

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY

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Californians & their government



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in collaboration with
The James Irvine Foundation



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The PPIC Statewide Survey provides policymakers, the media, and the public with objective, advocacy-free information on the perceptions, opinions, and public policy preferences of California residents. Inaugurated in April 1998, this is the 124th PPIC Statewide Survey in a series that has generated a database of responses from more than 262,000 Californians.

This survey is the 51st in the *Californians and Their Government* series, which is conducted periodically to examine the social, economic, and political trends that influence public policy preferences and ballot choices. The series is supported with funding from The James Irvine Foundation. This survey seeks to inform decisionmakers, raise public awareness, and stimulate policy discussions and debate about important state and national issues.

This survey was conducted as the 2012 presidential election season gears up and ballot measures for California's June primary and November general election take shape. Although there have been some positive signs in the California economy, the state's multibillion dollar budget gap has not improved. In this fiscal context, the governor's budget plan and his tax initiative as well as alternative tax proposals that may qualify for the November ballot are being closely watched. Moreover, two high-profile infrastructure projects—a multibillion dollar state water bond and a California high-speed rail system—have been under greater public scrutiny in light of state budget constraints and their costs. Among the state's social concerns, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's ruling that Proposition 8, banning same-sex marriage, is unconstitutional. Same-sex marriage has also been debated by lawmakers in other states, as well as at the national level, with a federal judge recently striking down a key component of the U.S. Defense of Marriage Act.

This survey presents the responses of 2,001 adult residents throughout the state, interviewed in English or Spanish by landline or cell phone. It includes findings on these topics:

- 2012 Elections, including the preferences of Republicans most likely to vote in the GOP primary; the preference of likely voters in a hypothetical matchup between President Obama and the Republican candidate; satisfaction with and attention to news about presidential candidates; voting intentions on the two statewide propositions in the June primary—legislative term limits and tax hikes on cigarettes to fund cancer research; attitudes toward the \$11.1 billion state water bond on the November ballot; and opinions about the governor's proposed tax initiative and the automatic spending cuts in K–12 education if the initiative does not pass.
- State and national issues, including approval ratings of Governor Brown, the legislature, President Obama, and Congress; perceptions of the economy; support for a high-speed rail system, as well as views on its importance to the future of California; preferences for reforms to immigration; attitudes toward healthcare policy; opinions on the role of government in regulating businesses, gun ownership, access to abortion, and environmental protection; and attitudes toward legalizing marijuana and same-sex marriage.
- Time trends, national comparisons, and the extent to which Californians may differ in their perceptions, attitudes, and preferences regarding the 2012 elections and state and national issues, based on their political party affiliation, likelihood of voting, region of residence, race/ethnicity, and other demographics.

This report may be downloaded free of charge from our website (www.ppic.org). For questions about the survey, please contact survey@ppic.org. Try our PPIC Statewide Survey interactive tools online at <http://www.ppic.org/main/survAdvancedSearch.asp>.

NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PST on Wednesday, March 7, 2012.

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<http://www.ppic.org/main/pressreleaseindex.asp>

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Economy, Financial Worries Weigh on Likely Voters

SLIM MAJORITY BACKS BROWN TAX PLAN, HALF FAVOR WATER BOND

SAN FRANCISCO, March 7, 2012—California's likely voters approach the elections this year with big concerns about the economy and the state's fiscal future, according to a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), with support from The James Irvine Foundation.

Despite signs of an improving economy, an overwhelming majority of likely voters (84%) believe that the state is in a recession. Nearly half (48%) say the recession is serious. Fewer (36%) say it is moderate or mild, and just 14 percent say the state is not in recession. Most (62%) expect bad economic times in the next year and most (59%) see the state going in the wrong direction.

While a strong majority of likely voters (78%) describe the state budget situation as a big problem, slightly more than half (52%) say they would vote yes on Governor Jerry Brown's tax initiative when they are read the ballot title and a summary (40% no, 8% undecided). Most Democratic likely voters (71%) would vote yes, most Republicans (65%) would vote no, and independents are more closely divided (49% yes, 41% no). Because this is the first time PPIC has been able to ask about the governor's proposal using the ballot title and a summary, direct comparison to previous surveys is not possible. However, past surveys found majority support for his plan to temporarily raise taxes (68% January 2012, 60% December 2011).

Among likely voters supporting the initiative, 69 percent say their local government services have been affected a lot by recent state budget cuts. But so do most—61 percent—of those who would vote no.

"A slim majority support Governor Brown's proposed tax initiative," says Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. "Of those who plan to vote against it, most also say that their local governments have been affected a lot by recent state budget cuts and they would prefer to deal with the budget gap mainly through spending cuts."

Brown's overall budget plan calls for a mix of spending cuts and tax increases, and 45 percent of likely voters prefer this approach. About a third (34%) prefer that spending cuts mostly be used to fill the budget gap, and 11 percent prefer mostly tax increases.

Brown's budget proposal calls for automatic spending cuts to K-12 public schools if his tax initiative is rejected in November. Most likely voters (72%) oppose these trigger cuts, a view held across parties (Democrats 83%, independents 71%, Republicans 61%).

The governor's job approval rating among likely voters is at 46 percent, similar to January (44%). Since taking office in January 2011, his approval rating has changed little, but disapproval has grown (20% January 2011, 38% today). Fewer are undecided about Brown (33% January 2011, 16% today).

By comparison, the legislature's approval rating remains low, at 21 percent among likely voters. Approval of the legislature has been below 25 percent among this group since April 2008.

HALF SUPPORT WATER BOND, OPPOSE BUILDING HIGH-SPEED RAIL

In light of constraints on the state budget, two high-profile infrastructure projects are the focus of debate: an \$11.1 billion water bond that is on the November ballot, and the planning and construction of a high-speed rail system, which was approved by voters in 2008 (53% to 47%).

While a large majority of likely voters—70 percent—say the water supply in their area is a big problem or somewhat of a problem, there is less agreement on the water bond. Half of likely voters (51%) say they would vote yes (35% no, 14% undecided). Thirty-seven percent say it is very important that voters pass the measure, 32 percent say it is somewhat important, and 23 percent say it is not too important or not at all important.

California has received federal funding for the high-speed rail project, and the governor recently expressed strong support for it. Some have criticized the projected cost of \$100 billion. Today, likely voters are more likely to oppose (53%) than support (43%) building a high-speed rail system. Across regions, Californians in the San Francisco Bay Area (57%) and Los Angeles (54%) are in favor, Central Valley residents are split (50% favor, 47% oppose), and those in the Other Southern California region are opposed (52% oppose, 42% favor). At the same time, 53 percent of likely voters say high-speed rail is at least somewhat important for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California.

TERM LIMITS, CIGARETTE TAX DRAW MAJORITY SUPPORT

Two ballot initiatives on the June ballot enjoy strong majority support in the early stages of the campaign. Proposition 28 would reduce the amount of time state legislators may serve from 14 years to 12 years and would allow the 12 years of service in one house. The measure has the support of 68 percent of likely voters (24% oppose, 8% undecided). Majorities support it across party, ideological, regional, and demographic groups. Sixty-seven percent of likely voters say the outcome of the vote on this measure is important, and 22 percent say it is very important. Likely voters' views of Proposition 28 are in keeping with their general perceptions of legislative term limits: 68 percent say they are a good thing for California, while just 11 percent say they are a bad thing.

"Californians have steadfastly believed that legislative term limits are a good thing for California, even as policy experts disagree about their overall impact," says Baldassare. "Proposition 28 has strong majority support, and most of those who would vote yes on this reform also say that term limits are a good thing."

Proposition 29 would impose an additional one-dollar tax on each pack of cigarettes and an equivalent tax increase on other tobacco products. The revenues would fund research for cancer and tobacco-related diseases. When read the ballot title and label for this initiative, 67 percent of likely voters would vote yes, 30 percent would vote no, and 3 percent are undecided. The proposition has majority support across political, ideological, regional, and demographic groups. Most (78%) say the outcome of the vote on the measure is important to them, with 41 percent saying it is very important and 37 percent saying it is somewhat important. Most (63%) also say they support the general idea of increasing taxes on the purchase of cigarettes to help pay for state spending.

ROMNEY, SANTORUM IN TIGHT RACE—OBAMA LEADS IN MATCHUP

As the June presidential primary approaches, Republican candidates Mitt Romney (28%) and Rick Santorum (22%) are in a close race—within the margin of error for GOP likely voters. They are followed by Newt Gingrich (17%) and Ron Paul (8%), with 22 percent of Republican likely voters undecided (the PPIC survey was taken before Super Tuesday). Support for Santorum grew 11 points (4% to 15%) between December and January and has grown 7 more points since January.

In a hypothetical matchup for the presidential race, President Barack Obama leads the Republican candidate by 16 points (53% to 37%), with 10 percent undecided.

President Obama's job approval rating among California likely voters has improved after sinking to a low of 47 percent last September. Today it is at 55 percent, the highest level since April 2010 (56%).

