



PPIC

30 YEARS



STATEWIDE SURVEY · JUNE 2024

PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Their Government

Mark Baldassare, Dean Bonner, Lauren Mora, and Deja Thomas

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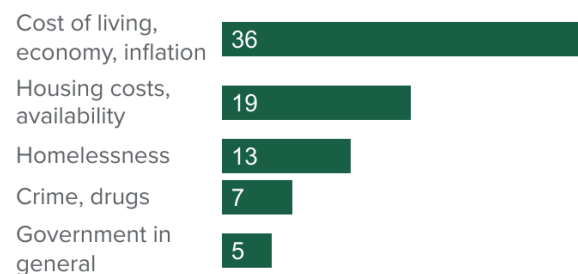
Key Findings

The state legislature and governor have been working to close a multibillion-dollar budget gap between spending and revenues. The presidential candidates agreed to two debates—on June 27 and September 10—while their campaigns reacted to the trial and verdict on felony charges against Donald Trump. The national and state economy continues to send mixed signals with inflation and job growth. The California ballot is taking shape with a June 27 deadline looming for state propositions.

These are the key findings of the *Californians and Their Government* survey on state and national issues, conducted May 23–June 2, 2024:

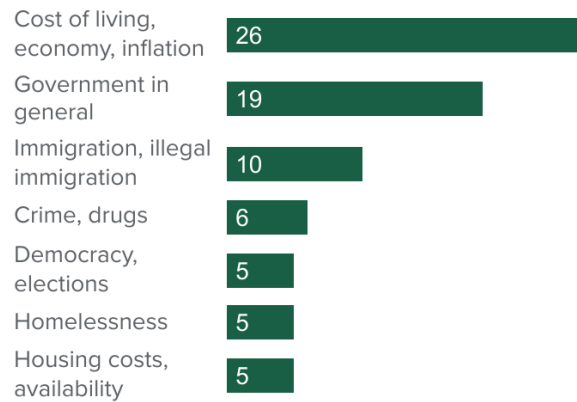
- ▶ **Joe Biden (D) leads Donald Trump (R) by a wide margin (55% to 31%) in the presidential race; 36 percent of California likely voters are “very interested” in their upcoming debates.** Adam Schiff (D) leads Steve Garvey (R) by a 25 point margin (62% to 37%) in the US Senate race; 20 percent are “very interested” in a series of debates and town halls with the two candidates. Democratic candidates lead Republican candidates in local House district races by a 26 point margin (62% to 36%); 30 percent are “extremely” or “very” enthusiastic about voting for Congress this year. When asked about state ballot items, majorities say this is a “bad time” for state bonds and would vote no on both a citizens’ initiative to raise the threshold for new state and local taxes and a legislative initiative to lower the vote threshold to pass some local taxes and bonds.
- ▶ **Forty-two percent of Californians say that the state’s budget situation is a “big problem.”** Fifty-four percent of residents favor the May revision of the governor’s state budget plan; specific proposals for spending cuts and the use of the rainy-day funds receive more mixed reviews. Most say that K–12 education or health and human services are their top priorities for state spending. Majorities would rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services. Majorities favor raising the state taxes paid by the wealthiest Californians and the largest California corporations. Sixty-five percent think that property tax limits passed in 1978’s Proposition 13 have been mostly a good thing for California.
- ▶ **Most Californians say that economic conditions, housing affordability, and homelessness are the most important issues facing the state today.** Majorities of Californians and likely voters say that the state is headed in the wrong direction and expect the state to have bad times financially in the next 12 months. Forty-seven percent of adults say their personal finances are about the same as a year ago and 48 percent are somewhat satisfied with their financial situation; 29 percent say that the cost of housing places a lot of financial strain on them. Forty-four percent of adults and 47 percent of likely voters approve of the job performance of Governor Newsom, and majorities disapprove of the state legislature and their own assembly and state senate representatives.

Top issues mentioned when asked about California



➤ **Most Californians say that economic conditions, government in general, and immigration are the most important problems facing the US today.** Solid majorities of Californians and likely voters think the nation is generally going in the wrong direction and will face bad economic times over the next year. Fifty-six percent are “very concerned” about the price of food and consumer goods in the country today, while 35 percent are “very concerned” about people who want to work being unable to find jobs. Forty-two percent of adults and 50 percent of likely voters approve of President Biden’s job performance, and solid majorities disapprove of the US Congress and their local US House representative.

Top problems mentioned when asked about the United States



November Election

The statewide ballot in the November election will include the presidential race and the US Senate race. California voters will also be electing 52 House members, and competitive races may help decide the party in control of a closely divided Congress. The state propositions for November—including legislative measures, citizens’ initiatives, and a referenda—have a June 27 deadline.

US presidential race. The presidential primary season concluded with both President Joe Biden and former president Donald Trump in firm control of their party’s nomination. While [national polls](#) indicate a close race, California likely voters would choose Joe Biden (D) over Donald Trump (R) by a wide margin (55% to 31%) if the November election were held today. Preferences in the presidential race were [similar in April](#) (54% Biden, 31% Trump).

Partisans continue to overwhelmingly prefer their party’s candidate, even as Biden faced criticism over Middle East policy within his party and as Trump was on trial and was convicted of felonies. Eighty-six percent of Democrats support Biden and 81 percent of Republicans favor Trump. Biden leads Trump across age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups and across the state’s major regions; independents also favor Biden over Trump (41% to 32%). Thirteen percent of likely voters would vote for “someone else” for president, including 8 percent of Democrats, 7 percent of Republicans, and 26 percent of independents. Few are undecided about the presidential race.

The Biden and Trump campaigns have agreed to two debates on June 27 and September 10. When asked how interested, if at all, they are in the upcoming presidential debates, 36 percent say they are “very interested” (32% somewhat, 22% not so, 10 % not at all). By comparison, 62 percent were “very interested” in the Clinton-Trump presidential debates in [2016](#), and 57 percent were “very interested” in the Biden-Trump presidential debates in [2020](#). Today, Trump voters (47%) are more likely than Biden voters (35%) to say they are “very interested,” while fewer than half across parties, demographic groups, and regions say they are very interested in the upcoming debates.

Joe Biden continues to lead Donald Trump by a wide margin



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2024. Survey was fielded from May 23-June 2, 2024 (n=1,677 adults and n=1,098 likely voters).

NOTES: Among likely voters only.

US Senate race. Adam Schiff (D) leads Steve Garvey (R) by a wide margin (62% to 37%) in the US Senate race. Ninety-three percent of Democrats favor Schiff and 90 percent of Republicans favor Garvey—while independents are more evenly divided (53% Schiff, 45% Garvey). Majorities across demographic groups and in the coastal regions favor Schiff over Garvey. Preferences in the US Senate race were similar in April (61% Schiff, 37% Garvey). Twenty percent of likely voters are “very interested” in a series of debates and town halls with the two US Senate candidates (36% somewhat, 31% not too, 13% not at all). Garvey’s supporters (28%) more often than Schiff’s supporters (15%) say they are very interested in debates and town halls.

Adam Schiff leads Steve Garvey by a wide margin



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2024. Survey was fielded from May 23-June 2, 2024 (n=1,677 adults and n=1,098 likely voters).

NOTES: Among likely voters only.

US House races. When asked about their House district race, likely voters choose the Democratic over the Republican candidate by a wide margin (62% to 36%). In the 10 competitive districts (as defined by the Cook Political Report), support is higher for the Democratic candidate than for the Republican (59% to 39%). Nine in ten or more Democratic and Republican likely voters would choose their party’s candidate, while independents are more divided. Across demographic groups and in the coastal regions, majorities favor the Democratic candidate over the Republican. Preferences in the US House race were similar in April (60% Democrat, 38% Republican). Thirty percent of likely voters are “extremely” or “very” enthusiastic about voting for Congress this year. Fewer than four in ten across parties, regions, and demographic groups hold this view. In the competitive House races, 37 percent are “extremely” or “very” enthusiastic about voting for Congress this year.

State fiscal ballot initiatives. Do likely voters favor or oppose the fiscal policy measures that have qualified, are eligible, or are being considered for the November ballot? Thirty-four percent say this is a “good time” and 64 percent say this is a “bad time” to issue state bonds for state programs and infrastructure projects. When read the title and summary for the citizens’ initiative on new state and local tax limits, 32 percent would vote yes and 63 percent would vote no; majorities are saying no across partisan and demographic groups and across regions. When read a brief description of two legislative measures, 45 percent would

vote yes and 53 percent would vote no on replacing the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority to pass local tax and bond measures for public infrastructure and affordable housing; on an amendment requiring that a two-thirds vote threshold be approved by two-thirds of voters, 58 percent would vote yes and 37 percent would vote no.

A solid majority of California likely voters would vote for the Democratic candidate if the 2024 election for the House of Representatives were held today

	Republican candidate/Lean Republican	Democratic candidate/Lean Democratic	Don't know
All likely voters	36	62	2
Competitive districts	39	59	2
Democrats	5	94	1
Republicans	92	8	1
Independents	42	54	4
Central Valley	46	51	3
Inland Empire	51	47	2
Los Angeles	33	66	1
Orange/San Diego	35	63	1
SF Bay Area	25	73	3
Men	39	59	2
Women	33	65	2
Less than \$40,000	45	52	2
\$40,000 to \$79,999	32	65	3
\$80,000 or more	36	63	1
18 to 44	31	69	0
45 and older	39	58	3

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2024. Survey was fielded from May 23-June 2, 2024 (n=1,677 adults and n=1,098 likely voters).

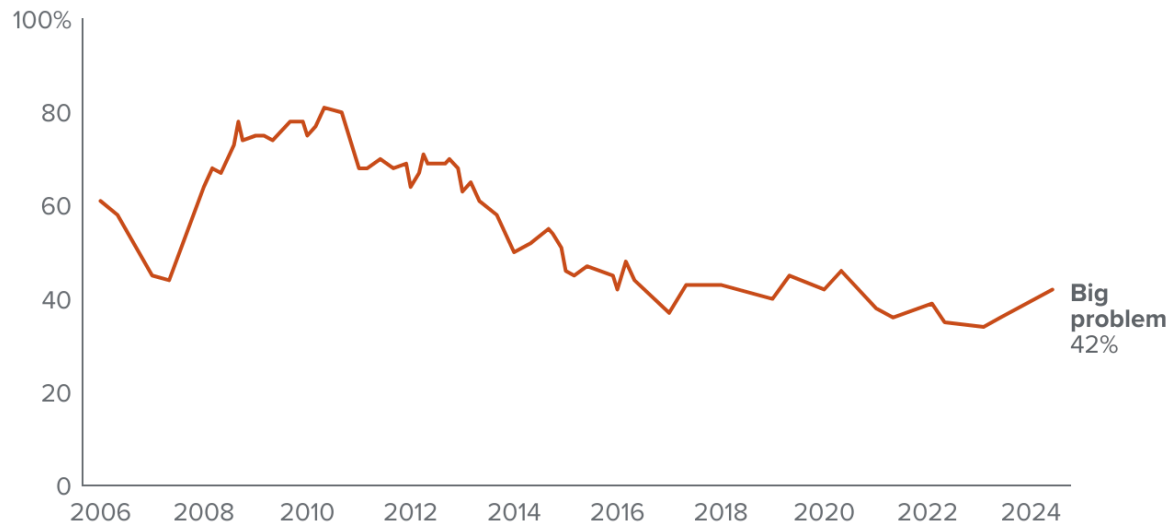
NOTES: Among likely voters only.

State Budget and Governor's May Revise

In May, Governor Newsom released a revision to his January budget proposal that includes \$288.1 billion in spending and an estimated a \$27.6 billion budget shortfall that accounts for \$17.3 billion in savings from agreed-upon budget cuts. Most Californians and likely voters say the state budget situation is at least somewhat of a problem; four in ten adults (42%) and about half of likely voters (48%) say it is a big problem

(somewhat of a problem: 49% adults, 45% likely voters; not a problem: 7% adults, 6% likely voters). The share of adults saying the budget situation is a big problem was similar in February (40%). Today, majorities of partisans say it is at least somewhat of a problem, but Republicans (73%) are much more likely than independents (51%) and Democrats (30%) to say it is a big problem.

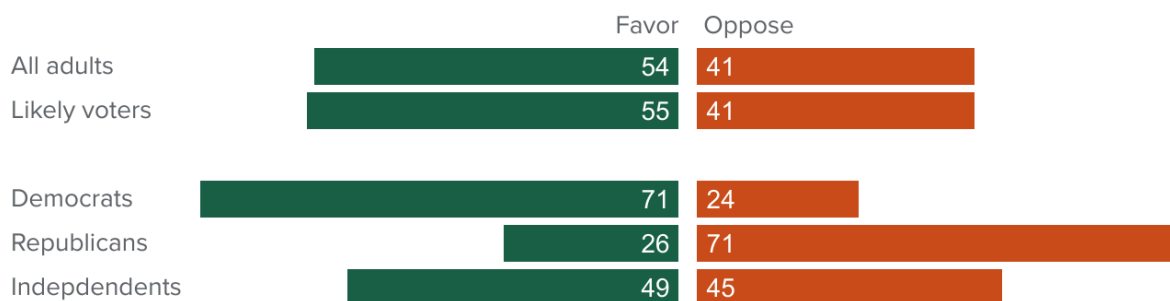
Four in ten Californians say the state budget situation is a big problem



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2006–2024.

After reading a brief summary of the governor’s May Revision, majorities of adults and likely voters are in favor. The proposal includes \$3 billion in efficiencies and \$3.9 billion in fund shifts. Despite the projected shortfall, the plan currently includes no new taxes. In our February survey, the January budget proposal had the support of about half of Californians (51%) and likely voters (48%). Today, an overwhelming share of Democrats are in favor, while an overwhelming majority of Republicans oppose the budget plan; independents are divided. Support for the May Revision is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (63%) and Los Angeles (58%) while fewer elsewhere hold this view (50% Orange/San Diego, 49% Central Valley, 43% Inland Empire).

A majority of Californians and likely voters favor the governor's May Revision to the state budget for the next fiscal year



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2024. Survey was fielded from May 23–June 2, 2024 (n=1,677 adults and n=1,098 likely voters).

The governor's budget plan proposes to use \$4.2 billion from the state's reserves, mostly from the Budget Stabilization Account (or Rainy Day Fund), to partially address the current budget shortfall. Forty-four percent of adults and 48 percent of likely voters think this is a good idea (adults: 51% bad idea, likely voters 49% bad idea). Democrats are far more likely than Republicans or independents to say use of reserves is a good idea; however, across regions and demographic groups, the share saying this is a good idea reaches a majority only among college graduates (52%) and those in the San Francisco Bay Area (53%).

The governor's budget proposal also calls for a combination of cuts, delayed spending, and shifts in funding sources to help bridge the gap between spending and revenues. Currently, the plan calls for \$15.2 billion in spending cuts, about \$3 billion in climate program reductions, and \$1 billion in housing program reductions. Californians are divided on this approach (47% good idea, 48% bad idea), while likely voters are slightly more likely to view it favorably (52% good idea, 45% bad idea).

Californians are divided on spending cuts and use of Rainy Day Fund in the governor's budget plan

% good idea

	Spending cuts in the proposed 2024 May Revision	Spending reserve money in the proposed 2024 May Revision
All adults	47	44
Likely voters	52	48
Democrats	47	60
Republicans	57	25
Independents	47	35
Central Valley	44	44
Inland Empire	47	36
Los Angeles	43	46
Orange/San Diego	48	37
SF Bay Area	54	53
Men	52	49
Women	42	40
African Americans	49	49
Asian Americans	48	47
Latinos	43	43
Whites	49	43
Less than \$40,000	40	41
\$40,000 to \$79,999	45	40
\$80,000 or more	52	49

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2024. Survey was fielded from May 23–June 2, 2024 (n=1,677 adults and n=1,098 likely voters).

About four in ten Californians would prefer to deal with the projected \$27.6 billion budget gap mostly through spending cuts (42% adults, 47% likely voters), while another four in ten would prefer a mix of spending cuts and tax increases (40% adults, 41% likely voters). Fewer than one in ten say they would prefer tax increases or say it is okay to borrow money and run a budget deficit.

Forty-three percent of adults say health and human services should be the highest priority for state government spending while 40 percent choose K–12 public education; fewer choose higher education (8%) or prisons and corrections (7%).

Regarding overall preferences on taxes and spending, most Californians (56%) would prefer to pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services; 42 percent would rather pay higher taxes and have more services. Today, most adults across parties, regions, and demographic groups prefer a smaller government.

In recent years, several legislative proposals have been put forward that would increase taxes on the rich and on corporations. When asked about such tax increases that could be used to help reduce the state's budget gap, most Californians and likely voters are in favor. Two in three Californians (66%) and likely voters (69%) support raising the top rate of the state income tax paid by the wealthiest Californians. Support is even higher for raising the state taxes paid by some of the largest California corporations (70% all adults, 71% likely voters).

When asked about 1978's Proposition 13—the ballot measure that limits the property tax rate to 1 percent of assessed value at time of purchase and annual tax increases to no more than 2 percent until the property is sold—65 percent say it's mostly been a good thing and 30 percent say it's mostly been a bad thing.

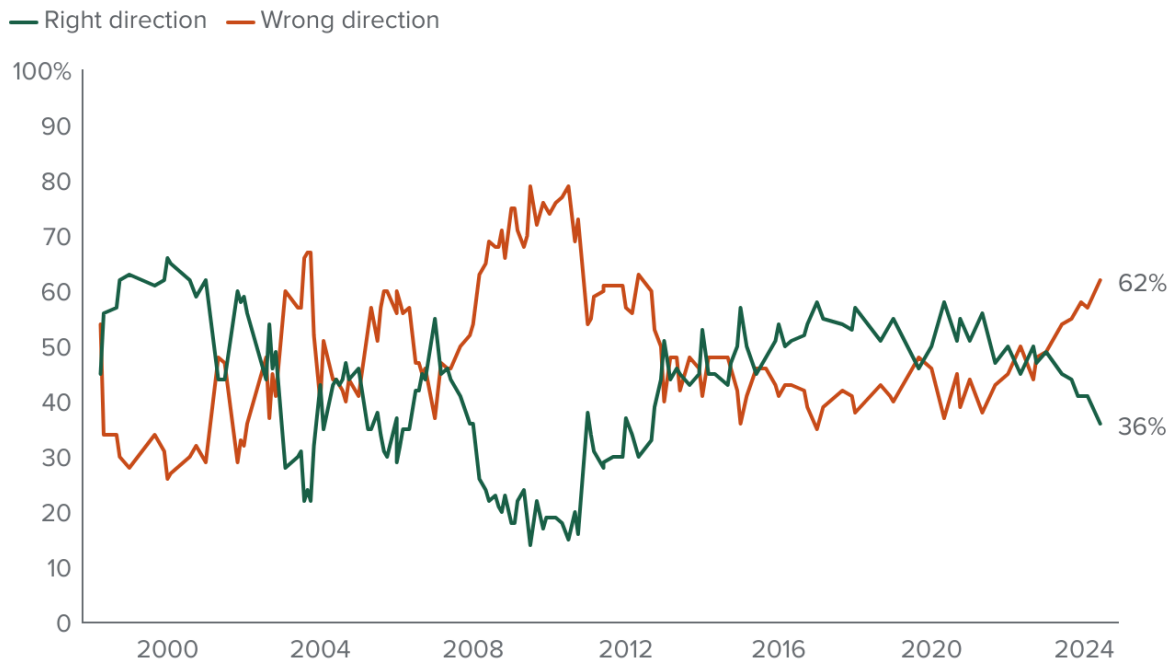
State of the State

Over a third of Californians see the cost of living, economy, and inflation (36%) as the most important issue facing California today. Fewer mention housing costs and availability (19%), homelessness (13%), crime and drugs (7%), and government in general (5%). Likely voters express similar sentiments.

Across partisan groups, a third or more name cost of living, economy, and inflation as the top issue, with housing costs mentioned the second most often. Democrats (22%) and independents (20%), however, are more likely say housing than Republicans (11%). One in ten Republicans name government in general as the top issue; it is the third most common response among Republicans. Meanwhile, Democrats (17%) and independents (13%) are more concerned about homelessness (Republicans: 8%).

Majorities of California adults (62%) and likely voters (59%) continue to think that things in the state are headed in the wrong direction, a share that has slowly grown in the last year (June 2023: 54% wrong direction, 45% right direction). Overwhelming shares of Republicans (90%) and independents (76%) think things are going in the wrong direction, compared a much smaller share of Democrats (37%). Majorities across regions and demographic groups hold this pessimistic view, with the highest shares being among residents with a high school diploma or less education (68%) and those making less than \$40,000 (67%).

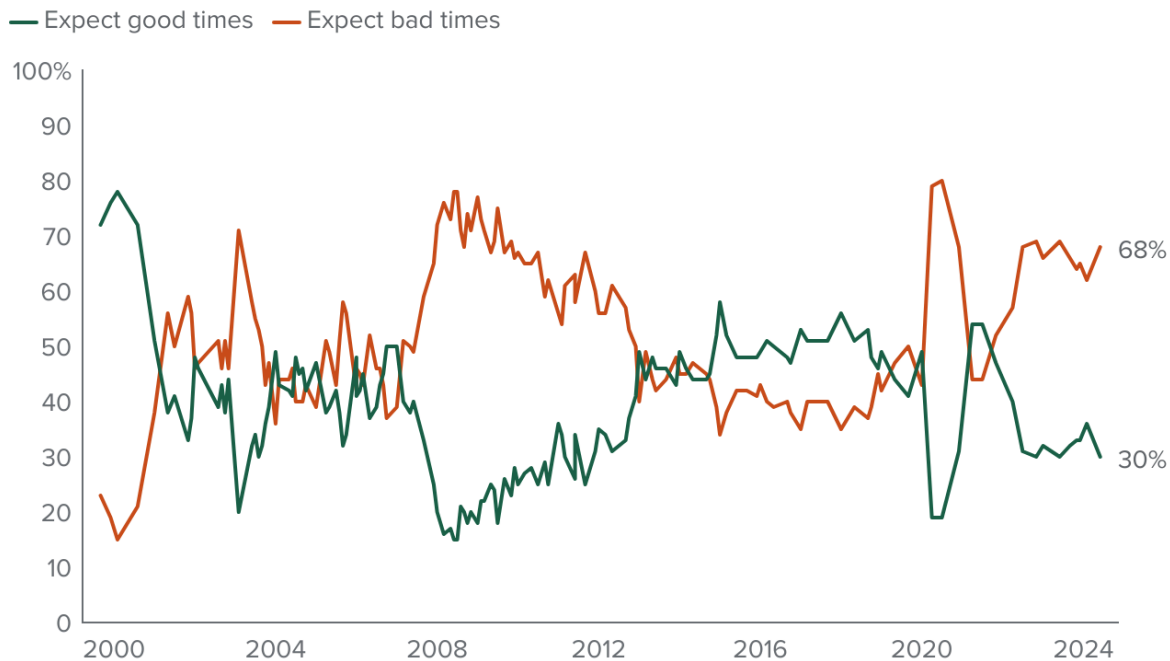
Six in ten Californians say the state is going in the wrong direction



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 1998–2024.

Close to seven in ten (68%) expect bad economic times in the next year—similar to the last two years (69% bad times in June 2023; 68% in [July 2022](#)). Overwhelming majorities of Republicans (85%) and independents (76%) hold this pessimistic view, compared to about half of Democrats (51%). Majorities across regions and demographic groups expect bad times. Pessimism is highest in the Central Valley and Orange/San Diego (72% each) and lowest in the San Francisco Bay Area (59%). Strong majorities of whites (71%), Latinos (69%), and Asian Americans (65%) are pessimistic, compared to a smaller share of African Americans (56%). Three in four residents earning less than \$80,000 (74%) say they expect bad economic bad times, a share that is higher than those with incomes over \$80,000 (63%).

Most Californians continue to expect bad financial times over the next year



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 1999–2024.

More than a third of Californians (36%) say their personal financial situation is worse off than it was a year ago, while about half say it is about the same and 16 percent say they are better off. A majority of Republicans (51%) say their financial situation is worse off, compared to lower shares of independents (43%) and Democrats (23%). Residents with incomes under \$40,000 (48%) are much more likely than residents earning more than \$80,000 (30%) to say their personal financial situation is worse than a year ago. Relatedly, about a third (35%) say they are not satisfied with their financial situation; about half are somewhat satisfied (48%) and few are very satisfied (16%). More than a third across regions of the state are not satisfied, with the exception of those in the San Francisco Bay area (27%). Adults ages 18 to 34 (41%) are more likely than those 55 and over (27%) to be unsatisfied with their financial situation.

A majority of Californians say the cost of housing places at least a little financial strain on them and their families (29% a lot, 24% a little). This sense of strain is highest among residents in Los Angeles (56%) and lowest in the San Francisco Bay Area (49%). Among demographic groups, residents earning less than \$40,000 (74%) and those without at least some college education (67%), Latinos (64%), and 18- to 34-year-olds (64%) are the most likely to report at least some financial strain. Renters (72%) are almost twice as likely than homeowners (37%) to say this.

After May's budget revision, majorities of adults (54%) and likely voters (52%) disapprove of the way Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor, while fewer approve (44% adults and 47% likely voters). The share of both adults and likely voters disapproving of the governor has steadily increased since last June (43% disapprove among each) and first reached 50 percent this February. Seven in ten Democrats approve, while close to nine in ten Republicans disapprove; independents are twice as likely to disapprove than approve (66% to 32%). Majorities of residents across regions disapprove of Newsom as do majorities across demographic groups—with the exception of African Americans and college graduates.

Californians also disapprove of the state legislature and the legislators representing their own assembly and senate districts, with a majority of adults and likely voters disapproving and about four in ten each approving. More than six in ten Democrats approve of both the legislature and their own legislators, while solid majorities of Republicans and independents disapprove. Majorities across regions of the state disapprove of both, with the highest disapproval in the Central Valley and Orange/San Diego.

Less than half approve of Newsom, the California legislature, and their own legislators

% approving of

	Governor Newsom	California Legislature	Own legislators
All adults	44	40	41
Likely voters	47	43	45
Democrats	70	64	61
Republicans	14	14	19
Independents	32	30	34
Central Valley	42	37	36
Inland Empire	43	40	37
Los Angeles	46	43	41
Orange/San Diego	40	36	37
SF Bay Area	47	45	49
Men	43	39	42
Women	44	41	39
African Americans	61	51	48
Asian Americans	46	41	46
Latinos	45	42	39
Whites	40	36	39
Less than \$40,000	41	37	36
\$40,000 to \$79,999	46	39	38
\$80,000 or more	45	42	45

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2024. Survey was fielded from May 23–June 2, 2024 (n=1,677 adults and n=1,098 likely voters).

State of the Nation

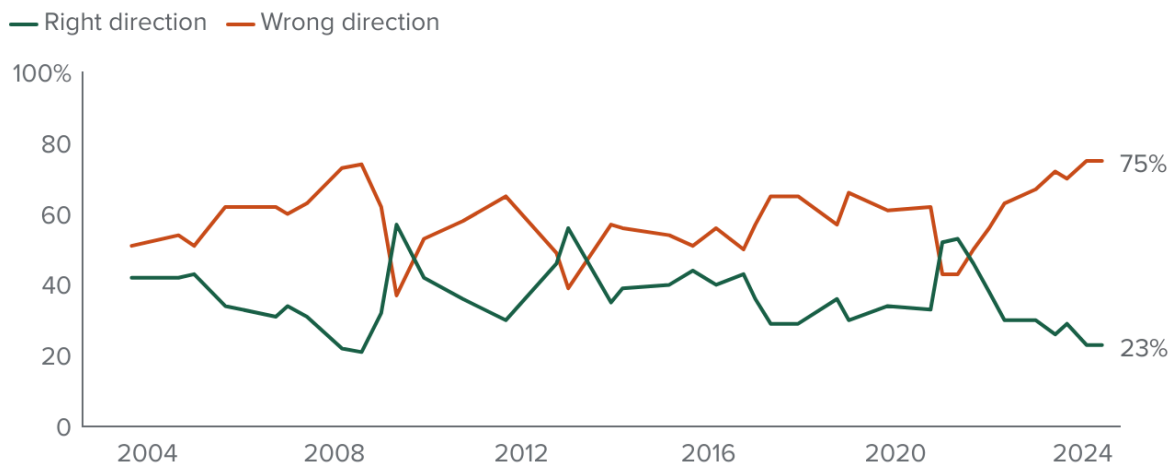
When asked to name the most important problem facing the United States, about a quarter of California adults name the cost of living, the economy, and inflation (26%) as the most important problem; about two in ten named government in general, elected officials, and political parties (19%); and 10 percent mention

immigration. Fewer mention crime and drugs (6%); democracy and elections (5%); homelessness (5%); or housing costs and availability (5%). Likely voters say that government in general (24%) or cost of living, economy, and inflation (23%) are top issues for the country.

Among partisans, Republicans (25%) are far more likely than Democrats (4%) and independents (7%) to say the top issue is immigration; however, somewhat similar shares across these groups say that the top issue is government in general (25% independents, 23% Republicans, 19% Democrats) or cost of living, the economy, and inflation (26% Republicans, 25% independents, 24% Democrats).

Three in four California adults (75%) and likely voters (74%) say the United States is going in the wrong direction, a share that has been rising since May 2021 (43%), when the country was in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, the share saying things are going in the right direction (23%) has not been this low since August 2008, when 21 percent said this. Today, partisans are pessimistic, with most Democrats (62%), Republicans (93%), and independents (82%) saying the country is going in the wrong direction. Strong majorities across all demographic groups and regions say wrong direction, with the share saying this declining slightly as age and income increase.

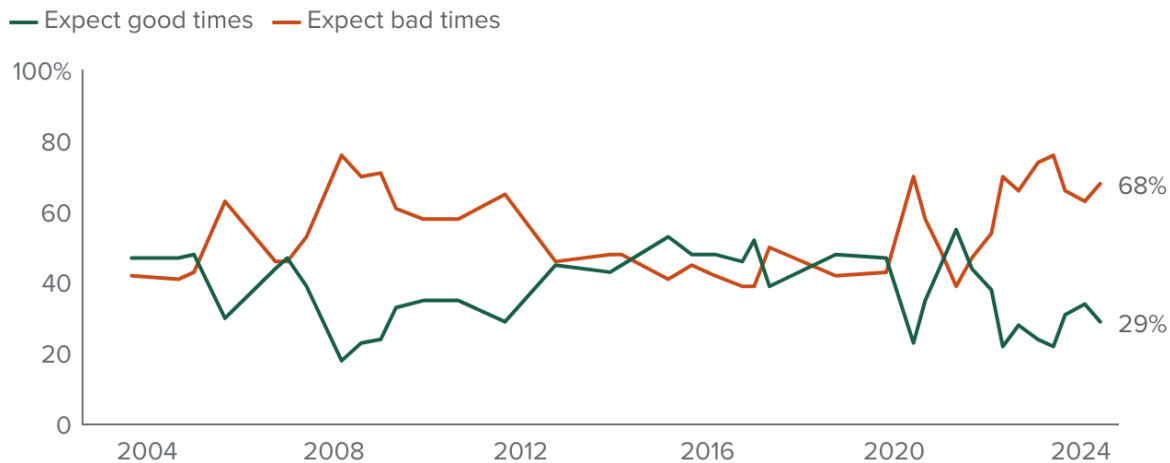
The share of Californians who say the US is going in the wrong direction is rising



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2003–2024.

Sixty-eight percent of adults and 62 percent of likely voters expect bad times financially in the US over the next year; fewer expect good times (29% adults, 36% likely voters). A majority of adults have expected bad economic times in the US since February 2022 (54%). Today, a majority of Democrats (52%), and most Republicans (85%) and independents (74%), say they expect bad economic times. Majorities across demographic and regional groups say this; while this view is much less prevalent in the San Francisco Bay Area than elsewhere, a majority of Bay Area residents say this. The share expecting bad economic times declines as age, education, and income rise.

Nearly seven in ten Californians expect bad economic times in the US over the next year



SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Surveys, 2003–2024.

Nearly all adults and likely voters are very (56% adults, 58% likely voters) or somewhat (35% adults, 33% likely voters) concerned about the price of food and consumer goods in the country today. Majorities across demographic, partisan, and regional groups are very concerned, with the exception of Asian Americans (50%), adults earning \$80,000 or more (49%), college graduates (48%), Democrats (47%), and San Francisco Bay Area residents (45%).

With the November election coming up soon, and amid criticism of President Biden’s handling of the Middle East and other policy domains, a majority of California adults disapprove (56%) of the job that he is doing as president of the United States (42% approve), while likely voters are more divided (50% approve, 49% disapprove). Approval among adults are identical to findings in February of this year.

Eight in ten or more adults (79%) and likely voters (83%) disapprove of the way the US Congress is handling its job, while about two in ten or fewer approve (19% adults, 15% likely voters). Approval among adults was similar in February, and has never been over 50 percent since PPIC first asked this question in 2005.

When it comes to their own representative in the US House of Representatives, six in ten adults (61%) and 57 percent of likely voters disapprove (approve: 36% adults, 42% likely voters). Compared to a year ago, the shares expressing disapproval have increased 14 percentage points among both adults and likely voters (June 2023: 47% adults, 43% likely voters). Today, Californians are more approving of representatives in Democratic districts (38%) than those in Republican districts (26%).

Fewer than half approve of the way that President Biden, US Congress, and their own US House representatives are handling their jobs

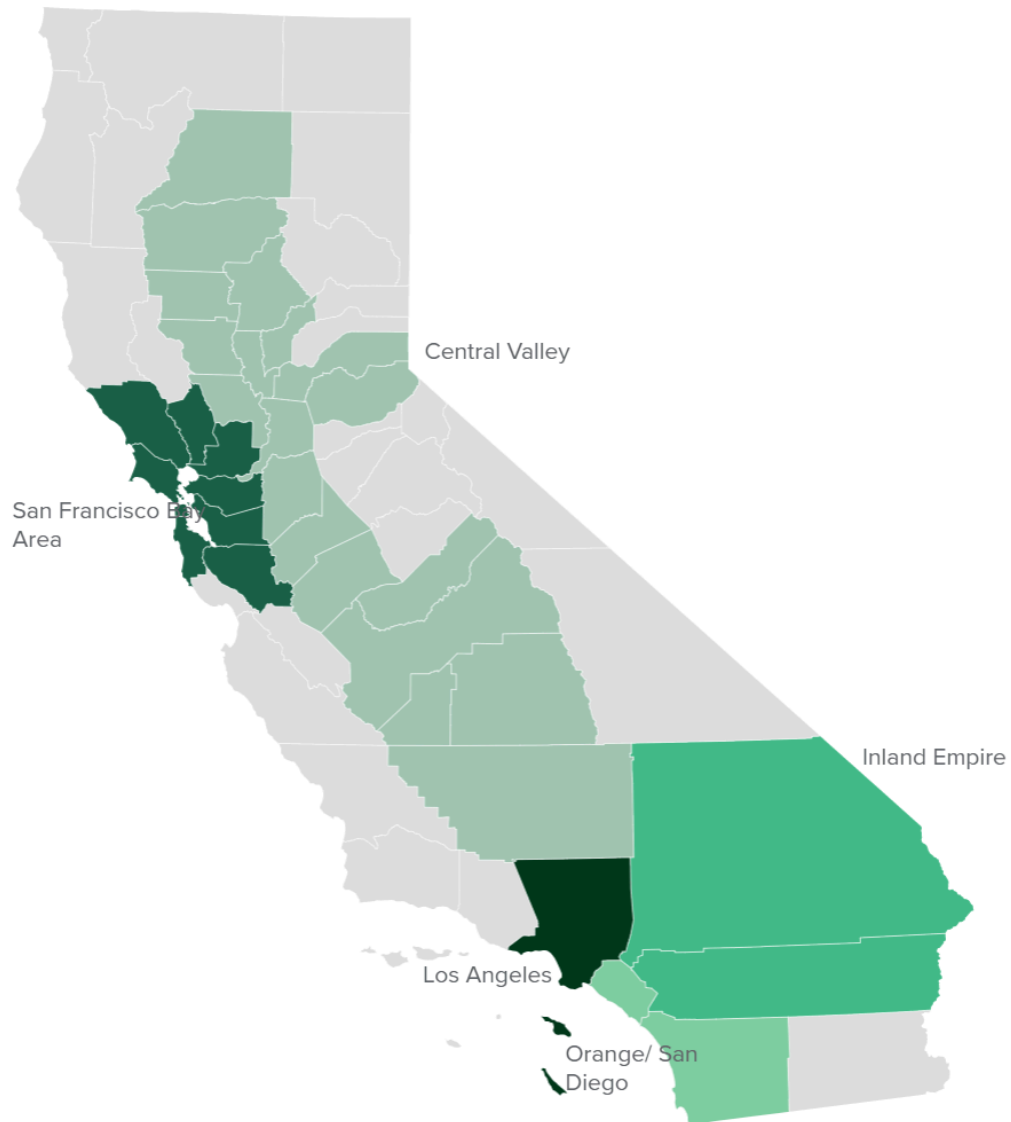
% approving of . . .

	President Biden	US Congress	Own representative
All adults	42	19	36
Likely voters	50	15	42
Democrats	69	24	53
Republicans	12	10	17
Independents	34	13	28
Central Valley	35	17	27
Inland Empire	35	23	33
Los Angeles	45	20	41
Orange/San Diego	41	17	31
SF Bay Area	51	22	43
Men	42	19	37
Women	43	20	34
African Americans	61	24	40
Asian Americans	43	21	39
Latinos	40	24	35
Whites	41	12	34
Less than \$40,000	34	18	29
\$40,000 to \$79,999	41	21	36
\$80,000 or more	47	20	40
18 to 34	35	19	31
35 to 54	40	23	35
55 and older	50	16	41

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2024. Survey was fielded from May 23–June 2, 2024 (n=1,677 adults and n=1,098 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 26th 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, who was project manager for this survey; survey analyst Lauren Mora; and survey analyst Deja Thomas. The Californians and Their Government survey is supported with funding from the Arjay R. and Frances F. Miller 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 1,677 California adult residents. The median time to complete the survey was 13.5 minutes. Interviews were conducted from May 23–June 2, 2024.

