



Californians & Their Government

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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

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PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Newsom, Villaraigosa Lead Governor's Race—Many Are Undecided

FEINSTEIN HAS TWO-TO-ONE EDGE OVER DE LEÓN IN US SENATE RACE

SAN FRANCISCO, November 30, 2017—Six months before the gubernatorial primary, Democrats Gavin Newsom and Antonio Villaraigosa are leading in the top-two primary race among California's likely voters. In the US Senate primary, incumbent Dianne Feinstein leads fellow Democrat Kevin de León by a two-to-one margin in a matchup of the two candidates.

These are among the key findings of a survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

With about a third of likely voters (30%) undecided, 23 percent would vote for Newsom, the state's lieutenant governor, and 18 percent would vote for Villaraigosa, former Los Angeles mayor. Fewer choose Democrat John Chiang (9%), the state treasurer; Republican and businessman John Cox (9%); Republican Travis Allen (6%), a state assemblyman; or Democrat Delaine Eastin (3%), former state superintendent of public instruction. Among Democratic likely voters, Newsom leads Villaraigosa by 8 points (34% to 26%), with 20 percent undecided. Among Republicans, Cox leads Allen by 9 points (27% to 18%), with 37 percent undecided. Independents prefer Newsom to Villaraigosa (24% to 15%), with 35 percent undecided. Latino likely voters are most likely to choose Villaraigosa (42%). Whites are most likely to be undecided (33%). (Sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis.)

About half of likely voters (48%) are satisfied with their choice of candidates in the primary (31% not satisfied, 22% don't know). Democrats are twice as likely as Republicans to be satisfied (61% to 30%), and 43 percent of independents are satisfied. Only about a quarter of likely voters are following news of the gubernatorial candidates very closely (7%) or fairly closely (18%).

Before being asked about their primary preferences, likely voters were asked to give their impressions of six gubernatorial candidates. More than a quarter of likely voters have favorable opinions of Newsom (39%), Villaraigosa (31%), and Chiang (27%). Fewer have favorable opinions of Eastin (12%), Allen (10%), and Cox (10%). Notably, majorities of likely voters say they have not heard of Eastin, Allen, and Cox. More than half of Republican likely voters say they have never heard of Republican candidates Allen and Cox.

Feinstein Leads across Regions and Racial/Ethnic Groups

Feinstein—who is seeking her fifth full US Senate term—leads de León, the state senate president pro tempore, 45 percent to 21 percent, with a third of likely voters (33%) undecided. (Only candidates with significant news coverage and resources were included in this survey.)

“Senator Feinstein is leading in the top-two US Senate primary next June—reflecting the incumbent’s favorability rating—while the challenger is not well known,” said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO.

Among Democrats, Feinstein leads 66 percent to 16 percent. With no prominent Republicans in the race, most Republican likely voters (55%) are undecided (25% support de León, 18% support Feinstein). Feinstein is ahead among independents (43% to 20%), with 35 percent undecided. She leads by double digits among Latinos, whites, and other racial/ethnic groups, as well as among men (40% to 23%) and women (50% to 18%). She has majority support among likely voters in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Inland Empire and leads by double digits across other regions.

Half of likely voters (51%) have a favorable view of Feinstein and 39 percent have an unfavorable opinion. Half (48%) have not heard of de León, while 17 percent say they have a favorable opinion of him and 19 percent an unfavorable one (17% unsure).

New Ideas or Experience? Voters Split over Which Is More Important

Asked about the attributes that are important in a candidate for statewide office, about half of likely voters (48%) prefer new ideas and a different approach, while 42 percent prefer experience and a proven record. Most Democrats (55%) favor experience, while majorities of Republicans (60%) and independents (54%) choose new ideas. Asked a similar question about presidential candidates in December 2015, 46 percent of likely voters favored new ideas and 44 percent favored experience.

Is it more important that candidates for statewide office work with the Trump administration or push back against it? Half of likely voters (51%) prefer that candidates push back, while 41 percent prefer that candidates work with the administration.

Single-Payer Health Insurance, Gas Tax Seen as Very Important Issues

Californians will vote on a state affordable housing bond in November. Many other measures may also qualify for the ballot. The survey asked about the importance of four potential issues:

- **Single-payer health insurance.** Most likely voters (59%) say the issue of single-payer health insurance very important to them. Majorities across parties concur.
- **Repealing the recently enacted gas tax.** A majority (54%) say repeal is very important to them. Republican likely voters (85%) are far more likely than independent (46%) or Democratic (36%) likely voters to express this view.
- **State bond for affordable housing.** About half of likely voters (48%) say a state bond for affordable housing is very important to them. Democratic likely voters (58%) are more likely than independent (42%) and Republican (37%) likely voters to say so.
- **Expanding the size of the legislature.** Just 18 percent of likely voters consider expanding the size of the legislature to be very important.

“Ballot initiatives could affect partisan turnout in statewide and legislative races in the November 2018 election,” Baldassare said. “Most Republicans and relatively few Democrats say that the issue of repealing the gas tax is very important to them.”

A Solid Majority Likes the Top-Two Primary

Five years after it was first used in California, the top-two primary system gets positive reviews from likely voters, with 60 percent saying it has been mostly a good thing. Under the system, voters cast primary ballots for a candidate of any party, and the two top vote getters—regardless of party—advance to the general election. The survey asked about another new process that will be phased in beginning in 2018: registered voters in participating counties will automatically be sent a ballot that

can be returned by mail, taken to a drop-off location, or cast in person at any vote center in a county. A strong majority of likely voters (74%) see this change as mostly a good thing.

More Optimism about the State than about the Nation

About half of Californians (53% all adults, 49% likely voters) say that things in the state are generally going in the right direction. Far fewer (29% adults, 27% likely voters) say that things in the US are going in the right direction.

These views are reflected in Californians' evaluation of their elected leaders at the state and national levels. Slim majorities approve of the way Governor Jerry Brown is handling his job (53% adults, 53% likely voters), and nearly half approve of the state legislature (49% adults, 46% likely voters). Far fewer approve of the way President Trump (28% adults, 34% likely voters) or Congress (22% adults, 15% likely voters) are handling their jobs. While 75 percent of Republicans approve of the Republican president, just 21 percent approve of the Republican-led Congress.

Congressional Tax Proposals Unpopular with Californians

Majorities of Californians (58% adults, 62% likely voter) oppose congressional Republicans' tax reform proposals, which were being debated and voted on in the House of Representatives as the PPIC survey was taken. Most Republicans (58%) favor the proposals, while majorities of Democrats (84%) and independents (59%) are opposed.

Asked about the impact of the tax reform proposals on them and their families, 39 percent of adults and 41 percent of likely voters say they expect to be worse off. About a third (35% adults, 33% likely voters) expect to be about the same. Fewer (16% adults, 20% likely voters) expect to be better off.

Would lowering taxes for large businesses and corporations help the economy? Only about a third (29% adults, 35% likely voters) say yes. They are more likely to say it would hurt the economy (44% adults, 41% likely voters). Fewer (22% adults, 20% likely voters) say it would make no difference.

"Most Californians oppose the tax reform proposals from the Republicans in Congress," Baldassare said. "Few believe the proposals would leave them better off personally or benefit the economy."

Just 35 percent of adults and 27 percent of likely voters favor the elimination of deductions for state and local income taxes and sales taxes. Fewer than half of Californians across parties, regions, and demographic groups favor this proposal. However, nearly half of Californians (49% adults, 45% likely voters) favor limiting the home mortgage interest deduction to the first \$500,000 of debt.

Strong Support for Letting Undocumented Immigrants Stay

An overwhelming majority of Californians (86%) say there should be a way for undocumented immigrants to stay in the US legally if certain requirements are met. Strong majorities across parties express this view. Nearly half of Californians say they worry a lot (28%) or some (20%) that someone they know could be deported. Notably, 57 percent of Latinos and 48 percent of residents born outside the US say they worry a lot.

Consensus among Partisans: A Third Major Party Needed

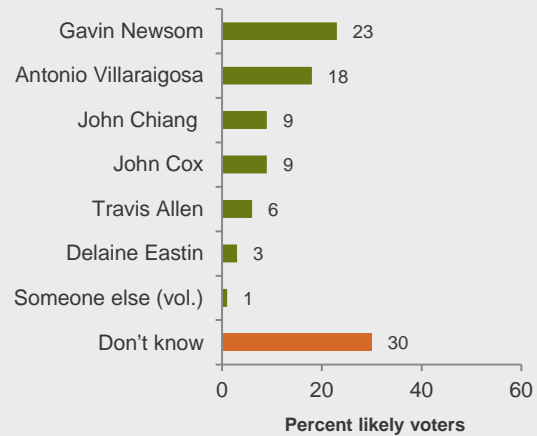
A year after the contentious national election, about half of Californians (48%) have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party and a quarter (26%) view the Republican Party favorably. A large majority of Democrats (72%) have a favorable view of their party while a smaller majority of Republicans (59%) have a favorable impression of theirs. Majorities of independents have an unfavorable view of both the Democratic Party (53%) and the Republican Party (68%). And most Californians (60% adults, 64% likely voters) say that both parties do such a poor job that a third major party is needed.

2018 California Election

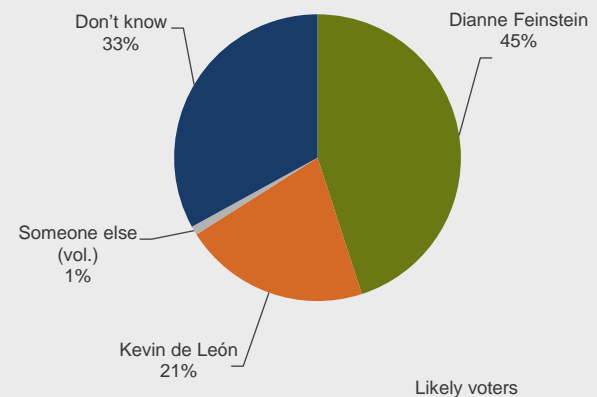
Key Findings

- About half of likely voters are satisfied with their choice of gubernatorial candidates; Democrats are much more likely than Republicans or independents to be satisfied. Three in ten likely voters are unsure how they would vote, and Democrats Gavin Newsom and Antonio Villaraigosa are the leading candidates in the top-two primary. *(page 7)*
- Likely voters are more likely to have favorable opinions of Democrats Gavin Newsom (39%), Antonio Villaraigosa (31%), and John Chiang (27%) than of Democrat Delaine Eastin (12%) and Republicans Travis Allen (10%) and John Cox (10%). *(page 8)*
- More likely voters say they would support Senator Dianne Feinstein (45%) in her reelection bid than challenger Kevin de León (21%). Senator Feinstein is viewed favorably by 51 percent of likely voters, while 48 percent of likely voters have never heard of de León—17% view him favorably. *(page 9)*
- Likely voters are divided on whether experience and a proven record (42%) or new ideas and a different approach (48%) are more important in candidates for statewide office. Half say these officials should push back against the Trump administration (51%) rather than work with it (41%). *(page 10)*
- Majorities of likely voters view potential ballot issues on single-payer health insurance (59%) and repealing the recent gas tax (54%) as very important. About half (48%) view a state bond for affordable housing as very important. *(page 11)*
- Majorities of likely voters think the top-two primary system has been mostly a good thing (60%) and that automatic-vote-by-mail will be a good thing (74%). *(page 12)*

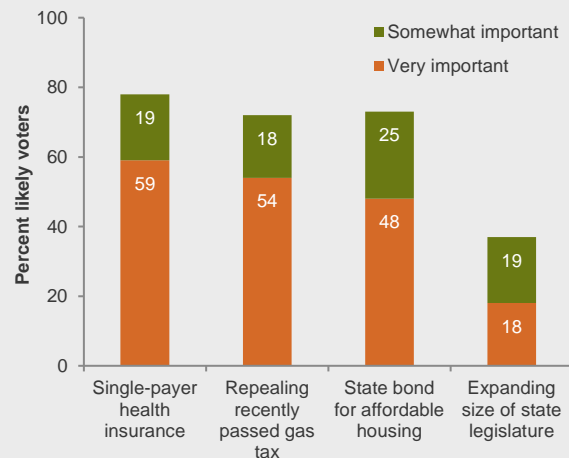
June 2018 gubernatorial primary



June 2018 US Senate primary



Importance of potential ballot issues



June Gubernatorial Primary

Six months away from the June 2018 California gubernatorial primary election, just one in four likely voters are following news about the gubernatorial candidates very (7%) or fairly (18%) closely. Attention to news is similarly low across parties and regions. Compared to recent gubernatorial elections, attention to news today is more similar to December 2013 (5% very, 17 fairly) than December 2009 (10% very, 33% fairly), even though the 2018 election will fill an open seat.

About half of likely voters (48%) are satisfied with their choices of candidates in the primary election for governor next June; 31 percent are not satisfied and 22 percent are unsure. Democrats are twice as likely as Republicans to be satisfied; 43 percent of independents are satisfied. Latino likely voters are more likely to be satisfied than whites and members of other racial/ethnic groups (sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis). Satisfaction is somewhat higher among younger than among older likely voters (57% age 18–34, 42% age 35–54, 49% age 55 and older). Across regions, satisfaction ranges from 44 percent in Orange/San Diego to 53 percent in the Inland Empire (52% San Francisco Bay Area, 51% Los Angeles, 47% Central Valley).

