



Californians & the Environment

Mark Baldassare Dean Bonner Alyssa Dykman Rachel Ward

CONTENTS

Press Release	3
Public Perceptions	6
Policy Preferences	14
Regional Map	21
Methodology	22
Questionnaire and Results	24

Supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, and the Flora Family Foundation



The PPIC Statewide Survey provides a voice for the public and likely voters—informing policymakers, encouraging discussion, and raising awareness on critical issues of the day.

© 2019 Public Policy Institute of California

The Public Policy Institute of California is dedicated to informing and improving public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research.

PPIC is a public charity. It does not take or support positions on any ballot measures or on any local, state, or federal legislation, nor does it endorse, support, or oppose any political parties or candidates for public office.

Short sections of text, not to exceed three paragraphs, may be quoted without written permission provided that full attribution is given to the source.

Research publications reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of our funders or of the staff, officers, advisory councils, or board of directors of the Public Policy Institute of California.

CONTACT

Steven Bliss 415-291-4412
Abby Cook 415-291-4436

News Release

EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PDT on Monday, July 29, 2019.

Para ver este comunicado de prensa en español, por favor visite nuestra página de internet:
www.ppic.org/press-release/

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Record-High Share of Californians Concerned About Global Warming Making Wildfires More Severe

IN CALIFORNIA 2020 PRIMARY, HARRIS, WARREN, SANDERS, AND BIDEN ARE FRONTRUNNERS

SAN FRANCISCO, July 29, 2019—Asked about the possible effects of global warming, a record-high share of Californians are very concerned about wildfires becoming more severe. With the California presidential primary seven months away, Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, and Joe Biden are frontrunners in the Democratic primary. These are among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

In the wake of devastating wildfires over the past few years, seven in ten Californians (71%) say they are very concerned about wildfires becoming more severe as a result of global warming. This view is most widely held in the San Francisco Bay Area (75%), followed by the Inland Empire (74%), Los Angeles (72%), and the Central Valley and Orange/San Diego (both 69%).

Governor Newsom recently signed legislation that will provide investor-owned utilities with at least \$21 billion, paid for by utility investors and ratepayers, to cover future wildfire damages. This plan is favored by 57 percent of adults (50% of likely voters). Support is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (67%), followed by Orange/San Diego (57%), the Inland Empire and Los Angeles (both 55%), and the Central Valley (51%).

“A record-high 71 percent of Californians are very concerned about more-severe wildfires from global warming, and majorities across the state’s regions favor the new wildfire insurance fund,” said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO.

Californians express less concern about other possible impacts of global warming, with 49 percent saying they are very concerned about more-severe heat waves and 42 percent saying they are very concerned about rising sea levels.

Environmental Issues Will Be Important in 2020 Presidential Election

Looking ahead to the 2020 presidential race, the survey asks likely voters identifying as registered Democrats or as independents who lean Democratic about the candidate they would choose if the Democratic primary were held today. Based on an open-ended question, the frontrunners are Kamala Harris (19%), Elizabeth Warren (15%), Bernie Sanders (12%), and Joe Biden (11%). Pete Buttigieg (5%) is the only other candidate supported by at least 5 percent, while 25 percent say they don’t know. Among those age 18 to 44, Sanders (21%), Warren (19%), and Harris (13%) have greater support than Biden (4%) and Buttigieg (1%). Support among those age 45 and older is greatest for Harris (22%), Biden (14%), and Warren (13%), followed by Sanders (8%) and Buttigieg (7%). Men are less likely to say they don’t know (18%) than women (31%).

Among all likely voters, and especially among Democrats, the environment will be an important issue in next year's election. Eight in ten likely voters say candidates' positions on the environment are important (44% very, 36% somewhat) in determining their vote for president, with Democrats (64%) far more likely than independents (34%) and Republicans (20%) to say very important.

Californians give federal policymakers low marks for their overall performance and for their handling of environmental issues in particular. About one-third of adults (32%), and slightly more likely voters (38%), approve of how Donald Trump is handling his job as president, with 62 percent of adults and 60 percent of likely voters disapproving. Approval is somewhat lower for how the president is handling environmental issues: 26 percent of adults and 31 percent of likely voters approve, while 66 percent of adults and 65 percent of likely voters disapprove.

Overall approval ratings are lower for Congress, with 25 percent of adults and 17 percent of likely voters approving. Strong majorities (65% adults, 79% likely voters) disapprove of how Congress is handling its job. Approval ratings for Congress were similar in May, when 30 percent of adults and 22 percent of likely voters approved. On environmental issues, 25 percent of adults and 17 percent of likely voters approve of how Congress is doing, while solid majorities (63% adults, 76% likely voters) disapprove.

"With high disapproval ratings for President Trump and Congress, many California likely voters say that environmental positions are very important in choosing a presidential candidate," Baldassare said.

Most Support State's Efforts to Address Global Warming

Majorities of Californians say the effects of global warming have already started (63% adults, 64% likely voters) and that global warming is a very serious threat to California's future economy and quality of life (57% adults, 56% likely voters). Major state legislation enacted in 2016 (Senate Bill 32) calls for California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Strong majorities (67% adults, 63% likely voters) approve of this law. Strong majorities (71% adults, 66% likely voters) also approve of legislation enacted last year (Senate Bill 100) that requires all of the state's electricity to come from renewable energy sources by 2045. Support is lower (53% adults) for California's "cap and trade" system, which aims to provide an incentive for companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

At a time when California's political leaders have pursued environmental policies that are at odds with those of the federal government, solid majorities (64% adults, 61% likely voters) favor the California state government creating its own policies to address global warming.

"With most Californians believing that global warming has already begun, there is strong support for the state's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move toward renewable energy," Baldassare said.

Most Californians approve of specific policy proposals to address climate change. Strong majorities (74% adults, 68% likely voters) support encouraging local governments to change land use and transportation planning to reduce reliance on driving. Overwhelming majorities (75% adults, 76% likely voters) favor requiring automakers to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from new cars. Notably, four major auto manufacturers and the state announced on July 25 that they had reached an agreement on higher fuel-efficiency standards for new cars, countering efforts by the Trump administration to restrict the state's ability to set such standards.

When asked about the potential impacts of state climate change policies, nearly half of Californians (48% adults, 45% likely voters) say these policies would create more jobs for people around the state. One in five say these policies would lead to fewer jobs (19% adults, 23% likely voters) or wouldn't affect the number of jobs (21% adults, 23% likely voters). Regarding other economic impacts, most Californians (58% adults, 60% likely voters) expect gasoline prices to increase due to state action on

climate change. Also, half of adults (51%) and likely voters (50%) say they would be willing to pay more for electricity generated by renewable sources.

Access to Clean Drinking Water in Low-Income Areas Raises Concern

Earlier this year, California was declared drought free for the first time since 2011 by the US Drought Monitor. While 30 percent of Californians say water supply is a big problem, this is down 18 percentage points from just a year ago and 40 percentage points from the record high in September 2015.

When it comes to water quality, however, most Californians are concerned about the supply of clean drinking water in lower-income communities in their part of the state: 58 percent say polluted drinking water poses a more serious health threat in lower-income areas. This view is most prevalent in Los Angeles (70%), followed by the Central Valley (59%), the San Francisco Bay Area (55%), Orange/San Diego (51%), and the Inland Empire (49%). African Americans (82%) and Latinos (70%) are more likely to hold this view than Asian Americans (59%) and whites (48%).

The recently enacted state budget allocates \$130 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (the state's cap-and-trade revenues) to support a clean drinking water fund. An overwhelming majority of adults (71%) favor this spending plan. Support is higher among African Americans (87%), Asian Americans (81%), and Latinos (81%) than among whites (61%).

"Majorities of Californians view pollution of drinking water as a more serious problem in low-income communities and support the recent state law creating a clean drinking water fund," Baldassare said.

Only about a quarter of Californians (27% adults, 24% likely voters) say that air pollution is a big problem in their part of California. However, there is wide variation across regions. This view is most common in Los Angeles (43% of adults), the Central Valley (36%), and the Inland Empire (33%); it is far less common in the San Francisco Bay Area (14%) and Orange/San Diego (11%).

Californians Value the Coast, Worry about Debris, Oppose Drilling

An overwhelming majority of Californians (77%) say the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important to the economy and quality of life for California's future. A similar share (72%) say that plastics and marine debris are a big problem in the part of the California coast that is closest to them, with this view held by overwhelming majorities across the north and central coast (73%), the south coast (72%), and inland (70%).

