PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

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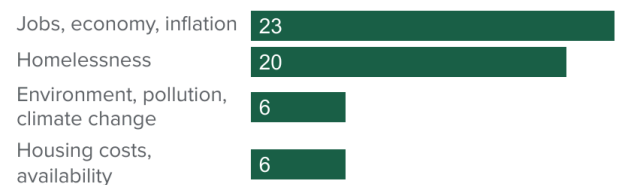
Table of Contents

Key Findings

The year began with the swearing in of state and federal elected officials after the midterms, followed by drama surrounding the election of a new House Speaker. Governor Newsom announced a state budget proposal with a multibillion-dollar revenue shortfall. The economy continued to send mixed signals—with job growth and inflation—and now recession fears are heightened due to the looming debt ceiling stalemate. Californians faced storms of historic proportions, and federal assistance was provided for response and recovery efforts in communities throughout the state.

This is the 25th year of the PPIC Statewide Survey. These are the key findings of the *Californians and Their Government* survey on state and national issues conducted from January 13 to 20, 2023:

➤ **Californians list jobs and the economy and homelessness as the top issues for the governor and legislature to work on in 2023.** Californians are evenly divided when asked if the state is going in the right or wrong direction. Solid majorities believe that Governor Gavin Newsom and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year. Democrats have far more positive views than other voters.

Californians name economic conditions and homelessness as the top two issues for the governor and legislature to work on in 2023

Top four issues mentioned

Jobs, economy, inflation	23
Homelessness	20
Environment, pollution, climate change	6
Housing costs, availability	6

➤ **Most Californians (66%) are expecting bad times for the state economy in the next year.** Solid majorities (62%) say the state is now in a recession, with most viewing it as a moderate recession. Three in ten adults are concerned about job loss for themselves or a family member in the coming year. Solid majorities (61%) also say that rising prices are causing financial hardship, with half of lower-income residents saying that rising prices are causing serious financial hardship. About one in three lower-income residents are very concerned about having enough money to pay for housing.

➤ **Seven in ten Californians view homelessness as a big problem in their part of the state.** Overwhelming majorities say the presence of homeless people has increased in their local community in the past year. Seven in ten Californians say that housing affordability is a big problem in their part of the state, and one in three say that their housing costs make them seriously consider moving out of the state. Majorities across regional and demographic groups are very concerned that housing costs will prevent the younger generation in their family from buying a home in their part of California.

➤ **One in three Californians say the state's budget situation is a big problem.** Solid majorities favor the governor's budget plan for the next fiscal year—although partisans differ. Most say that K–12 public education and health and human services are their top two spending priorities. A slim majority would rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services.

➤ **Perceptions about the nation are gloomier than views about the state.** Two in three say that the US is headed in the wrong direction, and about three in four expect bad economic times in the US in the next 12 months. Seven in ten think that President Biden and Congress will not be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year—including strong majorities across partisan groups. Forty-four percent have at least a good amount of confidence in President Biden making the right decisions for the country's future. About six in ten say that Republican control of the House will change, at least to some degree, the way things are going in the country.

**Optimism that President Biden and Congress will be able to work together has declined sharply**

	Yes, will be able to work together	No, will not be able to work together
2023	27	70
2022	36	59
2021	69	26

➤ **Majorities of adults and likely voters approve of Governor Newsom's performance in office and President Biden's performance in office.** Approval ratings for the governor and president on their handling of jobs and the economy are similar to their overall ratings. The approval ratings of the governor and president are much higher among Democrats than other voters. Almost half approve of the state legislature, while 37 percent approve of the US Supreme Court and 27 percent approve of the US Congress. Twenty-eight percent have a favorable opinion of Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Top Issues and State of the State

When asked about the most important issue for the governor and state legislature to work on, Californians are most likely to name jobs, the economy, and inflation (23%) or homelessness (20%). Fewer Californians mention the environment (6%) or housing costs and availability (6%). About one in five Democrats, Republicans, and independents mention jobs, the economy, and inflation; across partisan groups, Democrats are the most likely to mention homelessness.

Californians are divided on whether the state is generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction. The outlook for the state varies by party, with overwhelming shares of Democrats (73%) being optimistic and overwhelming shares of Republicans (89%)—and majorities of independents (56%)—being pessimistic. Across regions, about six in ten residents in Los Angeles (60%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (57%) think things are headed in the right direction, while about six in ten in the Central Valley (57%) and Inland Empire (60%) think things are going in the wrong direction; Orange/San Diego residents are more divided (47% right direction, 52% wrong direction). Asian Americans (58%) and Latinos (55%) are more likely than African Americans (47%) and whites (42%) to think things in California are going in the right direction.
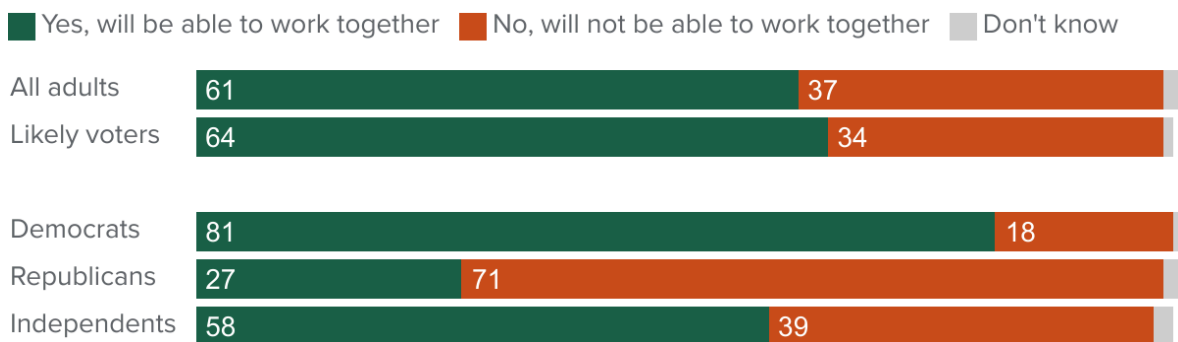
Continuing the trend seen throughout 2022, half or fewer Californians say the state is going in the right direction

— Right direction
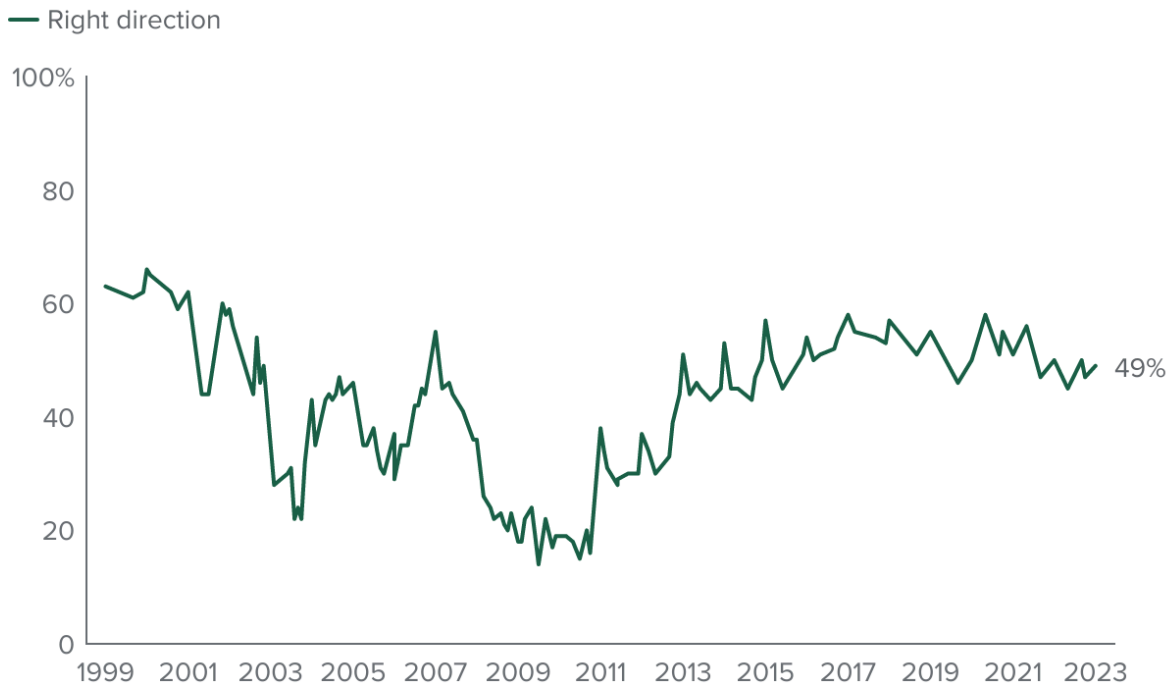
When asked whether they feel Governor Newsom and the legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot over the next year, six in ten Californians are optimistic and fewer than four in ten are pessimistic. About six in ten Californians have been optimistic in recent years while two in three were optimistic shortly after the governor's inauguration in January 2019 (67%). Partisan differences are wide, with eight in ten Democrats, as well as about six in ten independents, thinking Newsom and the legislature can work together, while seven in ten Republicans think they cannot. Majorities across regions and demographic groups are optimistic, although optimism is higher among African Americans (71%) and Latinos (68%) than among whites (57%) and Asian Americans (54%).

