

Californians and Their Government

December 14, 2018

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Outline

- PPIC Statewide Surveys
- State post-election landscape
- Federal post-election landscape
- 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

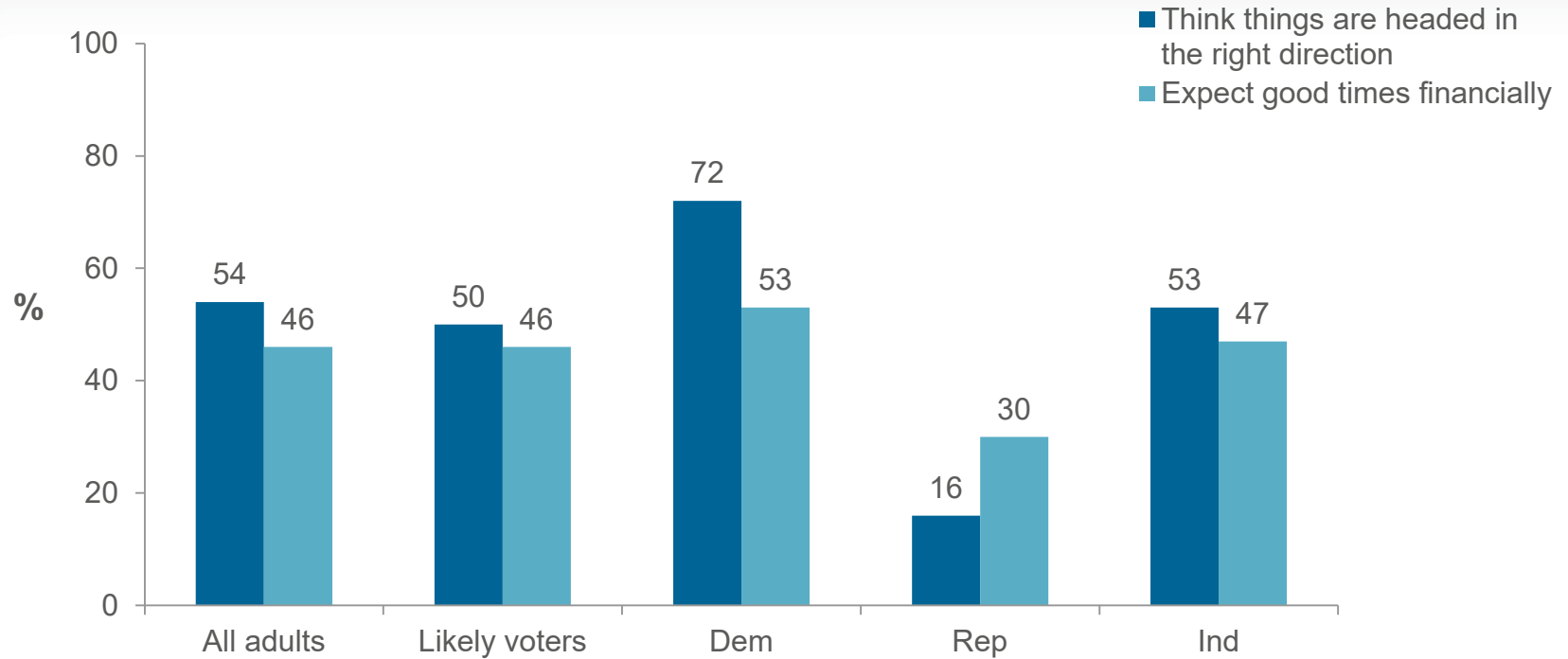
Californians and Their Government

- General series funded by the James Irvine Foundation and the PPIC Donor Circle
- Telephone interviews, November 11–20, 2018
 - 70% cell phone, 30% landline
 - 1,704 adults, $\pm 3.3\%$ margin of error
 - 1,094 likely voters, $\pm 4.1\%$ margin of error
- Opinions on state elected officials, fiscal choices, and policy priorities
- Opinions on federal elected officials, immigration policy, and the role of government

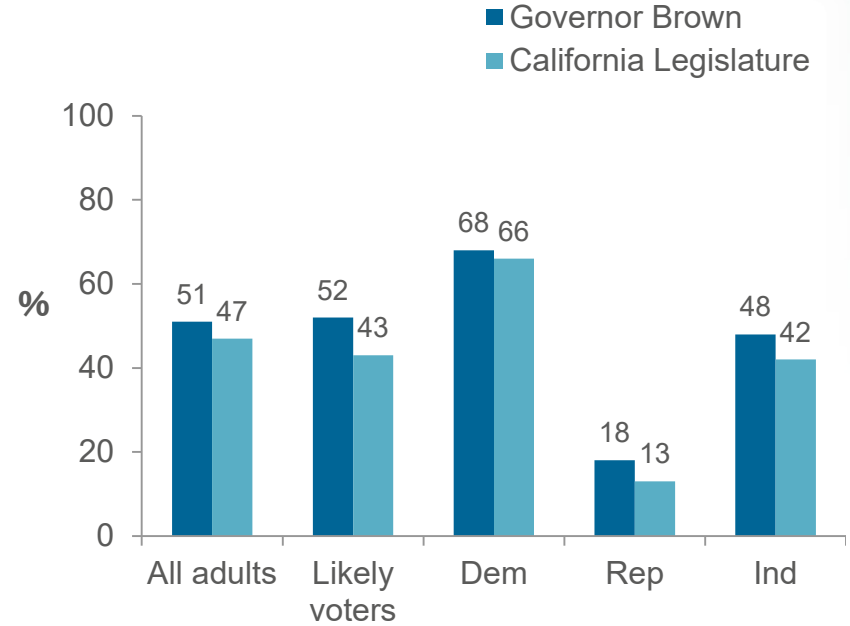
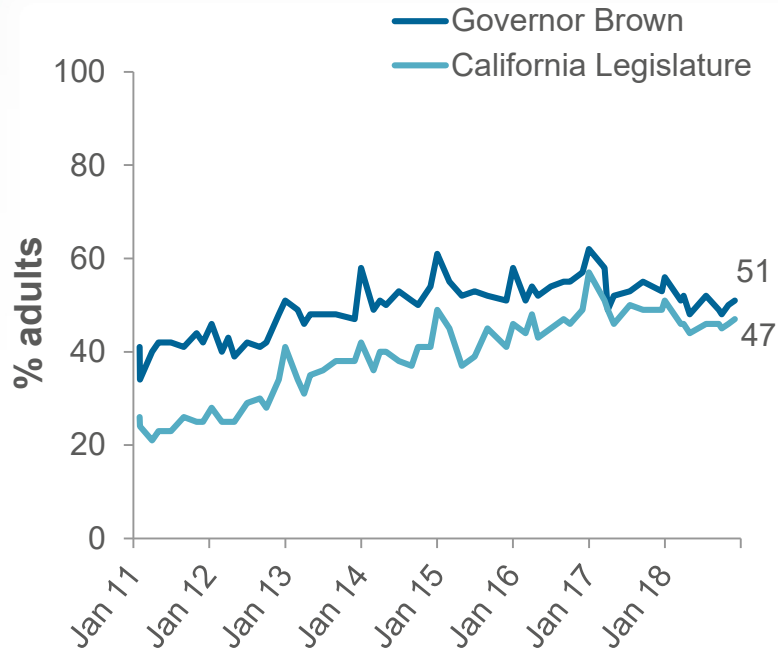
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Outlook for the state

