

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

November 20, 2019

#PPICsurvey

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Alyssa Dykman, and Rachel Lawler

Supported with funding from the James Irvine Foundation
and the PPIC Donor Circle



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

25 YEARS

Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- State election and policy landscape
- Federal election and policy landscape
- Conclusions

PPIC Statewide Survey mission

- Provide timely, relevant, nonpartisan data on political, social, and economic opinions
- Inform and improve state policymaking, raise awareness, encourage discussion
- Provide a voice for all Californians in important state policy debates
 - 360,000+ Californians interviewed since 1998
 - 180+ general, issue, and regional surveys

Californians and Their Government

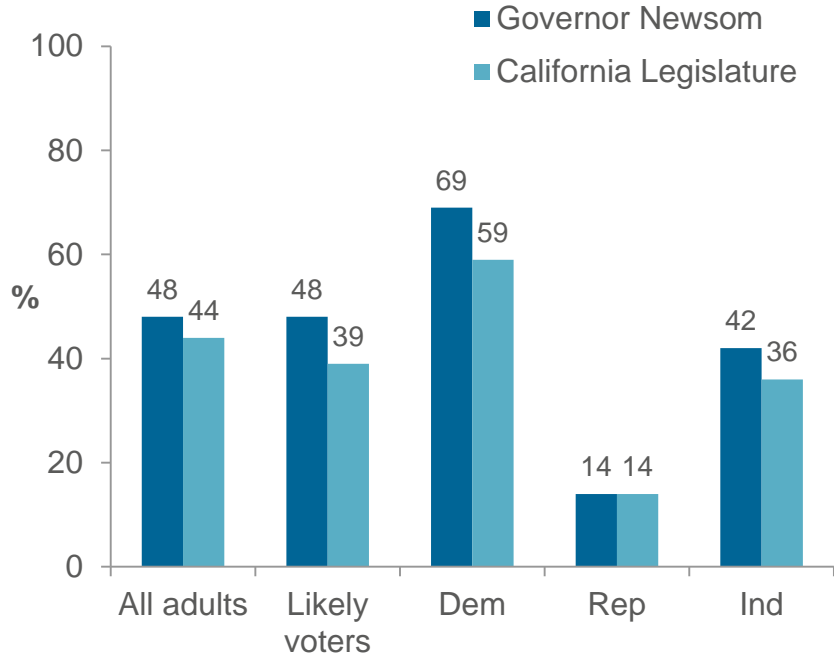
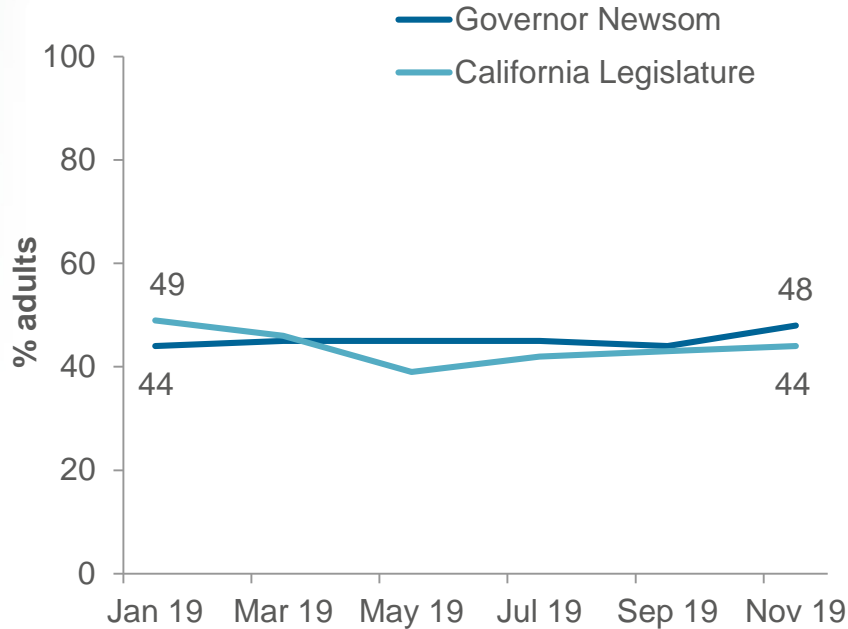
- General series funded by the James Irvine Foundation and the PPIC Donor Circle
- Telephone interviews, November 3–12, 2019
 - 70% cell phone, 30% landline
 - 1,711 adults, $\pm 3.3\%$ margin of error
 - 1,008 likely voters, $\pm 4.3\%$ margin of error
- Views on state elected officials, wildfires, power shutoffs, homelessness, and potential state ballot measures
- Opinions on federal elected officials, the impeachment inquiry, health care policy, and the 2020 Democratic primary



Outline

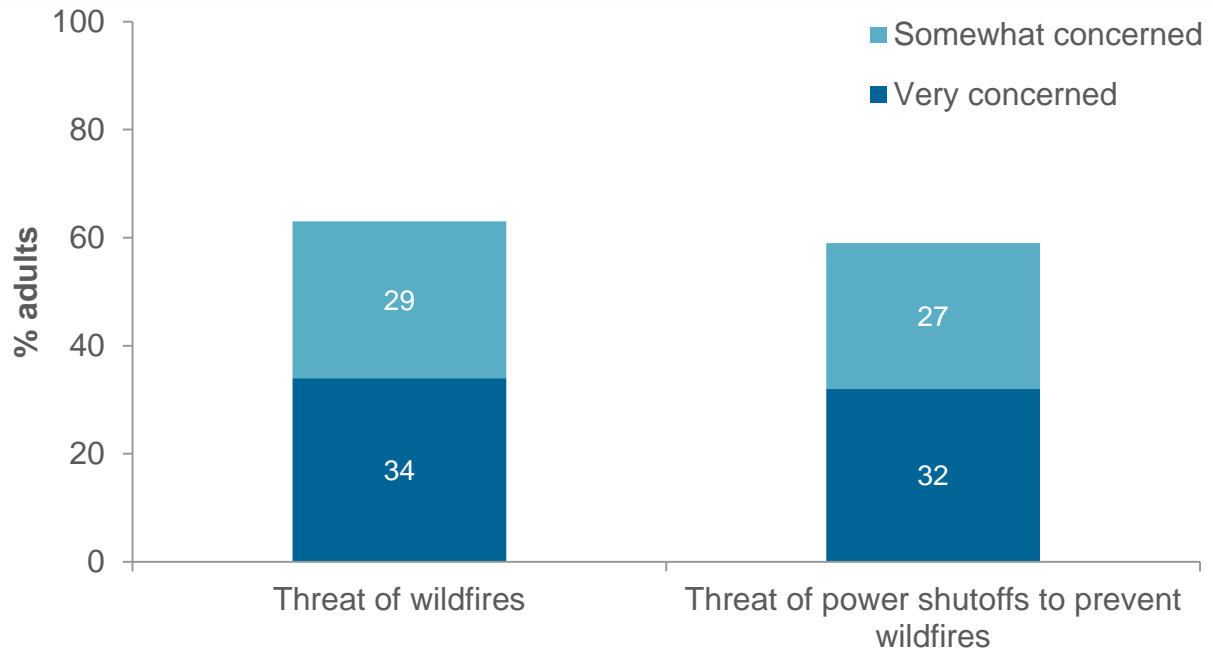
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Approval of state elected officials



