

# Californians and Their Government

## May 2021

### Time Trends – All Respondents

#### Methodology Note:

Findings for May 2021 are based on a survey of 1,705 California adult residents, with 75 percent interviewed on cell phones (1,255 interviews) and 25 percent interviewed on landline telephones (450 interviews). Live landline and cell phone interviews were conducted in English and Spanish according to the respondents' preferences. Interviews took an average of 19 minutes to complete. Interviewing took place on weekdays and weekday nights from May 8–19 2021.

The sampling error for May 2021, taking design effects from weighting into consideration, is  $\pm 3.2$  percent at the 95 percent confidence level for the total unweighted sample of 1,705 adults. This means that 95 times out of 100, the results will be within 3.2 percentage points of what they would be if all adults in California were interviewed. 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.

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this survey, please contact [surveys@ppic.org](mailto:surveys@ppic.org)

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
Californians and Their Government - May 2021  
All Adults - Time Trends**

Q2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Gavin Newsom is handling his job as governor of California?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) have not heard enough to have an opinion	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	55%	35%	0%	10%	1694
Mar 2021	54%	36%	0%	10%	1694
Jan 2021	54%	36%	0%	10%	1692
Oct 2020	58%	33%	0%	9%	1690
Sep 2020	59%	30%	0%	10%	1694
May 2020	65%	26%	0%	9%	1693
Feb 2020	53%	33%	0%	14%	1687
Jan 2020	51%	34%	0%	15%	1683
Nov 2019	48%	33%	0%	18%	1679
Sep 2019	44%	32%	0%	24%	1683
Jul 2019	45%	31%	0%	25%	1679
May 2019	45%	29%	0%	26%	1691
Mar 2019	45%	26%	16%	13%	1699
Jan 2019	44%	23%	23%	10%	1684

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q3. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that Governor Newsom is handling the  
 coronavirus outbreak?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	64%	32%	4%	1702
Jan 2021	53%	41%	6%	1688
Oct 2020	61%	33%	7%	1694
Sep 2020	62%	31%	6%	1699
May 2020	69%	25%	6%	1694

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**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q7. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that the California Legislature is  
 handling its job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	49%	36%	16%	1687
Mar 2021	52%	36%	12%	1693
Jan 2021	51%	35%	14%	1692
Oct 2020	51%	35%	14%	1688
Sep 2020	50%	36%	14%	1691
May 2020	56%	32%	13%	1695
Feb 2020	51%	37%	11%	1687
Jan 2020	47%	40%	14%	1683
Nov 2019	44%	41%	15%	1682
Sep 2019	43%	40%	17%	1691
Jul 2019	42%	41%	17%	1687
May 2019	39%	44%	17%	1701
Mar 2019	46%	37%	17%	1692
Jan 2019	49%	37%	14%	1689
Dec 2018	47%	39%	15%	1685
Nov 2018	46%	38%	16%	1694
Oct 2018	45%	37%	18%	1691
Sep 2018	46%	37%	17%	1690
Jul 2018	46%	38%	15%	1703
May 2018	44%	38%	18%	1692
Apr 2018	46%	40%	14%	1697
Mar 2018	46%	38%	16%	1690
Jan 2018	51%	33%	16%	1694
Dec 2017	49%	36%	15%	1697
Nov 2017	48%	36%	16%	1690
Sep 2017	49%	39%	12%	1726
Jul 2017	50%	34%	17%	1697
May 2017	46%	38%	15%	1691
Apr 2017	49%	36%	15%	1696
Mar 2017	51%	33%	16%	1685
Jan 2017	57%	30%	13%	1686
Dec 2016	49%	38%	13%	1697
Oct 2016	46%	33%	20%	1684
Sep 2016	47%	37%	16%	1690
Jul 2016	45%	40%	15%	1687
May 2016	43%	37%	20%	1690
Apr 2016	48%	38%	14%	1694
Mar 2016	44%	39%	18%	1692
Jan 2016	46%	39%	15%	1692
Dec 2015	41%	40%	19%	1678
Sep 2015	45%	38%	17%	1691
Jul 2015	39%	45%	16%	1688

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - May 2021  
 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q7. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that the California Legislature is  
 handling its job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jun 2015	37%	43%	20%	1694
Apr 2015	42%	43%	15%	1695
Mar 2015	45%	39%	16%	1693
Jan 2015	49%	36%	15%	1689
Dec 2014	41%	42%	17%	1681
Oct 2014	41%	42%	17%	1686
Sep 2014	37%	42%	20%	1673
Jul 2014	38%	46%	16%	1683
May 2014	40%	44%	16%	1684
Apr 2014	40%	44%	17%	1693
Mar 2014	36%	45%	19%	1685
Jan 2014	42%	44%	14%	1698
Dec 2013	38%	43%	19%	1688
Sep 2013	38%	45%	17%	1693
Jul 2013	36%	45%	19%	2096
May 2013	35%	50%	16%	1697
Apr 2013	31%	53%	15%	1699
Mar 2013	34%	49%	17%	1689
Jan 2013	41%	42%	17%	1700
Dec 2012	34%	51%	15%	1992
Oct 2012	28%	55%	17%	1995
Sep 2012	30%	53%	17%	1989
Aug 2012	29%	54%	17%	2480
May 2012	25%	57%	18%	1990
Apr 2012	25%	58%	16%	1992
Mar 2012	25%	54%	21%	1989
Jan 2012	28%	56%	16%	1988
Dec 2011	25%	55%	20%	1987
Nov 2011	25%	55%	19%	2490
Sep 2011	26%	56%	18%	1998
Jul 2011	23%	59%	18%	2496
Jun 2011	23%	58%	19%	1998
Apr 2011	21%	60%	19%	2487
Mar 2011	24%	54%	21%	1982
Feb 2011	24%	52%	24%	2483
Jan 2011	26%	55%	19%	1990
Nov 2010	14%	72%	14%	2486
Oct 2010	16%	77%	7%	1989
Sep 2010	16%	75%	9%	1990
Jul 2010	15%	68%	17%	2487
May 2010	16%	72%	12%	1993
Apr 2010	16%	69%	14%	2493

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - May 2021  
 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q7. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that the California Legislature is  
 handling its job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Mar 2010	14%	72%	14%	1996
Jan 2010	18%	71%	11%	1989
Dec 2009	17%	70%	13%	2000
Nov 2009	18%	68%	15%	2491
Sep 2009	21%	68%	11%	1998
Jul 2009	17%	71%	11%	2484
May 2009	21%	65%	14%	1994
Apr 2009	23%	63%	14%	2493
Mar 2009	18%	68%	14%	1995
Feb 2009	21%	65%	14%	2494
Jan 2009	21%	67%	12%	1994
Nov 2008	24%	60%	16%	2482
Oct 2008	25%	63%	12%	1996
Sep 2008	21%	67%	11%	1990
Aug 2008	26%	63%	11%	1991
May 2008	26%	57%	17%	1991
Apr 2008	26%	58%	16%	2495
Mar 2008	30%	55%	15%	1988
Jan 2008	34%	53%	13%	1988
Dec 2007	41%	47%	12%	1992
Oct 2007	33%	50%	17%	2490
Sep 2007	34%	51%	15%	1988
Jun 2007	39%	40%	21%	1987
May 2007	37%	44%	19%	1994
Apr 2007	38%	44%	18%	2483
Mar 2007	41%	42%	17%	1989
Jan 2007	40%	44%	15%	2006
Oct 2006	30%	52%	18%	1993
Sep 2006	34%	50%	16%	1994
Aug 2006	31%	53%	16%	1995
May 2006	26%	54%	20%	1988
Mar 2006	25%	59%	16%	1988
Jan 2006	29%	57%	14%	2000
Jan 2006	24%	54%	22%	2481
Oct 2005	25%	56%	19%	1993
Sep 2005	32%	53%	15%	1992
Aug 2005	27%	56%	17%	1993
May 2005	26%	58%	16%	1992
Jan 2005	37%	50%	13%	1993
Oct 2004	43%	41%	16%	2005
Sep 2004	40%	46%	14%	1988
Aug 2004	42%	45%	13%	1990

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q7. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that the California Legislature is  
 handling its job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jun 2004	40%	44%	16%	2498
May 2004	40%	43%	17%	1986
Jan 2004	36%	45%	19%	1981
Aug 2003	28%	58%	14%	1979
Jun 2003	39%	44%	17%	1976
Feb 2003	36%	45%	19%	1967
Sep 2002	45%	36%	18%	1967
Jan 2002	49%	35%	16%	1942
Dec 2001	53%	29%	18%	1952
Jul 2001	45%	38%	18%	1966
Jan 2001	58%	27%	15%	1960
Sep 2000	56%	31%	12%	1980

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**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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All Adults - Time Trends**

