

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

December 2015

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David Kordus, Lunna Lopes

Supported with funding from The James Irvine Foundation



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- State government
- Federal government
- Conclusions

PPIC Statewide Survey mission

- Provide timely, relevant, nonpartisan data on political, social, and economic opinions
- Inform and improve state policymaking, raise awareness, encourage discussion
- Provide a voice for all Californians in important state policy debates
 - 318,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 150+ general, issue, and regional surveys

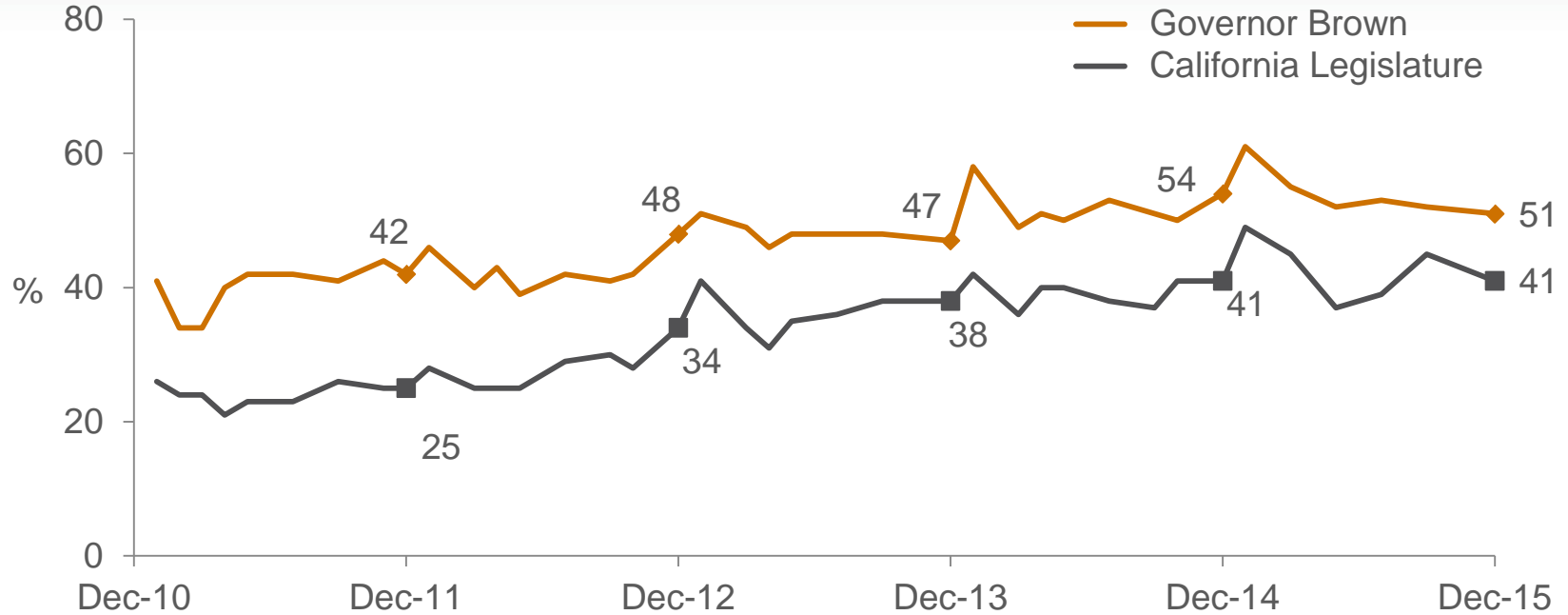
Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by The James Irvine Foundation
- State election policy landscape
 - Approval ratings and overall mood
 - Economic inequality, Proposition 30, climate change, health care, and 2016 ballot issues
- Federal election policy landscape
 - Approval ratings, congressional elections, and presidential candidates
 - Party favorability, party preferences on issues, voting, and reforms
- Telephone interviews, November 8–17
 - 60% landline, 40% cell phone
 - 1,703 adults, $\pm 3.7\%$ margin of error
 - 1,115 likely voters, $\pm 4.4\%$ margin of error

Outline

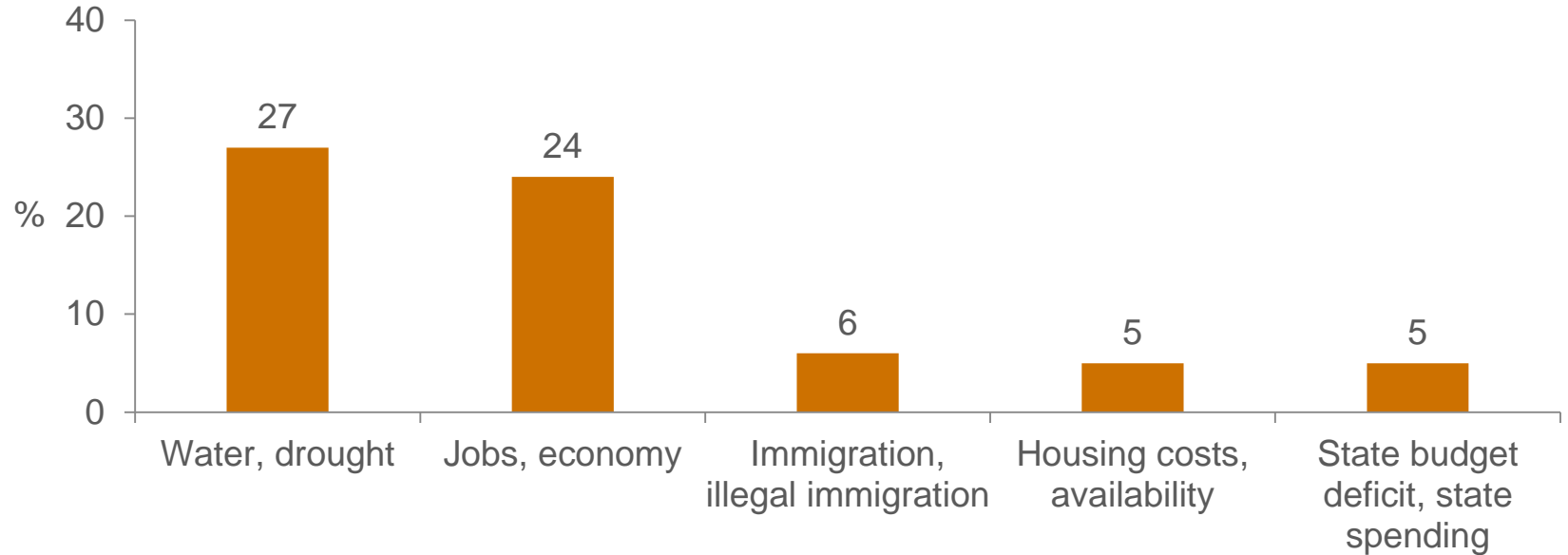
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Approval of state elected officials



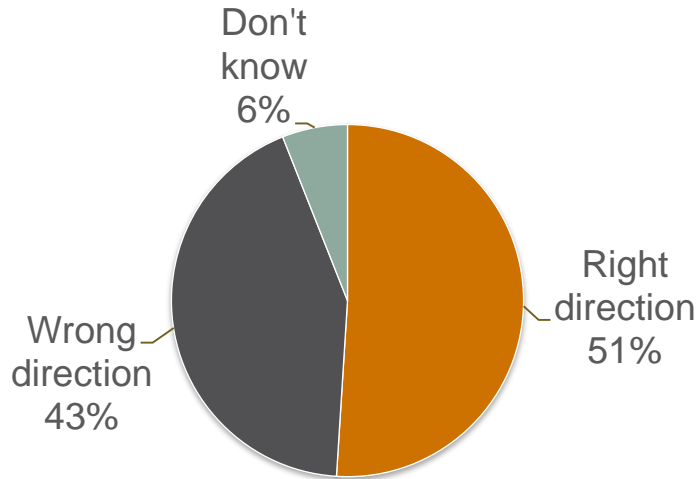
Most important issue today

Thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?