HALF FAVOR A CONGRESS CONTROLLED BY DEMOCRATS

When it comes to the outcome of congressional elections, half of likely voters (50%) prefer that Congress be controlled by Democrats, while 35 percent prefer Republican control (8% unsure, 7% volunteer they want neither party). A month before the 2006 midterm elections, 55 percent of likely voters preferred Democratic control; they were closely divided in October 2010 (45% Democratic control, 43% Republican control). Today, just 17 percent approve of the way Congress is handling its job (79% disapprove).

SUPPORT GROWS FOR LEGALIZING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

A number of social issues are being debated this election year. Californians' views have undergone a marked shift on one issue: same-sex marriage. Today, 56 percent of likely voters favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally marry—up from 47 percent in October 2008, just before voters passed Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriage. Among registered voters, majorities of Democrats (72%) and independents (56%) today favor legalizing same-sex marriage. Most Republicans (61%) are opposed. Support has grown in most political and demographic groups since October 2008. It is up 16 points among Democrats (56% to 72%), 11 points among Republicans (23% to 34%), and is similar among independents (53% to 56%). Support is up 10 points among Latinos (36% to 46%) and 7 points among whites (50% to 57%). Across age groups, support grew 10 points among those age 18–34 (53% to 63%), 13 points among those 55 and older (34% to 47%), and is similar among those age 35–54 (45% to 48%). Among evangelical Christians, support increased 15 points (21% to 36%).

In the context of contentious debate about birth control and abortion at the national level, how do California likely voters view the role of government when it comes to the availability of abortion? A strong majority (76%) say the government should not interfere with access, while 20 percent say more laws should be passed to restrict it. This view holds across registered voter groups (Democrats 83%, Republicans 68%, independents 68%). Across religious groups, 70 percent of Protestants, 55 percent of Catholics, and 54 percent of evangelical Christians say the government should not interfere with access.

The survey asked about several other issues that have been the subject of election-year debate:

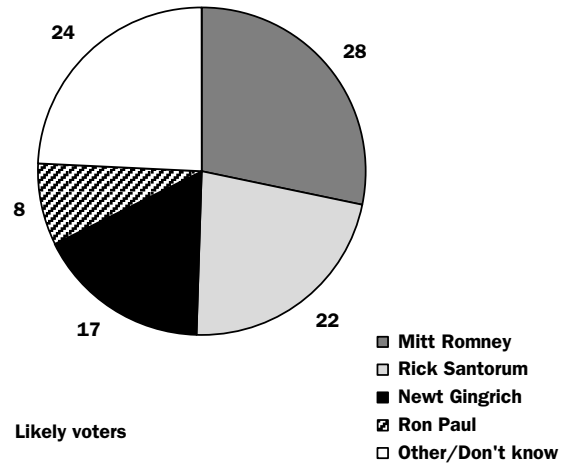
- **Immigration:** About half of likely voters (51%) say immigrants are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills, and 39 percent say they are a burden because they use public services. Asked what should happen to most illegal immigrants who have lived and worked in the United States for at least two years, 62 percent would give them a chance to keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status, while 31 percent say they should be deported.
- **Health care reform:** About half of likely voters (49%) support the changes in the health care system enacted by Congress and the Obama administration, while 44 percent are opposed. Most (65%) oppose the individual mandate, which requires Americans to buy health insurance coverage or pay a fine. Thirty-one percent favor this provision.
- **Government regulation of business:** Half of likely voters (50%) say government regulation of business does more harm than good, and 44 percent say it is necessary.
- **Environmental regulation:** Do stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy or are they worth the cost? Likely voters are divided (47% to 47%).
- **Gun control:** Likely voters are divided about whether the government goes too far in restricting the rights of citizens to own guns (45%) or does not do enough to regulate access to guns (48%).

2012 ELECTIONS

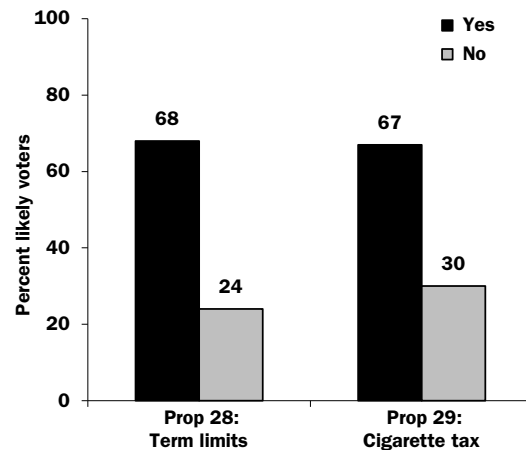
KEY FINDINGS

- Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum are in a close race among Republican likely voters. Support for Rick Santorum has grown by 18 points since December. Just over half of likely voters are satisfied with their choices of candidates in the presidential election, and 41 percent say they are following news about candidates very closely. *(page 7)*
- If the election were held today, 53 percent of likely voters would favor President Obama and 37 percent would favor the Republican candidate. They are more likely to prefer Democratic (50%) than Republican (35%) control of Congress. *(page 8)*
- Sixty-eight percent of likely voters support Proposition 28 (reducing the maximum time in the legislature to 12 years). One in five say the outcome is very important to them, and two in three say term limits have been a good thing for California. *(page 9)*
- Sixty-seven percent of likely voters support Proposition 29 (taxing cigarettes to fund cancer research), and four in 10 say the outcome is very important. *(page 10)*
- Half of likely voters support a bond measure for water conservation projects (51% yes, 35% no), and 37 percent say the outcome is very important. *(page 11)*
- Fifty-two percent of likely voters support the governor's tax initiative proposed for the November ballot (funding education and guaranteeing local public safety funding) when read the ballot title and a summary. Seven in 10 oppose automatic cuts to K-12 education if the measure fails. Two in three likely voters who support the initiative favor a mix of spending cuts and tax increases to resolve the budget deficit; those who oppose the initiative prefer spending cuts. *(pages 12, 13)*

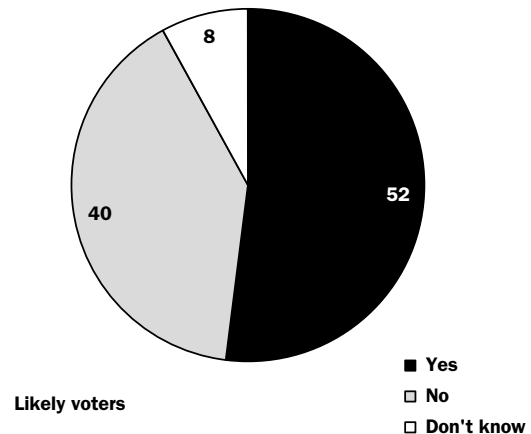
2012 Republican Presidential Primary



Vote on Propositions in the June 5th Primary



Vote on Governor Brown's Proposed Tax Initiative, with Ballot Title and a Summary



REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

With the June primary three months away, Mitt Romney (28%) and Rick Santorum (22%) are in a close race among Republican likely voters in California (i.e., within the margin of error for Republican likely voters), followed by Newt Gingrich (17%) and Ron Paul (8%); 22 percent are unsure. Romney led in January (37%) as well, and had 25 percent support in December. Support for Santorum grew 11 points (4% to 15%) between December and January, and has grown 7 points since January, to 22 percent today.

Just over half of likely voters (53%) are satisfied with their choices of presidential candidates in the 2012 election for U.S. president. Satisfaction with presidential choices was similar in January (53%) and December (49%). Solid majorities of Democrats (65%) are satisfied with their choices, while fewer than half of Republicans (45%) and independents (43%) are satisfied. Among Democrats, satisfaction was similar in January, at 67 percent, but has grown from 57 percent in December. Republicans were split in December (47% satisfied, 47% not satisfied) and more likely to be dissatisfied in January (52%). Independents were also dissatisfied in December (58%) and January (51%). Latino (58%) and white (51%) likely voters are satisfied with their choices of candidates. (Sample sizes for Asian and black likely voters are too small for separate analysis.) Just over half of men (53%) and women (52%) are satisfied. Satisfaction is similar across income groups. Among those who approve of President Obama, 67 percent are satisfied, and among those who disapprove of Obama, 37 percent are satisfied with their choices of 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 2012?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Gender	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Men	Women
Satisfied	53%	65%	45%	43%	53%	52%
Not satisfied	41	31	45	50	43	38
Don't know	7	4	10	6	3	10

Just over eight in 10 likely voters are following news about candidates for the 2012 presidential election either very (41%) or fairly (42%) closely. The share following campaign news very closely was similar in December (40%) and January (36%). Three months before the February 2008 primary, just 26 percent of likely voters were following news about candidates very closely. About four in 10 across parties report following news very closely (43% Republicans, 41% Democrats, 38% independents). Men (47%) are more likely than women (36%) to say they are following election news very closely. Those age 55 and older are much more likely than younger voters to say they are following campaign news very closely (31% ages 18–34, 33% ages 35–54, 52% age 55 and older). Among those satisfied with their choices of presidential candidates, 46 percent say they are following news very closely.

