



2005 SPECIAL ELECTION VOTER PROFILES

November 2005

➤ **Special election voters were mostly white, older, and college-educated.**

The November 8th special election included about 7.9 million voters—50 percent of California’s registered voters. The demographic profile of the special election voters was similar to the profile of voters who frequently participate in statewide elections, with the exception of under-representing younger voters under age 35. Voters were predominantly older, white, college-educated, affluent, and homeowners. Men and women voted in equal proportions. Thirty percent of the voters were either union members or lived in a household with a union member.

➤ **Political profile was similar to the California “blue state” electorate.**

The special election, which featured four propositions endorsed by the governor, attracted an electorate that was comparable to the political profile of frequent voters in state elections. Significantly more Democrats than Republicans participated in the election; 15 percent of the voters were “decline to state” or independents. Voters were roughly equally divided across the ideological spectrum. A majority of voters disapproved of the governor’s job performance, considered the special election a bad idea, and believed that the state is headed in the wrong direction. The political composition of the electorate contributed to the defeat of the governor’s four propositions.

➤ **Proposition 74 (teacher tenure).**

Proposition 74, which would have changed the time it takes for a public school teacher to be granted tenure, lost by a 10-point margin (55% no, 45% yes). The measure failed to receive majority support in any demographic group. The “no” vote was higher among women than men, among younger and less-affluent residents than older and more-affluent residents, among Latinos than whites, renters than homeowners, and union than non-union households. Democrats, independents, liberals, and moderates opposed Proposition 74, as did those who express disapproval of the governor’s job performance, his calling of the special election, and the direction of the state.

➤ **Proposition 75 (public union dues).**

Proposition 75, which would have required public employee unions to get permission from members before using dues for political purposes, lost by a 8-point margin (54% no, 46% yes). The vote on this measure was also strongly divided across partisan lines and political ideology and highly dependent on attitudes toward Governor Schwarzenegger. Union households opposed this measure, while non-union households were divided. Women, younger voters, less affluent voters, renters, and Latinos were among the voter groups most opposed to Proposition 75.

➤ **Proposition 76 (state spending limits).**

Voters rejected Proposition 76, which would have limited state spending, by a 24-point margin (62% no, 38% yes). The “no” vote for this ballot measure was also divided along ideological and party lines and was highly correlated with the governor’s job approval ratings. Opposition was especially high among women, younger voters, less-affluent voters, renters, Latinos, and union households.

➤ **Proposition 77 (redistricting).**

Proposition 77, which would have shifted the drawing of political districts to a panel of retired judges, was rejected by a 20-point margin (40% yes, 60% no). Once again, the strongest opposition was among Democrats, independents, liberals, moderates, and those who disapprove of the governor. Majorities in all demographic groups voted no on Proposition 77.

2005 Special Election Voter Profiles

		% of Special Election Voters	<u>Proposition</u>			
			74	75	76	77
Percentage Voting "No" on a Proposition			55%	54%	62%	60%
Gender	Men	49%	51	50	57	54
	Women	51	60	58	66	66
Age	18-34 years old	12	65	63	70	75
	35-54 years old	42	56	55	64	59
	55 years or older	46	53	51	57	57
Education	High school only	19	54	55	60	65
	Some college	28	52	51	57	57
	College graduate	53	58	55	65	59
Household income	Under \$40,000	28	61	61	67	69
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	37	59	55	64	61
	\$80,000 or higher	35	52	51	60	55
Race/ ethnicity	White	71	50	49	57	54
	Latino	15	69	68	75	76
Own/rent	Own	78	51	50	58	55
	Rent	22	70	71	76	76
Union household	Yes	30	64	62	69	65
	No	70	51	50	58	57
Party	Democrat	43	82	83	87	84
	Republican	36	22	22	29	30
	Independent	15	53	52	63	59
Ideology	Liberal	32	84	84	90	84
	Middle-of-the road	31	60	59	67	63
	Conservative	37	29	28	33	36
Governor's job approval	Approve	39	13	13	16	21
	Disapprove	56	86	88	92	88
Special election opinion	Good Idea	36	19	18	23	27
	Bad Idea	60	79	80	86	80
Direction of California	Right direction	23	48	46	54	57
	Wrong direction	68	58	56	65	62

Sources: (1) PPIC Statewide Survey of 2,002 November election voters conducted from November 9th to 20th with a +/- 2% margin of error for the total sample. The sample sizes for African Americans, Asian Americans, multiracial subgroups, other political parties, and the undecided responses for governor's job approval, special election opinion, and direction of California are not large enough for separate statistical analysis; (2) California Secretary of State, November 2005, for "no" vote returns through December 1st, 2005.