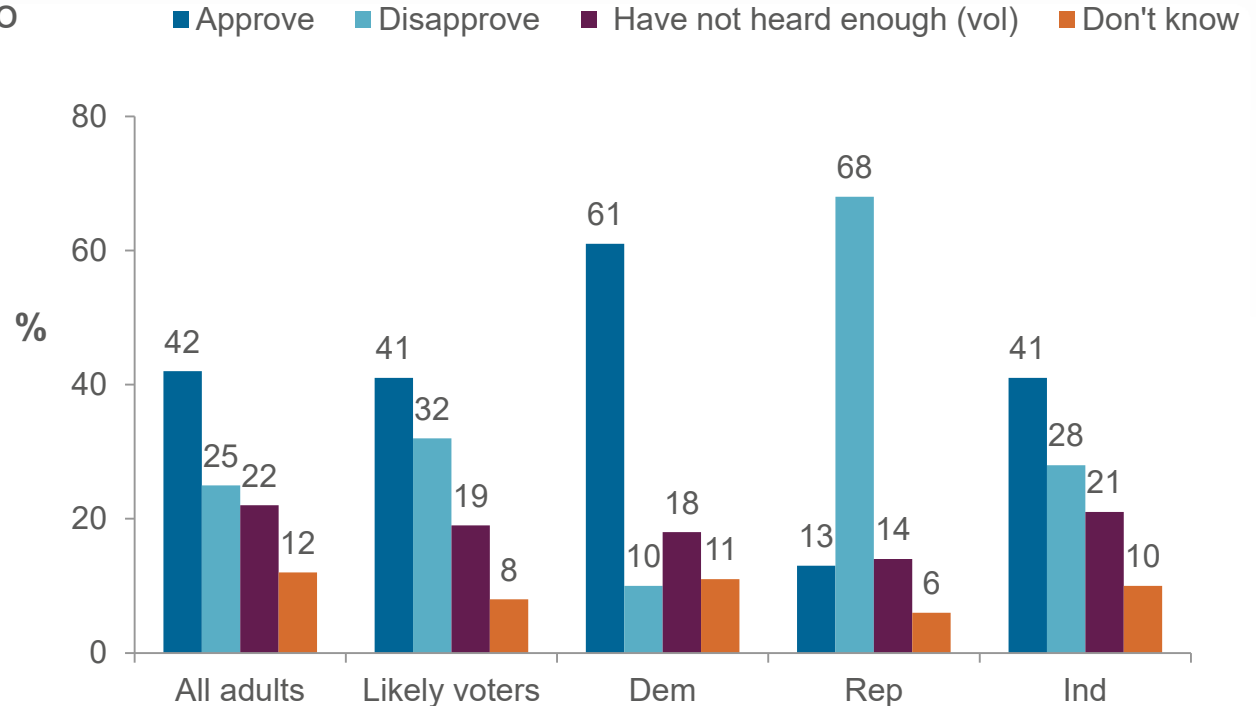


Approval of state elected officials



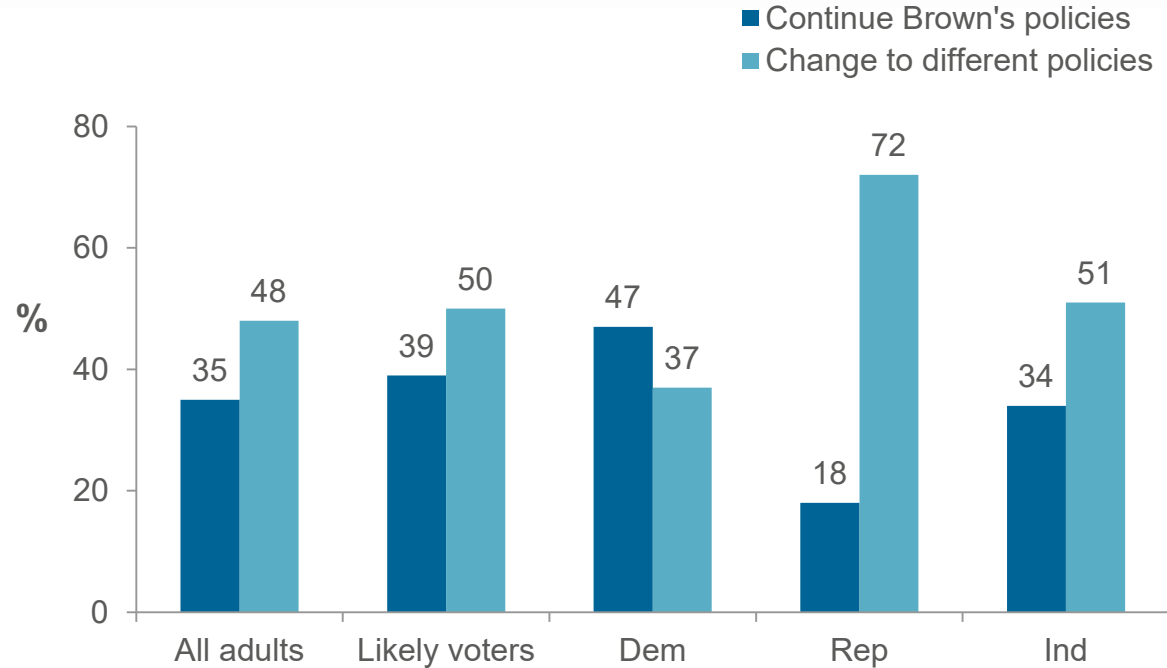
Approval of Governor-Elect Newsom

From what you know so far, overall do you approve or disapprove of Governor-Elect Gavin Newsom's plans and policies for California?



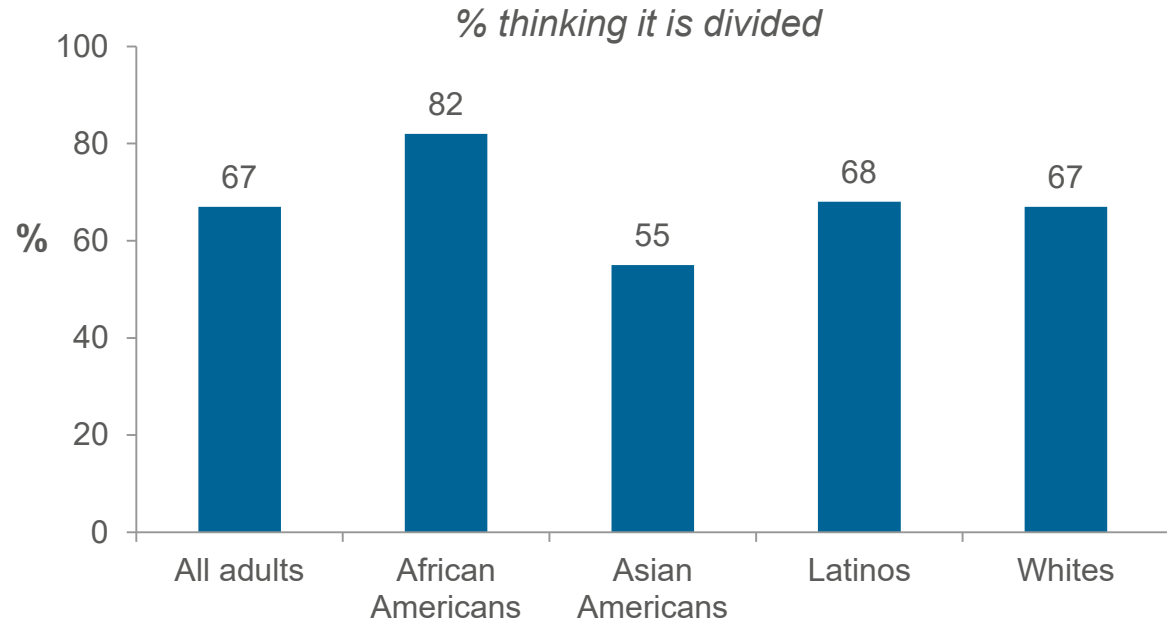
Should Newsom continue Jerry Brown's policies?

Would you rather see Gavin Newsom as the next California governor generally continue Jerry Brown's policies or mostly change to different policies?



