

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment

August 1, 2019

#PPICsurvey

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Supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, and the Flora Family Foundation



**PPIC**

PUBLIC POLICY  
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

25 YEARS

# Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Public perceptions
- 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

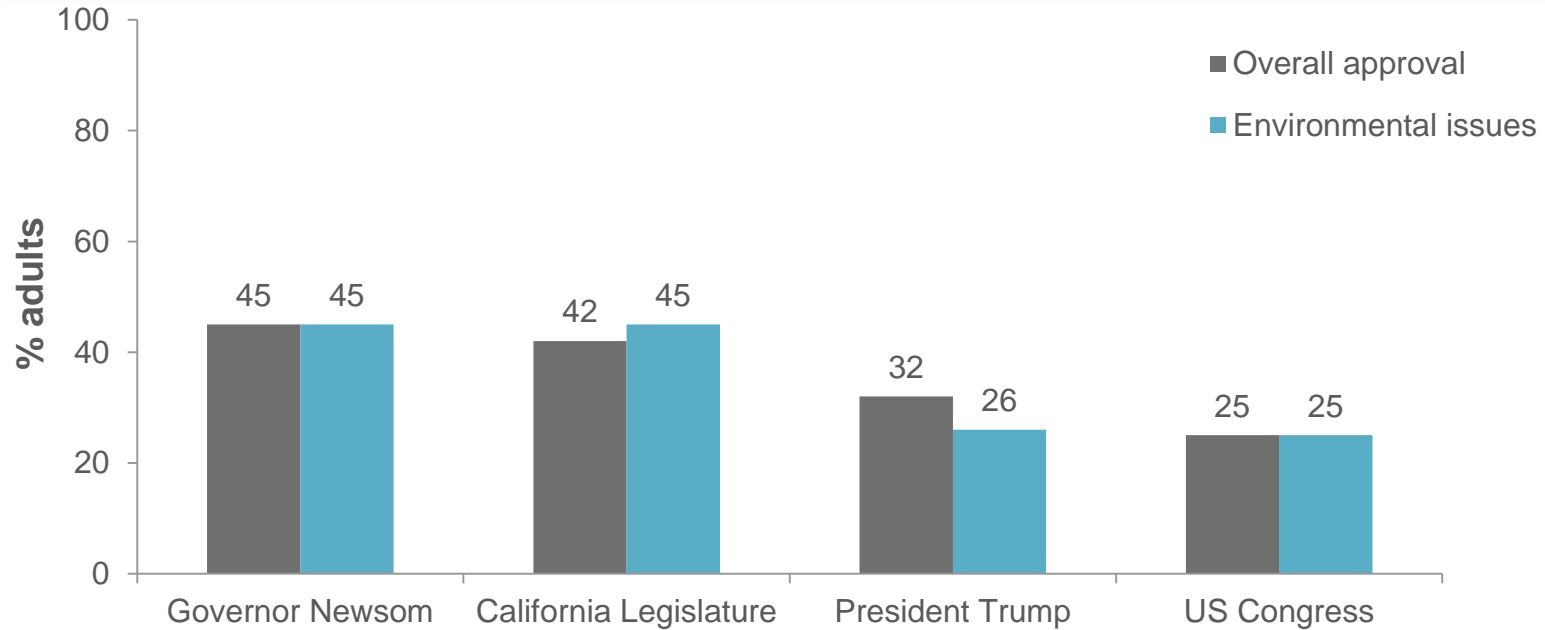
- Conducted with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, and the Flora Family Foundation
- Telephone interviews, July 14–23, 2019
  - 70% cell phone, 30% landline
  - 1,706 adults,  $\pm 3.4\%$  margin of error
  - 1,085 likely voters,  $\pm 4.4\%$  margin of error
- Views on wildfires, water supply, air pollution, and coastal issues
- Policy preferences on climate change and energy policy and the 2020 election



# Outline

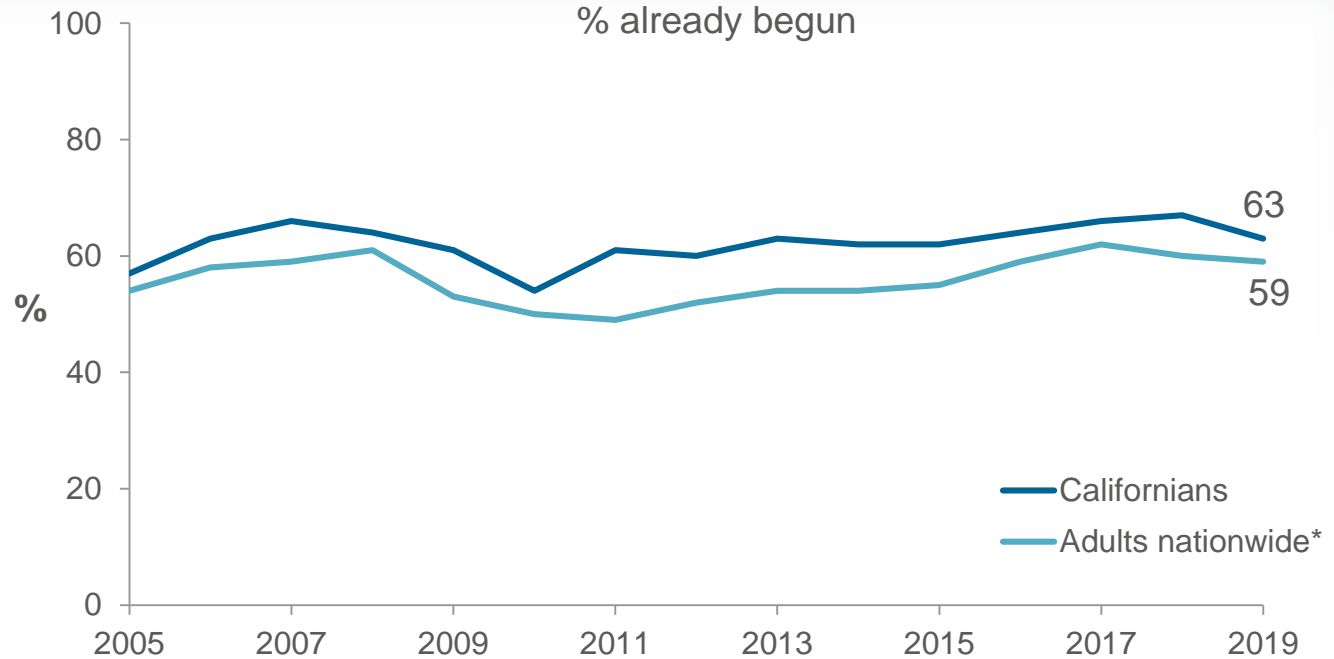
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# Approval of state and federal elected officials



