



Californians & Their Government

Mark Baldassare Dean Bonner David Kordus Lunna Lopes

CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Press Release | 3 |
| Federal Issues | 6 |
| State Issues | 13 |
| Regional Map | 20 |
| Methodology | 21 |
| Questionnaire and Results | 23 |

Supported with funding from the James Irvine Foundation, the California Endowment, and the PPIC Donor Circle.



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.

© 2017 Public Policy Institute of California

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

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

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

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

CONTACT

Linda Strean 415-291-4412
Serina Correa 415-291-4417

News Release

EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PDT on Wednesday, September 27, 2017.

Para ver este comunicado de prensa en español, por favor visite nuestra página de internet:
www.ppic.org/main/pressreleaseindex.asp

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Most Want to Improve, Not Repeal, the Affordable Care Act

CALIFORNIANS SUPPORT ACA, LACK CONSENSUS ON SINGLE-PAYER SYSTEM

SAN FRANCISCO, September 27, 2017—As congressional Republicans discuss repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA), most Californians say they should instead work with Democrats to improve the law. This is among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

Majorities of Californians (58% adults, 58% likely voters) say Republicans in Congress should work with Democrats to make the 2010 health care law better. Far fewer say Republicans should continue working on their own plan (18% adults, 20% likely voters) or move on from health care to other priorities (22% adults, 21% likely voters). Across parties, solid majorities of Democrats (69%) and independents (60%) say Republicans should work to improve the ACA. Republicans are divided (45% continue working to repeal and replace the law, 41% work with Democrats to improve it).

Solid majorities of state residents (67% adults, 62% likely voters) also say it is the federal government's responsibility to make sure that all Americans have health care coverage. Majorities across all regions and demographic groups express this view, but there is a stark split across parties: 83 percent of Democrats and 67 percent of independents agree, while 70 percent of Republicans say ensuring health care coverage is not the responsibility of the federal government. However, support for the idea of a single, government-run, national health insurance system falls short—just 35 percent of adults say there should be a single-payer system run by the government and 29 percent favor a mix of private insurance companies and government programs. Likely voters' views are similar.

The congressional debate on health care is taking place as support for the ACA has reached its highest point since PPIC began asking a similar question in December 2013. Today, 58 percent of adults and likely voters alike hold a generally favorable opinion of the law. Majorities of Democrats (79%) and independents (62%) have a favorable opinion, while most Republicans (75%) view it unfavorably. In a September Kaiser Family Foundation survey, fewer adults nationwide (46%) view the law favorably.

Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO, summed up the findings: "While Republicans in Congress debate proposals to repeal and replace Obamacare, the majority of Californians have a favorable view of the current health care law and want Republicans and Democrats to work together to make improvements. Most believe it is government's role to provide health care coverage for all, but there is no consensus about switching to a single-payer system."

Large Majorities Favor DACA Protections

Following President Trump's announcement ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, three-quarters of California adults (78%) and likely voters (77%) favor the protections given by DACA, which shields some undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children from

deportation and allows them to get a work permit if they pass a background check. Solid majorities across parties (90% Democrats, 77% independents, 61% Republicans) favor the protections given by DACA, as do strong majorities across age, education, income, racial/ethnic, and regional groups.

As the president continues to focus on immigration, 76 percent of California adults say immigrants are a benefit to the state because of their hard work and job skills—a high mark in PPIC surveys. Just 20 percent say immigrants are a burden to the state because they use public services. Democrats (86%) and independents (75%) are far more likely than Republicans (43%) to see immigrants as a benefit. Large majorities of Californians (73% adults, 68% likely voters) oppose building a wall along the entire border with Mexico, as the president has proposed.

“Californians are rallying around immigrant issues in response to recent federal immigration policy changes,” Baldassare said. “Record-high numbers of residents view immigrants as a benefit to the state, and they express bipartisan support for DACA protections and strong opposition to building a wall along the Mexico border.”

Uneasiness about Trump’s Approach to North Korea

Amid a war of words between President Trump and North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-un, half of California adults (49%) say they are very concerned about the possibility of North Korea having a nuclear missile that could reach California. Another 28 percent are somewhat concerned. Notably, views across parties are similar: 50 percent of Democrats, 48 percent of independents, and 46 percent of Republicans are very concerned. When Californians are asked whether they have confidence in Trump’s ability to handle the situation with North Korea’s nuclear program, 67 percent of adults and 65 percent of likely voters say they are uneasy about his approach. Just 29 percent of adults and 32 percent of likely voters say they have confidence in the president’s approach.

Most Say Russians Tried to Meddle in Election, See It as Serious Issue

Asked to describe their views on possible interference in the 2016 election, two-thirds of California adults say it is a serious issue. This includes 37 percent who say it is a critical issue of national security that needs top priority and 28 percent who say it is serious but not as serious as other issues. About a third (31%) say it is a political distraction that should be put aside. Responses are similar among likely voters. Most adults (60%) say the Russian government tried to influence the outcome of the election, including 47 percent who say the Trump campaign intentionally helped Russian efforts and 10 percent who say the Trump campaign did not intentionally help. Responses are similar among likely voters.

Low Ratings for Trump, Less than Half Say Feinstein Should Run Again

Trump’s job approval rating (27% adults, 31% likely voters) is similar to what it has been since he took office. Today, 70 percent of Republicans approve of the way he is doing his job, while an overwhelming majority of Democrats (91%) disapprove. Independents are far more likely to disapprove (69%) than approve (27%). Approval ratings for Congress are also low (24% adults, 18% likely voters). However, in contrast to Trump, Congress gets a poor rating across parties: only 18 percent of Democrats, 22 percent of independents, and 24 percent of Republicans approve.

California’s two senators fare much better. Eight months after beginning her first term, Senator Kamala Harris has a job approval rating of 42 percent among adults and 47 percent among likely voters. Roughly a quarter (27% adults, 23% likely voters) remain unsure about how to rate her. Half of adults (48%) and a slight majority of likely voters (54%) approve of Senator Dianne Feinstein’s job performance. As Feinstein considers whether or not to run for a sixth term, 41 percent of adults say she should and 46 percent say she should not. Among likely voters, 43 percent say she should seek another term and half (50%) say she should not. Most Democrats (57%) say she should run again, while most independents (55%) and Republicans (69%) say she should not.

Californians Approve of Brown But Signal They Want Change

Most Californians (55% adults, 55% likely voters) approve of the way Governor Jerry Brown is handling his job. His approval rating is 72 percent among Democrats, 49 percent among independents, and 21 percent among Republicans. With Brown's approval ratings high and his term nearing an end, are Californians looking for continuity or change in their next governor? Nearly half (47% adults, 49% likely voters) would rather see the next governor mostly change Brown's policies, while fewer (39% adults, 43% likely voters) want his policies to generally continue. Most Democrats (58%) favor continuity, while a majority of independents (55%) and an overwhelming majority of Republicans (81%) favor change.

"Californians give positive ratings to the state of the state and their state's elected leaders today, yet the early signals point to 'change' as a major theme in 2018," Baldassare said. "Many likely voters say they are looking for a different type of leadership in next year's gubernatorial and US senate election."

At the end of the 2017–18 legislative session, half of adults (49%) and 44 percent of likely voters approve of the way the state legislature is handling its job. Across parties, 61 percent of Democrats, 44 percent of independents, and 18 percent of Republicans approve.

Dim View of Race Relations

Amid an intensifying national debate, the PPIC survey asks about race relations in the United States. Half of adults (49%) say things are worse compared to a year ago, 35 percent say things are about the same, and 14 percent say things are better. Among racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (58%) are the most likely to say things are worse. Californians are less pessimistic when it comes to race relations in the state (31% worse, 50% the same, 18% better).

