

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Future

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner,  
Renatta DeFever, Lunna Lopes, Jui Shrestha  
*December 2014*

Supported with funding from the Blue Shield of California Foundation, the California Postsecondary Education Commission Foundation, The San Francisco Foundation, and the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation



# PPIC Statewide Survey mission

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- 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
  - 306,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 140+ general, issue, and regional surveys



# Californians and Their Government

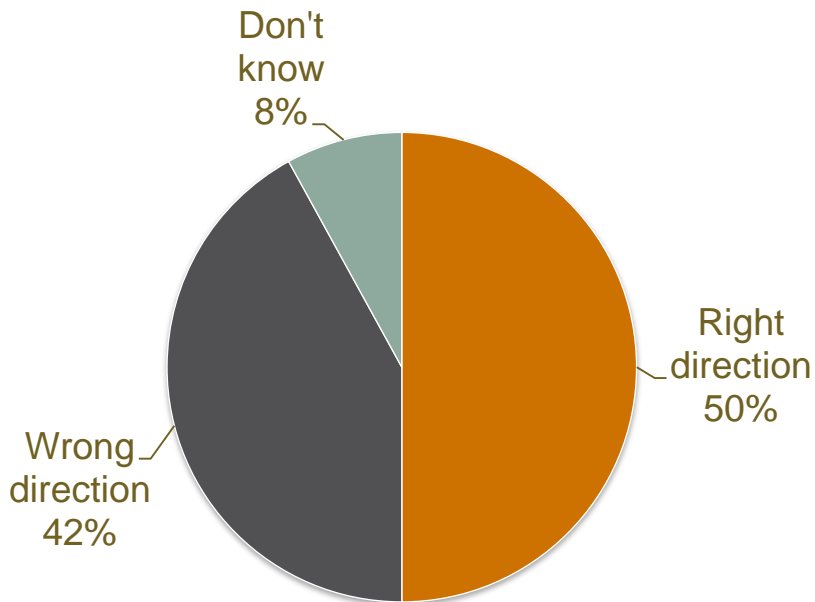
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- Post-election political landscape
  - Overall mood and approval ratings
  - State budget situation
  - Water policy
- California's future
  - Future outlook and confidence in government
  - Tax policy
  - Higher education system
- Telephone interviews, November 10 to 17
  - 1,704 adults,  $\pm 3.7\%$  margin of error
  - 1,058 likely voters,  $\pm 4.6\%$  margin of error

