

SPRING 2009 SPRI OMNIBUS SURVEY – QUESTIONNAIRE AND RESULTS

SPRING 2009 SPRI OMNIBUS SURVEY
 MARCH 30 – APRIL 10, 2009
 408 CALIFORNIA ADULTS
 ENGLISH, SPANISH

MARGIN OF ERROR +/-4.85% AT 95% CONFIDENCE LEVEL FOR TOTAL SAMPLE, +/-5.25% FOR LIKELY VOTERS

1. We are interested in how people are getting along financially these days. Would you say that you (and your family living there) are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago?

Better off	18%
Same (volunteered)	27
Worse off	53
Don't know	2

2. Now looking ahead - do you think that a year from now you (and your family living there) will be better off financially, or worse off, or just about the same as now?

Better off	42%
Same as now	40
Worse off	12
Don't know	6

3. Now turning to business conditions in the country as a whole - do you think that during the next 12 months we'll have good times financially, or bad times, or what?

Good Times	32%
Good and Bad	16
Bad Times	46
Don't know	5

4. Looking ahead, which would you say is more likely: that in the country as a whole we'll have continuous good times during the next five years or so, or that we will have periods of widespread unemployment or depression, or what?

Continuous good times	41%
Stay about the same	12
Widespread unemployment/depression	42
Don't know	5

5. About the big things people buy for their homes - such as furniture, a refrigerator, stove, television, and things like that. Generally speaking do you think now is a good or bad time for people to buy major household items?

Good	41%
Good and Bad	15
Bad	36
Don't know	9

6. On another subject, do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?
[asked of half the sample]

	CA Adults	Voters
Right direction	50%	50%
Wrong track	33	37
Don't know	17	13

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?
[asked of half the sample]

	CA Adults	Voters
Approve	70%	65%
Disapprove	11	20
Don't know	19	15

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?
[asked of half the sample]

	CA Adults	Voters
Approve	66%	61%
Disapprove	14	21
Don't know	17	16

9. Would you say that California is in an economic recession, or not? *[If yes: Do you think it is in a serious, a moderate, or a mild recession?]*

Yes, serious recession	59%
Yes, moderate recession	21
Yes, mild recession	10
No	8
Don't know	2

10. How long do you think the economic recession will last? *[if yes to Q9]*

Less than one year	9%
1-2 years	46
3-5 years	29
More than 5 years	13
Don't know	3

11. Are you concerned that you or someone in your family will lose their job in the next year, or not? *[If yes: Are you very concerned or somewhat concerned about this?]*

Yes, very concerned	30%
Yes, somewhat concerned	19
No	38
Have lost job already (volunteered)	9
Don't know	3

[Q12-14 asked of Silicon Valley residents only]

12. Thinking now about Silicon Valley specifically, do you think that during the next 12 months we'll have good times financially, or bad times, or what?

Good	26%
Good and bad (volunteered)	22
Bad	43
Don't know	9

13. Would you say that at the present time, business conditions in Silicon Valley are better or worse than they were a year ago?

Better Now	8%
Same (volunteered)	6
Worse Now	78
Don't know	6

14. How about a year from now? Do you expect that business conditions in Silicon Valley will be better or worse than they are at present, or just about the same?

Better than now	43%
Same	32
Worse than now	14
Don't know	4

15. *Changing topics, the following is a list of statements about the kinds of values that some people hold as a basis for their beliefs and opinions. For each statement please tell me how much you agree or disagree with the statement.*

Those you are unable to provide for their basic needs should be helped by others.

Strongly agree	44%
Somewhat agree	42
Neither agree nor disagree	4
Somewhat disagree	7
Strongly disagree	3
Don't know	1

16. One should find ways to help others less fortunate than oneself.

Strongly agree	63%
Somewhat agree	29
Neither agree nor disagree	4
Somewhat disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1
Don't know	1

17. A good society is one in which people feel responsible for each other.

Strongly agree	61%
Somewhat agree	24
Neither agree nor disagree	8
Somewhat disagree	5
Strongly disagree	2
Don't know	1

18. *Next is a list of statements about various social issues. We are interested in your opinions about these issues. For each statement please tell me how much you agree or disagree with the statement.*

This country would have many fewer problems if there were more emphasis on traditional family ties.

Strongly agree	43%
Somewhat agree	27
Neither agree nor disagree	10
Somewhat disagree	10
Strongly disagree	8
Don't know	2

19. We should be more tolerant of people who choose to live according to their own moral standards, even if they are very different from our own.

Strongly agree	47%
Somewhat agree	31
Neither agree nor disagree	7
Somewhat disagree	6
Strongly disagree	5
Don't know	2

20. The newer lifestyles are contributing to the breakdown of our society.

Strongly agree	24%
Somewhat agree	25
Neither agree nor disagree	8
Somewhat disagree	17
Strongly disagree	21
Don't know	4

21. The world is always changing and we should adjust our view of moral behavior to those changes.

Strongly agree	29%
Somewhat agree	31
Neither agree nor disagree	8
Somewhat disagree	12
Strongly disagree	16
Don't know	3

22. *Although there are a number of qualities that people feel that children should have, every person thinks that some are more important than others. I am going to read you several pairs of desirable qualities. For each pair please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have.*

Independence	19%
Respect for elders	57
Both (volunteered)	23
Don't know	1

23. *For each pair please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have.*

Obedience	32%
Self-reliance	44
Both (volunteered)	23
Don't know	1

24. *For each pair please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have.*

Curiosity	33%
Good manners	39
Both (volunteered)	27
Don't know	--

25. *For each pair please tell me which one you think is more important for a child to have.*

Being considerate	53%
Well-behaved	17
Both (volunteered)	30
Don't know	--

26. On another subject, do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?

	CA Adults	Voters
Right direction	26%	27%
Wrong track	61	56
Don't know	12	15

27. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Arnold Schwarzenegger is handling his job as governor?

	CA Adults	Voters
Approve	32%	40%
Disapprove	51	45
Don't know	16	13

28. As you know, many people are so busy these days they can't find time to register to vote, or they move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote in California?

Yes, registered	80%
No, not registered	15
Not sure/Don't know	4

29. In what party are you registered to vote?
[Voters only]

Democrat	48%
Republican	31
Decline to state (independent)	17
Other party	4

30. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as a liberal, a moderate, or a conservative? [If liberal/conservative: Would you call yourself a strong liberal/conservative or a not very strong liberal/conservative?]

	CA Adults	Voters
Strong liberal	13%	16%
Not very strong liberal	11	10
Moderate	46	46
Not very strong conservative	10	7
Strong conservative	7	14
Don't know	12	7

31. As you may know, the California state legislature recently passed a budget to close a projected 42 billion dollar deficit, after more than three months of negotiations. Who do you think was most to blame for the delay in passing the state budget?

[Options 1-3 rotated]

	CA Adults	Voters
Governor Schwarzenegger	13%	10%
Democrats in state legislature	9	12
Republicans in state legislature	20	18
All equally to blame [volunteered]	41	45
Don't know	16	13

32a. As you may know, California currently requires a two-thirds majority of the state legislature to pass a state budget. Would you favor a constitutional amendment to change the number of votes needed in the California state legislature to pass a state budget from two-thirds to 55%?

[Asked of half the sample]

	CA Adults	Voters
Yes	47%	45%
No	38	48
Don't know	14	3

32b. As you may know, California is one of only three states in the country to require a two-thirds majority of the state legislature to pass a state budget. The other two states are Arkansas and Rhode Island. Would you favor a constitutional amendment to change the number of votes needed in the California state legislature to pass a state budget from two-thirds to 55%?

[Asked of half the sample]

	CA Adults	Voters
Yes	50%	47%
No	36	41
Don't know	13	11

33. Some groups are calling for a constitutional convention that would review and change the California state constitution. In your view, is it time for a new state constitutional convention?

	CA Adults	Voters
Yes	36%	33%
No	43	47
Don't know	21	19

34. A statewide ballot proposition has been proposed that calls for changing California's primary election system to an open primary. Under the open primary system, any registered voter would be allowed to cast a ballot for a candidate of any party in a single primary election. The two candidates who receive the most votes, regardless of party, would then run against each other in the November general election. If the election were held today, would you vote Yes or No on this open primary proposal?

	CA Adults	Voters
Yes	60%	62%
No	25	25
Don't know	14	12

35a. Proposition 8, which bans same-sex marriages in the state of California, was passed by voters last November by a small margin. The California Supreme Court recently heard arguments regarding the constitutionality of Proposition 8. Some people say that issues such as Prop. 8 should not be left to voters to decide, and should be determined by the legislature or the courts. Others believe such issues should be left to the voters to decide. Who do you think should determine issues such as Prop. 8 for California? *[asked of half the sample; options rotated]*

	CA Adults	Voters
Voters	57%	52%
State legislature	12	10
State Supreme Court	19	26
Don't know	10	12

35b. Proposition 8, which bans same-sex marriages in the state of California, was passed by voters last November by a small margin. The California Supreme Court recently heard arguments regarding the constitutionality of Proposition 8. Some people say that *civil rights* issues such as Prop. 8 should not be left to voters to decide, and should be determined by the legislature or the courts. Others believe such *civil rights* issues should be left to the voters to decide. Who do you think should determine *civil rights* issues such as Prop. 8 for California? *[asked of half the sample; options rotated]*

	CA Adults	Voters
Voters	59%	53%
State legislature	5	4
State Supreme Court	24	27
Don't know	8	11

36. If another constitutional amendment qualified for the ballot which asked voters to allow same-sex couples to legally marry in California, would you vote Yes to allow same-sex couples to marry or No to continue to apply marriage laws only to a man and a woman?

	CA Adults	Voters
Yes	59%	62%
No	31	31
Don't know	8	5

37. According to recent opinion polls, Americans are generally *positive* in their feelings about immigrants and immigration. How would you describe your feelings about recent immigrants? That is, people who are in the U.S. legally, and have come in the last ten years or so? *(asked of 1/3 of the sample)*

Very favorable	42%
Favorable	28
Neutral	13
Unfavorable	11
Very unfavorable	1
Don't know	3

38. According to recent opinion polls, Americans are generally *negative* in their feelings about immigrants and immigration. How would you describe your feelings about recent immigrants? That is, people who are in the U.S. legally, and have come in the last ten years or so? *(asked of 1/3 of the sample)*

Very favorable	34%
Favorable	40
Neutral	14
Unfavorable	5
Very unfavorable	2
Don't know	3

39. According to recent opinion polls, Americans are generally *mixed* in their feelings about immigrants and immigration. How would you describe your feelings about recent immigrants? That is, people who are in the U.S. legally, and have come in the last ten years or so? *(asked of 1/3 of the sample)*

Very favorable	28%
Favorable	40
Neutral	19
Unfavorable	3
Very unfavorable	2
Don't know	5

40. In your opinion, should undocumented or illegal immigrants living or working here be allowed to become legal residents of California?

	CA Adults	Voters
Yes	60	86%
No	32	13
Don't know	9	1

41. On our final topic, are you aware that Governor Schwarzenegger has declared California to be in a state of drought?

Yes	78%
No	21
Don't know	1

42. Which of the following groups do you think uses the most water in California? *[options rotated]*

Single family homes	27%
Industry	19
Agriculture	41
Don't know	13

43. How likely are you to observe local government's call for reducing water use by 15% at home?

Very likely	54%
Somewhat likely	25
Neither likely nor unlikely	5
Very unlikely	3
Somewhat unlikely	8
Don't know	4

44. How important would each of the following factors be in influencing whether or not you took additional actions to conserve water this summer?

45a. Environmental concerns

Very important	64%
Somewhat important	24
Neither important nor unimportant	3
Somewhat unimportant	2
Very unimportant	3
Don't know	2

45b. Request by local government

Very important	45%
Somewhat important	32
Neither important nor unimportant	8
Somewhat unimportant	6
Very unimportant	7
Don't know	2

45c. Saving money	
Very important	60%
Somewhat important	23
Neither important nor unimportant	6
Somewhat unimportant	5
Very unimportant	5
Don't know	1

46. Do you get information about the environment and environmental issues from... [select all that apply]

Television, film, and radio	67%
Newspapers or popular press magazines	54
[If yes]	
Hard copy	63%
Online	23
Both (vol.)	12
Books	29
Family and friends	36
Educational experiences	38
The Internet	59
Other	6

47. Of these sources, which do you use most frequently?

Television, film, and radio	32%
Newspapers or popular press magazines	18
Books	3
Family and friends	5
Educational experiences	5
The Internet	33
Other	3

48. Do you believe environmental education should be mandatory in California elementary schools?

Yes	81%
No	15
Don't know	4

49. Next, I'm going to read a list of behaviors to you. Please tell me if you are engaging in each behavior more often, less often, or about the same since the stock market crash that occurred last fall.

49a. Purchasing organic or natural food at the grocery store

More often	20%
About the same	58
Less often	16
Don't know	5

49b. Engaging in water or energy conservation behaviors at home (for example, setting the thermostat lower, or taking shorter showers)

More often	58%
About the same	35
Less often	5
Don't know	1

49c. Driving fewer miles per week in your car

More often	45%
About the same	38
Less often	14
Don't know	3

49d. Reducing air travel

More often	26%
About the same	45
Less often	21
Don't know	7

49e. Purchasing other "green" consumer products (for example, clothes washing detergent, paper towels, and shampoo)

More often	37%
About the same	47
Less often	12
Don't know	4

[Demographic Questions]

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The Survey and Policy Research Institute at San José State University conducted the Spring 2009 SPRI Omnibus Survey March 30-April 10, 2009. This telephone survey of 408 California adults was conducted in English and Spanish, and included questions on several different topics: consumer attitudes, political issues, and environmental attitudes.

Telephone numbers were randomly generated by computer to ensure that both listed and unlisted numbers were included, from all landline exchanges in California. 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. Likely voters are defined as registered voters who report voting most or all of the time.

The sampling error for the total sample is plus or minus 4.85 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. For the subsample of 314 likely voters, the margin of error is plus or minus 5.53 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

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