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

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Satisfied	48%	61%	30%	43%	57%	46%	48%
Not satisfied	31	19	47	35	29	30	31
Don't know	22	19	24	23	14	24	21

A plurality of likely voters are unsure (30%) about who they would vote for in a gubernatorial election that is garnering little attention at this point. Democrats Gavin Newsom (23%) and Antonio Villaraigosa (18%) are the top two candidates, while fewer prefer Democrat John Chiang (9%), Republican John Cox (9%), Republican Travis Allen (6%), or Democrat Delaine Eastin (3%). Among Democratic likely voters, Newsom leads Villaraigosa by 8 points with 20 percent unsure, while among Republicans Cox leads Allen by 9 points with 37 percent unsure. Independents prefer Newsom to Villaraigosa with 35 percent unsure. A plurality of Latino likely voters support Villaraigosa, while a plurality of white likely voters are unsure. At least one in five across regions and demographic groups are unsure.

“As you may know, California now has a top-two primary system for statewide races in which voters can cast ballots for any candidate, regardless of party, and the two candidates receiving the most votes—regardless of party—will advance to the general election. If the June primary for governor were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Gavin Newsom, a Democrat	23%	34%	5%	24%	11%	27%	23%
Antonio Villaraigosa, a Democrat	18	26	7	15	42	9	22
John Chiang, a Democrat	9	13	2	10	9	7	16
John Cox, a Republican	9	2	27	8	7	12	4
Travis Allen, a Republican	6	–	18	6	4	8	4
Delaine Eastin, a Democrat	3	4	2	2	5	2	5
Someone else (volunteered)	1	–	1	2	–	1	1
Don't know	30	20	37	35	21	33	25

Gubernatorial Candidate Favorability

Before being asked about the primary election, likely voters were asked to give their impression of six gubernatorial candidates. They were provided with each person’s name and commonly used title (the official titles that will appear on the ballots have not yet been announced by the Secretary of State). More than one in four likely voters have a favorable opinion of California treasurer John Chiang, former mayor of Los Angeles Antonio Villaraigosa, and lieutenant governor Gavin Newsom, while about one in ten have a favorable opinion of state assemblyman Travis Allen, businessman John Cox, and former state superintendent of public instruction Delaine Eastin. Notably, majorities of likely voters say they have never heard of Eastin, Allen, and Cox.

“Please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these candidates for governor. If you’ve never heard of the person please tell me. How about...”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	Travis Allen	John Chiang	John Cox	Delaine Eastin	Gavin Newsom	Antonio Villaraigosa
Favorable	10%	27%	10%	12%	39%	31%
Unfavorable	8	13	8	15	24	32
Never heard of	61	36	62	56	19	22
Can't rate/don't know enough to have an opinion/don't know	21	23	20	17	17	15

Half of Democratic likely voters (52%) and those in the San Francisco Bay Area (53%) give Newsom a favorable opinion, while half of Latinos (51%) view Villaraigosa favorably; these are noteworthy findings because no other candidate receives majority favorable opinion across parties, regions, or demographic groups. Forty-four percent of Democrats view Villaraigosa favorably, while 34 percent say the same about Chiang. More than half of Democrats say they have never heard of Eastin. Among Republicans, favorable opinions of any candidate do not surpass 20 percent and, in fact, more than half of Republicans say they have never heard of Republican candidates Travis Allen and John Cox. Among independent likely voters, one in three view Newsom favorably, one in four view Villaraigosa favorably, and one in five view Chiang favorably.

Female and male likely voters have similar levels of favorability toward each of the six candidates. At least half of likely voters across regions say they have never heard of Republicans Allen or Cox or Democrat Eastin.

<i>% favorable</i>		Travis Allen	John Chiang	John Cox	Delaine Eastin	Gavin Newsom	Antonio Villaraigosa
All likely voters		10%	27%	10%	12%	39%	31%
Party	Democrats	7	34	6	14	52	44
	Republicans	16	20	15	11	19	15
	Independents	9	22	9	8	34	25
Age	18 to 34	7	18	14	12	36	34
	35 to 54	8	27	8	9	40	27
	55 and older	13	32	9	13	40	32
Race/Ethnicity	Latinos	15	24	9	14	36	51
	Whites	9	25	9	10	42	24
	Other groups	10	39	13	13	38	32

June 2018 US Senate Primary

In the June primary for US Senate, Senator Dianne Feinstein—who is seeking her fifth full term—leads fellow Democrat and California senate president pro tempore Kevin de León by a two-to-one margin (45% to 21%) among likely voters. (Only candidates with significant news coverage and resources were included in this survey.) One in three likely voters are unsure of who they would vote for. Among Democrats, two in three support Feinstein (66%), while 16 percent support de León and 18 percent are unsure. With no prominent Republicans in this race, a majority of Republican likely voters (55%) are unsure of who they would support, while 25 percent support de León and 18 percent support Feinstein. A plurality of independent likely voters support Feinstein, while 20 percent prefer de León and 35 percent are unsure. Feinstein leads de León by double digits among Latinos, whites, and other racial/ethnic groups as well as among men (40% to 23%) and women (50% to 18%). Feinstein has majority support among likely voters in the San Francisco Bay Area (54% Feinstein, 17% de León) and the Inland Empire (52% Feinstein, 22% de León) and leads by double digits across other regions (Los Angeles 47% to 22%, Orange/San Diego 39% to 20%, Central Valley 36% to 21%).

“Keeping in mind that California has the top-two primary system, if the June primary for US Senator were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Kevin de León, a Democrat	21%	16%	25%	20%	26%	22%	12%
Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat	45	66	18	43	48	41	58
Someone else (volunteered)	1	–	2	2	1	1	1
Don't know	33	18	55	35	26	36	29

Most likely voters have some opinion of Dianne Feinstein; half have a favorable opinion and four in ten have an unfavorable one. Nearly half of likely voters (48%) have never heard of Kevin de León, while 17 percent offer a favorable opinion, 19 percent an unfavorable one, and 17 percent are unsure. Fewer than one in four across parties, regions, and demographic groups offer a favorable view of de León, while more than four in ten across these groups—except among Republicans (23%) and the Central Valley (39%)—offer a favorable view of Feinstein.

“Please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these candidates for US senator. If you’ve never heard of the person please tell me. How about...”

Likely voters only		All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
			Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Kevin de León	Favorable	17%	21%	14%	12%	22%	16%	16%
	Unfavorable	19	11	26	23	15	19	14
	Never heard of	48	55	43	44	47	47	56
	Can't rate/don't know enough to have an opinion/don't know	17	14	17	20	16	17	14
Dianne Feinstein	Favorable	51	75	23	43	47	48	69
	Unfavorable	39	16	72	43	30	47	21
	Never heard of	5	5	3	8	15	1	6
	Can't rate/don't know enough to have an opinion/don't know	4	5	2	6	9	3	4

Gubernatorial and US Senate Candidate Qualities

When asked which attributes are more important in a candidate for statewide office, 48 percent of likely voters say new ideas and a different approach, while 42 percent say experience and a proven record. A majority of Democratic likely voters (55%) say experience and a proven record, while majorities of Republicans (60%) and independents (54%) say new ideas. About half of Latino and white likely voters prefer new ideas and a different approach, while half of likely voters in other racial/ethnic groups prefer experience and a proven record. Across regions, half or more in Los Angeles (50%), the Inland Empire (53%), and the Central Valley (55%) want new ideas and a different approach, while half in Orange/San Diego (49%) prefer experience and a proven record. Likely voters in the San Francisco Bay Area are divided (42% each). Half of men (53%) say new ideas are more important, compared to just 42 percent of women.

