

# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Education

April 25, 2019

#PPICsurvey

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Alyssa Dykman, Rachel Ward

Supported with funding from the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation,  
the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, and the Stuart Foundation



**PPIC**

PUBLIC POLICY  
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

25 YEARS

# Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Perceptions and attitudes
- Funding 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, and encourage discussion
- Provide a voice for all Californians in important state policy debates
  - 350,000+ Californians since 1998
  - 170+ general, issue, and regional surveys

# Californians and education

- Conducted with funding from the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell, S. D. Bechtel, Jr., and Stuart Foundations
- Conducted online using Ipsos KnowledgePanel, April 5–15, 2019
  - 1,512 adults,  $\pm 3.5\%$  margin of error; 1,035 likely voters,  $\pm 4.0\%$  margin of error
  - 393 parents of children 18 or younger,  $\pm 6.6\%$  margin of error
  - 278 public school parents,  $\pm 7.8\%$  margin of error
- Views on the importance of K–12 education for the new governor, teacher pay, immigration enforcement, and school safety
- Perceptions on funding, revenue sources, charter schools, and early childhood education

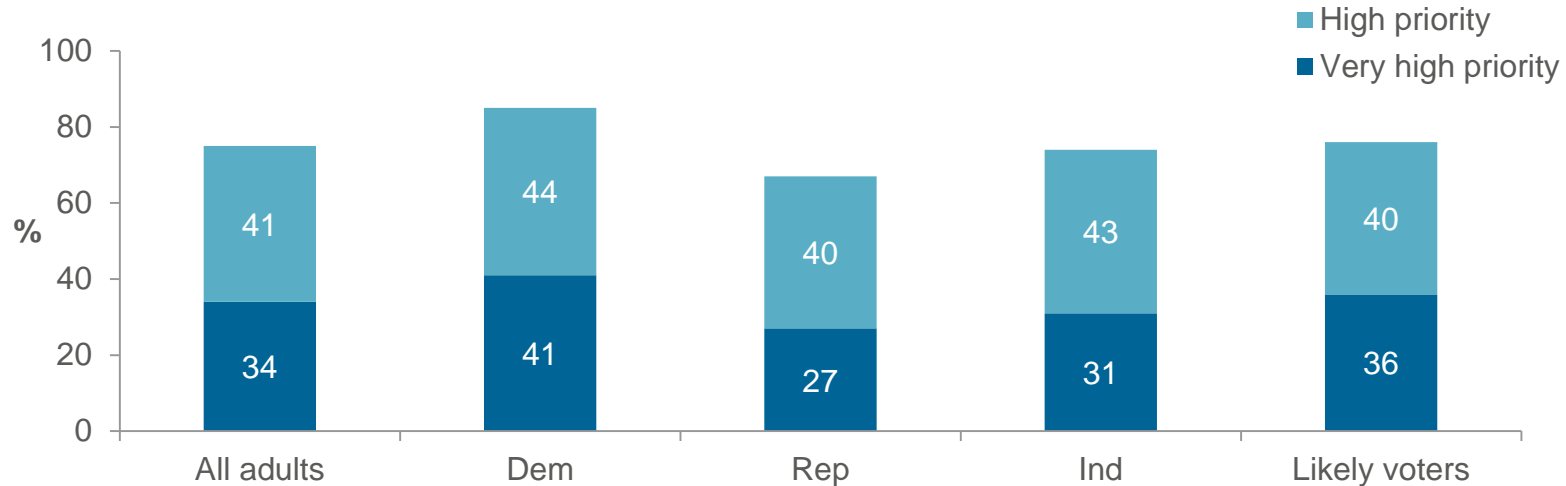


# Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Perceptions and attitudes
- Funding and policy preferences
- Conclusions

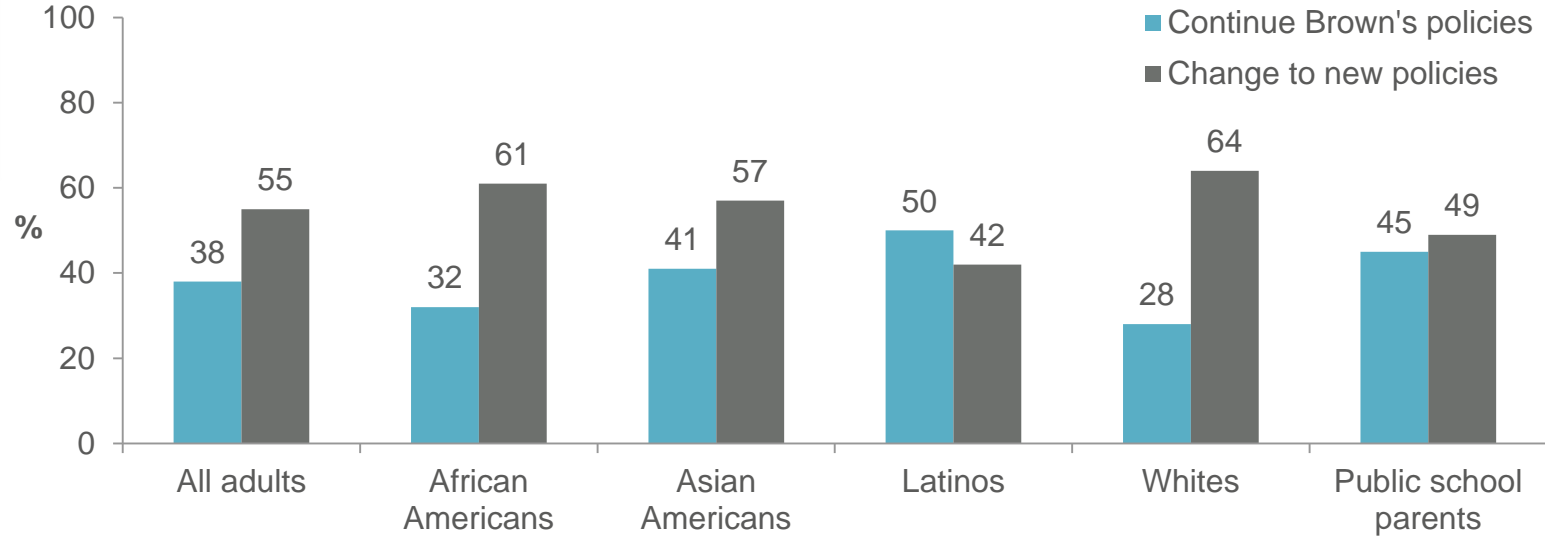
# Priority of K–12 education for the new governor

In thinking about priorities for the new governor of California, do you think that the state's kindergarten-through-12th-grade public education system should be a very high priority, high priority, medium priority, low priority, or very low priority?



