



25 YEARS OF INSPIRING CHANGE

The Public Policy Institute of California believes in the power of good information to build a brighter future for our state. Founded with a mission to provide nonpartisan, high-quality, fact-based research to California's leaders, PPIC is committed to encouraging productive dialogue and identifying sustainable policy solutions.

Times were tough when PPIC started out: economic uncertainty, deep partisan divisions, and contentious immigration debates. These issues are still with us, even though the state's demographics, economy, and political climate have changed dramatically. Over time, PPIC has grown and evolved because it was built to be relevant and resilient. With each new challenge—from major recession to lengthy drought—our work has developed to meet changing needs.

We cannot do it alone. PPIC has benefited greatly from the generous support and partnership of engaged individuals and organizations. Key impacts from PPIC's first 25 years include:



Changing the conversation around California's water.

From the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to the San Joaquin Valley, intractable long-term issues have evolved in new, innovative directions because of our work. PPIC's objective research and engagement have led to constructive problem-solving approaches not possible a decade ago—moving the needle on such issues as Delta tunnels and groundwater management.



Reshaping the finance model for K–12 public schools.

Inequitable, inadequate, and overly complex, California's school finance system was long considered the domain of a small handful of specialists. A modeling tool generated by PPIC researchers, and widely shared with experts and policymakers, established a new way forward. Today, we track a range of K–12 outcomes to monitor the integrity of the system.



Defining the pressing need for college graduates.

California's economy will demand more than one million additional workers with a college degree by 2030—a key trend that PPIC identified and has promoted successfully to policy leaders and higher education decision makers. Our work has aimed at explaining a range of strategic changes needed to grow the state's workforce—and support increased opportunity for all Californians.



Raising awareness of Californians' policy preferences.

The most populous state in the nation is also one of the world's most diverse. Demographically, regionally, and economically, California contains multitudes—and yet the full range of Californians' views is sometimes overlooked by those in Sacramento. The PPIC Statewide Survey brings those views to the forefront, highlighting essential perspectives and sharing them in ways that cannot be ignored.



Convening conversations with California's leaders.

In deeply partisan times, it is more important than ever to provide a neutral space for our state's leaders to speak constructively across ideologies and party lines. PPIC provides regular opportunities for diverse groups of leaders to explore new ideas with each other—and for key leaders to share their views more broadly, in public forums from Sacramento to Los Angeles.



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