Asked the most important issue facing people in the state, Californians name jobs and the economy (20% adults, 18% likely voters), immigration (13% adults, 16% likely voters), and housing and homelessness (12% adults, 14% likely voters). Fewer than one in ten name any other single issue.

Support for Proposed Real Estate Fee Falls Short of Majority

When residents are asked whether the cost of their housing is making them seriously consider moving away from the part of California where they live, 44 percent of adults and 41 percent of likely voters say that it is. Residents are divided about SB 2, a bill that would raise transaction fees to pay for affordable housing projects in California. When read a brief description of the bill—which the legislature passed and is on the governor's desk—less than half of adults (46%) and likely voters (44%) favor it. A more popular idea to address concerns about cost and supply is building more housing. Most (64% adults, 59% likely voters) favor more housing in their cities or communities. Solid majorities in the Central Valley (72%), the San Francisco Bay Area (70%), Los Angeles (63%), and Orange/San Diego (60%), and about half in the Inland Empire (48%) favor more local housing.

More Key Findings

- **Californians hopeful about bridging the political divide**—page 17

Most (56%) are optimistic that Americans with different views can work out their differences.

- **Residents concerned about the elections system in California**—page 18

Less than half (40%) have a great deal or a lot of confidence in the way votes are cast and counted.

- **Political engagement a dividend of Trump election**—page 19

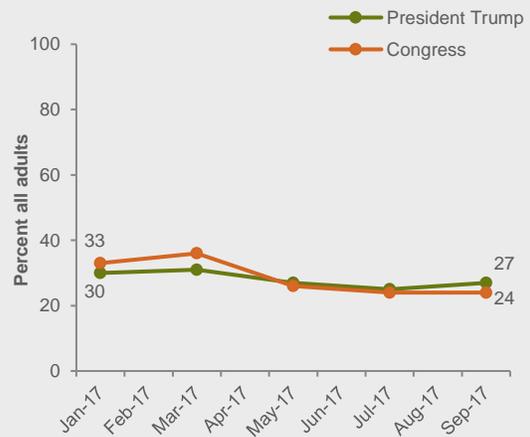
Half of state residents (51%) are paying more attention to politics since Trump's election (30% paying the same amount of attention as before, 17% paying less attention).

Federal Issues

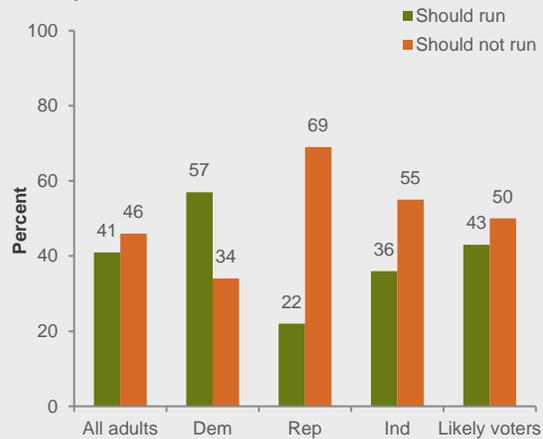
Key Findings

- Twenty-seven percent of Californians approve of President Trump’s job performance, while seven in ten disapprove. One in four approve of Congress. *(page 7)*
- Forty-eight percent approve of Senator Dianne Feinstein’s job performance and 42 percent approve of Senator Kamala Harris. Californians are divided on whether or not Senator Feinstein should run for reelection next year. *(page 8)*
- A majority of Californians have a favorable opinion of the Affordable Care Act. About six in ten adults say Republicans in Congress should work with Democrats to improve the ACA. Two in three Californians think it is the responsibility of government to provide health care coverage for all Americans. *(page 9)*
- A record high of 76 percent view immigrants as a benefit to the state; one in four favor building a wall along the Mexico border. Three in four favor the protections given by DACA. *(page 10)*
- Two in three Californians—with partisans sharply divided—are uneasy about President Trump’s handling of North Korea. About half of residents are very concerned about the possibility of North Korea having a nuclear missile that could reach California. *(page 11)*
- Thirty-seven percent of Californians say possible Russian interference in the 2016 election is a critical issue. Most (60%) think the Russian government tried to influence the outcome of the presidential election—and 47 percent of adults think some members of Donald Trump’s presidential campaign intentionally helped Russian efforts. *(page 12)*

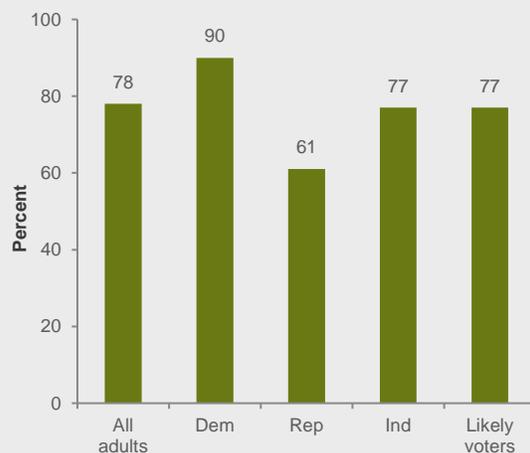
Approval ratings of federal elected officials



Should Senator Dianne Feinstein run for reelection next year?



Support for protections provided by DACA



Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

President Trump’s approval ratings (27% adults, 31% likely voters) remain relatively unchanged from July (25% adults, 34% likely voters) and January (30% adults, 34% likely voters). Today, 70 percent of Republicans approve of President Trump, while an overwhelming majority of Democrats (91%) disapprove. Independents are far more likely to disapprove (69%) than to approve (27%). Regionally, approval is lowest in Los Angeles (17%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (20%) and highest in the Inland Empire (40%). Across racial/ethnic groups, whites (41%) are far more likely than Asian Americans (21%), African Americans (19%), and Latinos (13%) to approve. A recent Gallup weekly tracking poll found that 38 percent of adults nationwide approve of President Trump.

“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 | | 27% | 69% | 4% |
| Likely voters | | 31 | 66 | 3 |
| Party | Democrats | 8 | 91 | 1 |
| | Republicans | 70 | 26 | 4 |
| | Independents | 27 | 69 | 4 |
| Region | Central Valley | 35 | 62 | 3 |
| | Inland Empire | 40 | 57 | 2 |
| | Los Angeles | 17 | 78 | 5 |
| | Orange/San Diego | 34 | 63 | 3 |
| | San Francisco Bay Area | 20 | 76 | 4 |

A quarter of Californians (24%) and 18 percent of likely voters approve of the way the US Congress is handling its job. Approval of the US Congress was similarly low in July (24% adults, 17% likely voters) and last September (29% adults, 16% likely voters). Across parties, fewer than one in four approve. Whites (19%) are less likely than other racial/ethnic groups to approve of Congress (28% Latinos, 29% Asian Americans, 35% African Americans). Less than a third of Californians across all regions approve of Congress. Approval for Congress declines as income and education levels rise. In a recent Gallup poll, a somewhat lower share of adults nationwide approve of Congress (16% 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 | | 24% | 70% | 6% |
| Likely voters | | 18 | 79 | 3 |
| Party | Democrats | 18 | 76 | 6 |
| | Republicans | 24 | 75 | 2 |
| | Independents | 22 | 73 | 5 |
| Region | Central Valley | 28 | 66 | 6 |
| | Inland Empire | 32 | 65 | 4 |
| | Los Angeles | 21 | 72 | 7 |
| | Orange/San Diego | 26 | 71 | 3 |
| | San Francisco Bay Area | 22 | 69 | 9 |

Approval Ratings of California’s US Senators

Eight months after beginning her first term as California’s junior senator, Kamala Harris has the approval of 42 percent of adults and 47 percent of likely voters. About a quarter of adults and likely voters remain unsure of how to rate Senator Harris. In March, a similar 46 percent of adults and 49 percent of likely voters approved. Today, Democrats (59%) are much more likely to approve than are independents (41%) or Republicans (23%). Less than half of Californians across all regions approve of the way Senator Harris is handling her job. Across racial/ethnic groups, approval is highest among African Americans (58%) and lowest among Latinos (37%), 42% whites, 50% Asian Americans).

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Kamala Harris is handling her job as US Senator?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Approve | 42% | 59% | 23% | 41% | 47% |
| Disapprove | 31 | 17 | 48 | 34 | 30 |
| Don't know | 27 | 24 | 29 | 25 | 23 |

About half of Californians (48%) and a slight majority of likely voters (54%) approve of the way Senator Dianne Feinstein is handling her job. Senator Feinstein’s approval rating was similar in March (49% adults, 51% likely voters) but was slightly higher in January 2016 (56% adults, 56% likely voters). Today, a majority of Democrats (71%) approve of her job performance, compared to 49 percent of independents and 26 percent of Republicans. Residents in the Inland Empire (56%), San Francisco Bay Area (55%), and Los Angeles (50%) are the most likely to approve of Senator Feinstein, followed by those in the Central Valley (44%) and Orange/San Diego (41%). Across racial/ethnic groups, Senator Feinstein’s approval rating is highest among African Americans (72%) and lowest among Latinos (44%), 47% whites, 55% Asian Americans).

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as US Senator?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Approve | 48% | 71% | 26% | 49% | 54% |
| Disapprove | 36 | 18 | 64 | 40 | 38 |
| Don't know | 15 | 11 | 9 | 11 | 7 |

As Senator Feinstein considers whether or not to run for a sixth term, 41 percent think she should run for reelection next year while 46 percent think she should not. Among likely voters, 43 percent support another run, while 50 percent do not. There are notable partisan differences—a majority of Democrats (57%) think Senator Feinstein should run for reelection, compared to majorities of independents (55%) and Republicans (69%) who think she should not. Among those who approve of Senator Feinstein, 73 percent support another run while 22 percent do not.

Health Care Policy

Amid uncertainty about the future of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), 58 percent of Californians hold a generally favorable opinion of it (37% unfavorable). Today’s finding marks the law’s highest favorability rating since PPIC began asking a similar question in December 2013. Among likely voters, 58 percent view the law favorably (38% unfavorable). Across parties, majorities of Democrats (79%) and independents (62%) have a favorable opinion of the 2010 health reform law, while a strong majority of

Republicans (75%) view it unfavorably. Notably, majorities across all regions and all demographic groups have a favorable impression of the ACA. In a September Kaiser Family Foundation survey, adults nationwide are less favorable toward the health reform law (46% favorable, 44% unfavorable) than Californians in our survey.

Congressional Republicans are continuing to work on a plan to repeal and replace the ACA. Only 18 percent of Californians and 20 percent of likely voters think Republicans should continue these efforts. A majority of Californians (58% adults, 58% likely voters) think Republicans should work with Democrats to improve the ACA, while one in five think they should move on to other priorities. Solid majorities of Democrats and independents think congressional Republicans and Democrats should work together on the ACA. Republicans are more divided—45 percent think congressional Republicans should work to repeal and replace the ACA, while 41 percent think they should work with Democrats to improve it. Notably, across all demographic groups, fewer than three in ten Californians think Republicans in Congress should continue working on a plan to repeal and replace the ACA.

“Which of the following comes closer to your view: Republicans in Congress should continue working on their own plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act; Republicans in Congress should work with Democrats to make improvements; or Republicans in Congress should move on from health care?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-------------------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Should continue working on own plan | 18% | 5% | 45% | 16% | 20% |
| Should work with Democrats | 58 | 69 | 41 | 60 | 58 |
| Should move on from health care | 22 | 25 | 13 | 24 | 21 |
| Don't know | 2 | 2 | 1 | – | 1 |

A solid majority of Californians (67%) and likely voters (62%) say that it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage. Majorities across all regions and demographic groups agree. Strong majorities of Democrats and independents say health care coverage is a federal responsibility, while 70 percent of Republicans say it is not. Senator Bernie Sanders recently introduced a bill that calls for providing single-payer universal health insurance through an expansion of Medicare. While most Californians think government should ensure coverage for all, support is divided between having a single national health insurance system run by the government (35% adults, 32% likely voters) and continuing with a mix of private insurance companies and government programs (29% adults, 28% likely voters).

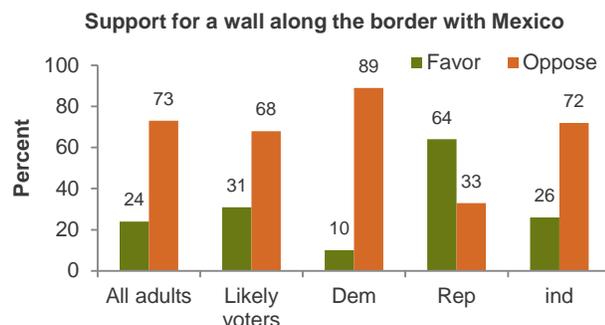
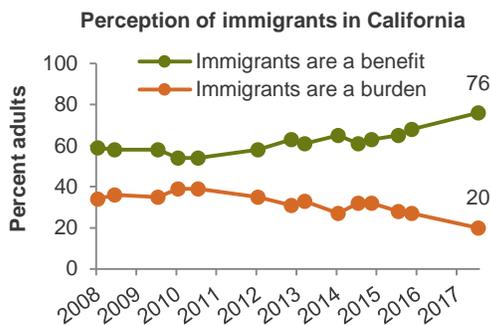
“Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage or is that not the responsibility of the federal government? (If a responsibility: Should health insurance be provided through a single national health insurance system run by the government or continue to be provided through a mix of private insurance companies and government programs?)”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Responsibility of government | 67% | 83% | 27% | 67% | 62% |
| <i>Single payer</i> | 35 | 44 | 6 | 34 | 32 |
| <i>Mix of private and government</i> | 29 | 36 | 21 | 31 | 28 |
| <i>Don't know</i> | 3 | 3 | – | 2 | 2 |
| Not responsibility of government | 31 | 16 | 70 | 32 | 37 |
| Don't know | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

Immigration Policy

Throughout his campaign and the first eight months of his presidency, Donald Trump has focused on immigrants, calling for increased enforcement of immigration laws and stricter controls over who enters the country. Today, three in four Californians (76%) say that immigrants are a benefit to the state because of their hard work and job skills. This is a high mark in PPIC surveys and up somewhat from January 2016 (68%). In our current survey, one in five say that immigrants are a burden to the state because they use public services. Democrats (86%) and independents (75%) are far more likely than Republicans (43%) to say immigrants are a benefit. At least six in ten across racial/ethnic and age groups say immigrants are a benefit, with overwhelming majorities of Latinos (88%), Asian Americans (87%), and adults under 35 (87%) expressing this view.

Seventy-three percent of adults and 68 percent of likely voters oppose building a wall along the entire border with Mexico, as the president has proposed. A quarter of adults (24%) are in favor. Support for a border wall has been similar since we began asking last year. Across parties, nine in ten Democrats (89%) and seven in ten independents (72%) are opposed, while nearly two in three Republicans (64%) are in favor. Solid majorities across age, income, racial/ethnic, and regional groups are opposed.