"Seven in ten Californians say that ocean and beach conditions are very important to California's future and report that plastics and marine debris are a big problem on the coast near them," Baldassare said.

A strong majority of Californians (67%) oppose allowing more oil drilling off the California coast, while an overwhelming majority (72%) support allowing coastal wind power and wave energy projects. These shares are generally consistent across regions.

Approval of State Elected Officials Is Steady

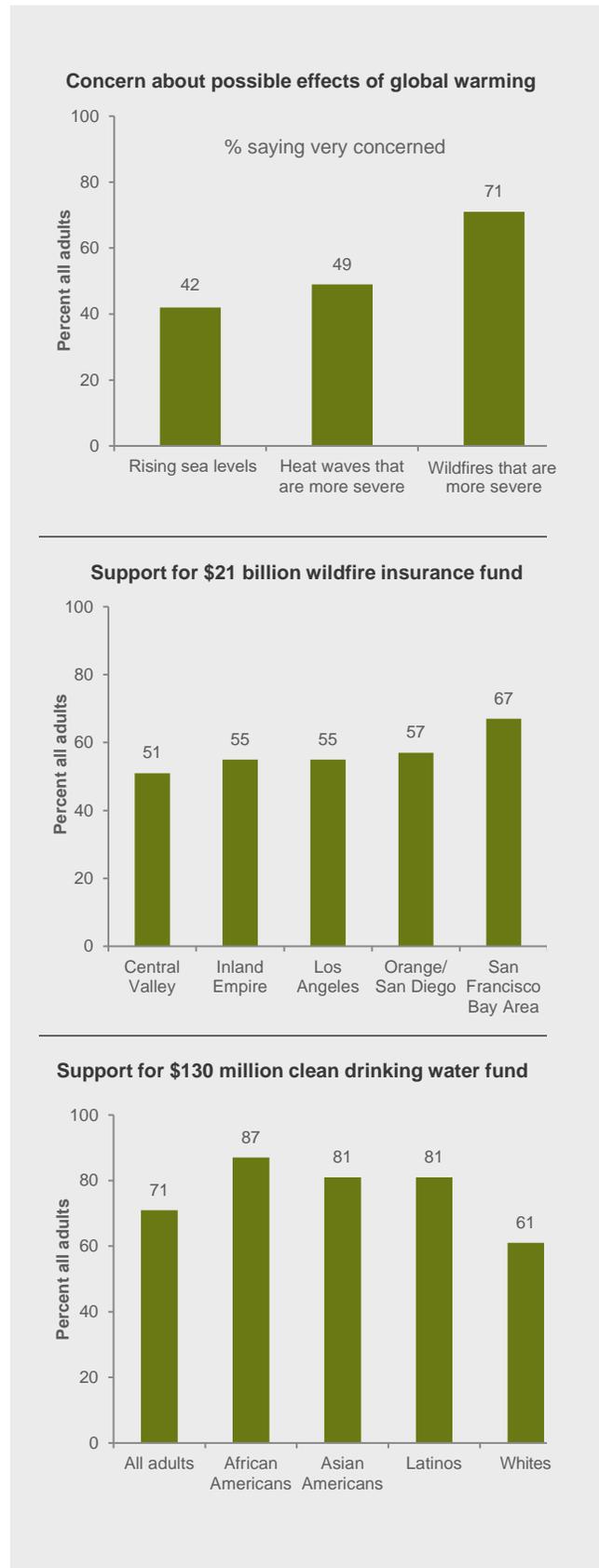
Approval ratings for Governor Newsom and the legislature have been stable during the first months of the new administration. Just under half of Californians (45% adults, 47% likely voters) approve of how the governor is handling his job, while smaller shares (31% adults, 39% likely voters) disapprove. These are similar to his approval levels in May and January. On the governor's handling of environmental issues in California, 45 percent of adults and 46 percent of likely voters approve.

Californians have similar ratings of the state legislature, with 42 percent of adults and 40 percent of likely voters approving of how the legislature is handling its job (41% adults, 48% likely voters disapprove). These approval levels are similar to those in May and last July. On the legislature's handling of environmental issues, 45 percent of adults and 43 percent of likely voters approve.

Public Perceptions

Key Findings

- Forty-five percent of adults approve of both Governor Newsom’s overall job performance and his handling of environmental issues. Forty-two percent approve of the legislature overall, and 45 percent approve of its handling of environmental issues. *(page 7)*
- One in three Californians approve of President Trump’s job performance, while slightly fewer approve of his handling of environmental issues. One in four approve of Congress and its handling of environmental issues. *(page 8)*
- About six in ten adults say the effects of global warming have already begun and that global warming is a very serious threat to California’s future. Most Californians are concerned about increased rising sea levels, more-severe heat waves, and more-severe wildfires as a result of global warming. *(page 9)*
- Six in ten adults say global warming has contributed to California’s recent wildfires; 57 percent favor recently signed state legislation that will create a \$21 billion wildfire insurance fund. *(page 10)*
- Thirty percent of adults say the supply of water is a big problem in their part of California. Seven in ten favor the allocation of \$130 million from the state budget for a clean drinking water fund. *(page 11)*
- One in four adults say air pollution is a big problem in their part of the state, and half see it as a serious health threat to them. Forty-nine percent say air pollution is a more serious threat in lower-income areas. *(page 12)*
- About three in four adults say the condition of oceans and beaches is very important to California’s future, and seven in ten say that plastics and marine debris are a big problem along the coast closest to them. *(page 13)*



Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

Governor Gavin Newsom’s approval ratings have been remarkably stable during his first year in office. Approval of the way Newsom is handling his job (45% adults, 47% likely voters) is similar to approval in May (45% adults, 47% likely voters) and January (44% adults, 43% likely voters). Today, Democrats (68%) are far more likely than independents (40%) and Republicans (19%) to say they approve. A majority in the San Francisco Bay Area (53%) approve, compared to fewer in other regions. Majorities of African Americans (65%) and fewer than half of Latinos (49%), Asian Americans (43%), and whites (41%) express approval.

Approval ratings for the way Governor Newsom is handling environmental issues are similar (45% adults, 46% likely voters) to his overall rating. Here, too, Democrats (62%) are far more likely than independents (40%) and Republicans (19%) to approve. A majority in the San Francisco Bay Area (59%) and fewer in other regions approve. About half of African Americans (54%) and Asian Americans (50%), and fewer Latinos (49%) and whites (40%), approve of the governor on environmental issues.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling ...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
His job as governor of California	Approve	45%	68%	19%	40%	47%
	Disapprove	31	12	70	33	39
	Don't know	25	20	12	27	14
Environmental issues in California	Approve	45	62	19	40	46
	Disapprove	30	15	63	36	36
	Don't know	25	24	17	24	18

About four in ten Californians (42% adults, 40% likely voters) approve of the way the California Legislature is handling its job. Approval among all adults was similar in May (39% adults, 34% likely voters) and last July (46% adults, 46% likely voters). Today, Democrats (60%) are far more likely than independents (35%) and Republicans (16%) to approve. A majority in the San Francisco Bay Area (53%) approve of the legislature, compared to fewer in other regions. A majority of Latinos (51%) and fewer in other racial/ethnic groups (47% African Americans, 41% Asian Americans, 37% whites) say they approve.

A similar share of Californians (45% adults, 43% likely voters) approve of the way the legislature is handling environmental issues. Approval was similar last July (43% adults, 43% likely voters). Today, Democrats (59%) are much more likely than independents (40%) and Republicans (18%) to approve. Across regions, a majority of San Francisco Bay Area (53%) residents say they approve, compared to fewer elsewhere. Half or more of Latinos (53%) and Asian Americans (50%), and fewer African Americans (40%) and whites (39%), approve of the legislature’s handling of environmental issues.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the California Legislature is handling ...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Its job	Approve	42%	60%	16%	35%	40%
	Disapprove	41	26	72	46	48
	Don't know	17	15	11	18	12
Environmental issues in California	Approve	45	59	18	40	43
	Disapprove	38	25	72	42	45
	Don't know	17	16	10	18	13

Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

Thirty-two percent of adults and 38 percent of likely voters approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president of the United States. Approval was similar in May (34% adults, 38% likely voters) and last July (29% adults, 34% likely voters). Today, 12 percent of Democrats, 35 percent of independents, and 82 percent of Republicans approve. Approval is higher among whites (44%) than among other racial/ethnic groups. Across the state’s major regions, the president’s approval is below 40 percent. Nationwide approval among all adults was at 44 percent in a July Gallup weekly tracking poll.

Californians’ approval ratings are slightly lower for the president’s handling of environmental issues (26% adults, 31% likely voters). Approval of the president’s handling of environmental issues was similar last July (24% adults, 27% likely voters). Today, 7 percent of Democrats, 26 percent of independents, and 68 percent of Republicans approve of the president’s handling of environmental issues. Majorities across regions as well as across age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups disapprove of the way the president is handling environmental issues.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling ...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
His job as president of the United States	Approve	32%	12%	82%	35%	38%
	Disapprove	62	84	16	60	60
	Don't know	5	4	2	5	1
Environmental issues in the United States	Approve	26	7	68	26	31
	Disapprove	66	89	23	67	65
	Don't know	8	4	9	7	4

The US Congress has lower overall approval ratings among Californians (25% adults, 17% likely voters) than the president. Approval of Congress was similar in May (30% adults, 22% likely voters) and last July (20% adults, 14% likely voters). Today, 18 percent of Democrats, 19 percent of independents, and 22 percent of Republicans approve of Congress. At least half across age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups disapprove of the way that the US Congress is handling its job. Nationwide approval among adults was at 17 percent in a July Gallup poll.

Approval ratings in California are similarly low for the way the US Congress is handling environmental issues (25% adults, 17% likely voters). Approval was similar last July (23% adults, 16% likely voters). Today, 23 percent of Republicans, 20 percent of independents, and 17 percent of Democrats say they approve. About half or more across regions as well as age, education, gender, and racial/ethnic groups say they disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling environmental issues in the United States.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling ...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Its job	Approve	25%	18%	22%	19%	17%
	Disapprove	65	75	75	73	79
	Don't know	9	8	2	8	4
Environmental issues in the United States	Approve	25	17	23	20	17
	Disapprove	63	74	69	69	76
	Don't know	12	9	8	11	8

Perceptions of Global Warming

When asked about their perceptions of climate change, about six in ten Californians say that global warming has already begun (63% adults, 64% likely voters). This perception was similarly prevalent a year ago (67% adults, 69% likely voters), and majorities have held this view since we began asking this question in July 2005. Today, solid majorities of Democrats (79%) and independents (60%)—and 37 percent of Republicans—say the effects have already begun. Majorities across regions as well as age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups hold this view. In a March Gallup national survey, 59 percent of American adults said the effects of global warming are already happening.

“Which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen ...?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Likely voters
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	
Already begun	63%	75%	59%	66%	63%	64%
Within a few years	4	2	5	7	1	2
Within your lifetime	7	3	13	5	6	8
Not within your lifetime, but will affect future	11	16	14	11	10	11
Will never happen	11	3	4	7	17	13
Don't know	4	1	6	4	3	2

Three in four Californians say that global warming is a very serious (57% adults, 56% likely voters) or somewhat serious (22% adults, 18% likely voters) threat to California’s future economy and quality of life. Last July, similar shares said the threat of global warming was very serious (56% adults, 57% likely voters) or somewhat serious (24% adults, 21% likely voters). Since we began asking this question in July 2005, at least six in ten Californians have seen the threat as very or somewhat serious. Today, majorities of Democrats (73%) and independents (59%)—and 27 percent of Republicans—say global warming is a very serious threat. Majorities in the Inland Empire (61%), Los Angeles (61%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (59%)—and about half in other regions—say the threat of global warming is very serious. African Americans (73%) and Latinos (66%) are more likely than Asian Americans (53%) and whites (51%) to say the threat of global warming is very serious for California.

“How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California’s future—do you think that it is a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious of a threat?”

	All adults	Race/Ethnicity				Likely voters
		African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites	
Very serious	57%	73%	53%	66%	51%	56%
Somewhat serious	22	18	34	22	20	18
Not too serious	9	5	8	7	10	9
Not at all serious	10	3	3	4	17	15
Don't know	2	2	2	1	2	2

About seven in ten Californians say they are very concerned (42% adults, 41% likely voters) or somewhat concerned (29% adults, 24% likely voters) about sea levels rising more dramatically as a result of global warming. Three in four Californians are very concerned (49% adults, 47% likely voters) or somewhat concerned (28% adults, 24% likely voters) about more-severe heat waves.

Wildfires

In the wake of the extreme wildfires in the past few years, a record-high share of Californians (71%) are very concerned about wildfires that are more severe as a result of global warming. Strong majorities across demographic groups are very concerned, with women (77%) more likely than men (65%) and African Americans (90%) much more likely than Latinos (74%), Asian Americans (70%), and whites (67%) to be very concerned. Across regions, residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (75%) are the most likely to be very concerned (74% Inland Empire, 72% Los Angeles, 69% Central Valley, 69% Orange/San Diego). Democrats (85%) and independents (70%) are far more likely than Republicans (45%) to be very concerned.

Six in ten Californians (63%) think that global warming has contributed to the state’s recent wildfires. An overwhelming majority of Democrats (79%) and six in ten independents (61%) think global warming has contributed, compared to 26 percent of Republicans. While at least half across regions think global warming has contributed, residents of Los Angeles (71%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (69%) are the most likely to hold this view. Majorities across demographic groups say global warming has contributed to wildfires, but this view is somewhat more common among younger Californians age 18 to 34 (69%) than among older Californians (64% 35 to 54, 57% 55 and older). Latinos (80%) and African Americans (74%) are more likely than Asian Americans (60%) and whites (53%) to hold this view. In July 2016, a similar 65 percent of Californians thought global warming had contributed to the state’s wildfires at the time.

“Do you think that global warming has contributed to California’s recent wildfires or not?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Yes, has contributed	63%	57%	61%	71%	57%	69%	59%
No, has not contributed	32	39	34	26	37	27	37
Don't know	5	4	5	3	6	4	4

Governor Newsom recently signed a bill that will provide investor-owned utilities with at least \$21 billion to pay for future wildfire damages. The fund will be paid for evenly by utility investors and rate payers—who will cover their half through a 15-year extension of an existing monthly charge that had been slated to expire in 2021. When asked about this spending plan, 57 percent of Californians are in favor and 32 percent are opposed. Likely voters hold similar views (50% favor, 41% oppose). Democrats (68%) are twice as likely as Republicans (33%) to be in favor; independents are more divided (48% favor, 40% oppose). Support is much higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (67%) than elsewhere in the state. Support for the wildfire fund is higher among African Americans (73%) and Latinos (68%) than Asian Americans (55%) and whites (49%). Majorities across age, gender, and income groups are in favor.

“Recently, the California Legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed into law a bill that will create a \$21 billion wildfire insurance fund to pay for future wildfire damages, which will be paid for evenly by ratepayers and utility investors. Do you favor or oppose this spending plan?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	57%	68%	33%	48%	50%
Oppose	32	22	58	40	41
Don't know	11	9	9	12	9

Water Supply

Earlier this year the US Drought Monitor announced that California was drought free for the first time since 2011. Given that, what do Californians say about the supply of water in their part of California? Over half of Californians say the supply of water is a big problem (30%) or somewhat of a problem (27%), while four in ten (41%) say it is not a problem. The share calling their supply of water a big problem has fallen 18 points since last July and is down 40 points from a record high in September 2015 (70%). Today, fewer than four in ten across parties, regions, and demographic groups say the supply of water is a big problem in their part of California.

“Next, would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Big problem	30%	36%	35%	31%	30%	21%	35%
Somewhat of a problem	27	28	22	27	27	29	31
Not much of problem	41	35	42	41	43	49	34
Don't know	1	2	–	2	–	2	–

When asked about the pollution of drinking water, 58 percent think that this is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas in their part of California. In July 2016, 59 percent thought pollution of drinking water was a more serious threat in lower-income areas than other areas in their part of California. Today, Democrats (65%) and independents (58%) are more likely than Republicans (34%) to think the pollution of drinking water is more problematic in lower-income areas in their part of California. This perception is most prevalent in Los Angeles (70%), followed by the Central Valley (59%), the San Francisco Bay Area (55%), Orange/San Diego (51%), and the Inland Empire (49%). The share holding this view declines with rising age and income; African Americans (82%) and Latinos (70%) are more likely than Asian Americans (59%) and whites (48%) to see polluted drinking water as a more serious threat in lower-income areas.

While most Californians have safe, reliable drinking water, water contamination and dry wells are persistent problems in some poor, rural parts of the state. The recently signed budget allocates \$130 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for a clean drinking water fund. When asked about this spending plan, seven in ten Californians are in favor and one in five are opposed. Likely voters hold similar views (64% favor, 28% oppose). More than six in ten across demographic groups and regions are in favor. Support is higher among younger Californians age 18 to 34 (84%) than among older adults (67% 35 to 54, 62% 55 and older), and support is higher among African Americans (87%), Asian Americans (81%), and Latinos (81%) than among whites (61%). There is a stark partisan divide: 82 percent of Democrats and 70 percent of independents favor the spending plan for a clean drinking water fund, compared to 45 percent of Republicans.

“The state budget recently passed by the legislature and signed by the governor allocates \$130 million of the state’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund from the cap-and-trade program to support a clean drinking water fund. Do you favor or oppose this spending plan?”

	All adults	Household income			Likely voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
Favor	71%	80%	70%	64%	64%
Oppose	21	14	24	28	28
Don't know	8	6	5	8	8

Air Pollution

One in four Californians say that air pollution is a big problem in their part of California, while 35 percent say it is somewhat of a problem and 38 percent say it is not a problem. Perceptions were similar last July (29% big problem, 37% somewhat of a problem), and fewer than three in ten have said air pollution is a big problem since July 2009. The perception that air pollution is a big problem is most prevalent in Los Angeles (43%) and least common in Orange/San Diego (11%). Democrats (30%) are more likely than Republicans (19%) to say that air pollution is a big problem in their part of the state; one in four independents (24%) hold this view. African Americans (36%) are most likely to see air pollution as a big problem, followed by Asian Americans (32%), Latinos (31%), and whites (22%). Notably, renters (32%) are more likely than homeowners (21%) to say air pollution is a big problem in their part of California.

“We are interested in the part of California that you live in. Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your part of California?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Big problem	27%	36%	33%	43%	11%	14%	24%
Somewhat of a problem	35	33	32	33	34	42	37
Not a problem	38	32	33	23	54	43	38
Don't know	1	–	1	1	–	–	–

When asked how seriously air pollution threatens their own health and the health of their immediate family, about half of Californians say it is a very serious (22%) or somewhat serious (30%) threat. Findings were nearly identical in July 2016 (21% very, 32% somewhat serious). Today, the shares holding this view are highest in the Central Valley (30% very, 33% somewhat) and Los Angeles (34% very, 29% somewhat). Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (35% very, 22% somewhat) and Latinos (28% very, 29% somewhat) are the most likely to see air pollution as a serious health threat, followed by Asian Americans (25% very, 27% somewhat), and whites (17% very, 34% somewhat).

“How serious a health threat is air pollution in your region to you and your immediate family—do you think it is a very serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious of a health threat?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Very serious	22%	30%	22%	34%	12%	13%	18%
Somewhat serious	30	33	38	29	25	33	33
Not too serious	44	37	34	34	58	52	47
Not at all serious	2	1	5	1	4	2	2
Don't know	1	–	–	1	2	–	–

Californians are divided on whether air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas of the state (49% yes, 44% no). The share saying air pollution is more serious in lower-income areas was slightly higher last July (56% yes, 38% no). The share holding this view declines with rising age. African Americans (71%), Latinos (63%), and Asian Americans (52%) are much more likely than whites (34%) to say it is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas. Los Angeles residents (62%) are the most likely to hold this view, followed by residents in the Inland Empire (49%), the Central Valley (46%), the San Francisco Bay Area (46%), and Orange/San Diego (38%). Half of Democrats (54%) say air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas, compared to 45 percent of independents and 20 percent of Republicans.

Ocean and Coastal Concerns

Most Californians (77%) say the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important to California’s future economy and quality of life. Findings were similar last July (74% very important). More than six in ten across parties and more than two in three across regions—both inland and coastal—and demographic groups say the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important to the state’s future.

When asked about plastics and marine debris, most Californians view them as a big problem (72%) or somewhat of a problem (18%) along the part of the California coast closest to them. Strong majorities across regions view plastics and marine debris as a big problem; this perception is most prevalent in Los Angeles (77%), followed by the San Francisco Bay Area (73%), the Central Valley (71%), the Inland Empire (69%), and Orange/San Diego (66%). There is a wide partisan divide on this issue, with eight in ten Democrats (80%) and seven in ten independents (69%) calling plastics and marine debris a big problem, compared to fewer than half of Republicans (44%). Strong majorities across demographic groups see plastics and marine debris as a big problem.

“How about plastics and marine debris? Do you think this is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in the part of the California coast that is closest to you?”

	All adults	Region			Race/Ethnicity			
		North and central coast*	South coast*	Inland	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Big problem	72%	73%	72%	70%	80%	72%	79%	65%
Somewhat of a problem	18	17	17	19	16	20	13	21
Not a problem	9	8	9	10	4	6	7	12
Don't know	2	2	2	1	–	2	1	3

* Here and in the rest of the report, “North and central coast” refers to the coastal counties from San Luis Obispo County northward to Del Norte County, including all San Francisco Bay Area counties. “South coast” includes coastal counties from Santa Barbara County southward.

Forty-four percent of Californians view urban development harming wildlife habitats and endangered species as a big problem along the part of the coast that is closest to them, while 34 percent see it as somewhat of a problem. The share saying that it is a big problem is far larger among independents (50%) and Democrats (45%) than Republicans (25%). Latinos (56%) and African Americans (53%) are more likely than Asian Americans (42%) and whites (34%) to say this is a big problem; the share holding this view declines with age, education, and household income.

Thirty-five percent of Californians say that commercial overfishing is a big problem along the part of the coast that is closest to them, while 35 percent say it is somewhat of a problem. Findings were nearly identical the last time we asked this question in February 2006 (32% big problem, 33% somewhat of a problem, 24% not a problem). Fewer than half of Californians across regions and demographic groups view overfishing as big problem.

“How about overfishing, or depleting the fishing stock, by commercial fishing? Do you think this is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in the part of the California coast that is closest to you?”

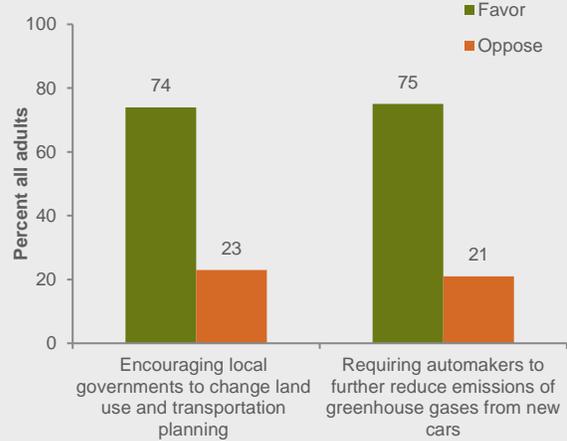
	All adults	Region			Race/Ethnicity			
		North and central coast	South coast	Inland	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Big problem	35%	33%	35%	35%	48%	23%	44%	28%
Somewhat of a problem	35	37	34	36	33	41	36	34
Not a problem	25	23	26	25	18	30	16	31
Don't know	5	7	5	4	1	5	4	7

Policy Preferences

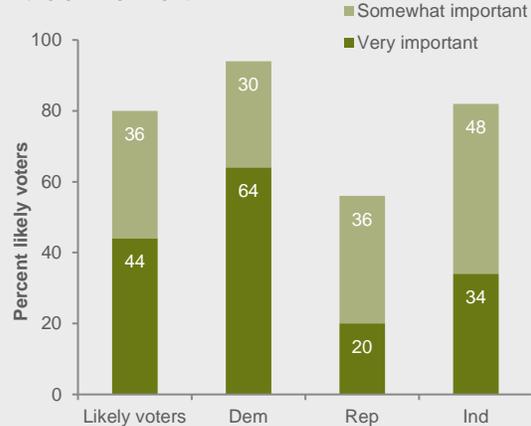
Key Findings

- Two in three adults favor California making its own policies to address global warming. Three in four say it is very or somewhat important that California acts as a global leader on climate change. *(page 15)*
- Strong majorities of adults support the state laws requiring California to reduce its greenhouse gases and increase its electricity from renewable sources. Three in four support proposals to change land use and transportation planning and to further reduce automobile emissions. *(page 16)*
- Forty-eight percent of Californians expect that the state doing things to reduce global warming would lead to more jobs. A majority expect that state action would lead to higher gasoline prices, and half say they are willing to pay more for electricity from renewable sources. *(page 17)*
- Fifty-nine percent of adults say they have heard nothing about the state’s cap-and-trade system. After hearing a brief description, 53 percent favor the system, with partisans deeply divided. *(page 18)*
- Two-thirds of Californians oppose more oil drilling off the coast. Seventy-two percent favor wind and wave energy projects off the coast. *(page 19)*
- About four in ten likely voters, and two in three Democratic likely voters, say that the presidential candidates’ positions on the environment are very important to them. Among likely voters who are either registered Democrats or independents who lean Democratic, Kamala Harris, Elizabeth Warren, Bernie Sanders, and Joe Biden are the current frontrunners in the Democratic presidential primary; a quarter are unsure of how they would vote. *(page 20)*

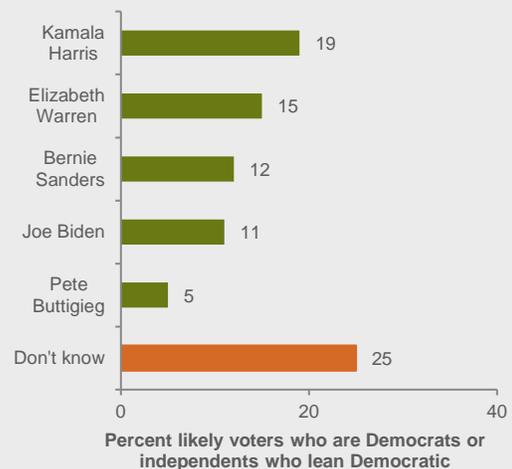
Support for proposals to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions



Importance of presidential candidates' positions on the environment



Preferred candidate for March 2020 Democratic primary



State Leadership on Climate Change

When it comes to climate change and energy policy, California’s political leaders continue to pursue policies that are at odds with policies supported by the federal government today. Solid majorities of Californians (64% adults, 61% likely voters) favor having the state government make its own policies, separate from the federal government, to address global warming. The share of Californians holding this view was similar last July (65% adults, 62% likely voters). Since PPIC first asked this question in July 2005, more than half of all adults and likely voters have consistently supported separate state policies.

Today, partisans are deeply divided on the issue; an overwhelming majority of Democrats (81%) and a solid majority of independents (64%)—compared to 28 percent of Republicans—are in favor of the California state government making its own policies on global warming, separate from the federal government. Majorities across age, education, gender, and income groups hold this view. However, support declines with rising age (76% 18 to 34, 63% 35 to 54, 54% 55 and older). Majorities across regions favor the state government making its own policies (73% San Francisco Bay Area, 67% Los Angeles, 61% Central Valley, 61% Orange/San Diego, 56% Inland Empire). Support is also higher among coastal residents (67%) than among inland residents (58%). Majorities across racial/ethnic groups favor the state government making its own policies to address global warming (73% Latinos, 71% African Americans, 70% Asian Americans, 57% whites).

“Do you favor or oppose the California state government making its own policies, separate from the federal government, to address the issue of global warming?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	64%	81%	28%	64%	61%
Oppose	31	16	69	32	37
Don't know	5	3	3	5	2

In September 2018, California took center stage in the climate debate when then-governor Jerry Brown co-chaired the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco. Nearly one year later, eight in ten Californians say that it is very important (53% adults, 49% likely voters) or somewhat important (25% adults, 22% likely voters) that California act as a leader in the effort to fight climate change. Similar proportions of adults (54% very important, 24% somewhat important) and likely voters (51% very important, 22% somewhat important) held this view last July.

Today, 69 percent of Democrats say it is very important that California act as a leader in addressing climate change, compared to 46 percent of independents and 24 percent of Republicans. Majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (59%) and Los Angeles (57%) say it is very important, compared to about half elsewhere (49% Inland Empire, 48% Central Valley, 48% Orange/San Diego). Across racial/ethnic groups, a solid majority of African Americans (73%) and Latinos (62%)—but fewer Asian Americans (51%) and whites (45%)—say it is very important that California act as a leader on climate change. More than four in ten across age, education, gender, and income groups hold this view.

“When it comes to efforts to fight climate change, how important is it to you that California acts as a leader around the world?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Very important	53%	69%	24%	46%	49%
Somewhat important	25	22	19	25	22
Not too important	7	3	15	9	8
Not important at all	14	4	41	20	20
Don't know	1	1	1	—	—

Climate Change Policies

The Global Warming Solutions Act (Assembly Bill 32) was passed in 2006 by the California Legislature and signed by then-governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The bill set a goal for the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. With the state on track to meet the goal in advance of the 2020 deadline, policymakers passed Senate Bill 32 in 2016, setting a new goal of further reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. When asked about this goal, two in three adults (67%) and likely voters (63%) are in favor. Similar proportions held this view in July 2018 (67% adults, 66% likely voters). Today, eight in ten Democrats (82%) are in favor of the law, compared with two in three independents (66%) and far fewer Republicans (36%). Across racial/ethnic groups, Asian Americans (77%) are the most likely to be in favor, followed by Latinos (74%), African Americans (70%), and whites (61%). More than six in ten across regions and age, education, gender, and income groups are in favor.

“Next, to address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	67%	82%	36%	66%	63%
Oppose	24	12	58	27	31
Don't know	9	6	7	7	6

The California Energy Commission estimates that 34 percent of California’s electricity was derived from renewable sources in 2018, an increase of 4 percent from the previous year. In September 2018, the state legislature passed, and then-governor Brown signed, Senate Bill 100, which sets the goal of getting 100 percent of California’s electricity from renewable sources by 2045. A strong majority of Californians (71% adults, 66% likely voters) support this goal. Last July, findings were similar (72% adults, 67% likely voters). Today, strong majorities of Democrats (84%) and independents (71%)—and 33 percent of Republicans—are in favor of this state law. Strong majorities across regions are in favor (73% Los Angeles, 73% San Francisco Bay Area, 72% Inland Empire, 71% Orange/San Diego, 68% Central Valley). Solid majorities across demographic groups are also in favor, but support declines as age rises (77% 18 to 34, 74% 35 to 54, 61% 55 and older).

“Do you favor or oppose the state law that requires 100 percent of the state’s electricity to come from renewable energy sources by the year 2045?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	71%	84%	33%	71%	66%
Oppose	24	12	61	27	30
Don't know	6	4	6	2	4

When it comes to specific proposals to fight climate change, three in four Californians favor policies that encourage local governments to change land use and transportation planning so that people could drive less (74% adults, 68% likely voters). Similarly, three in four support requiring all automakers to further reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from new cars (75% adults, 76% likely voters). Larger majorities were in favor of these policies when these questions were first asked in 2008 and 2002, respectively. Today, more than two in three across regions and demographic groups favor both proposals. Both policies elicit a strong partisan divide, with Democrats (87% land use, 90% car emissions) being about twice as likely as Republicans (45% land use, 49% car emissions) to favor both policies. Three in four independents (75%) favor changing land use and transportation planning and requiring reductions in emissions from cars (73%).

Potential Impacts of Climate Change Policies

When asked about the potential economic effects of California’s global warming policies, a plurality of adults (48%) and likely voters (45%) say the state’s efforts will lead to more jobs for Californians. Two in ten say it would not affect the number of jobs (21% adults, 23% likely voters) or that it would lead to fewer jobs (19% adults, 23% likely voters). Since 2010, pluralities of Californians have said that state efforts will lead to more jobs. Democrats (60%) are more likely than independents (45%) and Republicans (27%) to say this. Regionally, a majority of Inland Empire residents (53%) and San Francisco Bay Area residents (53%) say there would be more jobs, compared to no more than half elsewhere. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (72%) are the most likely to say there would be more jobs, compared to fewer Latinos (55%), Asian Americans (45%), and whites (41%). Younger adults are more likely to hold this view (55% 18 to 34, 45% 35 to 54, 43% 55 and older).

“Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause there to be more jobs for people around the state, would cause there to be fewer jobs, or wouldn’t affect the number of jobs for people around the state?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
More jobs	48%	46%	53%	50%	40%	53%	45%
Fewer jobs	19	20	15	19	26	13	23
Wouldn’t affect the number of jobs	21	22	24	18	24	23	23
Don’t know	12	12	8	13	11	11	9

While relatively few Californians expect state action on global warming to negatively affect jobs, a majority of adults (58%) and likely voters (60%) expect gasoline prices to increase. Similar shares held this view in July 2018 (56% adults, 58% likely voters). A strong majority of Republicans (70%) think state efforts will increase gas prices, while 56 percent of independents and 51 percent of Democrats say the same. Across regions, Orange/San Diego residents (67%) are the most likely to think this. Among racial/ethnic groups, whites (62%) and Latinos (59%) are more likely than Asian Americans (51%) and African Americans (45%) to hold this view. Majorities across age, education, gender, and income groups think gas prices will go up because of state action on climate change.

“Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause gasoline prices at the pump around the state to increase, or to decrease, or wouldn’t affect gasoline prices at the pump around the state?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Increase gasoline prices	58%	59%	55%	51%	67%	58%	60%
Decrease gasoline prices	15	14	14	22	15	11	11
Wouldn’t affect gasoline prices	17	18	19	19	11	19	20
Don’t know	9	9	11	7	7	12	9

Half of adults (51%) and likely voters (50%) say they are willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable sources. Similar shares held this view in July 2018 (50% adults, 51% likely voters). Today, Democrats (68%) are much more likely than independents (52%) and Republicans (28%) to say this. Younger adults are also more likely to hold this view (62% 18 to 34, 47% 35 to 54, 45% 55 and older). Regionally, San Francisco Bay Area residents (64%) are most likely to say they would pay more (51% Los Angeles, 49% Inland Empire, 49% Orange/San Diego, 43% Central Valley). More than four in ten across education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups are willing to pay more.

Cap and Trade

The share of Californians who have heard about the policy called “cap and trade” remains low. A record-low share has heard at least a little (10% a lot, 31% a little) and a record-high share has heard nothing at all (59%). Findings were similar last July (12% a lot, 34% a little, 53% nothing at all). Today, Latinos (77%), adults with no college education (75%), those with incomes below \$40,000 (72%), adults under 35 (71%), and renters (68%) are the most likely to say they have heard nothing.

“How much, if anything, have you heard about the state government policy called “cap and trade” that sets limits on greenhouse gas emissions? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?”

	All adults	Household income			Race/Ethnicity			
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
A lot	10%	4%	8%	19%	5%	4%	4%	18%
A little	31	25	35	37	20	32	19	40
Nothing at all	59	72	57	43	75	65	77	42
Don't know	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

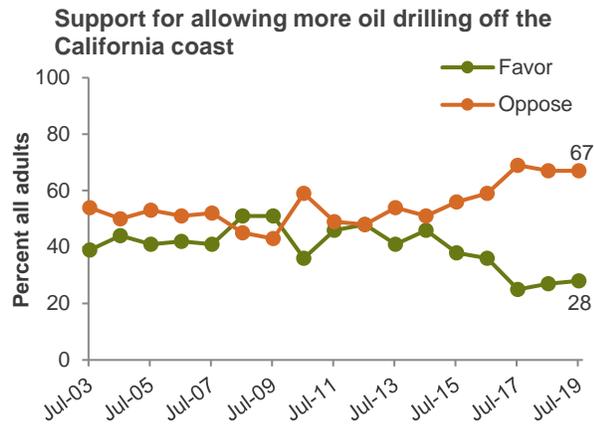
After hearing a brief description of the state’s cap-and-trade system, 53 percent of Californians are in favor and one in three (34%) are opposed. Findings were similar last July among adults (50% favor, 35% oppose). Today, a strong majority of Democrats (66%) are in favor—compared to 34 percent of Republicans—and independents are divided (44% favor, 43% oppose). Majorities across racial/ethnic groups are in favor (58% Latinos, 54% Asian Americans, 53% African Americans, 51% whites). Majorities across income groups are in favor. College graduates (62%) are more likely than those without a college degree (49%) to be in favor. Support for the state’s cap-and-trade system declines with age (62% under 35, 50% 35 to 54, 47% 55 and older). Regionally, support is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (61%), followed by Los Angeles (57%), the Central Valley (48%), the Inland Empire (48%), and Orange/San Diego (48%). Among those who have heard nothing at all about the cap-and-trade system, 53 percent are in favor after hearing a brief description.

“In the system called “cap and trade,” the California state government issues permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out. Companies that do not use all their permits can sell them to other companies. The idea is that many companies will find ways to put out less greenhouse gases, because that will be cheaper than buying permits. Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?”

	All adults	Household income			Race/Ethnicity			
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Favor	53%	53%	52%	55%	53%	54%	58%	51%
Oppose	34	33	33	36	42	32	28	36
Don't know	13	14	14	9	5	14	15	12

Ocean and Coastal Policy

Earlier this year, the House of Representatives voted to block the US Department of the Interior from seeking funding to pursue new offshore oil drilling off the Pacific coast. When asked about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast, 28 percent of adults are in favor of it; 67 percent are opposed. Findings were similar last July (27% favor, 67% oppose). Across parties, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (81%) and a strong majority of independents (69%) are opposed, compared to 40 percent of Republicans. Majorities across regions are opposed, with residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (76%) the most likely to hold this view. More than six in ten across age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups are opposed. Women (72%) are more likely than men (61%) to oppose more oil drilling off the coast. Opposition is highest in the north and central coast (74%) and somewhat lower in the south coast (65%) and inland counties (63%).



“How about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast? Do you favor or oppose this proposal?”

	All adults	Region			Age		
		North and central coast	South coast	Inland	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and older
Favor	28%	23%	28%	32%	23%	27%	33%
Oppose	67	74	65	63	71	67	62
Don't know	5	4	7	5	6	5	5

In stark contrast to the low levels of support for allowing more drilling in coastal waters, there are relatively high levels of support for allowing wind power and wave energy projects off the coast. Seventy-two percent of adults are in favor of wind power and wave energy projects, while 19 percent are opposed. Findings were similar in 2017 (73% favor, 19% oppose). Eight in ten Democrats (80%) and independents (81%) and two in three Republicans (66%) support allowing wind power and wave energy projects. More than six in ten across age, education, gender, and income groups are in favor. Regionally, residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (76%) are the most likely to be in favor, followed by the Central Valley (74%), Orange/San Diego (74%), the Inland Empire (69%), and Los Angeles (66%). Support is similar among north and central coast (77%), south coast (69%), and inland residents (73%). Across racial/ethnic groups, Asian Americans (85%) and African Americans (83%) are the most likely to be in favor, compared to fewer whites (75%) and Latinos (62%). Among those who say they are willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable sources, 82 percent are in favor of allowing wind power and energy projects. Among those who oppose oil drilling off the California coast, 71 percent are in favor of allowing wind power and wave energy projects.

“How about allowing wind power and wave energy projects off the California coast? Do you favor or oppose this proposal?”

	All adults	Region			Age		
		North and central coast	South coast	Inland	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and older
Favor	72%	77%	69%	73%	79%	69%	68%
Oppose	19	16	22	18	15	21	22
Don't know	9	7	9	9	6	10	10

2020 Election and the Environment

When asked about next year’s presidential election, 70 percent of likely voters are following the news very (37%) or fairly (33%) closely. Attention levels today are similar to those before the first Democratic presidential debate (28% very, 41% fairly in May). Today, eight in ten likely voters say the presidential candidates’ positions on the environment are important (44% very, 36% somewhat) in determining their vote. Democratic likely voters (64%) are far more likely than independents (34%) and Republicans (20%) to say that positions on the environment are very important. Latino likely voters (58%) are more likely than whites (41%) and those in other racial/ethnic groups (43%) to hold this view. (Sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis.)

“In thinking about the presidential election in 2020, how important to you are the candidates’ positions on the environment in determining your vote—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Very important	44%	64%	20%	34%	58%	41%	43%
Somewhat important	36	30	36	48	31	34	44
Not too important	18	5	42	14	9	23	11
Not at all important	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
Don’t know	—	—	1	1	—	1	—

When likely voters who are registered Democrats or independents who lean Democratic are asked an open-ended question about their candidate choice in the 2020 presidential primary, 19 percent name Kamala Harris, 15 percent name Elizabeth Warren, 12 percent name Bernie Sanders, 11 percent name Joe Biden, and 5 percent name Pete Buttigieg. (Candidates listed below are those polling 5% or higher.) One in four (25%) say they don’t know, and women (31%) are more likely than men (18%) to say they don’t know. Harris, Biden, and Buttigieg have more support among older voters than younger voters, while Warren and Sanders have more support among younger voters than older voters. A July ABC News/Washington Post national poll also asked Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents about their choice in an open-ended question and found Biden (25%) in the lead, followed by Sanders (18%), Harris (9%), Warren (9%), and Buttigieg (3%), with 19 percent undecided.