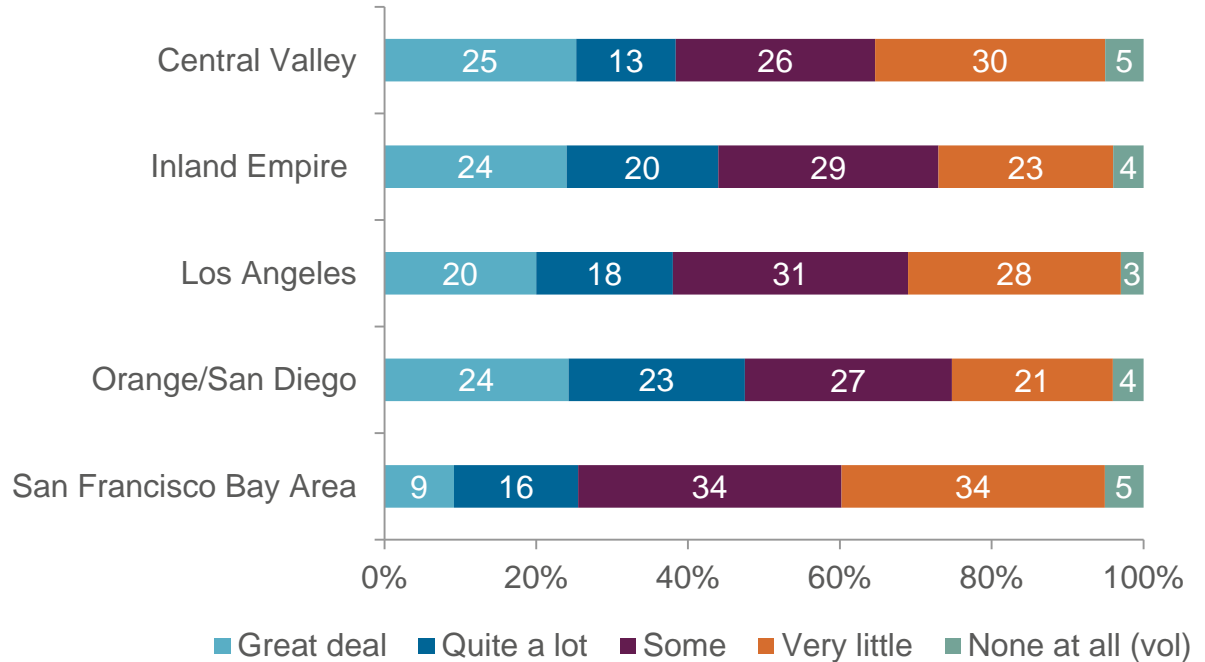
Concern about wildfires and power shutoffs

How concerned have you been about the threat of ... where you live? Have you been very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

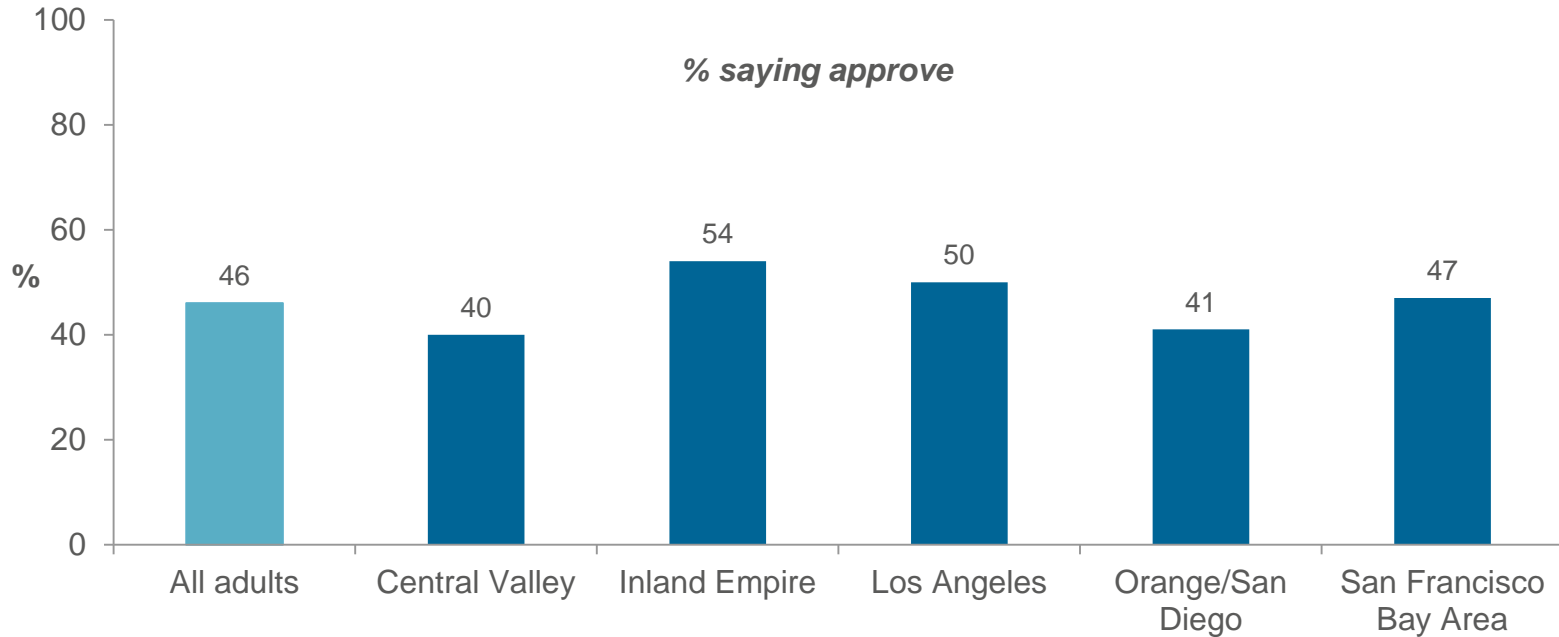


Confidence in local utility provider

When it comes to handling the issue of power shutoffs to prevent wildfires, how much confidence do you have in your local utility provider—a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?

