

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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**Public
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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.

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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 fifth of these statewide surveys, which will continue up to the November 2000 election. The first four surveys in this series were conducted in September, November, and December of 1999 and in January 2000. (The November survey was a special edition, focusing on the Central Valley.)

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

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Press Release

CALIFORNIA VOTERS TO CANDIDATES: WE'RE LISTENING AND THIS IS WHAT WE WANT TO HEAR

Gore Support Looks Solid, McCain Surging Most Californians Favor New Laws to Protect Internet Privacy

SAN FRANCISCO, California, February 15, 2000 — An overwhelming majority of California's likely voters have tuned in to the presidential race, and they have some ideas of their own about what candidates should be discussing between now and March 7th, according to a new survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

Three weeks before California's crucial primary election, 75% of the state's likely voters say they are following news stories about the 2000 presidential race "very closely" or "fairly closely," a 12-point jump since January. And although candidates have their own campaign platforms and priorities, voters list schools (19%), tax cuts (13%), health care and HMO reform (10%), Social Security and Medicare (8%), and federal spending (7%) as the issues they most want to hear the candidates talk about.

Latinos and Democrats say they are most interested in hearing about education and health care, while Republicans and independents are especially interested in tax and spending issues. Gore is the top choice among voters who name schools, health care, and Social Security and Medicare. Bush leads among those who say taxes, while McCain is ahead among those who name the budget and spending. Interestingly, only 2 percent of likely voters say they most want to hear presidential candidates discuss campaign finance reform, a key topic for McCain and currently a source of heated debate between the Bush and McCain camps.

"Presidential hopefuls have a golden opportunity in California today because voters are engaged in a way they haven't been for years," said PPIC Statewide Survey Director Mark Baldassare. "The challenge for these candidates is to address the specific concerns of Californians in a meaningful way over the next few weeks. If they do, they'll find that state voters are all ears."

In the open primary, Vice President Al Gore (29%) leads Texas Governor George W. Bush (24%), Senator John McCain (17%), and former Senator Bill Bradley (10%) among likely voters. The biggest change since last month's survey? A nine-point increase in support for McCain (8% to 17%). At the same time, support for Bush has declined by four points (28% to 24%). Gore and Bush remain far ahead in their parties, with Democratic voters giving Gore a 37-point lead over Bradley (52% to 15%) and Republicans favoring Bush over McCain by a 22-point margin (46% to 24%). However, McCain has managed to close the gap substantially among Republicans since PPIC's January survey, when he trailed Bush by 45 points (56% to 11%).

Social Liberals, Fiscal Conservatives

Presidential candidates campaigning in California would do well to remember that state residents differ considerably from the nation on a number of key issues (abortion, death penalty, taxes, and school vouchers were examined in the January statewide survey). Californians are much more likely than those nationally to be empathetic to the plight of the poor. Fifty-three percent think that "poor people have hard lives because government benefits don't go far enough to help them live decently," while only 39 percent believe that those benefits make life easy for the poor. Nationally, more

Americans (45%) believe that government benefits to the poor come too easily. Californians are also more likely than the nation as a whole to believe that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve openly in the military (69% to 57%).

Compared to the nation, Californians are more likely to say that “government regulation of business often does more harm than good” (49% to 44%). Nevertheless, 46 percent of Californians and 48 percent of Americans believe that “government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest.”

When considering how to reform the health care system to provide health care for all Americans, Californians tend to favor working within the current health care system rather than switching to a new system. Fifty-two percent of Californians — compared to 43 percent nationally — say it would be better to build on the existing employer-based health care system than to have all individuals buy their own insurance with the help of tax credits or a subsidy. However, on the issue of HMO regulation, California and the nation share similar views. Sixty-three percent of Californians and 64 percent nationally believe that “the federal government should create national standards to protect the rights of patients in HMOs and managed care plans.”

Racial Diversity, Racial Harmony?

Californians are increasingly aware of the state’s changing ethnic and racial makeup, and they are largely positive about race and ethnic relations in their communities. Seventy-one percent think that the racial and ethnic makeup of their region has been changing, with 38 percent saying that “a lot” of change has occurred in recent years. Eight in 10 Californians say that race and ethnic relations in their region are going “very well” or “somewhat well.”

As they watch their communities change, Californians are also increasingly aware of the state’s growing immigrant population. Eighty-five percent of residents think the immigrant population in California has been increasing, while six in 10 say it has increased a lot. Although a large majority (82%) continue to view illegal immigration from Mexico as a “big problem” or “somewhat of a problem,” Californians today are much more likely to say that immigrants are a benefit to the state than they were two years ago (54% to 46%).

There is, however, a glaring exception to this picture of racial and ethnic harmony. Many Californians believe that the police in their community do not treat all people equally. Fifty percent think that the practice of “racial profiling” — in which police are more likely to stop motorists of certain racial and ethnic groups — is widespread in their region. The belief that racial profiling is widespread is most prevalent in Los Angeles (60%). Forty-three percent of non-Hispanic whites see racial profiling as widespread, compared to 61 percent of Latinos and 62 percent of Latinos, Asians, and blacks combined.

Internet Privacy a Serious Concern

Concerns about privacy on the Internet run high in California, especially among Internet users. Thirty-seven percent of California adults — and 62 percent of Internet users in the state — say they have at some time decided not to purchase or use something on the Internet for fear of how their personal information might be used. When asked how concerned they are about threats to personal privacy when using the Internet, almost half (48%) of all Californians — and 80 percent of Internet users — say they are at least somewhat concerned. Internet privacy worries run highest in the San Francisco Bay Area, where Internet use is most prevalent.

Reflecting these concerns, two in three Californians feel that existing laws do not sufficiently protect privacy on the Internet and that new laws are needed to ensure privacy. Regular Internet users support enacting new privacy laws by a similar margin.

Previous PPIC Statewide Surveys have documented a profound “digital divide” in California. Two proposals aimed at reducing the divide among ethnic and income groups receive broad support from the public. Sixty-three percent favor giving companies tax credits if they provide low-cost computers or low-cost Internet access to poor households in California. Not surprisingly, support is higher among those groups adversely affected by the “digital divide.” Latinos are more likely to support the proposal than non-Hispanic whites (73% to 57%), and 68 percent of people with incomes below \$20,000 favor the proposal compared to 60 percent of those with incomes over \$80,000. A second proposal requiring California public schools to teach basic computer and Internet skills before eighth grade receives support from nearly nine in ten residents.

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 2,058 California adult residents interviewed from February 2 to February 10, 2000. Interviews were conducted in English or Spanish. The sampling error for the total sample is +/- 2%. The sampling error for the 1,582 registered voters is +/- 2.5% and for the 1,014 likely voters is +/- 3.5%. For additional information on survey methodology, see page 33.

Dr. Mark Baldassare is a senior fellow at PPIC and is the author of a forthcoming book on the changing social and political landscape of California (March 2000). 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.

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.

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California 2000 Election

Presidential Primary

After winning back-to-back primary victories in Iowa and New Hampshire, Vice President Al Gore has moved ahead in the California primary contest. Only a few weeks away from the March 7th open primary, Gore (29%) leads Texas Governor George W. Bush (24%), Senator John McCain (17%), and former Senator Bill Bradley (10%) among voters most likely to go to the polls.

The biggest change since last month's survey? A nine-point increase in support for McCain (8% to 17%) on the heels of his big victory in New Hampshire. At the same time, support for Bush has declined by four points (28% to 24%).

Even with the open primary, the votes the candidates receive from voters within their respective parties are crucial because they determine the allocation of California's delegates to the parties' national nominating conventions. Gore and Bush remain far ahead in their parties. Democratic voters give Gore a 37-point lead over Bradley (52% to 15%), compared to a 27-point margin a month ago (48% to 21%). Gore is favored over Bradley about equally among Democratic men (50% to 14%) and women (53% to 16%). Republicans now favor Bush over McCain by a 22-point margin (46% to 24%), compared to a 45-point lead a month ago (56% to 11%). Bush has a bigger lead over McCain among Republican women (48% to 21%) than among Republican men (45% to 26%).

Although crossover and independent voters will not play a role in determining the delegate commitments, their votes will be counted in determining the overall winner of the March 7th open primary. Democrats (19%) are more likely to support Republican candidates than Republicans (9%) are to support Democratic candidates. Independents currently favor Gore (23%) over McCain (18%), Bush (17%), and Bradley (12%).

Gore gets his strongest support in Los Angeles County (38%), while Bush is ahead of all other candidates in the Central Valley (31%). Bradley's level of support is higher in the San Francisco Bay area (17%) than elsewhere. One in six voters supports McCain across the state's major regions. Latinos strongly favor Gore (43%). Non-Hispanic whites favor Bush (30%) over Gore (22%), McCain (20%), and Bradley (11%).

