

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY

OCTOBER 2014

Californians & their government



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in collaboration with
The James Irvine Foundation

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The PPIC Statewide Survey provides policymakers, the media, and the public with objective, advocacy-free information on the perceptions, opinions, and public policy preferences of California residents. This is the 145th PPIC Statewide Survey in a series that was inaugurated in April 1998 and has generated a database of responses from more than 304,000 Californians.

This is the 64th in the *Californians and Their Government* series. The survey is conducted periodically to examine the social, economic, and political trends that influence public policy preferences and ballot choices. Supported with funding from The James Irvine Foundation, the series seeks to inform decisionmakers, raise public awareness, and stimulate policy discussions and debate about important state and national issues.

This survey took place in the final weeks leading up to the November 4 election. This election features six ballot propositions, including a bond measure to fund water projects—this in the midst of a severe drought. California voters will also decide on the creation of a budget stabilization account, regulation of changes to health insurance rates, and changes to sentencing requirements for certain offenses. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected cases to overturn bans on same-sex marriage in five states, and the Vatican is also considering a more lenient stance toward divorce and gay marriage. The second open enrollment period under the 2010 health care law is about to begin.

The survey presents the responses of 1,704 adult residents throughout California, interviewed in English or Spanish by landline or cell phone. It includes findings on the following topics:

- November 2014 election, including preferences in the governor's race, satisfaction with candidate choices, and enthusiasm about voting in the election; party preferences in the elections for the U.S. House of Representatives and the California State Assembly; support for and perceptions of the importance of four propositions: Proposition 1 (authorizes \$7.5 billion for water quality, supply, treatment, and storage projects), Proposition 2 (creates a state budget stabilization account), Proposition 45 (requires approval for changes to health insurance rates), Proposition 47 (changes sentencing for certain drug and property offenses).
- State and national issues, including views on the state's outlook; approval ratings of state and federal elected officials; views on the seriousness of regional water supply issues, attention to news about the current drought, and perceptions of the government's response to the drought; views on the seriousness of the state budget situation and support for a rainy day fund; opinions of the 2010 health care reform law, as well the law's long-term effect; assessments of crime levels in the state and confidence in local government's handling of the transfer of state prisoners to local jails; support for same-sex marriage and legalizing marijuana; perceptions of major parties; and Californians' sources of news about politics and elections.
- Time trends, national comparisons, and the extent to which Californians may differ in their perceptions, attitudes, and preferences regarding state and federal government based on political party affiliation, likelihood of voting, region of residence, race/ethnicity, and other demographics.

This report may be downloaded free of charge from our website (www.ppic.org). If you have questions about the survey, please contact survey@ppic.org. Try our PPIC Statewide Survey interactive tools online at www.ppic.org/main/survAdvancedSearch.asp.

NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED: Do not publish or broadcast until 9:00 p.m. PDT on Wednesday, October 22, 2014.

Para ver este comunicado de prensa en español, por favor visite nuestra página de internet:
<http://www.ppic.org/main/pressreleaseindex.asp>

PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Most Favor Water Bond, Rainy Day Fund Gains Ground as Brown Keeps Lead

MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR CHANGE IN CRIME SENTENCES—HEALTH INSURANCE MEASURE LAGS

SAN FRANCISCO, October 22, 2014—Jerry Brown maintains his strong lead among likely voters in the governor's race against Neel Kashkari. Among two statewide ballot measures that Brown is campaigning for, Proposition 1—the \$7.5 billion water bond—continues to have majority support and Proposition 2—the “rainy day fund”—has gained ground since September, with about half of likely voters in favor today.

A majority continue to favor Proposition 47, the measure to reduce sentences for some drug and property offenses. Support for Proposition 45—which would give the state insurance commissioner authority over health insurance rates—has declined since last month and continues to fall short of a majority.

These are among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), with support from The James Irvine Foundation.

“The state propositions may end up driving voters to the polls who would otherwise sit out this midterm election in California,” said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. “Many likely voters say the election outcomes on the ballot measures dealing with water, the state budget, health care, and criminal sentencing are important to them.”

Brown is ahead of Kashkari, 52 to 36 percent—a 16 point lead. By comparison, Brown led by 19 points in July and 21 points in September. Among likely voters, 83 percent of Democrats support Brown and 71 percent of Republicans favor Kashkari. Independents are divided (44 % Brown, 40% Kashkari). Brown's overall job approval rating is at 54 percent among likely voters. His record-high job approval rating is 60 percent, reached in January this year.

About half of likely voters (52%) are satisfied with their choice of candidates. Democrats (66%) and independents (54%) are far more likely to be satisfied than Republicans (36%). About half of likely voters say they are following news about the candidates very closely (18%) or fairly closely (34%). Attention to the news was higher in October 2006, the last gubernatorial election with an incumbent (19% very closely, 55% fairly closely).

Weeks before Election Day, California's likely voters are more upbeat than they were four years ago. While less than half say the state is going in the right direction (40%), just 12 percent expressed this view four years ago. And likely voters are twice as likely today to say the state will have good times economically in the next year (42%) than they were in 2010 (20%).

FOLLOWING THE NEWS OF DROUGHT CLOSELY, MOST FAVOR PROPOSITION 1

When read the ballot title and label for Proposition 1, 56 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes, 32 percent no, and 12 percent don't know. Most Democrats (68%) and independents (56%) favor the measure, which would fund water quality, supply, treatment, and storage projects. Republicans are evenly divided (43% yes, 43% no). Asked how important the outcome of the vote on Proposition 1 is to them, 54 percent of likely voters say it is very important and 33 percent say somewhat important. More than half of both supporters and opponents of Proposition 1 consider the outcome very important.

Californians express support for the water bond as the state struggles with a severe drought. A vast majority of likely voters say they are following news about the drought either very closely (62%) or fairly closely (30%)—a far greater share than are following news about the gubernatorial candidates.

Asked to name the most important issue facing Californians, likely voters today are now about as likely to name water and drought (28%) as jobs and the economy (30%). Four years ago, 59 percent named jobs and the economy as the top issue. An overwhelming majority (72%) say the supply of water is a big problem in their part of California. Those living in inland areas (74%) and coastal areas (72%) are equally likely to say water supply is a big problem.

How do likely voters feel about government response to the drought? A solid majority (62%) say state and local governments are not doing enough, while 28 percent say governments are doing the right amount and 4 percent say governments are doing too much.

“Majorities across the major state regions say that water supply is a big problem in their part of California and that their state and local government is not doing enough about this issue,” Baldassare said.

“Whatever the outcome in November, voters will want more action on water and the drought next year.”

HALF OF LIKELY VOTERS SUPPORT PROPOSITION 2

Proposition 2 would establish a budget stabilization account, or rainy day fund, that would include a separate reserve for public schools. Today, 49 percent of likely voters would vote yes on the measure, 34 percent would vote no, and 17 percent are undecided. Support for Proposition 2 has increased 6 points since September (43% yes, 33% no, 24% undecided). About half of Democrats (53%), Republicans (49%), and independents (49%) favor the proposition. A third (33%) of likely voters say the outcome on this measure is very important.

The fiscal reform concept behind Proposition 2—increasing the size of the rainy day fund and requiring that the state deposit above-average revenues into it—has majority support among likely voters (55%) today. In previous surveys, the general idea of increasing the rainy day fund has had higher support (76% May 2010, 71% January 2011, 69% May 2011, 70% December 2012, 70% January 2014).

A majority of likely voters (62%) today say the state's budget situation is a big problem, but this is down significantly from two years ago (80%) and four years ago (90%).

PROPOSITION 45 FALTERING

Proposition 45 would require the insurance commissioner's approval for changes to charges associated with health insurance. It has the support of 39 percent of likely voters, down 9 points from September (48%). Today, 46 percent would vote no and 15 percent are uncertain (38% no, 14% uncertain in September). Just over half (53%) say the outcome of Proposition 45 is very important to them.

California likely voters continue to be divided over the health care reform law itself (46% generally favorable, 46% unfavorable). Asked how much difference the law will make in the long run, they are split: 35 percent say it won't make much difference, 33 percent say it will be a bad thing for them and their families, and 29 percent say it will be a good thing.

PROPOSITION 47 SUPPORT HOLDS STEADY

Proposition 47 requires a misdemeanor sentence—rather than a felony—for certain drug and property offenses. It does not apply to registered sex offenders or offenders with a prior conviction for serious or violent crimes. A majority of likely voters (59%) would vote yes on the measure, 29 percent would vote no, and 12 percent don't know. Findings were similar in September (62% yes, 25% no, 13% uncertain). Today, solid majorities of Democrats (67%) and independents (65%) would vote yes, while Republicans are more divided (48% yes, 40% no). Half of likely voters (49%) say the outcome of the vote on the proposition is very important.

Just 2 percent of likely voters name crime, drugs, and gangs as the most important issue facing the state. However, an overwhelming majority say that crime is a big problem (54%) or somewhat of a problem (33%) in California.

Under the state's corrections realignment policy, local governments have taken on responsibility for some of the state's lower-risk inmates. However, less than half of likely voters are very confident (13%) or somewhat confident (33%) in their local government's ability to take on these new tasks.

LEGISLATURE'S RATING UP, OBAMA AT RECORD LOW, CONGRESS IS LOWER

Slightly more than a third of likely voters (37%) approve of the way the California Legislature is handling its job—up from 10 percent four years ago. They give a similar rating to their own assembly and state senate representatives (38%). This, too, is an improvement over 2010, when 30 percent approved of their own legislative representatives. Asked a general question about party preference, 48 percent of likely voters say they would vote for the Democratic candidate for assembly in their district if the election were held today and 40 percent say they would vote for the Republican candidate.

President Obama has a record-low 44 percent job approval rating among California likely voters, and they continue to disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job (16% approve, 79% disapprove). They give their own representative in the U.S. House a much higher rating of 47 percent. If the election were held today, 48 percent of likely voters would vote for the Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in their district and 41 percent would vote for the Republican.

California likely voters are more likely to have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party (44% favorable, 50% unfavorable) than the Republican Party (30% favorable, 64% unfavorable). But that does not mean they are satisfied. Favorability for both parties has declined since October 2012, when 53 percent had a favorable impression of the Democratic Party and 38 percent had a favorable impression of the Republican Party. Today, a solid majority (63%) say that both parties do such a poor job representing the American people that a third party is needed. The share of likely voters expressing this view has increased 11 points since October 2012 (52%).

AN 'ENTHUSIASM GAP' THIS ELECTION YEAR

How does all of this translate into likely voters' level of enthusiasm for voting in November? While 40 percent say they are more enthusiastic than in previous elections, a similar share (42%) say they are less enthusiastic. Larger shares of likely voters said they were more enthusiastic about voting in the last gubernatorial election (53% October 2010) and in the last presidential election (61% October 2012).

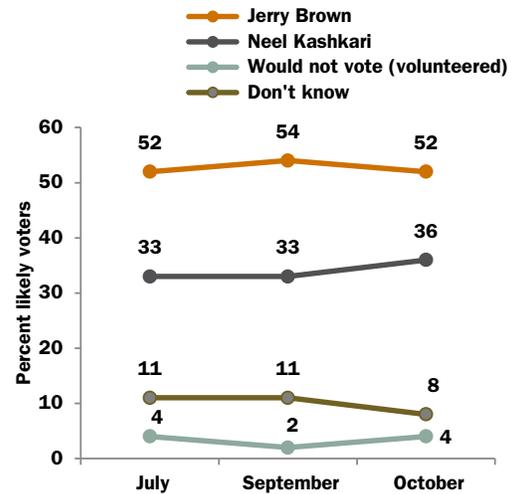
"California likely voters are signaling an enthusiasm gap that cuts across party lines," Baldassare said. "The potential for another low turnout election is troubling for California."

NOVEMBER 2014 ELECTION

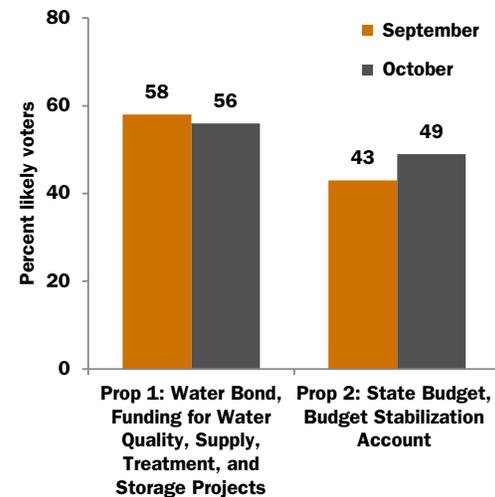
KEY FINDINGS

- In the closing weeks of the governor's race, incumbent Jerry Brown has a 16 point lead over challenger Neel Kashkari. *(page 7)*
- Attention to news about gubernatorial candidates and enthusiasm about voting are both lower than in previous years; Democrats are far more satisfied than Republicans with their choice of gubernatorial candidates. *(page 7)*
- Asked which party's candidate they would prefer in races for the California State Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives, voters responded strongly along party lines. *(page 8)*
- Fifty-six percent of likely voters would vote in favor of Proposition 1, which authorizes \$7.5 billion for water quality, supply, treatment, and storage projects. More than half view the outcome of the vote as very important. *(page 9)*
- Forty-nine percent of likely voters (up 6 points from September) would vote yes on Proposition 2, which would establish a budget stabilization account; 33 percent view the outcome as very important. *(page 10)*
- Thirty-nine percent of likely voters (down 9 points from September), would vote yes on Proposition 45, which would require approval for changes to health insurance rates. About half consider the outcome of Proposition 45 very important. *(page 11)*
- On Proposition 47, 59 percent of likely voters would vote yes (down 3 points since September). This measure reduces sentences for certain drug and property offences. Forty-nine percent consider the outcome as very important. *(page 12)*

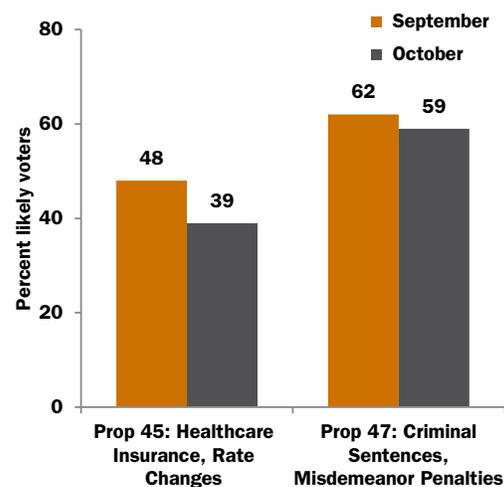
2014 Gubernatorial Election



Percent Supporting Propositions 1 and 2



Percent Supporting Propositions 45 and 47



GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION

With just weeks remaining in the gubernatorial race, about half likely voters are either very (18%) or fairly (34%) closely following news about the candidates. Attention to news was higher in October 2006, the most recent election that involved an incumbent (19% very, 55% fairly). Attention to news is far lower today than it was in October 2010 (39% very, 50% fairly).

Incumbent Jerry Brown, a Democrat, has a 16 point lead over Republican Neel Kashkari (52% to 36%) and he held a 21 point lead in September (54% to 33%) and a 19 point lead in July (52% to 33%). Today, 83 percent of Democrats support Brown and 71 percent of Republicans support Kashkari. Similar shares of independents would vote for Brown (44%) or Kashkari (40%) and 13 percent are still unsure. Brown has the support of at least half of likely voters in the San Francisco Bay Area (61%), Los Angeles (55%), and the Central Valley (50%). Kashkari has majority support only in Orange/San Diego (51%). Likely voters in the Inland Empire are divided (41% Brown, 44% Kashkari). Men and women are equally likely (52% each) and Latinos (73%) are far more likely than whites (44%) to support Brown.

“If the November 4th election for governor were being held today, would you vote for Jerry Brown, a Democrat, or Neel Kashkari, a Republican?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	Jerry Brown, a Democrat	Neel Kashkari, a Republican	Would not vote for governor (volunteered)	Don't know	
All likely voters	52%	36%	4%	8%	
Party	Democrats	83	10	1	6
	Republicans	14	71	5	10
	Independents	44	40	3	13
Region	Central Valley	50	41	1	8
	San Francisco Bay Area	61	23	3	12
	Los Angeles	55	32	5	8
	Orange/San Diego	37	51	7	6
	Inland Empire	41	44	3	12
Gender	Men	52	38	5	5
	Women	52	34	2	12
Race/Ethnicity*	Latinos	73	19	1	8
	Whites	44	45	4	7

*Sample sizes for Asian and black likely voters are too small for separate analysis.

Fifty-two percent of likely voters are satisfied with their choice of candidates for governor, and 37 percent are not satisfied. Satisfaction today is similar to October 2006 (51%) but higher than in October 2010 (42%). Satisfaction is far higher among Democrats (66%) and Brown supporters (73%) than among Republicans (36%) and Kashkari (30%) supporters. Over half of independents (54%) are satisfied.

“In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for governor on November 4th?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Gubernatorial vote	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Jerry Brown	Neel Kashkari
Satisfied	52%	66%	36%	54%	73%	30%
Not satisfied	37	26	47	39	20	55
Don't know	12	8	17	6	7	15

CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

California's likely voters are about as likely to be less enthusiastic (42%) as they are to be more enthusiastic (40%) than usual about voting in the November 4th election, while 15 percent say their level of enthusiasm is the same. Likely voters were much more likely to say they were more enthusiastic about voting in both the 2010 gubernatorial election (53% October 2010) and the 2012 presidential election (61% October 2012). Similar shares across parties (44% independents, 42% Democrats, 41% Republicans,) express less enthusiasm about voting in this election. Among Kashkari supporters, 41 percent are less enthusiastic, and 38 percent of Brown supporters express less enthusiasm than usual. Women (47%) are more likely than men (36%) to express less enthusiasm. In a recent NBC News/Wall Street Journal survey among registered voters nationwide, 44 percent of voters were more enthusiastic, 39 percent were less enthusiastic, and 16 percent felt the same level of enthusiasm as in previous elections.

“Thinking about the November 4th election, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites
More enthusiastic	40%	38%	44%	40%	42%	41%
Less enthusiastic	42	42	41	44	37	42
Same/Neither (volunteered)	15	18	13	14	15	14
Don't know	3	3	2	1	6	2

In races for the U.S. House of Representatives, likely voters prefer Democratic candidates over Republican candidates by 7 points (48% to 41%). Findings were similar in October 2006, when Democratic candidates were preferred over Republican candidates by 11 points (52% to 41%). In a recent ABC News/Washington Post survey, registered voters nationwide were closely divided (46% Democratic candidate, 44% Republican candidate). In California, 84 percent of Democrats and 88 percent of Republicans would vote for their own party's candidate. Among independents, 41 percent would vote Democratic, 35 percent would vote Republican, and 24 percent are unsure.

“If the 2014 election for U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate in your district? (If other/unsure: As of today, do you lean more toward the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate?)”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Race/Ethnicity	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Latinos	Whites
Republican candidate	41%	9%	88%	35%	17%	52%
Democratic candidate	48	84	5	41	76	37
Don't know	11	7	7	24	8	11

Similarly, if the 2014 election for the California State Assembly were held today, 48 percent of likely voters would vote for the Democratic candidate and 40 percent would vote for the Republican candidate in their district. Voter preferences fall strongly along party lines. Among independents, 40 percent favor the Democratic candidate and 35 percent favor the Republican candidate. A strong majority of Latinos (72%) would vote for the Democrat, while half of white likely voters (50%) would vote for the Republican. More than half of likely voters in the San Francisco Bay Area (57%) and Los Angeles (55%) favor the Democratic candidate; while at least half of likely voters in Orange/San Diego (58%), the Inland Empire (55%), and the Central Valley (50%) prefer the Republican candidate.

PROPOSITION 1

In the midst of a severe drought, California voters will be voting on Proposition 1, a \$7.5 billion bond measure to fund water quality, supply, treatment, and storage projects. The measure was removed from previous years' ballots and scaled down from \$11.1 billion. When read the ballot title and label, 56 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes, 32 percent would vote no, and 12 percent are undecided. Findings were similar last month (58% yes, 29% no, 14% unsure). Proposition 1 has majority support among Democrats (68%) and independents (56%); Republicans are closely divided (43% yes, 43% no). More than half of likely voters in Los Angeles (67%), the Central Valley (58%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (57%) support Proposition 1, while residents in Orange/San Diego (43% yes, 45% no) and the Inland Empire (44% yes, 48% no) are divided. Majorities of Latinos (62%) and whites (56%) as well as men (59%) and women (54%) support Proposition 1.

“Proposition 1 is called the ‘Water Bond. Funding for Water Quality, Supply, Treatment, and Storage Projects.’ If the election were held today would you vote yes or no on Proposition 1?”*

Likely voters only		Yes	No	Don't know
All likely voters		56%	32%	12%
Party	Democrats	68	20	12
	Republicans	43	43	14
	Independents	56	35	9
Region	Central Valley	58	30	12
	San Francisco Bay Area	57	30	13
	Los Angeles	67	21	12
	Orange/San Diego	43	45	12
	Inland Empire	44	48	8
Income	Under \$40,000	57	28	14
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	61	33	5
	\$80,000 or more	55	31	14

*For complete text of proposition question, see p. 27.

Fifty-four percent of likely voters say the outcome of Proposition 1 is very important to them. The belief that the outcome is very important is highest among Democrats (57%), followed by independents (51%) and Republicans (48%). More than half of supporters and opponents of Proposition 1 consider the outcome to be very important. Majorities of Latinos (66%) and whites (51%) as well as men (55%) and women (54%) hold this view. Across regions, likely voters in the Central Valley (66%) are the most likely to view the outcome as very important, followed by those in San Francisco Bay Area (55%), the Inland Empire (54%), Los Angeles (50%), and Orange/San Diego (48%).

“How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 1?”

Likely voters only	All likely voters	Party			Vote on Proposition 1	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	54%	57%	48%	51%	57%	53%
Somewhat important	33	34	38	33	37	31
Not too important	7	5	10	12	4	13
Not at all important	2	2	1	2	1	3
Don't know	3	3	4	3	1	1

PROPOSITION 2

After passing Proposition 30 two years ago and with the state budget situation continuing to improve, voters will decide whether to require annual transfer of state general fund revenues to establish a budget stabilization account, or rainy day fund, to be used in repaying state debts and emergencies or budget deficits. Proposition 2 is a replacement for another rainy day fund amendment that was originally slated for the 2012 ballot. When read the ballot title and label, 49 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes, 34 percent would vote no, and 17 percent are undecided. Support is up 6 points from last month, when 43 percent of likely voters said they would vote yes, 33 percent said they would vote no, and 24 percent were unsure. Pluralities across parties say they would vote yes. About half of likely voters in the Central Valley (51%), Los Angeles (50%), and Orange/San Diego (50%) would vote yes, while fewer than half in the Inland Empire (45%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (44%) would do so. About half of whites (50%, 32% no) would vote yes, while Latinos are divided (44% yes, 39% no). Half of men (50%) and women (48%) would vote yes. Pluralities across education and income groups would vote yes on Proposition 2.

“Proposition 2 is called the ‘State Budget. Budget Stabilization Account Legislative Constitutional Amendment.’ If the election were held today would you vote yes or no on Proposition 2?”*

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don't know
All likely voters		49%	34%	17%
Party	Democrats	53	30	16
	Republicans	49	34	17
	Independents	49	37	14
Region	Central Valley	51	30	19
	San Francisco Bay Area	44	36	20
	Los Angeles	50	32	18
	Orange/San Diego	50	38	12
	Inland Empire	45	42	12
Income	Under \$40,000	52	33	15
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	55	33	12
	\$80,000 or more	45	33	22

*For complete text of proposition question, see p. 27.

One in three likely voters (33%) say the outcome of Proposition 2 is very important to them. Independents (36%) are the most likely to hold this view, followed by Republicans (32%) and Democrats (29%). Fewer than four in 10 of both supporters and opponents see the outcome as very important, but opponents are more likely than supporters to say it is not too or not at all important.

“How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 2?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Vote on Proposition 2	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	33%	29%	32%	36%	36%	33%
Somewhat important	44	48	44	42	54	36
Not too important	13	13	12	16	6	24
Not at all important	4	4	5	1	3	5
Don't know	7	6	7	5	1	1

PROPOSITION 45

Proposition 45 would require the insurance commissioner’s approval for changes to health insurance rates. When read the ballot title and label, 39 percent of likely voters would vote yes, 46 percent would vote no, and 15 percent are unsure. Support has declined 9 points since September, when 48 percent of likely voters said they would vote yes, 38 percent said they would vote no, and 14 percent were unsure. Democrats (48%) and independents (46%) are more likely than Republicans (25%) to say they would vote yes. Support among likely voters is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (44%) and Los Angeles (44%), followed by the Inland Empire (36%), the Central Valley (33%), and Orange/San Diego (29%). Latino likely voters (46%) are much more likely than whites (34%) to say they would vote yes. Fewer than half of likely voters across education and income groups would vote yes on Proposition 45.

**“Proposition 45 is called the ‘Healthcare Insurance. Rate Changes. Initiative Statute.’
If the election were held today would you vote yes or no on Proposition 45?”***

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don’t know
All likely voters		39%	46%	15%
Party	Democrats	48	38	15
	Republicans	25	61	14
	Independents	46	43	11
Region	Central Valley	33	49	18
	San Francisco Bay Area	44	39	17
	Los Angeles	44	42	14
	Orange/San Diego	29	59	12
	Inland Empire	36	56	8
Income	Under \$40,000	48	35	16
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	41	53	6
	\$80,000 or more	34	51	15

*For complete text of proposition question, see p. 28.

Slightly more than half of likely voters (53%) say the outcome of Proposition 45 is very important to them. In September, 42 percent said the outcome was very important. Republicans (57%) and Democrats (53%) are more likely than independents (43%) to hold this view. More than half of those who favor (54%) and those who oppose (58%) Proposition 45 think the outcome of the vote is very important.

“How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 45?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Vote on Proposition 45	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	53%	53%	57%	43%	54%	58%
Somewhat important	32	38	26	40	38	32
Not too important	7	5	5	13	5	7
Not at all important	3	2	5	2	2	3
Don’t know	5	3	7	3	–	1

PROPOSITION 47

Proposition 47 requires misdemeanor instead of felony sentences for certain drug and property offenses but is inapplicable to registered sex offenders and persons with prior convictions for serious or violent crimes. When read the ballot title and label, 59 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes, 29 percent would vote no, and 12 percent are unsure. Support was similar in September, when 62 percent of likely voters said they would vote yes, 25 percent said they would vote no, and 13 percent were unsure. Two in three Democrats (67%) and independents (65%) say they would vote yes, while Republicans are more divided (48% yes, 40% no). At least half of likely voters across regions would vote yes (64% San Francisco Bay Area, 59% Los Angeles, 57% Orange/San Diego, 56% Inland Empire, 51% Central Valley). White likely voters (60%) are somewhat more likely than Latinos (52%) to say they would vote yes. Majorities across income groups would vote yes; support is slightly higher among likely voters with at least some college (61%) than among those with a high school degree or less (53%).

“Proposition 47 is called the ‘Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties. Initiative Statute.’ If the election were held today would you vote yes or no on Proposition 47?”*

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don't know
All likely voters		59%	29%	12%
Party	Democrats	67	22	11
	Republicans	48	40	12
	Independents	65	24	12
Region	Central Valley	51	34	16
	San Francisco Bay Area	64	23	13
	Los Angeles	59	30	12
	Orange/San Diego	57	30	14
	Inland Empire	56	34	10
Income	Under \$40,000	64	26	10
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	60	30	10
	\$80,000 or more	57	31	11

*For complete text of proposition question, see p. 28.

Half of likely voters (49%) say the outcome of the vote on Proposition 47 is very important. In September, 42 percent said the outcome was very important. Half of Democrats and independents hold this view, as do nearly half of Republicans. Fifty-five percent of those who would vote yes and 48 percent of those who would vote no say the outcome is very important.

“How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 47?”

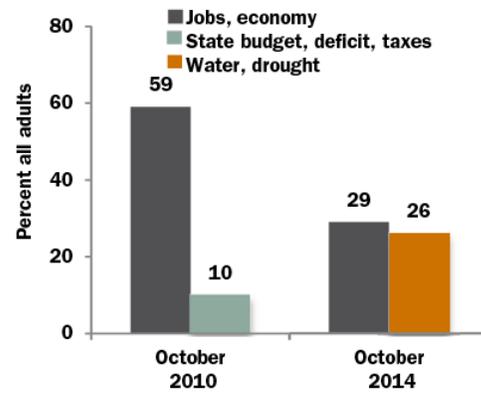
<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Vote on Proposition 47	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	49%	50%	46%	50%	55%	48%
Somewhat important	35	34	36	35	36	34
Not too important	8	10	7	10	8	9
Not at all important	3	2	4	2	1	8
Don't know	5	4	7	2	–	1

STATE AND NATIONAL ISSUES

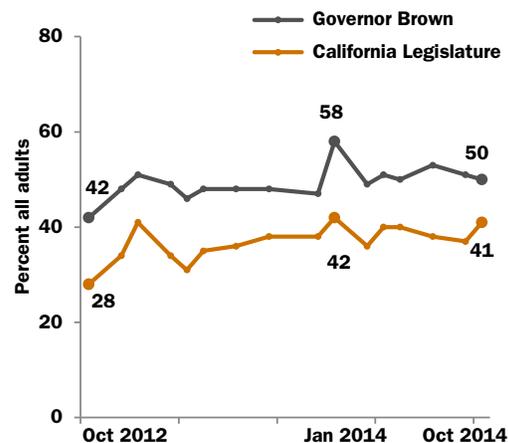
KEY FINDINGS

- Californians mention jobs and the economy, and water and drought as the top issues facing the state. *(page 14)*
- Overall mood and economic outlook for the state has improved since the last gubernatorial election. *(page 14)*
- Leading up to the general election, 50 percent of adults and 54 percent of likely voters approve of Governor Brown. Approval of the legislature is at 41 percent; 43 percent of Californians approve of their own state legislators. *(page 15)*
- President Obama's approval remains near his record low. Despite low ratings for the U.S. Congress (24%), 48 percent of Californians approve of their own representative in the U.S. House of Representatives. *(page 16)*
- The share saying regional water supply is a big problem is at a record high (68%). Most Californians are following news about the current drought. Nearly six in 10 say state and local governments are not doing enough to respond to the drought. *(page 17)*
- A majority of Californians view the state budget situation as a big problem and favor the idea of a rainy day fund. *(page 18)*
- Half of Californians view crime as a big problem in the state, with Central Valley residents being the most likely to hold this view. *(page 19)*
- Californians continue to hold mixed views about the 2010 health care reform law. *(page 20)*
- Favorable impressions of both major parties have declined since the last presidential election. *(page 21)*

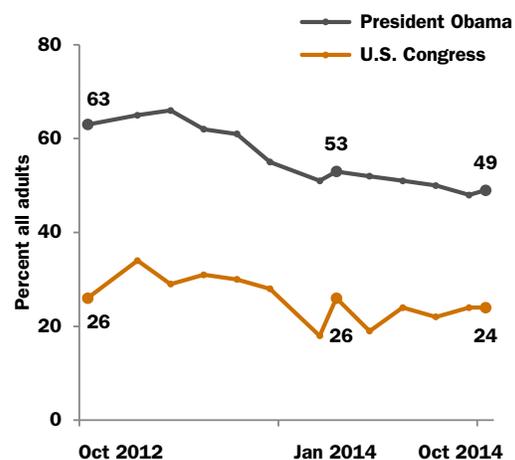
Top Two Issues Facing California Compared to the 2010 Gubernatorial Election



Approval Ratings of State Elected Officials



Approval Ratings of Federal Elected Officials



OVERALL MOOD

Californians today are as likely to say that the most important issue facing the state today is jobs/the economy (29%) as they are to say water/drought (26%). Four years ago, 59 percent of adults named jobs/the economy. Trends are similar today for likely voters (30% jobs, 28% water). Across regions, water/drought is the top issue in the Central Valley (38%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (31%), while fewer mention this issue in Orange/San Diego (20%), Los Angeles (18%), and the Inland Empire (14%).