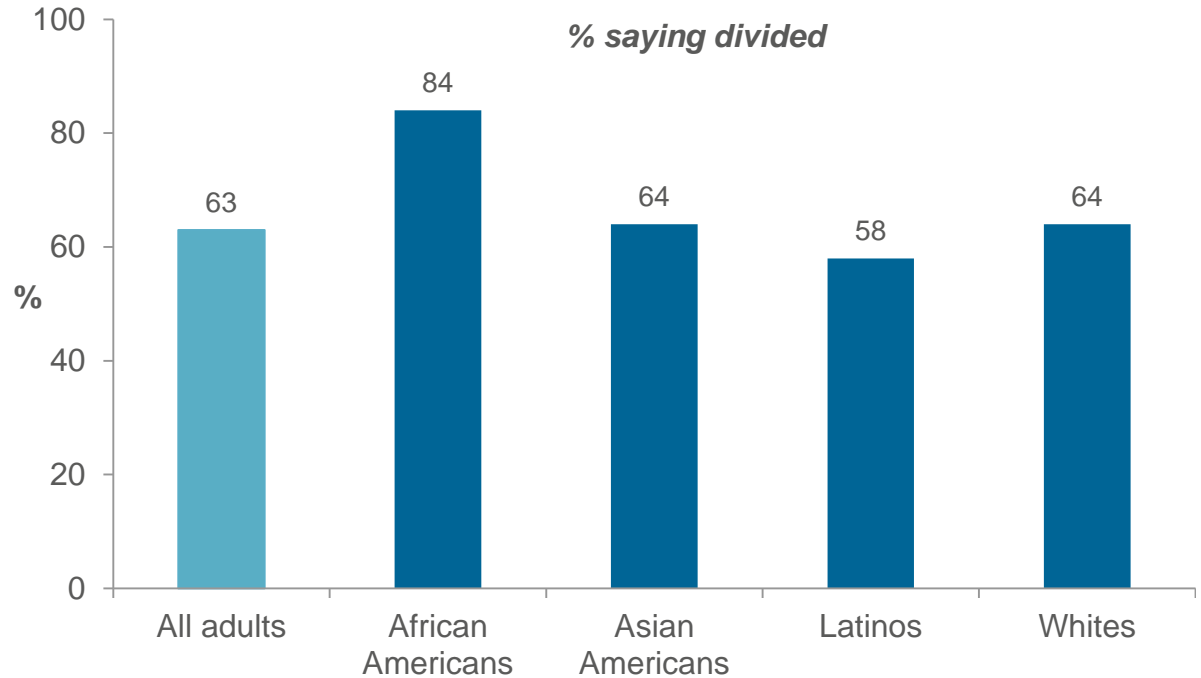


Approval of governor's handling of wildfires and power shutoffs



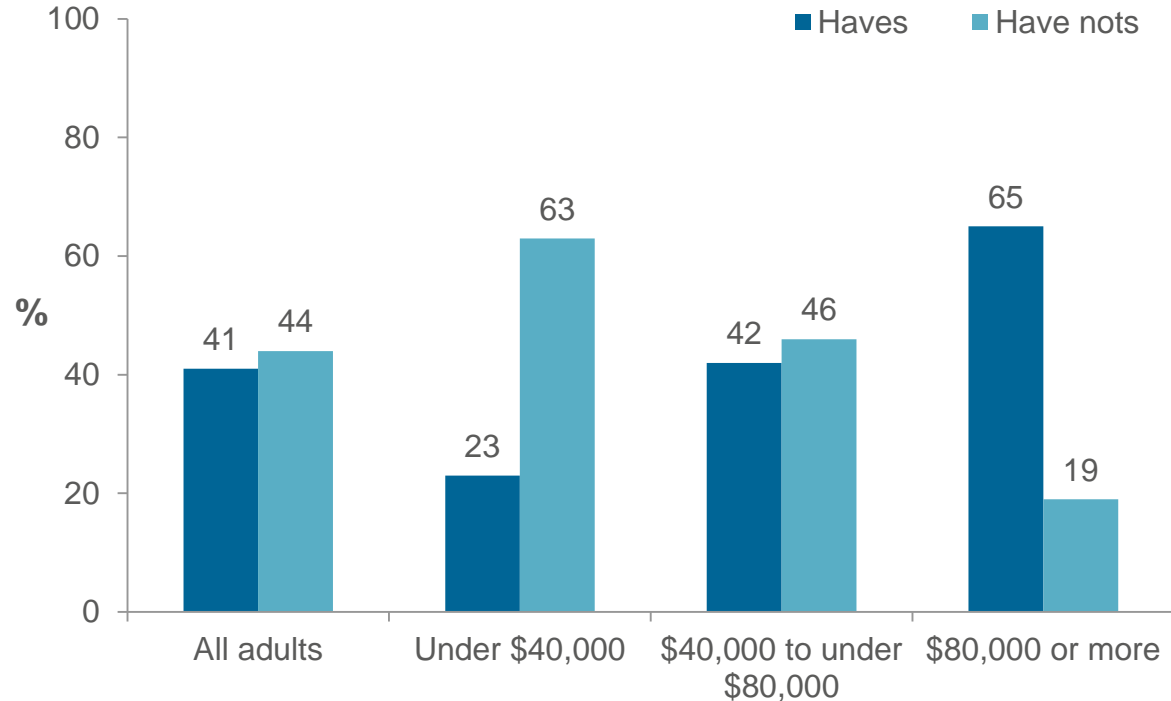
Income inequality in California

Do you think that California is divided into haves and have nots, or do you think that California is not divided that way?



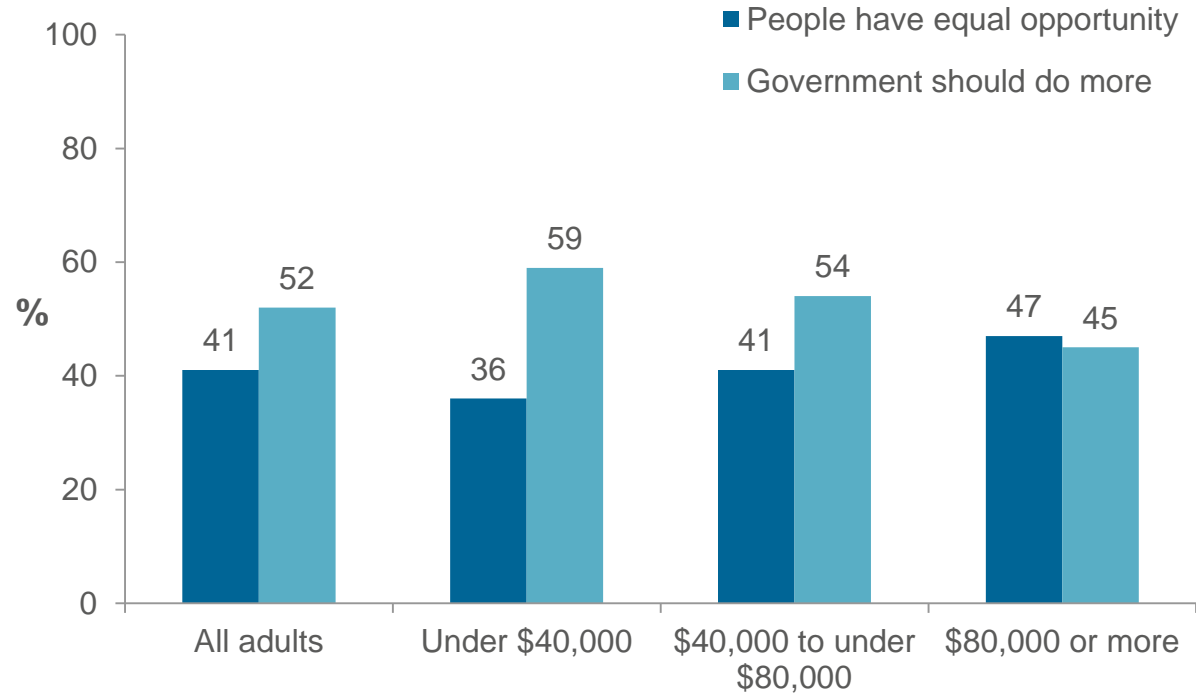
Haves or have nots

If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in—the haves or have nots?



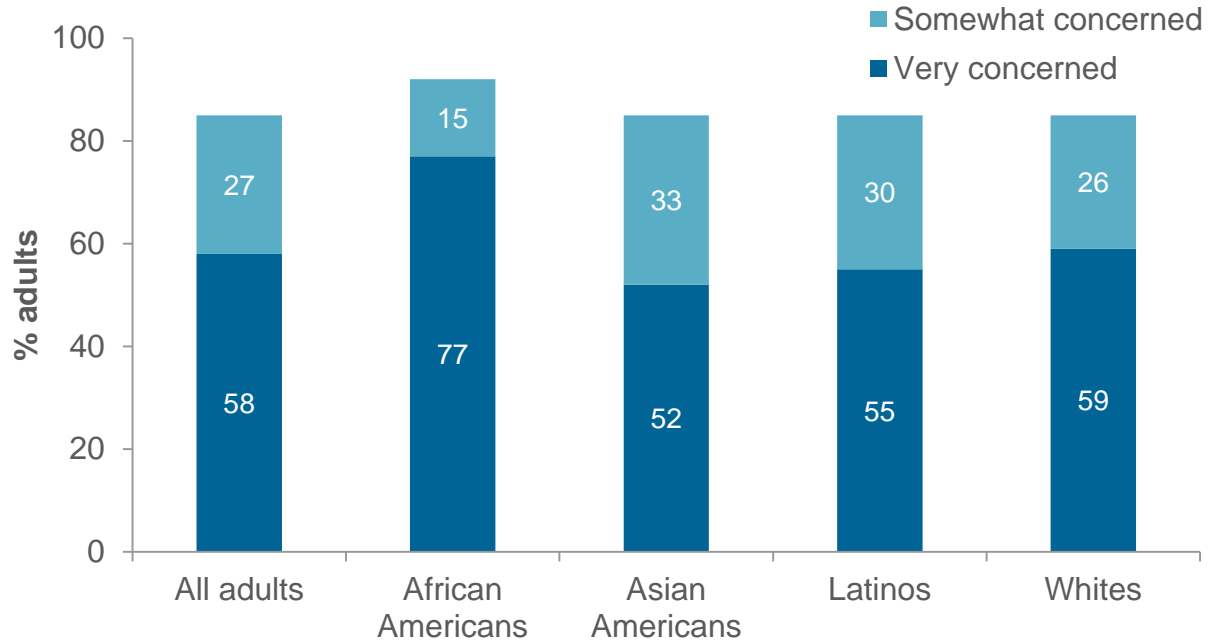
Government and income inequality

Do you think that in California today all people have an equal opportunity to get ahead, or that the government should do more to make sure that all Californians have an equal opportunity to get ahead?



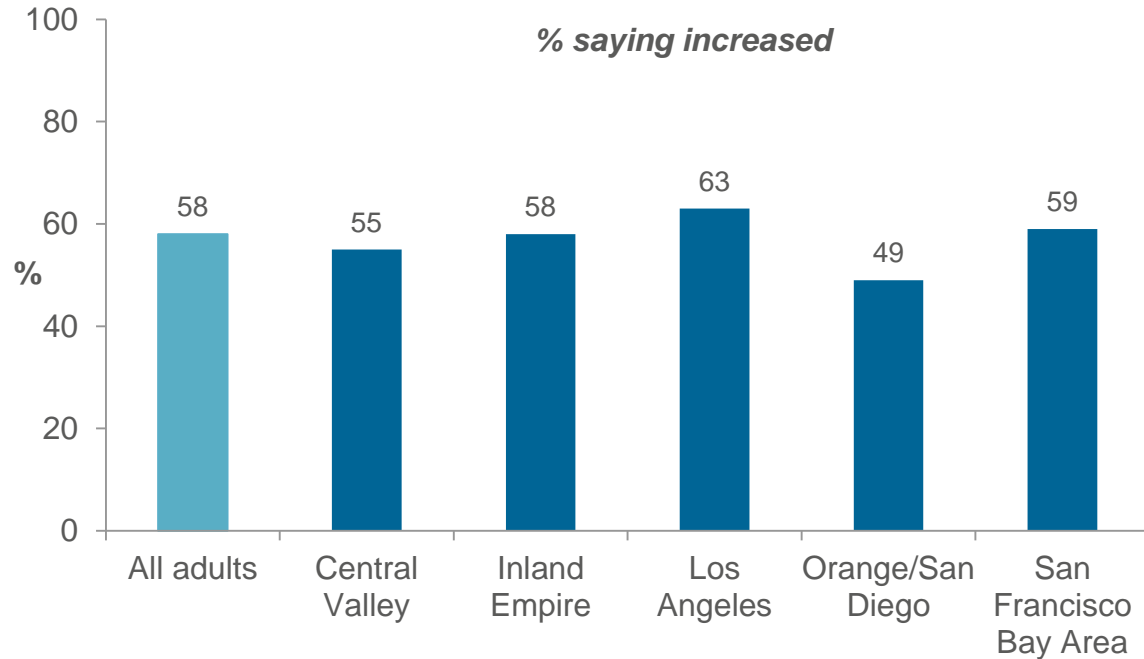
Concern about presence of homeless people

How concerned are you about the presence of homeless people in your local community? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?



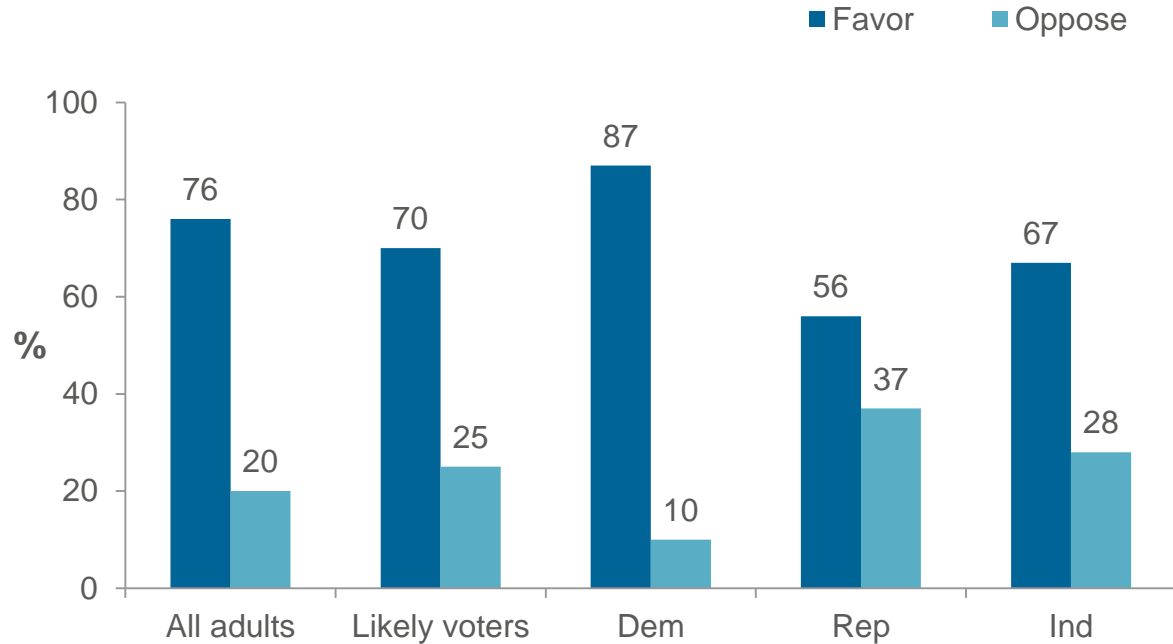
Change in presence of homeless people

In the last 12 months, do you think that the presence of homeless people in your local community has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?



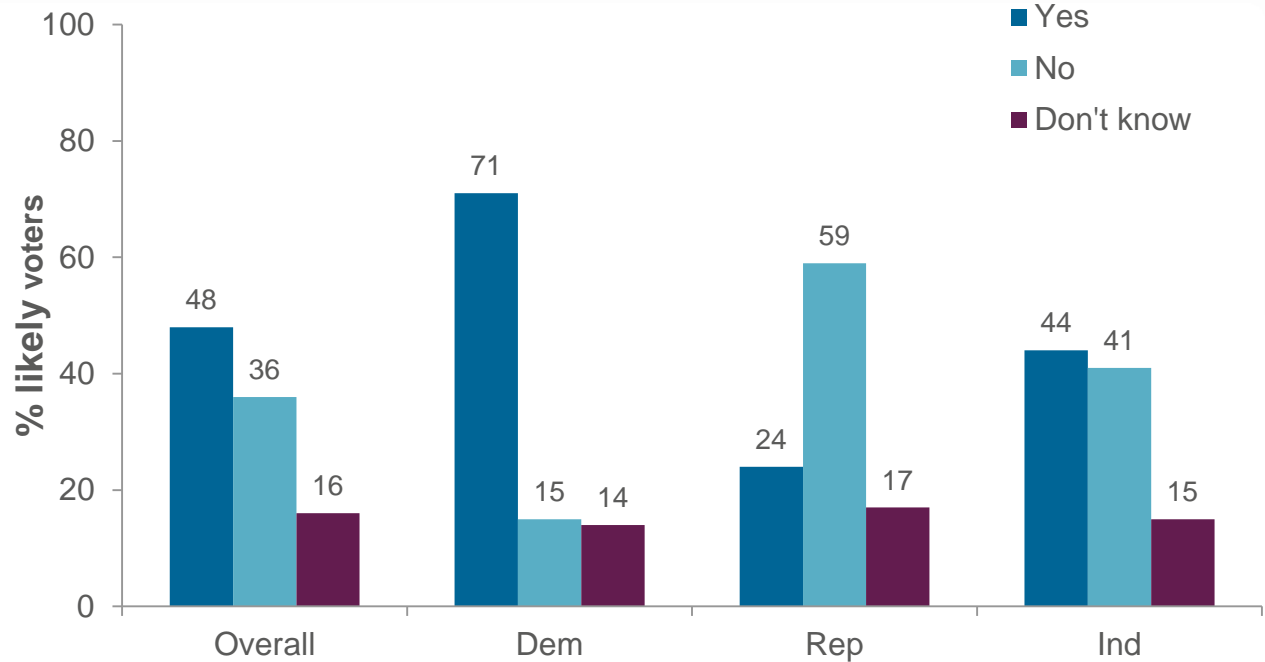
“Right to shelter” policy

A new state policy could require local governments to construct enough shelter beds so that any homeless person requesting to come indoors can do so. In general, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

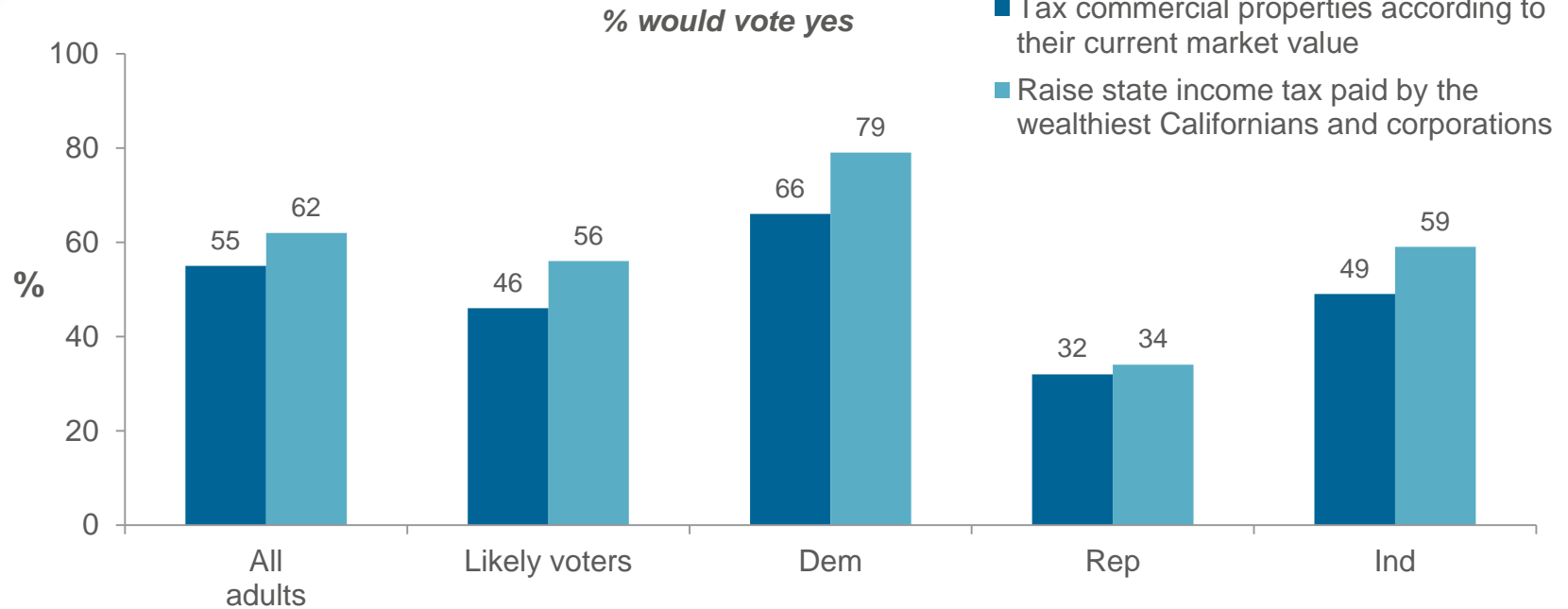


State bond for educational facilities

Proposition 13 is called the “Public Preschool, K-12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2020. Initiative Statute”.... If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 13?



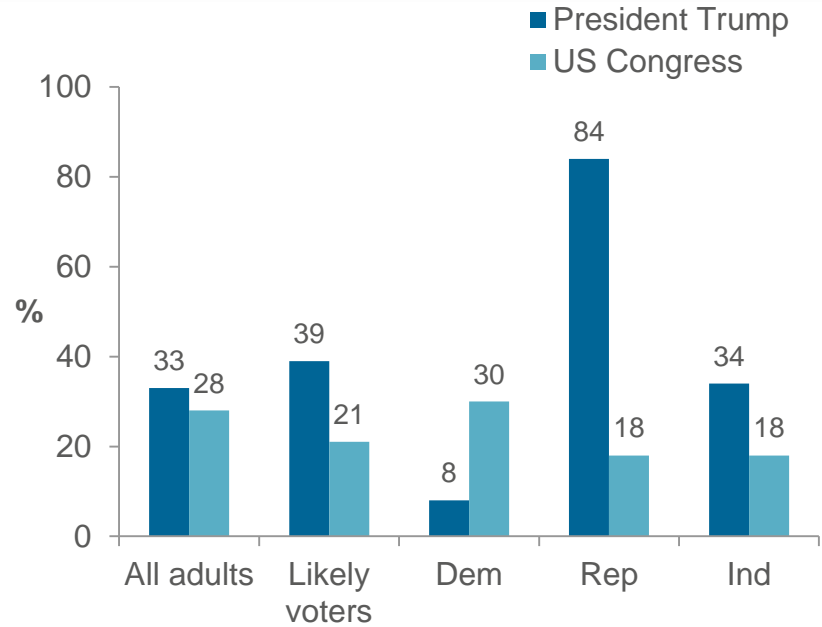
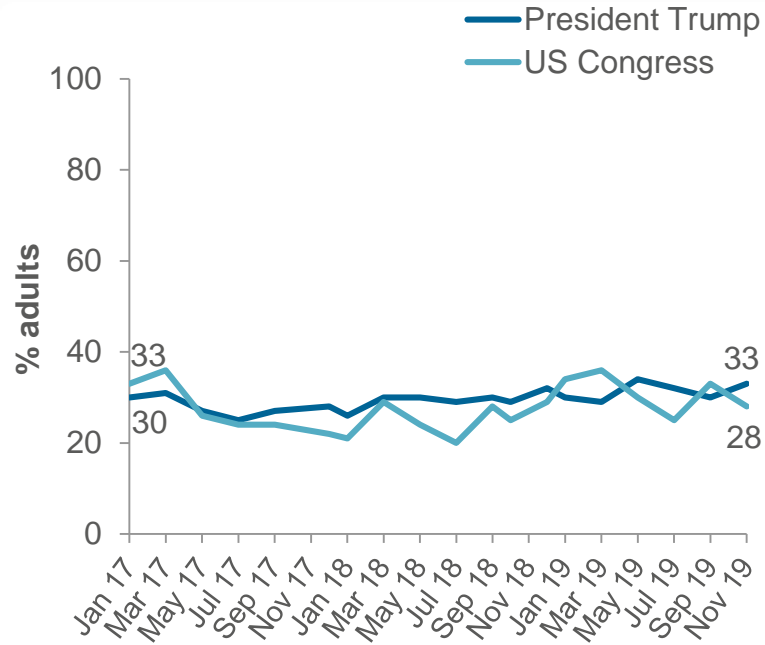
Possible November 2020 ballot initiatives



Outline

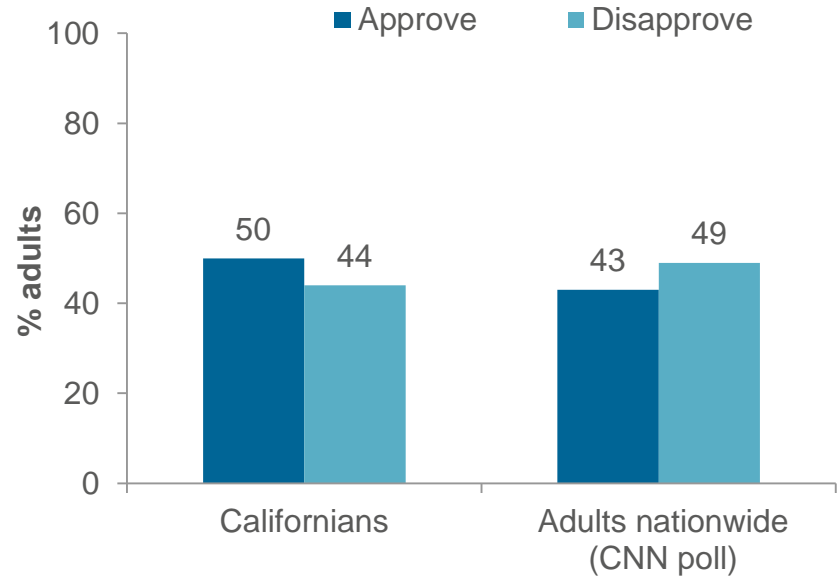
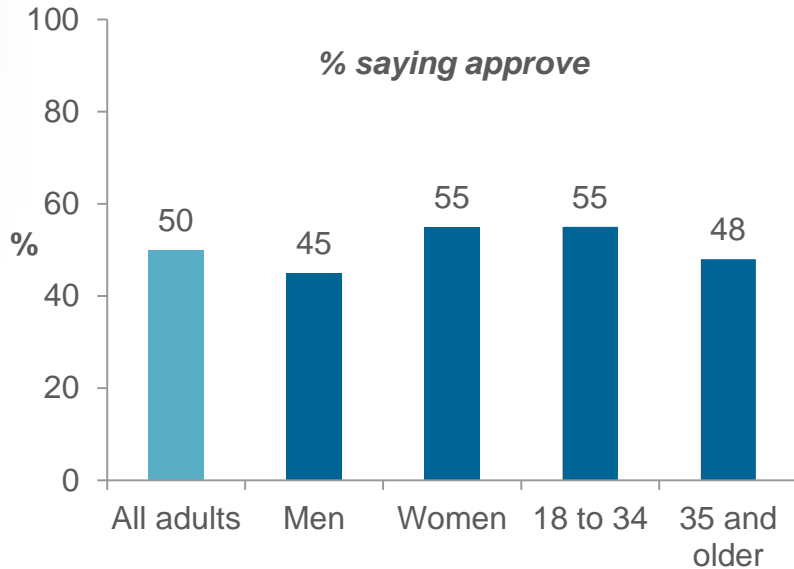
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Approval of federal elected officials



