

FROM: CALIFORNIACITYNEWS.ORG / PRIME GROUP
DATE: MAY 2017
RE: CALIFORNIA LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS POLL RESULTS

Highlights

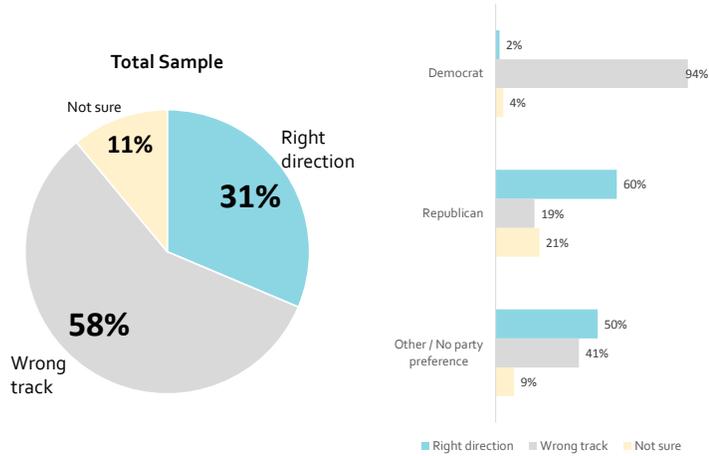
- The inaugural CaliforniaCityNews.org / Prime Group California Local Elected Officials Poll reveals a deeply divided state at the local level. Democrats, Republicans, and those with no party preference have starkly different views on the direction of the country overall, the direction of the state, approval ratings of President Trump and Governor Brown, the top priorities for the state, and immigration issues.
- Democrat elected officials are nearly unanimous in their belief that the country is off on the wrong track and California is headed in the right direction, and in their disapproval of President Trump and approval of Governor Brown. Republicans are exactly the reverse – the majority think the country is headed in the right direction and California is off on the wrong track, and most are approving of President Trump and disapproving of Governor Brown.
- Besides pension issues, which Republicans and those with no party preference rank as the number one public policy priority for California and Democrats rank number two, local elected officials from different sides of the aisle hold differing views on the top priorities for the state. Republicans and those with no party preference are more likely to believe the state should prioritize taxes and economic growth and public safety, while Democrats are more likely to say housing and transportation issues are more important.
- The local elected officials are evenly split on the issue of sanctuary cities with differences falling almost perfectly along party lines.
- Two-thirds of these elected officials see major problems looming in the implementation of legalized recreational marijuana with half (47%) saying those problems “won’t be resolved for years” and one-fifth (19%) expecting implementation to be “an unmitigated mess.”

Main Findings

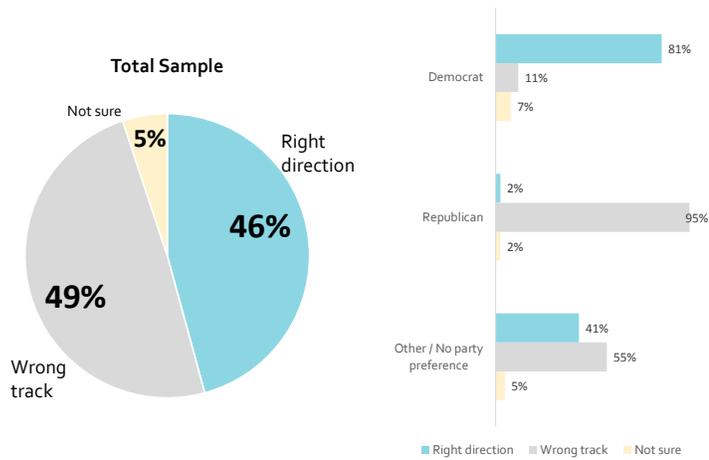
Right direction / Wrong track & Job performance ratings

- Nearly one-third (31%) of California local elected officials think the country is headed in the right direction, while 58% believe it is off on the wrong track. Hardly any Democrats (2%) believe the country is headed in the right direction, while 60% of Republicans and 50% of those with no party preference believe it is.
- Nearly equal numbers of officials think California is headed in the right direction (46%) as think the state is off on the wrong track (49%). The differences by party ID are reversed compared to the country overall question, with most Democrats (81%) and hardly any Republicans (2%) saying the state is headed in the right direction. Those with no party preference are in the middle with 41% saying the state is headed in the right direction.

Question wording:
Thinking about **the country overall**, do you think things in the U.S. are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things are seriously off on the wrong track?

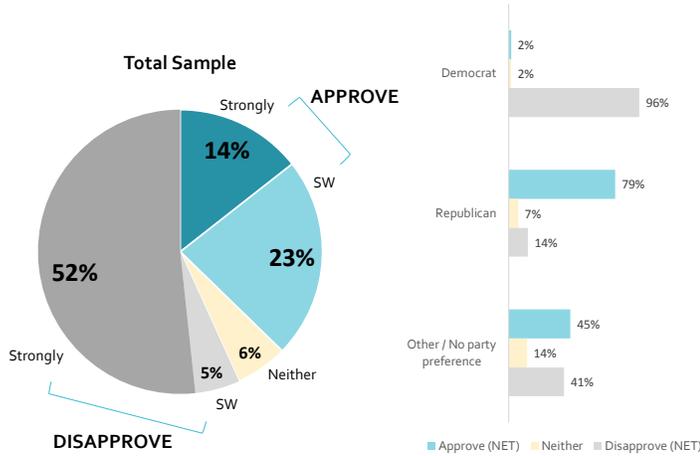


Question wording:
Thinking about **California overall**, do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction, or do you feel things are seriously off on the wrong track?

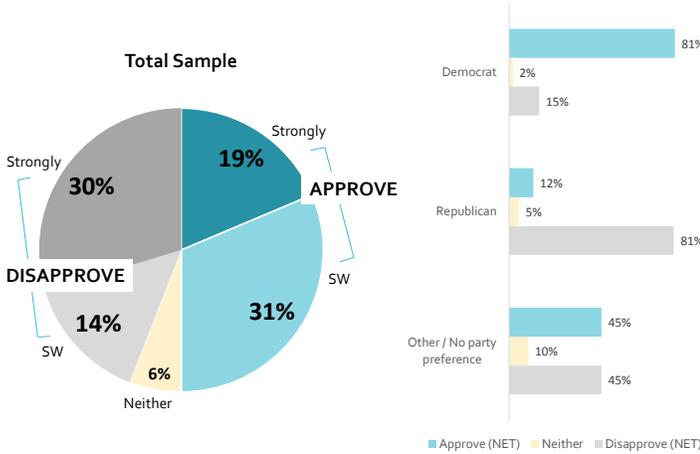


- Among local elected officials, President Trump receives a 37% approval rating, Governor Brown receives a 50% approval rating, and the California state legislature receives a 44% approval rating.
- The deep differences between Democrats and Republicans are also found in the job approval ratings. For President Trump, 96% of Democrats strongly or somewhat disapprove of the job he is doing, while 80% of Republicans strongly or somewhat approve. Four-in-five (81%) Democrats approve of the job Governor Brown is doing while the same percentage (81%) of Republicans disapprove.

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



Question wording:
Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way **Jerry Brown is handling his job as Governor of California?**



Top state priorities

- The survey used a MaxDiff approach – an iterative forced-choice methodology – to rank order ten different public policy priorities.
- State and local pension issues is the highest ranked priority overall. Nearly half of local elected officials (48%) rank this as the first or second most important priority, including 41% of Democrats, 57% of Republicans, and 50% of those with no party preference ranking it most important.
- Local elected officials are divided over the next highest priorities. The second-highest priority – taxes and economic growth (34%) – is much more likely to be cited by Republicans (62%) than by those with no party preference (32%) or Democrats (13%).
- On the other hand, housing issues, which ranks number three overall (28%), is much more likely to be cited by Democrats (50%) than by Republicans (7%) and those with no party preference (14%).
- Immigration issues (11%), education (10%), and homelessness (1%) are less likely to be ranked as high priorities by local elected officials.

Question wording:

On the following five screens you will see a list of public policy priorities for California. On each screen, please read the priorities carefully and then select:
 - The MOST IMPORTANT priority for California in 2017; and
 - The LEAST IMPORTANT priority for California in 2017; and

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Other / No party preference
State and local pension issues	48%	41%	57%	50%
Taxes and economic growth	34%	13%	62%	32%
Housing issues	28%	50%	7%	14%
Public safety	28%	19%	40%	27%
Transportation issues	16%	19%	17%	9%
Environmental issues	12%	20%	0%	14%
Water issues	12%	13%	5%	23%
Immigration issues	11%	7%	10%	23%
Education issues	10%	17%	2%	9%
Homelessness	1%	2%	0%	0%

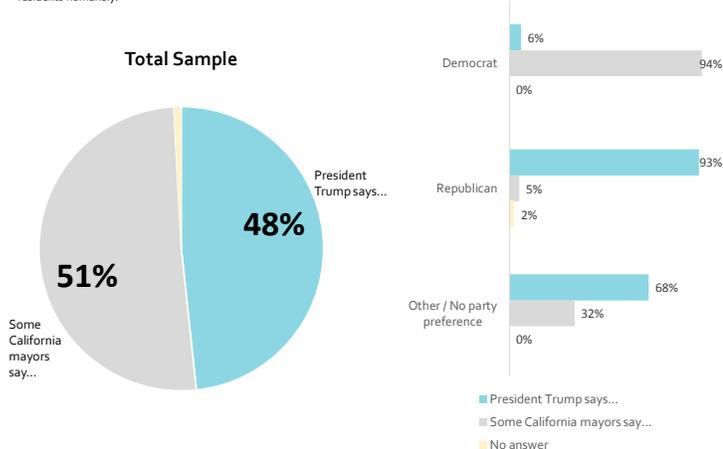
Immigration

- Overall, the local elected officials are evenly split on the issue of sanctuary cities – 49% agreeing with President Trump and 51% in support of sanctuary cities. The differences fall almost perfectly along party lines, with Democrats in support of sanctuary cities (94%) and Republicans agreeing with President Trump (95%).
- Those with no party preference are less monolithic but the majority (68%) say they agree with the President.

Question wording:

Which of the following comes closer to your view?

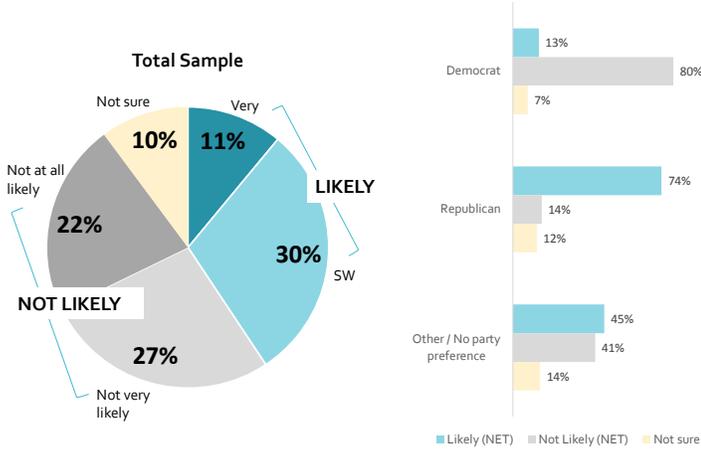
- President Trump says that all city officials should enforce the country's immigration laws and there should be no such thing as "sanctuary cities."
- Some California mayors say that it is not their job to enforce national immigration laws and "sanctuary cities" are necessary to treat all of their residents humanely.



- Two-in-five (41%) local elected officials believe Trump is likely to prevail in the courts in his battle to withhold federal funding from sanctuary cities, while about one-half (49%) believe he

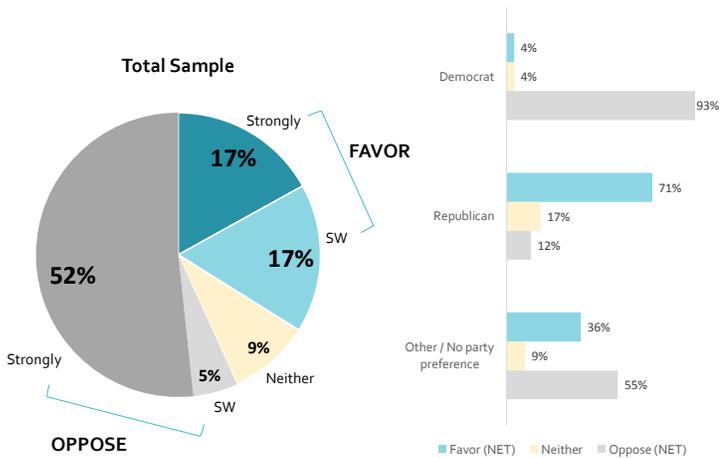
is not likely to prevail. Only 13% of Democrats say he will prevail, compared to 74% of Republicans and 45% of those with no party preference.

Question wording:
How likely do you think it is that President Trump prevail in the courts in his battle to withhold federal funding from "sanctuary cities" that do not cooperate with his executive order on enforcement of immigration laws?



- The majority of local elected officials (57%) oppose the building of the wall along the US-Mexico border including 52% who say they "strongly oppose." One-third (34%) say they are in favor of the wall. The differences again are largely explained by party differences. Nearly all Democrats (93%) oppose the wall, while Republicans largely favor it (71%).
- Those with no party preference agree more with Democrats on this issue, with 55% saying the oppose.

Question wording:
Do you favor or oppose the building of a wall along the US-Mexico border to try to stop illegal immigration?

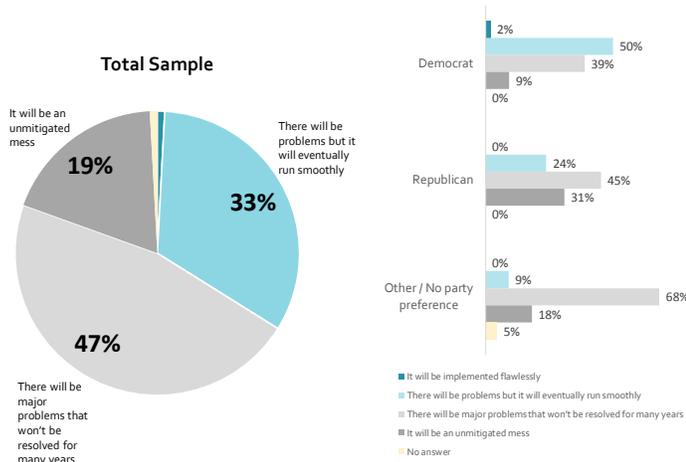


Marijuana

- Two-thirds of these elected officials see major problems looming in the implementation of legalized recreational marijuana with half (47%) saying those problems "won't be resolved for years" and an additional one-fifth (19%) expecting implementation to be "an unmitigated mess." Republicans are most skeptical with about one-third (31%) holding the most negative view.

- Only one-third (33%) believe that initial problems will eventually be smoothed out. Democrats (50%) are most likely to hold this view, followed by Republicans (24%) and those with no party preference (10%).

Question wording:
How well do you think the cities and towns of California will handle the transition to legal use of recreational marijuana?



Methodology

CaliforniaCityNews.org / Prime Group fielded an online survey among California mayors and city councilmembers from May 1 – May 10, 2017. The survey was made available to California mayors and city council members by e-mail invitation or through the CaliforniaCityNews.org newsletter. The survey had a response of n=118, with n=25 mayors and n=93 council members. Forty-six percent (46%) of the respondents self-identified as Democrat, 36% as Republican, and 19% as Independent or other. The sample is representative of local elected officials in the state, not necessarily of the electorate overall.