



Californians & the Environment

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Supported with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Flora Family Foundation, and the Heising-Simons Foundation



PPIC

PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

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.

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News Release

EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PDT on Wednesday, July 25, 2018.

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PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Most Say Environmental Issues Are Key in Governor's Race

NEWSOM, FEINSTEIN MAINTAIN STRONG LEADS—MAJORITY SUPPORT WATER BOND

SAN FRANCISCO, July 25, 2018—Nearly all California likely voters say the candidates' positions on the environment are important in determining their vote in the governor's race, according to a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). Democrat Gavin Newsom leads Republican John Cox in that race by 24 points.

A majority of likely voters (56%) say the candidates' environmental positions are very important in determining their votes—the largest share to express this view since PPIC first asked likely voters the question in 2006 (44%). Another third of likely voters (31%) say candidate positions on the environment are somewhat important. Across party lines, 67 percent of Democratic likely voters say the candidates' environmental stances are very important; about half of independents (54%) and a third of Republicans (33%) hold this view.

Newsom, the lieutenant governor, leads businessman Cox 55 percent to 31 percent among likely voters today, with 9 percent undecided. Preferences follow party lines, with 86 percent of Democratic likely voters favoring Newsom and 84 percent of Republicans favoring Cox. Newsom leads among independents, 41 percent to 33 percent. A solid majority of Latino likely voters (64%) and about half of white likely voters (49%) prefer Newsom. (Sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis.)

Underscoring Californians' views about the importance of environmental issues, adults in the state are much more likely than those nationwide to say that global warming is extremely or very important to them personally: 62 percent of California adults express this view, compared to 48 percent of American adults in a June ABC News/Stanford/Resources for the Future poll.

A majority of the state's likely voters (57%) say global warming poses a very serious threat to the economy and quality of life in California, and a strong majority (69%) say that the effects of global warming have already begun. A large majority of likely voters (66%) say they are very concerned that extreme weather—when thinking about the possible effect of global warming in California—will result in more severe wildfires.

Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO, summed up: "Many Californians are concerned about the personal impact of global warming in the wake of a prolonged drought and in the face of fears that extreme weather may result in more severe wildfires."

Feinstein Leads de León by Nearly Two to One

In her bid for a fifth full term as US senator, Dianne Feinstein leads fellow Democrat and state senator Kevin de León 46 percent to 24 percent among likely voters, with 9 percent undecided. She has

majority support among Democratic likely voters (66%) and leads de León among independents (38% to 24%). With no Republican candidates to choose from, 47 percent of Republican likely voters and 24 percent of independents say they would not vote in this race. Feinstein leads by at least 20 points among likely voters across education and racial/ethnic groups, as well as among women, those age 55 and older, and residents in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. When the likely voters who volunteer that they would not vote in this race are excluded, Feinstein has a 28-point lead (58% to 30%).

The survey asks if it is more important that candidates for statewide office—such as governor or US senator—work with the Trump administration on environmental issues or push back. Most likely voters (55%) prefer that candidates push back, while 39 percent prefer that candidates work with the administration. Among likely voters who prefer candidates to push back against the Trump administration, 62 percent favor Feinstein and 25 percent favor de León.

Half Approve of Brown, A Third Approve of Trump

Just over half of California likely voters approve of the way Jerry Brown is doing his job as governor (54%) and the way he is handling environmental issues (53%). The legislature has ratings of 46 percent overall and 43 percent on environmental issues.

In contrast to the ratings likely voters give to state leaders, just 34 percent approve of the way Donald Trump is doing his job as president and 27 percent approve of how he is handling environmental issues. Congress's approval ratings are even lower—14 percent overall and 16 percent on environmental issues.

At a time when state and federal leaders are moving in different directions on climate change and energy issues, 62 percent of California likely voters say they favor the state government making its own policies—separate from the federal government—to address global warming. Majorities of adults across regions and across age, education, gender, and income groups hold this view. Across parties, solid majorities of Californians registered as Democrats (82%) and independents (61%) concur, while just 29 percent of registered Republicans favor the state making its own policies.

Governor Brown is preparing to bring leaders from around the world to San Francisco for a climate change summit in September. Asked about the importance of the state acting as a leader in efforts to fight climate change, 51 percent of likely voters say it is very important (22% somewhat important).

Majority Favor Raising Fuel Emissions Standards for Autos

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has moved to relax emissions standards for automobiles, prompting a lawsuit by California and other states. California currently has a waiver allowing it to set its own higher standards. Asked about setting higher emissions standards for automobiles, 60 percent of likely voters say yes.

Likely voters also support goals to limit greenhouse gas emissions in other areas. A solid majority (66%) favor the state law requiring reduction of emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030. Strong majorities of registered Democrats (82%) and independents (68%) express this view, as do 41 percent of Republicans. A proposed law would require all of the state's electricity to come from renewable energy sources by the year 2045, with a goal of 50 percent by 2026. What do Californians think of this idea? A solid majority of likely voters (67%) favor it. Across parties, 81 percent of registered Democrats, 73 percent of independents, and 47 percent of Republicans are in favor.

Most Say Climate Change Policies Will Raise Gas Prices

How do Californians view the economic impact of the state's efforts to address global warming? Half of likely voters (51%) say these actions will result in more jobs for state residents, while 19 percent say the result will be fewer jobs (21% no effect). However, a majority of likely voters (58%) say action to reduce

global warming will increase gasoline prices (12% decrease gas prices, 19% no effect). Half of likely voters (51%) say they are willing to pay more for electricity if it is generated by renewable resources.

“Most Californians have factored in higher gas prices, and say they are willing to pay higher electricity prices,” Baldassare said. “They expect more jobs as the byproducts of the state’s efforts to reduce global warming.”

When likely voters are read a brief description of the state’s cap-and-trade policy, half (50%) say they favor the system, which allows companies that don’t emit their allotted share of greenhouse gases to sell their state-issued permits to other companies to use.

Water Seen as Most Important Environmental Issue

Drought and water supply are named most frequently when likely voters are asked about the most important environmental issue facing the state today (24%). The proportion of likely voters expressing this view has dropped sharply in the last two years (43% in July 2016). A large majority of likely voters say the supply of water is a big problem (60%) or at least somewhat of a problem (25%) in their part of California. Across regions, Orange/San Diego residents (55%) are the most likely to say the water supply is a big problem where they live, while San Francisco Bay Area residents (43%) are the least likely to say so.

In November, Californians will vote on an \$8.9 billion bond measure, Proposition 3, to fund water infrastructure projects. A majority of likely voters (58%) plan to vote yes and a quarter (25%) no (17% undecided).

“The drought and water shortages are still on Californians’ minds,” Baldassare said. “They seem willing to support a water bond on the November ballot after passing a multibillion-dollar water bond measure in June.”

The second most frequently named issue among likely voters is air pollution (15%). Two-thirds say air pollution is a problem in their part of the state (29% big problem, 37% somewhat of a problem). Residents in Los Angeles (40%) are the most likely to say it is a big problem and those in Orange/San Diego are the least likely (17%). About half of likely voters (53%) say air pollution is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than elsewhere in their part of the state.