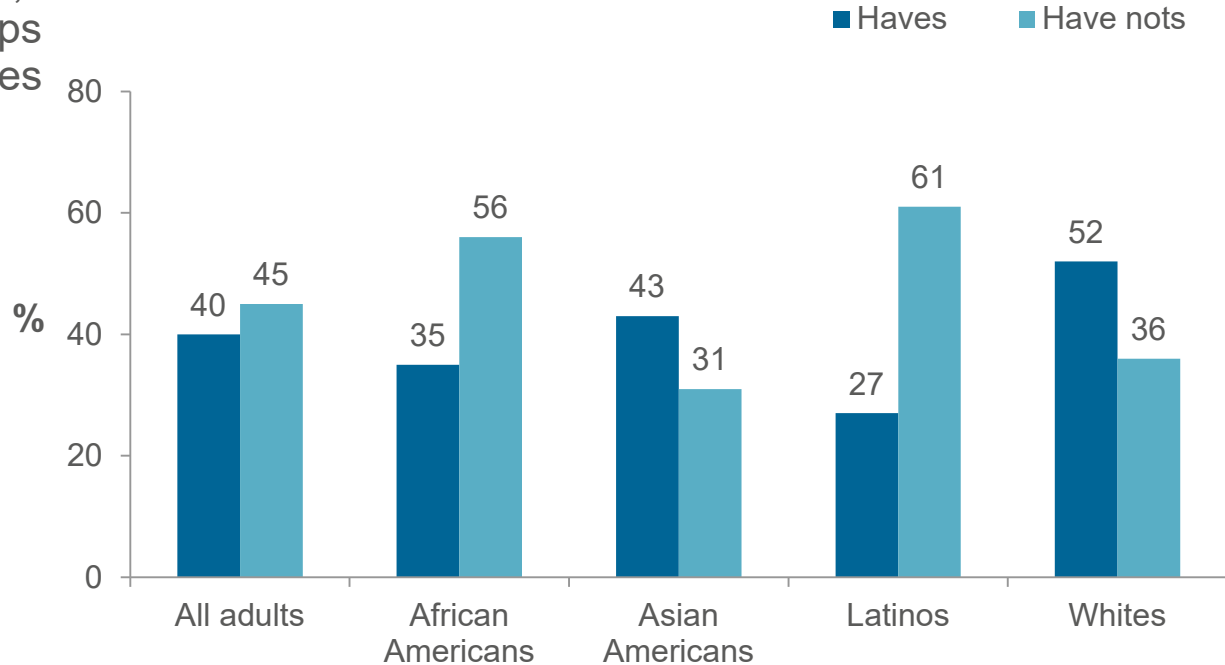
Income inequality in California

Do you think that California is divided into haves and have nots, or do you think that California is not divided that way?



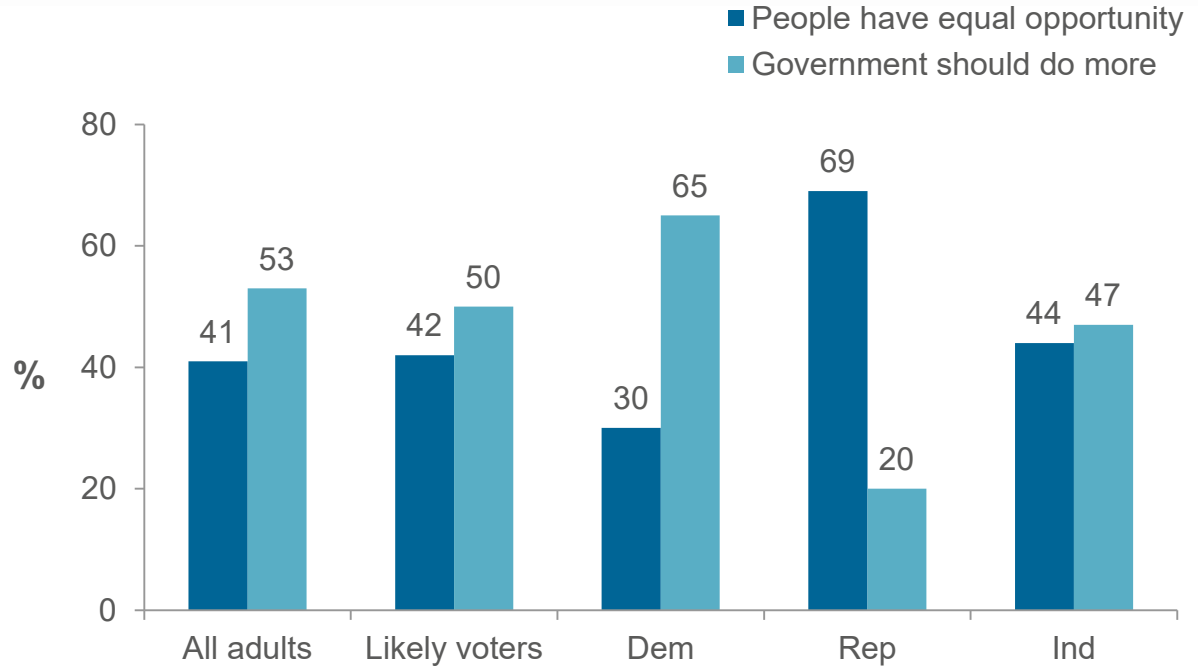
Haves or have-nots?

If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in—the haves or have nots?



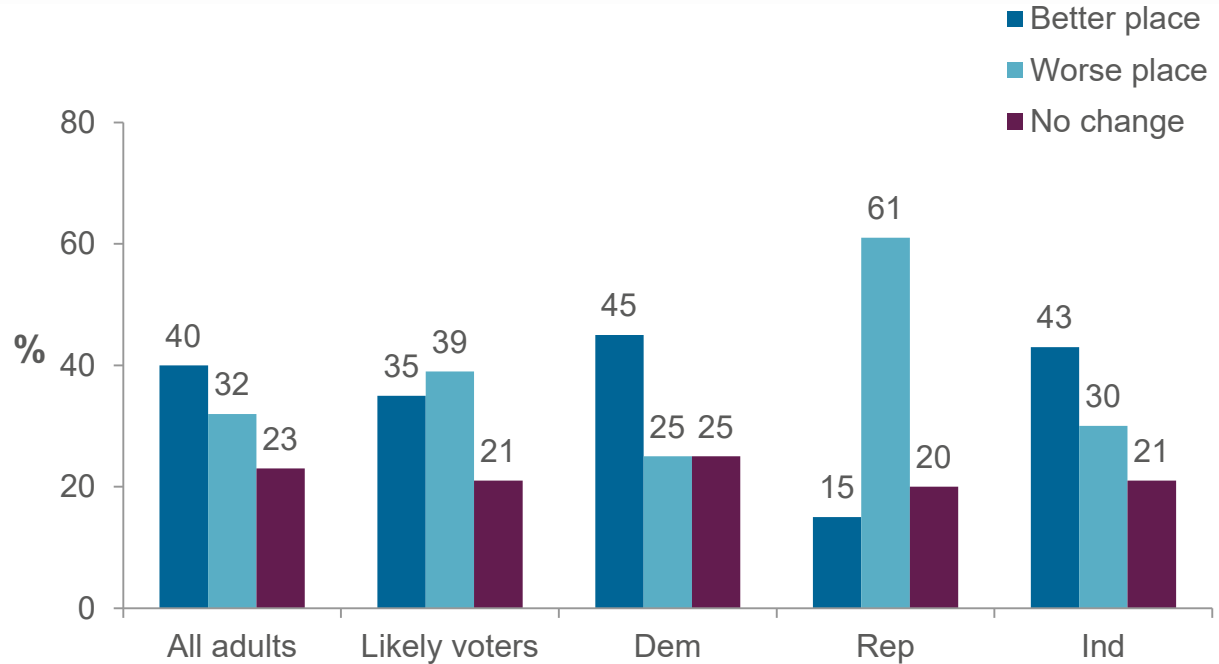
Government and income inequality

Do you think that in California today all people have an equal opportunity to get ahead, or that the government should do more to make sure that all Californians have an equal opportunity to get ahead?



