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RELEASE DATE AND TIME: OCTOBER 29, 2010 2:00PM

**SILICON VALLEY VOTERS PREFER CANDIDATES WILLING TO COMPROMISE, THINK CALIFORNIA IS ON THE WRONG TRACK, BLAME ALL PARTIES FOR LATE STATE BUDGET**

SAN JOSE, October 29 – Silicon Valley voters are dissatisfied with the way things are going in California, blame all parties in Sacramento for the delay in passing the state budget, but still look for politicians who are willing to compromise, a new survey by the Survey and Policy Research Institute at San José State University shows.

Silicon Valley residents were asked whether they generally preferred political candidates who take firm positions on issues and promise not to compromise, or candidates who promise to work with the opposing side in an effort to reach compromise solutions. Candidates willing to compromise were preferred by 70% of Silicon Valley voters, while 23% said they prefer candidates who take firm positions and stick to them.

Republican voters (30%) were twice as likely as Democrats (15%) to favor a candidate who takes firm positions and promises not to compromise. But strong majorities among all parties in Silicon Valley said they would prefer a candidate who is willing to compromise, with 75% of Democrats, 64% of Republicans, and 67% of Independents choosing this response.

When deciding between candidates for public office, generally speaking, would you favor a candidate who takes firm positions on issues and promises not to compromise on those issues, or would you favor a candidate who takes positions on issues but who also promises to work with people on the opposing side in an effort to reach compromise solutions?

	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (All)	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (Dems)	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (Reps)	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (Ind)	Silicon Valley residents
Prefer candidate who takes firm positions	23%	15%	30%	27%	19%
Prefer candidate willing to compromise	70	75	64	67	65
Don't know	6	8	4	3	12
Refused	2	2	2	3	4

“This poll shows that most voters do not want politicians who dig in their heels and refuse to reach across the aisle,” said SPRI Research Director Dr. Melinda Jackson. “In fact, voters from across the political spectrum say they would prefer politicians who are willing to work with the other side to find compromise solutions. In Silicon Valley at least, we’re not seeing the kind of Tea Party mood that we’ve seen in other parts of the country this election season.”

A majority of 68% of Silicon Valley voters also say they think California is seriously off on the wrong track, while just 22% say it is on the right track. This dissatisfaction is strongest among Republicans, of whom 81% say the state is on the wrong track and just 12% say it is on the right track. But majorities of both Democrats (59%) and Independents (69%) also think the state is on the wrong track.

Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?					
	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (All)	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (Dems)	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (Reps)	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (Ind)	Silicon Valley residents
Right track	22%	28%	12%	25%	32%
Wrong track	68	59	81	69	54
Don't know	9	13	4	6	13
Refused	1	-	2	-	2

The poll also asked Silicon Valley residents who they thought was most to blame for the state budget being passed 100 days late this year. Options included Governor Schwarzenegger, blamed by 8% of Silicon Valley voters; Democrats in the state legislature, blamed by 15%; and Republicans in the state legislature, blamed by 13%. A 54% majority of Silicon Valley voters, however, volunteered the response that all were equally to blame.

There was a tendency for members of the two major parties to blame the other side, with 21% of Democrats blaming Republicans in the state legislature, and another 13% of Democrats blaming Governor Schwarzenegger. Likewise, 38% of Republican voters placed the blame on Democrats in Sacramento. Independents (73%) were most likely to blame all parties equally.

As you may know, the California state budget was approved 100 days late this year. Who do you think is most to blame for the delay in passing the state budget?					
	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (All)	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (Dems)	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (Reps)	Silicon Valley Likely Voters (Ind)	Silicon Valley residents
Gov. Schwarzenegger	8%	13%	3%	5%	14%
Democrats	15	4	38	10	9
Republicans	13	21	2	8	12
All equally to blame (volunteered response)	54	47	51	73	44
Don't know	10	15	6	5	16
Refused	-	-	-	-	4

"Despite attempts to point fingers at the other side, the lengthy delays in the budget process that we've seen in California hurt all the political actors involved," said SPRI Research Director Dr. Melinda Jackson, "Voters are not making distinctions about who is most responsible for the budget gridlock - they clearly are frustrated with all parties on this issue."

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

The Survey and Policy Research Institute at San José State University conducted the Fall 2010 Silicon Valley Pulse Survey between September 27 – October 16, 2010. This telephone survey of 515 Silicon Valley adults was conducted in English and Spanish, and included questions on several different topics including consumer attitudes, charitable giving, environmental attitudes, and political issues. Likely voters (N=302) are defined based on reported voter registration, past voting history, and intention to vote in the upcoming election.

Telephone numbers included in this sample were randomly generated by computer to ensure that both listed and unlisted numbers were included, from all landline exchanges in Silicon Valley. A random sample of cell phone numbers from the 408 and 650 area codes was also included, with respondents screened for current residence in Silicon Valley. Telephone numbers in the survey sample were called up to four times at different times and days to increase the likelihood of reaching eligible households.

Survey respondents were reached by both cell phone and landline phone. Approximately 14% of respondents indicated that they use only a cell phone, and another 17% said that they primarily use their cell phone. Another 38% of the sample reported using a cell phone and landline equally, 20% said they primarily used a landline, and 11% reported using only a landline phone.

The sampling error for the total sample is plus or minus 4.32 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The sampling error for the subgroup of 302 likely voters is plus or minus 5.64 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Further subgroups have larger margins of error. Results were statistically weighted by demographic characteristics to match recent U.S. Census estimates of the Silicon Valley population for the full sample, and estimates of the likely voter population for the subgroup of likely voters.

Silicon Valley is defined as all of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, plus Fremont, Newark, and Union City in Alameda County, and Scotts Valley in Santa Cruz County. This follows the geographic definition of Silicon Valley used by Joint Venture Silicon Valley in their annual Silicon Valley Index.

The Fall 2010 Silicon Valley Pulse survey was sponsored by the San José State University College of Social Sciences and College of Business, with additional support from Orchard Supply Hardware and YCS Investments.