



California Voter and Party Profiles

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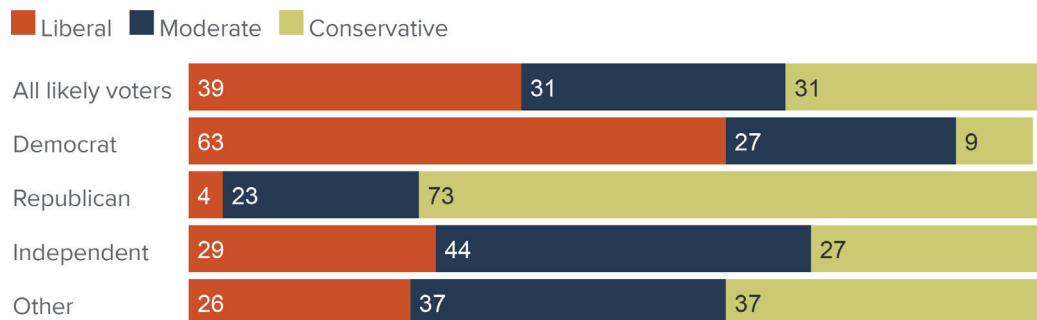
Long-term increases in independent registration have reshaped the electorate.

- ▶ Among registered voters, 46.8% are Democrats, 23.9% are Republican, and 22.7% say they are independent (also known as “decline to state” or “no party preference”).
- ▶ Twenty years ago, during the lead up to the 2002 gubernatorial election, Republicans (35.0%) made up a much higher share of the electorate than today, while independents (14.8%) made up a much lower share. The Democratic share (45.0%) in 2002 was slightly lower.
- ▶ Since 2018, the year leading up to the last gubernatorial election, the share of Democrats has increased (44.4% in 2018), while the share of Republicans has declined (25.1% in 2018). The share of independents has also declined since 2018 (25.5%).

Most independent likely voters lean toward a major party.

- ▶ In surveys over the past year, independent likely voters have been more likely to lean Democratic (52%) than Republican (37%); 11% did not lean toward either party.
- ▶ These shares have shifted since 2018, when 43% leaned Democratic, 29% leaned Republican, and 28% did not lean toward either party.
- ▶ Independent likely voters are much more likely to be moderate (44%) than liberal (29%) or conservative (27%).
- ▶ Overall, about three in four (73%) Republican likely voters say they are conservative, while 63% of Democratic likely voters describe themselves as liberal. Conversely, only 9% of Democrats label themselves as conservative, while just 4% of Republicans call themselves liberal.

Likely voters lean liberal overall, but independents are more likely to say they are ideologically moderate

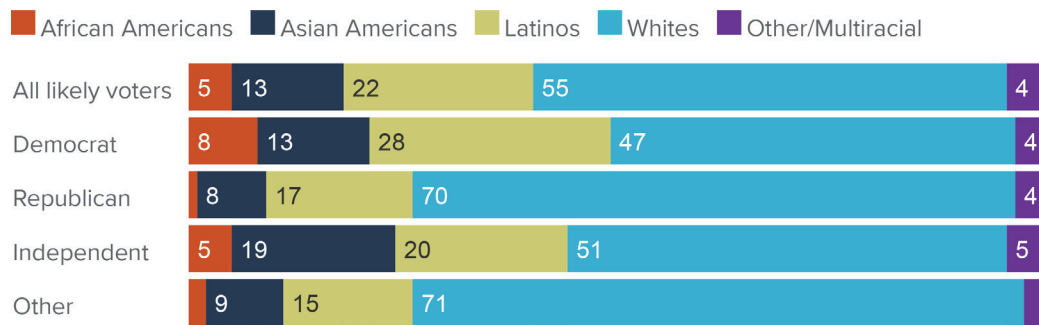


Sources: Seven PPIC Statewide Surveys from September 2021 to July 2022, including 12,251 adults and 8,243 likely voters.

Likely voters are disproportionately white; Democratic likely voters are more diverse.

- ▶ Whites make up only 40% of California’s adult population but comprise 55% of likely voters. In contrast, Latinos make up 35% of the state’s adult population but only 22% of likely voters. The shares of Asian American (13%) and African American (5%) likely voters are roughly proportionate to their shares of the state’s adult population—16% for Asian Americans and 6% for African Americans.
- ▶ Just under half (47%) of Democratic likely voters are white; 28% are Latino, 13% are Asian American, and 8% are African American.
- ▶ An overwhelming majority (70%) of Republican likely voters are white; relatively few are Latino (17%), Asian American (8%), or African American (1%).
- ▶ Among independents, 51% are white, 20% are Latino, 19% are Asian American, and 5% are African American.

Race/ethnicity varies across partisan groups

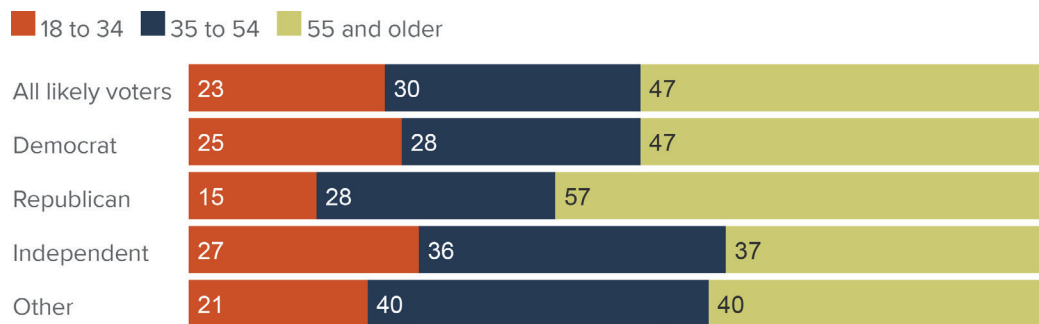


Sources: Seven PPIC Statewide Surveys from September 2021 to July 2022, including 12,251 adults and 8,243 likely voters.

Many demographic traits of likely voters differ across parties.

- ▶ Independents (27%) and Democrats (25%) are more likely to be young adults (age 18 to 34) than are Republicans (15%), while Republicans are more likely to be age 55 and older (57%) than are Democrats (47%) or independents (37%).
- ▶ Democratic likely voters are much more likely to be women (59%) than men (41%), while independents are much more likely to be men (59%) than women (41%); Republicans (51% men, 49% women) are more evenly divided.
- ▶ Independents (46%) and Democrats (44%) are much more likely to be college graduates than are Republicans (29%).
- ▶ About one in four Democrats (24%) have household incomes under \$40,000, compared to about two in ten Republicans (19%) and independents (19%).

Independents and Democrats are more likely than Republicans to be young adults



Sources: Seven PPIC Surveys from September 2021 to July 2022, including 12,251 adults and 8,243 likely voters.

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Sources: Seven PPIC Statewide Surveys from September 2021 to July 2022, including 12,251 adults, 8,243 likely voters, 2,237 infrequent voters, and 1,653 unregistered adults. California Secretary of State, Report of Registration, May 2022. US Census Bureau, 2016–2020 American Community Survey.

Notes: “Likely voters” are registered voters meeting criteria on interest in politics, attention to issues, voting behavior, and intention to vote; “infrequent voters” are registered voters who do not meet these criteria. A full description of these criteria is [available here](#).