



**PPIC
STATEWIDE
SURVEY**

MAY 2006

**Special Survey on the
California State Budget**

in collaboration with

The James Irvine Foundation

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**Public
Policy
Institute of
California**

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) is a private operating foundation established in 1994 with an endowment from William R. Hewlett. The Institute is dedicated to improving public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research.

PPIC's research agenda focuses on three program areas: population, economy, and governance and public finance. Studies within these programs are examining the underlying forces shaping California's future, cutting across a wide range of public policy concerns, including education, health care, immigration, income distribution, welfare, urban growth, and state and local finance.

PPIC was created because three concerned citizens – William R. Hewlett, Roger W. Heyns, and Arjay Miller – recognized the need for linking objective research to the realities of California public policy. Their goal was to help the state's leaders better understand the intricacies and implications of contemporary issues and make informed public policy decisions when confronted with challenges in the future. PPIC does not take or support positions on any ballot measure or on any local, state, or federal legislation, nor does it endorse, support, or oppose any political parties or candidates for public office.

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Preface

The PPIC Statewide Survey series provides policymakers, the media, and the general public with objective, advocacy-free information on the perceptions, opinions, and public policy preferences of California residents. Inaugurated in April 1998, the survey series has generated a database that includes the responses of more than 140,000 Californians. The current survey is the seventh in a series of special surveys on the *California State Budget*, begun in June 2003 and conducted in collaboration with The James Irvine Foundation. This survey series seeks to raise public awareness, inform decisionmakers, and stimulate public discussion about the current state budget and the underlying state and local finance systems.

The current survey focuses on the 2006 election and state budget issues. It examines voters' preferences on June 6 primary ballot issues, including the Democratic gubernatorial primary and two state propositions. Over the years, California voters have made significant fiscal decisions for the state at the ballot box. In June, the state's voters will again have an important impact on the state and local fiscal system when they vote on a state bond measure for local libraries and an initiative that would raise taxes on the wealthy to pay for preschool for all four-year-olds. While the governor and legislature face the challenge of passing a state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, they also seek to address a persistent gap between state spending and state revenue and to find ways to fund improvements in the state's infrastructure. This public opinion survey offers an opportunity to examine Californians' views on elected officials, fiscal issues, and reform proposals. This report presents the responses of 2,000 adult residents throughout the state on a wide range of issues:

- The 2006 elections, including likely voter preferences in the Democratic gubernatorial primary, potential match-ups of major party gubernatorial candidates in November, candidate popularity ratings, voters' attention to election news and advertising, and issues of importance to voters. The survey also measures support for Propositions 81 (the library bond) and 82 (the preschool initiative) on the June ballot and tracks voters' attitudes related to support for these ballot measures.
- State fiscal issues, including attitudes toward the governor's budget plan and related fiscal proposals, perceptions of the severity of the state budget situation and fiscal trends in the past two years, priorities for state spending on major categories of the state budget, fiscal policy preferences, attitudes towards lowering the two-thirds vote requirement for passing the state budget and local special taxes, and perceptions of state and local government spending and taxes in California compared to other states.
- State policy issues, including support for state bond measures to pay for infrastructure projects headed for the November ballot, overall approval ratings of Governor Schwarzenegger and the state legislature, approval ratings for the governor on the state budget and taxes, approval ratings for local representatives to the state senate and assembly, attitudes toward political redistricting, legislative term limits, and campaign finance issues and related reform proposals.
- The extent to which Californians may differ with regard to attitudes toward fiscal, political, and governance issues by party affiliation, demographics, race/ethnicity, and region of residence.

This is the 67th PPIC Statewide Survey, which has included a number of special editions on the Central Valley (11/99, 3/01, 4/02, 4/03, 4/04), Los Angeles County (3/03, 3/04, 3/05), Orange County (9/01, 12/02, 12/03, 12/04), San Diego County (7/02), education (4/05, 4/06) population (5/01, 12/05), land use (11/01, 11/02), housing (11/04), the environment (6/00, 6/02, 7/03, 11/03, 7/04, 7/05, 2/06), the state budget (6/03, 1/04, 5/04, 1/05, 5/05, 1/06), California's future (8/04), and the initiative process (08/05, 09/05, 10/05, 11/05).

Copies of this report may be ordered by e-mail (order@ppic.org) or phone (415-291-4400). Copies of this and earlier reports are posted on the publications page of the PPIC web site (www.ppic.org). For questions about the survey, please contact survey@ppic.org.

Regional Groupings Used in This Report



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Press Release

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SPECIAL SURVEY ON THE CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET

STATE OF UNCERTAINTY: CALIFORNIANS UNDECIDED ABOUT PRIMARY, DIVIDED ABOUT LEADERSHIP, FUTURE Governor's May Budget is Popular, But He Gets Little Credit; Early Support for Infrastructure Measures

SAN FRANCISCO, California, May 25, 2006 — Californians' growing economic angst and chronic doubts about the quality and probity of state government are bringing less, not more, clarity to the final weeks of the primary campaign, according to a survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) with funding from The James Irvine Foundation. The upshot? Far higher levels of undecided voters than in previous years.

The context: Rising gas prices, a declining stock market, and inflation worries have taken their toll on consumer confidence: 52 percent of state residents say they expect bad times financially in the coming year, up from 43 percent in March. A majority of Californians (57%) think the state is headed in the wrong direction – and their assessment of state elected leaders is equally glum. State residents are far more likely to disapprove than to approve of the job performance of the governor (52% disapprove, 36% approve) and state legislature (54% disapprove, 26% approve).

The consequences: With the Democratic gubernatorial primary just two weeks away, one third of Democratic primary likely voters (33%) are still undecided. By comparison, in the weeks before the 2002 and 1998 gubernatorial primaries, about one in four voters were still undecided. Further, in hypothetical match-ups between Democratic challengers and the incumbent governor, about one in four voters are undecided or name others, compared to one in six voters in 2002.

“California voters seem very indecisive at the moment,” says PPIC survey director Mark Baldassare. “But it’s not because they are uninformed; they are simply uncertain about the type of leadership they want for the state.” In fact, more likely voters say they are very closely or fairly closely following news about candidates for governor today than a month ago (68% today to 60% in April). And most Democratic primary likely voters (79%) say they have seen advertisements for State Treasurer Phil Angelides (26%), State Controller Steve Westly (28%), or both (25%).

Women the Deciders in Democratic Primary

Angelides and Westly are locked in a statistical dead heat among Democratic primary likely voters (35% to 32%). Angelides has made the largest gains in the past month – up from 20 percent in April compared to Westly’s 26 percent. Still, the situation is highly volatile because large number of Democratic primary voters (33%) are undecided or would choose someone else. Who are these undecided voters? Women. They are more likely than men (37% to 28%) to say they are undecided. “Since women outnumber men in the Democratic electorate, undecided women will be pivotal in determining the winner in this primary election,” says Baldassare. Currently, men favor Angelides by a wide margin (43% Angelides vs. 29% Westly) and women favor Westly by a narrower margin (35% Westly vs. 28% Angelides).

But regardless of who wins the June Democratic primary, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appears to be headed for a close race come fall. The race is a toss-up in hypothetical contests between Schwarzenegger and Angelides (38% each) and Schwarzenegger and Westly (36% each). The governor’s comparative advantage over Angelides and Westly – namely, his name ID – is also his weakness: Most voters know him, but they are as likely to have an unfavorable view of him (47%) as a favorable one (45%). Angelides and Westly have the reverse problem: They

have far lower unfavorable ratings than Schwarzenegger (26% Angelides, 19% Westly) but they are also unknown to much of the electorate (45% Angelides, 50% Westly). “Independent voters – who know little about these Democratic candidates today but who will cast the swing votes in November – are getting their first exposure to them through more frequent and more negative paid advertising in the run up to the primary,” says Baldassare.

Schwarzenegger’s Budget Popular, His Approach Not

The state budget is already a big issue in the gubernatorial race. How do residents feel about the current state of fiscal affairs? A majority of Californians (57%) say they are satisfied with the governor’s revised budget plan, which he released on May 12. This plan has much higher support than his last year’s budget proposal (57% today compared to 44% in May 2005). Strong majorities back the governor’s plans for using some unexpected new state revenues to increase spending on K-12 education (77%), reduce state debt and reserve cash (76%), and fund levee repairs (67%).

But there’s a twist. Although Californians support the governor’s proposal, only 19 percent prefer his approach to making tough choices about the budget, while 35 percent prefer the approach of Democrats in the state legislature, and 20 percent prefer the approach of legislative Republicans. A majority of Californians (52%) – and nearly half of likely voters (47%) – still disapprove of Schwarzenegger’s handling of the state budget and taxes. “Californians appear to be wary of the feast or famine budget situation they’ve seen in recent years,” says Baldassare. In fact, a majority (58%) believe the state’s fiscal situation remains a big problem. And, although one in four residents (26%) say it has improved in the past two years, two in three say it has stayed the same (34%) or gotten worse (32%).