Earlier this month, the Trump administration announced an end to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), which includes protections for some undocumented immigrants who were brought to the US as children. Those who qualify and pass a background check can receive protection from deportation and a work permit. Three in four adults (78%) and likely voters (77%) favor the protections given by DACA. That includes solid majorities across parties (90% Democrats, 77% independents, 61% Republicans) and at least seven in ten across age, education, income, racial/ethnic, and regional groups.

“Thinking about undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children, do you favor or oppose the protections given by ‘DACA’—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—which includes protection from deportation and a work permit, if they pass a background check?”

| | Favor | Oppose | Don't know | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------|------------|---|
| All adults | 78% | 19% | 3% | |
| Likely voters | 77 | 21 | 2 | |
| Party | Democrats | 90 | 1 | |
| | Republicans | 61 | 36 | 3 |
| | Independents | 77 | 20 | 3 |
| Race/ethnicity | African Americans | 81 | 19 | — |
| | Asian Americans | 79 | 18 | 3 |
| | Latinos | 87 | 12 | 1 |
| | Whites | 71 | 24 | 5 |

North Korea

Recently, North Korea executed a series of missile tests and detonated its sixth nuclear weapon, and President Trump has threatened North Korea with a devastating military response. We find that two in three California adults (67%) and likely voters (65%) are uneasy about how the president is handling the situation with North Korea’s nuclear program. Responses were similar in May (68% adults, 64% likely voters). Partisans are sharply divided on this question, with 87 percent of Democrats and 67 percent of independents uneasy, and 68 percent of Republicans saying they have confidence in how the president is handling this issue. At least six in ten across age, education, and income groups are uneasy. Among those who approve of President Trump’s job performance, 79 percent have confidence in him regarding North Korea; among those who disapprove, 89 percent are uneasy. In an August CBS News poll, adults nationwide (38%) were somewhat more likely than Californians in our survey (29%) to express confidence in the president on this issue.

“In general, do you have confidence in Donald Trump’s ability to handle the situation with North Korea’s nuclear program, or are you uneasy about his approach?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Have confidence | 29% | 11% | 68% | 29% | 32% |
| Uneasy about his approach | 67 | 87 | 28 | 67 | 65 |
| Don’t know | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 |

Earlier this year, North Korea tested its first intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of reaching the mainland United States. When asked about the possibility of North Korea having a nuclear missile that could reach California, half of Californians (49%) say they are very concerned about this prospect. Another 28 percent are somewhat concerned. Notably, there are similar levels of concern across parties, with pluralities of Democrats, Republicans, and independents saying they are very concerned. Levels of concern are also similar across regions. The likelihood of being very concerned increases as education and income levels decrease (41% college graduate, 49% some college, 55% no college; 38% \$80,000 and above, 48% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 58% below \$40,000). Those who are uneasy about President Trump’s approach to North Korea and those who disapprove of his job performance are more likely than others to be very concerned (54% among those uneasy, 40% among those confident; 52% among those disapproving, 42% among those approving).

“How concerned are you about the possibility of North Korea having a nuclear missile that could reach California—are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|----------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Very concerned | 49% | 50% | 46% | 48% | 49% |
| Somewhat concerned | 28 | 30 | 29 | 25 | 30 |
| Not too concerned | 13 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 14 |
| Not at all concerned | 10 | 6 | 11 | 11 | 7 |
| Don’t know | 1 | 1 | – | – | – |

US Election and Russia

As investigations of Russian interference in the 2016 election continue to make headlines, two in three Californians say possible interference is a serious issue. That includes 37 percent who say it is a critical issue of national security that needs top priority and 28 percent who say it is serious, but not as serious as other issues. About three in ten (31%) say it is just a political distraction that should be put aside. Responses are similar among likely voters. They were also similar among adults nationwide in an August CBS News poll (35% critical, 26% not as serious as other issues, 36% distraction). Across parties in California today, half of Democrats say Russian interference is a critical issue, while two in three Republicans (68%) say it is just a political distraction. Independents are about evenly divided between these two responses. Pluralities in Los Angeles (43%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (38%) say it is critical, while a plurality in Orange/San Diego (39%) call it a distraction.

“Which best describes your view of possible Russian interference in the 2016 election? Do you feel it is: just a political distraction that should be put aside; serious, but not as serious as other issues; or is it a critical issue of national security that needs top priority?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Political distraction | 31% | 15% | 68% | 33% | 34% |
| Serious, but not as serious as other issues | 28 | 32 | 22 | 29 | 27 |
| Critical issue of national security | 37 | 50 | 9 | 36 | 38 |
| Don't know | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 |

Six in ten Californians think the Russian government tried to influence the outcome of last year’s election, including 47 percent who think members of Donald Trump’s presidential campaign intentionally helped Russian efforts. Responses are similar among likely voters, and they were similar among adults and likely voters when we last asked this question in May. The differences across parties are stark: today, 70 percent of Democrats think the Trump campaign intentionally helped Russian interference, while 65 percent of Republicans think Russia made no effort to interfere. Across age, education, and income groups, the most common response is that the Trump campaign helped Russia. Among those who say the Trump campaign helped, 58 percent say this is a critical issue, 32 percent say it is serious but not as serious as other issues, and 9 percent call it a political distraction.

“Given what you’ve heard or read, do you think the Russian government tried to influence the outcome of last fall’s US presidential election, or not? (If yes: Do you think some members of Donald Trump’s presidential campaign intentionally helped Russian efforts to influence the election, or not?)”

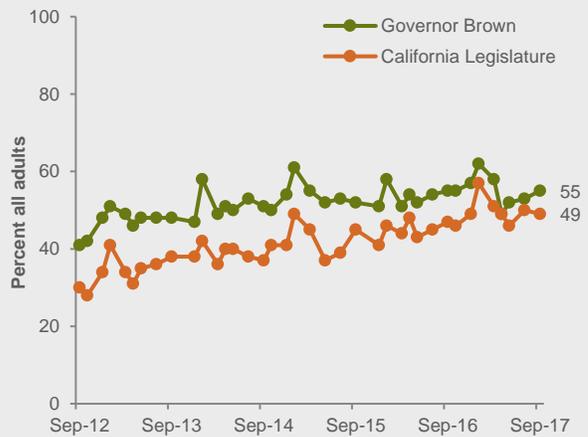
| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|---|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Yes | 60% | 79% | 32% | 58% | 65% |
| <i>Yes, and Trump campaign intentionally helped</i> | 47 | 70 | 15 | 44 | 50 |
| <i>Yes, and Trump campaign did not intentionally help</i> | 10 | 7 | 15 | 10 | 12 |
| <i>Yes, don't know if Trump campaign intentionally helped</i> | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| No | 33 | 16 | 65 | 37 | 31 |
| Don't know | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 4 |

State Issues

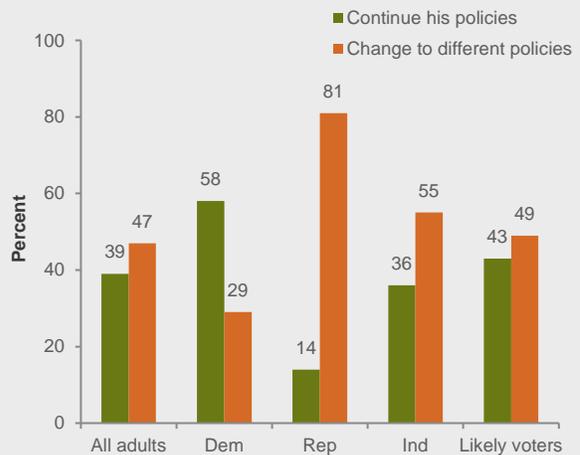
Key Findings

- Fifty-five percent of Californians approve of Governor Brown’s job performance. Half (49%) approve of the state legislature. When asked if the next governor should continue Brown’s policies, nearly half of Californians and likely voters want a change. *(page 14)*
- Jobs and the economy, immigration, and housing and homelessness top the list as the most important issues facing the state. Over half of Californians say the state is heading in the right direction and half expect good economic times in the next year. *(page 15)*
- Forty-four percent of Californians say housing costs make them seriously consider moving away from their part of the state. Fewer than half of Californians support a real estate transaction fee to pay for affordable housing projects. About two in three favor building more local housing. *(page 16)*
- Most are optimistic that Americans of different political views can come together and work out their differences. Half of Californians perceive race relations as having gotten worse in America over the last year; fewer say this about race relations in the state. *(page 17)*
- Four in ten Californians have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the system in which votes are cast and counted in California. Fifty-two percent of adults are concerned that it is too easy for ineligible people to vote in California elections, compared with 44 percent who are concerned that it is too hard for eligible people to vote. *(page 18)*
- Half of Californians say they are paying more attention to politics since Donald Trump’s election and a third say they have more interest in town hall meetings held by representatives. Sixteen percent say they have attended a rally or protest since the November election. *(page 19)*

