

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

February 7, 2019

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Alyssa Dykman, Lunna Lopes

Supported with funding from the James Irvine Foundation and
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PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

25 YEARS

Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- State issues
- National issues
- 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 Their Government

- General series funded by the James Irvine Foundation and the PPIC Donor Circle
- Telephone interviews, January 20–29, 2019
 - 70% cell phone, 30% landline
 - 1,707 adults, $\pm 3.3\%$ margin of error
 - 1,154 likely voters, $\pm 4.0\%$ margin of error
- Views on state elected officials, overall mood, and state budget
- Opinions on federal elected officials, the partial government shutdown, and race relations

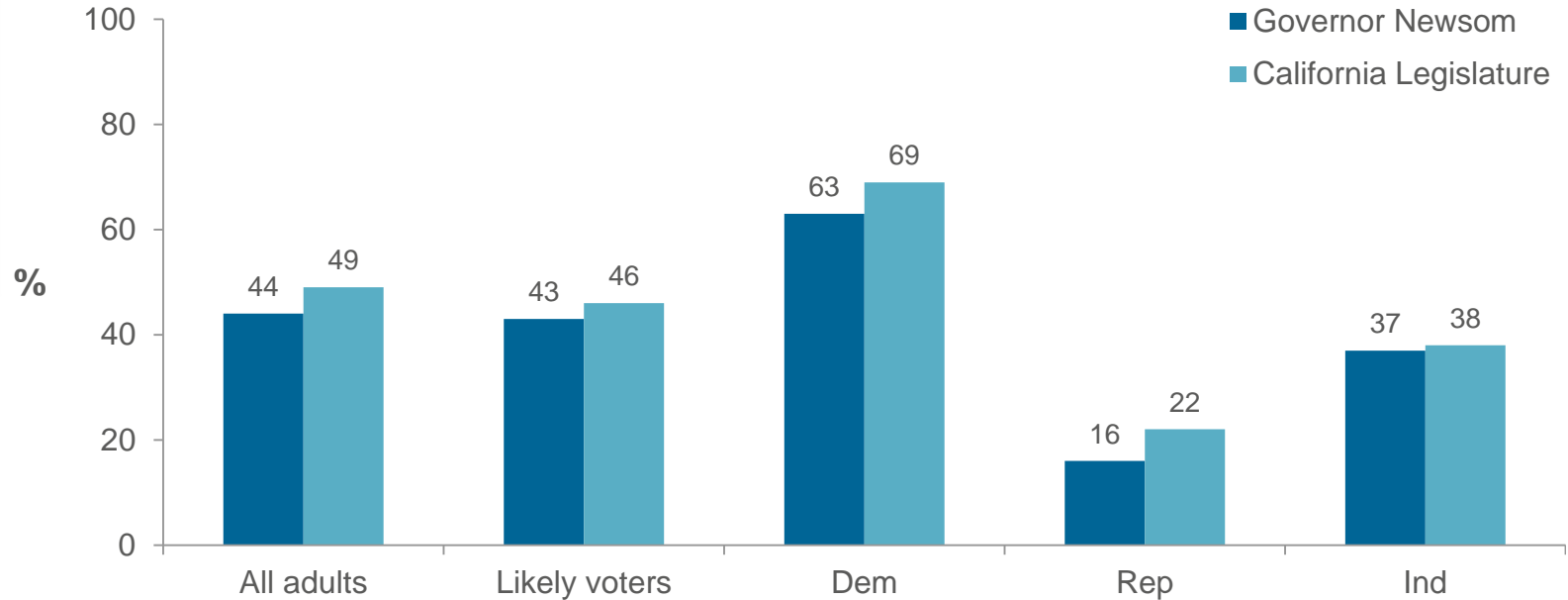


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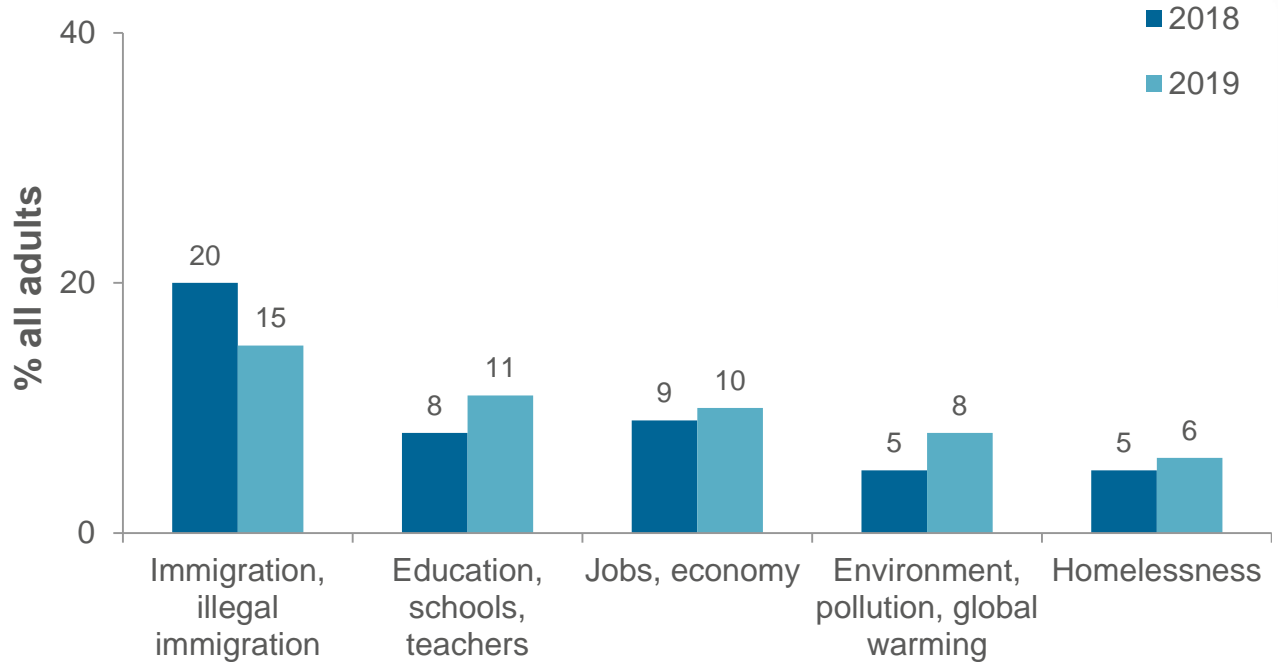