Even though many Californians have serious concerns about the state fisc, many would still like to see increased spending in some major budget categories – K-12 education (68%), health and human services (60%), and public colleges and universities (57%). The exception? State residents would prefer to spend less money (32%) rather than more (24%) on prisons. Overall, 55 percent of Californians favor a state government with higher taxes and more services. But are they willing to support reforms that would make it easier to raise taxes and pass budgets? No. More state residents say it would be a bad idea to lower either the supermajority vote requirement for local special taxes (52% bad idea, 38% good idea) or the two-thirds vote requirement for state budgets (46% bad idea, 42% good idea).

Support Builds for Infrastructure Measures

Seven in 10 Californians (70%) support the governor’s plan to invest \$222 billion over the next 10 years on infrastructure projects. A majority (58%) want to increase spending on infrastructure, and believe education facilities (50%) should be the top priority when it comes to allocating additional state funding, followed by surface transportation projects (24%), and flood protection (15%).

In November, Californians will go to the polls to vote on four infrastructure bond measures – totaling about \$37 billion – that the legislature placed on the ballot with the governor’s support. But does support for increased infrastructure spending hold when the rubber hits the road? Currently, the \$10 billion bond for school and university construction and renovation has the strongest support among likely voters (68%). More than six in 10 likely voters also say they would vote yes on a \$20 billion bond measure for surface transportation projects (65%) and a \$4 billion bond for flood protection projects (62%). Voters are divided, however, on a \$3 billion bond for affordable housing (49% yes, 47% no). Interestingly, although Californians are generally enthusiastic about this bond package, they give the state legislature little credit for it: 51 percent of state residents – and 57 percent of likely voters – say they disapprove of the way the state legislature is handling the issues of transportation and infrastructure.

June Ballot Measures Are Partisan Affairs

Proposition 81 – the \$600 million state bond measure that would fund the construction and renovation of public libraries in California – is currently supported by 51 percent of likely voters, with 41 percent opposed. Democrats support the measure by a wide margin (65% yes, 26% no), while Republicans are opposed (38% yes, 53% no) and

independents are torn (45% yes, 47% no). Three in four voters (75%) say expanding access to public libraries is at least somewhat important.

Proposition 82 – which would fund voluntary preschool education for all four-year-olds in California through a tax on high-income state residents – is currently supported by 50 percent of likely voters, with 43 percent opposed. Support for this measure has changed little since April (51% yes, 40% no). Even though most likely voters (82%) agree that attending preschool is at least somewhat important to later school success, Democrats (63%) are more likely than Republicans (36%) to back the measure. Half of likely voters (52%) like the idea of tying a specific tax to a specific service, while 34 percent think earmarking is a bad idea.

More Key Findings

- **Independent Voters Just Say No to Partisan Ballots** (page 1)
Although primary rules allow independent voters to select a party ballot instead of a nonpartisan one, few independents today say they plan to select a Democratic (21%) or Republican (8%) ballot.
- **Immigration Remains Top Concern** (page 4)
Likely voters rank immigration (24%) as the top issue they want candidates for governor to discuss, followed by education and schools (23%). Republicans (32%) and independents (29%) are more likely than Democrats (15%) to name immigration as their top issue.
- **Redistricting Reform Still Hot...** (page 16)
Despite the defeat of Proposition 77 on last year's ballot, many voters (64%) still say the redistricting process needs change. Six in 10 (62%) would prefer to have an independent commission of citizens, rather than the governor and legislature, in charge of the redistricting process.
- **... Term Limits Reform Not** (page 17)
Two in three likely voters (67%) say term limits are a good thing, and an equal number oppose changing the system to let state legislators serve up to 14 years in either the senate or assembly.
- **Lukewarm Support for Public Funding of Campaigns** (page 18)
A strong majority of likely voters (64%) say campaign contributions have a bad effect on policymaking in Sacramento. Half (51%) would pay for a system of public funding for state and legislative campaigns.

About the Survey

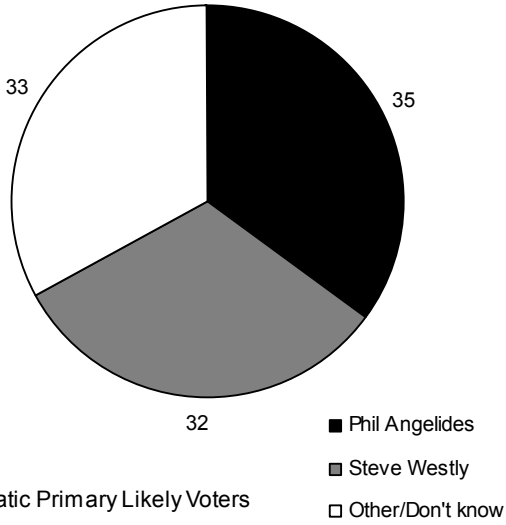
This survey on the California state budget – made possible with funding from The James Irvine Foundation – is a special edition of the PPIC Statewide Survey. This is the seventh survey in a series intended to raise public awareness, inform decisionmakers, and stimulate public discussions about issues related to the California state budget and underlying fiscal system. Findings of this survey are based on a telephone survey of 2,000 California adult residents interviewed between May 14 and May 21, 2006. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The sampling error for the total sample is +/- 2%. The sampling error for subgroups is larger: For the 986 likely voters it is +/- 3% and for the 435 Democratic primary likely voters it is +/- 5%. For more information on methodology, see page 19.

Mark Baldassare is research director at PPIC, where he holds the Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Chair in Public Policy. He is founder of the PPIC Statewide Survey, which he has directed since 1998.

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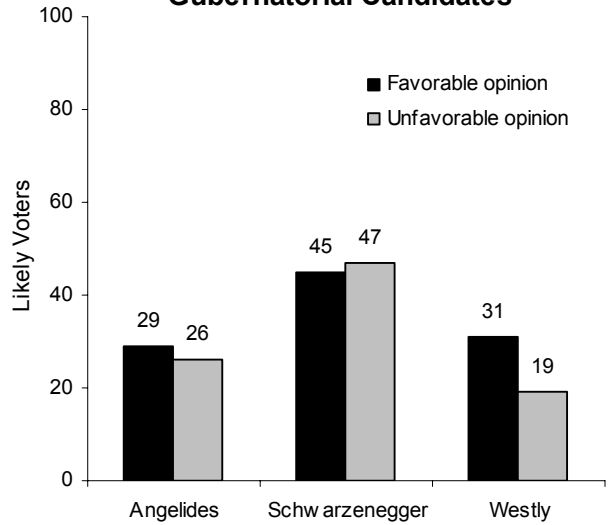
This report will appear on PPIC's website (www.ppic.org) on May 25. ###

Democratic Gubernatorial Primary

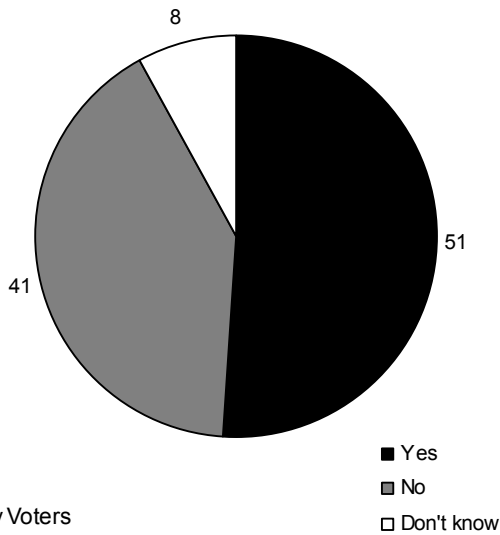


Democratic Primary Likely Voters

Likely Voters' Opinions of Gubernatorial Candidates

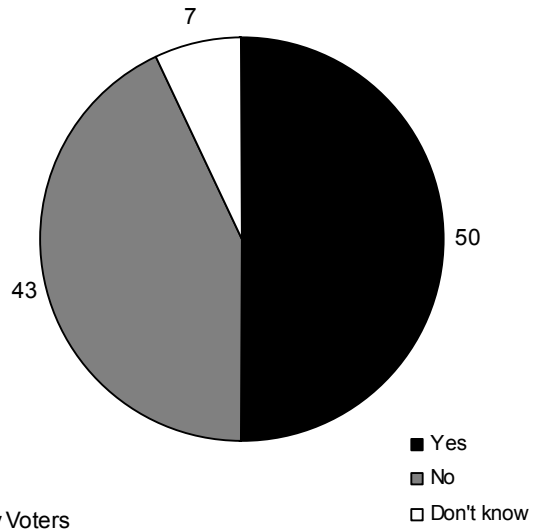


Proposition 81—Library Bond



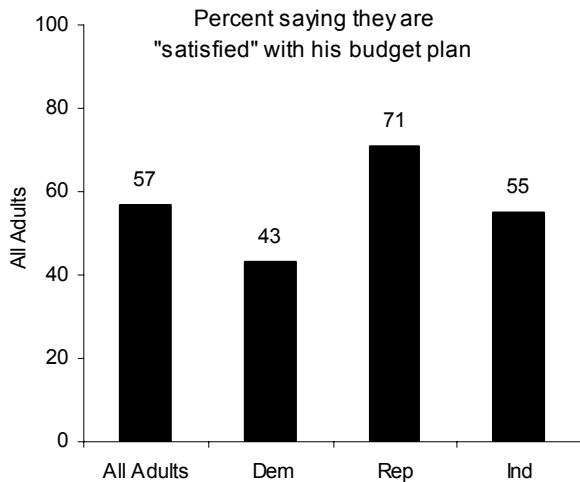
Likely Voters

Proposition 82—Preschool Initiative

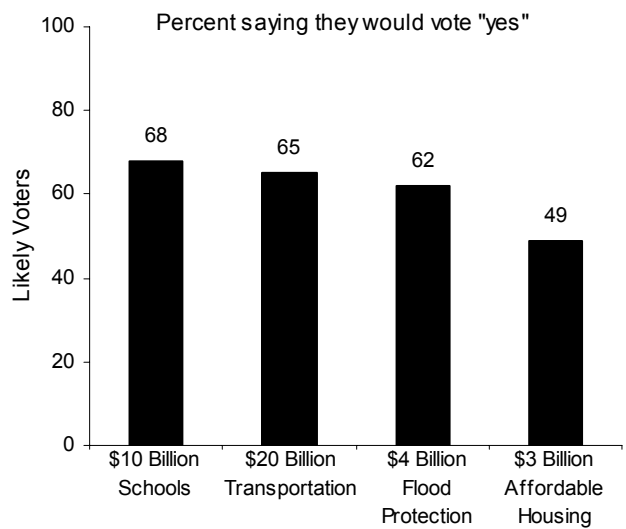


Likely Voters

Governor's Budget Plan



Infrastructure Bonds



California 2006 Elections

Democratic Primary for Governor

With the June 6 Democratic gubernatorial primary campaign in its final days, State Treasurer Phil Angelides and State Controller Steve Westly are in a close contest (35% to 32%); however, one in three voters are still undecided or saying they would choose someone else to run against Arnold Schwarzenegger in November. In the past month, Angelides has experienced the largest gains of the entire campaign season. In contrast, Westly has shown modest increases in support over time. Still, with limited time remaining before the primary, a large percent of voters have yet to choose a favorite candidate in the Democratic primary for governor.

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

<i>Democratic Primary Likely Voters</i>	March 06	April 06	May 06
Phil Angelides, State Treasurer	22%	20%	35%
Steve Westly, State Controller	23	26	32
Other/don't know	55	54	33

Women outnumber men in the Democratic electorate, thus, the large number of undecided women will play an important role in determining the winner on June 6. Currently, men favor Angelides by a wide margin, and women favor Westly by a narrower margin.

	Democratic Primary Likely Voters	<u>Gender</u>	
		Men	Women
Phil Angelides	35%	43%	28%
Steve Westly	32	29	35
Other/don't know	33	28	37

Apparently, the gubernatorial and other candidates in the Democratic primaries are not attracting much interest among the “decline to state” or independent voters. Although the primary rules allow for independents to select a party ballot instead of a nonpartisan ballot, just two in 10 independents at this time say they will select a Democratic ballot. Interest in voting in the Democratic primary has not changed much as the campaign season has progressed. Since the ballot choices of independent voters will be an important factor in the fall election—neither Democrats nor Republicans have 50 percent of registered voters and independents now make up 18 percent of the California electorate—their party participation and candidate leanings in the June primary will be closely watched.

“Do you plan to vote in the Republican primary, the Democratic primary, or on the nonpartisan ballot?”

<i>Independent Likely Voters Only</i>	March 06	April 06	May 06
Democratic primary	19%	18%	21%
Republican primary	12	14	8
Nonpartisan ballot	57	56	54
Don't know	12	12	17

Potential November Match-ups

Governor Schwarzenegger appears to be headed for a close election in the 2006 governor's race no matter who he faces in November. The race is a toss-up in a hypothetical contest between Schwarzenegger and Angelides (38% to 38%) or Schwarzenegger and Westly (36% to 36%). At this stage, about one in four voters would opt for other candidates or are undecided in these two gubernatorial match-ups.

"If these were the candidates in the November 2006 governor's election would you vote for...?"

	Likely Voters		Likely Voters
Arnold Schwarzenegger	38%	Arnold Schwarzenegger	36%
Phil Angelides	38	Steve Westly	36
Other/don't know	24	Other/don't know	28

The pattern of partisan support for Schwarzenegger is remarkably similar whether Angelides or Westly is the Democratic candidate for governor. About two in three Democrats would support either Angelides or Westly against Schwarzenegger. Meanwhile, about two in three Republicans would favor Schwarzenegger, whether the Democratic candidate is Westly or Angelides. Independents are divided in match-ups between Schwarzenegger and Angelides or Westly, but large percentages of independents are undecided or name other candidates. The choices made by these undecided independents are certain to play a decisive role in determining the outcome of the November election.

In terms of regional differences, both Angelides and Westly have their strongest showing against Schwarzenegger in the Democratic-leaning San Francisco Bay Area, while Schwarzenegger leads both Democratic challengers in the Central Valley and the Other Southern California region. About one in four Latinos say they would vote for Schwarzenegger over Angelides or Westly, while more express support for either Angelides or Westly. Whites favor Schwarzenegger over Angelides (45% to 33%) and Westly (42% to 34%). Men favor Schwarzenegger over Angelides (45% to 36%) and Westly (42% to 33%), while women favor Angelides (41% to 31%) and Westly (40% to 29%) over Schwarzenegger.

"If these were the candidates in the November 2006 governor's election would you vote for...?"

<i>Likely Voters Only</i>	<u>Party</u>			<u>Region</u>				Latinos
	Dem	Rep	Ind	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Arnold Schwarzenegger	14%	67%	33%	45%	25%	37%	44%	26%
Phil Angelides	65	10	35	31	51	42	30	47
Other/don't know	21	23	32	24	24	21	26	27
Arnold Schwarzenegger	14	65	27	44	24	38	39	24
Steve Westly	62	9	32	31	46	36	31	36
Other/don't know	24	26	41	25	30	26	30	40

Candidate Popularity Ratings

Many Democratic primary likely voters are not all that familiar with the two major candidates in the gubernatorial primary—even in the closing days of this campaign. About four in 10 say they don't know enough about Angelides or Westly to have opinions about either one. Still, perceptions of both candidates are mostly, and about equally, favorable. Only about one in 10 Democratic primary likely voters have unfavorable opinions of Angelides or Westly—over four in 10 have favorable opinions of them.

“Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of _____, or don't you know enough about him to have an opinion?”

<i>Democratic Primary Likely Voters Only</i>	<u>Favorability</u>		
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Don't Know
Phil Angelides	48%	12%	40%
Steve Westly	44	10	46

Currently, the two Democratic primary candidates are far less well known than Governor Schwarzenegger. In the broader electorate of all likely voters, about half have no opinion of Angelides and Westly, compared to less than one in 10 for Schwarzenegger. Three in 10 voters have favorable opinions toward both Angelides and Westly. Californians' opinions are divided over Schwarzenegger—45 percent are favorable toward him, while 47 percent are unfavorable. Among likely voters, more express favorable opinions of Schwarzenegger than either Democrat hopeful, but at the same time, more express unfavorable opinions of Schwarzenegger than either Democrat.

Schwarzenegger is highly popular among Republicans and highly unpopular among Democrats. Among independents, 37 percent have a favorable opinion and 52 percent have an unfavorable opinion. Westly and Angelides have similar popularity levels among Democrats. Westly is more popular than Angelides among independents and Republicans. Schwarzenegger is most popular in the Central Valley and the Other Southern California region, and least popular in the San Francisco Bay Area, where Westly and Angelides have their highest popularity ratings.

<i>Likely Voters Only</i>		All Likely Voters	<u>Party</u>			<u>Region</u>			
			Dem	Rep	Ind	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California
Phil Angelides	Favorable	29%	48%	10%	23%	20%	39%	30%	24%
	Unfavorable	26	12	39	26	28	21	26	31
	Don't know	45	40	51	51	52	40	44	45
Arnold Schwarzenegger	Favorable	45	21	75	37	52	34	44	51
	Unfavorable	47	69	17	52	37	60	47	42
	Don't know	8	10	8	11	11	6	9	7
Steve Westly	Favorable	31	45	18	28	28	39	31	27
	Unfavorable	19	10	26	18	20	17	19	20
	Don't know	50	45	56	54	52	44	50	53

Voters' Interests and Awareness

Likely voters place immigration (24%) and education (23%) at the top of the list of issues they would most like the candidates for governor to talk about this year. By comparison, just 12 percent name the state budget and taxes, and 10 percent mention jobs and the economy. Only 4 percent name infrastructure as the single most important issue, and another 2 percent mention transportation and traffic congestion. Other topics mentioned at less than 4 percent each include crime, the environment, gasoline prices, gay rights, government reform, health care, housing, and terrorism. Democratic voters—and those most likely to vote in the Democratic primary—tend to focus most on education. Republicans and independents focus most on the issue of immigration.

“Californians will go to the polls to elect a governor in 2006. Which one issue would you like to hear the candidates talk about this year?”

<i>Likely Voters Only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Democratic Primary Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Immigration, illegal immigration	24%	15%	32%	29%	15%
Education, schools	23	30	18	20	29
State budget, deficit, taxes	12	9	14	14	9
Economy, jobs	10	13	6	9	12
Infrastructure	4	5	3	2	5

The gubernatorial election appears to be generating more interest now than it did earlier this spring. Today, 68 percent of all likely voters say they are very or fairly closely following the news about it. In March (52%) and April (60%), fewer likely voters were very or fairly closely following the election news. Today, 73 percent of those who are Democratic primary likely voters are very or fairly closely following news about the candidates for governor.

This past month, the Democratic gubernatorial primary has been in an active period of paid television commercials, which is evident in the three in four voters who have noticed advertisements from both Angelides and Westly. Likely voters are about equally likely to say they recall seeing ads by either Angelides or Westly, and this pattern is also evident among the Democratic primary likely voters. Clearly, these ads reach a broader audience than simply the Democratic primary likely voter. As Californians wait to learn who Schwarzenegger will face in November, solid majorities of Republican and independent voters have also seen the Angelides and Westly advertisements.

“In the past month, have you seen any television advertisements by the candidates for governor? Whose ads have you seen the most—Phil Angelides’ or Steve Westly’s?”

<i>Likely Voters Only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Democratic Primary Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Yes, Angelides’ ads	27%	25%	28%	30%	26%
Yes, Westly’s ads	28	29	26	30	28
Yes, both equally (<i>volunteered</i>)	21	25	20	20	25
No/don’t know	24	21	26	20	21

Proposition 81: Public Library Bond

Proposition 81 is a \$600 million state bond measure that would fund the construction and renovation of public libraries in California. When likely voters are read the text of this measure that will require a simple majority vote to pass on the June ballot, 51 percent say they would vote yes and 41 percent would vote no. In our March survey, the level of support for Proposition 81 was similar (50% yes, 41% no).

Today, Democrats (65%) are much more likely than Republicans (38%) and independents (45%) to say they would vote yes on this bond. By region, this bond measure draws the most support in the San Francisco Bay Area (57%) and Los Angeles (53%), while support in the Central Valley (45%) and the Other Southern California region (46%) is lower. Support for Proposition 81 is similar across income groups and is higher among Latinos than whites. Moreover, support rises sharply with level of education.

“Proposition 81 is called the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006.... If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 81?”*

Likely Voters Only	All Likely Voters	Party			Region			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California
Yes	51%	65%	38%	45%	45%	57%	53%	46%
No	41	26	53	47	45	34	39	44
Don't know	8	9	9	8	10	9	8	10

How important is the issue of expanding access to public libraries? Three in four voters say this issue is at least somewhat important, though just under half (44%) say it is very important to them. Of those planning to vote yes on Proposition 81, almost seven in 10 say this issue is very important, while about half of those who would vote no say it is either not too important (31%) or not at all important (20%). Democrats (57%) are more likely than Republicans (33%) or independents (39%) to say public library access is very important. Women (51%) are more likely than men (38%) to say it is very important. Regionally, San Francisco Bay Area residents are more likely than others to say this issue is very important.

“How important to you is the issue of expanding access to public libraries?”

Likely Voters Only	Likely Voters	Prop. 81 – Libraries	
		Yes	No
Very important	44%	68%	15%
Somewhat important	31	29	33
Not too important	14	3	31
Not at all important	9	0	20
Don't know	2	0	1

* For complete question wording, see question 18 in the survey questionnaire, page 23.

Proposition 82: Public Preschool Education Tax Initiative

Proposition 82 is a citizens’ initiative on the statewide ballot that would raise the income tax on high-income residents to fund voluntary, free preschool education for all four-year-olds in California. After hearing the text that will appear on the June ballot, 50 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes on Proposition 82, while 43 percent would vote no. Support for this initiative, which requires a simple majority to pass, was also around 50 percent in March (52% yes, 41% no) and April (51% yes, 40% no).

Today’s findings point to a partisan division on Proposition 82, with Democrats (63%) strongly in favor and Republicans equally opposed (60%). Independents are more divided (51% yes, 42% no). While a solid majority of San Francisco Bay Area residents back this initiative, support falls below 50 percent in other major regions. Support is higher among Latinos than whites (62% to 44%), but is similar among those with (49% yes) and without (50% yes) children. Support declines sharply with age.

“Proposition 82 is called the Public Preschool Education Tax Increase on Incomes Over \$400,000 for Individuals; \$800,000 for Couples Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.... If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 82?”*

Likely Voters Only	All Likely Voters	Party			Region			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California
Yes	50%	63%	36%	51%	40%	61%	47%	49%
No	43	28	60	42	50	32	46	43
Don't know	7	9	4	7	10	7	7	8

How do Californians react to the fiscal practice of having a specific tax tied to a specific service, known as earmarking, which is what would occur if Proposition 82 passes? About half of likely voters (52%) say it is a good idea, while 34 percent think it is a bad idea. More Democrats (56%) and independents (57%) than Republicans (44%) say earmarking is a good idea. Among Proposition 82 supporters, 69 percent are in favor of this practice. Among those opposed to the measure, a majority (53%) think it is a bad idea.

“Generally speaking do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to have a specific tax directly tied to a specific service?”

Likely Voters Only	All Likely Voters	Prop. 82– Pre School	
		Yes	No
Good idea	52%	69%	36%
Bad idea	34	18	53
Don't know	14	13	11

Regardless of their position on Proposition 82, eight in 10 likely voters think that attending preschool is very (57%) or somewhat important (25%) to a student’s success in kindergarten through grade 12. This finding was similar in PPIC’s March survey. Among those who support Proposition 82, nearly eight in 10 believe that attending preschool is very important to later school success. Among those opposed to Proposition 82, only one in three say that attending preschool is very important to later school success.

* For complete question wording, see question 20 in the survey questionnaire, page 23.

State Fiscal Issues

Governor's Budget Proposal

On May 12, Governor Schwarzenegger released a revised budget plan for the 2006-2007 fiscal year that includes a surge in new state revenues since January from personal income tax collections. Similar to the January budget, the May budget revision includes increased state spending for K-12 public schools, health and human services, higher education, corrections and prisons, and transportation—without any new taxes.

The majority of Californians (57%) say they are satisfied with the governor's budget plan, while three in 10 are not satisfied. Californians were somewhat more favorably disposed toward the 2006-2007 budget released in January (60% satisfied, 28% dissatisfied), but they were much less favorably disposed toward the governor's revised budget last May (44% satisfied, 47% dissatisfied). There are partisan differences in satisfaction with the governor's budget plans: Seven in 10 Republicans, compared to four in 10 Democrats and 55 percent of independents, are satisfied with the governor's budget plan. Nonetheless, Democrats are more satisfied with the governor's budget plan today than they were last May (26% satisfied, 64% dissatisfied). Overall, majorities across regional, age, education, and income groups are satisfied with the governor's budget plan.

"In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the governor's budget plan?"

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Satisfied	57%	43%	71%	55%	53%
Dissatisfied	30	40	17	30	32
Haven't heard anything about the budget (volunteered)	6	8	7	9	7
Don't know	7	9	5	6	8

We asked about three spending areas in which the governor has proposed to use the additional state revenues. Californians support the governor's plans to increase K-12 public education funding (77%), reduce the amount of state debt and place money in reserve (76%), and fund levee repairs (67%). There is broad support across the state's regions and demographic groups for using the additional money for these purposes. While there is little difference across party lines on funding levee repairs, Democrats and independents are more supportive of increased K-12 spending, and Republicans are far more supportive of reducing state debt and increasing reserves.

"Do you favor or oppose using some of this additional money to ..."

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Increase K-12 public education funding?	Favor	77%	84%	62%	77%	71%
	Oppose	20	14	36	21	27
	Don't know	3	2	2	2	2
Reduce the amount of state debt and place money in reserve?	Favor	76	74	90	76	84
	Oppose	17	20	8	19	12
	Don't know	7	6	2	5	4
Fund levee repairs?	Favor	67	72	67	71	70
	Oppose	24	21	28	24	24
	Don't know	9	7	5	5	6

Fiscal Perceptions

Many fiscal experts, including the Legislative Analyst’s Office, maintain a cautious outlook with regard to the state’s budget situation because of an expected shortfall of revenue compared to expenditures in future years. Indeed, many Californians are expressing concern about the state’s budget situation, even though the state currently has additional revenues rather than the sizable deficits it experienced a few years ago. After Governor Schwarzenegger released his fiscal 2006-2007 revised budget on May 12, nearly six in 10 adults and 64 percent of likely voters considered the balance between spending and revenues a big problem.

In January of this year, a similar 61 percent said the state’s budget situation was a big problem. In May 2005, a higher proportion of adults—71 percent—considered the budget situation a big problem. In January 2004 and January 2005, when the state actually faced a multibillion dollar gap between spending and revenues, seven in 10 Californians said the state’s budget situation was a big problem for California.

Today, a majority of the residents in every region of the state consider the budget gap between spending and revenues to be a major problem. Independents (65%) are about as likely Democrats (61%) and Republicans (63%) to rate this issue as a big problem. Concern about the state’s fiscal situation increases with age, education, and income.

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

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Big problem	58%	60%	61%	53%	59%	64%
Somewhat of a problem	31	29	28	35	32	30
Not a problem	5	3	5	7	4	2
Don't know	6	8	6	5	5	4

Two in three Californians say there has been no improvement in the state’s budget situation over the past two years. While one in four thinks the state budget situation has improved, one in three believes it has remained the same, and one in three believes it has deteriorated. Likely voters are somewhat more inclined to say that improvements have occurred in the past two years, although their overall views are not that different from all adults. While four in 10 Republicans believe the budget situation has improved, far fewer Democrats and independents hold with this opinion. Those who approve of Schwarzenegger’s job performance mostly see improvements in the past two years (45%), while those who disapprove mostly see the budget getting worse (46%). Perceptions of improvements in the state budget are similar across major regions of the state, and tend to increase with age, education, and income.

“In the past two years, do you think the state budget situation has improved, gotten worse, or stayed the same?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Improved	26%	21%	41%	27%	32%
Gotten worse	32	38	20	32	29
Stayed the same	34	34	31	35	34
Don't know	8	7	8	6	5

Spending Priorities

Although many Californians express concern about the balance between government revenues and spending in the state budget, many would still like to see spending increases in three of the four major categories of the state budget—K-12 public education, health and human services, and public colleges and universities. Moreover, there is a strong appetite for increasing state spending on roads and infrastructure in the wake of discussions by the governor and legislature this year.

Among the major items in the state budget, Californians are most interested in increasing spending on K-12 public education (68% of all adults, 61% of likely voters). About half of Republicans want more money spent on K-12 public schools compared to large majorities of Democrats (75%) and independents (69%).

While majorities also want more spending on health and human services (60% of adults, 50% of likely voters) and higher education (57% of adults, 50% of likely voters), Democrats and independents are much more supportive than Republicans of increased spending in these areas. By contrast, just one in four adults would like to see more spending on corrections such as prisons—a preference that is similarly low across political groups.

About six in 10 Californians want more state spending on roads and infrastructure (58% of adults, 63% of likely voters). There is solid majority support for spending in this area across political groups and regions (60% Central Valley, 60% Other Southern California, 59% San Francisco Bay Area, 55% Los Angeles).

“For each area, please tell me if you think that the state government should spend more money than it does now, the same amount as now, or less money than now ...”

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
How about the K-12 public education system?	More money	68%	75%	51%	69%	61%
	Same amount of money	22	18	33	20	28
	Less money	8	4	14	8	9
	Don't know	2	3	2	3	2
How about health and human services?	More money	60	69	36	61	50
	Same amount of money	25	22	36	24	31
	Less money	12	7	24	12	16
	Don't know	3	2	4	3	3
How about roads and other infrastructure projects?	More money	58	58	57	63	63
	Same amount of money	32	31	34	28	29
	Less money	7	7	6	6	5
	Don't know	3	4	3	3	3
How about public colleges and universities?	More money	57	65	35	56	50
	Same amount of money	31	27	45	37	38
	Less money	8	7	16	4	9
	Don't know	4	1	4	3	3
How about the state's corrections system, including prisons?	More money	24	25	25	19	23
	Same amount of money	37	35	41	43	40
	Less money	32	35	30	33	33
	Don't know	7	5	4	5	4

Fiscal Policy Preferences

While Californians are satisfied with the governor’s budget plan, they prefer the approach of the Democrats in the legislature (35%) to that of the Republicans in the legislature (20%) or the governor (19%) when it comes to the tough choices involved in the state budget. Two years ago, 30 percent of adults supported the governor’s approach, while 31 percent favored the approach of the Democrats in the legislature.

Sharp partisan differences exist today: two in three Democrats prefer the Democrats in the legislature, while four in 10 Republicans prefer the Republicans in the legislature and one in three prefer the governor’s approach. Independents are more divided: Three in 10 prefer the Democrats in the legislature, one in four favors the governor, and 16 percent prefer the GOP legislators. Preferences for the approach of the Democrats in the legislature is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (44%) and Los Angeles (41%) than in other regions and is somewhat higher among Latinos (38%) than whites (31%) and among women (38%) than men (32%).

“When it comes to the tough choices involved in the state budget, both in deciding how much Californians should pay in taxes and how to fund state programs, whose approach do you most prefer?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Democrats' in the legislature	35%	64%	6%	28%	34%
Republicans' in the legislature	20	5	42	16	21
Governor Schwarzenegger's	19	11	32	23	22
Other	1	1	0	1	1
None (volunteered)	5	4	2	7	5
Don't know	20	15	18	25	17

Over half of Californians (55%) favor a state government with higher taxes and more services. Likely voters are more divided on this issue, with 49 percent favoring higher taxes and more services and 44 percent supporting lower taxes and fewer services. As for partisan differences, 68 percent of Democrats and 53 percent of independents prefer higher taxes and more services, while 66 percent of Republicans favor lower taxes and fewer services. Across regions, residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (59%) are the most likely to favor higher taxes and more services. Latinos (68%) are much more likely than whites (46%) to favor higher taxes and more services. Preference for lower taxes and fewer services increases with age, education, and income.

“Which of the following statements do you agree with more—I'd rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, or I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Higher taxes and more services	55%	68%	28%	53%	49%
Lower taxes and fewer services	38	26	66	41	44
Don't know	7	6	6	6	7

Supermajority Vote

While there are no fiscal reform measures under active consideration, proposals such as lowering the supermajority vote have often been discussed. In 2004, Proposition 56, which would have lowered the two-thirds threshold needed for passing a state budget, was rejected. Other ideas called for lowering the supermajority vote to pass local special taxes, but our previous surveys have found voters skeptical on this issue as well.

Nearly four in 10 California residents and likely voters think that replacing the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for voters to pass local special taxes is a good idea, while over half think it is a bad idea. The percent of residents who think this local fiscal reform is a good idea has declined from 46 percent in June 2003 to 43 percent in January 2005 to 38 percent today. Democrats (43%) are more likely than Republicans (30%) and independents (37%) to say that replacing the local two-thirds vote for local taxes is a good idea, although support falls below a majority in all groups. Across California's regions, residents of the Central Valley (33%) are the least likely to say this is a good idea. Latinos (42%) are more likely than whites (34%) to think this local fiscal reform is a good idea. The percent saying this is a good idea declines with age.

“Spending and tax reforms have been proposed to address issues in the state budget. For each of the following, please indicate whether you think this is a good idea or a bad idea:

How about replacing the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for voters to pass local special taxes?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Good idea	38%	43%	30%	37%	37%
Bad idea	52	48	65	57	57
Don't Know	10	9	5	6	6

Even though the governor and legislature have often failed to pass the state budget on time in recent years, fewer than half of Californians think it is a good idea to replace the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for the state legislature to pass a budget. The percent saying that this particular fiscal reform is a good idea has declined slightly over the past three years (46% in June 2003; 45% in January 2005; 42% today). Democrats (45%) are more likely than Republicans (35%) and independents (36%) to think this state fiscal reform is a good idea but, again, support falls below 50 percent in all these groups. Latinos (49%) are much more likely than whites (37%) to say that making it easier to pass the state budget is a good idea. There is a strong correlation between support for changing the local and state supermajority vote restrictions. Of those who think that changing the two-thirds vote requirement to a 55 percent majority for local special taxes is a good idea, seven in 10 also think that it is a good idea to replace the two-thirds vote with a 55 percent majority vote to pass a state budget.

“How about replacing the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for the state legislature to pass a budget?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Good idea	42%	45%	35%	36%	40%
Bad idea	46	44	57	54	52
Don't Know	12	11	8	10	8

State Comparisons

When asked where California currently ranks in state and local government spending per capita and state and local tax burden per capita, most Californians believe that the state ranks average or higher on both issues.

When comparing California to other states, nearly half of Californians say that government spending per capita is near the top (23%) or above average (23%), one in four says average (24%), and one in six says below average (12%) or near the bottom (5%). Across party lines, six in 10 Republicans think spending is above par, compared to half of independents and four in 10 Democrats. Regionally, residents of the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles are less likely than residents of the Central Valley and the Other Southern California region to say that spending is near the top or above average. Whites (51%) are more likely than Latinos (40%) to say that government per capita spending is higher than average. The belief that state and local government spending is higher than average increases slightly with income. According to the Tax Foundation, a non-partisan tax research group, California in 2002 ranked 4th in state and local government spending per capita.

“Where do you think California currently ranks in state and local government spending per capita? Compared to other states, is California’s spending per capita near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Near the top	23%	17%	33%	26%	23%
Above average	23	23	27	23	25
Average	24	24	18	22	21
Below average	12	15	10	11	14
Near the bottom	5	7	2	5	5
Don't know	13	14	10	13	12

When it comes to rating the government tax burden, Californians are even more likely to think their state is a national leader. Nearly six in 10 residents think that California ranks near the top (29%) or above average (28%), one in five believes California’s tax burden is average (22%), and one in 10 believes that California ranks below average (6%) or near the bottom (4%). Across partisan lines, Republicans (72%) are much more likely than Democrats (55%) and independents (65%) to think California’s tax burden is higher than average. Latinos (42%) are much less likely than whites (65%) to say that the tax burden is near the top or above average. The belief that the tax burden is higher than average increases sharply with income. According to the Tax Foundation, California in 2005 ranked 11th in state and local tax burden per capita.

“Where do you think California currently ranks in state and local tax burden per capita? Compared to other states, is California’s tax burden per capita near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Near the top	29%	27%	40%	32%	33%
Above average	28	28	32	33	31
Average	22	21	13	18	17
Below average	6	8	5	5	6
Near the bottom	4	4	2	3	2
Don't know	11	12	8	9	11

State Policies

Infrastructure Priorities and Funding

Californians will go the polls this November to vote on four infrastructure bond measures totaling about \$37 billion, placed on the ballot by the legislature. This is the largest package of bonds in the state's history and includes funds for education facilities, surface transportation, flood protection, and affordable housing. With 58 percent of Californians already in support of the state spending more money on roads and other infrastructure projects, how would they vote on the four bond measures that will each require a simple majority vote to pass in November?

A \$10 billion bond for school and university construction and renovation has the strongest support (74% adults, 68% likely voters). Democrats (80%) are much more likely to support this bond measure than independents (68%) and Republicans (59%), although majorities in all political groups support it. Support for this measure decreases with age, education, and income.

When asked about a \$20 billion bond for surface transportation projects, more than six in 10 Californians (62%) and likely voters (65%) would vote yes on this bond. Support is similar across political parties. Strong majorities across regions would vote yes.

Six in 10 adults and likely voters (62% each) also support a \$4 billion bond for flood protection projects. Majorities across political parties support this measure. Regionally, residents in the Central Valley (71%) and San Francisco Bay Area (70%) are more likely to vote yes on this bond than residents in Los Angeles (60%) and the Other Southern California region (55%). Latinos (71%) are much more likely than whites (58%) to support the flood protection bond.

Another bond on the November ballot includes \$3 billion for new affordable housing projects. Six in 10 adults (60%) support this bond, while likely voters are divided (49% yes, 47% no). A majority of Democrats (66%) and independents (58%) would vote yes, but a majority of Republicans (62%) oppose this measure. Support also decreases with age, education, and income.

“The legislature recently passed a package of state bonds for the November ballot totaling about \$37 billion for infrastructure projects such as education facilities, surface transportation, flood protection, and affordable housing to be paid through the state’s general funds with no new taxes. For each one, please tell me if you would vote yes or no if the election were held today. How about a bond of about...”

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
\$10 billion for school and university construction and renovation?	Yes	74%	80%	59%	68%	68%
	No	22	16	37	28	28
	Don't know	4	4	4	4	4
\$20 billion for surface transportation projects?	Yes	62	63	61	62	65
	No	32	30	35	33	30
	Don't know	6	7	4	5	5
\$4 billion for flood protection projects?	Yes	62	66	54	59	62
	No	34	29	42	37	35
	Don't know	4	5	4	4	3
\$3 billion for new affordable housing?	Yes	60	66	34	58	49
	No	37	29	62	39	47
	Don't know	3	5	4	3	4

Governor's Approval Ratings

Governor Schwarzenegger's job approval ratings continue to be low, marking a year of approval ratings below 50 percent. For adults today, 36 percent approve and 52 percent disapprove of his performance in office. Likely voters are more positive (42% approve, 48% disapprove). His approval rating is similar to last year (40% May 2005), and much lower than two years ago (64% May 2004).

A strong majority of Republicans (65%) approve of the governor's job performance, while most Democrats disapprove (69%); independents remain divided (41% approve, 49% disapprove). The governor's approval ratings among political groups are similar when we compare those today to those of last May (Democrats 22%, Republicans 72%, independents 42%).

Across regions today, approval ratings are higher in the Central Valley (43%) and the Other Southern California region (39%) than in Los Angeles (32%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (30%). Whites (48%) are more than twice as likely as Latinos (19%) to approve of the governor's job performance, and men are more favorable towards the governor than are women (40% to 32%). Governor Schwarzenegger's job approval ratings also increase with age, education, and income.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Arnold Schwarzenegger is handling his job as governor of California?”

	All Adults	Party			Region				Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Approve	36%	21%	65%	41%	43%	30%	32%	39%	42%
Disapprove	52	69	22	49	47	56	55	46	48
Don't know	12	10	13	10	10	14	13	15	10

With the release of his revised budget proposal, which includes greater than anticipated revenues for additional spending, Schwarzenegger still receives similar ratings on his handling of the budget and taxes as on his job overall (34% approve, 52% disapprove). Since January, when the governor's original budget plan was released, his ratings have remained unchanged. Mirroring his overall ratings, Republicans (63%) continue to be more supportive of the governor's fiscal actions than Democrats (19%) and independents (42%). Approval ratings remain low across regions. While 17 percent of Latinos approve of the governor's handling of fiscal issues, almost half of whites approve (46%). Men are more likely than women (39% to 29%) to approve of the governor on this issue, and approval increases with age, education, and income.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Schwarzenegger is handling the issue of the state budget and taxes?”

	All Adults	Party			Region				Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Approve	34%	19%	63%	42%	35%	31%	32%	40%	43%
Disapprove	52	69	25	47	47	55	56	47	47
Don't know	14	12	12	11	18	14	12	13	10

Legislature's Approval Ratings

Despite their bipartisan success earlier this month—passing the largest package of infrastructure bond measures in state history—the legislature still receives low approval ratings. Twenty-six percent of all adults approve of the legislature's handling of its job, while 54 percent disapprove. These low ratings are similar to one year ago (26% approve, 58% disapprove) and are relatively unchanged since the beginning of this year (29% approve, 57% disapprove). Among likely voters today, 23 percent approve while 61 percent disapprove.

Nearly half or more of residents across all political groups, regions of the state, and demographic groups disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its responsibilities. Republicans (63%) and independents (59%) are more negative in their ratings than Democrats (54%), although majorities across parties disapprove.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?”

	All Adults	Party			Region				Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Approve	26%	26%	23%	24%	23%	28%	27%	27%	23%
Disapprove	54	54	63	59	57	52	53	56	61
Don't know	20	20	14	17	20	20	20	17	16

When asked about the legislature's handling of transportation and other infrastructure projects, 30 percent approve and 51 percent disapprove. This marks an improvement from March when legislators failed to pass an infrastructure bond package (23% approve, 54% disapprove). Latinos (38%) are more approving than whites (25%) on the legislature's handling of this issue.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling the issue of transportation and other infrastructure projects?”

	All Adults	Party			Region				Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Central Valley	SF Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Approve	30%	31%	24%	26%	31%	29%	31%	29%	24%
Disapprove	51	51	57	57	50	52	49	52	57
Don't know	19	18	19	17	19	19	20	19	19

Californians are more positive about their individual representatives than about the legislature as a whole. When asked to rate the job performance of the legislators representing their own assembly and senate districts, four in 10 adults (39%) and likely voters (41%) approve of their performance. These ratings are similar to October 2005 (38% approve) but much lower than a year ago (47% approve).

Individual representatives' approval ratings fall below a majority for all political groups, regions of the state, and demographic groups. These approval ratings increase with education and income but do not reach 50 percent in any group. Latinos and whites, and men and women, give similar approval ratings.

Redistricting Reform

In last November’s special election, voters defeated Proposition 77, a citizens’ initiative that would have taken the responsibility of redrawing California’s voting districts away from the governor and legislature and given it to a panel of three retired judges. Although Californians voted this measure down, they believed then and continue to believe now that the redistricting process needs change.

Nearly two in three residents today say the redistricting process needs major (40%) or minor changes (23%), while only one in four (23%) says it is fine the way it is. Likely voters express similar views about redistricting. Last October, 69 percent of likely voters said the system needed major (44%) or minor changes (25%), and one year ago, 63 percent also agreed (37% major changes, 26% minor changes).

Across parties, independents (46% major, 24% minor) and Republicans (39% major, 26% minor) are more likely than Democrats (38% major, 21% minor) to believe the system needs changes. Across regions, Los Angeles residents are the most likely to believe the system needs major changes (47%) as compared to residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (39%), the Central Valley (38%), or the Other Southern California region (37%).

“As you may know, redistricting is the process in which the physical boundaries of voting districts are changed. Do you think the way the governor and legislature go about the redistricting process in California is in need of major changes, minor changes, or is it fine the way it is?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Major changes	40%	38%	39%	46%	42%
Minor changes	23	21	26	24	22
Fine the way it is	23	28	22	18	24
Don't know	14	13	13	12	12

Although voters did not support the three-member panel of retired judges to lead the redistricting process, six in 10 adults (60%) and likely voters (62%) do support having an independent commission of citizens take this responsibility. When asked a similar question in September 2004, residents were divided about establishing an independent state commission (39% favor, 40% oppose). Seven years ago, likely voters were also divided when asked how they would vote on a ballot initiative that would establish an independent commission (46% yes, 41% no).

Today, the idea of an independent citizens’ commission receives majority support across parties. About six in 10 residents across regions and racial/ethnic groups favor an independent commission for redistricting. Favor increases with education and income. Of those who say the redistricting process is in need of major changes, seven in 10 favor (71%) the independent commission.

“Would you favor or oppose a redistricting reform that requires an independent commission of citizens, instead of the state legislature and governor, to adopt a new redistricting plan after each census?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	60%	56%	65%	61%	62%
Oppose	25	31	22	27	25
Don't know	15	13	13	12	13

Term Limits Reform

Residents continue to believe in the state legislative term limits established by initiative in 1990. Sixty percent of adults and 67 percent of likely voters say it's a good thing for California to limit the number of terms that members of the state senate and state assembly can hold their elected offices. Five out of six times this question has been asked, majorities of adults have said term limits are a good thing (65%, October 1998; 45% December 2001; 61%, September 2004; 57%, October 2005; 60% today).

Today, although majorities across parties agree, Republicans (74%) are much more likely than independents (63%) or Democrats to (59%) say term limits are a good thing. Residents of the Other Southern California region (66%) and the Central Valley (62%) are more likely than residents of Los Angeles (56%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (54%) to believe that term limits are beneficial, and whites are much more likely than Latinos (67% to 48%) to say they are a good thing. As age, income, and education levels increase, residents are more likely to say term limits are a good thing for California.

“The California Legislature has operated under term limits since 1990, meaning that members of the state senate and state assembly are limited in the number of terms they can hold their elected office. Do you think that term limits are a good thing or a bad thing for California, or do they make no difference?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Good thing	60%	59%	74%	63%	67%
Bad thing	15	21	10	15	18
No difference	21	17	15	19	13
Don't know	4	3	1	3	2

Demonstrating their strong belief in the current term limit system, which restricts a legislator to serving six years in the assembly and eight years in the senate, over two in three adults (68%) and likely voters (67%) oppose changing the system to allow members to serve up to 14 years of total legislative service in either branch. Last October, 62 percent of residents also expressed opposition to this proposed change. Only about three in 10 today (28%) and last October (29%) said they would favor this change.

This idea receives strong majority opposition across political and demographic groups. About seven in 10 Republicans and independents, and 63 percent of Democrats oppose this idea. Seven in 10 residents in Los Angeles, the Other Southern California region, and the Central Valley, and six in 10 residents in the San Francisco Bay Area oppose the idea. Opposition decreases with education and income, but increases slightly with age. Of those who say term limits are a good thing, 81 percent oppose this change.

“Under current term limits, a legislator is allowed to serve six years in the state assembly and eight years in the state senate. Would you favor or oppose a change in term limits that would allow members to serve up to 14 years of total legislative service in either branch?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	28%	33%	25%	28%	30%
Oppose	68	63	72	68	67
Don't know	4	4	3	4	3

Campaign Finance Reform

Majorities of adults (55%) and likely voters (64%) think campaign contributions are currently having a bad effect on the public policy decisions made by elected officials in Sacramento. Only one in 10 believes that contributions are having a good effect, while one in four thinks they make no difference in the policy arena. These findings are similar to last October (53% bad effect) and September 1999 (56% bad effect).

Residents across political parties and demographic groups have negative perceptions of the effects of campaign contributions, but independents (65%) and Democrats (63%) are more likely than Republicans (57%) to believe they have a bad effect. San Francisco Bay Area residents (61%) are more likely than residents of the Other Southern California region (56%), the Central Valley (52%), or Los Angeles (50%) to believe contributions have a bad effect, and negative attitudes increase with age, education, and income. While most whites (64%) say campaign contributions are having a bad effect on policy decisions, Latinos are divided on this issue (36% bad effect, 21% good effect, 30% no difference).

“Do you think that campaign contributions are currently having a good effect or a bad effect on the public policy decisions made by state elected officials in Sacramento, or are campaign contributions making no difference?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Good effect	12%	11%	10%	7%	8%
Bad effect	55	63	57	65	64
No difference	23	17	21	21	18
Both (volunteered)	1	1	2	1	2
Don't know	9	8	10	6	8

Half of adults (47%) and likely voters (51%) would favor a system of public funding for campaigns, even if it cost each taxpayer a few dollars a year to run. Public support for this proposal is at a relative high point today compared to PPIC survey results over the past six years (38% August 2000; 50% November 2002; 41% October 2003; 35% September 2004; 45% October 2005; 47% today).

Democrats (55%) and independents (51%) are more likely to favor this proposal than Republicans (44%). San Francisco Bay Area (58%) residents are more likely to favor this idea, while Central Valley (50%), Los Angeles (49%), and Other Southern California (48%) residents are more likely to oppose it. A majority of whites (52%) supports public funding, while a majority of Latinos (54%) opposes it. Favor for this idea increases with age, education, and income. Of those who say campaign contributions are having a bad effect on policy, 57 percent favor public funding and 38 percent oppose it.

“Would you favor or oppose having a system of public funding for state and legislative campaigns in California if it cost each taxpayer a few dollars a year to run?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	47%	55%	44%	51%	51%
Oppose	46	40	50	46	44
Don't know	7	5	6	3	5

Survey Methodology

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, research director and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance in research and writing from Dean Bonner, project manager for this survey, and survey research associates Lunna Lopes, Jennifer Paluch, and Sonja Petek. The survey was conducted with funding from The James Irvine Foundation and benefited from discussions with Irvine Foundation staff and grantees, as well as from regional voter focus groups funded by the Foundation; however, the survey methods, questions, and content of the report were solely determined by Mark Baldassare.

The findings of this survey are based on a telephone survey of 2,000 California adult residents interviewed between May 14 and May 21, 2006. Interviewing took place on weekday nights and weekend days, using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured 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 six times to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using the “last birthday method” to avoid biases in age and gender. Each interview took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing was conducted in English or Spanish. *Accent on Languages* translated the survey into Spanish with assistance from Renatta DeFever. Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc. conducted the telephone interviewing.

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 the 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 2,000 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: For the 1,484 registered voters, it is +/- 2.5 percent; for the 986 likely voters it is +/- 3 percent; for the 435 Democratic primary likely voters it is +/- 5 percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

Throughout the report, we present results for four geographic regions accounting for approximately 90 percent of the state population. “Central Valley” includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. “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 Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Residents from all other areas, such as the north coast, central coast, and mountain counties, are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters in this report. However, sample sizes for these less populated areas of California are not large enough to report separately in tables and text.

We present specific results for Latinos because they account for about 30 percent of the state’s adult population and constitute one of the fastest growing voter groups. The sample sizes for African Americans and Asians are not large enough for separate statistical analysis. We do compare the opinions of registered Democrats, Republicans, and independents. The “independents” category includes those who are registered to vote as “decline to state.” We also include the responses of “likely voters”— those who are most likely to vote in the state’s elections. We compare PPIC Statewide Survey responses to earlier PPIC Statewide Surveys to analyze trends over time in California.

**PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY:
SPECIAL SURVEY ON THE CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET
MAY 14 – 21, 2006
2,000 CALIFORNIA ADULT RESIDENTS: ENGLISH AND SPANISH
MARGIN OF ERROR +/-2% AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE**

1. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Arnold Schwarzenegger is handling his job as governor of California?

36% approve
52 disapprove
12 don't know

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Schwarzenegger is handling the issue of the state budget and taxes?

34% approve
52 disapprove
14 don't know

3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?

26% approve
54 disapprove
20 don't know

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling the issue of transportation and other infrastructure projects?

30% approve
51 disapprove
19 don't know

4a. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and state senate districts are doing at this time?

39% approve
42 disapprove
3 mixed (*volunteered*)
16 don't know

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

35% right direction
57 wrong direction
8 don't know

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

37% good times
52 bad times
11 don't know

7. On another topic, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote?

74% yes [*ask q.7a*]
25 no [*skip to q.23*]
1 don't know [*skip to q.23*]

7a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or as an independent?

42% Democratic Party [*skip to q.9*]
34 Republican Party [*skip to q.10*]
19 independent [*ask q.8a*]
5 another party (*specify*) [*skip to q.10*]

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

29% Republican party
39 Democratic party
29 neither (*volunteered*)
3 don't know

[Responses recorded for questions 8b through 22 are from likely voters only. All other responses are from all adults, except where noted.]

8b. California voters like yourself will be able to choose between voting in the Republican primary, the Democratic primary, or selecting a nonpartisan ballot on June 6th. All three ballots include state proposition measures. Do you plan to vote in the Republican primary, the Democratic primary, or on the nonpartisan ballot?

21% Democratic primary [*ask q.9*]
8 Republican primary [*skip to q.10*]
54 nonpartisan ballot [*skip to q.10*]
17 don't know [*skip to q.10*]

9. If the Democratic primary for governor were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?

[rotate names and then ask "or someone else"]

35% Phil Angelides, state treasurer
32 Steve Westly, state controller
33 other/don't know

10. How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2006 governor's election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 18% very closely
- 50 fairly closely
- 24 not too closely
- 6 not at all closely
- 2 don't know

11. In the past month, have you seen any television advertisements by the candidates for governor?

- 81% yes *[ask q.11a]*
- 19 no *[skip to q.12]*

11a. Whose ads have you seen the most—Phil Angelides' or Steve Westly's?

- 33% Phil Angelides' ads
- 35 Steve Westly's ads
- 27 both equally *(volunteered)*
- 5 other/don't know

12. In deciding who to vote for in the election for governor, how important to you are the candidates' performances in public debates—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 33% very important
- 41 somewhat important
- 14 not too important
- 10 not at all important
- 2 don't know

12a. Californians will go to the polls to elect a governor in 2006. Which one issue would you like to hear the candidates talk about this year?

[code, don't read]

- 24% immigration, illegal immigration
- 23 education, schools
- 12 state budget, deficit, taxes
- 10 economy, jobs
- 4 infrastructure
- 3 gas prices
- 3 environment, pollution
- 2 health care, health costs, insurance
- 2 traffic, transportation
- 11 other *(specify)*
- 6 don't know

If these were the candidates in the November 2006 governor's election...

[rotate questions and pairs for questions 13 and 14 and then ask "or someone else"]

13. Would you vote for...

- 38% Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican
- 38 Phil Angelides, a Democrat
- 24 other/don't know

14. Would you vote for...

- 36% Arnold Schwarzenegger, a Republican
- 36 Steve Westly, a Democrat
- 28 other/don't know

Next, please tell me if you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of each of these candidates for governor or don't you know enough about him to have an opinion?

[rotate questions 15 to 17]

15. How about Arnold Schwarzenegger?

- 45% favorable
- 47 unfavorable
- 8 don't know

16. How about Phil Angelides?

- 29% favorable
- 26 unfavorable
- 45 don't know

17. How about Steve Westly?

- 31% favorable
- 19 unfavorable
- 50 don't know

Next, we have a few questions to ask you about the propositions on the upcoming June ballot.

[rotate 2 blocks: (1) questions 18, 19 (2) questions 20, 21, 22]

18. Proposition 81 is called the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006. It provides for a bond issue in the amount not to exceed a total of \$600 million for the construction and renovation of public library facilities in order to expand access to reading and literacy programs in California's public education system. It expands access to public library services for all residents of California. Fiscal impacts include a state cost of about \$1.2 billion over 30 years to pay off both the principal and interest costs of the bond and one-time local costs statewide of about \$320 million for local matching contributions. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 81?

51% yes
41 no
8 don't know

19. How important to you is the issue of expanding access to public libraries—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

44% very important
31 somewhat important
14 not too important
9 not at all important
2 don't know

20. Proposition 82 is called the Preschool Education Tax on Incomes Over \$400,000 for Individuals; \$800,000 for Couples, Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute. It establishes the right to voluntary preschool for all four-year-olds and is funded by a 1.7% tax on individual income over \$400,000; couples' income over \$800,000. Fiscal impacts include increased annual revenues of \$2.1 billion in 2007-2008, growing with the economy in future years. All revenues would be spent on the new preschool program. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 82?

50% yes
43 no
7 don't know

[rotate questions 21 and 22]

21. Generally speaking do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea to have a specific tax directly tied to a specific service?

52% good idea
34 bad idea
14 don't know

22. How important is attending preschool to a student's success in kindergarten through grade 12—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

57% very important
25 somewhat important
9 not too important
7 not at all important
2 don't know

23. On another issue, do you think the state budget situation in California—that is, the balance between government spending and revenues—is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem for the people of California today?

58% big problem
31 somewhat of a problem
5 not a problem
6 don't know

24. In the past two years, do you think the state budget situation has improved, gotten worse, or stayed the same?

26% improved
32 gotten worse
34 stayed the same
8 don't know

Now, I am going to ask about specific areas where the state of California spends money. For each area, please tell me if you think that the state government should spend more money than it does now, the same amount as now, or less money than now.

[rotate questions 25 to 29]

25. How about the state's corrections system, including prisons?

24% more money
37 same amount of money
32 less money
7 don't know

26. How about the K-12 public education system?

68% more money
22 same amount of money
8 less money
2 don't know

27. How about public colleges and universities?

57% more money
31 same amount of money
8 less money
4 don't know

28. How about health and human services?

- 60% more money
- 25 same amount of money
- 12 less money
- 3 don't know

29. How about roads and other infrastructure projects?

- 58% more money
- 32 same amount of money
- 7 less money
- 3 don't know

30. Governor Schwarzenegger proposed a budget plan for the next fiscal year that includes increased spending on K-12 public education, health and human services, higher education, corrections and prisons, and transportation. The plan includes no new taxes. In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the Governor's budget plan?

- 57% satisfied
- 30 dissatisfied
- 6 haven't heard anything about the budget
(volunteered)
- 7 don't know

The state will have somewhat more revenue this year than was expected. Do you favor or oppose the following proposals for how to use this year's additional money in next year's budget, which begins on July 1, 2006?

[rotate questions 31 to 32a]

31. Do you favor or oppose using some of this additional money to reduce the amount of state debt and place money in reserve?

- 76% favor
- 17 oppose
- 7 don't know

32. Do you favor or oppose using some of this additional money to increase K-12 public education funding?

- 77% favor
- 20 oppose
- 3 don't know

32a. Do you favor or oppose using some of this additional money to fund levee repairs?

- 67% favor
- 24 oppose
- 9 don't know

33. When it comes to the tough choices involved in the state budget, both in deciding how much Californians should pay in taxes and how to fund state programs, whose approach do you most prefer—**[rotate]** (1) Governor Schwarzenegger's, (2) the Democrats' in the legislature, **[or]** (3) the Republicans' in the legislature?

- 35% the Democrats' in the legislature
- 20 the Republicans' in the legislature
- 19 Governor Schwarzenegger's
- 1 other answer (specify)
- 5 none (volunteered)
- 20 don't know

34. In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more—I'd rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, or I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services?

- 55% higher taxes and more services
- 38 lower taxes and fewer services
- 7 don't know

Spending and tax reforms have been proposed to address issues in the state budget. For each of the following, please indicate whether you think this is a good idea or a bad idea.

[rotate questions 35 and 36]

35. How about replacing the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for voters to pass local special taxes?

- 38% good idea
- 52 bad idea
- 10 don't know

36. How about replacing the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for the state legislature to pass a budget?

- 42% good idea
- 46 bad idea
- 12 don't know

On another topic,

[rotate questions 37 and 38]

37. Where do you think California currently ranks in state and local government spending per capita? Compared to other states, is California's spending per capita near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?
- 23% near the top
 - 23 above average
 - 24 average
 - 12 below average
 - 5 near the bottom
 - 13 don't know
38. Where do you think California currently ranks in state and local tax burden per capita? Compared to other states, is California's tax burden per capita near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?
- 29% near the top
 - 28 above average
 - 22 average
 - 6 below average
 - 4 near the bottom
 - 11 don't know
39. As you may know, redistricting is the process in which the physical boundaries of voting districts are changed. Do you think the way the governor and legislature go about the redistricting process in California is in need of major changes, minor changes, or is it fine the way it is?
- 40% major changes
 - 23 minor changes
 - 23 fine the way it is
 - 14 don't know
40. Would you favor or oppose a redistricting reform that requires an independent commission of citizens, instead of the state legislature and governor, to adopt a new redistricting plan after each census?
- 60% favor
 - 25 oppose
 - 15 don't know
41. On another topic, the California legislature has operated under term limits since 1990, meaning that members of the state senate and state assembly are limited in the number of terms they can hold their elected office. Do you think that term limits are a good thing or a bad thing for California, or do they make no difference?
- 60% good thing
 - 15 bad thing
 - 21 no difference
 - 4 don't know
42. Under current term limits, a legislator is allowed to serve six years in the state assembly and eight years in the state senate. Would you favor or oppose a change in term limits that would allow members to serve up to 14 years of total legislative service in either branch?
- 28% favor
 - 68 oppose
 - 4 don't know
43. Changing topics, do you think that campaign contributions are currently having a good effect or a bad effect on the public policy decisions made by state elected officials in Sacramento, or are campaign contributions making no difference?
- 12% good effect
 - 55 bad effect
 - 23 making no difference
 - 1 both (*volunteered*)
 - 9 don't know
44. Would you favor or oppose having a system of public funding for state and legislative campaigns in California if it cost each taxpayer a few dollars a year to run?
- 47% favor
 - 46 oppose
 - 7 don't know
45. Next, do you approve or disapprove of the governor's plan to spend \$222 billion over 10 years on infrastructure projects, including surface transportation, education facilities, air quality, water and flood control, jails and prisons, and courts?
- 70% approve
 - 21 disapprove
 - 9 don't know
46. Next, you may know the term "infrastructure" refers to a variety of public works projects. Which of the following do you think should have the top priority for additional state funding—***[read rotated list and then ask "or something else?"]*** surface transportation, education facilities, flood protection?
- 50% education facilities
 - 24 surface transportation
 - 15 flood protection
 - 7 something else (*specify*)
 - 4 don't know

The legislature recently passed a package of state bonds for the November ballot totaling about \$37 billion for infrastructure projects such as education facilities, surface transportation, flood protection, and affordable housing to be paid through the state's general funds with no new taxes. For each one, please tell me if you would vote yes or no if the election were held today.

[rotate questions 47 to 48a]

47. How about a bond of about \$20 billion for surface transportation projects?

62% yes
32 no
6 don't know

47a. How about a bond of about \$10 billion for school and university construction and renovation?

74% yes
22 no
4 don't know

48. How about a bond of about \$4 billion for flood protection projects?

62% yes
34 no
4 don't know

48a. How about a bond of about \$3 billion for new affordable housing?

60% yes
37 no
3 don't know

49. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically:

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

10% very liberal
19 somewhat liberal
31 middle-of-the-road
26 somewhat conservative
10 very conservative
4 don't know

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

21% great deal
45 fair amount
27 only a little
6 none
1 don't know

[D1-D12: demographic questions]

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