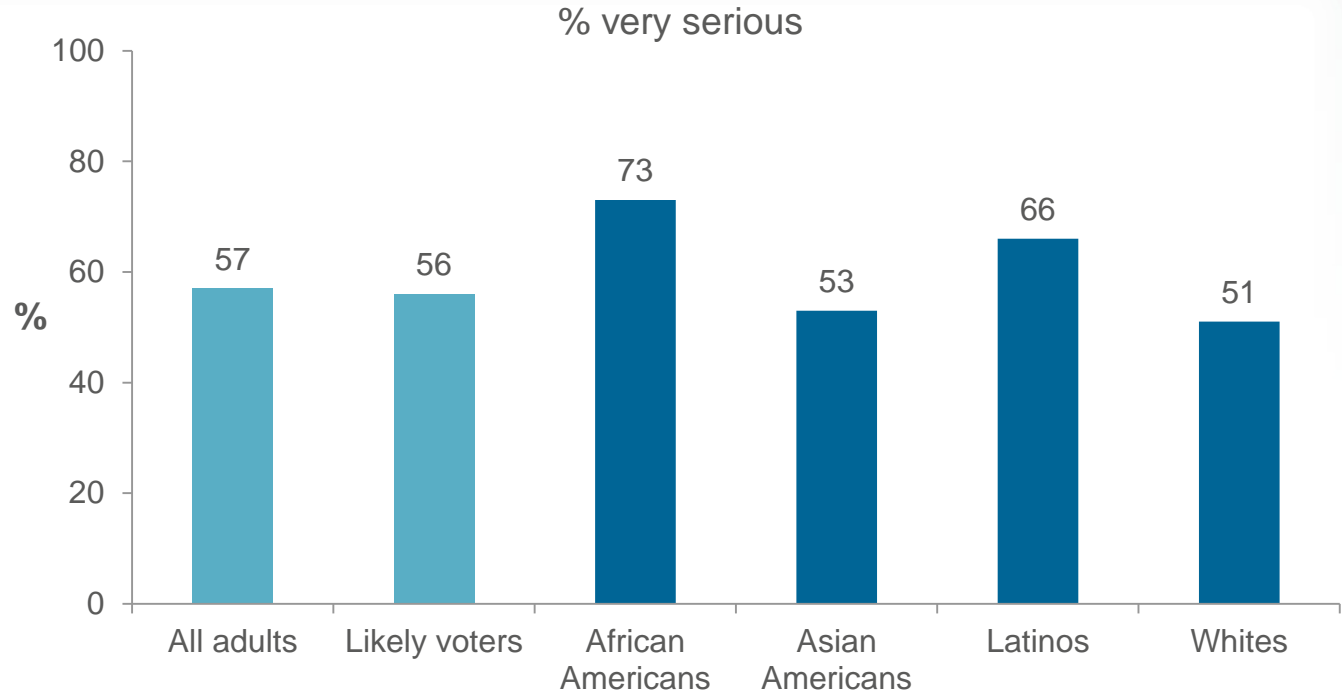
# Effects of global warming

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



# Threat of global warming

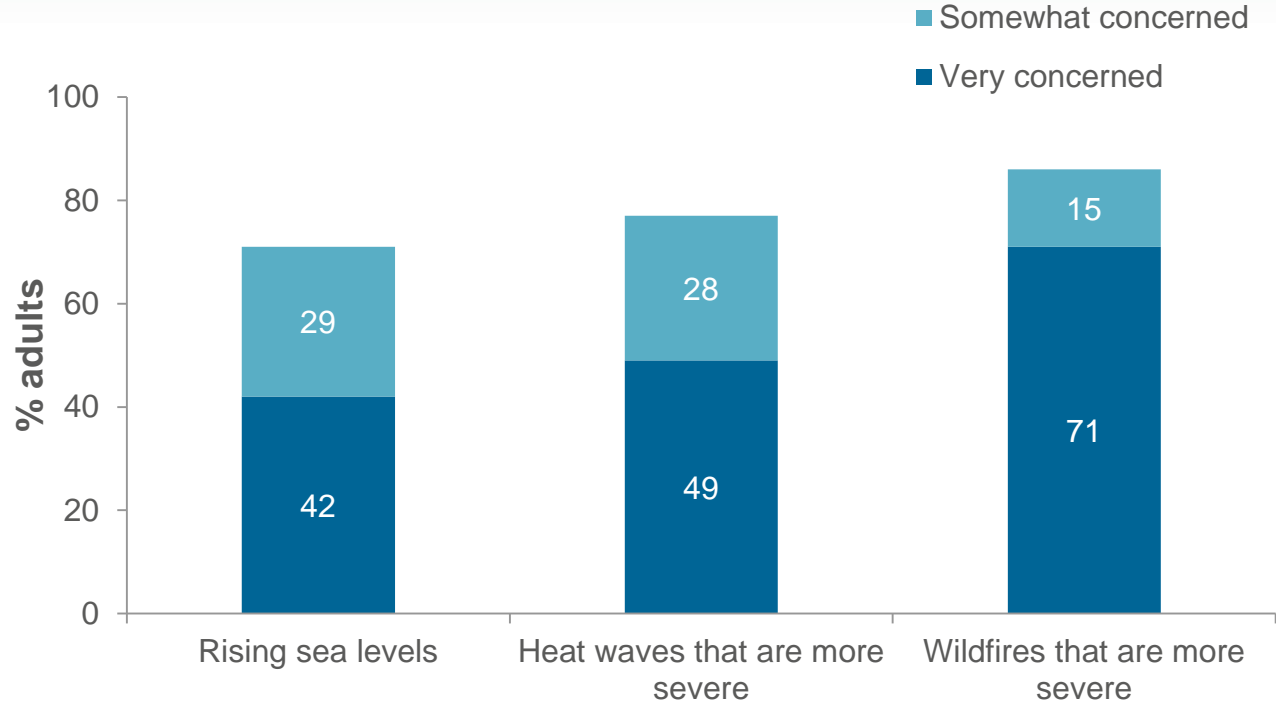
How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California's future?





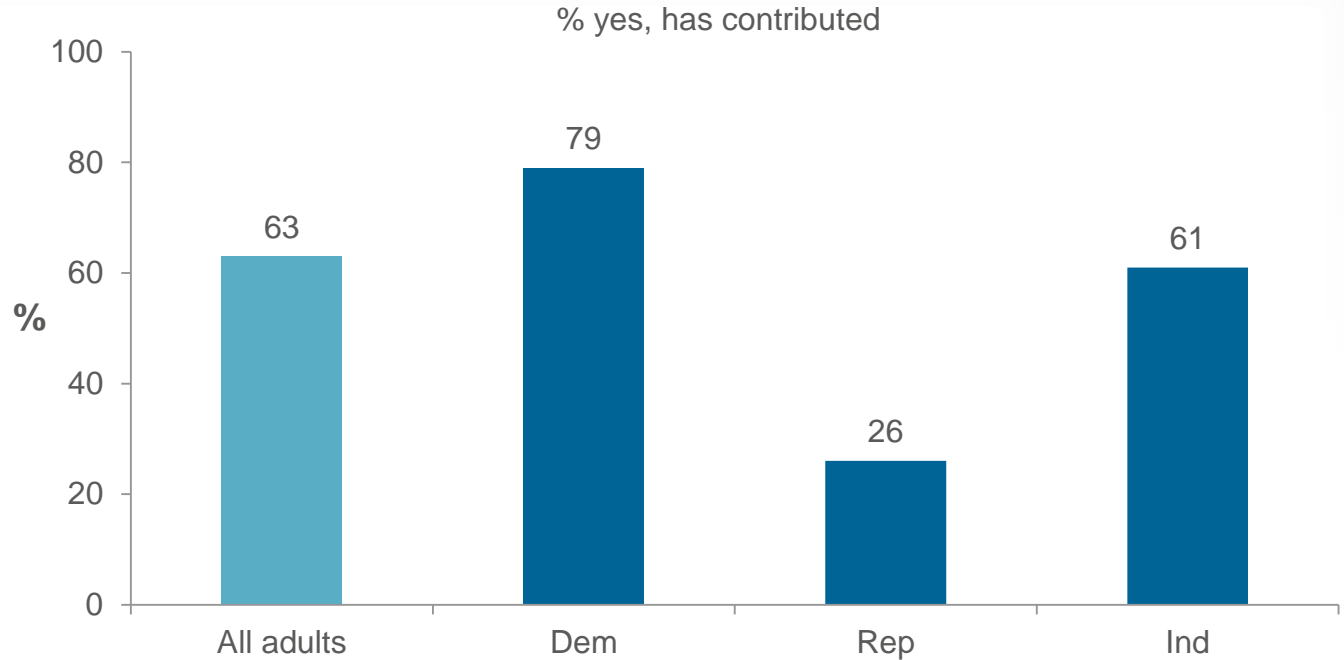
# Concern about effects of global warming

Thinking about the possible impacts of global warming in California, how concerned are you about...?



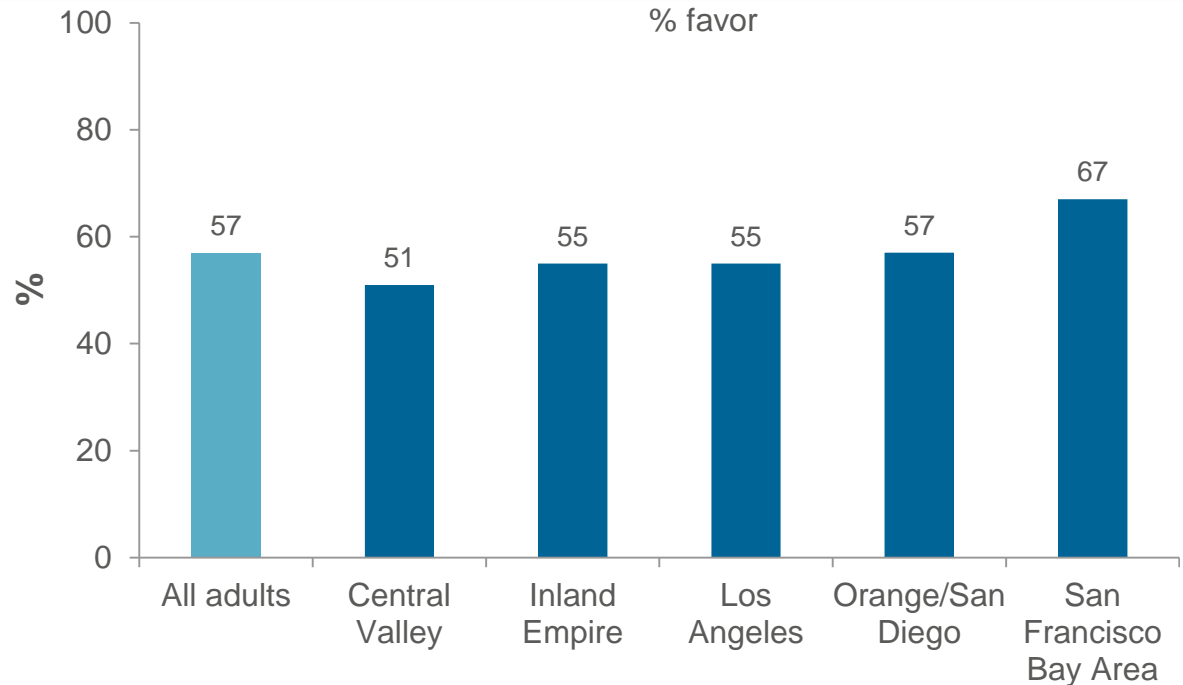
# Global warming contributing to recent wildfires

Do you think that global warming has contributed to California's recent wildfires or not?



# Support for wildfire insurance fund

Recently, the California legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed into law a bill that will create a \$21 billion wildfire insurance fund to pay for future wildfires, which will be paid for evenly by ratepayers and utility investors. Do you favor or oppose this spending plan?



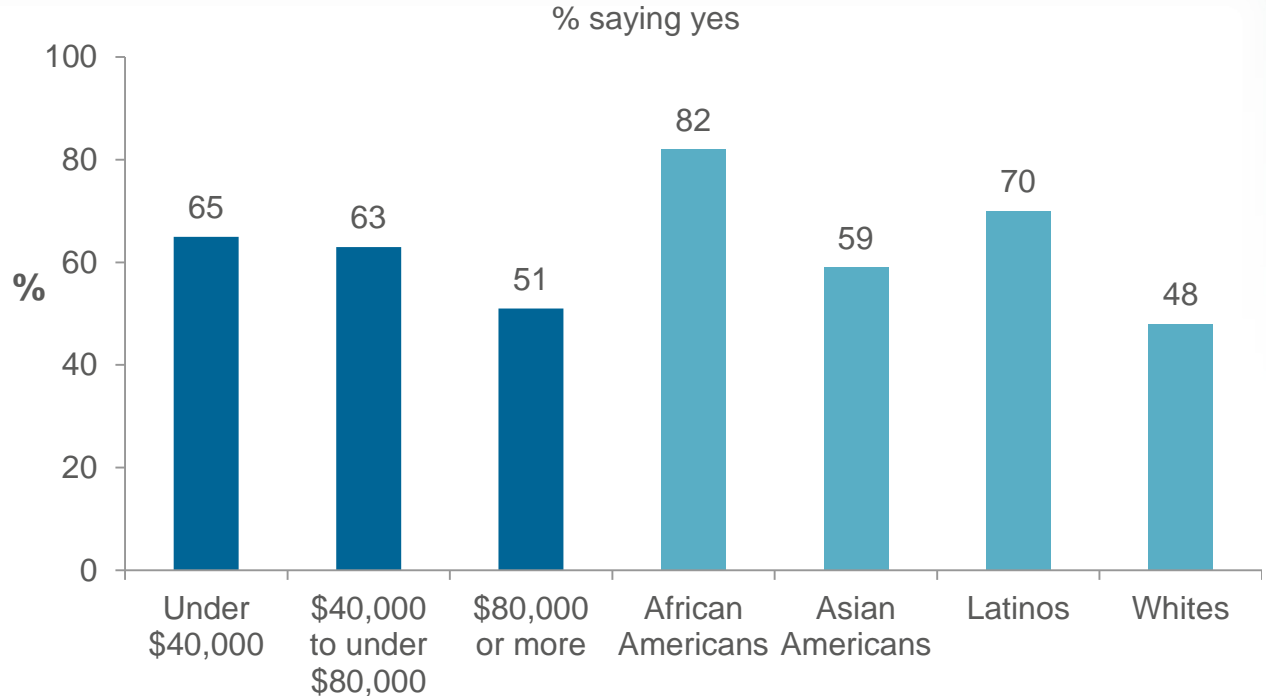
# Water supply

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?



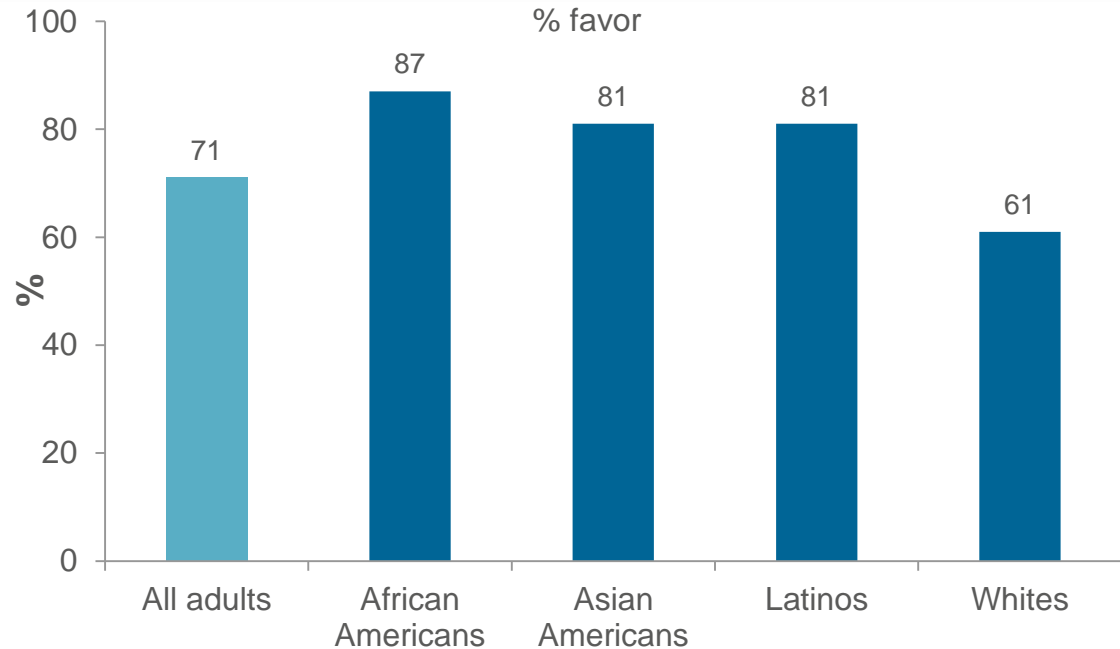
# Disparities in pollution of drinking water

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



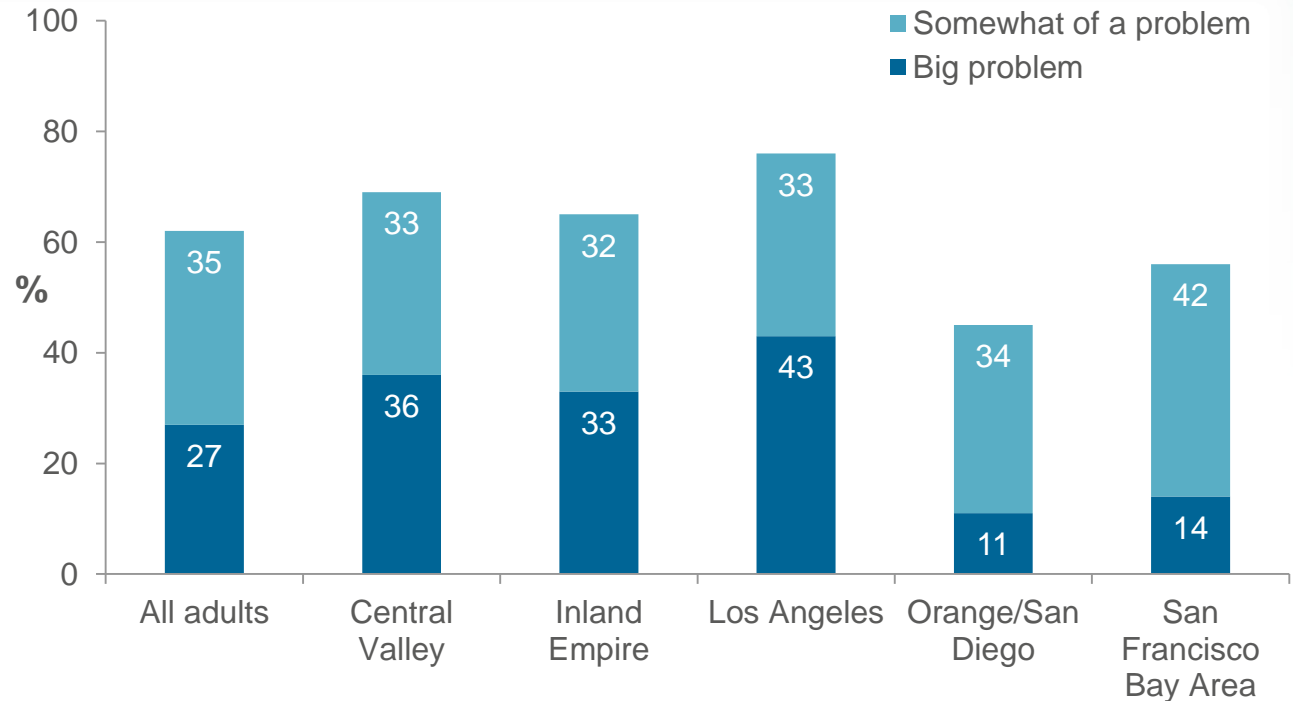
# Support for clean drinking water fund

The state budget recently passed by the legislature and signed by the governor allocates \$130 million of the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund from the cap-and-trade program to support a clean drinking water fund. Do you favor or oppose this spending plan?



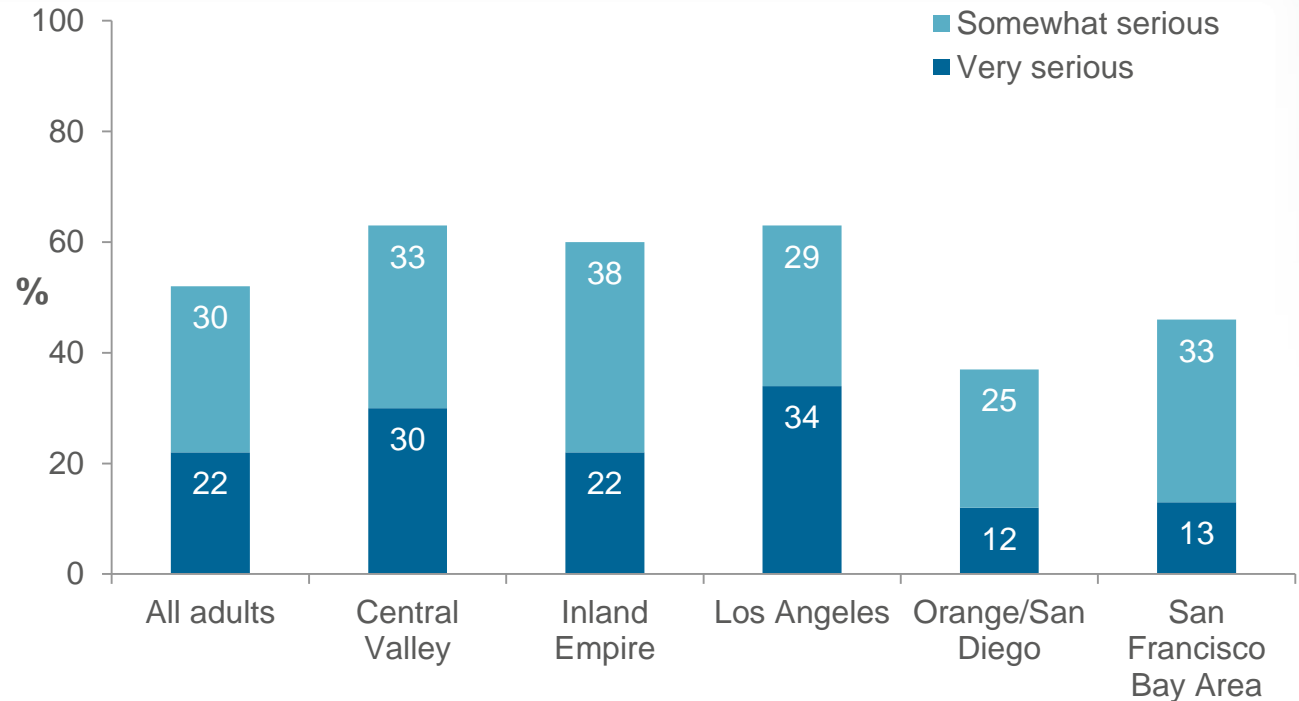
# Seriousness of air pollution

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?



# Air pollution as a health threat

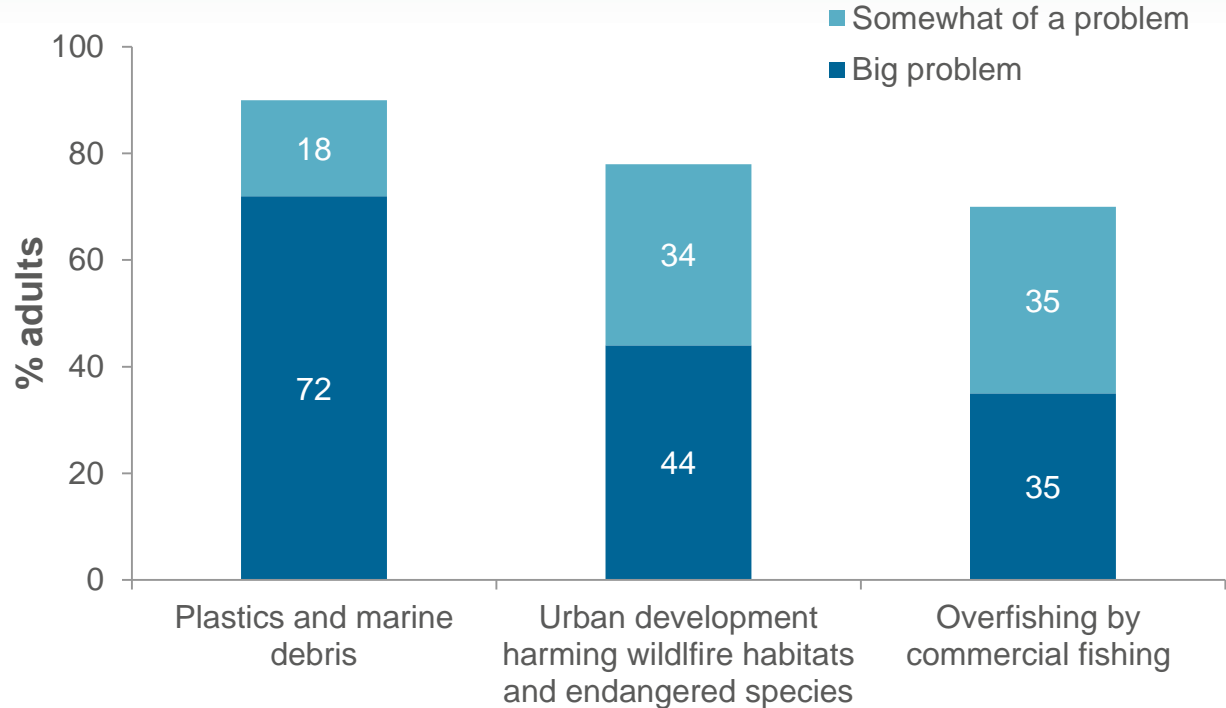
How serious a health threat is air pollution in your region to you and your immediate family – do you think it is a very serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious of a health threat?





# Seriousness of coastal issues

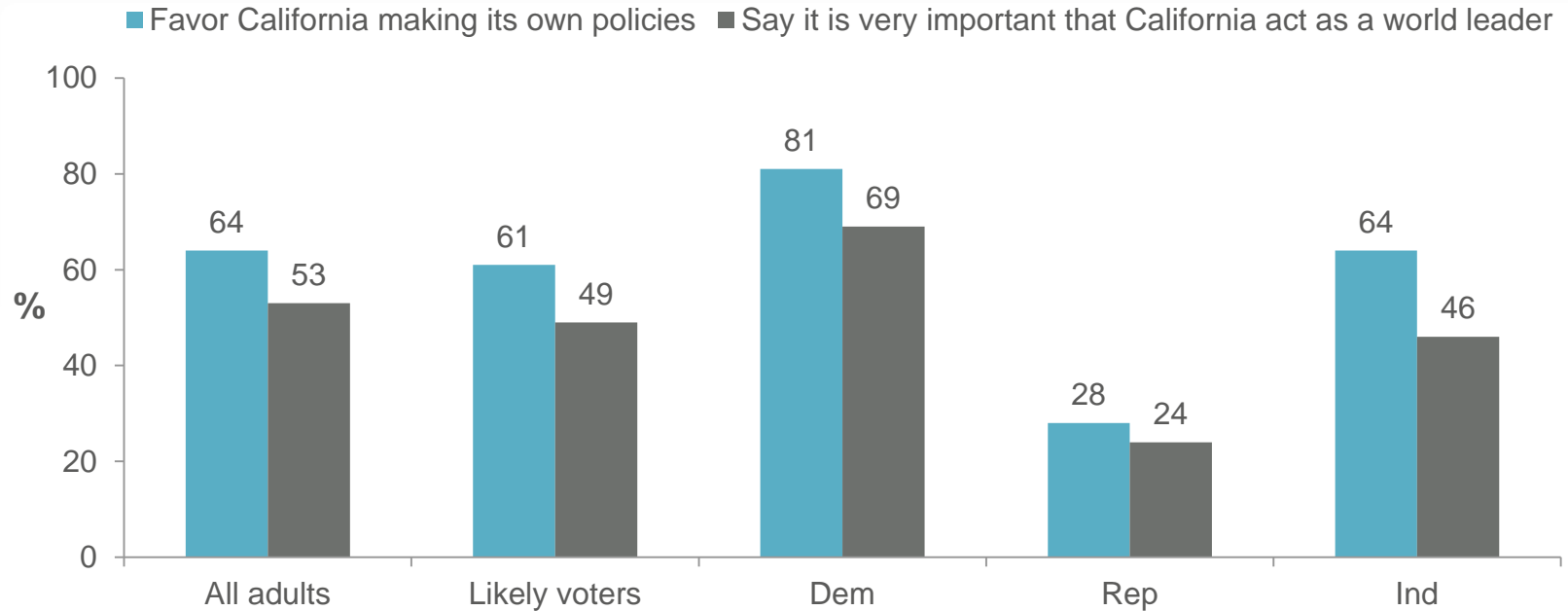
Next, I am going to list some specific problems that some people say affect our ocean and marine life in California today. After each, please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in the part of the California coast that is closest to you.



# Outline

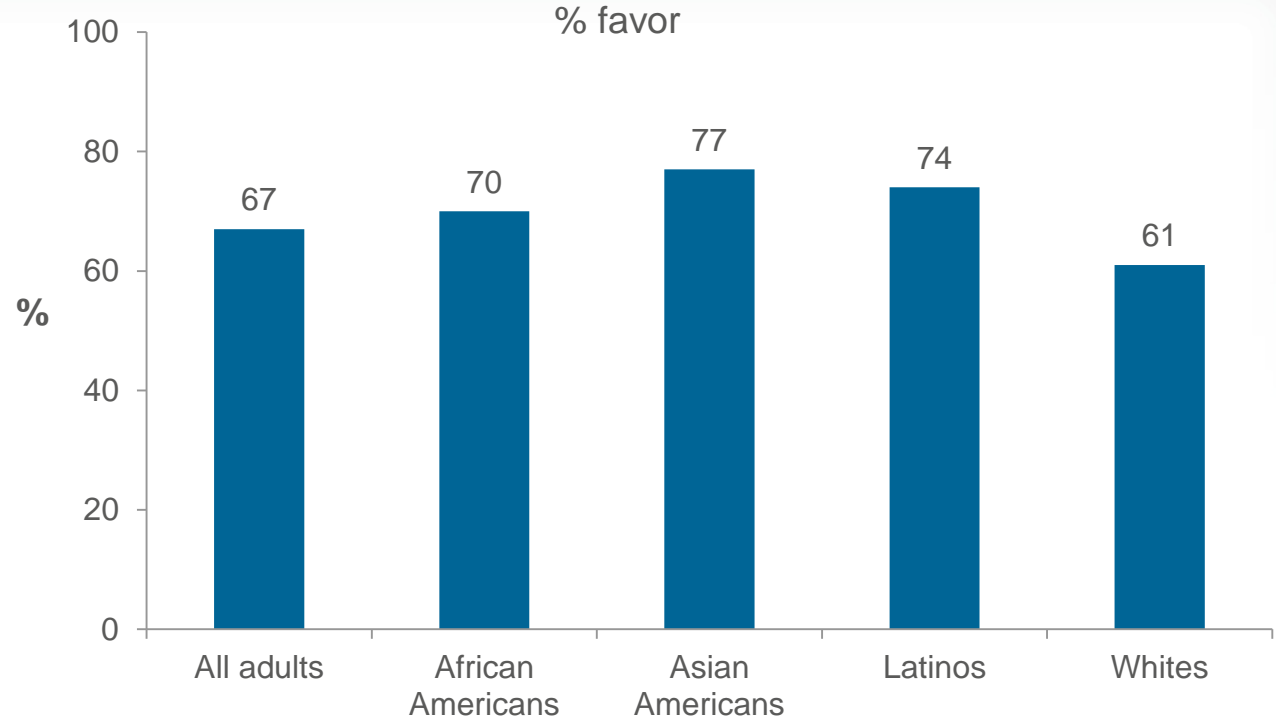
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# State leadership on climate change

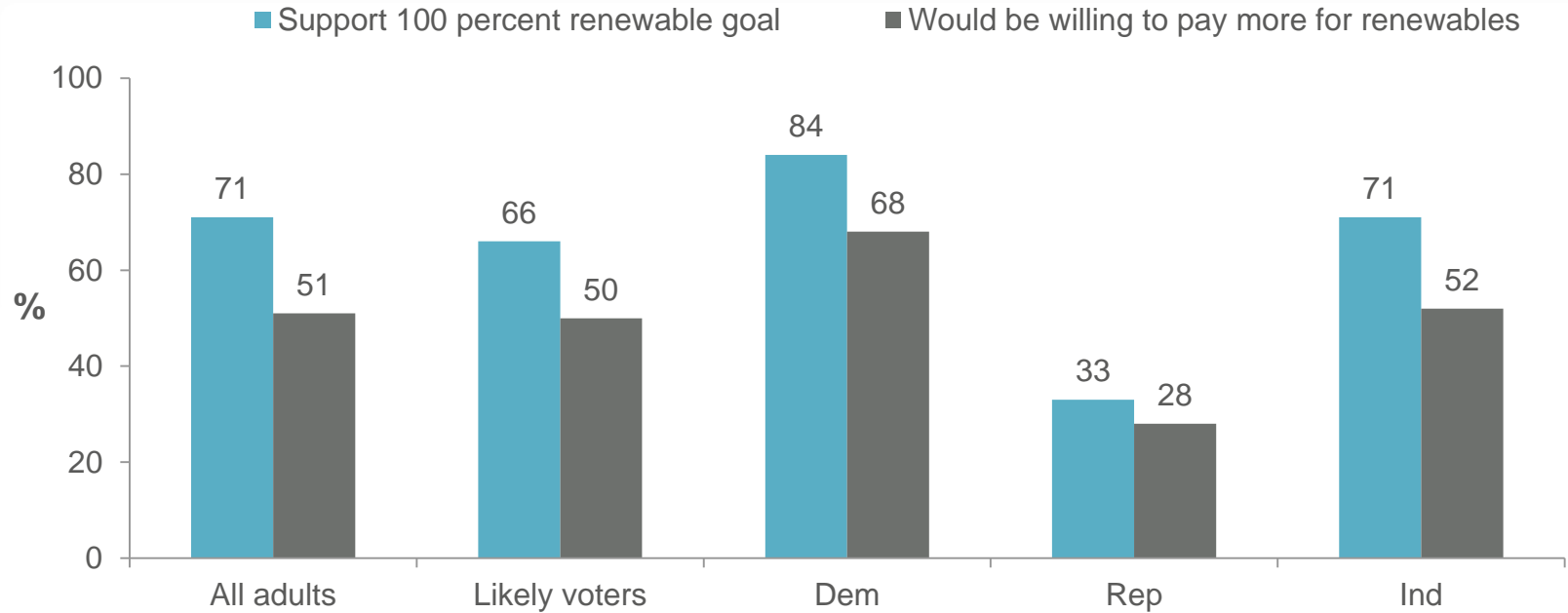


# Support for SB 32's emission-reduction goal

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?

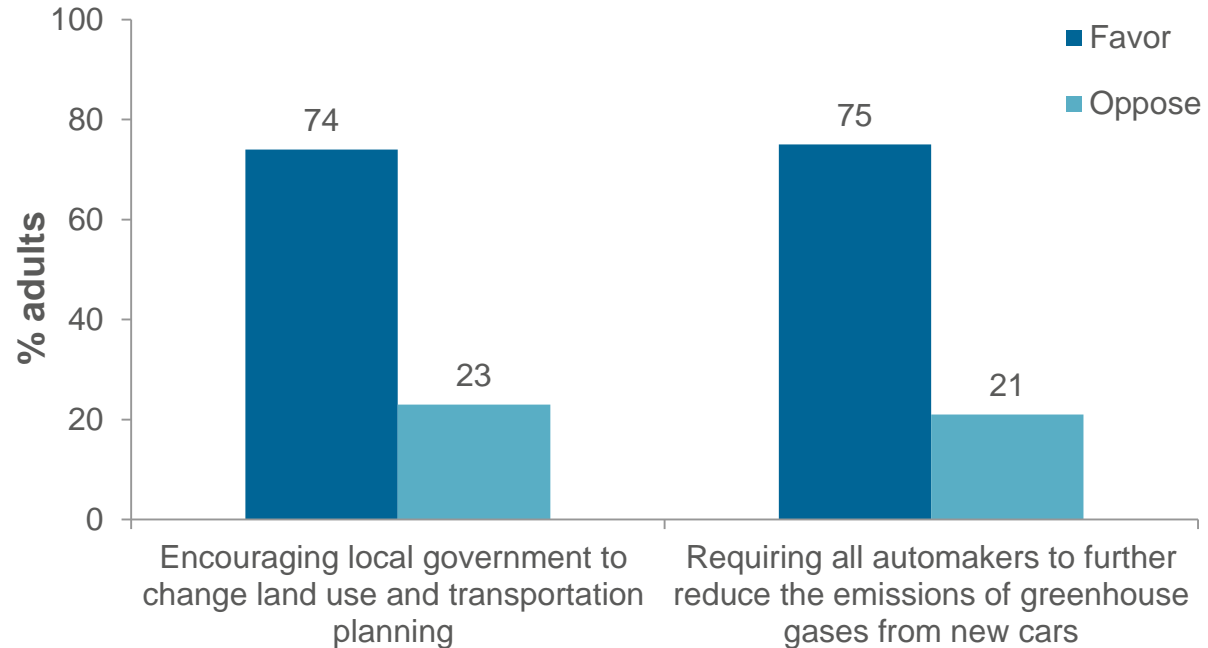


# Support for renewable energy



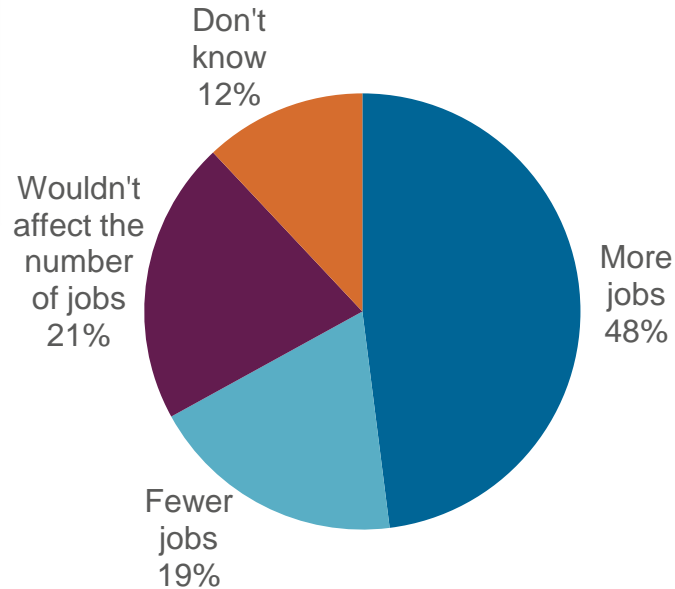
# Support for proposals to help reduce emissions

Next, officials in the state and federal government are discussing ways to address global warming. Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following plans to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

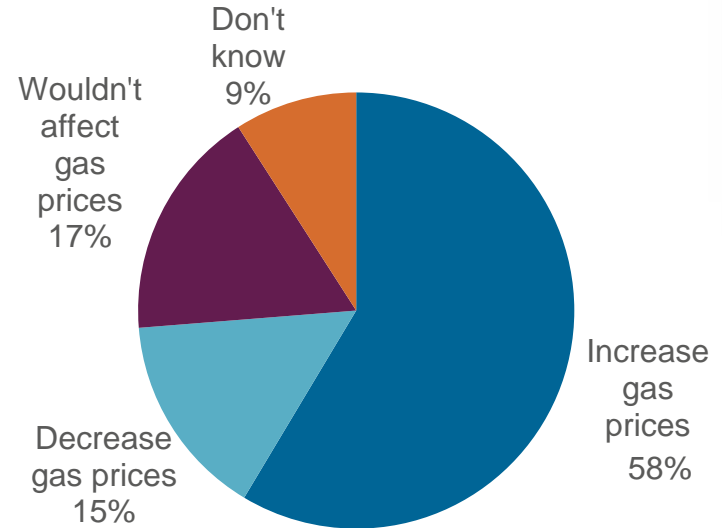


# Impact of state climate polices on jobs and gas prices

## Impact on jobs

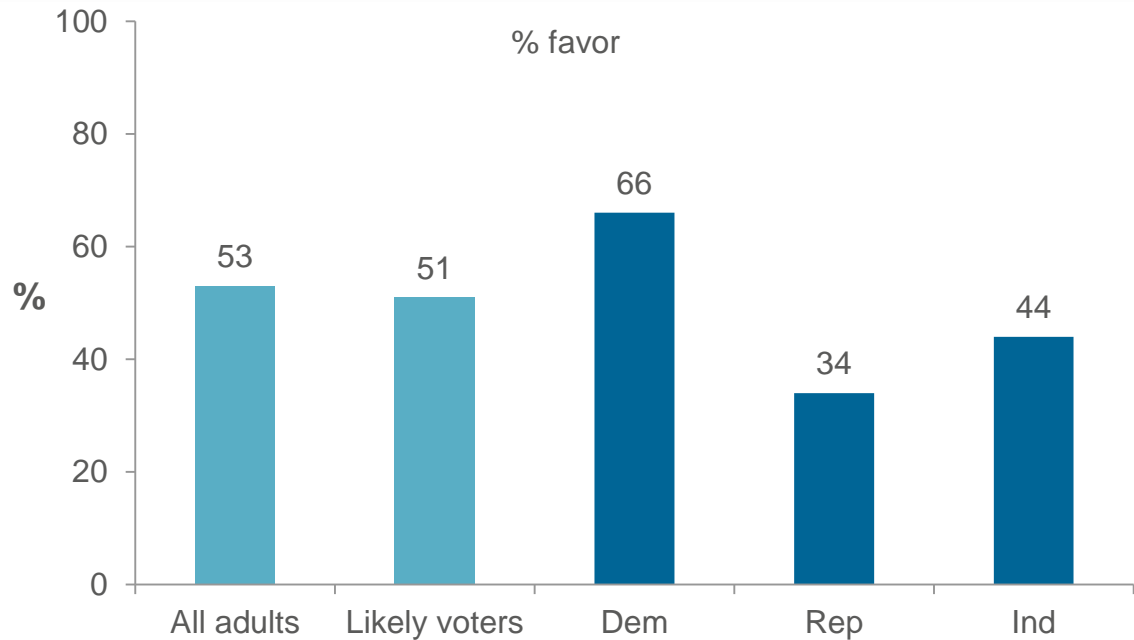


## Impact on gas prices



# Support for cap and trade

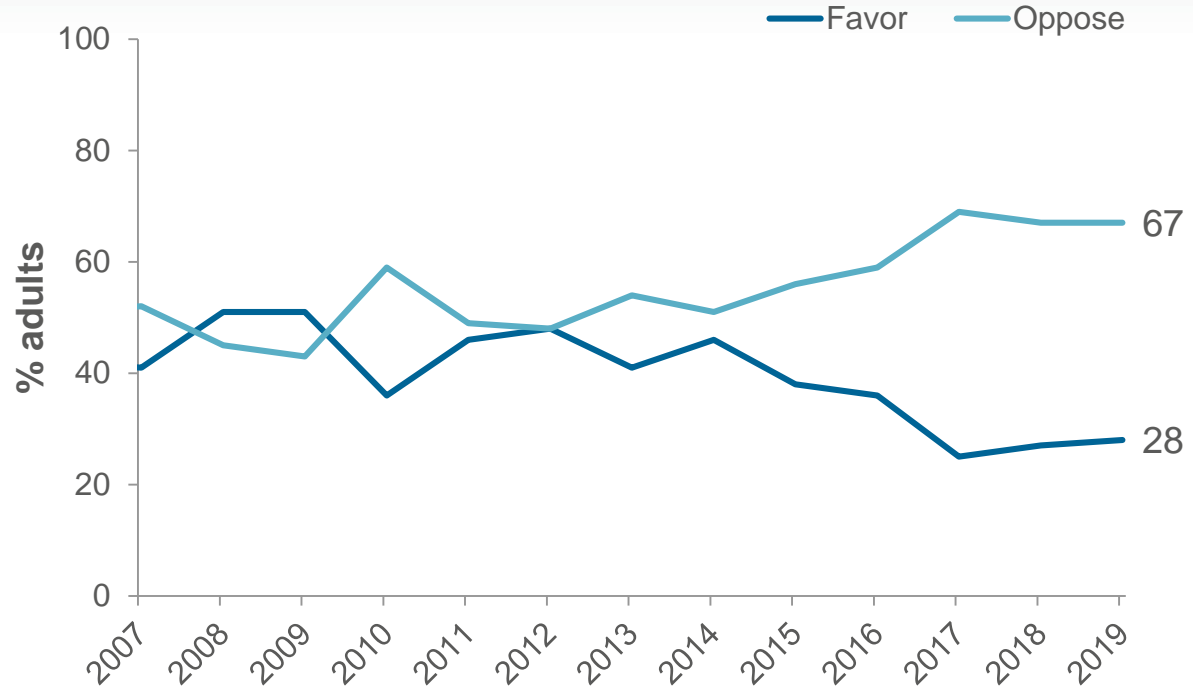
In the system called “cap and trade,” the California state government issues permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out.... Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?



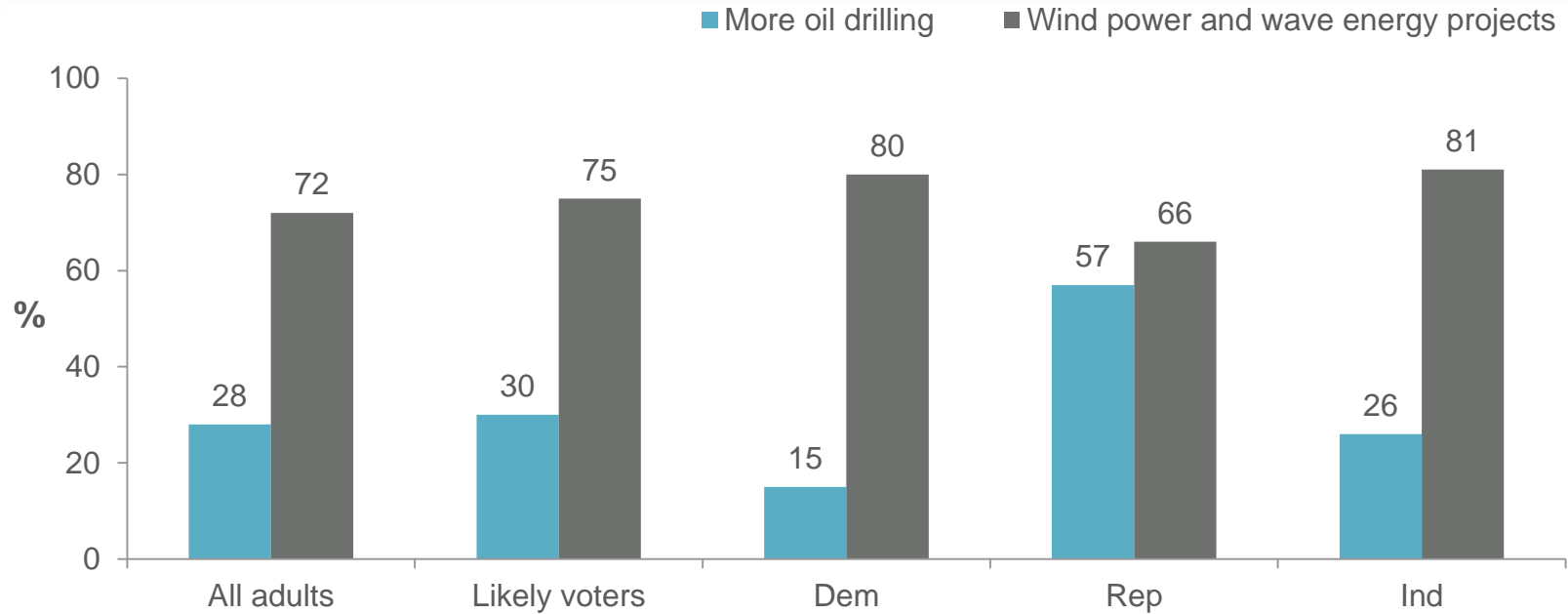


# Support for more oil drilling off the coast

How about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast?

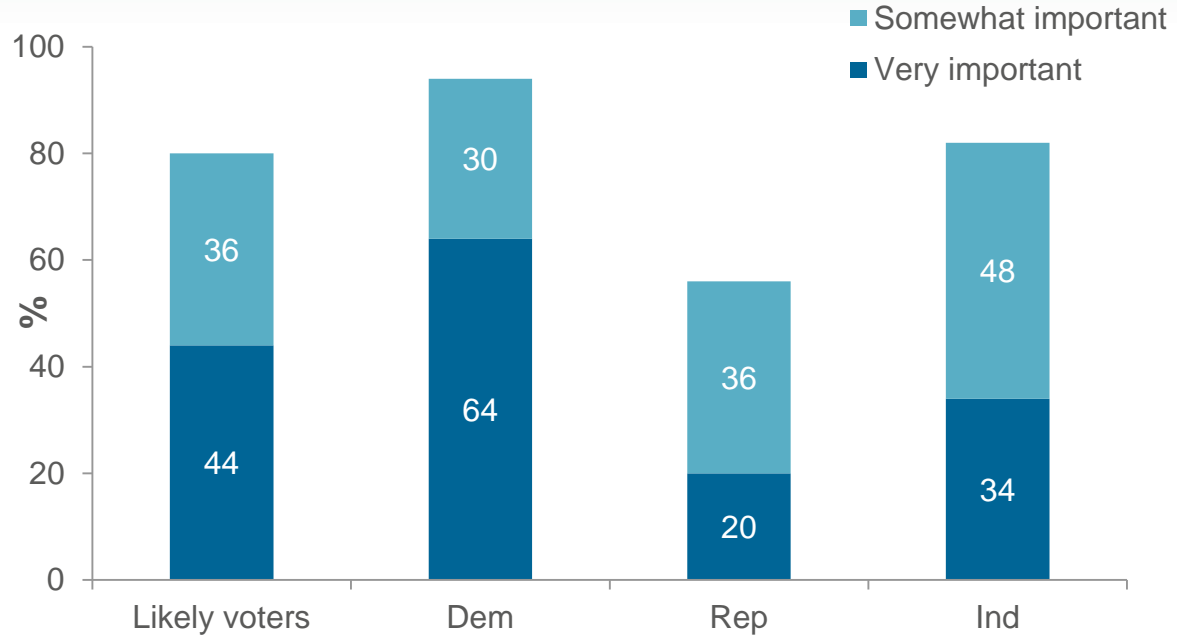


# Support for energy development off the California coast



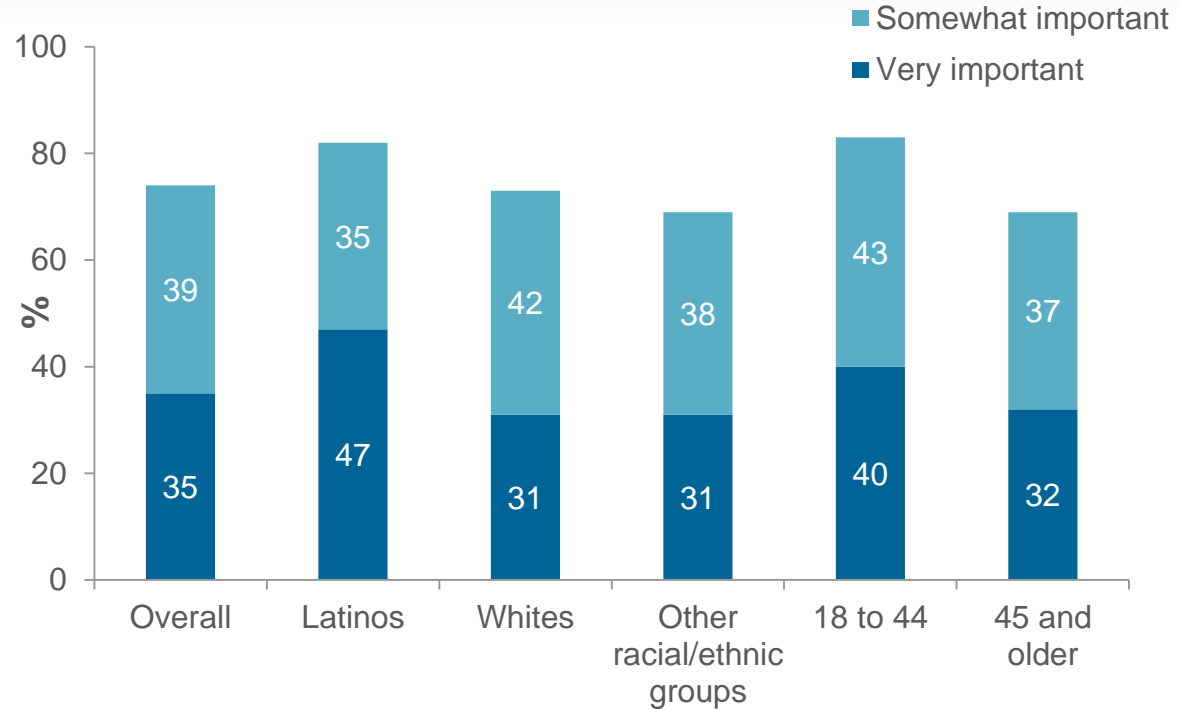
# Importance of candidates' positions on the environment

In thinking about the presidential election in 2020, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the environment in determining your vote?



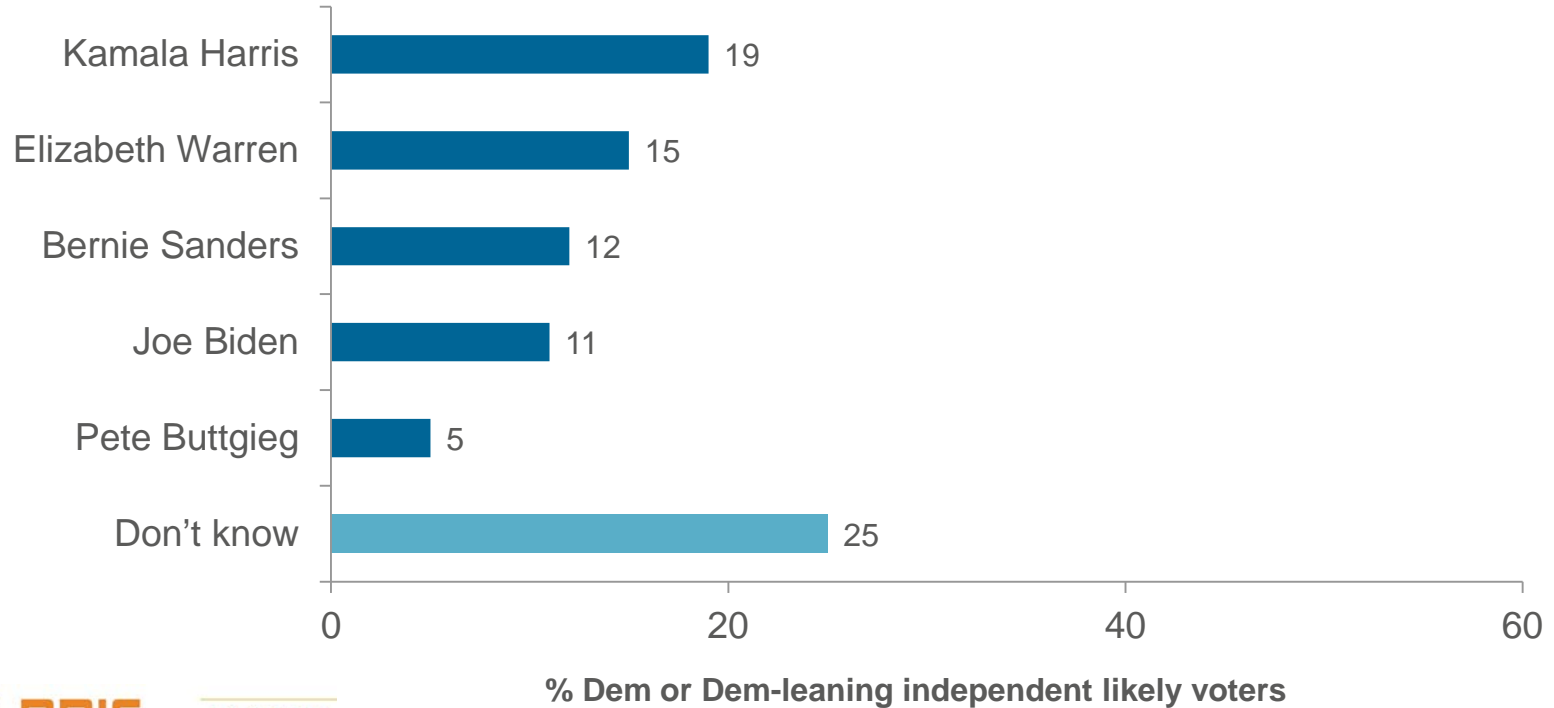
# Importance of candidates' positions on the Green New Deal

In thinking about the California Democratic presidential primary in March 2020, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the policy proposed by some members of Congress called the Green New Deal?



Dem or Dem-leaning independent likely voters

# Preferred candidate for 2020 Democratic primary



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# Conclusions

- A record-high share of Californians are very concerned about more-severe wildfires as an impact of global warming; majorities across regions favor the new wildfire insurance fund.
- Majorities view pollution of drinking water as a more serious problem in low-income communities and support the creation of the clean drinking water fund.
- Many Californians value ocean and beach conditions and say plastics and marine debris are a big problem along the coast.
- There are wide partisan differences on climate change and what the state should do about it.
- Most Democratic and Democratic-leaning likely voters say candidates' environmental positions are important; Harris, Warren, Sanders, and Biden are frontrunners in the Democratic primary.



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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:

Alyssa Dykman (dykman@ppic.org; 415-291-4475)

Thank you for your interest in this work.