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 1,728 respondents completed the survey out of 2,840 panelists who were sampled, for a response rate of 61 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 3.4 minutes). We also flagged respondents if their self-reported age or gender did not match the data stored in their profile. A total of 51 cases were removed after this review process, resulting in 1,677 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 2018–2022 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 2018–2022 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 ± 3.1 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,677 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.1 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,431 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.3 percent; for the 1,098 likely voters, it is ± 3.7 percent; for the 201 likely voters in competitive districts (as defined by the [Cook Political Report](#)), it is ± 8.3 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 38 percent of the state’s adult population, and also for Latinos, who account for 36 percent 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 5 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 and the Pew Research Center. Numerous questions were adapted from the national surveys by CNN, Gallup, Ipsos, 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	1,677	3.1%
Likely voters	1,098	3.7%
Democrats	728	4.5%
Republicans	370	6.3%
No party preference/ Independents	293	7.3%
Central Valley	345	6.6%
Inland Empire	173	9.5%
Los Angeles	419	6%
Orange/San Diego	256	7.9%
SF Bay Area	325	7.2%
Men	821	4.6%
Women	856	4.1%
African Americans	159	10.1%
Asian Americans	194	8.4%
Latinos	466	5.5%
Whites	784	4.4%
Less than \$40,000	321	6.8%
\$40,000 to \$79,999	383	6.3%
\$80,000 or more	913	4.2%
Competitive districts	326	7%
All likely voters	1,098	3.7%
Democrats	574	5%
Republicans	290	6.8%
No party preference/ Independents	199	9.2%
Central Valley	214	7.5%
Inland Empire	110	12.1%
Los Angeles	262	7.5%
Orange/San Diego	171	9.4%
SF Bay Area	234	8.1%
Men	579	5.3%
Women	518	5.1%
Latinos	224	8.1%
Whites	605	4.9%
Other	268	7.6%
Less than \$40,000	131	11.4%
\$40,000 to \$79,999	249	7.4%
\$80,000 or more	685	4.6%
Competitive districts	201	8.3%

SOURCE: PPIC Statewide Survey, June 2024. Survey was fielded from May 23–June 2, 2024 (n=1,677 adults and n=1,098 likely voters).

Questions and Responses

May 23–June 2, 2024

1,677 California adult residents

English, Spanish

Margin of error $\pm 3.1\%$ at 95% confidence level for total sample

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

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

36% cost of living, economy, inflation, jobs

19% housing costs, availability

13% homelessness

7% crime, gangs, drugs

5% government in general, problems with elected officials, political parties

4% environment, pollution, climate change

4% state budget, deficit, taxes

3% immigration, illegal immigration

10% other (*specify*)

1% don't know

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

44% approve

54% disapprove

2% don't know

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

40% approve

57% disapprove

3% don't know

4. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time?

41% approve

56% disapprove

4% don't know

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

36% right direction
62% wrong direction
2% don't know

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

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

7. Now thinking about your own personal finances, would you say you and your family are financially better off, worse off, or just about the same as you were a year ago?

16% better off
36% worse off
47% about the same
– don't know

8. How would you describe your household's financial situation today? Would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or not satisfied with your situation?

16% very satisfied
48% somewhat satisfied
35% not satisfied
– don't know

9. Does the cost of your housing place a financial strain on you and your family today? (If yes, ask: "Is that a lot of financial strain or only a little?")

29% yes, a lot
24% yes, a little
46% no
– don't know

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

75% yes [ask q10a]
25% no [skip to q11b]

10a. 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 q11]
24% Republican [skip to q11a]

3% another party (*specify*) [*skip to q12*]
26% decline-to-state/independent [*skip to q11b*]

[*likely voters only*]

49% Democrat [*ask q11*]
25% Republican [*skip to q11a*]
3% another party (*specify*) [*skip to q12*]
22% decline-to-state/independent [*skip to q11b*]

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

50% strong
50% not very strong
– don't know

[*skip to q12*]

11a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

52% strong
48% not very strong
– don't know

[*skip to q12*]

11b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

15% Republican Party
32% Democratic Party
45% neither
8% don't know

12. [*likely voters only*] If the 2024 presidential election were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?

55% Joe Biden
31% Donald Trump
13% someone else (*specify*)
– neither/would not vote for President (*volunteered*)
– don't know

13. [*likely voters only*] How interested, if at all, are you in the upcoming presidential debates: very interested, somewhat interested, not so interested, or not at all interested?

36% very interested
32% somewhat interested
22% not so interested

10% not at all interested
– don't know

14. [likely voters only] If the November 5th US Senate election were being held today, would you vote for:

37% Steve Garvey, a Republican, Professional Baseball Representative
62% Adam Schiff, a Democrat, United States Representative
– neither/would not vote for US Senator (volunteered)
1% don't know

15. How interested, if at all, are you in having a series of debates and town halls with the two candidates for the US Senate: very interested, somewhat interested, not so interested, or not at all interested?

20% very interested
36% somewhat interested
31% not so interested
13% not at all interested
– don't know

16. [likely voters only] If the 2024 election for US House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for [rotate] [1] the Republican candidate [or] [2] the Democratic candidate in your district?

36% Republican candidate/lean Republican
62% Democratic candidate/lean Democratic
2% don't know

17. [likely voters only] How enthusiastic would you say you are about voting for Congress this year—extremely enthusiastic, very enthusiastic, somewhat enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not at all enthusiastic?

[rotate top to bottom and bottom to top]

16% extremely enthusiastic
14% very enthusiastic
27% somewhat enthusiastic
32% not too enthusiastic
11% not at all enthusiastic
– don't know

Next, we have a few questions to ask you about some of the propositions that may be on the November ballot.

18. [likely voters only] A legislative constitutional amendment that has qualified for the November state ballot would replace the two-thirds vote requirement with a 55 percent majority for voters to pass local tax and bond measures for public infrastructure and affordable housing. If the election were today, would you vote yes or no?

45% yes
53% no
2% don't know

19. *[likely voters only]* A legislative constitutional amendment that has qualified for the November state ballot would require that an initiative constitutional amendment proposing a two-thirds vote must also be approved by two-thirds of voters. The measure would also authorize local governing bodies to hold an advisory vote on any issue with the purpose of allowing voters to voice their opinions on the issue. The measure would specify that the advisory vote is approved only if a majority of the votes cast on the question are in favor. If the election were today, would you vote yes or no?

58% yes
37% no
5% don't know

20. *[likely voters only]* A November eligible statewide ballot measure is titled, "Limits Ability of Voters and State and Local Governments to Raise Revenues for Government Services. Initiative Constitutional Amendment." For new and increased taxes currently enacted by two-thirds vote of legislature, also requires statewide election and majority voter approval. Limits voters' ability to pass voter-proposed local special taxes by raising vote requirement to two-thirds. Eliminates voters' ability to advise how to spend revenues from proposed general tax on same ballot as proposed tax. Expands definition of taxes to include certain regulatory fees, broadening application of tax approval requirements. Requires legislature or local governing body set certain other fees. Summary of estimate of fiscal impact: lower annual state and local revenues. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no?

32% yes
63% no
5% don't know

21. *[likely voters only]* As you may know, the governor and legislature are considering several state bond measures to pay for multibillion-dollar, multiyear state infrastructure projects and state programs to bring to California voters as propositions on the 2024 election ballot. Is this a good time or a bad time for the state to issue bonds to pay for state projects and programs?

34% good time
64% bad time
2% don't know

On another topic,

22. 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?

40% more than you should
28% somewhat more than you should
26% about the right amount

5% less than you should
– don't know

23. Proposition 13 is the 1978 ballot measure that limits the property tax rate to 1 percent of assessed value at time of purchase and annual tax increases to no more than 2 percent until the property is sold. Overall, do you feel passing Proposition 13 turned out to be mostly a good thing for California or mostly a bad thing?

65% mostly a good thing
30% mostly a bad thing
1% mixed (*volunteered*)
4% don't know

On another topic,

24. 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?

42% big problem
49% somewhat of a problem
7% not a problem
2% don't know

25. Thinking about these four areas of state spending, I'd like you to name the one you think should have the highest priority when it comes to state government spending, [rotate] [1] K–12 public education, [2] higher education, [3] health and human services, [or] [4] prisons and corrections.

40% K–12 public education
8% higher education
43% health and human services
7% prisons and correction
1% don't know

26. 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?

42% higher taxes and more services
56% lower taxes and fewer services
3% don't know

27. Governor Newsom recently released a revised budget plan for the next fiscal year that includes \$201 billion in general fund spending and a \$27.6 billion budget shortfall accounting for \$17.3 billion in savings from budget cuts already agreed upon. The plan also includes \$3 billion in efficiencies and \$3.9 billion in fund shifts. Despite the projected shortfall, the plan currently includes no new taxes. In general, do you favor or oppose the governor's budget plan?

54% favor
41% oppose

2% haven't heard anything about the budget (*volunteered*)

4% don't know

28. As part of the revised 2024 budget plan, Governor Newsom has proposed to use \$4.2 billion from the state's reserves, mostly from the Budget Stabilization Account or "Rainy Day Fund," to partially address the current budget. This means less funding will be available to backfill spending if revenues continue to decrease. However, it also means if reserves are not used, more budget cuts are needed. In general, do you think using state reserve money is a good idea or a bad idea?

44% good idea

51% bad idea

5% don't know

29. Governor Newsom's budget plan also includes a combination of reductions, delayed spending, and shifts in funding sources to bridge the gap between spending and revenues. Currently, the plan calls for \$15.2 billion in spending cuts including about \$3 billion in various climate reductions and \$1 billion in various housing program reductions. In general, do you think these spending cuts are a good idea or a bad idea?

47% good idea

48% bad idea

5% don't know

30. As you may know, the state government currently has an annual general fund budget of around \$201 billion dollars and faces a \$27.6-billion-dollar gap between spending and revenues. How would you prefer to deal with the state's budget gap—mostly through spending cuts, mostly through tax increases, through a mix of spending cuts and tax increases, or do you think that it is okay for the state to borrow money and run a budget deficit?

42% mostly through spending cuts

8% mostly through tax increases

40% through a mix of spending cuts and tax increases

7% okay to borrow money and run a budget deficit

3% don't know

Tax and fee increases could be used to help reduce the state's large gap between spending and revenues. Please indicate if you favor or oppose each of the following.

[rotate questions 31 and 32]

31. Do you favor or oppose raising the top rate of the state income tax paid by the wealthiest Californians?

66% favor

32% oppose

1% don't know

32. Do you favor or oppose raising the state taxes paid by some of the largest California corporations?

70% favor
29% oppose
1% don't know

On another topic,

33. In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the US today?

26% cost of living, economy, inflation, jobs
19% government in general, problems with elected officials, political parties
10% immigration, illegal immigration
6% crime, gangs, drugs
5% democracy, elections
5% homelessness
5% housing costs, availability
4% environment, pollution, climate change
3% federal budget, deficit, taxes
16% other (*specify*)
2% don't know

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

42% approve
56% disapprove
2% don't know

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

19% approve
79% disapprove
2% don't know

36. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the US House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?

36% approve
61% disapprove
3% don't know

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

23% right direction
75% wrong direction
2% don't know

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

29% good times
68% bad times
3% don't know

Changing topics,

[rotate questions 39 and 40]

39. How concerned, if at all, are you personally about people who want to work being unable to find jobs in the country today?

35% very concerned
41% somewhat concerned
18% not too concerned
6% not at all concerned
1% don't know

40. How concerned, if at all, are you personally about the price of food and consumer goods in the country today?

56% very concerned
35% somewhat concerned
7% not too concerned
2% not at all concerned
– don't know

41. Would you consider yourself to be politically: *[rotate order top to bottom]*

12% very liberal
18% somewhat liberal
45% middle-of-the-road
17% somewhat conservative
7% very conservative
1% don't know

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

16% a great deal
33% a fair amount
34% only a little
17% none
– don't know

[d1–d15 demographic questions]

Authors

Mark Baldassare is the Statewide Survey Director at the Public Policy Institute of California, where he holds the Arjay and Frances Fearing Miller Chair in Public Policy. He is a leading expert on public opinion and survey methodology and has directed the [PPIC Statewide Survey](#) since 1998. He is an authority on elections, voter behavior, and political and fiscal reform, and the author of ten books and numerous publications. Previously, he served as PPIC's president and CEO, director of research, and senior fellow. Before joining PPIC, he was a professor of urban and regional planning in the School of Social Ecology at the University of California, Irvine, where he held the Johnson Chair in Civic Governance. He has conducted surveys for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the California Business Roundtable. He holds a PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Dean Bonner is associate survey director and research fellow at PPIC, where he coauthors the PPIC Statewide Survey—a large-scale public opinion project designed to develop an in-depth profile of the social, economic, and political attitudes at work in California elections and policymaking. He has expertise in public opinion and survey research, political attitudes and participation, and voting behavior. Before joining PPIC, he taught political science at Tulane University and was a research associate at the University of New Orleans Survey Research Center. He holds a PhD and MA in political science from the University of New Orleans.

Lauren Mora is a survey analyst at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she works with the statewide survey team. Prior to joining PPIC, she was a research assistant with the race and ethnicity team at the Pew Research Center, where she played a key role in quantitative and qualitative studies on Latino and Asian Americans. She holds a BA in geography/environmental studies from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Deja Thomas is a survey analyst at the Public Policy Institute of California, where she works with the statewide survey team. Prior to joining PPIC, she was a research assistant with the social and demographic trends team at the Pew Research Center. In that role, she contributed to a variety of national quantitative and qualitative survey studies. She holds a BA in psychology from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

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Lucas Public Affairs

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Hispanas Organized for Political Equality

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