PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Rachel Lawler, Deja Thomas

Supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, and the PPIC Donor Circle

May 26, 2021
Californians and Their Government

- PPIC Survey series on state and national issues since 1999
- Public perceptions, attitudes, and policy preferences
- Telephone interviews, May 9–18, 2021
  - 75% cell phone, 25% landline
  - 1,705 adults, ± 3.2% margin of error
  - 1,074 likely voters, ± 4.2% margin of error
Approval of state elected officials has been steady

Governor Newsom
California Legislature

% adults

Jan 19  May 19  Sep 19  Jan 20  May 20  Sep 20  Jan 21  May 21

Governor Newsom
California Legislature

% adults

55 49 44 49 56 65 55 49

55 54 43 63 77 20 23 44 39

All adults  Likely voters  Dem  Rep  Ind
Support for a recall of Governor Newsom remains partisan

If a special election to recall Governor Newsom were held today, would you vote yes to remove Newsom as governor or no to keep Newsom as governor?

![Bar chart showing support for a recall of Governor Newsom remained partisan]

- All likely voters: 40% for yes, 57% for no
- Dem: 11% for yes, 86% for no
- Rep: 20% for yes, 78% for no
- Ind: 47% for yes, 49% for no
- Men: 48% for yes, 48% for no
- Women: 32% for yes, 66% for no
Opinions vary on how a recall would affect California

If Governor Newsom is recalled from office, do you think things in California would get better, would get worse, or would it make no difference?

- All likely voters: 29% would get better, 28% make no difference, 34% would get worse.
- Republicans: 55% would get better, 24% make no difference, 10% would get worse.
- Independents: 32% would get better, 30% make no difference, 27% would get worse.
- Democrats: 11% would get better, 27% make no difference, 55% would get worse.
Fewer Californians say the state budget situation is a big problem
Income affects how Californians see their personal financial situation

Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape, or poor shape financially?

- **All adults**
  - Poor: 13%
  - Only fair: 39%
  - Good: 36%
  - Excellent: 11%

- **Likely voters**
  - Poor: 9%
  - Only fair: 34%
  - Good: 40%
  - Excellent: 16%

- **Under $40,000**
  - Poor: 24%
  - Only fair: 46%
  - Good: 23%
  - Excellent: 6%

- **$40,000 to under $80,000**
  - Poor: 10%
  - Only fair: 47%
  - Good: 36%
  - Excellent: 7%

- **$80,000 or more**
  - Poor: 1%
  - Only fair: 24%
  - Good: 53%
  - Excellent: 20%
Most Californians see the gap between rich and poor widening

- 62% of all adults think the gap is getting larger.
- 65% of likely voters think the gap is getting larger.
- 71% of Democrats think the gap is getting larger.
- 83% of all adults think the state should do more to reduce the gap.
- 58% of likely voters think the state should do more to reduce the gap.
- 72% of Democrats think the state should do more to reduce the gap.
- 62% of all adults think the state should do more to reduce the gap.
- 34% of Republicans think the state should do more to reduce the gap.
- 67% of all adults think the state should do more to reduce the gap.
- 56% of Independents think the state should do more to reduce the gap.
Californians have mixed views of federal elected officials

- President Biden: 66% approve, 30% disapprove
- Speaker Pelosi: 50% approve, 38% disapprove
- Minority Leader McCarthy: 32% approve, 37% disapprove
- US Congress: 43% approve, 49% disapprove
More Californians expect good times financially in the US during next 12 months

% all adults


55
Some groups remain hesitant about getting the COVID-19 vaccine

When it becomes available to you, will you definitely get the vaccine, probably get it, probably not get it, or definitely not get it?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Definitely not get</th>
<th>Probably not get</th>
<th>Probably get</th>
<th>Definitely get</th>
<th>Already got vaccine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2021</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2021</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2021</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A majority of Californians support the 2021 Equality Act

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A majority of Californians favor the Affordable Care Act
Other Topics

- Top issues facing people in California today
- Support for stimulus checks and rent and utility assistance
- Concern about getting the coronavirus
- Rating of state’s vaccine distribution
- Single-payer state healthcare system
- Gun policy
These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

Dean Bonner (bonner@ppic.org; 415-291-4497)

Thank you for your interest in this work.