Majority Oppose More Coastal Drilling

Earlier this year, the federal government announced plans to allow new offshore oil drilling in areas along the nation’s coasts. Today, two-thirds of likely voters (67%) oppose more oil drilling off the California coast. Among all adults, majorities of both coastal (71%) and inland (59%) residents oppose more drilling. Across parties, an overwhelming majority of registered Democrats (82%) and a strong majority of independents (66%) are opposed, while a majority of Republicans (54%) are in favor.

The Trump administration’s efforts to open up more of the nation’s coasts to offshore drilling could alter national marine sanctuaries and affect California’s marine protected areas. However, 88 percent of likely voters support maintaining the rules and boundaries of national sanctuaries and state marine protected areas to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitat.

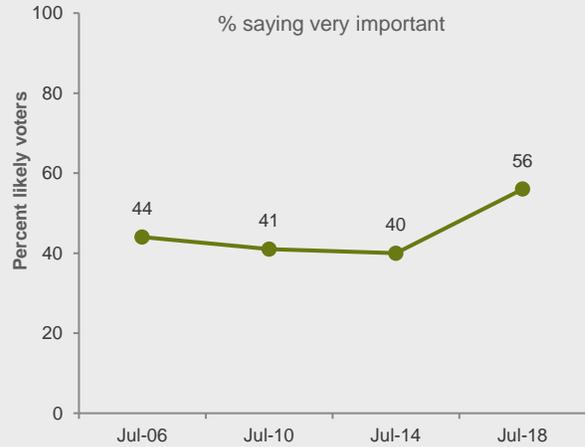
Asked how concerned they are about the impact of ocean warming on marine and coastal life, 77 percent of likely voters say they are very concerned or somewhat concerned. A majority of likely voters (56%) say the population of most fish off of the California coast has decreased.

2018 Election and Environmental Issues

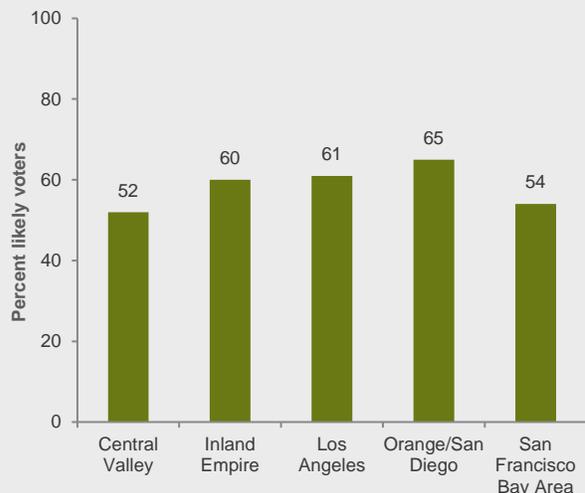
Key Findings

- A majority of likely voters say environmental positions are very important in the governor’s race, in which Gavin Newsom leads John Cox by 24 points. *(page 7)*
- In US Senate race, likely voters support incumbent Dianne Feinstein over Kevin de León by 22 points. One in five volunteer that they would not vote in this race. A majority of likely voters say that it is more important to them that candidates for statewide office push back rather than work with the Trump administration when it comes to environmental issues. *(page 8)*
- Fifty-eight percent of likely voters would vote yes on the \$8.9 billion water bond on the November ballot. Californians and likely voters are most likely to name water supply and drought as the most important environmental issue. Half of adults say water supply is a big problem in their part of the state. *(page 9)*
- Twenty-nine percent of adults say air pollution is a big problem in their part of the state, with wide differences across regions. A majority say air pollution is a more serious threat in lower-income areas. *(page 10)*
- Four in ten adults rate the overall health and quality of the ocean along the coast as excellent or good. Half say the population of most fish off the California coast has decreased in the past 10 years. *(page 11)*
- More than seven in ten are concerned about the impact of warming oceans on marine life and the impact of rising sea levels on the coast. *(page 12)*
- Sixty-seven percent of adults oppose more oil drilling off the coast. An overwhelming majority support maintaining the rules and boundaries of national marine sanctuaries and marine protected areas. *(page 13)*

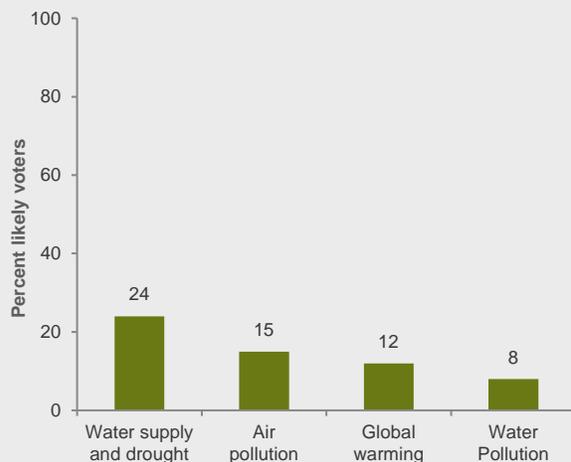
Importance of gubernatorial candidates' positions on the environment



Support for \$8.9 billion state water bond



Most important environmental issue facing California



Gubernatorial Election

On the heels of the highest reported turnout rate in a midterm primary election since 1998, six in ten likely voters are following news about candidates very (17%) or fairly (42%) closely. Attention to news today is similar to July 2014 (11% very, 42% fairly) and lower than it was in July 2010 (22% very, 48% fairly)—when California had partisan primaries and an open gubernatorial election featuring Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman.

With the gubernatorial election less than four months away—and after a primary race in which Democrat Gavin Newsom led all candidates with 34 percent of the vote—Newsom now leads Republican John Cox by a 24-point margin (55% to 31%) among likely voters. One in ten likely voters are undecided. Gubernatorial preferences follow party lines, with each candidate receiving support from at least eight in ten in their respective parties. Newsom leads Cox by 8 points among independents. A solid majority of Latino likely voters (64%) and about half of white likely voters (49%) prefer Newsom. (Sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis.) Cox has majority support among likely voters in the Inland Empire (55%), while Newsom leads in Los Angeles (68%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (61%). A plurality of likely voters in Orange/San Diego prefer Newsom (47%), while those in the Central Valley are divided (45% Newsom, 44% Cox).

“If the November 6 election for governor were being held today, would you vote for John Cox, a Republican, or Gavin Newsom, a Democrat?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Gavin Newsom, a Democrat	55%	86%	10%	41%	64%	49%	71%
John Cox, a Republican	31	3	84	33	24	39	15
Would not vote for governor (volunteered)	5	4	1	12	3	4	6
Don't know	9	7	5	15	9	8	8

When asked how important the candidates’ positions on the environment are in determining their vote, nearly all likely voters say they are very (56%) or somewhat (31%) important. The share of likely voters saying very important is the highest it has been since PPIC began asking likely voters this question in 2006. Today, two in three Democratic likely voters (67%) say these positions are very important, compared to half of independents (54%) and a third of Republicans (33%). Of those supporting Newsom for governor, 70 percent say the candidates’ positions on the environment are very important; 25 percent of Cox supporters hold this view. Likely voters in the San Francisco Bay Area (62%) are the most likely to say the candidates’ environmental positions are very important, followed by those in Los Angeles (55%), the Inland Empire (52%), Orange/San Diego (51%), and the Central Valley (51%). The share of likely voters saying the candidates’ positions on the environment are very important (56%) is slightly lower than the share that said positions on K–12 public education were very important (64%) in our April survey.