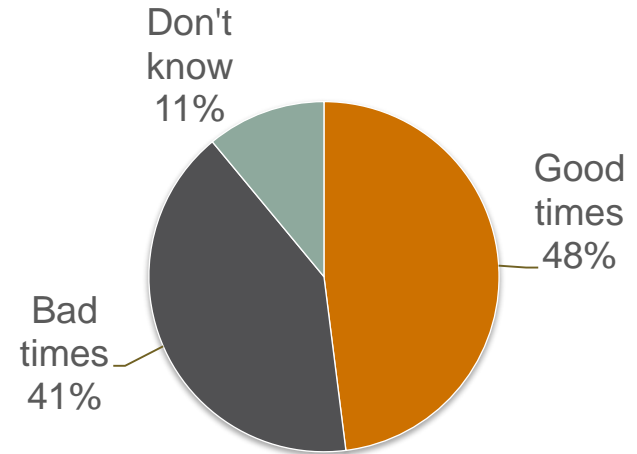


Outlook for the state

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



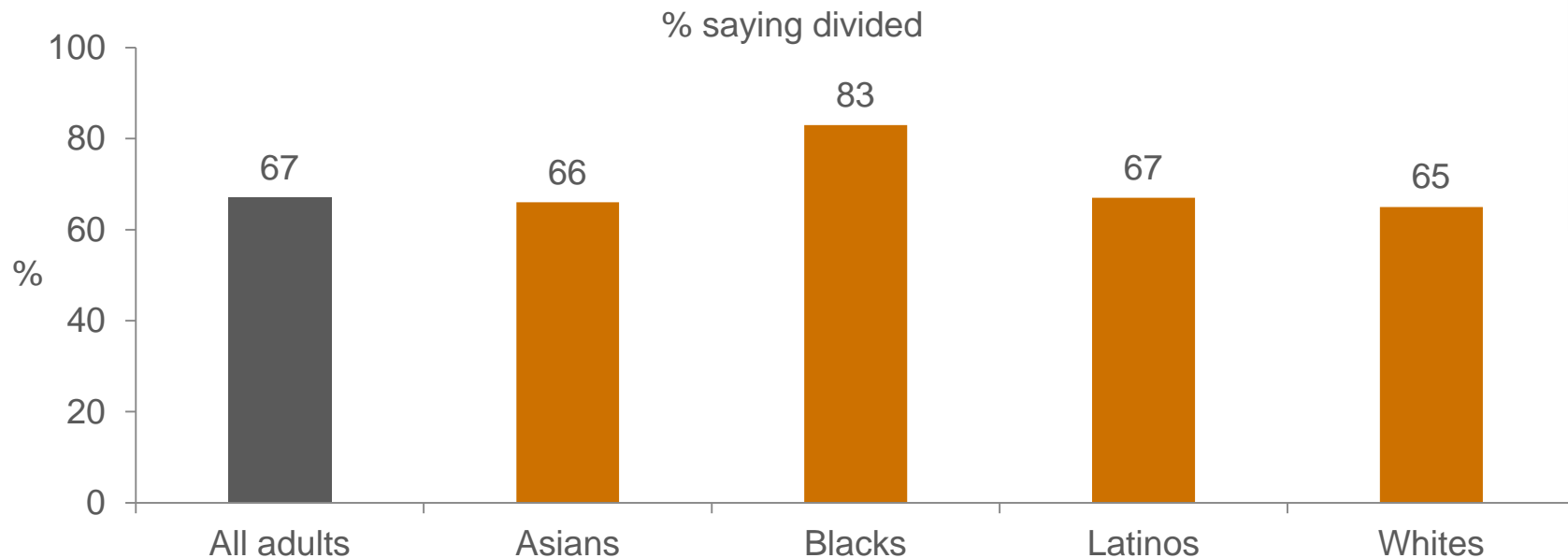
Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?



All adults

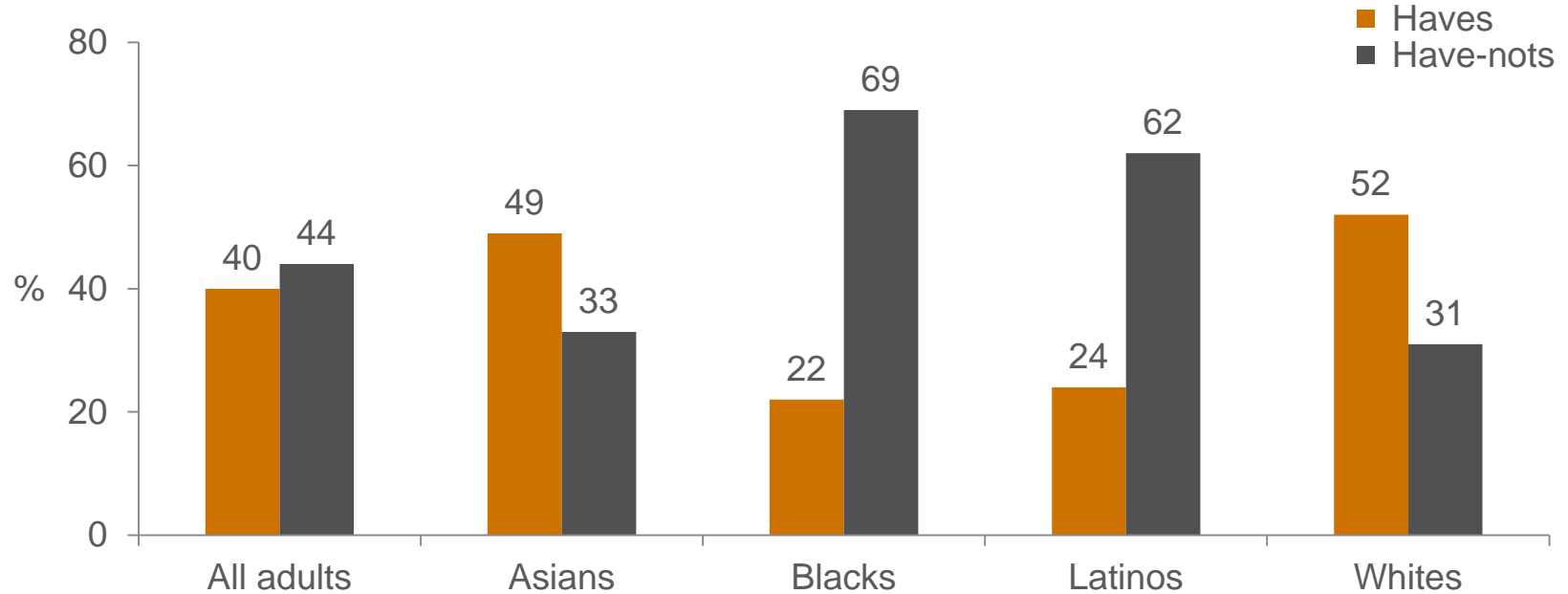
Income inequality in California

Do you think that California is divided into haves and have-nots, or do you think that California is not divided that way?



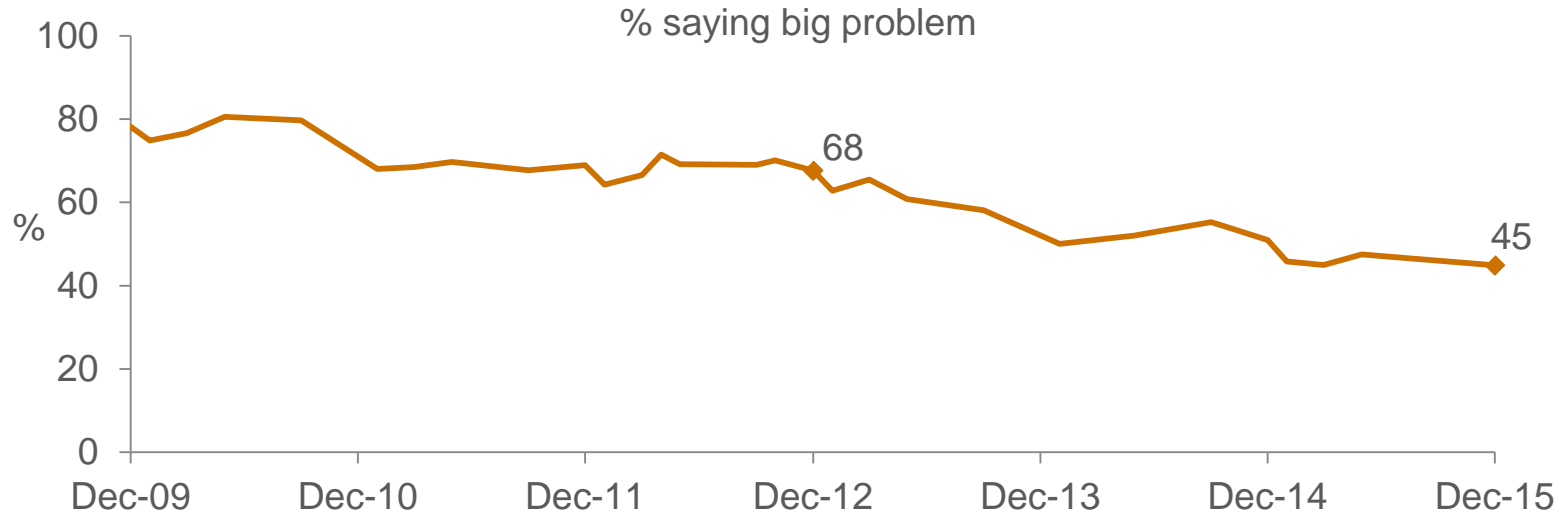
Are you in the haves or have-nots?

If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in—the haves or have-nots?



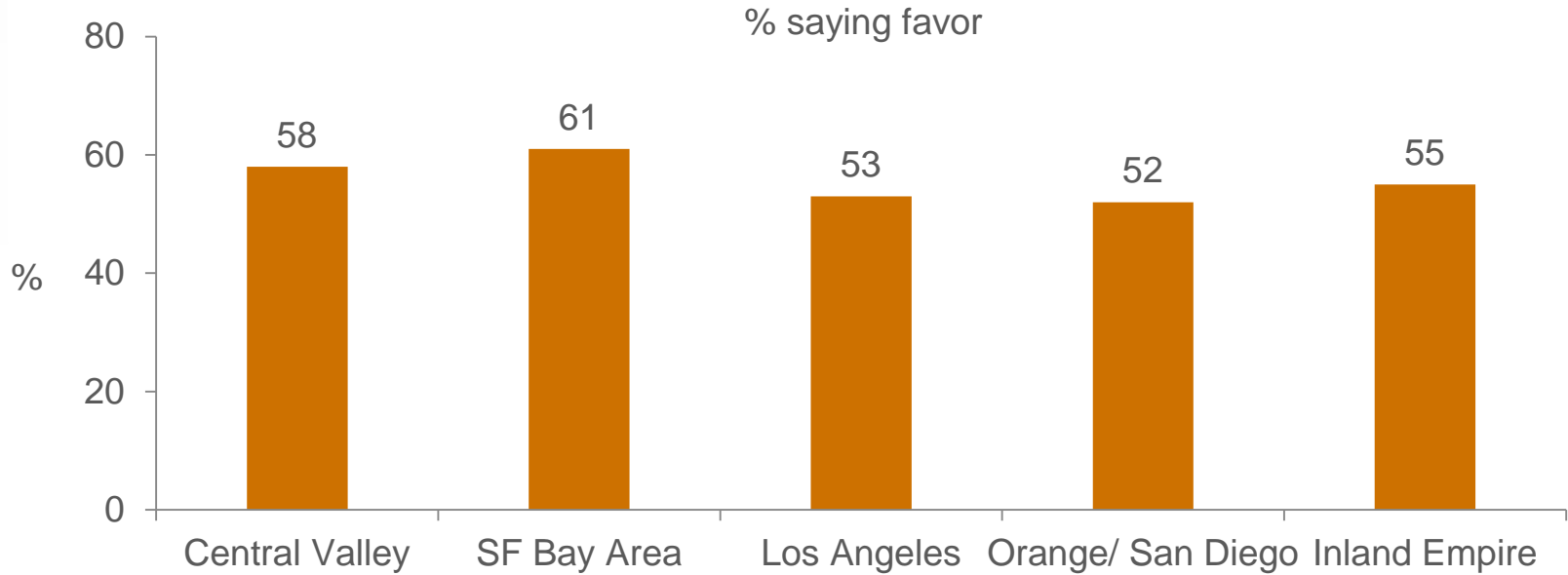
Perception of state budget situation

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?



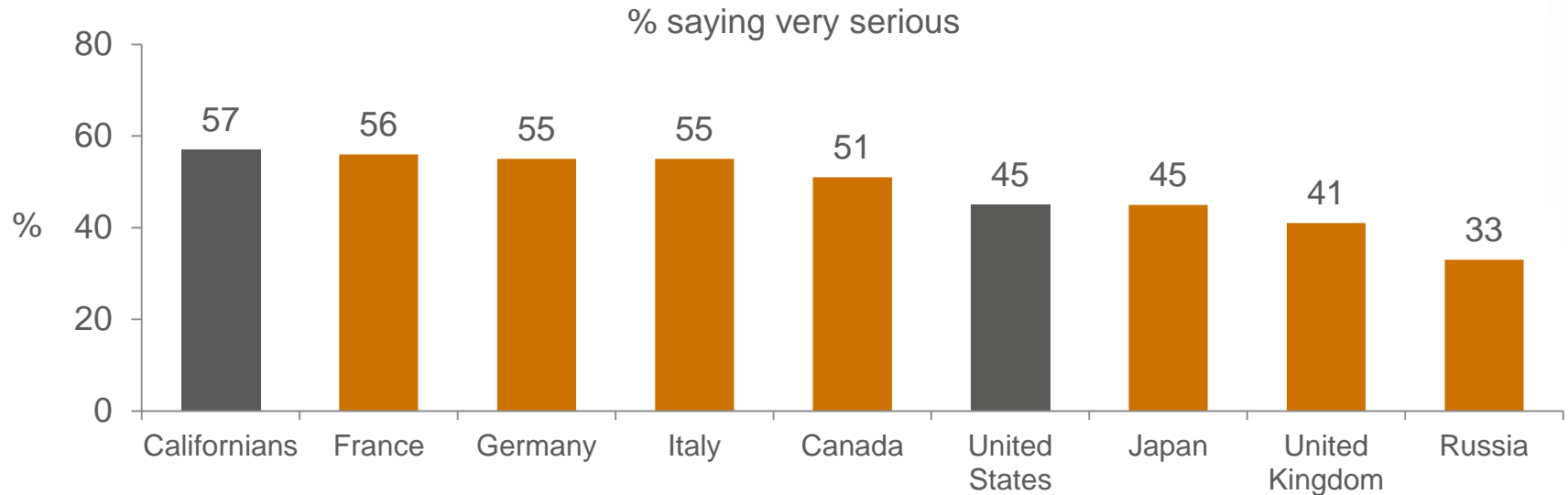
Extension of Proposition 30 taxes

Do you favor or oppose extending the Proposition 30 tax increases which are set to fully expire in 2018?



Problem seriousness of global climate change

In your view, is global climate change a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious or not a problem?

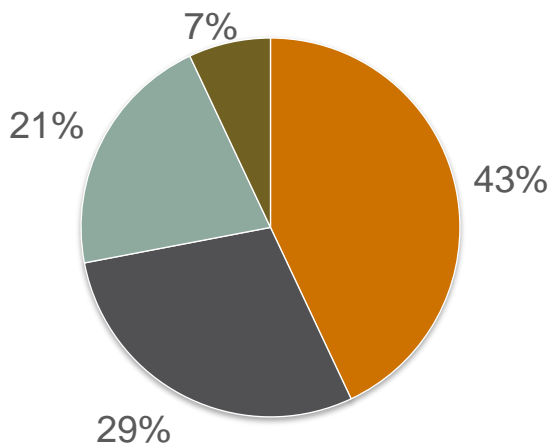


Note: U.S. and International findings from Pew Research Center, spring 2015.

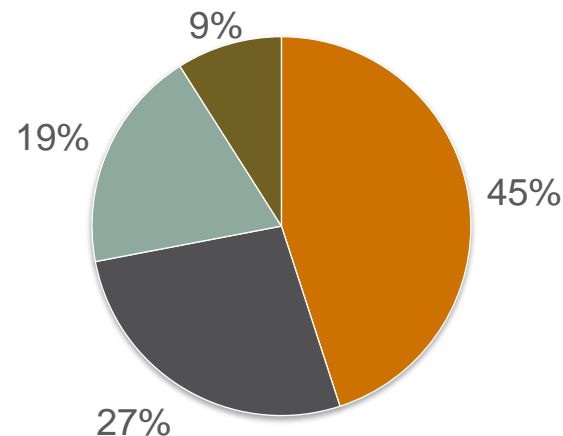
Effect of state efforts to reduce global warming on jobs

Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming will cause there to be more jobs for people around the state, will cause there to be fewer jobs, or won't affect the number of jobs for people around the state?

December 2014



December 2015

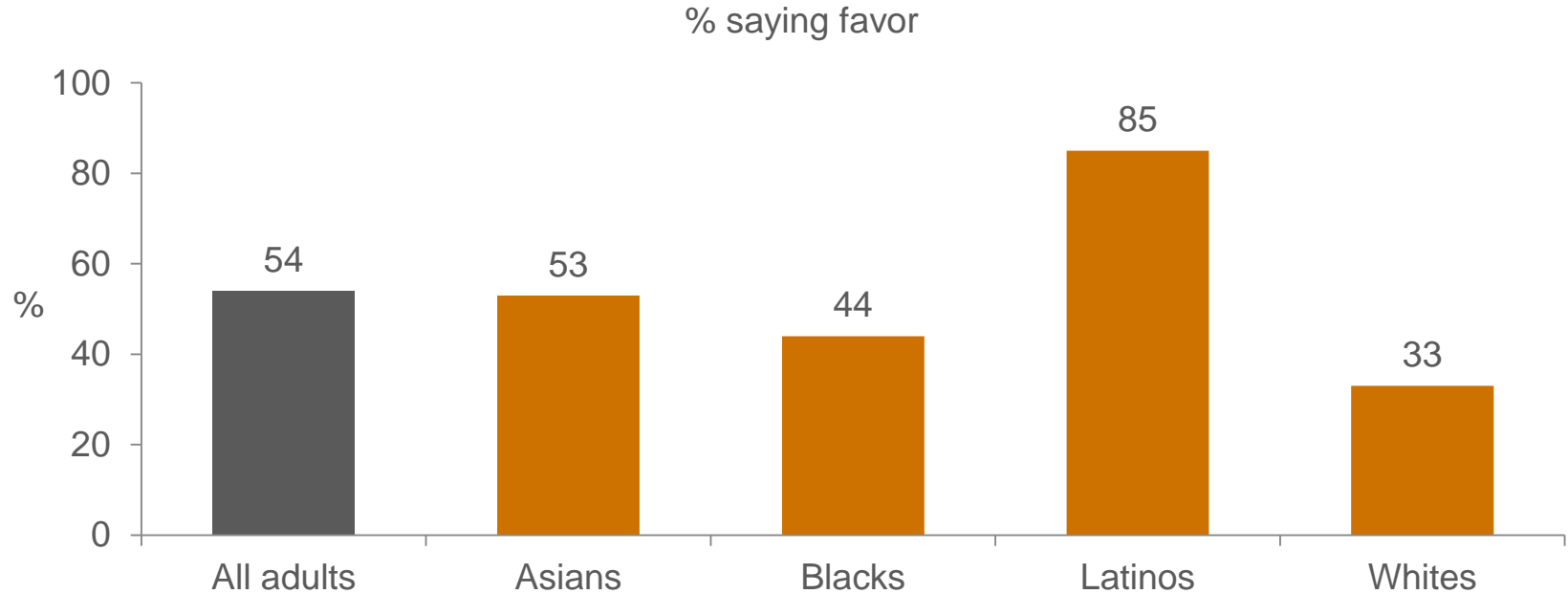


- More jobs
- No effect
- Fewer jobs
- Don't know

All adults

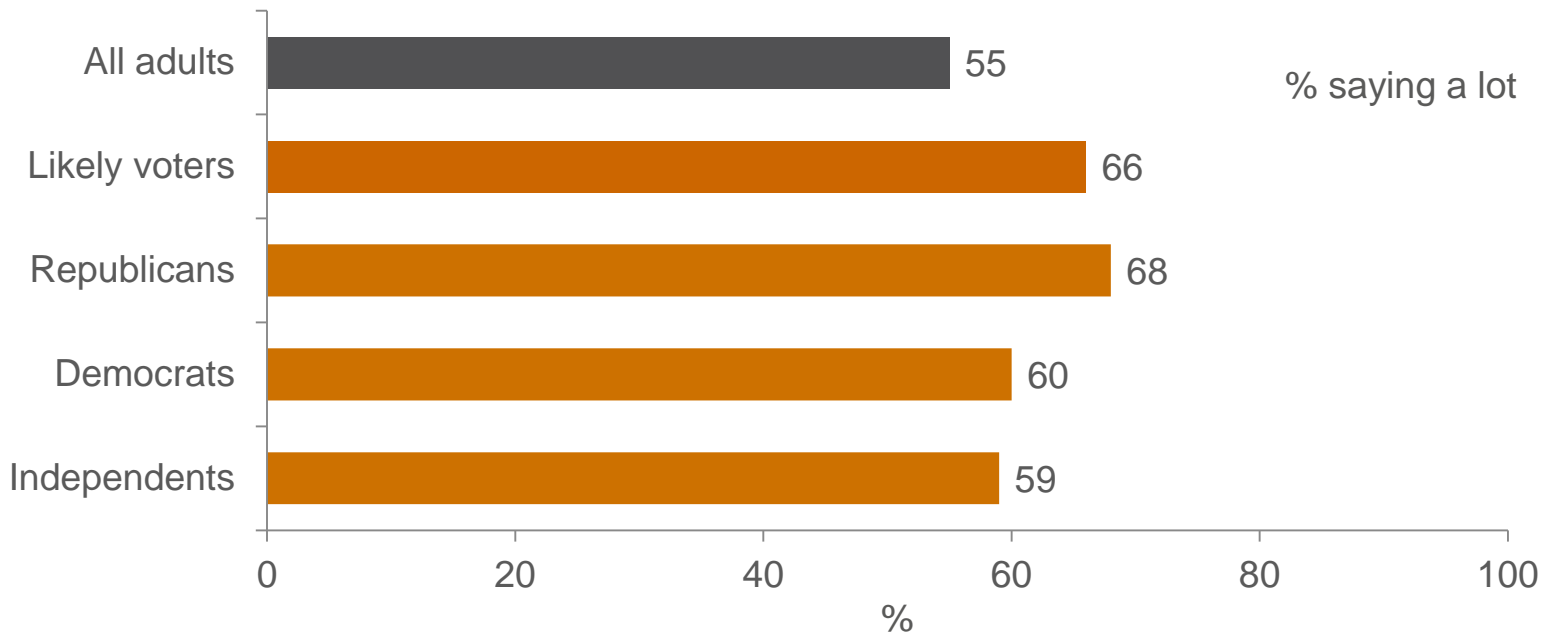
Medical coverage for undocumented immigrants

Do you favor or oppose providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants in California?



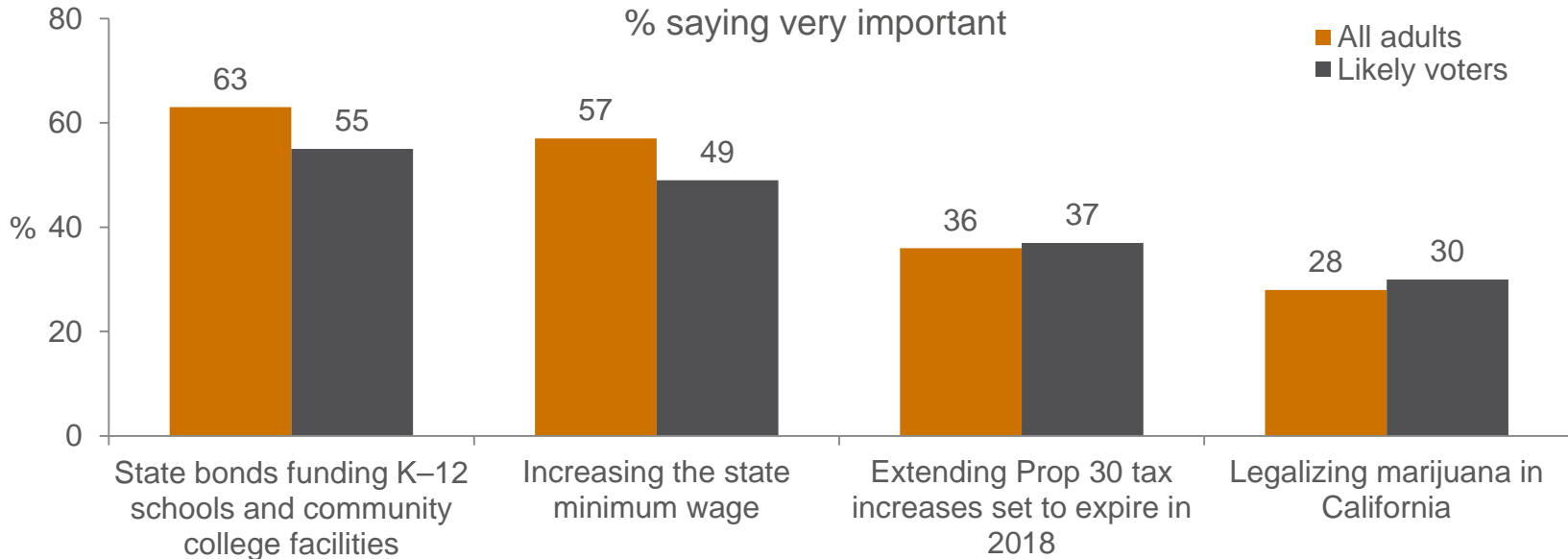
Special interests and the initiative process

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



Importance of 2016 ballot issues

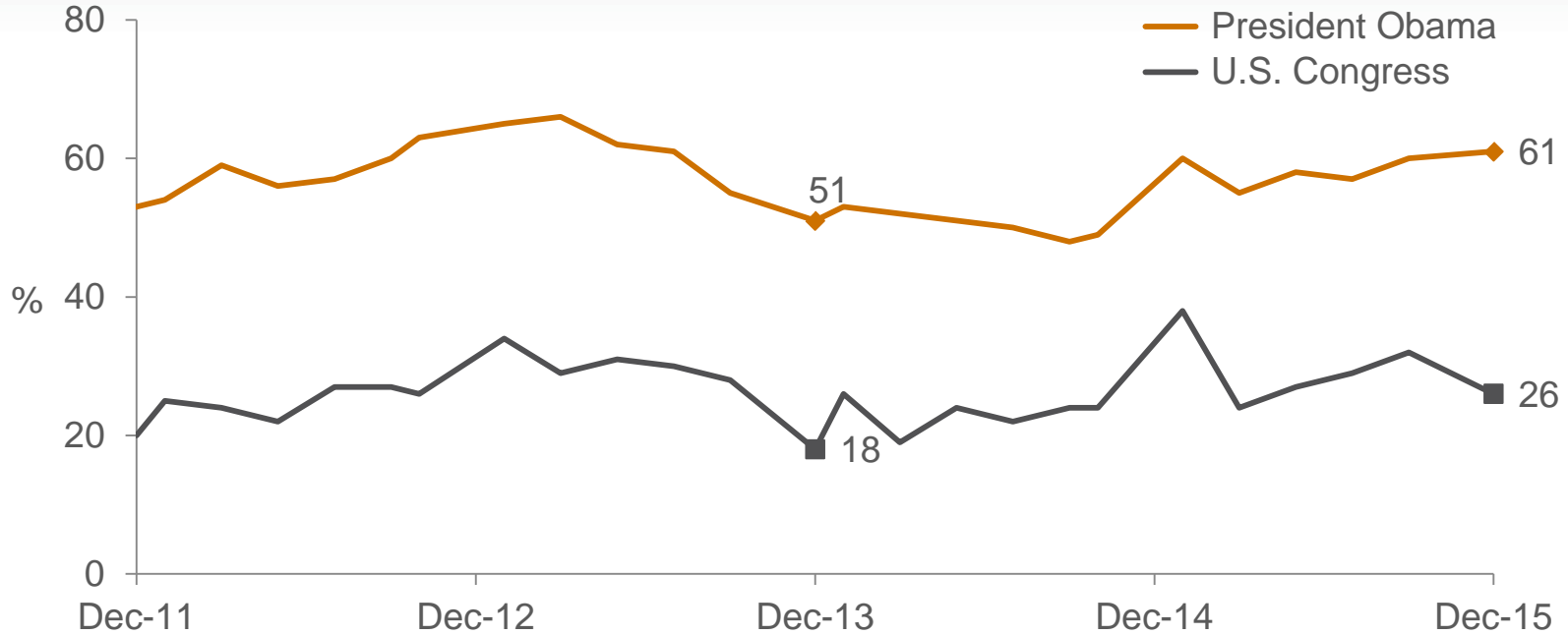
Next, several issues may be decided by California voters on the November 2016 ballot. Please tell me if each of the following issues is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to you. How about...?



Outline

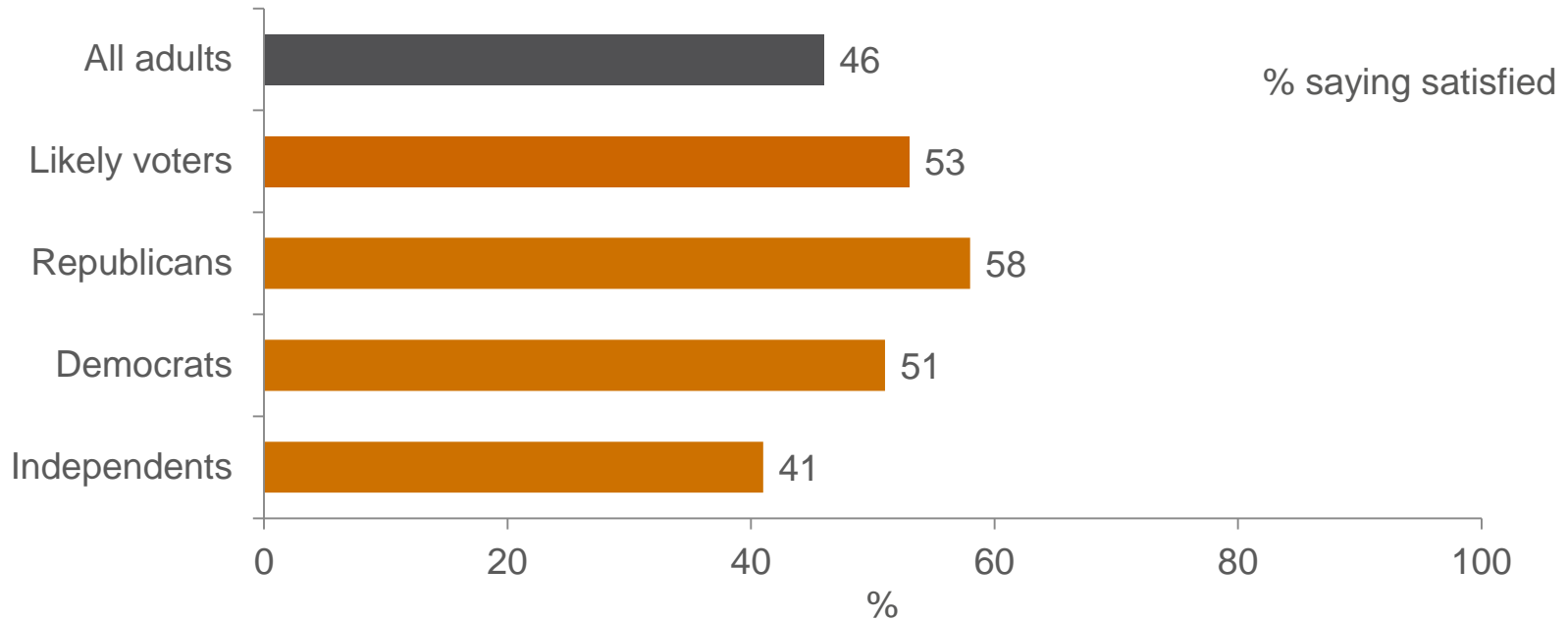
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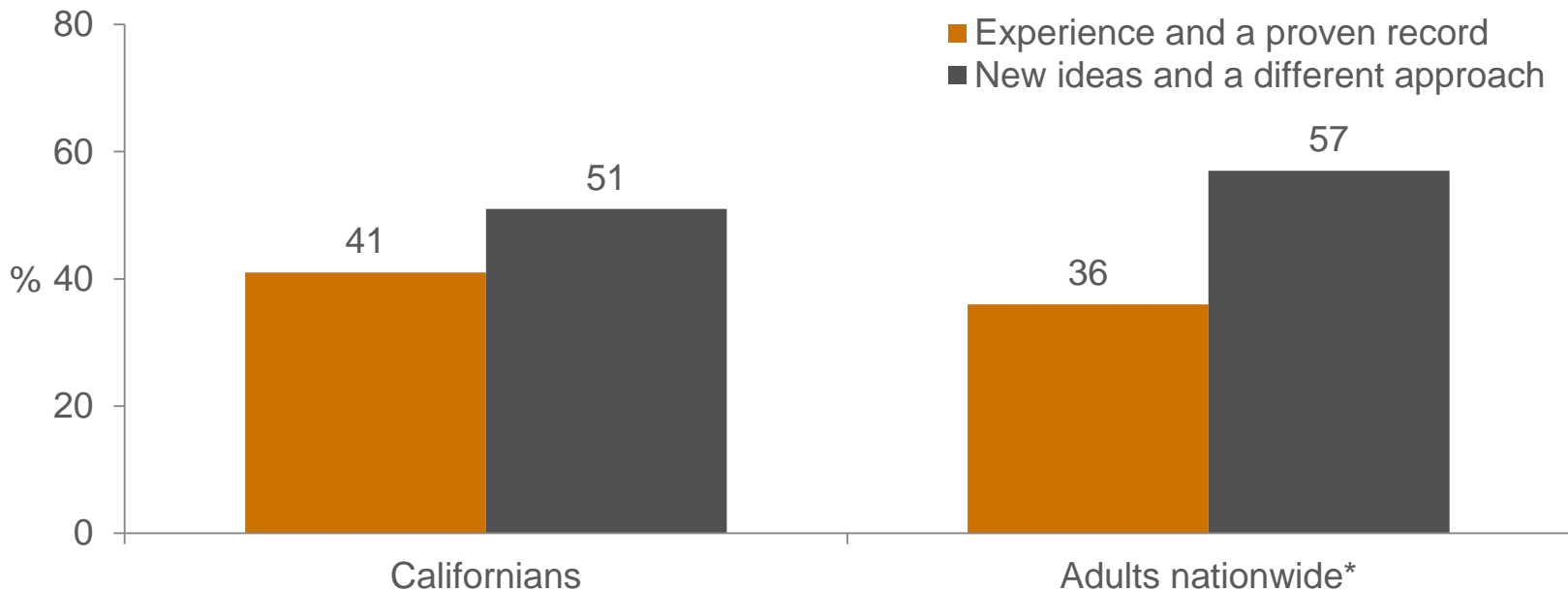
Satisfaction with choice of presidential candidates

In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for U.S. president in 2016?



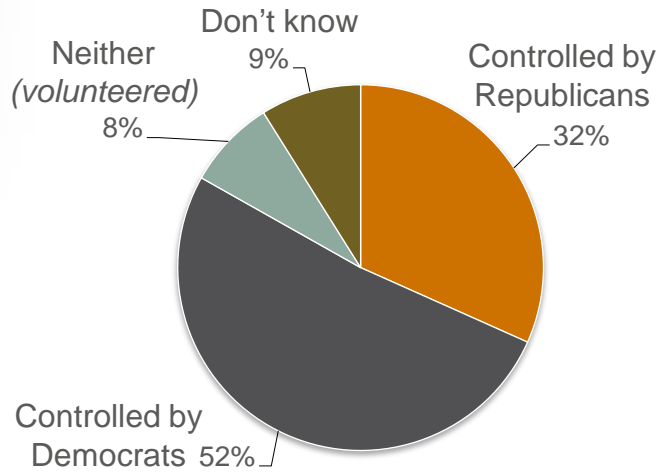
Preference for presidential candidate with experience or new ideas

Which of the following is more important to you in a presidential candidate—experience and a proven record new ideas and a different approach?

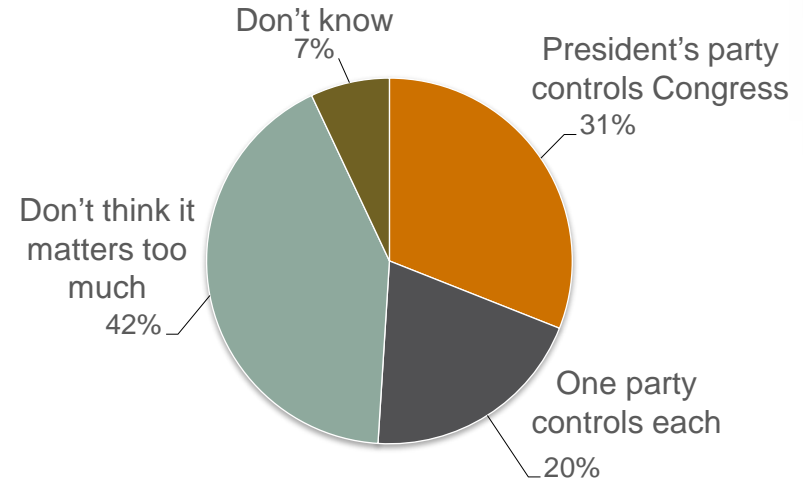


2016 Congressional elections

What is your preference for the outcome of next year's congressional elections: a Congress controlled by Republicans or a Congress controlled by Democrats?



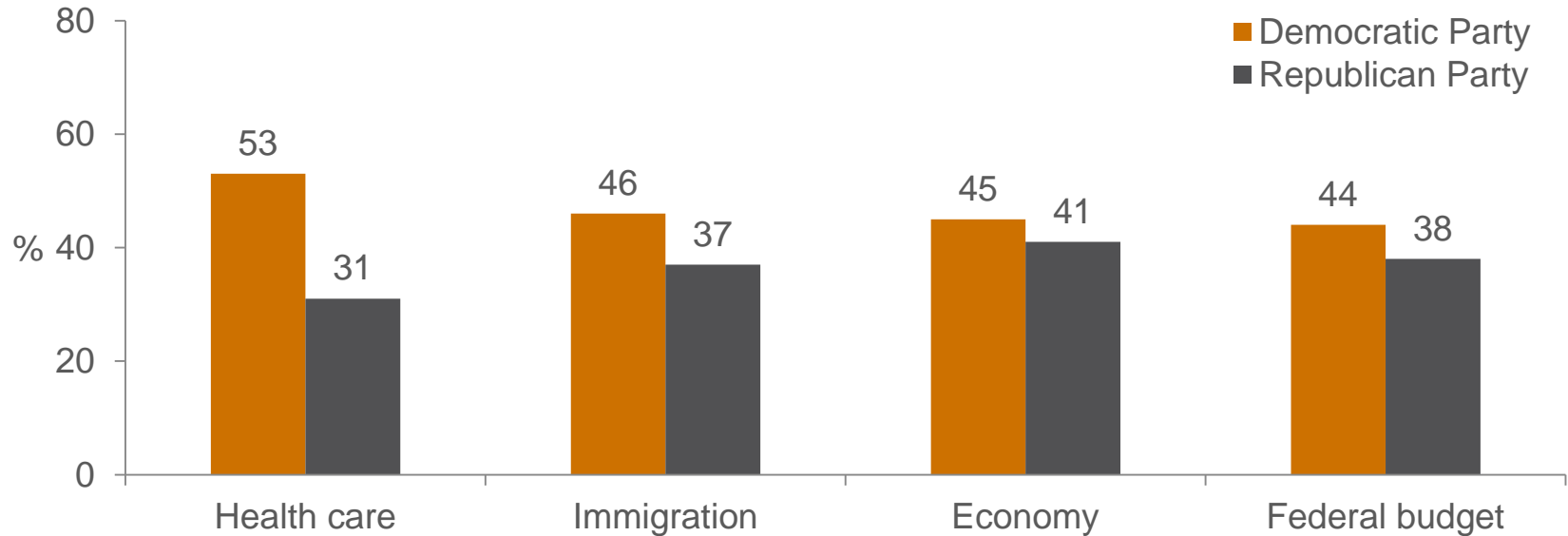
Generally, what's the better situation: that a president's political party also has a controlling majority in Congress, or that one party controls the White House while the other party controls the Congress, or don't you think it matters too much one way or the other?



