

# Californians and Higher Education November 2018

## Time Trends – Likely Voters

### Methodology Note:

Findings for November 2018 are based on a survey of 1,703 California adult residents, with 70 percent interviewed on cell phones (1,193 interviews) and 30 percent interviewed on landline telephones (510 interviews). Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted in English and Spanish according to the respondents' preferences. Interviews took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights October 27–November 5, 2018.

The November 2018 sampling error for the 1,095 likely voters, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is  $\pm 4.4$  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 Higher Education - November 2018  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q1. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as  
 governor of California?

	approve	disapprove	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	53%	39%	8%	1089
Oct 2018	50%	42%	9%	977
Sep 2018	53%	41%	7%	958
Jul 2018	54%	37%	8%	1013
May 2018	52%	41%	7%	899
Apr 2018	50%	42%	8%	863
Mar 2018	54%	41%	5%	924
Feb 2018	57%	36%	6%	1038
Dec 2017	53%	38%	9%	1066
Nov 2017	56%	36%	8%	1084
Sep 2017	55%	37%	8%	1096
Jul 2017	52%	36%	12%	1084
May 2017	50%	40%	9%	1012
Apr 2017	52%	38%	10%	1026
Mar 2017	61%	32%	7%	1061
Jan 2017	62%	31%	7%	1102
Dec 2016	59%	33%	8%	1112
Oct 2016	56%	32%	12%	1020
Sep 2016	55%	38%	7%	1050
Jul 2016	53%	36%	11%	1048
May 2016	50%	39%	10%	985
Apr 2016	56%	35%	9%	993
Mar 2016	53%	36%	11%	1031
Jan 2016	60%	31%	9%	1036
Dec 2015	54%	35%	11%	1097
Sep 2015	55%	35%	10%	1054
Jul 2015	55%	37%	9%	1054
Jun 2015	54%	36%	10%	1041
Apr 2015	53%	37%	11%	1063
Mar 2015	56%	36%	8%	1056
Jan 2015	58%	33%	9%	1006
Dec 2014	57%	34%	9%	1050
Oct 2014	54%	37%	9%	966
Sep 2014	55%	36%	9%	908
Jul 2014	56%	34%	9%	971
May 2014	54%	35%	11%	1029
Apr 2014	56%	31%	13%	1068
Mar 2014	52%	35%	13%	1080
Jan 2014	60%	32%	8%	1138
Dec 2013	49%	38%	13%	1077
Sep 2013	49%	39%	12%	1092
Jul 2013	54%	31%	15%	1267
May 2013	48%	40%	11%	1117
Apr 2013	49%	41%	10%	1124
Mar 2013	48%	39%	13%	1132

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Higher Education - November 2018  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q1. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as  
 governor of California?

	approve	disapprove	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2013	50%	36%	14%	1110
Dec 2012	49%	40%	11%	1433
Oct 2012	45%	43%	12%	1331
Sep 2012	42%	47%	11%	1322
Aug 2012	46%	42%	11%	1551
May 2012	42%	43%	14%	1248
Apr 2012	47%	40%	12%	1196
Mar 2012	46%	38%	16%	1160
Jan 2012	44%	38%	17%	1297
Dec 2011	46%	36%	17%	1288
Nov 2011	47%	38%	15%	1622
Sep 2011	45%	35%	20%	1350
Jul 2011	48%	35%	17%	1631
Jun 2011	46%	28%	25%	1400
Apr 2011	46%	32%	21%	1640
Mar 2011	41%	25%	34%	1363
Feb 2011	41%	17%	43%	1552
Jan 2011	47%	20%	33%	1380

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Higher Education - November 2018  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that Governor Brown is handling  
 California's public college and university  
 system?

	approve	disapprove	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	44%	37%	19%	1085
Nov 2017	39%	41%	21%	1090
Dec 2016	41%	38%	21%	1115
Nov 2011	29%	53%	18%	1632

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Higher Education - November 2018  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

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
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
Feb 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
Dec 2013	32%	56%	12%	1077
Sep 2013	32%	57%	10%	1095
Jul 2013	33%	55%	12%	1272

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Higher Education - November 2018  
 Likely Voters - 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
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

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
Californians and Higher Education - November 2018  
Likely Voters - 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
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
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 Higher Education - November 2018  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q4. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that the California Legislature is  
 handling California's public college and  
 university system?

	approve	disapprove	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	35%	49%	16%	1080
Nov 2017	34%	51%	15%	1086
Dec 2016	35%	51%	15%	1117
Nov 2011	14%	71%	15%	1636
Nov 2010	11%	77%	13%	1676
Nov 2009	8%	75%	16%	1628
Nov 2008	20%	53%	27%	1631
Oct 2007	26%	49%	25%	1576

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding



**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Higher Education - November 2018  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q5. Thinking about the public higher education system overall in California today, do you think it is generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	41%	49%	11%	1087
Nov 2017	38%	53%	9%	1091
Dec 2016	38%	54%	9%	1115
Nov 2011	17%	77%	6%	1629

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q8. In general, how important is California's higher education system to the quality of life and economic vitality of the state over the next 20 years - very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

	very important	somewhat important	not too important	not at all important	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	75%	21%	3%	1%	1%	1093
Nov 2017	79%	15%	3%	1%	1%	1095
Dec 2016	75%	20%	3%	1%	0%	1123
Mar 2016	78%	16%	3%	2%	0%	1037
Sep 2015	76%	19%	3%	1%	1%	1066
Dec 2014	76%	18%	3%	2%	1%	1057
Dec 2012	84%	12%	2%	2%	0%	1438
Nov 2011	74%	24%	2%	1%	1%	1641
Nov 2010	77%	20%	2%	1%	1%	1681
Nov 2009	72%	24%	2%	1%	0%	1636
Nov 2008	71%	24%	2%	1%	1%	1639
Oct 2007	77%	19%	2%	1%	1%	1582

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**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q10. How about the overall QUALITY of education in California's public colleges and universities today? (IF NECESSARY: Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?)

	big problem	somewhat of a problem	not much of a problem	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	22%	36%	38%	5%	1093
Nov 2017	21%	37%	39%	3%	1095
Dec 2016	17%	34%	46%	3%	1121
Dec 2014	25%	35%	35%	4%	1055
Nov 2011	24%	38%	34%	4%	1637
Nov 2010	21%	35%	40%	4%	1678
Nov 2009	22%	36%	36%	5%	1631
Nov 2008	18%	35%	42%	5%	1637
Oct 2007	17%	34%	44%	5%	1579

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q11. How about the overall AFFORDABILITY of education for students in California's public colleges and universities today? (IF NECESSARY: Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?)

	big problem	somewhat of a problem	not much of a problem	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	64%	23%	10%	2%	1093
Nov 2017	62%	28%	9%	1%	1095
Dec 2016	65%	26%	7%	2%	1122
Dec 2014	60%	28%	12%	1%	1056
Dec 2012	68%	21%	11%	0%	1440
Nov 2011	65%	25%	9%	1%	1640
Nov 2010	59%	29%	11%	1%	1679
Nov 2009	57%	29%	13%	2%	1634
Nov 2008	51%	33%	15%	2%	1640
Oct 2007	53%	31%	14%	2%	1581

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q13. Overall, is the California Community College system doing an excellent,  
 good, not so good, or poor job?

	excellent	good	not so good	poor	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	18%	54%	15%	6%	8%	1091
Nov 2017	16%	55%	17%	6%	6%	1094
Dec 2016	17%	48%	18%	6%	11%	1122
Nov 2011	13%	53%	19%	7%	8%	1636
Nov 2010	16%	50%	21%	7%	6%	1674
Nov 2009	15%	52%	19%	6%	8%	1630
Nov 2008	19%	52%	17%	4%	8%	1638
Oct 2007	17%	53%	17%	4%	8%	1582

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Higher Education - November 2018  
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Q14. Overall, is the California State University system doing an excellent, good,  
 not so good, or poor job?

	excellent	good	not so good	poor	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	12%	53%	20%	6%	9%	1095
Nov 2017	10%	55%	22%	7%	6%	1093
Dec 2016	9%	54%	21%	7%	10%	1120
Nov 2011	7%	52%	23%	7%	10%	1638
Nov 2010	10%	54%	20%	5%	10%	1674
Nov 2009	9%	53%	20%	6%	12%	1630
Nov 2008	12%	54%	18%	4%	12%	1639
Oct 2007	11%	59%	17%	3%	10%	1582

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Higher Education - November 2018  
 Likely Voters - Time Trends**

Q15. Overall, is the University of California system doing an excellent, good, not so good, or poor job?

	excellent	good	not so good	poor	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	17%	49%	16%	9%	8%	1092
Nov 2017	15%	46%	22%	10%	7%	1094
Dec 2016	14%	48%	23%	7%	8%	1121
Nov 2011	14%	45%	23%	7%	10%	1638
Nov 2010	18%	50%	16%	6%	9%	1676
Nov 2009	15%	49%	18%	6%	12%	1631
Nov 2008	17%	49%	17%	4%	12%	1640
Oct 2007	19%	52%	15%	4%	10%	1581

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q16. Next, do you think the current level of state funding for California's public colleges and universities is more than enough, just enough, or not enough?

	more than enough	just enough	not enough	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	12%	25%	57%	6%	1095
Nov 2017	15%	19%	60%	6%	1092
Dec 2016	13%	19%	63%	5%	1121
Dec 2014	15%	26%	54%	6%	1057
Nov 2011	12%	14%	71%	4%	1640
Nov 2010	8%	17%	70%	5%	1677
Oct 2007	9%	29%	55%	8%	1581

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding



**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q20. If the state ballot had a bond measure to  
 pay for construction projects in California's  
 public higher education system, would you vote  
 yes or no?

	yes	no	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	57%	37%	5%	1092
Nov 2017	53%	42%	5%	1092
Dec 2016	60%	35%	5%	1117
Dec 2014	44%	50%	6%	1056
Nov 2011	52%	41%	7%	1636
Nov 2009	46%	47%	6%	1632
Oct 2007	56%	35%	9%	1578

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q21. Do you think that a college education is necessary for a person to be successful in today's work world, or do you think that there are many ways to succeed in today's work world without a college education?

	college is necessary	many ways to succeed without a college education	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	37%	60%	3%	1093
Nov 2017	43%	55%	2%	1092
Dec 2016	43%	55%	1%	1118
Mar 2016	51%	47%	2%	1035
Nov 2011	52%	46%	2%	1636
Nov 2010	56%	41%	2%	1672
Nov 2009	62%	35%	3%	1635
Nov 2008	64%	34%	2%	1637
Oct 2007	61%	38%	2%	1577

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q25. Do you think qualified students from low-income families, regardless of their ethnic or racial background, have [1] less opportunity, [2] more opportunity, [OR] about the same opportunity as others to get a college education?

	less opportunity	more opportunity	about the same	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	57%	13%	29%	2%	1092
Nov 2009	59%	13%	26%	2%	1635
Nov 2008	60%	11%	28%	2%	1635
Oct 2007	56%	15%	27%	2%	1581

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q26. Do you think qualified students who are ETHNIC OR RACIAL MINORITIES, such as African Americans or Latinos, have [1] less opportunity, [2] more opportunity, [OR] about the same opportunity as others to get a college education

	less opportunity	more opportunity	about the same	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
Nov 2018	45%	19%	35%	2%	1093
Nov 2009	36%	21%	40%	3%	1627
Nov 2008	39%	17%	40%	4%	1630
Oct 2007	35%	23%	41%	2%	1579

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding