PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

December 1, 2017

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Lunna Lopes

Supported with funding from the James Irvine Foundation, the California Endowment, and the PPIC Donor Circle
Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- 2018 California election
- State and 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
  - 330,000+ Californians interviewed since 1998
  - 160+ general, issue, and regional surveys
Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by the James Irvine Foundation, the California Endowment, and the PPIC Donor Circle
- Telephone interviews, November 10–19, 2017
  - 65% cell phone, 35% landline
  - 1,704 adults, ± 3.4% margin of error
  - 1,070 likely voters, ± 4.3% margin of error
- Views on gubernatorial and US Senate elections and candidates
- Opinions on state elected officials, federal tax reform, and immigration policy
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Gubernatorial election preferences

- Gavin Newsom: 23%
- Antonio Villaraigosa: 18%
- John Chiang: 9%
- John Cox: 9%
- Travis Allen: 6%
- Delaine Eastin: 3%
- Someone else (vol.): 1%
- Don’t know: 30%

% likely voters
Satisfaction with gubernatorial candidates

In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the primary election for governor next June?
Favorability of gubernatorial candidates

- Travis Allen: Favorable 10, Unfavorable 8, Never heard of 21, Don’t know 21
- John Chiang: Favorable 13, Unfavorable 13, Never heard of 36, Don’t know 23
- John Cox: Favorable 8, Unfavorable 8, Never heard of 62, Don’t know 20
- Delaine Eastin: Favorable 12, Unfavorable 15, Never heard of 56, Don’t know 17
- Gavin Newsom: Favorable 39, Unfavorable 24, Never heard of 19, Don’t know 17
- Antonia Villaraigosa: Favorable 31, Unfavorable 32, Never heard of 22, Don’t know 15
US Senate race

Candidate preferences

Candidate qualities

% likely voters

Dianne Feinstein 45  
Kevin de León 21  
Someone else (vol) 1  
Don’t know 33

Kevin de León

Favorable 17  
Unfavorable 19  
Never heard of 17  
Don’t know 5

Dianne Feinstein

Favorable 51  
Unfavorable 39  
Never heard of 5  
Don’t know 4
Candidate qualities: experience or new ideas

Which of the following is more important to you in candidates for statewide office, such as governor or US senator: experience and a proven record or new ideas and a different approach?
Candidate qualities: work with or push back against the Trump administration

Which of the following is more important to you in candidates for statewide office, such as governor or US senator: that they work with the Trump administration or that they push back against the Trump administration?
Next, several issues will be decided by California voters in the November 2018 election. Please tell me how important each of the following issues is to you. How about…

- Single-payer health insurance: 19% important, 59% somewhat important
- Repealing the recently passed gas tax: 18% important, 54% somewhat important
- The state bond for affordable housing: 25% important, 48% somewhat important
- Expanding the size of the California legislature: 19% important, 18% somewhat important
Overall, do you feel that passing Proposition 14 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?

- **All likely voters**: Mostly a good thing 60%, Mixed/don't know (vol) 13%, Mostly a bad thing 26%
- **Dem**: Mostly a good thing 71%, Mixed/don't know (vol) 14%, Mostly a bad thing 16%
- **Ind**: Mostly a good thing 63%, Mixed/don't know (vol) 13%, Mostly a bad thing 24%
- **Rep**: Mostly a good thing 45%, Mixed/don't know (vol) 12%, Mostly a bad thing 43%
Overall, do you feel that passing Senate Bill 450 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?

- **All likely voters:**
  - Mostly a good thing: 74%
  - Mixed/don’t know (vol): 6%
  - Mostly a bad thing: 20%

- **Dem:**
  - Mostly a good thing: 86%
  - Mixed/don’t know (vol): 4%
  - Mostly a bad thing: 11%

- **Ind:**
  - Mostly a good thing: 73%
  - Mixed/don’t know (vol): 8%
  - Mostly a bad thing: 19%

- **Rep:**
  - Mostly a good thing: 57%
  - Mixed/don’t know (vol): 9%
  - Mostly a bad thing: 34%
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Belief that things in ________ are generally going in the right direction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>United States</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dem</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rep</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ind</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>27%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Approval of state elected officials

Governor Brown
California Legislature

% adults

Dec 11 Dec 12 Dec 13 Dec 14 Dec 15 Dec 16 Dec 17

53 72 56 49 69 44

% adults

Governor Brown
California Legislature

All adults Likely voters Dem Rep Ind

53 53 72 20 56 49 46 69 20 44
Approval of federal elected officials

% adults

President Trump
US Congress

Jan 17 Dec 17

% adults

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US Congress

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% adults

President Trump
US Congress
Overall, do you favor or oppose the tax reform proposals made by the Republicans in Congress?

*November CNN poll.
From what you know of those proposals, do you think you and your family will be better off, worse off, or about the same if they are passed and signed into law?
Do you think that lowering taxes for large businesses and corporations would help the economy, hurt the economy, or not make a difference?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Help</th>
<th>No difference</th>
<th>Hurt</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely voters</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under $40,000</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>$40,000 to $80,000</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$80,000 or more</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>42</td>
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</tbody>
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Components of Republican tax proposals

- Eliminating deductions for state and local income and sales taxes
  - Favor and Oppose percentages for different income brackets:
    - All adults: 50 Favor, 35 Oppose
    - Under $40,000: 42 Favor, 40 Oppose
    - $40,000 - $80,000: 34 Favor, 55 Oppose
    - $80,000 or more: 25 Favor, 65 Oppose

- Allowing the home interest deduction only on the first $500,000 of mortgage debt
  - Favor and Oppose percentages for different income brackets:
    - All adults: 49 Favor, 36 Oppose
    - Under $40,000: 48 Favor, 29 Oppose
    - $40,000 - $80,000: 55 Favor, 36 Oppose
    - $80,000 or more: 46 Favor, 46 Oppose
Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are living in the US? There should be a way for them to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met, or they should not be allowed to stay in this country legally.
Concern about increased federal immigration enforcement

When it comes to increased federal immigration enforcement, how much do you worry that someone that you know could be deported?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Some Worry</th>
<th>A Lot Worry</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Americans</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinos</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whites</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born in US</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not born in US</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Favorability of major political parties

- Democratic Party
- Republican Party

% adults

Dec 11: 58
Dec 12: 35
Dec 13: 48
Dec 14: 26
Dec 15: 26
Dec 16: 26
Dec 17: 26

% adults

All adults: 48
Dem: 72
Rep: 59
Ind: 38
Likely voters: 44

Democratic Party
Republican 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?
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Conclusions

- Gavin Newsom and Antonio Villaraigosa are the top two candidates in the gubernatorial primary, but three in ten likely voters are undecided.
- Senator Feinstein is leading Kevin de León by a two-to-one margin with a third of likely voters undecided.
- About half of likely voters prefer candidates for statewide office who will offer new ideas and push back against the Trump administration.
- Most Californians oppose the Republican tax reform proposals; few believe they would be better off personally.
- Across parties, Californians say there should be a way for undocumented immigrants to stay in the country legally.
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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.