“In thinking about the California governor’s election in November, how important to you are the candidates’ positions on the environment in determining your vote?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Very important	56%	67%	33%	54%	59%	52%	62%
Somewhat important	31	29	39	33	30	32	31
Not too important	13	3	27	13	11	15	7
Don't know	1	1	1	–	–	1	–

US Senate Election

Senator Dianne Feinstein, who is seeking her fifth full term as US senator, leads fellow Democrat and state senator Kevin de León by almost a two-to-one margin (46% to 24%) among likely voters. Feinstein received 44 percent of the vote in the June primary. Feinstein has majority support among Democrats (66%) and leads de León among independents (38% to 24%). Notably, with no Republicans to choose from, 47 percent of Republicans and 24 percent of independents say they would not vote in this race. Feinstein leads by at least 20 points among likely voters across education and racial/ethnic groups, women, those age 55 and older, and those in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Likely voters who support Newsom favor Feinstein over de León (64% to 25%); 49 percent of Cox supporters say they would not vote in this race. When we exclude those who volunteer they would not vote, Feinstein has a 28 point lead over de León (58% to 30%).

“If the November 6 election for the US Senate were being held today, would you vote for Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat, or Kevin de León, a Democrat?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat	46%	66%	22%	38%	52%	44%	52%
Kevin de León, a Democrat	24	22	25	24	27	22	31
Would not vote for US senator (volunteered)	20	3	47	24	10	25	8
Don't know	9	9	5	15	10	9	9

When asked whether it is more important that candidates for statewide office—such as governor or US senator—work with or push back against the Trump administration on environmental issues, a majority of likely voters (55%) prefer candidates to push back, while four in ten (39%) prefer that they work with the administration. There is a wide partisan divide, and half of independents prefer pushing back against the Trump administration. Latinos are more likely to prefer pushing back, while whites are divided. Half in the Central Valley (51%) and Orange/San Diego (51%) say work with, while majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (64%) and Los Angeles (60%) say push back; likely voters in the Inland Empire are divided (47% push back, 46% work with). Of those who say candidates should push back, 62 percent would vote for Dianne Feinstein and 25 percent would vote for Kevin de León. Among likely voters who say work with the Trump administration, 42 percent would not vote in the US senate race.

“Which of the following is more important to you in candidates for statewide office, such as governor or US senator, when it comes to environmental issues—that they work with the Trump administration or that they push back against the Trump administration?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Work with the Trump administration	39%	12%	84%	40%	30%	45%	30%
Push back against the Trump administration	55	81	13	51	68	49	61
Both (volunteered)	3	3	2	4	1	3	3
Don't know	3	4	1	5	1	2	6

State Bond Measure and Water Supply

Californians will go to the polls in November to vote on an \$8.9 billion bond measure to fund water infrastructure projects (Proposition 3) such as water supply and quality, watershed, and fisheries improvements. This follows the passage of June’s Proposition 68—a \$4.1 billion bond measure to fund parks, natural resources protection, climate adaptation, water, and flood protection—which was supported by 58 percent of voters. When asked about the \$8.9 billion bond measure, 58 percent of likely voters would vote yes, while 25 percent would vote no. Democratic likely voters (72%) are far more likely than independents (48%) and Republicans (43%) to express support for this bond. Support is much higher among Latino likely voters (76%) than whites (53%) and those in other racial/ethnic groups (57%). Support is highest in Orange/San Diego (65%), followed by Los Angeles (61%), the Inland Empire (60%), the San Francisco Bay Area (54%), and the Central Valley (52%). Among likely voters who would vote yes on this bond measure, 64 percent say the supply of water is a big problem in their part of the state.

“The November 6 ballot has a state bond measure of approximately \$8.9 billion to pay for various water infrastructure projects. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Yes	58%	72%	43%	48%	76%	53%	57%
No	25	16	38	25	17	28	27
Don't know	17	12	19	26	8	19	16

Although the historic California drought officially ended over a year ago, Californians (19% adults, 24% likely voters) are most likely to name drought and water supply as the most important environmental issue facing the state today. However, the proportion of Californians naming drought and water supply has decreased sharply since July 2016, when 38 percent of adults and 43 percent of likely voters cited it as the most important environmental issue. Today, 8 percent of Californians and likely voters name water pollution as the most important environmental issue facing the state.

When asked specifically about the supply of water in their part of the state, 48 percent of Californians and 60 percent of likely voters say it is a big problem. The share of Californians saying water supply is a big problem is higher today than in March (45% adults, 53% likely voters) and last July (37% adults, 42% likely voters). Currently, Orange/San Diego residents (55%) are the most likely to say the water supply is a big problem in their region, while residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (43%) are the least likely to say this. Majorities of Californians across political parties say the supply of water is a big problem. Across racial/ethnic groups, whites (59%) are much more likely than African Americans (40%), Latinos (38%), and Asian Americans (37%) to say the supply of water is a big problem.

“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	48%	49%	48%	44%	55%	43%	60%
Somewhat of a problem	24	22	20	23	25	30	25
Not much of a problem	25	26	28	30	18	26	14
Don't know	2	2	4	3	2	1	1

Air Pollution

Sixteen percent of adults and 15 percent of likely voters name air pollution as the most important environmental issue facing California today. When asked about air pollution in their part of California, two in three Californians and likely voters say it is a problem (29% big problem, 37% somewhat of a problem). A third say it is not a problem in their part of California. The proportion of Californians saying that air pollution is a big problem was similar last July (24% adults, 21% likely voters). Today, residents in Los Angeles (40%) and the Central Valley (34%) are the most likely to say that air pollution is a big problem. Democrats (33%) and independents (31%) are somewhat more likely than Republicans (23%) to say that air pollution is a big problem. Notably, Latinos and African Americans (37% each) are more likely than Asian Americans (27%) and whites (22%) to hold this view. Across income groups, Californians with annual household incomes under \$80,000 are more likely than those with higher incomes to say air pollution is a big problem in their part of the state.

“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	29%	34%	28%	40%	17%	24%	29%
Somewhat of a problem	37	36	44	37	37	39	37
Not a problem	33	27	28	22	44	36	33
Don't know	1	3	–	–	1	1	–

A majority of California adults (56%) and likely voters (53%) think that air pollution in their part of the state is a more serious health threat in lower-income areas than elsewhere. Findings were similar last July (55% adults, 45% likely voters). Today, Democrats (67%) and independents (54%) are far more likely than Republicans (30%) to say that air pollution is a more serious threat in lower-income areas. The likelihood of saying air pollution is a greater health threat in lower-income areas decreases as income rises. Latinos and African Americans are much more likely than Asian Americans and far more likely than whites to hold this view. Renters (62%) are more likely than homeowners (48%) and Californians under age 55 (60%) are more likely than those age 55 and over (47%) to think air pollution is a greater threat in lower-income areas. Regionally, residents in Los Angeles (66%) are the most likely to say air pollution is a more serious threat in lower-income areas (56% San Francisco Bay Area, 55% Orange/San Diego, 53% Inland Empire, 45% Central Valley). Notably, 60 percent of coastal residents hold this view, whereas inland residents are divided (47% more serious health threat in lower-income areas, 47% not a more serious threat).

