

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment

July 28, 2016

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Supported with funding from The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Heising-Simons Foundation, the Pisces Foundation, and the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation



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Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- 2016 election and environmental issues
- Climate change and energy policy
- 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
 - 16th survey on environmental issues since 2000
 - 320,000+ Californians since 1998
 - 150+ general, issue, and regional surveys

Californians and the Environment

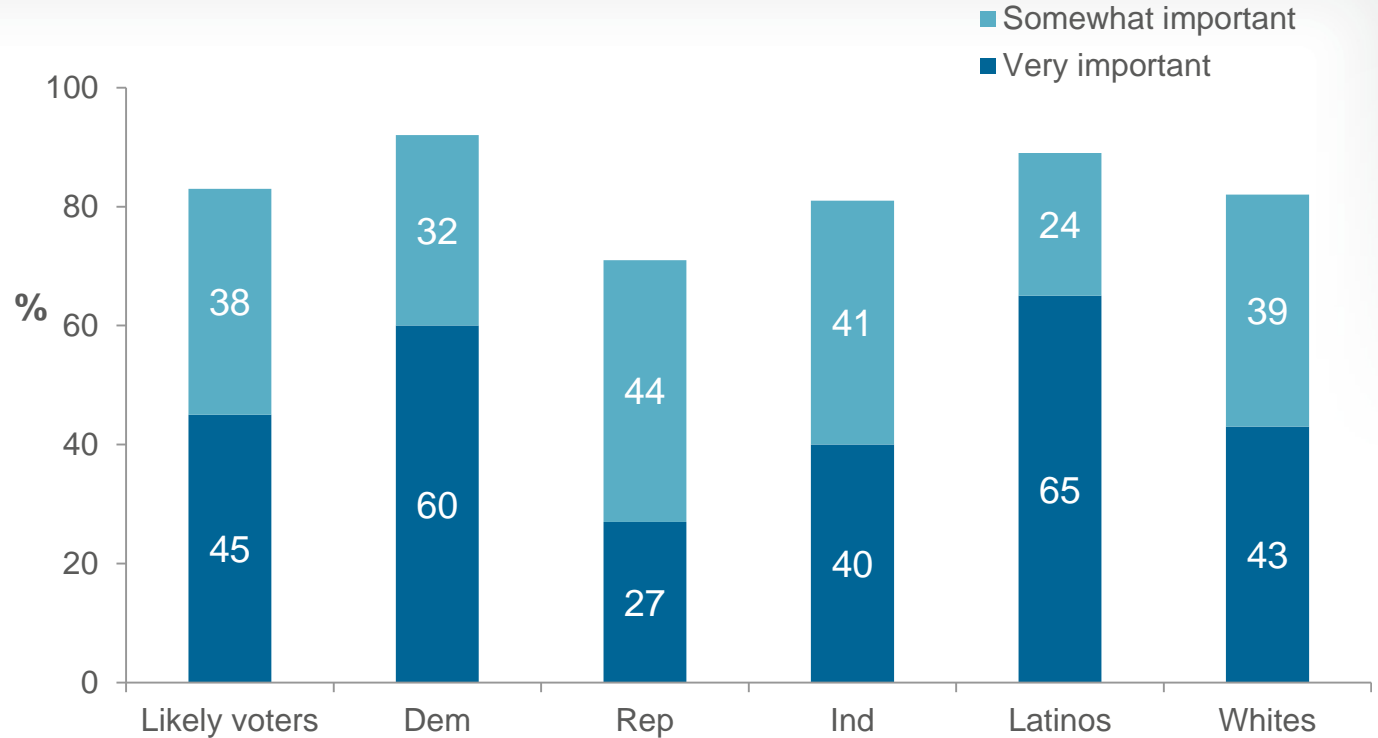
- Conducted with funding from The Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Heising-Simons Foundation, the Pisces Foundation, and the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation
- Telephone interviews, July 10–19, 2016
 - 50% landline, 50% cell phone
 - 1,703 adults, $\pm 3.5\%$ margin of error
 - 1,056 likely voters, $\pm 4.3\%$ margin of error
- Preferences in presidential and US Senate races, approval ratings, water, and air pollution
- Views on climate change, AB 32, alternative energy, and fossil fuels

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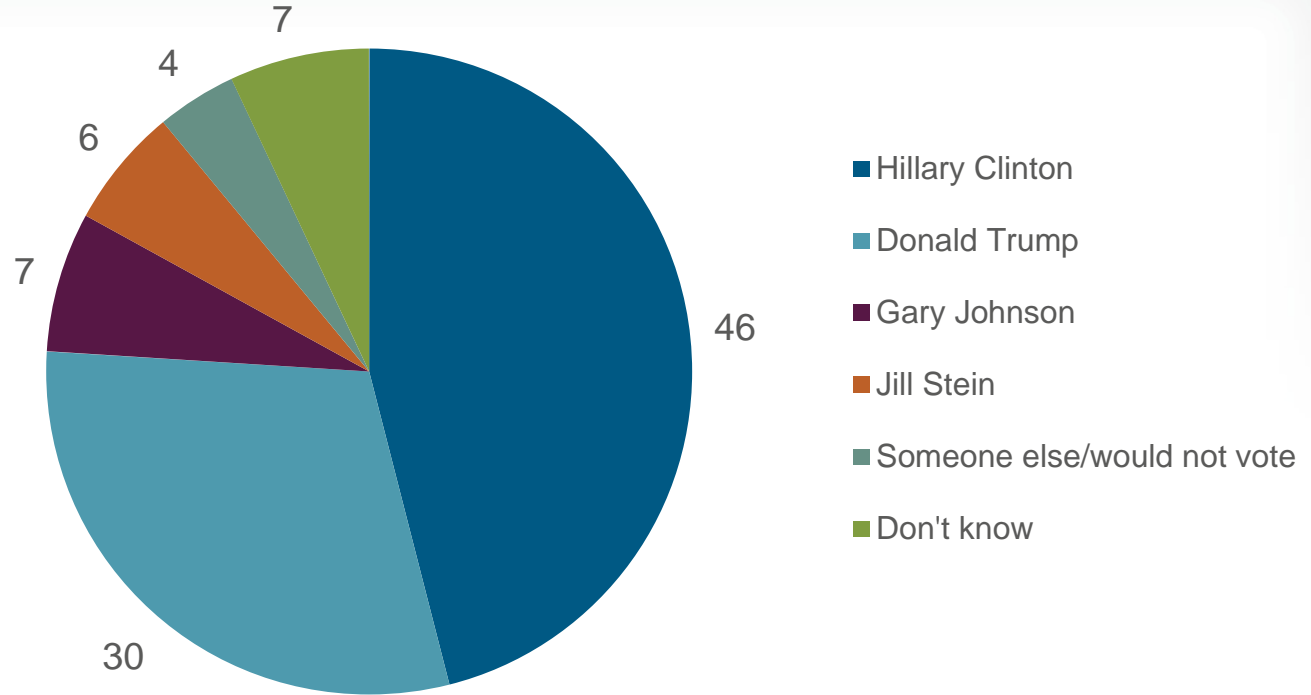
Importance of presidential candidates' positions on the environment

In thinking about the presidential election in November, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the environment in determining your vote?



Presidential election preferences

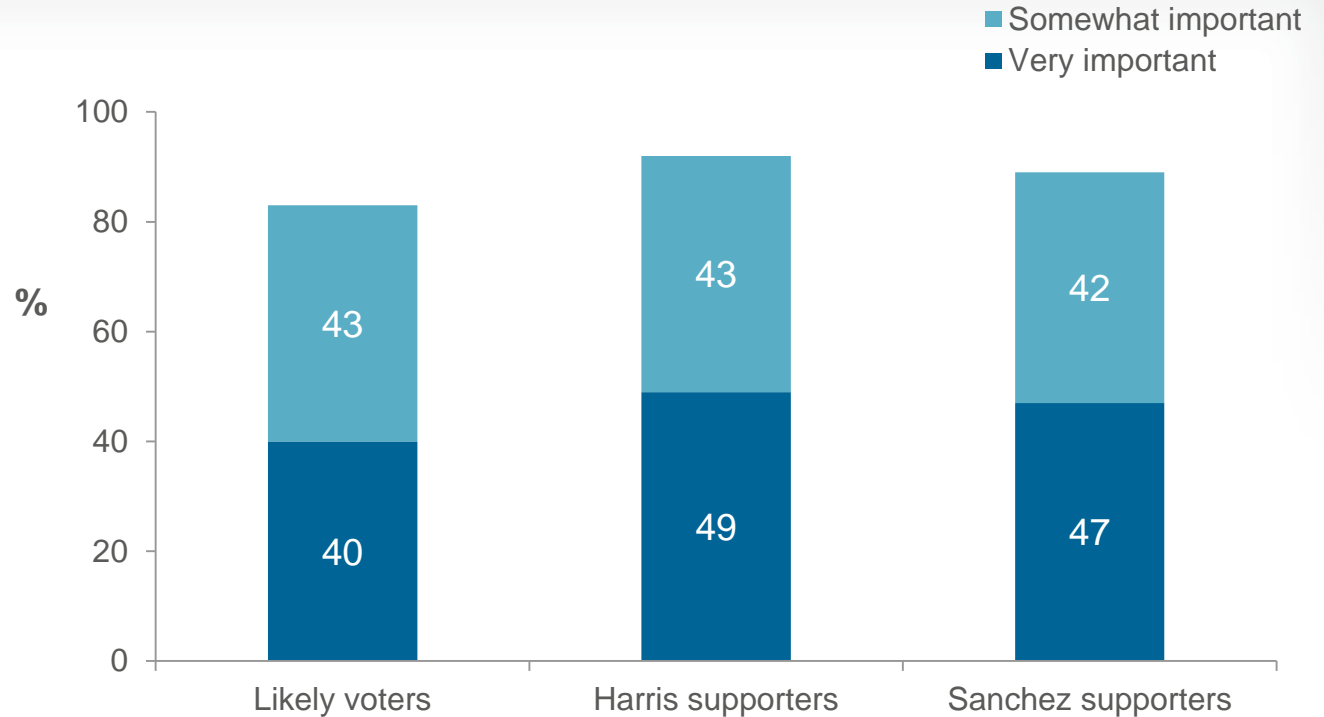
If the November 8th presidential election were being held today, would you vote for...?