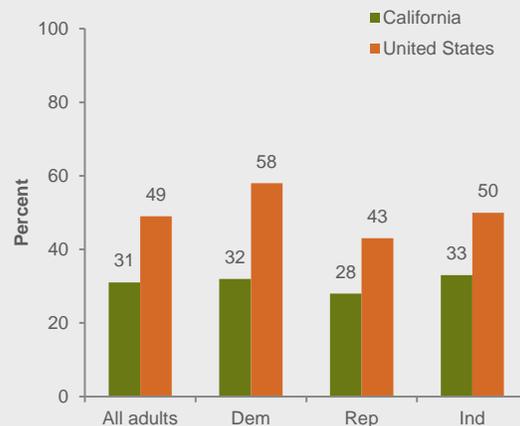
Approval ratings of state elected officials



Should next governor continue Jerry Brown's policies?



Belief that race relations in _____ are worse than they were a year ago



Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

Majorities of Californians (55% adults, 55% likely voters) approve of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as California governor. The governor’s approval rating was similar in July (53% adults, 52% likely voters) and last September (55% adults, 55% likely voters). Today, the governor’s approval rating is 72 percent among Democrats, 49 percent among independents, and 21 percent among Republicans. Approval is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (62%) and lowest in Orange/San Diego (47%, 57% Los Angeles, 52% Central Valley, 52% Inland Empire). Asian Americans (64%), African Americans (59%), and Latinos (57%) are somewhat more likely than whites (49%) to approve. Majorities across age, gender, and income groups approve of the governor.

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

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Approve | 55% | 72% | 21% | 49% | 55% |
| Disapprove | 31 | 17 | 71 | 33 | 37 |
| Don't know | 15 | 11 | 8 | 18 | 8 |

At the end of a busy first year in the 2017–2018 legislative session, 49 percent of adults and 44 percent of likely voters approve of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job. Approval of the legislature was similar in July (50% adults, 45% likely voters) and last September (47% adults, 42% likely voters). Today, 61 percent of Democrats say that they approve, compared to 44 percent of independents and 18 percent of Republicans. Majorities in Los Angeles (54%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (51%) express approval, compared to fewer than half in other regions (47% Central Valley, 47% Inland Empire, 45% Orange/San Diego). Majorities of Asian Americans (63%) and Latinos (54%) approve, while fewer than half of African Americans (44%) and whites (42%) express approval. Approval of the legislature is higher among younger adults (57% 18 to 34; 46% 35 to 54; 45% 55 and older).

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

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Approve | 49% | 61% | 18% | 44% | 44% |
| Disapprove | 39 | 27 | 76 | 43 | 47 |
| Don't know | 12 | 12 | 5 | 11 | 9 |

Jerry Brown has had positive job approval ratings during his fourth term. Given he is unable to run for reelection in 2018, are Californians looking for continuity or change in their next governor? About four in ten Californians want the next California governor to generally continue Jerry Brown’s policies (39% adults, 43% likely voters), while nearly half prefer to mostly change to different policies (47% adults, 49% likely voters). A majority of Democrats are in favor of continuity (58%), while a majority of independents (55%) and an overwhelming majority of Republicans (81%) are in favor of change. About four in ten in the San Francisco Bay Area (43%) and Los Angeles (40%) prefer continuity, while half or more in the Inland Empire (58%), Central Valley (54%), and Orange/San Diego (50%) prefer change. Across racial/ethnic groups, about four in ten prefer to continue Jerry Brown’s policies (40% Asian Americans, 40% whites 37%, African Americans, 37% Latinos). The likelihood of wanting to continue Jerry Brown’s policies increases with income (45% \$80,000 or more) and educational attainment (47% college graduates).

Overall Mood

Californians are most likely to name jobs and the economy (20% adults, 18% likely voters), immigration (13% adults, 16% likely voters), and housing and homelessness (12% adults, 14% likely voters) as the most important issues facing people in California today; fewer than one in ten name any single other issue. In March, jobs and the economy (20% adults, 19% likely voters) and immigration (16% adults, 15% likely voters) were the top two issues. Today, jobs and the economy receive a similar proportion of mentions across the state’s regions, while housing and homelessness is mentioned most often in the San Francisco Bay Area and least often in the Central Valley. Notably, immigration is mentioned more often in Los Angeles and Orange/San Diego than in other regions; 17 percent of Latinos and 19 percent of Republicans say it is the most important issue today.

“First, thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?”

| Top 3 issues | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
|---|------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| | | Central Valley | Inland Empire | Los Angeles | Orange/San Diego | San Francisco Bay Area | |
| Jobs, economy | 20% | 18% | 22% | 20% | 20% | 21% | 18% |
| Immigration, illegal immigration | 13 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 17 | 12 | 16 |
| Housing costs, housing availability, homelessness | 12 | 5 | 9 | 13 | 13 | 17 | 14 |

Fifty-four percent of adults and 51 percent of likely voters say that things in California are generally going in the right direction. The view that the state is headed in the right direction was similar in March (55% adults, 53% likely voters) and last September (52% adults, 45% likely voters). Today, Democrats (69%) are far more likely than independents (48%) and Republicans (23%) to say that things are going in the right direction. Residents in Los Angeles (60%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (59%) are more likely than those living in other regions (50% Inland Empire, 47% Orange/San Diego, 46% Central Valley) to say that things are going in the right direction. Across racial/ethnic groups, Asian Americans (72%) are more likely than others (57% Latinos, 49% African Americans, 47% whites) to say things are going in the right direction.

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

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-----------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Right direction | 54% | 69% | 23% | 48% | 51% |
| Wrong direction | 42 | 25 | 74 | 45 | 45 |
| Don't know | 5 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 |

Half of Californians (51% adults, 51% likely voters) say that the state will have good times financially in the next 12 months. Expectations for good times were similar in March (51% adults, 50% likely voters) and last September (48% adults, 47% likely voters). Today, a majority of Democrats (56%) expect good times, compared with about half of independents (48%) and 40 percent of Republicans. Majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (57%) and Central Valley (52%) but fewer of those living in other regions (49% Inland Empire, 48% Los Angeles, 47% Orange/San Diego) expect good times financially. Majorities of Asian Americans (57%) and whites (52%) expect good times (49% Latinos, 45% African Americans). Across socioeconomic groups, college graduates (59%) and those earning \$80,000 or more (64%) are the most likely to expect good times.

Housing Affordability

About four in ten Californians (44% adults, 41% likely voters) say the cost of their housing is making them seriously consider moving away from the part of California they live in now. Across the state’s regions, residents of the Central Valley are the least likely to say this. Younger adults are far more likely than older adults (54% under 35, 49% 35 to 54, 30% 55 and older) and renters are far more likely than homeowners (56% to 33%) to say they seriously consider moving. Most who seriously consider moving say they would leave the state rather than relocate in California.

Californians are divided when asked about a legislative bill that would raise transaction fees to pay for affordable housing projects in the state. When read a brief description of SB2, which passed the legislature and is currently under consideration by the governor, support falls short of a majority among adults (46% favor, 47% oppose) and likely voters (44% favor, 51% oppose). Most Democrats (61%) are in favor, while most independents (53%) and Republicans (80%) are opposed. Across the regions, majority support is evident only in the San Francisco Bay Area (52%). Support falls short of 50 percent across age and income groups. Renters (52%) are more likely than homeowners (39%) to favor the real estate transaction fee to pay for affordable housing projects.

“The California Legislature is considering legislation to impose a \$75 fee on real estate documents such as deeds and notices, with a cap of \$225 per transaction. It’s expected to generate between \$200 million and \$300 million annually for affordable housing projects. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Favor | 46% | 61% | 19% | 43% | 44% |
| Oppose | 47 | 33 | 80 | 53 | 51 |
| Don't Know | 7 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 5 |

Are Californians willing to set aside “NIMBY” (i.e., not in my back yard) attitudes about development to address their concerns about housing supply and costs? About six in ten California adults (64%) and likely voters (59%) favor building more housing in their city or community to meet the current need in their part of the state. Majorities across age, education, homeownership, income, and racial/ethnic groups say they favor building more local housing. Support is particularly high among Latinos (77%), households with children (74%), renters (73%), and those earning under \$40,000 annually (71%). Solid majorities in the Central Valley (72%), San Francisco Bay Area (70%), Los Angeles (63%), and Orange/San Diego (60%)—and about half in the Inland Empire (48%)—favor building more local housing.

“Do you favor or oppose building more housing in your city or community to meet the current need in your part of California?”

| | All adults | Age | | | Homeownership | | Likely voters |
|---|------------|----------|----------|--------------|---------------|------|---------------|
| | | 18 to 34 | 35 to 54 | 55 and older | Own | Rent | |
| Favor | 64% | 66% | 68% | 58% | 55% | 73% | 59% |
| Oppose | 32 | 30 | 30 | 35 | 40 | 24 | 37 |
| Already have adequate housing to meet current need (<i>volunteered</i>) | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | – | 2 |
| Don't know | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 |

Political and Racial Divisions

Despite what appears to be a rancorous political divide in America, most Californians (56%) are optimistic that Americans of different political views can still come together and work out their differences; four in ten are pessimistic. Optimism spans political parties, with a majority of Democrats (58%), independents (55%), and Republicans (52%) optimistic. Across regions, optimism is highest in the Inland Empire (66%) and lowest in Orange/San Diego (52%). Optimism is highest among African Americans (71%), followed by Asian Americans (62%), Latinos (58%), and whites (51%). Attitudes among Californians are similar to those of adults nationwide (55% optimistic) in a June CBS News poll.

“These days, do you feel optimistic that Americans of different political views can still come together and work out their differences, or are you pessimistic that Americans can do that now?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Race/Ethnicity | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|-------------------|-----------------|---------|--------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | African Americans | Asian Americans | Latinos | Whites |
| Optimistic | 56% | 58% | 52% | 55% | 71% | 62% | 58% | 51% |
| Pessimistic | 40 | 39 | 47 | 44 | 26 | 34 | 38 | 46 |
| Don't know | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 |

When asked to think about California, 64 percent are optimistic that people in the state with different political views can come together and work out their differences. Partisans are divided: 77 percent of Democrats are optimistic compared to just 39 percent of Republicans. Interesting differences emerge across regions: residents of most regions, except for the Inland Empire (59% state, 66% nation), feel more optimistic about the state than the nation. Across racial/ethnic groups, optimism is highest among African Americans (77%), followed by Asian Americans (69%), Latinos (68%), and whites (56%).

“Now thinking about California, are you optimistic or pessimistic that people in the state with different political views can come together and work out their differences?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Race/Ethnicity | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|-------------------|-----------------|---------|--------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | African Americans | Asian Americans | Latinos | Whites |
| Optimistic | 64% | 77% | 39% | 59% | 77% | 69% | 68% | 56% |
| Pessimistic | 33 | 20 | 59 | 38 | 20 | 28 | 27 | 40 |
| Don't know | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

When asked about race relations in the United States today compared to a year ago, 49 percent of Californians say things are worse, 35 percent say they are about the same, and 14 percent say they are better. At least half of Democrats (58%) and independents (50%) say things are worse, while Republicans are divided between things being worse (43%) and about the same (42%). A plurality across racial/ethnic groups say things are worse, with Latinos (58%) the most likely to hold this view (48% African Americans, 45% whites, 44% Asian Americans). Fifty-two percent of adults nationwide think race relations have gotten worse according to an August NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist poll.

Californians are not as pessimistic when it comes to race relations in the state: 31 percent of Californians say things are worse than a year ago, 50 percent say things are about the same, and 18 percent say things are better. About half of Republicans (54%), Democrats (53%), and independents (48%) say race relations are about the same in the state, while about three in ten say they are worse. Across racial/ethnic groups, fewer than four in ten say race relations are worse (39% Latinos, 37% African Americans, 26% Asian Americans, 26% whites). Whites (57%) are the most likely to say they are about the same, followed by African Americans (53%), Asian Americans (46%), and Latinos (40%).

Voting and Elections

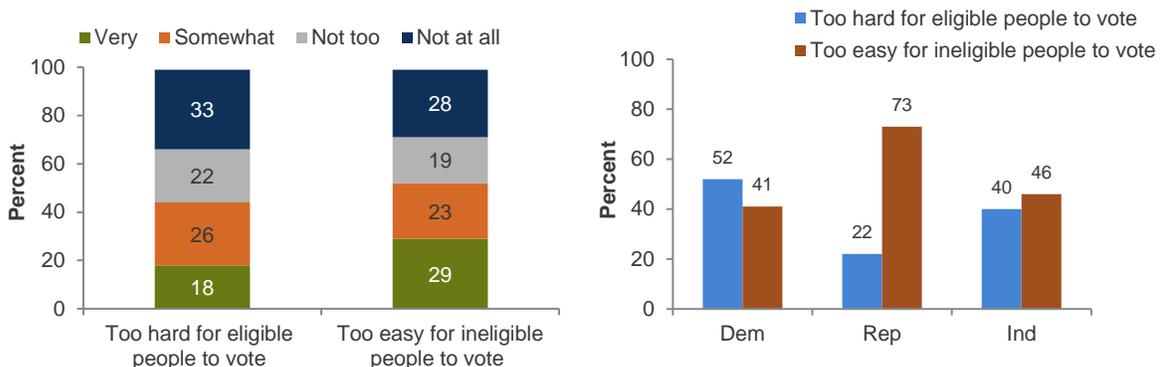
In the wake of the presidential election, some have raised doubts about our electoral process. When it comes to the system in which votes are cast and counted in California, four in ten Californians express a great deal (21%) or quite a lot (19%) of confidence, three in ten express some confidence (29%), and three in ten say they have very little confidence (28%). Likely voters hold similar views. Democrats (51%) are more likely than independents (37%) or Republicans (33%) to say they have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence. The high level of confidence increases sharply with education attainment.

“How much confidence do you have in the system in which votes are cast and counted in California elections—a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|---------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | |
| Great deal | 21% | 26% | 14% | 20% | 24% |
| Quite a lot | 19 | 25 | 19 | 17 | 23 |
| Some | 29 | 28 | 32 | 29 | 27 |
| Very little | 28 | 19 | 32 | 31 | 24 |
| None (<i>volunteered</i>) | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Don't Know | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

While some critics point to voter suppression as being a major threat to the democratic process, others say that voter fraud is the bigger problem. Forty-four percent of Californians are concerned that it is too hard for eligible people to vote in California elections (18% very concerned, 26% somewhat concerned), while 52 percent are concerned that it is too easy for ineligible people to vote in California elections (29% very concerned, 23% somewhat concerned). Democrats (52%) are more than twice as likely as Republicans (22%) to be concerned that it is too hard for eligible people to vote. Conversely, Republicans (73%) are far more likely than Democrats (41%) to be concerned that it is too easy for ineligible people to vote. Comparing the two perceptions across regions, there is less concern about it being too hard for eligible people to vote in the Central Valley (41% too hard, 56% too easy), the Inland Empire (35% too hard, 60% too easy), and Orange/San Diego (40% too hard, 52% too easy). Perceptions are more divided in the San Francisco Bay Area (46% too hard, 44% too easy), and Los Angeles (50% too hard, 52% too easy). Twenty-six percent of Californians are concerned about both of these issues, while 29 percent are not concerned about either.

Level of concern about voting in California elections



Political Engagement

Has the election of Donald Trump as president led to higher or lower levels of political engagement in California? Half of Californians say they are paying more attention to politics since Donald Trump’s election, while 30 percent are paying the same amount of attention and 17 percent are paying less attention. Six in ten Democrats and about half of Republicans and independents are paying more attention to politics. Majorities of Californians across age and education groups are paying more attention (46% high school only, 56% some college, 53% college graduates), as are majorities across income groups (51% less than \$40,000, 52% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 54% \$80,000 or higher).

“Since Donald Trump’s election, would you say you are paying more, less, or about the same amount of attention to politics as you used to?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Age | | |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|----------|----------|--------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | 18 to 34 | 35 to 54 | 55 and older |
| More attention | 51% | 59% | 48% | 49% | 55% | 48% | 52% |
| Less attention | 17 | 14 | 6 | 20 | 14 | 22 | 15 |
| Same amount of attention | 30 | 25 | 45 | 31 | 29 | 29 | 31 |
| Don't know | 2 | 1 | – | – | 2 | 1 | 2 |

While half of Californians are paying more attention to politics, 32 percent express more interest in local town hall meetings held by elected officials. Forty-two percent have the same level of interest in these meetings as before and 22 percent are less interested. Democrats (43%) are much more likely than Republicans (25%) or independents (28%) to be more interested in town hall meetings. About four in ten across age groups have the same level of interest, while about one in three have more interest. Across regions, a plurality of residents have the same amount of interest and about a third, except in the Inland Empire, say they have more interest in town hall meetings. Across racial/ethnic groups, about a third of Latinos (36%), African Americans (34%), and Asian Americans (32%) are more interested, as are 28 percent of whites.

“Since Donald Trump’s election, would you say you have more, less, or about the same amount of interest in town hall meetings that are held by elected representatives for their local constituents as you used to?”

| | All adults | Party | | | Age | | |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|-----|-----|----------|----------|--------------|
| | | Dem | Rep | Ind | 18 to 34 | 35 to 54 | 55 and older |
| More interest | 32% | 43% | 25% | 28% | 32% | 30% | 36% |
| Less interest | 22 | 14 | 22 | 24 | 21 | 25 | 19 |
| Same amount of interest | 42 | 41 | 51 | 45 | 44 | 43 | 39 |
| Don't know | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 |

When asked about political events, rallies, or organized protests, eight in ten Californians (83%) say they have not attended any of these types of events since the election. Of the 17 percent who have attended an event, most were in opposition to Donald Trump (12%), with relatively few in support of his policies (2%) or not related to him (3%). Democrats (23%), college graduates (21%), residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (16%), women (15%), and whites (15%) are the most likely to have attended an event in opposition to Donald Trump and his policies. More than three in four across regions and age, income, and racial/ethnic groups have not attended a political event, rally, or organized protest.

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 associates David Kordus and 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 1,734 California adult residents, including 1,095 interviewed on cell phones and 639 interviewed on landline telephones. Interviews took an average of 20 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights September 10–19, 2017.

Interviews were conducted using computer-generated random samples of telephone numbers. All cell phone numbers with California area codes and all landline numbers with California exchanges were eligible for selection. Random selection ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. To increase our ability to interview Asian American adults, phone numbers estimated by Marketing Systems Group as likely to be associated with Asian American individuals were sampled at a slightly higher rate for cell phones.

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.

Once a landline 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 six times. To increase our ability to interview Asian American adults, we made up to three additional calls to phone numbers estimated to be associated with Asian American individuals.

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

SSRS 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, SSRS 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 ± 3.1 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,734 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.1 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,350 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.3 percent; for the 1,103 likely voters, it is ± 3.8 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. 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 CBS News, Gallup, Kaiser Family Foundation, and NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist. 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

September 10–19, 2017

1,734 California Adult Residents:

English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR ±3.1% AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE
 PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

1. First, thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?

[code, don't read]

- 20% jobs, economy
- 13 immigration, illegal immigration
- 12 housing costs, availability, homelessness
- 6 environment, pollution, global warming
- 6 state budget, deficit, taxes
- 5 water, drought
- 4 crime, gangs, drugs
- 4 education, schools, teachers
- 4 government in general, problems with elected officials, parties
- 4 health care, health insurance
- 3 infrastructure
- 2 race relations, racial and ethnic issues
- 12 other (*specify*)
- 5 don't know

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

- 55% approve
- 31 disapprove
- 15 don't know

3. Would you rather see the next California governor elected in November 2018 generally continue Jerry Brown's policies or mostly change to different policies?

- 39% continue Jerry Brown's policies
- 47 change to different policies
- 14 don't know

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

- 49% approve
- 39 disapprove
- 12 don't know

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

- 54% right direction
- 42 wrong direction
- 5 don't know

6. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?

- 51% good times
- 40 bad times
- 9 don't know

On another topic,

7. Does the cost of your housing make you and your family seriously consider moving away from the part of California you live in now, or not? (if yes, ask: "Does it make you consider moving elsewhere in California, or outside of the state?")

- 44% yes
 - 10 yes, elsewhere in California
 - 33 yes, outside the state
 - 1 yes, other
- 55 no
- 1 don't know

8. The California Legislature is considering legislation to impose a \$75 fee on real estate documents such as deeds and notices, with a cap of \$225 per transaction. It's expected to generate between \$200 million and \$300 million annually for affordable housing projects. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

- 46% favor
- 47 oppose
- 7 don't know

9. Do you favor or oppose building more housing in your city or community to meet the current need in your part of California?

- 64% favor
- 32 oppose
- 2 already have adequate housing to meet need (*volunteered*)
- 3 don't know

On another topic...

10. How much confidence do you have in the system in which votes are cast and counted in California elections—a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?

- 21% great deal
- 19 quite a lot
- 29 some
- 28 very little
- 1 none (*volunteered*)
- 2 don't know (*volunteered*)

[rotate questions 11 and 12]

11. How concerned are you that it is too hard for eligible people to vote in California elections?

[read list]

- 18% very concerned
- 26 somewhat concerned
- 22 not too concerned
- 33 not at all concerned
- 1 don't know

12. How concerned are you that it is too easy for people who are *not* eligible to vote in California elections?

[read list]

- 29% very concerned
- 23 somewhat concerned
- 19 not too concerned
- 28 not at all concerned
- 2 don't know

Next,

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

- 27% approve
- 69 disapprove
- 4 don't know

14. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Kamala Harris is handling her job as US senator?

- 42% approve
- 31 disapprove
- 27 don't know

15. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as US senator?

- 48% approve
- 36 disapprove
- 15 don't know

16. Do you think Dianne Feinstein should run for reelection as US Senator next year, or not?

- 41% should run
- 46 should not run
- 13 don't know

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

- 24% approve
- 70 disapprove
- 6 don't know

Changing topics,

2

18. As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010, known commonly as the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a [rotate] generally favorable [or] generally unfavorable opinion of it?

- 58% generally favorable
- 37 generally unfavorable
- 5 don't know

19. Which of the following comes closer to your view? [rotate response options 1 and 2] 1. Republicans in Congress should continue working on their own plan to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act; 2. Republicans in Congress should work with Democrats to make improvements in the Affordable Care Act, but not repeal it; or 3. Republicans in Congress should move on from health care to other priorities?

- 18% Republicans in Congress should continue working on their own plan
- 58 Republicans in Congress should work with Democrats
- 22 Republicans in Congress should move on from health care
- 2 don't know

20. Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage, or is that not the responsibility of the federal government?

(If "is responsibility of the government," ask: Should health insurance [rotate] 1. Be provided through a single national health insurance system run by the government [or] 2. Continue to be provided through a mix of private insurance companies and government programs?)

- 67% health care coverage is the responsibility of the federal government
- 35 and insurance should be provided through a single national health insurance system run by the government
- 29 and insurance should continue to be provided through a mix of private insurance companies and government programs
- 3 and don't know
- 31 health care coverage is not the responsibility of the federal government
- 2 don't know

Changing topics,

21. Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view—even if neither is exactly right. [rotate] 1. Immigrants today are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills [or] 2. Immigrants today are a burden to California because they use public services.

- 76% immigrants are a benefit to California
- 20 immigrants are a burden to California
- 3 don't know

22. All in all, would you favor or oppose building a wall along the entire border with Mexico?

- 24% favor
- 73 oppose
- 2 don't know

23. Thinking about undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children, do you favor or oppose the protections given by “DACA”—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—which include protection from deportation and a work permit, if they pass a background check?

- 78% favor
- 19 oppose
- 3 don't know

Changing topics,

24. In general, [rotate response options] (do you have confidence in) Donald Trump's ability to handle the situation with North Korea's nuclear program, or (are you uneasy about) his approach?

- 29% confident
- 67 uneasy
- 4 don't know

25. How concerned are you about the possibility of North Korea having a nuclear missile that could reach California—are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

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

Next,

26. Which best describes your view of possible Russian interference in the 2016 election? Do you feel it is [rotate order] 1. Just a political distraction that should be put aside; 2. Serious, but not as serious as other issues; or is it 3. A critical issue of national security that needs top priority?

- 31% political distraction
- 28 serious, but not as serious as other issues
- 37 critical issue that needs top priority
- 4 don't know

27. Given what you've heard or read, do you think the Russian government tried to influence the outcome of last fall's US presidential election, or not?

(If yes, ask: Do you think some members of Donald Trump's presidential campaign intentionally helped Russian efforts to influence the election, or not?)

- 60% yes
 - 47 yes, and Trump campaign intentionally helped
 - 10 yes, but Trump campaign did not help
 - 3 yes, don't know if Trump campaign helped
- 33 no
- 7 don't know

Changing topics,

28. These days, do you feel [rotate response options] (optimistic) that Americans of different political views can still come together and work out their differences, or are you (pessimistic) that Americans can do that now?

- 56% optimistic
- 40 pessimistic
- 3 don't know

28a. Now thinking about California, are you [rotate response options in same order as question 28] (optimistic) or (pessimistic) that people in the state with different political views can come together and work out their differences?

- 64% optimistic
- 33 pessimistic
- 4 don't know

29. What is your opinion with regard to race relations in the United States today? Would you say things are [rotate] (better), (about the same), or worse than they were a year ago?

- 14% better
- 35 about the same
- 49 worse
- 2 don't know

29a. Now thinking about California, do you think that race relations in the state today are [rotate in same order as question 29] (better), (about the same), or worse than they were a year ago?

- 18% better
- 50 about the same
- 31 worse
- 1 don't know

30. Since Donald Trump's election, would you say you are paying [rotate] (more), (less), or about the same amount of attention to politics as you used to?

- 51% more
- 17 less
- 30 about the same
- 2 don't know

31. Since Donald Trump's election, would you say you have [rotate in same order as question 30] (more), (less), or about the same amount of interest in town hall meetings that are held by elected representatives for their local constituents as you used to?

- 32% more
- 22 less
- 42 about the same
- 4 don't know

32. And since the November presidential election, have you attended a political event, rally, or organized protest, or have you not attended any of these types of events since then? (if yes, ask: And would you say this has been in support of Donald Trump and his policies, in opposition to Donald Trump and his policies, or not related to Donald Trump and his policies?)

- 17% yes
 - 2 yes, in support of Donald Trump and his policies
 - 12 yes, in opposition to Donald Trump and his policies
 - 3 yes, not related to Donald Trump and his policies
- 83 no
- 1 don't know

33. 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 q33a]
- 31 no [skip to q34b]

33a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or as an independent?

- 46% Democrat [ask q34]
- 25 Republican [skip to q34a]
- 2 another party (specify) [skip to q35]
- 26 independent [skip to q34b]

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

- 56% strong
- 42 not very strong
- 2 don't know

[skip to q35]

34a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 50% strong
- 48 not very strong
- 1 don't know

[skip to q35]

34b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 24% Republican Party
- 49 Democratic Party
- 20 neither (volunteered)
- 7 don't know

35. Would you consider yourself to be politically:

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 15% very liberal
- 18 somewhat liberal
- 28 middle-of-the-road
- 25 somewhat conservative
- 11 very conservative
- 3 don't know

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

- 24% great deal
- 37 fair amount
- 29 only a little
- 10 none
- 1 don't know

[d1-d16 demographic questions]

PPIC STATEWIDE
SURVEY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Ruben Barrales
President and CEO
GROW Elect

Angela Glover Blackwell
President and CEO
PolicyLink

Mollyann Brodie
Senior Vice President
Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation

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

Jon Cohen
Vice President of Survey Research
SurveyMonkey

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

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

Russell Hancock
President and CEO
Joint Venture Silicon Valley

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

Robert Lapsley
President
California Business Roundtable

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

Donna Lucas
Chief Executive Officer
Lucas Public Affairs

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

Lisa Pitney
Vice President of Government Relations
The Walt Disney Company

Mindy Romero
Founder and Director
California Civic Engagement Project
at the UC Davis Center for Regional Change

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

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

Carol Whiteside
Principal
California Strategies

PPIC BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

Mas Masumoto, Chair
Author and Farmer

Mark Baldassare
President and CEO
Public Policy Institute of California

Ruben Barrales
President and CEO
GROW Elect

María Blanco
Executive Director
University of California
Immigrant Legal Services Center

Louise Henry Bryson
Chair Emerita, Board of Trustees
J. Paul Getty Trust

A. Marisa Chun
Partner
McDermott Will & Emery LLP

Chet Hewitt
President and CEO
Sierra Health Foundation

Phil Isenberg
Former Chair
Delta Stewardship Council

Donna Lucas
Chief Executive Officer
Lucas Public Affairs

Steven A. Merksamer
Senior Partner
Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello,
Gross & Leoni, LLP

Leon E. Panetta
Chairman
The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

Gerald L. Parsky
Chairman
Aurora Capital Group

Kim Polese
Chairman
ClearStreet, Inc.

Gaddi H. Vasquez
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
Edison International
Southern California Edison



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

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



PPIC

**PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA**