



Californians & Their Government

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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.

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News Release

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PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Biden, Warren, Sanders Are Frontrunners in Democratic Primary; Most Californians Favor Impeaching Trump

MIXED REVIEWS FOR GOVERNOR AND LOCAL UTILITIES ON WILDFIRES AND POWER SHUTOFFS

SAN FRANCISCO, November 18, 2019—As the November 20 Democratic presidential debate approaches, Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, and Bernie Sanders lead in California’s primary, while more than a third of voters prefer some other candidate or are undecided. Most Californians say President Trump should be impeached and removed from office, though views are mixed on how Democrats in Congress are handling the impeachment inquiry. These are among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

Among Democratic primary likely voters (Democrats and independent voters who say they will vote in the Democratic primary), support for Joe Biden (24%), Elizabeth Warren (23%), and Bernie Sanders (17%) is much higher than support for Kamala Harris (8%), Pete Buttigieg (7%), and Andrew Yang (5%). No other candidate is preferred by more than 1 percent, while 9 percent say they don’t know which candidate they would choose. An overwhelming majority say they are following news about candidates very (37%) or fairly (43%) closely. With several Democratic debates scheduled prior to the March primary, likely voters are most interested in hearing the candidates talk about health care (21%), the environment (14%), jobs and the economy (13%), and immigration (12%).

“The Democratic presidential primary remains in a fluid state, with most likely voters saying they want the candidate who seems most likely to defeat Donald Trump in November 2020,” said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO.

In September, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced a formal impeachment inquiry into President Trump. Most Californians (57% all adults, 53% likely voters) think the president should be impeached and removed from office, with 83 percent of Democrats, 51 percent of independents, and 11 percent of Republicans holding this view. Asked about how Democrats in Congress are handling the inquiry, 50 percent of adults and 48 percent of likely voters approve, while 44 percent of adults and 50 percent of likely voters disapprove. Views are split along partisan lines, with Democrats (76%) far more likely to approve than independents (41%) or Republicans (12%).

“Majorities of Californians favor the president’s impeachment and removal from office, while they have mixed views on how Democrats in Congress are handling the impeachment inquiry,” Baldassare said.

Many Are Concerned about Wildfires and Power Shutoffs; Governor, Utilities Get Mixed Reviews for Their Handling of the Issue

With fall fire season affecting many across the state, most Californians are concerned about the threat of wildfires (34% very, 29% somewhat) and the threat of power shutoffs (32% very, 27% somewhat).

Governor Newsom gets mixed reviews for his handling of wildfires and power shutoffs, with 46 percent of adults and 42 percent of likely voters approving (39% adults, 46% likely voters disapproving). This is similar to the governor's overall approval rating today (48% adults and likely voters) and to approval in May of his handling of wildfire prevention and response (44% adults, 41% likely voters).

Asked about how local utilities are handling power shutoffs to prevent wildfires, only about a third have a great deal (19% adults, 16% likely voters) or quite a lot (18% adults, 17% likely voters) of confidence in the utilities. Confidence is lowest in the San Francisco Bay Area (9% a great deal, 16% quite a lot).

"Many Californians are concerned about wildfires and power shutoffs in their areas, and they give the governor and local utility providers mixed reviews for their handling of this issue," Baldassare said.

Californians Ambivalent about Nation's Direction, Economic Outlook

Six in ten Californians (61% adults, 63% likely voters) say that things in the US are generally going in the wrong direction, similar to the share in January 2019 (66% adults, 68% likely voters). Majorities across regions hold this view. Among racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (71%) are more likely than Asian Americans (63%), Latinos (62%), and whites (58%) to say the country is headed in the wrong direction.

Californians are somewhat more optimistic about US economic conditions. Around half (47% adults, 50% likely voters) think the nation will have good economic times during the next 12 months. Whites (53%) and Latinos (47%) are more likely than African Americans (36%) and Asian Americans (35%) to hold this view.

"With the 2020 election around the corner, Californians have an ambivalent outlook about the future," Baldassare said. "Many expect good economic times next year, while most think the nation is headed in the wrong direction."

Nearly two-thirds of adults (63%) say California is divided into the "haves" and the "have nots"; a similar share (67%) expressed this view when PPIC last asked this question in December 2018. Majorities of adults across age, education, income, and regional groups say California is divided this way. Notably, majorities across party lines hold this view: 74 percent of Democrats, 62 percent of independents, and 55 percent of Republicans. African Americans (84%) are more likely than Asian Americans (64%), whites (64%), and Latinos (58%) to say the state is divided between haves and have nots.

Asked which economic group they belong to, 41 percent say they are in the haves, while 44 percent say they are in the have nots. A solid majority (65%) of those with annual household incomes of \$80,000 or more say they are in the haves, while a solid majority (63%) with incomes under \$40,000 say they are in the have nots. About half of adults (52%) say the government should do more to make sure all Californians have an equal opportunity to get ahead, while four in ten (41%) believe that all Californians already have an equal opportunity.

Most Say Federal Government Should Ensure Health Coverage for All

When asked if it is the federal government's responsibility to ensure that all Americans have health coverage, most Californians (63%) and likely voters (55%) say it is. However, views are divided on whether health insurance should be provided via a single national health insurance system (30% adults, 25% likely voters) or through a mix of private insurance and government programs (28% adults, 26% likely voters). A solid majority (72% adults, 65% likely voters) support a government-run health plan—a "public option"—that would compete with private insurance plans.

Most Believe a Third Major Political Party Is Needed

A year before the next presidential election, nearly half of Californians (47% adults, 46% likely voters) have a favorable view of the Democratic Party, while a third (31% adults, 34% likely voters) view the

Republican Party favorably. This is similar to levels in October 2018. Most adults (54%) and likely voters (57%) say the Democratic and Republican Parties do such a poor job representing the American people that a third major party is needed; this is consistent with survey findings since 2006.

Most Californians Are Very Concerned about Homelessness

California's homeless population—nearly 130,000—accounts for about a quarter of the nation's homeless. A majority of Californians (58%) are very concerned about the presence of homeless individuals in their communities, while another quarter (27%) are somewhat concerned. About six in ten Republicans (61%), independents (61%), and Democrats (59%) say they are very concerned. Also, majorities across regions are very concerned (63% San Francisco Bay Area, 60% Los Angeles, 58% Inland Empire, 55% Orange/San Diego, 52% Central Valley). About half or more across regions say the number of homeless people in their local community has increased over the past 12 months (63% Los Angeles, 59% San Francisco Bay Area, 58% Inland Empire, 55% Central Valley, 49% Orange/San Diego).

"Majorities of Californians across the state's regions are very concerned about homeless people in their community, and many have noticed an increase in the local homeless population over the past year," Baldassare said.

Governor Newsom has made "right to shelter" a focus of his Homeless and Supportive Housing Advisory Task Force, and a new state policy could require local governments to provide enough shelter beds so any homeless person requesting shelter could go indoors. Overwhelming majorities (76% adults, 70% likely voters) favor this policy, including majorities across party lines (87% Democrats, 67% independents, 56% Republicans).

Fewer than Half Support School Construction Bond

Fewer than half of likely voters support a state bond for school and college construction that was approved by state lawmakers for the March 2020 ballot: 48 percent are in favor, 36 percent oppose, and 16 percent don't know. In September, a slim majority of likely voters (54%) said they would vote yes when asked a similar question about this ballot measure. Support is currently higher among Democratic likely voters (71%) than among independents (44%) and Republicans (24%). About half of likely voters with (47%) and without (49%) children aged 18 and under in the house support this bond.

A citizens' initiative that may appear on the November 2020 ballot would raise state income taxes on the wealthiest Californians, with the new revenue going to support K–12 public schools. This measure currently has majority support, with 62 percent of adults and 56 percent of likely voters approving.

"The state school bond on the March ballot is now polling below 50 percent, while a majority of likely voters support a tax on the wealthy for school funding that may be headed for the November ballot," Baldassare said.

Another initiative that could appear on the November ballot would tax commercial properties according to their current market value and direct some of the revenue to K–12 public schools. This "split roll" property tax has the approval of 55 percent of adults, but only 46 percent of likely voters favor it.

Governor's Approval Was Steady in 2019; Approval of Legislature Dipped

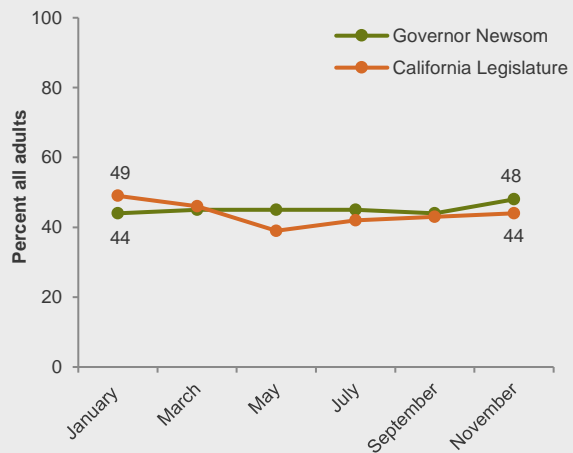
Fewer than half of Californians (48% of adults and likely voters) approve of the way Governor Newsom is handling his job. Approval was similar in January (44% adults, 43% likely voters), though fewer adults today say they have not heard enough or don't have an opinion (33% January, 18% today). Throughout his first year in office, the governor's approval has ranged between 44% and 48%. Asked about how the legislature is handling its job, fewer than half of Californians (44% adults, 39% likely voters) approve. Approval was slightly higher in January (49% adults, 46% likely voters).

State Election and Policy Landscape

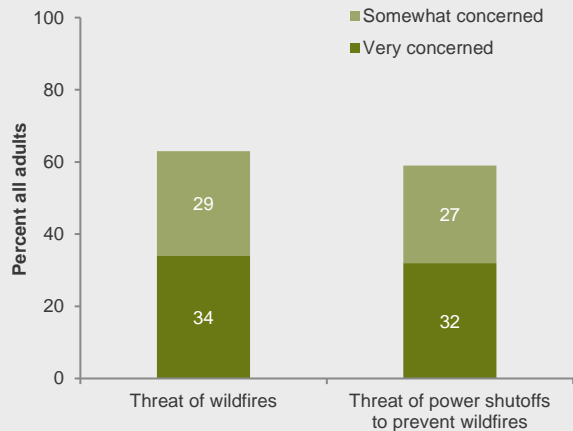
Key Findings

- Forty-eight percent of adults approve of Governor Newsom’s job performance. Forty-four percent approve of the legislature. *(page 7)*
- Forty-six percent of adults approve of the way Governor Newsom is handling the issue of wildfires and power shutoffs. About six in ten are concerned about the threat of wildfires and power shutoffs where they live. Nearly four in ten have quite a lot or a great deal of confidence in their local utility provider. *(page 8)*
- About two in three Californians think the state is divided into economic groups—the “haves” and the “have nots”—and 44 percent say they are part of the have nots. About half of Californians say the government should do more to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to get ahead. *(page 9)*
- About six in ten adults are very concerned about the presence of homeless people in their local community (58%) and say the number of homeless people has increased in the last 12 months (58%). *(page 10)*
- Forty-eight percent of likely voters would vote yes on Proposition 13 (school facilities bond) and 36 percent would vote no. Thirty-nine percent of likely voters say the outcome of this measure is very important, with those who support or oppose the measure similarly likely to say this. *(page 11)*
- A ballot measure to tax commercial properties according to their current market value falls short of majority support among likely voters (46% yes). Fifty-six percent would vote yes on a ballot measure to fund K–12 public schools that would raise the income tax paid by the wealthiest Californians and corporations. *(page 12)*

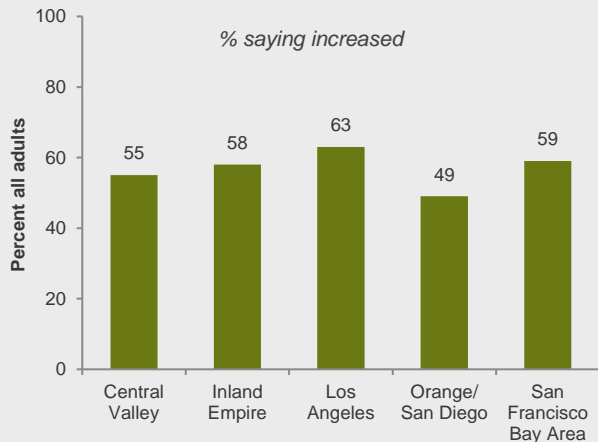
Approval ratings of state elected officials



Concern about the threat of wildfires and power shutoffs where you live



Perception of the number of homeless people over the last 12 months



Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials

In our sixth and final poll of Governor Newsom’s first year in office, 48 percent of adults and likely voters say they approve of the way he is handling his job as governor of California. The governor’s approval rating was similar in January, at the beginning of his term (44% adults, 43% likely voters), but fewer adults now say they have not heard enough or don’t have an opinion (33% January, 18% today). The governor’s approval ratings have stayed within a fairly narrow range throughout 2019 (44% to 48%). Today, approval is at 69 percent among Democrats, 42 percent among independents, and 14 percent among Republicans. Majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (56%) and Los Angeles (54%)—and fewer in other major regions—approve of the governor. Majorities of African Americans (59%), Latinos (54%), and Asian Americans (52%) approve, compared to fewer whites (41%). Women (50%) and men (47%) are similarly likely to approve, as are renters (52%) and homeowners (46%).

“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		48%	33%	18%
Likely voters		48	45	7
Party	Democrats	69	17	14
	Republicans	14	81	6
	Independents	42	39	19
Region	Central Valley	40	42	17
	Inland Empire	49	37	14
	Los Angeles	54	26	21
	Orange/San Diego	39	37	24
San Francisco Bay Area		56	31	13

By comparison, 44 percent of adults and 39 percent of likely voters approve of the way the California Legislature is handling its job. Approval ratings for the state legislature were slightly higher in January (49% adults, 46% likely voters). Today, 59 percent of Democrats, 36 percent of independents, and 14 percent of Republicans approve. Half of adults in Los Angeles (50%) and fewer in other regions approve of the legislature. About half of Asian Americans (54%) and Latinos (51%) approve, compared to fewer African Americans (46%) and whites (36%). Similar shares of women (46%) and men (42%) approve, while approval is higher among renters (49%) than homeowners (38%).

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

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		44%	41%	15%
Likely voters		39	51	10
Party	Democrats	59	28	13
	Republicans	14	76	10
	Independents	36	48	17
Region	Central Valley	36	51	13
	Inland Empire	45	40	15
	Los Angeles	50	34	16
	Orange/San Diego	41	45	14
San Francisco Bay Area		44	41	15

Wildfires and Power Shutoffs

As the fall fire season continues to affect people’s lives in several regions of the state, about six in ten Californians say they are concerned about the threat of wildfires (34% very, 29% somewhat) and the threat of power shutoffs (32% very, 27% somewhat) where they live. About four in ten San Francisco Bay Area residents say they are very concerned about wildfires (41%) and power shutoffs (43%).

Forty-six percent of adults and 42 percent of likely voters approve of the way Governor Newsom is handling the issue of wildfires and power shutoffs in California. The results are similar to the governor’s overall approval rating today and to approval of his handling of wildfire prevention and response in May (44% adults, 41% likely voters). Today, approval on this issue is at 62 percent among Democrats, 36 percent among independents, and 17 percent among Republicans. About half in the Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Bay Area approve of the governor’s handling of wildfires and power shutoffs.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Newsom is handling the issue of wildfires and power shutoffs in California?”

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		46%	39%	15%
Likely voters		42	46	12
Party	Democrats	62	24	14
	Republicans	17	72	11
	Independents	36	45	19
Region	Central Valley	40	46	14
	Inland Empire	54	34	12
	Los Angeles	50	34	16
	Orange/San Diego	41	43	16
	San Francisco Bay Area	47	40	14

Some local utility providers have been criticized for the way they have handled power shutoffs to prevent wildfires this fall. Nearly four in ten Californians have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in their local utility provider’s handling of this issue. More than three in ten across partisan groups also say they have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence. San Francisco Bay Area residents are the least likely to say they have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence (25%) and the most likely to have very little or no confidence (39%).

“When it comes to handling the issue of power shutoffs to prevent wildfires, how much confidence do you have in your local utility provider—a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?”

		A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little	None at all (volunteered)	Don't know
All adults		19%	18%	30%	27%	4%	1%
Likely voters		16	17	32	29	4	2
Party	Democrats	13	19	38	27	3	1
	Republicans	21	16	25	30	4	3
	Independents	13	18	33	32	4	1
Region	Central Valley	25	13	26	30	5	2
	Inland Empire	24	20	29	23	4	1
	Los Angeles	20	18	31	28	3	1
	Orange/San Diego	24	23	27	21	4	–
	San Francisco Bay Area	9	16	34	34	5	2

Economic Conditions

In thinking about economic conditions, 63 percent of Californians say that the state is divided into two economic groups: the “haves” and the “have nots.” Similar shares of adults held this view when we last asked this question in December 2018 (67% divided, 30% not divided). Today, majorities of adults across age, education, income, and regional groups say the state is divided in this way. African Americans (84%) are the most likely to have this perception, but majorities of Asian Americans (64%), whites (64%), and Latinos (58%) also hold this view. Women (65%) and men (61%), as well as renters (64%) and homeowners (63%), say the state is divided into haves and have nots. Majorities of Democrats (74%), independents (62%), and Republicans (55%) say the same.

“Some people think that California is divided into economic groups, the haves and have nots, while others think it is not divided that way. Do you think that California is divided into haves and have nots, or do you think that California is not divided that way?”

	All adults	Household income			Race/Ethnicity			
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Divided into haves and have nots	63%	65%	68%	63%	84%	64%	58%	64%
Not divided that way	31	31	28	32	16	30	35	31
Don't know	6	4	4	5	1	6	6	5

When asked to say which of the two economic groups they are in, 41 percent say they are in the haves, and 44 percent say they are in the have nots. In December 2018, 40 percent said they were in the haves, while 45 percent were in the have nots. Today, 65 percent of Californians with annual household incomes of \$80,000 or more say they are in the haves, while 63 percent of those with incomes under \$40,000 say they are in the have nots. More than half of Latinos and African Americans say they are in the have nots, while about half of whites say they are in the haves; Asian Americans are divided. About a half of residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (49%) say they are in the haves, compared to fewer in other regions. About half of Democrats (47%), Republicans (48%), and independents (47%) say they are in the haves, while 58 percent of adults who are nonvoters say they are in the have nots.

“If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in—the haves or have nots?”

	All adults	Household income			Race/Ethnicity			
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Haves	41%	23%	42%	65%	28%	42%	31%	52%
Have nots	44	63	46	19	57	41	56	32
Neither (<i>volunteered</i>)	9	9	9	9	12	11	7	10
Don't know	6	5	3	7	4	6	6	6

Fifty-two percent of adults say the government should do more to make sure that all Californians have an equal opportunity to get ahead, while 41 percent say that all Californians have an equal opportunity to get ahead. In December 2018, 53 percent said the government should do more. Today, a solid majority of Democrats (65%) say the government should do more, while a similar majority of Republicans (61%) say that all Californians have an equal opportunity to get ahead; independents are more divided (47% do more, 42% equal opportunity). Majorities of African Americans (71%) and Latinos (57%), and fewer Asian Americans (48%) and whites (48%), say the government should do more. Renters (61%) are much more likely than homeowners (42%) to say the government should do more.

Homelessness

California’s homeless population comprises nearly 130,000 people and makes up about one-quarter of the national total. When asked about the presence of homeless people in their local community, six in ten Californians are very concerned (58%), with another one in four (27%) somewhat concerned. Concern about the presence of homeless people is widespread, with majorities across regions very concerned. Notably, about six in ten Democrats (59%), Republicans (61%), and independents (61%) say they are very concerned. Majorities across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups are very concerned. Concern is highest among African Americans (77%), followed by whites (59%), Latinos (55%), and Asian Americans (52%). Younger Californians age 18 to 34 (53%) are less likely than those 35 and older (60%) to be very concerned.

“How concerned are you about the presence of homeless people in your local community today? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Very concerned	58%	52%	58%	60%	55%	63%	63%
Somewhat concerned	27	32	27	27	30	22	24
Not too concerned	9	9	10	8	11	7	7
Not at all concerned	6	6	5	4	5	8	5

About six in ten Californians (58%) think the presence of homeless people in their local community has increased over the last 12 months. Majorities in Los Angeles (63%), the San Francisco Bay Area (59%), the Inland Empire (58%), the Central Valley (55%), and 49 percent in Orange/San Diego hold this view. Majorities across parties and age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups think it has increased.

According to the most recent data, about seven in ten homeless Californians were unsheltered, meaning they were living in streets, parks, or other locations not meant for human habitation—the highest rate in the nation. The legal “right to shelter” has been a focus of Governor Newsom’s Homeless and Supportive Housing Advisory Task Force. An overwhelming majority of adults (76%) favor a proposal requiring local governments to construct enough shelter beds so that any homeless person requesting shelter could go indoors. The vast majority of Democrats (87%), two in three independents (67%), and more than half of Republicans (56%) are in favor, as are strong majorities across regions and demographic groups.

“A new state policy could require local governments to construct enough shelter beds so that any homeless person requesting to come indoors can do so. In general, do you favor or oppose this proposal?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Favor	76%	74%	76%	81%	70%	75%	70%
Oppose	20	21	21	16	28	20	25
Don’t know	4	5	4	3	2	6	5

Proposition 13: State Bond for Education Facilities

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 ballot number and title and a short description stating that the measure authorizes \$15 billion in general obligation bonds to construct and modernize education facilities, 48 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes and 36 percent would vote no; 16 percent are unsure of how they would vote. Democratic likely voters (71%) are far more likely than independents (44%) or Republicans (24%) to support Proposition 13. Support is higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (60%) than in other regions. Latino likely voters (66%) are much more likely than whites (42%) to voice support; 55 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 Californians age 18 to 34 (65%) are much more likely than those 35 to 54 (42%) and 55 and older (47%) to support Proposition 13. About half of likely voters with (47%) and without (49%) children 18 and under in the household would vote yes, while renters (64%) are far more likely than homeowners (41%) to be supportive. In September, just over half of likely voters (54%) said they would vote yes when asked a similar question about the \$15 billion state bond.

“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?’”*

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don't know
All likely voters		48%	36%	16%
Party	Democrats	71	15	14
	Republicans	24	59	17
	Independents	44	41	15
Region	Central Valley	36	48	16
	Inland Empire	38	40	22
	Los Angeles	50	32	18
	Orange/San Diego	49	42	9
	San Francisco Bay Area	60	27	13

*For complete text of proposition question, see p. 26.

Thirty-nine percent of likely voters say the outcome of the vote of Proposition 13 is very important to them, while an additional 35 percent say it is somewhat important. Democratic (38%), Republican (39%), and independent (38%) likely voters are about as likely to view the outcome as very important. Fewer than half across regions and demographic groups view the outcome as very important. Among those who would vote yes on Proposition 13, 44 percent say it is very important, and among those who would vote no, a similar 39 percent view it as very important.

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

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Vote on Proposition 13	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	39%	38%	39%	38%	44%	39%
Somewhat important	35	42	29	33	46	24
Not too important	11	9	12	15	7	18
Not at all important	8	5	10	9	2	18
Don't know	7	6	9	5	–	–

Possible Initiatives on the November 2020 Ballot

A citizens’ initiative likely to appear on the November 2020 ballot seeks to change Proposition 13, which passed in 1978 and limits the property tax rate to 1 percent of assessed value at the time of purchase and restricts annual tax increases to no more than 2 percent until the property is sold. The initiative would tax commercial properties according to their current market value and direct some of the revenue to K–12 public schools. With the general election a year away, 55 percent of adults and 46 percent of likely voters would vote yes. Two in three Democrats would vote yes, compared to fewer independents and Republicans. Majorities across regions—with the exception of the Central Valley—would vote yes. Support declines with rising age and income, and is much higher among renters (61%) than homeowners (48%). African Americans (69%) and Latinos (67%) are more likely than Asian Americans (49%) and whites (47%) to say they would vote yes. Support was similar in September (57% adults, 47% likely voters).

“What if there was a state ballot measure to have commercial properties taxed according to their current market value and direct some of this new tax revenue to state funding for K–12 public schools? Would you vote yes or no?”

		Yes	No	Don't know
All adults		55%	37%	8%
Likely voters		46	45	9
Party	Democrats	66	26	9
	Republicans	32	61	7
	Independents	49	42	9
Region	Central Valley	48	44	8
	Inland Empire	54	37	9
	Los Angeles	63	31	6
	Orange/San Diego	55	36	10
	San Francisco Bay Area	51	39	10

Another initiative that could be on the November ballot seeks to raise the state income tax paid by the wealthiest Californians and corporations to raise revenues for K–12 public schools. Sixty-two percent of adults and 56 percent of likely voters are in favor. An overwhelming majority of Democrats and six in ten independents would vote yes, compared to one in three Republicans. Majorities across regions and demographic groups would vote yes. African Americans (72%), Asian Americans (68%), and Latinos (65%) are more likely than whites (55%) to say they would vote yes.

“What if there was a state ballot measure to raise the state income tax paid by the wealthiest Californians and corporations to raise revenues for K–12 public schools? Would you vote yes or no?”

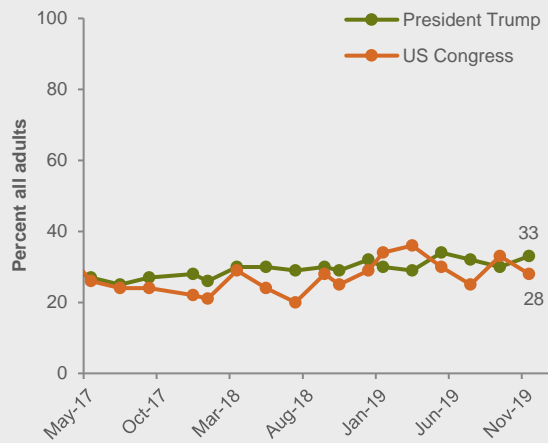
		Yes	No	Don't know
All adults		62%	33%	6%
Likely voters		56	38	6
Party	Democrats	79	16	5
	Republicans	34	63	4
	Independents	59	35	6
Region	Central Valley	57	38	5
	Inland Empire	66	28	6
	Los Angeles	65	30	4
	Orange/San Diego	52	40	8
	San Francisco Bay Area	62	32	6

National Election and Policy Landscape

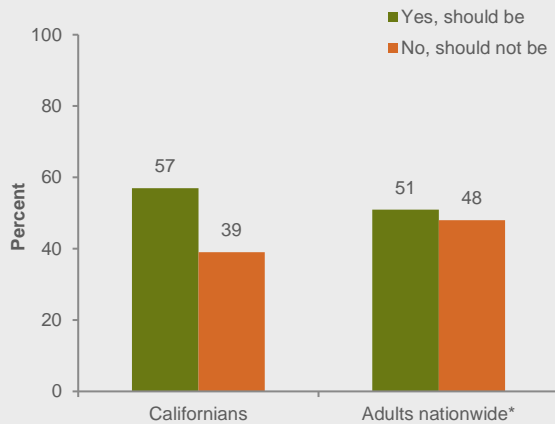
Key Findings

- Thirty-three percent of Californians approve of President Trump’s job performance and 28 percent approve of the job the US Congress is doing. *(page 14)*
- Half of adults approve of the way Democrats in Congress are handling the presidential impeachment process and 44 percent disapprove. A majority (57%) say the president should be impeached and removed from office, while 39 percent say he should not be. *(page 15)*
- Forty-seven percent of adults think that during the next 12 months the US will have good times financially. Six in ten say things in the US are generally going in the wrong direction. *(page 16)*
- More than six in ten say it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage, and adults are divided on how it should be provided. Seven in ten favor having a public option insurance plan. *(page 17)*
- Forty-seven percent of adults have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party, while 31 percent have a favorable impression of the Republican Party. More than half (54%) think that the two major parties do such a poor job representing the people that a third major party is needed. *(page 18)*
- Among Democratic presidential primary likely voters, Joe Biden, Elizabeth Warren, and Bernie Sanders have the most support. Fifty-five percent say it is more important for Democrats to nominate the candidate who seems most likely to defeat Trump. Most say health care, the environment, the economy, and immigration are the issues they would like to hear about in the debates. *(page 19)*

Approval ratings of federal elected officials

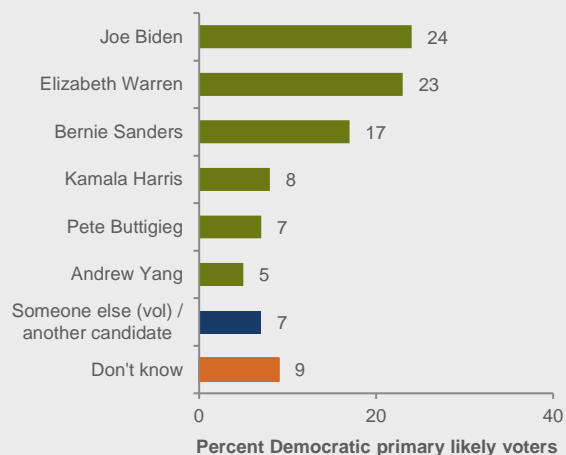


Views on whether Donald Trump should be impeached and removed from office



*October 2019, Gallup poll

Choice for president in March 2020 Democratic primary



Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials

President Trump’s approval rating is 33 percent among adults and 39 percent among likely voters. The president’s approval was similar in September (30% adults, 35% likely voters) and last December (32% adults, 36% likely voters). Today, 84 percent of Republicans approve of the president’s job performance, compared to 34 percent of independents and 8 percent of Democrats. Regionally, about four in ten adults in the Central Valley, Inland Empire, and Orange/San Diego approve, compared to fewer in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles. Whites (45%) are much more likely than Asian Americans (29%) and Latinos (24%), and far more likely than African Americans (6%), to approve of the president. Older adults (36% 35 to 54, 41% 55 and older) are much more likely to approve than younger adults (20% 18 to 34), as are homeowners (42%) compared to renters (26%). Men (40%) are much more likely than women (25%) to approve of President Trump. In a recent Gallup poll, 41 percent of adults nationwide approved of the president’s job performance and 57 percent disapproved.

“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		33%	63%	4%
Likely voters		39	59	2
Party	Democrats	8	90	2
	Republicans	84	14	2
	Independents	34	62	4
Region	Central Valley	39	57	5
	Inland Empire	38	58	4
	Los Angeles	25	70	5
	Orange/San Diego	38	57	5
	San Francisco Bay Area	29	68	2

Twenty-eight percent of adults and 21 percent of likely voters approve of the way the US Congress is handling its job. Approval was similar in September (33% adults, 24% likely voters) and in December of last year (29% adults, 20% likely voters). Today, Democrats (30%) are more likely than Republicans (18%) and independents (18%) to approve of Congress. Regionally, fewer than four in ten approve. Among racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (37%) and Asian Americans (35%) are much more likely than African Americans (21%) and whites (21%) to approve. Those with only a high school diploma (35%) are more likely to approve than those who have some college education (24%) and college graduates (25%). In a recent Gallup poll, 25 percent of adults nationwide approved of Congress, while 70 percent disapproved.

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

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		28%	64%	8%
Likely voters		21	74	4
Party	Democrats	30	63	7
	Republicans	18	78	4
	Independents	18	76	6
Region	Central Valley	24	68	8
	Inland Empire	36	57	7
	Los Angeles	30	62	7
	Orange/San Diego	30	66	5
	San Francisco Bay Area	27	64	9

Impeachment Inquiry

On September 24, Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that the House of Representatives would begin a formal impeachment inquiry into President Trump. Today, adults (50% approve, 44% disapprove) and likely voters (48% approve, 50% disapprove) are divided about the way that Democrats in Congress are handling the impeachment inquiry. An overwhelming majority of Democrats approve, compared to four in ten independents and one in ten Republicans. Regionally, residents in Los Angeles are the most likely to hold this view. Among racial/ethnic groups, strong majorities of African Americans (71%) and Latinos (61%) approve, compared to fewer Asian Americans (47%) and whites (41%). Women (55%) are more likely than men (45%) to approve. According to an October CNN poll, 43 percent of adults nationwide approve of the way Democrats are handling the impeachment inquiry and 49 percent disapprove.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Democrats in Congress are handling the current impeachment inquiry into Donald Trump?”

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		50%	44%	6%
Likely voters		48	50	2
Party	Democrats	76	21	3
	Republicans	12	86	3
	Independents	41	52	7
Region	Central Valley	45	50	5
	Inland Empire	47	49	4
	Los Angeles	55	39	7
	Orange/San Diego	49	43	8
San Francisco Bay Area		52	43	5

A majority of adults (57%) and likely voters (53%) think Donald Trump should be impeached and removed from office. An overwhelming majority of Democrats and half of independents hold this view, compared to one in ten Republicans. About half or more across regions say this. African Americans (86%) are the most likely among racial/ethnic groups to say that the president should be impeached and removed from office, followed by Latinos (69%), Asian Americans (52%), and whites (46%). Women (64%) are much more likely than men (50%), and renters (61%) are more likely than homeowners (50%), to say this. The shares holding this view decline as age and income levels rise. In a recent nationwide Gallup poll, 51 percent of adults said the president should be impeached and removed from office, while 48 percent said he should not be.

“Based on what you know at this point, do you think that Donald Trump should or should not be impeached and removed from office?”

		Yes, should be	No, should not be	Don't know
All adults		57%	39%	4%
Likely voters		53	45	2
Party	Democrats	83	15	2
	Republicans	11	87	1
	Independents	51	44	4
Region	Central Valley	52	45	3
	Inland Empire	54	43	3
	Los Angeles	63	32	6
	Orange/San Diego	51	43	6
San Francisco Bay Area		58	38	3

State of the Nation

Forty-seven percent of adults and half of likely voters (50%) say that the United States will have good times financially over the next 12 months. Similar shares (48% adults, 53% likely voters) held this view in October 2018. Today, more than three in four Republicans and four in ten independents say this, compared to three in ten Democrats. Forty-four percent of Los Angeles and Orange/San Diego residents expect good times nationally, compared to about half or more elsewhere. Whites (53%) and Latinos (47%) are more likely than African Americans (36%) and Asian Americans (35%) to expect good times, and men (55%) are much more likely than women (40%) to hold this view. Homeowners (52%) are somewhat more likely than renters (44%) to expect good times.

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

		Good times	Bad times	Don't know
All adults		47%	43%	10%
Likely voters		50	40	10
Party	Democrats	29	59	12
	Republicans	78	15	7
	Independents	44	45	11
Region	Central Valley	52	36	12
	Inland Empire	51	40	8
	Los Angeles	44	42	14
	Orange/San Diego	44	47	9
	San Francisco Bay Area	47	45	7

While half of Californians say the nation will have good times financially over the next year, 61 percent of adults and 63 percent of likely voters think things in the US are generally going in the wrong direction. Similar shares held this view in January (66% adults, 68% likely voters). Today, an overwhelming majority of Democrats say this, compared to six in ten independents and four in ten Republicans. Majorities across regions hold this view. Among racial/ethnic groups, 71 percent of African Americans say this, compared to about six in ten Asian Americans (63%), Latinos (62%), and whites (58%). Women (68%) are much more likely than men (53%) to think the US is going in the wrong direction. Sixty-seven percent of those age 18 to 34 think the country is going in the wrong direction, while 56 percent of those age 35 to 54 and 60 percent of those age 55 and older say this.

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

		Right direction	Wrong direction	Don't know
All adults		34%	61%	5%
Likely voters		34	63	4
Party	Democrats	15	81	4
	Republicans	58	38	4
	Independents	30	60	10
Region	Central Valley	34	59	7
	Inland Empire	43	51	6
	Los Angeles	31	61	7
	Orange/San Diego	37	60	3
	San Francisco Bay Area	34	62	4

Health Care Policy

Health care has emerged as a top issue in the 2020 presidential race. When asked if it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage, a majority of Californians (63%) and likely voters (55%) say it is the responsibility of government. Similar shares of Californians held this view in October 2018 (65% adults, 59% likely voters). Today, majorities across regions and about half or more across demographic groups agree. Overwhelming majorities of Democrats (82%) say it is the government’s responsibility, as do 60 percent of independents; eight in ten Republicans (80%) say it is not the government’s responsibility. The shares saying it is the responsibility of the federal government decline as age, education, and income levels rise.

While most Californians think government should ensure coverage for all, they are divided on whether health insurance should be provided via a single national health insurance system (30% adults, 25% likely voters) or through a mix of private insurance and government programs (28% adults, 26% likely voters). Democrats are divided in their preferences (41% single payer, 36% mix), while independents prefer a mix of private insurance and government programs (35%, 20% single payer).

“Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage, or is that not the responsibility of the federal government? (If a responsibility: Should health insurance be provided through a single national health insurance system run by the government or continue to be provided through a mix of private insurance companies and government programs?)”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Responsibility of government	63%	82%	19%	60%	55%
<i>Single payer</i>	30	41	8	20	25
<i>Mix of private and government</i>	28	36	10	35	26
<i>Don't know</i>	5	5	2	6	3
Not responsibility of government	35	17	80	35	43
Don't know	3	1	2	5	2

Seven in ten adults (72%) and about two in three likely voters (65%) favor what is sometimes called a public option—a government-administered health plan that would be available to all Americans alongside private health insurance plans. About two in three or more across regions, genders, and education, income, and racial/ethnic groups favor a public option. An overwhelming majority of Democrats (84%) and a strong majority of independents (69%) support a public option; Republicans are more divided (45% favor, 50% oppose). Strong majorities across most racial/ethnic groups— about eight in ten Asian Americans (80%), African Americans (77%), and Latinos (77%)—support a public option, compared to fewer whites (64%). Support for a public option declines as age and income levels rise. Californians without health insurance (82%) are more likely than those with insurance (69%) to favor a public option. In an October Kaiser Family Foundation survey, similar shares of adults nationwide support a public option (73% favor, 24% oppose).

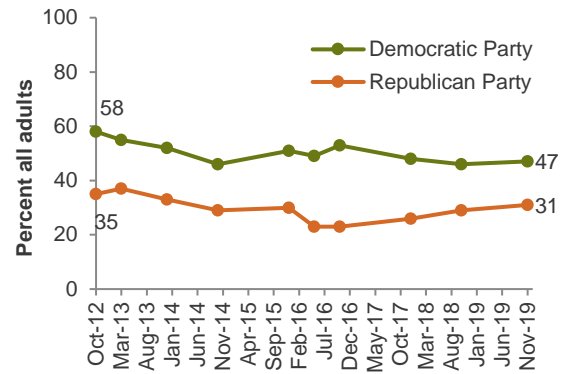
“Do you favor or oppose a government-administered health plan, sometimes called a public option, that would compete with private health insurance plans and be available to all Americans?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	72%	84%	45%	69%	65%
Oppose	23	13	50	24	30
Don't know	5	3	5	7	5

Party Perceptions

One year before a consequential presidential election, how do Californians feel about the two major political parties? Today, 47 percent of adults and 46 percent of likely voters have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party; about one in three (31% adults, 34% likely voters) have a favorable impression of the Republican Party. The favorability of both parties was similar in October 2018 (Democratic Party: 46% adults, 41% likely voters; Republican Party: 29% adults, 31% likely voters).

Favorability of political parties over time



Among partisans, 76 percent of Democrats have a favorable view of the Democratic Party; similar shares of Republicans (77%) have a favorable view of the Republican Party. Majorities of independents have an unfavorable view of both the Democratic Party (60%) and the Republican Party (63%). Half or more across regions and demographic groups have an unfavorable impression of the Republican Party; African Americans (79%) are the most likely to hold this view. About four in ten or more across regions and demographic groups have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party; here, too, African Americans (71%) are the most likely to say this. Women (51%) are somewhat more likely than men (43%) to have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party. Twenty-one percent of adults and 14 percent of likely voters have an unfavorable view of both parties.

“Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of the ...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
Democratic Party	Favorable	47%	76%	10%	29%	46%
	Unfavorable	45	21	89	60	50
	Don't know	9	4	1	10	3
Republican Party	Favorable	31	13	77	25	34
	Unfavorable	58	83	21	63	62
	Don't know	11	4	2	12	4

A majority of Californians (54%) and likely voters (57%) say that the Republican and Democratic Parties do such a poor job representing the American people that a third major party is needed. Majorities of adults said that a third party is needed in October 2018 (55%) and in periodic PPIC Statewide Surveys since 2006. Today, majorities of Democrats (58%) and independents (62%) think a third party is needed, while fewer Republicans (48%) hold this view. About half or more across regions, genders, and age, income, and racial/ethnic groups say a third major party is needed.

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

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Adequate job	34%	32%	39%	27%	32%
Third party is needed	54	58	48	62	57
Don't know	12	10	13	11	11

2020 Presidential Primary

With the Democratic primary about four months away, Democratic primary likely voters (including Democrats and independent voters who say they will vote in the Democratic primary) are paying attention. Eight in ten are following news about candidates for the 2020 presidential election very (37%) or fairly (43%) closely. In addition to following the news, about eight in ten are extremely (47%) or very (32%) enthusiastic about voting for president in next year’s election. Fifty-three percent of whites, 49 percent of those in other racial/ethnic groups, and 34 percent of Latinos are extremely enthusiastic.

If the 2020 Democratic primary for president were being held today, two in three likely voters would choose either Joe Biden (24%), Elizabeth Warren (23%), or Bernie Sanders (17%); one in ten are unsure. (We included in this question the nine candidates who qualified for an upcoming Democratic National Committee debate before the beginning of our fielding.) In September, two in three named Elizabeth Warren (23%), Joe Biden (22%), or Bernie Sanders (21%). Today, Biden is preferred by three in ten older voters, while nearly three in ten voters under 45 prefer Sanders or Warren. Biden has the support of 27 percent of Latinos, while Warren has the support of 28 percent of whites.

When asked who would be their second choice for the Democratic nomination, likely voters were most likely to say Warren (20%) or Sanders (19%). In the debates scheduled prior to the March primary, likely voters would most like to hear the candidates talk about health care (21%), the environment (14%), jobs and the economy (13%), and immigration (12%).

“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
Joe Biden	24%	30%	19%	10%	31%
Elizabeth Warren	23	18	26	30	18
Bernie Sanders	17	19	17	29	10
Kamala Harris	8	7	8	9	7
Pete Buttigieg	7	9	5	1	10
Andrew Yang	5	3	7	12	2
Someone else (specify)/ another candidate	7	9	6	6	8
Don't know	9	5	12	3	13

*For the full list of candidates included in this question, see page 25.

Fifty-five percent of Democratic primary likely voters say it is more important to nominate the candidate who seems most likely to defeat Donald Trump than to nominate someone with positions on the issues that come closest to theirs (36%). Fifty-four percent of those age 18 to 44 say it is more important to nominate the candidate whose positions come closest to theirs, while two in three of those age 45 and older prefer the candidate who seems most likely to defeat Trump. Three in ten whites (29%) prefer the candidate whose positions come closest to theirs, compared to 41 percent of Latinos and 45 percent of those in other racial/ethnic groups.

“What’s more important to you—that Democrats nominate the presidential candidate whose positions on the issues come closest to yours, or the candidate who seems most likely to defeat Donald Trump in November 2020?”

Democratic primary likely voters only	All likely voters	Gender		Age	
		Men	Women	18 to 44	45 and older
The presidential candidate whose positions on the issues come closest to yours	36%	38%	35%	54%	25%
The candidate who seems most likely to defeat Donald Trump	55	52	58	36	67
Both (volunteered)	6	8	6	8	6
Don't know	2	2	2	2	2

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 Alyssa Dykman, project manager for this survey, associate survey director Dean Bonner, and survey research associate Rachel Lawler. The Californians and Their Government series is supported with funding from 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 1,711 California adult residents, including 1,200 interviewed on cell phones and 511 interviewed on landline telephones. Interviews took an average of 18 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from November 3–12, 2019.

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 ± 3.3 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,711 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.3 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,405 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.6 percent; for the 1,008 likely voters, it is ± 4.3 percent; for the 682 Democratic primary likely voters (including Democrats and independent voters who say they will vote in the Democratic primary), it is ± 5.1 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 nine candidates who had qualified for an upcoming Democratic National Committee debate prior to the beginning of our fielding the survey were included as rotated choices for question 11—preference for Democratic nominee—followed by the option "or someone else," allowing for 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 CNN, Gallup, and Kaiser Family Foundation. 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

November 3–12, 2019

1,711 California Adult Residents:

English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR ± 3.3 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?**
 - 48% approve
 - 33 disapprove
 - 18 don't know
2. **Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Governor Newsom is handling the issue of wildfires and power shutoffs in California?**
 - 46% approve
 - 39 disapprove
 - 15 don't know
3. **Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?**
 - 44% approve
 - 41 disapprove
 - 15 don't know
4. **Now, thinking about your own personal finances. Would you say that you and your family are financially better off, worse off, or just about the same as a year ago?**
 - 23% better off
 - 22 worse off
 - 54 same
 - 1 don't know
5. **Some people think that California is divided into economic groups, the haves and have nots, while others think it is not divided that way. Do you think that California is divided into haves and have nots, or do you think that California is not divided that way?**
 - 63% divided into haves and have nots
 - 31 not divided that way
 - 6 don't know
6. **If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in—the haves or have nots?**
 - 41% haves
 - 44 have nots
 - 9 neither (*volunteered*)
 - 6 don't know
7. **If you were asked to use one of these commonly used names for the social classes, which would you say you belong in? The upper class, upper-middle class, middle class, lower-middle class, or lower class?**
 - 1% upper class
 - 13 upper-middle class
 - 40 middle class
 - 28 lower-middle class
 - 16 lower class
 - 2 don't know

Next,

8. Do you think that in California today [rotate] [1] all people have an equal opportunity to get ahead, or [2] the government should do more to make sure that all Californians have an equal opportunity to get ahead.

- 41% people have equal opportunity
- 52 government should do more
- 1 both (*volunteered*)
- 3 neither (*volunteered*)
- 3 don't know

9. 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 q9a*]
- 31 no [*skip to q10f*]

9a. 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 q10*]
- 24 Republican [*skip to q10a*]
- 5 another party (*specify*) [*skip to q14*]
- 28 independent [*skip to q10b*]

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

- 57% strong
- 40 not very strong
- 3 don't know

[*skip to q11*]

10a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 60% strong
- 36 not very strong
- 4 don't know

[*skip to q14*]

10b. 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*]

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

10c. And, were you previously registered with a major party or have you always been a decline-to-state or independent voter?

- 38% previously registered [*ask q10d*]
- 59 always been a decline-to-state or independent voter [*skip to q10e*]
- 3 don't know [*skip to q10e*]

10d. And what party were you previously registered with?

[*code, don't read*]

- 40% Republican Party
- 56 Democratic Party
- 4 other (*specify*)
- don't know

10e. 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?

- 27% join a political party
- 70 remain unaffiliated
- 3 don't know

10f. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 24% Republican Party
- 48 Democratic Party
- 22 neither (*volunteered*)
- 7 don't know

10g. California voters like you will be able to choose between voting in the Democratic 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 on the nonpartisan ballot?

- 26% Democratic primary *[ask q11]*
- 50 nonpartisan ballot *[skip to q14]*
- 7 not planning to vote *(volunteered)* *[skip to q14]*
- 17 don't know *[skip to q14]*

11. *[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?"]*

- 24% Joe Biden
- 23 Elizabeth Warren
- 17 Bernie Sanders
- 8 Kamala Harris
- 7 Pete Buttigieg
- 5 Andrew Yang
- 1 Cory Booker
- 1 Amy Klobuchar
- 1 Tom Steyer
- 4 someone else *(specify)*
- 9 don't know

11a. *[Democratic primary likely voters only who named a candidate in Q11]* And, who would be your second choice for the Democratic nomination for president?

- 20% Elizabeth Warren
- 19 Bernie Sanders
- 16 Joe Biden
- 13 Pete Buttigieg
- 10 Kamala Harris
- 4 Cory Booker
- 4 Andrew Yang
- 3 Tom Steyer
- 2 Amy Klobuchar
- 4 someone else *(specify)*
- 7 don't know

12. *[Democratic primary likely voters only]* Next, there are a series of presidential debates leading up to the March 3rd election. Which one issue would you most like to hear the presidential candidates talk about between now and the March primary?

[code, don't read]

- 21% health care, health insurance
- 14 environment, pollution, global warming
- 13 jobs, economy
- 12 immigration, illegal immigration
- 5 education, schools, teachers
- 4 government in general, problems with elected officials, parties
- 4 homelessness
- 3 guns, gun control
- 2 crime, gangs, drugs
- 2 housing costs, availability
- 2 budget, deficit, taxes
- 13 other *(specify)*
- 5 don't know

13. *[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)?

- 36% the presidential candidate whose positions on the issues come closest to yours
- 55 the candidate who seems most likely to defeat Donald Trump
- 6 both *(volunteered)*
- 2 don't know

14. *[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?

- 37% very closely
- 43 fairly closely
- 17 not too closely
- 2 not at all closely
- don't know

15. [Democratic primary likely voters only] How enthusiastic would you say you are about voting for president in next year’s election—extremely enthusiastic, very enthusiastic, somewhat enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not at all enthusiastic?

- 47% extremely enthusiastic
- 32 very enthusiastic
- 17 somewhat enthusiastic
- 2 not enthusiastic
- 2 not at all enthusiastic
- don’t know

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

16. [likely voters only] Proposition 13 is called the “Public Preschool, K–12, and College Health and Safety Bond Act of 2020. Initiative Statute.” It authorizes \$15 billion in general obligation bonds to construct and modernize education facilities. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 13?

- 48% yes
- 36 no
- 16 don’t know

17. [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?

- 39% very important
- 35 somewhat important
- 11 not too important
- 8 not at all important
- 7 don’t know

Changing topics, we have a couple of questions on initiatives that may be headed for the November 2020 ballot.

[rotate questions 18 and 19]

18. As you may know, under Proposition 13 passed by the California voters in 1978, residential and commercial property taxes are both strictly limited. What if there was a state ballot measure to have commercial properties taxed according to their current market value and direct some of this new tax revenue to state funding for K–12 public schools? Would you vote yes or no?

- 55% yes
- 37 no
- 8 don’t know

19. What if there was a state ballot measure to raise the state income tax paid by the wealthiest Californians and corporations to raise revenues for K–12 public schools? Would you vote yes or no?

- 62% yes
- 33 no
- 6 don’t know

Recently, there have been wildfires in California and utility providers have had power shutoffs when there have been high winds in their service areas to prevent wildfires.

[rotate questions 20 and 20a]

20. How concerned have you been about the threat of power shutoffs to prevent wildfires where you live? Have you been very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

- 32% very concerned
- 27 somewhat concerned
- 20 not too concerned
- 21 not at all concerned
- don’t know

20a. How concerned have you been about the threat of wildfires where you live? Have you been very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

- 34% very concerned
- 29 somewhat concerned
- 17 not too concerned
- 20 not at all concerned
- 1 don’t know

21. When it comes to handling the issue of power shutoffs to prevent wildfires, how much confidence do you have in your local utility provider—a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?

- 19% a great deal
- 18 quite a lot
- 30 some
- 27 very little
- 4 none at all (*volunteered*)
- 1 don't know

On another topic,

22. How concerned are you about the presence of homeless people in your local community today? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

- 58% very concerned
- 27 somewhat concerned
- 9 not too concerned
- 6 not at all concerned
- don't know

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

- 58% increased
- 3 decreased
- 37 stayed the same
- 3 don't know

24. A new state policy could require local governments to construct enough shelter beds so that any homeless person requesting to come indoors can do so. In general, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

- 76% favor
- 20 oppose
- 4 don't know

Changing topics,

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

- 33% approve
- 63 disapprove
- 4 don't know

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

- 28% approve
- 64 disapprove
- 8 don't know

27. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Democrats in Congress are handling the current impeachment inquiry into Donald Trump?

- 50% approve
- 44 disapprove
- 6 don't know

Next,

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

- 34% right direction
- 61 wrong direction
- 5 don't know

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

- 47% good times
- 43 bad times
- 10 don't know

30. Next, based on what you know at this point, do you think that Donald Trump should or should not be impeached and removed from office?

- 57% yes, should be
- 39 no, should not be
- 4 don't know

Next,

31. Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage, or is that not the responsibility of the federal government?

(If “is responsibility of the government,” ask: Should health insurance [rotate] 1. Be provided through a single national health insurance system run by the government [or] 2. Continue to be provided through a mix of private insurance companies and government programs?)

- 63% health care coverage is the responsibility of the federal government
 - 30 *and insurance should be provided through a single national health insurance system run by the government*
 - 28 *and insurance should continue to be provided through a mix of private insurance companies and government programs*
 - 5 *and don't know*
- 35 health care coverage is not the responsibility of the federal government
- 3 don't know

32. Do you favor or oppose a government-administered health plan, sometimes called a public option, that would compete with private health insurance plans and be available to all Americans?

- 72% favor
- 23 oppose
- 5 don't know

On another topic,

[rotate questions 33 and 34]

33. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of the Democratic Party?

- 47% favorable
- 45 unfavorable
- 9 don't know

34. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of the Republican Party?

- 31% favorable
- 58 unfavorable
- 11 don't know

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

- 34% adequate job
- 54 third party is needed
- 12 don't know

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

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 14% very liberal
- 21 somewhat liberal
- 29 middle-of-the-road
- 21 somewhat conservative
- 11 very conservative
- 4 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?

- 25% great deal
- 36 fair amount
- 28 only a little
- 11 none
- don't know

[d1–d15 demographic questions]

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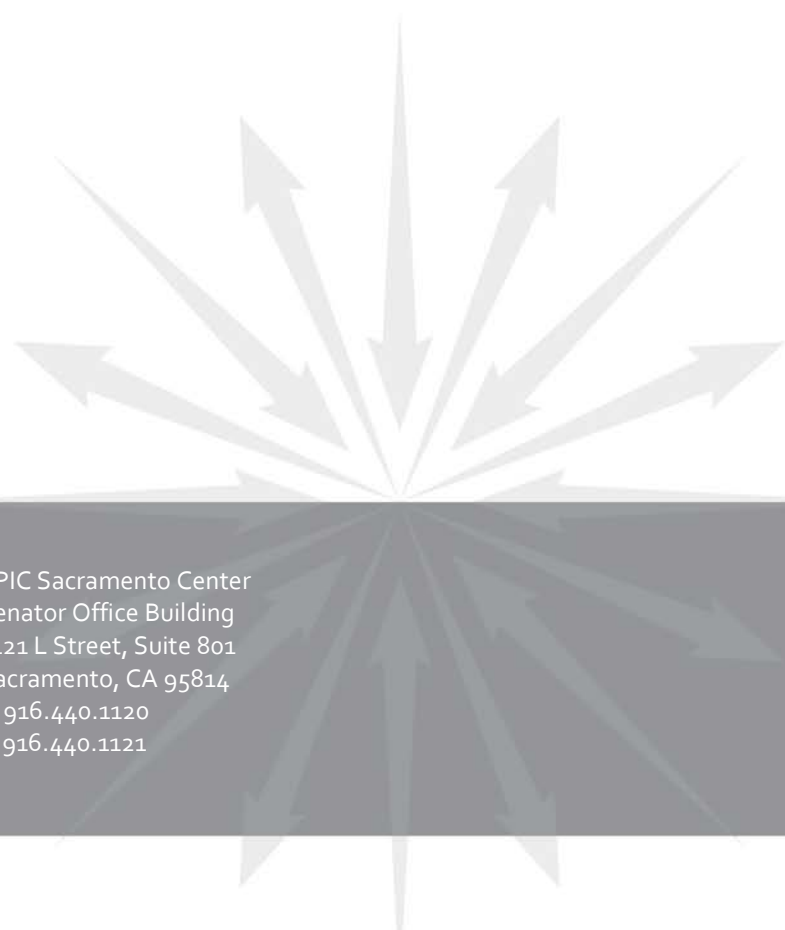
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