Californians & Their Government

Mark Baldassare   Dean Bonner   Alyssa Dykman   Rachel Lawler

CONTENTS

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EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PT on Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

Note: Results specifically on the Democratic presidential primary, in terms of candidate choice and electability, were released publicly on Monday, January 13, and are not under this embargo.

Para ver este comunicado de prensa en español, por favor visite nuestra página de internet: www.ppic.org/press-release/

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Sanders, Biden, and Warren Lead in California's Primary
CALIFORNIANS SAY HOMELESSNESS IS TOP ISSUE FOR STATE LEADERS TO ADDRESS

SAN FRANCISCO, January 15, 2020—Less than two months before California's presidential primary, the Democratic primary remains a three-way race between Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, and Elizabeth Warren. Most Californians say President Trump should be removed from office and disapprove of his handling of the situation with Iran. These are among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California.

Among likely voters in California's March 3 Democratic primary, Sanders is the choice of 27 percent, while 24 percent favor Biden and 23 percent favor Warren. They are followed by Pete Buttigieg (6%), Amy Klobuchar (4%), and Andrew Yang (3%), while 7 percent don't know. (Note: We included the five candidates who qualified for any upcoming Democratic National Committee debate before the beginning of our interview process and respondents could name someone else. Survey respondents who indicated Yang as their choice volunteered their answer; 1 percent mentioned Mike Bloomberg.)

This latest PPIC survey shows Sanders up by 10 percentage points since PPIC's November survey (27% vs. 17%), while Biden's and Warren's numbers are identical to two months ago.

Candidate preference varies by age group. Among younger voters (age 18–44), Sanders (45%) has much more support than Warren (25%) and Biden (12%), while voters age 45 and older favor Biden (32%) over Warren (22%) and Sanders (15%). Asked who they think has the best chance of defeating Donald Trump, 46 percent of Democratic primary likely voters say Biden, far more than say Sanders (25%) or Warren (10%). Among younger voters, 39 percent say Sanders (31% Biden, 11% Warren). Among older voters, 56 percent say Biden (16% Sanders, 9% Warren).

"The Democratic presidential primary remains a close contest between Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, and Elizabeth Warren," said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. "Biden is seen as the candidate with the best chance of defeating Trump, while Sanders has strong support among younger voters."

Most Favor Removing Trump from Office, Oppose His Handling of Iran

Last month, the US House of Representatives voted to impeach President Trump. Asked whether the US Senate should vote to remove the president from office, most Californians (59% adults, 57% likely voters) say yes. Views are sharply divided along party lines, with 88% of Democrats, 52% of independents, and 12% of Republicans supporting removal.

Following a US strike that killed Iranian general Qasem Soleimani, about one-third of Californians (29% adults, 35% likely voters) approve of how Trump is handling the situation with Iran, while a solid

majority (66% adults, 60% likely voters) disapprove. Republicans (76%) are far more likely to approve than independents (35%) and Democrats (8%).

"Majorities of Californians support the removal of President Trump from office and disapprove of his handling of the situation with Iran," Baldassare said. "Democrats and Republicans are deeply divided on the issues involving President Trump."

Asked whether they think President Trump and Congress can work together in the next year, 18 percent of adults and 14 percent of likely voters—both record lows—say yes.

"Expectations have never been lower for the president and Congress to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year," Baldassare said.

Californians Say Homelessness Is the Most Important Issue for State Leaders to Address

Asked to identify the most important issue for the governor and legislature to address in the coming year, Californians are most likely to name homelessness (20% adults, 23% likely voters). One year ago, a much smaller share (6% adults, 7% likely voters) identified homelessness as the top issue. Currently, homelessness is the top issue among Republicans (28%), independents (22%), and Democrats (20%).

"Homelessness is frequently mentioned as the most important issue for the governor and legislature to work on in 2020 across the state's regional, demographic, and political groups," Baldassare said.

Majority Supports the School Facilities Bond

California's March 3 ballot includes a statewide measure to authorize $15 billion in bonds for construction and modernization of public education facilities. More than half (53%) of likely voters support this measure, 36 percent oppose, and 10 percent are undecided. In November 2019, 48 percent said yes, 36 percent said no, and 16 percent were undecided. Today, Democratic likely voters (78%) are far more likely than independents (40%) and Republicans (26%) to support the measure. Support is higher among likely voters age 18 to 34 (76%) than among other age groups (50% age 35 to 54, 46% age 55 and older).

"Support for the Proposition 13 state school bond is now above 50 percent, with strong support evident among Democratic and younger likely voters," Baldassare said.

More Key Findings

- **About half approve of governor's job performance.**—page 6

  One year into Governor Newsom's term, 51 percent of adults and 49 percent of likely voters approve of how he is handling his job. Last January, 44 percent of adults and 43 percent of likely voters approved.

- **Most want to use state surplus for education and health and human services.**—page 10

  Asked how they would prefer state leaders to use the current budget surplus, half of adults (51%) want to increase state funding for education and health and human services.

- **More than two-thirds express distrust of federal government.**—page 15

  Californians continue to be distrustful of the federal government: 74 percent of adults and 80 percent of likely voters say it can be trusted to do what's right only some of the time or none of the time.

- **Eight in ten support pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.**—page 16

  Overwhelming majorities of Californians (85% adults, 82% likely voters) say there should be a way for undocumented immigrants living in the United States to stay legally if certain requirements are met.

State Election and Policy Landscape

Key Findings

- Fifty-one percent of adults approve of Governor Newsom's job performance. Forty-seven percent approve of the legislature. *(page 6)*

- Homelessness is the most frequently named top issue for the governor and legislature to address in 2020. Fifty-eight percent of Californians are optimistic that the governor and legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year. *(page 7)*

- Half of Californians say that the state is headed in the right direction; a similar share expect good economic times in the next 12 months. *(page 8)*

- Forty-two percent of adults and 46 percent of likely voters think the state budget situation is a big problem. Thirty nine percent of adults say either health and human services or K-12 education should be the state's highest spending priority; 51 percent prefer that the budget surplus be used to increase funding for education and health and human services. More than half (53%) say they would rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services. *(page 9)*

- About half (49%) say poverty in their part of California is a problem and 63 percent say the gap between rich and poor is getting larger. Forty-five percent say government policies and programs can do a lot to reduce poverty in the state. *(page 10)*

- Fifty-three percent of likely voters would vote yes on Proposition 13 (school facilities bond) and 36 percent would vote no. Forty-two percent of likely voters say the outcome of this measure is very important. *(page 11)*
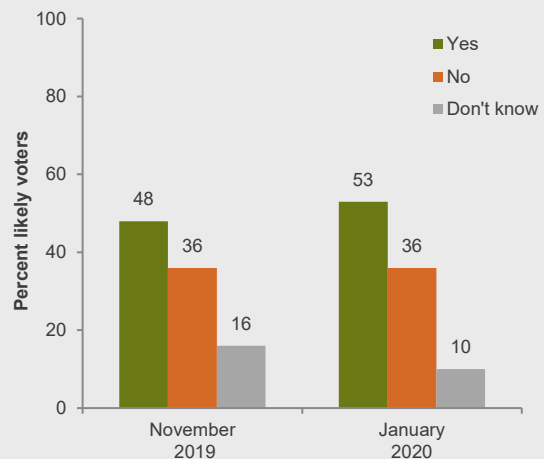
Approval ratings of state elected officials
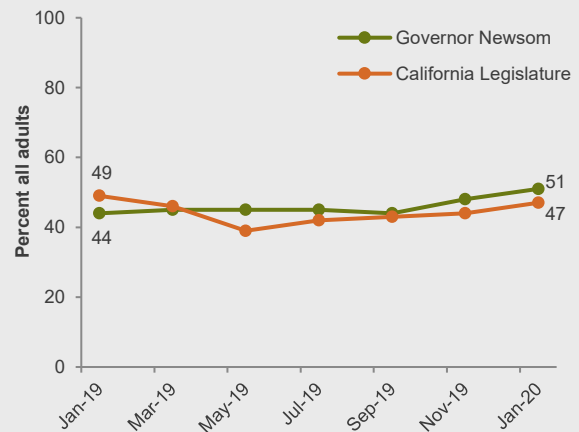
Seriousness of the state budget situation
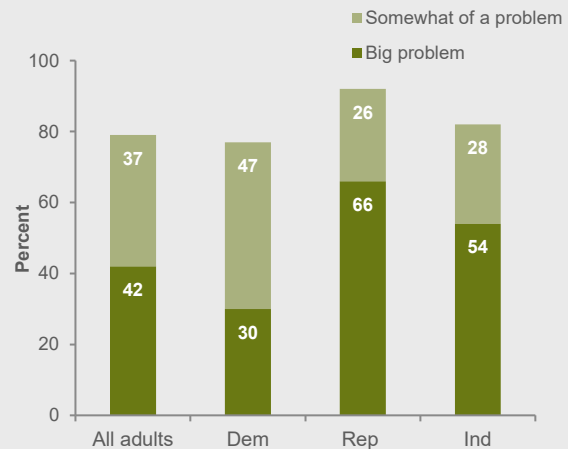
Vote on Proposition 13

Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

As Gavin Newsom enters his second year in office, 51 percent of adults and 49 percent of likely voters say they approve of the way he is handling his job as governor. Last January, 44 percent of adults and 43 percent of likely voters said they approved of Governor Newsom. Today, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (72%) approve of the governor, compared to 41 percent independents and 15 percent of Republicans. Majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (57%), Los Angeles (54%), and Orange/San Diego (51%), and more than four in ten in other regions approve. Majorities of African Americans (61%) and Latinos (61%) and more than four in ten Asian Americans (46%) and whites (45%) approve. In a separate question, 37 percent of adults and 37 percent of likely voters say they approve of the way the governor is handling the PG&E bankruptcy and utilities' responsibilities for wildfire damage costs.

"Overall, 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		51%	34%	15%
Likely voters		49	42	9
Party	Democrats	72	16	12
	Republicans	15	76	10
	Independents	41	45	14
Region	Central Valley	41	42	17
	Inland Empire	48	41	11
	Los Angeles	54	31	15
	Orange/San Diego	51	32	17
	San Francisco Bay Area	57	30	13

As the second year of the 2019–20 legislative session begins, 47 percent of adults and 45 percent of likely voters approve of the way the California Legislature is handling its job. Californians' approval of the state legislature was similar last January (49% adults, 46% likely voters). Today, a solid majority of Democrats (63%) approve, compared to 38 percent of independents and 21 percent of Republicans. A slight majority of Los Angeles residents (51%) and more than four in ten in other regions approve of the legislature. Majorities of Latinos (58%) and more than four in ten in other racial/ethnic groups (42% Asian Americans, 42% African Americans, 41% whites) approve of the legislature.

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

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		47%	40%	14%
Likely voters		45	45	9
Party	Democrats	63	25	12
	Republicans	21	69	10
	Independents	38	51	11
Region	Central Valley	44	43	13
	Inland Empire	44	47	9
	Los Angeles	51	34	15
	Orange/San Diego	48	37	15
	San Francisco Bay Area	45	43	13

Top Issues, Prospect of State Leaders Working Together in 2020

Asked to identify the most important issue for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2020, Californians are most likely to name homelessness (20% adults, 23% likely voters). Notably, the share saying homelessness has increased 5 percentage points since September 2019 (15%). Other issues that were mentioned by more than 5 percent of Californians include housing costs and availability (10% adults, 11% likely voters), jobs and the economy (8% adults, 7% likely voters), the environment (7% adults, 9% likely voters), immigration (7% adults, 8% likely voters) and health care, health insurance (6% adults, 4% likely voters).

Last January, 6 percent of adults and 7 percent of likely voters named homelessness as the most important issue for the governor and legislature to work on in 2019. The top issue was immigration (15% adults, 18% likely voters), followed by education, schools, and teachers (11% adults, 11% likely voters), jobs and the economy (10% adults, 8% likely voters), and the environment (8% adults, 8% likely voters). Californians are as likely to say the state budget is the most important issue for state leaders to work on today (5% adults, 7% likely voters) as they were last January (5% adults, 8% likely voters).

Homelessness is the most important issue among Republicans (28%), independents (22%), and Democrats (20%). Across regions, homelessness is mentioned more frequently in Los Angeles (29%) and the San Francisco Bay (24%) than elsewhere as the most important issue for the governor and legislature to work on in 2020. Across racial/ethnic groups, homelessness is mentioned more often among African Americans (31%) than among Asian Americans (22%), whites (21%), and Latinos (16%) as the top issue.

"Which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2020?"

Top 5 issues	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/ San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Homelessness	20%	14%	15%	29%	15%	24%	23%
Housing costs, availability	10	6	8	12	13	12	11
Jobs, economy	8	10	15	4	9	7	7
Environment, pollution, global warming	7	9	3	5	9	8	9
Immigration, illegal immigration	7	6	6	6	8	5	8

Majorities of Californians (58% adults, 58% likely voters) say they think that Governor Newsom and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year. Sixty-seven percent of adults and 65 percent of likely voters held this view last January—in the wake of the 2018 election in which the Democrats maintained control of the governor's office and gained a two-thirds "super majority" in both the state senate and assembly. Today, a majority of Democrats (70%), half of independents (50%), and one in three Republicans (35%) hold this view. About half or more across regions and across age, education, gender, income, and racial/ethnic groups expect that Governor Newsom and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in 2019.

"Do you think that Governor Newsom and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?"

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Yes, will be able to	58%	70%	35%	50%	58%
No, will not be able to	31	21	59	35	33
Don't know	11	9	7	15	9

State of the State

Half of adults (50%) and likely voters (49%) say that things in California are generally going in the right direction. Last January, 55 percent of adults and 51 percent of likely voters said the state was headed in the right direction. Today, a strong majority of Democrats (68%) say that things are going in the right direction, compared to 44 percent of independents and 16 percent of Republicans. About half or more in Los Angeles (57%), the San Francisco Bay Area (53%), Orange/San Diego (52%), and the Inland Empire (48%) say that things are going in the right direction, compared to 38 percent in the Central Valley. Latinos (58%), Asian Americans (57%), and African Americans (50%) are more likely than whites (44%) to say that things are going in the right direction.

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

		Right direction	Wrong direction	Don't know
All adults		50%	46%	4%
Likely voters		49	49	3
Party	Democrats	68	29	3
	Republicans	16	82	1
	Independents	44	54	2
Region	Central Valley	38	56	6
	Inland Empire	48	48	3
	Los Angeles	57	40	3
	Orange/San Diego	52	46	1
	San Francisco Bay Area	53	42	4

Half of adults (49%) and likely voters (50%) say that the state will have good times financially during the next 12 months. Californians were less optimistic in September (41% adults, 37% likely voters), while optimism was similar last January (49% adults, 45% likely voters). Today, a majority of Democrats (53%)—and more than four in ten Republicans (47%) and independents (42%)—are optimistic about the state's economy. More than four in ten across regions are expecting good economic times during the next 12 months. Majorities of Latinos (53%) and Asian Americans (52%)—and more than four in ten whites (47%) and African Americans (41%)—anticipate good economic conditions in California.

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

		Good times	Bad times	Don't know
All adults		49%	43%	8%
Likely voters		50	42	8
Party	Democrats	53	38	8
	Republicans	47	45	8
	Independents	42	49	10
Region	Central Valley	44	48	8
	Inland Empire	49	42	9
	Los Angeles	50	42	9
	Orange/San Diego	52	41	7
	San Francisco Bay Area	52	41	8

Poverty and Income Inequality

About two in three adults (63%) and seven in ten likely voters (68%) think the gap between the rich and the poor is getting larger in their part of California. Similar shares of Californians held this view last March (67% adults, 72% likely voters). Today, about half or more across regions say the gap between the rich and the poor is getting larger, with San Francisco Bay Area residents (76%) the most likely to say this. Democrats (76%) are much more likely than independents (64%) and Republicans (44%) to hold this view. Majorities across racial/ethnic groups say the gap is getting larger, with African Americans (75%) the most likely to say this (64% Asian Americans, 64% whites, 58% Latinos).

About 6.9 million Californians (17.8%) were living in poverty in 2017, according to the California Poverty Measure, a joint research effort by PPIC and the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality. When asked about poverty in their part of California, about eight in ten adults say it is a big problem (49%) or somewhat of a problem (33%). Likely voters hold similar views (47% big, 35% somewhat). A similar share of Californians saw poverty as a big problem in March 2019 (51% adults, 50% likely voters). About half or more across regions—with the exception of Orange/San Diego—say poverty is a big problem. Across parties, Democrats (58%) are more likely than independents (47%) and Republicans (44%) to say poverty is a big problem where they live. African Americans (64%) are more likely than Latinos (54%), whites (45%), and Asian Americans (43%) to hold this view. Women (54%) and renters (55%) are more likely than men (44%) and homeowners (43%) to say poverty is a big problem. The share holding this view declines with rising income levels.

"How much of a problem is poverty 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	49%	53%	50%	56%	36%	50%	47%
Somewhat of a problem	33	34	36	31	37	30	35
Not a problem	16	10	14	13	25	18	17
Don't know	2	3	–	1	2	1	1

Forty-five percent of Californians think government policies and programs can do a lot to reduce poverty in California, while an additional 31 percent think the government can do some. Democrats (56%) are much more likely than independents (43%) and Republicans (33%) to say government policies and programs can do a lot to reduce poverty in the state. Majorities of African Americans (59%) and Latinos (51%) hold this view of government, compared to fewer whites (41%) and Asian Americans (39%). Regionally, about four in ten or more think the government can do a lot. The share holding this view declines with rising income levels.

"How much do you think government policies and programs can do to reduce poverty in California— a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?"