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

	<u>Likely Voters</u>				
	Dec 98	Sep 99	Dec 99	Jan 00	Feb 00
Al Gore	31%	27%	24%	27%	29%
George W. Bush	21	27	28	28	24
John McCain	-	4	9	8	17
Bill Bradley	-	7	15	13	10
Alan Keyes	-	-	-	-	2
Someone else	29	21	10	10	5
Don't know	19	14	14	14	13

Note: "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 (February 2000)</u>							
	<u>Party</u>			<u>Region</u>				<u>Latino</u>
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Al Gore	52%	5%	23%	25%	24%	38%	26%	43%
George W. Bush	7	46	17	31	20	22	26	26
John McCain	11	24	18	15	17	16	16	9
Bill Bradley	15	4	12	6	17	8	11	9
Alan Keyes	1	3	2	1	1	1	3	1
Someone else	2	5	11	6	6	5	5	4
Don't know	12	13	17	16	15	10	13	8

Note: "someone else" includes candidates who have since left the race.

Leading Presidential Candidates

When voters are asked who they would support if the November presidential election were between Gore and Bush—today's leading candidates—it's pretty much a toss-up: 46 percent favor Gore and 45 percent favor Bush. These percentages have not shown much variation over time.

In head-to-head match-ups, both candidates show strong support within their respective parties. Eight in 10 Democrats favor Gore, while eight in 10 Republicans support Bush. Independent voters are almost equally divided between Gore and Bush, with 15 percent still undecided. Bush's support is more solid among men (86%) than among women (77%) in the GOP, while Gore is equally supported by Democratic men (79%) and women (78%).

Gore leads Bush in the Democratic strongholds of Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Bay area. Bush has a big edge over Gore in the Central Valley and is slightly favored in the Southern California region outside of Los Angeles. Gore leads Bush among Latinos (60% to 35%), while non-Hispanic whites favor Bush over Gore (51% to 40%).

"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	Jan 00	Feb 00
George W. Bush	47%	49%	48%	46%	45%
Al Gore	45	44	44	46	46
Don't know	8	7	8	8	9

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

	<u>Likely Voters (February 2000)</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	14%	82%	41%	54%	40%	40%	48%	35%
Al Gore	78	10	44	38	47	52	44	60
Don't know	8	8	15	8	13	8	8	5

Campaign Issues

Candidates have their leading issues, but what do California voters most want to hear the presidential candidates talk about? The answer is schools (19%), followed by tax cuts (13%), health care (10%), Social Security and Medicare (8%), and federal spending (7%). Our surveys have consistently shown that education is the number one policy concern for Californians today. Many voters are also placing an emphasis on fiscal issues in the presidential election. Democrats are especially interested in hearing the candidates talk about education and health care, while Republicans and independents are more interested in tax and spending issues. A sizable number of residents in all of the major regions name education and taxes as their top concerns. Latinos stand out as particularly interested in hearing about schools and are less concerned about Social Security and Medicare. Gore is the top choice among voters who name schools, health care, and Social Security and Medicare. Bush leads among those who say taxes, while McCain is ahead among those who name the budget and spending.

**"Which one issue would you like to hear the candidates for President talk about
between now and the March 7th California Primary?" (open-ended responses)**

<u>Likely Voters (February 2000)</u>	
Schools, education	19%
Taxes, cutting taxes	13
Health care, HMO reform	10
Social Security, Medicare	8
Federal budget, spending	7
Abortion	4
Foreign policy, national security, defense	4
Jobs, the economy, unemployment	4
Environment, pollution	3
Morals, family values	3
Campaign finance reform	2
Crime, gangs	2
Guns, gun control	2
Immigration, illegal immigration	2
Other*	7
Don't know	10

*includes responses of 1% or less for issues such as housing, traffic, growth, and welfare

"Which one issue would you like to hear the candidates for President talk about between now and the March 7th California Primary?"

	Likely Voters (February 2000)							
	Party			Region				Latino
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Schools, education	24%	15%	16%	16%	19%	23%	17%	29%
Taxes, cutting taxes	9	18	13	17	12	11	13	9
Health care, HMO reform	14	8	6	11	10	9	12	10
Social Security, Medicare	9	7	6	7	8	6	8	2
Federal budget, spending	4	8	10	6	5	6	6	3
Abortion	4	5	2	6	2	5	3	4
Foreign policy, defense	2	5	6	5	4	6	4	3
Jobs, the economy, unemployment	5	3	4	5	6	4	3	4
Environment, pollution	3	1	6	3	2	3	2	2
Morals, family values	1	4	3	3	3	3	3	2
Campaign finance reform	1	1	3	2	3	1	1	2
Crime, gangs	2	3	1	1	3	2	2	6
Guns, gun control	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1
Immigration, illegal immigration	2	3	2	2	1	3	3	2
Other*	9	7	10	5	9	6	12	11
Don't know	10	10	11	10	12	11	8	10

*includes responses of 1% or less for issues such as housing, traffic, growth, and welfare

The Clinton Factor

Is there a "Clinton factor" that will influence the outcome of the 2000 Presidential election? The evidence is mixed. Voters do distinguish between the President and his policies. Sixty-two percent say they like his policies and 36 percent say they dislike them. However, only 41 percent say they like the President, while 57 percent say they dislike him. About one-third of the voters like Clinton and his policies, and another one in three dislike both Clinton and his policies, but a sizable group (26%) say they like Clinton's policies but don't like him.

While 57 percent of Democrats like Clinton and his policies, 30 percent say they like the policies but don't like the man. Among Republicans, 59 percent dislike Clinton and his policies, but 19 percent like his policies although they dislike him. Independent voters are the most evenly divided in their views of Clinton: 34 percent like him and his policies; 30 percent dislike both; and 30 percent like the policies but not the man. In all regions, about one in four voters dislike Clinton but like his policies. Although he gets his highest marks from Latinos, 24 percent say they like his policies but don't like him. Non-Hispanic whites are most likely to say they dislike Clinton and dislike his policies (37%), though many say they dislike Clinton but like his policies (27%).

Among those who like Clinton *and* his policies, Gore is heavily favored (55%) over the other candidates in the presidential primary. For those who dislike both Clinton and his policies, Bush is

the clear choice (46%) over others. Among the voters who dislike Clinton but like his policies, Gore leads (30%), but half of the voters divide their support among Bradley (17%), Bush (17%), and McCain (16%).

"Which of these statements is closest to your view of President Bill Clinton?"

Likely Voters (February 2000)	
I like Clinton and I like his policies	36%
I like Clinton but I dislike his policies	5
I dislike Clinton but I like his policies	26
I dislike Clinton and I dislike his policies	31
Don't know	2

	Likely Voters (February 2000)							
	Party			Region				Latino
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
I like Clinton and I like his policies	57%	14%	34%	33%	34%	43%	33%	58%
I like Clinton but I dislike his policies	4	5	5	2	7	5	5	4
I dislike Clinton but I like his policies	30	19	30	23	27	28	27	24
I dislike Clinton and I dislike his policies	7	59	30	41	28	21	34	14
Don't know	2	3	1	1	4	3	1	0

U.S. Senate Race

Little has changed in recent months regarding support for candidates in the open primary for the U.S. Senate. About half of the likely voters would vote for the incumbent Democratic U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein. Republican Congressman Tom Campbell now has 14 percent of the total vote, while GOP candidates Haynes and Horn have less support. One in four voters remains undecided.

Among Democrats, 80 percent say they would vote for Feinstein in the March Primary, while fewer than 10 percent would cross over and vote for one of the Republicans. Republicans now favor Campbell (25%) over Feinstein (17%), Horn (10%), and Haynes (5%), but 40 percent are still undecided. Almost half of the independents say they will vote for Feinstein, while fewer than 10 percent would vote for any one of the Republican candidates, and 29 percent are undecided.

Feinstein's support is strongest in the San Francisco Bay area and Los Angeles County. Campbell has the biggest lead over the other two Republicans in the San Francisco Bay area and the Central Valley, while the race for the GOP nomination is close in Southern California. Feinstein is the heavy favorite among Latinos (60%) but also has a strong showing among non-Hispanic whites (44%).

A major reason that Feinstein is doing so well in the open primary is that she enjoys good job ratings. Six in 10 approve of her performance as a U.S. Senator; of those voters, 75 percent support her in the Senate race. Meanwhile, Campbell is not helped by the fact that nearly half disapprove of the job that Republican leaders are doing in Congress; of those voters, only 8 percent favor him.

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

	<u>Likely Voters</u>		
	Dec 99	Jan 00	Feb 00
Dianne Feinstein	50%	53%	49%
Tom Campbell	12	12	14
Ray Haynes	3	4	4
Bill Horn	2	3	5
Other	3	2	2
Don't know	30	26	26

	<u>Likely Voters (February 2000)</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	80%	17%	44%	38%	57%	52%	44%	60%
Tom Campbell	5	25	9	16	19	12	11	10
Ray Haynes	1	5	7	5	6	2	3	3
Bill Horn	1	10	4	1	2	7	10	6
Other	1	3	7	2	3	1	4	5
Don't know	12	40	29	38	13	26	28	16

<u>Likely Voters (February 2000)</u>	
<i>"Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Dianne Feinstein is doing as a U.S. Senator?"</i>	
Approve	59%
Disapprove	29
Don't know	12
<i>"Do you approve or disapprove of the job that the Republican leaders in Congress are doing?"</i>	
Approve	41%
Disapprove	48
Don't know	11

Proposition 22: "Limit on Marriages" Initiative

A solid majority of voters (57%) continue to support Proposition 22, the "Limit on Marriages" initiative, which would require that only a marriage between a man and a woman be recognized in the state, while 38 percent would vote "no" and only 5 percent are undecided. These results indicate no recent changes in voter sentiment.

Yet, there are deep political divisions underneath the majority support for this controversial initiative. Democrats are evenly split on Proposition 22, Republicans are overwhelmingly supportive, and independent voters are more likely to say they will vote no than vote yes. San Francisco Bay area residents are equally divided on Proposition 22, but residents of the Central Valley (67%) and Southern California suburban region outside of Los Angeles (63%) strongly support it. Both Latinos (61%) and non-Hispanic whites (55%) are showing support for Proposition 22.

The proponents of Proposition 22 have argued that their initiative is needed to close a "legal loophole" that would require California to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. Even though most voters would support Proposition 22, they are divided about the issue of legally recognizing same-sex marriages that are performed in other states. Forty-five percent think that the gay and lesbian marriages outside of the state should be legally recognized in California, while 49 percent think they should not. Democrats (57%) and independents (48%) are much more likely than Republicans (31%) to want out-of-state gay and lesbian marriages to be legally recognized in California. At the same time, even 23 percent of those who would recognize out-of-state gay marriages would vote yes on Proposition 22.

While California voters may have mixed feelings about same-sex marriages, our surveys have also shown they have strong and consistent support for the civil rights of gays and lesbians, including their right to serve openly in the military: 69 percent of California voters say that gays and lesbians should serve openly in the military, while 26 percent are opposed. Democrats (77%), independents (75%), and Republicans (58%) all agree that gays and lesbians should serve openly in the military. Strong majorities in all regions and across racial and ethnic groups also support this position. A higher percentage of Californians than Americans generally hold this view: According to a Fox News survey earlier in 2000, 57 percent of Americans said that gays and lesbians should serve openly in the military. Nevertheless, only 46 percent of Californians in our survey who say gays and lesbians should serve openly in the military would vote no on Proposition 22.

"Proposition 22—the 'limit on marriages' 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	Jan 00	Feb 00
Yes	64%	63%	58%	57%	57%
No	33	34	38	38	38
Don't know	3	3	4	5	5

* Referred to as "Definition of Marriage" initiative in earlier surveys.

	<u>Likely Voters (February 2000)</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%	43%	67%	48%	54%	63%	61%
No	48	22	50	29	48	40	33	37
Don't know	5	4	7	4	4	6	4	2

Likely Voters (January 2000)	
<i>"If gay and lesbian couples live in California and marry in other states, do you think their marriages should or should not be legally recognized in California?"</i>	
Should	45%
Should not	49
Don't know	6
<i>"Do you think that gays and lesbians should or should not be allowed to serve openly in the military?"</i>	
Should	69%
Should not	26
Don't know	5

Proposition 26: Simple Majority Vote

The fate of Proposition 26 remains as uncertain today as it was a month ago, even as the proponents have made their arguments. Many voters are still not convinced of the need to change the requirement for passing local school bonds from a two-thirds to a simple-majority vote. When voters are read the title and summary of Proposition 26, 44 percent say they would vote yes and 47 percent say they would vote no. These results are almost identical to those of a month ago.

While a majority of Democrats (52%) would support the measure, most Republicans (57%) and a near majority of independent voters (49%) are opposed. At this time, the measure does not enjoy majority support in any of the state's major regions. A majority of Latinos (54%) are in favor of the simple-majority vote for local school bonds, while 50 percent of non-Hispanic whites are opposed.

Even though support for Proposition 26 now falls short of a majority, 64 percent of voters say they would vote for local school construction bonds if they appeared on their ballots this March. However, this does not reach the two-thirds majority required to pass local school bonds. Moreover, 28 percent who said they would vote for a local school bond in their district also said they would vote no on Proposition 26.

Voters show even less favor for a measure being discussed for the November ballot that would ease the vote requirement for raising local sales taxes for transportation. Almost six in 10 voters are opposed to changing the requirement for special transportation taxes from two-thirds to a simple majority vote, while fewer than four in 10 are in favor. Opponents outnumber supporters across all regions, political groups, and racial and ethnic groups.

"Proposition 26—the 'school facilities, local majority vote, bonds, taxes' initiative on the March 2000 ballot—would authorize local school districts to issue bonds for construction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities if approved by a simple majority of local voters. It authorizes property taxes higher than the existing one percent limit by majority vote, rather than by the two-thirds vote currently required, to pay the bonds. The fiscal costs to local school districts are potentially in the hundreds of millions of dollars statewide each year within a decade, depending on voter actions on future 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*	Jan 00	Feb 00
Yes	76%	64%	44%	44%
No	20	31	45	47
Don't know	4	5	11	9

* Wording did not reflect the most recent ballot title and summary.

	<u>Likely Voters (February 2000)</u>							
	<u>Party</u>			<u>Region</u>				<u>Latino</u>
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Yes	52%	36%	41%	41%	44%	47%	43%	54%
No	36	57	49	47	46	43	49	37
Don't know	12	7	10	12	10	10	8	9

<u>Likely Voters (February 2000)</u>	
<i>"If your local school district had a bond measure on the March ballot to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no?"</i>	
Yes	64%
No	29
Don't know	7
<i>"Do you favor or oppose allowing local sales tax increases to pay for local transportation projects to pass with a simple majority instead of a two-thirds vote?"</i>	
Favor	36%
Oppose	58
Don't know	6

News Stories About the Presidential Election

Californians are finally paying attention to the presidential campaign. With the news about the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries in the last month, the number of Californians who are “very closely” or “fairly closely” following the elections jumped 12 points—from 63 percent to 75 percent. Most of the increase was among those who say they are “very closely” following the races. Today, only about one in four voters likely to go to the polls is not closely following the candidates.

Democrats (74%), Republicans (74%), and independents (77%) are about equally likely to say they are at least fairly closely following the presidential primaries. Voters in the San Francisco Bay are more tuned in to the presidential race than those living elsewhere in the state. Latino voters (76%) are just as likely as non-Hispanic white voters (74%) at this time to indicate they are very or fairly closely following the 2000 election.

Among the likely voters who are paying very close attention to the election news, Gore (32%) has the highest support, and Bush and McCain are tied (21%), followed by Bradley (11%).

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

	<u>Likely Voters</u>		
	Dec 99	Jan 00	Feb 00
Very closely	16%	13%	21%
Fairly closely	52	50	54
Not too closely	26	30	21
Not at all closely	6	6	4
Don't know	0	1	0

	<u>Likely Voters (January 2000)</u>							
	<u>Party</u>			<u>Region</u>				<u>Latino</u>
	Dem	Rep	Other	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Very closely	20%	21%	23%	22%	20%	22%	18%	18%
Fairly closely	54	53	54	51	61	52	52	58
Not too closely	22	22	17	21	15	21	26	21
Not at all closely	4	4	6	6	4	5	4	3
Don't know	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

California Policy Issues

School Spending

Despite their intense interest in candidates' views on education and a desire to raise California's national rank in spending per pupil, Californians aren't as enthused about raising taxes to achieve that goal. Half of California residents know that California is ranked below average in per-pupil spending, compared to other states. This knowledge has increased by four points in the past two years (47% to 51%). When residents are informed that California ranks fortieth in the nation in per pupil spending, 74 percent favor a proposed initiative that would require the state to reach the national average in five years. Support is strong across political groups, regions of the state, racial and ethnic groups, and parents with and without children in public schools. However, support drops to 56 percent and by nearly 20 points in all groups when people are told that to bring the state up to the national average in per pupil spending would require increasing taxes by about \$4 billion a year.

<u>All Adults</u>		
	April 98	Feb 00
<i>"Where do you think California ranks in spending per pupil compared to other states?"</i>		
Near the top, Above average	14%	16%
Average	28	24
Near the bottom, Below average	47	51
Don't know	11	9

"The National Education Association ranks California fortieth in the nation in per pupil spending. A proposed initiative for the November ballot would require California to meet the national average in per pupil spending within five years. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this initiative?"

<u>February 2000</u>	All Adults	<u>Party Registration</u>				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Other Voters	Not Registered to Vote	
Yes	74%	80%	65%	72%	77%	79%
No	19	13	28	20	14	14
Don't know	7	7	7	8	9	7

"The Legislative Analyst and State Director of Finance estimate that the initiative would result in tax increases of about \$4 billion annually by 2005-2006. Knowing this, would you vote yes or no on an initiative to require California to meet the national average in per pupil spending within five years?"

<u>February 2000</u>	All Adults	<u>Party Registration</u>				Latino
		Democrat	Republican	Other Voters	Not Registered to Vote	
Yes	56%	62%	48%	53%	57%	59%
No	37	30	46	39	36	35
Don't know	7	8	6	8	7	6

Important Ingredients for Student Success

Putting good teachers in the classroom is ranked by the highest percentage of Californians (35%) as the most important ingredient for students to succeed in California's K-12 schools. They rank class size (23%) and student family background (22%) as next most important for student success. Fewer think that success can be achieved with more testing and standards (10%) and more spending per pupil (5%).

Belief that teachers' experience and education is the most important ingredient is even higher (40%) among people with children in public schools than it is among all Californians, while fewer of those with children in public schools believe that student family background is the biggest factor (19%). Although all groups rank teacher qualities as the most important factor, student family background ranks higher among non-Hispanic whites (25%) than Latinos (16%) or Latinos, Asians, and blacks combined (19%). The perception that teacher's experience and education is the most important ingredient for student success varies little across regions.

"Which of these factors do you think is the most important ingredient for students to succeed in California's K-12 public schools?"

<u>February 2000</u>	All Adults	<u>Region</u>				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Teacher's experience and education	35%	35%	33%	37%	35%	39%
Class size	23	23	21	24	24	21
Per pupil spending	5	5	6	4	5	5
Student family background	22	23	27	20	21	16
Student testing and standards	10	9	8	9	11	16
Other	2	1	3	2	1	0
Don't know	3	4	2	4	3	3

Perceptions of Local School Resources

Seventy-eight percent of Californians believe that schools in lower-income areas of the state do not have the same resources—including good teachers—as schools in wealthier areas, a perception equally held by parents with children in public schools (78%). At least 75 percent of people in every region see the state's system as offering unequal resources for wealthy areas and poorer areas. Seventy-eight percent of non-Hispanic whites, 76 percent of Latinos and 80 percent of Asians, Latinos, and blacks combined hold this view.

Moreover, 70 percent of resident think that school districts with the lowest student test scores should be given more resources than other school districts. This policy preference is more prevalent in the San Francisco Bay area and Southern California than in the Central Valley, but it is strongly held across all regions. Sixty-four percent of non-Hispanic whites, 80 percent of Latinos and 79 percent of Asians, Latinos, and blacks combined want districts with the lowest test scores to get more resources than other districts. Among people with children in the public schools, 75 percent think that low-performing districts should be given more resources than other school districts.

<u>February 2000</u>	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>"Do you think that schools in lower-income areas of the state have the same amount of resources—including good teachers—as schools in wealthier areas?"</i>						
Yes	17%	20%	9%	19%	19%	20%
No	78	75	86	75	77	76
Don't know	5	5	5	6	4	4
<i>"Do you think that school districts with the lowest student test scores in the state should or should not be given more resources than other school districts?"</i>						
Should	70%	63%	72%	74%	70%	80%
Should not	25	30	22	22	27	17
Don't know	5	7	6	4	3	3

Ethnic and Race Relations

Californians are increasingly aware that the racial and ethnic makeup of their regions is changing. Although most see race and ethnic relations as proceeding well, many perceive that "racial profiling" is taking place when some motorists are stopped by police.

Seventy-one percent think that the racial and ethnic makeup of their region has been changing, with 38 percent believing that "a lot" of change has occurred in recent years. This perception of racial and ethnic change has increased by five points over two years. Seventy-four percent of non-Hispanic whites see the racial and ethnic makeup of their region changing, compared to 64 percent of Latinos and 65 percent of Latinos, Asians, and blacks combined. There is some variation across regions: 74 percent in the Southern California suburban region, 72 percent in the San Francisco Bay area, 70 percent in the Central Valley, and 68 percent in Los Angeles perceive this change.

Today, as in the October 1998 survey, about eight in 10 Californians say that race and ethnic relations in their region are going "very well" or "somewhat well," and this varies little across regions or racial and ethnic groups. Nevertheless, many people believe that the police in their region do not treat ethnic and racial groups equally. Fifty percent think that the practice of "racial profiling"—in which police are more likely to stop motorists of certain racial and ethnic groups—is widespread in their region. In a national survey by Gallup in 1999, 59 percent of Americans thought that racial profiling was widespread. In California, the belief that racial profiling is widespread is most prevalent in Los Angeles (60%), while the belief that racial profiling is not widespread is most common in the Central Valley (47%). Forty-three percent of non-Hispanic whites see racial profiling as widespread, compared to 61 percent of Latinos and 62 percent of Latinos, Asians, and blacks combined.

"In the past few years, do you think the racial and ethnic makeup of your region has been changing a lot, somewhat, very little, or not at all?"

<u>All Adults</u>		
	Oct 98	Feb 00
A lot	36%	38%
Somewhat	30	33
Very little	20	19
Not at all	12	7
Don't know	2	3

"It has been reported that some police officers stop motorists of certain racial and ethnic groups because the officers believe that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain crimes. Do you believe that this practice, known as racial profiling, is widespread or not widespread in your region?"

<u>February 2000</u>	<u>All Adults</u>	<u>Region</u>				<u>Latino</u>
		<u>Central Valley</u>	<u>SF Bay Area</u>	<u>Los Angeles</u>	<u>Other Southern California</u>	
Widespread	50%	44%	46%	60%	50%	61%
Not widespread	42	47	42	32	43	33
Don't know	8	9	12	8	7	6

Immigration

Californians are becoming increasingly aware of the growth of the immigrant population. At the same time, they feel more positive about the contributions of immigrants to the state's economy.

Eighty-five percent of residents think the immigrant population in California has been increasing, while six in 10 say it has increased a lot. Only 11 percent think the immigrant population has stayed the same, and almost no one perceives this group as shrinking in size. The number of Californians who think the immigrant population in California has increased a lot in recent years has increased by 13 points since 1998.. Fifty-seven percent of Latinos and an equal percentage of non-Hispanic whites say the immigrant population is increasing a lot. This perception of a substantial growth varies somewhat across regions: 64 percent in the Southern California suburban region, 61 percent in Los Angeles, 58 percent in the San Francisco Bay area, and 56 percent in the Central Valley.

Today, as in the December 1998 survey, about four in 10 Californians rate illegal immigration as a "big problem" in California. Nevertheless, Californians are feeling more positive about immigrants. Two years ago, the state's residents were split about equally on the question of whether immigrants were a benefit (46%) or a burden (42%) on society. Now, they are much more likely to say that immigrants are a benefit to the economy (54%) rather than a burden to government (34%). Residents of the San Francisco Bay area (58%) and Los Angeles (58%) are more likely than those in the rest of Southern California (50%) and the Central Valley (50%) to say that immigrants are a benefit. Today, fewer than half of non-Hispanic whites think that immigrants have mostly positive effects on the state (45%), while Latinos are overwhelmingly positive about the effects of immigration (78%). Still, two years ago, fewer non-Hispanic whites saw immigration as a positive (37%) and fewer Latinos were positive (66%) about immigrants' contributions.

"In the past few years, do you think the overall immigrant population in California has been increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?"

<u>All Adults</u>		
	April 98	Feb 00
Increasing a lot	47%	60%
Increasing somewhat	26	25
Decreasing	2	2
Staying about the same	21	11
Don't know	4	2

"Which of these two views is closest to yours?"

<u>All Adults</u>		
	April 98	Feb 00
Immigrants today are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills	46%	54%
Immigrants today are a burden to California because they use public services	42	34
Don't know	12	12

Job Performance Ratings for State Officials

A slim majority of Californians continue to give Governor Gray Davis positive marks for his overall job performance in office: 51 percent rate his performance as excellent or good, 32 percent say he is doing a fair job, and 8 percent rate his job performance as poor. Nine percent are undecided. The positive ratings were similar in the September (51%), December (51%), and January (50%) surveys.

The Governor gets excellent or good ratings from most Democrats (63%) and around four in 10 Republicans (43%) and independent voters (40%). Approximately half of the residents in all regions of the state give him positive ratings: 52 percent in the San Francisco Bay area, 52 percent in Los Angeles County, 51 percent in the rest of the Southern California region, and 48 percent in the Central Valley. Latinos (60%) are more likely than non-Hispanic whites (49%) to say they think Davis is doing an excellent or good job in office.

Fewer Californians give positive marks to the State Legislature: 37 percent say it is doing an excellent or good job, 41 percent rate it as doing a fair job, and 10 percent say it is doing a poor job. Twelve percent have no opinion. The positive ratings are similar to those in the September (32%), December (37%), and January (34%) surveys.

Democrats (44%) are more likely than independent voters or Republicans (29% each) to give high marks to the Legislature. However, there is little variation in excellent or good ratings across regions: 36% in Los Angeles County, 37% in the rest of the Southern California region, 37% in the San Francisco Bay area, and 35 percent in the Central Valley. Latinos (51%) are more likely than non-Hispanic whites (31%) to give the State Legislature positive ratings for its job performance.

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

All Adults				
	Sep 99	Dec 99	Jan 00	Feb 00
<i>Governor Gray Davis</i>				
Excellent	10%	9%	9%	10%
Good	41	42	41	41
Fair	34	31	34	32
Poor	9	12	9	8
Don't know	6	6	7	9
<i>California Legislature</i>				
Excellent	2%	3%	3%	3%
Good	30	34	31	34
Fair	48	41	44	41
Poor	13	13	11	10
Don't know	7	9	11	12

Political Trends

Political Attentiveness

At the moment, Californians are more tuned into what is going on in government and public affairs than the rest of Americans and more tuned in than they were last fall. Eighty-seven percent say they follow what's going on in the public policy arena most or some of the time. While Californians are no more likely than Americans in a 1999 survey by the Pew Research Center to say that they follow government and public affairs "most of the time" (38% to 39%), state residents are more likely to follow public affairs at least "some of the time" (49% to 32%). Californians' interest has also grown since last fall when the PPIC Statewide surveys found that 70 percent in September and 69 percent in December said they were at least sometimes following political news, compared to 87 percent today.

Interest differs significantly across political groups. Californians who are not registered to vote are much less likely than those who are registered to follow government and public affairs "most of the time" (20% to 44%). Republicans (48%) are more likely than Democrats and other voters (42% each) to be highly attentive to politics. Latinos are less likely than non-Hispanic whites to very closely follow public affairs (27% to 43%). Regional differences are also evident: More people in the San Francisco Bay Area (42%) and Los Angeles (40%) than in the rest of Southern California (35%) or the Central Valley (36%) are following government and public affairs most of the time.

"Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs ..."

<u>All Adults</u>		
	U.S.*	California
Most of the time	39%	38%
Some of the time	32	49
Hardly ever	20	10
Never	9	3

* Source: National survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 1999

	All Adults	<u>Party Registration</u>				Latino
		Democrats	Republicans	Other Voters	Not Registered to Vote	
Most of the time	38%	42%	48%	42%	20%	27%
Some of the time	49	48	45	45	57	53
Hardly ever	10	8	6	11	15	14
Never	3	2	1	2	8	6

Political Alienation

Californians' political alienation is evident from the fact that 55 percent believe that most elected officials don't care about what people like themselves think. However, they seem less alienated than Americans nationally: 43 percent of Californians say that elected officials do care what they think, while only 35 percent voiced that belief in a 1999 national survey by the Pew Research Center. Democrats (49%) are more likely than Republicans (43%), and other voters (36%) to believe that most elected officials care what they think. Latinos and non-Hispanic whites are about equally likely to believe that elected officials care, and there are virtually no differences in perception across regions: 44% in Los Angeles, 42 percent in the rest of Southern California, 44 percent in the San Francisco Bay area, and 42 percent in the Central Valley say that elected officials care about what people like them think.

"Please tell me if the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your views ..."

	<u>All Adults</u>	
	U.S.*	California
Most elected officials care about what people like me think	35%	43%
Most elected officials do not care about what people like me think	60	55
Don't know	5	2

* Source: National survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 1999

	All Adults	<u>Party Registration</u>				Latino
		Democrats	Republicans	Other Voters	Not Registered to Vote	
Most elected officials care about what people like me think	43%	49%	43%	36%	40%	45%
Most elected officials do not care about what people like me think	55	49	56	62	56	51
Don't know	2	2	1	2	4	4

Government Regulation of Business

Californians are about as likely to say that “government regulation of business often does more harm than good” (49%) as to agree that “government regulation is necessary to protect the public interest” (46%). They are also slightly more negative about regulation than Americans generally. According to a national survey by the Pew Research Center in 1999, 44 percent of Americans believe that government regulation of business does more harm than good. Attitudes toward regulations differ by party: Democrats (56%) and independents (46%) are much more likely than Republicans (31%) to think that government regulation of business is needed to protect the public interest. Latinos (57%) are more likely than non-Hispanic whites (41%) to support the regulation of business. Regionally, residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (51%) and Los Angeles (48%) are more likely than those living in the rest of Southern California (42%) and the Central Valley (44%) to agree that government regulation of business is necessary.

"Please tell me if the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your views ..."

	<u>All Adults</u>	
	U.S.*	California
Government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest	48%	46%
Government regulation of business often does more harm than good	44	49
Don't know	8	5

* Source: National survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 1999

	All Adults	<u>Party Registration</u>				Latino
		Democrats	Republicans	Other Voters	Not Registered to Vote	
Government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest	46%	56%	31%	46%	50%	57%
Government regulation of business often does more harm than good	49	39	65	50	42	36
Don't know	5	5	4	4	8	7

Government Benefits for the Poor

Californians seem to have more sympathy than Americans generally for the poor. Fifty-three percent of Californians believe that poor people have hard lives because government benefits don't go far enough, while 39 percent think they have easy lives because of government benefits. In contrast, a national survey by the Pew Research Center in 1999 found that 42 percent of Americans think that poor people have hard lives, while 45 percent believe they have easy lives. However, there is a partisan split among Californians: 53 percent of Republicans think that the poor have it easy because of government benefits, compared to 28 percent of Democrats and 40 percent of other voters. There are also ethnic and regional differences: Latinos are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to think that the poor have hard lives because government benefits do not go far enough (58% to 48%). People living in the San Francisco Bay area (57%) and Los Angeles (57%) are more likely than those in the rest of Southern California (51%) and the Central Valley (46%) to share that view.

"Please tell me if the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your views ..."

	<u>All Adults</u>	
	U.S.*	California
Poor people today have it easy because they can get government benefits without doing anything in return	45%	39%
Poor people have hard lives because government benefits don't go far enough to help them live decently	42	53
Don't know	13	8

* Source: National survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 1999

	All Adults	<u>Party Registration</u>				Latino
		Democrats	Republicans	Other Voters	Not Registered to Vote	
Poor people today have it easy because they can get government benefits without doing anything in return	39%	28%	53%	40%	39%	35%
Poor people have hard lives because government benefits don't go far enough to help them live decently	53	64	36	53	55	58
Don't know	8	8	11	7	6	7

Government Involvement in HMOs and Managed Health Care

Californians' concerns about managed care is evident from the fact that almost two-thirds believe that the federal government should create national standards to protect the rights of patients in HMOs and managed health care plans. The results are almost identical to a national survey by the Pew Research Center in 1999. However, Californians' support for patients' rights does vary across political groups: 75 percent of Democrats, 45 percent of Republicans, and 61 percent of other voters think that the federal government should create standards to protect patients' rights. Latinos (75%) are more supportive than non-Hispanic whites (57%) of federal protection for patients' rights. Los Angeles residents (71%) are more likely than those living in the rest of Southern California (61%), the San Francisco Bay area (60%), and the Central Valley (59%) to favor national standards for patients rights.

"Should the federal government create national standards to protect the rights of patients in HMOs and managed health care plans, or would this get the federal government too involved in health care?"

	<u>All Adults</u>	
	U.S.*	California
Federal government should create standards	64%	63%
Federal government would be too involved	30	33
Don't know	6	4

* Source: National survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 1999

	All Adults	<u>Party Registration</u>				Latino
		Democrats	Republicans	Other Voters	Not Registered to Vote	
Federal government should create standards	63%	75%	45%	61%	70%	75%
Federal government would be too involved	33	22	51	36	26	22
Don't know	4	3	4	3	4	3

Government Health Care for the Uninsured

When asked their preference for providing guaranteed health care coverage for all Americans, 52 percent of Californians feel that it would be better to build on the existing health care system, while 41 percent think that it would be better to switch to a system in which all individuals would buy their own insurance with the help of tax credits or a subsidy. In a national survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation earlier this year, 43 percent of Americans said that they preferred building on the current health care system in seeking a way to extend health care coverage for the uninsured. Democrats (58% to 34%) and independent voters (52% to 43%) are more in favor of building on the current system than switching to a new system, while Republicans (46% each) are equally likely to want to build on the current health care system as they are to want to switch to a new health insurance system. Latinos (56%) are a little more likely than non-Hispanic whites (50%) to favor building on the current health care system. Those living in Los Angeles (55%) and the Central Valley (55%) express a slightly higher preference for building on the current system than those in the San Francisco Bay area (51%) and the Southern California suburban region (50%).

"Which of the following two options do you think would be the better way to guarantee health insurance coverage for Americans ..."

	<u>All Adults</u>	
	U.S.*	California
Building on the current system in which most working people get health coverage through an employer, and the government covers the cost of insurance for the poor and unemployed	43%	52%
Switching to a system in which all individuals would buy their own health insurance but would receive a tax credit or subsidy to help them with the cost of the plan	38	41
Neither (<i>volunteered</i>)	11	3
Don't know	8	4

* Source: National survey conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 2000

	All Adults	<u>Party Registration</u>				Latino
		Democrats	Republicans	Other Voters	Not Registered to Vote	
Build on current system	52%	58%	46%	52%	53%	56%
Switch to new system	41	34	46	43	42	40
Neither (<i>volunteered</i>)	3	3	3	2	1	1
Don't know	4	5	5	3	4	3

Western Europe and Asia

Although the Golden State is often described as the “Gateway to Asia,” Californians are more likely to say that Western European nations (47%) are more important than Asian nations (39%) for U.S. interests. In the San Francisco Bay Area, more people think that Asia rather than Western Europe is most important to U.S. interests (44% to 40%). In Los Angeles, residents are almost equally likely to say Western Europe (45%) and Asia (42%). However, Western Europe is perceived as more important than Asia in the Central Valley (49% to 33%) and the Southern California suburbs (49% to 40%). Latinos (55%) are more likely than non-Hispanic whites (47%) to say that the nations of Western Europe are more important to U.S. interests. Democrats (48%) and Republicans (51%) both perceive Western Europe as most important. In a national survey by Potomac Associates in 1999, 45 percent of Americans said that Western European ties were most important to U.S. interests.

Californians are more likely to think of Japan (49%) rather than China (36%) when they are asked to name the Asian country that is most important to California’s economy. Russia, South Korea, and other countries are infrequently thought of as the major player in the state’s economy. Democrats (53%) and Republicans (52%) are equally likely to name Japan. Latinos (49%) and non-Hispanic whites (50%) have similar perceptions of Japan’s significance to the state's economy. About half of the residents in every major region think of Japan as the most important Asian country for California’s economy.

"The United States has strong political, economic, and national defense ties with nations in Western Europe and Asia. From the standpoint of promoting our own political, economic, and national defense interests, which do you think are more important to the U.S.—nations in Western Europe or nations in Asia?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Nations in Western Europe	47%	49%	40%	45%	49%	55%
Nations in Asia	39	33	44	42	40	32
Other answer, Don't know	14	18	16	13	11	13

"Thinking of all Asian countries, which one country in this region do you think is the most important to California's economy?"

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Japan	49%	48%	49%	50%	48%	49%
China	36	35	38	34	38	32
South Korea	3	3	2	4	3	4
Russia	2	1	2	2	3	4
Another country	2	3	1	1	1	1
Don't know	8	10	8	9	7	10

Social and Economic Trends

Mood of the State

Californians remain highly positive about the state. Sixty-five percent say that things are going in the right direction in California. The mood is brighter in the San Francisco Bay area than in other regions and brighter among Latinos (71%) than non-Hispanic whites (63%). Californians remain optimistic about the prospects for the state's economy this year. Nearly eight in ten say that they expect good financial times over the next 12 months. This financial optimism is slightly lower in the Central Valley than in other regions of the state and is identical for Latinos and non-Hispanic whites.

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

<u>All Adults</u>								
	May 98	Sep 98	Oct 98	Dec 98	Sep 99	Dec 99	Jan 00	Feb 00
Right direction	56%	57%	62%	63%	61%	62%	66%	65%
Wrong direction	34	34	30	28	34	31	26	27
Don't know	10	9	8	9	5	7	8	8

<u>February 2000</u>	<u>All Adults</u>	<u>Region</u>				<u>Latino</u>
		<u>Central Valley</u>	<u>SF Bay Area</u>	<u>Los Angeles</u>	<u>Other Southern California</u>	
Right direction	65%	61%	70%	66%	62%	71%
Wrong direction	27	30	23	26	29	22
Don't know	8	9	7	8	9	7

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

<u>All Adults</u>			
	Sep 99	Dec 99	Feb 00
Good times	72%	76%	78%
Bad times	23	19	15
Don't know	5	5	7

<u>February 2000</u>	<u>All Adults</u>	<u>Region</u>				<u>Latino</u>
		<u>Central Valley</u>	<u>SF Bay Area</u>	<u>Los Angeles</u>	<u>Other Southern California</u>	
Good times	78%	74%	80%	77%	79%	77%
Bad times	15	18	13	16	13	19
Don't know	7	8	7	7	8	4

Computers and the Internet

Although almost three-fourths of Californians today have used a computer and about two-thirds have used the Internet at some time, there are considerable differences in use across age and ethnic groups and income and education levels. Seventy-two percent of Californians say they have used a computer, with 57 percent saying they "often" use a computer at home, school, or work. Sixty percent have used the Internet at some time, with 47 percent using it "often."

Frequent computer use is highly evident among those 18 to 54 years old (65%), while it is much less common among those 55 and older (36%). Latinos are much less likely than non-Hispanic whites to use computers on a frequent basis (35% to 63%). As for income, 26 percent of those with incomes under \$20,000 often use computers, compared to 84 percent of those with incomes of \$80,000 or more. Similarly, 30 percent of those with a high school education or less are frequent computer users, compared to 75 percent of college graduates.

As with overall computer use, frequent Internet use is much higher among California adults who are 18 to 54 (54%), while it is more rare among those who are 55 and older (27%). Latinos lag far behind non-Hispanic whites in frequent use of the Internet (26% to 52%). Frequent Internet use also increases with higher household income and education: Twenty-one percent of those with household incomes under \$20,000 often use the Internet, compared to 75 percent of those with incomes of \$80,000 or more. Similarly, only 21 percent of those with a high school education or less are frequent Internet users, compared to 65 percent of those with a college education or higher.

<u>February 2000</u>	All Adults	<u>Age</u>			Latino
		18 to 34	35 to 54	55 & Older	
<i>"Do you ever use a computer at home, at work, or at school?"</i>					
Yes, often	57%	64%	66%	36%	35%
Yes, sometimes	15	18	13	13	20
No, don't use computers	28	18	21	51	45
<i>"Do you ever go on line to access the Internet or World-Wide Web?"</i>					
Yes, often	47%	54%	53%	27%	26%
Yes, sometimes	13	16	15	9	13
No, but do use computers	12	12	11	13	17
No, don't use computers	28	18	21	50	44

Visiting Websites

As California governments consider the “California eGovernment Plan” recently offered by the California Secretary of State, it is important to take stock of the percentage and demographic characteristics of people who are currently accessing various government and private websites.

Californians today are more likely to use the Internet to visit retail websites than to visit government websites: 42 percent say they visit retail websites offering consumer products at least sometimes, compared to 33 percent who visit government websites and 32 percent who visit financial websites. Moreover, those who visit financial (14%) and retail (13%) websites are more likely to do so “often” in comparison to those who say they “often” visit government websites (8%). The California trends in visiting private-sector websites are similar to those found in a national survey by Harris in 1999. There are no comparable data from national studies on visits to government websites.

Also significant for California government is the “digital divide” in visits to these kinds of websites. A lower percentage of Latinos than non-Hispanic whites are visiting government websites (18% to 37%), retail websites (25% to 46%), and financial websites (20% to 35%). An even larger divide is found across income groups; those earning less than \$20,000 are much less likely than those earning more than \$80,000 to visit government websites (10% to 57%), retail websites (21% to 67%), and financial websites (10% to 59%). Similarly, those with a high school education or less are far less likely than those with a college degree or higher to visit government websites (12% to 51%), retail websites (22% to 59%), and financial websites (13% to 47%). There are also age differences, with those 55 and older being much less likely than those who are under 54 to visit government websites (19% to 37%), retail websites (22% to 49%), and financial websites (17% to 37%).

February 2000	All Adults
<i>"Do you ever go on line to visit government websites, such as federal, state, or local agencies?"</i>	
Yes, often	8%
Yes, sometimes	25
No	27
Don't use Internet	40
<i>"Do you ever go on line to visit retail websites, such as stores or catalogs offering consumer products?"</i>	
Yes, often	13%
Yes, sometimes	29
No	18
Don't use Internet	40
<i>"Do you ever go on line to visit financial web sites, such as banks, credit cards, and investment firms?"</i>	
Yes, often	14%
Yes, sometimes	18
No	28
Don't use Internet	40

"Do you ever go on line to visit government websites, such as federal, state, or local agencies?"

<u>February 2000</u>	<u>All Adults</u>							
	<u>Education</u>			<u>Income</u>				<u>Latino</u>
	HS or Less	Some College	College or Higher	Under \$20,000	\$20,000 to \$39,999	\$40,000 to \$79,999	Above \$80,000	
Yes, often	2%	7%	14%	3%	4%	11%	14%	3%
Yes, sometimes	10	24	37	7	22	29	43	15
No	19	33	30	21	26	30	32	20
Don't use Internet	69	35	19	69	48	30	11	62

"Do you ever go on line to visit retail websites, such as stores or catalogs offering consumer products?"

<u>February 2000</u>	<u>All Adults</u>							
	<u>Education</u>			<u>Income</u>				<u>Latino</u>
	HS or Less	Some College	College or Higher	Under \$20,000	\$20,000 to \$39,999	\$40,000 to \$79,999	Above \$80,000	
Yes, often	8%	13%	17%	8%	10%	14%	22%	11%
Yes, sometimes	14	29	42	13	21	37	45	14
No	9	22	22	10	21	19	22	13
Don't use Internet	69	35	19	69	48	30	11	62

"Do you ever go on line to visit financial web sites, such as banks, credit cards, and investment firms?"

<u>February 2000</u>	<u>All Adults</u>							
	<u>Education</u>			<u>Income</u>				<u>Latino</u>
	HS or Less	Some College	College or Higher	Under \$20,000	\$20,000 to \$39,999	\$40,000 to \$79,999	Above \$80,000	
Yes, often	5%	12%	23%	4%	8%	18%	30%	8%
Yes, sometimes	8	20	24	6	13	21	29	12
No	18	33	34	21	31	31	30	18
Don't use Internet	69	35	19	69	48	30	11	62

Digital Divide Proposals

Two proposals for reducing the “digital divide” that are part of the Secretary of State’s recent “California eGovernment Plan” have the enthusiastic support of the public.

One of the proposals calls for giving tax credits to companies that provide low-cost computers or Internet access to low-income households in California. Sixty-three percent of Californians say they are in favor of such a program. Support for the proposal is higher in Los Angeles County (68%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (66%), but it is strong in all regions. Not surprisingly, support is also higher among those groups adversely affected by the “digital divide.” Latinos are more likely to support the proposal than non-Hispanic whites (73% to 57%), and 68 percent of people with incomes below \$20,000 favor the proposal compared to 60 percent of those with incomes over \$80,000. Still, a majority in all groups favor this idea.

A second proposal recently offered for bridging the “digital divide” would require California public schools to teach basic computer and Internet skills to students before they graduate from the eighth grade. This proposal enjoys overwhelming support, with nine in ten Californians saying they favor the proposal. Support for the proposal is consistently high across all regions, racial and ethnic, income, education, and age groups.

There is equally strong support for these two proposals for bridging the “digital divide” among those who do and do not currently use computers and the Internet.

	All Adults	Region				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>"Do you favor or oppose giving companies tax credits if they provide low-cost computers or low-cost Internet access to low-income households in California?"</i>						
Favor	63%	58%	66%	68%	60%	73%
Oppose	30	35	27	24	33	19
Don't know	7	7	7	8	7	8
<i>"Do you favor or oppose requiring California public schools to teach basic computer and Internet skills before students graduate from the eighth grade?"</i>						
Favor	89%	87%	91%	90%	90%	90%
Oppose	9	12	8	7	8	8
Don't know	2	1	1	3	2	2

The Internet and Privacy Issues

As Internet use becomes more prevalent, a growing area of both private and public policy concern is how personal information might be used and threats to privacy. Thirty-seven percent of all California adults say they have decided not to purchase or use something on the Internet because of concerns about how their personal information might be used. Among *Internet users*, 62 percent have at least sometimes decided against an on-line use or purchase because of their privacy concerns. In a 1999 national survey by Harris, a similar six in 10 Americans who use the Internet reported deciding not to use or buy something while visiting websites because of concerns about how their personal information might be used.

When asked how concerned they are about threats to personal privacy when using the Internet, almost half (48%) of all Californians say they are at least somewhat concerned. Among *Internet users*, 80 percent are at least somewhat concerned about threats to their personal privacy while on the Internet. In the same 1999 national survey by Harris, nine in 10 Americans who use the Internet said they are concerned about threats to their personal privacy while using the Internet.

Concerns about Internet privacy are highest in the San Francisco Bay Area, where Internet use is most prevalent, and lowest in the Central Valley, where Internet use is least common. Forty-one percent of Bay Area residents are at least somewhat concerned about the use of personal information, compared to 33 percent in the Central Valley; 56 percent are at least somewhat concerned about threats to privacy in the San Francisco Bay area, compared to 44 percent in the Central Valley.

Concerns about the Internet and privacy also follow the demographic trends in Internet use. Only 24 percent of Latinos say they have decided not to purchase something on the Internet because of concerns about the use of their personal information, as compared to 39 percent of non-Hispanic whites. Similarly, 31 percent of Latinos are concerned about threats to their privacy on the Internet, while more than half (53%) of non-Hispanic whites have these concerns.

Reflecting their concerns about the Internet and privacy, two in three Californians feel that there should be new laws to protect privacy on the Internet and that existing laws are not sufficient. Support for new Internet privacy laws is consistent across all regions. However, despite fewer concerns about the Internet and privacy, Latinos are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to feel that new laws protecting privacy on the Internet are necessary (74% to 50%). Among Internet users and nonusers, a similar two in three believe that new laws are needed to protect privacy.

<u>February 2000</u>	All Adults	<u>Region</u>				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
<i>"Have you ever decided not to use or buy something on a web site because you were not sure how your personal information might be used?"</i>						
Yes, often	20%	20%	19%	23%	20%	13%
Yes, sometimes	17	13	22	12	17	12
No	23	22	27	22	24	14
Don't use Internet	40	45	32	43	39	61
<i>"How concerned are you about threats to your personal privacy when you are using the Internet?"</i>						
Very concerned	24%	21%	24%	28%	25%	18%
Somewhat concerned	24	23	32	19	25	14
Not concerned	12	12	12	10	11	7
Don't use Internet	40	44	32	43	39	61

"Which of the following is closest to your view: (a) there should be new laws to protect privacy on the Internet, or (b) existing laws are sufficient to protect privacy on the Internet?" (asked of all residents)

<u>February 2000</u>	All Adults	<u>Region</u>				Latino
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
New laws to protect privacy	67%	68%	61%	68%	70%	74%
Existing laws are sufficient	24	22	28	22	23	19
Don't know	9	10	11	10	7	7

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 2,058 California adult residents interviewed from February 2 to February 10, 2000. 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 2,058 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 1,582 registered voters is +/- 2.5% and for the 1,014 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 1999, Gallup in 1999, Harris in 1999, Potomac Associates in 1999, Fox News Opinion Dynamics in 2000, and Kaiser Family Foundation in 2000. We used 1998, 1999, and 2000 PPIC Statewide Surveys to analyze trends over time in California.

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT
FEBRUARY 2 – FEBRUARY 10, 2000
2,058 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?"*)

29%	Al Gore, Democrat
24	George W. Bush, Republican
17	John McCain, Republican
10	Bill Bradley, Democrat
2	Alan Keyes, Republican
5	someone else (<i>specify</i>)
13	don't know

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

46%	Al Gore, Democrat
45	George W. Bush, Republican
9	don't know

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

45%	George W. Bush, Republican
42	Bill Bradley, Democrat
13	don't know

4. Which one issue would you like to hear the candidates for President talk about between now and the March 7th California primary?

19%	schools, education
13	taxes, cutting taxes
10	health care, HMO reform
8	Social Security, Medicare
7	federal budget, spending
4	abortion
4	foreign policy, national security, defense
4	jobs, the economy, unemployment
3	environment, pollution
3	morals, family values
2	campaign finance
2	crime, gangs
2	guns, gun control
2	immigration, illegal immigration
7	other (<i>specify</i>)
10	don't know

5. Which of these statements is closest to your views about President Bill Clinton?

36%	I like Clinton and I like his policies
5	I like Clinton but I dislike his policies
26	I dislike Clinton but I like his policies
31	I dislike Clinton and I dislike his policies
2	don't know

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

49%	Dianne Feinstein, Democrat
14	Tom Campbell, Republican
5	Bill Horn, Republican
4	Ray Haynes, Republican
2	someone else (<i>specify</i>)
26	don't know

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

59%	approve
29	disapprove
12	don't know

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

41%	approve
48	disapprove
11	don't know

9. Proposition 22—the “limit on marriages” 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?

57%	yes
38	no
5	don't know

10. If gay and lesbian couples live in California and marry in other states, do you think their marriages should or should not be legally recognized in California?

45%	should
49	should not
6	don't know

11. Do you think that gays and lesbians should or should not be allowed to serve openly in the military?

69% should
26 should not
5 don't know

12. Proposition 26—the “school facilities, local majority vote, bonds, taxes” initiative on the March 2000 ballot—would authorize local school districts to issue bonds for construction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities if approved by a simple majority of local voters. It authorizes property taxes higher than the existing 1 percent limit by majority vote, rather than the two-thirds currently required, to pay the bonds. The fiscal cost to local school districts are potentially in the hundreds of millions of dollars statewide each year within a decade, depending on voter actions on future local school bonds. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 26?

44% yes
47 no
9 don't know

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

64% yes
29 no
7 don't know

14. Do you favor or oppose allowing local sales tax increases to pay for local transportation projects to pass with a simple majority instead of a two-thirds vote?

36% favor
58 oppose
6 don't know

15. 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?

21% very closely
54 fairly closely
21 not too closely
4 not at all closely
0 don't know

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

65% right direction
27 wrong direction
8 don't know

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

78% good times
15 bad times
7 don't know

We have some questions about kindergarten through twelfth grade public schools in California.

18. Where do you think California ranks in spending per pupil? Compared to other state's, is California's spending near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?

6% near the top
10 above average
24 average
29 below average
22 near the bottom
9 don't know

19. The National Education Association ranks California fortieth in the nation in per pupil spending. A proposed initiative for the November ballot would require California to meet the national average in per pupil spending within five years. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this initiative?

74% yes
19 no
7 don't know

20. The Legislative Analyst and State Director of Finance estimate that the initiative would result in tax increases of about 4 billion dollars annually by 2005-2006. Knowing this, would you vote yes or no on an initiative to require California to meet the national average in per pupil spending within five years?

56% yes
37 no
7 don't know

21. Which of these factors do you think is the most important ingredient for students to succeed in California's K-12 public schools? (*rotate*)

35% teacher's experience and education
23 class size
5 per pupil spending
22 student family background
10 student testing and standards
2 other (*specify*)
3 don't know

22. Do you think that schools in lower-income areas of the state have the same amount of resources—including good teachers—as schools in wealthier areas?

17% yes
78 no
5 don't know

23. Do you think that school districts with the lowest student test scores in the state should or should not be given more resources than other school districts?
- | | |
|-----|------------|
| 70% | should |
| 25 | should not |
| 5 | don't know |
24. In the past few years, do you think the racial and ethnic makeup of your region has been changing a lot, somewhat, very little, or not at all?
- | | |
|-----|-------------|
| 38% | a lot |
| 33 | somewhat |
| 19 | very little |
| 7 | not at all |
| 3 | don't know |
25. Overall, how do you think the racial and ethnic groups in your region are getting along these days—very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?
- | | |
|-----|----------------|
| 23% | very well |
| 57 | somewhat well |
| 13 | somewhat badly |
| 5 | very badly |
| 2 | don't know |
26. It has been reported that some police officers stop motorists of certain racial and ethnic groups because the officers believe that these groups are more likely than others to commit certain crimes. Do you believe that this practice, known as racial profiling, is widespread or not widespread in your region?
- | | |
|-----|----------------|
| 50% | widespread |
| 42 | not widespread |
| 8 | don't know |
27. In the past few years, do you think that the overall immigrant population in California has been increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same? (*if increasing: "is that a lot or somewhat?"*)
- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 60% | increasing a lot |
| 25 | increasing somewhat |
| 2 | decreasing |
| 11 | staying about the same |
| 2 | none of these answers, don't know |
28. Which of these two views is closest to yours?
 (a) immigrants today are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills.
 (b) immigrants today are a burden to California because they use public services.
- | | |
|-----|--------------------------|
| 54% | immigrants are a benefit |
| 34 | immigrants are a burden |
| 12 | neither, don't know |
29. In the past few years, do you think that illegal immigration from Mexico to California has been a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem?
- | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 42% | big problem |
| 40 | somewhat of a problem |
| 16 | not a problem |
| 2 | none of the above answers, don't know |
30. How do you rate the job performance of Governor Gray Davis at this time?
- | | |
|-----|------------|
| 10% | excellent |
| 41 | good |
| 32 | fair |
| 8 | poor |
| 9 | don't know |
31. How do you rate the job performance of the California Legislature at this time?
- | | |
|----|------------|
| 3% | excellent |
| 34 | good |
| 41 | fair |
| 10 | poor |
| 12 | don't know |
- I'm going to read some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, tell me if the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your views—even if neither is exactly right.
32. (a) most elected officials care what people like me think. (b) most elected officials don't care what people like me think.
- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 43% | most elected officials care |
| 55 | most elected officials don't care |
| 2 | don't know |
33. (a) government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest. (b) government regulation of business often does more harm than good.
- | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| 46% | government regulation is necessary |
| 49 | government regulation does harm |
| 5 | don't know |
34. (a) poor people today have it easy because they can get government benefits without doing anything in return. (b) poor people have hard lives because government benefits don't go far enough to help them live decently.
- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| 39% | poor people have it easy |
| 53 | poor people have hard lives |
| 8 | don't know |
35. Should the federal government create national standards to protect the rights of patients in HMOs and managed health care plans, or would this get the federal government too involved in health care?
- | | |
|-----|--|
| 63% | federal government should create standards |
| 33 | federal government would be too involved |
| 4 | don't know |

36. Which of the following two options do you think would be the better way to guarantee health insurance coverage for Americans? (a) building on the current system in which most working people get health coverage through an employer, and the government covers the cost of insurance for the poor and unemployed. (b) switching to a system in which all individuals would buy their own health insurance but would receive a tax credit or subsidy to help them with the cost of the plan.
- | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 52% | build on current system |
| 41 | switch to another system |
| 3 | neither (<i>volunteered</i>) |
| 4 | don't know |
37. The United States has strong political, economic, and national defense ties with nations in Western Europe and Asia. From the standpoint of promoting our own political, economic, and national defense interests, which do you think are more important to the United States—nations in Western Europe or nations in Asia?
- | | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 47% | nations in Western Europe |
| 39 | nations in Asia |
| 14 | don't know |
38. Thinking of all Asian countries, which one country in this region do you think is the most important to California's economy?
- | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| 49% | Japan |
| 36 | China |
| 3 | South Korea |
| 2 | Russia |
| 2 | another country (<i>specify</i>) |
| 8 | don't know |
39. 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 as an independent or decline-to-state?"*)
- | | |
|-----|------------------|
| 33% | yes, Democrat |
| 27 | yes, Republican |
| 3 | yes, other party |
| 14 | yes, independent |
| 23 | not registered |
40. Some people who plan to vote can't always get around to it on election day. With your personal daily schedule in mind, are you absolutely certain to vote in the California primary on March 7th, will you probably vote, are the chances about 50-50, less than 50-50, or don't you think you'll vote on March 7th?
- | | |
|-----|-----------------------|
| 72% | certain to vote |
| 14 | probably vote |
| 10 | 50-50 chance |
| 1 | less than 50-50 |
| 2 | don't think will vote |
| 1 | don't know |
41. Would you consider yourself to be politically very liberal, somewhat liberal, middle-of-the-road, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?
- | | |
|-----|-----------------------|
| 10% | very liberal |
| 21 | somewhat liberal |
| 33 | middle-of-the-road |
| 25 | somewhat conservative |
| 9 | very conservative |
| 2 | don't know |
42. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or none?
- | | |
|-----|---------------|
| 18% | great deal |
| 50 | fair amount |
| 27 | only a little |
| 5 | none |
43. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, hardly ever, or never?
- | | |
|-----|------------------|
| 38% | most of the time |
| 49 | some of the time |
| 10 | hardly ever |
| 3 | never |
44. How often would you say you vote—always, nearly always, part of the time, seldom, or never?
- | | |
|-----|------------------|
| 46% | always |
| 23 | nearly always |
| 12 | part of the time |
| 5 | seldom |
| 13 | never |
| 1 | don't know |
45. Do you yourself ever use a computer at home, at work, or at school? (*if yes: "do you do this often or only sometimes?"*)
- | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 57% | yes, often (<i>ask q. 46</i>) |
| 15 | yes, sometimes (<i>ask q. 46</i>) |
| 28 | no (<i>skip to q. 53</i>) |
46. 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?"*)
- | | |
|-----|---|
| 47% | yes, often (<i>ask q. 47</i>) |
| 13 | yes, sometimes (<i>ask q. 47</i>) |
| 12 | no (<i>skip to q. 52</i>) |
| 28 | don't use a computer (<i>skip to q. 52</i>) |
47. Do you ever go on line to visit government web sites, such as federal, state, or local agencies? (*if yes: "do you do this often or only sometimes?"*)
- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 8% | yes, often |
| 25 | yes, sometimes |
| 27 | no |
| 40 | don't use Internet/computer |

48. Do you ever go on line to visit retail web sites, such as stores or catalogs offering consumer products? (if yes: "do you do this often or only sometimes?")

- 13% yes, often
- 29 yes, sometimes
- 18 no
- 40 don't use Internet/computer

49. Do you ever go on line to visit financial web sites, such as banks, credit cards, and investment firms? (if yes: "do you do this often, or only sometimes?")

- 14% yes, often
- 18 yes, sometimes
- 28 no
- 40 don't use Internet/computer

50. Have you ever decided not to use or buy something on a web site because you were not sure how your personal information might be used? (if yes: "do you do this often or only sometimes?")

- 20% yes, often
- 17 yes, sometimes
- 23 no
- 40 don't use Internet/computer

51. How concerned are you about threats to your personal privacy when you are using the Internet—very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned?

- 24% very concerned
- 24 somewhat concerned
- 12 not concerned
- 40 don't use Internet/computer

52. Which of the following is closest to your view? (rotate a and b) (a) there should be new laws to protect privacy on the internet. (b) existing laws are sufficient to protect privacy on the internet.

- 67% new laws to protect privacy
- 24 existing laws are sufficient
- 9 don't know

What do you think of these proposals for increasing computer use and Internet access in California?

53. First, do you favor or oppose giving companies tax credits if they provide low-cost computers or low-cost Internet access to low-income households in California?

- 63% favor
- 30 oppose
- 7 don't know

54. Do you favor or oppose requiring California public schools to teach basic computer and Internet skills before students graduate from the eighth grade?

- 89% favor
- 9 oppose
- 2 don't know

[55-63. Demographic questions.]

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