“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?”

	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
Yes	56%	64%	56%	48%	76%	58%	71%	42%
No	38	32	41	46	23	36	25	51
Don't know	6	4	3	7	2	6	4	7

Ocean and Coastal Ratings

Most Californians value the state’s coast—74 percent say the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important to the economy and quality of life in California’s future. Findings were similar last July (73% very important). More than seven in ten adults across all political parties and across all age, income, and education groups say these conditions are very important. Across regions, more than two in three adults say these conditions are very important, with residents in Los Angeles most likely to express this view (80%). Strong majorities of both coastal (76%) and inland (70%) residents say the condition of the ocean and beaches is very important to the state’s future.

While a strong majority of Californians view the state’s ocean and beaches as very important to the state’s economy and quality of life, only four in ten give a positive rating (9% excellent, 30% good) to the overall health and quality of the ocean along the state’s coast. A majority of Californians say the overall health and quality of the ocean along the state’s coast is fair (38%) or poor (19%). In our February 2006 survey, Californians gave similar ratings (4% excellent, 36% good, 42% fair, 13% poor). Residents along the north and central coast (44% excellent or good) are slightly more likely than south coast residents (37%) to provide positive ratings. At least half of residents across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups rate overall ocean quality along the coast as fair or poor.

“Thinking about the overall health and quality of the ocean along the California coast today—would you rate them as excellent, good, fair, or poor?”

	All adults	Region*			Race/Ethnicity			
		North and central coast*	South coast*	Inland	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Excellent	9%	13%	9%	5%	2%	9%	12%	7%
Good	30	31	28	33	25	20	34	33
Fair	38	36	40	37	44	42	35	39
Poor	19	15	21	20	25	24	15	18
Don't know	4	5	3	6	4	5	4	3

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

A majority of Californians (53%) say that in the past 10 years, the population of most fish off the California coast has decreased. Democrats (59%) and independents (57%) are more likely than Republicans (46%) to say this. Majorities across regions—with the exception of Los Angeles (49%)—say that the population of fish has decreased in the last 10 years. Across racial/ethnic groups, whites are the most likely to say this while African Americans are the least likely.

“In the past 10 years, do you think the population of most fish off of the California coast have increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?”

	All adults	Region			Race/Ethnicity			
		North and central coast	South coast	Inland	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Increased	12%	13%	13%	10%	25%	10%	15%	9%
Decreased	53	52	52	56	41	52	51	58
Stayed about the same	22	20	23	22	26	19	22	21
Don't know	13	16	13	12	9	19	12	12

Ocean and Coastal Concerns

Half of Californians (50%) are very concerned about ocean warming having an impact on marine and coastal life. A further 28 percent are somewhat concerned about this, while 22 percent are not too or not at all concerned. A slight majority of coastal residents (52%) are very concerned about this issue, while slightly fewer inland residents (44%) say the same. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans are the most likely to say they are very concerned while Latinos are the least likely. Today, Democrats (65%) and independents (57%) are much more likely than Republicans (27%) to say they are very concerned about this issue. Notably, college graduates are much more likely than those with only a high school education to say they are very concerned (58% to 41%).

“How concerned are you about ocean warming having an impact on marine and coastal life?”

	All adults	Region			Race/Ethnicity			
		North and central coast	South coast	Inland	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Very concerned	50%	54%	51%	44%	56%	52%	47%	49%
Somewhat concerned	28	28	28	28	26	30	33	24
Not too concerned	13	11	11	15	13	10	12	14
Not at all concerned	9	6	9	12	3	7	6	12
Don't know	1	–	1	1	2	–	1	1

When asked about rising sea levels, 45 percent of adults say they are very concerned about flooding and beach erosion; 29 percent are somewhat concerned. A quarter of adults say they are not too (14%) or not at all (11%) concerned. Notably, residents in the north and central coast (51%) and in the south coast (47%) are more likely than inland residents (37%) to say they are very concerned about flooding and beach erosion. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos are the most likely to be very concerned about this issue while whites are the least likely. As with concerns about ocean warming, Democrats (56%) and independents (44%) are far more likely than Republicans (22%) to be very concerned about this issue. Regionally, San Francisco Bay Area residents (51%) are the most likely to be very concerned and those in the Inland Empire (31%) are the least likely, with other regions falling in between (40% Central Valley, 42% Orange/San Diego, 48% Los Angeles).

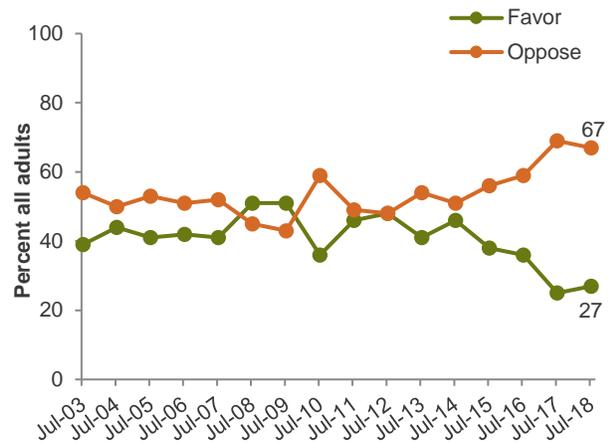
“How concerned are you about rising sea levels having an impact on flooding and beach erosion?”

	All adults	Region			Race/Ethnicity			
		North and central coast	South coast	Inland	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Very concerned	45%	51%	47%	37%	44%	46%	51%	40%
Somewhat concerned	29	30	27	30	32	35	31	25
Not too concerned	14	11	14	15	10	14	9	18
Not at all concerned	11	7	10	17	9	2	7	17
Don't know	1	–	2	2	5	2	2	1

Ocean and Coastal Policies

In January, the Department of the Interior released plans to allow new offshore oil drilling in areas along the nation’s coast. When asked about allowing more oil drilling off the California coast, only 27 percent of adults are in favor of it; 67 percent are opposed. Findings were similar last July (25% favor, 69% oppose) while support was somewhat higher in 2016 (36% favor, 59% oppose). Across parties, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (82%) and a strong majority of independents (66%) are opposed while a slight majority of Republicans (54%) are in favor. Similar to last year, majorities across all age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups remain opposed. Regionally, fewer than a third of residents—with the exception of the Inland Empire (38%)—favor more oil drilling off the coast (22% Los Angeles, 22% San Francisco Bay Area, 27% Orange/San Diego, 32% Central Valley). Majorities of both coastal (71%) and inland (59%) residents oppose allowing more oil drilling off the California coast.

Support for allowing more oil drilling off the California coast



“How about 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	27%	22%	24%	35%	25%	26%	29%
Oppose	67	72	70	59	67	72	62
Don't know	6	6	5	6	8	2	9

The Trump administration’s efforts to open up more of the nation’s coast to offshore oil drilling could alter existing national marine sanctuaries and impact California’s marine protected areas (MPAs). An overwhelming majority of Californians (88%) support maintaining the existing rules and boundaries of national marine sanctuaries and MPAs off the California coast. There is bipartisan agreement, with at least eight in ten registered voters across parties in favor of maintaining these rules and boundaries. Indeed, more than three in four adults across regional, age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups favor maintaining the rules and boundaries of national marine sanctuaries and California’s MPAs.

“How about maintaining the rules and boundaries of national marine sanctuaries and California’s Marine Protected Areas—or MPAs—to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitat off the California coast? Do you favor or oppose this proposal?”

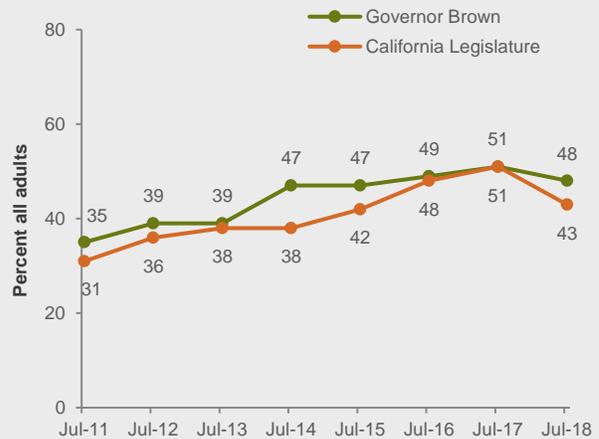
	All adults	Region			Age		
		North and central coast	South coast	Inland	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and older
Favor	88%	89%	89%	86%	90%	90%	86%
Oppose	8	7	8	9	6	6	11
Don't know	4	5	3	4	4	4	3

Public Perceptions and Policy Preferences

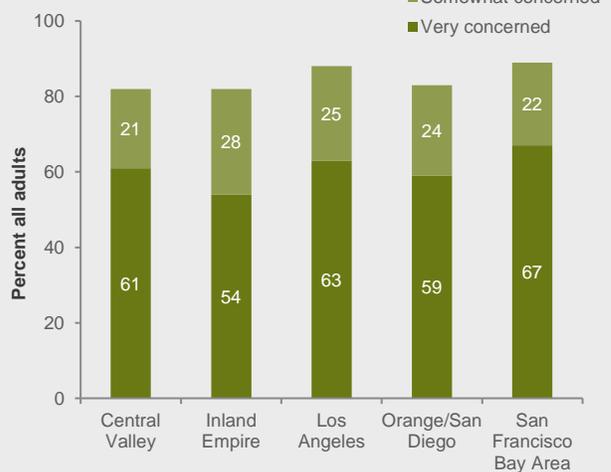
Key Findings

- About half of Californians approve of the overall job performance of Governor Brown and the legislature; approval of their handling of environmental issues is similar. Overall approval ratings for President Trump and Congress—as well as approval ratings of their handling of environmental issues—are far lower. *(pages 15, 16)*
- Six in ten adults and likely voters favor California making its own policies to address global warming. Three in four say that it is important that California act as a global leader on climate change. *(page 17)*
- Majorities of Californians say the effects of global warming have already begun and that global warming is a very serious threat to California’s future. Six in ten Californians are very concerned about severe wildfires and say that the issue of global warming is of personal importance to them. *(page 18)*
- Solid majorities of adults and likely voters support the state law requiring California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Support is similar for a proposed law that would require 100 percent of the state’s electricity to come from renewable sources by 2045, and for a proposal to set higher emissions standards for automobiles. *(page 19)*
- About half of adults and likely voters expect that California doing things to reduce global warming would lead to more jobs; a majority expect that state action would lead to higher gasoline prices. Half say they are willing to pay more for electricity from renewable sources. *(page 20)*
- Half of adults say they have heard nothing about the state’s cap-and-trade system. After hearing a brief description, half favor the system. *(page 21)*

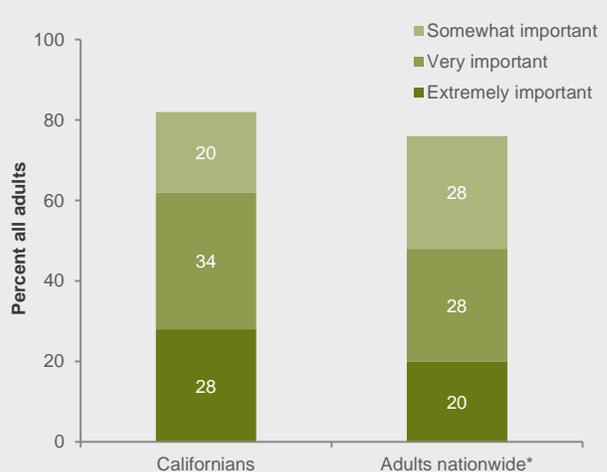
Approval of state elected officials on environmental issues



Concern about more severe wildfires as a possible impact of global warming



Personal importance of the issue of global warming



*June 2018, ABC News/Stanford/Resources for the Future poll

Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

Majorities of Californians (52% adults, 54% likely voters) approve of the way Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor. Approval ratings for Brown were similar in May (48% adults, 52% likely voters) and last July (53% adults, 52% likely voters). Today, Democrats (71%) are far more likely than independents (48%) and Republicans (16%) to express approval. Across regions, approval is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (59%) and Los Angeles (59%). Latinos (61%), Asian Americans (58%), and African Americans (53%) are more likely than whites (45%) to approve.

About half of Californians also approve of the way Governor Brown is handling environmental issues (48% adults, 53% likely voters)—similar to last July (51% adults, 53% likely voters). Among all adults, approval of his handling of environmental issues has increased by 13 points since he took office in 2011. Today, Democrats (65%) are much more likely than independents (43%) and Republicans (22%) to approve. Regionally, San Francisco Bay Area residents (59%) are the most likely to approve.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
His job as governor of California	Approve	52%	71%	16%	48%	54%
	Disapprove	29	14	79	34	37
	Don't know	19	15	5	18	8
Environmental issues in California	Approve	48	65	22	43	53
	Disapprove	31	18	69	37	37
	Don't know	21	17	9	20	10

About half of Californians (46% adults, 46% likely voters) approve of the way the California Legislature is handling its job. Approval was similar in May (44% adults, 42% likely voters) and last July (50% adults, 45% likely voters). Today, Democrats (60%) are much more likely than independents (42%) and Republicans (13%) to approve. Majorities approve of the legislature in Los Angeles (53%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (52%). Majorities of Latinos (59%) and Asian Americans (53%) approve, compared to fewer African Americans (44%) and whites (37%).

Four in ten Californians (43% adults, 43% likely voters) approve of the way the legislature is handling environmental issues. Approval was somewhat higher last July (51% adults, 49% likely voters) but has increased by 12 points among all adults since 2011. Today, Democrats (56%) are much more likely to approve than independents (37%) and Republicans (19%). Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (50%) and Los Angeles (47%) are more likely than those in other regions to approve. Latinos (51%) and Asian Americans (48%) are more likely than African Americans (38%) and whites (38%) to approve.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way the California Legislature is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Its job	Approve	46%	60%	13%	42%	46%
	Disapprove	38	26	81	46	46
	Don't know	15	13	6	13	8
Environmental issues in California	Approve	43	56	19	37	43
	Disapprove	41	29	74	48	47
	Don't know	16	15	7	15	11

Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

Twenty-nine percent of adults and 34 percent of likely voters approve of the way that Donald Trump is handling his job as president of the United States. Approval was similar in May (30% adults, 38% likely voters) and last July (25% adults, 34% likely voters). Today, 7 percent of Democrats, 32 percent of independents, and 80 percent of Republicans approve. Approval is much higher among whites (41%) than among Asian Americans (24%), Latinos (17%), and African Americans (13%). Approval among Californians is 14 points lower than among adults nationwide in a July Gallup weekly tracking poll (43%).