Approval ratings of state elected officials



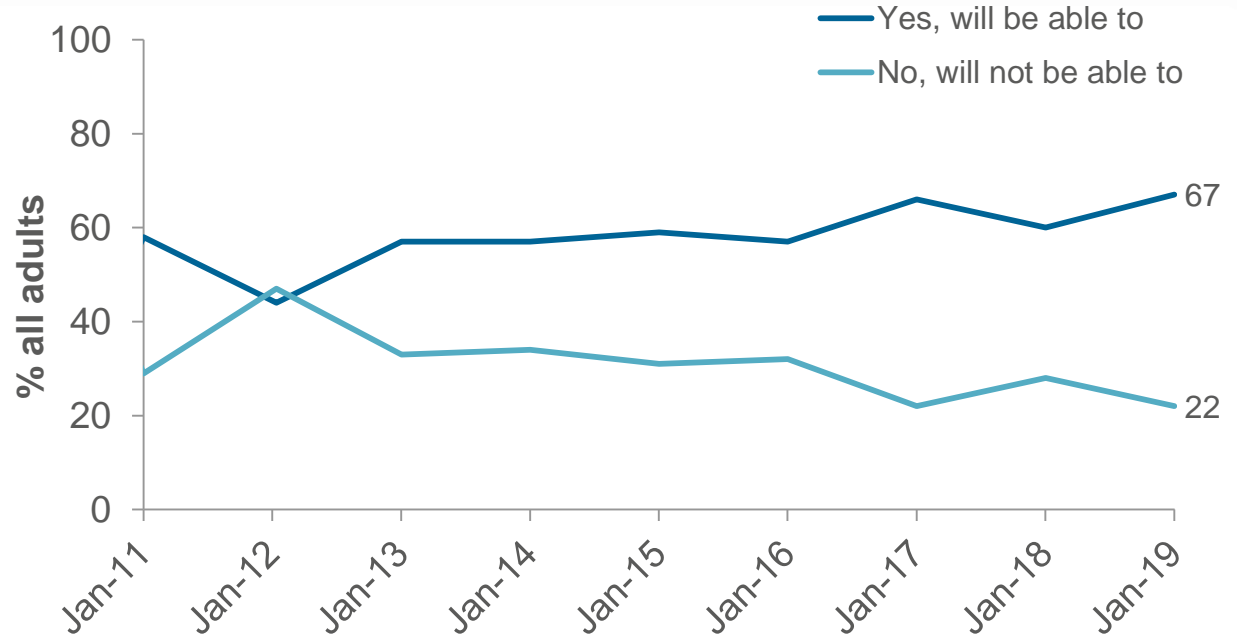
Top issue for the governor and legislature

Which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2019?



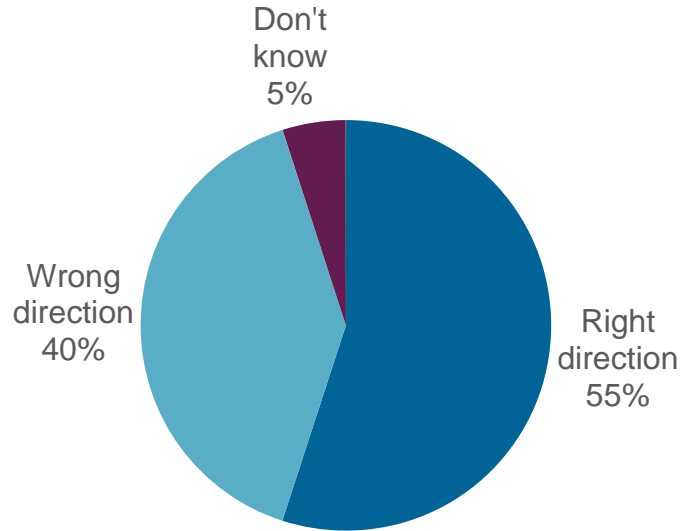
Outlook for cooperation among state leaders

Do you think that Governor Newsom and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?

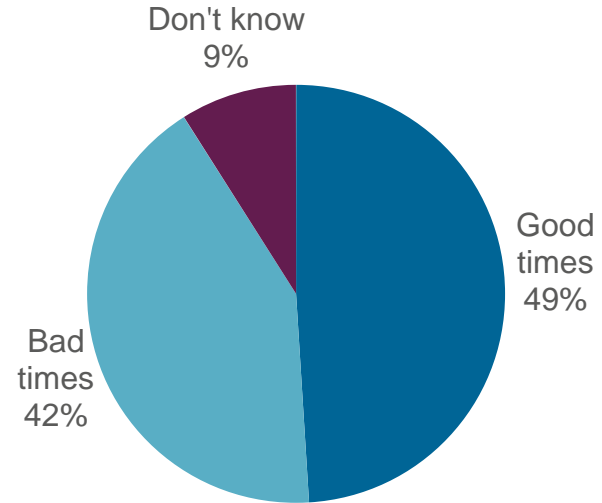


Outlook for the state

Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?



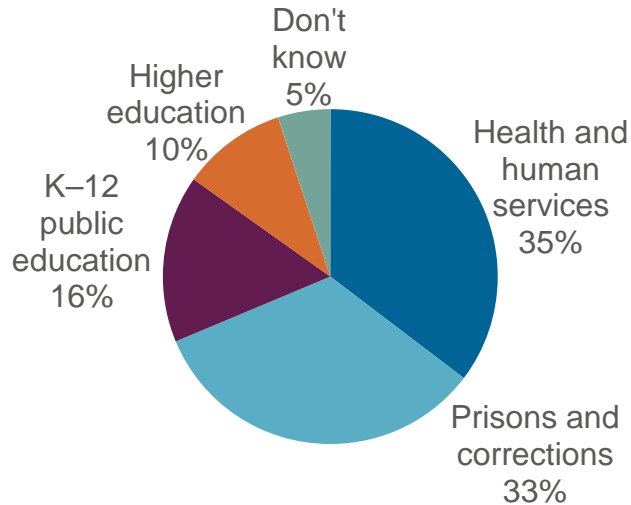
Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?



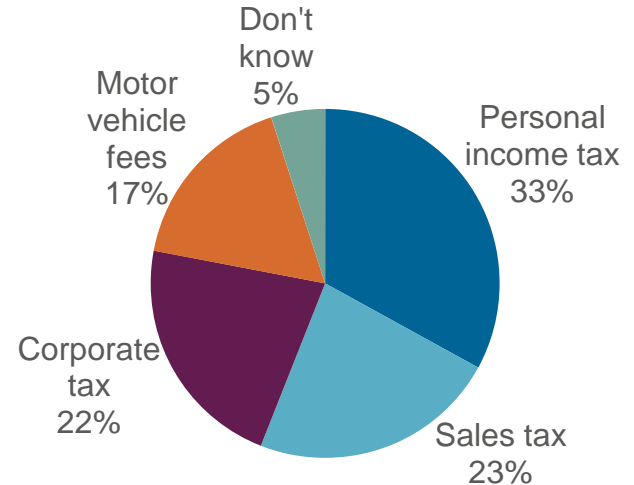
All adults

Knowledge of state spending and revenue

I'm going to name some of the largest areas for state spending. Please tell me the one that represents the most spending in the state budget.