A solid majority think Newsom and the legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year

■ Yes, will be able to work together ■ No, will not be able to work together ■ Don't know

All adults	61	37
Likely voters	64	34
Democrats	81	18
Republicans	27	71
Independents	58	39

Californians most often name jobs, the economy, and inflation as well as homelessness as the top issues facing the state

|	Jobs, economy, inflation	Homelessness	Environment, pollution, climate change	Housing costs, availability
All adults	23%	20%	6%	6%
Likely voters	19	24	9	7
Democrats	21	30	10	9
Republicans	20	15	2	2
Independents	23	17	5	10
Central Valley	22	21	4	4
Inland Empire	27	23	2	4
Los Angeles	25	25	7	6
Orange/San Diego	20	15	4	7
SF Bay Area	21	17	8	11
Men	20	21	5	6
Women	25	20	6	6
African Americans	30	28	2	19
Asian Americans	18	21	4	11
Latinos	34	17	4	3
Whites	14	22	7	5
Less than $40,000	24	22	3	8
$40,000 to $79,999	29	19	5	3
$80,000 or more	19	21	7	7

California's Economic Conditions

With inflation cooling but uncertainty still looming, two in three Californians think the state will have bad times financially during the next 12 months. Negative perceptions today are higher than at any time in 2021 or 2022 and similar to December 2020 (68%). Pessimism is widespread, with majorities across parties, regions, and demographic groups expecting bad times—except among Democrats, who are divided (50% good times, 47% bad times). Along with the general economic pessimism expressed by a strong majority of adult residents, 30 percent of Californians are concerned that they or someone in their family will lose their job in the next year, while 45 percent are concerned about having enough money to pay their rent or mortgage. Lower-income residents are more concerned than others about possible job loss and having enough money to pay for their housing.
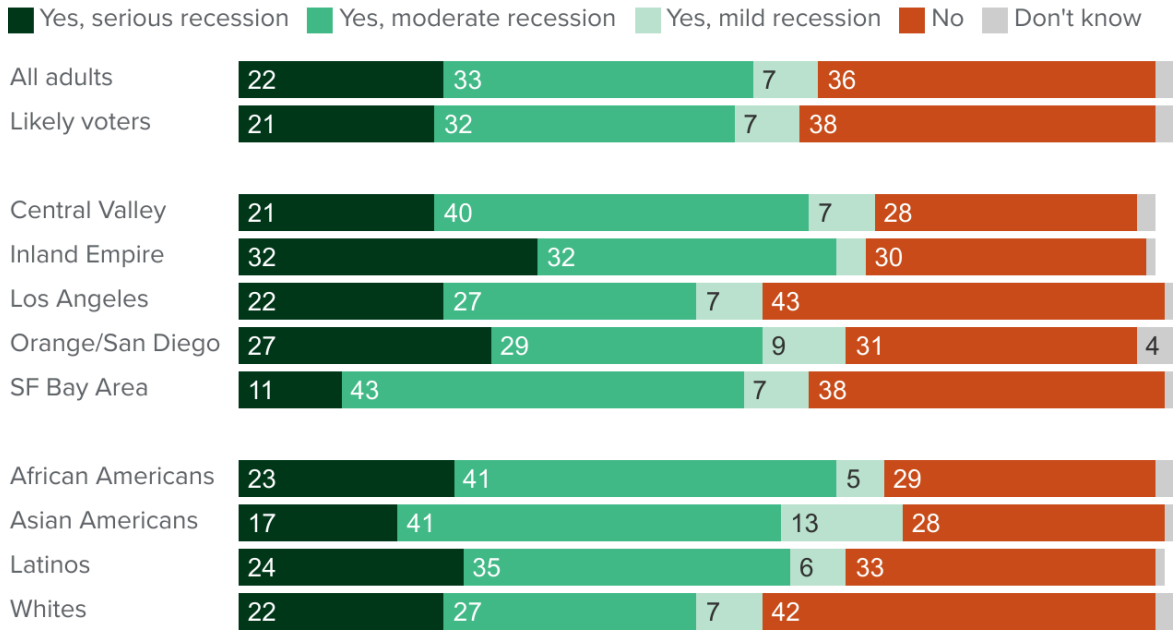
After receding in 2021, economic pessimism has returned
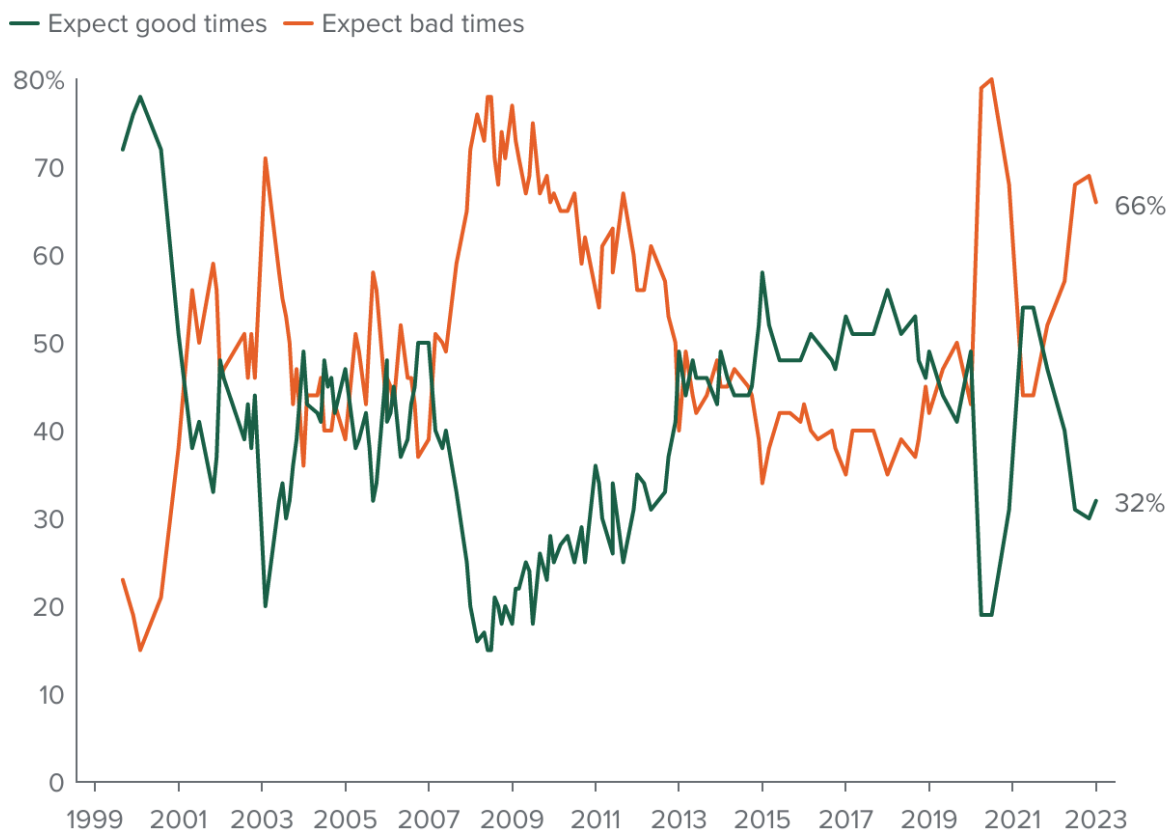
SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 1999–2023.

Amid pessimism about the state's economic outlook, a solid majority of Californians think the state is in an economic recession—with most saying that it is in a moderate recession. Fewer than four in ten think the state is not in a recession. A year ago, fewer Californians thought the state was in a recession (23% serious recession, 20% moderate recession, 8% mild recession). Across parties, Republicans (81%) are much more likely than independents (63%) or Democrats (51%) to think California is in a recession and about twice as likely to think it is in a serious one. Majorities across regions and demographic groups think that the state is in a recession.

Many across the state think California is in a recession

Legend: ■ Yes, serious recession ■ Yes, moderate recession ■ Yes, mild recession ■ No ■ Don't know

Group	Yes, serious recession	Yes, moderate recession	Yes, mild recession	No	Don't know
All adults	22	33	7	36	
Likely voters	21	32	7	38	
Central Valley	21	40	7	28	
Inland Empire	32	32		30	
Los Angeles	22	27	7	43	
Orange/San Diego	27	29	9	31	4
SF Bay Area	11	43	7	38	
African Americans	23	41	5	29	
Asian Americans	17	41	13	28	
Latinos	24	35	6	33	
Whites	22	27	7	42	

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2023. Survey was fielded from January 13–20, 2023 (n=1,539 adults, n=1,050 likely voters).

While inflation has begun to ease, six in ten Californians say that recent price increases have caused financial hardship in their household, including three in ten who say increases have caused serious financial hardship. The share saying they are facing hardship was higher last September (38% serious hardship; 33% hardship, but not serious). While majorities across parties, demographic groups, and most regions have experienced hardship, the impact varies across income groups. Across regions, hardship is felt most among residents in the Inland Empire and least among those in the San Francisco Bay Area. Latinos and African Americans are much more likely than Asian Americans and whites to say their household has experienced serious hardship, and this perception declines sharply with rising income and educational attainment. When asked about the hardship caused by gasoline and other transportation costs, 54 percent say transportation costs have caused hardship—similar to the share who said this in our November 2022 survey (53%).

Recent price increases have caused financial hardship for most Californians

|	Yes, serious hardship	Yes, not serious hardship	Yes, don't know how serious (vol)	No hardship
All adults	30	30	1	39
Likely voters	26	31	0	43
Democrats	21	30	0	48
Republicans	40	32	0	28
Independents	26	32	1	41
Central Valley	38	29	1	32
Inland Empire	49	30	0	21
Los Angeles	26	32	0	42
Orange/San Diego	30	29	0	41
SF Bay Area	17	31	2	50
Men	30	28	1	42
Women	31	32	1	36
African Americans	38	23	0	39
Asian Americans	20	33	0	47
Latinos	38	34	2	27
Whites	26	28	0	45
Less than $40,000	50	28	1	20
$40,000 to $79,999	33	33	1	34
$80,000 or more	18	31	0	51

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2023. Survey was fielded from January 13–20, 2023 (n=1,539 adults, n=1,050 likely voters).

Homelessness and Housing Affordability

Homelessness is one of the top two issues that Californians would like state leaders to work on this year. Seventy percent of adults and 76 percent of likely voters say homelessness is a big problem in their part of the state. Similar shares of adults (68%) and slightly fewer likely voters (70%) held this view last September. Today, solid majorities across all partisan, demographic, and regional groups say it is a big problem. Shares with this opinion are highest among African Americans (83%) and Republicans (79%).

Overwhelming majorities of adults and likely voters say the presence of homeless people in their community has increased in the last year; about one in four say it has stayed the same, and very few say it has decreased. The share noting an increase has risen since the first time PPIC asked this question in November 2019 (58%). Today, strong majorities across all partisan, age, gender, education, income, racial/ ethnic, and homeownership groups—as well as regions—say the presence of homeless people has increased.

An overwhelming majority of Californians say the presence of homeless people in their community has increased over the last year
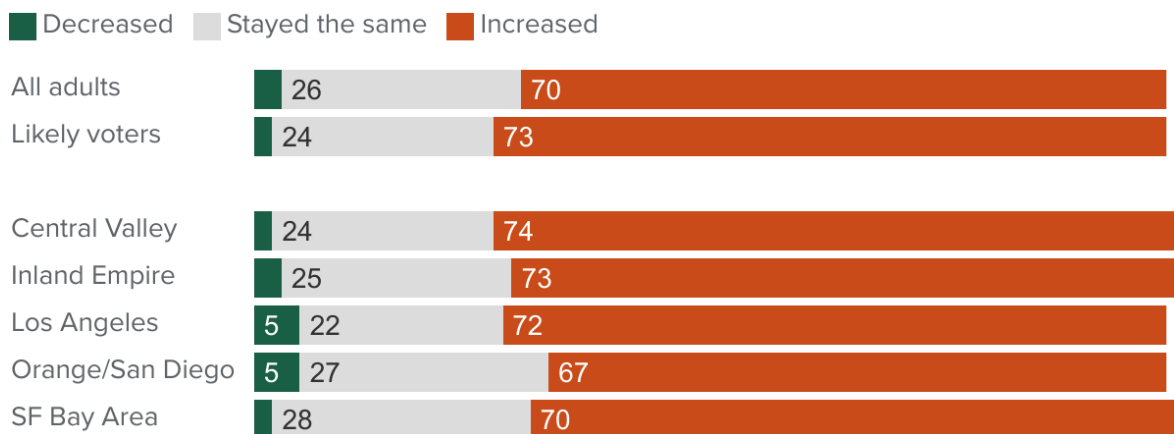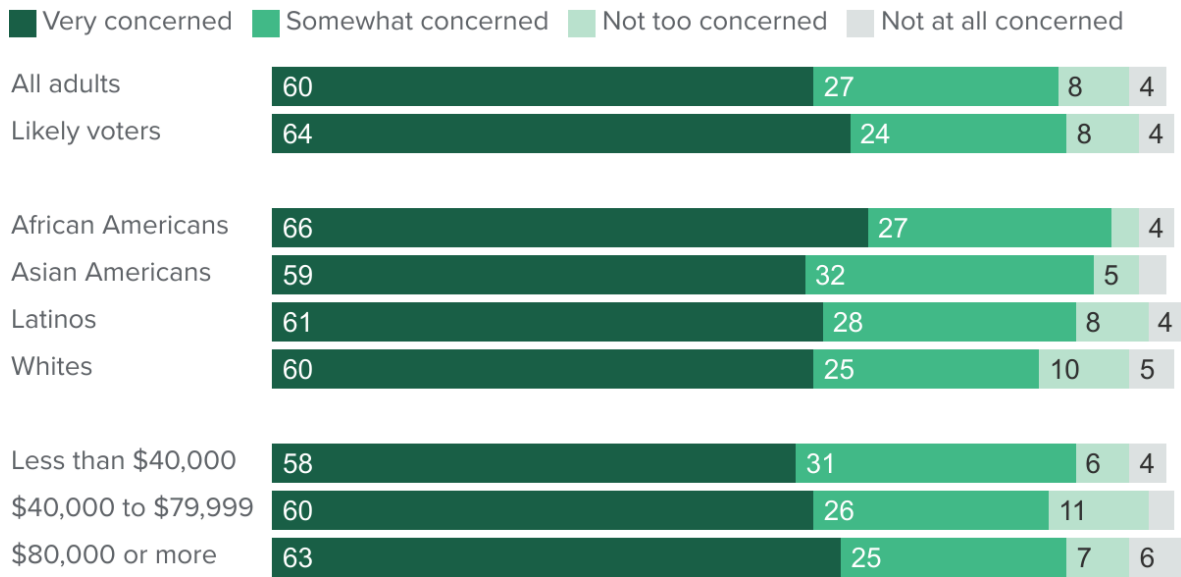

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2023. Survey was fielded from January 13–20, 2023 (n=1,539 adults, n=1,050 likely voters).

Housing affordability is one of several issues inextricably linked to homelessness, and Californians are equally likely to think both issues are a big problem in their region. Seventy percent of adults and 74 percent of likely voters say housing affordability is a big problem in their part of California. A similar share of adults (64%) and likely voters (72%) held this opinion in March 2022 when we last asked this question. Majorities across regions and solid majorities across all partisan and demographic groups say housing affordability is a big problem. African Americans (86%) and San Francisco Bay Area residents (80%) are the most likely to say this. With an overwhelming majority of Californians saying housing affordability is a big problem, 45 percent say the cost of their housing makes them and their family seriously consider moving out of the part of California where they currently live, with most (34%) saying they would move outside the state. Last March, similar shares (46%) said they were considering a move because of the cost of their housing.

Nearly nine in ten adults and likely voters are at least somewhat concerned that the cost of housing will prevent their family's younger generations from buying a home in their part of California, with solid majorities being very concerned about this (60% adults, 64% likely voters). Across regions, the share of residents who are very concerned is highest in the Inland Empire (67%) and lowest in the Central Valley (52%, 61% Los Angeles, 62% San Francisco Bay Area, 63% Orange/San Diego). Majorities across all partisan and demographic groups are very concerned about younger family members being able to afford a home.

A solid majority are very concerned that housing costs will prevent their family's younger generations from buying a home in California

■ Very concerned ■ Somewhat concerned ■ Not too concerned ■ Not at all concerned

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not too concerned	Not at all concerned
All adults	60	27	8	4
Likely voters	64	24	8	4
African Americans	66	27		4
Asian Americans	59	32	5	
Latinos	61	28	8	4
Whites	60	25	10	5
Less than $40,000	58	31	6	4
$40,000 to $79,999	60	26	11	
$80,000 or more	63	25	7	6

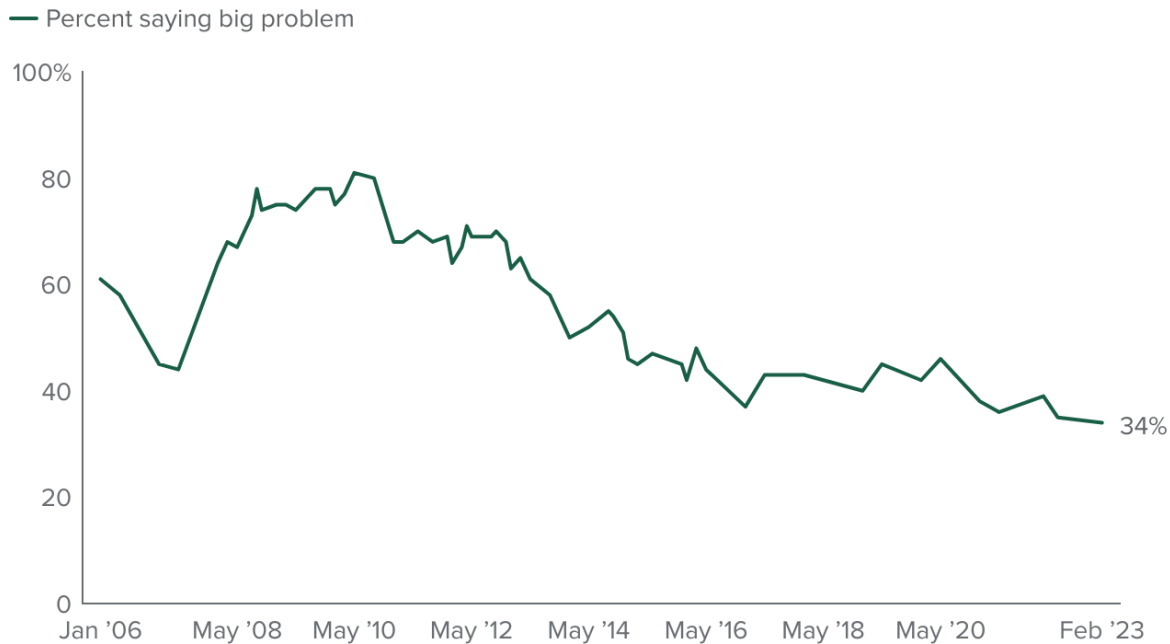**SOURCE:** PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2023. Survey was fielded from January 13–20, 2023 (n=1,539 adults, n=1,050 likely voters).

Californians are equally likely to say homelessness and housing affordability are big problems

	Homelessness is a big problem in local community	Housing affordability is a big problem in their part of California
All adults	70%	70%
Likely voters	76	74
Democrats	74	72
Republicans	79	72
Independents	69	75
Central Valley	66	59
Inland Empire	65	69
Los Angeles	74	75
Orange/San Diego	67	67
SF Bay Area	74	80
Men	69	69
Women	71	72
African Americans	83	86
Asian Americans	62	68
Latinos	69	67
Whites	71	72
Less than $40,000	68	68
$40,000 to $79,999	69	73
$80,000 or more	71	72

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2023. Survey was fielded from January 13–20, 2023 (n=1,539 adults, n=1,050 likely voters).

State Budget

In early January, Governor Newsom released a $297 billion spending plan and announced an estimated $22.5 billion state budget shortfall. This shortfall represents a sharp decline in California's fiscal situation since last January, when there was an estimated $97.5 billion budget surplus. Despite the shortfall, only 34 percent of adults and 38 percent of likely voters say the state budget situation is a big problem (somewhat of a problem: 51% adults, 47% likely voters; not a problem: 13% adults, 14% likely voters). Similar shares held this view last February (39% adults, 40% likely voters). Today, 23 percent of Democrats say the budget

situation is a big problem, compared to a strong majority of Republicans (67%) and 31 percent of independents. Across regions, Californians in the Inland Empire (45%) are the most likely to say the budget is a big problem. Four in ten or fewer across age, education, gender, homeownership, income, and racial/ethnic groups hold this view.
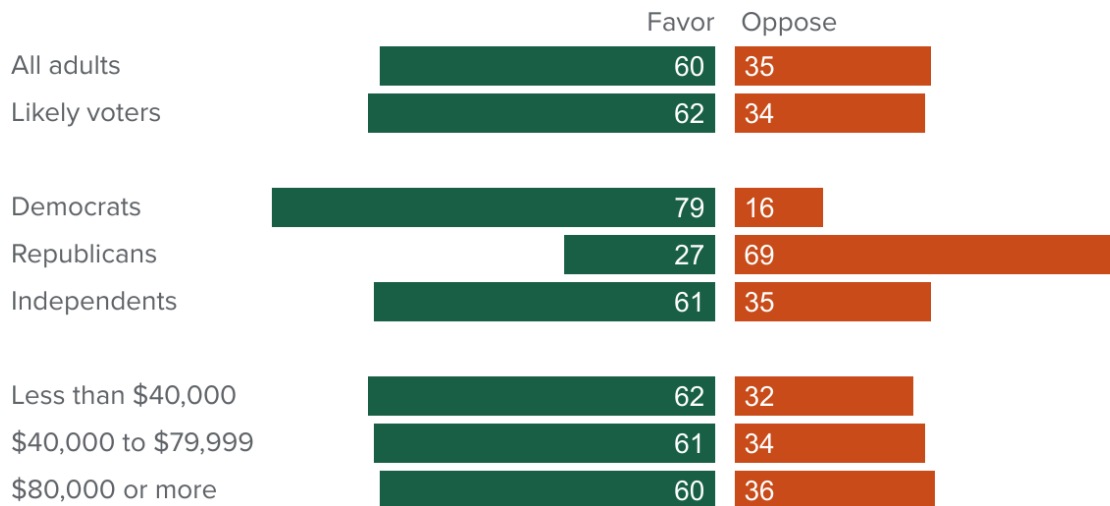
Despite a budget shortfall, the share of Californians saying the state budget situation is a big problem remains similar to recent years when there was a record surplus

— Percent saying big problem

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2006–2023.

After reading a short summary of Governor Newsom's budget proposal, a solid majority of adults (60%) and likely voters (62%) are in favor. In addition to the $297 billion in planned spending, the proposal contains $3.9 billion in "trigger reductions," or cuts from the budget that would be restored in the future if economic conditions improve. Despite the projected shortfall, the plan currently includes no new general taxes. Most Democrats and independents are in favor, compared to just one in four Republicans. Support for the budget plan is higher in Los Angeles (69%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (66%) than in Orange/San Diego (55%), the Central Valley (52%), and the Inland Empire (51%). Majorities across demographic groups favor the proposal.

A solid majority of Californians favor Governor Newsom's proposed budget plan

	Favor	Oppose
All adults	60	35
Likely voters	62	34
Democrats	79	16
Republicans	27	69
Independents	61	35
Less than $40,000	62	32
$40,000 to $79,999	61	34
$80,000 or more	60	36

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2023. Survey was fielded from January 13–20, 2023 (n=1,539 adults, n=1,050 likely voters).

The governor's plan refrains from accessing the $22.4 billion in the state's Rainy Day Fund to partially address the current budget shortfall. An overwhelming majority of adults (70%) and likely voters (73%) say this is a good idea (bad idea: 26% adults, 24% likely voters). There is agreement across partisan groups, but Democrats and independents are much more likely than Republicans to say it is a good idea. Strong majorities across regions and all demographic groups hold this view, but African Americans are *less* likely than members of other racial/ethnic groups—and college graduates are *more* likely than adults with less formal education—to agree.

The governor's budget proposal continues to maintain promised investments that, among other things, expand transitional kindergarten, sustain universal school meals, support the state's homelessness strategy, and expand health care—including expanding Medi-Cal to all income-eligible Californians, regardless of immigration status. Solid majorities say this part of the state spending proposal is a good idea (66% adults, 63% likely voters). Partisans, however, are sharply divided: overwhelming shares of Democrats and solid majorities of independents say it is a good idea, while 74% of Republicans think it is a bad idea. Majorities across the state's major regions and all demographic groups think sustaining funding for these programs is a good idea.

To partially address the budget shortfall, Governor Newsom's plan includes a combination of cuts, delayed spending, and shifts in funding sources to bridge the gap between spending and revenues. Currently, the proposal calls for spending cuts to areas such as workforce training, transportation, housing programs, and efforts to fight climate change. Californians are divided in their views on these cuts: about half of adults (48%) and likely voters (49%) say the cuts are a good idea while another 50 percent think they are a bad idea. Among partisans, Democrats and Republicans are similarly divided in their opinions while 55% of independents say the cuts are a bad idea. Regionally, about half in the Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and Orange/San Diego think they are a good idea compared to fewer elsewhere. Half of Californians age 35 and older say the cuts are a good idea compared to 42% of younger adults. Men and women also feel differently, with 53% of men saying the cuts are a good idea compared to 43% of women. Among racial/

ethnic groups, roughly half of Asian Americans and Latinos believe the cuts are a good idea, while slim majorities of African Americans and whites say they are a bad idea.

What are the fiscal priorities for Californians when it comes to state government spending? Most mentioned K–12 public education (43% adults, 49% likely voters) and health and human services (42% adults, 40% likely voters) when asked to name their top spending priority. And when the choice was between taxes and services, more Californians said that they would rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services (52% adults, 54% likely voters) than said they would rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services (45% adults, 45% likely voters). Partisans differ sharply in their preferences for taxes and services.

Most Californians think it's a good idea to not use the Rainy Day Fund to help address the shortfall, and to sustain funding for priority programs, but are divided over budget cuts

% saying "good idea"

	Refrain from using Rainy Day Fund to partially address shortfall	Sustain TK expansion, universal school meals, support homelessness strategy, expand health care access	Cuts to workforce training, transportation, housing programs, and efforts to fight climate change
All adults	70%	66%	48%
Likely voters	73	63	49
Democrats	79	87	51
Republicans	54	25	49
Independents	71	62	44
Central Valley	65	61	42
Inland Empire	66	65	53
Los Angeles	78	77	51
Orange/San Diego	66	56	50
SF Bay Area	76	66	45
Men	72	65	53
Women	69	67	43
African Americans	57	86	44
Asian Americans	73	62	50
Latinos	76	78	53
Whites	68	55	43
Less than $40,000	68	81	45
$40,000 to $79,999	72	68	46
$80,000 or more	73	58	50

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2023. Survey was fielded from January 13–20, 2023 (n=1,539 adults, n=1,050 likely voters).

State of the Nation

After a tumultuous year that included the end of most coronavirus-related restrictions, news of Russia invading Ukraine, rising prices, and the midterm election results, about two in three adults (67%) and likely voters (69%) think things in the US are headed in the wrong direction. Three in ten adults and likely voters say they are headed in the right direction. The share of all adults saying things are headed in the wrong direction has increased from a year ago (56%), but the share among likely voters remains similar (66%). Majorities across partisan groups say things are going in the wrong direction, but Republicans (88%) and independents (75%) are much more likely to say this than are Democrats (58%). Six in ten or more across major demographic and regional groups say this, with shares highest among 18-to-34-year-olds (76%), Central Valley and Inland Empire residents (74% each), whites (74%), adults with some college education (74%), women (71%), and those with incomes of $80,000 or more (70%).

Two-thirds of Californians think things in the US are headed in the wrong direction
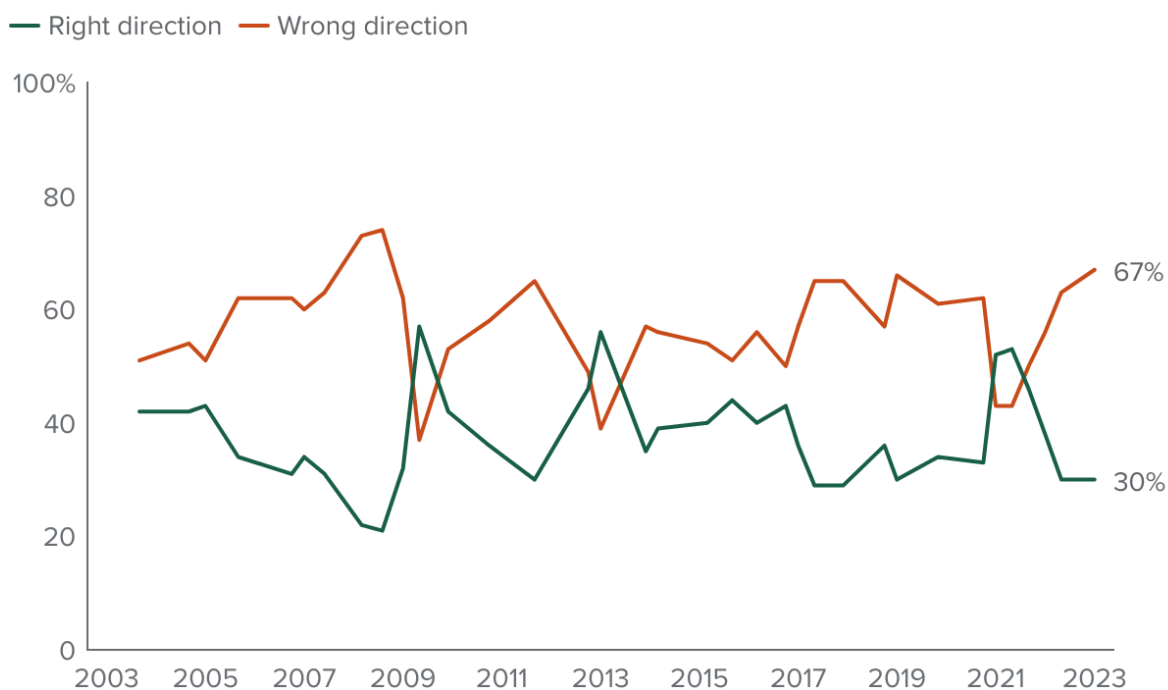
SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2003–2023.