“If the 2020 Democratic primary were being held today, for whom would you vote?” (If no candidate named, but would vote: “Which candidate would you lean toward?”)

Likely voters who are Democrats or independents who lean Democratic only	All likely voters	Gender		Age	
		Men	Women	18 to 44	45 and older
Kamala Harris	19%	17%	20%	13%	22%
Elizabeth Warren	15	16	14	19	13
Bernie Sanders	12	15	10	21	8
Joe Biden	11	11	10	4	14
Pete Buttigieg	5	3	7	1	7
Don’t know	25	18	31	25	25

When it comes to the Democratic primary, three in four likely voters who are registered Democrats or independents who lean Democratic say the policy proposed by some members of Congress called the Green New Deal is very (35%) or somewhat (39%) important in determining their vote.

Regional Map



Methodology

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California. Survey research associates Alyssa Dykman and Rachel Ward were co-project managers for this survey, and additional assistance was provided by associate survey director Dean Bonner. The *Californians and the Environment* survey is supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, and the Flora Family Foundation. The PPIC Statewide Survey invites input, comments, and suggestions from policy and public opinion experts and from its own advisory committee, but survey methods, questions, and content are determined solely by PPIC's survey team.

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 1,706 California adult residents, including 1,194 interviewed on cell phones and 512 interviewed on landline telephones. Interviews took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from July 14–23, 2019.

Cell phone interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of cell phone numbers. All cell phone numbers with California area codes were eligible for selection. Once a cell phone user was reached, it was verified that this person was age 18 or older, a resident of California, and in a safe place to continue the survey (e.g., not driving). Cell phone respondents were offered a small reimbursement to help defray the cost of the call. Cell phone interviews were conducted with adults who have cell phone service only and with those who have both cell phone and landline service in the household.

Landline interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. All landline telephone exchanges in California were eligible for selection. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using the "last birthday method" to avoid biases in age and gender.

For both cell phones and landlines, telephone numbers were called as many as eight times. When no contact with an individual was made, calls to a number were limited to six. Also, to increase our ability to interview Asian American adults, we made up to three additional calls to phone numbers estimated by Survey Sampling International as likely to be associated with Asian American individuals.

Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted by Abt Associates in English and Spanish, according to respondents' preferences. Accent on Languages, Inc., translated new survey questions into Spanish, with assistance from Renatta DeFever.

Abt Associates uses the US Census Bureau's 2013–2017 American Community Survey's (ACS) Public Use Microdata Series for California (with regional coding information from the University of Minnesota's Integrated Public Use Microdata Series for California) to compare certain demographic characteristics of the survey sample—region, age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education—with the characteristics of California's adult population. The survey sample was closely comparable to the ACS figures. To estimate landline and cell phone service in California, Abt Associates used 2016 state-level estimates released by the National Center for Health Statistics—which used data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the ACS. The estimates for California were then compared against landline and cell phone service reported in this survey. We also used voter registration data from the California Secretary of State to compare the party registration of registered voters in our sample to party registration statewide. The landline and cell phone samples were then integrated using a frame integration weight, while sample balancing adjusted for differences across regional, age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, telephone service, and party registration groups.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ± 3.4 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,706 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.4 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,400 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.9 percent; for the 1,085 likely voters, it is ± 4.4 percent; for the 766 respondents who answered question 41 (Democratic primary) and question 44 (support for Green New Deal), it is ± 5.1 percent. Sampling error is only one type of error to which surveys are subject. Results may also be affected by factors such as question wording, question order, and survey timing.

We present results for five geographic regions, accounting for approximately 90 percent of the state population. "Central Valley" includes Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. "San Francisco Bay Area" includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties. "Los Angeles" refers to Los Angeles County, "Inland Empire" refers to Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and "Orange/San Diego" refers to Orange and San Diego Counties. Residents of other geographic areas are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes for these less populous areas are not large enough to report separately. Additionally, in several places, we refer to coastal and inland counties. Within coastal counties, the "north and central coast" region refers to the counties along the California coast from San Luis Obispo County northward to Del Norte County, including all the San Francisco Bay Area counties. The "south coast" region includes Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties. All other counties are included in the "inland" region.

We present results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 42 percent of the state's adult population, and also for Latinos, who account for 35 percent of the state's adult population and constitute one of the fastest-growing voter groups. We also present results for non-Hispanic Asian Americans, who make up about 15 percent of the state's adult population, and non-Hispanic African Americans, who comprise about 6 percent. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes are not large enough for separate analysis. Results for African American and Asian American likely voters are combined with those of other racial/ethnic groups because sample sizes for African American and Asian American likely voters are too small for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in other parties are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated per their responses to survey questions about voter registration, previous election participation, intentions to vote this year, attention to election news, and current interest in politics.

The percentages presented in the report tables and in the questionnaire may not add to 100 due to rounding.

We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey results to those in our earlier surveys and to those in national surveys by ABC News/Washington Post and Gallup. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

Questionnaire and Results

CALIFORNIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

July 14–23, 2019

1,706 California Adult Residents:

English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 3.4\%$ AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE
PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

- 1. First, overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor of California?**

45% approve
31 disapprove
25 don't know

- 2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling environmental issues in California?**

45% approve
30 disapprove
25 don't know

- 3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?**

42% approve
41 disapprove
17 don't know

- 4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling environmental issues in California?**

45% approve
38 disapprove
17 don't know

- 5. Next, would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?**

30% big problem
27 somewhat of a problem
41 not much of a problem
1 don't know

- 6. Do you think that pollution of drinking water is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your part of California, or not?**

58% yes
30 no
11 don't know

Next,

- 7. We are interested in the part of California that you live in. Would you say that air pollution is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in your part of California?**

27% big problem
35 somewhat of a problem
38 not a problem
1 don't know

- 8. How serious a health threat is air pollution in your region to you and your immediate family—do you think it is a very serious, somewhat serious, or not too serious of a health threat?**

22% very serious
30 somewhat serious
44 not too serious
2 not at all serious (*volunteered*)
1 don't know

- 9. Do you think that air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than other areas in your part of California, or not?**

49% yes
44 no
7 don't know

10. On another topic, which of the following statements reflects your view of when the effects of global warming will begin to happen—[rotate order] (1) they have already begun to happen; (2) they will start happening within a few years; (3) they will start happening within your lifetime; (4) they will not happen within your lifetime, but they will affect future generations; [or] (5) they will never happen?

- 63% already begun
- 4 within a few years
- 7 within your lifetime
- 11 not within lifetime, but will affect future generations
- 11 will never happen
- 4 don't know

11. How serious of a threat is global warming to the economy and quality of life for California's future—do you think that it is a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious of a threat?

- 57% very serious
- 22 somewhat serious
- 9 not too serious
- 10 not at all serious (*volunteered*)
- 2 don't know

Now I am going to name a few of the possible impacts of global warming in the future in California, and I would like you to tell me whether you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about each one.

[rotate questions 12 and 13]

12. How about increased rising sea levels?

- 42% very concerned
- 29 somewhat concerned
- 12 not too concerned
- 15 not at all concerned
- 2 don't know

13. How about heat waves that are more severe?

- 49% very concerned
- 28 somewhat concerned
- 10 not too concerned
- 12 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

14. How about wildfires that are more severe?

- 71% very concerned
- 15 somewhat concerned
- 5 not too concerned
- 7 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

Next,

15. Do you think that global warming has contributed to California's recent wildfires or not?

- 63% yes, has contributed
- 32 no, has not contributed
- 5 don't know

16. Recently, the California Legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed into law a bill that will create a \$21 billion wildfire insurance fund to pay for future wildfire damages, which will be paid for evenly by ratepayers and utility investors. Do you favor or oppose this spending plan?

- 57% favor
- 32 oppose
- 11 don't know

17. Next, to address global warming, do you favor or oppose the state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030?

- 67% favor
- 24 oppose
- 9 don't know

18. Do you favor or oppose the state law that requires 100 percent of the state's electricity to come from renewable energy sources by the year 2045?

71% favor
24 oppose
6 don't know

19. Do you favor or oppose the California state government making its own policies, separate from the federal government, to address the issue of global warming?

64% favor
31 oppose
5 don't know

20. When it comes to efforts to fight climate change, how important is it to you that California acts as a leader around the world—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

53% very important
25 somewhat important
7 not too important
14 not important at all
1 don't know

21. Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause there to be more jobs for people around the state, would cause there to be fewer jobs, or wouldn't affect the number of jobs for people around the state?

48% more jobs
19 fewer jobs
21 wouldn't affect the number of jobs
12 don't know

22. Do you think that California doing things to reduce global warming in the future would cause gasoline prices at the pump around the state to increase, or to decrease, or wouldn't affect gasoline prices at the pump around the state?

58% increase gasoline prices
15 decrease gasoline prices
17 wouldn't affect gasoline prices
9 don't know

23. In order to help reduce global warming, would you be willing or not willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable sources like solar or wind energy?

51% willing
45 not willing
4 don't know

Next, officials in the state and federal governments are discussing ways to address global warming. Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following plans to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

[rotate questions 24 and 25]

24. How about encouraging local governments to change land use and transportation planning so that people could drive less?

74% favor
23 oppose
3 don't know

25. How about requiring all automakers to further reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from new cars?

75% favor
21 oppose
4 don't know

Next,

26. How much, if anything, have you heard about the state government policy called "cap and trade" that sets limits on greenhouse gas emissions? Have you heard a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

10% a lot
31 a little
59 nothing at all
– don't know

27. In the system called “cap and trade,” the California state government issues permits limiting the amount of greenhouse gases companies can put out. Companies that do not use all their permits can sell them to other companies. The idea is that many companies will find ways to put out less greenhouse gases, because that will be cheaper than buying permits. Do you favor or oppose the cap-and-trade system?

- 53% favor
- 34 oppose
- 13 don't know

28. The state budget recently passed by the legislature and signed by the governor allocates \$130 million of the state’s Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund from the cap-and-trade program to support a clean drinking water fund. Do you favor or oppose this spending plan?

- 71% favor
- 21 oppose
- 8 don't know

Next, I am going to list some specific problems that some people say affect our ocean and marine life in California today. After each, please tell me whether you think it is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem in the part of the California coast that is closest to you.

[rotate questions 29 to 31]

29. How about overfishing, or depleting the fishing stock, by commercial fishing?

- 35% big problem
- 35 somewhat of a problem
- 25 not a problem
- 5 don't know

30. How about plastics and marine debris?

- 72% big problem
- 18 somewhat of a problem
- 9 not a problem
- 2 don't know

31. How about urban development harming wildlife habitats and endangered species?

- 44% big problem
- 34 somewhat of a problem
- 19 not a problem
- 3 don't know

Next,

32. How important is the condition of the ocean and beaches to the economy and quality of life for California’s future? Is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

- 77% very important
- 18 somewhat important
- 2 not too important
- 3 not important at all
- 1 don't know

Changing topics,

Please say if you favor or oppose the following proposals.

[rotate questions 33 and 34]

33. How about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast?

- 28% favor
- 67 oppose
- 5 don't know

34. How about allowing wind power and wave energy projects off the California coast?

- 72% favor
- 19 oppose
- 9 don't know

On another topic,

35. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

- 32% approve
- 62 disapprove
- 5 don't know

36. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Trump is handling environmental issues in the United States?

- 26% approve
- 66 disapprove
- 8 don't know

37. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling its job?

25% approve
65 disapprove
9 don't know

38. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling environmental issues in the United States?

25% approve
63 disapprove
12 don't know

39. Next, some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?

69% yes [ask q39a]
31 no [skip to q40b]

39a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

43% Democrat [ask q40]
24 Republican [skip to q40a]
5 another party (specify) [skip to q42]
28 independent [skip to q40b]

40. Would you call yourself a strong Democrat or not a very strong Democrat?

54% strong
44 not very strong
2 don't know

[skip to q41]

40a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

59% strong
39 not very strong
3 don't know

[skip to q42]

40b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

24% Republican Party
37 Democratic Party
32 neither (volunteered)
7 don't know

41. [Democratic likely voters and independents who lean Democratic only] If the 2020 Democratic primary were being held today, for whom would you vote? [If no candidate named but would vote: Which candidate would you lean toward?

[code, do not read]

19% Kamala Harris
15 Elizabeth Warren
12 Bernie Sanders
11 Joe Biden
5 Pete Buttigieg
2 anyone/any one of them
5 no one/none of them
7 other* (specify)
25 don't know

*includes the following candidates who received mentions totaling 1% or less: Michael Bennet, Cory Booker, Julian Castro, Tulsi Gabbard, Kirsten Gillibrand, John Hickenlooper, Jay Inslee, Amy Klobuchar, Beto O'Rourke, and Andrew Yang

42. [likely voters only] How closely are you following the news about candidates for the 2020 presidential election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

37% very closely
33 fairly closely
20 not too closely
10 not at all closely
— don't know

43. [likely voters only] In thinking about the presidential election in 2020, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the environment in determining your vote—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?

- 44% very important
- 36 somewhat important
- 18 not too important
- 1 not at all important (*volunteered*)
- don't know

44. [Democratic likely voters and independents who lean Democratic only] In thinking about the California Democratic presidential primary in March 2020, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the policy proposed by some members of Congress called the Green New Deal in determining your vote—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?

- 35% very important
- 39 somewhat important
- 14 not too important
- 1 not at all important (*volunteered*)
- 11 don't know

45. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically:

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 11% very liberal
- 20 somewhat liberal
- 31 middle-of-the-road
- 20 somewhat conservative
- 13 very conservative
- 4 don't know

46. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or none?

- 26% great deal
- 31 fair amount
- 31 only a little
- 11 none
- don't know

[d1–d15 demographic questions]

PPIC STATEWIDE
SURVEY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Ruben Barrales
Senior Vice President, External Relations
Wells Fargo

Angela Glover Blackwell
Founder in Residence
PolicyLink

Mollyann Brodie
Senior Vice President
Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

Bruce E. Cain
Director
Bill Lane Center for the American West
Stanford University

Jon Cohen
Chief Research Officer
SurveyMonkey

Joshua J. Dyck
Co-Director
Center for Public Opinion
University of Massachusetts, Lowell

Lisa García Bedolla
Director
Institute of Governmental Studies
University of California, Berkeley

Russell Hancock
President and CEO
Joint Venture Silicon Valley

Sherry Bebitch Jeffe
Professor
Sol Price School of Public Policy
University of Southern California

Robert Lapsley
President
California Business Roundtable

Carol S. Larson
President and CEO
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Donna Lucas
Chief Executive Officer
Lucas Public Affairs

Sonja Petek
Fiscal and Policy Analyst
California Legislative Analyst's Office

Lisa Pitney
Vice President of Government Relations
The Walt Disney Company

Robert K. Ross, MD
President and CEO
The California Endowment

Most Reverend Jaime Soto
Bishop of Sacramento
Roman Catholic Diocese of Sacramento

Carol Whiteside
Principal
California Strategies

PPIC BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

Steven A. Merksamer, Chair

Senior Partner
Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello
Gross & Leoni LLP

Mark Baldassare

President and CEO
Public Policy Institute of California

Ruben Barrales

Senior Vice President, External Relations
Wells Fargo

María Blanco

Executive Director
University of California
Immigrant Legal Services Center

Louise Henry Bryson

Chair Emerita, Board of Trustees
J. Paul Getty Trust

A. Marisa Chun

Partner
Crowell & Moring LLP

Chet Hewitt

President and CEO
Sierra Health Foundation

Phil Isenberg

Former Chair
Delta Stewardship Council

Donna Lucas

Chief Executive Officer
Lucas Public Affairs

Mas Masumoto

Author and Farmer

Leon E. Panetta

Chairman
The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

Gerald L. Parsky

Chairman
Aurora Capital Group

Kim Polese

Chairman
ClearStreet, Inc.

Gaddi H. Vasquez

Retired Senior Vice President,
Government Affairs
Edison International
Southern California Edison



Public Policy Institute of California
500 Washington Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94111
T: 415.291.4400
F: 415.291.4401
PPIC.ORG

PPIC Sacramento Center
Senator Office Building
1121 L Street, Suite 801
Sacramento, CA 95814
T: 916.440.1120
F: 916.440.1121



PPIC

**PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA**

25 YEARS