Q8. Do you think things in California are  
generally going in the right direction or the  
wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	56%	38%	6%	1696
Jan 2021	51%	44%	6%	1698
Oct 2020	55%	39%	5%	1690
Sep 2020	51%	45%	4%	1688
May 2020	58%	37%	5%	1691
Jan 2020	50%	46%	4%	1695
Sep 2019	46%	48%	6%	1696
Jan 2019	55%	40%	5%	1699
Dec 2018	54%	41%	5%	1688
Sep 2018	51%	43%	6%	1694
Jan 2018	57%	38%	6%	1700
Dec 2017	53%	41%	6%	1695
Sep 2017	54%	42%	5%	1732
Mar 2017	55%	39%	6%	1699
Jan 2017	58%	35%	7%	1695
Oct 2016	54%	39%	7%	1699
Sep 2016	52%	42%	6%	1697
May 2016	51%	43%	6%	1697
Mar 2016	50%	43%	8%	1700
Jan 2016	54%	41%	5%	1696
Dec 2015	51%	43%	6%	1690
Sep 2015	48%	46%	6%	1701
Jun 2015	45%	46%	8%	1694
Mar 2015	50%	41%	8%	1691
Jan 2015	57%	36%	8%	1699
Dec 2014	50%	42%	8%	1699
Oct 2014	47%	46%	7%	1690
Sep 2014	43%	48%	8%	1685
May 2014	45%	48%	7%	1693
Mar 2014	45%	48%	7%	1693
Jan 2014	53%	41%	6%	1697
Dec 2013	45%	46%	8%	1694
Sep 2013	43%	48%	9%	1697
Jun 2013	45%	42%	13%	2463
May 2013	46%	48%	7%	1692
Mar 2013	44%	48%	8%	1697
Jan 2013	51%	40%	9%	1701
Dec 2012	44%	50%	6%	1984
Oct 2012	39%	53%	8%	1998
Sep 2012	33%	60%	7%	1991
May 2012	30%	63%	7%	1990
Mar 2012	34%	56%	10%	1987

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All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q8. Do you think things in California are  
generally going in the right direction or the  
wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 2012	37%	57%	6%	1988
Dec 2011	30%	61%	9%	1993
Sep 2011	30%	61%	8%	1993
Jun 2011	28%	60%	12%	2483
Jun 2011	29%	61%	10%	1993
Mar 2011	31%	59%	11%	1985
Feb 2011	34%	55%	12%	2486
Jan 2011	38%	54%	8%	1992
Oct 2010	16%	73%	12%	1977
Sep 2010	20%	69%	11%	1981
Jul 2010	15%	79%	6%	2489
May 2010	18%	77%	6%	1996
Mar 2010	19%	76%	4%	1997
Jan 2010	19%	74%	7%	1993
Dec 2009	19%	75%	6%	1999
Nov 2009	17%	76%	7%	2488
Sep 2009	22%	72%	6%	2001
Jul 2009	14%	79%	6%	2493
Jun 2009	19%	70%	11%	2490
May 2009	24%	68%	8%	1997
Mar 2009	22%	71%	7%	1995
Feb 2009	18%	75%	7%	2494
Jan 2009	18%	75%	7%	1993
Nov 2008	23%	66%	11%	2493
Oct 2008	20%	71%	10%	1987
Sep 2008	21%	68%	11%	1999
Aug 2008	23%	68%	9%	1990
Jun 2008	22%	69%	9%	2484
May 2008	24%	65%	11%	1986
Mar 2008	26%	63%	11%	1992
Jan 2008	36%	54%	10%	1989
Dec 2007	36%	52%	11%	1991
Sep 2007	41%	50%	9%	1983
Jun 2007	44%	46%	10%	1981
May 2007	46%	46%	8%	1986
Mar 2007	45%	47%	9%	1986
Jan 2007	55%	37%	8%	2003
Oct 2006	44%	46%	10%	1991
Sep 2006	45%	45%	10%	1996
Aug 2006	42%	47%	11%	1993
Jul 2006	42%	47%	11%	2489
May 2006	35%	57%	8%	1997
Mar 2006	35%	56%	9%	1994

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Q8. Do you think things in California are  
 generally going in the right direction or the  
 wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Feb 2006	32%	58%	10%	1990
Jan 2006	37%	56%	7%	1995
Jan 2006	29%	60%	11%	2492
Oct 2005	30%	60%	10%	1987
Sep 2005	31%	60%	9%	1991
Aug 2005	34%	57%	9%	1995
Jul 2005	38%	51%	12%	2488
May 2005	35%	57%	8%	1993
Apr 2005	35%	53%	11%	2491
Jan 2005	46%	41%	13%	1994
Oct 2004	44%	44%	11%	2003
Sep 2004	47%	40%	13%	1990
Aug 2004	44%	42%	13%	1985
Jul 2004	43%	43%	14%	2491
Jun 2004	44%	44%	13%	2484
May 2004	43%	44%	14%	1991
Feb 2004	35%	51%	14%	1970
Jan 2004	43%	40%	17%	1975
Nov 2003	32%	52%	15%	1984
Oct 2003	22%	67%	11%	1979
Sep 2003	24%	67%	9%	1971
Aug 2003	22%	66%	12%	1979
Jul 2003	31%	57%	12%	1978
Jun 2003	30%	57%	13%	1978
Feb 2003	28%	60%	11%	1967
Nov 2002	49%	41%	10%	1966
Oct 2002	46%	45%	10%	1960
Sep 2002	54%	37%	9%	1971
Aug 2002	44%	48%	9%	1971
Feb 2002	56%	36%	9%	2016
Jan 2002	59%	32%	9%	1942
Dec 2001	58%	33%	9%	1966
Nov 2001	60%	29%	11%	1966
Jul 2001	44%	47%	9%	1986
May 2001	44%	48%	8%	1981
Jan 2001	62%	29%	9%	1973
Oct 2000	59%	32%	9%	1978
Aug 2000	62%	30%	8%	1972
Feb 2000	65%	27%	8%	2021
Jan 2000	66%	26%	8%	1979
Dec 1999	62%	31%	7%	1985
Sep 1999	61%	34%	5%	1988

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q8. Do you think things in California are  
 generally going in the right direction or the  
 wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Jan 1999	63%	28%	9%	1964
Oct 1998	62%	30%	8%	1992
Sep 1998	57%	34%	8%	1995
May 1998	56%	34%	9%	1983
Apr 1998	55%	36%	9%	1972

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q9. 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?

	yes, serious recession	yes, moderate recession	yes, mild recession	(VOL) yes, don't know	no, not in an economic recession	(VOL) don't know
May 2021	16%	24%	10%	3%	41%	6%
Mar 2021	25%	24%	10%	2%	34%	5%
Jan 2021	32%	28%	10%	2%	23%	6%
Sep 2020	31%	29%	11%	1%	23%	4%
May 2020	34%	25%	9%	3%	24%	5%
Dec 2013	22%	33%	11%	0%	30%	4%
Oct 2012	40%	32%	8%	0%	18%	2%
Sep 2012	42%	27%	10%	0%	18%	3%
May 2012	41%	32%	8%	0%	16%	2%
Mar 2012	41%	31%	9%	0%	16%	2%
Jan 2012	43%	34%	9%	0%	13%	2%
Dec 2011	43%	31%	8%	0%	14%	4%
Sep 2011	50%	32%	7%	0%	10%	2%
Jun 2011	47%	34%	7%	0%	10%	2%
Mar 2011	47%	28%	8%	0%	12%	5%
Jan 2011	48%	31%	7%	0%	12%	2%
Oct 2010	54%	28%	5%	0%	10%	2%
Sep 2010	52%	29%	8%	0%	8%	2%
May 2010	55%	28%	7%	0%	9%	1%
Mar 2010	59%	25%	7%	0%	7%	2%
Jan 2010	62%	24%	5%	0%	8%	2%
Dec 2009	60%	26%	5%	0%	7%	2%
Sep 2009	57%	31%	5%	0%	6%	1%
May 2009	53%	32%	5%	0%	7%	3%
Mar 2009	63%	26%	4%	0%	5%	2%
Jan 2009	59%	26%	5%	0%	7%	3%
Oct 2008	39%	30%	10%	0%	17%	4%
Aug 2008	34%	32%	12%	0%	17%	5%
Mar 2008	26%	32%	14%	0%	22%	6%

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 Californians and Their Government - May 2021  
 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

	Unweighted n
May 2021	1702
Mar 2021	1698
Jan 2021	1695
Sep 2020	1699
May 2020	1696
Dec 2013	1697
Oct 2012	2000
Sep 2012	2000
May 2012	2001
Mar 2012	2000
Jan 2012	1999
Dec 2011	1999
Sep 2011	2000
Jun 2011	2003
Mar 2011	1997
Jan 2011	2002
Oct 2010	1997
Sep 2010	1999
May 2010	2002
Mar 2010	2000
Jan 2010	1999
Dec 2009	2003
Sep 2009	2005
May 2009	2003
Mar 2009	2004
Jan 2009	1997
Oct 2008	1997
Aug 2008	2001
Mar 2008	2002

(cont.)

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

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Q10. How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape, or poor shape financially?

	excellent	good	only fair	poor	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	11%	36%	39%	13%	1%	1688
Jan 2021	10%	35%	37%	16%	1%	1688
Sep 2020	11%	35%	37%	17%	1%	1687
May 2020	9%	36%	37%	18%	0%	1686
May 2019	8%	35%	38%	18%	1%	1699
May 2017	7%	33%	40%	19%	0%	1689
Dec 2013	5%	34%	40%	20%	1%	1689
Dec 2011	6%	27%	41%	25%	1%	1984
Dec 2009	6%	29%	39%	25%	1%	1984

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q11. And, thinking about your own personal finances. Would you say that you and your family are financially better off, worse off, or just about the same as a year ago?

	better off	worse off	same	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	20%	24%	56%	1%	1694
Dec 2020	16%	24%	59%	0%	2323
May 2020	16%	29%	54%	0%	1692
Nov 2019	23%	22%	54%	1%	1706
Dec 2013	22%	24%	54%	1%	1697
Dec 2011	15%	35%	49%	1%	1998
Dec 2009	9%	53%	36%	1%	2000
Sep 2002	30%	23%	45%	1%	1976
Dec 2001	21%	25%	53%	1%	1971
Jan 2001	38%	14%	48%	0%	1978
Sep 2000	42%	10%	47%	0%	1993
Sep 1999	36%	12%	52%	0%	2001
Jan 1999	31%	14%	55%	1%	1971
Oct 1998	35%	11%	53%	1%	2003
Sep 1998	33%	12%	54%	1%	1998
May 1998	36%	13%	50%	0%	2002
Apr 1998	37%	12%	51%	0%	1982

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q12. Do you think the gap between the rich and the poor in your part of California is getting larger, getting smaller, or has it stayed the same?

	getting larger	getting smaller	stayed the same	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	62%	5%	29%	4%	1692
Dec 2020	69%	6%	25%	0%	2325
Jan 2020	63%	3%	32%	2%	1703
Mar 2019	67%	5%	26%	3%	1702
May 2017	61%	2%	33%	4%	1702

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q13. Should the state government be doing more to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in California, or is this something that the state government should not be doing?

	should do more	should not do more	[VOL] don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	65%	28%	7%	1691
Sep 2020	59%	36%	5%	1690
Sep 2018	60%	32%	8%	1696
May 2017	61%	32%	7%	1691

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q14. 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?

	big problem	somewhat of a problem	not a problem	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	36%	37%	19%	7%	1696
Jan 2021	38%	41%	12%	9%	1702
May 2020	46%	38%	10%	6%	1698
Jan 2020	42%	37%	14%	6%	1705
May 2019	45%	36%	12%	7%	1700
Jan 2019	40%	38%	18%	4%	1701
Jan 2018	43%	35%	15%	7%	1701
May 2017	43%	37%	13%	7%	1702
Jan 2017	37%	45%	13%	5%	1698
May 2016	44%	37%	13%	6%	1702
Mar 2016	48%	36%	11%	5%	1705
Jan 2016	42%	40%	14%	5%	1697
Dec 2015	45%	36%	11%	8%	1697
Jun 2015	47%	36%	12%	5%	1702
Mar 2015	45%	36%	11%	8%	1699
Jan 2015	46%	39%	11%	4%	1703
Dec 2014	51%	39%	8%	3%	1695
Oct 2014	54%	33%	7%	6%	1698
Sep 2014	55%	32%	7%	6%	1695
May 2014	52%	38%	5%	4%	1698
Jan 2014	50%	40%	7%	3%	1704
Sep 2013	58%	33%	5%	4%	1700
May 2013	61%	30%	6%	2%	1703
Mar 2013	65%	27%	5%	2%	1701
Jan 2013	63%	28%	6%	3%	1703
Dec 2012	68%	26%	4%	2%	1997
Oct 2012	70%	25%	2%	2%	2005
Sep 2012	69%	24%	2%	4%	1998
May 2012	69%	23%	3%	5%	2002
Apr 2012	71%	22%	3%	3%	2004
Mar 2012	67%	24%	5%	4%	2000
Jan 2012	64%	30%	4%	2%	2001
Dec 2011	69%	24%	3%	4%	2001
Sep 2011	68%	27%	2%	3%	1999
Jun 2011	70%	24%	4%	2%	2004
Mar 2011	68%	24%	4%	3%	1999
Jan 2011	68%	26%	3%	3%	2002
Sep 2010	80%	17%	2%	2%	2002
May 2010	81%	15%	1%	3%	2001
Mar 2010	77%	19%	2%	2%	2001
Jan 2010	75%	21%	2%	2%	2000

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - May 2021  
 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q14. 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?

	big problem	somewhat of a problem	not a problem	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Dec 2009	78%	18%	2%	2%	1999
Sep 2009	78%	18%	2%	2%	2002
May 2009	74%	22%	2%	3%	2004
Mar 2009	75%	20%	2%	3%	2001
Jan 2009	75%	20%	2%	2%	2000
Oct 2008	74%	22%	2%	2%	2003
Sep 2008	78%	19%	1%	2%	2001
Aug 2008	73%	21%	4%	2%	1999
May 2008	67%	27%	4%	3%	2000
Mar 2008	68%	26%	3%	4%	1998
Jan 2008	64%	30%	3%	3%	1997
May 2007	44%	43%	6%	6%	1996
Jan 2007	45%	42%	7%	6%	2011
May 2006	58%	31%	5%	6%	1998
Jan 2006	61%	30%	4%	4%	2002

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - May 2021  
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Q17. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that Joe Biden is handling his job as  
 president?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	66%	30%	5%	1694
Mar 2021	65%	30%	5%	1696
Jan 2021	70%	24%	7%	1693

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q18. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of  
 the way that President Biden is handling the  
 coronavirus outbreak?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	75%	23%	3%	1699
Jan 2021	71%	20%	9%	1692

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q19. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way  
 the Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi is handling her  
 job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) never heard of her/have not heard enough to have an opinion	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	50%	38%	6%	5%	1699
Oct 2020	48%	44%	3%	5%	1687
Jan 2020	51%	40%	4%	5%	1692
Jan 2019	48%	39%	8%	6%	1696
Sep 2009	49%	40%	0%	11%	2000
Mar 2009	49%	36%	0%	16%	1997
Sep 2008	40%	44%	0%	16%	1991
Mar 2008	43%	37%	0%	20%	1985
Sep 2007	45%	36%	0%	18%	1987
Jun 2007	39%	31%	0%	29%	1995
Mar 2007	52%	27%	0%	21%	1992

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q20. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy is handling his job?

	approve	disapprove	(VOL) never heard of him/have not heard enough to have an opinion	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	32%	37%	21%	9%	1693
Oct 2020	35%	38%	17%	10%	1682
Jan 2020	31%	39%	18%	12%	1688
Jan 2019	32%	30%	26%	12%	1696

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q21. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?				
	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	43%	49%	8%	1692
Mar 2021	42%	51%	6%	1700
Jan 2021	42%	51%	7%	1693
Oct 2020	36%	57%	7%	1687
Sep 2020	31%	63%	6%	1684
May 2020	38%	55%	7%	1683
Feb 2020	38%	56%	6%	1688
Jan 2020	38%	55%	7%	1684
Nov 2019	28%	64%	8%	1690
Sep 2019	33%	58%	9%	1680
Jul 2019	25%	65%	9%	1696
May 2019	30%	63%	7%	1690
Mar 2019	36%	56%	8%	1690
Jan 2019	34%	59%	7%	1690
Dec 2018	29%	62%	9%	1686
Oct 2018	25%	64%	11%	1689
Sep 2018	28%	61%	10%	1694
Jul 2018	20%	71%	9%	1697
May 2018	24%	66%	10%	1684
Mar 2018	29%	65%	6%	1697
Jan 2018	21%	72%	7%	1698
Dec 2017	22%	70%	8%	1700
Sep 2017	24%	70%	6%	1726
Jul 2017	24%	68%	8%	1702
May 2017	26%	66%	8%	1695
Mar 2017	36%	55%	9%	1692
Jan 2017	33%	58%	9%	1689
Oct 2016	31%	59%	10%	1703
Sep 2016	29%	65%	6%	1699
Jul 2016	28%	66%	6%	1696
May 2016	28%	67%	6%	1696
Mar 2016	24%	70%	6%	1706
Jan 2016	32%	63%	5%	1694
Dec 2015	26%	67%	7%	1697
Sep 2015	32%	62%	7%	1702
Jul 2015	29%	63%	9%	1690
Jun 2015	27%	68%	5%	1701
Mar 2015	24%	69%	7%	1694
Jan 2015	38%	55%	7%	1700
Oct 2014	24%	68%	8%	1689
Sep 2014	24%	66%	10%	1682
Jul 2014	22%	72%	6%	1690
May 2014	24%	69%	7%	1697

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
Californians and Their Government - May 2021  
All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

Q21. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?				
	approve	disapprove	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
Mar 2014	19%	74%	7%	1695
Jan 2014	26%	69%	5%	1702
Dec 2013	18%	76%	6%	1693
Sep 2013	28%	65%	8%	1682
Jul 2013	30%	62%	7%	2092
May 2013	31%	62%	6%	1696
Mar 2013	29%	67%	4%	1696
Jan 2013	34%	59%	7%	1700
Oct 2012	26%	67%	7%	2000
Sep 2012	27%	67%	7%	1989
Aug 2012	27%	66%	7%	2485
May 2012	22%	69%	8%	1993
Mar 2012	24%	68%	8%	1992
Jan 2012	25%	69%	5%	1993
Dec 2011	20%	75%	5%	1988
Sep 2011	27%	64%	9%	1996
Jul 2011	25%	65%	10%	2495
Mar 2011	30%	58%	12%	1988
Oct 2010	31%	64%	5%	1988
Sep 2010	26%	66%	8%	1990
May 2010	31%	61%	8%	1997
Mar 2010	24%	68%	8%	1992
Jan 2010	36%	55%	9%	1991
Dec 2009	38%	54%	8%	1994
Sep 2009	39%	54%	7%	2000
May 2009	47%	43%	10%	1998
Mar 2009	43%	47%	10%	1993
Jan 2009	37%	56%	7%	1997
Oct 2008	23%	71%	6%	1993
Sep 2008	29%	63%	9%	1991
Aug 2008	27%	64%	9%	1990
Mar 2008	33%	55%	12%	1992
Dec 2007	31%	62%	7%	1992
Sep 2007	33%	57%	10%	1990
Jun 2007	33%	54%	13%	1989
Jan 2007	42%	44%	13%	2006
Sep 2006	37%	54%	9%	1994
Mar 2006	35%	54%	11%	1992
Oct 2005	42%	46%	11%	1996

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q22. Do you think things in the United States  
 are generally going in the right direction or the  
 wrong direction?

	right direction	wrong direction	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	53%	43%	4%	1698
Jan 2021	52%	43%	6%	1699
Oct 2020	33%	62%	5%	1690
Nov 2019	34%	61%	5%	1677
Jan 2019	30%	66%	3%	1686
Oct 2018	36%	57%	7%	1693
Dec 2017	29%	65%	6%	1692
May 2017	29%	65%	6%	1689
Jan 2017	36%	57%	7%	1689
Oct 2016	43%	50%	7%	1697
Mar 2016	40%	56%	4%	1702
Sep 2015	44%	51%	5%	1690
Mar 2015	40%	54%	6%	1690
Mar 2014	39%	56%	5%	1691
Dec 2013	35%	57%	7%	1693
Jan 2013	56%	39%	5%	1701
Oct 2012	46%	49%	5%	1998
Sep 2011	30%	65%	5%	1989
Oct 2010	36%	58%	6%	1982
Dec 2009	42%	53%	5%	1997
May 2009	57%	37%	6%	2000
Jan 2009	32%	62%	6%	1993
Aug 2008	21%	74%	5%	1994
Mar 2008	22%	73%	6%	1997
Jun 2007	31%	63%	6%	1982
Jan 2007	34%	60%	6%	2003
Oct 2006	31%	62%	7%	1992
Sep 2005	34%	62%	5%	2002
Jan 2005	43%	51%	5%	1997
Sep 2004	42%	54%	4%	1995
Sep 2003	42%	51%	7%	1979

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q23. Turning to economic conditions, do you think that during the next 12 months the United States will have good times financially or bad times?

	good times	bad times	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	55%	39%	5%	1694
Jan 2021	45%	49%	6%	1697
Sep 2020	35%	58%	7%	1687
May 2020	23%	70%	6%	1693
Nov 2019	47%	43%	10%	1692
Oct 2018	48%	42%	10%	1695
May 2017	39%	50%	11%	1697
Jan 2017	52%	39%	8%	1692
Oct 2016	46%	39%	15%	1693
Mar 2016	48%	42%	10%	1702
Sep 2015	48%	45%	7%	1695
Mar 2015	53%	41%	6%	1686
Mar 2014	45%	48%	7%	1689
Dec 2013	43%	48%	9%	1693
Oct 2012	45%	46%	10%	1997
Sep 2011	29%	65%	6%	1995
Sep 2010	35%	58%	7%	1985
Dec 2009	35%	58%	8%	1999
May 2009	33%	61%	6%	2001
Jan 2009	24%	71%	5%	1995
Aug 2008	23%	70%	7%	1992
Mar 2008	18%	76%	5%	1998
Jun 2007	39%	53%	8%	1993
Jan 2007	47%	46%	8%	2006
Oct 2006	44%	46%	9%	1996
Sep 2005	30%	63%	7%	2002
Jan 2005	48%	43%	9%	1996
Sep 2004	47%	41%	12%	1996
Sep 2003	47%	42%	11%	1974

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q24. 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?

	very concerned	somewhat concerned	not too concerned	not at all concerned	(VOL) have already been hospitalized due to coronavirus	(VOL) don't know
May 2021	10%	18%	25%	46%	1%	0%
Mar 2021	18%	29%	24%	28%	1%	0%
Jan 2021	25%	35%	20%	18%	2%	1%
Sep 2020	28%	33%	21%	18%	0%	0%
May 2020	24%	34%	23%	19%	0%	1%

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - May 2021  
 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

	Unweighted n
May 2021	1699
Mar 2021	1703
Jan 2021	1698
Sep 2020	1702
May 2020	1701

(cont.)

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q25. Which comes closer to your view about  
 where the U.S. stands in the coronavirus  
 outbreak: [ROTATE] [1] the worst is behind us  
 [OR] [2] the worst is yet to come?

	the worst is behind us	the worst is yet to come	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	86%	10%	4%	1697
Mar 2021	74%	21%	4%	1700
Jan 2021	58%	37%	6%	1698
Sep 2020	51%	42%	7%	1697
May 2020	46%	48%	6%	1695

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q26. Have you personally received the COVID-19 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?

	yes, single dose vaccine	yes, first of two doses	yes, both doses of two doses	no	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	7%	9%	50%	33%	0%	1681
Mar 2021	4%	13%	16%	67%	0%	1696

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
 Californians and Their Government - May 2021  
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Q26a. The coronavirus vaccine is now available to all individuals 16 and older. Will you definitely get the coronavirus vaccine, probably get it, probably not get it or definitely not get it?

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	definitely get the vaccine	probably get the vaccine	probably not get the vaccine	definitely not get the vaccine	already got the vaccine (Q26=1,2,3)	(VOL) don't know
May 2021	6%	9%	5%	12%	67%	2%
Mar 2021	28%	18%	7%	14%	33%	1%
Jan 2021	43%	25%	11%	13%	5%	2%
Oct 2020	26%	31%	20%	20%	0%	2%

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**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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 All Adults - Time Trends(cont.)**

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	Unweighted n
May 2021	1689
Mar 2021	1697
Jan 2021	1697
Oct 2020	1683

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(cont.)

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q27. Overall, do you think the state government is doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job of distributing COVID-19 vaccines to people in California?

	excellent	good	fair	poor	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	26%	49%	17%	6%	3%	1695
Mar 2021	14%	38%	29%	15%	4%	1698
Jan 2021	7%	29%	31%	26%	7%	1694

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q28. As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010, known commonly as the Affordable Care Act or Obamacare. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of it?

	generally favorable	generally unfavorable	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	60%	30%	10%	1692
Oct 2020	60%	34%	6%	1694
Sep 2019	55%	35%	10%	1686
Mar 2019	56%	36%	7%	1694
Oct 2018	59%	33%	8%	1694
May 2018	45%	39%	16%	1680
Sep 2017	58%	37%	5%	1726
May 2017	48%	41%	10%	1693
Jan 2017	51%	39%	9%	1687
Dec 2015	51%	42%	8%	1686
Mar 2015	52%	42%	6%	1693
Jan 2015	51%	41%	8%	1696
Dec 2014	46%	43%	10%	1690
Oct 2014	46%	44%	11%	1694
Sep 2014	42%	46%	11%	1693
May 2014	48%	43%	9%	1686
Mar 2014	47%	45%	7%	1689
Jan 2014	44%	46%	10%	1697
Dec 2013	44%	44%	13%	1693

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q29. Do you favor or oppose having guaranteed health insurance coverage in which all Californians would get their insurance through a single state government health plan? IF FAVOR: Do you favor it even if it means raising taxes?

	favor, even if it means raising taxes	favor, not if it means raising taxes	oppose	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	42%	20%	32%	6%	1698
May 2018	41%	23%	29%	7%	1690
May 2017	42%	23%	29%	6%	1700

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q30. In general, do you think laws covering the sale of guns should be more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?

	more strict	less strict	kept as they are now	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	63%	16%	19%	2%	1701
Sep 2019	68%	10%	19%	3%	1694
Oct 2018	64%	13%	21%	2%	1699
Mar 2018	73%	5%	21%	2%	1699
May 2017	60%	15%	23%	2%	1702
Sep 2015	65%	10%	23%	2%	1706

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding

**PPIC Statewide Survey  
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Q31. How concerned are you about the threat of a mass shooting in the area where you live? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not concerned at all?

	very concerned	somewhat concerned	not very concerned	not concerned at all	(VOL) don't know	Unweighted n
May 2021	24%	26%	26%	22%	1%	1699
Sep 2019	38%	28%	19%	16%	0%	1699
Jan 2016	28%	29%	22%	20%	1%	1700

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding