Californians & Their Government

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PPIC | PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

The PPIC Statewide Survey provides a voice for the public and likely voters— informing policymakers, encouraging discussion, and raising awareness on critical issues of the day.

News Release

EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PT on Thursday, February 20, 2020.

Note: Results on the Democratic presidential primary, in terms of candidate choice and electability, and on Governor Newsom's approval rating were released publicly on Tuesday, February 18, and are not under this embargo.

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PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Slim Majority Supports School Facilities Bond

MOST CALIFORNIANS APPROVE OF GOVERNOR'S SPENDING PLAN TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

SAN FRANCISCO, February 20, 2020— A March ballot measure to authorize state bonds for public education facilities is supported by slightly more than half of voters. Seven in ten Californians approve of Governor Newsom's proposal to spend $1 billion to address homelessness. These are among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California.

California's March 3 ballot includes a $15 billion bond for the construction and modernization of public education facilities. Slightly more than half (51%) of likely voters approve, 42 percent oppose, and 8 percent are undecided. In January, 53 percent said yes, 36 percent no, and 10 percent were undecided. Democrats (69%) are far more likely to say they will vote yes than independents (47%) or Republicans (24%). Among likely voters, 43 percent say the outcome of the vote is very important to them.

"The Proposition 13 state school bond has a slim majority going into the March primary vote and gets a big boost from its strong support among Democratic likely voters," said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. "Fewer than half who would vote yes or no on Proposition 13 say the outcome of the vote on the state school bond is very important to them."

Most Are Concerned About Housing Affordability, While a Majority Supports Governor's Spending Plan to Address Homelessness

Most Californians (63%) say housing affordability is a big problem in their part of the state, and another 25 percent say it is somewhat of a problem. About four in ten Californians (44% adults, 38% likely voters) say the cost of living is making them seriously consider moving elsewhere in California or out of state. Younger Californians are more likely to consider moving (55% of those age 18 to 34, 45% 35 to 54, 33% 55 and older), and renters (54%) are far more likely than homeowners (32%) to consider moving. Most considering moving say they would leave California rather than relocate within the state.

"Many Californians say that housing affordability is a big problem in their part of California, and younger adults and renters are especially likely to say that housing costs are making them seriously consider moving out of state," Baldassare said.

Most Californians (61%) say homelessness is a big problem in their part of the state. Majorities (70% adults, 64% likely voters) support Governor Newsom's plan to spend $1 billion to address homelessness. Most also favor a constitutional amendment—which could be on the November ballot—to mandate that the state and localities provide sufficient housing or shelter beds to put every homeless person under a roof (63% adults, 55% likely voters).

"Solid majorities of Californians say that homelessness is a big problem in their part of the state and support the governor's $1 billion spending plan to address homelessness as well as a government mandate to put every homeless person under a roof," Baldassare said.

Views Are Mixed on Governor's High-Speed Rail Plan, While Most Approve of Delta Tunnel Plan and Climate Change Bond

Governor Newsom's plans to scale back the high-speed rail project started under Governor Brown meet with mixed reviews: 49 percent say Newsom's plan is a good idea, and 41 percent say it is a bad idea. Meanwhile, Newsom continues to call for a single Delta water tunnel, scaled back from the twin tunnels favored by Governor Brown. Most (58%) say Newsom's tunnel plan is a good idea, while only about three in ten (28%) say it is a bad idea.

"The governor's plans for high-speed rail get mixed reviews, while most support his plan to build one instead of two tunnels in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta," Baldassare said.

Newsom's budget plan would place a $4.75 billion bond on the November ballot, with the funds going to address climate change risks. A majority of Californians (65% adults, 59% likely voters) approve.

"Looking to the November election, the majority of Californians support the governor's proposal for a $4.75 billion state bond to address climate risks," Baldassare said.

Most Californians (53%) approve of how Governor Newsom is handling his job, while one-third (33%) disapprove. This is Governor Newsom's highest approval rating to date. Democrats (75%) are far more likely to approve than independents (45%) or Republicans (15%).

Pessimism Grows About Americans of Different Views Working Together

Californians are divided on the prospects for Americans of different political views coming together to work out their differences, with 49 percent optimistic and 48 percent pessimistic. The level of pessimism has grown since January 2019 (58% optimistic, 40% pessimistic).

"In the wake of the House impeachment and Senate trial votes that were largely along party lines, growing proportions of Californians express pessimism that Americans of different political views can work together," Baldassare said.

Sanders Leads in California's Democratic Presidential Primary

With less than two weeks until California's March primary, Bernie Sanders is the choice of 32 percent of Democratic primary likely voters, with 14 percent for Joe Biden, 13 percent for Elizabeth Warren, 12 percent for Michael Bloomberg, and 12 percent for Pete Buttigieg. No other candidate has more than 5 percent support; 8 percent are undecided. In January, the primary was a three-way race, with 27 percent supporting Sanders, 24 percent Biden, and 23 percent Warren.

Among younger voters (age 18 to 44), Sanders (53%) has far more support than other candidates (13% Buttigieg, 13% Warren, 9% Biden, 8% Bloomberg), while voters age 45 and older are more evenly divided. Sanders is the top choice among men (38%) and women (28%) as well as among Latinos (53%).

Asked which candidate has the best chance of defeating Donald Trump, 34 percent say Sanders, 16 percent say Biden, and another 16 percent say Bloomberg.

"Bernie Sanders leads all candidates in the Democratic presidential primary today, and he is most likely to be named by voters as the candidate who can win against Donald Trump in November," Baldassare said. "As the campaign moves to larger and more diverse states, Sanders' support among Latinos and younger voters is noteworthy."

National Election and Policy Landscape

Key Findings

- Among Democratic primary likely voters, Bernie Sanders garners the most support, with Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, Michael Bloomberg, and Pete Buttigieg also reaching double-digit support. Thirty-four percent view Sanders as the best candidate to beat Trump, while fewer say Biden (16%) or Bloomberg (16%). *(page 6)*

- Thirty-five percent of Californians approve of President Trump and 38 percent approve of Congress. A majority of Californians approve of the way their own representative to the House is handling the job (55%). *(page 7)*

- About half of Californians approve of Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris, with Democrats far more likely to approve. *(page 8)*

- A majority of Californians (58%) think that the US Senate should have decided to remove President Trump from office after he was impeached by the House, with Republican and Democratic voters deeply divided. In the wake of the impeachment, Californians are divided about the prospects that Americans of different political views can come together and work out their differences; Democrats (58%) are more likely than independents (49%) or Republicans (41%) to be pessimistic. *(page 9)*

- Most Californians (86%) and likely voters (96%) view voting in elections in 2020 as very important. Fewer—but still an overwhelming majority (74% adults, 79% likely voters)—view participating in the US Census as very important. Strong majorities (67% adults, 80% likely voters) say they will definitely participate in the 2020 Census, with differences across racial/ethnic and age groups. *(page 10)*
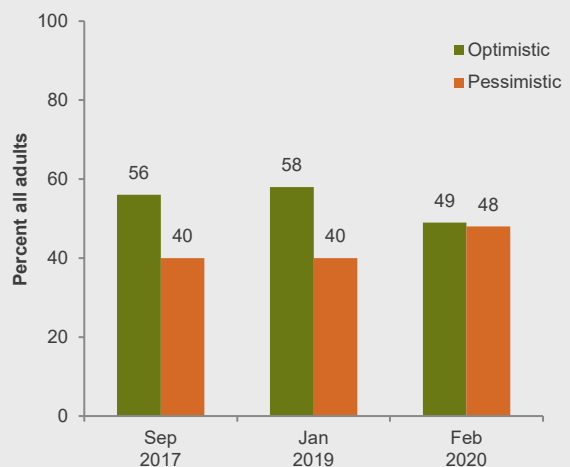
Top 5 choices for president in March 2020 Democratic primary
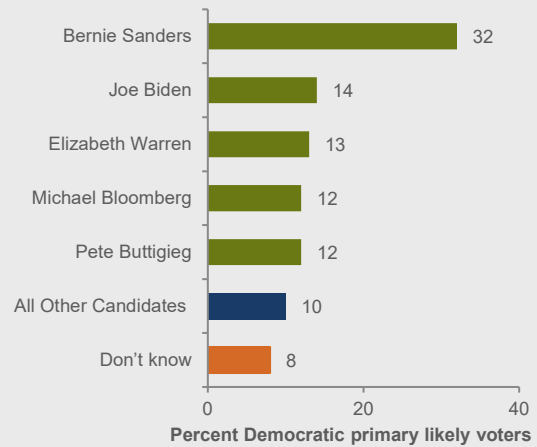
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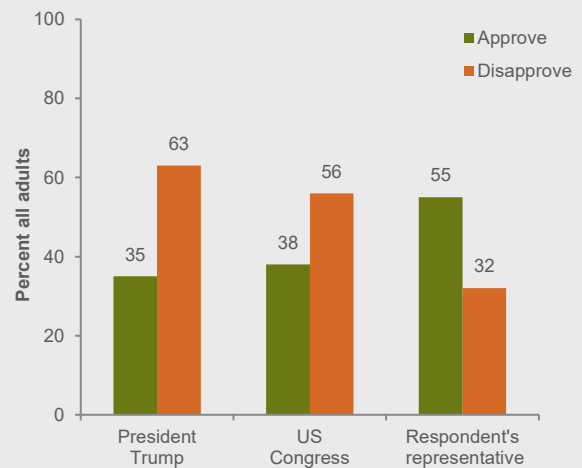
Prospects that Americans of different political views can come together and work out their differences

2020 Presidential Primary

With less than a month before the primary, Democratic primary likely voters (including Democrats and independent voters who say they will vote in the Democratic primary) are paying attention, with about nine in ten following news about candidates very (46%) or fairly (42%) closely. Attention to news was similar in January (very 43%, fairly 43%). Most Democratic primary likely voters (77%) are satisfied with their choices for candidates in the presidential primary, similar to the 70 percent who felt this way in January.

If the Democratic primary were held today, Bernie Sanders would receive the highest support (32%), followed by Joe Biden (14%), Elizabeth Warren (13%), Michael Bloomberg (12%), and Pete Buttigieg (12%). Eight percent say they are unsure of who they would vote for, while one in ten support someone else. (At the start of the survey, we included 12 candidates who had been listed in a 2020 national survey utilized by the DNC for the debate qualifying process, and respondents could name someone else.) In January, Sanders (27%), Biden (24%), and Warren (23%) had the support of about one in four voters. In November, Biden (24%), Warren (23%), and Sanders (17%) were the top three. Today, Sanders is preferred among men (38%) and women (28%) as well as among younger Californians, age 18 to 44 (53%), and Latinos (53%). Across regions, Sanders is preferred among Democratic primary likely voters in other Southern California—including Orange, San Diego, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties (41%), Los Angeles (36%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (31%). When asked who would be their second choice for the Democratic nomination, likely voters were most likely to say Warren (22%), Sanders (19%), Buttigieg (14%), or Biden (13%).

"If the March 3, 2020, Democratic primary for president were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for? … or someone else?"

Democratic primary likely voters only Top 5 choices	All likely voters	Gender		Age		Race/Ethnicity		
		Men	Women	18 to 44	45 and older	Latinos	Whites	Other*
Bernie Sanders	32%	38%	28%	53%	18%	53%	20%	33%
Joe Biden	14	14	14	9	18	18	9	18
Elizabeth Warren	13	8	17	13	14	7	15	16
Michael Bloomberg	12	12	12	8	14	7	13	13
Pete Buttigieg	12	10	13	13	11	5	19	8
All other candidates	10	12	7	2	14	3	14	6
Don't know	8	8	8	3	11	7	10	4

Sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis.

Who do Democratic primary likely voters think has the best chance of beating Donald Trump in the 2020 election? Thirty-four percent view Sanders as the top choice, while about one in six say Biden or Bloomberg (16% each). In January, Biden (46%) was viewed as having the best chance, followed by Sanders (25%). Today, Sanders is viewed as the best choice among younger voters (54%), Latinos (54%), men (40%), and women (30%).

"Regardless of who you may vote for, who do you think has the best chance of beating Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election?"

Democratic primary likely voters only Top 5 choices	All likely voters	Gender		Age		Race/Ethnicity		
		Men	Women	18 to 44	45 and older	Latinos	Whites	Other
Bernie Sanders	34%	40%	30%	54%	21%	54%	25%	33%
Joe Biden	16	15	17	9	22	16	19	13
Michael Bloomberg	16	15	16	11	19	12	17	17
Elizabeth Warren	6	3	7	7	5	3	5	9
Pete Buttigieg	5	6	5	4	6	6	5	4
All other candidates	8	10	6	8	8	2	8	10
Don't know	15	9	19	8	20	8	20	14

Approval of Federal Elected Officials

In the wake of the Senate impeachment trial and the State of the Union address, 35 percent of adults and 35 percent of likely voters approve of the way that Donald Trump is handling his job as president. Approval was similar in January (31% adults, 38% likely voters) and last March (29% adults, 34% likely voters). Today, 84 percent of Republicans approve, compared to 40 percent of independents and 5 percent of Democrats. About four in ten approve in the Central Valley, Inland Empire, and Orange/San Diego, compared to fewer in Los Angeles (29%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (24%). Whites (49%) are far more likely than Asian Americans (30%), Latinos (24%), and African Americans (6%) to approve. In a recent ABC News/Washington Post poll, 43 percent of adults nationwide approved of President Trump's job performance.

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

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		35%	63%	2%
Likely voters		35	63	2
Party	Democrats	5	94	1
	Republicans	84	14	2
	Independents	40	57	2
Region	Central Valley	42	56	1
	Inland Empire	42	54	4
	Los Angeles	29	69	2
	Orange/San Diego	41	58	1
	San Francisco Bay Area	24	74	2

Thirty-eight percent of adults and 32 percent of likely voters approve of the way the US Congress is handling its job. Approval of Congress was similar in January (38% adults, 30% likely voters) and last March (36% adults, 29% likely voters). Today, a similar three in ten across partisan groups approve of Congress, while approval across regions ranges from 33 percent in the Central Valley to 46 percent in the Inland Empire. Whites (26%) are less likely to approve of Congress than African Americans (48%), Asian Americans (48%), and Latinos (48%). In a recent Gallup poll, 23 percent of adults nationwide approved of Congress.

By contrast, majorities of adults (55%) and likely voters (57%) approve of their own representative in the US House. Views were similar last March (52% adults, 51% likely voters).Today, Democrats (70%) are much more likely to approve of their own representative than independents (56%) and Republicans (34%). About half or more in every region say they approve of their own representative (62% Los Angeles, 57% Inland Empire, 56% San Francisco Bay Area, 55% Central Valley, 46% Orange/San Diego). Majorities of African Americans (70%), Latinos (62%), Asian Americans (55%)—and 48 percent of whites—approve.

"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of …?"

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
the way the US Congress is handling its job	Approve	38%	33%	29%	33%	32%
	Disapprove	56	61	67	63	63
	Don't know	6	5	4	5	5
the way your own representative to the US House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job	Approve	55	70	34	56	57
	Disapprove	32	21	55	35	34
	Don't know	13	9	11	9	9

Approval of US Senators

Following the Senate impeachment trial vote, US senator Dianne Feinstein has approval from 51 percent of adults and 50 percent of likely voters. Approval was lower last September (40% adults, 44% likely voters) and similar last March (47% adults, 48% likely voters). Today, a majority of Democrats (70%) approve, compared to fewer independents (47%) and Republicans (19%). Majorities in Los Angeles (62%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (55%) but fewer than half elsewhere approve of Senator Feinstein. Majorities of African Americans (78%), Asian Americans (57%), and Latinos (57%) and fewer whites (42%) approve. Women (57%) are more likely than men (45%) to approve of Senator Feinstein.

"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as US senator?"

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		51%	35%	14%
Likely voters		50	43	7
Party	Democrats	70	21	9
	Republicans	19	73	7
	Independents	47	41	11
Region	Central Valley	45	43	12
	Inland Empire	45	38	17
	Los Angeles	62	24	14
	Orange/San Diego	45	42	13
	San Francisco Bay Area	55	31	14

After Kamala Harris withdrew as a Democratic presidential candidate and in the wake of the Senate impeachment trial vote, 49 percent of adults and 54 percent of likely voters approve of her job performance as US senator. Approval was lower last September (40% adults, 43% likely voters) and similar last March (45% adults, 48% likely voters). Today, a majority of Democrats (70%) approve, compared to 43 percent of independents and 17 percent of Republicans. Majorities in Los Angeles (58%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (55%) but fewer than half elsewhere approve of Senator Harris. Majorities of African Americans (66%), Latinos (55%), and Asian Americans (52%)—and fewer whites (41%)—approve. Women (57%) are much more likely than men (41%) to approve of Senator Harris.

"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Kamala Harris is handling her job as US senator?"

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		49%	34%	17%
Likely voters		54	36	11
Party	Democrats	70	18	12
	Republicans	17	70	12
	Independents	43	40	17
Region	Central Valley	43	41	17
	Inland Empire	39	36	24
	Los Angeles	58	28	14
	Orange/San Diego	47	40	13
	San Francisco Bay Area	55	28	17

Impeachment Senate Trial

After President Trump was impeached by the House of Representatives, the US Senate decided against removing him from office. When asked if they think the Senate should have removed the president from office, a majority of Californians (58%) say it should have; 39 percent say it should not have. Findings among likely voters are similar. Most Democrats say he should have been removed, while a similar share of Republicans say he should not have been. Independents are divided. Strong majorities in Los Angeles (65%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (65%) support removal from office, as do at least half in the Inland Empire (56%), Orange/San Diego (51%), and the Central Valley (50%). Two in three women (66%) say the president should have been removed, compared to fewer than half of men (48%). Majorities of African Americans (88%), Latinos (68%), and Asian Americans (63%) support removal while a majority of whites (54%) do not. Support for removal from office is higher among younger Californians (68% 18 to 34, 53% 35 and older).

"After being impeached by the House of Representatives, the Senate decided President Trump should not be removed from office. Do you think the Senate should or should not have removed President Trump from office?"

		Should have	Should not have	Don't know
All adults		58%	39%	4%
Likely voters		57	41	2
Party	Democrats	86	12	2
	Republicans	12	86	2
	Independents	51	45	4
Region	Central Valley	50	48	2
	Inland Empire	56	42	2
	Los Angeles	65	30	5
	Orange/San Diego	51	48	1
	San Francisco Bay Area	65	30	6

On the heels of the impeachment process, Californians are divided on the prospects that Americans of different political views can still come together and work out their differences (49% optimistic, 48% pessimistic). Last January, after the historic government shutdown, about six in ten Californians were optimistic (58%, 40% pessimistic). Today, Democrats are more likely than Republicans and independents to be pessimistic. Pessimism is higher among whites (54%), Asian Americans (53%), and African Americans (52%) than among Latinos (38%) and rises as education and income increase.

"These days, do you feel optimistic or pessimistic that Americans of different political views can still come together and work out their differences?"

		Optimistic	Pessimistic	Don't know
All adults		49%	48%	3%
Likely voters		44	54	2
Party	Democrats	41	58	2
	Republicans	55	41	4
	Independents	49	49	2
Region	Central Valley	55	43	2
	Inland Empire	60	35	5
	Los Angeles	51	44	4
	Orange/San Diego	43	56	1
	San Francisco Bay Area	48	50	2

Importance of Voting and the US Census in 2020

Californians (86%) and likely voters (96%) continue to view voting in elections in 2020 as very important, which is nearly identical to findings in May 2019 (89% adults, 95% likely voters). Findings are similar among Democrats and Republicans, but somewhat lower among independents. At least three in four Californians across regions and across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups view voting in 2020 as very important, as do overwhelming majorities of men (85%) and women (87%).

"How important is voting in elections in 2020? Would you say this is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?"

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Very important	86%	93%	93%	84%	88%	87%	85%	87%
Somewhat important	9	5	6	10	8	10	10	7
Not too important	2	2	2	3	1	3	1	2
Not at all important	3	–	–	2	3	–	4	3

The 2020 Census is set to begin within weeks and its impact on California could be huge. An undercount in the decennial census could cost California a congressional seat and shift political representation away from low-income communities of color. With much at stake, three in four Californians (74%) and eight in ten likely voters (79%) say it is important to participate in the 2020 Census. Democrats are the most likely to view this as very important. More than two in three adults across regions and across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups say it is very important, and this view is more prevalent among older Californians (68% 18 to 34; 77% 45 to 54; 78% 55 or older). Californians who are US born (70%) are less likely than immigrants (81% naturalized citizen, 85% noncitizens) to say participating in the 2020 Census is very important.

"How important is participating in the US Census in 2020? Would you say this is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?"
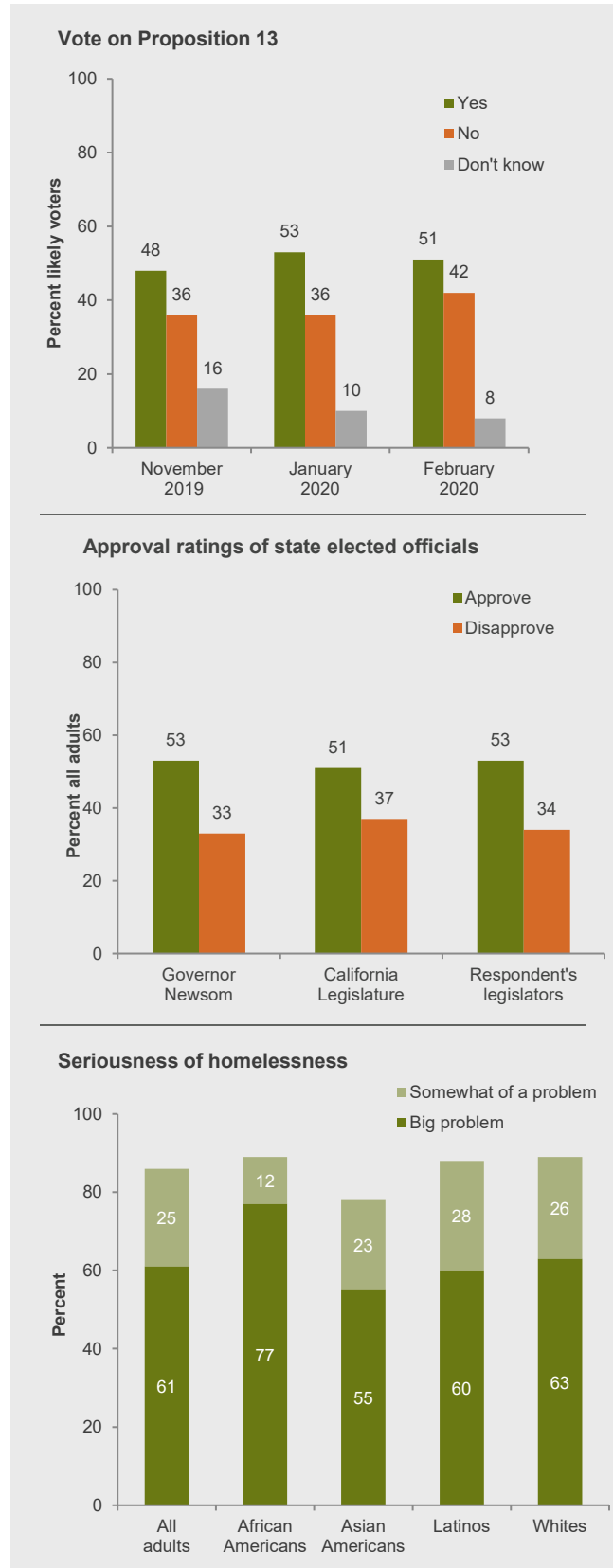
	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Very important	74%	83%	69%	65%	82%	72%	78%	73%
Somewhat important	19	14	21	24	16	22	18	18
Not too important	3	3	5	3	2	3	1	4
Not at all important	4	1	4	7	–	3	3	4
Don't know	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	1

When asked how likely they are to participate in the 2020 census, two in three Californians say they will definitely participate (67%), and 18 percent say they will probably participate. Adults nationwide in a recent Pew Research Center poll were as likely to say they would definitely participate (64%). Whites (73%) and African Americans (70%) are more likely than Asian Americans (66%) and Latinos (60%) to say they will definitely participate. More than six in ten across regions say they will definitely participate, and this view increases with rising educational attainment (56% high school only, 70% some college, 76% college graduates) and income (55% less than $40,000, 73% $40,000 to under $80,000, 81% $80,000 or more). Californians age 35 and older (75% 45 to 54, 77% 55 or older) are more likely than Californians under 35 (48%) to say they will definitely participate. Noncitizens (57%) are much less likely than citizens (67% US born, 76% naturalized) to say they will definitely participate. Among those who say participating in the US Census is very important, 88% say they will definitely participate.

State Election and Policy Landscape

Key Findings

- About half of likely voters (51%) would vote yes on Proposition 13 (school facilities bond), while 42 percent would vote no. Forty-three percent say the outcome of this measure is very important. *(page 12)*

- About half of Californians approve of Governor Newsom (53%), the California legislature (51%), and the legislators representing their own assembly and senate districts (53%). *(page 13)*

- Majorities of Californians support two of the governor's budget proposals: a $4.75 billion bond to address climate risks (65% adults, 59% likely voters) and $1 billion to address homelessness (70% adults, 64% likely voters). *(page 14)*

- A majority of Californians view housing affordability in their area as a big problem (63%). Forty-four percent say their housing costs make them consider moving away from their part of California. *(page 15)*

- A majority of Californians—with bipartisan agreement—view homelessness in their area as a big problem (61%). Majorities of Californians (63%) and likely voters (55%) support a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to mandate that state and localities put every homeless person under a roof. *(page 16)*

- Forty-nine percent say the governor's plan to scale back the high-speed rail project is a good idea, and 58 percent support his plan to build one tunnel—instead of two—in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. *(page 17)*

- One in four Californians call local violence and street crime a big problem (24%), and two in three say their local police are doing an excellent (24%) or good (38%) job. But perceptions vary across racial/ethnic groups. *(page 18)*

Vote on Proposition 13

Approval ratings of state elected officials

Seriousness of homelessness

Proposition 13: State Bond for Education Facilities

In March, Californians will vote on Proposition 13 (the Public Preschool, K–12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2020). When read the Proposition 13 ballot title and label, which states that the measure authorizes $15 billion in general obligation bonds for construction and modernization of public education facilities, 51 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes; 42 percent would vote no, and 8 percent are undecided. Views were similar in January (53% yes, 36% no, 10% undecided) and November (48% yes, 36% no, 16% undecided). Democratic likely voters (69%) are far more likely than independents (47%) and Republicans (24%) to support Proposition 13. Regionally, majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (62%) and Los Angeles (56%) support the measure, compared to more than four in ten elsewhere. Latino likely voters (62%) are much more likely than whites (42%) to express support; 61 percent of likely voters in other racial/ethnic groups would vote yes. (Sample sizes for Asian American and African American likely voters are too small for separate analysis.) Younger likely voters (60% 18 to 44) are much more likely than older likely voters (45% 45 and older), and those earning under $40,000 (64%) are much more likely than higher-earning residents (50% $40,000 to under $80,000, 43% $80,000 or more) to express support. More than four in ten likely voters with (44%) and without (54%) children 18 and under in the household would vote yes, while renters (67%) are far more likely than homeowners (41%) to be supportive.

"Proposition 13 is called the 'Public Preschool, K–12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2020. Initiative Statute. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 13?"*

Likely voters only		Yes	No	Don't know
All likely voters		51%	42%	8%
Party	Democrats	69	23	8
	Republicans	24	71	5
	Independents	47	44	9
Region	Central Valley	45	47	7
	Inland Empire	42	50	8
	Los Angeles	56	36	8
	Orange/San Diego	45	48	7
	San Francisco Bay Area	62	29	8

*For complete text of proposition question,

Forty-three percent of likely voters say the outcome of the vote on Proposition 13 is very important to them, while an additional 39 percent say it is somewhat important. Findings were similar in January (42% very important, 39% somewhat important) and November (39% very important, 35% somewhat important). Republicans (59%) are much more likely than Democratic (41%) and independent (32%) likely voters to view the outcome as very important. About four in ten or more across demographic groups view the outcome as very important. Regionally, the shares saying the outcome is very important range from 54 percent in the Central Valley to 36 percent in the San Francisco Bay Area. Similar shares of yes (43%) and no voters (46%) say the outcome is very important.

"How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 13?"

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Vote on Proposition 13	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	43%	41%	59%	32%	43%	46%
Somewhat important	39	40	30	51	45	33
Not too important	11	11	7	11	8	14
Not at all important	4	4	2	4	3	4
Don't know	3	5	2	2	1	1

Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

After releasing his 2020–21 budget proposal and in advance of his second State of the State address, Governor Newsom has an approval rating of 53 percent among adults and 52 percent among likely voters—a record high for both. Last March, 45 percent of adults and likely voters approved of the way the governor was handling his job. Today, his approval rating is 75 percent among Democrats, 45 percent among independents, and 15 percent among Republicans. Majorities of adults in the San Francisco Bay Area (61%) and Los Angeles (59%) and fewer than half in other regions approve. Majorities of African Americans (65%), Asian Americans (62%) and Latinos (62%) approve of the governor, compared to 41 percent of whites.

"Overall, from what you know so far, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor of California?"

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		53%	33%	14%
Likely voters		52	39	9
Party	Democrats	75	14	11
	Republicans	15	79	5
	Independents	45	44	12
Region	Central Valley	48	42	10
	Inland Empire	46	38	16
	Los Angeles	59	26	15
	Orange/San Diego	46	38	15
	San Francisco Bay Area	61	25	13

As the second year of the 2019–20 legislative session gets under way, 51 percent of adults and 49 percent of likely voters approve of the way the state legislature is handling its job. Approval ratings were similar last March (46% adults, 42% likely voters). Today, 69 percent of Democrats say they approve, compared to 49 percent of independents and 13 percent of Republicans. Fifty-eight percent in the San Francisco Bay Area and about half in other regions say they approve. Majorities of Asian Americans (62%), African Americans (60%), and Latinos (60%) say they approve, compared to fewer whites (40%).

Adults (53%) and likely voters (52%) are similarly likely to say they approve of the way that the legislators representing their state assembly and senate districts are doing their jobs. Approval was similar last March (51% adults, 48% likely voters). Today, 68 percent of Democrats, 44 percent of independents, and 26 percent of Republicans approve of their own legislators. Majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (57%) and Los Angeles (56%) and about half in other regions say they approve.

"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of …?"

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
the way that the California Legislature is handling its job	Approve	51%	69%	13%	49%	49%
	Disapprove	37	20	82	43	43
	Don't know	11	11	4	8	8
the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time	Approve	53	68	26	44	52
	Disapprove	34	22	67	47	39
	Don't know	13	10	7	9	10

Governor's Budget Proposals

Governor Newsom's proposed 2020–21 budget includes $222.2 billion in state spending and a projected one-time surplus of $5.6 billion. As part of his budget, the governor proposed placing a $4.75 billion state bond on the November ballot that would address both near- and long-term climate risks across the state. After hearing a brief description, a majority of adults (65%) and likely voters (59%) say they would vote yes on the measure. Partisans hold polarized views: eight in ten Democrats (83%) would vote yes, compared to two in ten Republicans (21%). More than half of independents (58%) would vote yes. Half or more across regions and demographic groups would vote yes. Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (73%) and Los Angeles (70%) are more likely than those in other regions to express support (61% Central Valley, 59% Inland Empire, 59% Orange/San Diego). Majorities across racial/ethnic groups would vote yes. Women (71%) are much more likely than men (58%) to support the potential measure, as are renters (72%) compared to homeowners (55%). Those with only a high school education (70%) are also more likely to say they will vote yes than those with some college education (60%) or college graduates (64%). Support for the measure declines with rising age (76% 18 to 34, 62% 35 to 54, 57% 55 and older) and income levels (74% under $40,000, 63% $40,000 to $80,000, 56% $80,000 or more).

"As part of his budget proposal Governor Newsom proposed placing a $4.75 billion state bond on the November ballot to address climate risks across California. The proposal allocates 80 percent of the funds to address immediate near term risks associated with floods, droughts, and wildfires, while the remaining funds would focus on longer term risks like sea level rise and extreme heat. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this bond?"

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Yes	65%	83%	21%	58%	75%	72%	80%	51%
No	32	14	75	38	25	27	18	45
Don't know	3	3	4	3	1	1	2	4

To address homelessness, Governor Newsom's budget plan allocates $1 billion to help create the California Access to Housing and Services Fund. After hearing a brief description of the proposal, majorities of adults (70%) and likely voters (64%) favor the proposal. Majorities of Democrats (84%) and independents (63%) are in favor compared to fewer Republicans (34%). Majorities across regions and demographic groups are in favor. More than seven in ten in Los Angeles (76%), the Inland Empire (73%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (71%) are in favor, compared to two in three in Orange/San Diego (67%) and the Central Valley (65%). Overwhelming majorities of African Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans express support, compared to 58 percent of whites. Women (76%) are much more likely than men (63%), and renters (80%) are far more likely than homeowners (57%) to be in favor. Support declines as age (80% 18 to 34, 68% 35 to 54, 62% 55 and older), education (76% high school only, 68% some college education, 64% college graduate), and income levels rise (84% under $40,000, 65% $40,000 to $80,000, 57% $80,000 or more).

"As part of his budget proposal Governor Newsom proposed spending $1 billion to address homelessness. The proposal creates the California Access to Housing and Services Fund which would provide monthly rent payments, promote more affordable housing, and provide support to organizations that board and care for those who would otherwise be homeless. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?"

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Favor	70%	84%	34%	63%	92%	74%	81%	58%
Oppose	25	12	59	34	7	23	17	34
Don't know	5	4	8	3	1	3	3	8

Housing Affordability

About nine in ten Californians say that housing affordability is a big problem (63%) or somewhat of a problem (25%) in their part of California. Similar shares held these views in March 2019 (68% big, 21% somewhat). Today, majorities of Democrats (76%) and independents (62%) say it is a big problem, compared to 44 percent of Republicans. Adults in the San Francisco Bay Area are the most likely to say it is a big problem followed by those in Los Angeles, Orange/San Diego, the Inland Empire and the Central Valley. Majorities across demographic groups hold this view. Among racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (77%) are more likely than Asian Americans (65%), whites (64%), or Latinos (60%) to say it is a big problem. About six in ten or more across gender (65% women, 62% men), age (64% 18 to 34, 63% 35 to 54, 63% 55 and older), and income groups (63% under $40,000, 69% $40,000 to $80,000, 63% 80,000 or more) say housing affordability is a big problem. The share holding this view increases as education levels rise (56% high school only, 66% some college education, 68% college graduate). Renters (68%) are more likely than homeowners (58%) to see housing affordability as a big problem.

"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?"

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/ San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Big problem	63%	48%	52%	69%	62%	77%	65%
Somewhat of a problem	25	32	35	22	24	18	26
Not a problem	11	19	12	9	12	5	8
Don't know	1	1	1	–	2	1	1

Forty-four percent of adults and 38 percent of likely voters say the cost of their housing is making them seriously consider moving away from the part of California they live in now. A similar share of adults (47%) and a larger share of likely voters (46%) said they were seriously considering moving in March 2019. Across political parties, independents (48%) are slightly more likely than Republicans (41%) and Democrats (38%) to say this. The share who are considering moving ranges from 39 percent in the Central Valley to 48 percent in the San Francisco Bay Area. Younger Californians (55% 18 to 34) are more likely than older Californians (45% 35 to 54, 33% 55 and older) and renters (54%) are far more likely than homeowners (32%) to consider moving. At least four in ten across gender (45% men, 43% women), racial/ethnic (50% African Americans, 45% Asian Americans, 44% Latinos, 43% whites), and income groups (48% under $40,000, 46% $40,000 to $80,000, 42% $80,000 or more) say they are considering moving. Of those who are seriously considering moving, most say they would leave California rather than relocate within the state.

"Does the cost of your housing make you and your family seriously consider moving away from the part of California you live in now? If yes: does it make you consider moving elsewhere in California, or outside of the state?"

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/ San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Yes	44%	39%	43%	43%	46%	48%	38%
Elsewhere in California	10	5	2	12	14	14	6
Outside the state	32	33	38	29	32	31	30
Other	2	1	2	2	1	3	1
No	56	61	57	56	54	52	62

Homelessness

About six in ten adults (61%) and likely voters (64%) say that homelessness is a big problem in their part of California. Similar shares (63% adults, 66% likely voters) held this view when we last asked this question in May 2019. Today, majorities of Democrats (69%), independents (65%), and Republicans (58%) say homelessness is a big problem. Across regions, about two in three residents in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, and the Central Valley hold this view, compared to fewer in Orange/San Diego and the Inland Empire. Among racial/ethnic groups, three in four African Americans (77%) say it is a big problem, compared to fewer whites (63%), Latinos (60%), and Asian Americans (55%). Women (66%) are more likely than men (56%) to say homelessness is a big problem. Those with some college education (64%) and college graduates (63%) are more likely than those with a high school education only (58%) to hold this view. Similar shares across age (61% 18 to 34, 64% 35 to 54, 59% 55 and older) and income groups (64% under $40,000, 63% $40,000 to $80,000, 61% $80,000 or more), as well as renters (64%) and homeowners (58%), say homelessness is a big problem.

"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?"

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/ San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Big problem	61%	63%	53%	67%	54%	66%	64%
Somewhat of a problem	25	28	28	22	27	23	25
Not a problem	13	8	19	9	19	10	11
Don't know	1	1	–	1	–	–	–

Governor Newsom's task force on homelessness recently recommended that a measure be placed on the November ballot that would amend the state constitution with a mandate that cities, counties, and the state provide enough housing or shelter beds to put every homeless person under a roof. When asked about this potential measure, 63 percent of adults and 55 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes. An overwhelming majority of Democrats (71%) say they would vote yes, compared to 58 percent of independents and 34 percent of Republicans. Majorities across regions would vote yes. Among racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (85%) and Latinos (82%) are much more likely than Asian Americans (61%) and whites (47%) to say they would vote yes. Support for the potential measure is much stronger among women (70%) than men (56%), and renters (74%) compared to homeowners (50%). The share saying they would vote yes declines as age (74% 18 to 34, 61% 35 to 54, 57% 55 and older), levels of education (75% high school only, 58% some college education, 53% college graduate), and incomes (79% under $40,000, 59% $40,000 to $80,000, 48% $80,000 or more) increase.

"A potential constitutional amendment on the November ballot would mandate that cities, counties, and the state provide enough housing or shelter beds to put every homeless person under a roof. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this constitutional amendment?"

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/ San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Yes	63%	58%	68%	72%	60%	62%	55%
No	32	37	29	24	36	33	38
Don't know	5	5	3	4	4	5	7

High-Speed Rail and Delta Tunnel Projects

As Governor Newsom enters his second year in office, he continues to move forward with alternative plans for the high-speed rail and Delta tunnel projects—two projects that many see as part of the legacy and unfinished business of his predecessor, Jerry Brown. Newsom's plan to complete construction from Bakersfield to Merced while continuing to seek funds to extend the system to other parts of the state gets mixed reviews: 49 percent of Californians say the plan is a good idea and 41 percent say it is a bad idea; likely voters are similarly divided (43% good idea, 47% bad idea). About half of Californians (53%) and likely voters (45%) thought the governor's plan was a good idea when we asked a similar question last March. Democrats (59%) are far more likely than independents (38%) and Republicans (19%) to say it is a good idea. The high-speed rail plan is focused on the Central Valley, but a majority of Central Valley residents say the plan is a bad idea (52%, 38% good idea); elsewhere, about half or more see it as a good idea (54% San Francisco Bay Area, 50% Los Angeles, 50% Orange/San Diego, 49% Inland Empire). Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (65%) and Latinos (62%) are more likely than Asian Americans (50%) and whites (36%) to say it is a good idea. More than four in ten across age, education, gender, and income groups hold this positive view.

"Governor Newsom decided to scale back the high-speed rail project and complete the construction underway for a high-speed rail from Bakersfield to Merced while continuing to plan and seek funds for extending the high-speed rail system to other parts of the state. Do you think that Governor Newsom's plan is a good idea or a bad idea?"

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Good idea	49%	59%	19%	38%	43%
Bad idea	41	31	73	49	47
Don't want/need high speed rail at all *(volunteered)*	2	1	4	2	2
Don't know	8	9	4	11	9

Governor Newsom continues to move ahead with a plan for a single Delta water tunnel. Fifty-eight percent of adults think the plan is a good idea and 28 percent say it is a bad idea. Similarly, 51 percent of likely voters see it as a good idea and 32 percent say it is a bad idea. Support among adults (52%) and likely voters (47%) was similar when we asked about the plan last March. Today, 62 percent of Democrats and a majority of independents (54%) think this is a good idea, while 48 percent of Republicans think it is a bad idea. Across regions, residents in Los Angeles (65%) are the most likely to say it is a good idea, followed by Orange/San Diego (62%), Inland Empire (58%), the San Francisco Bay Area (57%), and the Central Valley (49%). A majority of Latinos (73%), Asian Americans (70%), and African Americans (56%) say the plan is a good idea, compared to fewer whites (43%). At least half across age, education, gender, and income groups hold this view.

"Governor Newsom decided to scale back the Delta project and build one tunnel—instead of two—in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to move water from northern California for agricultural, environmental, and urban uses in central and southern California. Do you think that Governor Newsom's plan is a good idea or a bad idea?"

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Good idea	58%	62%	39%	54%	51%
Bad idea	28	22	48	32	32
Don't want/need any tunnels *(volunteered)*	1	1	2	2	1
Don't know	13	15	10	12	16

Crime, Police, and Race

One in four Californians say that violence and street crime are a big problem in their local community. Californians were similarly likely to say crime is a big problem in May 2019 (27% adults, 23% likely voters). The view that crime is a big problem is somewhat more common in the Central Valley than in Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, the Inland Empire, and Orange/San Diego. It is also more common among African Americans (35%) and Latinos (31%) than among Asian Americans (19%) and whites (19%). College graduates (15%) and those with annual incomes of $80,000 or more (17%) are less likely than others to say crime is a big problem.

"How much of a problem are violence and street crime in your local community today—a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?"

| | All adults | Region | | | | | Likely voters |
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/ San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Big problem	24%	36%	27%	25%	15%	23%	21%
Somewhat of a problem	36	30	36	42	29	39	34
Not much of a problem	38	32	34	32	56	37	44
Don't know	1	2	3	1	–	1	1

More than six in ten Californians say their local police are doing an excellent (24%) or good (38%) job controlling crime in their community. Responses were similar in May 2019 (25% excellent, 40% good). Today, majorities of Republicans (71%), Democrats (61%), and independents (59%) say police are doing an excellent or good job. Across racial/ethnic groups, opinions are mostly positive but vary widely, with whites (73%) much more likely than Latinos (57%), Asian Americans (51%), and African Americans (50%) to say the police are doing an excellent or good job. Regionally, responses range from 53 percent saying excellent or good in the Central Valley to 73 percent saying the same in Orange/San Diego. Majorities across age, education, gender, and income groups say the police are doing an excellent or good job.

More than six in ten adults say local police treat all racial and ethnic groups fairly, almost always (30%) or most of the time (31%), while 3 percent volunteer that police always treat all groups fairly. Similar shares held this view in May 2019 (30% almost always, 31% most of the time, 4% always).Today, Republicans (80%) are far more likely than independents (63%) and Democrats (54%) to hold this view. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (32%) are far less likely than Latinos (63%), Asian Americans (66%), and whites (66%) to say racial and ethnic groups are treated fairly at least most of the time. Regionally, residents in the Central Valley (70%) are the most likely to hold this view, compared to fewer elsewhere (66% Orange/ San Diego, 62% San Francisco Bay Area, 60% Los Angeles, 54% Inland Empire).

"Do you think the police in your community treat all racial and ethnic groups fairly almost always, most of the time, only some of the time, or almost never?"

| | All adults | Party | | | Race/Ethnicity | | | |
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Almost always	30%	20%	46%	33%	5%	22%	33%	32%
Most of the time	31	33	30	26	26	44	28	31
Only some of the time	21	29	13	23	39	19	21	20
Almost never	8	10	2	8	18	9	10	5
Always (*volunteered*)	3	1	4	4	1	–	2	3
Never (*volunteered*)	2	2	1	2	7	–	2	1
Don't know	6	6	4	5	4	7	3	8

Regional Map

Methodology

The PPIC Statewide Survey is directed by Mark Baldassare, president and CEO and survey director at the Public Policy Institute of California, with assistance from associate survey director Dean Bonner, project manager for this survey, and survey research associates Alyssa Dykman and Rachel Lawler. The Californians and Their Government series is supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, and the PPIC Donor Circle. 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 1,702 California adult residents, including 1,259 interviewed on cell phones and 443 interviewed on landline telephones. The sample included 510 respondents reached by calling back respondents who had previously completed an interview in PPIC Statewide Surveys in the last six months. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from February 7–17, 2020.

Cell phone interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of cell phone numbers. All cell phone numbers with California area codes were eligible for selection. Once a cell phone user was reached, it was verified that this person was age 18 or older, a resident of California, and in a safe place to continue the survey (e.g., not driving). Cell phone respondents were offered a small reimbursement to help defray the cost of the call. Cell phone interviews were conducted with adults who have cell phone service only and with those who have both cell phone and landline service in the household.

Landline interviews were conducted using a computer-generated random sample of telephone numbers that ensured that both listed and unlisted numbers were called. All landline telephone exchanges in California were eligible for selection. Once a household was reached, an adult respondent (age 18 or older) was randomly chosen for interviewing using the "last birthday method" to avoid biases in age and gender.

For both cell phones and landlines, telephone numbers were called as many as eight times. When no contact with an individual was made, calls to a number were limited to six. Also, to increase our ability to interview Asian American adults, we made up to three additional calls to phone numbers estimated by Survey Sampling International as likely to be associated with Asian American individuals.

Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted by Abt Associates in English and Spanish, according to respondents' preferences. Accent on Languages, Inc., translated new survey questions into Spanish, with assistance from Renatta DeFever.

Abt Associates uses the US Census Bureau's 2014–2018 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. To estimate landline and cell phone service in California, Abt Associates used 2016 state-level estimates released by the National Center for Health Statistics—which used data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the ACS. The estimates for California were then compared against landline and cell phone service reported in this survey. 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 landline and cell phone samples were then integrated using a frame integration weight, while sample balancing adjusted for differences across regional, age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, telephone service, and party registration groups.

The sampling error, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is ±3.4 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,702 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.4 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,400 registered voters, the sampling error is ±3.8 percent; for the 1,046 likely voters, it is ±4.4 percent; for the 573 Democratic primary likely voters (including Democrats and independent voters who say they will vote in the Democratic primary), it is ±5.7 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 42 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 15 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 no party preference or 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.

We included 12 candidates at the start of our survey who had been listed in a 2020 national survey that the DNC utilizes for the debate qualifying process as rotated choices for question 6—preference for Democratic nominee—followed by "or someone else," to allow respondents to name other candidates. We stopped asking about four candidates when they withdrew from the race during interviewing.

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 to those in national surveys by ABC News/Washington Post, Gallup, and 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.

Questionnaire and Results

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

February 7–17, 2020
1,702 California Adult Residents:
English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR ±3.4% AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE
PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

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

   53%   approve
   33   disapprove
   14   don't know

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

   51%   approve
   37   disapprove
   11   don't know

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

   53%   approve
   34   disapprove
   13   don't know

4. **Next some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?**

   70%   yes *[ask q4a]*
   30   no *[skip to q5f]*

4a. **Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?**

   44%   Democrat *[ask q5]*
   24   Republican *[skip to q5a]*
   6   another party *(specify) [skip to q8]*
   26   independent *[skip to q5b]*

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

   66%   strong
   32   not strong
   2   don't know

   [skip to q6]

5a. **Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?**

   63%   strong
   35   not strong
   3   don't know

   [skip to q8]

5b. **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?**

   [code, don't read]

   24%   parties don't reflect my views, not satisfied with parties
   8   vote for candidates, not party
   8   I vote for both Democrats and Republicans
   3   privacy/confidentiality
   2   politicians/elected officials
   1   don't want political mailings or phone calls
   1   corruption
   39   other *(specify)*
   10   don't know

5c. **And, were you previously registered with a major party or have you always been a decline-to-state or independent voter?**

39% previously registered *[ask q5d]*

58 always been a decline-to-state or independent voter *[skip to q5e]*

2 don't know *[skip to q5e]*

5d. **And what party were you previously registered with?**

[code, don't read]

33% Republican Party

56 Democratic Party

10 other *(specify)*

1 don't know

5e. **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?**

37% join a political party

58 remain unaffiliated

4 don't know

5f. **Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?**

25% Republican Party

52 Democratic Party

18 neither *(volunteered)*

6 don't know

5g. **California voters like you will be able to choose between voting in the Democratic presidential primary, or selecting a nonpartisan ballot on March 3rd. Both ballots include state proposition measures. Do you plan to vote in the Democratic presidential primary or on the nonpartisan ballot?**

33% Democratic primary *[ask q6]*

47 nonpartisan ballot *[skip to q8]*

2 not planning to vote *(volunteered)* *[skip to q8]*

17 don't know *[skip to q8]*

6. *[Democratic primary likely voters only]* **If the March 3, 2020 Democratic primary for president were being held today, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?** *[rotate names and then ask "or someone else?"]*

32% Bernie Sanders

14 Joe Biden

13 Elizabeth Warren

12 Michael Bloomberg

12 Pete Buttigieg

5 Amy Klobuchar

3 Tom Steyer

1 Tulsi Gabbard

– Michael Bennet*

– John Delaney*

– Deval Patrick*

– Andrew Yang*

1 someone else *(specify)*

8 don't know

*dropped out of race and their votes were allocated based on their 2nd choice in q6a.

6a. *[Democratic primary likely voters only who named a candidate in q6]* **And, who would be your second choice for the Democratic nomination for president?**

22% Elizabeth Warren

19 Bernie Sanders

14 Pete Buttigieg

13 Joe Biden

8 Amy Klobuchar

6 Michael Bloomberg

6 Tom Steyer

3 Andrew Yang *(volunteered)**

1 Michael Bennet *(volunteered)**

1 Tulsi Gabbard

– John Delaney *(volunteered)**

– Deval Patrick *(volunteered)**

– someone else *(specify)*

7 don't know

*dropped out of race

7. *[Democratic primary likely voters only]* **Regardless of who you may vote for, who do you think has the best chance of beating Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election?** *[rotate names and then ask "or another Democratic candidate who is running for president?"]*

    34%   Bernie Sanders
    16   Joe Biden
    16   Michael Bloomberg
    6   Elizabeth Warren
    5   Pete Buttigieg
    3   Amy Klobuchar
    1   Tulsi Gabbard
    1   Tom Steyer
    1   Andrew Yang *(volunteered)**
    –   Michael Bennet *(volunteered)**
    –   John Delaney *(volunteered)**
    –   Deval Patrick *(volunteered)**
    2   another Democratic candidate who is running for president *(specify)*
    15   don't know

    ***dropped out of race**

7a. *[Democratic primary likely voters only]* **What's more important to you that Democrats nominate the presidential candidate** *[rotate]* **[1] (whose positions on the issues come closest to yours), or the candidate [2] (who seems most likely to defeat Donald Trump in November 2020)?**

    33%   the presidential candidate whose positions on the issues come closestto yours
    57   the candidate who seems most likely to defeat Donald Trump
    7   both *(volunteered)*
    2   don't know

8. *[likely voters only]* **Which of these statements is closest to your views about President Donald Trump?**

    26%   I like Donald Trump and I like his policies
    3   I like Donald Trump but I dislike his policies
    11   I dislike Donald Trump but I like his policies
    59   I dislike Donald Trump and I dislike his policies
    1   don't know

9. *[Democratic primary likely voters only]* **In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the presidential primary?**

    77%   satisfied
    21   not satisfied
    2   don't know

10. *[Democratic primary likely voters only]* **How closely are you following the news about candidates for the 2020 presidential election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?**

    46%   very closely
    42   fairly closely
    10   not too closely
    3   not at all closely
    –   don't know

11. **How important is voting in elections in 2020? Would you say this is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?**

    86%   very important
    9   somewhat important
    2   not too important
    3   not at all important
    –   don't know

Next, we have a few questions to ask you about Proposition 13 on the March ballot.

12. *[likely voters only]* **Proposition 13, is called the "Authorizes Bonds for Facility Repair, Construction, and Modernization at Public Preschools, K–12 Schools, Community Colleges, and Universities. Legislative Statute." It authorizes $15 billion in state general obligation bonds for construction and modernization of public education facilities. The fiscal impacts are increased state costs to repay bonds that are estimated at about $740 million per year, including interest, over the next 35 years. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 13?**

    51%   yes
    42   no
    8   don't know

13. *[likely voters only]* **How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 13—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?**

   43%   very important
   39   somewhat important
   11   not too important
   4   not at all important
   3   don't know

On another topic,

[rotate questions 14 and 15]

14. **As part, of his budget proposal Governor Newsom proposed placing a $4.75 billion state bond on the November ballot to address climate risks across California. The proposal allocates 80 percent of the funds to address immediate near term risks associated with floods, droughts, and wildfires, while the remaining funds would focus on longer term risks like sea level rise and extreme heat. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this bond?**

   65%   yes
   32   no
   3   don't know

15. **As part of his budget proposal Governor Newsom proposed spending $1 billion to address homelessness. The proposal creates the California Access to Housing and Services Fund which would provide monthly rent payments, promote more affordable housing, and provide support to organizations that board and care for those who would otherwise be homeless. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?**

   70%   favor
   25   oppose
   5   don't know

Next,

16. **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?**

   63%   big problem
   25   somewhat of a problem
   11   not a problem
   1   don't know

17. **Does the cost of your housing make you and your family seriously consider moving away from the part of California you live in now, or not? (*if yes, ask*: "Does it make you consider moving elsewhere in California, or outside of the state?")**

   44%   yes
   10   *yes, elsewhere in California*
   32   *yes, outside the state*
   2   *yes, other*
   56   no
   –   don't know

18. **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?**

   61%   big problem
   25   somewhat of a problem
   13   not much of a problem
   1   don't know

19. **A potential constitutional amendment on the November ballot would mandate that cities, counties, and the state provide enough housing or shelter beds to put every homeless person under a roof. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on this constitutional amendment?**

   63%   yes
   32   no
   5   don't know

Changing topics,

20. **Governor Newsom decided to scale back the high-speed rail project and complete the construction underway for a high-speed rail from Bakersfield to Merced while continuing to plan and seek funds for extending the high-speed rail system to other parts of the state. Do you think that Governor Newsom's plan is a good idea or a bad idea?**

   49%   good idea
   41   bad idea
   2   don't want/need high speed rail at all *(volunteered)*
   8   don't know

21. **Governor Newsom decided to scale back the Delta project and build one tunnel—instead of two—in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to move water from northern California for agricultural, environmental, and urban uses in central and southern California. Do you think that Governor Newsom's plan is a good idea or a bad idea?**

   58%   good idea
   28   bad idea
   1   don't want/need any tunnels *(volunteered)*
   13   don't know

22. **How much of a problem are violence and street crime in your local community today—a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?**

   24%   big problem
   36   somewhat of a problem
   38   not much of a problem
   1   don't know

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

   24%   excellent
   38   good
   27   fair
   10   poor
   1   don't know

24. **Do you think the police in your community treat all racial and ethnic groups fairly almost always, most of the time, only some of the time, or almost never?**

   30%   almost always
   31   most of the time
   21   only some of the time
   8   almost never
   3   always *(volunteered)*
   2   never *(volunteered)*
   6   don't know

Changing topics,

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

   35%   approve
   63   disapprove
   2   don't know

[rotate questions 26 and 27]

26. **Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as US senator?**

   51%   approve
   35   disapprove
   14   don't know

27. **Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Kamala Harris is handling her job as US senator?**

   49%   approve
   34   disapprove
   17   don't know

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

   38%   approve
   56   disapprove
   6   don't know

29. **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?**

   55%   approve
   32   disapprove
   13   don't know

Next,

30. **After being impeached by the House of Representatives, the Senate decided President Trump should not be removed from office. Do you think the Senate should or should not have removed President Trump from office?**

   58% should
   39 should not have
   4 don't know

31. **These days, do you feel** *[rotate] [1]* **(optimistic) or** *[2]* **(pessimistic) that Americans of different political views can still come together and work out their differences?**

   49% optimistic
   48 pessimistic
   3 don't know

Changing topics,

32. **How important is participating in the US Census in 2020? Would you say this is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?**

   74% very important
   19 somewhat important
   3 not too important
   4 not at all important
   1 don't know

33. **How likely are you to participate in the 2020 census? By participate, we mean fill out a census form. Will you definitely participate, probably participate, might or might not participate, probably will not participate, or definitely not participate?**

   67% definitely participate
   18 probably participate
   7 might or might not participate
   4 probably will not participate
   2 definitely will not participate
   1 don't know

34. **Next, would you consider yourself to be politically:**

   [read list, rotate order top to bottom]

   16% very liberal
   19 somewhat liberal
   27 middle-of-the-road
   22 somewhat conservative
   13 very conservative
   2 don't know

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

   30% great deal
   38 fair amount
   25 only a little
   6 none
   1 don't know

   [d1-d15 demographic questions]

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