“How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2012 presidential election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Gender	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Men	Women
Very closely	41%	41%	43%	38%	47%	36%
Fairly closely	42	41	43	47	39	46
Not too closely	14	15	13	13	12	15
Not at all closely	2	3	1	2	2	3

PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

In a hypothetical matchup for the presidential race, Barack Obama leads the Republican candidate by 16 points (53% to 37%), with 10 percent unsure how they would vote. Results were similar in December (50% Obama, 38% Republican candidate). Findings along party lines are also similar to December, when we first asked about the presidential race. Today, 83 percent of Democratic likely voters support Obama (81% December), while 78 percent of Republican likely voters support their party's candidate (81% December). Among independents, 58 percent support Obama, 25 percent support the Republican candidate, and 17 percent are unsure (in December: 55% Obama, 30% Republican candidate, 14% unsure).

Liberal (88%) and moderate (56%) likely voters prefer Obama, and conservatives (69%) prefer the Republican candidate. Latinos (70%) support Obama over the Republican candidate, while whites are divided (45% Obama, 43% the Republican candidate). Three in four likely voters under age 35 (75%) prefer Obama, compared to half of older voters (50% ages 35–54, 48% age 55 and older). Two-thirds of those who are satisfied with their choices of candidates for president would vote for Obama (66%); those not satisfied with their choices are divided.

“If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, would you vote for Barack Obama, the Democrat, or for the Republican candidate?”

Likely voters only	All Likely Voters	Party			Ideology		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Barack Obama	53%	83%	11%	58%	88%	56%	21%
Republican candidate	37	10	78	25	6	27	69
Someone else (volunteered)	1	–	1	–	1	1	1
Don't know	10	6	9	17	5	16	9

When it comes to the outcome of the congressional elections, 50 percent of likely voters prefer a Congress controlled by Democrats, 35 percent prefer a Republican-controlled Congress, 8 percent are unsure, and 7 percent volunteer that they prefer neither party to control Congress. A month before midterm elections in 2006, 55 percent of likely voters preferred Democratic control; in October 2010 they were divided (45% Democratic control, 43% Republican control). Democrats (79% Democratic control) and Republicans (77% Republican control) prefer their own parties to control Congress. Over half of independents favor Democratic control (54%), and one in four prefer Republican control (24%).

Latino likely voters (64%) prefer Democratic control, while white voters are divided (44% Democratic control, 43% Republican control). Likely voters under age 35 (76%) are far more likely than others (45% 35–54, 44% 55 and older) to prefer Democratic control. Two-thirds of conservatives prefer Republican control, while 86 percent of liberals and half of moderates (51%) prefer Democrats to control Congress.

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

Likely voters only	All Likely Voters	Party			Ideology		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Controlled by Republicans	35%	9%	77%	24%	7%	28%	66%
Controlled by Democrats	50	79	10	54	86	51	20
Neither (volunteered)	7	6	7	10	5	10	5
Don't know	8	6	5	12	2	10	10

PROPOSITION 28: LEGISLATIVE TERM LIMITS

In 1990, California voters passed Proposition 140, which limits members of the state legislature to six years in the assembly and eight years in the senate. Proposition 28 on the June ballot would reduce the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years and allows 12 years’ service in one house. The proposed term limits reform would apply only to legislators first elected after the measure passed. When read the ballot title and label for Proposition 28, 68 percent of likely voters would vote yes, 24 percent would vote no, and 8 percent are undecided. Proposition 28 has majority support across party, ideological, and regional groups, as well as age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups. While 67 percent of likely voters describe the outcome of Proposition 28 as important to them, just 22 percent say it is very important. Those who plan to vote yes are twice as likely as those who would vote no to say the outcome of Proposition 28 is very important (27% to 12%).

“Proposition 28 is called the ‘Limits on Legislators’ Terms in Office, Initiative Constitutional Amendment.’ ...If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 28?”*

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don’t know
All Likely Voters		68%	24%	8%
Party	Democrats	65	27	8
	Republicans	73	19	8
	Independents	68	24	8
Ideology	Liberals	56	36	8
	Moderates	71	23	7
	Conservatives	74	17	10
Education	High school or less	74	16	10
	Some college	69	24	6
	College graduate	62	28	9

**For complete text of proposition question, see p.30.*

When asked about their general perceptions of legislative term limits, 68 percent of likely voters say that term limits are a good thing for California, while just 11 percent say they are a bad thing. Since we began asking this question in October 1998, no more than one in five likely voters have said that term limits are a bad thing for California. Similar to past trends, Republicans (76%) are more likely than Democrats (66%) and independents (59%) to say that term limits are a good thing. Among the likely voters who are inclined to vote yes on Proposition 28, 80 percent say that term limits are a good thing for California.

“The California Legislature has operated under term limits since 1990, meaning that members of the state senate and state assembly are limited in the number of terms they can hold their elected office. Do you think that term limits are a good thing or a bad thing for California, or do they make no difference?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Vote on Prop 28	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Good thing	68%	66%	76%	59%	80%	36%
Bad thing	11	13	9	12	5	30
Do not make a difference	18	18	14	28	14	31
Don’t know	3	4	2	1	1	4

PROPOSITION 29: ADDITIONAL CIGARETTE TAX

Proposition 29, also on the June ballot, is an initiative that would impose an additional \$1.00 per pack tax on cigarettes and an equivalent tax increase on other tobacco products. The revenues would fund research for cancer and tobacco-related diseases. When read the ballot title and label for Proposition 29, 67 percent of likely voters would vote yes, 30 percent would vote no, and 3 percent are undecided.

Proposition 29 has majority support across party, ideological, and regional groups, as well as age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups. Nearly eight in 10 likely voters describe the outcome of Proposition 29 as important to them: 41 percent say it is very important and 37 percent say it is somewhat important to them. Those who plan to vote yes are much more likely than those who would vote no to say the outcome of Proposition 29 is very important to them (48% to 29%).

“Proposition 29 is called the ‘Imposes Additional Tax on Cigarettes for Cancer Research, Initiative Statute.’ ...If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 29?”*

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don't know
All Likely Voters		67%	30%	3%
Party	Democrats	77	20	3
	Republicans	54	43	3
	Independents	71	28	1
Ideology	Liberals	77	21	2
	Moderates	71	26	2
	Conservatives	55	42	3
Age	18 to 34	82	17	1
	35 to 54	67	32	1
	55 and older	62	34	4

*For complete text of proposition question, see p.30.

California likely voters support by a wide margin (63% favor, 34% oppose) the general idea of increasing taxes on the purchase of cigarettes to help pay for state spending. In a January 2006 survey, 70 percent of likely voters were in favor of a cigarette tax increase. Today, strong majorities of Democrats (74%) and independents (66%) favor increasing taxes on cigarettes, while Republicans are divided (51% favor, 47% oppose). Majorities across regions, age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups support the idea of increasing taxes on cigarettes to help pay for state spending. Conservatives are divided on cigarette tax increases (47% favor, 51% oppose). Among those who would vote yes on Proposition 29, 89 percent are in favor of increasing taxes on cigarettes. Among those who are inclined to vote no on Proposition 29, 88 percent are opposed to cigarette tax increases.

“Tax increases could be used to help pay for state spending. In general, would you favor or oppose increasing taxes on the purchase of cigarettes?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Vote on Prop 29	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Favor	63%	74%	51%	66%	89%	9%
Oppose	34	23	47	33	10	88
Don't know	2	3	2	2	1	3

STATE WATER BOND

Seven in 10 likely voters think the water supply in their area of California is a big (35%) or somewhat (35%) of a problem. In December 2009, amidst a serious drought, likely voters were much more likely to say that the water supply in their part of California was a big problem (52% big, 26% somewhat).

When read a summary of the 2010 water package passed by the governor and legislature that includes an \$11.1 billion bond measure on the November 2012 ballot, 51 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes, 35 percent would vote no, and 14 percent are undecided. Solid majorities of Democratic likely voters (66%) would vote yes, 52 percent of Republican likely voters would vote no, and independent voters are more likely to vote yes (48%) than no (35%). San Francisco Bay Area likely voters (60%) are more likely than those in other regions of the state to support the measure.

“...If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on the \$11.1 billion state water bond?”*

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don't know
All Likely Voters		51%	35%	14%
Party	Democrats	66	22	12
	Republicans	34	52	14
	Independents	48	35	17
Homeownership	Owners	48	38	14
	Renters	61	25	14
Region	Central Valley**	47	35	18
	San Francisco Bay Area	60	30	10
	Los Angeles	52	35	13
	Other Southern California	46	39	15

*For complete text of question, see p.31.

**Sample size for likely voters in the Central Valley smaller than in other regions.

Thirty-seven percent of likely voters think that the passage of the water bond measure is very important. In December 2009, 43 percent of likely voters said passage of a water bond measure was very important. Democrats (45%) are more likely than Republicans (32%) and independents (28%) to say passing the measure is very important. Among those saying their regional water supply is a big problem, 58 percent say passage is very important. Just over half (54%) of those intending to vote yes think passage of the bond measure is very important, while only one in five (20%) of those considering voting no think it is very important that voters pass the state water bond measure.

“How important is it that voters pass the state water bond measure?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Vote on Water Bond	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	37%	45%	32%	28%	54%	20%
Somewhat important	32	32	24	42	41	22
Not too important	11	11	14	10	3	25
Not at all important	12	7	20	9	1	32
Don't know	8	5	10	10	1	1

GOVERNOR BROWN'S PROPOSED TAX INITIATIVE

The governor's budget plan released in January includes a proposed tax initiative on the November ballot that would temporarily increase the state personal income tax on wealthy Californians and increase the state sales tax. When read the ballot title and a brief summary, 52 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes on the proposed tax initiative, 40 percent say they would vote no, and 8 percent say they are undecided. While direct comparisons are not possible, majority support for the governor's proposed tax initiative was evident in questions that predated the ballot title and summary in our December 2011 survey (60% of likely voters in favor) and in our January 2012 survey (68% of likely voters in favor).