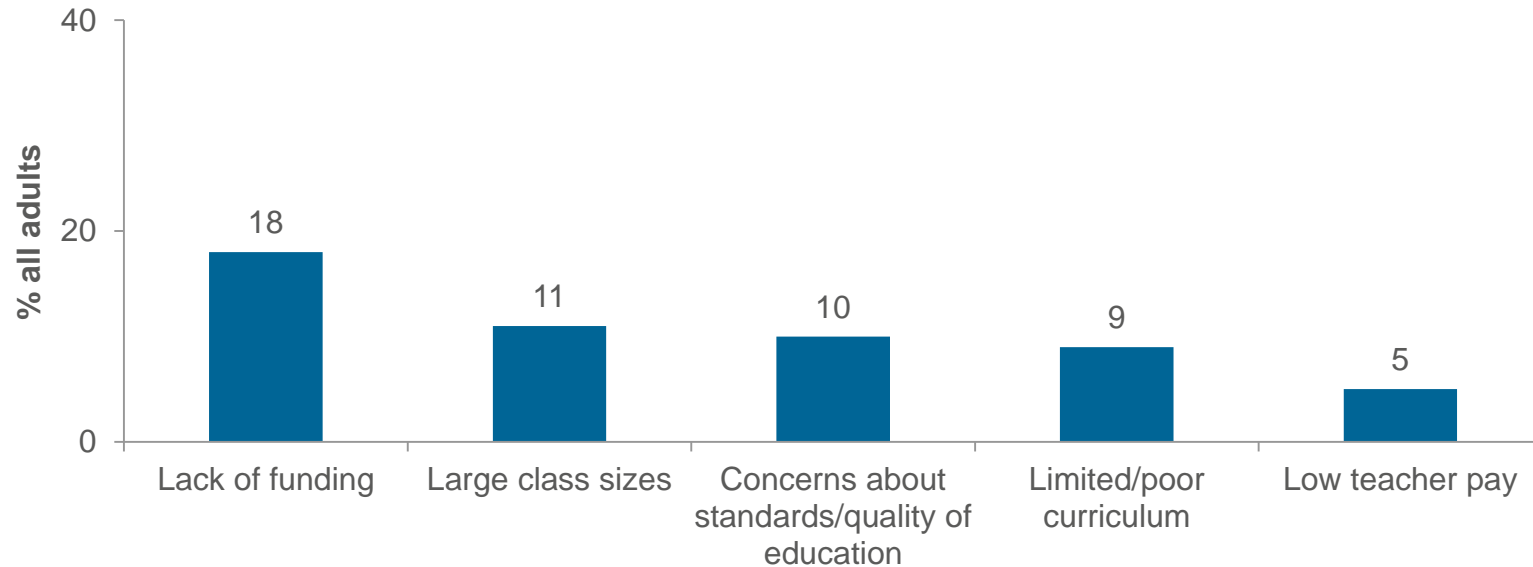
# Preferred direction of K–12 policies

When it comes to K–12 public schools in California, would you rather see Gavin Newsom as the new governor generally continue Jerry Brown's policies or mostly change to different policies?



# Top issues facing public schools

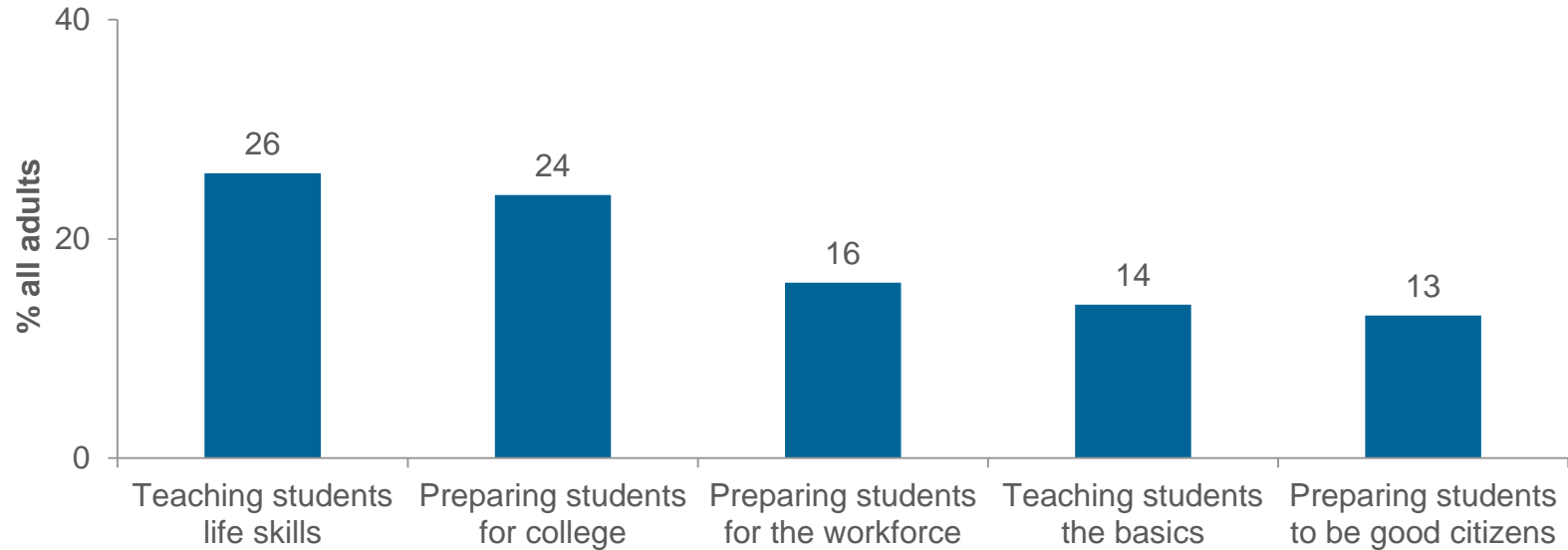
What do you think is the most important issue facing K–12 public schools today?





# Most important goal for public schools

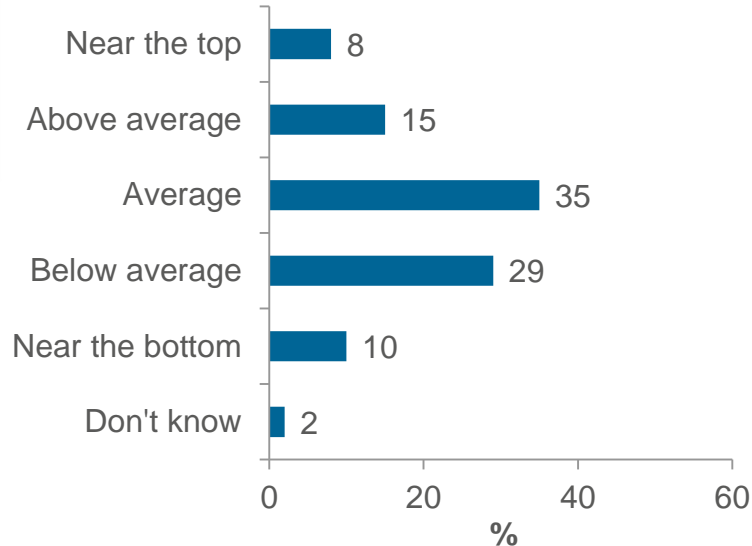
In your opinion, what is the most important goal of California's K–12 public schools?



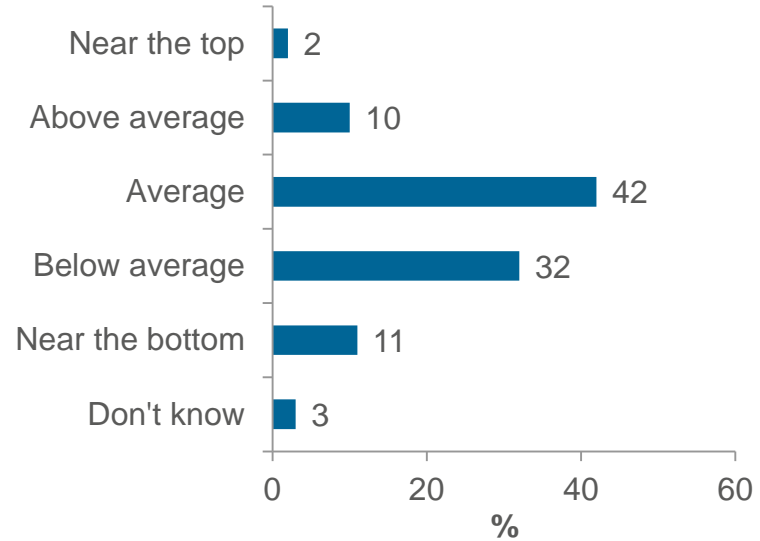
# Perception of California's rankings

Compared to other states, where do you think California currently ranks in \_\_\_\_\_ for K–12 public schools?

**Per pupil spending**

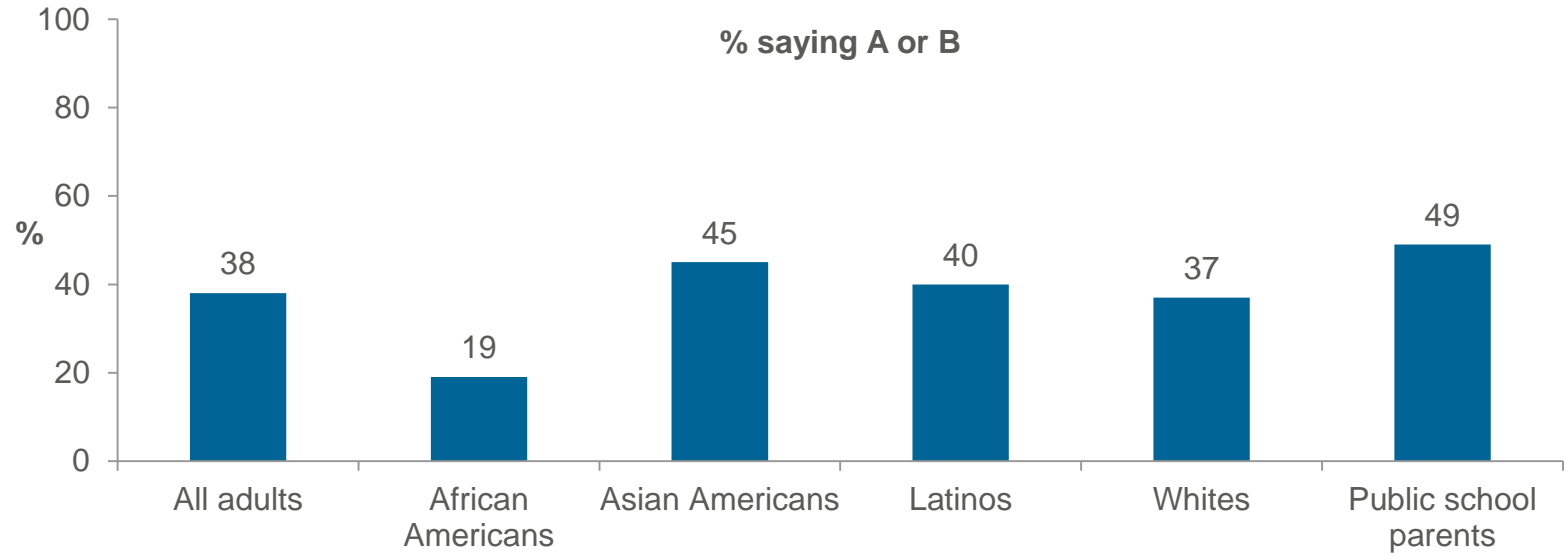


**Student test scores**



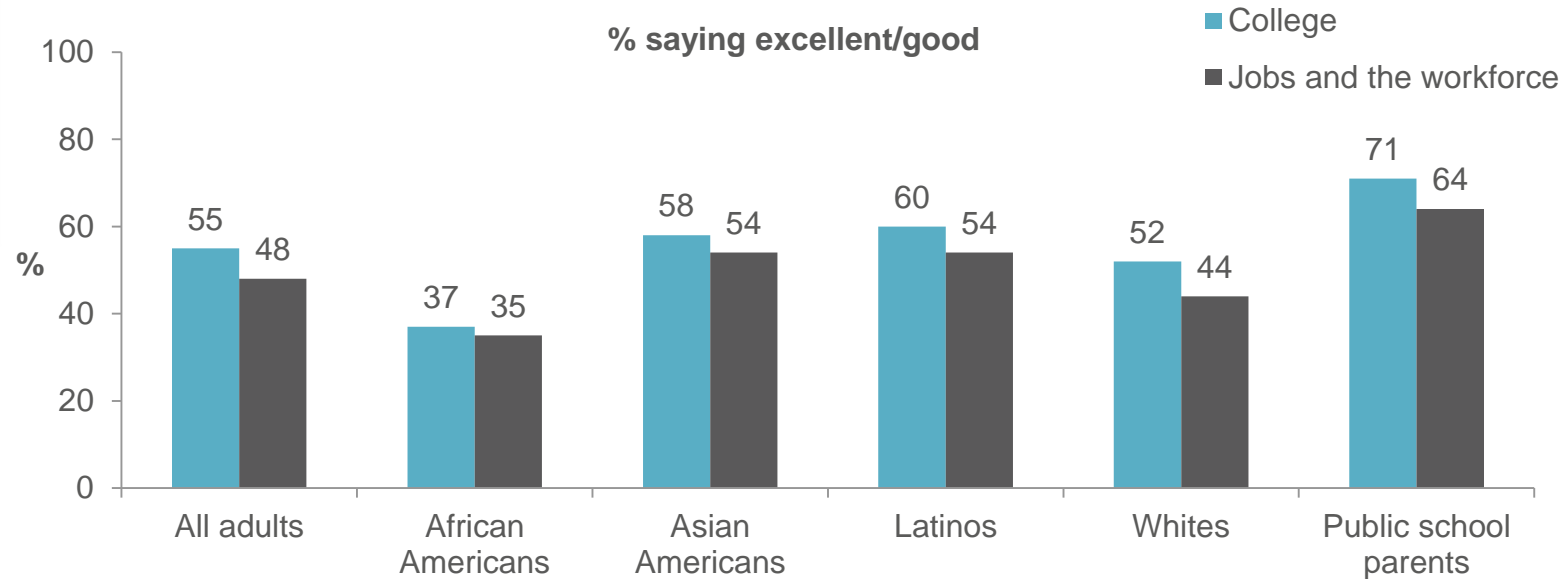
# Grading local public schools

Overall, how would you rate the quality of public schools in your neighborhood today? If you had to give your local public schools a grade, would it be A, B, C, D, or F?



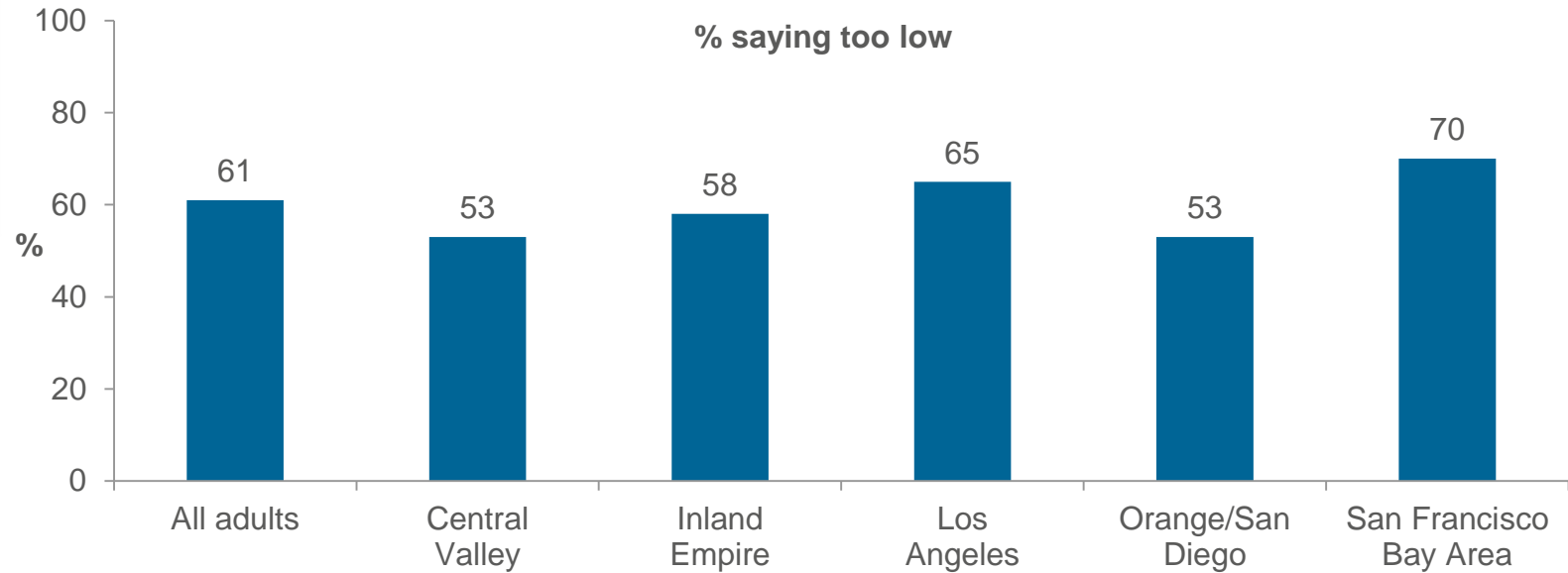
# Preparing students

Are your local public schools doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job in preparing students for \_\_\_\_\_?



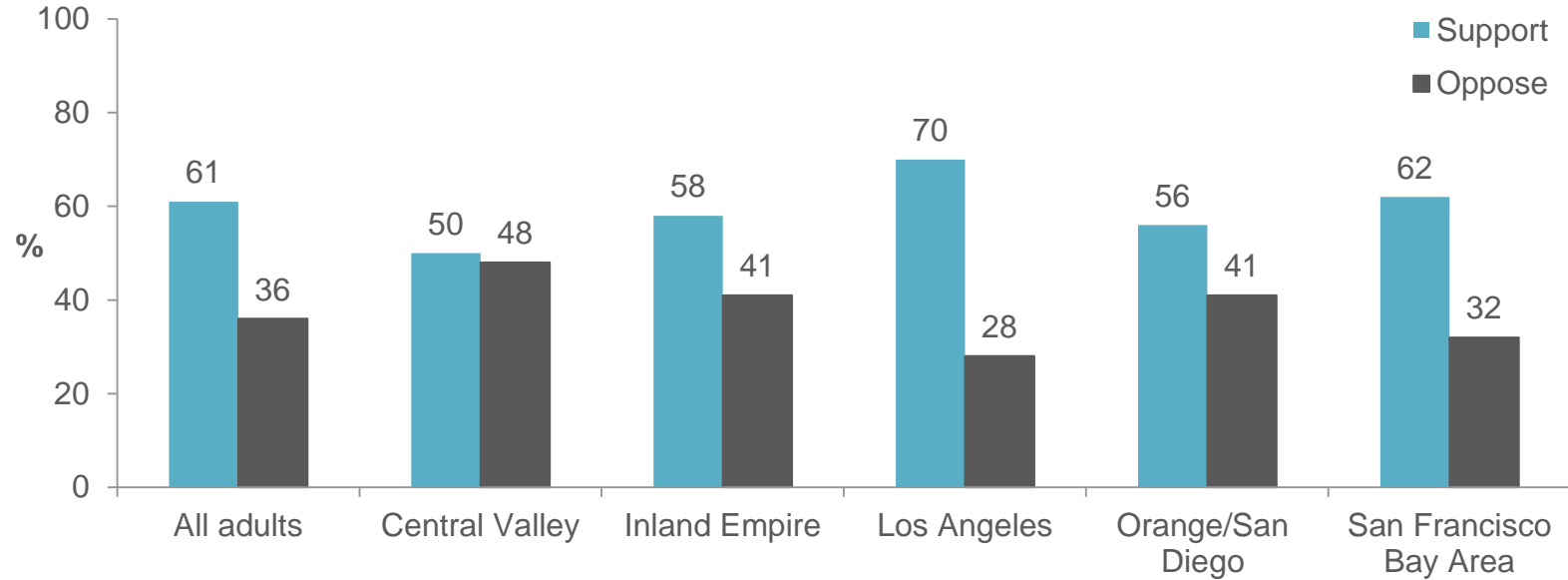
# School teacher salaries

Do you think salaries for teachers in your community are too high, too low, or just about right?



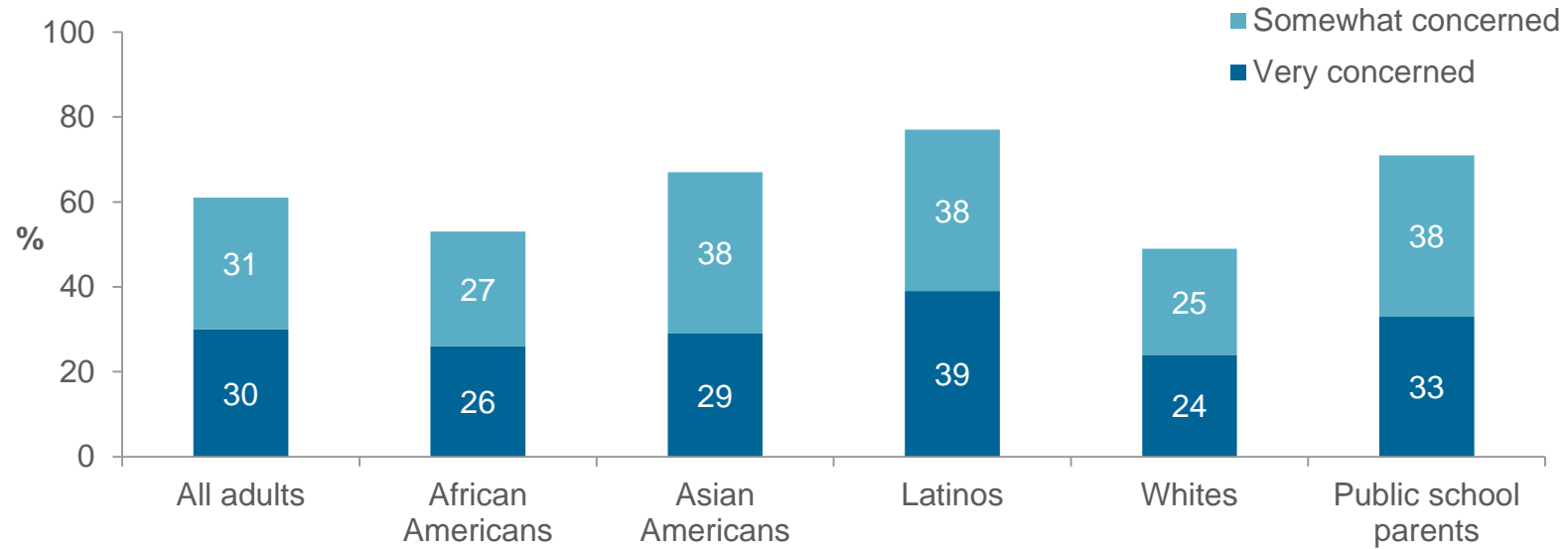
# Support for teachers striking

In general, do you support or oppose public school teachers striking for higher pay?



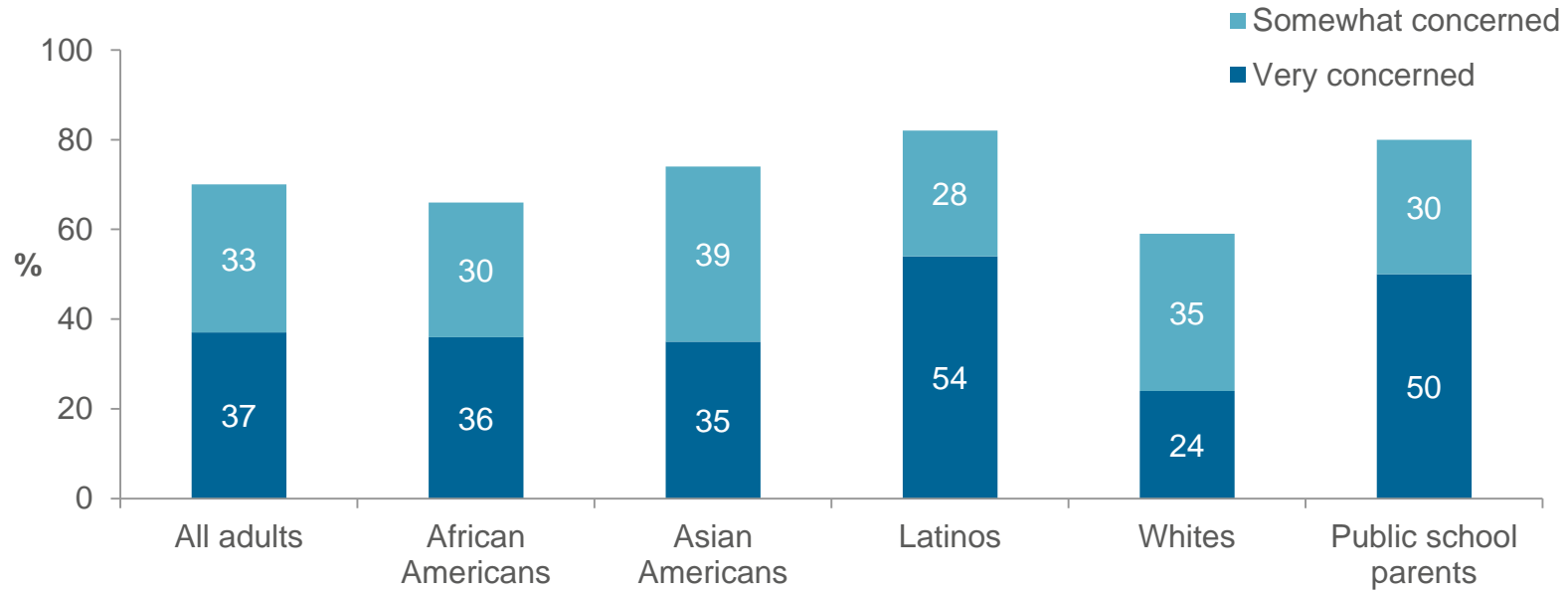
# Immigration enforcement

How concerned are you that increased federal immigration enforcement efforts will impact undocumented students and their families in your local public schools?