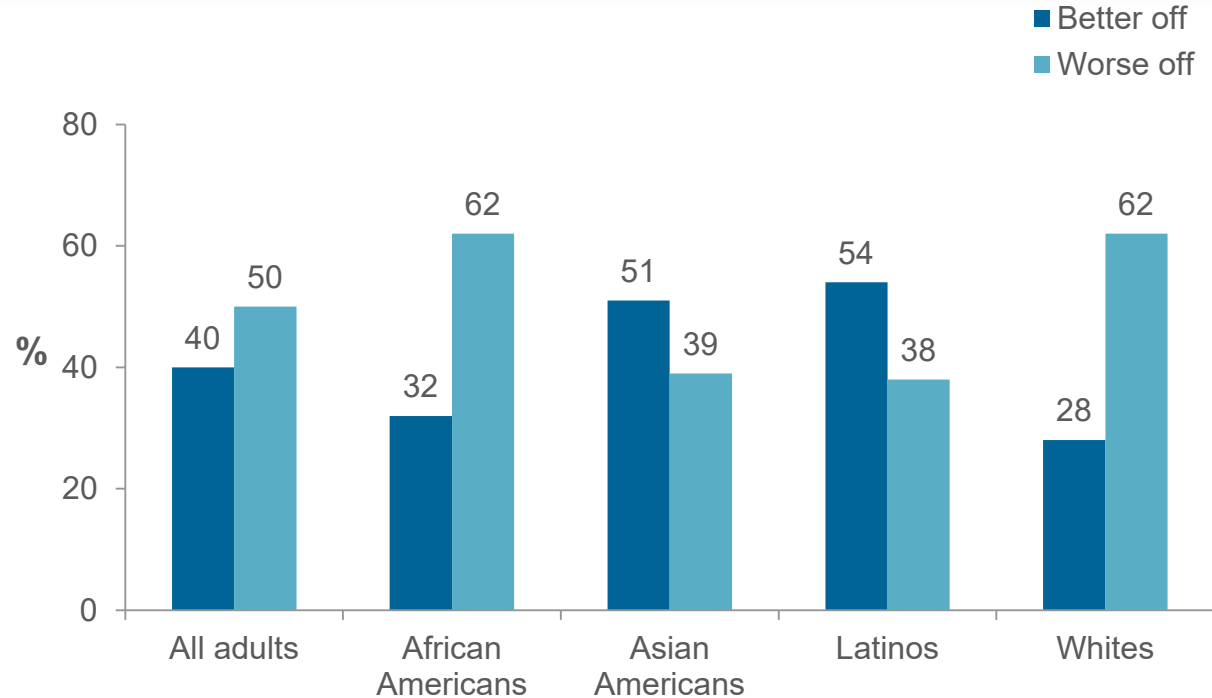
California's future

Overall, do you think that in 2025 California will be a better place to live than it is now or a worse place to live than it is now, or will there be no change?



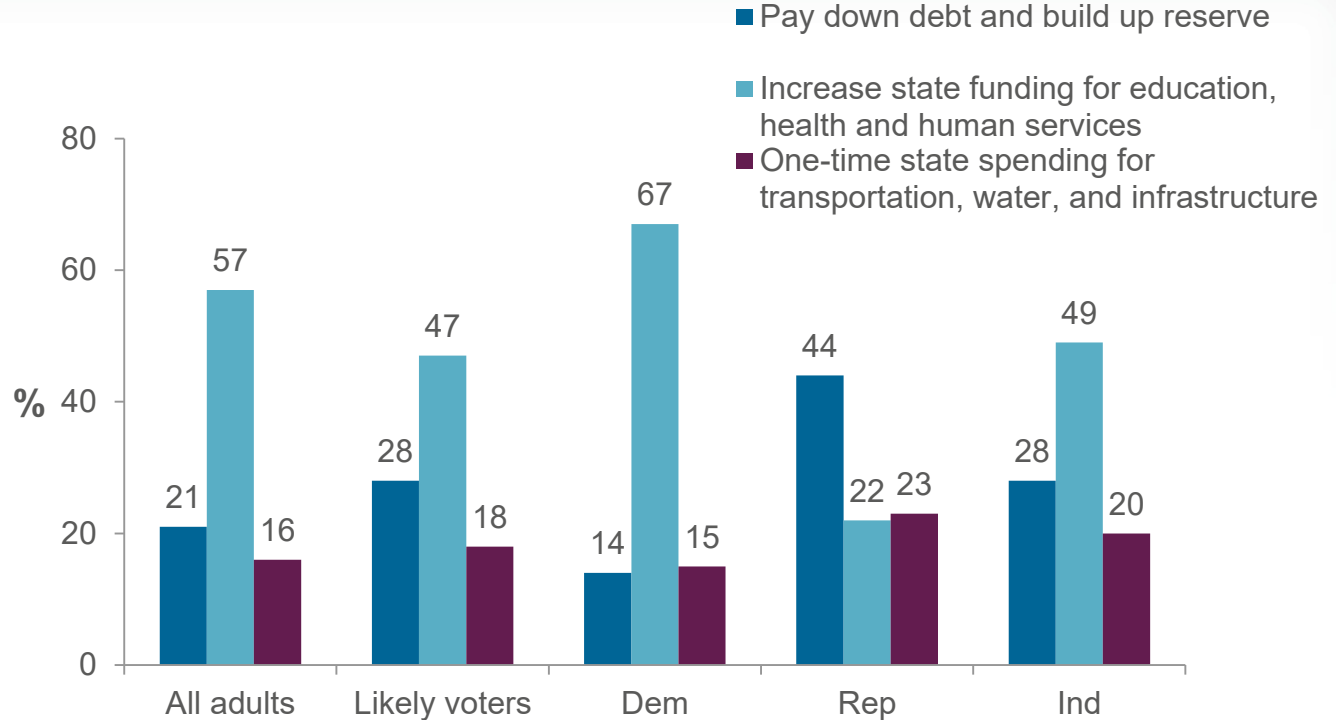
Financial outlook for California's children

When children today in California grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?



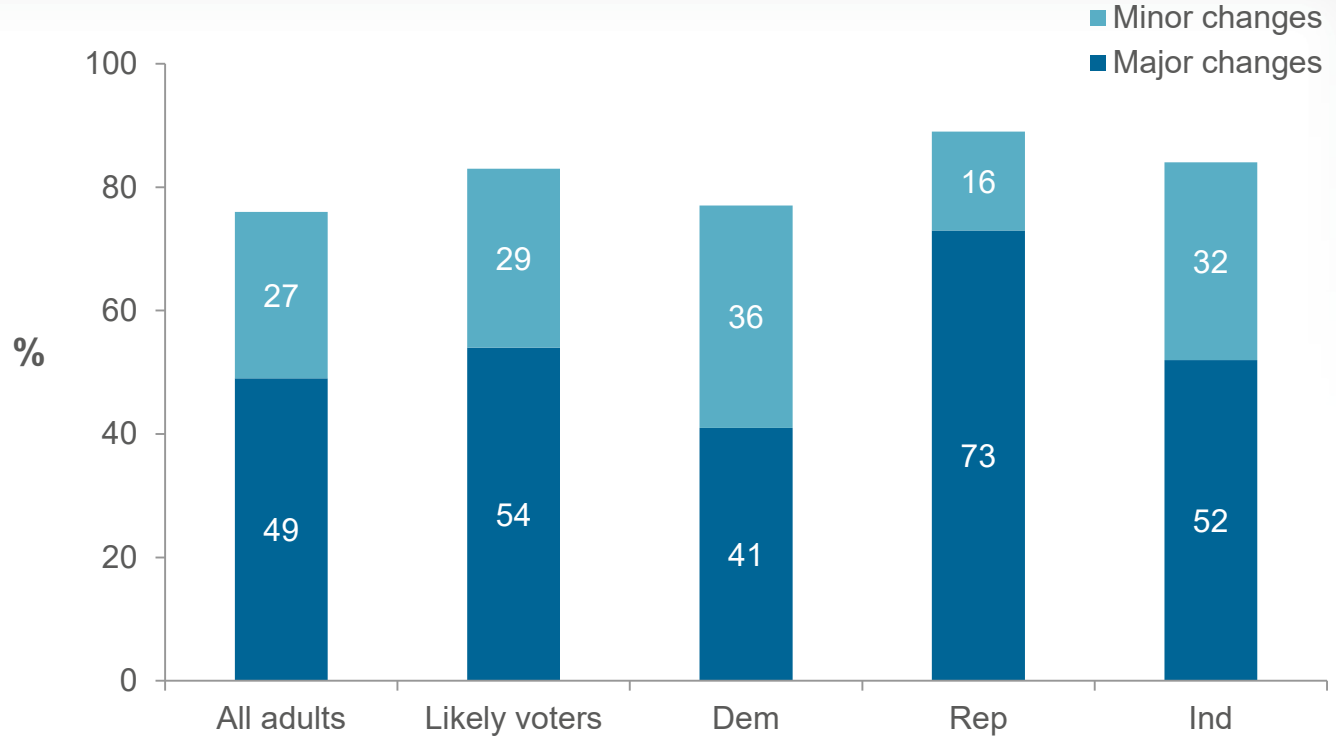
Preferences for using the budget surplus

The state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars. In general, how would you prefer to use this extra money?