Californians’ approval ratings are similar for the president’s handling of environmental issues (24% adults, 27% likely voters). Approval of the president’s handling of environmental issues was similar last July (22% adults, 31% likely voters). Today, 4 percent of Democrats, 20 percent of independents, and 67 percent of Republicans approve of the president’s handling of environmental issues. Majorities across age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups and regions of the state disapprove of the way the president is handling environmental issues.

“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	29%	7%	80%	32%	34%
	Disapprove	66	90	20	66	64
	Don't know	5	3	–	3	2
Environmental issues in the United States	Approve	24	4	67	20	27
	Disapprove	67	91	22	73	67
	Don't know	8	5	11	7	6

The US Congress has low overall approval ratings among Californians (20% adults, 14% likely voters). Approval of Congress was similar in May (24% adults, 18% likely voters) and last July (24% adults, 17% likely voters). Today, 9 percent of Democrats, 19 percent of independents, and 29 percent of Republicans approve of Congress. Majorities across age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups and regions of the state disapprove of the way that the US Congress is handling its job. Approval of Congress was similar in a July Gallup national poll (17%).

Approval ratings are similarly low for the way the US Congress is handling environmental issues (23% adults, 16% likely voters). Approval was similar last July (26% adults, 21% likely voters). Today, majorities across age, education, income, gender, partisan, and racial/ethnic groups and regions of the state disapprove of the way Congress is handling environmental issues in the United States.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Its job	Approve	20%	9%	29%	19%	14%
	Disapprove	71	85	66	74	83
	Don't know	9	6	5	7	3
Environmental issues in the United States	Approve	23	12	29	19	16
	Disapprove	66	82	55	74	76
	Don't know	10	5	16	7	8

State Leadership on Climate Change

When it comes to climate change and energy policy, California’s political leaders and the federal government are going in different directions. Solid majorities of Californians (65% adults, 62% likely voters) favor having the state make its own policies, separate from the federal government, to address the issue of global warming. The proportion holding this view was similar last July (66% adults, 63% likely voters). Since we first asked this question in July 2005, more than half of Californians in annual PPIC Statewide Surveys on environmental issues have favored the state government making its own global warming policies separate from the federal government.

Today, solid majorities of Democrats (82%) and independents (61%) are in favor of the state government making its own global warming policies, compared to 29 percent of Republicans. Majorities across age, education, gender, and income groups and regions of the state hold this view. However, public support declines with age (75% under 35, 65% 35 to 54, 55% 55 and older). Also, support for the state government making its own global warming policies is much higher in coastal regions than in inland regions (70% to 54%). Majorities across racial/ethnic groups (71% Asian Americans, 70% Latinos, 67% African Americans, 60% whites) are in favor of the state government making its own global warming policies.

“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	65%	82%	29%	61%	62%
Oppose	28	15	67	33	34
Don't know	7	3	5	6	4

In September, Governor Brown will co-chair the Global Climate Action Summit, which will bring leaders from around the world to San Francisco. How do Californians feel about their state playing a prominent role in the climate change policy arena? When asked how important it is that California acts as a leader around the world in efforts to fight climate change, three in four Californians say it is very important (54% adults, 51% likely voters) or somewhat important (24% adults, 22% likely voters). Last July, similar proportions of adults (58% very, 23% somewhat) and likely voters (52% very, 20% somewhat) said that it was important for California to act as a climate change leader.

Today, 67 percent of Democrats, 48 percent of independents, and 23 percent of Republicans say it is very important for California to act as a leader in addressing climate change. Strong majorities of Latinos (68%) and African Americans (65%)—compared to fewer whites (47%) and Asian Americans (46%)—say it is very important. Coastal residents (58%) are more likely than inland residents (46%) to say it is very important for California to act as a world leader on climate change.

“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	54%	67%	23%	48%	51%
Somewhat important	24	28	18	30	22
Not too important	9	3	20	8	10
Not important at all	12	2	38	13	17
Don't know	1	–	1	–	–

Public Perceptions of Global Warming

What are some of the public perceptions underlying support for California making its own policies and leading the fight against climate change? First, two in three Californians say that global warming has already begun (67% adults, 69% likely voters). This perception was similarly prevalent a year ago (66% adults, 66% likely voters), and majorities have held this view since we began asking this question in July 2005. Today, overwhelming majorities of Democrats (81%) and independents (74%)—and 36 percent of Republicans—say the effects have already begun. Majorities across regions and age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups hold this view. In a March Gallup survey, 60 percent of American adults said the effects of global warming have already begun.

“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	67%	57%	78%	64%	66%	69%
Within a few years	5	13	1	10	2	3
Within your lifetime	5	4	4	7	5	6
Not within lifetime, but will affect future	10	12	7	11	11	10
Will never happen	8	2	6	3	12	8
Don't know	5	11	5	5	4	4

Next, eight in ten Californians say that global warming is a very serious (56% adults, 57% likely voters) or somewhat serious (24% adults, 21% likely voters) threat to California’s future economy and quality of life. Last year, similar shares said the threat of global warming was very serious (58% adults, 52% likely voters) or somewhat serious (23% adults, 24% 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 (76%) and independents (59%)—and 22 percent of Republicans—say global warming is a very serious threat. Coastal residents (60%) are more likely than inland residents (48%) to hold this view. At least half across age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups say the threat of global warming is very serious.

“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	56%	60%	57%	64%	50%	57%
Somewhat serious	24	26	24	27	22	21
Not too serious	9	10	10	4	12	9
Not at all serious	9	1	6	3	14	12
Don't know	2	3	3	2	2	1

In addition, six in ten Californians are very concerned (62% adults, 66% likely voters) about more severe wildfires caused by extreme weather as a possible effect of global warming in California. Majorities across regions and all demographic groups are very concerned. Finally, six in ten Californians say global warming is extremely or very important to them personally (62% adults, 60% likely voters), compared to 48 percent of American adults in a June ABC News/Stanford/Resources for the Future poll.

Climate Change Policies

The California Air Resources Board recently announced that the state has reduced greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels two years in advance of the 2020 goal set by Assembly Bill (AB) 32—a goal that strong majorities of Californians supported in surveys from 2006 to 2016. In 2016, policymakers passed Senate Bill (SB) 32, 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 Californians (67% adults, 66% likely voters) are in favor—including strong majorities of Democrats (82%) and independents (68%) as well as 41 percent of Republicans. Support was similar last July (72% adults, 66% likely voters). Today, solid majorities across regions are in favor. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (73%) are the most likely to be in favor, followed by Asian Americans (69%), African Americans (66%), and whites (64%). Solid majorities across age, education, gender, and income groups are in favor.