# Threat of mass shooting

How concerned are you about the threat of a mass shooting in your local schools?



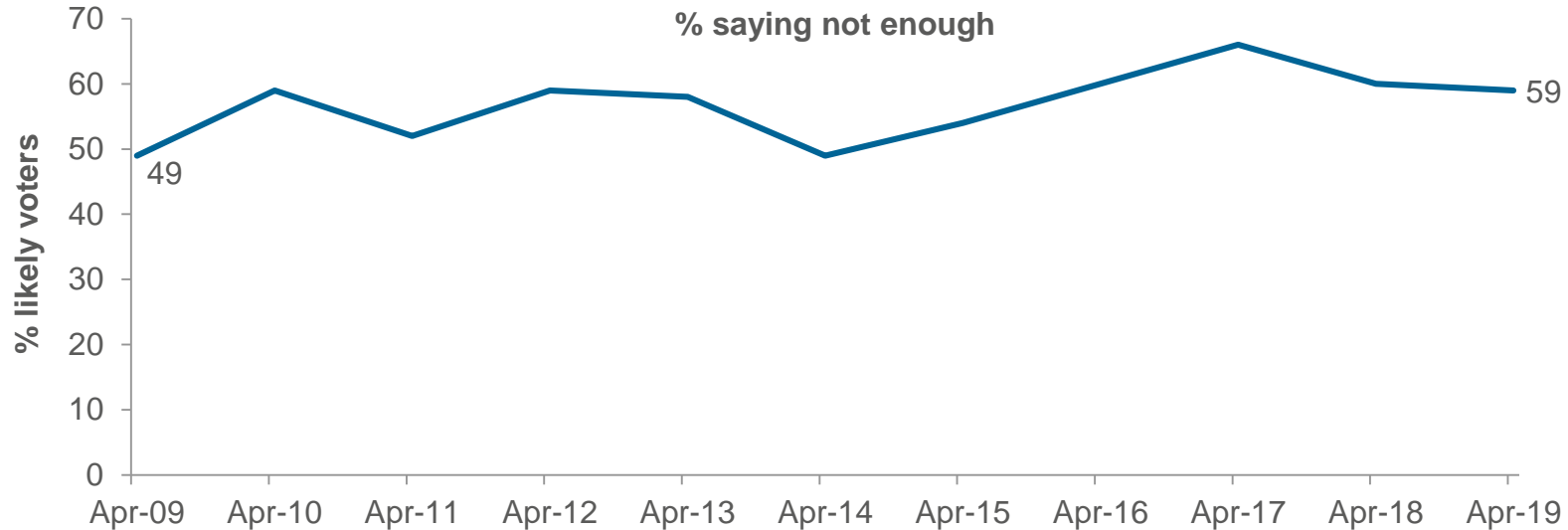


# Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Perceptions and attitudes
- Funding and policy preferences
- Conclusions

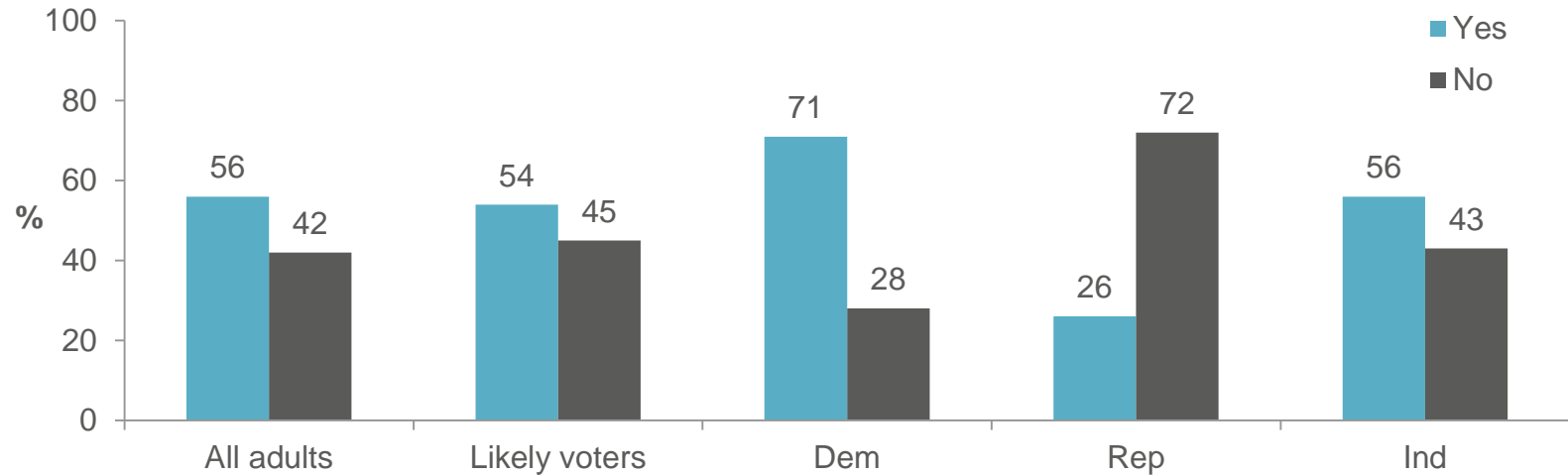
# Level of state funding for local schools

Do you think the current level of state funding for your local public schools is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?



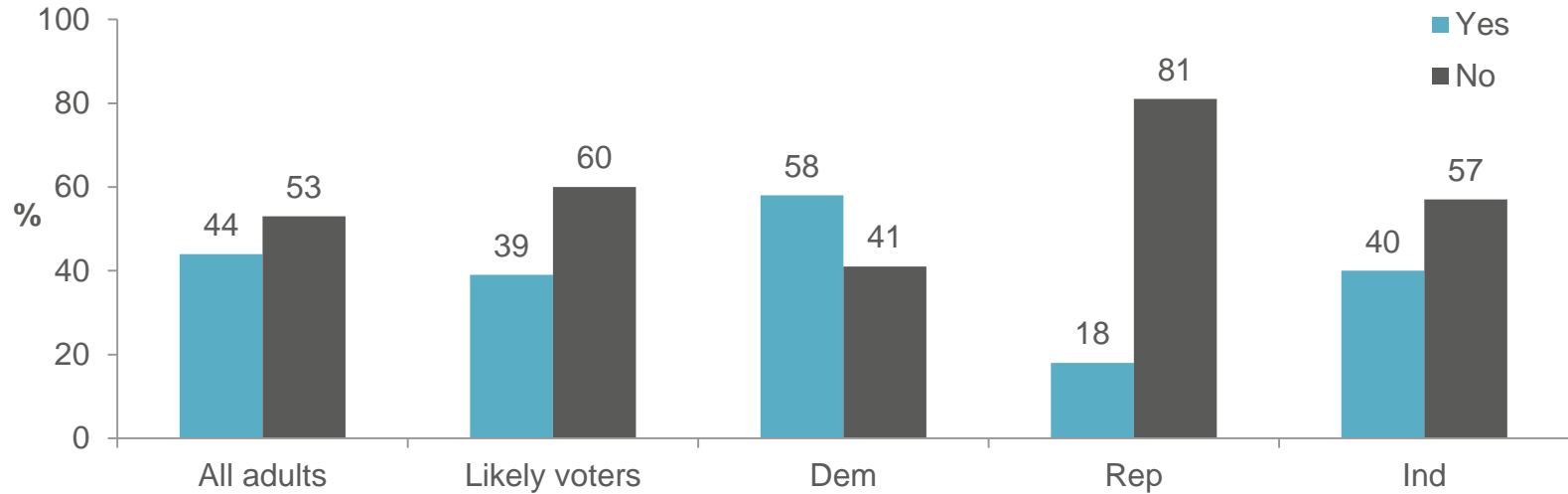
# Taxing commercial properties at market rate

Under Proposition 13, residential and commercial property taxes are both strictly limited. What if there was a state ballot measure to have commercial properties taxed according to their current market value and direct some of this new tax revenue to state funding for K–12 public schools? Would you vote yes or no?



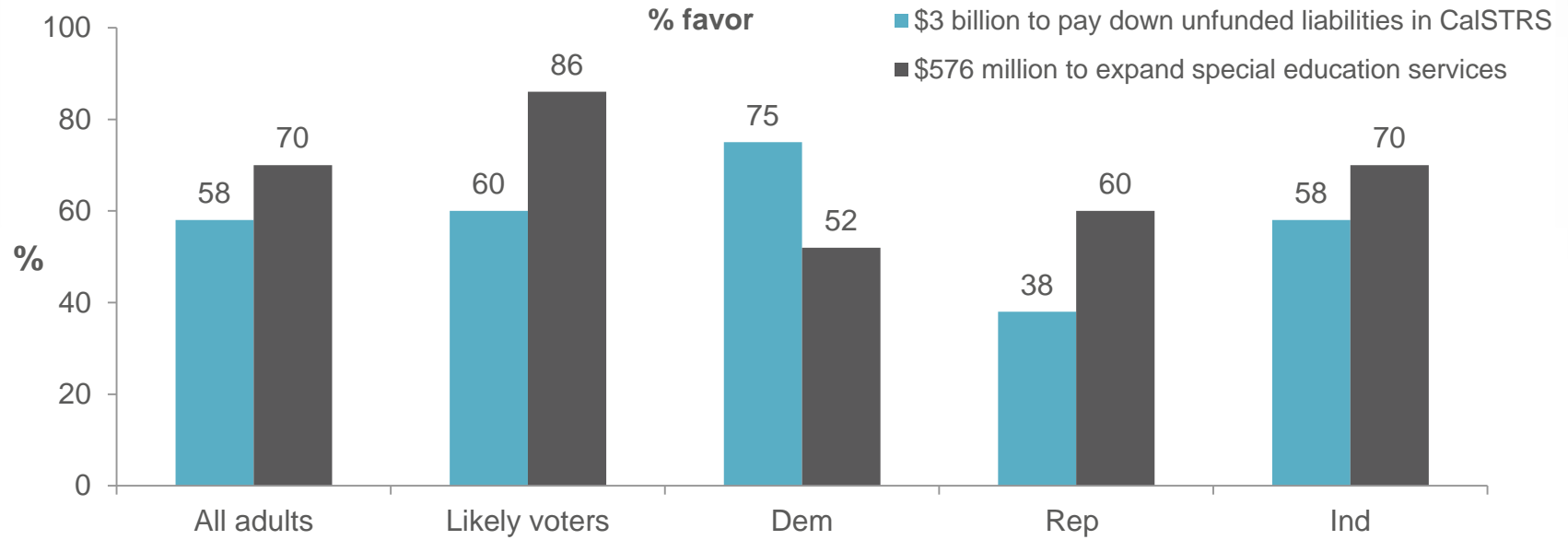
# Lowering vote requirement for local parcel taxes

What if there was a state ballot measure to replace the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority vote for voters to pass local parcel taxes for their local public schools? Would you vote yes or no?



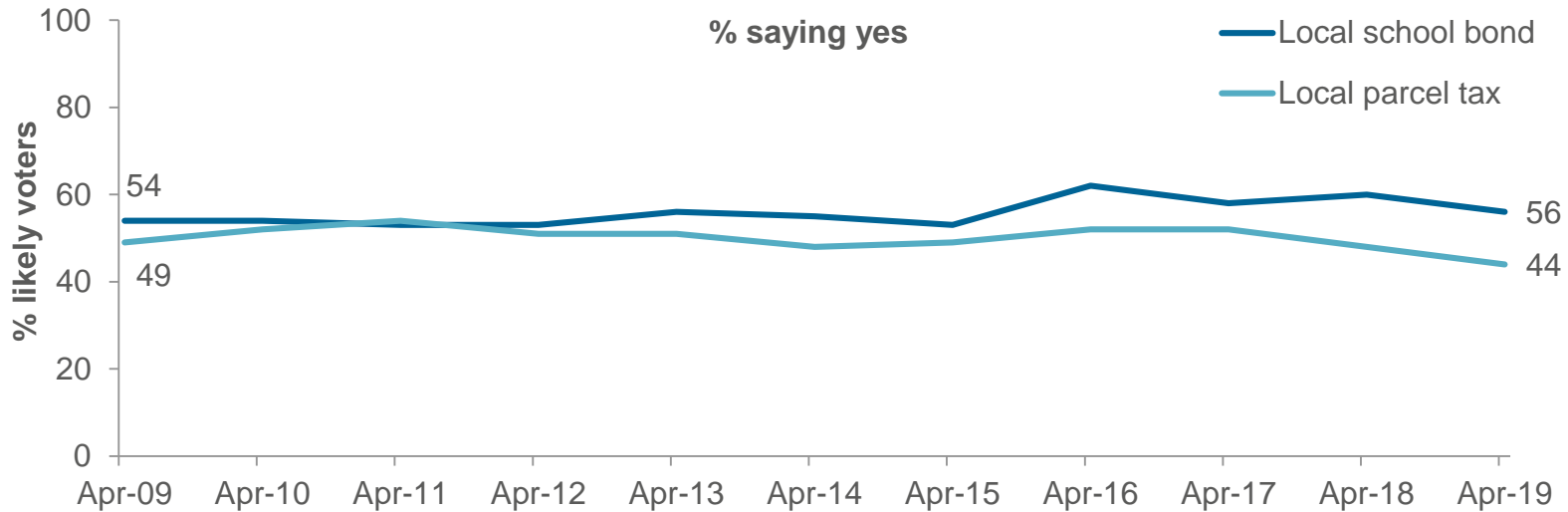
# Governor's spending proposals

Governor Newsom's budget proposal allocates \_\_\_\_\_. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?



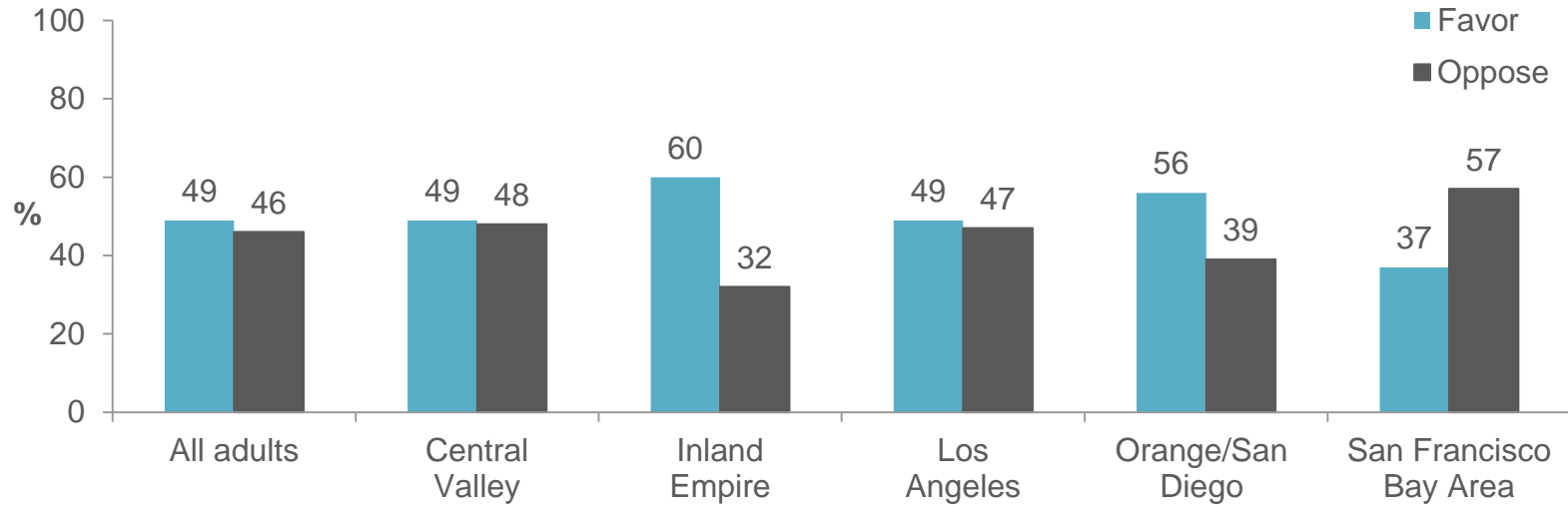
# Local school bond and parcel tax

If your local school district had a bond measure on the ballot to pay for school construction projects, would you vote yes or no? What if there was a measure on your local ballot to increase local parcel taxes to provide more funds for the local public schools? Would you vote yes or no?



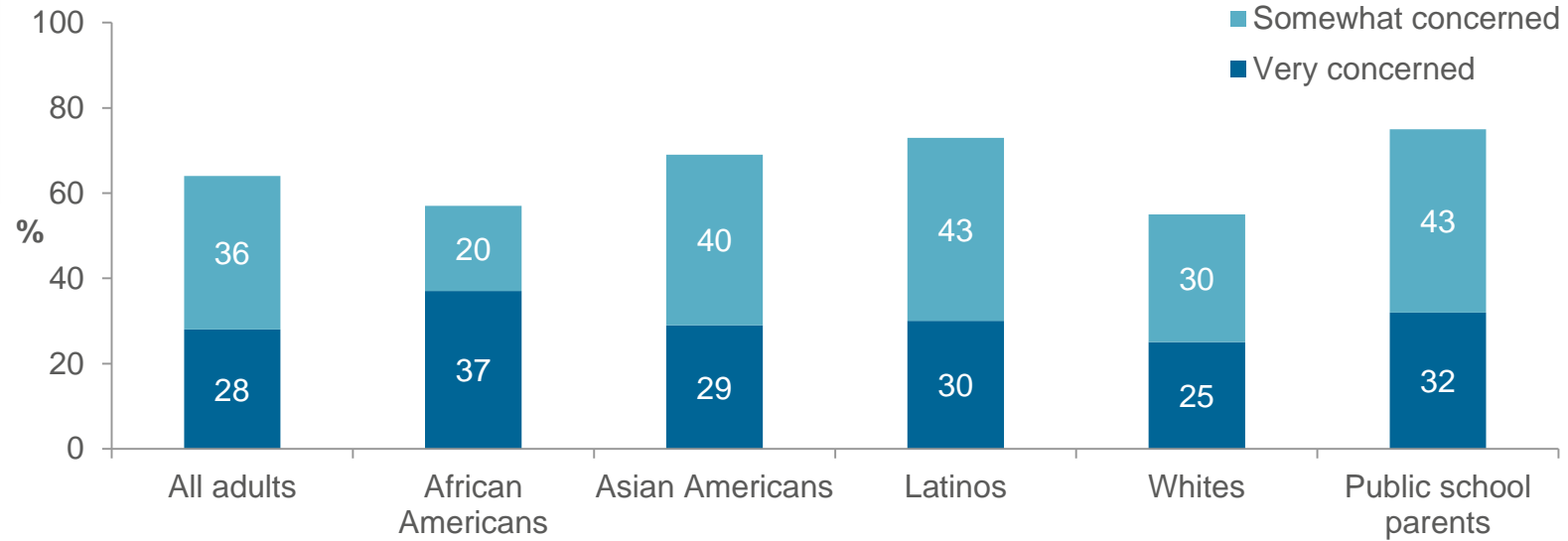
# Charter schools

The state created charter schools to offer parents an alternative to traditional public schools. These schools are expected to meet basic state requirements, but are exempt from many state laws and regulations. In general, do you favor or oppose charter schools?



# Charters and funding for local public schools

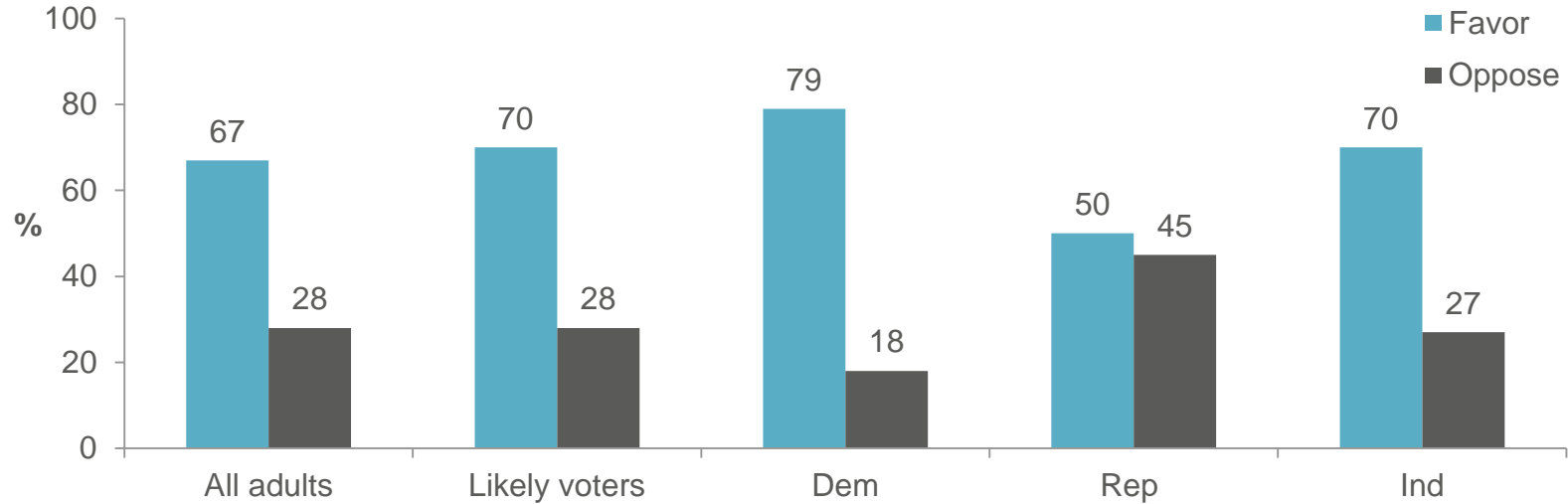
How concerned are you about charter schools taking away state funding that is available for traditional local public schools?





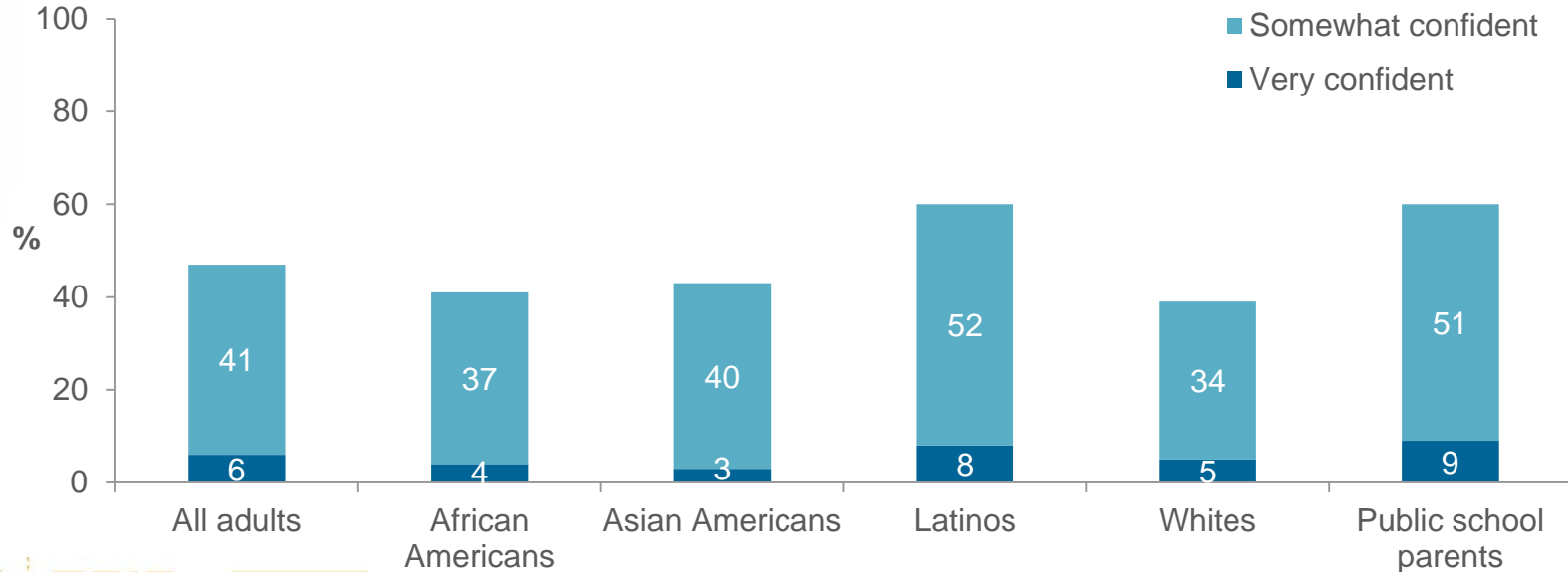
# Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF)

The Local Control Funding Formula provides additional funding to school districts that have more English language learners and lower-income students and gives local school districts more flexibility over how state funding is spent. In general, do you favor or oppose this policy?



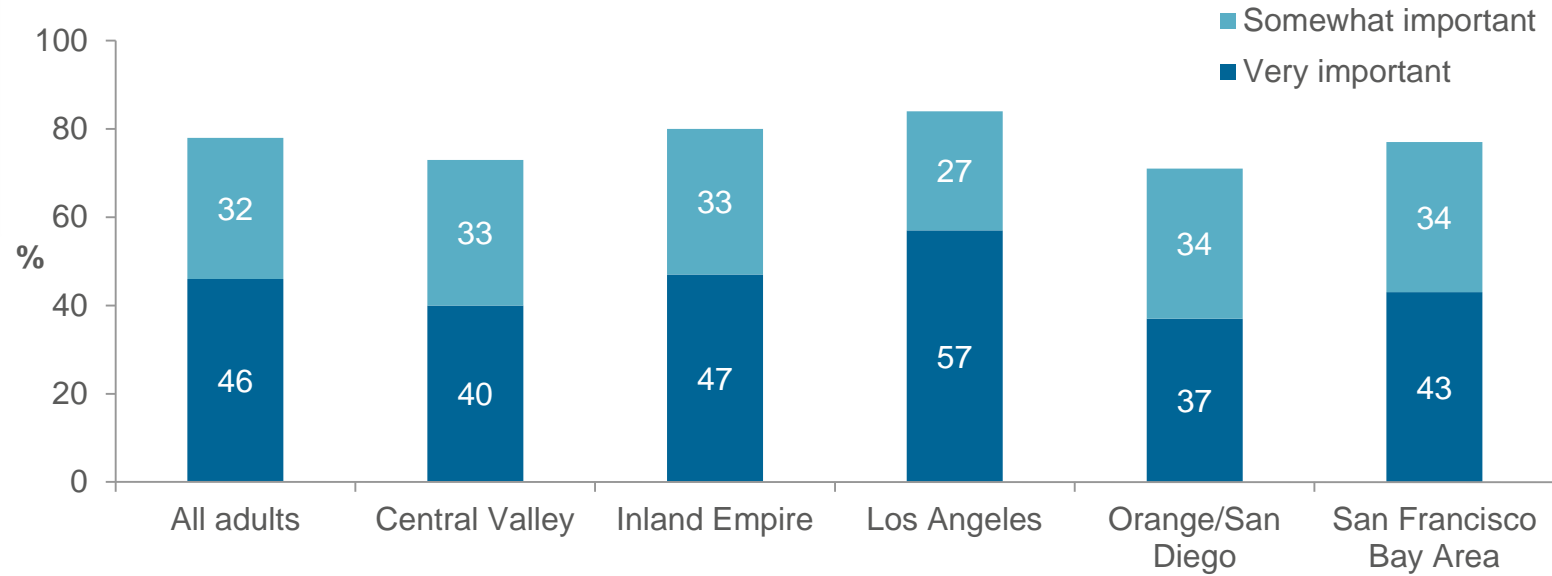
# How LCFF funds will be spent

As the state implements the Local Control Funding Formula, how confident are you that local school districts which receive additional funding will spend that money on programs and support for English language learners and lower-income students?



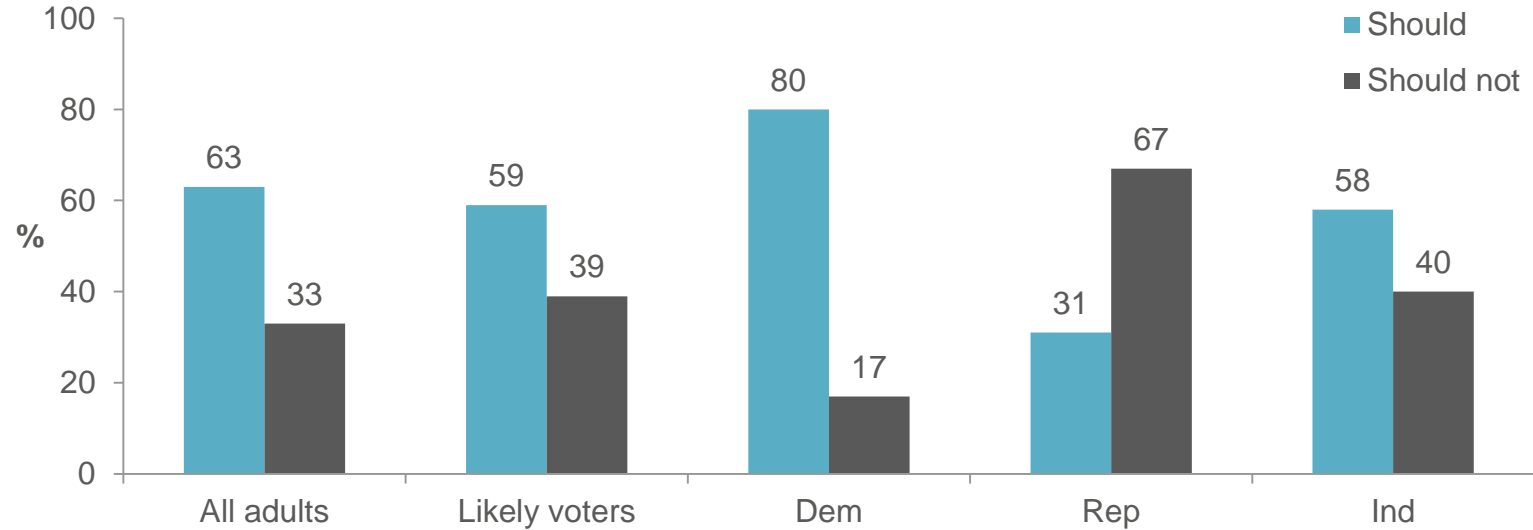
# Preschool and K–12 success

How important is attending preschool to a student's success in kindergarten through grade 12?



# State-funded preschool

Do you think that the state government should or should not fund voluntary preschool programs for all four-year-olds in California?



# Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- Perceptions and attitudes
- Funding and policy preferences
- Conclusions

# Conclusions

- Most Californians say K–12 public education should be a high priority for the governor, but there are partisan divides on whether new policies are needed.
- Many say that teachers' salaries are too low, and at least half across regions support teachers' striking for more pay.
- Majorities of likely voters favor a state bond and higher taxes on commercial properties to raise school revenues. Lowering the local tax threshold receives less support.
- Californians are divided on charter public schools. Most say it is important to have the option of a charter school, but many are concerned about the fiscal impacts on traditional public schools.
- Californians see preschool as important for future educational success. Across regions, there is majority support for state-funded preschool for all four-year-olds.



# PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Education

April 25, 2019

#PPICsurvey

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Alyssa Dykman, Rachel Ward

Supported with funding from the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation,  
the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, and the Stuart Foundation



**PPIC**

PUBLIC POLICY  
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

25 YEARS

# 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.