PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment

July 27, 2018

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Alyssa Dykman, Lunna Lopes

Supported with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Flora Family Foundation, and the Heising-Simons Foundation
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- 2018 election and environmental issues
- Public perceptions and policy preferences
- 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
  - 350,000+ Californians interviewed since 1998
  - 170+ general, issue, and regional surveys
Californians and the Environment

- Conducted with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Flora Family Foundation, and the Heising-Simons Foundation

- Telephone interviews, July 8–17, 2018
  - 70% cell phone, 30% landline
  - 1,711 adults, ± 3.4% margin of error
  - 1,020 likely voters, ± 4.3% margin of error

- Preferences in gubernatorial and US Senate races, water, air pollution, and coastal issues

- Approval ratings, climate change and energy policy
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Gubernatorial election preferences

If the November 6 election for governor were being held today, would you vote for...?

- Gavin Newsom: 55%
- John Cox: 31%
- Would not vote for governor (vol.): 5%
- Don't know: 9%

% likely voters
Importance of gubernatorial candidates’ positions on the environment

In thinking about the California governor’s election in November, how important to you are the candidates’ positions on the environment in determining your vote?

% saying very important

% likely voters

Jul-06 44
Jul-10 41
Jul-14 40
Jul-18 56
US Senate election preferences

If the November 6 election for the US Senate were being held today, would you vote for…?

- Dianne Feinstein: 46%
- Kevin de León: 24%
- Would not vote for US Senator (vol.): 20%
- Don't know: 9%

% likely voters
Should candidates work with the Trump administration or push back on environmental issues?

Which of the following is more important to you in candidates for statewide office, such as governor or US senator, when it comes to environmental issues—that they work with the Trump administration or that they push back against the Trump administration?
The November 6 ballot has a state bond measure of approximately $8.9 billion to pay for various water infrastructure projects. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no?
Most important environmental issue

- Water supply and drought: 24%
- Air pollution: 15%
- Global warming: 12%
- Water pollution: 8%
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?
Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Somewhat of a problem</th>
<th>Big problem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Valley</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Empire</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange/San Diego</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco Bay Area</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Air pollution in lower-income areas

Do you think that air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your part of California, or not?

% saying yes

- Under $40,000: 64%
- $40,000 to under $80,000: 56%
- $80,000 or more: 48%
- African Americans: 76%
- Asian Americans: 58%
- Latinos: 71%
- Whites: 42%
California’s ocean and beaches

Importance of the condition of the ocean and beaches for California’s future

- Somewhat important
- Very important

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All adults</th>
<th>Dem</th>
<th>Rep</th>
<th>Ind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rating of the overall health and quality of the ocean along the California coast

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Don't know

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Concerns about coastal issues

- Ocean warming having an impact on marine and coastal life
- Sea level rise having an impact on flooding and erosion

% saying very concerned:

- All adults: 50% (Ocean) 45% (Ind)
- Dem: 65% (Ocean) 56% (Ind)
- Rep: 27% (Ocean) 22% (Ind)
- Ind: 57% (Ocean) 44% (Ind)
Support for more oil drilling off the coast

How about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast?
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Approval of state and federal elected officials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall approval</th>
<th>Environmental issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor Brown</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Legislature</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Trump</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Congress</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Approval trends for state elected officials on environmental issues

Governor Brown
California Legislature
State leadership on climate change

Favor California making its own policies
Say it is very important California act as a world leader

% 65 54 62 51 82 67 29 23 61 48

All adults Likely voters Dem Rep Ind
Effects of global warming

Which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen?

% saying already begun

- Californians
- Adults nationwide*

*Gallup polls 2005–2018
How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California's future?

- All adults: 56%
- Likely voters: 57%
- African Americans: 60%
- Asian Americans: 57%
- Latinos: 64%
- Whites: 50%
Thinking about the possible impact of global warming in California, how concerned are you about more severe wildfires because of extreme weather?
How important is the issue of global warming to you personally?

- Somewhat important:
  - Californians: 34%
  - Adults nationwide: 28%

- Very important:
  - Californians: 28%
  - Adults nationwide: 28%

- Extremely important:
  - Californians: 20%
  - Adults nationwide: 20%
Support for SB 32’s emission-reduction goal

To address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030?
Do you favor or oppose a proposed state law that would require 100 percent of the state’s electricity to come from renewable energy by the year 2045?
Support for higher emissions standards

How about setting higher emissions standards for automobiles?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>All adults</th>
<th>Likely voters</th>
<th>Dem</th>
<th>Rep</th>
<th>Ind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% saying favor</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Californians</td>
<td>Favor: 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults nationwide   (Gallup poll)</td>
<td>Favor: 66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact of state climate policies on jobs and gas prices

Impact on jobs

- More jobs: 48%
- Fewer jobs: 18%
- Wouldn't affect the number of jobs: 23%
- Don't know: 11%

Impact on gas prices

- Increase gas prices: 56%
- Decrease gas prices: 16%
- Wouldn't affect gas prices: 17%
- Don't know: 11%
In the system called “cap and trade,” the California state government issues permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out… Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?
How important to you is it that some of the cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities?
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Conclusions

- Newsom leads Cox in November’s gubernatorial election; Feinstein leads de León in the US Senate race. Most likely voters say candidates’ positions on the environment are important.

- Californians are most likely to name water supply and drought as the top environmental issue; a majority of likely voters favor the $8.9 billion water bond on the November ballot.

- Approval ratings for the president and Congress on environmental issues remain far lower than those for the governor and state legislature.

- There are wide partisan differences in views on climate change and what the state should do about it.

- Many Californians say global warming is important to them personally and majorities across regions fear more severe wildfires due to extreme weather.
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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.