

# Californians and Their Government

## January 2020

### Time Trends – All Respondents

#### Methodology Note:

Findings for January 2020 are based on a survey of 1,707 California adult residents, with 75 percent interviewed on cell phones (1,260 interviews) and 25 percent interviewed on landline telephones (447 interviews). Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted in English and Spanish according to the respondents' preferences. Interviews took an average of 18 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights January 3-12, 2020.

The sampling error for January 2020, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is  $\pm 3.4$  percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,707 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. 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.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this survey, please contact [surveys@ppic.org](mailto:surveys@ppic.org)

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor of California?

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	approve	disapprove	(VOL) have not heard enough to have an opinion	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	51%	34%	0%	15%	1683
Nov 2019	48%	33%	0%	18%	1679
Sep 2019	44%	32%	0%	24%	1683
Jul 2019	45%	31%	0%	25%	1679
May 2019	45%	29%	0%	26%	1691
Mar 2019	45%	26%	16%	13%	1699
Jan 2019	44%	23%	23%	10%	1684

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Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q2a. Do you approve or disapprove of the way  
 that Governor Newsom is handling the PG&E  
 bankruptcy and utilities' responsibilities for  
 wildfire damage costs?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	37%	34%	29%	1685
May 2019	32%	30%	38%	1688

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
the way that the California Legislature is  
handling its job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	47%	40%	14%	1683
Nov 2019	44%	41%	15%	1682
Sep 2019	43%	40%	17%	1691
Jul 2019	42%	41%	17%	1687
May 2019	39%	44%	17%	1701
Mar 2019	46%	37%	17%	1692
Jan 2019	49%	37%	14%	1689
Dec 2018	47%	39%	15%	1685
Nov 2018	46%	38%	16%	1694
Oct 2018	45%	37%	18%	1691
Sep 2018	46%	37%	17%	1690
Jul 2018	46%	38%	15%	1703
May 2018	44%	38%	18%	1692
Apr 2018	46%	40%	14%	1697
Mar 2018	46%	38%	16%	1690
Jan 2018	51%	33%	16%	1694
Dec 2017	49%	36%	15%	1697
Nov 2017	48%	36%	16%	1690
Sep 2017	49%	39%	12%	1726
Jul 2017	50%	34%	17%	1697
May 2017	46%	38%	15%	1691
Apr 2017	49%	36%	15%	1696
Mar 2017	51%	33%	16%	1685
Jan 2017	57%	30%	13%	1686
Dec 2016	49%	38%	13%	1697
Oct 2016	46%	33%	20%	1684
Sep 2016	47%	37%	16%	1690
Jul 2016	45%	40%	15%	1687
May 2016	43%	37%	20%	1690
Apr 2016	48%	38%	14%	1694
Mar 2016	44%	39%	18%	1692
Jan 2016	46%	39%	15%	1692
Dec 2015	41%	40%	19%	1678
Sep 2015	45%	38%	17%	1691
Jul 2015	39%	45%	16%	1688
Jun 2015	37%	43%	20%	1694
Apr 2015	42%	43%	15%	1695
Mar 2015	45%	39%	16%	1693
Jan 2015	49%	36%	15%	1689
Dec 2014	41%	42%	17%	1681
Oct 2014	41%	42%	17%	1686
Sep 2014	37%	42%	20%	1673

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 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that the California Legislature is  
 handling its job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jul 2014	38%	46%	16%	1683
May 2014	40%	44%	16%	1684
Apr 2014	40%	44%	17%	1693
Mar 2014	36%	45%	19%	1685
Jan 2014	42%	44%	14%	1698
Dec 2013	38%	43%	19%	1688
Sep 2013	38%	45%	17%	1693
Jul 2013	36%	45%	19%	2096
May 2013	35%	50%	16%	1697
Apr 2013	31%	53%	15%	1699
Mar 2013	34%	49%	17%	1689
Jan 2013	41%	42%	17%	1700
Dec 2012	34%	51%	15%	1992
Oct 2012	28%	55%	17%	1995
Sep 2012	30%	53%	17%	1989
Aug 2012	29%	54%	17%	2480
May 2012	25%	57%	18%	1990
Apr 2012	25%	58%	16%	1992
Mar 2012	25%	54%	21%	1989
Jan 2012	28%	56%	16%	1988
Dec 2011	25%	55%	20%	1987
Nov 2011	25%	55%	19%	2490
Sep 2011	26%	56%	18%	1998
Jul 2011	23%	59%	18%	2496
Jun 2011	23%	58%	19%	1998
Apr 2011	21%	60%	19%	2487
Mar 2011	24%	54%	21%	1982
Feb 2011	24%	52%	24%	2483
Jan 2011	26%	55%	19%	1990
Nov 2010	14%	72%	14%	2486
Oct 2010	16%	77%	7%	1989
Sep 2010	16%	75%	9%	1990
Jul 2010	15%	68%	17%	2487
May 2010	16%	72%	12%	1993
Apr 2010	16%	69%	14%	2493
Mar 2010	14%	72%	14%	1996
Jan 2010	18%	71%	11%	1989
Dec 2009	17%	70%	13%	2000
Nov 2009	18%	68%	15%	2491
Sep 2009	21%	68%	11%	1998
Jul 2009	17%	71%	11%	2484
May 2009	21%	65%	14%	1994

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that the California Legislature is  
 handling its job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Apr 2009	23%	63%	14%	2493
Mar 2009	18%	68%	14%	1995
Feb 2009	21%	65%	14%	2494
Jan 2009	21%	67%	12%	1994
Nov 2008	24%	60%	16%	2482
Oct 2008	25%	63%	12%	1996
Sep 2008	21%	67%	11%	1990
Aug 2008	26%	63%	11%	1991
May 2008	26%	57%	17%	1991
Apr 2008	26%	58%	16%	2495
Mar 2008	30%	55%	15%	1988
Jan 2008	34%	53%	13%	1988
Dec 2007	41%	47%	12%	1992
Oct 2007	33%	50%	17%	2490
Sep 2007	34%	51%	15%	1988
Jun 2007	39%	40%	21%	1987
May 2007	37%	44%	19%	1994
Apr 2007	38%	44%	18%	2483
Mar 2007	41%	42%	17%	1989
Jan 2007	40%	44%	15%	2006
Oct 2006	30%	52%	18%	1993
Sep 2006	34%	50%	16%	1994
Aug 2006	31%	53%	16%	1995
May 2006	26%	54%	20%	1988
Mar 2006	25%	59%	16%	1988
Jan 2006	29%	57%	14%	2000
Jan 2006	24%	54%	22%	2481
Oct 2005	25%	56%	19%	1993
Sep 2005	32%	53%	15%	1992
Aug 2005	27%	56%	17%	1993
May 2005	26%	58%	16%	1992
Jan 2005	37%	50%	13%	1993
Oct 2004	43%	41%	16%	2005
Sep 2004	40%	46%	14%	1988
Aug 2004	42%	45%	13%	1990
Jun 2004	40%	44%	16%	2498
May 2004	40%	43%	17%	1986
Jan 2004	36%	45%	19%	1981
Aug 2003	28%	58%	14%	1979
Jun 2003	39%	44%	17%	1976
Feb 2003	36%	45%	19%	1967
Sep 2002	45%	36%	18%	1967

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that the California Legislature is  
 handling its job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2002	49%	35%	16%	1942
Dec 2001	53%	29%	18%	1952
Jul 2001	45%	38%	18%	1966
Jan 2001	58%	27%	15%	1960
Sep 2000	56%	31%	12%	1980

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q4. Do you think that Governor Newsom and  
 the state legislature will be able to work  
 together and accomplish a lot in the next year,  
 or not?

	yes, will be able to work together	no, will not be able to work together	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	58%	31%	11%	1693
Jan 2019	67%	22%	11%	1693
Jan 2018	60%	28%	12%	1698
Jan 2017	66%	22%	11%	1694
Jan 2016	57%	32%	11%	1696
Jan 2015	59%	31%	10%	1702
Jan 2014	57%	34%	10%	1700
Jan 2013	57%	33%	11%	1702
Jan 2012	44%	47%	9%	1999
Jan 2011	58%	29%	12%	1991
May 2010	19%	73%	8%	1998
Jan 2010	28%	65%	7%	2000
Jan 2009	39%	53%	8%	1995
Jan 2008	50%	42%	7%	1994
Jun 2007	49%	40%	11%	1994
Jan 2007	62%	29%	9%	2009
Mar 2006	30%	58%	12%	1738
Jan 2006	43%	48%	9%	1998

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**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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All Adults - Time Trends**

Q5. Do you think things in the California are  
generally going in the right direction or the  
wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	50%	46%	4%	1695
Sep 2019	46%	48%	6%	1696
Jan 2019	55%	40%	5%	1699
Dec 2018	54%	41%	5%	1688
Sep 2018	51%	43%	6%	1694
Jan 2018	57%	38%	6%	1700
Dec 2017	53%	41%	6%	1695
Sep 2017	54%	42%	5%	1732
Mar 2017	55%	39%	6%	1699
Jan 2017	58%	35%	7%	1695
Oct 2016	54%	39%	7%	1699
Sep 2016	52%	42%	6%	1697
May 2016	51%	43%	6%	1697
Mar 2016	50%	43%	8%	1700
Jan 2016	54%	41%	5%	1696
Dec 2015	51%	43%	6%	1690
Sep 2015	48%	46%	6%	1701
Jun 2015	45%	46%	8%	1694
Mar 2015	50%	41%	8%	1691
Jan 2015	57%	36%	8%	1699
Dec 2014	50%	42%	8%	1699
Oct 2014	47%	46%	7%	1690
Sep 2014	43%	48%	8%	1685
May 2014	45%	48%	7%	1693
Mar 2014	45%	48%	7%	1693
Jan 2014	53%	41%	6%	1697
Dec 2013	45%	46%	8%	1694
Sep 2013	43%	48%	9%	1697
Jun 2013	45%	42%	13%	2463
May 2013	46%	48%	7%	1692
Mar 2013	44%	48%	8%	1697
Jan 2013	51%	40%	9%	1701
Dec 2012	44%	50%	6%	1984
Oct 2012	39%	53%	8%	1998
Sep 2012	33%	60%	7%	1991
May 2012	30%	63%	7%	1990
Mar 2012	34%	56%	10%	1987
Jan 2012	37%	57%	6%	1988
Dec 2011	30%	61%	9%	1993
Sep 2011	30%	61%	8%	1993
Jun 2011	28%	60%	12%	2483
Jun 2011	29%	61%	10%	1993

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 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q5. Do you think things in the California are  
 generally going in the right direction or the  
 wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Mar 2011	31%	59%	11%	1985
Feb 2011	34%	55%	12%	2486
Jan 2011	38%	54%	8%	1992
Oct 2010	16%	73%	12%	1977
Sep 2010	20%	69%	11%	1981
Jul 2010	15%	79%	6%	2489
May 2010	18%	77%	6%	1996
Mar 2010	19%	76%	4%	1997
Jan 2010	19%	74%	7%	1993
Dec 2009	19%	75%	6%	1999
Nov 2009	17%	76%	7%	2488
Sep 2009	22%	72%	6%	2001
Jul 2009	14%	79%	6%	2493
Jun 2009	19%	70%	11%	2490
May 2009	24%	68%	8%	1997
Mar 2009	22%	71%	7%	1995
Feb 2009	18%	75%	7%	2494
Jan 2009	18%	75%	7%	1993
Nov 2008	23%	66%	11%	2493
Oct 2008	20%	71%	10%	1987
Sep 2008	21%	68%	11%	1999
Aug 2008	23%	68%	9%	1990
Jun 2008	22%	69%	9%	2484
May 2008	24%	65%	11%	1986
Mar 2008	26%	63%	11%	1992
Jan 2008	36%	54%	10%	1989
Dec 2007	36%	52%	11%	1991
Sep 2007	41%	50%	9%	1983
Jun 2007	44%	46%	10%	1981
May 2007	46%	46%	8%	1986
Mar 2007	45%	47%	9%	1986
Jan 2007	55%	37%	8%	2003
Oct 2006	44%	46%	10%	1991
Sep 2006	45%	45%	10%	1996
Aug 2006	42%	47%	11%	1993
Jul 2006	42%	47%	11%	2489
May 2006	35%	57%	8%	1997
Mar 2006	35%	56%	9%	1994
Feb 2006	32%	58%	10%	1990
Jan 2006	37%	56%	7%	1995
Jan 2006	29%	60%	11%	2492
Oct 2005	30%	60%	10%	1987

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Q5. Do you think things in the California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Sep 2005	31%	60%	9%	1991
Aug 2005	34%	57%	9%	1995
Jul 2005	38%	51%	12%	2488
May 2005	35%	57%	8%	1993
Apr 2005	35%	53%	11%	2491
Jan 2005	46%	41%	13%	1994
Oct 2004	44%	44%	11%	2003
Sep 2004	47%	40%	13%	1990
Aug 2004	44%	42%	13%	1985
Jul 2004	43%	43%	14%	2491
Jun 2004	44%	44%	13%	2484
May 2004	43%	44%	14%	1991
Feb 2004	35%	51%	14%	1970
Jan 2004	43%	40%	17%	1975
Nov 2003	32%	52%	15%	1984
Oct 2003	22%	67%	11%	1979
Sep 2003	24%	67%	9%	1971
Aug 2003	22%	66%	12%	1979
Jul 2003	31%	57%	12%	1978
Jun 2003	30%	57%	13%	1978
Feb 2003	28%	60%	11%	1967
Nov 2002	49%	41%	10%	1966
Oct 2002	46%	45%	10%	1960
Sep 2002	54%	37%	9%	1971
Aug 2002	44%	48%	9%	1971
Feb 2002	56%	36%	9%	2016
Jan 2002	59%	32%	9%	1942
Dec 2001	58%	33%	9%	1966
Nov 2001	60%	29%	11%	1966
Jul 2001	44%	47%	9%	1986
May 2001	44%	48%	8%	1981
Jan 2001	62%	29%	9%	1973
Oct 2000	59%	32%	9%	1978
Aug 2000	62%	30%	8%	1972
Feb 2000	65%	27%	8%	2021
Jan 2000	66%	26%	8%	1979
Dec 1999	62%	31%	7%	1985
Sep 1999	61%	34%	5%	1988

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Q5. Do you think things in the California are  
 generally going in the right direction or the  
 wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 1999	63%	28%	9%	1964
Oct 1998	62%	30%	8%	1992
Sep 1998	57%	34%	8%	1995
May 1998	56%	34%	9%	1983
Apr 1998	55%	36%	9%	1972

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q6. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?

	good times	bad times	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	49%	43%	8%	1694
Sep 2019	41%	50%	10%	1694
May 2019	44%	47%	9%	1702
Jan 2019	49%	42%	9%	1697
Dec 2018	46%	45%	9%	1687
Oct 2018	48%	39%	12%	1693
Sep 2018	53%	37%	10%	1689
May 2018	51%	39%	10%	1694
Jan 2018	56%	35%	10%	1695
Sep 2017	51%	40%	9%	1728
Mar 2017	51%	40%	9%	1696
Jan 2017	53%	35%	12%	1691
Oct 2016	47%	38%	15%	1696
Sep 2016	48%	40%	12%	1693
May 2016	50%	39%	11%	1691
Mar 2016	51%	40%	9%	1695
Jan 2016	49%	43%	8%	1693
Dec 2015	48%	41%	11%	1689
Sep 2015	48%	42%	9%	1700
Jun 2015	48%	42%	10%	1695
Mar 2015	52%	38%	10%	1686
Jan 2015	58%	34%	8%	1691
Dec 2014	52%	39%	9%	1684
Oct 2014	45%	44%	11%	1694
Sep 2014	44%	45%	10%	1687
May 2014	44%	47%	9%	1689
Mar 2014	46%	45%	10%	1693
Jan 2014	49%	45%	6%	1692
Dec 2013	43%	48%	9%	1692
Sep 2013	46%	44%	10%	1694
Jun 2013	46%	42%	12%	2468
May 2013	48%	44%	8%	1685
Mar 2013	44%	49%	8%	1691
Jan 2013	49%	40%	11%	1695
Dec 2012	41%	50%	9%	1987
Oct 2012	37%	53%	11%	1995
Sep 2012	33%	57%	10%	1983
May 2012	31%	61%	8%	1986
Mar 2012	34%	56%	10%	1994
Jan 2012	35%	56%	9%	1988
Dec 2011	31%	60%	9%	1986

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q6. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?

	good times	bad times	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Sep 2011	25%	67%	8%	1993
Jun 2011	26%	63%	11%	2479
Jun 2011	34%	58%	8%	1995
Mar 2011	30%	61%	8%	1987
Feb 2011	34%	54%	11%	2481
Jan 2011	36%	56%	7%	1989
Oct 2010	25%	62%	13%	1971
Sep 2010	29%	59%	12%	1984
Jul 2010	25%	67%	7%	2487
May 2010	28%	65%	8%	1990
Mar 2010	27%	65%	8%	1991
Jan 2010	25%	67%	8%	1990
Dec 2009	28%	66%	6%	1995
Nov 2009	23%	69%	8%	2487
Sep 2009	26%	67%	7%	1996
Jul 2009	18%	75%	7%	2493
Jun 2009	24%	69%	7%	2498
May 2009	25%	67%	8%	1998
Mar 2009	22%	71%	6%	1999
Feb 2009	22%	73%	6%	2496
Jan 2009	18%	77%	5%	1998
Nov 2008	20%	71%	10%	2489
Oct 2008	18%	74%	8%	1995
Sep 2008	20%	68%	11%	1996
Aug 2008	21%	71%	8%	1995
Jul 2008	15%	78%	6%	2498
Jun 2008	15%	78%	7%	2495
May 2008	17%	73%	10%	1988
Mar 2008	16%	76%	9%	1998
Jan 2008	20%	72%	9%	1991
Dec 2007	25%	65%	10%	1993
Sep 2007	33%	59%	8%	1992
Jun 2007	40%	49%	10%	1987
May 2007	38%	50%	12%	1990
Mar 2007	40%	51%	9%	1989
Jan 2007	50%	39%	11%	2009
Oct 2006	50%	37%	13%	1994
Sep 2006	45%	43%	12%	1999
Aug 2006	43%	46%	12%	1993
Jul 2006	39%	46%	15%	2494
May 2006	37%	52%	12%	1994
Mar 2006	45%	43%	12%	1989

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Q6. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?

	good times	bad times	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Feb 2006	42%	45%	13%	1995
Jan 2006	48%	42%	11%	1997
Jan 2006	41%	46%	13%	2487
Oct 2005	34%	56%	10%	1990
Sep 2005	32%	58%	10%	1993
Aug 2005	38%	51%	11%	1994
Jul 2005	42%	43%	15%	2489
May 2005	39%	49%	12%	1990
Apr 2005	38%	51%	11%	2492
Jan 2005	47%	39%	13%	1992
Oct 2004	42%	43%	14%	2007
Sep 2004	46%	40%	14%	1990
Aug 2004	45%	40%	15%	1989
Jul 2004	48%	40%	12%	2488
Jun 2004	41%	46%	13%	2479
May 2004	42%	44%	14%	1991
Feb 2004	43%	44%	13%	1974
Jan 2004	49%	36%	15%	1983
Nov 2003	39%	47%	14%	1985
Oct 2003	36%	43%	22%	1965
Sep 2003	32%	50%	18%	1959
Aug 2003	30%	53%	17%	1967
Jul 2003	34%	55%	10%	1977
Jun 2003	32%	58%	10%	1972
Feb 2003	20%	71%	10%	1978
Nov 2002	44%	46%	10%	1964
Oct 2002	38%	51%	12%	1960
Sep 2002	43%	46%	10%	1976
Aug 2002	39%	51%	10%	1976
Feb 2002	46%	47%	7%	2021
Jan 2002	48%	46%	6%	1950
Dec 2001	37%	56%	7%	1969
Nov 2001	33%	59%	9%	1970
Jul 2001	41%	50%	9%	1983
May 2001	38%	56%	6%	1984
Jan 2001	51%	38%	11%	1975
Aug 2000	72%	21%	7%	1970
Feb 2000	78%	15%	7%	2028
Dec 1999	76%	19%	6%	1992
Sep 1999	72%	23%	5%	1997

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q16. Do you think the state budget situation in California; that is, the balance between government spending and revenues--is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem for the people of California today?

	big problem	somewhat of a problem	not a problem	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	42%	37%	14%	6%	1705
May 2019	45%	36%	12%	7%	1700
Jan 2019	40%	38%	18%	4%	1701
Jan 2018	43%	35%	15%	7%	1701
May 2017	43%	37%	13%	7%	1702
Jan 2017	37%	45%	13%	5%	1698
May 2016	44%	37%	13%	6%	1702
Mar 2016	48%	36%	11%	5%	1705
Jan 2016	42%	40%	14%	5%	1697
Dec 2015	45%	36%	11%	8%	1697
Jun 2015	47%	36%	12%	5%	1702
Mar 2015	45%	36%	11%	8%	1699
Jan 2015	46%	39%	11%	4%	1703
Dec 2014	51%	39%	8%	3%	1695
Oct 2014	54%	33%	7%	6%	1698
Sep 2014	55%	32%	7%	6%	1695
May 2014	52%	38%	5%	4%	1698
Jan 2014	50%	40%	7%	3%	1704
Sep 2013	58%	33%	5%	4%	1700
May 2013	61%	30%	6%	2%	1703
Mar 2013	65%	27%	5%	2%	1701
Jan 2013	63%	28%	6%	3%	1703
Dec 2012	68%	26%	4%	2%	1997
Oct 2012	70%	25%	2%	2%	2005
Sep 2012	69%	24%	2%	4%	1998
May 2012	69%	23%	3%	5%	2002
Apr 2012	71%	22%	3%	3%	2004
Mar 2012	67%	24%	5%	4%	2000
Jan 2012	64%	30%	4%	2%	2001
Dec 2011	69%	24%	3%	4%	2001
Sep 2011	68%	27%	2%	3%	1999
Jun 2011	70%	24%	4%	2%	2004
Mar 2011	68%	24%	4%	3%	1999
Jan 2011	68%	26%	3%	3%	2002
Sep 2010	80%	17%	2%	2%	2002
May 2010	81%	15%	1%	3%	2001
Mar 2010	77%	19%	2%	2%	2001
Jan 2010	75%	21%	2%	2%	2000
Dec 2009	78%	18%	2%	2%	1999
Sep 2009	78%	18%	2%	2%	2002
May 2009	74%	22%	2%	3%	2004



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Q16. Do you think the state budget situation in California; that is, the balance between government spending and revenues--is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem for the people of California today?

	big problem	somewhat of a problem	not a problem	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Mar 2009	75%	20%	2%	3%	2001
Jan 2009	75%	20%	2%	2%	2000
Oct 2008	74%	22%	2%	2%	2003
Sep 2008	78%	19%	1%	2%	2001
Aug 2008	73%	21%	4%	2%	1999
May 2008	67%	27%	4%	3%	2000
Mar 2008	68%	26%	3%	4%	1998
Jan 2008	64%	30%	3%	3%	1997
May 2007	44%	43%	6%	6%	1996
Jan 2007	45%	42%	7%	6%	2011
May 2006	58%	31%	5%	6%	1998
Jan 2006	61%	30%	4%	4%	2002

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q17. Thinking about these four areas of state spending, I'd like you to name the one you think should have the highest priority when it comes to state government spending?

	K-12 public education	higher education	health and human services	prisons and corrections	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	39%	13%	39%	6%	2%	1670
Jan 2019	46%	16%	32%	4%	3%	1682
Jan 2017	44%	19%	30%	4%	2%	1690
Jan 2016	49%	20%	26%	3%	2%	1690
Jan 2015	53%	20%	18%	6%	2%	1694

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q18. In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more...?				
	higher taxes and more services	lower taxes and fewer services	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	53%	43%	4%	1673
Dec 2018	51%	45%	5%	1660
Sep 2018	50%	44%	6%	1666
Jan 2017	52%	43%	5%	1678
Dec 2015	48%	45%	7%	1665
Dec 2014	50%	44%	6%	1660
Sep 2014	47%	46%	6%	1666
Jan 2014	51%	44%	5%	1666
May 2013	48%	44%	8%	1653
Dec 2012	55%	40%	6%	1953
May 2012	58%	37%	5%	1965
Jan 2012	51%	41%	8%	1971
Jan 2011	49%	46%	4%	1965
Mar 2010	46%	45%	9%	1958
Sep 2009	51%	39%	10%	1951
May 2009	48%	43%	9%	1973
Jan 2009	51%	42%	7%	1979
May 2008	49%	43%	8%	1964
Jan 2008	46%	45%	9%	1955
May 2007	52%	39%	9%	1946
Jan 2007	53%	40%	8%	1977
May 2006	55%	38%	7%	1984
Jan 2006	61%	31%	8%	1978
May 2005	46%	46%	8%	1974
Jan 2005	49%	44%	7%	1973
May 2004	51%	42%	8%	1976
Jan 2004	43%	48%	9%	1957
Sep 2003	43%	47%	10%	1941
Jun 2003	49%	45%	6%	1952
Feb 2003	49%	45%	6%	1940

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q19. The state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars. In general, how would you prefer to use this extra money?

	pay down debt and build up the reserve	increase state funding for education, health and human services	one-time state spending for transportation, water, infrastructure	(VOL) other	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	23%	51%	23%	2%	1%	1689
Dec 2018	21%	57%	16%	4%	2%	1694

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q20. How much of a problem is poverty in your part of California? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

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	big problem	somewhat of a problem	not much of a problem	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	49%	33%	16%	2%	1702
Mar 2019	51%	32%	16%	1%	1705
May 2017	39%	40%	20%	2%	1706

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Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q22. Do you think the gap between the rich and the poor in your part of California is getting larger, getting smaller, or has it stayed the same?

	getting larger	getting smaller	stayed the same	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	63%	3%	32%	2%	1703
Mar 2019	67%	5%	26%	3%	1702
May 2017	61%	2%	33%	4%	1702

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q23. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that Donald Trump is handling his job  
 as president?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	31%	66%	3%	1690
Nov 2019	33%	63%	4%	1689
Sep 2019	30%	66%	4%	1680
Jul 2019	32%	62%	5%	1692
May 2019	34%	61%	4%	1696
Mar 2019	29%	67%	4%	1691
Jan 2019	30%	67%	3%	1688
Dec 2018	32%	63%	5%	1678
Oct 2018	29%	64%	7%	1685
Sep 2018	30%	66%	5%	1689
Jul 2018	29%	66%	5%	1689
May 2018	30%	63%	7%	1682
Mar 2018	30%	65%	5%	1688
Jan 2018	26%	71%	3%	1695
Dec 2017	28%	68%	5%	1687
Sep 2017	27%	69%	4%	1721
Jul 2017	25%	71%	4%	1696
May 2017	27%	67%	6%	1690
Mar 2017	31%	61%	7%	1685
Jan 2017	30%	58%	12%	1678

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q24. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Speaker  
 of the House Nancy Pelosi is handling her job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) never heard of her/ have not heard enough to have an opinion	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	51%	40%	4%	5%	1692
Jan 2019	48%	39%	8%	6%	1696
Sep 2009	49%	40%	0%	11%	2000
Mar 2009	49%	36%	0%	16%	1997
Sep 2008	40%	44%	0%	16%	1991
Mar 2008	43%	37%	0%	20%	1985
Sep 2007	45%	36%	0%	18%	1987
Jun 2007	39%	31%	0%	29%	1995
Mar 2007	52%	27%	0%	21%	1992

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding



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Q25. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy is handling his job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) never heard of him/ have not heard enough to have an opinion	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	31%	39%	18%	12%	1688
Jan 2019	32%	30%	26%	12%	1696

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q26. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?				
	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	38%	55%	7%	1684
Nov 2019	28%	64%	8%	1690
Sep 2019	33%	58%	9%	1680
Jul 2019	25%	65%	9%	1696
May 2019	30%	63%	7%	1690
Mar 2019	36%	56%	8%	1690
Jan 2019	34%	59%	7%	1690
Dec 2018	29%	62%	9%	1686
Oct 2018	25%	64%	11%	1689
Sep 2018	28%	61%	10%	1694
Jul 2018	20%	71%	9%	1697
May 2018	24%	66%	10%	1684
Mar 2018	29%	65%	6%	1697
Jan 2018	21%	72%	7%	1698
Dec 2017	22%	70%	8%	1700
Sep 2017	24%	70%	6%	1726
Jul 2017	24%	68%	8%	1702
May 2017	26%	66%	8%	1695
Mar 2017	36%	55%	9%	1692
Jan 2017	33%	58%	9%	1689
Oct 2016	31%	59%	10%	1703
Sep 2016	29%	65%	6%	1699
Jul 2016	28%	66%	6%	1696
May 2016	28%	67%	6%	1696
Mar 2016	24%	70%	6%	1706
Jan 2016	32%	63%	5%	1694
Dec 2015	26%	67%	7%	1697
Sep 2015	32%	62%	7%	1702
Jul 2015	29%	63%	9%	1690
Jun 2015	27%	68%	5%	1701
Mar 2015	24%	69%	7%	1694
Jan 2015	38%	55%	7%	1700
Oct 2014	24%	68%	8%	1689
Sep 2014	24%	66%	10%	1682
Jul 2014	22%	72%	6%	1690
May 2014	24%	69%	7%	1697
Mar 2014	19%	74%	7%	1695
Jan 2014	26%	69%	5%	1702
Dec 2013	18%	76%	6%	1693
Sep 2013	28%	65%	8%	1682
Jul 2013	30%	62%	7%	2092
May 2013	31%	62%	6%	1696
Mar 2013	29%	67%	4%	1696

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Q26. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?				
	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2013	34%	59%	7%	1700
Oct 2012	26%	67%	7%	2000
Sep 2012	27%	67%	7%	1989
Aug 2012	27%	66%	7%	2485
May 2012	22%	69%	8%	1993
Mar 2012	24%	68%	8%	1992
Jan 2012	25%	69%	5%	1993
Dec 2011	20%	75%	5%	1988
Sep 2011	27%	64%	9%	1996
Jul 2011	25%	65%	10%	2495
Mar 2011	30%	58%	12%	1988
Oct 2010	31%	64%	5%	1988
Sep 2010	26%	66%	8%	1990
May 2010	31%	61%	8%	1997
Mar 2010	24%	68%	8%	1992
Jan 2010	36%	55%	9%	1991
Dec 2009	38%	54%	8%	1994
Sep 2009	39%	54%	7%	2000
May 2009	47%	43%	10%	1998
Mar 2009	43%	47%	10%	1993
Jan 2009	37%	56%	7%	1997
Oct 2008	23%	71%	6%	1993
Sep 2008	29%	63%	9%	1991
Aug 2008	27%	64%	9%	1990
Mar 2008	33%	55%	12%	1992
Dec 2007	31%	62%	7%	1992
Sep 2007	33%	57%	10%	1990
Jun 2007	33%	54%	13%	1989
Jan 2007	42%	44%	13%	2006
Sep 2006	37%	54%	9%	1994
Mar 2006	35%	54%	11%	1992
Oct 2005	42%	46%	11%	1996

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q27. Do you think that President Trump and the  
 U.S. Congress will be able to work together and  
 accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?

	yes, will be able to work together	no, will not be able to work together	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	18%	78%	4%	1701
Jan 2019	25%	72%	3%	1703
Jan 2018	29%	67%	4%	1700
Jan 2017	50%	44%	6%	1692
Jan 2015	35%	61%	4%	1703
Jan 2014	37%	60%	3%	1704
Jan 2013	51%	44%	5%	1703
Jan 2012	35%	62%	3%	1998
Jan 2010	56%	38%	6%	1999
May 2009	74%	19%	6%	1999
Jan 2009	81%	14%	5%	1995
Jun 2007	28%	68%	5%	1998
Jan 2007	38%	56%	6%	2012

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q28. How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington today to do what is right; just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	just about always	most of the time	only some of the time	(VOL) none of the time	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	5%	19%	66%	8%	2%	1700
May 2018	6%	18%	62%	11%	3%	1693
Mar 2017	7%	22%	62%	7%	2%	1701
Oct 2016	7%	26%	55%	9%	2%	1699
Jun 2015	8%	19%	65%	7%	1%	1697
May 2014	5%	21%	64%	8%	1%	1698
Dec 2013	6%	18%	65%	10%	2%	1696
Oct 2012	7%	24%	63%	5%	1%	1999
Dec 2011	6%	14%	69%	10%	1%	1998
Oct 2010	5%	25%	60%	9%	2%	1992
May 2009	6%	30%	56%	6%	2%	2000
Oct 2008	4%	18%	66%	11%	2%	1999
Mar 2008	5%	22%	64%	7%	2%	1994
Sep 2007	4%	19%	67%	8%	2%	1996
Mar 2007	5%	23%	64%	5%	2%	1999
Oct 2006	5%	21%	62%	10%	2%	1997
Oct 2005	6%	23%	59%	9%	3%	1997
Jan 2005	6%	26%	59%	7%	1%	1999
Feb 2004	5%	25%	57%	10%	3%	1985
Feb 2003	7%	31%	56%	3%	2%	1982
Dec 2002	7%	30%	57%	5%	1%	1975
Aug 2002	7%	30%	58%	4%	1%	1979
Jan 2002	7%	39%	52%	1%	1%	1954
Oct 2000	4%	29%	62%	4%	1%	1980
Jan 2000	7%	26%	62%	5%	1%	1986
Dec 1999	6%	26%	63%	5%	1%	1992
Sep 1998	5%	28%	63%	4%	0%	1998
May 1998	3%	21%	59%	16%	1%	2001
Apr 1998	3%	23%	62%	12%	0%	1980

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q29. Would you say the federal government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all of the people?

	a few big interests	benefit of all of the people	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	77%	18%	5%	1675
Mar 2017	70%	25%	5%	1694
Oct 2016	64%	28%	8%	1688
Jun 2015	72%	23%	5%	1684
May 2014	70%	23%	7%	1686
Dec 2013	73%	22%	6%	1681
Oct 2012	67%	28%	5%	1983
Dec 2011	73%	21%	6%	1986
Oct 2010	68%	24%	7%	1971
May 2009	59%	34%	7%	1994
Oct 2008	74%	20%	6%	1991
Mar 2008	67%	26%	7%	1986
Sep 2007	71%	23%	7%	1983
Mar 2007	70%	24%	7%	1988
Feb 2004	67%	25%	8%	1959
Jan 2002	57%	34%	9%	1931
Oct 2000	64%	29%	7%	1971
Sep 1998	70%	25%	6%	1984

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q30. Do you think the people in the federal government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, waste some of it, or don't waste very much of it?

	a lot	some	don't waste very much	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	63%	29%	6%	3%	1699
Mar 2017	61%	27%	8%	3%	1701
Oct 2016	55%	31%	10%	4%	1700
Jun 2015	61%	30%	7%	2%	1702
May 2014	58%	33%	6%	3%	1700
Dec 2013	61%	30%	5%	4%	1694
Oct 2012	57%	35%	7%	2%	2005
May 2012	67%	24%	6%	3%	2000
Dec 2011	63%	30%	5%	2%	1996
Oct 2010	63%	29%	5%	3%	1991
May 2009	57%	35%	6%	3%	1998
Oct 2008	74%	21%	3%	2%	1999
Mar 2008	63%	30%	4%	3%	1996
Sep 2007	65%	29%	5%	2%	1995
Mar 2007	68%	26%	4%	2%	1999
Oct 2006	65%	28%	4%	3%	1996
Oct 2005	67%	27%	3%	3%	1994
Feb 2004	61%	32%	5%	2%	1989
Jan 2002	54%	39%	5%	2%	1956
Jan 2000	59%	35%	5%	2%	1987
Sep 1998	64%	31%	4%	1%	2000

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q33. Which comes closer to your view about  
 how to handle undocumented immigrants who  
 are living in the US?

	allowed to stay legally	not allowed to stay legally	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	85%	14%	2%	1690
Dec 2018	84%	14%	1%	1687
May 2018	85%	13%	2%	1684
Dec 2017	86%	12%	2%	1698
Jan 2017	85%	13%	2%	1689
Sep 2016	83%	15%	2%	1689
May 2016	83%	14%	2%	1692
Jan 2016	82%	17%	1%	1690

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding



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Q34. Thinking about undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, do you favor or oppose the protections given by 'DACA'?

	favor	oppose	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	85%	13%	2%	1692
Jan 2018	85%	13%	2%	1698
Sep 2017	78%	19%	3%	1723

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q35. All in all, would you favor or oppose  
 building a wall along the entire border with  
 Mexico?

	favor	oppose	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2020	30%	68%	2%	1694
Jan 2019	28%	69%	3%	1695
Oct 2018	24%	74%	2%	1690
Mar 2018	25%	71%	3%	1694
Sep 2017	24%	73%	2%	1726
Mar 2017	25%	72%	3%	1690
Sep 2016	25%	72%	3%	1699
May 2016	26%	71%	3%	1692

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