In response to a similar question asked in December 2015 about presidential candidates, 46 percent of likely voters said new ideas and a different approach while 44 percent said experience and a proven record.

“Which of the following is more important to you in candidates for statewide office, such as governor or US senator—experience and a proven record or new ideas and a different approach?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Experience and a proven record	42%	55%	29%	36%	40%	40%	51%
New ideas and a different approach	48	34	60	54	51	48	38
Both (<i>volunteered</i>)	7	9	6	7	5	8	8
Don't know	4	3	5	3	4	4	3

Given the national role that California leaders have played thus far, how do Californians want their candidates for statewide office to interact with the Trump administration? When asked which is more important in candidates for statewide office, half of likely voters prefer that state leaders push back against the Trump administration, while four in ten say that they should work with the Trump administration. Partisan likely voters are divided, with nearly eight in ten Democrats wanting candidates to push back while 86 percent of Republicans prefer that they work with the Trump administration. About six in ten likely voters in Los Angeles (62%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (58%) prefer pushing back against the administration, while nearly six in ten in the Central Valley and the Inland Empire (57% each) prefer that state leaders work with Trump administration; likely voters in Orange/San Diego are divided. While white likely voters are divided, six in ten Latinos and likely voters of other racial/ethnic groups prefer pushing back against the administration. Preference for pushing back against the Trump administration increases sharply with higher education levels and is much higher among likely voters age 18 to 34 (73%) than among older likely voters (45% age 35 and older).

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

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Work with the Trump administration	41%	13%	86%	42%	29%	49%	25%
Push back against the Trump administration	51	78	10	45	60	46	59
Both (<i>volunteered</i>)	4	4	2	6	4	3	8
Don't know	4	4	2	7	7	2	8

Ballot Issues

A state affordable housing bond will appear on the November 2018 ballot, while 50 initiatives and referenda are either pending signature verification, circulating, cleared for circulation, or pending review. When asked about the importance of four potential ballot issues, six in ten likely voters (59%) say that single-payer health insurance is very important. A majority (54%) say the issue of repealing the recently passed gas tax is very important, and nearly half (48%) say the same about the state bond for affordable housing. Eighteen percent say that expanding the state legislature is a very important issue.

“Next, several issues may be decided by California voters on the November 2018 ballot. Please tell me how important each of the following issues is to you.”

Likely voters only	Single-payer health insurance	Repealing recently passed gas tax	State bond for affordable housing	Expanding size of state legislature
Very important	59%	54%	48%	18%
Somewhat important	19	18	25	19
Not too important	6	12	11	25
Not at all important	9	13	12	31
Don't know	6	3	5	7

Majorities of likely voters across parties say the issue of single-payer health insurance is very important to them. Younger likely voters (71% age 18 to 34) are more likely than their older counterparts (59% age 35 to 54, 54% age 55 and older) to say single-payer health insurance is very important. When it comes to the issue of repealing the recently passed gas tax, Republican likely voters (85%) are far more likely than independent (46%) or Democratic (36%) likely voters to say it is very important. Older likely voters (58% age 35 and older) are much more likely than 18- to 34-year-olds (36%) to say this issue is very important to them. Across parties, Democratic likely voters (58%) are more likely than independent (42%) and Republican (37%) likely voters to say the issue of the state bond for affordable housing is very important. Among racial/ethnic groups, Latino likely voters are much more likely than white likely voters to say the affordable housing bond is very important to them (64% to 41%). Likely voters with a household income under \$40,000 (62%) are more likely than those with higher incomes (46% \$40,000 to under \$80,000; 39% \$80,000 or more) to say the state bond for affordable housing is very important.

One in four or fewer likely voters across parties, regions, and demographic groups say the issue of expanding the size of the state legislature is very important to them.

% very important		Single-payer health insurance	Repealing recently passed gas tax	State bond for affordable housing	Expanding size of state legislature
All likely voters		59%	54%	48%	18%
Party	Democrats	62	36	58	14
	Republicans	54	85	37	23
	Independents	54	46	42	20
Age	18 to 34	71	36	50	13
	35 to 54	59	58	51	23
	55 and older	54	58	44	17
Race/Ethnicity	Latinos	68	59	64	23
	Whites	56	52	41	15
	Other groups	65	51	51	23

California Election Process

Proposition 14, passed in 2010, changed the state primary to a top-two system that allows voters to cast primary ballots for any candidate regardless of party, and advances the two candidates receiving the most votes to the general election. The June 2012 primary election was the first to use the top-two system. Today, six in ten likely voters (60%) say passing Proposition 14 has turned out to be mostly a good thing for California, while about one in four (26%) consider it a bad thing. Findings were similar in December 2012 (59% good thing, 26% bad thing), after the first top-two primary and general election. While solid majorities of Democratic (71%) and independent (63%) likely voters consider Prop 14 a good thing, Republicans are divided (45% good thing, 43% bad thing). Majorities across racial/ethnic groups say Prop 14 has been a good thing. Regionally, with the exception of the Central Valley (48%), more than six in ten say Prop 14 has had a good effect. Likely voters age 18 to 34 (73%) and age 35 to 54 (66%) are more likely than those age 55 and older (51%) to say Prop 14 has been mostly a good thing.

“Proposition 14 is the 2010 ballot measure passed by voters that changed California’s state primary elections from a partially closed system to a top-two primary system in which voters now cast primary election ballots for any candidate—regardless of party—and the two candidates receiving the most votes—regardless of party—advance to the general election. Overall, do you feel that passing Proposition 14 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Mostly a good thing	60%	71%	45%	63%	64%	60%	64%
Mostly a bad thing	26	16	43	24	20	28	20
Mixed (<i>volunteered</i>)	3	4	2	3	5	2	4
Don't know	10	10	10	10	11	10	12

In 2016, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 450, which established a new election model in which all California registered voters in participating counties will be automatically sent a mail ballot 28 days before an election. Voters can return their ballots by mail or take them to any of their county vote centers. Some counties are implementing SB 450 for the 2018 elections. Today, three in four likely voters say SB 450 will be mostly a good thing for California. This view is more prevalent among Democratic (86%) and independent (73%) likely voters than among Republican (57%) likely voters. More than seven in ten likely voters across racial/ethnic groups think SB450 will be a good thing for the state. Likely voters age 18 to 34 (90%) are more likely than those age 35 to 54 (73%) age 55 and older (69%) to say SB 450 will be a good thing.

“SB 450 was signed into law in 2016 and establishes a new election model. Under the new election model, which will be phased in beginning in 2018, registered voters would automatically be sent a ballot 28 days before the election. Voters could return their ballot by mail, take it to a drop-off location, or cast it in-person at any vote center in their county. Overall, do you feel that passing SB 450 will be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?”

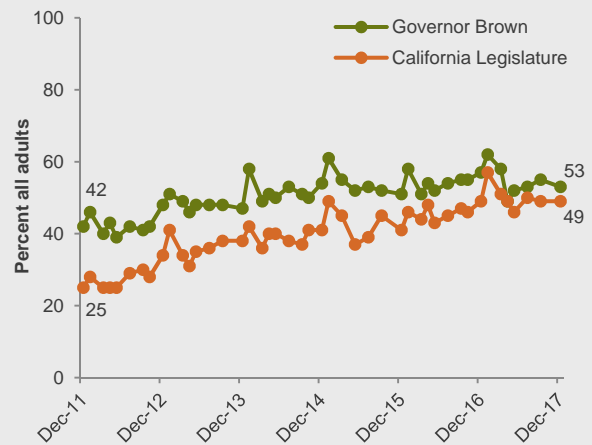
Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites	Other groups
Mostly a good thing	74%	86%	57%	73%	75%	74%	81%
Mostly a bad thing	20	11	34	19	17	21	13
Mixed (<i>volunteered</i>)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know	5	3	8	7	6	5	4

State and National Issues

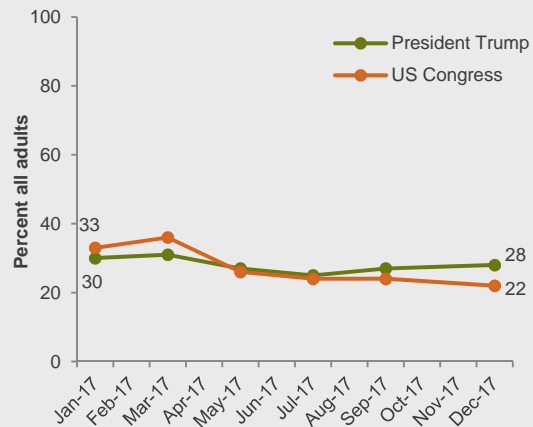
Key Findings

- Half of Californians (53%) say the state is headed in the right direction, while 41 percent say it is going in the wrong direction. When it comes to the direction of the country, just 29 percent say the US is headed in the right direction; a strong majority (65%) say it is going in the wrong direction. *(page 14)*
- Fifty-three percent of Californians approve of Governor Brown’s job performance while 49 percent approve of the state legislature. *(page 15)*
- Twenty-eight percent of Californians approve of President Trump’s job performance, while 22 percent approve of Congress. *(page 16)*
- A majority of adults oppose the congressional Republicans’ tax reform proposals, and four in ten think the Republican tax plan will make them worse off. Three in ten adults say lowering taxes on large businesses and corporations will help the economy while 44 percent think it will hurt the economy. Only about one in three Californians favors eliminating deductions for state and local taxes, while nearly half (49%) are in favor of limiting deductions on home mortgages. *(page 17)*
- More than eight in ten Californians say that there should be a way for undocumented immigrants currently living in the US to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met. Nearly half worry a lot (28%) or some (20%) about someone they know being deported. *(page 18)*
- Forty-eight percent of Californians view the Democratic Party favorably, while one in four (26%) have a favorable impression of the Republican Party. Six in ten adults say that a third major party is needed. *(page 19)*

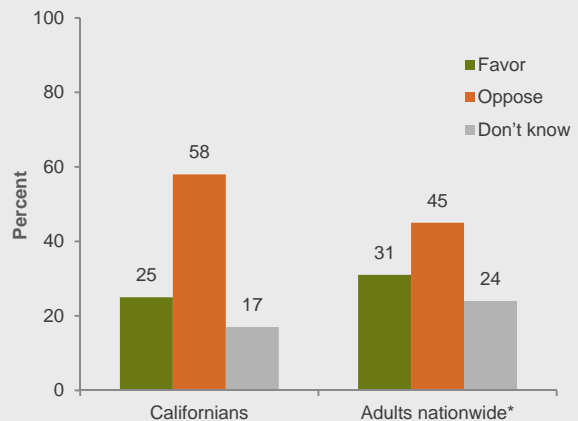
Approval ratings of state elected officials



Approval ratings of federal elected officials



Support for Republican tax proposals



*GNN, November 2017

Overall Mood

Has the public’s optimism about the state of the state changed since the start of 2017? Currently, about half of Californians (53% adults, 49% likely voters) say that things in California are generally going in the right direction. In January, the belief that the state was headed in the right direction was somewhat higher for likely voters (58%) and similar for all adults (58%). Today, Democrats (70%) are far more likely than independents (48%) and Republicans (18%) to say that things are going in the right direction. San Francisco Bay Area residents (62%) are more likely than those living in other regions (55% Los Angeles, 53% Orange/San Diego, 50% Inland Empire, 46% Central Valley) to say that things are going in the right direction. Across racial/ethnic groups, majorities of Asian Americans (80%) and Latinos (56%)—but fewer than half of African Americans (48%) and whites (44%)—say that things are going in the right direction in California.

“Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?”

		Right direction	Wrong direction	Don't know
All adults		53%	41%	6%
Likely voters		49	47	4
Party	Democrats	70	26	4
	Republicans	18	79	3
	Independents	48	46	6
Race/Ethnicity	African Americans	48	46	6
	Asian Americans	80	15	5
	Latinos	56	38	6
	Whites	44	50	6

By contrast, fewer than three in ten Californians (29% adults, 27% likely voters) say that things in the United States are generally going in the right direction. Optimism was somewhat higher in January (36% adults, 37% likely voters) and more had a positive view before last year’s elections (43% adults, 40% likely voters in October 2016). Today, about half of Republicans (49%) but far fewer independents (28%) and Democrats (13%) say that things in the US are going in the right direction. About one in three adults (or fewer) across racial/ethnic groups and regions (34% Orange/San Diego, 28% Central Valley, 28% Los Angeles, 25% Inland Empire, 24% San Francisco Bay Area) have this positive view.

“Do you think things in the United States are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?”