The California Energy Commission estimates that 30 percent of California’s electricity in 2017 was derived from renewable sources. In 2015, the state legislature passed SB 350, which among other things established the goal that 50 percent of California’s electricity come from renewable energy sources by 2030. Currently, the legislature is considering SB 100, which would require that 100 percent of the state’s electricity be generated by renewable energy sources by 2045 and would move the 50 percent target date to 2026. Most Californians (72% adults, 67% likely voters)—including at least seven in ten Democrats and independents and nearly half of Republicans—support the 100 percent goal. Support was similar last July (76% adults, 71% likely voters). Two in three or more of Californians across regions and racial/ethnic groups are in favor. Solid majorities across age, education, and income groups favor this goal.

“Do you favor or oppose...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
The state law that requires California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030	Favor	67%	82%	41%	68%	66%
	Oppose	22	9	53	23	26
	Don't know	11	9	7	9	7
A proposed state law that would require 100 percent of the state's electricity to come from renewable energy sources by the year 2045	Favor	72	81	47	73	67
	Oppose	21	11	46	20	25
	Don't know	7	8	6	7	8

After the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced earlier this year that it would relax future fuel standards, California and other states sued the Trump administration. The EPA also announced that it would reexamine the Clean Air Act waiver that allows California to set its own higher standards. When asked about setting higher emissions standards for automobiles, six in ten Californians (61% adults, 60% likely voters) are in favor. Democrats and independents are far more likely than Republicans to hold this view. Majorities across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups are in favor. Support is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (70%) and lowest in the Inland Empire (48%). Support was similar among adults nationwide (66%) in a March Gallup poll.

“How about setting higher emissions standards for automobiles? Do you favor or oppose this proposal?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	61%	74%	34%	62%	60%
Oppose	32	22	61	32	35
Don't know	7	5	5	7	5

Potential Effects of Climate Change Policies

The economic impact of California’s policies to address global warming is often debated, but when Californians are asked if these efforts would lead to more jobs, fewer jobs, or would not impact the number of jobs around the state, a plurality of Californians in our surveys dating back to July 2010 have said it would cause there to be more jobs. Today, about half of Californians (48%) and likely voters (51%) say state action would lead to more jobs for people around the state, and another 23 percent of adults say it would not affect the number of jobs; 18 percent say it would lead to fewer jobs for people around the state. Pluralities across regions anticipate more jobs. About half across racial/ethnic groups expect more jobs, as do pluralities across age, education, and income groups. Democrats (64%) are much more likely than independents (49%) and far more likely than Republicans (29%) to say there would be more jobs.

“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%	47%	41%	50%	45%	51%	51%
Fewer jobs	18	20	19	17	19	15	19
Wouldn’t affect the number of jobs	23	23	25	21	28	22	21
Don’t know	11	10	15	11	9	11	9

While relatively few Californians expect state action on global warming to have a negative impact on jobs, majorities of adults (56%) and likely voters (58%) expect state action to cause gasoline prices to increase. Californians held similar opinions last July (54%) and in July 2016 (59%). Today, at least half across regions expect gasoline prices to increase. Partisans are in agreement that state action to reduce global warming would lead to gasoline price increases, although Democrats (51%) are less likely than independents (62%), and far less likely than Republicans (78%), to hold this view. Majorities across age and income groups say gas prices would increase, as do similar shares of men (59%) and women (54%).

“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	56%	60%	51%	62%	54%	50%	58%
Decrease gasoline prices	16	12	14	16	21	16	12
Wouldn’t affect gasoline prices	17	14	23	13	18	21	19
Don’t know	11	13	11	9	7	13	11

When asked if they are willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable resources, half of Californians (50%) and likely voters (51%) say they are willing. Willingness among all adults was similar last year (51%). Today, there is a wide partisan divide (64% Democrats; 49% independents, 21% Republicans). Willingness also varies across regions, with a high of 60 percent in the San Francisco Bay Area and a low of 37 percent in the Inland Empire. Across racial/ethnic groups, Asian Americans (65%) are the most likely to say they are willing to pay more (49% Latinos, 48% whites, 44% African Americans).

Cap and Trade

The share of Californians who have heard about the policy called “cap and trade” remains low, but a record-high share have heard at least a little (12% a lot, 34% a little) and a record-low share have heard nothing at all (53%). Latinos (69%), adults with no college education (67%), those with incomes below \$40,000 (66%), and adults under 35 (65%) are the most likely to say they have heard nothing.

After hearing a brief description of the state’s cap-and-trade system, half of Californians and likely voters (50% each) are in favor. Support has fluctuated from a high of 56 percent last July to a low of 49 percent in July 2009—the first year we asked about the program. Support is higher among Asian Americans (59%), Californians ages 18 to 34 (59%), college graduates (58%), and those with incomes of \$80,000 or more (58%). Democrats (64%) are much more likely than independents (52%) and far more likely than Republicans (28%) to favor the cap-and-trade system.

“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	50%	44%	56%	58%	38%	59%	53%	48%
Oppose	35	39	33	30	41	25	31	39
Don't know	15	17	11	12	20	15	16	13

A portion of cap-and-trade revenues is designated for projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities. Half of Californians (51%) say it is very important to spend some of the revenues this way. An additional 29 percent say it is somewhat important, while one in five say it is not too important (8%) or not at all important (10%). Democrats (66%) are far more likely than independents (46%) or Republicans (23%) to say it is very important to spend revenues this way. African Americans (66%) and Latinos (65%) are much more likely than Asian Americans (52%) and far more likely than whites (39%) to hold this view. Across regions, residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (55%) and Los Angeles (54%) are the most likely to say it is very important that revenues are spent to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities (49% Orange/San Diego, 47% Inland Empire, 45% Central Valley). Women (55%) are more likely than men (45%) to hold this view. Californians ages 18 to 34 (56%) and 35 to 54 (53%) are more likely than those who are 55 and older (43%) to say it is very important to spend revenues this way.

“How important to you is it that some of the cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities?”

	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
Very important	51%	57%	53%	45%	66%	52%	65%	39%
Somewhat important	29	29	28	30	21	34	24	32
Not too important	8	5	9	9	2	5	5	11
Not important at all	10	7	7	14	6	5	3	16
Don't know	3	2	3	3	4	3	2	3

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, with assistance from survey research associate Alyssa Dykman, project manager for this survey, and associate survey director Dean Bonner and survey research associate Lunna Lopes. The *Californians and the Environment* survey is supported with funding from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Dirk and Charlene Kabcenell Foundation, the Flora Family Foundation, and the Heising-Simons 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 1,711 California adult residents, including 1,198 interviewed on cell phones and 513 interviewed on landline telephones. Interviews took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from July 8–17, 2018.

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 2012–2016 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 1,711 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 1,420 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.6 percent; for the 1,020 likely voters, it is ± 4.3 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 also present results for congressional districts currently held by Democrats or Republicans, based on residential zip code and party of the local US House member. We analyze the results of those who live in competitive house districts as determined by the Cook Political Report's 2018 House Race Ratings updated July 18, 2018.