Today, while 71 percent of Democrats would vote yes, 65 percent of Republicans would vote no, and independents are more divided (49% yes, 41% no). Opposition to the proposed tax initiative is higher among men (47%) than women (33%). Opposition is also higher among those with \$80,000 or more in annual household income (47%) than others. San Francisco Bay Area likely voters (69%) are more likely to support the proposed tax initiative than others. Conservatives (63%) are more opposed than others, and whites (48%) are less supportive than Latinos (58%).

“Governor Brown has proposed a tax initiative for the November ballot titled the ‘Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety Funding. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.’ ...If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on the proposed tax initiative? ”*

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don't know
All Likely Voters		52%	40%	8%
Party	Democrats	71	21	8
	Republicans	29	65	7
	Independents	49	41	10
Gender	Men	49	47	3
	Women	55	33	12
Household Income	Under \$40,000	54	34	12
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	61	33	6
	\$80,000 or more	48	47	5

*For complete text of question, see p.28.

Governor Brown's budget proposes that there will be automatic spending cuts to K–12 public schools if the proposed tax initiative in November is rejected. Seventy-two percent of likely voters say they oppose the automatic spending cuts to K–12 public schools. Solid majorities of Democrats, Republicans, and independents say they oppose these K–12 spending cuts. Among those who would vote yes on the proposed tax initiative, 80 percent oppose the automatic spending cuts to K–12 schools. Among those who would vote no, 61 percent are also opposed to automatic K–12 spending cuts.

“If voters reject the proposed tax initiative on the November ballot, Governor Brown's budget proposes that automatic spending cuts be made to K–12 public schools. Do you favor or oppose these automatic spending cuts to K–12 public schools? ”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Vote on Governor's Proposed Initiative	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Favor	23%	13%	34%	23%	16%	35%
Oppose	72	83	61	71	80	61
Don't know	5	4	5	6	4	4

GOVERNOR’S PROPOSED TAX INITIATIVE AND THE STATE BUDGET SITUATION

In assessing the public opinion context of the governor’s proposed tax initiative, it is noteworthy that 78 percent of likely voters describe the state budget situation in California as a big problem, similar to our findings in December (83%) and January (78%) surveys. Today, the perception of the budget as a big problem is expressed by at least seven in 10 likely voters in all of the major political groups and regions.

A majority of likely voters (66%) also say that their local government services have been affected a lot by recent state budget cuts. Similar proportions in December (65%) and in January (60%) said their local services had been affected a lot by recent state budget cuts. Today, majorities of likely voters across political groups and regions share this view. Among those who say they would vote yes on the governor’s proposed tax initiative, 69 percent say that their local government services have been affected a lot by recent state budget cuts. However, 61 percent of those who would vote no on the governor’s proposed tax initiative also say they have been affected a lot by recent state budget cuts.

“Would you say that your local government services—such as those provided by city and county governments and public schools—have or have not been affected by recent state budget cuts?”
(If they have: “Have they been affected a lot or somewhat?”)

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Vote on Governor’s Proposed Initiative	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Affected a lot	66%	72%	62%	59%	69%	61%
Affected somewhat	25	22	24	35	23	27
Not affected	6	4	11	3	5	9
Don’t know	3	2	3	3	3	4

Governor Brown’s budget plan includes a mix of spending cuts and tax increases. While 45 percent of likely voters prefer this approach to dealing with the state’s budget gap, 34 percent prefer mostly spending cuts, and 11 percent prefer mostly tax increases. Sixty-eight percent of Democrats favor either a mix of spending cuts and tax increases (55%) or mostly tax increases (13%), and 61 percent of independents prefer a mix of spending cuts and tax increases (42%) or mostly tax increases (19%). Most Republicans (61%) favor dealing with the budget gap mostly through spending cuts. Among those who would vote yes on the governor’s proposed tax initiative, 81 percent favor either a mix of spending cuts and tax increases (64%) or mostly tax increases (17%). Among those who would vote no, 67 percent prefer to deal with the budget gap mostly through spending cuts.

“As you may know, the state government currently has an annual general fund budget of around \$85 billion and faces a multibillion dollar gap between spending and revenues. How would you prefer to deal with the state’s budget gap—mostly through spending cuts, mostly through tax increases, through a mix of spending cuts and tax increases, or do you think that it is okay for the state to borrow money and run a budget deficit?”

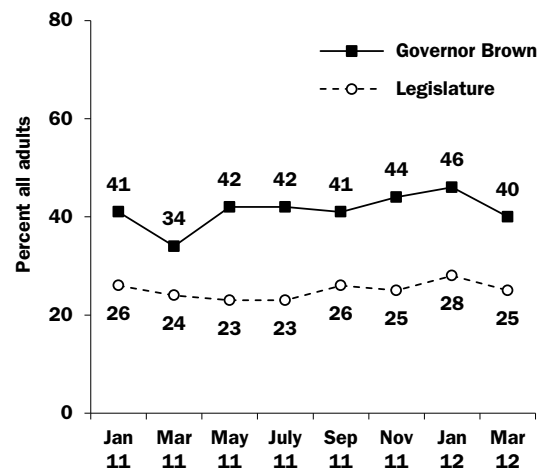
<i>Likely voters only</i>	All Likely Voters	Party			Vote on Governor’s Proposed Initiative	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
A mix of spending cuts and tax increases	45%	55%	31%	42%	64%	18%
Mostly through spending cuts	34	16	61	30	10	67
Mostly through tax increases	11	13	4	19	17	4
Okay to borrow money and run a budget deficit	4	6	1	4	4	5
Other	3	5	2	3	3	3
Don’t know	4	6	1	2	3	3

STATE AND NATIONAL ISSUES

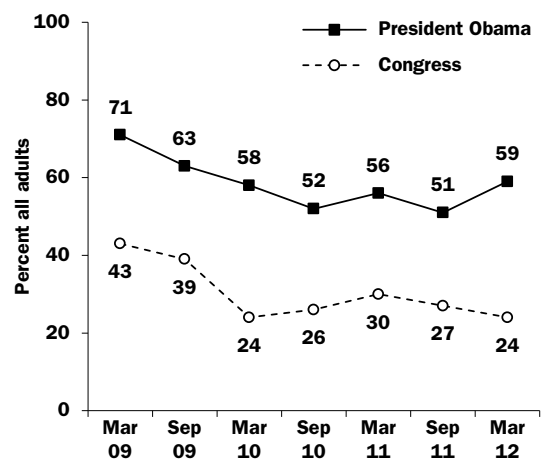
KEY FINDINGS

- Four in 10 adults approve of Governor Brown's job performance; one in four approve of the state legislature's. Nearly six in 10 approve of President Obama, but only one in four approve of Congress. (page 15)
- Forty-one percent of adults and 48 percent of likely voters say the state is in a serious recession. (page 16)
- Six in 10 residents say a high-speed rail system is at least somewhat important for the state's future, but they are divided about building a high-speed rail system in California. (page 17)
- Fifty-eight percent say immigrants benefit California. Seven in 10 support giving illegal immigrants who have lived and worked in the U.S. a chance to keep their jobs and apply for legal status. (page 18)
- Forty-seven percent support and 39 percent oppose the changes to the healthcare system enacted by Congress and President Obama. About six in 10 oppose mandatory health insurance. (page 19)
- Californians are divided about government regulation of business and whether strict environmental regulations hurt the economy or are worth the cost. Just over half say the government does not do enough to regulate gun ownership. Sixty-eight percent say the government should not interfere with access to abortion. (pages 20, 21)
- Marking a shift in attitudes since 2008, 52 percent of adults favor same-sex marriage. Catholics are divided, while just over half of Protestants are opposed. Six in 10 evangelicals oppose same-sex marriage. Support has grown in most groups since 2008. (pages 22, 23)

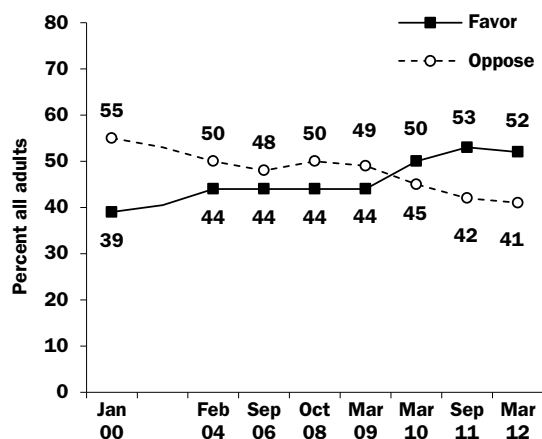
Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials



Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials



Allowing Same-Sex Marriage



STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS' APPROVAL RATINGS

Forty percent of Californians and 46 percent of likely voters approve of Governor Brown's job performance. In January, approval was slightly higher among all Californians (46%), while similar among likely voters (44%). Since he took office in January 2011, Brown's approval ratings among all adults has hardly changed, while disapproval has grown (19% January 2011, 33% today) and the share with no opinion has declined (39% to 27%). Similarly, among likely voters, approval has remained about the same since January 2011, while disapproval has risen (from 20% to 38%) and the share with no opinion has declined (33% to 16%). Most Democrats approve (59%); most Republicans disapprove (57%); ratings are mixed among independents (39% approve, 36% disapprove, 26% don't know).

Job approval ratings of the California Legislature continue to be low (25% all adults, 21% likely voters), while majorities disapprove. Since April 2008, approval has been below 30 percent among all adults and below 25 percent among likely voters. Majorities across parties—particularly Republicans—disapprove of the legislature (75% Republicans, 57% Democrats, 56% independents).

"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that..."

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>...Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?</i>	Approve	40%	59%	26%	39%	46%
	Disapprove	33	23	57	36	38
	Don't know	27	18	16	26	16
<i>...the California Legislature is handling its job?</i>	Approve	25	25	14	23	21
	Disapprove	54	57	75	56	66
	Don't know	21	18	11	21	14

President Obama's approval rating among Californians has steadily increased after reaching a low of 51 percent last September (53% December, 54% January, 59% today). His approval rating among likely voters (55% today) has also increased from a low of 47 percent last September, reaching the highest level since April 2010 (56%). Voters are split along party lines: A majority of Democrats (83%) and independents (59%) approve of his job performance, while a majority of Republicans (77%) disapprove. In a recent *USA Today*/Gallup poll, adults nationwide were divided (46% approve, 49% disapprove).

Only 24 percent of all Californians and 17 percent of likely voters approve of the way the Congress is handling its job. Adults nationwide are less approving (10% approve, 82% disapprove in a recent CBS News/*New York Times* poll). Approval among Californians was similar last month and has been below 30 percent since last July. Strong majorities across parties disapprove of Congress.

"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that..."

		All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>...Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States?</i>	Approve	59%	83%	20%	59%	55%
	Disapprove	36	15	77	34	43
	Don't know	5	2	3	7	2
<i>...the U.S. Congress is handling its job?</i>	Approve	24	23	16	16	17
	Disapprove	68	73	80	72	79
	Don't know	8	4	5	11	4

CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION

Despite some positive signs in the state and national economies, an overwhelming majority of Californians continue to believe that the state is in an economic recession: 41 percent say it is in a serious recession, while 31 percent believe it is in a moderate recession and 9 percent a mild one. Only 16 percent say the state is not in a recession. Still, the percentage believing the state is in a serious recession has declined 9 points since last September (50%) and 22 points since its peak in March 2009 (63%). Across parties, at least three in four say the state is in a recession, with Republicans the most likely to consider it a serious one (53% Republicans, 44% Democrats, 37% independents).

**“Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not?
(if yes: Do you think it is in a serious, a moderate, or a mild recession?)”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Serious recession	41%	44%	53%	37%	48%
Moderate recession	31	32	23	30	29
Mild recession	9	8	6	8	7
Not in a recession	16	14	15	21	14
Don't know	2	2	2	4	2

Reflecting their negative views of the state's economy, 52 percent of Californians in an open-ended question say that “jobs and the economy” is the most important issue facing the state, but this is down 11 points since December 2011. Far fewer name other issues, such as education and schools (8%), the state budget (8%), or immigration (4%). Four percent of Californians this month say gas prices.

Most Californians (56%) and likely voters (62%) also believe that the state will face bad times financially over the next 12 months. Only 34 percent of all Californians and 28 percent of likely voters expect good fiscal times. Last March, 61 percent expected bad times and 30 percent good times. To put these findings in perspective, a record high 78 percent of Californians expected bad times financially in June and July of 2008. Across parties, majorities believe the state will experience bad times financially over the next 12 months, with pessimism highest among Republicans (72% Republicans, 56% independents, 53% Democrats). Majorities across all income groups also expect bad times over the next year.

**“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	Household Income			Likely Voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
Good times	34%	39%	26%	36%	28%
Bad times	56	54	60	57	62
Don't know	10	8	14	7	11

Most Californians not only expect bad economic times, but also say that the state is headed in the wrong direction (56% all adults, 59% likely voters). About one in three (34% all adults, 32% likely voters) say the state is going in the right direction. Findings among all adults were similar in January and last March. Pessimism reached a record high in July 2009 (79%) and stayed above 70 percent for a full year. Since the start of 2011, pessimism has fluctuated slightly but has not exceeded 61 percent. Across parties, Republicans are the most pessimistic (77% wrong direction), and a majority of independents (55%) also say wrong direction. Democrats are divided (46% wrong direction, 41% right direction).

HIGH-SPEED RAIL SYSTEM AND CALIFORNIA’S FUTURE

In 2008, voters passed a \$10 billion state bond measure (53% to 47%) for planning and building a high-speed rail system from Southern California to the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area. The state has also received federal funding for this project. Governor Brown has recently expressed support of high-speed rail to promote the economic vitality of the state. Others have questioned its importance in light of the state’s large budget deficit and the project’s projected cost of \$100 billion. The state’s residents are divided over this infrastructure project: Half (51%) favor building a high-speed rail system, while 45 percent oppose it. Likely voters are more likely to oppose (53%) than favor (43%) this project.

A majority of Democrats (58%) favor building a high-speed rail system, while a strong majority of Republicans (66%) oppose it. Independents are divided (45% favor, 49% oppose). Across regions, a majority of those in the San Francisco Bay Area (57%) and Los Angeles (54%) favor high-speed rail, while residents of the Central Valley are divided (50% favor, 47% oppose) and a slight majority of those in the Other Southern California region are opposed (42% favor, 52% oppose). Majorities of Asians (69%) and Latinos (56%) favor the project, while a majority of whites (55%) oppose it. Those earning less than \$40,000 are more likely than those earning more to favor such a system. Those who think the state budget situation is a big problem are slightly more likely to oppose it (45% favor, 52% oppose).

“As you may know, California voters passed a \$10 billion state bond in 2008 for planning and construction of a high-speed rail system from Southern California to the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area. The estimated costs associated with the 800-mile high-speed rail system are about \$100 billion over the next 20 years. Do you favor or oppose building a high-speed rail system in California?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	51%	58%	32%	45%	43%
Oppose	45	36	66	49	53
Don't know	4	6	2	5	4

About six in 10 residents believe that a high-speed rail system is very important (33%) or somewhat important (26%) for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California; 38 percent say it is not too important (17%) or not at all important (21%). Likely voters hold similar views. Democrats (44%) are much more likely than independents (26%) and far more likely than Republicans (18%) to say that high-speed rail is very important to California’s future. More than six in 10 residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (65%), Los Angeles (64%), and the Central Valley (61%) think the high-speed rail system is at least somewhat important to the state’s future, while about half of those in the Other Southern California region (49%) share this view. Those who favor high-speed rail are far more likely than those who oppose it to say it is very important (58% to 6%).

“Thinking ahead, how important is the high-speed rail system for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?”

	All Adults	Region				Likely Voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Other Southern California	
Very important	33%	30%	40%	35%	25%	30%
Somewhat important	26	31	25	29	24	23
Not too important	17	18	15	17	19	19
Not at all important	21	19	17	17	30	26
Don't know	2	2	3	2	2	2

IMMIGRATION POLICY REFORM

As the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to hear a case involving Arizona’s strict immigration law, SB 1070, and with immigration an important issue in the presidential race, how do Californians feel about the immigrants residing in their state? Nearly six in 10 Californians (58%) and half of likely voters (51%) believe immigrants benefit the state because of their hard work and job skills. Fewer adults (35%) and likely voters (39%) say immigrants are a burden because they use public services. The percentage of Californians who believe that immigrants are a benefit was similar in September 2010 (54%) and March 2010 (54%) and has been at least 54 percent each time we have asked this question since 2000.

Across parties, 66 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of independents view immigrants as a benefit, while 60 percent of Republicans consider immigrants a burden. The perception that immigrants are a benefit is most widely held by residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (64%) and Los Angeles (63%), followed by residents in the Central Valley (55%) and the Other Southern California region (49%). Most Latinos (85%) and Asians (60%) view immigrants as a benefit because of their hard work and job skills, while whites are somewhat more likely to say they are a burden (49%) than a benefit (42%). Compared to others, the belief that immigrants are a benefit is higher among those under age 55, those with only a high school diploma or less, and those with a household income of under \$40,000.

“Which statement comes closest to your own view—even if neither is exactly right: Immigrants today are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills or Immigrants today are a burden to California because they use public services.”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Immigrants are a benefit to California	58%	66%	32%	52%	51%
Immigrants are a burden to California	35	28	60	33	39
Don't know	8	6	8	15	10

A strong majority of Californians (70%) think that most illegal immigrants who have lived and worked in the United States for at least two years should be given a chance to keep their jobs and apply for legal status. Only 25 percent say they should be deported. Similarly, a solid majority of likely voters (62%) believe they should be given a chance to keep their jobs and apply for legal status. Since June 2007, at least 65 percent of Californians have held this view in the nine times we have asked this question.

Strong majorities of Democrats (74%) and independents (67%) think illegal immigrants should be given a chance to keep their jobs and apply for legal status, while Republicans are divided (50% keep their jobs, 45% deport them). Nearly all Latinos (92%), and solid majorities of Asians (65%) and whites (60%), say that illegal immigrants should be able to keep their jobs. Among those who view immigrants as a benefit, 89 percent say illegal immigrants should be able to keep their jobs, while 53 percent of those who say immigrants are a burden say illegal immigrants should be deported.

“If you had to choose, what do you think should happen to most illegal immigrants who have lived and worked in the United States for at least two years: They should be given a chance to keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status or they should be deported back to their native country?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Chance to keep their jobs	70%	74%	50%	67%	62%
Deported back to their native country	25	21	45	26	31
Don't know	5	5	5	7	6

HEALTH CARE REFORM

With the U.S. Supreme Court expected to review the constitutionality of health care reform passed by Congress and President Obama, how do Californians view the changes in the health care system? Forty-seven percent support the changes; 39 percent are opposed. Support among likely voters is similar (49% support, 44% oppose). Support among all adults is now just below 50 percent (September 2009: 51% support, 38% oppose; December 2009: 52% support, 39% oppose; March 2010: 50% support, 39% oppose; February 2011: 51% support, 36% oppose; today: 47% support, 39% oppose).

Two in three Democrats (67%) and half of independents (50%) support the changes in the health care system, while seven in 10 Republicans (69%) oppose them. Half of the residents in Los Angeles (52%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (50%) support the changes, while residents are divided in the Central Valley (43% support, 45% oppose) and the Other Southern California region (43% support, 45% oppose). Across racial/ethnic groups, a majority of Latinos (58%) and Asians (51%) support the changes, while whites are more likely to oppose them (38% support, 49% oppose). Those without health insurance are more likely to support than oppose the enacted changes (53% support, 29% oppose), while those who are insured are divided (46% support, 41% oppose).

“Overall, given what you know about them, would you say you support or oppose the changes to the health care system that have been enacted by Congress and the Obama administration?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Support	47%	67%	20%	50%	49%
Oppose	39	21	69	40	44
Don't know	14	12	11	10	7

One particularly controversial aspect of the changes in the health care system is the individual mandate. Solid majorities of Californians (63%) and likely voters (65%) oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance or pay a fine if they don't, while about three in 10 adults (32%) and likely voters (31%) favor this requirement.

An overwhelming majority of Republicans (84%) and smaller majorities of independents (56%) and Democrats (52%) oppose this requirement, as do majorities across regions (54% San Francisco Bay Area, 63% Central Valley, 63% Los Angeles, 67% Other Southern California Region). Although half of Asians favor this requirement (50% favor, 39% oppose), solid majorities of Latinos (59%) and whites (72%) oppose it. Majorities across gender, age, education, and income groups oppose this requirement. Among those who are opposed to the changes in the health care system, 81 percent oppose this particular requirement, while those who support the changes are divided (48% favor, 48% oppose). Among those who disapprove of President Obama, 83 percent oppose the insurance requirement, while those who approve of the president are divided (45% favor, 50% oppose).

“Do you favor or oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance or pay a fine if they don't?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	32%	43%	12%	37%	31%
Oppose	63	52	84	56	65
Don't know	5	5	4	7	4

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

In the wake of the financial crisis, and with some efforts to regulate the financial system (including the passage of the Dodd-Frank Act), how do Californians feel about government regulation of business? Our August 2008 survey in the early days of the recession found that a record high 57 percent of Californians believed that regulation is necessary, while 34 percent said it does more harm than good. Today, Californians are more divided: 48 percent think government regulation is necessary, 43 percent believe it does more harm than good. Likely voters are slightly more negative (44% say it's necessary, 50% say it's detrimental). In a recent Pew Research Center survey, 40 percent of adults nationwide said that regulation is necessary, while a majority (52%) said that regulation does more harm than good.

Partisan differences are evident: Majorities of Democrats (63%) say regulation of business is necessary, while majorities of Republicans (73%) say that regulation does more harm than good. Independents are slightly more likely to say it is necessary (49%) than to say it does harm (41%). Compared to August 2008, the opinions of Democrats are similar, but the view that regulation does more harm than good has increased 21 points among Republicans (52% to 73%), while the view that regulation is necessary has declined 9 points among independents (58% to 49%). Residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (57%) and Los Angeles (52%) are more likely to say regulation is necessary, while half of the residents in the Central Valley and Other Southern California (51% each) say regulation does more harm than good.

**“Which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right:
Government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest or
government regulation of business does more harm than good.”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Government regulation of business is necessary	48%	63%	21%	49%	44%
Government regulation of business does more harm than good	43	30	73	41	50
Don't know	8	7	6	10	6

Californians are divided when asked about stricter environmental laws and regulations: 47 percent say they are worth the cost, while 45 percent say they cost too many jobs and hurt the economy. This is a marked change from much earlier surveys in which majorities said stricter laws and regulations were worth the cost (58% May 1998, 64% January 2000, 57% June 2000, 59% February 2002, 64% June 2002, 60% February 2004, 47% today). Partisan differences are evident, and there have been big changes since 2004. Most Republicans (65%, up 18 points from 2004) say regulations cost too many jobs. Independents are divided, with 46 percent saying regulations cost too many jobs (up 19 points from 2004) and 47 percent saying they are worth the cost (down 15 points from 2004). Most Democrats (64%, down 7 points from 2004) say regulations are worth the cost. San Francisco Bay Area residents (58%) are the most likely to say that environmental regulations are worth the cost, while Other Southern California residents (38%) are the least likely to share this view.

**“Which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right:
Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy or
stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost.”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Cost too many jobs and hurt the economy	45%	30%	65%	46%	47%
Are worth the cost	47	64	29	47	47
Don't know	8	6	6	7	6

ROLE OF GOVERNMENT (CONTINUED)

Another issue with evident partisan divide is gun control. A majority of Californians (53%) think that the government does not do enough to regulate access to guns, while 38 percent say the government goes too far in restricting the rights of citizens to own guns. The percentage saying government does not do enough is at a record low (62% January 2000, 62% February 2004, 58% August 2008, 53% today).

Two in three Democrats (68%) say that the government does not do enough, while two in three Republicans (66%) say the government goes too far. Over half of independents (54%) say the government does not do enough. Across regions, residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (62%) and Los Angeles (59%) are the most likely to think the government does not do enough, followed by those in the Central Valley (43% too much, 50% not enough). Other Southern California residents are divided (46% too much, 42% not enough). Solid majorities of Asians (64%) and Latinos (63%) think the government does not do enough to regulate access to guns, while half of whites say government goes too far in restricting the rights of citizens to own guns.

**“Which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right:
The government goes too far in restricting the rights of citizens to own guns or
the government does not do enough to regulate access to guns.”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Government goes too far	38%	27%	66%	37%	45%
Government does not do enough	53	68	27	54	48
Don't know	9	5	7	9	7

Given the current national debate about birth control and abortion, how do Californians view the role of government when it comes to availability and access to abortion? Sixty-eight percent of Californians think the government should not interfere with a woman’s access to abortion, while 28 percent say the government should pass more laws that restrict availability. The perception that government should not interfere is similar to our findings in September 2011 (69%) and March 2010 (65%), and more than six in 10 have held this view in each of the 10 surveys where we have asked this question since 2000.

Across parties, a majority of Democrats (83%), Republicans (68%), and independents (68%) believe that the government should not interfere with a woman’s access to abortion. And majorities across regions and demographic groups agree that the government should not interfere with access. Across religious groups, Protestants (70%) are more likely than Catholics (55%) to say the government should not interfere with access; and 91 percent of those who are agnostic, atheist, or not religious agree. Among those who are evangelical Christians, 54 percent say the government should not interfere with a woman’s access to abortion.

**“Which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.
The government should pass more laws that restrict the availability of abortion
or the government should not interfere with a woman’s access to abortion.”**

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Should pass more laws	28%	15%	27%	28%	20%
Should not interfere with access	68	83	68	68	76
Don't know	3	2	6	3	4

LEGALIZING MARIJUANA USE

Currently the use of marijuana for medical purposes is legal in the state of California (although not legal under federal law) due to voter approval of a citizen’s initiative in 1996. Another citizen’s initiative— Proposition 19—on the November 2010 statewide ballot would have legalized marijuana for personal use but was defeated by California voters (47% yes, 53% no). Public opinion on the issue remains relatively unchanged. Today, 45 percent of Californians believe the use of marijuana should be made legal while 51 percent believe it should not. Californians were similarly divided each time this question was asked in the past (May 2010: 48% yes, 49% no; September 2010: 47% yes, 49% no; September 2011: 46% yes, 51% no). The legalization issue has also divided likely voters since 2010 (May 2010: 49% yes, 48% no; September 2010: 51% yes, 45% no; September 2011: 48% yes, 48% no; today: 49% yes, 47% no).