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
A lot	45%	56%	33%	43%	59%	39%	51%	41%
Some	31	30	34	28	26	37	27	33
Not much	15	11	19	17	10	17	15	15
Nothing at all	7	2	13	11	3	5	7	9
Don't know	2	1	1	1	3	3	–	2

State Budget and Taxes

On January 10, when our interviewing was nearly completed, Governor Newsom proposed a $222.2 billion spending plan for 2020–21. The proposed budget includes approximately $153 billion in General Fund expenditures. About 90 percent of General Fund spending in the proposed budget is allocated for K–12 public education (39%, $59.6 billion), health and human services (31%, $47.5 billion), higher education (11.4%, $17.5 billion), and corrections and rehabilitation (8.7%, $13.4 billion). When asked to choose the highest priority when it comes to state spending, Californians are equally likely to mention health and human services (39% adults, 40% likely voters) or K–12 public education (39% adults, 38% likely voters); fewer name higher education (13% adults, 12% likely voters) and prisons and corrections (6% adults, 7% likely voters). Californians were slightly more likely to name K–12 public education as the top priority for state spending last January (46%). Democrats (45%) are more likely than independents (38%) and Republicans (33%) to name health and human services.

"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."

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Health and human services	39%	45%	33%	38%	40%
K–12 public education	39	35	40	36	38
Higher education	13	16	9	11	12
Prisons and corrections	6	3	14	12	7
Don't know	2	1	5	4	3

The proposed budget estimates a surplus of $5.6 billion for the state. When asked how they would prefer to use this extra money, a majority of adults (51%) would prefer to increase state funding for education and health and human services; about one in four would prefer one-time spending on infrastructure (23%) or paying down the debt and building up the state's reserves (23%). About half of Democrats and a plurality of independents would prefer increasing funding for education and health and human services, while a plurality of Republicans prefer to pay down debt and build up reserves.

"The state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars. In general, how would you prefer to use this extra money?"

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Pay down debt and build up reserve	23%	17%	40%	32%	17%	27%	12%	31%
Increase state funding for education, health and human services	51	53	26	44	63	53	68	36
One-time spending for transportation, water, and infrastructure	23	27	30	22	16	17	18	29
Other (volunteered)	2	1	3	2	3	–	1	3
Don't know	1	1	–	1	1	3	1	1

Fifty-three percent of adults and likely voters say they would rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services; fewer would prefer to pay lower taxes and have fewer services (43% adults, 44% likely voters). Californians' preferences for higher taxes and more services were similar in December 2018 (51% adults, 49% likely voters). Today, Democrats (74%) are far more likely than independents (47%) and Republicans (23%) to prefer higher taxes and more services.

When asked how big a problem the state budget situation is, 42 percent of Californians say it is a big problem. Similar shares of Californians (40%) held this view last January. Across parties, 66 percent of Republicans say the budget situation is a big problem, while fewer independents (54%) and Democrats (30%) say the same.

Proposition 13: State Bond for Education Facilities

Last year, the legislature passed and the governor signed Assembly Bill (AB) 48, placing Proposition 13 (the Public Preschool, K–12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2020) on the March ballot. 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, 53 percent of likely voters would vote yes; 36 percent would vote no, and 10 percent are undecided. In November, 48 percent said yes, 36 percent said no, and 16 percent were undecided. Today, Democratic likely voters (78%) are far more likely than independents (40%) and Republicans (26%) to support Proposition 13. Regionally, support is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (58%) than elsewhere. Latino likely voters (65%) are more likely than whites (47%) to support this measure; 66 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.) Support for Proposition 13 is much higher among likely voters age 18 to 34 (76%) than among older likely voters (50% 35 to 54, 46% 55 and older). Those with annual household incomes under $40,000 (71%) are more likely than higher-earning residents (48% $40,000 to under $80,000, 53% $80,000 or more) to express support. A majority of likely voters with (54%) and without (53%) children 18 and under in the household would vote yes, while renters (67%) are far more likely than homeowners (45%) 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		53%	36%	10%
Party	Democrats	78	15	8
	Republicans	26	64	9
	Independents	40	46	14
Region	Central Valley	52	39	8
	Inland Empire	42	51	7
	Los Angeles	55	37	8
	Orange/San Diego	53	37	10
	San Francisco Bay Area	58	29	14

*For complete text of proposition question, .

Forty-two 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 November (39% very important, 35% somewhat important). Today, Democratic (41%), Republican (47%), and independent (40%) likely voters are similarly likely to view the outcome as very important. More than one in three across regions and demographic groups view the outcome as very important. Yes and no voters are equally likely to say the outcome is very important (45% each).

**"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	42%	41%	47%	40%	45%	45%
Somewhat important	39	46	33	37	47	32
Not too important	11	8	13	13	8	17
Not at all important	2	1	4	3	–	6
Don't know	5	4	3	7	–	2

National Election and Policy Landscape

Key Findings

- Three in ten Californians approve of President Trump (31%) and nearly four in ten approve of Congress (38%); 29 percent approve of the way Trump is handling the situation with Iran. Eighteen percent of Californians—a record low in PPIC surveys—think President Trump and Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year. *(page 13)*

- Half of Californians (51%) approve of House Speaker Pelosi and 31 percent approve of House Minority Leader McCarthy. *(page 14)*

- An overwhelming majority of Californians say the federal government can be trusted only some of the time (66%) or never (8%). Three in four (77%) think the federal government is run by a few big interests and about two in three (63%) feel it wastes a lot of the money paid in taxes. *(page 15)*

- Most Californians say there should be a way for undocumented immigrants to stay in the US legally (85%) and favor the protections given by DACA (85%). Two in three (68%) oppose building a wall along the border with Mexico. *(page 16)*

- Majorities of Californians say that the House of Representatives should have voted to impeach President Trump (59%) and are in favor of the Senate removing him from office (59%). *(page 17)*

- Among Democratic presidential primary likely voters, Bernie Sanders, Joe Biden, and Elizabeth Warren have the most support; 46 percent think that Biden is the candidate with the best chance of beating Trump. Nearly nine in ten are following news about candidates for the 2020 presidential election very (43%) or fairly (43%) closely. Seventy percent are satisfied with their choice of candidates in the presidential primary. *(page 18)*
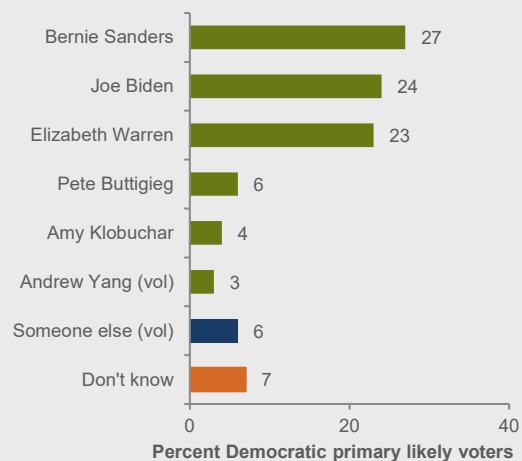
Approval ratings of federal elected officials
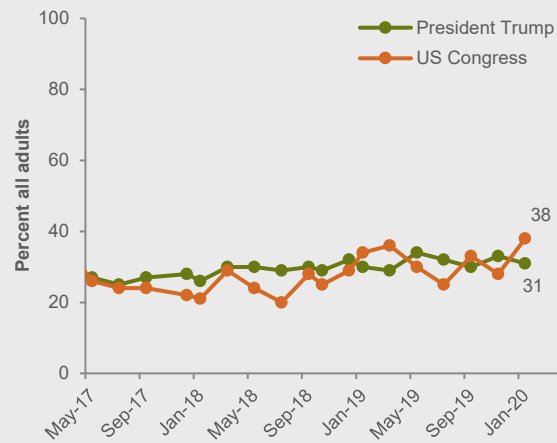
Support for the Senate removing Trump from office
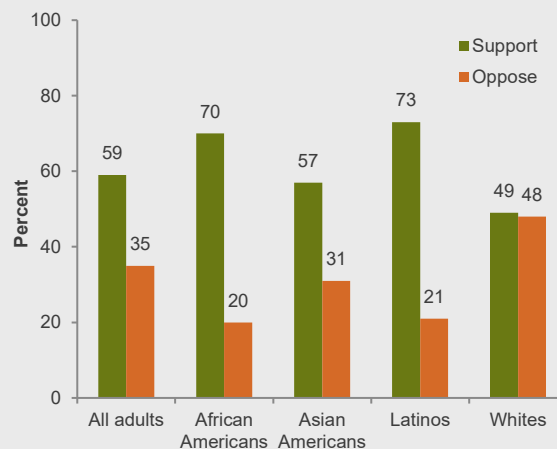
Choice for president in March 2020 Democratic primary

Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

In the wake of the House impeachment vote on December 18, President Trump's approval rating is 31 percent among adults and 38 percent among likely voters. Approval was similar in November (33% adults, 39% likely voters) and last January (30% adults, 36% likely voters). Today, Republicans are far more likely than independents and Democrats to approve of Trump. Regionally, about one third in Orange/San Diego (38%), the Central Valley (35%), and the Inland Empire (35%) approve, while fewer in the San Francisco Bay Area (26%) and Los Angeles (25%) do so. Whites (44%) are much more likely to approve than Asian Americans (27%), Latinos (20%), and African Americans (11%). Fewer than four in ten in other demographic groups approve. In a recent Gallup poll conducted prior to the impeachment vote, 45 percent of adults nationwide approved of the president and 51 percent disapproved.

Following a US drone strike that killed Iranian general Qasem Soleimani on January 3, three in ten Californians (29% adults, 35% likely voters) approve of the way that Trump is handling the situation with Iran. (Polling for this question began on January 6.) Republicans (76%) are far more likely than independents (35%) and Democrats (8%) to approve. Fewer than four in ten across regions approve.

Thirty-eight percent of adults and 30 percent of likely voters approve of the way the US Congress is handling its job. Approval was lower in November (28% adults, 21% likely voters), but similar last January (34% adults, 23% likely voters). Today, Democrats are much more likely than Republicans and independents to approve. About one in three or more across regions approve (42% Inland Empire, 41% Los Angeles, 37% San Francisco Bay Area, 33% Central Valley, 32% Orange/San Diego). Latinos (50%) are more likely than Asian Americans (37%), African Americans (33%), and whites (29%) to approve. Fewer than half across gender, age, education, and income groups approve. In a recent Gallup poll, 27 percent of adults nationwide approved of Congress and 68 percent disapproved.

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

| | | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Donald Trump is handling his job as president	Approve	31%	7%	79%	39%	38%
	Disapprove	66	92	20	58	61
	Don't know	3	1	2	3	1
The US Congress is handling its job	Approve	38	41	23	26	30
	Disapprove	55	55	72	70	66
	Don't know	7	4	5	4	4

A record-low 18 percent of adults and likely voters (14%) say the president and Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year. The share holding this view was somewhat higher last January (25% adults, 18% likely voters) and much higher when President Trump took office in January 2017 (50% adults, 55% likely voters). Overwhelming majorities across partisan groups, regions, and demographic groups do not think that the president and Congress will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in 2020.

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

| | All adults | Party | | | Likely voters |
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Yes, will be able to	18%	11%	24%	19%	14%
No, will not be able to	78	87	73	77	84
Don't know	4	2	3	4	2

California's Congressional Leaders

Fifty-one percent of adults and 52 percent of likely voters approve of the way that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is handling her job. Approval was similar last January (48% adults, 50% likely voters) and shortly after she became the first female Speaker of the House in March 2007 (52% adults, 53% likely voters). Across parties, Democrats are far more likely to approve of the Speaker of the House than are independents and Republicans. Regionally, approval is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (59%, 54% Los Angeles, 48% Orange/San Diego, 42% Central Valley, 40% Inland Empire). Latinos (60%) are somewhat more likely to approve than are African Americans (52%), Asian Americans (50%), and whites (45%). Women (56%) are more likely than men (45%) to say they approve of Speaker Pelosi. Older Californians (52% age 35 to 54, 56% age 55 and older) are slightly more likely than younger Californians to approve (45% age 18 to 34), as are college graduates (56%) compared to those with only a high school diploma (50%) or some college education (48%). Across income groups, those earning under $40,000 annually (55%) are most likely to approve (48% $40,000 to $80,000, 51% $80,000 or more); similar shares of renters (54%) and homeowners (49%) say they approve.

"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is handling her job?"

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	51%	76%	11%	46%	52%
Disapprove	40	18	85	48	45
Never heard of her/have not heard enough to have an opinion *(volunteered)*	4	4	3	2	2
Don't know	5	2	1	3	1

Three in ten adults (31%) and likely voters (30%) approve of the way that House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy is handling his job. The shares saying they approve were similar last January (32% adults, 28% likely voters). Thirty-nine percent of adults and 45 percent of likely voters disapprove of the minority leader, while three in ten say they don't know or haven't heard enough to have an opinion of the minority leader. Those saying they don't know or haven't heard enough has declined somewhat since last January (30% today, 38% January 2019), but the share saying they disapprove has increased somewhat (39% today, 30% January 2019). Across parties, about half of Republicans approve, compared to three in ten independents and one in four Democrats. About four in ten Inland Empire residents approve (39%), compared to fewer in the Central Valley (35%), Los Angeles (34%), and Orange/San Diego (30%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (25%). Among racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (36%) are the most likely to say they approve, followed by whites (31%), Asian Americans (25%), and African Americans (16%). Men (33%) and women (30%) are equally likely to approve, while about one in three adults across age and income groups, as well as about one in three homeowners and renters, say they approve. Approval declines as education levels increase (36% high school only, 30% some college, 26% college graduate).

"Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy is handling his job?"

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	31%	24%	49%	31%	30%
Disapprove	39	50	29	41	45
Never heard of him/have not heard enough to have an opinion *(volunteered)*	18	15	14	17	15
Don't know	12	11	8	11	10

Trust in Federal Government

Californians continue to be distrustful of the federal government. More than two-thirds of adults (66%) and likely voters (71%) say the federal government can be trusted to do what is right only some of the time; about one in ten (8% adults, 9% likely voters) volunteer that it can never be trusted. About two in ten say that it can be trusted just about always (5% adults, 3% likely voters) or most of the time (19% adults, 16% likely voters). Similar shares of adults (62% some of the time, 11% never) and likely voters (68% some of the time, 13% never) voiced distrust in May 2018. Today, majorities of across parties, regions, and demographic groups say they are distrustful of the federal government.

"How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington today to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?"

	All adults	Party			Age		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	18 to 34	35 to 54	55 and older
Just about always	5%	2%	6%	3%	4%	7%	5%
Most of the time	19	17	22	17	20	19	16
Only some of the time	66	72	64	70	68	64	67
None of the time *(volunteered)*	8	8	7	11	6	7	11
Don't know	2	1	1	–	2	2	1

Nearly all adults (63% a lot, 29% some) and likely voters (64% a lot, 29% some) say that the federal government wastes a lot or some of taxpayer money. Majorities have held this view since September 1998. Today, fewer than one in ten (6% adults, 5% likely voters) say it does not waste very much. Majorities across partisan groups say the government wastes a lot of taxpayer money. More than half across regions hold this view, with Inland Empire residents (70%) the most likely to say this. Among racial/ethnic groups, about two in three whites (67%), African Americans (63%), and Latinos (62%) say this compared to about half of Asian Americans (53%). Women (66%) are slightly more likely than men (59%) to say this. Similar shares of homeowners (65%), renters (60%), and income groups (65% under $40,000, 63% $40,000 to $80,000, 61% $80,000 or more) hold the view that a lot of taxpayer money is wasted.

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

	All adults	Party			Household Income		
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Under $40,000	$40,000 to under $80,000	$80,000 or more
A lot	63%	59%	70%	64%	65%	63%	61%
Some	29	34	25	29	25	29	33
Don't waste very much	6	5	3	5	6	8	5
Don't know	3	2	1	3	4	1	1

When asked if the federal government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or for the benefit of the people, a record-high 77 percent of adults say that it is run by big interests rather than for the benefit of the people (18%). The share saying that the government is run by big interests has increased slightly among adults since March 2017 (70% big interests, 25% benefit of the people). Today, the views of likely voters (81% big interests, 15% benefit of the people) are similar to the views expressed in March 2017 (79% big interests, 17% benefit of the people). Overwhelming majorities across parties, regions, and demographic groups hold this view.

Immigration Policy

California is home to about two million undocumented immigrants, about 20 percent of the US total. When asked how to handle undocumented immigrants who are living in the United States, eight in ten Californians (85% adults, 82% likely voters) say there should be a way for them to stay legally if certain requirements are met. More than eight in ten Californians have said this since we began asking the question in 2016. Today, there is partisan agreement on this issue, with most Democrats, Republicans, and independents holding this view. More than three in four across regions and demographic groups say undocumented immigrants should be allowed to stay if they meet certain requirements.

"Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are living in the US? There should be a way for them to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met, or they should not be allowed to stay in this country legally?"

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
A way for them to stay legally	85%	96%	59%	76%	88%	83%	94%	79%
Should not be allowed to stay	14	3	38	22	11	14	6	20
Don't know	2	1	3	2	2	3	1	2

Introduced in 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, offered temporary protection from deportation and a work permit to undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children if they passed a background check. In 2017, the Trump administration announced an end to DACA and in 2019 the Supreme Court heard arguments about the legality of this decision. When asked if they favor or oppose the protections provided by the program, eight in ten Californians (85% adults, 81% likely voters) are in favor. Californians were similarly supportive in January 2018 (85% adults, 81% likely voters) and in September 2017 (78% adults, 77% likely voters). Today, two in three Republicans, three in four independents, and over nine and ten Democrats are in favor. More than three in four across regions and gender, age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups are in favor of the protections offered by DACA.

"Thinking about undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children, do you favor or oppose the protections given by "DACA"—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—which includes protection from deportation and a work permit, if they pass a background check?"

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Favor	85%	94%	65%	76%	89%	83%	93%	79%
Oppose	13	5	32	22	11	12	6	19
Don't know	2	1	3	2	–	5	–	2

When asked about building a wall along the entire border with Mexico, most Californians (68% adults, 61% likely voters) are opposed. Since we began asking this question in May 2016, at least two in three adult Californians have been opposed to building the wall. Unlike the immigration policies mentioned above, partisans offer differing views: nine in ten Democrats are opposed, eight in ten Republicans are in favor, and six in ten independents are opposed. Differences arise across regions, with opposition highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (73%) followed by Los Angeles (70%), the Inland Empire (68%), the Central Valley (65%), and Orange/San Diego (63%). Opposition declines with rising age and higher household incomes; among racial/ethnic groups it is highest among Latinos (80%) and lowest among whites (59%).

House Impeachment and Senate Trial

In mid-December, after a formal inquiry, the US House of Representatives voted to impeach President Donald Trump. When asked whether the House should have voted for impeachment, about six in ten Californians (59% adults, 58% likely voters) say yes. Most Democrats (87%) and half of independents (52%) support the impeachment vote, while most Republicans (84%) do not. Residents of the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, and Orange/San Diego are more likely than those living in other regions to say the House should have voted to impeach. Women (65%) are much more likely than men (52%) and African Americans (81%) and Latinos (67%) are more likely than Asian Americans (60%) and whites (51%) to say the House should have voted to impeach.

"Next, based on what you know, do you think the House of Representatives should or should not have voted to impeach Donald Trump?"

		Yes, should have	No, should not have	Don't know
All adults		59%	35%	6%
Likely voters		58	40	2
Party	Democrats	87	10	3
	Republicans	14	84	3
	Independents	52	43	5
Region	Central Valley	51	43	6
	Inland Empire	53	38	9
	Los Angeles	64	29	8
	Orange/San Diego	60	37	3
	San Francisco Bay Area	65	32	3

When asked if the US Senate should remove President Trump from office, six in ten Californians (59% adults, 57% likely voters) say yes. As with impeachment, most Democrats are in favor and most Republicans are opposed, while independents are divided. And support for removing Trump is higher among Latinos (73%) and African Americans (70%) than among Asian Americans (57%) and whites (49%). Support is somewhat higher among women (63%) than men (55%), and it is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles than in other regions.

"And, based on what you know at this point, do you support or oppose the U.S. Senate removing President Trump from office?"

		Support	Oppose	Don't know
All adults		59%	35%	6%
Likely voters		57	40	3
Party	Democrats	88	9	4
	Republicans	12	87	2
	Independents	52	45	3
Region	Central Valley	55	40	6
	Inland Empire	51	38	11
	Los Angeles	61	32	7
	Orange/San Diego	54	42	4
	San Francisco Bay Area	69	27	3

2020 Presidential Primary

California's primary is just six weeks away, and Democratic primary likely voters (including Democrats and independent voters who say they will vote in the Democratic primary) are paying attention. Nearly nine in ten are following news about candidates very (43%) or fairly (43%) closely. Most Democratic primary likely voters (70%) are satisfied with their choices, although satisfaction is higher among men (76%) than women (67%) and among whites (76%) than among Latinos (62%) and those in other racial/ethnic groups (66%).

If the Democratic primary were being held today, about three in four Democratic primary likely voters would choose either Bernie Sanders (27%), Joe Biden (24%), or Elizabeth Warren (23%); 7 percent are unsure. (We included the five candidates who qualified for an upcoming Democratic National Committee debate before the beginning of our interview process, and respondents could name someone else). In November, Biden (24%), Warren (23%), and Sanders (17%) were the top three. Today, Biden is preferred by one in three older voters, while nearly half of younger voters prefer Sanders. Biden has higher support among women, while Sanders garners more support from men. Support for Biden is similar among Latinos (25%) and whites (27%), while support for Sanders is higher among Latinos (38%) than whites (24%). When asked who would be their second choice for the Democratic nomination, likely voters were most likely to say Sanders (23%), Warren (22%), or Biden (20%).

"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	All likely voters	Gender		Age	
		Men	Women	18 to 44	45 and older
Bernie Sanders	27%	35%	21%	45%	15%
Joe Biden	24	19	28	12	32
Elizabeth Warren	23	17	28	25	22
Pete Buttigieg	6	10	3	4	7
Amy Klobuchar	4	3	5	2	6
Andrew Yang *(volunteered)*	3	5	1	4	2
Someone else *(specify)*	6	6	6	4	7
Don't know	7	4	9	3	9

Who do Democratic primary likely voters think has the best chance of beating Donald Trump in the 2020 election? Forty-six percent say Joe Biden and 25 percent say Bernie Sanders. Both men and women, as well as older voters, view Biden as the best choice; younger voters view Sanders as the best choice.

"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	All likely voters	Gender		Age	
		Men	Women	18 to 44	45 and older
Joe Biden	46%	39%	52%	31%	56%
Bernie Sanders	25	29	22	39	16
Elizabeth Warren	10	6	12	11	9
Someone else *(specify)*/another candidate	14	20	9	16	12
Don't know	6	7	5	4	7

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 survey research associate Rachel Lawler, project manager for this survey, associate survey director Dean Bonner, and survey research associate Alyssa Dykman. 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 1,707 California adult residents, including 1,260 interviewed on cell phones and 447 interviewed on landline telephones. The sample included 512 respondents reached by calling back respondents who had previously completed an interview in PPIC Statewide Surveys in the last six months. Interviews took an average of 18 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from January 3–12, 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 2013–2017 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 1,707 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 the 1,103 adults asked question 23a (Trump approval on handling Iran) from January 6–12, is ±4.4%. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,368 registered voters, the sampling error is ±3.9 percent; for the 967 likely voters, it is ±4.6 percent; for the 530 Democratic primary likely voters (including Democrats and independent voters who say they will vote in the Democratic primary), it is ±6.5 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 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.

The five candidates who qualified for an upcoming Democratic National Committee debate before we began fielding the survey were included as rotated choices for question 9—preference for Democratic nominee—followed by "or someone else," to allow respondents to name other candidates.

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 Gallup and NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist. 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

January 3–12, 2020
1,707 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. **First, which one issue facing California today do you think is the most important for the governor and state legislature to work on in 2020?**

   [code, don't read]

20%	homelessness
10	housing costs, availability
8	jobs, economy
7	environment, pollution, global warming
7	immigration, illegal immigration
6	health care, health insurance
5	education, schools, teachers
5	state budget, deficit
3	infrastructure
2	crime, gangs, drugs
2	government in general, problems with elected officials, parties
2	water, drought
2	wildfires
15	other *(specify)*
6	don't know

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

51%	approve
34	disapprove
15	don't know

2a. **Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Newsom is handling the PG&E bankruptcy and utilities' responsibilities for wildfire damage costs?**

37%	approve
34	disapprove
29	don't know

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

47%	approve
40	disapprove
14	don't know

4. **Do you think that Governor Newsom and the state legislature will be able to work together and accomplish a lot in the next year, or not?**

58%	yes, will be able to work together
31	no, will not be able to work together
11	don't know

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

50%	right direction
46	wrong direction
4	don't know

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

49%	good times
43	bad times
8	don't know

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

69%	yes *[ask q7a]*
31	no *[skip to q8b]*

7a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

43% Democrat *[ask q8]*
24   Republican *[skip to q8a]*
5   another party *(specify) [skip to q11]*
28   independent *[skip to q8b]*

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

66% strong
33   not strong
2   don't know

[skip to q9]

8a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

63% strong
34   not strong
3   don't know

[skip to q11]

8b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

25% Republican Party
46   Democratic Party
23   neither *(volunteered)*
6   don't know

8c. 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 primary or the nonpartisan ballot?

29% Democratic primary *[ask q9]*
56   nonpartisan ballot *[skip to q11]*
7   not planning to vote *[skip to q11]*
9   don't know *[skip to q11]*

9. *[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?"]*

27% Bernie Sanders
24   Joe Biden
23   Elizabeth Warren
6   Pete Buttigieg
4   Amy Klobuchar
3   Andrew Yang *(volunteered)*
6   someone else *(specify)*
7   don't know

9a. *[Democratic primary likely voters only who named a candidate in Q9]* And, who would be your second choice for the Democratic nomination for president?

23% Bernie Sanders
22   Elizabeth Warren
20   Joe Biden
12   Pete Buttigieg
8   Amy Klobuchar
7   someone else *(specify)*
7   don't know

10. *[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?"]*

46% Joe Biden
25   Bernie Sanders
10   Elizabeth Warren
5   Amy Klobuchar
3   Andrew Yang *(volunteered)*
2   Pete Buttigieg
2   Michael Bloomberg *(volunteered)*
2   someone else *(specify)*
6   don't know

11. *[likely voters only]* **If the 2020 presidential election were held today, would you definitely vote to reelect Donald Trump, probably vote to reelect Trump, probably vote for someone else, or definitely vote for someone else?**

    24% definitely vote to reelect Donald Trump
    10   probably vote to reelect Trump
    3   probably vote for someone else
    61   definitely vote for someone else
    2   don't know

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

    70% satisfied
    28   not satisfied
    2   don't know

13. *[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?**

    43% very closely
    43   fairly closely
    12   not too closely
    2   not at all closely
    –   don't know

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

14. *[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?**

    53% yes
    36   no
    10   don't know

15. *[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?**

    42% very important
    39   somewhat important
    11   not too important
    2   not at all important
    5   don't know

Next,

16. **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
    37   somewhat of a problem
    14   not a problem
    6   don't know

17. **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.**

    39% K–12 public education
    39   health and human services
    13   higher education
    6   prisons and corrections
    2   don't know

18. **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?**

    53% higher taxes, more services
    43   lower taxes, fewer services
    4   don't know

19. **The state is projected to have a budget surplus of several billion dollars. In general, how would you prefer to use this extra money?** *[rotate]* **[1] Would you prefer to pay down state debt and build up the reserve** *[or]* **[2] would you prefer to increase state funding for education, health, and human service programs** *[or]* **[3] would you prefer one-time state spending for transportation, water, and infrastructure projects?**

    23%   pay down the debt and build up the reserve
    51   increase state funding for education, health and human services
    23   one-time state spending for transportation, water, infrastructure
    2   other *(volunteered)*
    1   don't know

Changing topics,

20. **How much of a problem is poverty in your part of California? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?**

    49%   big problem
    33   somewhat of a problem
    16   not much of a problem
    2   don't know

21. **How much do you think government policies and programs can do to reduce poverty in California—a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?**

    45%   a lot
    31   some
    15   not much
    7   nothing at all
    2   don't know

22. **Do you think the gap between the rich and the poor in your part of California is getting larger, getting smaller, or has it stayed the same?**

    63%   getting larger
    3   getting smaller
    32   stayed the same
    2   don't know

On another topic,

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

    31%   approve
    66   disapprove
    3   don't know

23a. **Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that President Trump is handling the situation with Iran?**

    Asked beginning January 6, 2020.

    29%   approve
    66   disapprove
    5   don't know

24. **Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is handling her job?**

    51%   approve
    40   disapprove
    4   never heard of her/have not heard enough to have an opinion *(volunteered)*
    5   don't know

25. **Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy is handling his job?**

    31%   approve
    39   disapprove
    18   never heard of him/have not heard enough to have an opinion *(volunteered)*
    12   don't know

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

    38%   approve
    55   disapprove
    7   don't know

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

    18%   yes, will be able to work together
    78   no, will not be able to work together
    4   don't know

Next,

28. How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington today to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

5%	just about always
19	most of the time
66	only some of the time
8	none of the time *(volunteered)*
2	don't know

29. Would you say the federal government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all of the people?

77%	a few big interests
18	benefit of all the people
5	don't know

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

63%	a lot
29	some
6	don't waste very much
3	don't know

31. Next, based on what you know, do you think the House of Representatives should or should not have voted to impeach Donald Trump?

59%	yes, should have
35	no, should not have
6	don't know

32. And, based on what you know at this point, do you support or oppose the US Senate removing President Trump from office?

59%	support
35	oppose
6	don't know

Changing topics,

33. Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants who are living in the US *[rotate] [1]* There should be a way for them to stay in the country legally, if certain requirements are met *[or] [2]* They should not be allowed to stay in this country legally?

85%	allowed to stay legally
14	not allowed to stay legally
2	don't know

34. Thinking about undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children, do you favor or oppose the protections given by "DACA"—Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals—which includes protection from deportation and a work permit, if they pass a background check?

85%	favor
13	oppose
2	don't know

35. All in all, would you favor or oppose building a wall along the entire border with Mexico?

30%	favor
68	oppose
2	don't know

36. Next, would you consider yourself to be politically:

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

13%	very liberal
20	somewhat liberal
29	middle-of-the-road
21	somewhat conservative
14	very conservative
3	don't know

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

27%	great deal
36	fair amount
29	only a little
8	none
–	don't know

[d1–d15 demographic questions]

PPIC | PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA