Republican
1	Donald Trump, Reform Party
2	someone else (<i>specify</i>)
14	don't know

2. If these were the candidates in the presidential election in November 2000, who would you vote for? (*rotate*)

48%	George W. Bush, Republican
44	Al Gore, Democrat
8	don't know

3. If these were the candidates in the presidential election in November 2000, who would you vote for? (*rotate*)

46%	George W. Bush, Republican
44	Bill Bradley, Democrat
10	don't know

4. People have different ideas about the qualifications they want when they vote for presidential candidates. Which of these is most important to you? Would it be ... (*rotate*)

58%	the candidates' stands on the issues
22	the candidates' character
13	the candidates' experience
5	the candidates' political party
1	other
1	don't know, it depends

5. Thinking about the presidential candidates and what you learn about them, how important is it for you to learn about how well a candidate connects with people like you—very important, somewhat important, or not important?

53%	very important
34	somewhat important
11	not important
2	don't know

6. If the March 2000 primary election for the U.S. Senate were being held today, who would you vote for? (*rotate names, then ask, "or someone else"*)

50%	Dianne Feinstein, Democrat
12	Tom Campbell, Republican
3	Ray Haynes, Republican
2	Bill Horn, Republican
0	J.P. Gough, Republican
3	someone else (<i>specify</i>)
30	don't know

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Dianne Feinstein is doing as a U.S. Senator?

58%	approve
33	disapprove
9	don't know

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the job that the Republican leaders in Congress are doing?

37%	approve
55	disapprove
8	don't know

9. Proposition 22, the "Limit on Marriage" initiative on the March 2000 ballot, adds a provision to the family code providing that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 22?

58%	yes
38	no
4	don't know

10. The Governor recently signed state legislation giving recognition and rights to domestic partnerships for gays and lesbians, including the establishment of a statewide registry for domestic partnerships, providing hospital visitation rights for domestic partners, and providing health benefits for the domestic partners of state employees. Do you approve or disapprove of this state legislation?

57% approve
39 disapprove
4 don't know

11. The Governor recently signed state legislation that makes it unlawful to discriminate against someone in employment or housing based on the person's sexual orientation. Do you approve or disapprove of this state legislation?

78% approve
20 disapprove
2 don't know

12. Proposition 26, the "School Facilities, Local Majority Vote" initiative on the March 2000 ballot, would authorize school and community college districts and county education offices to issue bonds for construction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities if approved by a simple majority of local voters. Currently, a two-thirds majority is required to pass local school bonds. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 26?

64% yes
31 no
5 don't know

13. Suppose your local school district had a bond measure on the March 2000 ballot to pay for school construction projects. Would you vote yes or no?

72% yes
22 no
6 don't know, depends

14. Under Proposition 13, a two-thirds vote at the ballot box is required to pass any local special tax increases. Do you favor or oppose allowing local special tax increases to pass with a simple majority instead of a two-thirds vote?

27% favor
69 oppose
4 don't know

15. On another topic, how closely have you been following the news stories about candidates for the 2000 presidential election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

16% very closely
52 fairly closely
26 not too closely
6 not at all closely
0 don't know

16. Which one issue facing California today do you think is most important for the Governor and state legislature to work on in 2000? (*code don't read*)

28% schools, education
8 immigration, illegal immigration
7 crime, gangs
5 jobs, the economy
5 health care, HMO reform
4 taxes
4 poverty, the poor, the homeless, welfare
3 environment, pollution
3 traffic and transportation
2 housing costs, housing availability
2 growth, overpopulation
2 race relations, ethnic tensions
1 state government, governor, legislature
1 state budget
1 state and local finance
1 government regulations
1 drugs
1 water
1 guns, gun control
3 other
17 don't know

17. Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

62% right direction
31 wrong direction
7 don't know

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

76% good times
19 bad times
5 don't know

19. How do you rate the job performance of president Bill Clinton at this time—excellent, good, fair, or poor?
- | | |
|-----|------------|
| 18% | excellent |
| 37 | good |
| 25 | fair |
| 19 | poor |
| 1 | don't know |
20. How do you rate the job performance of the U.S. Congress at this time?
- | | |
|----|------------|
| 5% | excellent |
| 30 | good |
| 44 | fair |
| 18 | poor |
| 3 | don't know |
21. How do you rate the job performance of Governor Gray Davis at this time?
- | | |
|----|------------|
| 9% | excellent |
| 42 | good |
| 31 | fair |
| 12 | poor |
| 6 | don't know |
22. How do you rate the job performance of the California legislature at this time?
- | | |
|----|------------|
| 3% | excellent |
| 34 | good |
| 41 | fair |
| 13 | poor |
| 9 | don't know |
23. How closely have you been following the news stories about the Governor and California legislature—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?
- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 6% | very closely |
| 31 | fairly closely |
| 45 | not too closely |
| 17 | not at all closely |
| 1 | don't know |
24. Do you happen to know if California Governor Gray Davis is (a) a Democrat or (b) a Republican? (rotate a and b)
- | | |
|-----|------------|
| 69% | Democrat |
| 12 | Republican |
| 19 | don't know |
25. Both houses of the California legislature are controlled by the same party. Do you happen to know if the California legislature is controlled by the (a) the Democrats or (b) the Republicans? (rotate a and b)
- | | |
|-----|-------------|
| 42% | Democrats |
| 23 | Republicans |
| 35 | don't know |
26. We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. Would you consider Governor Gray Davis to be politically very liberal, somewhat liberal, middle-of-the-road, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?
- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 9% | very liberal |
| 26 | somewhat liberal |
| 33 | middle-of-the-road |
| 18 | somewhat conservative |
| 6 | very conservative |
| 8 | don't know |
27. And would you consider the leadership in the California legislature to be politically very liberal, somewhat liberal, middle-of-the-road, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?
- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 9% | very liberal |
| 25 | somewhat liberal |
| 31 | middle-of-the-road |
| 19 | somewhat conservative |
| 5 | very conservative |
| 11 | don't know |
28. At this time, the California Governor is a Democrat and the California legislature is controlled by the Democrats. In terms of public policymaking, do you think that it is a good thing or a bad thing to have the Governor and the California legislature from the same party, or does it make no difference?
- | | |
|-----|---------------|
| 30% | good thing |
| 19 | bad thing |
| 47 | no difference |
| 2 | it depends |
| 2 | don't know |
29. In California state government today, which of the following do you think has the most influence over public policy? (rotate)
- | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 33% | the Governor |
| 37 | the legislature |
| 20 | initiatives on the state ballot |
| 2 | other |
| 8 | don't know |

30. Which of the following would you prefer to have the most influence over public policy in California state government? (*rotate*)

- 21% the Governor
- 30 the legislature
- 42 initiatives on the state ballot
- 2 other
- 5 don't know

31. Could you tell me what the state of California's population is today—in millions (just your best guess). (*code directly to the nearest million*)

- 22% under 10 million
- 8 11-19 million
- 16 20-29 million
- 13 30-35 million
- 1 36-39 million
- 4 40-49 million
- 4 50-59 million
- 10 60 million or more
- 22 don't know

32. And could you tell me what you think the state of California's population will be about 20 years from now—that is, in 2020—in millions. (*code directly to the nearest million*)

- 10% under 10 million
- 6 11-19 million
- 11 20-29 million
- 8 30-35 million
- 1 36-39 million
- 10 40-49 million
- 8 50-59 million
- 22 60 million or more
- 24 don't know

Looking ahead to the year 2020, as I read each of the following pairs, please tell me which is more likely to happen in your region. (*rotate questions 33-38*)

33. (a) race and ethnic relations will improve or (b) race and ethnic relations will get worse? (*rotate*)

- 61% improve
- 34 get worse
- 3 neither/no change (*code don't read*)
- 2 don't know

34. (a) the crime rate will increase or (b) the crime rate will decrease? (*rotate*)

- 55% increase
- 41 decrease
- 2 neither/no change (*code don't read*)
- 2 don't know

35. (a) the public education system will improve or (b) the public education system will get worse? (*rotate*)

- 63% improve
- 34 get worse
- 1 neither/no change (*code don't read*)
- 2 don't know

36. (a) the gap between rich and poor will grow or (b) the gap between rich and poor will get smaller? (*rotate*)

- 72% grow
- 23 get smaller
- 3 neither/no change (*code don't read*)
- 2 don't know

37. (a) the quality of the natural environment will improve or (b) the quality of the natural environment will get worse? (*rotate*)

- 37% improve
- 60 get worse
- 2 neither/no change (*code don't read*)
- 1 don't know

38. (a) job opportunities and economic conditions will improve or (b) job opportunities and economic conditions will get worse? (*rotate*)

- 60% improve
- 35 get worse
- 3 neither/no change (*code don't read*)
- 2 don't know

39. Overall, do you think that in 2020 California will be a better place to live than it is now or a worse place to live than it is now, or will there be no change?

- 25% better place
- 43 worse place
- 30 no change
- 2 don't know

40. Some computers may have trouble operating when we reach the year 2000 because of a programming issue known as Y2K. Do you think the Y2K issue will cause major problems, minor problems, or no problems at all?

- 8% major problems
- 67 minor problems
- 24 no problems at all
- 1 don't know

41. As a Y2K precaution, do you plan to stockpile food and water? (*if yes: Is that a lot or some?*)

- 9% yes, a lot
- 32 yes, some
- 58 no
- 1 don't know

42. As a Y2K precaution, do you plan to withdraw cash from the bank? (*if yes: Is that a lot or some?*)
- | | |
|----|------------|
| 7% | yes, a lot |
| 29 | yes, some |
| 63 | no |
| 1 | don't know |
43. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain you are registered to vote? (*if yes: Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or independent?*)
- | | |
|-----|--------------------|
| 35% | yes, Democrat |
| 28 | yes, Republican |
| 3 | yes, other party |
| 12 | yes, independent |
| 22 | no, not registered |
44. Would you consider yourself to be politically very liberal, somewhat liberal, middle-of-the-road, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?
- | | |
|-----|-----------------------|
| 10% | very liberal |
| 20 | somewhat liberal |
| 33 | middle-of-the-road |
| 25 | somewhat conservative |
| 9 | 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?
- | | |
|-----|---------------|
| 14% | great deal |
| 46 | fair amount |
| 33 | only a little |
| 7 | none |
| 0 | don't know |
46. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, hardly ever, or never?
- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 31% | most of the time |
| 38 | some of the time |
| 21 | only now and then |
| 7 | hardly ever |
| 3 | never |
| 0 | don't know |
47. How often would you say you vote-always, nearly always, part of the time, seldom, or never?
- | | |
|-----|------------------|
| 44% | always |
| 24 | nearly always |
| 12 | part of the time |
| 7 | seldom |
| 13 | never |
| 0 | don't know |
48. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?
- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 5% | just about always |
| 26 | most of the time |
| 63 | only some of the time |
| 5 | never (<i>code don't read</i>) |
| 1 | don't know |
49. Do you yourself ever use a computer at home, at work, or at school? (*if yes: Do you do this often or only sometimes?*)
- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 55% | yes, often (<i>ask q. 50</i>) |
| 21 | yes, sometimes (<i>ask q. 50</i>) |
| 24 | no (<i>skip to q.53</i>) |
50. Do you ever go on line to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send or receive e-mail? (*if yes: Do you do this often or only sometimes?*)
- | | |
|-----|---|
| 43% | yes, often (<i>ask q. 51</i>) |
| 18 | yes, sometimes (<i>ask q. 51</i>) |
| 15 | no (<i>skip to q. 53</i>) |
| 24 | don't use a computer (<i>skip to q. 53</i>) |
51. Do you ever go on line to get news and information about California politics and elections? (*if yes: Is that often or only sometimes?*)
- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 7% | yes, often |
| 15 | yes, sometimes |
| 40 | no |
| 38 | don't use Internet/computer |
52. Do you ever go on line to visit the web sites of the presidential candidates? (*if yes: is that often or only sometimes?*)
- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1% | yes, often |
| 8 | yes, sometimes |
| 53 | no |
| 38 | don't use Internet/computer |
53. Do you favor or oppose a system that allowed Californians to vote in elections over the Internet?
- | | |
|-----|------------|
| 47% | favor |
| 48 | oppose |
| 5 | don't know |
54. If you had the choice, would you prefer to vote in elections (a) at the ballot box, (b) by absentee mail ballot, or (c) over the Internet? (*rotate a, b, c*)
- | | |
|-----|-----------------|
| 46% | ballot box |
| 30 | Internet |
| 23 | absentee ballot |
| 1 | don't know |

[55-63. Demographic questions]

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY

Advisory Committee

Ruben Barrales

President

Joint Venture – Silicon Valley Network

Angela Blackwell

President

Policy Link

Nick Bollman

Senior Program Director

The James Irvine Foundation

Mollyann Brodie

Vice President

Kaiser Family Foundation

Matt Fong

Attorney

Sheppard Mullin

William Hauck

President

California Business Roundtable

Sherry Bebitch Jeffe

Senior Associate

Claremont Graduate University

Monica Lozano

Associate Publisher and Executive Editor

La Opinión

Jerry Lubenow

Director of Publications

Institute of Governmental Studies

University of California, Berkeley

Donna Lucas

President

Nelson Communications

Max Neiman

Director

*Center for Social and Behavioral Research
University of California,
Riverside*

Jerry Roberts

Managing Editor

San Francisco Chronicle

Dan Rosenheim

News Director

KRON-TV

Richard Schlosberg

President

The David and Lucile

Packard Foundation

Carol Stogsdill

Senior Vice President

APCO Associates

Cathy Taylor

Editorial Page Editor

Orange County Register

Steven Toben

Program Officer

The William and Flora

Hewlett Foundation

Raymond L. Watson

Vice Chairman of the Board

The Irvine Company

Carol Whiteside

President

Great Valley Center