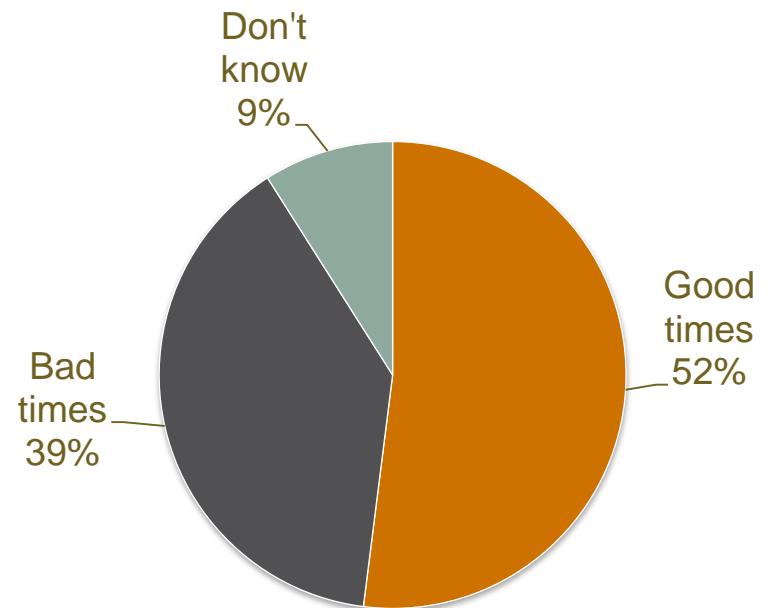


# Outlook for the state

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



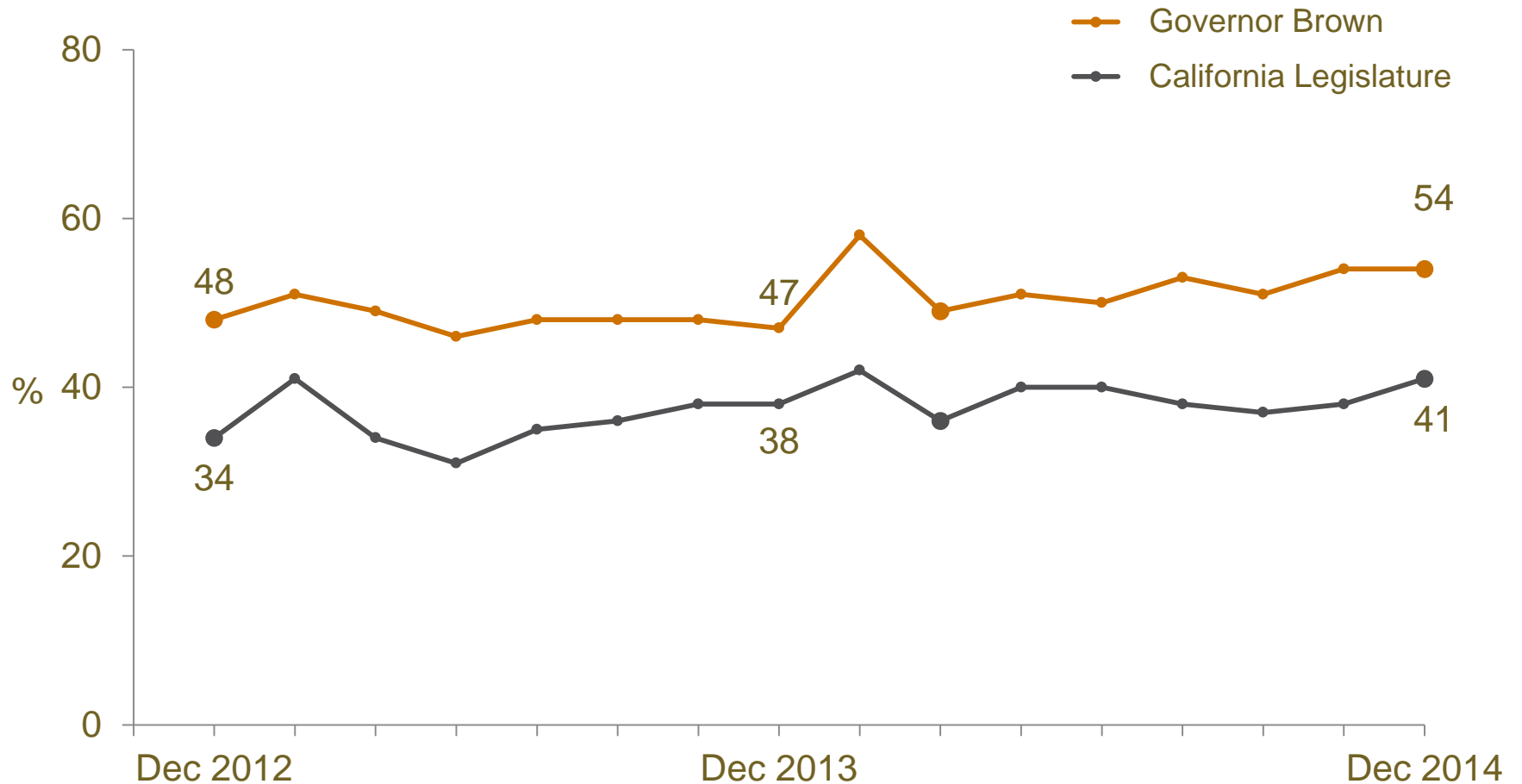
Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?



All adults

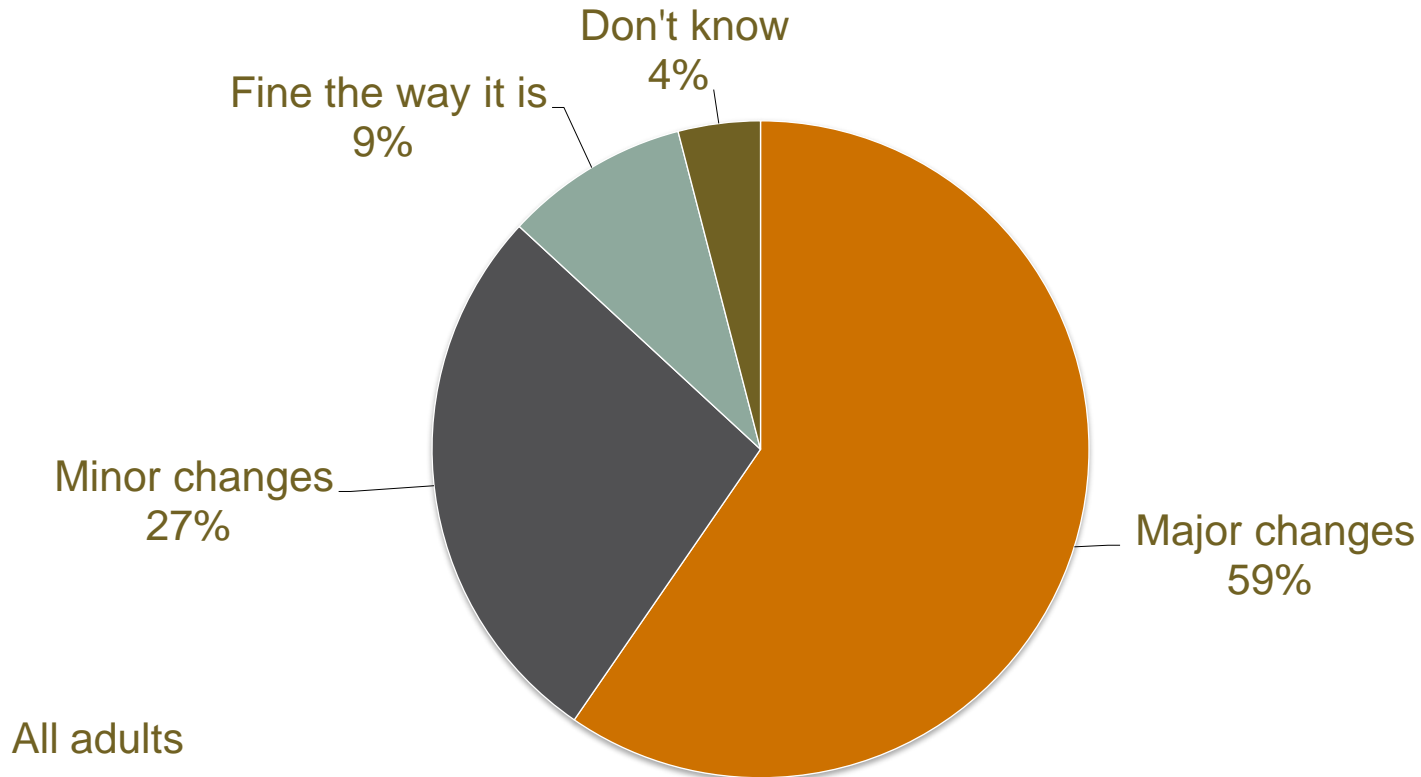


# Approval of state elected officials



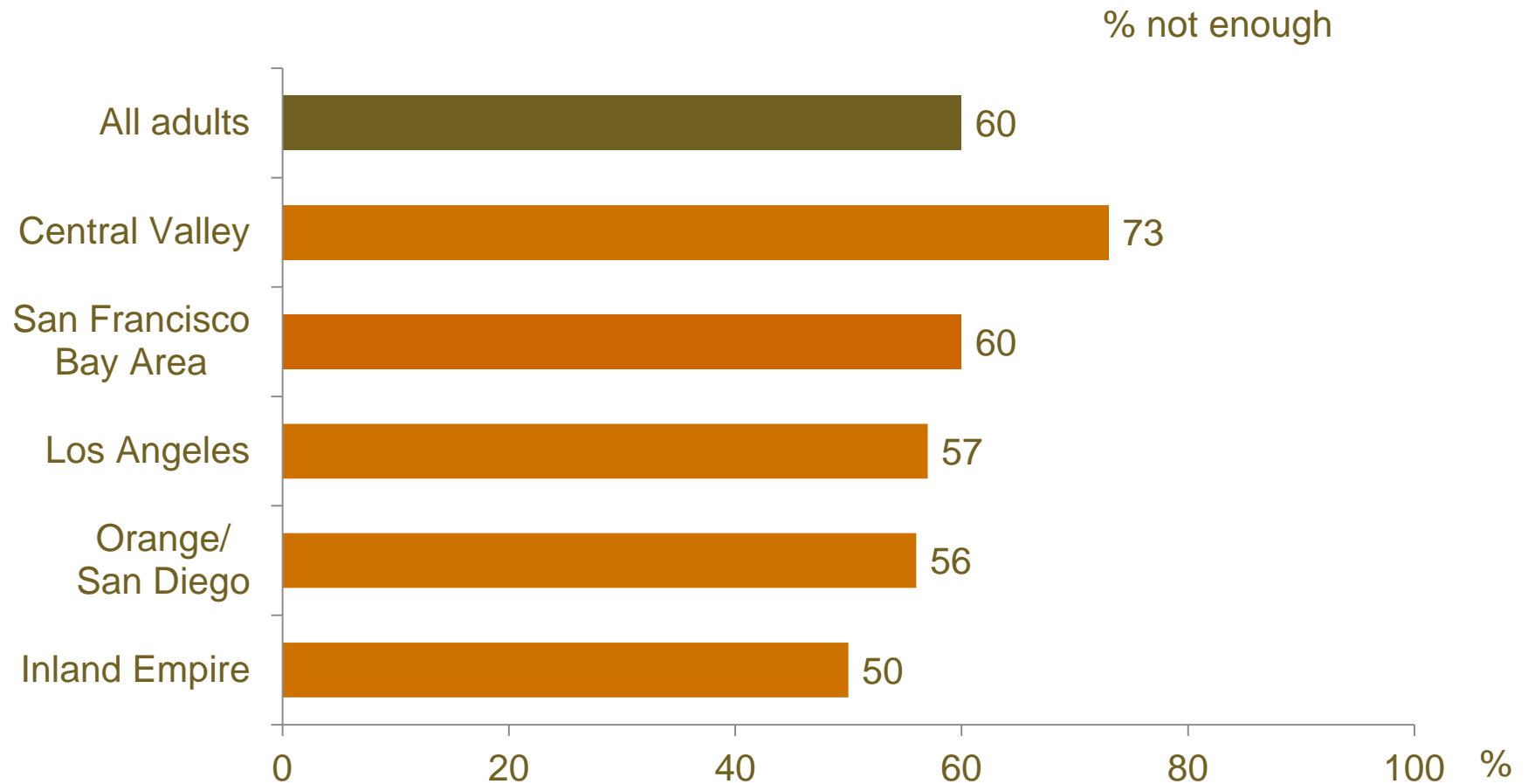
# Changes in the budget process

Overall, do you think the state budget process in California, in terms of both revenues and spending, is in need of major changes, minor changes, or do you think it is fine the way it is?



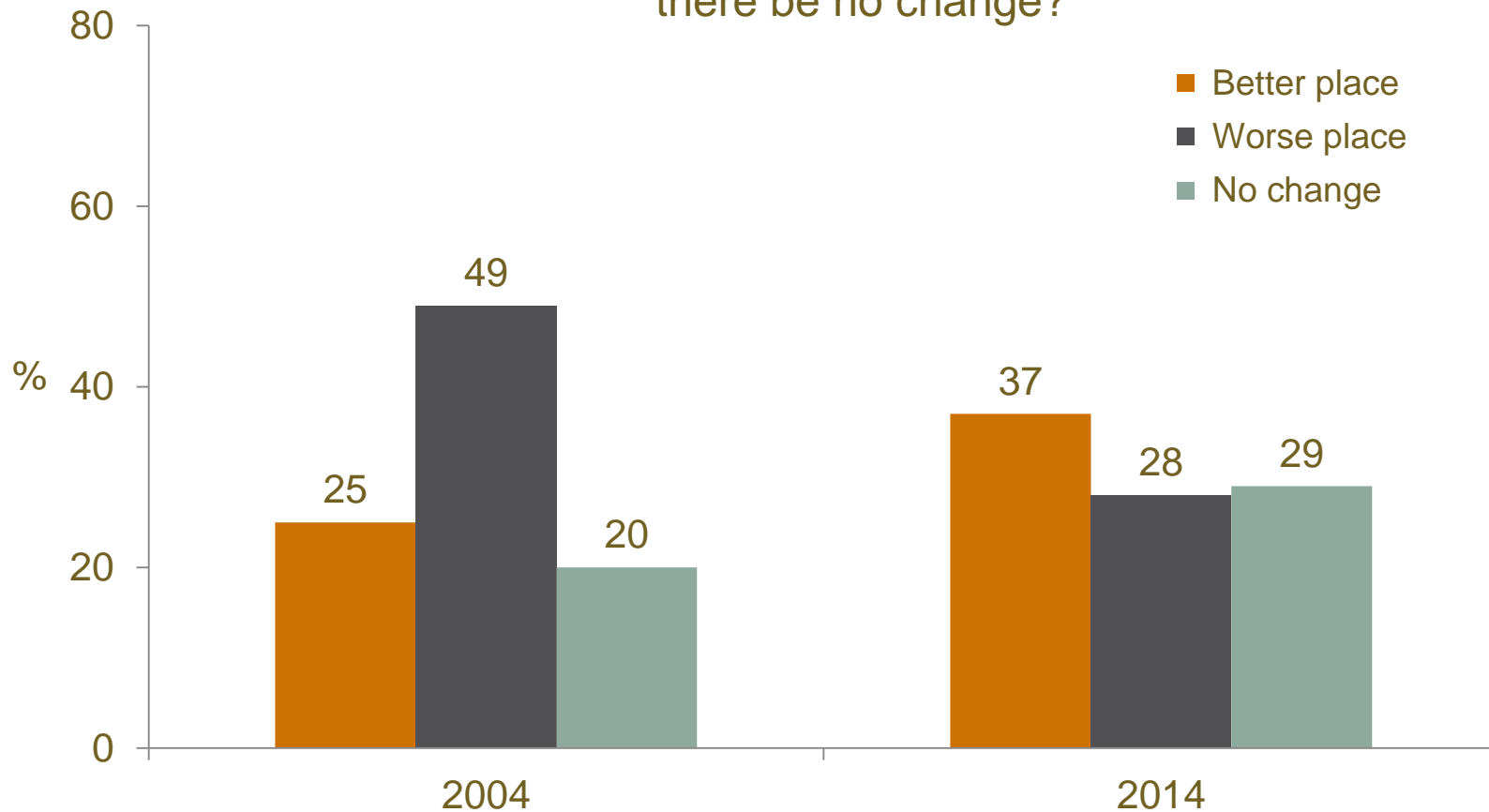
# Government response to drought

Overall, do you think that the state and local governments are doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to respond to the current drought in California?



# Outlook for California in 2025

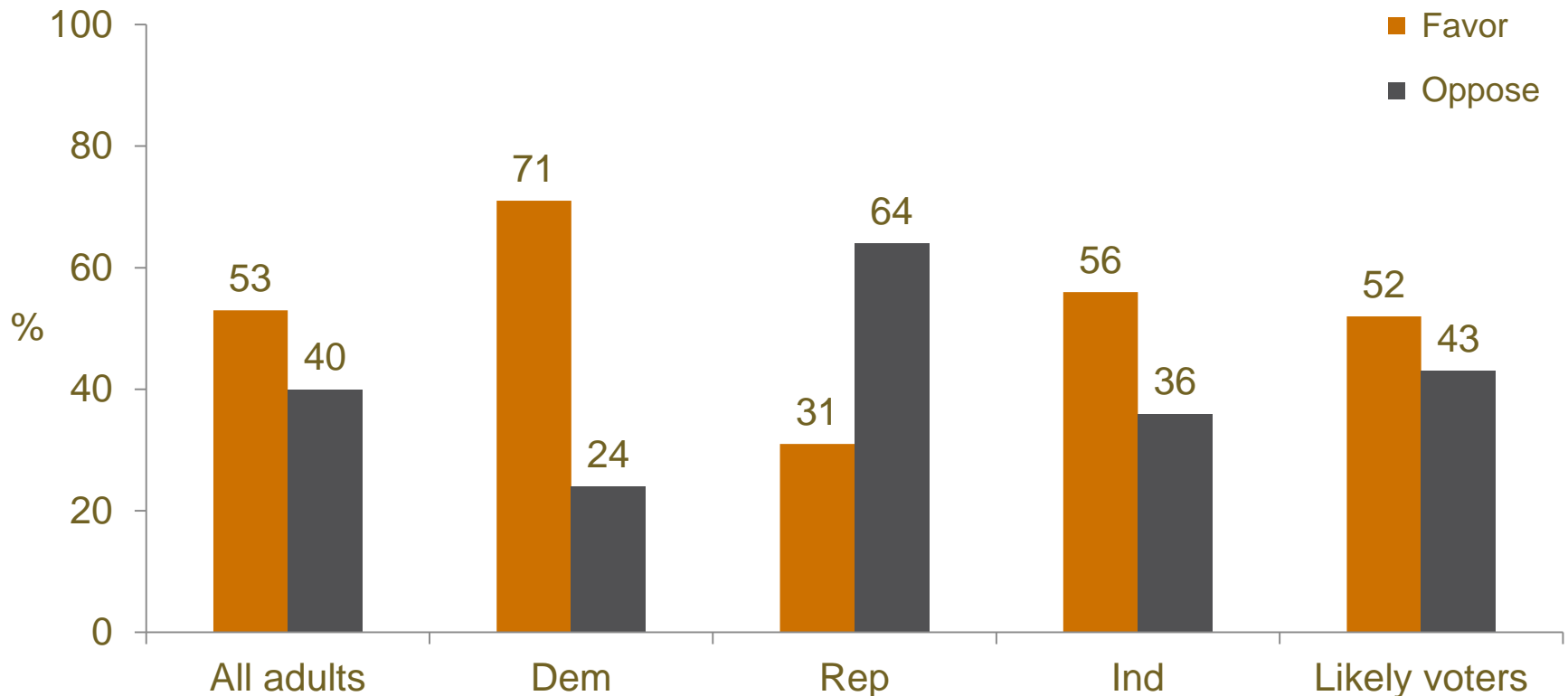
Overall, do you think that in 2025, California will be a better place to live than it is now or a worse place to live than it is now or will there be no change?





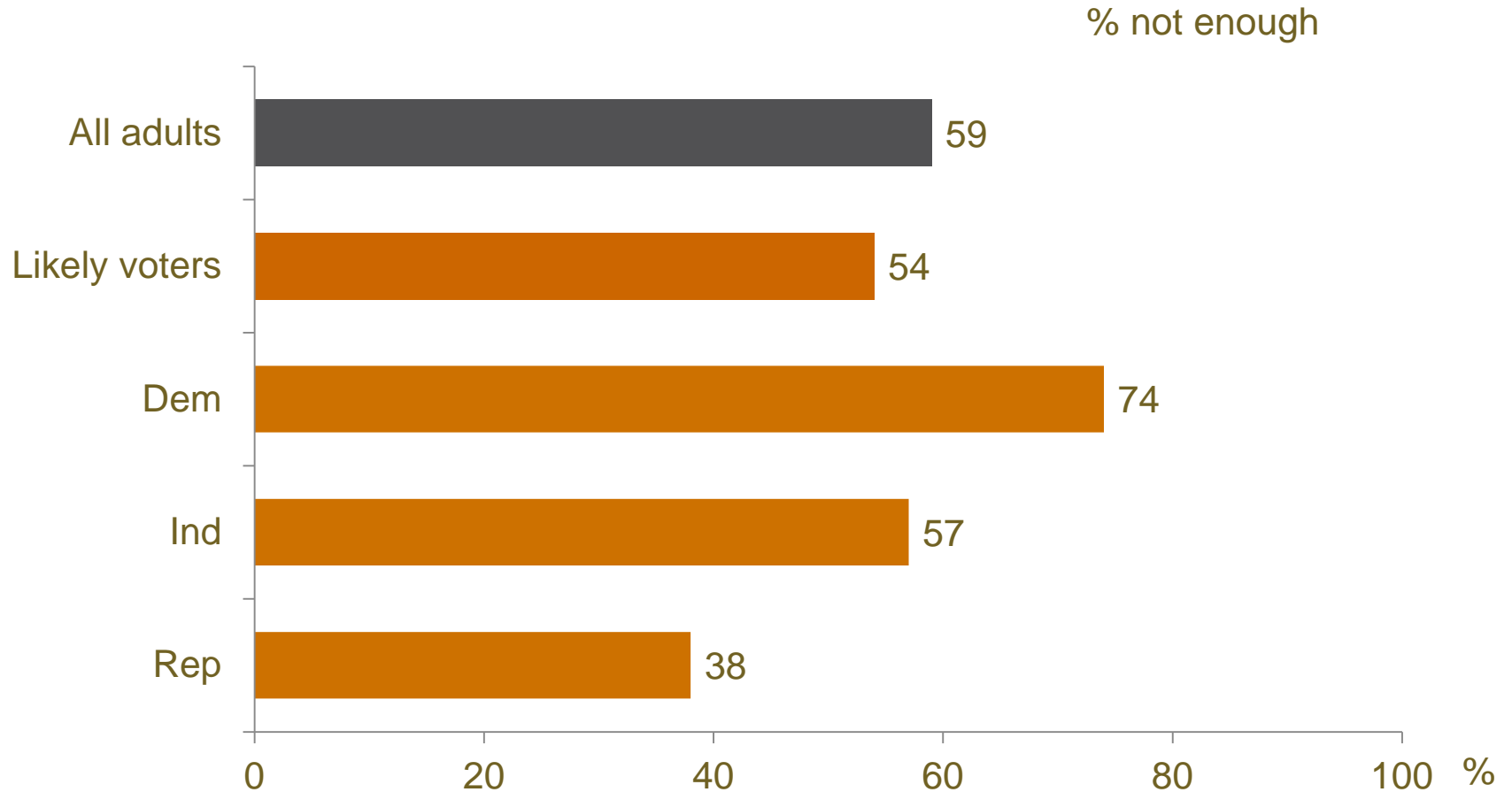
# Extension of Proposition 30 taxes

As you may know, voters passed Proposition 30 in November 2012. It increased taxes on earnings over \$250,000 for seven years and sales taxes by one quarter cent for four years, to fund schools and guarantee public safety realignment funding. Do you favor or oppose extending the Proposition 30 tax increases which are set to fully expire in 2018?



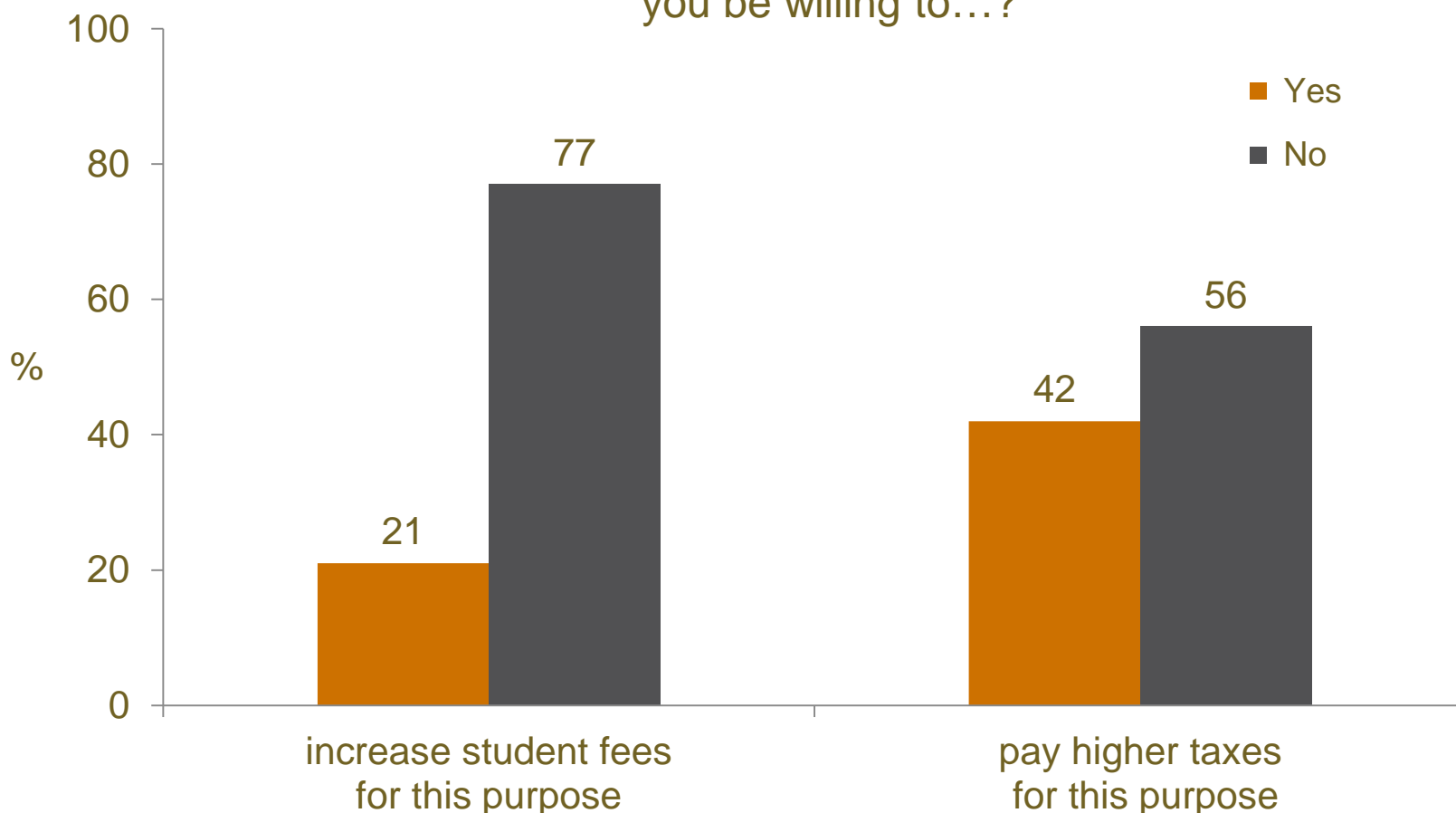
# Higher education funding

Do you think the current level of state funding for California's public colleges and universities is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?



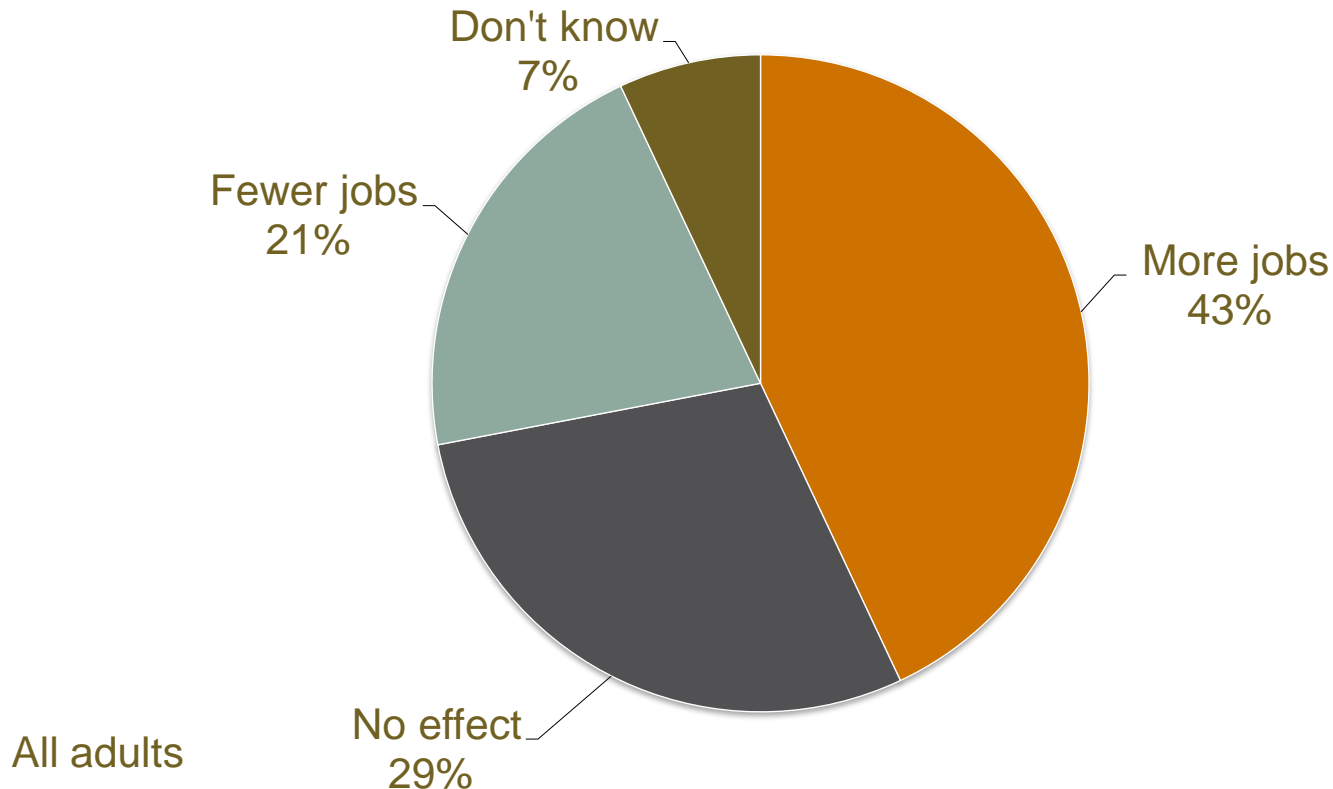
# Maintaining higher education funding

What if the state said it needed more money just to maintain current funding for public colleges and universities. Would you be willing to...?



# Global warming policies and effects 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?



All adults

# Conclusions

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- Californians are upbeat about the direction and economic future of the state; approval of the governor and legislature near record highs
- Majorities want more action on the drought and think the state budget process needs major changes
- Half of Californians favor extending the Prop 30 tax increases, but deep divisions exist along party lines
- Most say funding for higher education is not enough and oppose increasing student fees or raising taxes for this purpose



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# Notes on the use of these slides

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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:

[surveys@ppic.org](mailto:surveys@ppic.org)

Thank you for your interest in this work.