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

Top three issues mentioned	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
Jobs, economy	29%	23%	20%	35%	30%	38%	30%
Water, drought	26	38	31	18	20	14	28
Education, schools, teachers	6	3	9	8	6	3	5

At least four in 10 adults (47%) and likely voters (40%) say things in California are generally going in the right direction. Four years ago, 16 percent of adults and 12 percent of likely voters held this view. Today, Democrats (61%) say right direction more often than independents (43%) or Republicans (20%) do. San Francisco Bay Area residents (59%) are more likely to hold this view than those living elsewhere (53% Orange/San Diego, 47% Los Angeles, 46% Inland Empire, 28% Central Valley).

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

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Right direction	47%	61%	20%	43%	40%
Wrong direction	46	30	74	52	54
Don't know	7	9	6	5	6

About four in 10 adults (45%) and likely voters (42%) say the state will have good times financially in the next 12 months. Four years ago, 25 percent of adults and 20 percent of likely voters held this view. Today, San Francisco Bay Area (58%) residents are more likely to expect good economic times than residents in Los Angeles (47%), the Inland Empire (42%), Orange/San Diego (40%), and the Central Valley (35%). Democrats (60%) express more economic optimism than independents (37%) and Republicans (25%).

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

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
Good times	45%	35%	58%	47%	40%	42%	42%
Bad times	44	58	28	42	48	50	47
Don't know	11	8	14	11	12	7	11

APPROVAL OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Within a month of the November 4 election, 50 percent of adults and 54 percent of likely voters approve of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor. Two years ago, 42 percent of adults and 45 percent of likely voters approved of Governor Brown’s job performance. Today, the governor’s approval rating is far higher among Democrats (72%) than among independents (49%) or Republicans (26%). His approval rating is somewhat higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (59%) and Los Angeles (54%) than in the Central Valley (48%), the Inland Empire (41%), and Orange/San Diego (41%). Approval is similar among men (52%) and women (48%); pluralities across age, education, income, and racial/ethnic groups approve of his job performance.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	50%	72%	26%	49%	54%
Disapprove	28	16	63	32	37
Don’t know	22	12	12	19	9

Forty-one percent of California adults and 37 percent of likely voters approve of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job. Two years ago, 28 percent of adults and 21 percent of likely voters approved of its performance. Four years ago, 16 percent of adults and 10 percent of likely voters approved of its job performance. Today, 54 percent of Democrats express approval, compared to 34 percent of independents and 14 percent of Republicans. Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (50%) are the mostly likely to approve of the legislature, followed by Los Angeles (45%), Orange/San Diego (38%), the Inland Empire (33%), and the Central Valley (27%). Approval is similar among men (42%) and women (40%). Whites (29%) and blacks (39%) express lower approval than Latinos (53%). Approval of the legislature tends to decline as income levels rise and is lower among homeowners than renters.

Forty-three percent of adults and 38 percent of likely voters approve of the job of their own state legislators. These approval ratings were at 36 percent for adults and 35 percent for likely voters in September 2012, and at 31 percent for adults and 30 percent for likely voters in September 2010. Today, Democrats (52%) give higher approval ratings to their state legislators than do independents (42%) or Republicans (24%). San Francisco Bay Area (50%) residents are the most likely to approve, followed by Los Angeles (45%), Orange/San Diego (43%), Central Valley (37%), and the Inland Empire (36%). Approval is identical among men and women (43% each), while homeowners (40%) are slightly less likely than renters (48%) to hold this view. Approval is lower among blacks (36%) and whites (38%) than among Latinos (50%).

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that...?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters	
		Dem	Rep	Ind		
the California Legislature is handling its job	Approve	41%	54%	14%	34%	37%
	Disapprove	42	31	75	51	51
	Don’t know	17	16	11	15	13
the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time	Approve	43	52	24	42	38
	Disapprove	39	34	62	45	50
	Don’t know	18	14	14	13	12

APPROVAL OF FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

President Obama’s job approval rating remains near his record low. Nearly half (49%) of Californians say they approve of the way he is handling his job, while a similar proportion disapprove (46%). Nationally, the president’s job approval among all adults stands at 40 percent (51% disapprove) in a recent ABC News/Washington Post poll. Likely voters in California are more likely to disapprove (53%) than to approve (44%). Partisan differences are notable, with nearly three in four Democrats (73%) approving of President Obama and nine in 10 Republicans (90%) disapproving. Independents are more divided, with 44 percent approving and about half (51%) disapproving. Majorities of blacks (80%) and Latinos (55%) approve of the job the president is doing, but 37 percent of whites do so.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Approve	49%	73%	10%	44%	44%
Disapprove	46	22	90	51	53
Don’t know	5	5	1	5	3

A strong majority (68%) of Californians continue to disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job (24% approve). Among adults nationwide, Congress has an even lower approval rating, with only 15 percent saying they approve and 78 percent saying they disapprove in a recent CBS News poll. Eight in 10 California likely voters (79%) disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job. Strong majorities of Democrats (72%), Republicans (80%), and independents (74%) say they disapprove of the way the Congress is handling its job.

Despite low approval of Congress overall, nearly half of Californians (48%) approve of the way their own representative is handling his or her job in the U.S. House of Representatives (39% disapprove). These results are similar to those in May (48% approve, 36% disapprove). Today, nearly half of likely voters (47%) approve of their own representative (44% disapprove). Democrats (57%) are more likely to approve of their own representative than are independents (44%) or Republicans (38%). Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (55%) are the most likely to approve of their representative, followed by those in Los Angeles (51%), Inland Empire (48%), Orange/San Diego (46%), and the Central Valley (37%).

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way...?”

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
<i>the U.S. Congress is handling its job</i>	Approve	24%	22%	16%	19%	16%
	Disapprove	68	72	80	74	79
	Don’t know	8	5	5	7	5
<i>your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives is handling his or her job</i>	Approve	48	57	38	44	47
	Disapprove	39	35	52	44	44
	Don’t know	14	8	10	11	9

WATER POLICY

At a time when water and the drought are of great concern, overwhelming majorities of Californians say the supply of water is a big problem (68%). This level of concern is at an all-time high this year (55% March, 59% May, 54% July, and 65% September). Those living in California’s inland areas (72%) are slightly more likely than those living in coastal areas (66%) to say water supply is a big problem. Moreover, residents in the Central Valley (79%), California’s primary agricultural region, are the most likely to say that the supply of water in their area is big problem, followed by those in Orange/San Diego (70%), Los Angeles (65%), the San Francisco Bay Area (65%), and the Inland Empire (63%). Across racial/ethnic groups, whites (76%) are more likely than blacks (68%) or Latinos (64%) to say water supply is a big problem. Women (72%) are somewhat more likely than men (64%) to hold this view. The perception that the supply of water is a big problem is more widely held among older, more educated, and more affluent Californians than others.

“Would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?”

	All adults	Region					Inland/Coastal	
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	Inland	Coastal
Big problem	68%	79%	65%	65%	70%	63%	72%	66%
Somewhat of a problem	17	11	22	17	18	18	14	19
Not much of a problem	13	7	13	17	12	17	12	14
Don't know	1	3	1	1	–	2	2	1

A vast majority of Californians are following the news about the drought either very closely (50%) or fairly closely (32%); far fewer say not too closely (13%) or not at all closely (4%). With reports that drought conditions are not expected to abate during the upcoming winter, do Californians think their state and local governments are doing enough to respond to current conditions? A solid majority of Californians (57%) think their state and local governments are not doing enough, a small minority (5%) say that they are doing too much, and three in 10 (31%) say they are doing the right amount. Residents of the Central Valley and Orange/San Diego (62% each) are slightly more likely than residents in Los Angeles (56%), the Inland Empire (55%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (53%) to say governments are not doing enough. Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (75%) are much more likely to hold this view than whites (60%) and Latinos (54%). The opinion that governments are not doing enough is higher among Californians age 18 to 34 (62%) than it is among those age 35 to 54 (53%) or those older than 55 (58%). Among those who consider their regional water supply to be a big problem, 62 percent say their state and local governments are not doing enough.

“Overall, do you think that the state and local governments are doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to respond to the current drought in California?”

	All adults	Region					Inland/Coastal	
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	Inland	Coastal
Too much	5%	4%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%	6%
The right amount	31	23	36	32	27	34	28	32
Not enough	57	62	53	56	62	55	59	57
Don't know	7	11	5	6	6	6	9	6

STATE BUDGET SITUATION

A majority of Californians (54%) and likely voters (62%) say that the state budget situation in California is a big problem today. Two years ago, 70 percent of adults and 80 percent of likely voters said that the state budget situation was a big problem. This view was even more widespread in September 2010 (80% adults, 90% likely voters). Today, Republicans (76%) are much more likely than independents (65%) or Democrats (48%) to say the state budget situation is a big problem. San Francisco Bay Area (46%) residents are less likely to think that it is a big problem than residents elsewhere (55% Orange/San Diego, 55% Los Angeles, 56% Inland Empire, 62% Central Valley). At least half of men (50%) and women (57%), as well as homeowners (57%) and renters (50%), regard the state budget situation as a big problem. Whites (60%) are more likely than blacks (53%) or Latinos (48%) to hold this view. About three in four of those who expect bad times financially in the next 12 months (73%), and who perceive that the state is currently going in the wrong direction (75%), say that the state budget situation in California is a big problem today.

“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?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Big problem	54%	48%	76%	65%	62%
Somewhat of a problem	33	42	17	29	29
Not a problem	7	7	4	4	6
Don't know	6	3	3	2	3

The fiscal reform concept behind Proposition 2—increasing the size of the state’s rainy day fund and requiring above-average revenues to be deposited into it—has majority support among all adults (56%) and likely voters (55%). This concept has been supported by at least 70 percent of Californians since we first asked this question in May 2010 (74% May 2010, 73% January 2011, 70% May 2011, 72% December 2012, and 73% January 2014). Today, majorities of Democrats (58%) and independents (52%) and 49 percent of Republicans say they favor it. At least half across age, education, income, racial/ethnic, and regional groups are in favor of this proposal. Of those who say the state budget situation is a big problem today, 52 percent support this idea. Among the likely voters who say they will vote for Proposition 2, 70 percent are in favor of increasing the size of the rainy day fund.

“Fiscal reforms have been proposed to address the structural issues in the state budget and local budget issues. Do you favor or oppose increasing the size of the state’s rainy day fund and requiring above-average revenues to be deposited into it for use during economic downturns?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	56%	58%	49%	52%	55%
Oppose	29	30	33	33	30
Don't know	15	12	17	15	15

PUBLIC SAFETY

Although just 4 percent of Californians name crime, drugs, and gangs as the most important issue facing the state, nine in 10 say that crime is a big problem (50%) or somewhat of a problem (38%) in California today. More Californians said crime was a big problem the first time we asked this question in May 1998 (66% big problem, 28% somewhat of a problem). Residents in the Central Valley (65%) are the most likely to view crime as a big problem, followed by those in the Inland Empire (55%), Los Angeles (51%), the San Francisco Bay Area (43%), and Orange/San Diego (38%). Across parties, Republicans (63%) are more likely than Democrats (52%) or independents (46%) to say it is a big problem. Blacks (62%) are more likely than Latinos (52%) or whites (53%) to hold this view. Women (53%) are slightly more likely than men (46%) to hold this view. Younger Californians (38% age 18 to 34) are much less likely than older Californians (54% age 35 to 54; 58% age 55 and older) to view crime as a big problem. College graduates (38%) are much less likely than those with some college (54%) or those with a high school education or less (54%) to hold this view. The perception of crime as a big problem is higher among those with annual household incomes of \$40,000 or less (53%) than among those with higher incomes (46% \$40,000 to \$80,000; 45% \$80,000 or more).

“In your opinion, how much of a problem is crime in California today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
Big problem	50%	65%	43%	51%	38%	55%	54%
Somewhat of a problem	38	27	41	38	49	36	33
Not much of a problem	11	7	14	11	13	9	12
Don't know	1	1	1	-	1	-	1

Corrections realignment began in October 2011 when some of the state’s lower-risk inmates were shifted from state prisons to county jails. How much confidence do Californians have in their local government’s ability to take on the responsibilities of corrections realignment? About half of Californians are very (12%) or somewhat confident (36%) in their local government’s ability to handle this responsibility, while about half say they are not too (26%) or not at all confident (22%). This confidence level was similar in September 2013 (40%), but was higher in September 2011 (48%), December 2011 (53%), January 2012 (50%), and January 2013 (49%). Confidence is somewhat higher in the Inland Empire (55%), Orange/San Diego (55%), and the San Francisco Bay Area (55%) than in Los Angeles (47%) and the Central Valley (37%). Confidence is higher among Democrats (54%) and independents (50%) than among or Republicans (37%).

“As you may know, state funding is being provided to shift some of the lower-risk inmates from state prisons to county jails to reduce prison overcrowding and lower state costs. How confident are you that your local government is able to take on this responsibility?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	San Francisco Bay Area	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	Inland Empire	
Very confident	12%	9%	11%	13%	13%	16%	13%
Somewhat confident	36	28	44	34	42	39	33
Not too confident	26	33	24	27	23	17	29
Not at all confident	22	26	18	23	19	26	23
Don't know	3	3	3	3	3	2	2

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Californians continue to be closely divided on the federal health care reform law: 46 percent have a generally favorable opinion and 44 percent have a generally unfavorable one. Results are similar to those from December 2013, and the January, March, May, and September surveys of this year. According to a September Kaiser Family Foundation poll, adults nationally are less likely to hold a favorable view of the health care law than Californians are (35% nationally, 46% California). The partisan divide persists on this issue: a majority of Democrats (68%) say they have a generally favorable view of this law, a majority of Republicans (77%) say they have a generally unfavorable view. Independents are equally divided (47% favorable, 47% unfavorable). Favorable views about the law are higher among college graduates (52%) than among those with some college (40%) or a high school education or less (46%). Similarly, residents earning more than \$80,000 annually (52%) are slightly more likely to have a favorable view than residents in lower income brackets (45% \$40,000 to \$80,000, and 47% \$40,000 or less). As the second period of enrollment for the Affordable Care Act is set to begin, uninsured Californians are divided in their opinion of the law (47% favorable, 43% unfavorable), as are those who have health insurance (47% favorable, 43% unfavorable).

“As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?”

	All adults	Party			Have health insurance	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Generally favorable	46%	68%	15%	47%	47%	42%
Generally unfavorable	44	23	77	47	43	47
Don't know	11	9	9	6	10	11

A plurality of Californians say the health care law will not make much difference (39%) in the long run, while about one in three say it will either be good (29%) or bad (28%) for them and their families. Similarly, among likely voters, 35 percent say it will not make much difference, while about one in three says it will either be good (29%) or bad (33%). Findings were similar in March (34% good, 26% bad, 36% would not make much difference). Differences exist across political parties: Democrats are far more likely (46%) than Republicans (6%) or independents (23%) to say it will be good in the long run. Across racial/ethnic groups, blacks (45%), and Latinos (32%) are more likely than whites (23%) to hold an optimistic view. Residents in the San Francisco Bay Area (35%) are the most likely—and those in the Central Valley (20%) are the least likely—to think the law will be good in the long run. In a similar question asked by the Pew Research Center in September among adults nationwide, 27 percent said the overall effect of the health care law over the coming years would be mostly positive, 38 percent said mostly negative, and 33 percent said it would not have much of an effect.

“In the long run, do you think the health care law will be good or bad for you and your family, or won't it make much difference?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Good	29%	46%	6%	23%	29%
Bad	28	12	61	27	33
Won't make much difference	39	37	31	45	35
Don't know	4	4	1	5	3

PARTY PERCEPTIONS

Californians are divided in their impressions of the Democratic Party (46% favorable, 43% unfavorable), but they are more likely to have an unfavorable view of the Republican Party (29% favorable, 59% unfavorable). Favorable impressions of both parties have declined since October 2012, when 58 percent of Californians had a positive view of the Democratic Party and 35 percent had a positive one of the Republican Party. In an October 2014 ABC/Washington Post poll among adults nationwide, at least half had an unfavorable impression of both the Democratic Party (39% favorable, 51% unfavorable) and the Republican Party (33% favorable, 56% unfavorable).

Notably, Democrats are much more likely to have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party (73%), than Republicans are to have of the Republican Party (58%). A strong majority of independents (67%) have an unfavorable impression of the Republican Party and about half (52%) have an unfavorable impression of the Democratic Party.

While majorities of blacks (70%) and Latinos (55%) have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party, whites (35%) are less likely to share this view. One in three or fewer Latinos (29%) and whites (33%) have a favorable impression of the Republican Party; even fewer blacks (20%) do so.

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

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
the Democratic Party	Favorable	46%	73%	15%	32%	44%
	Unfavorable	43	24	79	52	50
	Don't know	10	3	6	15	6
the Republican Party	Favorable	29	16	58	19	30
	Unfavorable	59	79	33	67	64
	Don't know	12	5	9	15	6

When asked if the Republican and Democratic parties do an adequate job representing the American people or whether they do such a poor job that a third party is needed, a majority of Californians (58%) say there is a need for a third major party. Only 29 percent of Californians believe that the Democratic and Republican parties are doing an adequate job—a decrease of 15 percentage points from October 2012, when 44 percent said the two major parties did an adequate job. Independents (71%, up 12 points since October 2012) are much more likely than Republicans (59%) or Democrats (56%) to say that a third party is needed. A majority of Californians across age, gender, education, income, and regional groups believe in the need for a third party. In a September Gallup poll, the share of adults nationwide saying a third party is needed (58%, 35% adequate job) was identical to Californians in our survey today.

“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	29%	34%	25%	19%	24%
Third party is needed	58	56	59	71	63
Don't know	13	10	16	10	13

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 Jui Shrestha, project manager for this survey, Dean Bonner, associate survey director, and survey research associates Renatta DeFever and Lunna Lopes. The *Californians and Their Government* series is supported with funding from The James Irvine Foundation. The PPIC Statewide Survey invites input, comments, and suggestions from policy and public opinion experts and from its own advisory committee, but survey methods, questions, and content are determined solely by PPIC’s survey team.

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 1,704 California adult residents, including 1,106 interviewed on landline telephones and 598 interviewed on cell phones. Interviews took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from October 12–19, 2014.

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, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as six times to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households. 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.

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, and the sample telephone numbers were called as many as eight times to increase the likelihood of reaching an eligible respondent. 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.

Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted by Abt SRBI, Inc., in English and Spanish, according to respondents’ preferences. Accent on Languages, Inc., translated new survey questions into Spanish.

Abt SRBI uses the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2010–2012 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 SRBI used 2012 state-level estimates released by the National Center for Health Statistics—which used data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the ACS—and 2013 estimates for the West Census Region in the latest NHIS report. 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 ± 3.5 percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,704 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.5 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. The sampling error for unweighted subgroups is larger: for the 1,281 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 4.1 percent; for the 976 likely voters, it is ± 4.6 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, likely voters, and primary likely voters, but sample sizes for these less populous areas are not large enough to report separately. In several places, we refer to coastal and inland counties. The “coastal” region refers to the counties along the California coast from Del Norte County to San Diego County and includes all the San Francisco Bay Area counties. All other counties are included in the “inland” region.

We present specific results for non-Hispanic whites 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 blacks, who comprise about 6 percent of the state’s adult population. Results for other racial/ethnic groups—such as Asians and Native Americans—are included in the results reported for all adults, registered voters, likely voters, but sample sizes are not large enough 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 by their responses to voter registration survey questions, previous election participation, and current interest in politics.

The percentages presented in the report tables and in the questionnaire may not add to 100 due to rounding.

We compare current PPIC Statewide Survey results to those in our earlier surveys and to those in national surveys by ABC News/Washington Post, CBS News, Gallup, Kaiser Family Foundation, NBC News/Wall Street Journal, and the Pew Research Center. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/content/other/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

October 12–19, 2014

1,704 California Adult Residents:
English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 3.5\%$ AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE
PERCENTAGES MAY NOT ADD TO 100 DUE TO ROUNDING

1. First, thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in California today?
[code, don't read]
 - 29% jobs, economy
 - 26 water, drought
 - 6 education, schools, teachers
 - 4 crime, gangs, drugs
 - 4 health care, health reform, Obamacare
 - 4 immigration, illegal immigration
 - 4 state budget, deficit, taxes
 - 3 environment, pollution, global warming
 - 2 government in general
 - 2 housing costs, availability
 - 11 other
 - 5 don't know
2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Jerry Brown is handling his job as governor of California?
 - 50% approve
 - 28 disapprove
 - 22 don't know
3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the California Legislature is handling its job?
 - 41% approve
 - 42 disapprove
 - 17 don't know
4. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time?
 - 43% approve
 - 39 disapprove
 - 18 don't know
5. Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?
 - 47% right direction
 - 46 wrong direction
 - 7 don't know
6. Turning to economic conditions in California, do you think that during the next 12 months we will have good times financially or bad times?
 - 45% good times
 - 44 bad times
 - 11 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?
 - 66% yes *[ask q7a]*
 - 34 no *[skip to q8e]*

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

- 44% Democrat *[ask q8]*
- 28 Republican *[ask q8a]*
- 5 another party (specify) *[ask q9]*
- 22 Independent *[skip to q8b]*

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

- 53% strong
- 45 not very strong
- 2 don't know

[skip to q9]

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

- 53% strong
- 44 not very strong
- 3 don't know

[skip to q9]

8b. 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?

- 26% join a political party
- 69 remain unaffiliated
- 5 don't know

8c. And were you previously registered with a major party or have you always been a decline-to-state or independent voter?

- 35% previously registered *[ask q8d]*
- 62 always been a decline-to-state or independent voter *[skip to q8e]*
- 3 don't know *[skip to q8e]*

8d. And what party were you previously registered with?

[code, don't read]

- 56% Republican Party
- 39 Democratic Party
- 1 other (specify)
- 4 don't know

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

- 24% Republican Party
- 45 Democratic Party
- 22 neither (volunteered)
- 9 don't know

[questions 9 to 21 reported for likely voters]

9. *[likely voters only]* If the November 4th election for governor were being held today, would you vote for *[rotate]* (1) Jerry Brown, a Democrat, *[or]* (2) Neel Kashkari a Republican?

- 52% Jerry Brown, a Democrat
- 36 Neel Kashkari, a Republican
- 4 would not vote for governor (volunteered)
- 8 don't know

10. *[likely voters only]* How closely are you following news about candidates for the 2014 governor's election—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 18% very closely
- 34 fairly closely
- 34 not too closely
- 13 not at all closely
- 1 don't know

11. *[likely voters only]* In general, would you say you are satisfied or not satisfied with your choices of candidates in the election for governor on November 4th?

- 52% satisfied
- 37 not satisfied
- 12 don't know

12. If the 2014 election for U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for **[rotate]** (1) (the Republican candidate) **[or]** (2) (the Democratic candidate) in your district? **[If other/don't know:** "As of today, do you lean more toward **[read in same order as above]** (1) the Republican candidate **[or]** (2) the Democratic candidate?"

- 41% Rep/lean Rep
- 48 Dem/lean Dem
- 11 don't know

13. If the 2014 election for the California State Assembly were being held today, would you vote for **[rotate]** (1) (the Republican candidate) **[or]** (2) (the Democratic candidate) in your district? **[If other/don't know:** "As of today, do you lean more toward **[read in same order as above]** (1) the Republican candidate **[or]** (2) the Democratic candidate?"

- 40% Rep/lean Rep
- 48 Dem/lean Dem
- 1 other (specify)
- 11 don't know

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

14. **[likely voters only]** Proposition 1 is called the "Water Bond. Funding for Water Quality, Supply, Treatment, and Storage Projects." It authorizes \$7.5 billion in general obligation bonds for state water supply infrastructure projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. Fiscal impact is increased: state bond costs averaging \$360 million annually over 40 years and local government savings for water-related projects, likely averaging a couple hundred million dollars annually over the next few decades. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 1?