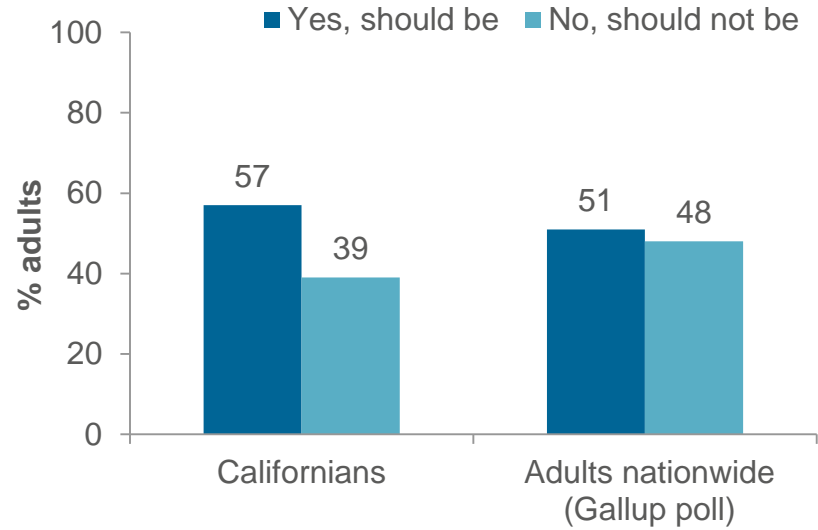
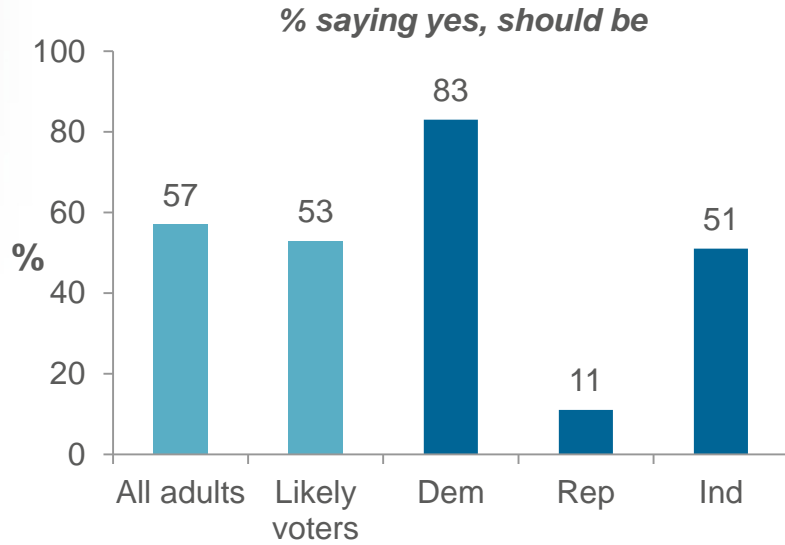
Democrats' handling of impeachment inquiry

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Democrats in Congress are handling the current impeachment inquiry into Donald Trump?

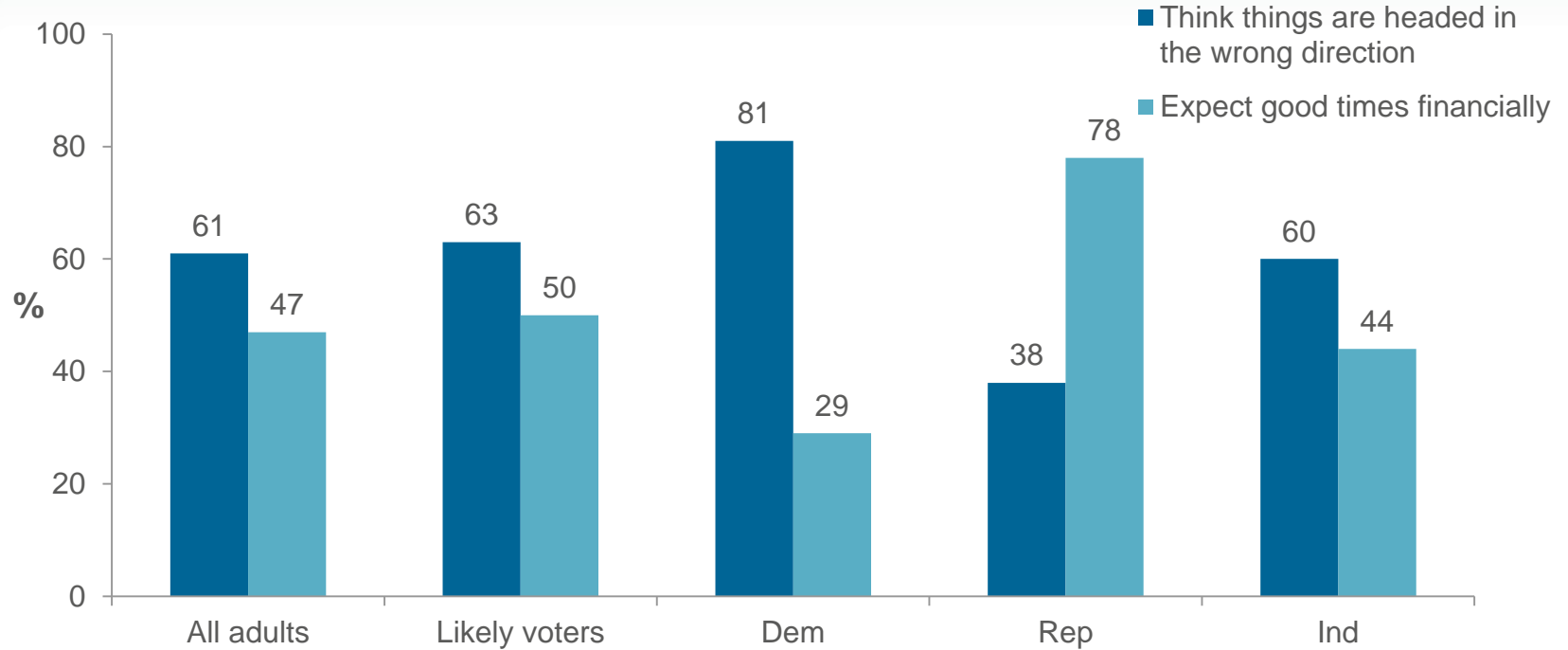


Support for the impeachment of Donald Trump

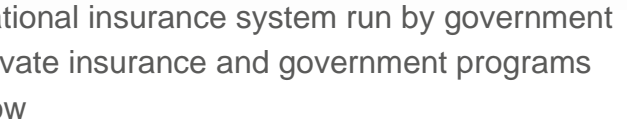
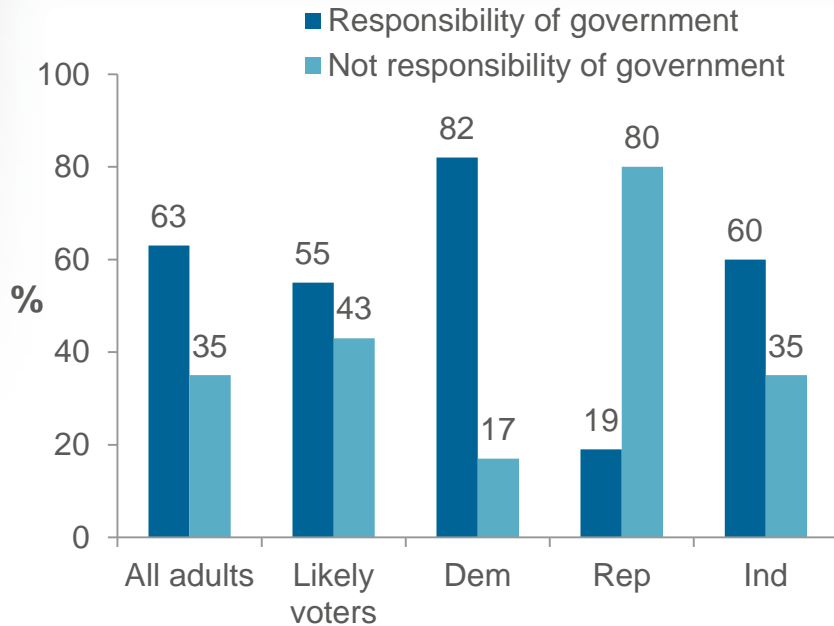
Based on what you know at this point, do you think that Donald Trump should or should not be impeached and removed from office?



Outlook for the nation



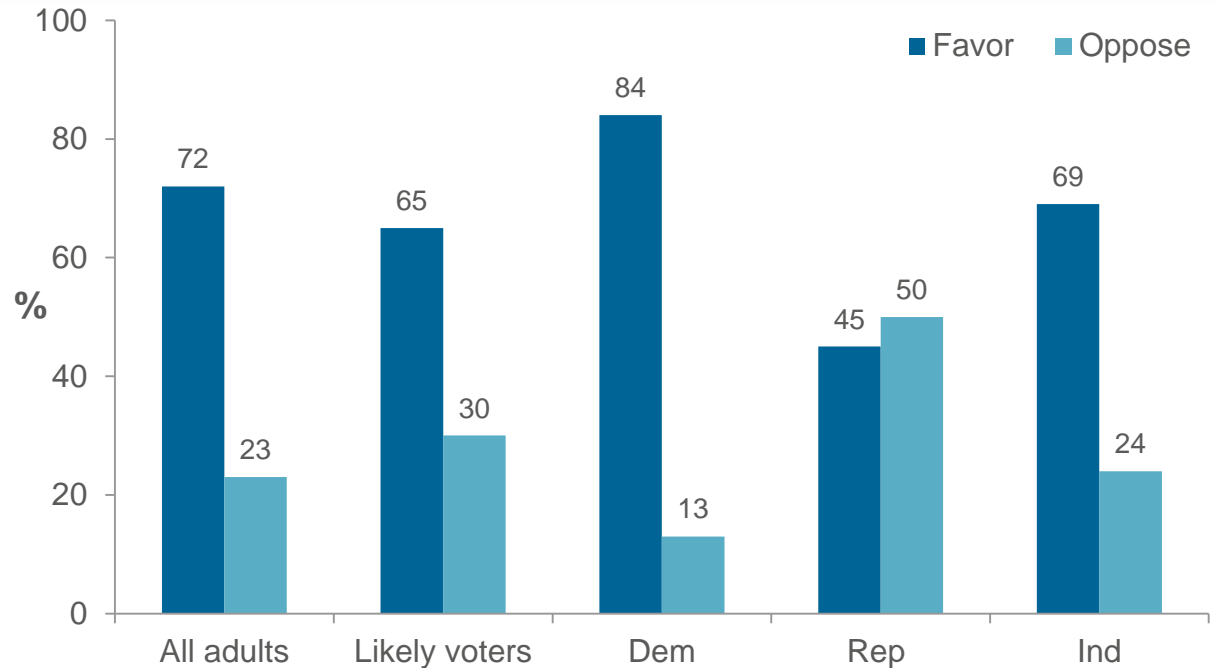
Federal government's role in health care coverage



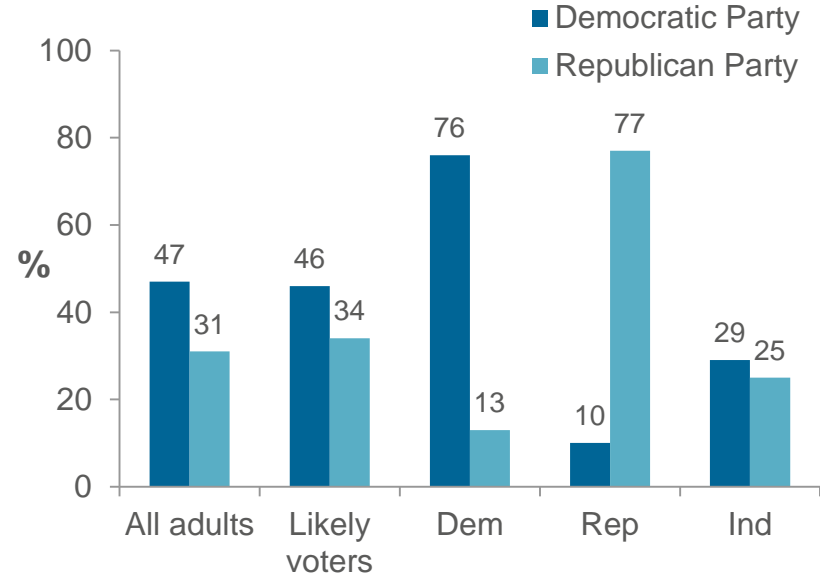
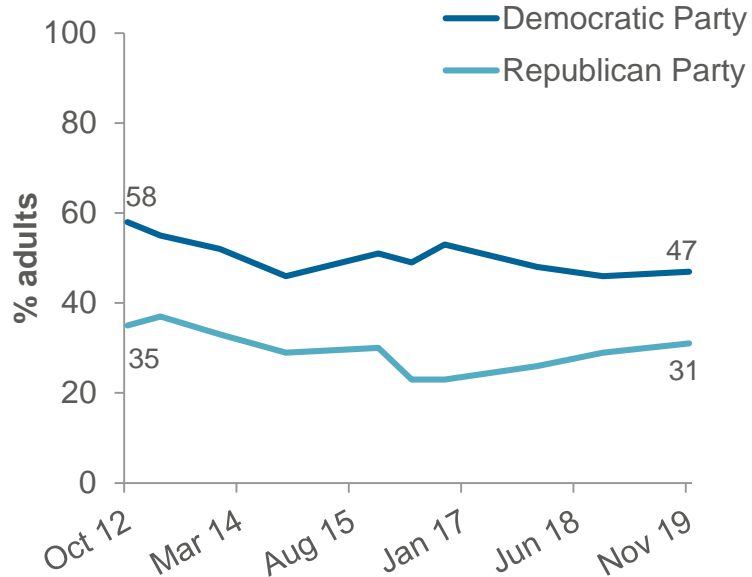
Among those who think it is government's responsibility

Support for a public option

Do you favor or oppose a government-administered health plan, sometimes called a public option, that would compete with private health insurance plans and be available to all Americans?

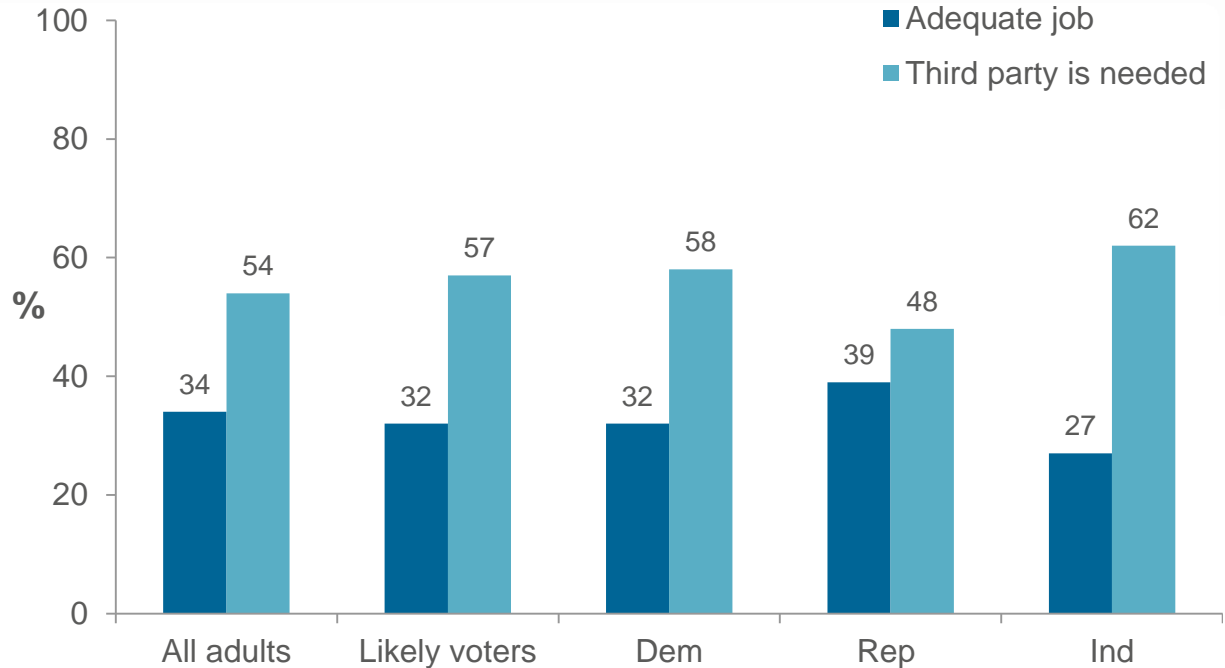


Favorability of major political parties



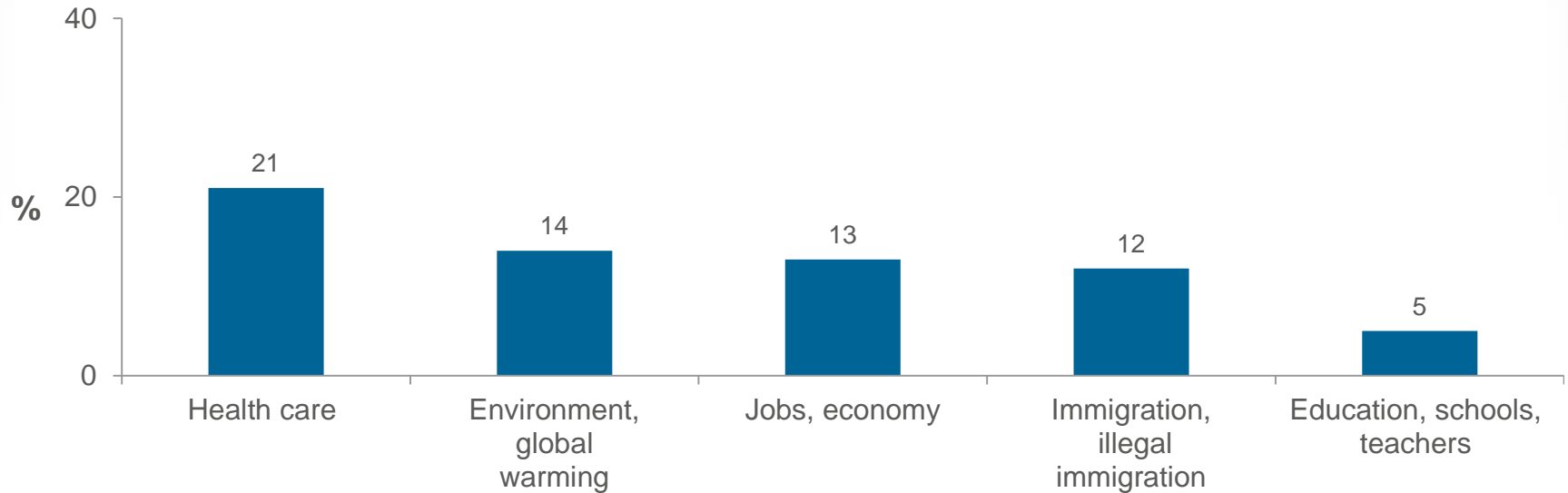
Need for a third major party

In your view, do the Republican and Democratic Parties do an adequate job representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed?



Top issue for candidates to talk about during debates

Which one issue would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about between now and the March primary?

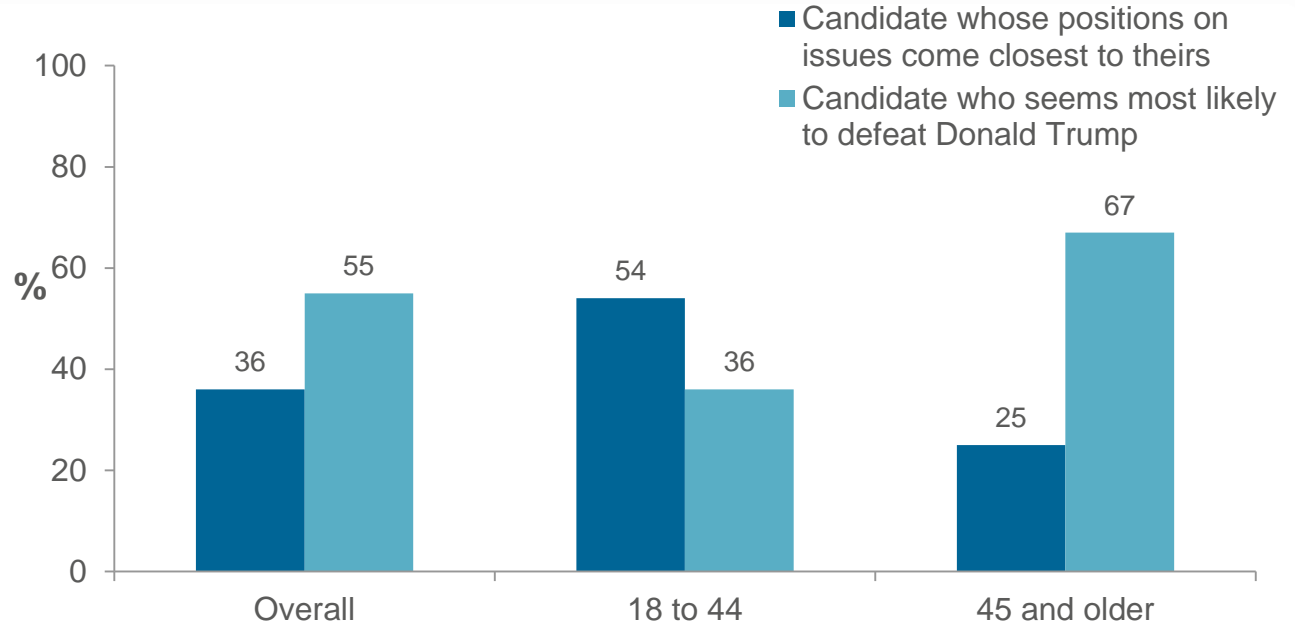


Democratic primary likely voters



Preference for Democratic nominee

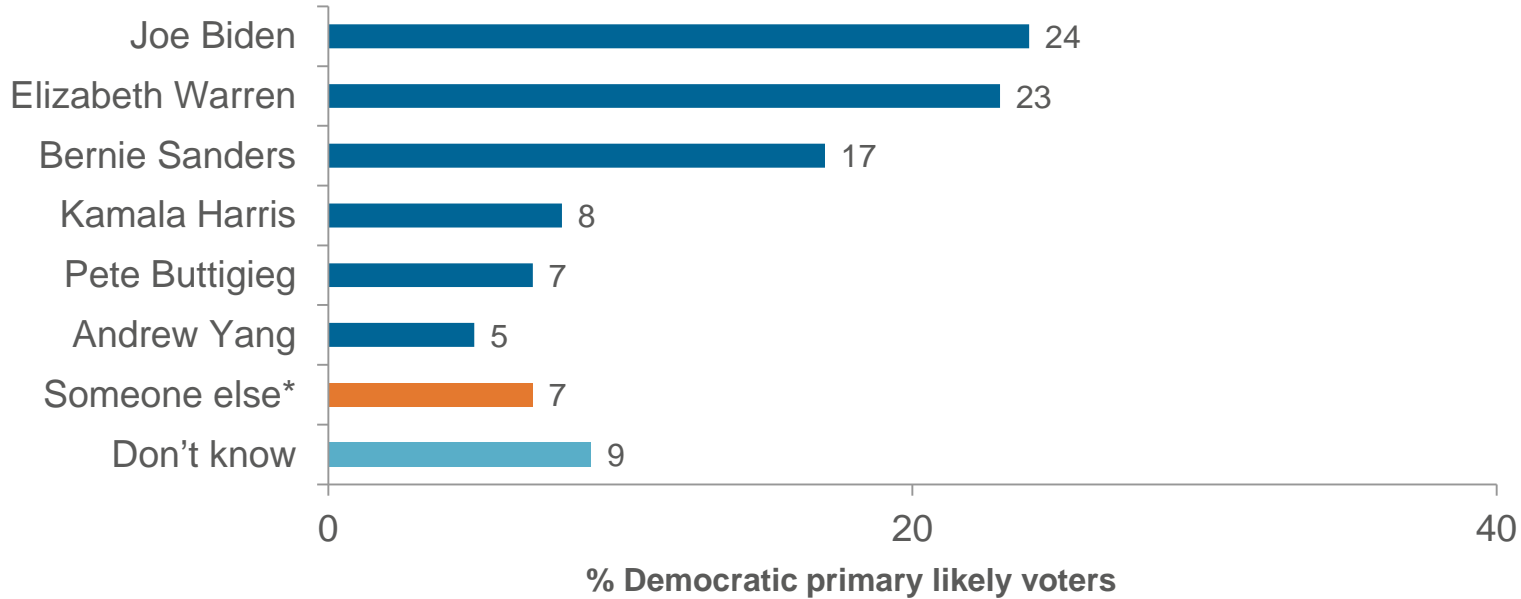
What's more important to you—that Democrats nominate the presidential candidate whose positions on the issues come closest to yours, or the candidate who seems most likely to defeat Donald Trump in November 2020?



Democratic primary likely voters



Preferred candidate for 2020 Democratic primary



**Respondents were read nine candidate names and also had the option of naming someone else.*



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Conclusions

- Many Californians are concerned about wildfires and power shutoffs; the governor and local utility providers get mixed reviews for their handling of the issue.
- Majorities across regions are very concerned about homeless people in their community, and many have noticed an increase in the local homeless population.
- Fewer than half support the state school bond on the March ballot, while majorities favor a tax on the wealthy for school funding that could be on the November ballot.
- Most favor impeaching President Trump and are divided about the way Democrats in Congress are handling the inquiry.
- Most expect good economic times next year—but they also think the nation is headed in the wrong direction.
- Biden, Warren, and Sanders lead in the Democratic presidential primary. Likely voters most want to hear the candidates talk about health care and the environment.



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Notes on the use of these slides

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:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.