		Right direction	Wrong direction	Don't know
All adults		29%	65%	6%
Likely voters		27	67	7
Party	Democrats	13	82	5
	Republicans	49	45	6
	Independents	28	69	3
Race/Ethnicity	African Americans	14	83	3
	Asian Americans	28	60	11
	Latinos	23	71	6
	Whites	34	63	4

Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

Majorities of Californians (53% adults, 53% likely voters) approve of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor. The governor’s approval rating was higher in January (62% adults, 62% likely voters). Today, the governor’s approval rating is 72 percent among Democrats, 56 percent among independents, and 20 percent among Republicans. Majorities approve in the San Francisco Bay Area (61%), Los Angeles (61%), and the Inland Empire (52%); fewer approve in other regions (47% Central Valley, 43% Orange/ San Diego). Majorities of Asian Americans (63%), Latinos (61%), and African Americans (52%) approve; fewer whites (46%) do. Half or more across age and income groups approve.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?”

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		53%	28%	19%
Likely voters		53	38	9
Party	Democrats	72	13	15
	Republicans	20	70	10
	Independents	56	32	11
Region	Central Valley	47	34	18
	Inland Empire	52	32	17
	Los Angeles	61	22	17
	Orange/San Diego	43	30	27
	San Francisco Bay Area	61	20	18

Almost half of Californians (49% adults, 46% likely voters) approve of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job. Approval was similar in January (57% adults, 50% likely voters). Today, 69 percent of Democrats say that they approve; far fewer independents (44%) and Republicans (20%) approve. Majorities approve of the legislature in the San Francisco Bay Area (59%) and Los Angeles (53%)—fewer approve in other regions (46% Central Valley, 43% Inland Empire, 41% Orange/San Diego). Majorities of Asian Americans (61%) and Latinos (56%)—but fewer African Americans (44%) and whites (42%)—approve. About half across income groups approve of the way that the legislature is handling its job.

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

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		49%	36%	15%
Likely voters		46	44	10
Party	Democrats	69	19	11
	Republicans	20	73	7
	Independents	44	42	14
Region	Central Valley	46	39	15
	Inland Empire	43	45	13
	Los Angeles	53	33	14
	Orange/San Diego	41	36	24
	San Francisco Bay Area	59	28	13

Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

President Trump’s approval rating (28% adults, 34% likely voters) remains relatively unchanged from September (27% adults, 31% likely voters) and January (30% adults, 34% likely voters). Today, 75 percent of Republicans approve of President Trump, compared to 28 percent of independents and 7 percent of Democrats. Across the state’s regions, approval is lower in Los Angeles (22%), the San Francisco Bay Area (23%), and the Inland Empire (23%) than it is elsewhere (36% Central Valley, 32% Orange/San Diego). Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (16%), Asian Americans (15%), and African Americans (13%) are far less likely than whites (41%) to approve. A recent Gallup weekly tracking poll had adults nationwide giving the president a higher approval rating (38% approve, 57% disapprove).

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

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		28%	68%	5%
Likely voters		34	63	3
Party	Democrats	7	92	1
	Republicans	75	19	6
	Independents	28	68	4
Region	Central Valley	36	59	5
	Inland Empire	23	69	8
	Los Angeles	22	75	3
	Orange/San Diego	32	63	5
	San Francisco Bay Area	23	72	5

Today, Californians are giving the US Congress approval ratings (22% adults, 15% likely voters) similar to those in September (24% adults, 18% likely voters) and lower than in January (33% adults, 25% likely voters). Fewer than one in four voters across parties (21% Republicans, 19% independents, 15% Democrats) approve. Fewer than three in ten approve across regions (26% Los Angeles, 25% Central Valley, 20% Orange/San Diego, 20% San Francisco Bay Area, 19% Inland Empire) and age and racial/ethnic groups. Approval of Congress declines as income and education levels rise. An October Gallup poll found that a lower share of adults nationwide approve (13% approve, 80% disapprove).

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

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		22%	70%	8%
Likely voters		15	80	4
Party	Democrats	15	79	5
	Republicans	21	72	7
	Independents	19	76	5
Region	Central Valley	25	68	6
	Inland Empire	19	74	7
	Los Angeles	26	68	6
	Orange/San Diego	20	65	15
	San Francisco Bay Area	20	73	7

Tax Reform

As tax reform plans are being debated and the House has passed a bill, majorities of Californians (58% adults, 62% likely voters) express opposition to these plans. Majorities of Republicans are in favor (58%), while majorities of Democrats (84%) and independents (59%) are opposed. Opponents outnumber supporters across regions and demographic groups. A November CNN poll found lower opposition among adults nationwide (45%).

If the tax reform proposals are passed and signed into law, four in ten Californians think they will be worse off (39% adults, 41% likely voters); fewer expect to be better off (16% adults, 20% likely voters). Majorities of Democrats (53%), but fewer independents (37%) and Republicans (18%), expect to be worse off. Across regions and demographic groups, those who say they will be worse off outnumber those who say they will be better off. The November CNN poll found adults nationwide to be slightly less likely than adults in our survey to say they will be worse off (32% to 39%).

“From what you know of those proposals, do you think you and your family will be better off, worse off, or about the same if they are passed and signed into law?”

	All adults	Income			Likely voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
Better off	16%	15%	14%	18%	20%
Worse off	39	37	41	41	41
About the same	35	35	38	34	33
Don't know	10	13	7	7	6

Moreover, only about one in three Californians say that lowering taxes for large businesses and corporations would help the economy (29% adults, 35% likely voters) while about four in ten say that this would hurt the economy (44% adults, 41% likely voters). Sixty-five percent of Republicans say these tax cuts will help the economy; far fewer independents (32%) and Democrats (12%) hold this view. Fewer than four in ten across regions and demographic groups expect the tax cuts to help the economy. An October Pew Research Center survey found adults nationwide to be slightly more likely than adults in our survey to say these tax cuts will help the economy (36% to 29%).

“Do you think that lowering taxes for large businesses and corporations would help the economy, hurt the economy, or not make a difference?”

	All adults	Income			Likely voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
Help	29%	25%	33%	32%	35%
Hurt	44	47	43	42	41
No difference	22	21	21	24	20
Don't know	5	7	3	3	3

About three in ten Californians (35% adults, 27% likely voters) favor the elimination of deductions for state and local income and sales taxes; fewer than half are in favor of this proposal across regions, parties, and demographic groups. Support declines as income levels rise (42% under \$40,000; 34% \$40,000 to under \$80,000; 25% \$80,000 or more). Nearly half of Californians (49% adults, 45% likely voters) are in favor of allowing the home interest deduction only on the first \$500,000 of mortgage debt; support for this proposal is similar among homeowners (49%) and renters (48%). A recent CNN poll found similar shares of adults nationwide in favor of eliminating state and local tax deductions (37%) and limiting the home interest deduction (49%).

Immigration

An overwhelming majority of Californians (86%) say there should be a way for undocumented immigrants to stay in the United States legally if certain requirements are met—only 12 percent say they should not be allowed to stay in the US legally. Findings were similar in January (85% should be a way to stay, 13% should not be allowed to stay), and in PPIC surveys since January 2016 more than eight in ten have said there should be a way for undocumented immigrants to stay legally. Strong majorities across parties say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay, including 93 percent of Democrats and 68 percent of Republicans. Ninety-four percent of Latinos agree, as do overwhelming majorities of African Americans (90%), Asian Americans (89%), and whites (81%). At least eight in ten across regional, age, education, and income groups say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay in the country legally if certain requirements are met.

“Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are living in the US? There should be a way for them to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met, or they should not be allowed to stay in this country legally?”

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
A way for them to stay legally	86%	93%	68%	87%	90%	89%	94%	80%
Should not be allowed to stay	12	5	31	12	9	7	6	17
Don't know	2	2	1	1	1	4	—	2

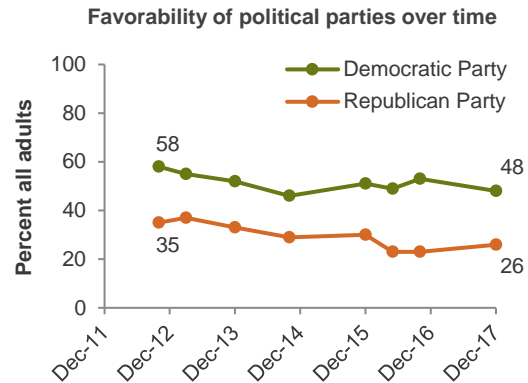
Nearly half of Californians say they worry a lot (28%) or some (20%) that someone they know could be deported. Findings were similar in May, when 30 percent said they worried a lot and 21 percent worried some. Today, Democrats (26% a lot, 28% some) are much more likely than independents (19% a lot, 15% some) and Republicans (10% a lot, 13% some) to worry that someone they know will be deported. Notably, 57 percent of Latinos and 48 percent of residents not born in the United States say they worry a lot. Californians under age 55 are somewhat more likely than older adults to say that they worry a lot (30% to 22%). Across regions, residents of Los Angeles (34%) and the Inland Empire (32%) are the most likely to say that they worry a lot (26% Central Valley, 25% Orange/San Diego, 21% San Francisco Bay Area). Californians with no college education (44%) are much more likely than those with some college (19%) and college graduates (16%) to say they worry a lot. Similarly, those with annual household incomes under \$40,000 (40%) are more likely than those with higher incomes (21% \$40,000 to under \$80,000; 14% \$80,000 or more) to say they worry a lot.

“When it comes to increased federal immigration enforcement, how much do you worry that someone that you know could be deported? Would you say that you worry a lot, some, not much, or not at all?”

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
A lot	28%	26%	10%	19%	21%	14%	57%	12%
Some	20	28	13	15	21	29	17	18
Not much	16	15	18	22	18	24	9	19
Not at all	35	30	58	43	41	31	16	50
Don't know	1	1	1	1	—	2	1	1

Party Perceptions

One year after the contentious 2016 election, how do Californians feel about the two major political parties? Today, 48 percent of adults and 44 percent of likely voters have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party; about one in four (26% adults, 26% likely voters) have a favorable impression of the Republican Party. Favorability toward both parties was similar in October 2016 (Democratic Party: 53% all adults, 50% likely voters; Republican Party: 23% all adults, 24% likely voters).



Among partisans, 72 percent of Democrats have a favorable view of the Democratic Party; fewer Republicans (59%) have a favorable view of the Republican Party. Majorities of independents have an unfavorable view of both the Democratic Party (53%) and the Republican Party (68%). At least six in ten Californians across age, income, and racial/ethnic groups have an unfavorable impression of the Republican Party. Across age groups, Californians ages 18 to 24 (57%) are the most likely to have a favorable view of the Democratic Party (43% age 35 and older). Today, 26 percent of Californians and 33 percent of likely voters have an unfavorable view of both parties. In a November CNN poll, 37 percent of adults nationwide had a favorable view of the Democratic Party while 30 percent had a favorable view of the Republican Party.

“Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of the...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Democratic Party	Favorable	48%	72%	14%	38%	44%
	Unfavorable	42	24	86	53	53
	Don't know	10	4	0	9	4
Republican Party	Favorable	26	8	59	24	26
	Unfavorable	64	89	39	68	71
	Don't know	10	3	3	9	3

A majority of Californians (60%) and likely voters (64%) say that the Republican and Democratic parties do such a poor job that a third major party is needed. Majorities of adults have seen a third party as needed in October 2016 (58%) and in periodic PPIC surveys since 2006. Today, majorities of Democrats (59%) and Republicans (62%)—and a strong majority of independents (72%)—think a third party is needed. Among likely voters unsatisfied with the gubernatorial candidate choices, 72 percent say a third party is needed. Majorities across regional, age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups hold this view.

“In your view, do the Republican and Democratic Parties do an adequate job representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Adequate job	29%	33%	28%	20%	27%
Third party is needed	60	59	62	72	64
Don't know	11	8	10	8	9

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 associate survey director Dean Bonner, project manager for this survey, and survey research associate Lunna Lopes. The *Californians and Their Government* series is supported with funding from the James Irvine Foundation, the California Endowment, and the PPIC Donor Circle. 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 1,704 California adult residents, including 1,108 interviewed on cell phones and 596 interviewed on landline telephones. Interviews took an average of 17 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from November 10–19, 2017.

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 a “youngest male/female” 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 2011–2015 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 2015 state-level estimates released by the National Center for Health Statistics—which used data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the ACS—and 2016 estimates for the West Census Region in the latest NHIS report. 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 1,704 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 1,391 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.9 percent; for the 1,070 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.

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 43 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, 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 CNN, Gallup, and the Pew Research Center. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

Questionnaire and Results

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

November 10–19, 2017

1,704 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. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?

53% approve
28 disapprove
19 don't know

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

49% approve
36 disapprove
15 don't know

3. Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

53% right direction
41 wrong direction
6 don't know

4. 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 q4a]*
31 no *[skip to q5b]*

4a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or as an independent?

45% Democrat *[ask q5]*
26 Republican *[skip to q5a]*
5 another party *(specify) [skip to q6]*
25 independent *[skip to q5b]*

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

51% strong
47 not very strong
2 don't know

[skip to q6]

5a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

50% strong
44 not very strong
6 don't know

[skip to q6]

5b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

21% Republican Party
44 Democratic Party
27 neither *(volunteered)*
8 don't know

Next, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these candidates for governor. If you've never heard of the person please tell me.

[rotate questions 6 to 11]

6. *[likely voters only]* How about Travis Allen, California state assemblyman?

10% favorable
8 unfavorable
61 never heard of
21 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

7. [likely voters only] How about John Chiang, California state treasurer?

- 27% favorable
- 13 unfavorable
- 36 never heard of
- 23 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

8. [likely voters only] How about John Cox, businessman?