When asked how much confidence they have in President Biden to make the right decisions for the country's future, fewer than half say they have a great deal (12%) or a good amount of confidence (32%), while a majority say they have just some (28%) or no (27%) confidence at all. Confidence was higher in January 2021, at the start of Biden's term, when a majority had at least a good amount of confidence (28% great deal, 30% good amount). Today, Democrats (25%) are the most likely to express a great deal of confidence, while Republicans are far more likely to say they have no confidence at all (74%). African Americans are the most likely among racial/ethnic groups to have a great deal of confidence, followed by somewhat fewer Latinos, whites, and Asian Americans. The share saying they have a great deal of confidence in Biden increases with rising age. Ten percent or more across regional groups say this.

Meanwhile, solid majorities of Californians (62% adults, 67% likely voters) say they think Republican control of the House will change the way things are going in this country at least to some degree. Majorities across partisan groups and regions of the state hold this view.

A majority of Californians have either "just some" or "no confidence at all" in President Biden making the right decisions for the country's future
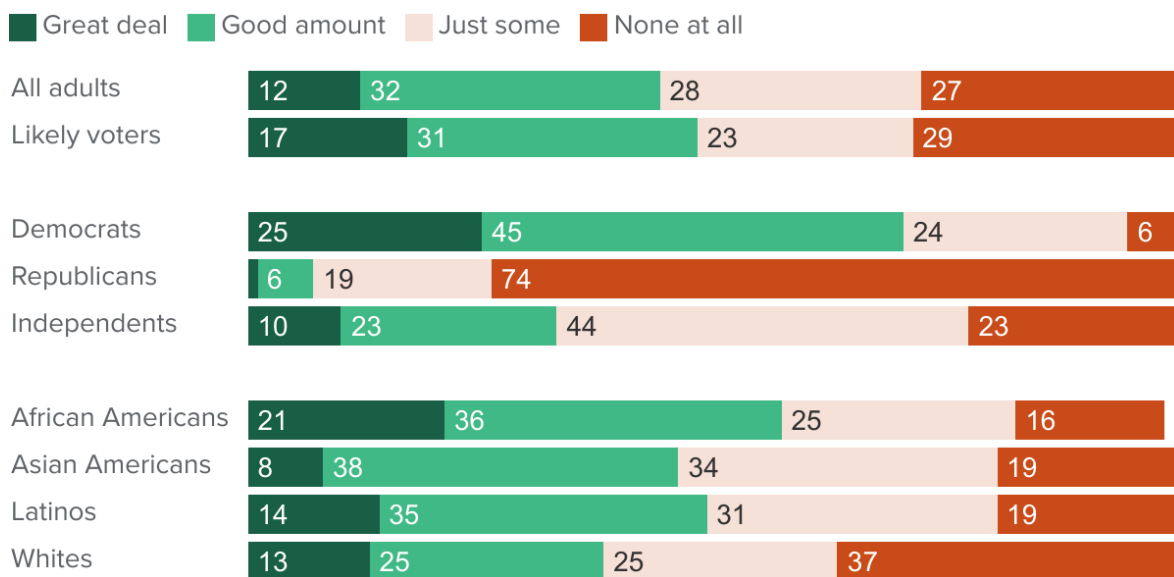
Legend: ■ Great deal ■ Good amount □ Just some ■ None at all

Group	Great deal	Good amount	Just some	None at all
All adults	12	32	28	27
Likely voters	17	31	23	29
Democrats	25	45	24	6
Republicans	6	19		74
Independents	10	23	44	23
African Americans	21	36	25	16
Asian Americans	8	38	34	19
Latinos	14	35	31	19
Whites	13	25	25	37

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2023. Survey was fielded from January 13–20, 2023 (n=1,539 adults, n=1,050 likely voters).

Seven in ten California adults and more likely voters (78%) say they do not think that Biden and the US Congress will be able to work together to accomplish a lot in the next year (will be able to work together: 27% adults, 20% likely voters). Compared to a year ago, these shares have increased among adults (59%) and remained similar among likely voters (72%), but views completely flipped after January 2021, when 69% of adults and 64% of likely voters said Biden and Congress would be able to work together. Today, strong majorities across partisan groups are pessimistic, as are majorities across demographic groups; the share that is pessimistic increases with rising income and education levels and is far higher among those with at least some college. Six in ten or more across the state's regions say Biden and Congress will not be able to work together in the next year.

With a divided legislature, an overwhelming majority have doubts about whether the president and Congress will be able to work together in the next year

	Yes, will be able to work together	No, will not be able to work together
All adults	27	70
Likely voters	20	78
Democrats	31	67
Republicans	12	86
Independents	18	79
Central Valley	23	76
Inland Empire	38	60
Los Angeles	37	60
Orange/San Diego	20	75
SF Bay Area	19	77
Men	23	75
Women	30	66
African Americans	39	55
Asian Americans	19	78
Latinos	38	59
Whites	18	79
Less than $40,000	40	57
$40,000 to $79,999	31	64
$80,000 or more	17	82

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2023. Survey was fielded from January 13–20, 2023 (n=1,539 adults, n=1,050 likely voters).

Approval of State and Federal Elected Officials

After Newsom won reelection to a second term as California's governor, majorities of adults (58%) and likely voters (57%) continue to approve of the way he is handling his job, while fewer disapprove (40% adults, 42% likely voters). Shares were similar last February (56% adults, 57% likely voters) and approval has been higher than 50 percent since the beginning of 2020. Among partisans today, more than eight in ten Democrats (83%) and a majority of independents (55%) approve of Newsom, compared to just 12 percent of Republicans. Majorities approve across demographic groups, with the exception of adults with some college

education (47%) and white adults (49%). Strong majorities of Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay Area residents approve of Newsom, compared to about half among Inland Empire, Central Valley, and Orange/ San Diego residents. Majorities approve of Newsom's handling of jobs and the economy (57% adults, 56% likely voters) as well as the state budget and taxes (52% adults, 53% likely voters).

Californians are split when it comes to the state legislature—with about half of adults and likely voters (49% each) saying they approve of the way it is handling its job (disapprove: 48% adults, 50% likely voters). Partisans are deeply divided on this matter, with most Democrats approving, while Republicans and independents are far more likely to disapprove. Across regions, half or fewer approve, with the exception of six in ten in Los Angeles.

A majority approves of the governor, while about half approve of the state legislature
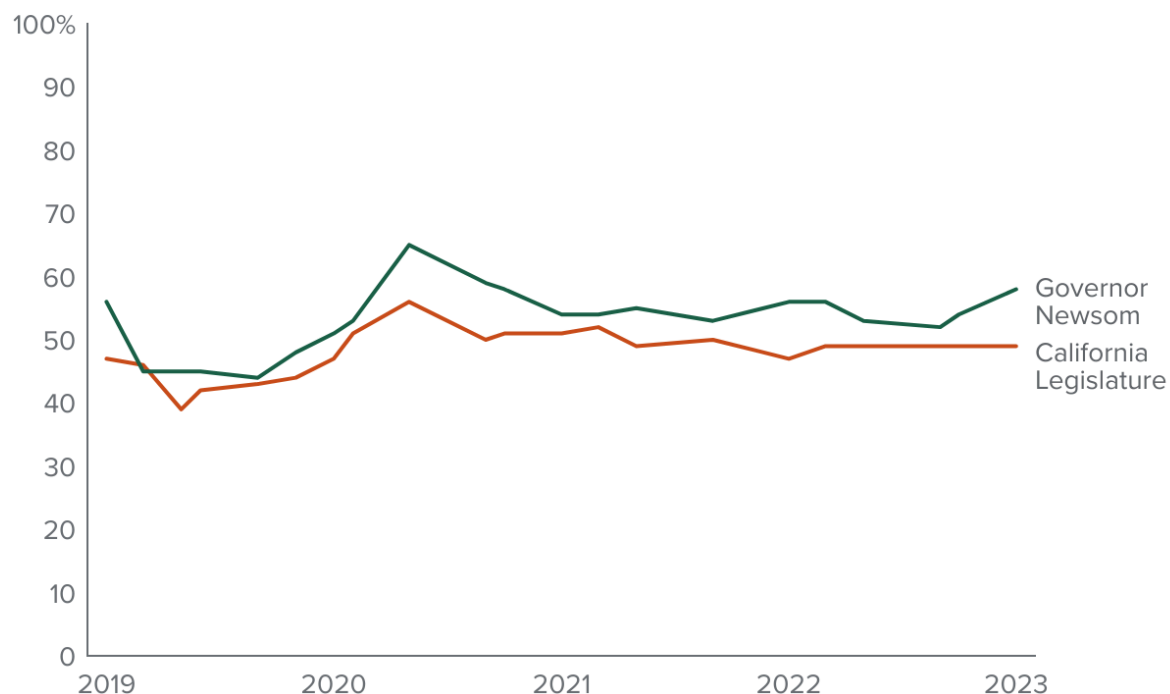
SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2019–2023.

A majority of adults (53%) and likely voters (56%) continue to approve of President Biden, while fewer disapprove (45% adults, 44% likely voters). Approval among all adults is identical to last February (53%), and at least half have approved since the beginning of Biden's tenure as president. Views are deeply divided along party lines, with nearly eight in ten Democrats and half of independents approving, while nine in ten Republicans disapprove. About half or more across most demographic groups approve, except among whites (45%) and adults with some college education (41%). African Americans, Latinos, and college graduates are the most likely among demographic groups to approve of Biden. Across regions, about two in three in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area approve, compared to fewer in other regions. Forty-one percent of adults nationwide approve of Biden according to a January Gallup poll. Majorities of California adults (53%) and likely voters (56%) approve of Biden's handling of jobs and the economy.

Approval of the US Congress is far lower compared to presidential approval, with just 27 percent of adults and 22 percent of likely voters approving today, while most disapprove (70% adults, 77% likely voters). Approval among adults is similar to a year ago (32%) and has never eclipsed half since PPIC started asking this question in October 2005. Today, solid majorities across partisan lines disapprove. Majorities across age, education, gender, income, racial/ethnic, and regional groups disapprove. Views among Californians are similar to the opinions of the nation as a whole, according to a recent Gallup poll in which 22 percent of adults nationwide approved of Congress and 73 percent disapproved.

A majority approves of President Biden, while approval of Congress remains low
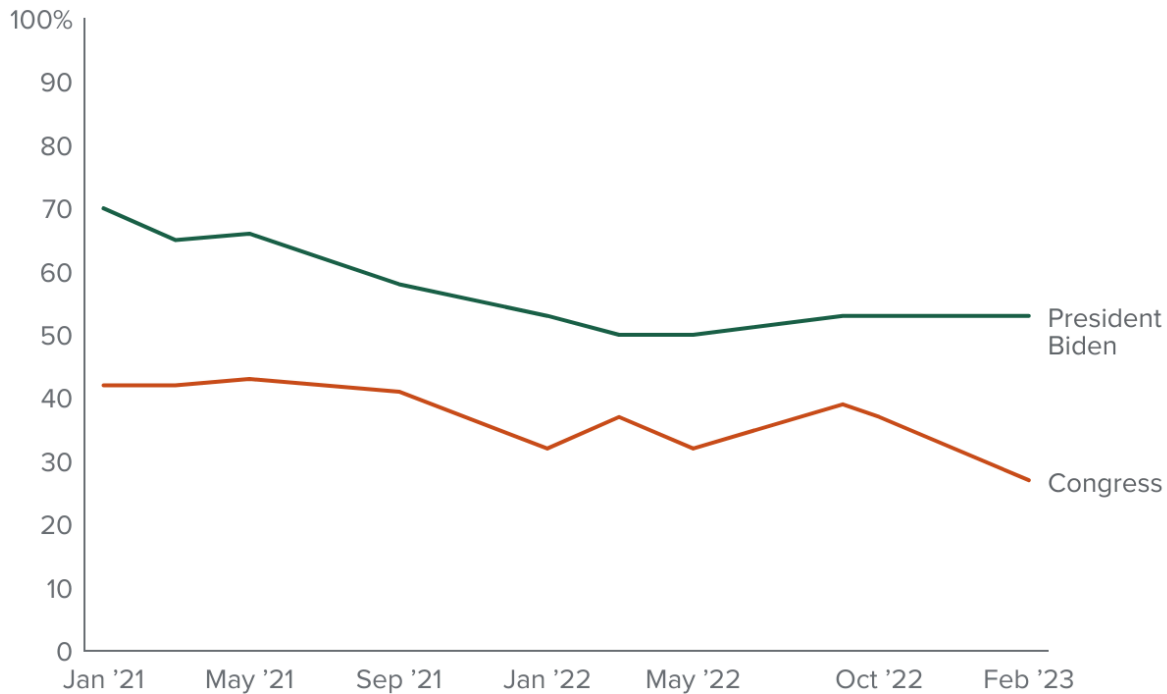
After an eventful year of judicial decisions that eliminated the constitutional right to an abortion, established a right to carry guns, and limited efforts to address climate change, a majority of California adults (59%) and likely voters (63%) disapprove of the US Supreme Court, while fewer than four in ten express approval (37% adults, 36% likely voters). Approval was much higher the last time we asked this question in January 2017 (57% adults, 53% likely voters). Partisans are divided, with majorities of Democrats and independents disapproving while about six in ten Republicans approve of the US Supreme Court. Majorities across most demographic and regional groups disapprove, with the exception of 49 percent of adults with a high school education only. Fifty-two percent of adults say the US Supreme Court is too conservative, 15 percent say it is too liberal, and three in ten say it is about right—with partisans having sharply different perceptions. An overwhelming majority of Californians support term limits for US Supreme Court justices.

With Representative Kevin McCarthy winning election as House Speaker after a five-day, 15-ballot floor fight, strong majorities of Californians have an unfavorable impression of him (66% adults, 70% likely voters). Just

over a quarter have a favorable impression (28% adults, 27% likely voters) today. Majorities across demographic and regional groups hold an unfavorable impression.

Majorities approve of Governor Newsom and President Biden, while fewer approve of the state legislature, Congress, and the Supreme Court

	Governor Newsom	President Biden	State Legislature	US Supreme Court	US Congress
All adults	58%	53%	49%	37%	27%
Likely voters	57	56	49	36	22
Democrats	83	79	73	24	33
Republicans	12	10	8	62	14
Independents	55	51	41	32	19
Central Valley	49	42	40	43	22
Inland Empire	50	42	43	47	31
Los Angeles	71	65	60	41	35
Orange/San Diego	48	46	47	33	22
SF Bay Area	65	64	50	25	24
Men	59	55	50	40	26
Women	58	51	48	35	28
African Americans	77	61	51	29	37
Asian Americans	59	56	52	31	26
Latinos	66	60	55	46	36
Whites	49	45	42	35	18
Less than $40,000	62	52	50	42	34
$40,000 to $79,999	61	57	52	43	30
$80,000 or more	55	52	47	31	21

A strong majority of Californians have an unfavorable impression of Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy

	Favorable	Unfavorable
All adults	28%	66%
Likely voters	27	70
Democrats	10	85
Republicans	56	40
Independents	27	67
Central Valley	34	62
Inland Empire	32	62
Los Angeles	30	61
Orange/San Diego	25	67
SF Bay Area	18	77
Men	28	68
Women	29	63
African Americans	8	84
Asian Americans	31	65
Latinos	32	62
Whites	27	67
Less than $40,000	32	60
$40,000 to $79,999	30	62
$80,000 or more	25	72

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, February 2023. Survey was fielded from January 13–20, 2023 (n=1,539 adults, n=1,050 likely voters).

Regional Map

This map highlights the five geographic regions for which we present results; these regions account for approximately 90 percent of the state population. Residents of other geographic areas (in gray) 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.
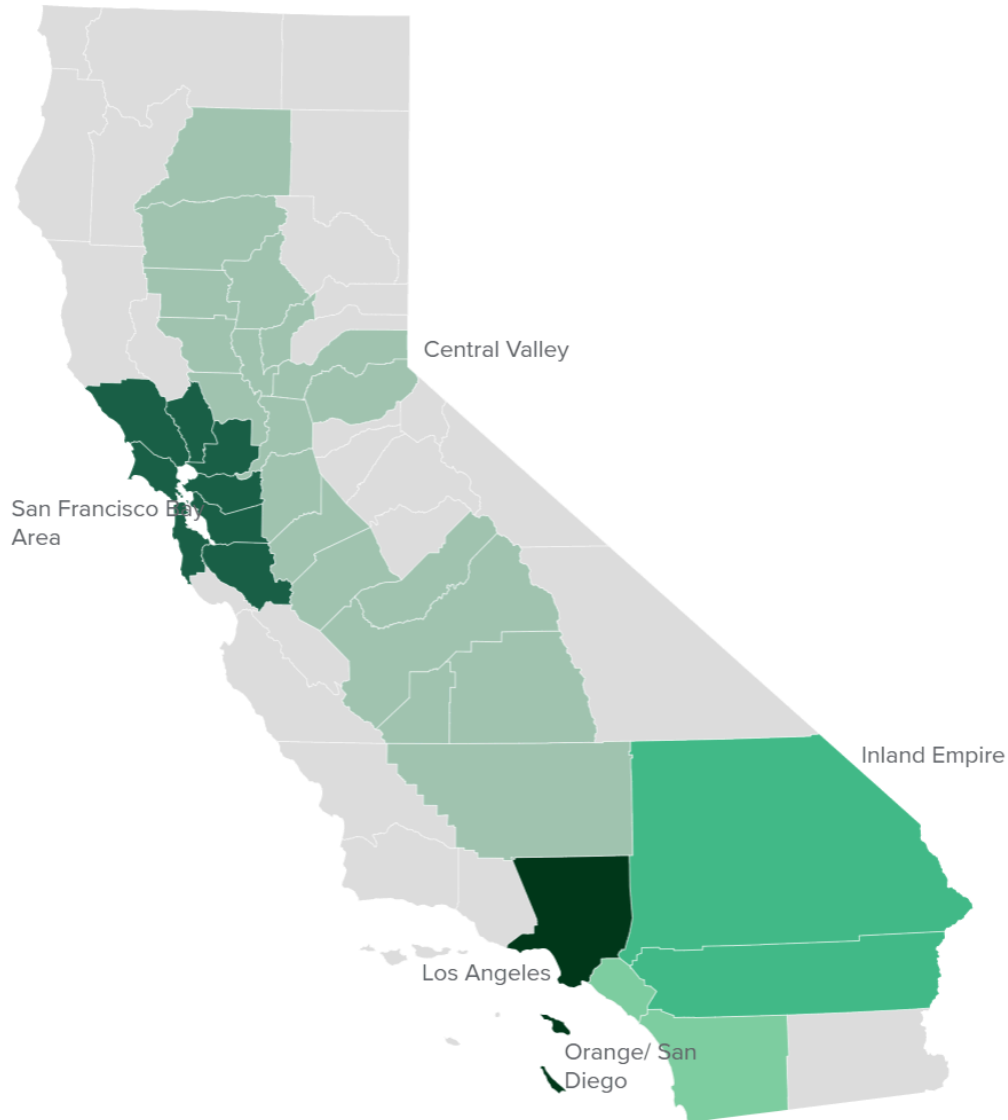
Methodology

This is the 25th year of the PPIC Statewide Survey. Coauthors of this report include survey director Mark Baldassare, who holds the Miller Chair in Public Policy; associate survey director and research fellow Dean Bonner; survey analyst Rachel Lawler, who was project manager for this survey; and survey analyst Deja Thomas. The Californians and Their Government survey is supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation and the James Irvine Foundation. 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 1,539 California adult residents. The median time to complete the survey was 20 minutes. Interviews were conducted from January 13–20, 2023. The survey was completed prior to the mass shooting events in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay.

The survey was conducted by Ipsos, using its online KnowledgePanel, in English and Spanish according to respondents' preferences. KnowledgePanel members are recruited through probability-based sampling and include both those with internet access and those without. KnowledgePanel provides internet access for those who do not have it and, if needed, a device to access the internet when they join the panel. KnowledgePanel members are primarily recruited using address based sampling (ABS) methodology, which improves population coverage, particularly for hard-to-reach populations such as young adults and minority groups. ABS-recruited Latinos are supplemented with a dual-frame random digit dialing (RDD) sampling methodology that targets telephone exchanges associated with areas with a higher concentration of Latinos to provide the capability to conduct representative online surveys with Latinos, including those who speak only Spanish. KnowledgePanel's recruitment was originally based on a national RDD frame and switched to the primarily ABS-based methodology in 2009. KnowledgePanel includes households with landlines and cell phones, including those with cellphones only and those without phones. ABS allows probability-based sampling of addresses from the US Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File (DSF). The DSF-based sampling frame used for address selection is enhanced with a series of refinements—such as the appendage of various ancillary data to each address from commercial and government data sources—to facilitate complex stratification plans. Taking advantage of such refinements, quarterly samples are selected using a stratified sampling methodology that aims to retain the representativeness of the panel. KnowledgePanel recruits new panel members throughout the year to offset panel attrition.

To qualify for the survey, a panel member must be age 18 or older and reside in California. A general population sample of Californians was selected using Ipsos's PPS (probability proportional to size) sampling procedure to select study-specific samples. Briefly, to select such samples, the panel is first weighted to population benchmarks and those panel weights are used as the measure of size for a PPS sample selection that yields a fully representative sample. A total of 1,612 respondents completed the survey out of 3,019 panelists who were sampled, for a response rate of 53 percent. To ensure the highest data quality, we flagged respondents who sped through the survey, which we defined as completing the survey in one-fourth of the overall median time (less than 5 minutes). We also flagged respondents if their self-reported age or gender did not match the data stored in their profile. A total of 73 cases were removed after this review process, resulting in 1,539 total qualified and valid cases.

Accent on Languages, Inc., translated new survey questions into Spanish, with assistance from Renatta DeFever.

Ipsos uses the US Census Bureau's 2016–2020 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. 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 sample of Californians is first weighted using an initial sampling or base weight that corrects for

any differences in the probability of selecting various segments of the KnowledgePanel sample. This base weight is further adjusted using an iterative proportional fitting (raking) procedure that aligns sample demographics to population benchmarks from the 2016–2020 ACS data as well as party registration benchmarks from the California Secretary of State's voter registration file.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ±3.5 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,539 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.5 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,318 registered voters, the sampling error is ±3.7 percent; for the 1,050 likely voters, it is ±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.

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 results for non-Hispanic whites, who account for 41 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 16 percent of the state's adult population, and non-Hispanic African Americans, who comprise about 6 percent. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, and likely voters, but sample sizes are not large enough for separate analysis. Results for African American and Asian American likely voters are combined with those of other racial/ethnic groups because sample sizes for African American and Asian American likely voters are too small for separate analysis. We compare the opinions of those who report they are registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and decline-to-state or independent voters; the results for those who say they are registered to vote in other parties are not large enough for separate analysis. We also analyze the responses of likely voters—so designated per their responses to survey questions about voter registration, previous election participation, intentions to vote this year, attention to election news, and current interest in politics.

Sample sizes and margins of error for each subgroup are presented in the table below.

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 national surveys conducted by Gallup. Numerous questions were adapted from national surveys by Gallup and the Pew Research Center. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

Unweighted N-size and margin of error

Group	Unweighted N-size	Margin of Error
All adults	**1,539**	**3.5%**
Registered voters	1,318	3.7%
Democrats	627	5.5%
Republicans	320	7.3%
No Party Preference/ Independents	335	7.5%
Central Valley	245	7.3%
Inland Empire	170	10.3%
Los Angeles	355	7.1%
Orange/San Diego	256	8.5%
SF Bay Area	309	8.1%
Men	760	5.2%
Women	779	4.7%
African Americans	124	12.9%
Asian Americans	158	10%
Latinos	389	6.5%
Whites	819	4.7%
Less than $40,000	300	7.3%
$40,000 to $79,999	357	7%
$80,000 or more	830	4.9%
All likely voters	**1,050**	**4.2%**
Democrats	519	6%
Republicans	259	8.2%
No Party Preference/ Independents	240	9.1%
Central Valley	200	8.7%
Inland Empire	100	9.1%
Los Angeles	233	8.2%
Orange/San Diego	169	9.8%
SF Bay Area	238	9.4%
Men	559	6%
Women	491	5.9%
Latinos	197	9.4%
Whites	644	5%
Other	209	9.8%
Less than $40,000	152	10.5%
$40,000 to $79,999	220	8.7%
$80,000 or more	646	5.6%

Questions and Responses

January 13–20, 2023
1,539 California adult residents
English, Spanish

Margin of error ±3.5% at 95% confidence level for total sample
Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

1. First, which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2023?

23% jobs, the economy, inflation
20% homelessness
6% environment, pollution, climate change
6% housing costs, availability
5% immigration, illegal immigration
5% state budget, deficit, spending
5% water, water quality, availability, drought
4% crime, gangs, drugs
3% education, teachers, schools
15% other *(specify)*
8% don't know

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

58% approve
40% disapprove
2% don't know

3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Newsom is handling the issue of jobs and the economy?

57% approve
42% disapprove
2% don't know

4. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling the issue of the state budget and taxes?

52% approve
46% disapprove
2% don't know

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

49% approve
48% disapprove
3% don't know

6. 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?

61% yes, will be able to work together
37% no will not be able to work together
2% don't know

7. Do you think things in California are <u>generally</u> going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

49% right direction
49% wrong direction
2% don't know

8. How much of the time do you think you can trust the state government in Sacramento to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

8% just about always
38% most of the time
53% only some of the time
1% don't know

9. Would you say the <u>state</u> 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?

67% a few big interests
31% benefit of all the people
2% don't know

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

45% a lot
46% some
8% don't waste very much
1% don't know

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

32% good times
66% bad times
2% don't know

12. 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?")

22% yes, serious recession
33% yes, moderate recession
7% yes, mild recession
– yes, don't know (vol)
36% no, not in an economic recession
2% don't know

13. Have recent price increases caused any financial hardships for you or others in your household, or not? (*if yes, ask: "Has that been a serious hardship, or not?"*)

30% yes, serious
30% yes, not serious
1% yes, don't know how serious *(volunteered)*
39% no, have not caused hardship
– don't know

14. Has the cost of gasoline or other transportation caused any financial hardship for you or your household? (*if yes, ask: "Is that a severe hardship that affects your ability to maintain your current standard of living, or is it a moderate hardship that affects you somewhat but does not jeopardize your standard of living?"*)

21% yes, caused severe hardship
33% yes, caused moderate hardship
46% no, have not caused hardship
– don't know

15. 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?"*)

18% yes, very concerned
12% yes, somewhat concerned
70% no
– don't know

16. How concerned are you, if at all, about not having enough money to pay your rent or mortgage? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

17% very concerned
28% somewhat concerned
29% not too concerned
26% not at all concerned
– don't know

On another topic,

17. Overall, how fair do you think our present state and local tax system is—would you say it is very fair, moderately fair, not too fair, or not at all fair?

3% very fair
39% somewhat fair

38% not too fair
19% not at all fair
1% don't know

18. When you combine all of the taxes you pay to state and local governments, do you feel that you pay much more than you should, somewhat more than you should, about the right amount, or less than you should?

31% much more
39% somewhat more
26% about the right amount
4% less than you should
1% don't know

19. Where do you think California currently ranks in state and local tax burden per capita? Compared to other states, is California's tax burden per capita near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?

42% near the top
29% above average
19% average
5% below average
3% near the bottom
2% don't know

Changing topics,

20. 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?

34% big problem
51% somewhat of a problem
13% not a problem
2% don't know

[*rotate questions 21 and 22*]

21. Listed below are some of the largest areas for state <u>spending</u>. Please select the one that represents the most spending in the state budget: *[rotate] [1]* **K–12 public education,** *[2]* **higher education,** *[3]* **health and human services,** *[or] [4]* **prisons and corrections?**

18% K–12 public education
6% higher education
42% health and human services
31% prisons and corrections
3% don't know

22. Listed below are some of the largest areas for state <u>revenues</u>. Please select the one that represents the most revenue for the state budget: *[rotate] [1]* **personal income tax,** *[2]* **sales tax,** *[3]* **corporate tax,** *[or] [4]* **motor vehicle fees?**

43% personal income tax
30% sales tax
15% corporate tax
10% motor vehicle fees
3% don't know

23. Thinking about these four areas of state spending, please select the one you think should have the <u>highest</u> priority when it comes to state government spending: *[rotate] [1]* **K–12 public education,** *[2]* **higher education,** *[3]* **health and human services,** *[or] [4]* **prisons and corrections?**

43% K–12 public education
7% higher education
42% health and human services
7% prisons and corrections
2% don't know

24. Governor Newsom recently proposed a budget plan for the next fiscal year that includes $297 billion in general fund spending and a $22.5 billion budget shortfall. The plan also contains $3.9 billion in "trigger reductions," or cuts from the budget that would be restored in the future if economic conditions improve. Despite the projected shortfall, the plan currently includes no new taxes. In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?

60% favor
35% oppose
2% haven't heard anything about the budget *(volunteered)*
3% don't know

[***rotate questions 25 to 27***]

25. Governor Newsom's budget plan includes a combination of cuts, delayed spending, and shifts in funding sources to bridge the gap between spending and revenues. Currently, the plan calls for spending cuts to areas such as workforce training, transportation, housing programs, and efforts to fight climate change. In general, do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

48% good idea
50% bad idea
2% don't know

26. Currently, California's total budgetary reserves are $35.6 billion, which includes $22.4 billion in the Budget Stabilization Account or "Rainy Day Fund." Given concerns about a possible nationwide recession, as part of the budget proposal Governor Newsom refrained from accessing the Rainy Day Fund to partially address the current budget shortfall. In general, do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

70% good idea
26% bad idea
4% don't know

27. Despite a projected budget shortfall, the governor's budget proposal continues to sustain promised investments that, among other things, expand transitional kindergarten, sustain universal school meals, support the state's homelessness strategy, and expand health care access—including expanding Medi-Cal to all income-eligible Californians, regardless of immigration status. In general, do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

66% good idea
32% bad idea
2% don't know

28. In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more—[rotate] [1] I'd rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, [or] [2] I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services?

45% high taxes and more services
52% lower taxes and fewer services
2% don't know

Changing topics,

29. [likely voters only] In general, do you think it is a good thing or a bad thing that a majority of voters can make laws and change public policies about the climate crisis in California by passing initiatives?

68% good thing
30% bad thing
2% don't know

30. [likely voters only] Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with this statement: California would benefit from having a citizens' assembly on the climate crisis facing the state today, where a group of randomly selected citizens would meet over several days, gather information, discuss issues, and make recommendations for ballot initiatives to take action on the climate crisis?

15% strongly agree
38% somewhat agree
22% somewhat disagree
24% strongly disagree
1% don't know

Reforms have been suggested to address issues in California's initiative process.

[rotate questions 31 to 33]

31. [likely voters only] As you may know, there is currently a period of time when the initiative sponsor and the legislature can meet to see if they can agree on a compromise that will be enacted as legislation rather than put on the ballot. Do you favor or oppose requiring the compromise legislation go on the ballot?

66% favor
31% oppose
3% don't know

32. *[likely voters only]* **Would you favor or oppose having the "yes" and "no" sides of initiative campaigns participate in town halls around the state that are organized and hosted by independent panels?**

79% favor
18% oppose
3% don't know

33. *[likely voters only]* **Would you favor or oppose a new law requiring that volunteers gather signatures to qualify initiatives and banning the use of paid signature gatherers?**

67% favor
30% oppose
3% don't know

Changing topics,

34. How much of a problem is housing affordability in your part of California? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem?

70% big problem
24% somewhat of a problem
4% not a problem
1% don't know

35. Does the cost of your housing make you and your family <u>seriously consider</u> moving away from the part of California you live in now? (*if yes, ask: "*Does it make you consider moving elsewhere in California, or outside of the state?")

11% yes, elsewhere in California
34% yes, outside the state
55% no
1% don't know

36. How concerned are you that the cost of housing will prevent the younger generation in your family from buying a home in your part of California—very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

60% very concerned
27% somewhat concerned
8% not too concerned
4% not at all concerned
– don't know

Next,

37. How much of a problem is homelessness in your part of California? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

70% big problem
26% somewhat of a problem
4% not a problem
– don't know

38. In the last 12 months, do you think that the presence of homeless people in your local community has increased, decreased or stayed about the same?

70% increased
3% decreased
26% stayed the same
1% don't know

Next,

39. How much of a problem are violence and street crime in your local community today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

30% big problem
46% somewhat of a problem
24% not a problem
– don't know

40. In the last 12 months, do you think that violence and street crime in your local community has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

48% increased
5% decreased
46% stayed the same
1% don't know

Next,

41. How much of a problem is property crime in your local community today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

30% big problem
44% somewhat of a problem
25% not a problem
1% don't know

42. In the last 12 months, do you think that property crime in your local community has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

47% increased
4% decreased
48% stayed the same
1% don't know

Next,

43. How would you rate the job your local police are doing in controlling crime in your community: excellent, good, fair, or poor?

9% excellent
37% good
39% fair
13% poor
1% don't know

44. How concerned are you that you or someone in your family will be a victim of a crime—very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

21% very concerned
44% somewhat concerned
29% not too concerned
6% not at all concerned
– don't know

45. Have you or do you know anyone who has ever been a victim of racial profiling? (*if yes, ask: "*Would that be you or someone you know?")

7% yes, me
20% yes, someone else
7% yes, both
66% no
– don't know

Changing topics,

46. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Joe Biden is handling his job as president of the United States?

53% approve
45% disapprove
2% don't know

47. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Biden is handling the issues of jobs and the economy?

53% approve
45% disapprove
2% don't know

48. How much confidence do you have in President Biden to make the right decisions for the country's future—a great deal of confidence, a good amount, just some, or none at all?

12% great deal of confidence
32% a good amount
28% just some
27% none at all
1% don't know

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

27% approve
70% disapprove
3% don't know

50. Do you have a *[rotate] (1)* **favorable or an** *(2)* **unfavorable impression of Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy?**

28% favorable
66% unfavorable
6% don't know

51. Do you think that President Biden and the US Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?

27% yes, will be able to work together
70% no, will not be able to work together
3% don't know

52. As you may know, the Republican Party won control of the US House of Representatives as a result of the midterm elections. How much do you think Republican control of the House will change the way things are going in this country—a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

16% a lot
46% some
27% not much
9% not at all
2% don't know

53. Do you think things in the United States are <u>generally</u> going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

30% right direction
67% wrong direction
2% don't know

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

24% good times
74% bad times
2% don't know

55. 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?

2% just about always
30% most of the time
66% only some of the time
1% don't know

56. Would you say the <u>federal</u> 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?

82% a few big interests
16% benefit of all the people
2% don't know

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

55% a lot
40% some
3% don't waste very much
2% don't know

On another topic,

58. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the US Supreme Court is handling its job?

37% approve
59% disapprove
3% don't know

59. In general, do you think the current US Supreme Court is too liberal, too conservative, or just about right?

15% too liberal
52% too conservative
30% just about right
3% don't know

60. The Supreme Court is currently a lifetime appointment. Would you support or oppose creating term limits for Supreme Court justices?

71% support
27% oppose
2% don't know

Changing topics,

[*rotate questions 61 to 65*]

61. In general, do you think abortion should be *[rotate order top to bottom]* **legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases, or illegal in all cases?**

32% legal in all cases
36% legal in most cases
21% illegal in most cases
10% illegal in all cases
1% don't know

62. Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into same-sex marriages?

69% favor
29% oppose
2% don't know

63. Do you favor or oppose laws and policies that protect transgender individuals from discrimination in jobs, housing, and public spaces such as restaurants and stores?

74% favor
24% oppose
2% don't know

64. Do you think it is necessary to take steps to counter the effects of climate change right away, or do you think it is not necessary to take steps yet?

74% take action right away
25% not necessary to take steps yet
2% don't know

65. What do you think is more important—*[rotate] (1)* **to protect the right of Americans to own guns,** *[or] (2)* **to control gun ownership?**

34% protect the right of Americans to own guns
65% to control gun ownership
1% don't know

On another topic,

[*rotate questions 66 and 67*]

66. Do you have a *[rotate] (1)* **favorable or an** *(2)* **unfavorable impression of the Democratic Party?**

50% favorable
49% unfavorable
2% don't know

67. Do you have a *[rotate] (1)* **favorable or an** *(2)* **unfavorable impression of the Republican Party?**

23% favorable
75% unfavorable
2% don't know

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

28% adequate job
68% third party is needed
4% don't know

[*rotate questions 69 and 70*]

69. In politics, people sometimes talk about liberal and conservative. Would you consider the Democratic Party to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, middle-of-the-road, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

32% very liberal
31% somewhat liberal
27% middle-of-the-road
5% somewhat conservative
2% very conservative
2% don't know

70. In politics, people sometimes talk about liberal and conservative. Would you consider the Republican Party to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, middle-of-the-road, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

3% very liberal
6% somewhat liberal
18% middle-of-the-road
25% somewhat conservative
47% very conservative
2% don't know

71. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?

74% yes *[ask q71a]*
26% no *[skip to 72f]*

71a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

47% Democrat *[ask q72]*
24% Republican *[skip to q72a]*
2% another party (specify) *[skip to q73]*
27% decline-to-state/independent *[skip to 72b]*

[likely voters only]
48% Democrat *[ask q72]*
26% Republican *[skip to q72a]*
2% another party (specify) *[skip to q73]*
24% decline-to-state/independent *[skip to 72b]*

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

49% strong
51% not very strong
— don't know

[skip to q73]

72a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

53% strong
47% not very strong
— don't know

[skip to q73]

72b. *[decline-to-state/independents only]* **In a few words, can you tell me the main reason why you are registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter and not as a member of a political party?**

48% parties don't reflect my views, not satisfied with parties
13% corruption
7% I vote for candidates, not parties
5% I vote for both Democrats and Republicans
3% politicians/elected officials
1% don't want political mailings or phone calls
15% other *(specify)*
8% don't know

72c. Were you previously registered with a major party or have you always been a decline-to-state or independent voter?

46% previously registered *[ask q72d]*
54% always been a decline-to-state or independent voter *[skip to q72e]*
— don't know *[skip to q72e]*

72d. What party were you previously registered with?

55% Democratic Party
32% Republican Party
4% American Independent
3% Libertarian

1% Green Party
5% other *(specify)*
– don't know

72e. Would you join a political party if it was a good reflection of your political views or do you prefer to be unaffiliated with any specific party?

31% join a political party
69% remain unaffiliated
1% don't know

72f. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

16% Republican Party
39% Democratic Party
44% neither (volunteered)
– don't know

73. Would you consider yourself to be politically: [read list, rotate order top to bottom]

12% very liberal
19% somewhat liberal
43% middle-of-the-road
17% somewhat conservative
8% very conservative
1% don't know

74. Generally speaking, how much interest would you say you have in politics—a great deal, a fair amount, only a little, or none?

15% great deal
34% fair amount
33% only a little
18% none
– don't know

[d1–d18 demographic questions]

Authors

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