



Californians & Their Government

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PUBLIC POLICY
INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA

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

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News Release

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PPIC STATEWIDE SURVEY: CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

Four in Ten Support Newsom Recall, Job Approval Holds Steady

OVERWHELMING MAJORITY SAY THE WORST OF THE PANDEMIC IS BEHIND US; STRONG MAJORITIES ACROSS PARTY LINES APPROVE OF PATH TO CITIZENSHIP FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

SAN FRANCISCO, March 30, 2021—With signature-gathering complete for potentially placing a gubernatorial recall on the ballot, four in ten likely voters say they would vote yes on removing Governor Newsom in a special recall election. Just over half of Californians approve of the governor's job performance, similar to ratings in January. Three in four Californians now say the worst of the coronavirus pandemic is behind us. As federal policymakers consider immigration reform, there is strong bipartisan support for creating a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. These are among the key findings of a statewide survey released today by the Public Policy Institute of California.

(Note: As a companion piece to the new survey, PPIC is publishing a blog post from President and CEO Mark Baldassare, Five Takeaways on the 2021 Governor's Recall.)

If a special election to recall Governor Newsom were held today, 40 percent of likely voters say they would vote yes on removing Newsom, while 56 percent would vote no and 5 percent are unsure. Views break along party lines: Republicans (79%) are far more likely than independents (42%) and Democrats (15%) to say they would vote yes. Across regions, support for removing Newsom is highest in the Central Valley (49%) and Inland Empire (47%) and lowest in the San Francisco Bay Area (27%, 41% Orange/San Diego, 40% Los Angeles).

"Forty percent would vote yes to remove Newsom if a special election to recall the governor were held today, with Republicans far more likely to vote yes," said Mark Baldassare, PPIC president and CEO. "The share who would now vote to remove the governor is similar to the 38 percent who did not vote for Newsom in the fall of 2018."

Newsom's approval rating has held steady so far in 2021. Just over half of Californians (54% adults, 53% likely voters) approve of how he is handling his job as governor, essentially unchanged from January (54% adults, 52% likely voters). This is similar to the share approving in February 2020, before the governor issued COVID-19 stay-at-home orders (53% adults, 52% likely voters). Peak approval for Governor Newsom so far was in May 2020, when 65 percent of adults and 64 percent of likely voters said they approved of his performance.

Most Californians Say the Worst of the Pandemic Is Behind Us

With the number of new cases down nationally, an overwhelming majority of Californians (74%) say that the worst of the coronavirus pandemic is behind us. This is an increase of 16 percentage points from January (58%). One in five (21%) say the worst is yet to come, compared with more than one in three (37%) who held this view in January. Solid majorities across regions and demographic groups say that the worst is behind us with the pandemic.

At the same time that Californians express growing optimism about the national pandemic, concerns about getting the coronavirus have declined. Less than half of Californians say they are either very concerned (18%) or somewhat concerned (29%) about getting the virus and needing hospitalization—a drop of 13 percentage points since January (25% very concerned, 35% somewhat concerned). However, there are racial and economic disparities in COVID-19 concerns. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (35%), Latinos (25%), and Asian Americans (19%) are more likely than whites (9%) to be very concerned about getting the coronavirus and requiring hospitalization. Californians with annual household incomes of under \$40,000 (24%) and \$40,000 to under \$80,000 (22%) are much more likely than higher-income Californians (9% \$80,000 or more) to be very concerned.

Sixty-one percent of Californians say they have already received the vaccine (33%) or that they will definitely get it (28%), up from 48 percent in January (5% already received, 43% will definitely get it). About one in five continue to say that they will either probably not (7%, down from 11% in January) or definitely not (14%, similar to 13% in January) get the vaccine. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans remain the most likely to say they will probably or definitely not get the vaccine (29%, down from 55% in January); 22 percent of Latinos (unchanged), 20 percent of whites (down from 25%), and 5 percent of Asian Americans (down from 8%) say they will probably not or definitely not get the vaccine.

“Three in four Californians now believe that the worst is behind us with the COVID-19 crisis, while about one in five continue to say they will definitely not or probably not take the vaccine,” Baldassare said.

About half of Californians say the state is doing an excellent (14%) or good (38%) job of distributing the COVID-19 vaccine, while four in ten say the state is doing a fair (29%) or poor (15%) job. The share giving the state positive marks has increased 16 percentage points since January (7% excellent, 29% good, 31% fair, 26% poor).

Overwhelming Majorities Approve of State, Federal COVID Aid

At both the state and federal levels, policymakers recently enacted major legislation that provides economic aid to address the pandemic’s impact; both of these have strong support among Californians. Seven in ten (75% adults, 70% likely voters) support the \$7.6 billion COVID-19 relief package signed by Governor Newsom in late February, with views breaking along party lines: 90 percent of Democrats, 71 percent of independents, and 37 percent of Republicans favor it. Support is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (81%) and Los Angeles (78%); 71 percent in the Central Valley and 69 percent in both the Inland Empire and Orange/San Diego are in favor.

Strong majorities (73% adults, 68% likely voters) approve of the \$1.9 trillion federal relief package, though also with a deep partisan divide: 92 percent of Democrats, 68 percent of independents, and 34 percent of Republicans approve. Here, too, support is somewhat higher in the San Francisco Bay Area (78%) and Los Angeles (76%) than in other parts of the state (71% Orange/San Diego, 69% Central Valley, 69% Inland Empire).

“Californians overwhelmingly favor the COVID relief packages that were recently passed by the state government and the federal government,” Baldassare said.

Support for Path to Citizenship Cuts across Party Lines; Most Support Health Care Coverage for Undocumented Immigrants

As federal policymakers consider comprehensive immigration reform, an overwhelming majority of Californians (85%) say there should be a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, provided they meet certain requirements—similar to the share since PPIC started asking this question in 2013. Strong majorities across partisan lines hold this view: 93 percent of Democrats, 81 percent of independents, and 68 percent of Republicans. Across racial/ethnic groups, 92 percent of both African Americans and Latinos, 80 percent of whites, and 79 percent of Asian Americans are supportive.

Asked about providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants—an idea now under consideration by state lawmakers—66 percent of Californians approve, up from 54 percent in 2015 (the last time PPIC asked this question). Support is far higher among Democrats (82%) and independents (57%) than among Republicans (20%). Overwhelming majorities of Latinos (83%), African Americans (77%), and Asian Americans (70%) are in favor, as are a slim majority of whites (51%).

“Strong majorities of Californians across party lines favor a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants,” Baldassare said. “After the year-long COVID crisis, two in three residents favor providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants in California.”

Most Approve of President Biden’s Performance, while Less than Half Approve of California’s US Senators

Solid majorities of Californians (65% adults, 60% likely voters) approve of how Joe Biden is handling his job as president, similar to the share as Biden was taking office in January (70% adults, 65% likely voters). Strong majorities of African Americans (84%), Latinos (73%), and Asian Americans (69%) approve of Biden, as do 56 percent of whites. Nationally, 54 percent of adults approve of Biden according to a recent Gallup poll.

Asked about California’s US senators, less than half approve. Forty-seven percent of adults and 44 percent of likely voters approve of Dianne Feinstein, with wide variation among racial/ethnic groups: 74 percent of African Americans, 58 percent of Latinos, 43 percent of Asian Americans, and 35 percent of whites approve. Alex Padilla, who took office this past January, has the approval of 44 percent of adults and 42 percent of likely voters. However, about one in three (36% adults, 33% likely voters) either say they haven’t heard enough to have an opinion or don’t know. Here, too, approval varies across racial/ethnic groups: 67 percent of African Americans, 58 percent of Latinos, 38 percent of Asian Americans, and 33 percent of whites approve.

“A solid majority of Californians approve of President Biden, and Senator Feinstein’s approval rating today at 47 percent is similar to last year,” Baldassare said. “The first approval rating of recently appointed Senator Alex Padilla stands at 44 percent, though with many still undecided.”

Four in Ten Say Race Relations in the US Have Worsened in Past Year

Asked about race relations in the US, 43 percent of Californians say things are worse than a year ago, while a third (36%) say about the same and one in five (19%) say better. The share saying things are worse than a year ago has decreased 16 percentage points since prior to the election (59% in September 2020). Asian Americans (50%), whites (48%), and African Americans (44%) are much more likely than Latinos (32%) to say race relations are worse than a year ago.

“A plurality say that race relations in the US today are worse than they were a year ago, including half of Asian Americans in the wake of recent reports of racially motivated hate crimes,” Baldassare said.

Overwhelming Majority Say Housing Affordability Is a Problem

Ninety percent of Californians say that housing affordability is a big problem (61%) or somewhat of a problem (29%) in their part of the state, similar to February 2020 (63% big, 25% somewhat). Forty-three percent of Californians say that housing costs are making them seriously consider moving—including 33 percent who say they are considering moving out of the state. Across regions, residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (49%) are most likely to say they’re considering moving due to housing costs (44% Orange/San Diego, 43% Los Angeles, 39% Inland Empire, 37% Central Valley).

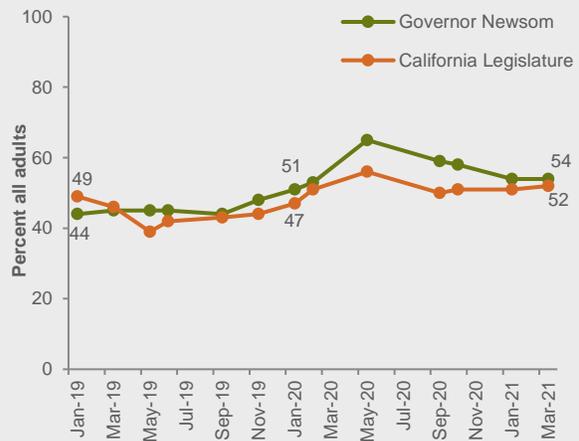
“Six in ten Californians say that housing affordability is a big problem in their region, and one in three are seriously considering moving out of the state because of the cost of housing,” Baldassare said.

State Issues

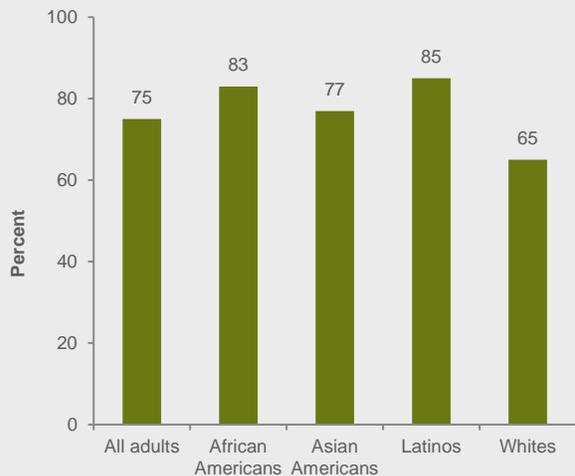
Key Findings

- Fifty-four percent of Californians approve of the way that Governor Gavin Newsom is handling his job, 52 percent approve of the state legislature, and 53 percent approve of the legislators representing their own assembly and senate districts. *(page 7)*
- Among California likely voters, 40 percent would vote yes to remove Newsom if a special election to recall the governor were held today, with Republicans far more likely to vote yes. *(page 8)*
- Most Californians think that California is currently in an economic recession. Three in four Californians favor the state’s \$7.6 billion COVID-19 relief package, with partisans deeply divided. *(page 9)*
- Californians are divided on whether or not the state and local tax system is fair. Nearly half of Californians (46%) think the state’s tax burden per capita ranks near the top compared to other states. *(page 10)*
- When asked to name the highest priority for state government funding, about four in ten Californians say health and human services, and four in ten say K–12 education. Fifty-two percent of Californians say they would prefer to pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services. *(page 11)*
- Six in ten Californians say that housing affordability is a big problem in their part of the state; about four in ten say they have seriously considered moving away from their part of California. About half of Californians say the state has done just enough (36%) or more than enough (16%) to help renters during the pandemic and most lower-income adults are concerned about having enough money to pay rent or mortgage. *(page 12)*

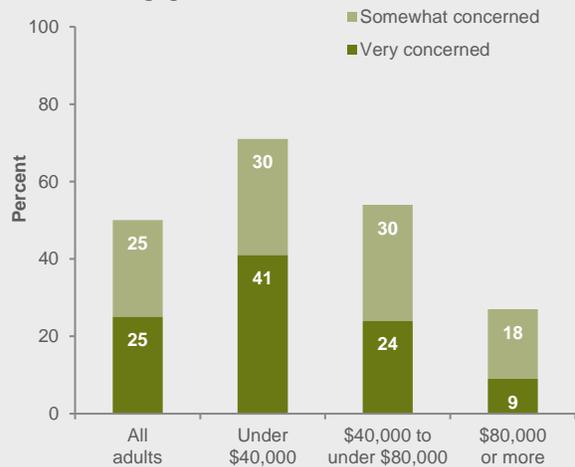
Approval ratings of state elected officials



Support for state's COVID-19 relief package



Concern about having enough money to pay rent or mortgage



Approval of State Elected Officials

With signature gathering now completed by recall election proponents, Governor Newsom has an approval rating of 54 percent among adults and 53 percent among likely voters. Approval was similar in January (54% adults, 52% likely voters) and last February (53% adults, 52% likely voters), before the governor issued COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. Today, his approval rating is 73 percent among Democrats, 46 percent among independents, and 18 percent among Republicans. Approval is highest in the San Francisco Bay Area (65%), followed by Los Angeles (53%), Orange/San Diego (51%), the Central Valley (50%), and the Inland Empire (48%). Solid majorities of African Americans (71%), Asian Americans (62%), and Latinos (60%) approve, compared to 44 percent of whites.

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

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		54%	36%	10%
Likely voters		53	42	5
Party	Democrats	73	20	7
	Republicans	18	78	4
	Independents	46	42	12
Region	Central Valley	50	38	12
	Inland Empire	48	42	10
	Los Angeles	53	39	8
	Orange/San Diego	51	36	13
	San Francisco Bay Area	65	25	11

In the early weeks of the 2021–22 legislative session, 52 percent of adults and 48 percent of likely voters approve of the way the California legislature is handling its job. Approval ratings were similar last February (51% adults, 49% likely voters). Today, 66 percent of Democrats say they approve, compared to 47 percent of independents and 18 percent of Republicans. Solid majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (62%), about half in Los Angeles (52%), the Inland Empire (51%), and the Central Valley (49%), and 45 percent in Orange/San Diego say they approve of the state legislature.

Adults (53%) and likely voters (51%) are similarly likely to say they approve of how the legislators who represent their assembly and senate districts are doing their jobs at this time. Approval was similar last February (53% adults, 52% likely voters). Today, 65 percent of Democrats, 50 percent of independents, and 24 percent of Republicans approve of their own legislators. Majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (65%), Los Angeles (56%), and the Central Valley (52%), and more than four in ten in other regions, approve.

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

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
the way that the California Legislature is handling its job	Approve	52%	66%	18%	47%	48%
	Disapprove	36	25	72	40	42
	Don't know	12	9	10	12	9
the job that the state legislators representing your assembly and senate districts are doing at this time	Approve	53	65	24	50	51
	Disapprove	34	25	66	36	40
	Don't know	13	10	10	14	9

Recall of Governor Newsom

Proponents appear to have collected the signatures needed to qualify for a recall election, and about six in ten California likely voters are closely (20% very, 43% fairly) following the news about the effort to recall Governor Newsom from office. If officials held a special election today to recall Governor Newsom, 40 percent of California likely voters say they would vote yes to remove him, while 56 percent would vote no to keep Newsom as governor; 5 percent are unsure. Notably, the share of likely voters supporting the recall (40%) is similar to the 38 percent who did not vote for him in November 2018.

About eight in ten Republicans (79%) would vote yes to remove Newsom as governor, compared to 42 percent of independents and 15 percent of Democrats. Fewer than half across regions would vote to remove Newsom as governor; support for removal is higher in inland regions (49% Central Valley, 47% Inland Empire) than coastal regions (41% Orange/San Diego, 40% Los Angeles, 27% San Francisco Bay Area). Fewer than half across all age, education, homeownership, income, and racial/ethnic groups would vote yes to remove Newsom as governor. Men (50%) are much more likely than women (31%) to say they would vote yes to remove Newsom. Eighty-seven percent of those who disapprove of Newsom, and 4 percent of those who approve of Newsom, would vote yes to remove him.

“There is an effort underway to remove Governor Gavin Newsom from office in a recall election. If a special election to recall Governor Newsom were held today, would you vote yes to remove Newsom as governor or no to keep Newsom as governor?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Vote yes to remove Newsom	Vote no to keep Newsom	Don't know
All likely voters		40%	56%	5%
Party	Democrats	15	79	6
	Republicans	79	19	2
	Independents	42	53	4
Region	Central Valley	49	48	3
	Inland Empire	47	49	4
	Los Angeles	40	57	3
	Orange/San Diego	41	52	7
Gender	Men	50	46	4
	Women	31	64	5

A slim majority of California likely voters (52%) think the current effort to recall the governor is an appropriate use of the recall process. About three in four Republicans (77%) and 54 percent of independents say this is an appropriate use, compared to 35 percent of Democrats. About half or more across regions say this is an appropriate use. Men are much more likely than women to say it is appropriate (61% to 45%). Eighty-five percent of those who disapprove of Newsom, and 28 percent of those who approve of Newsom, say the current effort is an appropriate use of the recall process.

“Do you think the current effort to recall the governor is an appropriate use of the recall process or not?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	Likely voters	Party			Gender	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Men	Women
Yes	52%	35%	77%	54%	61%	45%
No	42	58	19	41	33	49
Don't know	6	7	4	5	6	6

Economic Situation

About half of Californians (49% adults, 54% likely voters) say that California is in an economic recession, with one in four believing the state is in a serious recession rather than a moderate or mild one. Slightly more residents felt the state was in a serious recession in January (32% adults, 35% likely voters) and in September (31% adults, 34% likely voters) and May (34% adults, 38% likely voters) of last year. Today, Republicans (36%) are somewhat more likely than independents (29%) and much more likely than Democrats (20%) to say California is in a serious recession. Across regions, Los Angeles residents (30%) are the most likely to say this. Across racial/ethnic groups, one in four or more African Americans (31%), whites (28%), and Latinos (25%) think the recession is serious compared to 16 percent of Asian Americans. About three in ten or fewer across education, homeownership, and income groups say the state is in a serious recession; shares holding this view increase with rising age.

“Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not? If yes: do you think it is in a serious, a moderate, or a mild recession?”

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Yes, serious recession	25%	23%	22%	30%	22%	25%	26%
Yes, moderate recession	24	23	28	22	24	25	28
Yes, mild recession	10	9	15	9	10	11	9
Yes, don't know (<i>volunteered</i>)	2	1	2	2	3	1	2
Not in a recession	34	40	27	32	32	34	32
Don't know	5	4	6	5	8	3	3

On February 23, Governor Newsom signed a \$7.6 billion COVID-19 relief package. After being read a brief description, 75 percent of adults and 70 percent of likely voters are in favor of the package. Overwhelming majorities of Democrats (90%) and independents (71%) are in favor, while 55 percent of Republicans are opposed. Across racial/ethnic groups, solid majorities of Latinos (85%), African Americans (83%), Asian Americans (77%), and whites (65%) are in favor. Strong majorities of two in three or more across regions and across gender, education, and homeownership groups favor it. Although majorities are still in favor, support declines with rising age (82% 18 to 34, 74% 35 to 54, 69% 55 and older) and income levels (86% under \$40,000, 75% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 66% \$80,000 or more).

“Recently, the California Legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed into law a \$7.6 billion COVID relief package.... Do you favor or oppose this relief package?”*

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know
All adults		75%	20%	5%
Likely voters		70	26	4
Party	Democrats	90	8	3
	Republicans	37	55	8
	Independents	71	21	8
Region	Central Valley	71	25	4
	Inland Empire	69	24	7
	Los Angeles	78	17	5
	Orange/San Diego	69	24	7
	San Francisco Bay Area	81	15	4

*For complete question text, see p. 24.

State and Local Tax System

With the deadline for filing income taxes extended to May 17, how do Californians perceive their current state and local tax system? Half say the current system is very fair (8%) or moderately fair (43%), while a plurality say it is not fair (24% not too, 21% not at all). Likely voters hold similar views. In March 2019, Californians were similarly likely to call the system fair (7% fair, 37% moderately fair). Today, lower-income adults (61% under \$40,000) are much more likely than more affluent adults (48% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 46% \$80,000 or more) to say it is very fair or moderately fair. Six in ten Democrats (62%) hold this view, compared to fewer independents (44%) and Republicans (31%).

About half of adults (46%) and likely voters (53%) say that California ranks near the top in per capita state and local tax burden compared to other states. Similar shares ranked California near the top in March 2019 (48% adults, 55% likely voters) and in March 2018 (49% adults, 58% likely voters). Today, the shares holding this view increase as income levels rise (34% under \$40,000, 48% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 59% \$80,000 or more). Republicans (65%) are more likely than independents (54%) and Democrats (42%) to hold this view. Pluralities across regions say California ranks near the top, while across racial/ethnic groups, whites (55%) and Asian Americans (50%) are much more likely than Latinos (33%) and African Americans (32%) to say this. The public’s perceptions are somewhat in line with fiscal facts: California’s state and local tax collections per capita in 2017 were the tenth highest in the nation (Tax Policy Center, April 2020).

“Where do you think California currently ranks in state and local tax burden per capita? Compared to other states, is California’s tax burden per capita near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?”

	All adults	Household income			Likely voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
Near the top	46%	34%	48%	59%	53%
Above average	24	24	26	23	27
Average	16	23	14	8	10
Below average	4	6	1	3	3
Near the bottom	3	3	3	3	2
Don’t know	8	10	8	4	5

About six in ten Californians say that they pay more taxes to state and local governments than they feel they should (adults: 30% much more and 27% somewhat more; likely voters: 31% much more and 29% somewhat more). More felt they were paying much more than they should in March 2019 (39% adults, 40% likely voters). Majorities across regions and across age, gender, racial/ethnic, education, and homeownership groups say they pay more than they should. The shares holding this view increase as income rises. Republicans (48%) are much more likely than independents (33%)—and far more likely than Democrats (19%)—to say they are paying much more than they should.

“When you combine all of the taxes you pay to state and local governments, do you feel that you pay much more than you should, somewhat more than you should, about the right amount, or less than you should?”

	All adults	Household income			Likely voters
		Under \$40,000	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	\$80,000 or more	
Much more than you should	30%	22%	29%	37%	31%
Somewhat more than you should	27	25	33	27	29
About the right amount	36	45	32	32	35
Less than you should	4	5	3	4	4
Don’t know	3	2	2	–	1

State Budget and Taxes

In January, Governor Newsom released a budget proposal that includes \$165 billion in General Fund spending. Since then, state revenues have been increasing beyond initial projections. About 90 percent of General Fund spending in the proposed budget is allocated for K–12 public education (36%, \$59.7 billion), health and human services (33%, \$54.4 billion), higher education (11%, \$17.9 billion), and corrections and rehabilitation (8%, \$13 billion). When asked to choose the highest priority for state spending, Californians are equally likely to mention health and human services (40% adults, 37% likely voters) or K–12 public education (39% adults, 44% likely voters); fewer name higher education (12% adults, 10% likely voters) or prisons and corrections (6% adults, 6% likely voters). Similar shares of Californians prioritized each of these spending areas in January 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic began. Democrats (48%) are most likely to say health and human services should have the highest priority, while Republicans (47%) and independents (42%) name K–12 education. Across regions, residents in Los Angeles (43%) and the Central Valley (43%) are most likely to prioritize health and human services (39% San Francisco Bay Area, 37% Inland Empire, 34% Orange/San Diego). Across racial/ethnic groups, Asian Americans (46%) are the most likely and African Americans (35%) are the least likely to hold this view. As education and income levels rise, the shares prioritizing health and human services decline; the shares prioritizing health and human services vary across age groups (45% 18 to 34, 35% 35 to 54, 39% 55 and older).

“Thinking about these four areas of state spending, I’d like you to name the one you think should have the highest priority when it comes to state government spending.”

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Health and human services	40%	48%	28%	35%	35%	46%	42%	37%
K–12 public education	39	37	47	42	43	27	38	44
Higher education	12	13	8	13	17	18	14	8
Prisons and corrections	6	2	11	8	4	8	4	7
Don't know	3	1	5	3	1	1	2	5

Fifty-two percent of adults and likely voters say they would rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services; fewer would prefer to pay lower taxes and have fewer services (44% adults, 44% likely voters). Preferences for higher taxes and more services were similar in January 2020 (53% adults, 53% likely voters). Today, Democrats (75%) are far more likely than independents (48%) and Republicans (14%) to prefer higher taxes and more services. Regionally, majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (60%) and Los Angeles (55%) say this, while residents elsewhere are divided. Majorities across racial/ethnic groups hold this view, except for whites (46%). Women (58%) are more likely than men (46%) to hold this view. This fiscal preference is similar across education groups and declines as age and income levels rise.

“In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more—I’d rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, or I’d rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services?”

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Higher taxes and more services	52%	75%	14%	48%	67%	60%	56%	46%
Lower taxes and fewer services	44	22	83	45	31	33	40	50
Don't know	4	4	4	7	2	7	4	4

Housing Affordability

An overwhelming majority of Californians say that housing affordability is a big problem (61%) or somewhat of a problem (29%) in their part of California. Similar shares held these views in February 2020 (63% big, 25% somewhat). Majorities across demographic groups say housing affordability is a big problem. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans (69%) are the most likely to hold this view followed by whites (67%), Asian Americans (60%), and Latinos (54%). More than six in ten in the San Francisco Bay Area (72%), Los Angeles (68%), and Orange/San Diego (64%) say housing affordability is a big problem; fewer than half in the Central Valley (44%) and the Inland Empire (44%) hold this view.

A plurality of Californians (43%) and likely voters (41%) say the cost of their housing makes them seriously consider moving away from the part of California they live in now. In February 2020, a similar share of adults (44%) and likely voters (38%) seriously considered a move. A majority of Republicans (54%) say they are seriously considering moving, compared to fewer independents (43%) and Democrats (34%). Younger Californians (53% 18 to 34) are more likely than older Californians (44% 35 to 54, 34% 55 and older), and renters (50%) are much more likely than homeowners (36%), to consider moving. Among those who say this, most say they would move outside of California.

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

	All adults	Region					Likely voters
		Central Valley	Inland Empire	Los Angeles	Orange/San Diego	San Francisco Bay Area	
Yes	43%	37%	39%	43%	44%	49%	41%
<i>Elsewhere in California</i>	8	3	5	10	5	13	6
<i>Outside the state</i>	33	33	33	32	34	33	33
<i>Other</i>	2	1	1	1	5	3	2
No	56	63	60	55	54	50	58

Majorities of adults and likely voters say that the state government has done more than enough (16% adults, 18% likely voters) or just enough (36% adults, 34% likely voters) to assist those who are unable to pay some or all of their rent during the pandemic. A plurality of adults (40%) and likely voters (41%) say the government hasn’t done enough. Half of Democrats (51%) say the state has not done enough, compared to four in ten independents and one in four Republicans. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans are the most likely—and whites the least likely—to say not enough has been done.

“In general, do you think the state government has done more than enough, just enough, or not enough to assist those unable to pay some or all of their rent during the pandemic?*

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
More than enough	16%	8%	34%	19%	8%	17%	13%	19%
Just enough	36	36	32	33	32	32	44	32
Not enough	40	51	24	41	56	45	40	35
Don't know	8	5	10	8	5	6	3	13

*For complete question text, see p. 25.

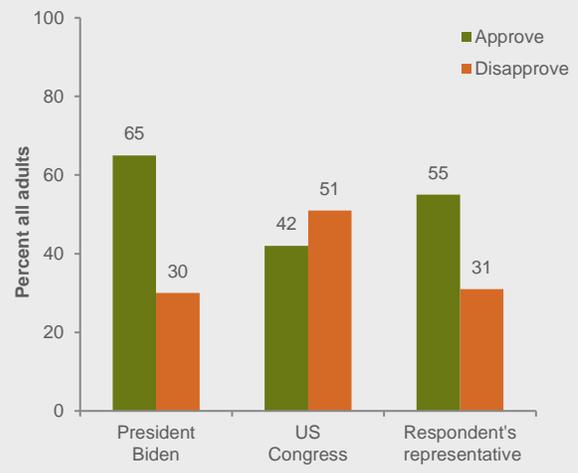
Half of Californians say they are very (25%) or somewhat concerned (25%) about not having enough money to pay for their rent or mortgage. Californians were more likely to be concerned the last time we asked this question in October 2010 (39% very 23% somewhat) at the height of the Great Recession. Renters (32% very, 29% somewhat) are much more likely than homeowners (15% very, 20% somewhat) to be very concerned. Californians with incomes under \$40,000 (41%) are much more likely than those with higher incomes to be very concerned (24% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 9% \$80,000 or more).

National Issues

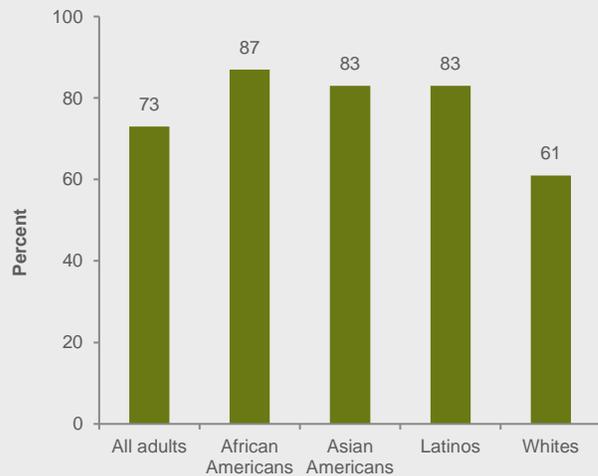
Key Findings

- Sixty-five percent of Californians approve of the way that President Biden is handling his job, 42 percent approve of the US Congress, and 55 percent approve of their own US House representative. *(page 14)*
- Forty-seven percent of Californians approve of Senator Dianne Feinstein and 44 percent approve of Senator Alex Padilla, with Democrats far more likely to approve. *(page 15)*
- Seventy-three percent of Californians favor the \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus package, with partisans deeply divided. Nearly half of Californians say the amount of spending is about right, 23 percent say it is too much, and 26 percent say it is too little. *(page 16)*
- Three in four Californians now say the worst of the coronavirus outbreak is behind us. About one in five say they definitely will not or probably will not get the COVID-19 vaccine. About half of Californians say the state government is doing an excellent or good job distributing the COVID-19 vaccine. *(page 17)*
- Overwhelming majorities of Californians—including strong majorities across parties—favor a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the US if they meet certain requirements. Two in three favor providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants in California. *(page 18)*
- Californians remain divided on the prospects that Americans of different political views can come together and work out their differences. A plurality (43%) think race relations have gotten worse in the past year. *(page 19)*

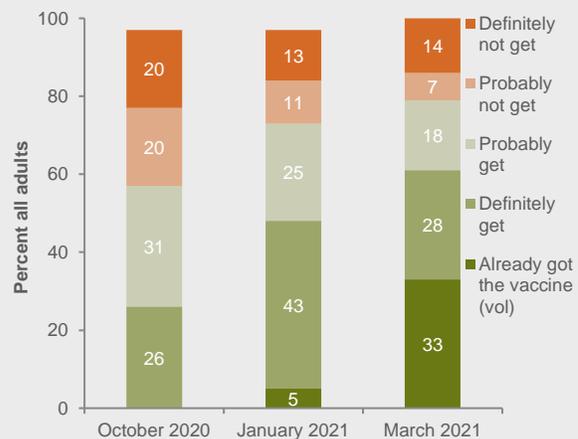
Approval ratings of federal elected officials



Support for the federal COVID-19 relief package



Plans to get vaccinated against COVID-19



Approval of Federal Elected Officials

Amid a flurry of executive orders and the passage of major legislation, 65 percent of adults and 60 percent of likely voters approve of the way that Joe Biden is handling his job as president. Approval of the president was similar after he entered office in January (70% adults, 65% likely voters). Today, 85 percent of Democrats and 60 percent of independents approve, compared to 20 percent of Republicans. Majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (81%), the Central Valley (61%), Los Angeles (61%), Orange/San Diego (60%), and the Inland Empire (59%) approve. Strong majorities of African Americans (84%), Latinos (73%), and Asian Americans (69%), and a majority of whites (56%), approve. In a recent Gallup poll, 54 percent of adults nationwide approved of President Biden’s job performance.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Joe Biden is handling his job as president?”

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		65%	30%	5%
Likely voters		60	38	2
Party	Democrats	85	13	3
	Republicans	20	78	2
	Independents	60	33	7
Region	Central Valley	61	34	5
	Inland Empire	59	36	5
	Los Angeles	61	32	7
	Orange/San Diego	60	34	7
	San Francisco Bay Area	81	18	2

Forty-two percent of adults and 33 percent of likely voters approve of the way the US Congress is handling its job. Approval of Congress was similar last February (38% adults, 32% likely voters). Today, 48 percent of Democrats, 35 percent of independents, and 18 percent of Republicans approve. About four in ten approve across regions (45% San Francisco Bay Area, 43% Los Angeles, 43% Orange/San Diego, 40% Central Valley, 39% Inland Empire). Majorities of Latinos (61%) and African Americans (52%) approve, compared to fewer Asian Americans (40%) and whites (27%). In a recent Gallup poll, 36 percent of adults nationwide approved of Congress.

By contrast, majorities of adults (55%) and likely voters (54%) approve of their own representative in the US House. Approval was similar last February (55% adults, 57% likely voters). Today, overwhelming majorities of Democrats (70%) approve of their own representative, compared to 48 percent of independents and 31 percent of Republicans. Majorities in the San Francisco Bay Area (64%), Los Angeles (59%), and the Central Valley (54%), and about half in other regions (49% Inland Empire, 47% Orange/San Diego), approve of their own representative. Majorities of African Americans (66%), Latinos (66%), and Asian Americans (57%) approve of their own representative, compared to 46 percent of whites.

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

		All adults	Party			Likely voters
			Dem	Rep	Ind	
the way the US Congress is handling its job	Approve	42%	48%	18%	35%	33%
	Disapprove	51	48	79	60	63
	Don't know	6	4	2	6	3
the way your own representative to the US House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job	Approve	55	70	31	48	54
	Disapprove	31	22	60	40	37
	Don't know	13	9	10	12	9

Approval of US Senators

As the 117th Congress begins its work, US Senator Dianne Feinstein has approval from 47 percent of adults and 44 percent of likely voters. Approval was similar last September (44% adults, 46% likely voters) and last February (51% adults, 50% likely voters). Today, a solid majority of Democrats (63%) approve, compared to 42 percent of independents and 17 percent of Republicans. About half in the San Francisco Bay Area (52%), Central Valley (48%), and Los Angeles (47%) approve, compared to about four in ten in other regions (43% Inland Empire, 40% Orange/San Diego). Majorities of African Americans (74%) and Latinos (58%) approve, compared to fewer Asian Americans (43%) and whites (35%). Women (55%) are much more likely than men (38%) to say they approve of Senator Feinstein.

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

		Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
All adults		47%	36%	18%
Likely voters		44	47	9
Party	Democrats	63	27	10
	Republicans	17	73	10
	Independents	42	42	16
Region	Central Valley	48	42	11
	Inland Empire	43	38	19
	Los Angeles	47	35	19
	Orange/San Diego	40	35	25
	San Francisco Bay Area	52	33	15

California Secretary of State Alex Padilla was appointed by Governor Newsom to fill the US Senate seat vacated by Vice President Kamala Harris and to serve the remainder of her term, which ends in 2022. Forty-four percent of adults and 42 percent of likely voters approve of the way that Alex Padilla is handling his job as US senator. Given his short time in office since January, about one in three adults (36%) say they don't know or volunteer that they have not heard enough to have an opinion. Sixty percent of Democrats approve, compared to 39 percent of independents and 18 percent of Republicans. Approval is highest in Los Angeles (48%) and lowest in Orange/San Diego (38%). Majorities of African Americans (67%) and Latinos (58%) approve, compared to 38 percent of Asian Americans and 33 percent of whites. Women (53%) are much more likely than men (35%) to say they approve of Senator Padilla.

“Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Alex Padilla is handling his job as US senator?”

		Approve	Disapprove	Have not heard enough to have an opinion (vol)	Don't know
All adults		44%	19%	23%	13%
Likely voters		42	25	22	11
Party	Democrats	60	11	19	10
	Republicans	18	42	32	8
	Independents	39	23	22	16
Region	Central Valley	45	20	21	14
	Inland Empire	44	22	25	9
	Los Angeles	48	20	21	10
	Orange/San Diego	38	21	21	20
	San Francisco Bay Area	45	15	26	14

National Economic Recovery Policies

An overwhelming share of Californians (73%) favor the \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus package that provides economic aid to businesses, individuals, and state and local governments. About two in three likely voters are in favor. However, there is a deep partisan divide, with about nine in ten Democrats in favor compared to one in three Republicans. Among independents, about two in three are in favor. More than two in three across regions and more than six in ten across demographic groups favor the stimulus bill. Despite majority support, differences do emerge. Across racial/ethnic groups, more than eight in ten African Americans (87%), Asian Americans (83%), and Latinos (83%) are in favor, compared to 61 percent of whites. Majority support for the stimulus package decreases sharply with rising incomes (86% under \$40,000, 73% \$40,000 to under \$80,000, 63% \$80,000 or more) and is higher among younger Californians (81% 18 to 34, 74% 35 to 54, 66% 55 and older).

“As you may know, in response to the coronavirus outbreak Congress passed and President Biden signed into law a bill that would provide \$1.9 trillion in economic aid to businesses, individuals, and state and local governments. All in all, do you favor or oppose this bill?”

		Favor	Oppose	Don't know
All adults		73%	25%	2%
Likely voters		68	31	1
Party	Democrats	92	6	2
	Republicans	34	64	2
	Independents	68	30	2
Region	Central Valley	69	31	1
	Inland Empire	69	29	2
	Los Angeles	76	20	4
	Orange/San Diego	71	28	1
	San Francisco Bay Area	78	18	3

While most Californians are in favor of the economic aid package, there is less agreement regarding its size. A plurality of Californians (47%) think the spending is about right, one in four (26%) say it is too little, and another one in four (23%) say it is too much. Views among likely voters are similar. Just over half of Democrats say the spending is about right, while just over half of Republicans say it is too much. Four in ten independents say the spending is about right. At least a plurality of Californians across regions and demographic groups say the spending is about right.

“Do you think this spending in the coronavirus economic aid package is too much, too little, or about right?”

		Too much	Too little	About right	Don't know
All adults		23%	26%	47%	4%
Likely voters		28	25	43	3
Party	Democrats	7	35	55	3
	Republicans	56	15	23	6
	Independents	29	24	42	4
Region	Central Valley	31	20	46	4
	Inland Empire	22	20	52	6
	Los Angeles	19	35	43	4
	Orange/San Diego	24	26	45	4
	San Francisco Bay Area	18	27	51	4

Coronavirus

As the number of coronavirus cases continue to fall, most Californians (74%) say the worst of the outbreak is behind us, while one in five (21%) say the worst is yet to come. The share saying the worst is behind us has risen 16 points since January (58% worst behind us, 37% worst yet to come). Today, more than six in ten across regions and demographic groups say this. Fewer than half of Californians are very (18%) or somewhat (29%) concerned that they will get the virus and require hospitalization. This marks a 13-point drop since January (25% very, 35% somewhat). Despite this decline, some groups are more likely than others to be very concerned. Across racial/ethnic groups, African Americans, Latinos, and Asian Americans are much more likely than whites to say they are very concerned. Californians making less than \$80,000 are much more likely than those making more to say they are very concerned.

“How concerned, if at all, are you that you will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?”

	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
Very concerned	18%	24%	22%	9%	35%	19%	25%	9%
Somewhat concerned	29	30	29	28	23	41	32	24
Not too concerned	24	21	19	29	20	30	21	25
Not at all concerned	28	23	29	34	20	10	22	40
Have already been hospitalized (vol)	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1

About half of Californians now say the state is doing an excellent (14%) or good (38%) job distributing the vaccine, while about four in ten say it is doing a fair (29%) or poor (15%) job. The share rating the state positively has increased 16 points since January (7% excellent, 29% good, 31% fair, 26% poor).

The share of Californians saying they have either already received the vaccine or will definitely get the vaccine continues to increase. Sixty-one percent of Californians say they have already received the vaccine (33%) or will definitely get the vaccine (28%), up from 48 percent in January (43% definitely get it, 5% already received it), and 18 percent say they will probably get the vaccine, down from 25 percent in January. About one in five say they will either probably not (7%, down from 11%) or definitely not (14%, similar to 13%) get the vaccine. Despite a large shift in opinion, African Americans remain the most likely across racial/ethnic groups to say they will probably or definitely not get the vaccine (29%, down from 55%); 22 percent of Latinos (unchanged from 22%), 20 percent of whites (down from 25%), and 5 percent of Asian Americans (down from 8%) say they will not get the vaccine. Republicans remain most likely to say they will probably or definitely not get the vaccine (39%, down from 43%), while fewer Democrats (10%, down from 14%) and independents (19%, down from 26%) say this.

“When it becomes available to you, will you definitely get the coronavirus vaccine, probably get it, probably not get it, or definitely not get it?”

	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
Definitely get the vaccine	28%	32%	26%	29%	28%	34%	29%	26%
Probably get the vaccine	18	21	16	14	6	21	24	12
Probably not get the vaccine	7	7	10	6	12	3	6	7
Definitely not get the vaccine	14	13	12	15	17	2	16	13
Already got the vaccine	33	25	35	35	36	40	22	41
Don't know	1	2	1	–	–	–	2	–

Immigration Policy

On Inauguration Day, President Biden released the details of the US Citizenship Act of 2021—his comprehensive immigration reform bill. In mid-February, the bill was introduced in Congress. The plan would, among other things, provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

When asked about providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the United States if they meet certain requirements, including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, and passing criminal background checks, overwhelming majorities of Californians—including majorities across parties—are in favor. Support today is similar to support during President Obama’s second term, when between 80 and 86 percent were in favor each of the five times we asked this question. Today, more than two in three across parties and more than three in four across regions and demographic groups say they favor a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

“Would you favor or oppose providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the US if they met certain requirements including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, and passing criminal background checks?”

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Favor	85%	93%	68%	81%	92%	79%	92%	80%
Oppose	13	6	31	14	8	16	7	17
Don't know	3	1	1	5	–	5	1	3

Since 2016, California has allowed low-income children to participate in Medi-Cal regardless of immigration status, and since 2020, young low-income adults age 18 to 25 have been allowed to participate regardless of their immigration status. Currently, there are two separate bills in the legislature, one that would expand Medi-Cal eligibility to low-income seniors age 65 and older regardless of their immigration status and the other that would expand eligibility to low-income adults age 26 to 64 regardless of their immigration status. In general, two in three Californians favor the idea of providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants in the state. This marks a 12-point increase since we last asked the question in December 2015 (54% favor, 42% oppose) and a 23-point increase since the first time we asked this question in March 2007 (43% favor, 53% oppose).

While there is broad support for providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants in California, there are differences across subgroups. Notably, while about eight in ten Democrats favor this idea, just two in ten Republicans are in favor. Fifty-seven percent of independents are supportive. There are also differences across racial/ethnic groups with at least seven in ten Latinos, African Americans, and Asian Americans in favor, compared to half of whites. Support for providing health care coverage to undocumented immigrants is much higher among younger Californians (83% 18 to 34, 68% 35 to 54, 49% 55 and older) and among lower-income Californians (78% under \$40,000, 68% \$40,000 to \$80,000, 57% \$80,000 or more).

Among those who favor a path to citizenship, 74 percent also favor health care coverage for undocumented immigrants. Among those who oppose a path to citizenship, 79 percent oppose health care coverage for undocumented immigrants.

“Do you favor or oppose providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants in California?”

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Favor	66%	82%	20%	57%	77%	70%	83%	51%
Oppose	31	15	77	39	22	26	16	45
Don't know	3	3	2	4	2	5	1	4

Political and Racial Divisions

Californians are divided about whether Americans of different political views can come together and work out their differences (49% optimistic, 46% pessimistic). This division remains roughly unchanged from September 2020, during the lead up to the presidential election (47% optimistic, 49% pessimistic). Today, Republicans (61%) are more likely than Democrats (50%) and independents (55%) to have pessimistic views. Across racial/ethnic groups, a majority of whites (60%) and half of Asian Americans (50%) are pessimistic, compared to smaller shares of African Americans (45%) and Latinos (30%).

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

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
Optimistic	49%	47%	37%	42%	54%	45%	64%	37%
Pessimistic	46	50	61	55	45	50	30	60
Don't know	5	3	2	3	1	5	6	3

When it comes to race relations in the United States, 43 percent of Californians say things are worse than they were a year ago, about a third (36%) say things are about the same, and two in ten (19%) say things are better. The share saying things are worse has decreased 16 points since prior to the election (59%, September 2020). Today, six in ten Republicans say things are worse, compared to pluralities of Democrats and independents (45% each). Asian Americans (50%), whites (48%), and African Americans (44%) are much more likely than Latinos (32%) to say race relations are worse now than they were a year ago.

A majority of Californians (58%) say people not seeing racial discrimination where it really does exist is a bigger problem for the country today than people seeing racial discrimination where it really does not exist (38%). About half or more across demographic groups share this view. African Americans (83%) and Asian Americans (74%) are much more likely than whites (56%) and Latinos (50%) to say this. Democrats (81%) and independents (56%) are far more likely than Republicans (29%) to say the bigger problem is people not seeing racial discrimination where it does exist. A similar share of adults across the nation shared this view, according to a Pew Research Center survey fielded from January 22–February 5, 2019.

“When it comes to racial discrimination, which do you think is the bigger problem for the country today—people seeing racial discrimination where it really does not exist or people not seeing racial discrimination where it really does exist?”

	All adults	Party			Race/Ethnicity			
		Dem	Rep	Ind	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinos	Whites
People seeing racial discrimination where it really does not exist	38%	18%	67%	39%	16%	23%	44%	41%
People not seeing racial discrimination where it really does exist	58	81	29	56	83	74	50	56
Don't know	4	1	5	5	1	2	5	4

A majority of Californians say police in their community treat all racial and ethnic groups fairly almost always (25%) or most of the time (29%). The shares with this view have remained similar from September 2020, amid nationwide protests over police brutality and systemic racism (24% almost always, 29% most of the time). Today, only 18 percent of African Americans say police treat all racial/ethnic groups fairly almost always or most of the time, compared to far more whites (59%), Asian Americans (55%), and Latinos (52%) who hold this view. Across partisan groups, an overwhelming majority of Republicans (82%) and half of independents (49%) hold this view, compared to about four in ten Democrats (38%).

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. Associate survey director and research fellow Dean Bonner was the project manager for this survey. Co-authors of this report include survey analyst Rachel Lawler and survey analyst Deja Thomas. The Californians and Their Government series is supported with funding from the Arjay and Frances F. Miller Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, and the PPIC Donor Circle. The PPIC Statewide Survey invites input, comments, and suggestions from policy and public opinion experts and from its own advisory committee, but survey methods, questions, and content are determined solely by PPIC's survey team.

Findings in this report are based on a survey of 1,706 California adult residents, including 1,269 interviewed on cell phones and 437 interviewed on landline telephones. The sample included 510 respondents reached by calling back respondents who had previously completed an interview in PPIC Statewide Surveys in the last six months. Interviews took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekend days and weekday nights from March 14–23, 2021.

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. After 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. After 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 2015–2019 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 2019 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 1,706 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 1,450 registered voters, the sampling error is ± 3.5 percent; for the 1,174 likely voters, it is ± 3.9 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 41 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 16 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, 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, Gallup, and Pew Research Center. Additional details about our methodology can be found at www.ppic.org/wp-content/uploads/SurveyMethodology.pdf and are available upon request through surveys@ppic.org.

Questionnaire and Results

CALIFORNIANS AND THEIR GOVERNMENT

March 14–23, 2021

1,706 California Adult Residents:

English, Spanish

MARGIN OF ERROR $\pm 3.3\%$ 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?**

54% approve
36 disapprove
10 don't know

On another topic,

- 2. *[likely voters only]* There is an effort under way to remove Governor Gavin Newsom from office in a recall election. If a special election to recall Governor Newsom were held today, would you vote yes to remove Newsom as governor or no to keep Newsom as governor?**

40% yes, remove Newsom
56 no, keep Newsom
5 don't know

- 3. *[likely voters only]* Do you think the current effort to recall the governor is an appropriate use of the recall process, or not?**

52% yes
42 no
6 don't know

- 3a. *[likely voters only]* How closely are you following the news about the effort to recall Governor Newsom from office—very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?**

20% very closely
43 fairly closely
25 not too closely
11 not at all closely
1 don't know

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

52% approve
36 disapprove
12 don't know

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

53% approve
34 disapprove
13 don't know

- 6. Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not? (if yes ask: Do you think it is in a serious, a moderate, or a mild recession?)**

61% yes
25 yes, serious recession
24 yes, moderate recession
10 yes, mild recession
2 yes, don't know
34 no, not in an economic recession
5 don't know

- 7. How concerned are you, if at all, about not having enough money to pay your rent or mortgage: very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned about this?**

25% very concerned
25 somewhat concerned
20 not too concerned
29 not at all concerned
1 don't know

7a. Recently, the California legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed into law a \$7.6 billion COVID relief package that includes a one-time \$600 payment to qualifying lower-income Californians, as well as \$2.1 billion in immediate relief for small businesses, and over \$400 million in stipends for state subsidized child care and preschool. Do you favor or oppose this relief package?

- 75% favor
- 20 oppose
- 5 don't know

Next,

8. Overall, how fair do you think our present state and local tax system is—would you say it is very fair, moderately fair, not too fair, or not at all fair?

- 8% very fair
- 43 moderately fair
- 24 not too fair
- 21 not at all fair
- 3 don't know

9. When you combine all of the taxes you pay to state and local governments, do you feel that you pay much more than you should, somewhat more than you should, about the right amount, or less than you should?

- 30% much more
- 27 somewhat more
- 36 about the right amount
- 4 less than you should
- 3 don't know

10. Where do you think California currently ranks in state and local tax burden per capita? Compared to other states, is California's tax burden per capita near the top, above average, average, below average, or near the bottom?

- 46% near the top
- 24 above average
- 16 average
- 4 below average
- 3 near the bottom
- 8 don't know

On another topic,

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

- 40% health and human services
- 39 K-12 public education
- 12 higher education
- 6 prisons and corrections
- 3 don't know

12. In general, which of the following statements do you agree with more— [rotate] [1] I'd rather pay higher taxes and have a state government that provides more services, [or] [2] I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a state government that provides fewer services?

- 52% higher taxes and more services
- 44 lower taxes and fewer services
- 4 don't know

Next,

13. How much of a problem is housing affordability in your part of California? Is it a big problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem?

- 61% big problem
- 29 somewhat of a problem
- 9 not a problem
- 1 don't know

14. Does the cost of your housing make you and your family seriously consider moving away from the part of California you live in now? (if yes ask: "Does it make you consider moving elsewhere in California, or outside of the state?")

- 43% yes
 - 8 yes, elsewhere in California
 - 33 yes, outside the state
 - 2 yes, other (specify)
- 56 no
- 1 don't know

15. During the pandemic the state government has taken actions to help renters, ranging from placing a moratorium on evictions to providing rental relief. In general, do you think the state government has done more than enough, just enough, or not enough to assist those unable to pay some or all of their rent during the pandemic?

- 16% more than enough
- 36 just enough
- 40 not enough
- 8 don't know

Changing topics,

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

- 65% approve
- 30 disapprove
- 5 don't know

[rotate questions 17 and 18]

17. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as US Senator?

- 47% approve
- 36 disapprove
- 18 don't know

18. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Alex Padilla is handling his job as US Senator?

- 44% approve
- 19 disapprove
- 23 never heard of him/have not heard enough to have an opinion (volunteered)
- 13 don't know

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

- 42% approve
- 51 disapprove
- 6 don't know

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

- 55% approve
- 31 disapprove
- 13 don't know

21. As you may know, in response to the coronavirus outbreak Congress passed and President Biden signed into law a bill that would provide \$1.9 trillion dollars in economic aid to businesses, individuals, and state and local governments. All in all, do you favor or oppose this bill?

- 73% favor
- 25 oppose
- 2 don't know

22. Do you think this spending in the coronavirus economic aid package is [rotate 1 and 2] [1] (too much) [2] (too little) or about right?

- 23% too much
- 26 too little
- 47 about right
- 4 don't know

Changing topics,

23. How concerned, if at all, are you that you will get the coronavirus and require hospitalization? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

- 18% very concerned
- 29 somewhat concerned
- 24 not too concerned
- 28 not at all concerned
- 1 have already been hospitalized due to coronavirus (volunteered)
- don't know

24. Which comes closer to your view about where the US stands in the coronavirus outbreak: [rotate] [1] the worst is behind us [or] [2] the worst is yet to come?

- 74% the worst is behind us
- 21 the worst is yet to come
- 4 don't know

25. Have you personally received the COVID vaccine, or not? [if yes ask: Did you receive a single-dose vaccine, the first of two doses, or have you received both doses of a two-dose vaccine?]

- 4% yes, single-dose vaccine [skip to q26]
- 13 yes, first of two doses [skip to q26]
- 16 yes, both doses of two doses [skip to q26]
- 67 no
- don't know

25a. When it becomes available to you, will you definitely get the coronavirus vaccine, probably get it, probably not get it or definitely not get it?

- 28% definitely get the vaccine
- 18 probably get the vaccine
- 7 probably not get the vaccine
- 14 definitely not get the vaccine
- 33 already got the vaccine [if q25=yes, code q25a= "already got the vaccine"]
- 1 don't know

26. Overall, do you think the state government is doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job of distributing COVID vaccines to people in California?

- 14% excellent
- 38 good
- 29 fair
- 15 poor
- 4 don't know

26a. Recently, the California legislature passed and Governor Newsom signed into law a budget package to provide extra funding to schools. As part of the \$6.6 billion package, \$2 billion would be used to incentivize public school districts to bring students back into classrooms by the end of March. The remaining \$4.6 billion would fund expanded learning opportunities, such as summer school, tutoring, and mental health services. Do you favor or oppose this plan?

- 75% favor
- 22 oppose
- 4 don't know

Changing topics,

27. Would you favor or oppose providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the US if they met certain requirements, including a waiting period, paying fines and back taxes, and passing criminal background checks?

- 85% favor
- 13 oppose
- 3 don't know

28. Do you favor or oppose providing health care coverage for undocumented immigrants in California?

- 66% favor
- 31 oppose
- 3 don't know

Changing topics,

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

- 49% optimistic
- 46 pessimistic
- 5 don't know

30. What is your opinion with regard to race relations in the United States today? Would you say things are [rotate 1 and 2] [1] (better), [1] (worse); or about the same than they were a year ago?

- 19% better
- 36 about the same
- 43 worse
- 2 don't know

31. When it comes to racial discrimination, which do you think is the bigger problem for the country today—[rotate] [1] People seeing racial discrimination where it really does not exist [or] [2] People not seeing racial discrimination where it really does exist?

- 38% People seeing racial discrimination where it really does not exist
- 58 People not seeing racial discrimination where it really does exist
- 4 don't know

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

- 25% almost always
- 29 most of the time
- 25 only some of the time
- 13 almost never
- 2 always (volunteered)
- 1 never (volunteered)
- 6 don't know

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

- 76% yes [ask q33a]
- 24 no [skip to party]

33a. Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, another party, or are you registered as a decline-to-state or independent voter?

- 46% Democrat [ask q34]
- 24 Republican [ask q34a]
- 6 another party (specify) [skip to q35]
- 24 decline-to-state/independent [skip to q34b]

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

- 54% strong
- 44 not very strong
- 2 don't know

[skip to q35]

34a. Would you call yourself a strong Republican or not a very strong Republican?

- 63% strong
- 37 not very strong
- don't know

[skip to q35]

34b. Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party or Democratic Party?

- 26% Republican Party
- 45 Democratic Party
- 21 neither (volunteered)
- 8 don't know

Next,

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

[read list, rotate order top to bottom]

- 15% very liberal
- 21 somewhat liberal
- 27 middle-of-the-road
- 22 somewhat conservative
- 12 very conservative
- 3 don't know

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

- 26% great deal
- 39 fair amount
- 26 only a little
- 9 none
- don't know

[d1-d15 demographic questions]

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