

# Statewide Survey: Poll Questions and Results

**Q1 To begin with, do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?**

		Percent
	Right direction	52.8
	Wrong track	30.2
	Don't know	15.5
	Refused	1.5
	Total	100.0

**Q2 Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job the state legislature in Sacramento is doing?**

		Percent
Valid	Approve	42.7
	Disapprove	36.7
	Don't know	19.3
	Refused	1.3
	Total	100.0

**Q3 And how about Arnold Schwarzenegger? Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job he's doing as governor?**

		Percent
	Approve	61.2
	Disapprove	30.5
	Don't know	7.2
	Refused	1.2
	Total	100.0

**Q4 Would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the amount of attention that the state legislature and the governor spend on the issues most important to you?**

	Percent
Very satisfied	7.8
Somewhat satisfied	31.2
Somewhat dissatisfied	29.7
Very dissatisfied	19.7
Don't know	10.0
Refused	1.7
Total	100.0

**Q5 Do you think the job state government does would be better, worse or not much different if elections were more competitive?**

	Percent
Better	46.7
Worse	5.2
Not much different	36.0
Don't know	10.7
Refused	1.5
Total	100.0

**Q6 Do you think the job state government does would be better, worse or not much different if a wider variety of candidates had a chance of winning elections?**

	Percent
Better	58.3
Worse	6.2
Not much different	28.5
Don't know	6.0
Refused	1.0
Total	100.0

**Q7 Would you say our system of electing people for state office needs to be improved or would you say it's okay the way it is?**

	Percent
Needs improvement	61.5
OK the way it is	34.0
Don't know	4.3
Refused	.2
Total	100.0

**Q8 When you vote, would you say that you're generally satisfied with the quality of the candidates you have to chose among, or do you often feel that you are voting for the lesser of two evils?**

		Percent
	Satisfied with quality of candidates	25.5
	Often vote for lesser of two evils	69.5
	Don't know	3.8
	Refused	1.2
	Total	100.0

**Q9 Do you believe our election system is fair to independent and minor-party candidates? Or do you think it favors Democrats and Republicans?**

		Percent
	Election system is fair	17.5
	System favors Dems and Repubs	75.3
	Don't know	5.7
	Refused	1.5
	Total	100.0

**Q10 Is that OK with your or not OK with you?**

		Valid Percent
Valid	OK	28.1
	Not OK	66.4
	Don't know	4.6
	Refused	.9
	Total	100.0

**Q11 In your view, do the Democratic and Republican parties do an adequate job of representing the people of California or do you wish there were another major party?**

		Percent
	Major parties do adequate job	38.3
	Need another major party	51.3
	Don't know	9.2
	Refused	1.2
	Total	100.0

**Q12 Recently, Canada randomly selected 160 average voters to participate in a year-long study of their election process. The meetings were public and held at convenient times and the participants were paid. At the conclusion, their recommendations to improve the election process were put on the ballot for all voters to consider. Do you think it would be a good idea for California to convene a voters' study group like they did in Canada?**

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Good idea	72.8	77	65	80
Not a good idea	18.5	14	27	13
Don't know	8.0	9	7	6
Refused	.7	0	1	0

**Q13 Do you think average voters who participate in that kind of year-long study could make intelligent decisions about how elections should be organized?**

	Percent
Yes	64.7
No	18.0
Maybe	12.2
Don't know	4.7
Refused	.5
Total	100.0

**Q14 Would you be more likely to vote for a recommendation to change our election system if it came from a year-long study group of average citizens or from a committee of government and political leaders?**

	Percent
Average citizens	70.0
Govt and political leaders	10.2
Neither	11.3
Don't know	7.7
Refused	.8
Total	100.0

**Q15 Would you be more likely to vote for a recommendation to change our election system if it came from a year-long study group of average citizens or from a panel of independent experts?**

	Percent
Average citizens	48.0
Independent experts	33.8
Neither	8.3
Don't know	8.5
Refused	1.3
Total	100.0

**Q16 Would you want to participate in a voters' study group of election reforms if you were paid for your participation and meetings were held at convenient times?**

	Percent
Yes	51.7
No	38.8
Maybe	8.2
Don't know	1.3
Total	100.0

**Q17 Would you like to see, or not like to see, the governor and Legislature create a voters' study group that would consider changes to California's election process and make recommendations that would then be placed on the ballot?**

	Percent
Would like to see that	74.8
Wouldn't want to see that	17.2
Don't know	6.8
Refused	1.2
Total	100.0

**Q18 If the governor and Legislature will not do it, would you vote for an initiative to create a voters' study group that would consider changes to California's election process and make recommendations that would then be placed on the ballot?**

	Percent
Yes	66.8
No	21.0
Maybe	7.7
Don't know	3.7
Refused	.8
Total	100.0

**Q19 Some California cities are now using a system called instant runoff voting. Under this system, you rank your first and second choice candidates for each office.<sup>1</sup> If your first-choice candidate doesn't make the cut, your vote goes to your second-choice candidate. The idea is to make sure your vote counts even if your first choice can't win. Does this sound like a good idea to you?**

		Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
	Good idea	52	58	42	58
	Not a good idea	34	28	44	29
	Maybe	7	8	7	3
	Don't know	6	6	5	9
	Refused	1	0	2	1

**Q20 If you thought Instant Runoff Voting would discourage negative attacks, would that make you more or less likely to support the idea?**

		Percent
	More likely	58.7
	Less likely	20.2
	No difference	10.7
	Don't know	8.0
	Refused	2.5
	Total	100.0

**Q21 If you thought Instant Runoff Voting would save public funds, would that make you more or less likely to support the idea?**

		Percent
	More likely	69.8
	Less likely	15.0
	No difference	6.5
	Don't know	6.5
	Refused	2.2
	Total	100.0

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<sup>1</sup> Although most systems allow voters to rank their first, second and third choices, the concept was simplified in order to make it more easily understandable to respondents.

**Q22 Do you think independent candidates - those who are not Democrats or Republicans - can compete fairly in today's elections?**

		Percent
	Yes	28.5
	No	67.3
	Don't know	4.2
	Total	100.0

**Q23 Do you think it's important to elect more independent candidates or do you prefer to choose between candidates who are strong Democrats and strong Republicans?**

		Percent
	Important to elect more independents	53.7
	Prefer strong Dems and Repubs	29.0
	Don't know	13.7
	Refused	3.7
	Total	100.0

**Q24 How about politically moderate candidates, whether they're Republicans or Democrats? Do you think politically moderate candidates are able to compete fairly in today's elections?**

		Percent
	Yes	52.3
	No	37.3
	Don't know	9.5
	Refused	.8
	Total	100.0

**Q25 Do you think it's important to elect more politically moderate candidates, or do you prefer candidates with strong liberal or strong conservative viewpoints?**

		Percent
	Important to elect moderates	50.5
	Prefer strong liberals and conservatives	34.8
	Don't know	11.2
	Refused	3.5
	Total	100.0

**Q26. Another voting method is called Proportional Voting. There are many varieties of proportional voting used in the United States and around the world. The goal of proportional voting is to give significant groups of like-minded voters a voice in Sacramento that reflects their voting strength. This would also make it more likely for independent and minor-party candidates to win seats in the state legislature. Would you generally favor or oppose that kind of election system?**

		Percent
	Generally support	50.0
	Generally oppose	23.8
	Don't know	23.7
	Refused	2.5
	Total	100.0

**Q27. One goal of Proportional Voting is to introduce more points of view by creating districts that elect more than one legislator. Instead of electing one representative from a smaller district, voters elect several representatives from a larger district. Would you generally support or oppose that idea?**

		Percent
	Generally support	47.2
	Generally oppose	33.7
	Don't know	17.2
	Refused	2.0
	Total	100.0