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 about a third 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 Gallup and ABC News/Stanford/Resources for the Future.

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 8–17, 2018

1,711 California Adult Residents:
English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR ±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 Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?

52% approve
29 disapprove
19 don't know

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Brown is handling environmental issues in California?

48% approve
31 disapprove
21 don't know

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

46% approve
38 disapprove
15 don't know

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

43% approve
41 disapprove
16 don't know

5. Next, what do you think is the most important environmental issue facing California today?

[code, don't read]

19% water supply, drought, reservoirs
16 air pollution, vehicle emissions, smog
12 global warming, climate change, greenhouse gases
8 water pollution of ocean, rivers, lakes, streams, beach pollution
6 loss of forests, forest fires, wildfires
4 landfills, garbage, sewage, waste, recycling
4 pollution in general
3 energy, fossil fuels, solar, nuclear, wind, alternative
2 too much government regulation, politicians, environmentalists
2 oil drilling, offshore oil drilling, production
2 population growth, overpopulation
2 traffic, congestion, transportation, transit
13 other (*specify*)
7 don't know

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

67% yes *[ask q6a]*
33 no *[skip to q7b]*

6a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

- 45% Democrat *[ask q7]*
- 26 Republican *[skip to q7a]*
- 5 another party *(specify) [skip to q8]*
- 25 independent *[skip to q7b]*

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

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

[skip to q8]

7a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 62% strong
- 33 not very strong
- 5 don't know

[skip to q8]

7b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 20% Republican Party
- 40 Democratic Party
- 29 neither *(volunteered)*
- 11 don't know

8. *[likely voters only]* If the November 6 election for governor were being held today, would you vote for *[rotate]* (1) John Cox, a Republican, *[or]* (2) Gavin Newsom, a Democrat?

- 55% Gavin Newsom, a Democrat
- 31 John Cox, a Republican
- 5 neither/would not vote for governor *(volunteered)*
- 9 don't know

9. *[likely voters only]* How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2018 governor's election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 17% very closely
- 42 fairly closely
- 28 not too closely
- 13 not at all closely
- don't know

10. *[likely voters only]* In thinking about the California governor's election in November, how important to you are the candidates' positions on the environment in determining your vote—very important, somewhat important, or not too important?

- 56% very important
- 31 somewhat important
- 13 not too important
- 1 don't know

11. *[likely voters only]* If the November 6 election for the US Senate were being held today, would you vote for *[rotate]* (1) Kevin de León, a Democrat, *[or]* (2) Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat?

- 46% Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat
- 24 Kevin de León, a Democrat
- 20 neither/would not vote for senate *(volunteered)*
- 9 don't know

12. *[likely voters only]* Which of the following is more important to you in candidates for statewide office, such as governor or US senator, when it comes to environmental issues—*rotate* (1) that they work with the Trump Administration *[or]* (2) that they push back against the Trump Administration?

- 39% work with the Trump Administration
- 55 push back against the Trump Administration
- 3 both *(volunteered)*
- 3 don't know

13. 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?

- 48% big problem
- 24 somewhat of a problem
- 25 not much of a problem
- 2 don't know

14. [likely voters only] The November 6 ballot has a state bond measure of approximately \$8.9 billion to pay for various water infrastructure projects. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no?

- 58% yes
- 25 no
- 17 don't know

15. 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?

- 29% big problem
- 37 somewhat of a problem
- 33 not a problem
- 1 don't know

16. 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?

- 56% yes
- 38 no
- 6 don't know

17. 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?

- 67% already begun
- 5 within a few years
- 5 within your lifetime
- 10 not within lifetime, but will affect future generations
- 8 will never happen
- 5 don't know

18. 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?

- 56% very serious
- 24 somewhat serious
- 9 not too serious
- 9 not at all serious
- 2 don't know

19. Thinking about the possible impact of global warming in California, how concerned are you about more severe wildfires because of extreme weather? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about that as an impact?

- 62% very concerned
- 23 somewhat concerned
- 7 not too concerned
- 7 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

20. How important is the issue of global warming to you personally—extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

28% extremely important
 34 very important
 20 somewhat important
 7 not too important
 10 not at all important
 1 don't know

21. 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
 22 oppose
 11 don't know

22. Do you favor or oppose a proposed state law that would require 100 percent of the state's electricity to come from renewable energy sources by the year 2045?

72% favor
 21 oppose
 7 don't know

23. 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?

65% favor
 28 oppose
 7 don't know

24. 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?

54% very important
 24 somewhat important
 9 not too important
 12 not important at all
 1 don't know

25. 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
 18 fewer jobs
 23 wouldn't affect the number of jobs
 11 don't know

26. 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?

56% increase gasoline prices
 16 decrease gasoline prices
 17 wouldn't affect gasoline prices
 11 don't know

27. 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?

50% willing
 44 not willing
 6 don't know

28. 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?

12% a lot
 34 a little
 53 nothing at all
 – don't know

29. 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?

- 50% favor
- 35 oppose
- 15 don't know

30. Next, how important to you is it that some of the cap-and-trade revenues are spent on projects to improve environmental conditions in lower-income and disadvantaged communities—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

- 51% very important
- 29 somewhat important
- 8 not too important
- 10 not important at all
- 3 don't know

Next, I am interested in your views about ocean and marine life along the California coast.

31. Thinking about the overall health and quality of the ocean along the California coast today—would you rate them as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

- 9% excellent
- 30 good
- 38 fair
- 19 poor
- 4 don't know

32. In the past 10 years, do you think the population of most fish off of the California coast have increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

- 12% increased
- 53 decreased
- 22 stayed the same
- 13 don't know

33. 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?

- 74% very important
- 21 somewhat important
- 2 not too important
- 2 not important at all
- 1 don't know

Next, thinking about the possible impact of global warming in California,

[rotate questions 34 and 35]

34. How concerned are you about rising sea levels having an impact on flooding and beach erosion? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

- 45% very concerned
- 29 somewhat concerned
- 14 not too concerned
- 11 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

35. How concerned are you about ocean warming having an impact on marine and coastal life? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

- 50% very concerned
- 28 somewhat concerned
- 13 not too concerned
- 9 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

Please say if you favor or oppose the following proposals.

[rotate questions 36 to 38]

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

- 27% favor
- 67 oppose
- 6 don't know

37. How about maintaining the rules and boundaries of national marine sanctuaries and California’s Marine Protected Areas—or MPAs—to protect fish, wildlife, and their habitat off the California coast?

- 88% favor
- 8 oppose
- 4 don’t know

38. How about setting higher emissions standards for automobiles?

- 61% favor
- 32 oppose
- 7 don’t know

On another topic,

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

- 29% approve
- 66 disapprove
- 5 don’t know

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

- 24% approve
- 67 disapprove
- 8 don’t know

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

- 20% approve
- 71 disapprove
- 9 don’t know

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

- 23% approve
- 66 disapprove
- 10 don’t know

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

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 14% very liberal
- 21 somewhat liberal
- 27 middle-of-the-road
- 20 somewhat conservative
- 14 very conservative
- 3 don’t know

44. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics?

- 24% great deal
- 36 fair amount
- 29 only a little
- 11 none
- 1 don’t know

[d1-d16 demographic questions]

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