

# Californians and Their Government

## January 2021

### Time Trends – Likely Voters

#### Methodology Note:

Findings for January 2021 are based on a survey of 1,703 California adult residents, with 75 percent interviewed on cell phones (1,261 interviews) and 25 percent interviewed on landline telephones (442 interviews). Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted in English and Spanish according to the respondents' preferences. Interviews took an average of 20 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights January 21-31, 2021.

The January 2021 sampling error for the 1,126 likely voters, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is  $\pm 4.2$  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.

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

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

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

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) have not heard enough to have an opinion	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	52%	43%	0%	5%	1123
Oct 2020	57%	39%	0%	4%	1179
Sep 2020	60%	37%	0%	3%	1163
May 2020	64%	31%	0%	6%	1043
Feb 2020	52%	39%	0%	9%	1043
Jan 2020	49%	42%	0%	9%	960
Nov 2019	48%	45%	0%	7%	1001
Sep 2019	43%	44%	0%	13%	1020
Jul 2019	47%	39%	0%	14%	1070
May 2019	47%	37%	0%	16%	1111
Mar 2019	45%	36%	14%	6%	1108
Jan 2019	43%	29%	21%	8%	1144

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
Likely Voters - Time Trends**

---

---

Q3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Newsom is handling the coronavirus outbreak?

---

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	50%	47%	3%	1117
Oct 2020	59%	37%	4%	1183
Sep 2020	62%	35%	2%	1164
May 2020	69%	28%	3%	1041

---

---

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q4. 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 2021	46%	41%	12%	1118
Oct 2020	45%	42%	14%	1177
Sep 2020	45%	43%	12%	1157
May 2020	50%	39%	11%	1044
Feb 2020	49%	43%	8%	1042
Jan 2020	45%	45%	9%	961
Nov 2019	39%	51%	10%	1002
Sep 2019	38%	51%	11%	1025
Jul 2019	40%	48%	12%	1074
May 2019	34%	53%	13%	1116
Mar 2019	42%	45%	13%	1102
Jan 2019	46%	43%	11%	1147
Dec 2018	43%	47%	10%	1084
Nov 2018	44%	48%	8%	1090
Oct 2018	43%	48%	10%	985
Sep 2018	44%	46%	10%	957
Jul 2018	46%	46%	8%	1014
May 2018	42%	48%	10%	895
Apr 2018	42%	49%	9%	864
Mar 2018	45%	46%	8%	924
Jan 2018	50%	41%	9%	1036
Dec 2017	46%	44%	10%	1065
Nov 2017	45%	45%	10%	1083
Sep 2017	44%	47%	9%	1098
Jul 2017	45%	42%	13%	1088
May 2017	41%	46%	12%	1012
Apr 2017	44%	45%	11%	1033
Mar 2017	48%	41%	11%	1057
Jan 2017	50%	38%	11%	1101
Dec 2016	45%	44%	11%	1115
Oct 2016	43%	43%	14%	1016
Sep 2016	42%	48%	9%	1050
Jul 2016	42%	48%	10%	1045
May 2016	38%	49%	13%	982
Apr 2016	40%	51%	9%	993
Mar 2016	38%	50%	12%	1029
Jan 2016	41%	48%	11%	1034
Dec 2015	38%	48%	14%	1100
Sep 2015	39%	47%	15%	1056
Jul 2015	32%	54%	13%	1055
Jun 2015	30%	52%	18%	1043
Apr 2015	36%	55%	9%	1061
Mar 2015	39%	50%	11%	1059
Jan 2015	41%	47%	13%	1003
Dec 2014	39%	51%	10%	1046
Oct 2014	37%	51%	13%	969
Sep 2014	32%	54%	14%	901
Jul 2014	31%	56%	13%	972
May 2014	36%	54%	11%	1027
Apr 2014	29%	56%	15%	1074
Mar 2014	32%	57%	12%	1084
Jan 2014	33%	57%	10%	1145

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q4. 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
Dec 2013	32%	56%	12%	1077
Sep 2013	32%	57%	10%	1095
Jul 2013	33%	55%	12%	1272
May 2013	29%	59%	12%	1125
Apr 2013	29%	64%	7%	1129
Mar 2013	25%	61%	14%	1130
Jan 2013	31%	55%	14%	1115
Dec 2012	26%	61%	13%	1434
Oct 2012	21%	68%	11%	1329
Sep 2012	22%	68%	10%	1325
Aug 2012	21%	69%	10%	1560
May 2012	17%	71%	11%	1248
Apr 2012	15%	73%	12%	1199
Mar 2012	21%	66%	14%	1162
Jan 2012	17%	71%	12%	1297
Dec 2011	16%	69%	15%	1293
Nov 2011	17%	70%	13%	1634
Sep 2011	17%	71%	12%	1363
Jul 2011	15%	74%	11%	1639
Jun 2011	17%	72%	11%	1404
Apr 2011	14%	74%	12%	1644
Mar 2011	16%	70%	14%	1360
Feb 2011	20%	63%	17%	1558
Jan 2011	18%	68%	14%	1390
Nov 2010	9%	82%	9%	1673
Oct 2010	10%	86%	3%	1238
Sep 2010	11%	85%	4%	1214
Jul 2010	10%	82%	8%	1462
May 2010	11%	80%	8%	1247
Apr 2010	11%	79%	9%	1540
Mar 2010	9%	85%	6%	1235
Jan 2010	12%	80%	7%	1299
Dec 2009	10%	83%	7%	1077
Nov 2009	10%	80%	10%	1630
Sep 2009	16%	76%	8%	1339
Jul 2009	10%	84%	6%	1563
May 2009	12%	80%	8%	1213
Apr 2009	16%	74%	10%	1596
Mar 2009	11%	80%	10%	1136
Feb 2009	14%	75%	10%	1564
Jan 2009	15%	76%	9%	1387
Nov 2008	20%	69%	11%	1633
Oct 2008	22%	70%	8%	1280
Sep 2008	16%	76%	9%	1277
Aug 2008	20%	74%	6%	1183
May 2008	23%	65%	12%	1224
Apr 2008	22%	66%	12%	1517
Mar 2008	25%	64%	11%	1219
Jan 2008	27%	61%	12%	1226
Dec 2007	35%	54%	10%	1146
Oct 2007	32%	54%	14%	1574
Sep 2007	29%	59%	11%	1158

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q4. 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
Jun 2007	35%	47%	18%	1106
May 2007	36%	51%	14%	1127
Apr 2007	35%	51%	14%	1510
Mar 2007	39%	47%	14%	1233
Jan 2007	37%	49%	14%	1274
Oct 2006	26%	61%	13%	1188
Sep 2006	32%	55%	13%	1207
Aug 2006	27%	61%	12%	1105
May 2006	23%	61%	15%	1093
Mar 2006	23%	65%	12%	1002
Jan 2006	25%	63%	12%	1256
Jan 2006	23%	60%	17%	1443
Oct 2005	21%	65%	14%	1161
Sep 2005	28%	60%	12%	1111
Aug 2005	23%	64%	13%	1052
May 2005	24%	63%	12%	1237
Jan 2005	33%	57%	11%	1230
Oct 2004	40%	46%	14%	1210
Sep 2004	37%	51%	12%	1191
Aug 2004	37%	52%	11%	1183
Jun 2004	38%	51%	11%	1346
May 2004	35%	52%	13%	1098
Jan 2004	34%	50%	16%	977
Aug 2003	22%	68%	10%	1067
Jun 2003	29%	58%	13%	1032
Feb 2003	29%	55%	16%	1071
Sep 2002	40%	45%	15%	1029
Jan 2002	46%	43%	11%	967
Dec 2001	50%	36%	14%	939
Jan 2001	56%	32%	12%	1085
Sep 2000	56%	34%	11%	1089

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q5. 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 2021	57%	34%	9%	1120
Jan 2020	58%	33%	9%	965
Jan 2019	65%	25%	10%	1151
Jan 2018	58%	33%	9%	1039
Jan 2017	64%	25%	12%	1103
Jan 2016	53%	38%	9%	1038
Jan 2015	52%	39%	9%	1008
Jan 2014	51%	40%	9%	1147
Jan 2013	51%	40%	9%	1114
Jan 2012	32%	59%	8%	1302
Jan 2011	52%	34%	14%	1393
May 2010	14%	80%	6%	1248
Jan 2010	20%	74%	6%	1301
Jan 2009	35%	56%	8%	1387
Jan 2008	44%	47%	9%	1231
Jun 2007	49%	41%	10%	1112
Jan 2007	60%	30%	10%	1276
Mar 2006	31%	57%	11%	847
Jan 2006	41%	51%	8%	1254

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q6. Do you think things in California are  
 generally going in the right direction or the  
 wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	46%	49%	5%	1124
Oct 2020	50%	46%	4%	1180
Sep 2020	48%	48%	3%	1156
May 2020	56%	41%	3%	1039
Jan 2020	49%	49%	3%	966
Sep 2019	41%	54%	5%	1026
Jan 2019	51%	45%	3%	1149
Dec 2018	50%	46%	4%	1079
Sep 2018	50%	47%	3%	957
Jan 2018	54%	43%	3%	1039
Dec 2017	49%	47%	4%	1062
Sep 2017	51%	45%	4%	1103
Mar 2017	53%	43%	4%	1066
Jan 2017	58%	38%	4%	1102
Oct 2016	50%	45%	5%	1021
Sep 2016	45%	52%	3%	1051
May 2016	45%	51%	4%	986
Mar 2016	45%	50%	5%	1032
Jan 2016	49%	47%	4%	1037
Dec 2015	44%	50%	6%	1106
Sep 2015	43%	52%	6%	1062
Jun 2015	40%	52%	8%	1042
Mar 2015	49%	47%	5%	1057
Jan 2015	49%	45%	5%	1009
Dec 2014	47%	48%	5%	1055
Oct 2014	40%	54%	6%	970
Sep 2014	43%	52%	6%	913
May 2014	44%	50%	6%	1035
Mar 2014	41%	53%	6%	1085
Jan 2014	47%	48%	5%	1143
Dec 2013	41%	55%	4%	1077
Sep 2013	40%	54%	6%	1100
Jun 2013	39%	53%	9%	1433
May 2013	41%	54%	4%	1121
Mar 2013	37%	57%	6%	1132
Jan 2013	45%	49%	6%	1115
Dec 2012	39%	56%	5%	1430
Oct 2012	34%	60%	6%	1330
Sep 2012	29%	66%	5%	1325
May 2012	27%	68%	5%	1246
Mar 2012	32%	59%	9%	1161
Jan 2012	29%	66%	5%	1297
Dec 2011	24%	68%	8%	1294
Sep 2011	25%	69%	7%	1359
Jun 2011	22%	68%	9%	1485
Jun 2011	27%	66%	7%	1401
Mar 2011	27%	63%	10%	1361
Feb 2011	32%	56%	12%	1566
Jan 2011	32%	61%	7%	1393
Oct 2010	12%	77%	11%	1227
Sep 2010	13%	77%	9%	1210
Jul 2010	8%	86%	5%	1462



**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q6. Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2010	13%	82%	5%	1249
Mar 2010	13%	83%	4%	1234
Jan 2010	15%	80%	5%	1299
Dec 2009	11%	82%	7%	1075
Nov 2009	12%	83%	5%	1626
Sep 2009	18%	77%	6%	1340
Jul 2009	9%	87%	5%	1569
Jun 2009	16%	74%	9%	1500
May 2009	17%	76%	7%	1216
Mar 2009	17%	77%	7%	1135
Feb 2009	13%	80%	7%	1564
Jan 2009	16%	78%	6%	1387
Nov 2008	24%	66%	10%	1635
Oct 2008	20%	70%	10%	1274
Sep 2008	21%	67%	11%	1282
Aug 2008	24%	68%	8%	1179
Jun 2008	22%	69%	9%	1412
May 2008	24%	67%	9%	1220
Mar 2008	24%	66%	9%	1215
Jan 2008	35%	55%	10%	1224
Dec 2007	38%	50%	13%	1146
Sep 2007	41%	51%	9%	1154
Jun 2007	44%	47%	9%	1104
May 2007	47%	45%	7%	1122
Mar 2007	44%	48%	8%	1233
Jan 2007	55%	38%	7%	1271
Oct 2006	44%	47%	10%	1183
Sep 2006	45%	46%	9%	1208
Aug 2006	42%	49%	9%	1102
Jul 2006	45%	48%	7%	1346
May 2006	34%	59%	8%	1096
Mar 2006	36%	55%	9%	1007
Feb 2006	34%	58%	8%	1232
Jan 2006	36%	57%	7%	1252
Jan 2006	28%	64%	8%	1447
Oct 2005	29%	62%	10%	1156
Sep 2005	27%	64%	9%	1108
Aug 2005	34%	58%	8%	1055
Jul 2005	39%	50%	11%	1461
May 2005	37%	56%	7%	1238
Apr 2005	34%	56%	10%	1472
Jan 2005	48%	42%	10%	1229
Oct 2004	47%	43%	11%	1210
Sep 2004	47%	42%	12%	1197
Aug 2004	46%	43%	11%	1179
Jul 2004	47%	42%	12%	1447
Jun 2004	46%	43%	11%	1342
May 2004	48%	41%	11%	1100
Feb 2004	32%	54%	15%	1006
Jan 2004	44%	40%	16%	972
Nov 2003	31%	55%	14%	1183
Oct 2003	18%	74%	8%	1128

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q6. Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Sep 2003	17%	75%	8%	1143
Aug 2003	17%	74%	9%	1065
Jul 2003	25%	66%	9%	1153
Jun 2003	22%	68%	10%	1033
Feb 2003	22%	69%	9%	1070
Nov 2002	45%	47%	8%	914
Oct 2002	40%	50%	10%	1048
Sep 2002	48%	43%	8%	1035
Aug 2002	37%	53%	10%	966
Feb 2002	50%	42%	7%	948
Jan 2002	55%	38%	7%	968
Dec 2001	55%	36%	9%	945
Jan 2001	63%	29%	8%	1092
Oct 2000	56%	34%	9%	1088
Aug 2000	63%	30%	8%	1011
Feb 2000	64%	28%	8%	1007
Jan 2000	66%	27%	7%	977
Dec 1999	60%	34%	6%	907
Sep 1999	59%	35%	6%	906
Jan 1999	66%	28%	7%	1049
Oct 1998	63%	30%	7%	1103
Sep 1998	58%	35%	7%	1046
May 1998	56%	36%	9%	936
Apr 1998	55%	37%	8%	990

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q7. Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not? IF YES ASK: Do you think it is in a serious, a moderate, or a mild recession?

	yes, serious recession <input type="checkbox"/>	yes, moderate recession	yes, mild recession	(VOL) yes, don't know	no, not in an economic recession	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	35%	28%	8%	2%	22%	4%	1121
Sep 2020	34%	32%	10%	1%	20%	4%	1164
May 2020	38%	23%	8%	3%	24%	4%	1040
Dec 2013	22%	31%	10%	34%	0%	3%	1078
Oct 2012	43%	28%	8%	18%	0%	1%	1331
Sep 2012	48%	27%	9%	15%	0%	1%	1331
May 2012	48%	28%	7%	15%	0%	2%	1256
Mar 2012	48%	29%	7%	14%	0%	2%	1167
Jan 2012	51%	32%	6%	10%	0%	1%	1304
Dec 2011	53%	29%	4%	12%	0%	2%	1296
Sep 2011	53%	31%	5%	9%	0%	2%	1362
Jun 2011	54%	30%	6%	9%	0%	1%	1408
Mar 2011	58%	24%	6%	9%	0%	4%	1370
Jan 2011	57%	27%	5%	10%	0%	2%	1399
Oct 2010	61%	25%	4%	8%	0%	1%	1238
Sep 2010	59%	27%	5%	7%	0%	1%	1217
May 2010	59%	28%	5%	7%	0%	1%	1250
Mar 2010	64%	24%	5%	6%	0%	2%	1236
Jan 2010	67%	24%	4%	5%	0%	1%	1301
Dec 2009	67%	22%	4%	5%	0%	2%	1078
Sep 2009	60%	31%	3%	5%	0%	1%	1342
May 2009	60%	31%	4%	3%	0%	2%	1220
Mar 2009	70%	22%	3%	3%	0%	1%	1138
Jan 2009	62%	25%	4%	6%	0%	3%	1388
Oct 2008	39%	30%	9%	19%	0%	3%	1280
Aug 2008	30%	35%	10%	20%	0%	5%	1186
Mar 2008	24%	32%	14%	24%	0%	6%	1223

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q8. How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape, or poor shape financially?

	excellent	good	only fair	poor	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	14%	41%	31%	13%	0%	1118
Sep 2020	14%	41%	31%	12%	1%	1158
May 2020	13%	44%	32%	12%	0%	1035
May 2019	10%	43%	32%	15%	0%	1111
May 2017	11%	40%	35%	13%	1%	1008
Dec 2013	7%	44%	34%	14%	0%	1071
Dec 2011	8%	32%	39%	20%	0%	1287
Dec 2009	9%	38%	36%	18%	1%	1063

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q9. And, are you concerned that you or someone in your family will lose their job in the next year, or not? IF YES ASK: Are you very concerned or somewhat concerned?

	yes, very	yes, somewhat	no	(VOL) have lost job already	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	23%	15%	57%	4%	1%	1124
Dec 2011	28%	16%	47%	9%	1%	1295
Sep 2011	26%	16%	49%	8%	1%	1363
Jun 2011	29%	16%	47%	7%	0%	1407
Mar 2011	27%	11%	53%	8%	1%	1369
Oct 2010	23%	15%	52%	9%	1%	1237
Sep 2010	24%	15%	50%	9%	1%	1216
Mar 2010	28%	16%	46%	9%	1%	1237
Dec 2009	29%	15%	44%	11%	1%	1079
Sep 2009	26%	18%	47%	9%	1%	1342
May 2009	26%	16%	49%	9%	1%	1220
Mar 2009	31%	14%	44%	10%	1%	1138
Jan 2009	34%	20%	39%	6%	1%	1392
Sep 2002	14%	11%	75%	0%	0%	1036
Dec 2001	13%	14%	72%	0%	1%	948
May 1998	12%	12%	73%	1%	1%	951

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q10. 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 2021	44%	39%	11%	7%	1125
May 2020	52%	33%	9%	6%	1044
Jan 2020	46%	34%	16%	4%	971
May 2019	50%	31%	13%	6%	1115
Jan 2019	43%	38%	16%	3%	1152
Jan 2018	49%	30%	18%	3%	1038
May 2017	49%	32%	14%	5%	1017
Jan 2017	38%	47%	10%	5%	1105
May 2016	51%	33%	13%	3%	989
Mar 2016	55%	33%	9%	3%	1036
Jan 2016	46%	39%	12%	4%	1041
Dec 2015	50%	35%	10%	6%	1113
Jun 2015	52%	35%	11%	2%	1045
Mar 2015	50%	34%	12%	3%	1063
Jan 2015	56%	35%	7%	2%	1009
Dec 2014	55%	35%	8%	2%	1056
Oct 2014	62%	29%	6%	3%	974
Sep 2014	62%	29%	6%	2%	913
May 2014	58%	34%	5%	2%	1036
Jan 2014	56%	36%	6%	2%	1150
Sep 2013	66%	28%	4%	2%	1101
May 2013	67%	27%	4%	1%	1128
Mar 2013	72%	23%	4%	1%	1137
Jan 2013	71%	23%	4%	1%	1116
Dec 2012	74%	21%	3%	1%	1437
Oct 2012	80%	18%	1%	1%	1336
Sep 2012	83%	15%	1%	1%	1331
May 2012	83%	14%	2%	2%	1256
Apr 2012	80%	16%	2%	1%	1207
Mar 2012	78%	17%	3%	1%	1167
Jan 2012	78%	20%	2%	1%	1305
Dec 2011	83%	14%	2%	2%	1297
Sep 2011	81%	16%	1%	2%	1362
Jun 2011	82%	15%	3%	1%	1409
Mar 2011	83%	14%	2%	1%	1372
Jan 2011	83%	16%	0%	1%	1398
Sep 2010	90%	9%	1%	0%	1219
May 2010	88%	11%	1%	1%	1251
Mar 2010	87%	12%	1%	1%	1237
Jan 2010	83%	15%	0%	1%	1301
Dec 2009	88%	10%	1%	0%	1078
Sep 2009	85%	12%	1%	1%	1342
May 2009	83%	16%	1%	1%	1219
Mar 2009	85%	13%	1%	2%	1138
Jan 2009	82%	16%	1%	1%	1391
Oct 2008	80%	17%	1%	1%	1284
Sep 2008	84%	14%	1%	1%	1283
Aug 2008	84%	14%	1%	1%	1186
May 2008	76%	22%	1%	1%	1229
Mar 2008	79%	18%	2%	2%	1221

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q10. 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 2008	74%	23%	2%	2%	1234
May 2007	46%	46%	5%	3%	1127
Jan 2007	49%	42%	5%	4%	1277
May 2006	64%	30%	2%	3%	1097
Jan 2006	68%	27%	3%	2%	1257

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q16. Which of these statements comes closer to your point of view: [1] the country will be able to unite behind Joe Biden, who will be able to accomplish a lot [OR] [2] the country will be divided, and it will be hard for Joe Biden to accomplish a lot.

	country will be able to unite	country will be divided	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	37%	59%	4%	1120
Jan 2013	34%	62%	4%	1114
Jan 2009	71%	24%	6%	1385
Jan 2005	32%	63%	5%	1230

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding



**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q17. 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 2021	29%	66%	5%	1120
Oct 2020	26%	70%	3%	1177
Sep 2020	21%	75%	3%	1155
May 2020	31%	65%	4%	1034
Feb 2020	32%	63%	5%	1039
Jan 2020	30%	66%	4%	960
Nov 2019	21%	74%	4%	1006
Sep 2019	24%	71%	5%	1015
Jul 2019	17%	79%	4%	1080
May 2019	22%	73%	5%	1107
Mar 2019	29%	67%	5%	1102
Jan 2019	23%	72%	5%	1146
Dec 2018	20%	74%	6%	1086
Oct 2018	20%	75%	6%	983
Sep 2018	20%	74%	7%	958
Jul 2018	14%	83%	3%	1015
May 2018	18%	78%	5%	891
Mar 2018	22%	74%	4%	925
Jan 2018	15%	81%	3%	1040
Dec 2017	15%	80%	4%	1068
Sep 2017	18%	79%	3%	1098
Jul 2017	17%	78%	5%	1091
May 2017	19%	76%	5%	1017
Mar 2017	27%	68%	6%	1059
Jan 2017	25%	68%	7%	1098
Oct 2016	17%	77%	6%	1024
Sep 2016	16%	81%	3%	1054
Jul 2016	17%	80%	3%	1051
May 2016	15%	82%	3%	985
Mar 2016	14%	83%	2%	1038
Jan 2016	19%	78%	3%	1040
Dec 2015	14%	81%	5%	1111
Sep 2015	17%	79%	4%	1065
Jul 2015	17%	78%	6%	1057
Jun 2015	20%	74%	6%	1045
Mar 2015	16%	80%	4%	1057
Jan 2015	24%	71%	5%	1008
Oct 2014	16%	79%	5%	970
Sep 2014	16%	80%	5%	907
Jul 2014	15%	83%	2%	976
May 2014	14%	82%	4%	1034
Mar 2014	9%	87%	4%	1091
Jan 2014	15%	82%	3%	1150
Dec 2013	10%	86%	4%	1078
Sep 2013	18%	79%	3%	1086
Jul 2013	18%	77%	4%	1268
May 2013	19%	77%	5%	1124
Mar 2013	16%	81%	3%	1132
Jan 2013	21%	73%	6%	1113
Oct 2012	15%	81%	4%	1332
Sep 2012	17%	78%	5%	1325
Aug 2012	15%	81%	4%	1562

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q17. 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
May 2012	16%	78%	5%	1252
Mar 2012	17%	79%	4%	1163
Jan 2012	14%	82%	4%	1300
Dec 2011	9%	88%	3%	1293
Sep 2011	15%	79%	6%	1360
Jul 2011	17%	78%	5%	1638
Mar 2011	22%	69%	9%	1365
Oct 2010	26%	71%	3%	1233
Sep 2010	21%	74%	5%	1214
May 2010	26%	68%	6%	1250
Mar 2010	14%	82%	4%	1231
Jan 2010	29%	65%	6%	1296
Dec 2009	29%	66%	5%	1076
Sep 2009	34%	60%	6%	1338
May 2009	39%	53%	7%	1216
Mar 2009	35%	58%	7%	1134
Jan 2009	30%	64%	6%	1389
Oct 2008	18%	78%	4%	1281
Sep 2008	26%	67%	7%	1280
Aug 2008	22%	72%	6%	1180
Mar 2008	30%	63%	7%	1220
Dec 2007	23%	72%	5%	1147
Sep 2007	28%	66%	6%	1160
Jun 2007	30%	62%	9%	1106
Jan 2007	37%	51%	12%	1276
Sep 2006	31%	63%	6%	1207
Mar 2006	31%	62%	7%	1004
Oct 2005	37%	55%	8%	1164

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q18. Do you think that President Biden 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 2021	64%	32%	4%	1125
Jan 2020	14%	84%	2%	970
Jan 2019	18%	79%	3%	1152
Jan 2018	27%	69%	4%	1039
Jan 2017	55%	39%	6%	1103
Jan 2015	18%	78%	4%	1011
Jan 2014	22%	75%	3%	1149
Jan 2013	37%	57%	5%	1115
Jan 2012	19%	77%	4%	1304
Jan 2010	48%	46%	6%	1302
May 2009	69%	24%	7%	1217
Jan 2009	79%	15%	5%	1387
Jun 2007	15%	81%	3%	1113
Jan 2007	30%	65%	5%	1278

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q18a. Generally, what's the better situation: that a president's political party also has a controlling majority in Congress, or that one party controls the White House while the other party controls the Congress?

	president's party controls Congress	one party controls each	don't think it matters too much	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	34%	28%	30%	8%	1109
Dec 2015	37%	22%	35%	7%	1097
Jan 2015	27%	30%	34%	10%	990
Dec 2013	26%	29%	36%	9%	1069
Sep 2000	27%	31%	36%	6%	1085

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q19. Do you think things in the United States  
 are generally going in the right direction or the  
 wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	46%	50%	4%	1123
Oct 2020	25%	72%	3%	1178
Nov 2019	34%	63%	4%	998
Jan 2019	29%	68%	3%	1144
Oct 2018	38%	56%	6%	981
Dec 2017	27%	67%	7%	1061
May 2017	28%	64%	7%	1010
Jan 2017	37%	57%	6%	1101
Oct 2016	40%	55%	5%	1020
Mar 2016	34%	63%	3%	1034
Sep 2015	35%	61%	4%	1059
Mar 2015	34%	61%	5%	1054
Mar 2014	35%	61%	5%	1084
Dec 2013	32%	63%	4%	1075
Jan 2013	47%	49%	4%	1114
Oct 2012	42%	55%	3%	1332
Sep 2011	24%	72%	4%	1355
Oct 2010	35%	60%	5%	1229
Dec 2009	39%	56%	5%	1078
May 2009	52%	43%	5%	1217
Jan 2009	31%	64%	5%	1386
Aug 2008	22%	73%	5%	1180
Mar 2008	21%	75%	4%	1219
Jun 2007	26%	68%	6%	1107
Jan 2007	33%	63%	4%	1271
Oct 2006	31%	62%	6%	1188
Sep 2005	35%	60%	5%	1117
Jan 2005	43%	52%	4%	1233
Sep 2004	41%	56%	3%	1200
Sep 2003	43%	52%	5%	1146

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q20. Turning to economic conditions, do you think that during the next 12 months the United States will have good times financially or bad times?

	good times	bad times	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	40%	55%	5%	1122
Sep 2020	31%	60%	9%	1153
May 2020	20%	73%	7%	1042
Nov 2019	50%	40%	10%	1004
Oct 2018	53%	39%	9%	984
May 2017	43%	46%	11%	1014
Jan 2017	54%	38%	8%	1101
Oct 2016	44%	39%	16%	1017
Mar 2016	45%	47%	9%	1032
Sep 2015	43%	50%	7%	1060
Mar 2015	50%	42%	8%	1050
Mar 2014	40%	51%	8%	1084
Dec 2013	38%	55%	7%	1074
Oct 2012	42%	48%	10%	1328
Sep 2011	20%	74%	6%	1357
Sep 2010	30%	63%	7%	1208
Dec 2009	26%	67%	7%	1076
May 2009	25%	70%	5%	1219
Jan 2009	17%	78%	5%	1388
Aug 2008	19%	74%	6%	1182
Mar 2008	13%	82%	4%	1222
Jun 2007	39%	54%	7%	1110
Jan 2007	47%	45%	8%	1274
Oct 2006	49%	42%	9%	1187
Sep 2005	30%	62%	8%	1117
Jan 2005	48%	43%	8%	1231
Sep 2004	47%	41%	12%	1200
Sep 2003	46%	44%	9%	1142

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q21. 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 2021	5%	29%	53%	11%	1%	1122
May 2020	2%	15%	71%	11%	1%	1043
Jan 2020	3%	16%	71%	9%	1%	969
May 2018	3%	15%	68%	13%	1%	897
Mar 2017	2%	18%	69%	10%	1%	1067
Oct 2016	4%	26%	57%	12%	0%	1020
Jun 2015	3%	18%	69%	9%	1%	1044
May 2014	3%	16%	68%	11%	1%	1035
Dec 2013	2%	14%	71%	12%	1%	1078
Oct 2012	5%	20%	68%	6%	0%	1334
Dec 2011	1%	8%	77%	13%	0%	1297
Oct 2010	3%	23%	63%	10%	1%	1237
May 2009	3%	28%	61%	7%	1%	1218
Oct 2008	2%	18%	69%	11%	1%	1281
Mar 2008	2%	18%	71%	8%	1%	1218
Sep 2007	2%	16%	71%	10%	1%	1162
Mar 2007	3%	21%	70%	6%	1%	1239
Oct 2006	4%	19%	64%	12%	1%	1190
Oct 2005	4%	22%	64%	10%	1%	1166
Jan 2005	4%	26%	62%	7%	1%	1234
Feb 2004	4%	21%	61%	12%	2%	1013
Feb 2003	4%	31%	61%	3%	1%	1079
Dec 2002	4%	29%	61%	5%	1%	1089
Aug 2002	6%	28%	61%	4%	1%	971
Jan 2002	5%	36%	56%	1%	1%	976
Oct 2000	3%	29%	63%	4%	1%	1088
Jan 2000	3%	28%	63%	5%	1%	984
Dec 1999	4%	27%	64%	4%	0%	910
Sep 1998	4%	27%	64%	4%	0%	1046
May 1998	3%	22%	60%	14%	1%	950
Apr 1998	2%	23%	63%	11%	0%	991

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q22. How concerned, if at all, are you that you will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization?  
 Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

	very concerned	somewhat concerned	not too concerned	not at all concerned	(VOL) have already been hospitalized due to coronavirus	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	22%	35%	24%	17%	2%	0%	1124
Sep 2020	26%	33%	22%	19%	0%	0%	1167
May 2020	21%	35%	25%	18%	0%	0%	1046

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding



**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q23. Which comes closer to your view about  
 where the U.S. stands in the coronavirus  
 outbreak: [ROTATE] [1] the worst is behind us  
 [OR] [2] the worst is yet to come?

	the worst is behind us	the worst is yet to come	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	59%	38%	3%	1123
Sep 2020	47%	47%	6%	1163
May 2020	46%	46%	8%	1044

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q24. When it becomes available to you, will you definitely get the coronavirus vaccine, probably get it, probably not get it or definitely not get it?

	definitely get the vaccine	probably get the vaccine	probably not get the vaccine	definitely not get the vaccine	(VOL) already got the vaccine	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	50%	19%	9%	13%	7%	2%	1124
Oct 2020	23%	31%	22%	20%	0%	3%	1171

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q25. Next, do you think that climate change is a major threat, a  
 minor threat or not a threat to the well-being of the United  
 States?

	major threat	minor threat	not a threat	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	65%	20%	15%	1%	1123
Jan 2017	60%	21%	16%	2%	1106

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q27. Do you think the federal government is doing more than  
 enough, just enough, or not enough to address climate change?

	more than enough	just enough	not enough	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	17%	23%	56%	4%	1117
Jul 2013	17%	25%	54%	4%	1252
Aug 2012	21%	23%	53%	3%	1551
Jul 2011	18%	22%	53%	6%	1634
Jul 2010	21%	26%	48%	6%	1453
Jul 2009	20%	28%	46%	6%	1567
Jul 2008	10%	18%	67%	5%	1449

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q28. 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?

	immigrants are a benefit to California	immigrants are a burden to California	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	75%	21%	3%	1103
Sep 2019	66%	28%	6%	986
Dec 2018	65%	29%	6%	1058
May 2018	67%	28%	5%	873
Sep 2017	72%	25%	3%	1084
Jan 2016	61%	32%	8%	1014
Sep 2015	56%	37%	7%	1048
Jan 2015	53%	41%	6%	990
Sep 2014	51%	41%	8%	891
Mar 2014	58%	35%	7%	1072
May 2013	53%	41%	6%	1106
Jan 2013	54%	39%	7%	1096
Mar 2012	51%	39%	10%	1143
Sep 2010	47%	44%	9%	1193
Mar 2010	47%	47%	6%	1212
Sep 2009	52%	41%	7%	1318
Aug 2008	48%	45%	7%	1164
Mar 2008	52%	41%	7%	1203
Dec 2007	51%	42%	7%	1136
Jun 2007	48%	42%	10%	1094
Mar 2007	54%	39%	7%	1221
Sep 2006	50%	42%	8%	1199
Sep 2005	50%	41%	9%	1104
Feb 2004	49%	41%	10%	994
Dec 2001	52%	38%	10%	938
Feb 2000	52%	35%	13%	998
Apr 1998	44%	43%	13%	979

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q29. 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 2021	85%	13%	3%	1115
Jan 2020	82%	16%	2%	965
Dec 2018	81%	17%	2%	1086
May 2018	80%	17%	3%	889
Dec 2017	81%	17%	2%	1064
Jan 2017	83%	15%	2%	1097
Sep 2016	80%	18%	2%	1048
May 2016	75%	22%	3%	982
Jan 2016	78%	21%	1%	1032

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q30. Thinking about undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, do you favor or oppose the protections given by 'DACA', which includes protection from deportation and a work permit, if they pass a background check?

	favor	oppose	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	85%	13%	2%	1114
Jan 2020	81%	17%	2%	965
Jan 2018	81%	17%	2%	1036
Sep 2017	77%	21%	2%	1097

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q31. What do you think about being able to afford the cost of your health care, including the cost of insurance and your out-of-pocket expenses, over the next few years?

	very worried	somewhat worried	not so worried	not worried at all	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	27%	37%	17%	19%	0%	1125
May 2020	23%	37%	17%	21%	1%	1046
Sep 2019	31%	34%	14%	22%	1%	1028

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding



**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - January 2021  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q33. Do you favor or oppose having a government-administered health plan, sometimes called a public option, that would compete with private health insurance plans and be available to all Americans?

	favor	oppose	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2021	73%	22%	5%	1122
Nov 2019	65%	30%	5%	1002

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding