



## 2006 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER PROFILES

December 2006

- **Voters were mostly white, older, and affluent ... and many were “blue.”**

The November 7<sup>th</sup> general election included about 8.6 million voters or 54 percent of California’s registered voters. Turnout this year was somewhat higher than the record low in California’s last gubernatorial election (2002). Similar to past elections, voters were predominantly older, white, college-educated, affluent, and homeowners. Men and women turned out about equally, and one in four voter households included a union member. Reflecting voter registration trends, more Democrats than Republicans voted in this election, while 14 percent were independents.
- **Governor Schwarzenegger cruised to an easy reelection victory.**

Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger easily defeated Democratic State Treasurer Phil Angelides (56% to 39%) because of the support he received outside of his party. While nearly all Republicans voted for Schwarzenegger, so did three in 10 Democrats and over half of independent voters. One in three Latinos, about two in three whites, and majorities of both men and women also voted for Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger was favored over Angelides among the majorities of general election voters who believe that California is headed in the right direction, that the state will enjoy good economic times, and who approve of the governor’s job performance.
- **Proposition 1B: Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security.**

Proposition 1B, a \$20 billion bond, was approved by voters by a 22-point margin (61% yes, 39% no). There was majority support for this proposition across all political and demographic groups, with stronger support found among more-educated and liberal voters and renters. Proposition 1B was supported by more Democrats (69%) and liberals (71%) than Republicans (54%) and conservatives (53%) and was more strongly supported by Latinos than whites (71% to 62%).
- **Proposition 1C: Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund.**

Proposition 1C, a bond for nearly \$3 billion, was approved by voters by a 16-point margin (58% yes, 42% no). The vote on this measure was strongly divided across partisan lines. Democrats (69%) and independents (57%) supported the measure, while just 40 percent of Republicans voted yes. Women, younger voters, less affluent voters, Latinos, and renters were among the groups most supportive of Proposition 1C. Those who disapprove of the governor’s performance in office were more likely to support this proposition than those who approve of his performance.
- **Proposition 1D: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities.**

Proposition 1D, a school facilities bond for about \$10 billion, was approved by a 14-point margin (57% yes, 43% no). Again, most Democrats (71%) and liberals (76%) supported this bond measure, compared to four in 10 Republicans and conservatives (41% each). Latinos were more likely than whites (74% to 55%), college graduates were more likely than those without a college degree (61% to 53%), and voters under 35 were more likely than older voters (73% to 56%) to favor it. Those who disapprove of the governor’s job performance were more likely than those who approve of his performance to vote yes on this bond.
- **Proposition 1E: Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond.**

Of the four bonds placed on the ballot as part of the infrastructure package, Proposition 1E, a flood prevention bond of about \$4 billion, enjoyed the highest level of support, passing by a 28-point margin (64% yes, 36% no). Support for Proposition 1E was highest among Democrats (74%), women (67%), and renters (69%). Most voters who feel California is headed in the right direction, approve of the governor, and believe the infrastructure bond package was a good idea voted yes on 1E. Solid majorities across demographic and political groups also supported this bond.

## 2006 General Election Voter Profiles

		% of General Election Voters	<u>Proposition</u>			
			1B	1C	1D	1E
<b>Percentage Voting "Yes" on a Proposition</b>			61	58	57	64
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men</b>	48	63	53	57	60
	<b>Women</b>	52	62	60	58	67
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-34 years old</b>	11	65	64	73	66
	<b>35-54 years old</b>	41	59	54	56	61
	<b>55 years or older</b>	48	65	57	56	66
<b>Education</b>	<b>High school only</b>	19	59	57	53	57
	<b>Some college</b>	27	58	55	53	61
	<b>College graduate</b>	54	65	57	61	67
<b>Household income</b>	<b>Under \$40,000</b>	28	65	64	61	67
	<b>\$40,000 to under \$80,000</b>	35	65	57	58	62
	<b>\$80,000 or higher</b>	37	61	51	57	64
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	<b>White</b>	72	62	54	55	64
	<b>Latino</b>	14	71	67	74	66
<b>Own/rent</b>	<b>Own</b>	79	60	51	55	62
	<b>Rent</b>	21	72	75	68	69
<b>Union household</b>	<b>Yes</b>	24	58	57	59	60
	<b>No</b>	76	64	56	57	65
<b>Party</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	47	69	69	71	74
	<b>Republican</b>	37	54	40	41	54
	<b>Independent</b>	14	63	57	57	61
<b>Ideology</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	32	71	76	76	74
	<b>Middle-of-the-road</b>	28	66	59	63	65
	<b>Conservative</b>	40	53	39	41	55
<b>Job performance of Gov. Schwarzenegger</b>	<b>Approve</b>	60	65	54	55	65
	<b>Disapprove</b>	32	58	61	63	61
<b>Opinion of infrastructure bonds package</b>	<b>Good Idea</b>	61	84	76	77	83
	<b>Bad Idea</b>	31	20	18	21	25
<b>Direction of California</b>	<b>Right direction</b>	53	72	62	64	72
	<b>Wrong direction</b>	39	49	48	48	52

**Sources:** (1) PPIC Statewide Survey of 2,000 general election voters conducted from November 8<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> with a +/-2% margin of error for the total sample. Sample sizes for African Americans, Asian Americans, multiracial groups, other political parties, and undecided responses for governor's approval, opinions of the bond package, and direction of California are not large enough for separate statistical analysis; (2) California Secretary of State, November 2006, for percentage voting "yes" on a proposition through November 28, 2006 (actual results on the propositions presented for general election voters).