Among Democrats, 59 percent support legalization, and 37 percent oppose it. Among Republicans, the results are reversed (39% yes, 58% no). Independents are divided (46% yes, 49% no). Across regions, residents in the Central Valley are the most opposed to this idea (37% yes, 59% no), although there is slight opposition in the Other Southern California region (43% yes, 52% no) and Los Angeles (44% yes, 51% no). San Francisco Bay Area residents are divided (48% yes, 47% no). Solid majorities of Latinos (68%) and Asians (61%) oppose legalization, while 57 percent of whites support it. Across age groups, support is less than 50 percent (49% ages 18-34; 42% ages 35-54; 45% age 55 and older). Men are more likely than women to favor legalization (50% to 40%), and about half of those with at least some college education support this idea, compared to 38 percent of those with high school or less.

“In general, do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?”

	All Adults	Party			Likely Voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Should be made legal	45%	59%	39%	46%	49%
Should not be made legal	51	37	58	49	47
Don't know	4	4	3	5	4

LEGALIZING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The latest chapter of the same-sex marriage debate in California recently played out in the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. A three-judge panel upheld a lower court ruling that Proposition 8—which bans same-sex marriage and was passed by California voters in 2008 (52% yes, 48% no)—is unconstitutional. In the opinion of the court, there is no legitimate reason to treat a class of people differently by stripping away their right to marry, a right that had previously been granted in the state of California. Proposition 8 proponents have now appealed to the full Ninth Circuit. The issue has also made headlines recently as the states of Maryland and Washington passed laws legalizing same-sex marriage.

In PPIC Statewide Surveys, support for allowing same-sex marriage reached 50 percent for the first time in March 2010 (50% favor, 45% oppose), with the margin widening to 10 points in September 2010 (52% favor, 42% oppose) and to 11 points in September 2011 (53% favor, 42% oppose) and today (52% favor, 41% oppose). When the question was first asked in January 2000 (just prior to voters approving a March statewide ballot measure that defined marriage as between a man and a woman), 39 percent of Californians favored same-sex marriage and 55 percent were opposed. In February 2004, just after then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom began conducting same-sex marriages (against state law), 44 percent of Californians expressed support, while 50 percent were opposed. Marriages were subsequently halted by the state. Then, in June 2008, the California State Supreme Court ruled that the 2000 initiative was unconstitutional, which led to a brief period in which same-sex marriage was legal.

LEGALIZING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE (CONTINUED)

Leading up to the November 2008 election that included Proposition 8, Californians were slightly opposed (October 2008: 44% favor, 50% oppose). Today, just over half of Californians favor allowing same-sex marriage (52% favor, 41% oppose). The margin of support is larger among likely voters (56% favor, 38% oppose). A strong majority of Democrats (72%) and 56 percent of independents are in favor, while most Republicans (61%) are opposed. Women are in favor, while men are divided. A solid majority of younger Californians support this idea, while those age 35 and older are divided. Support is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (59%); residents in the Other Southern California region and Los Angeles are somewhat more likely to favor than oppose same-sex marriage; Central Valley residents are divided. Majorities of both whites (57%) and Asians (54%) express support, while the issue divides Latinos. Support increases with rising income and education. Married Californians and parents are divided, while two in three who have never been married support same-sex marriage. A strong majority of those unaffiliated with any religion express support, while Protestants are opposed and Catholics are divided. Six in 10 evangelical Christians oppose same-sex marriage.

Californians in our survey hold similar views to adults nationwide in a recent NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll (49% favor, 40% oppose).

“Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to be legally married?”

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know
All Adults		52%	41%	6%
Likely Voters		56	38	6
Party	Democrats	72	25	4
	Republicans	34	61	5
	Independents	56	30	14
Gender	Men	48	46	6
	Women	56	37	6
Religion	Catholics	48	43	9
	Protestants	39	53	8
	No religion	79	18	3
Born-again or Evangelical Christians	Yes	36	60	4
	All others	59	34	7
Age	18 to 34	63	31	6
	35 to 54	48	46	6
	55 and older	47	46	7

Support for same-sex marriage has grown in most of the state's political and demographic groups since October 2008 (the last PPIC survey before the November 2008 election). Since then, support has grown 16 points among Democrats (from 56% to 72%) and 11 points among Republicans (from 23% to 34%), while remaining about the same among independents (from 53% to 56%). Support has risen 10 points among Latinos (from 36% to 46%) and 7 points among whites (from 50% to 57%). Across age groups, support has increased by 10 points in the under 35 age group (from 53% to 63%) and by 13 points among those age 55 and older (from 34% to 47%); support has remained about the same in the 35 to 54 age group (45% to 48%). Among evangelical Christians, support grew 15 points between October 2008 and today (from 21% to 36%). Among parents (a key voting group in the Proposition 8 campaign), opinions have narrowed since 2008 (October 2008: 42% favor, 54% oppose; today: 46% favor, 47% oppose).

REGIONAL MAP



METHODOLOGY

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance from Dean Bonner and Jui Shrestha, co-project managers for this survey, and survey research associate Sonja Petek. The *Californians and Their Government* series is supported with funding from The James Irvine Foundation. We benefit from discussions with PPIC staff, foundation staff, and other policy experts; but the methods, questions, and content of this report were determined solely by Mark Baldassare and the survey team.

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 2,001 California adult residents, including 1,601 interviewed on landline telephones and 400 interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took an average of 20 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekday nights and weekend days from February 21 to 28, 2012.

Landline interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. All landline telephone exchanges in California were eligible for selection, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as six times to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using the “last birthday method” to avoid biases in age and gender.

Cell phones were included in this survey to account for the growing number of Californians who use them. These interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of cell phone numbers. All cell phone numbers with California area codes were eligible for selection, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as eight times to increase the likelihood of reaching an eligible respondent. Once a cell phone user was reached, it was verified that this person was age 18 or older, a resident of California, and in a safe place to continue the survey (e.g., not driving).

Cell phone respondents were offered a small reimbursement to help defray the cost of the call. Cell phone interviews were conducted with adults who have cell phone service only and with those who have both cell phone and landline service in the household.

Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted by Abt SRBI, Inc. in English and Spanish according to respondents’ preferences. Accent on Languages, Inc. translated the survey into Spanish, with assistance from Renatta DeFever.

With assistance from Abt SRBI we used recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2007–2009 American Community Survey (ACS) through the University of Minnesota’s Integrated Public Use Microdata Series for California to compare certain demographic characteristics of the survey sample—region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education—with the characteristics of California’s adult population. The survey sample was closely comparable to the ACS figures. Abt SRBI used data from the 2008 National Health Interview Survey and data from the 2007–2009 ACS for California both to estimate landline and cell phone service in California and to compare the data against landline and cell phone service reported in this survey. We also used voter registration data from the California Secretary of State to compare the party registration of registered voters in our sample to party registration statewide. The landline and cell phone samples were then integrated using a frame integration weight, while sample balancing adjusted for any differences across regional, age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, telephone service, and party registration groups.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ± 3.4 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total sample of 2,001 adults. This means that 95 times

out of 100, the results will be within 3.4 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for subgroups is larger: For the 1,334 registered voters, it is ± 3.8 percent; for the 859 likely voters, it is ± 4.2 percent; for the 281 Republican primary likely voters, it is ± 7.4 percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

We present results for four geographic regions, accounting for approximately 90 percent of the state population. “Central Valley” includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. “San Francisco Bay Area” includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. “Los Angeles” refers to Los Angeles County, and “Other Southern California” includes Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. Residents from other geographic areas are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters; but sample sizes for these less populated areas are not large enough to report separately.

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites and for Latinos, who account for about a third of the state’s adult population and constitute one of the fastest-growing voter groups. We also present results for non-Hispanic Asians, who make up about 14 percent of the state’s adult population. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as non-Hispanic blacks and Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters; but sample sizes are not large enough for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in another party are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated by their responses to voter registration survey questions, previous election participation, intentions to vote in the June primary, and current interest in politics.

The percentages presented in the report tables and in the questionnaire may not add to 100 due to rounding.

We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey results to those in our earlier surveys and to those in national surveys by CBS News/*New York Times*, NBC News/*Wall Street Journal*, Pew Research Center, and *USA Today*/Gallup. Additional details about our methodology can be found at <http://www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf> and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

February 21–28, 2012

2,001 California Adult Residents:
English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 3.4\%$ AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE
PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

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

[code, don't read]

52% jobs, economy
8 education, schools
8 state budget, deficit, taxes
4 gas prices
4 immigration, illegal immigration
3 crime, gangs, drugs
3 housing costs
2 government in general
2 health care, health costs
11 other
3 don't know

2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?

40% approve
33 disapprove
27 don't know

3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?

25% approve
54 disapprove
21 don't know

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

34% right direction
56 wrong direction
10 don't know

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

34% good times
56 bad times
10 don't know

- 5a. Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not? (*if yes: Do you think it is in a serious, a moderate, or a mild recession?*)

41% yes, serious recession
31 yes, moderate recession
9 yes, mild recession
16 no
2 don't know

[questions 6–10 and 13–26 reported for likely voters only]

6. *[likely voters only]* Next, 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?

78% big problem
17 somewhat of a problem
3 not a problem
1 don't know

7. **[likely voters only]** Would you say that your local government services—such as those provided by city and county governments and public schools—have or have not been affected by recent state budget cuts? (**if they have, ask:** Have they been affected a lot or somewhat?)

- 66% affected a lot
- 25 affected somewhat
- 6 not affected
- 3 don't know

8. **[likely voters only]** As you may know, the state government currently has an annual general fund budget of around \$85 billion and faces a multibillion dollar gap between spending and revenues. How would you prefer to deal with the state's budget gap—mostly through spending cuts, mostly through tax increases, through a mix of spending cuts and tax increases, or do you think that it is okay for the state to borrow money and run a budget deficit?

- 34% mostly through spending cuts
- 11 mostly through tax increases
- 45 through a mix of spending cuts and tax increases
- 4 okay to borrow money and run a budget deficit
- 3 other (*specify*)
- 4 don't know

9. **[likely voters only]** Governor Brown has proposed a tax initiative for the November ballot titled the “Temporary Taxes to Fund Education. Guaranteed Local Public Safety Funding. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.” It increases the personal income tax on annual earnings over \$250,000 for five years and increases the sales and use tax by a half cent for four years. It allocates temporary tax revenues 89 percent to K–12 schools and 11 percent to community colleges. It guarantees funding for public safety services realigned from state to local governments. Increased state revenues of about \$5 to \$7 billion annually would be available to pay for the state's school and community college funding requirements, as increased by this measure, and to address the state's budgetary problem by paying for other spending commitments. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on the proposed tax initiative?

- 52% yes
- 40 no
- 8 don't know

10. **[likely voters only]** If voters reject the proposed tax initiative on the November ballot, Governor Brown's budget proposes that automatic spending cuts be made to K–12 public schools. Do you favor or oppose these automatic spending cuts to K–12 public schools?

- 23% favor
- 72 oppose
- 5 don't know

11. Next, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?

- 67% yes [*ask q11a*]
- 33 no [*skip to q12d*]

11a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

- 44% Democrat [ask q12]
- 31 Republican [skip to q12a]
- 4 another party (specify) [skip to q14]
- 21 independent [skip to q12b]

12. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?

- 52% strong
- 45 not very strong
- 2 don't know

[skip to q14]

12a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 49% strong
- 46 not very strong
- 4 don't know

[skip to q13]

12b. [independents only] Would you join a political party if it was a good reflection of your political views or do you prefer to be unaffiliated with any specific party?

- 21% join a political party
- 74 remain unaffiliated
- 5 don't know

12c. [independents only] And were you previously registered with a major party or have you always been a decline-to-state or independent voter?

- 29% previously registered
- 70 always an independent
- 1 don't know

12d. [independents and those not registered to vote] Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 22% Republican Party
- 41 Democratic Party
- 31 neither (volunteered)
- 6 don't know

[skip to q14]

13. [Republican primary likely voters only] Next, if the 2012 Republican primary for president were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for? [rotate names and then ask: or someone else?]

- 28% Mitt Romney
- 22 Rick Santorum
- 17 Newt Gingrich
- 8 Ron Paul
- 2 someone else (specify)
- 22 don't know

14. [likely voters only] If the 2012 presidential election were being held today, would you vote: [rotate] for Barack Obama, the Democrat [or] for the Republican candidate?

- 53% Barack Obama, the Democrat
- 37 Republican candidate
- 1 someone else (specify)
- 10 don't know

15. [likely voters only] In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for U.S. President in 2012?

- 53% satisfied
- 41 not satisfied
- 7 don't know

16. [likely voters only] How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2012 presidential election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 41% very closely
- 42 fairly closely
- 14 not too closely
- 2 not at all closely
- don't know

17. [likely voters only] Next, what is your preference for the outcome of this year's congressional elections: [rotate] a Congress controlled by Republicans [or] a Congress controlled by Democrats?

- 35% controlled by Republicans
- 50 controlled by Democrats
- 7 neither (volunteered)
- 8 don't know

Next, the June 5th statewide primary election includes two statewide ballot initiatives.

18. **[likely voters only]** Proposition 28 is called the “Limits on Legislators’ Terms in Office, Initiative Constitutional Amendment.” It reduces the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years and allows 12 years’ service in one house. It applies only to legislators first elected after the measure is passed. There would be no direct fiscal effect on state or local governments. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 28?

- 68% yes
- 24 no
- 8 don’t know

19. **[likely voters only]** How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 28—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 22% very important
- 45 somewhat important
- 21 not too important
- 8 not at all important
- 4 don’t know

20. **[likely voters only]** The California Legislature has operated under term limits since 1990, meaning that members of the state senate and state assembly are limited in the number of terms they can hold their elected office. Do you think that term limits are a good thing or a bad thing for California, or do they make no difference?

- 68% good thing
- 11 bad thing
- 18 no difference
- 3 don’t know

21. **[likely voters only]** Proposition 29, is called the “Imposes Additional Tax on Cigarettes for Cancer Research, Initiative Statute.” It imposes an additional \$1 per pack tax on cigarettes and an equivalent tax increase on other tobacco products. Revenues fund research for cancer and tobacco-related diseases. Fiscal impacts include a net increase in cigarette excise tax revenues of about \$735 million annually by 2013–14 for certain research and tobacco prevention and cessation programs and other state and local revenue increases amounting to tens of millions of dollars annually. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 29?

- 67% yes
- 30 no
- 3 don’t know

22. **[likely voters only]** How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 29—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 41% very important
- 37 somewhat important
- 15 not too important
- 6 not at all important
- 1 don’t know

23. **[likely voters only]** Tax increases could be used to help pay for state spending. In general, would you favor or oppose increasing taxes on the purchase of cigarettes?

- 63% favor
- 34 oppose
- 2 don’t know

24. **[likely voters only]** Next, the governor and legislature passed a water package in 2010 that includes water conservation requirements and plans for new water storage systems, water clean-up and recycling, and a council to oversee restoration of the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. This package includes an \$11.1 billion state bond measure on the November 2012 ballot to pay for water projects. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on the \$11.1 billion state water bond?

- 51% yes
- 35 no
- 14 don't know

25. **[likely voters only]** How important is it that voters pass the state water bond measure?

- 37% very important
- 32 somewhat important
- 11 not too important
- 12 not at all important
- 8 don't know

26. **[likely voters only]** 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?

- 35% big problem
- 35 somewhat of a problem
- 28 not much of a problem
- 2 don't know

Next, as you may know, California voters passed a \$10 billion state bond in 2008 for planning and construction of a high-speed rail system from Southern California to the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area. The estimated costs associated with the 800-mile high-speed rail system are about \$100 billion over the next 20 years.

27. Do you favor or oppose building a high-speed rail system in California?

- 51% favor
- 45 oppose
- 4 don't know

28. Thinking ahead, how important is the high-speed rail system for the future quality of life and economic vitality of California—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 33% very important
- 26 somewhat important
- 17 not too important
- 21 not at all important
- 2 don't know

29. On another topic, overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States?

- 59% approve
- 36 disapprove
- 5 don't know

30. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?

- 24% approve
- 68 disapprove
- 8 don't know

For each of the following issues, please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

[rotate questions 31 to 34]

31. **[rotate]** (1) Government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest **[or]** (2) Government regulation of business does more harm than good.

- 48% is necessary
- 43 does more harm than good
- 8 don't know

32. **[rotate]** (1) Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy **[or]** (2) Stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost.

- 45% cost too many jobs, hurt the economy
- 47 are worth the cost
- 8 don't know

33. **[rotate]** (1) The government should pass more laws that restrict the availability of abortion **[or]** (2) The government should not interfere with a woman's access to abortion.

- 28% should pass more laws
- 68 should not interfere
- 3 don't know

34. **[rotate]** (1) The government goes too far in restricting the rights of citizens to own guns **[or]** (2) The government does not do enough to regulate access to guns.

- 38% goes too far
- 53 does not do enough
- 9 don't know

35. In general, do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal or not?

- 45% yes, legal
- 51 no, not legal
- 4 don't know

36. Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to be legally married?

- 52% favor
- 41 oppose
- 6 don't know

37. On another topic, please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view—even if neither is exactly right. **[rotate]** (1) Immigrants today are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills **[or]** (2) Immigrants today are a burden to California because they use public services.

- 58% immigrants are a benefit to California
- 35 immigrants are a burden to California
- 8 don't know

38. If you had to choose, what do you think should happen to most illegal immigrants who have lived and worked in the United States for at least two years? **[rotate]** (1) They should be given a chance to keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status **[or]** (2) They should be deported back to their native country.

- 70% chance to keep their jobs
- 25 deported back to their native country
- 5 don't know

39. Changing topics, overall, given what you know about them, would you say you support or oppose the changes to the health care system that have been enacted by **[rotate]** (1) Congress **[and]** (2) the Obama administration?

- 47% support
- 39 oppose
- 14 don't know

40. Do you favor or oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance or pay a fine if they don't?

- 32% favor
- 63 oppose
- 5 don't know

41. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically: **[read list, rotate order top to bottom]**

- 12% very liberal
- 20 somewhat liberal
- 31 middle-of-the-road
- 21 somewhat conservative
- 11 very conservative
- 4 don't know

42. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or none?

- 24% great deal
- 35 fair amount
- 32 only a little
- 9 none
- 1 don't know

[d1-d19: demographic questions]

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Mark Baldassare is President and CEO of PPIC.

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