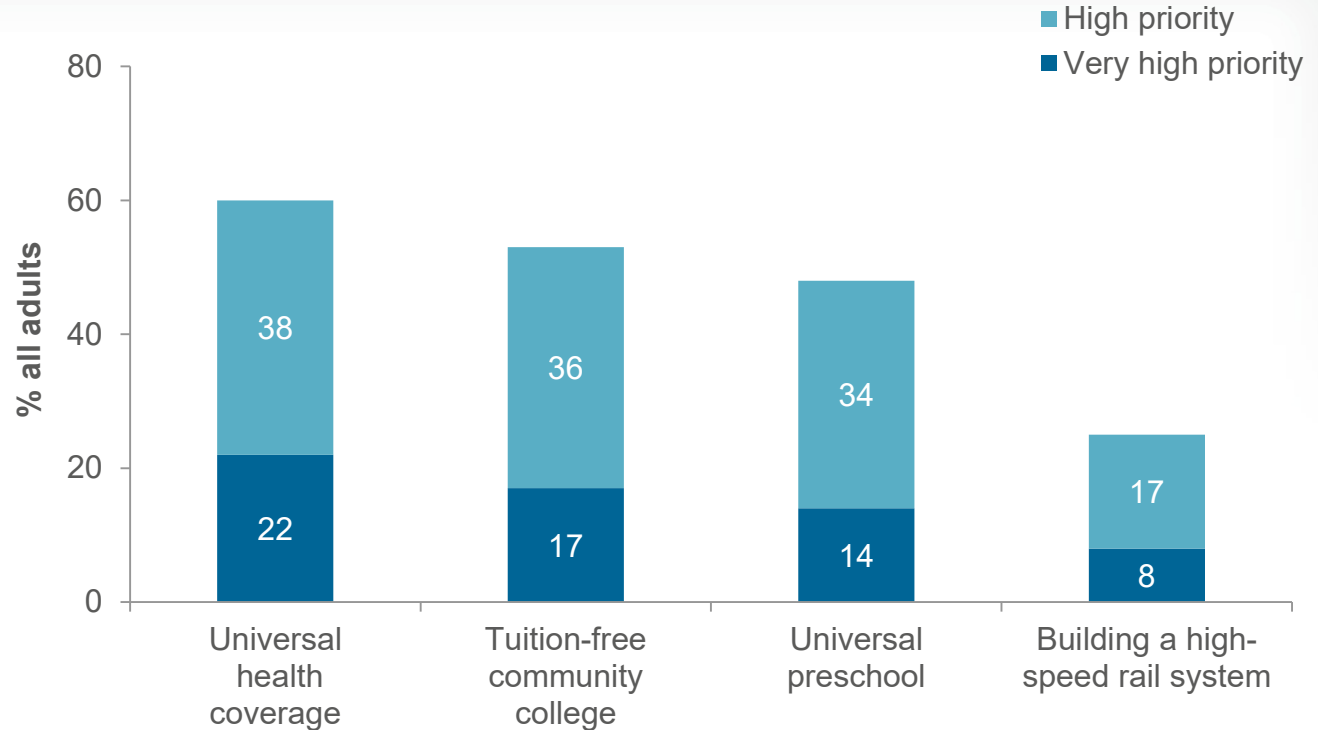
Changes to the state and local tax system

Overall, do you think the state and local tax system is in need of major changes, minor changes, or do you think it is fine the way it is?



Policy priorities

Next, there are several policy choices that the governor and legislature could make in the next few years. Each of them would require a significant amount of new state funding. Please tell me if each of the following should be a:

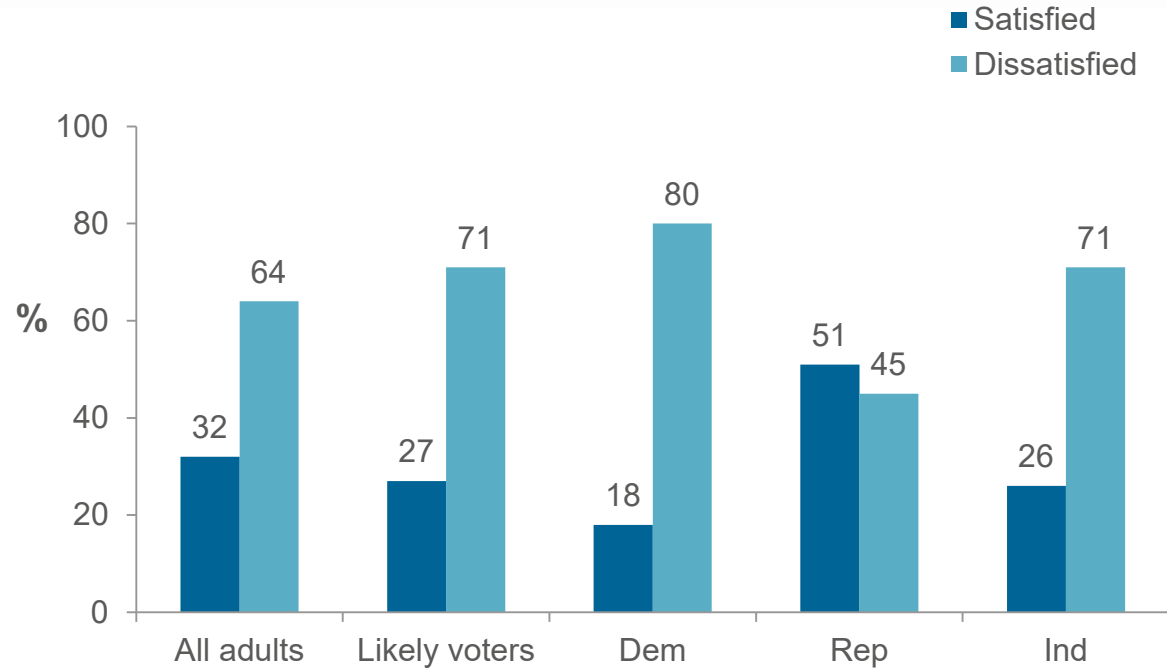


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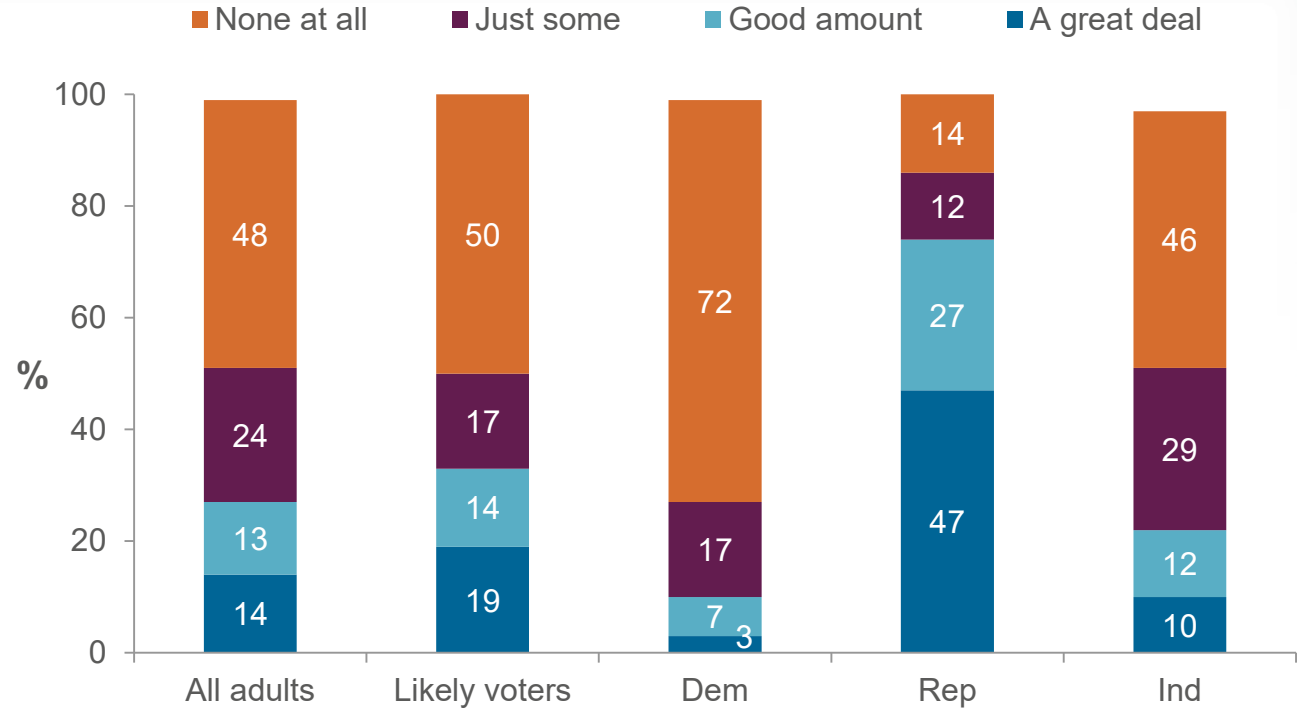
Satisfaction with direction of the nation

In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way that things are going in the United States at this time?

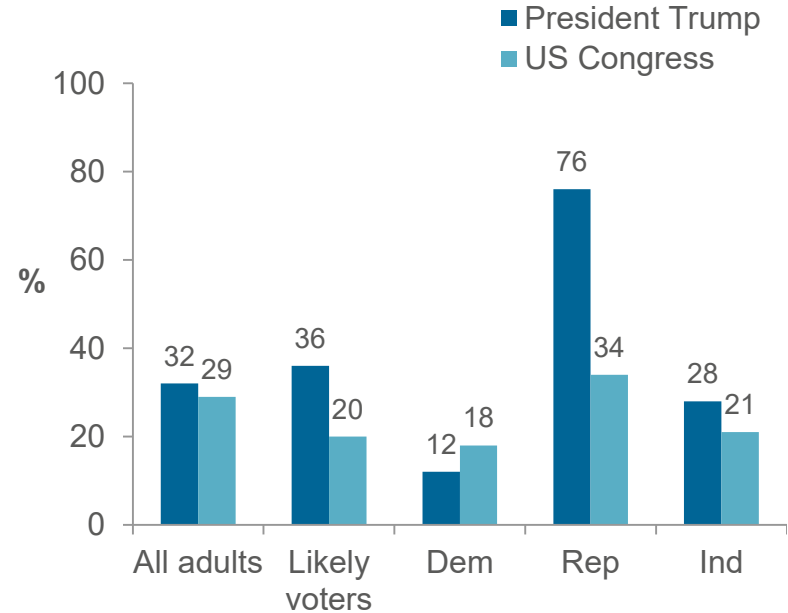
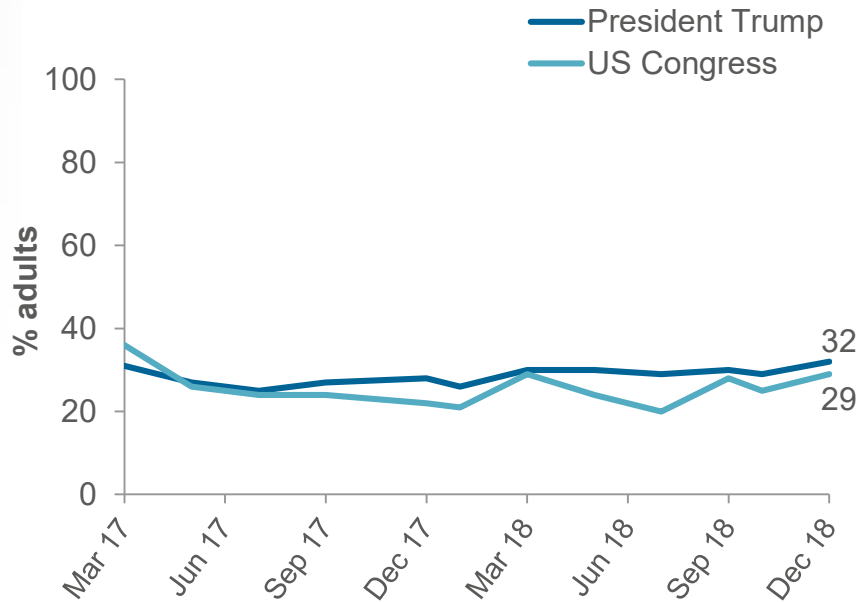


Confidence in President Trump

How much confidence do you have in President Trump to make the right decisions for the country's future—a great deal of confidence, a good amount, just some, or none at all?