% likely voters

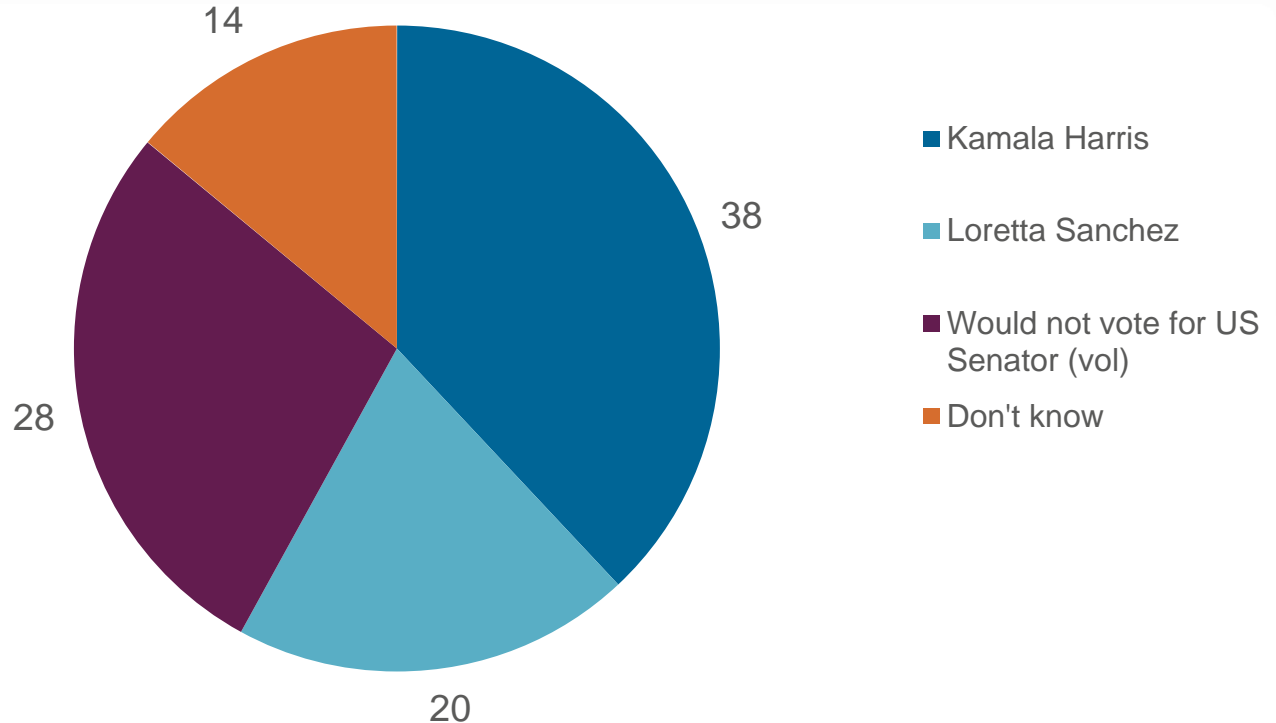
Importance of US Senate candidates' positions on the environment

In thinking about the California US Senate election in November, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the environment in determining your vote?



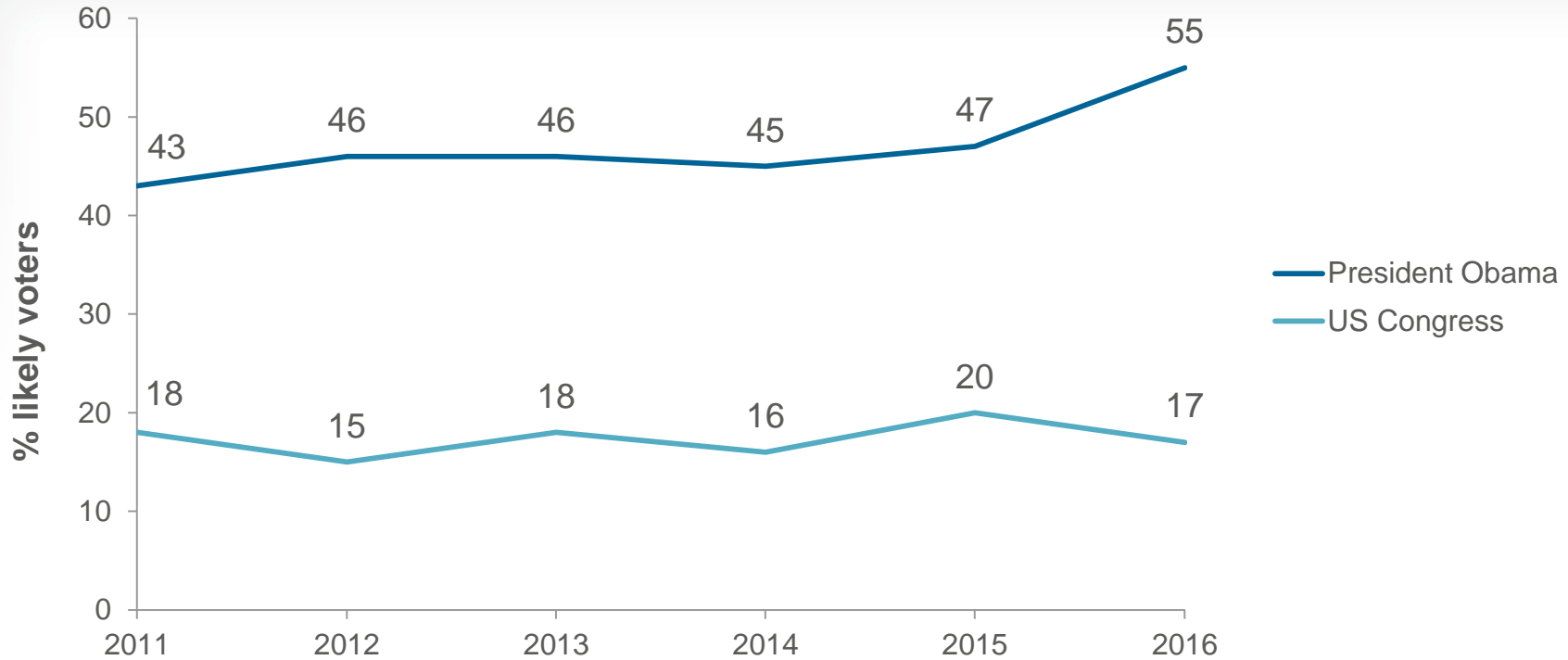
US Senate election preferences

If the November 8th US Senate election were being held today, would you vote for...?

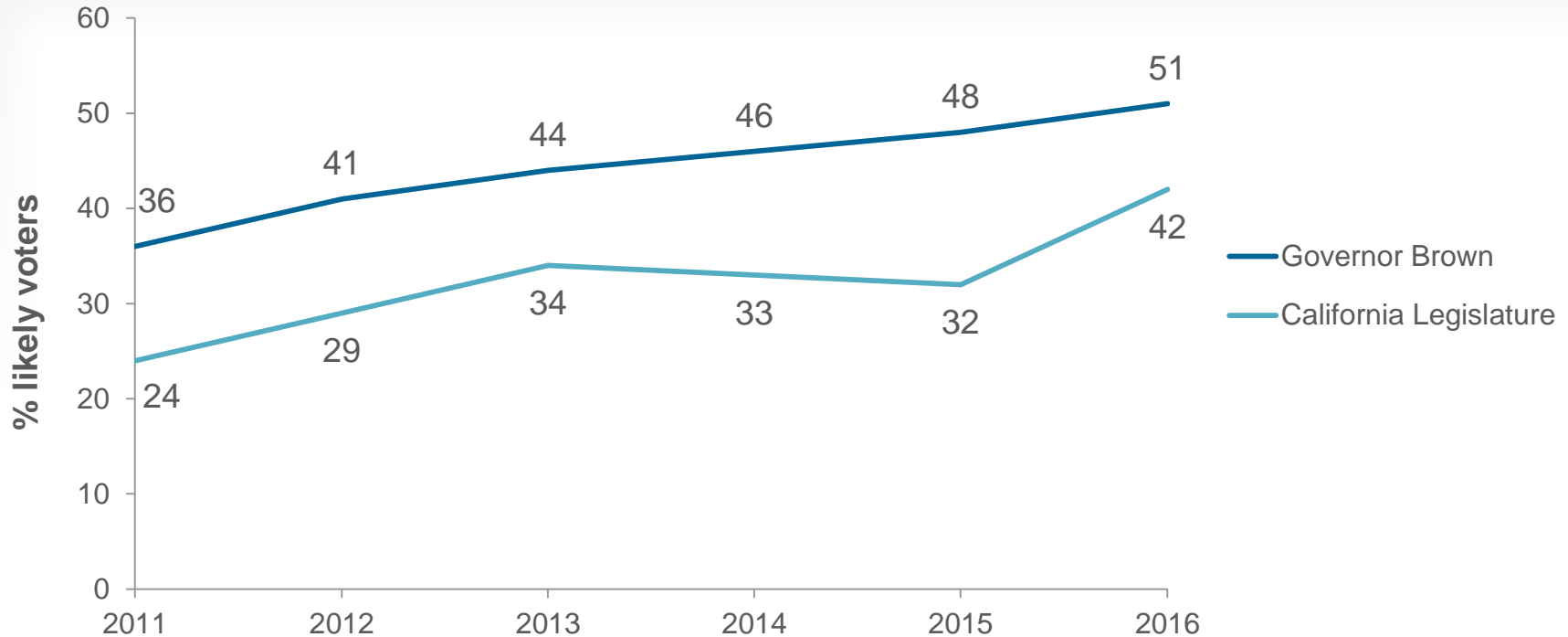


% likely voters

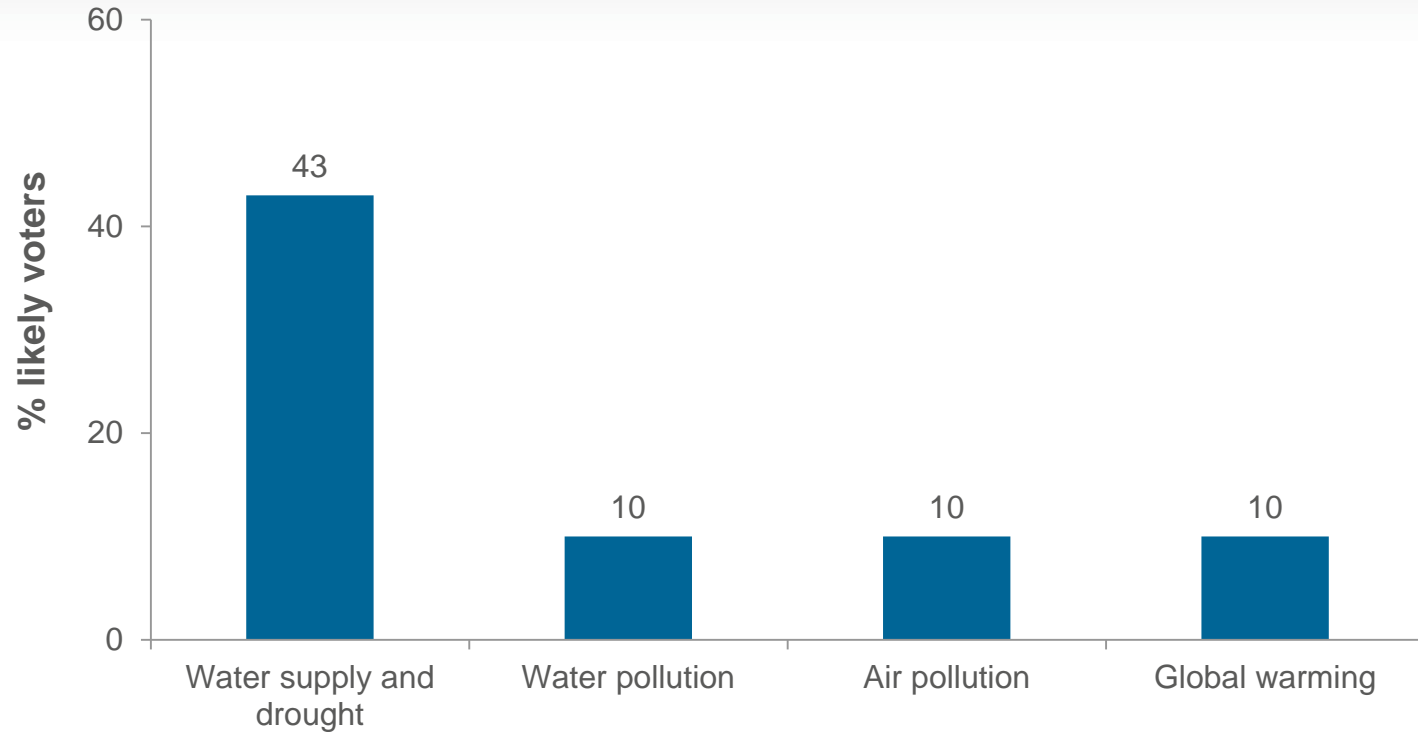
Approval ratings of federal elected officials on environmental issues



Approval ratings of state elected officials on environmental issues

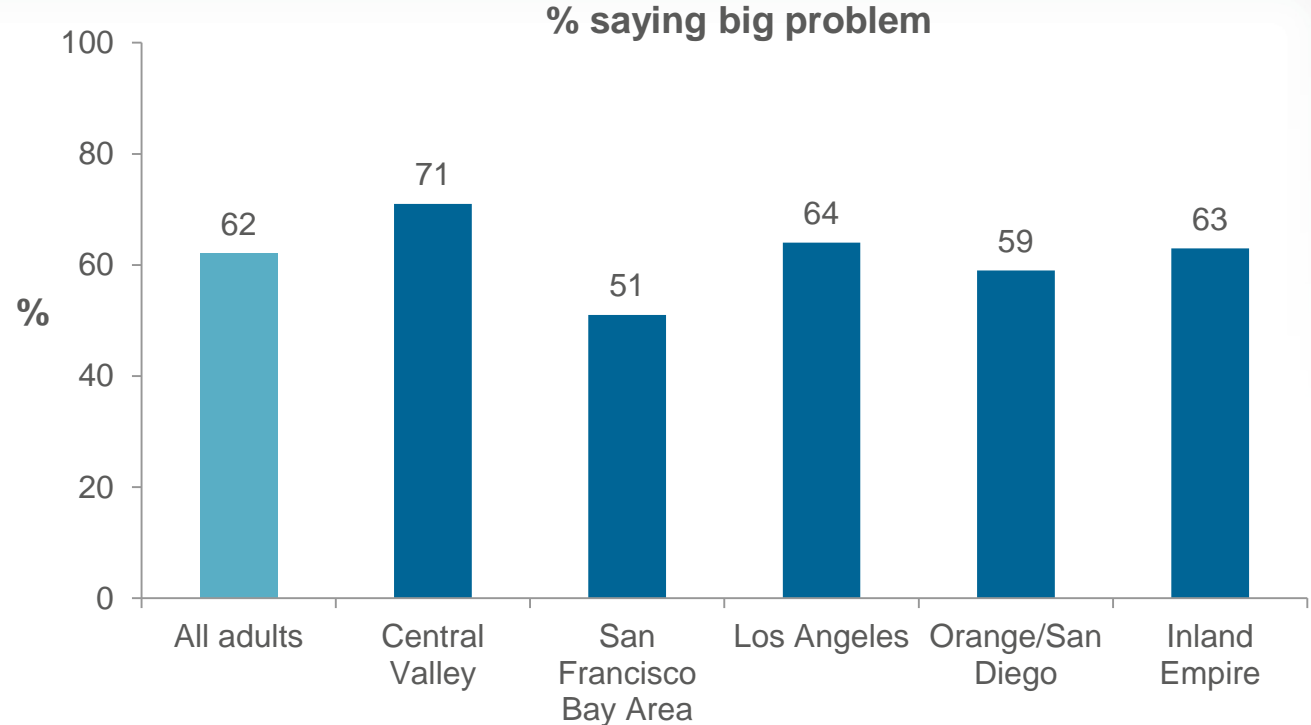


Most important environmental issue



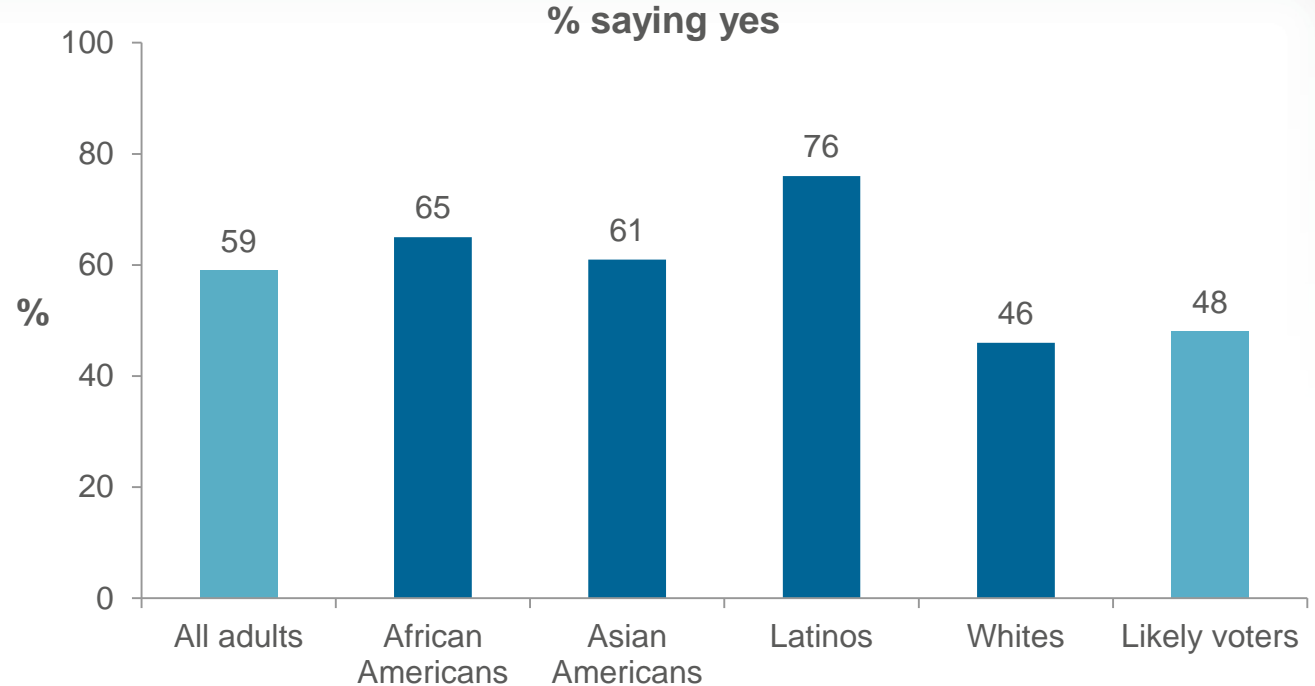
Seriousness of water supply problem

Would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?



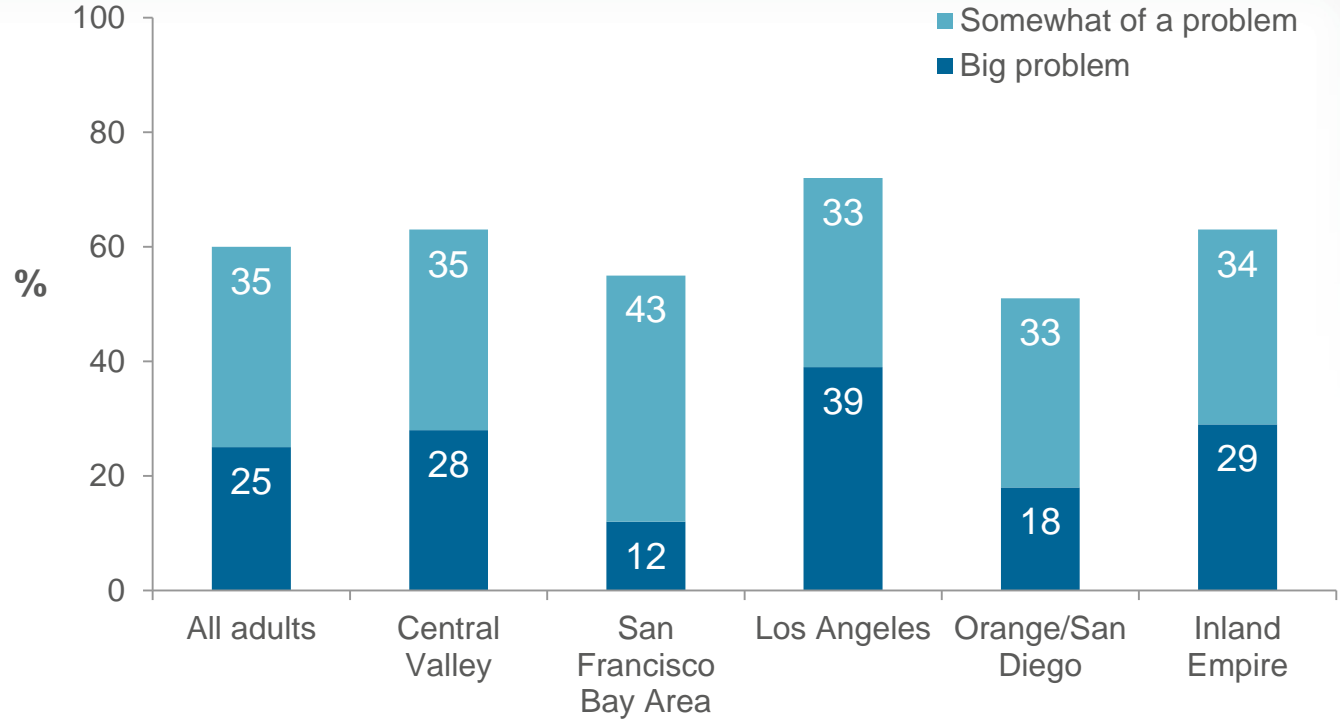
Disparities in pollution of drinking water

Do you think that pollution of drinking water is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your part of California, or not?



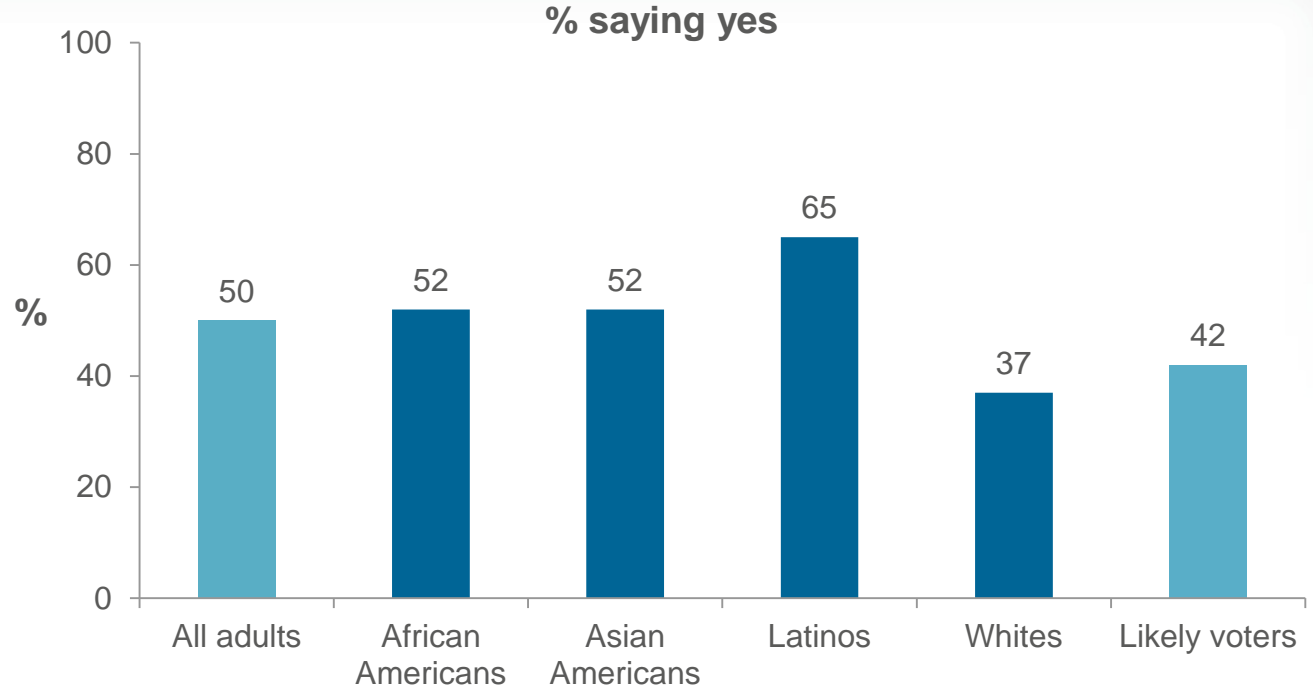
Seriousness of air pollution problem

Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?



Disparities in air pollution

Do you think that air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your part of California, or not?

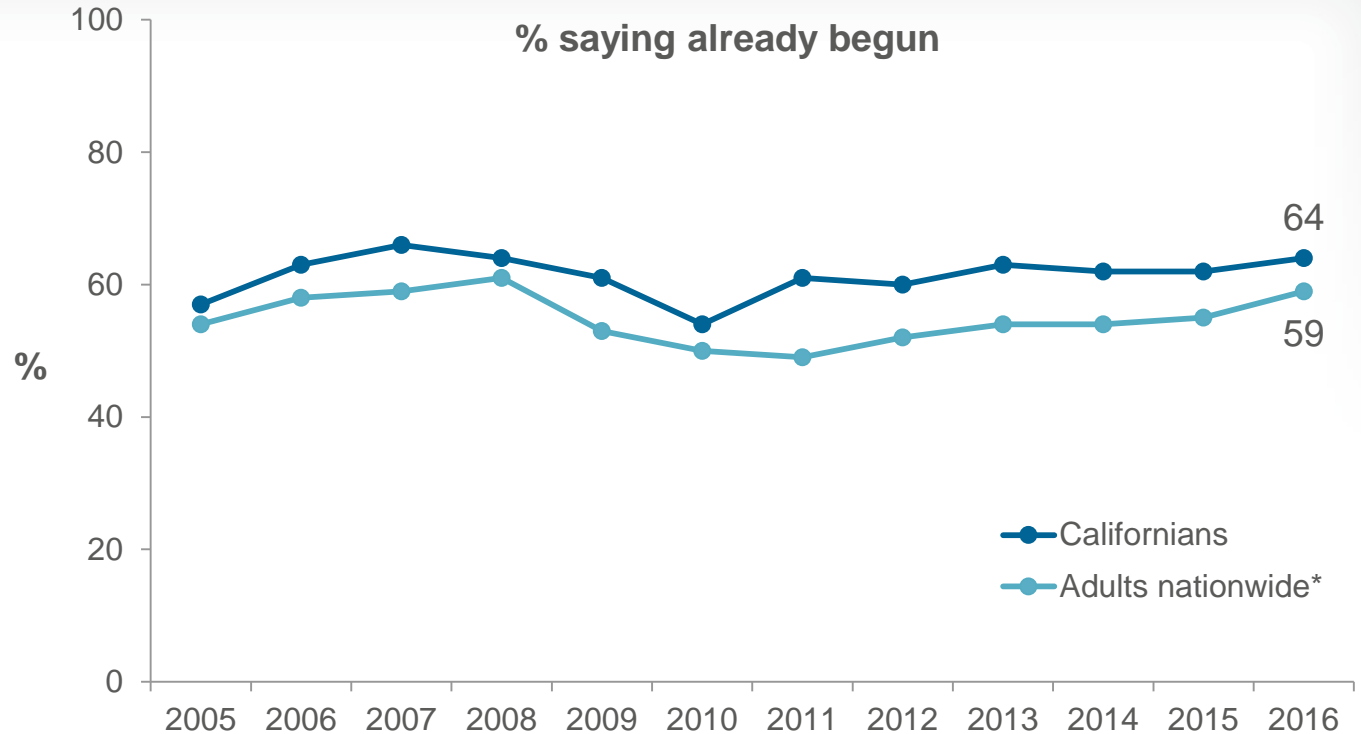


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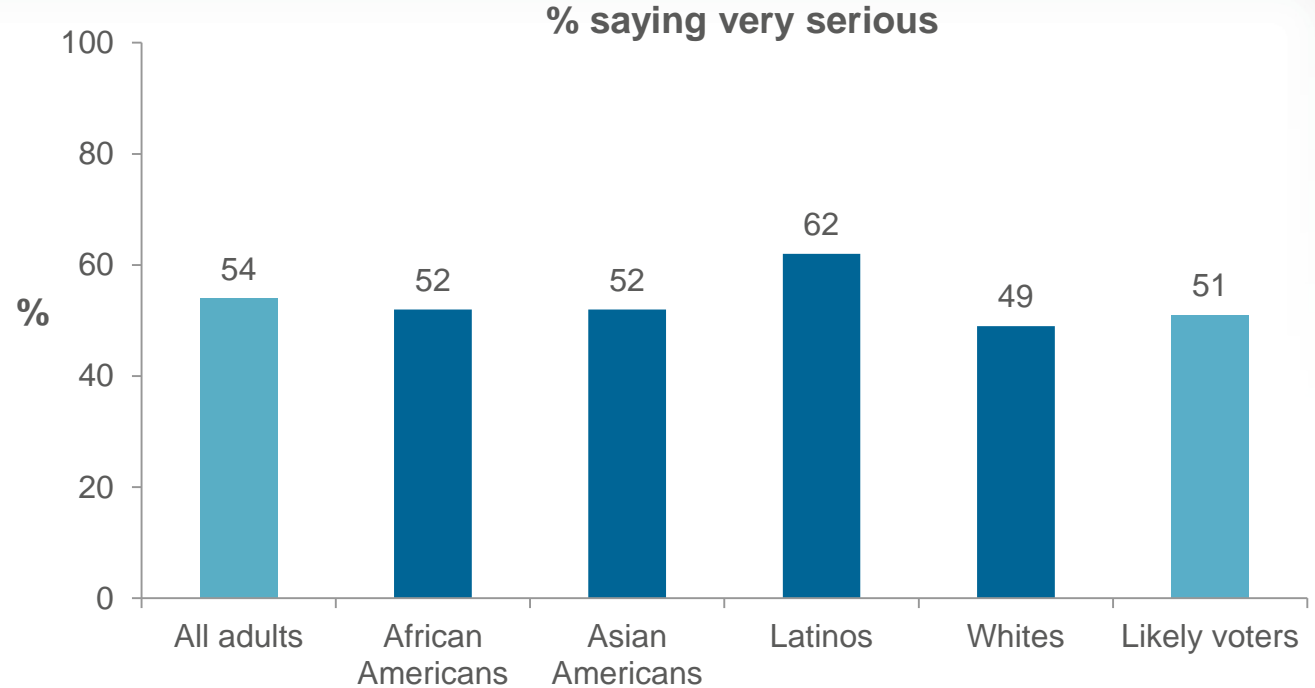
Effects of global warming

Which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen?



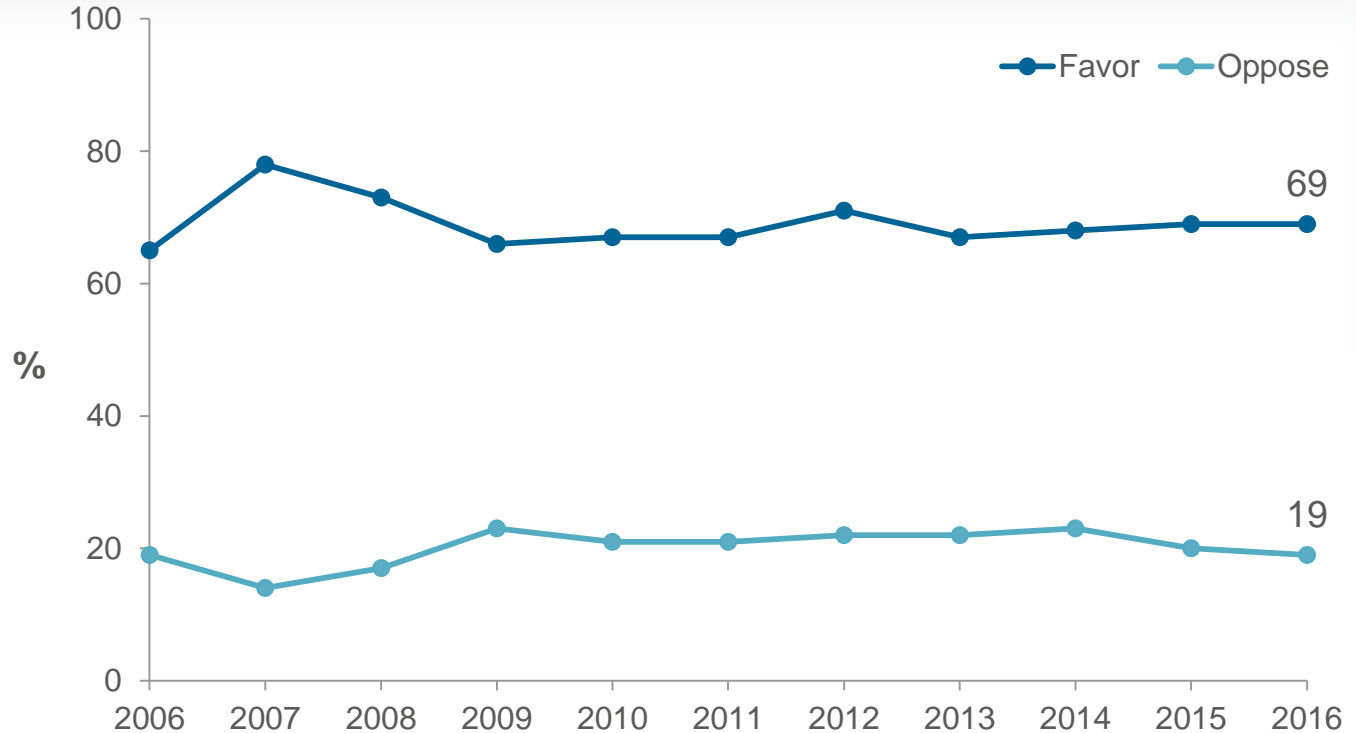
Threat of global warming

How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California's future?



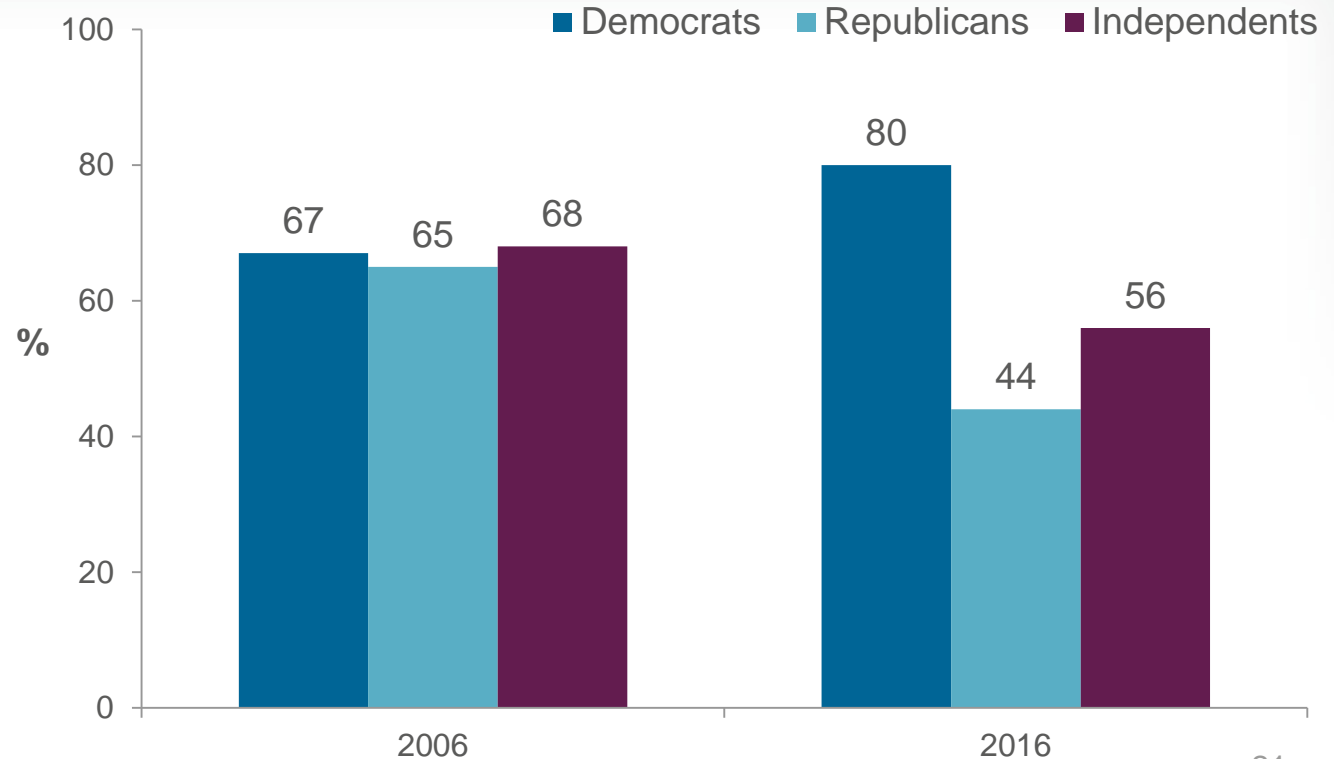
Support for AB 32

To address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020?



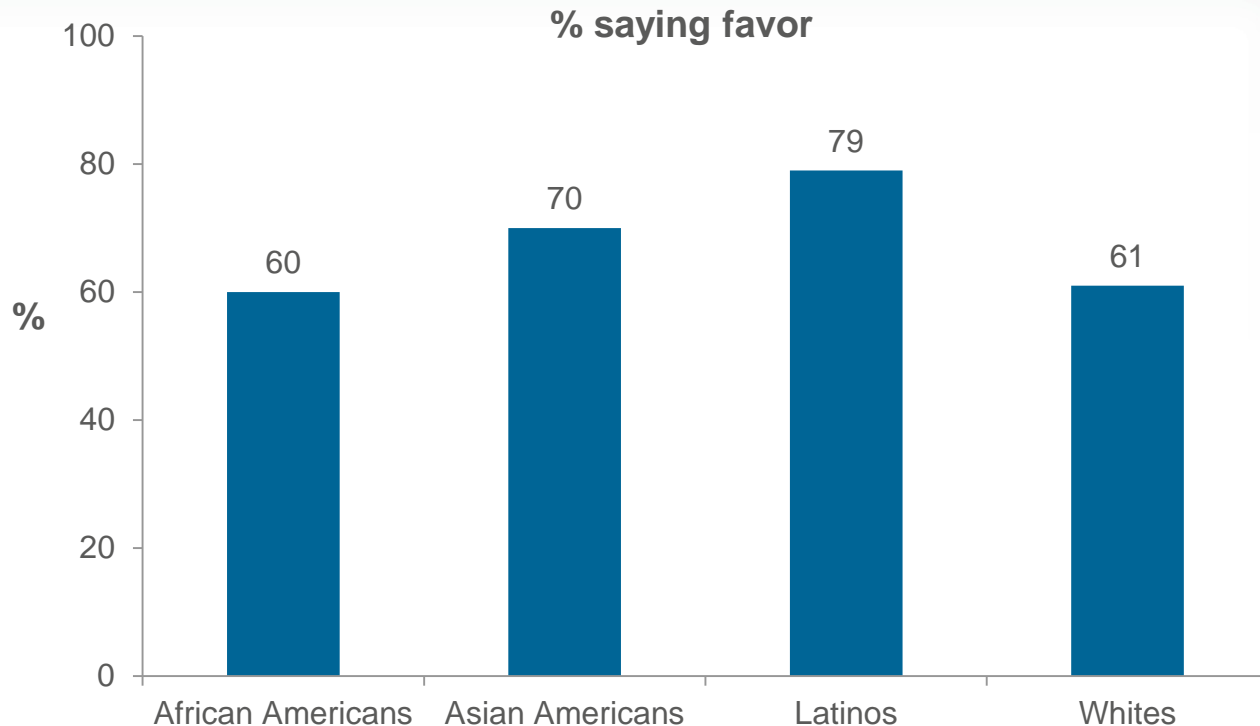
Support for AB 32 across parties

To address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020?



2030 emission reduction goal

To address global warming, the state legislature is currently considering legislation that would require California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. Overall, do you favor or oppose this proposal?



Paying more for electricity

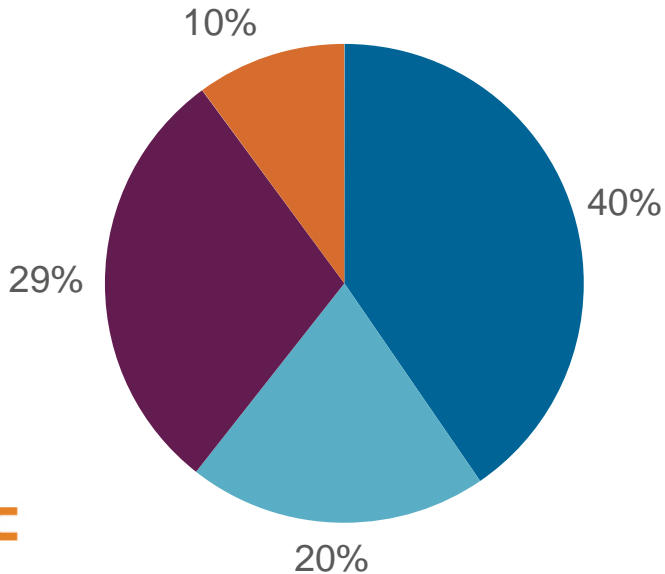
In order to help reduce global warming, would you be willing or not willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable sources like solar or wind energy?



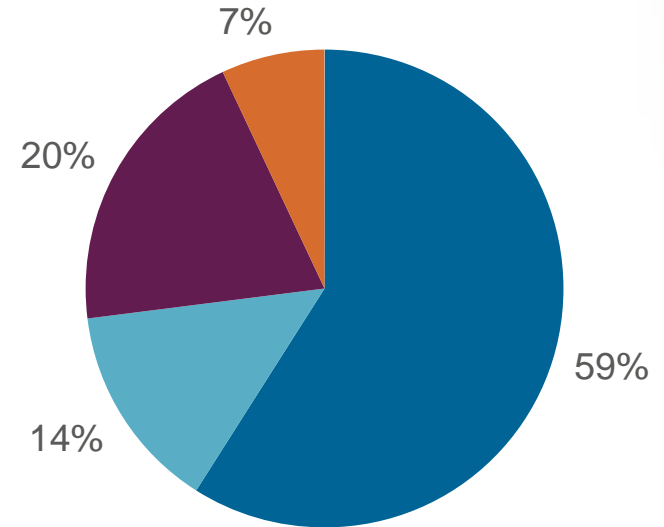
Impact of state climate policies on jobs and gas prices

Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause...

- More jobs
- Fewer jobs
- Wouldn't affect the number of jobs
- Don't know

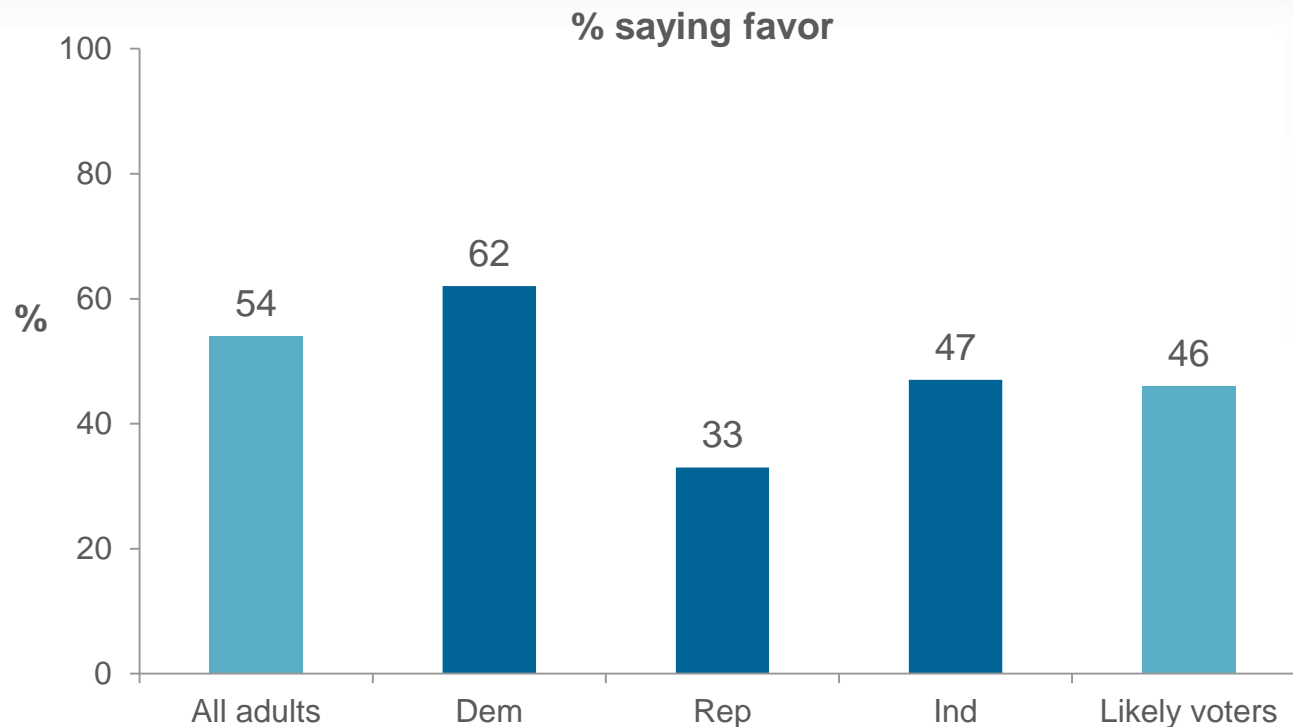


- Higher gasoline prices
- Lower gasoline prices
- Wouldn't affect gasoline prices
- Don't know



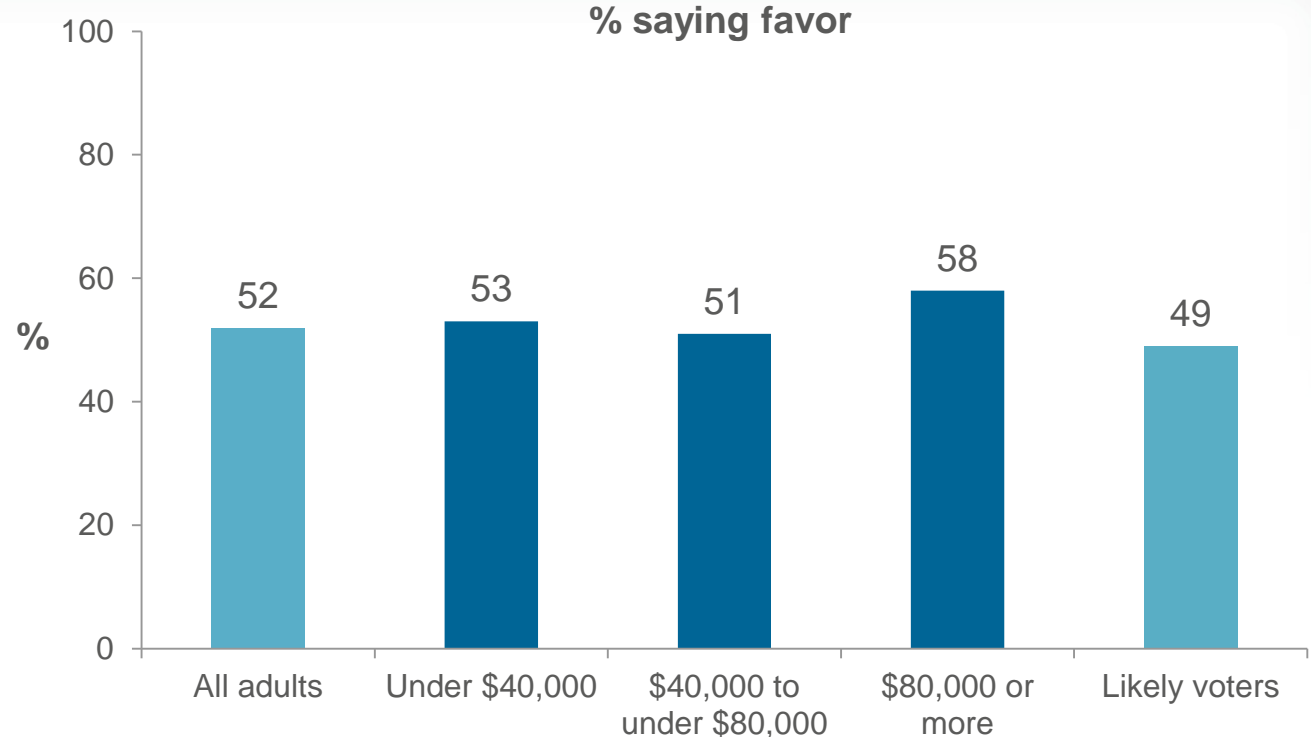
Cap and trade

In the system called “cap and trade,” the California state government issues permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out... Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?



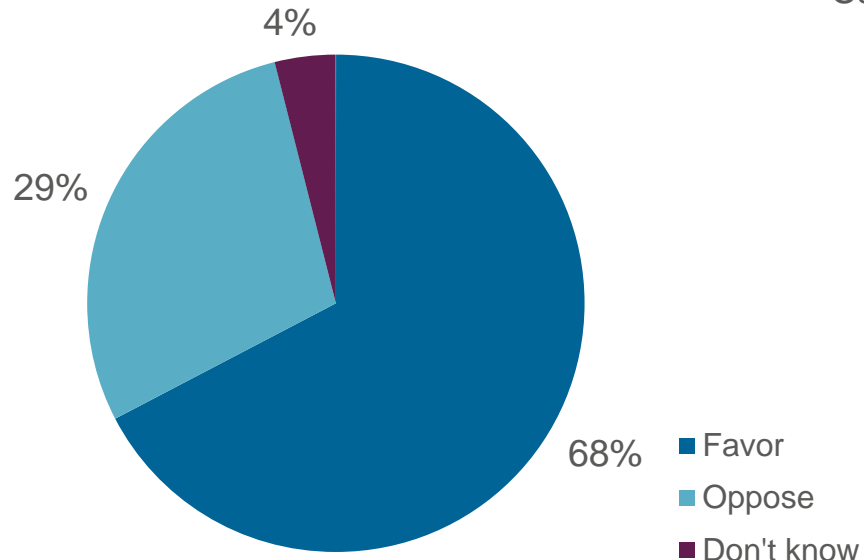
Transportation fuels in cap-and-trade system

The Legislative Analyst estimated that having transportation fuels in the cap-and-trade system has added 11 cents per gallon to gasoline costs. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose having transportation fuels in the state's cap-and-trade system?

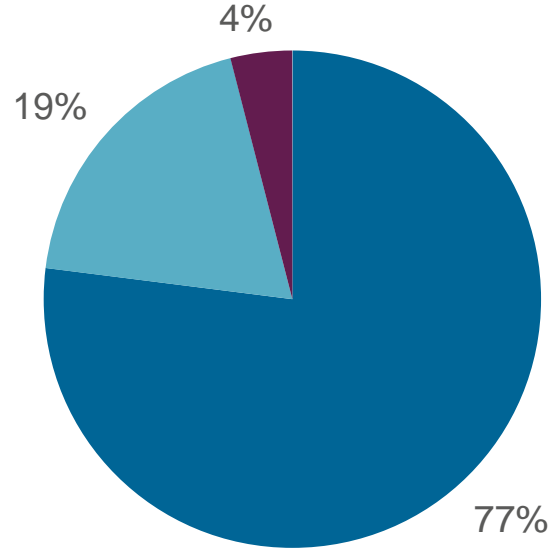


Electric vehicles

How about increasing tax credits and financial incentives for electric vehicle purchases?

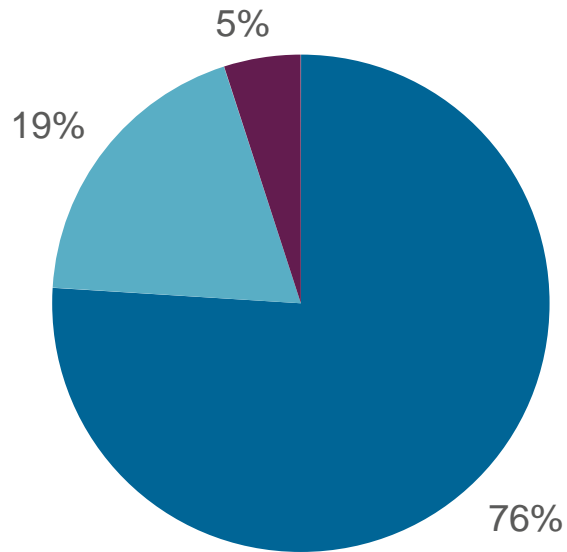


How about building more charging stations and infrastructure to support electric vehicles in California?

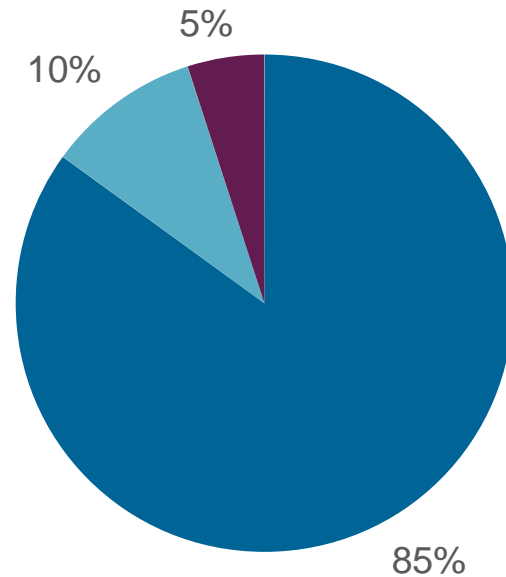


Solar power

How about increasing tax credits and financial incentives for rooftop solar panels in California?

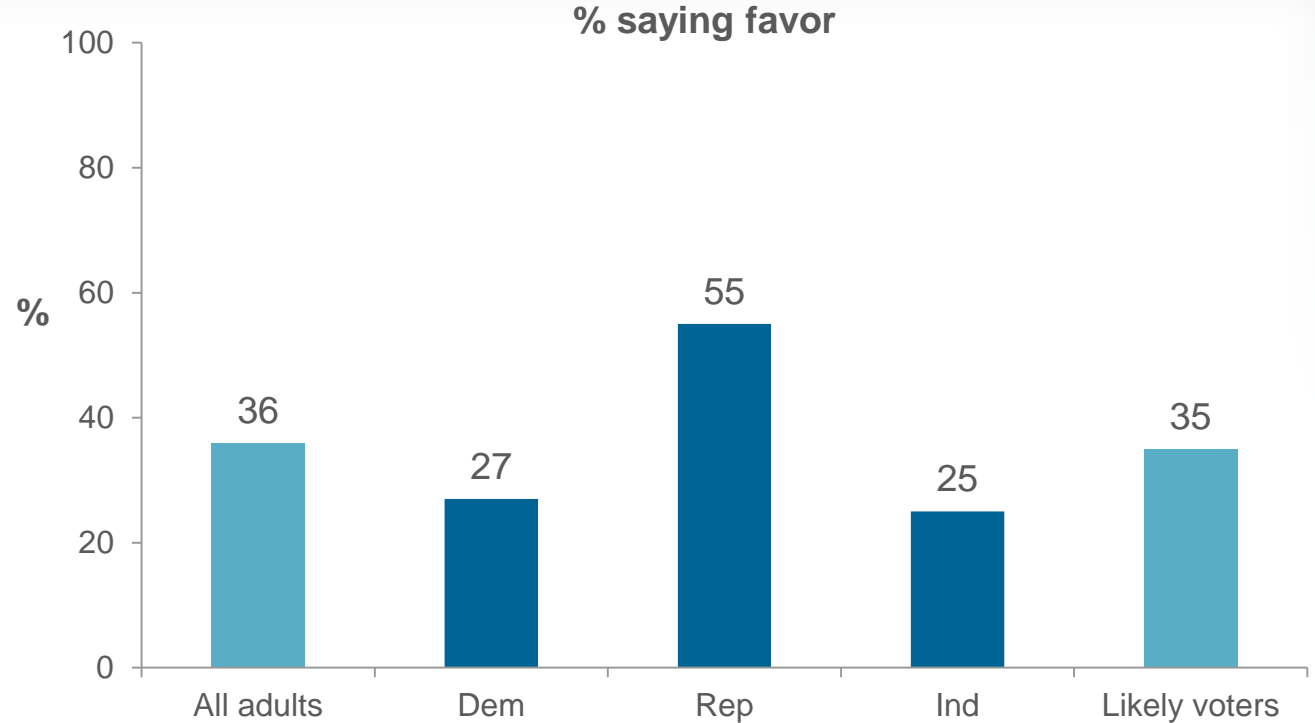


How about building more solar power stations in California?



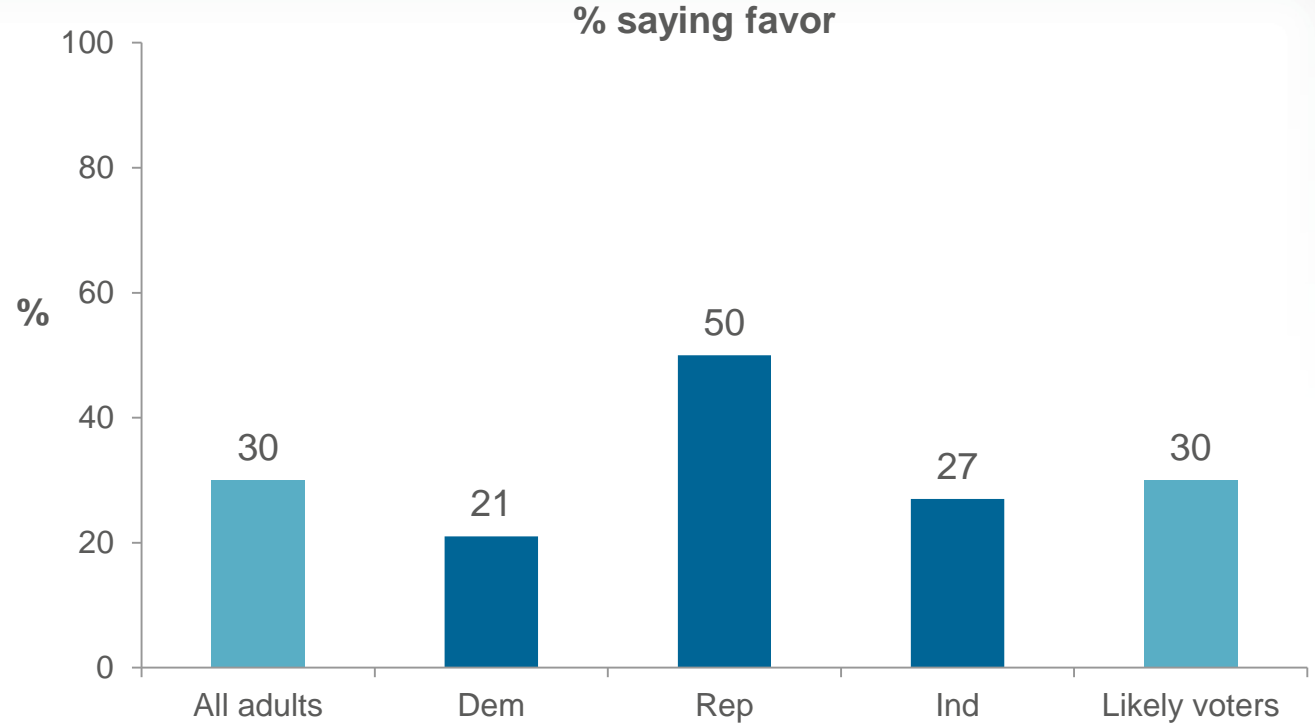
Offshore oil drilling

How about more oil drilling off the California coast?



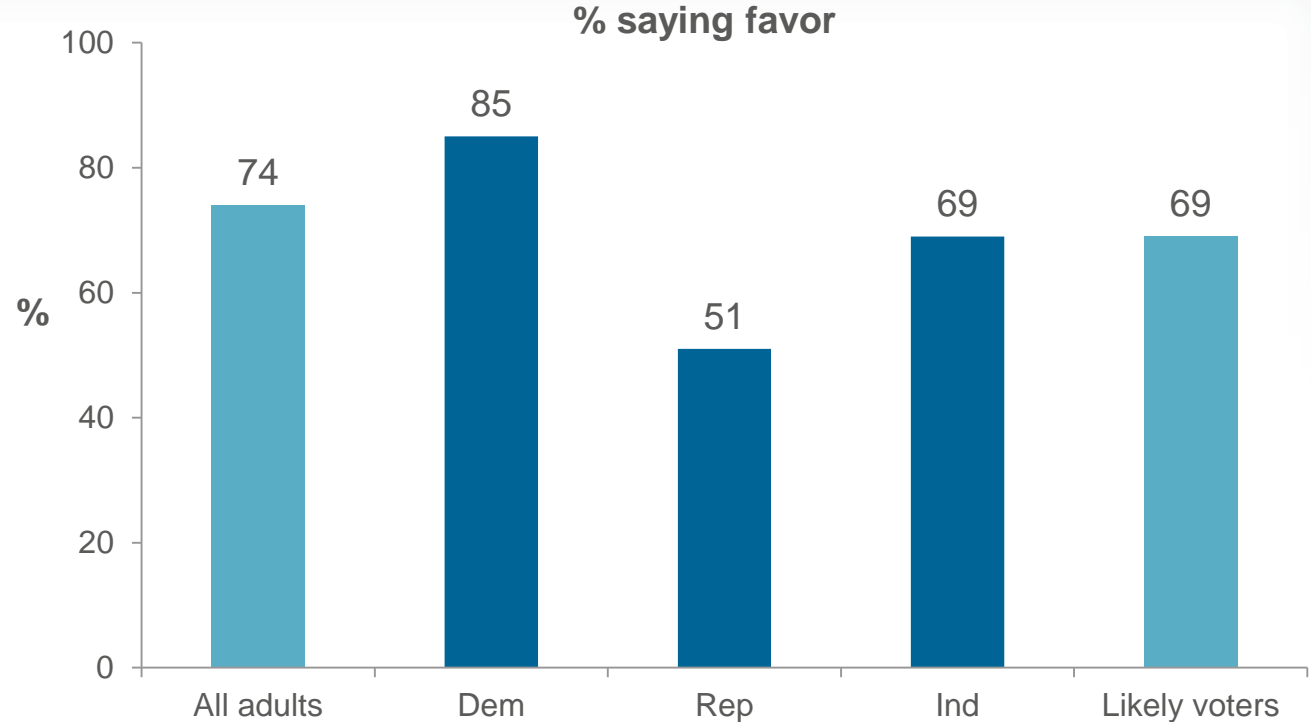
Fracking

How about the increased use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a drilling method that uses high-pressure water and chemicals to extract oil and natural gas from underground rock formations?



Emission limits on power plants

How about setting stricter emission limits on power plants in order to address climate change?



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Conclusions

- Strong majorities of Californians continue to support the emission reduction goal of AB 32 and favor an extension of the goal.
- Majorities support cap and trade and express willingness to pay more for efforts to fight climate change.
- There are wide partisan differences in views on climate change and what the state should do about it.
- Policies to support electric vehicles and solar power are widely favored, while support for offshore drilling and fracking are at or near record lows.
- Most likely voters say candidates' positions on the environment are important; Democrats and Latinos are more likely than others to say positions on the environment are very important.

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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.