All adults

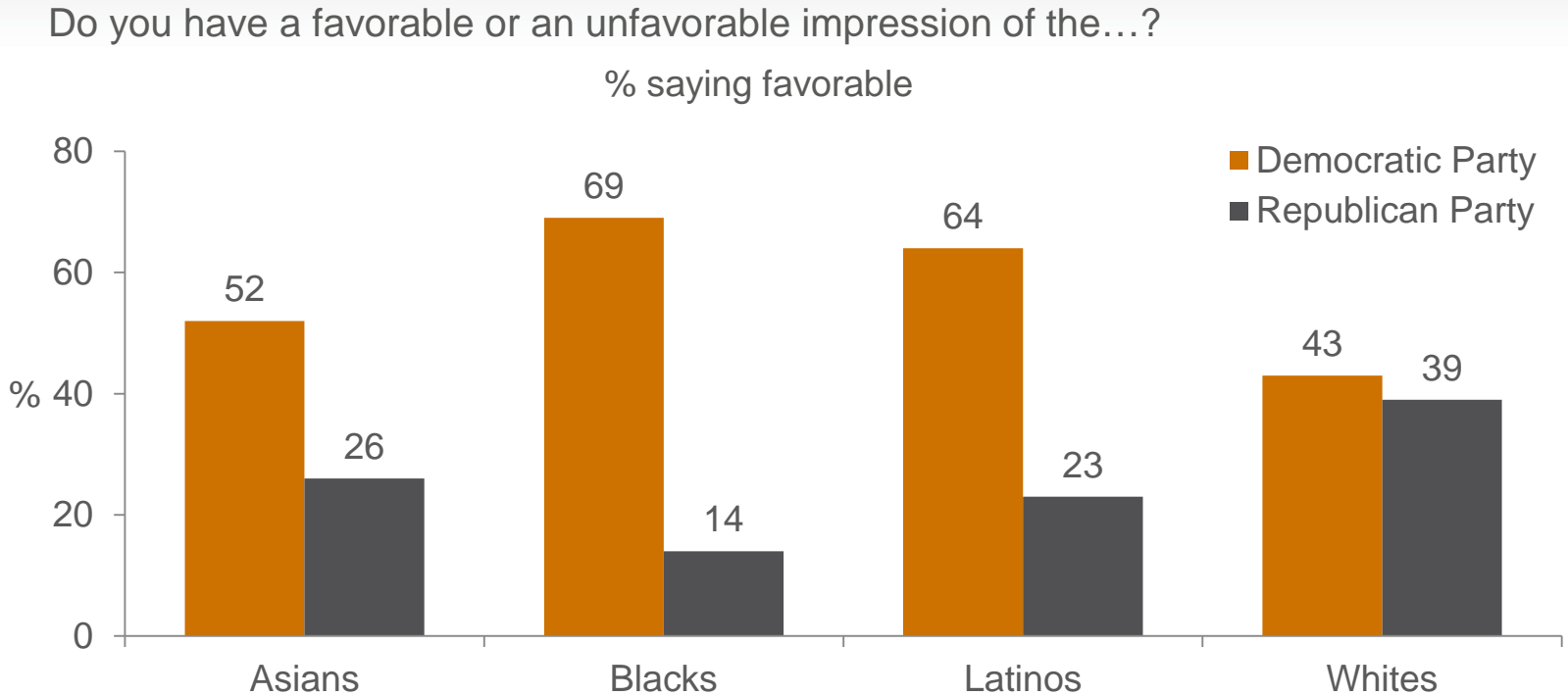
Handling major issues

Please tell me if you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party could do a better job of handling each of these national issues.



All adults

Impressions of political parties



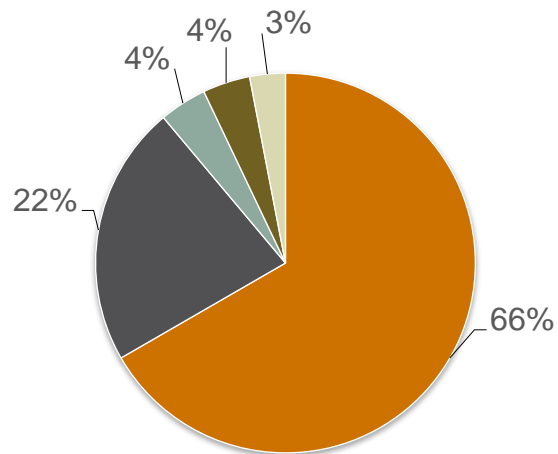
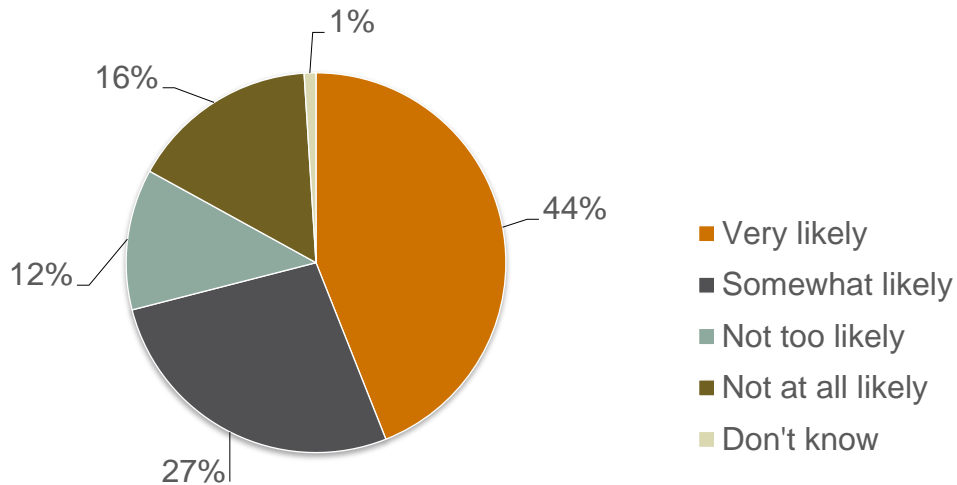
Automatic voter registration

How likely is it that you will vote in elections if you are automatically registered to vote when you use the California Department of Motor Vehicles?

How likely is it that you will vote in elections if you are automatically mailed a ballot which you could return by mail or at a local voting center?

Among citizens who are not registered to vote

Among registered voters who do not always vote



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Conclusions — California's 2016 Election Landscape

- Majority approval ratings for President Obama and Governor Brown are limiting support for political outsiders and setting tone for 2016 election
- Water and the economy are top state issues; mixed results on state's current direction and next year's economic outlook
- Many say state school bond and minimum wage increases are very important ballot items
- Public support for health reform and climate change, but partisan divide exists
- Party preferences and impressions highlight the role of changing demographics
- New and proposed reforms could increase voter rolls and turnout over time

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Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.