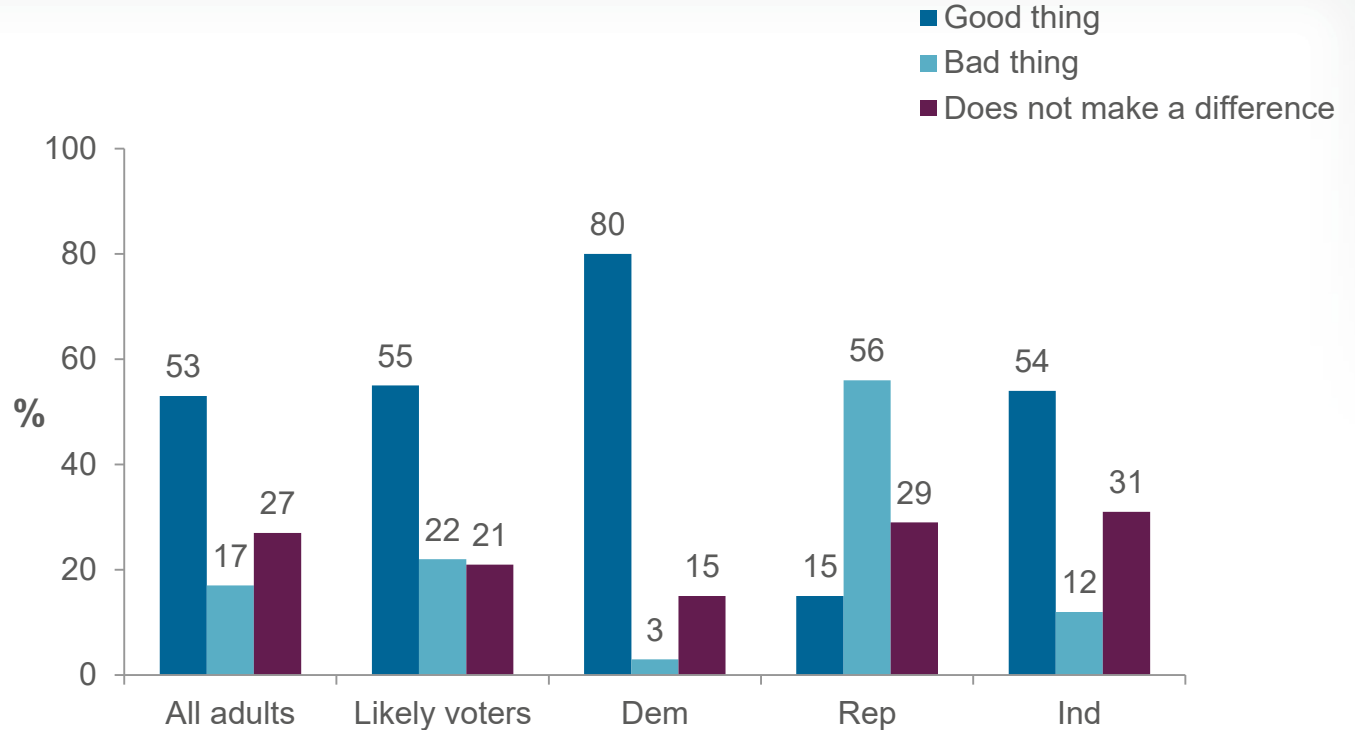


Approval of President Trump and Congress



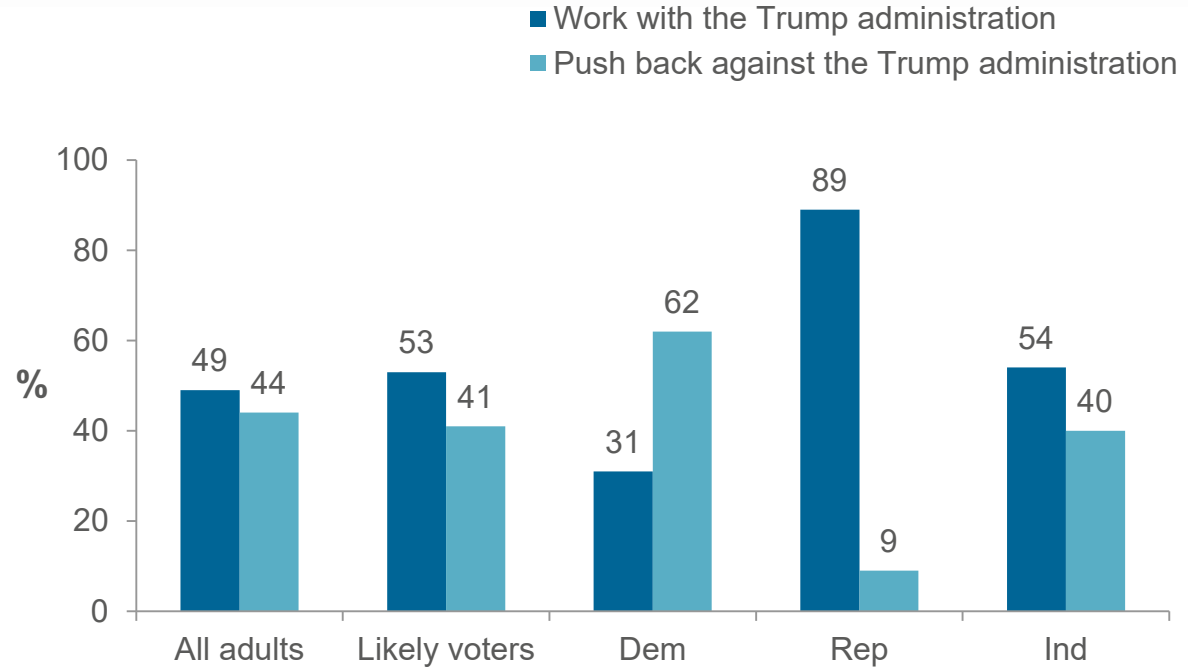
Switch of control in Congress

As you may know, as a result of the recent election, control of the US House of Representatives will switch from the Republicans to the Democrats. Do you think that this switch is a good thing, a bad thing, or doesn't it make any difference?

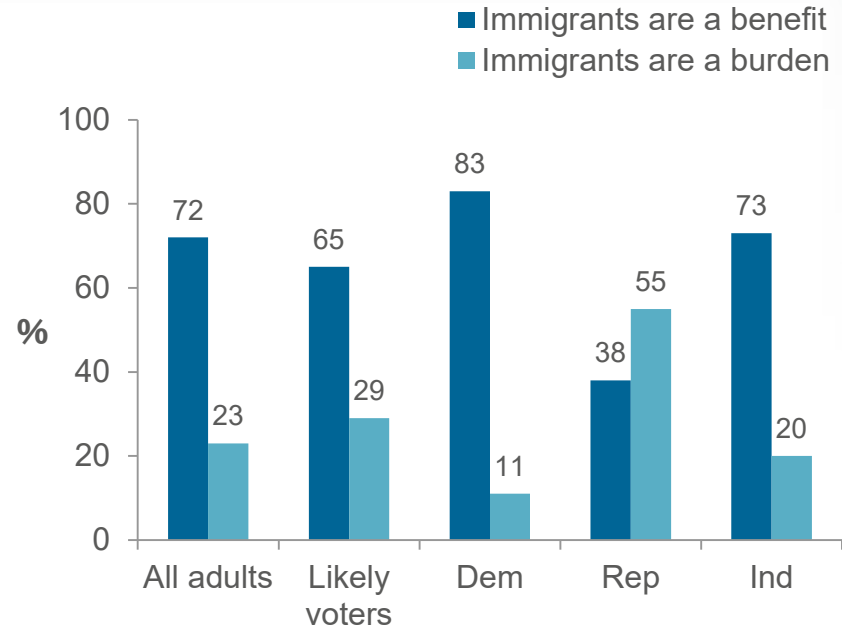
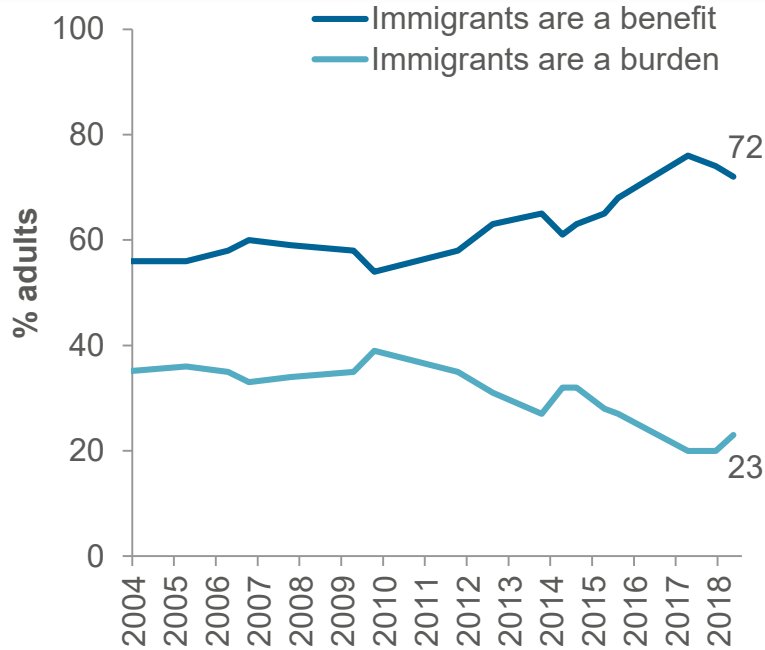


Should representatives work with Trump administration?

Which of the following is more important to you for your own representative to the US House of Representatives in Congress—that they work with the Trump administration or that they push back against the Trump administration?

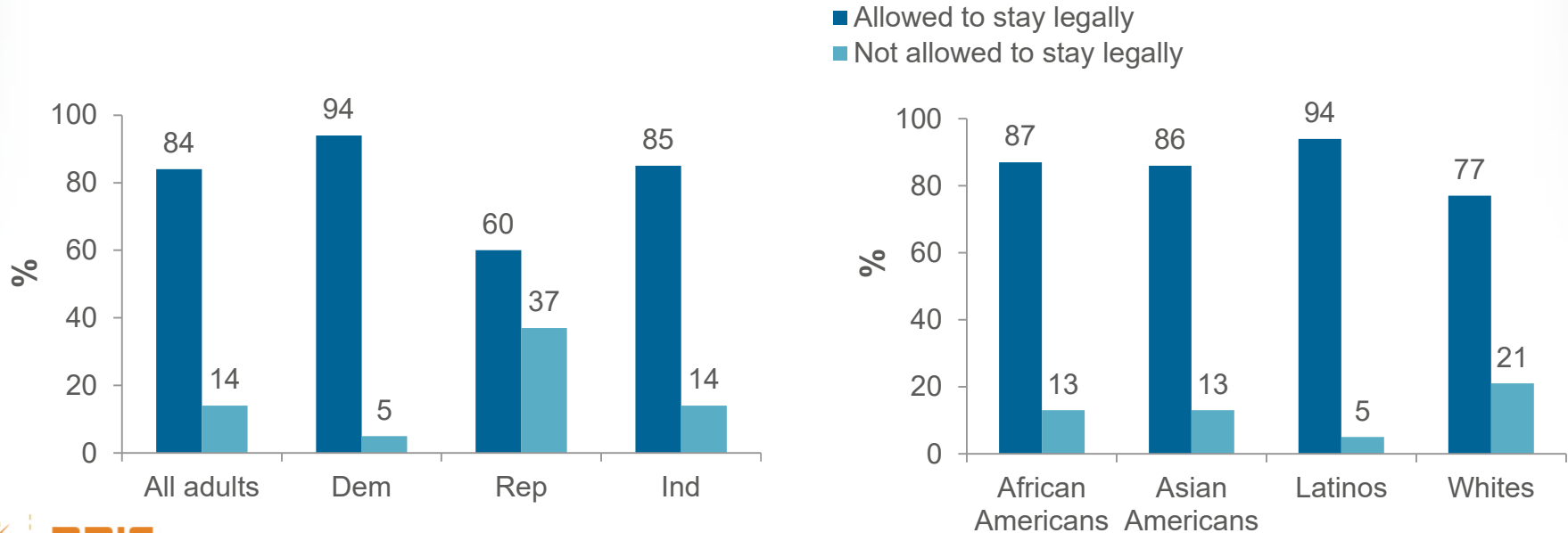


Perception of immigrants



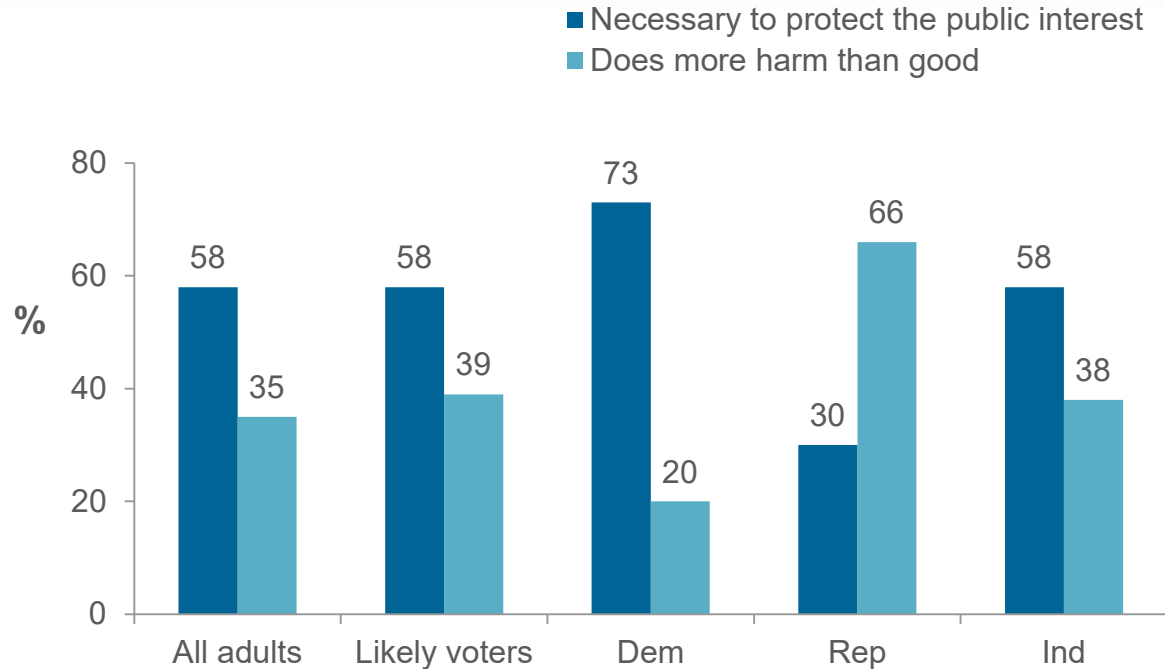
Policy preference on undocumented immigrants

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?



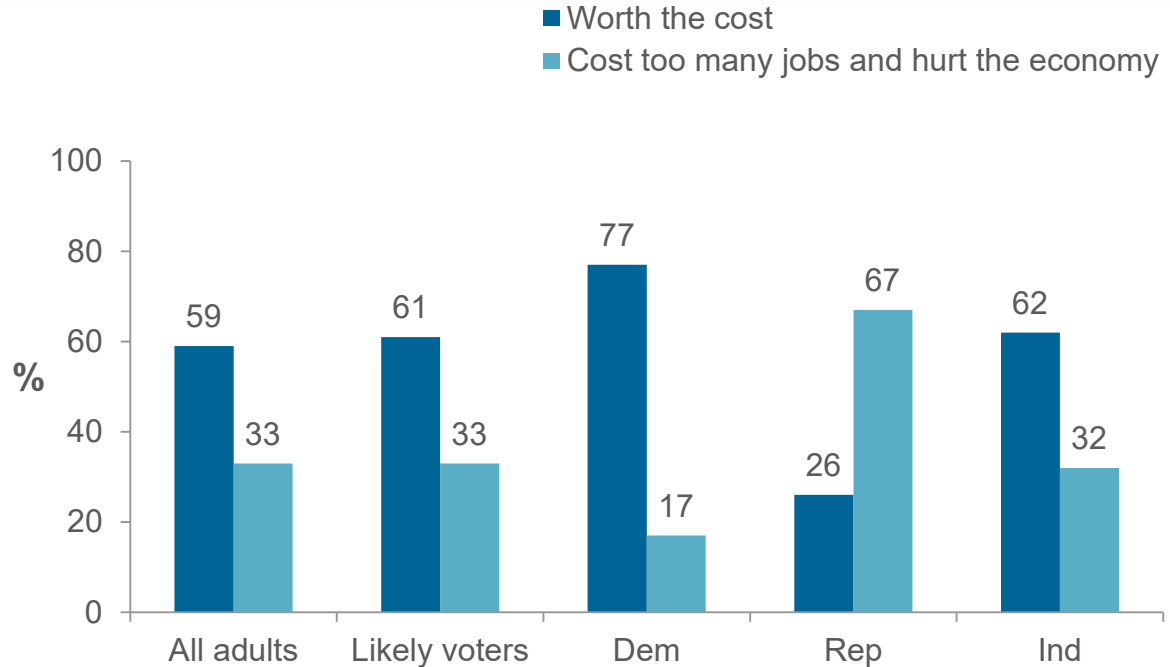
Government regulation of business

Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right—government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest, or government regulation of business does more harm than good?



Environmental laws and regulations

Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right—stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy, or stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost?



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Conclusions

- Based on what they have heard so far, four in ten Californians approve of Governor-Elect Newsom's plans and policies
- As Newsom makes plans for his administration, nearly half of Californians say they want him to take a different policy direction from Governor Brown
- Majorities of Californians place a high priority on new state spending on universal health coverage and tuition-free community college; fewer prioritize high-speed rail
- Californians say that improving jobs and the economy is the most important priority for the future; many believe that children will be worse off than their parents
- Most Californians say the election outcome of Democratic control of the House is a good thing, and about half have no confidence at all in President Trump
- Overwhelming majorities view immigrants as a benefit and think 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.