- 56% yes
- 32 no
- 12 don't know

15. **[likely voters only]** How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 1—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 54% very important
- 33 somewhat important
- 7 not too important
- 2 not at all important
- 3 don't know

16. **[likely voters only]** Proposition 2 is called the "State Budget. Budget Stabilization Account. Legislative Constitutional Amendment." It requires annual transfer of state general fund revenues to budget stabilization account and requires half the revenues be used to repay state debts. It limits use of remaining funds to emergencies or budget deficits. Fiscal impact is long-term state savings from faster payment of existing debts and different levels of state budget reserves, depending on the economy and decisions by elected officials as well as smaller local reserves for some school districts. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 2?

- 49% yes
- 34 no
- 17 don't know

17. **[likely voters only]** How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 2—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 33% very important
- 44 somewhat important
- 13 not too important
- 4 not at all important
- 7 don't know

18. **[likely voters only]** Proposition 45 is called the “Healthcare Insurance. Rate Changes. Initiative Statute.” It requires the Insurance Commissioner’s approval before a health insurer can change its rates or anything else affecting the charges associated with health insurance. It provides for public notice, disclosure, and hearing, and subsequent judicial review, and exempts employer large group health plans. Fiscal impact is increased state administrative costs to regulate health insurance, likely not exceeding the low millions of dollars annually in most years, funded from fees paid by health insurance companies. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 45?

- 39% yes
- 46 no
- 15 don’t know

19. **[likely voters only]** How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 45—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 53% very important
- 32 somewhat important
- 7 not too important
- 3 not at all important
- 5 don’t know

20. **[likely voters only]** Proposition 47 is called the “Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties. Initiative Statute.” It requires a misdemeanor sentence instead of a felony for certain drug and property offenses and is inapplicable to persons with prior conviction for serious or violent crime and registered sex offenders. Fiscal impact is state and county criminal justice savings potentially in the high hundreds of millions of dollars annually and state savings spent on school truancy and dropout prevention, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and victim services. If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 47?

- 59% yes
- 29 no
- 12 don’t know

21. **[likely voters only]** How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 47—is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

- 49% very important
- 35 somewhat important
- 8 not too important
- 3 not at all important
- 5 don’t know

22. Changing topics, 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?

- 54% big problem
- 33 somewhat of a problem
- 7 not a problem
- 6 don’t know

23. Fiscal reforms have been proposed to address the structural issues in the state budget and local budget issues. Do you favor or oppose increasing the size of the state's rainy day fund and requiring above-average revenues to be deposited into it for use during economic downturns?

- 56% favor
- 29 oppose
- 15 don't know

Changing topics,

24. Would you say that the supply of water is a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem in your part of California?

- 68% big problem
- 17 somewhat of a problem
- 13 not much of a problem
- 1 don't know

25. How closely are you following news about the current drought in California—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

- 50% very closely
- 32 fairly closely
- 13 not too closely
- 4 not at all closely
- 1 don't know

25a. Overall, do you think that the state and local governments are doing too much, the right amount, or not enough to respond to the current drought in California?

- 5% too much
- 31 the right amount
- 57 not enough
- 7 don't know

Next,

26. In your opinion, how much of a problem is crime in California today? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not much of a problem?

- 50% big problem
- 38 somewhat of a problem
- 11 not much of a problem
- 1 don't know

27. As you may know, state funding is being provided to shift some of the lower-risk inmates from state prisons to county jails to reduce prison overcrowding and lower state costs. How confident are you that your local government is able to take on this responsibility? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

- 12% very confident
- 36 somewhat confident
- 26 not too confident
- 22 not at all confident
- 3 don't know

On another topic,

28. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as president of the United States?

- 49% approve
- 46 disapprove
- 5 don't know

29. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?

- 24% approve
- 68 disapprove
- 8 don't know

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

- 48% approve
- 39 disapprove
- 14 don't know

Next,

31. As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a [rotate] (1) [generally favorable] [or] (2) [generally unfavorable] opinion of it?

- 46% generally favorable
- 44 generally unfavorable
- 11 don't know

32. In the long run, do you think the health care law will be *[rotate]* (1) [good] *[or]* (2) [bad] for you and your family, or won't it make much difference?

- 29% good
- 28 bad
- 39 won't make much difference
- 4 don't know

Changing topics,

[rotate questions 33 and 33a]

33. Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to be legally married?

- 56% favor
- 36 oppose
- 8 don't know

33a. In general, do you think the use of marijuana should be legal, or not?

- 51% yes, legal
- 44 no, not legal
- 5 don't know

Next,

[rotate questions 34 and 35]

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

- 46% favorable
- 43 unfavorable
- 10 don't know

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

- 29% favorable
- 59 unfavorable
- 12 don't know

36. 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?

- 29% adequate job
- 58 third party is needed
- 13 don't know

Changing topics,

37. Where do you get most of your information about what's going on in politics today— from *[rotate]* television, newspapers, radio, the Internet, magazines, or talking to other people?

- 38% television ***[ask q37a]***
- 32 Internet ***[skip to q37c]***
- 10 newspapers ***[skip to q37b]***
- 9 radio ***[skip to q37d]***
- 8 talking to other people ***[skip to q37d]***
- 1 magazines ***[skip to q37d]***
- 1 other (*specify*) ***[skip to q37d]***
- 1 don't know ***[skip to q37d]***

37a. Would that be mostly major network TV, mostly local TV, or mostly cable news stations such as CNN, Fox, or MSNBC?

- 21% major network TV
- 27 local TV
- 48 cable TV
- 1 other (*specify*)
- 2 don't know

[skip to q37d]

37b. Do you mostly read the paper version of newspapers, or do you mostly read newspapers online?

- 66% paper version
- 34 online version

[skip to q37d]

37c. Do you mostly read the websites of newspapers or mostly other types of news websites?

- 29% websites of newspapers
- 67 other types of news websites
- 4 don't know

- 37d. Do you ever go online to get news and information on California politics and elections? (If yes: Do you do this often or only sometimes?)
- 18% yes, often
 - 34 yes, sometimes
 - 48 no
 - 1 not applicable/don't use the Internet
(volunteered)

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

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 13% very liberal
- 20 somewhat liberal
- 28 middle-of-the-road
- 23 somewhat conservative
- 12 very conservative
- 3 don't know

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

- 23% great deal
- 37 fair amount
- 33 only a little
- 7 none
- 1 don't know

40. **[likely voters only]** Thinking about the November 4th election, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?

- 40% more enthusiastic
- 42 less enthusiastic
- 15 same/neither (volunteered)
- 3 don't know

[d1 to d5: demographic questions]

D6. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time?

D6a. Which of the following is your main source of health insurance coverage? Is it a plan through your employer, a plan through your spouse's employer, a plan you purchased yourself either from an insurance company or the state or federal marketplace, are you covered by Medicare or Medi-Cal, or do you get your health insurance from somewhere else?

- 81% yes, covered by health insurance
 - 26 through employer
 - 14 Medi-Cal
 - 13 Medicare
 - 10 through spouse's employer
 - 9 self-purchased plan **[ask d6b]**
 - 4 through parents/mother/father (*volunteered*)
 - 4 somewhere else (*specify*)
 - 1 other government plan (*volunteered*)
- 18 not insured
- 2 don't know/refused

D6b. **[of those who purchased a plan themselves]** Did you purchase your plan directly from an insurance company, from the marketplace known as healthcare.gov or Covered California, or through an insurance agent or broker? (**if agent or broker:** Do you know if the plan you purchased through a broker was a plan from the state or federal health insurance marketplace known as healthcare.gov or Covered California, or was it a plan purchased directly from an insurance company and not through an exchange or marketplace?)

- 41% from an insurance company, either directly or through a broker
- 52 from healthcare.gov/Covered California, either directly or through a broker
- 8 don't know/refused

Summary of D6, D6a, D6b

- 81% yes, covered by health insurance
 - 26 through employer
 - 14 Medi-Cal
 - 13 Medicare
 - 10 through spouse's employer
 - 9 self-purchased plan
 - 4 from an insurance company, either directly or through a broker
 - 5 from healthcare.gov/Covered California, either directly or through a broker
 - 1 don't know
 - 4 through parents/mother/father (*volunteered*)
 - 4 somewhere else (*specify*)
 - 1 other government plan (*volunteered*)
- 18 not insured
- 2 don't know/refused

[d7 to d17: demographic questions]

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