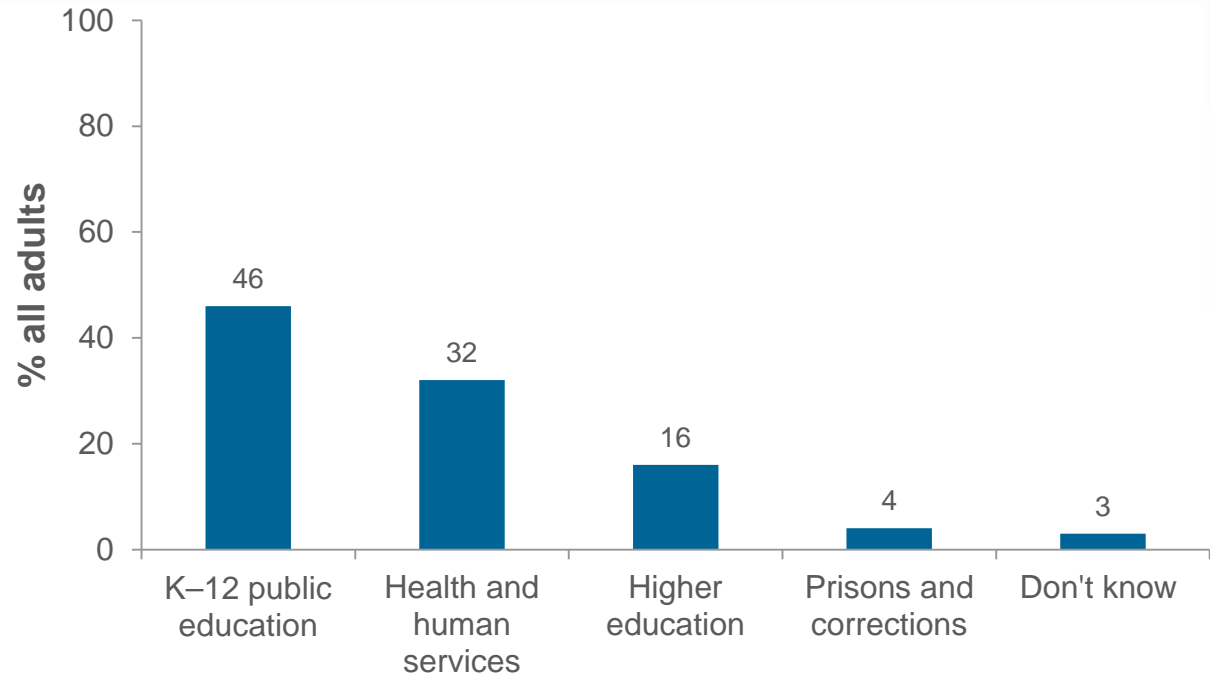
I'm going to name some of the largest areas for state revenues. Please tell me the one that represents the most revenue for the state budget.



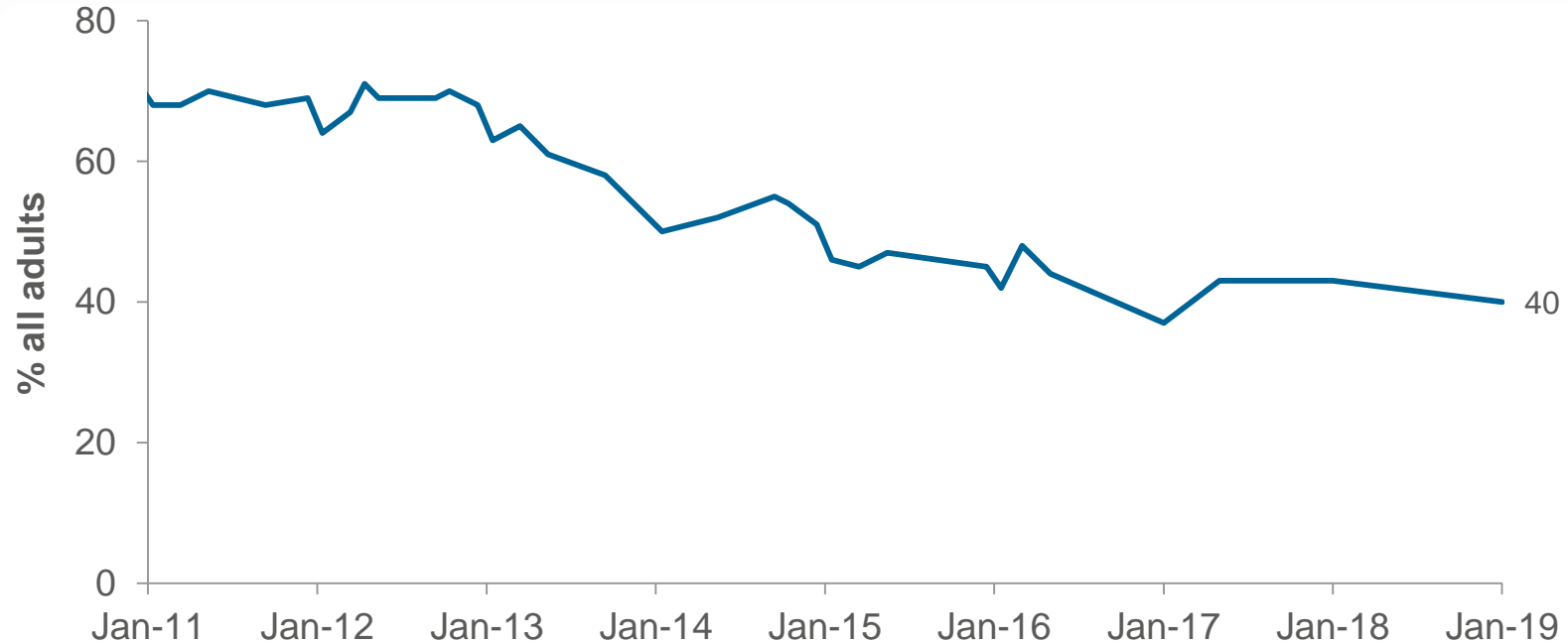
All adults

Highest priority for state spending

Thinking about these four areas of state spending, I'd like you to name the one you think should have the highest priority when it comes to state government spending.

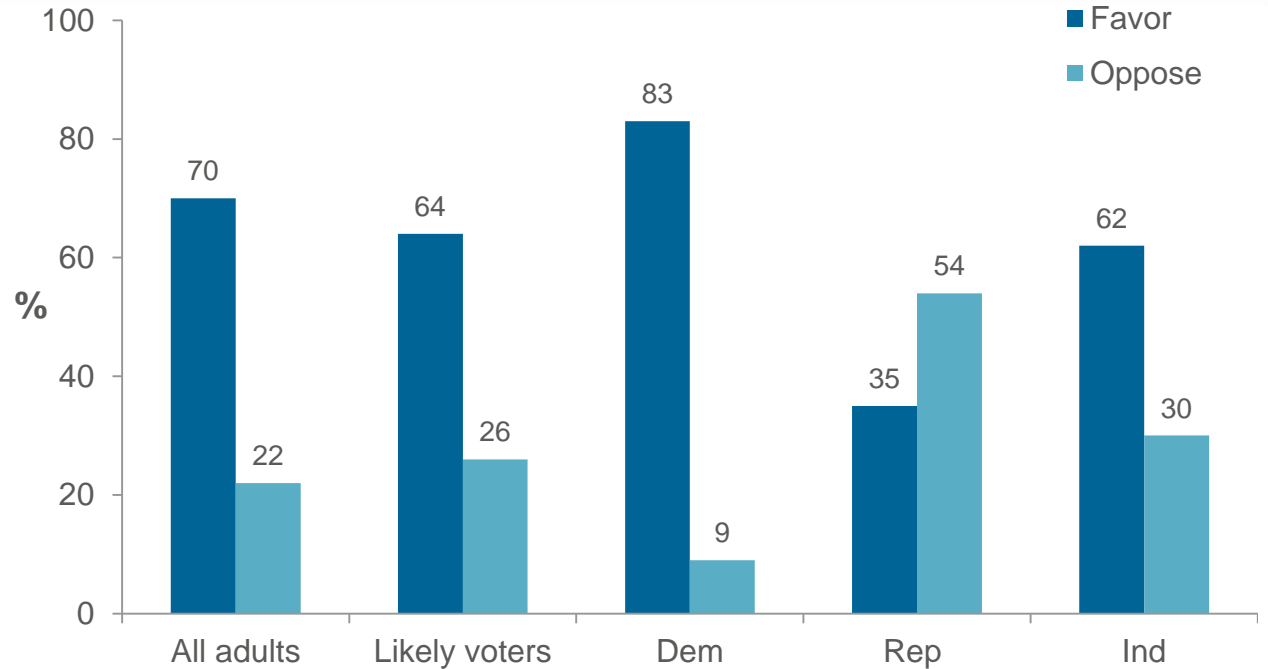


Perception that the state budget situation is a big problem



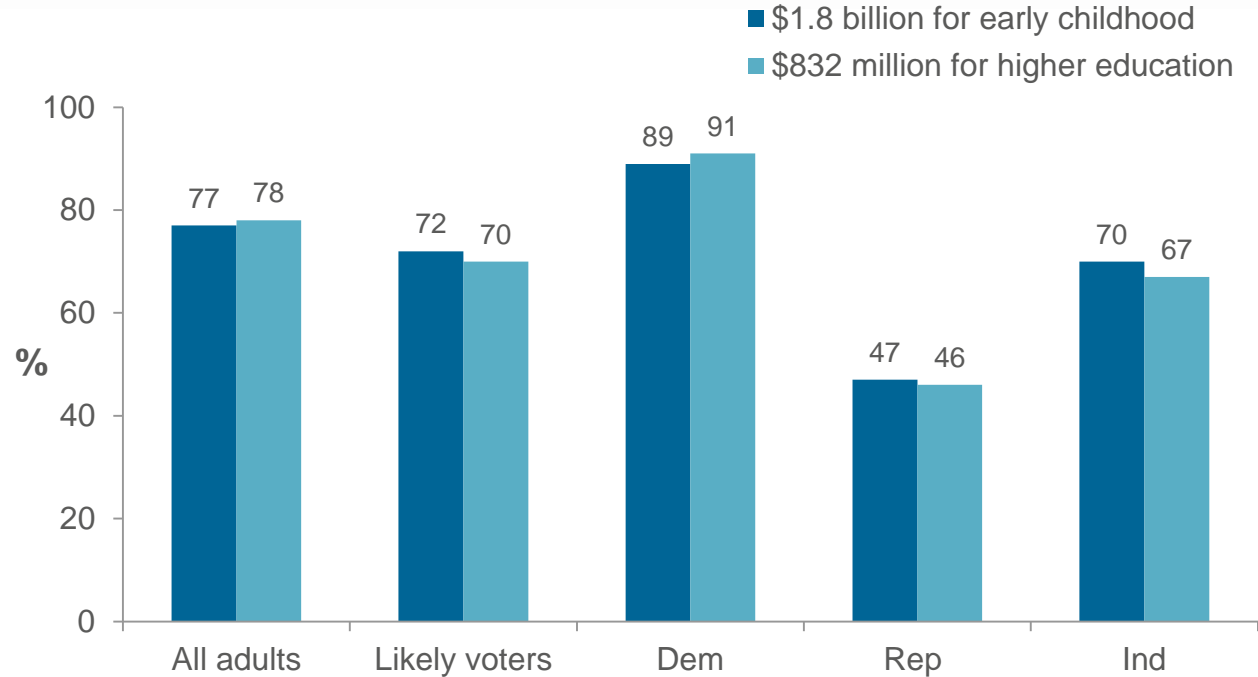
Support for the governor's proposed budget

Governor Newsom recently proposed a budget plan for the next fiscal year that includes \$144 billion dollars in General Fund spending.... In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?



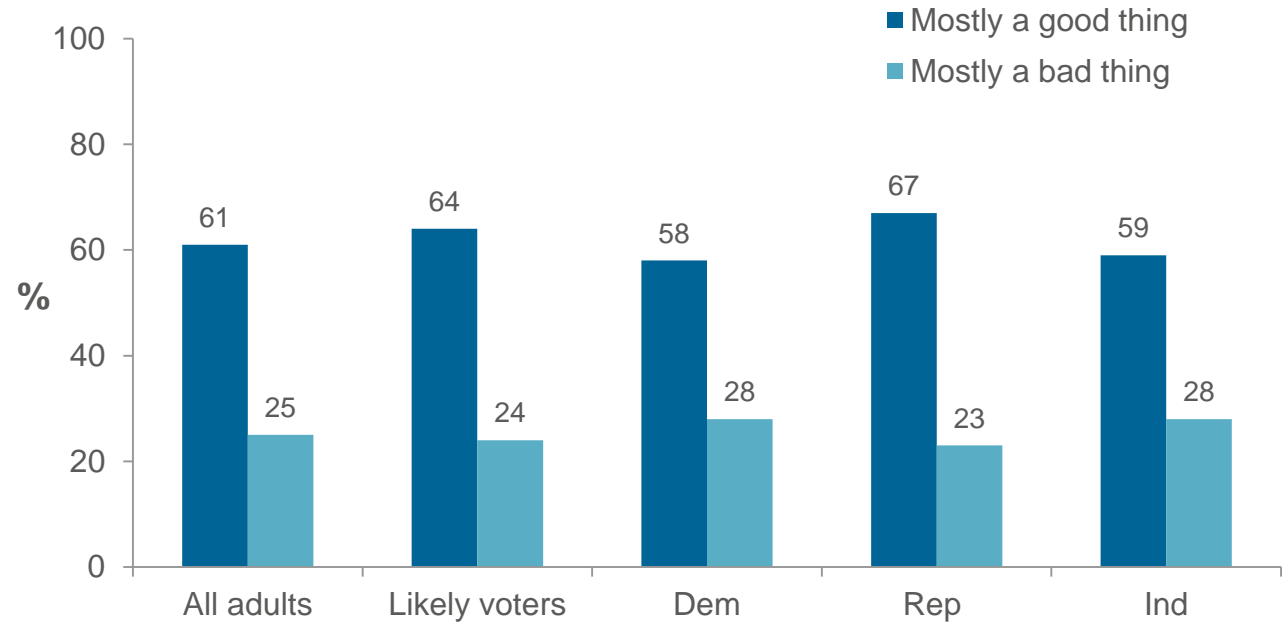
Support for spending proposals

Next, the state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars.... Please say if you favor or oppose the following proposals.

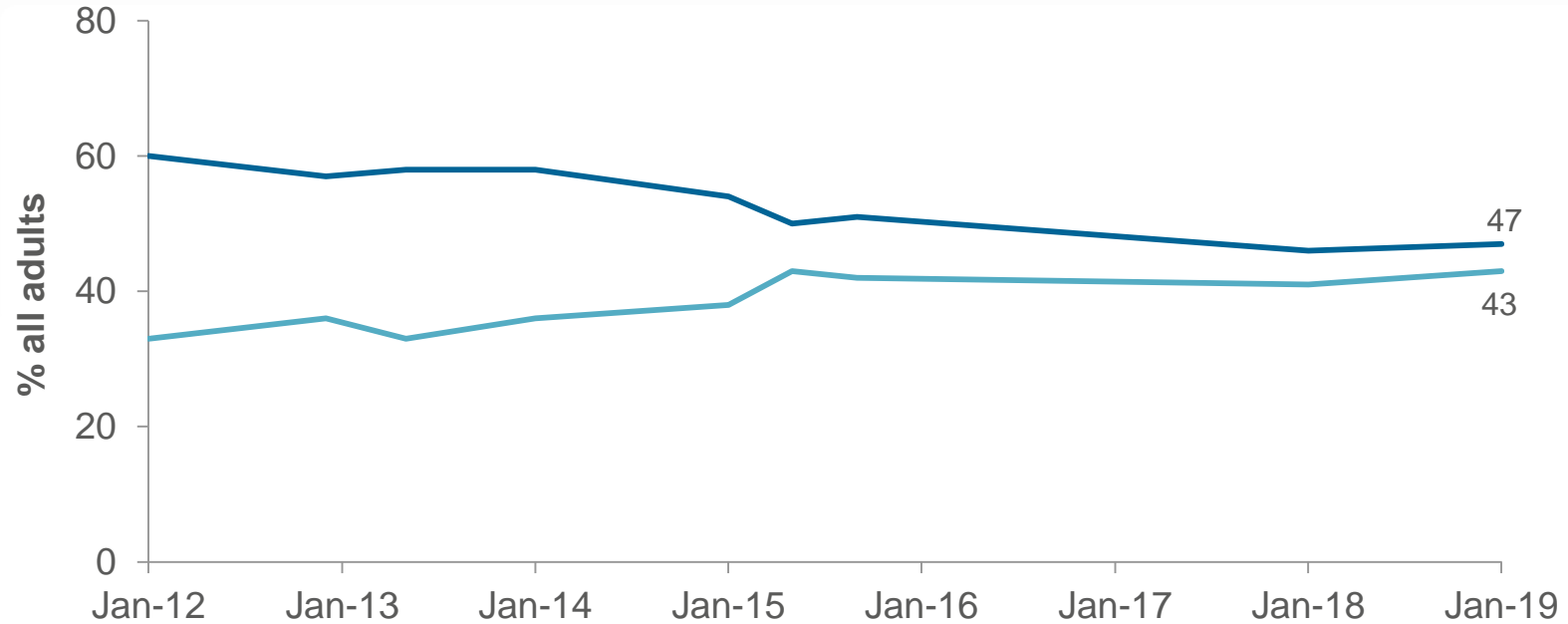


Views of Proposition 13

Overall, do you feel passing Proposition 13 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?



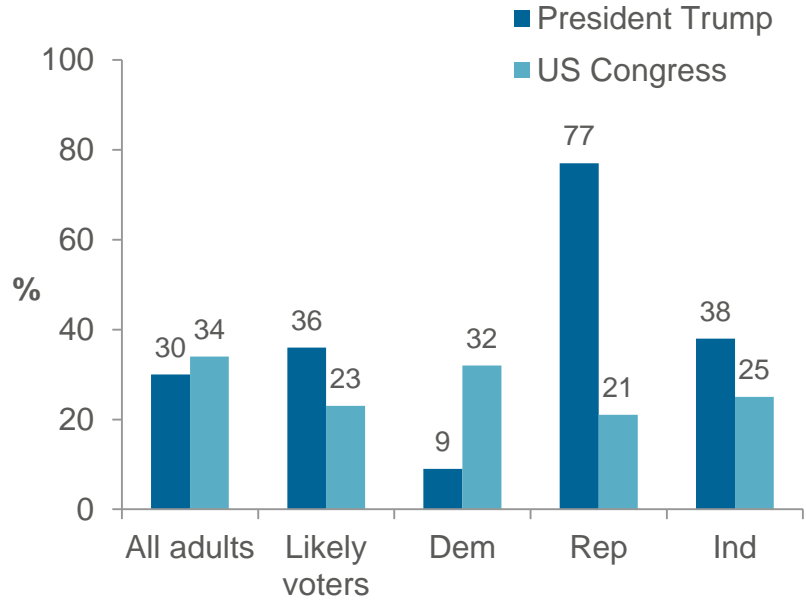
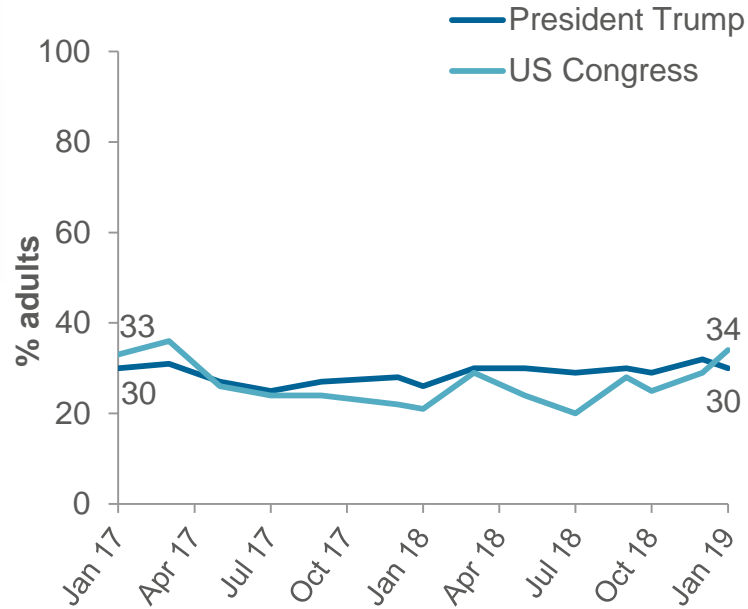
Support for a split roll property tax



Outline

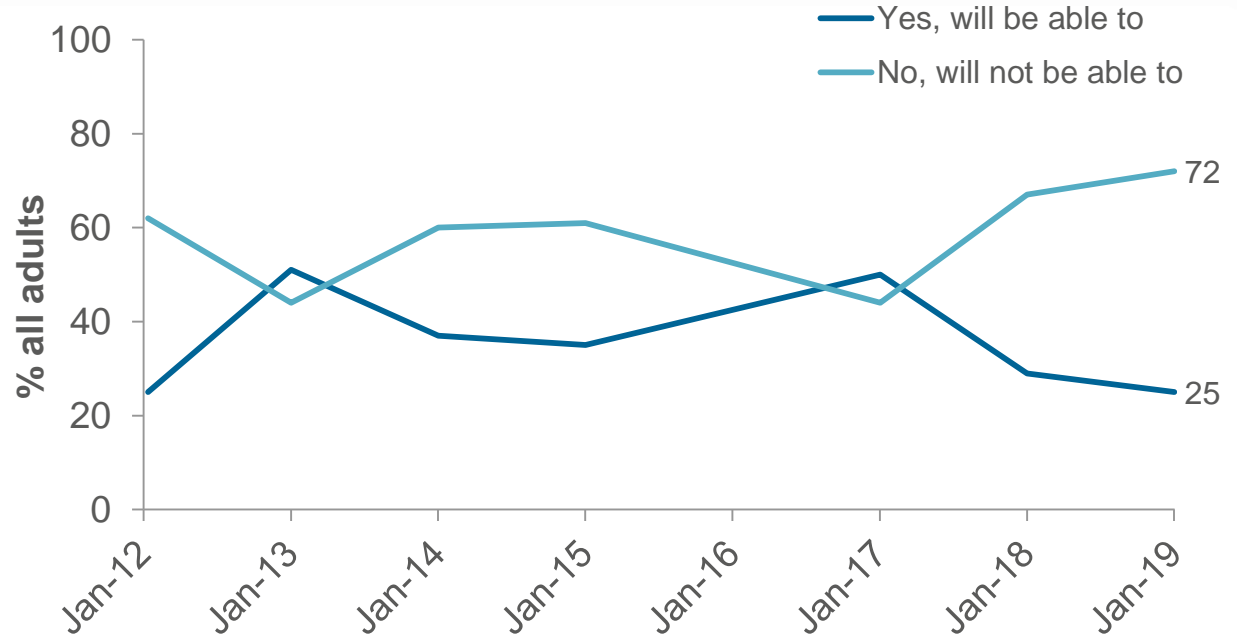
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Approval of federal elected officials

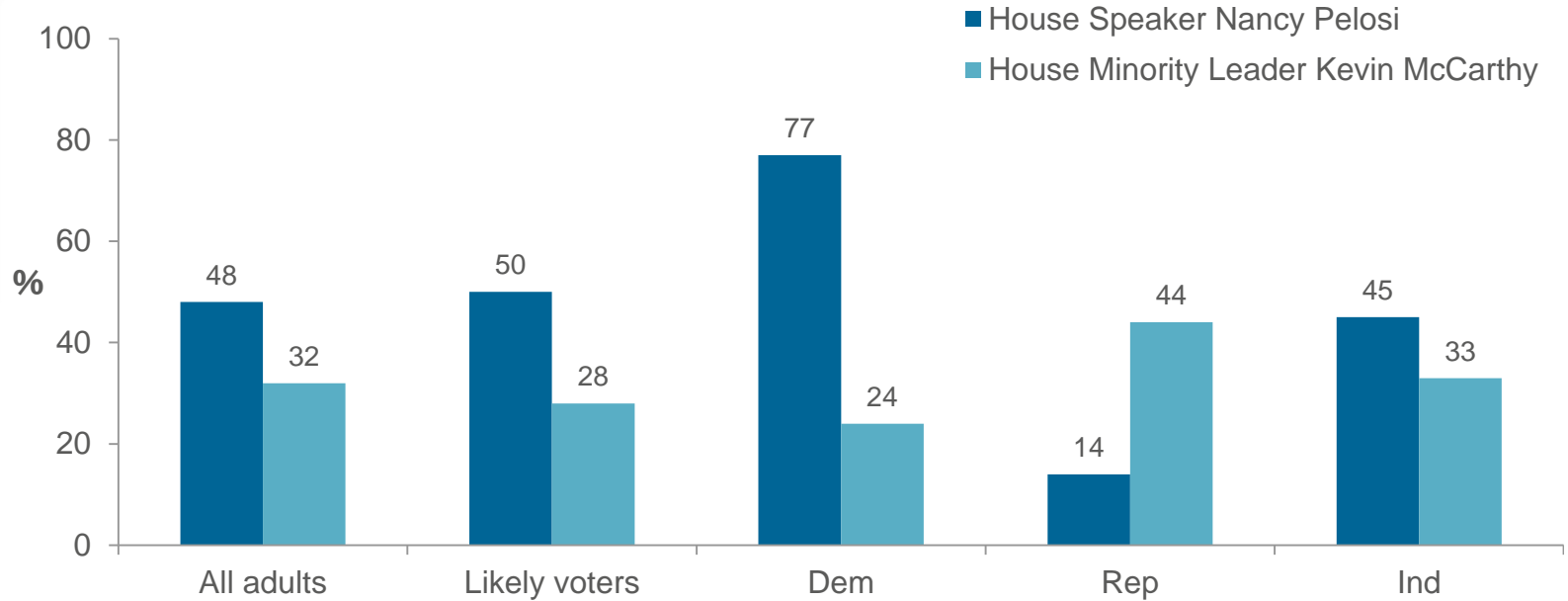


Outlook for cooperation among federal leaders

Do you think that President Trump and the US Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?

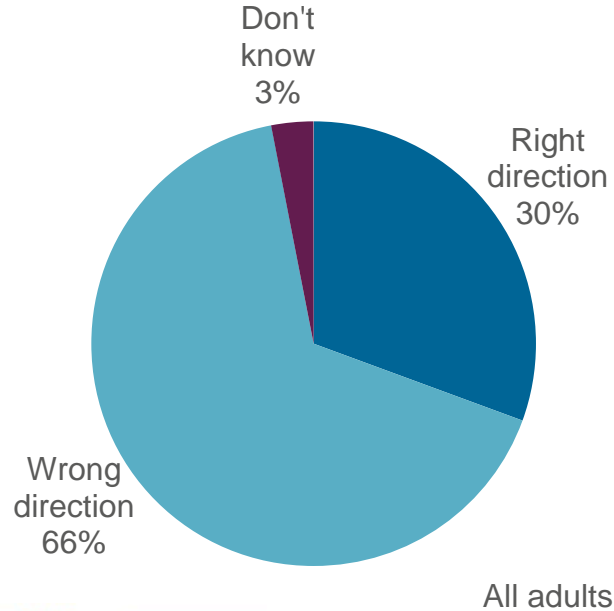


Approval ratings of congressional leaders

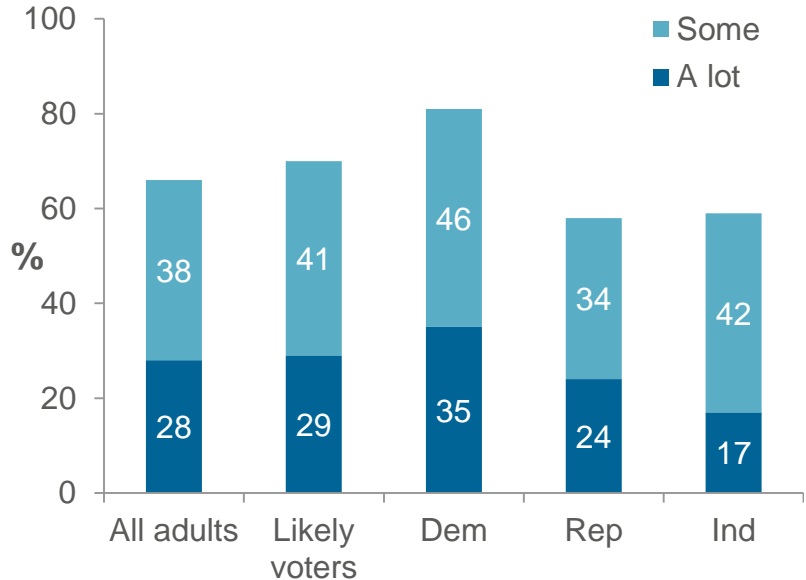


Outlook for the nation

Do you think things in the United States are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

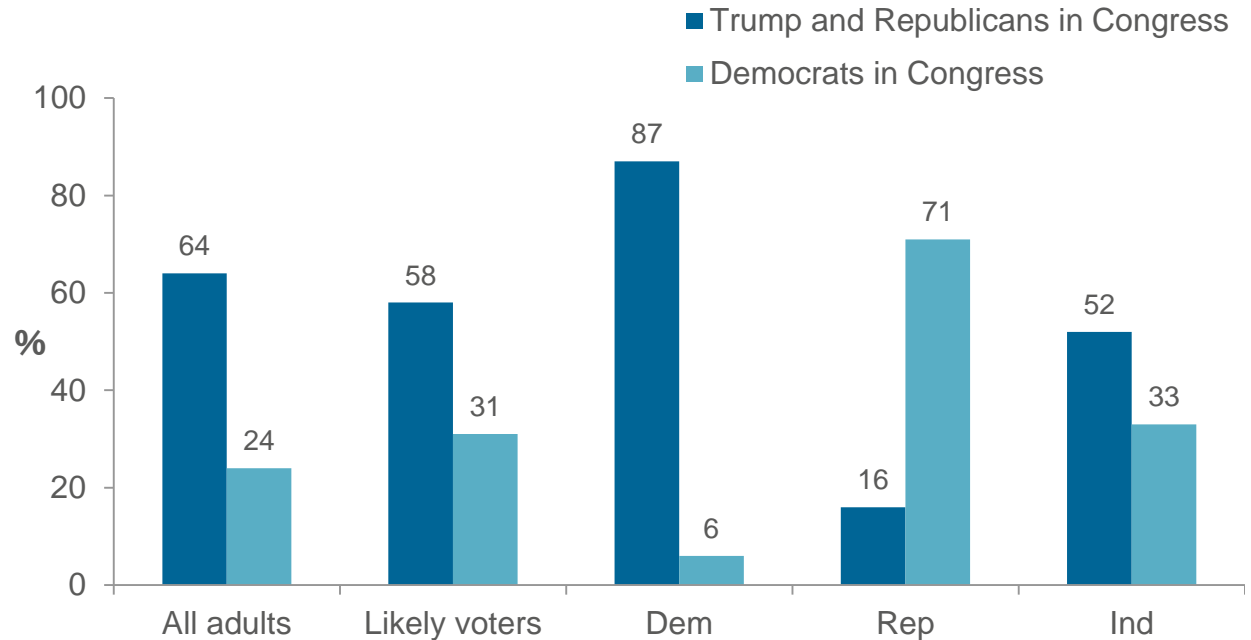


How much do you think Democratic control of the House will change the way things are going in this country—a lot, some, not much, or not at all?



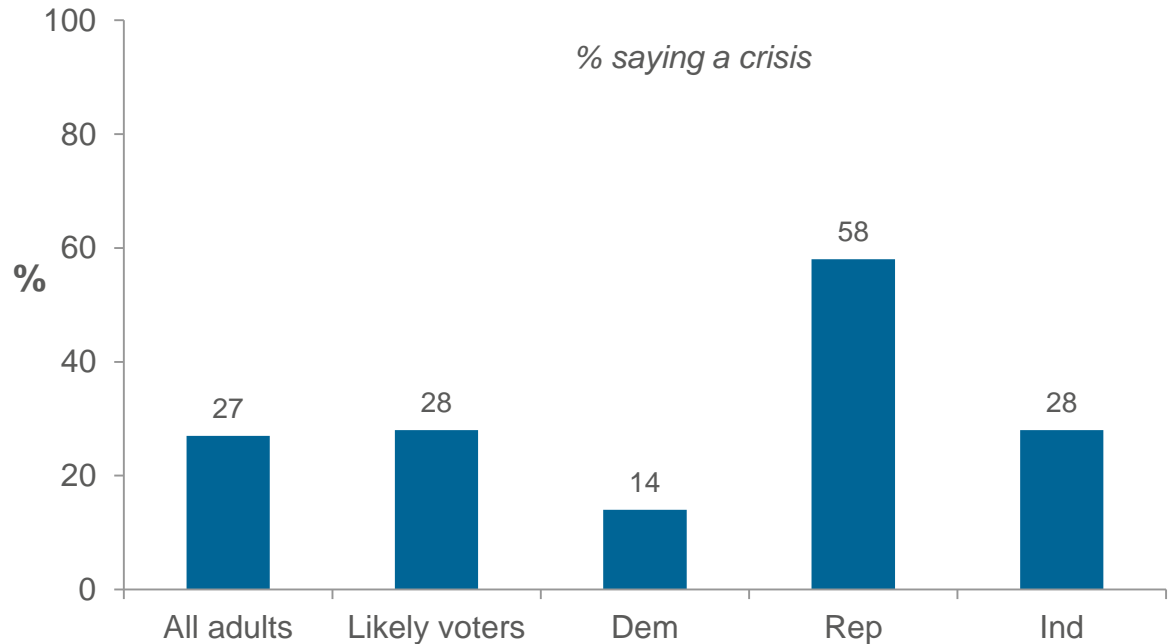
Partial government shutdown

As you may know, the federal government was partially shut down because Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress and Democrats in Congress could not agree on laws about border security. Who do you think was mainly responsible for this situation?



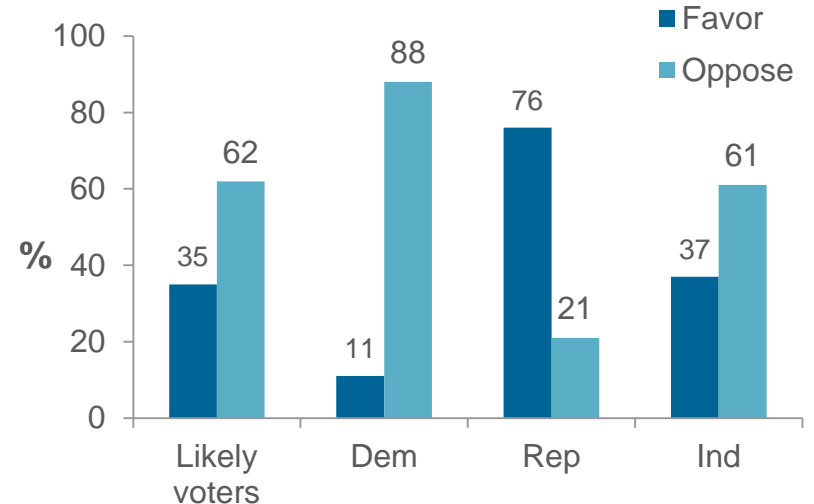
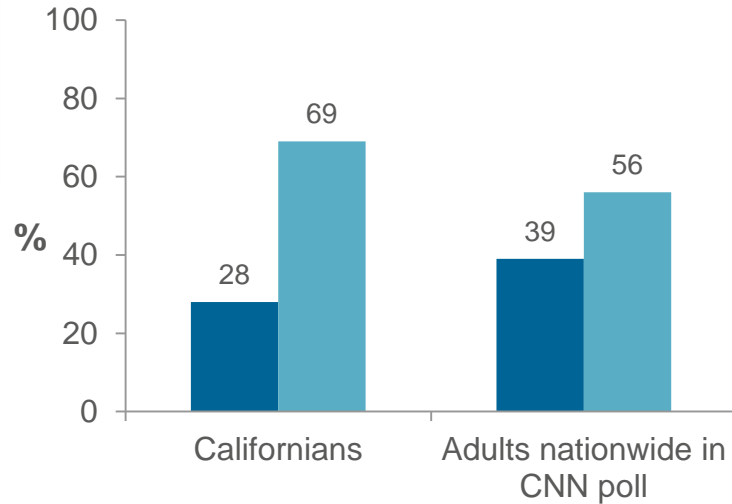
Illegal immigration at the border

Do you think the situation with illegal immigration across the US-Mexico border is currently a crisis, a serious problem but not a crisis, or not a serious problem?



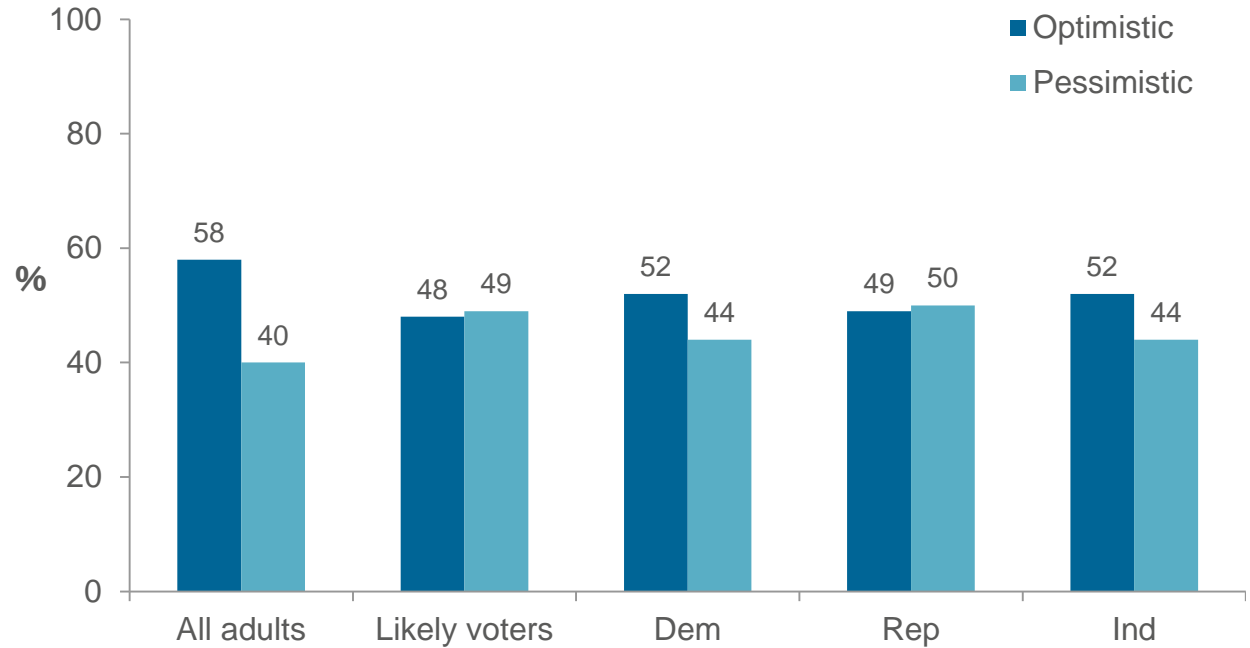
Support for a wall along the border with Mexico

All in all, would you favor or oppose building a wall along the entire border with Mexico?



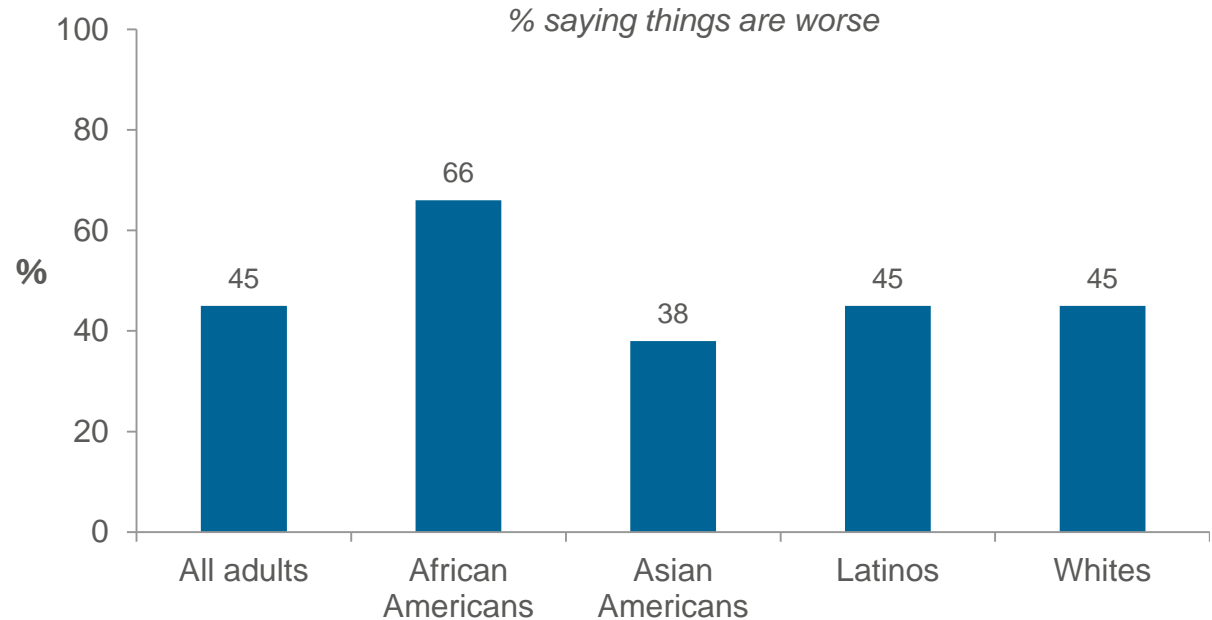
Political divisions in the nation

These days, do you feel optimistic or pessimistic that Americans of different political views can still come together and work out their differences?



Race relations in the nation

What is your opinion with regard to race relations in the United States today? Would you say things are better, about the same, or worse than they were a year ago?



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Conclusions

- A plurality of Californians approve of Governor Newsom. A record-high share say state leaders will be able to work together and accomplish a lot.
- Most Californians favor the governor's budget and his plans to increase funding for preschool and higher education.
- Majorities of Californians say Proposition 13 has been a good thing for California, yet they are divided on a split roll property tax reform.
- Most Californians blame President Trump and Republicans in Congress for the recent partial federal government shutdown.
- Majorities of Californians disapprove of President Trump and Congress. A record-low share say federal leaders will be able to work together and accomplish a lot.
- Californians view immigration as the top issue facing the state today. Majorities across regions oppose building a wall.



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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.