- 10% favorable
- 8 unfavorable
- 62 never heard of
- 20 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

9. [likely voters only] How about Delaine Eastin, former California state superintendent of public instruction?

- 12% favorable
- 15 unfavorable
- 56 never heard of
- 17 can't rate/don't know enough about her to have an opinion/don't know

10. [likely voters only] How about Gavin Newsom, California state lieutenant governor?

- 39% favorable
- 24 unfavorable
- 19 never heard of
- 17 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

11. [likely voters only] How about Antonio Villaraigosa, former mayor of Los Angeles?

- 31% favorable
- 32 unfavorable
- 22 never heard of
- 15 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

12. [likely voters only] As you may know, California now has a top-two primary system for statewide races in which voters can cast ballots for any candidate, regardless of party, and the two candidates receiving the most votes—regardless of party—will advance to the general election. If the June primary for governor were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for? [rotate names and then ask "or someone else?"]

- 23% Gavin Newsom, a Democrat
- 18 Antonio Villaraigosa, a Democrat
- 9 John Chiang, a Democrat
- 9 John Cox, a Republican
- 6 Travis Allen, a Republican
- 3 Delaine Eastin, a Democrat
- 1 someone else (specify)
- 30 don't know

13. [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?

- 7% very closely
- 18 fairly closely
- 45 not too closely
- 29 not at all closely
- 1 don't know

14. [likely voters only] In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the primary election for governor next June?

- 48% satisfied
- 31 not satisfied
- 22 don't know

Next, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these candidates for US senator. If you've never heard of the person please tell me.

[rotate questions 15 to 16]

15. [likely voters only] How about Kevin de León, California Senate president pro tempore?

- 17% favorable
- 19 unfavorable
- 48 never heard of
- 17 can't rate/don't know enough about him to have an opinion/don't know

16. [likely voters only] How about Dianne Feinstein, US senator?

- 51% favorable
- 39 unfavorable
- 5 never heard of
- 4 can't rate/don't know enough about her to have an opinion/don't know

17. [likely voters only] Keeping in mind that California has the top-two primary system, if the June primary for US senator were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for? [rotate names and then ask "or someone else?"]

- 45% Dianne Feinstein, a Democrat
- 21 Kevin De Leon, a Democrat
- 1 someone else (specify)
- 33 don't know

[rotate questions 18 to 19]

18. [likely voters only] Which of the following is more important to you in candidates for statewide office, such as governor or US senator—[rotate] (1) experience and a proven record [or] (2) new ideas and a different approach?

- 42% experience and a proven record
- 48 new ideas and a different approach
- 7 both (volunteered)
- 4 don't know

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

- 41% work with the Trump administration
- 51 push back against the Trump administration
- 4 both (volunteered)
- 4 don't know

Next, several issues will be decided by California voters in the November 2018 election. Please tell me how important each of the following issues is to you.

[rotate questions 20 to 23]

20. [likely voters only] How about repealing the recently passed gas tax? Is this issue very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to you?

- 54% very important
- 18 somewhat important
- 12 not too important
- 13 not at all important
- 3 don't know

21. [likely voters only] How about single-payer health insurance? Is this issue very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to you?

- 59% very important
- 19 somewhat important
- 6 not too important
- 9 not at all important
- 6 don't know

22. [likely voters only] How about the state bond for affordable housing? Is this issue very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to you?

- 48% very important
- 25 somewhat important
- 11 not too important
- 12 not at all important
- 5 don't know

23. [likely voters only] How about expanding the size of the California legislature? Is this issue very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to you?

- 18% very important
- 19 somewhat important
- 25 not too important
- 31 not at all important
- 7 don't know

24. On another topic, overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling his job as president of the United States?

- 28% approve
- 68 disapprove
- 5 don't know

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

- 22% approve
- 70 disapprove
- 8 don't know

26. Do you think that things in the United States are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

- 29% right direction
- 65 wrong direction
- 6 don't know

On another topic,

27. Overall, do you favor or oppose the tax reform proposals made by the Republicans in Congress?

- 25% favor
- 58 oppose
- 17 don't know

28. From what you know of those proposals, do you think you and your family will be better off, worse off, or about the same if they are passed and signed into law?

- 16% better off
- 39 worse off
- 35 about the same
- 10 don't know

28a. Do you think that lowering taxes for large businesses and corporations would help the economy, hurt the economy, or not make a difference?

- 29% help
- 44 hurt
- 22 no difference
- 5 don't know

Please tell me whether you favor or oppose each of the following proposed changes to the federal tax system.

[rotate questions 28b and 28c]

28b. How about eliminating deductions for state and local income and sales taxes?

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

28c. How about allowing the home interest deduction only on the first \$500,000 of mortgage debt

- 49% favor
- 36 oppose
- 15 don't know

Changing topics,

29. Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are living in the US? [rotate] [1] There should be a way for them to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met [or] [2] They should not be allowed to stay in this country legally.

- 86% allowed to stay legally
- 12 not allowed to stay legally
- 2 don't know

30. When it comes to increased federal immigration enforcement, how much do you worry that someone that you know could be deported? Would you say that you worry a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

- 28% a lot
- 20 some
- 16 not much
- 35 not at all
- 1 don't know

On another topic,

[rotate questions 31 and 32]

31. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of the Democratic Party?

- 48% favorable
- 42 unfavorable
- 10 don't know

32. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of the Republican Party?

- 26% favorable
- 64 unfavorable
- 10 don't know

33. In your view, do the Republican and Democratic parties do an adequate job representing the American people, or do they do such a poor job that a third major party is needed?

- 29% adequate job
- 60 third party is needed
- 11 don't know

On another topic...

[rotate questions 34 and 35]

34. [likely voters only] Proposition 14 is the 2010 ballot measure passed by voters that changed California's state primary elections from a partially closed system to a top-two primary system in which voters now cast primary election ballots for any candidate—regardless of party—and the two candidates receiving the most votes—regardless of party—advance to the general election. Overall, do you feel that passing Proposition 14 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?

- 60% mostly a good thing
- 26 mostly a bad thing
- 3 mixed (*volunteered*)
- 10 don't know

35. [likely voters only] SB 450 was signed into law in 2016 and establishes a new election model. Under the new election model, which will be phased in beginning in 2018, registered voters would automatically be sent a ballot 28 days before the election. Voters could return their ballot by mail, take it to a drop-off location, or cast it in-person at any vote center in their county. Overall, do you feel that passing SB 450 will be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?

- 74% mostly a good thing
- 20 mostly a bad thing
- 1 mixed (*volunteered*)
- 5 don't know

36. Would you consider yourself to be politically:

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 14% very liberal
- 22 somewhat liberal
- 30 middle-of-the-road
- 21 somewhat conservative
- 10 very conservative
- 3 don't know

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

- 22% great deal
- 35 fair amount
- 29 only a little
- 12 none
- 1 don't know

[d1-d16 demographic questions]

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