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Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/3t80s0q3>

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Publication Date

2017-03-28



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Release #2017-01

For Publication: Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Trump begins his tenure with historically low job marks in California. Majorities believe his policies will negatively affect the state in many areas; Yet, most prefer state leaders to try to work with the President than oppose him, even if it means making compromises.

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According to the results of a new statewide survey conducted by the Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) at UC Berkeley, majorities of Californians disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as president, and believe that the changes in laws and policies that his administration is proposing will negatively affect California overall and in many specific policy areas. The largest proportions of voters feel the state will be negatively affected in areas relating to the rights of minorities, the environment, health care, international trade and women's rights.

Nevertheless, by a 53% to 47% margin, slightly more voters prefer that when state leaders disagree with the president they should try to work with him even if it means making compromises, rather than opposing him if it risks negative consequences and losses in federal funding.

Voters also oppose by a greater than two-to-one margin (68% to 32%) a proposed ballot initiative that seeks to have California declare its independence from the U.S. and become a separate country.

While there are huge partisan differences in Californians' views of Trump and the effect his policies will have on the state, there is bipartisan opposition to the idea of California becoming a separate country.

These are the findings from the latest *Berkeley IGS Poll* conducted online among 1,000 registered voters statewide by YouGov.

Trump begins tenure with historically low job approval ratings in California

President Trump begins his tenure with the lowest initial job approval ratings of any U.S. president in California over the past sixty years. According to a *Berkeley IGS Poll*, six in ten registered voters (61%) disapprove of the job Trump is doing as president, while just 39% approve. For none of the eight other U.S. presidents did a majority of Californians offer an initially negative assessment of the newly elected president in previously conducted statewide polls.

Trump's 61% negative - 39% positive job marks in California are significantly lower than those found in a recent nationwide poll also conducted online by YouGov in mid-March. In that poll, 49% of Americans disapproved of Trump, while 44% approved of the job he was doing.

Table 1
Comparing Donald Trump's initial job performance rating in the state to the U.S. public and to those of other U.S. presidents in their initial polls in California

	Approve %	Disapprove %	No opinion %
Donald Trump - California	39	61	*
(March 2017) - U.S. **	44	49	7
<u>Initial ratings given to other U.S. presidents in CA**</u>			
Barack Obama (March 2009)	65	21	14
George W. Bush (May 2001)	42	44	14
Bill Clinton (May 1993)	50	46	4
George H.W. Bush (April 1989)	61	30	9
Ronald Reagan (April 1981)	74	18	8
Jimmy Carter (March 1977)	68	20	12
Gerald Ford (October 1974)	55	36	9
John F. Kennedy (February 1961)	76	11	13

* less than ½ of 1%.

** Nationwide poll results are based on an online poll conducted by YouGov for the Economist of 1,500 U.S. adults completed March 19-21, 2017. Job performance ratings of past presidents based on statewide surveys conducted by The Field Poll, as reported in Release #2298, published March 4, 2009 by Field Research Corporation.

Californians believe Trump's policies will negatively impact the state

By a greater than five-to-three margin (53% to 30%) California voters believe that the changes in federal government laws and policies being proposed by the Trump administration will have a negative effect on California overall.

There are huge partisan differences in voter opinions about this. Democrats overwhelmingly foresee negative consequences for the state by a seven-to-one margin (76% to 10%). By contrast, Republicans take an opposite view and believe the impact of the Trump

administration's policies will benefit California 71% to 10%. Those registered as No Party Preference hold views that are closer to the Democrats, with more than twice as many saying Trump's policies will negatively impact on the state.

Table 2				
Overall impact on California of the changes in federal government laws and policies being proposed by the Trump administration				
	Total registered voters	Party Registration		
		Democrats	Republicans	No party preference/ other
	%	%	%	%
Positive	<u>30</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>24</u>
Very positive	14	4	38	9
Somewhat positive	16	6	33	15
Negative	<u>53</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>57</u>
Somewhat negative	16	22	6	16
Very negative	37	54	4	41
Neither/no effect	17	14	19	19

Trump administration proposals seen as having a more negative than positive effect on California in ten of twelve specific policy areas

Voters were also asked to assess the impact that Trump administration proposals would have on California in twelve specific policy areas. In ten of the twelve areas, more Californians foresee a negative than a positive impact on the state. In two areas more believe the state will be positively than negatively affected by the policies of the new president.

The largest proportions of voters foresee negative consequences for California in areas relating to the rights of minorities, the environment, health care, international trade and women's rights. Significant pluralities also believe the changes being proposed by the Trump administration will have a more negative than positive effect in California on education and the public schools, illegal immigration, taxes, energy production and preventing terrorist attacks.

The two areas where more voters see California benefiting from Trump administration policies have to do with improving highways, bridges, dams and public infrastructure, and the economy and jobs, which frequently is an area that voters care a great deal about.

Table 3
Impact on California of the Trump administration's proposed changes in federal government laws and policies in 12 specific areas

	Positive %	Negative %	Neither/no effect %
Improving highways, bridges, dams, infrastructure	46	25	29
Economy and jobs	43	37	20
Preventing terrorist attacks	37	43	20
Energy production	33	46	21
Taxes	33	47	20
Illegal immigration	38	49	13
Education and the public schools	32	49	19
Women's rights	23	50	27
International trade	30	52	18
Health care	30	55	15
The environment	24	57	19
Rights of minorities	23	58	19

What California leaders should do when they disagree with Trump

Voters in this survey were asked which of two statements better represented their own view of how California's political leaders should deal with disagreements they may have with the Trump administration: (1) work with the president, even if it means having to make compromises or (2) oppose the president, even if it risks negative consequences and possible losses in federal funding to the state.

In this setting, slightly more voters (53%) say state leaders should try to work with the president than oppose the president (47%). However, opinions about this again are highly colored by partisanship. About two in three Democrats (68%) support state leaders opposing the president even if it risks negative consequences, while 32% feel they should work with him. By contrast, Republican voters are nearly unanimous in their view that state leaders should work with the president even if it means making compromises, with 92% holding to this view. No Party preference voters are evenly divided and hold views similar to the overall statewide electorate.

Table 4				
What voters believe California leaders should do when they have disagreements with the Trump administration’s proposed laws and policies				
	Total registered voters %	Party Registration		
		Democrats %	Republicans %	No party preference/ other %
Work with the president, even if it means making compromises	53	32	92	50
Oppose the president, even it if risks negative consequences and possible losses in federal funding	47	68	8	50

Voters reject proposed initiative calling for California to declare its independence from the U.S. and become a separate country

By a greater than two-to-one margin California voters say they would vote to oppose a proposed ballot initiative that calls for California to declare its independence from the U.S. and become a separate country. Statewide 68% of voters say they would vote No on the initiative if it were to qualify for the ballot, while 32% are supportive.

There is bipartisan opposition to the initiative, with Democrats opposed 56% to 44%, and Republicans overwhelmingly taking a No side position (85% to 15%). Greater than seven in ten no party preference voters (71%) also say they would vote No if this initiative were placed on the statewide ballot.

Table 5				
Voter preferences regarding a proposed statewide ballot initiative that calls for California to declare its independence from the United States and become a separate country				
	Total registered voters %	Party Registration		
		Democrats %	Republicans %	No party preference/ other %
Inclined to vote . . .				
Yes	32	44	15	29
No	68	56	85	71

About the Survey

The findings in this report are based on a survey of 1,000 California registered voters conducted by the Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) at UC, Berkeley. The *Berkeley IGS Poll* was administered online by YouGov March 13-20, 2017 in English and Spanish. According to YouGov, results from the overall sample have a margin of error of +/-3.6%. To cover a broad range of issues some of the results in this release are based on a random subsample of 500 registered voters each.

YouGov administered the survey by inviting California registered voters who are included among its online panel of over 1.5 million Americans to participate in the poll. Panelists were recruited using a variety of methods, including telephone-to-web and mail-to-web recruitment, partner-sponsored solicitations, web-based advertising and email campaigns, as well as through telephone and mail surveys. Eligible voters were chosen to participate in the poll using a proprietary sampling technology frame that establishes interlocking demographic and regional targets, so that the characteristics of those polled approximate the profile of the state's overall registered voter population. After survey administration, YouGov applied statistical weights to align the sample to demographic and regional characteristics of the state's registered voter population. IGS was responsible for the development and translation into Spanish of all questions included in the survey. The results in this report are based on answers given by California voters to the following questions:

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

President Donald Trump has proposed making a number of changes to federal government laws and policies in his first few months in office. Generally speaking, do you think that the changes in federal government laws and policies being proposed by the Trump administration will have a generally positive or negative effect on California overall?

Do you think that the changes in federal government laws and policies being proposed by the Trump administration will have a positive or negative effect on California in each the following areas: *(See release for categories read) (Items in this series were asked of two random subsamples, each of 500 voters)*

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view of how California leaders should deal with disagreements they may have with the laws and policies being proposed by the Trump administration: (1) They should work with the President, even if it means having to make compromises or (2) They should oppose the President, even if it risks negative consequences and possible losses in federal funding to the state.

An initiative has been proposed for the November 2018 statewide ballot that calls for California to declare its independence from the United States and become a separate country. If the election were being held today, would you be inclined to vote Yes or No on this proposed initiative?

About the Institute of Governmental Studies

The Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) is an interdisciplinary organized research unit that pursues a vigorous program of research, education, publication and public service. A component of the University of California (UC) system's flagship Berkeley campus, it is the oldest organized research unit in the UC system and the oldest public policy research center in the state.