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Californians hold divergent views about the direction of the country and that of the state. Brown continues to receive very positive job marks, while views of the legislature are mixed.

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CALIFORNIANS HOLD DIVERGENT VIEWS ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY AND THAT OF THE STATE. BROWN CONTINUES TO RECEIVE VERY POSITIVE JOB MARKS, WHILE VIEWS OF THE LEGISLATURE ARE MIXED.

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By Mark DiCamillo, Director, *The Field Poll*

The latest *Field/IGS Poll*, conducted jointly by *The Field Poll* and UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies, finds Californians holding very different views about the overall direction of the country and that of the state. A 62% majority of voters here believe that the country is seriously off on the wrong track, while just 37% feel it is moving in the right direction. By contrast, when asked to assess the overall direction of the state, a slightly larger proportion (51%) believes that California is generally moving in the right direction than feel it is on the wrong track (49%).

The poll also finds that voters continue to offer a very positive assessment of the job Jerry Brown is doing as governor. Six in the voters (60%) now say they approve of Brown's performance and 40% disapprove. Voter views of the performance of the state legislature are more divided, with 50% approving and 49% disapproving.

Most Californians continue believe the country is seriously off on the wrong track

The majority view that the country is seriously off on the wrong track is being fueled by the very pessimistic opinions of Republicans and non-partisans. Among Republicans 85% believe the country is seriously off on the wrong track, while among no party preference voters 72% hold this view. California Democrats offer a more optimistic assessment, with 57% believing the country is generally moving in the right direction, and 42% saying it is seriously off on the wrong track.

| Table 1 | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Trend of California voter views about the overall direction of the U.S. as measured by <i>The Field Poll</i> (among registered voters) | | | |
| | <u>Right direction</u> | <u>Wrong track</u> | <u>No opinion</u> |
| September 2016 | 37% | 62 | 1 |
| July 2016 | 34% | 54 | 12 |
| April 2016 | 32% | 60 | 8 |
| January 2016 | 39% | 48 | 13 |
| 2015 (average) | 41% | 43 | 16 |
| 2014 (average) | 35% | 51 | 14 |
| 2013 (average) | 41% | 49 | 10 |
| 2012 (average) | 42% | 48 | 10 |
| 2011 (average) | 24% | 65 | 11 |
| 2010 (average) | 36% | 52 | 12 |
| 2009 (average) | 45% | 44 | 11 |
| 2008 (average) | 16% | 75 | 9 |
| 2007 (average) | 25% | 65 | 10 |
| 2006 (average) | 30% | 60 | 10 |
| 2005 (average) | 33% | 59 | 8 |
| 2004 (average) | 38% | 53 | 9 |
| 2003 (average) | 44% | 50 | 6 |
| 2002 (average) | 51% | 37 | 12 |
| December 2001 (post-9/11 attack) | 68% | 27 | 5 |
| September 2001 (pre-9/11 attack) | 43% | 49 | 8 |
| January 2001 | 55% | 34 | 11 |
| 2000 (average) | 63% | 28 | 9 |
| 1999 (average) | 54% | 37 | 9 |
| 1998 (average) | 57% | 32 | 11 |
| 1997 (average) | 44% | 45 | 11 |
| 1996 (average) | 34% | 49 | 17 |
| 1995 (average) | 33% | 54 | 13 |
| 1994 (average) | 41% | 50 | 9 |
| 1993 (average) | 27% | 64 | 9 |
| 1992 (average) | 14% | 81 | 5 |
| 1991 (average) | 14% | 78 | 7 |
| 1990 (average) | 30% | 63 | 7 |
| 1989 (average) | 49% | 43 | 8 |
| 1988 (average) | 42% | 53 | 5 |
| <u>Party registration</u> (September 2016) | | | |
| Democrat | 57% | 42 | 1 |
| Republican | 15% | 85 | * |
| No party preference/other | 28% | 72 | * |

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Note: Surveys prior to 1996 conducted among all California adults.

More mixed assessment of the overall direction of the state

By contrast, when voters are asked about the overall direction of the state, a slightly larger proportion (51%) believe California is generally moving in the right direction than feel believe it is off on the wrong track (49%).

Democrats and Republicans hold opposite views about the state's overall direction. While three in four Democrats (76%) believe the state is moving in the right direction, 82% of registered Republicans maintain that the state is seriously off on the wrong track. Non-partisans are more divided, with 45% feeling California is heading in the right direction and 55% saying it is off on the wrong track.

There are also big differences in opinions about the direction of the state between coastal and inland county voters. A 56% majority of those living in California's coastal counties – those touching the Pacific Ocean or San Francisco Bay – believe the state is generally moving in the right direction, while 43% see the state off on the wrong track. By contrast, among voters living in the state's inland counties, 60% say the state is seriously off on the wrong track and 40% maintain that it is moving in the right direction.

| Table 2 | | | |
|--|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Trend in voter views about the overall direction that California is heading (among registered voters) | | | |
| | <u>Right direction</u> | <u>Wrong track</u> | <u>No opinion</u> |
| September 2016 | 51% | 49 | * |
| July 2016 | 52% | 39 | 9 |
| April 2016 | 52% | 42 | 6 |
| January 2016 | 50% | 42 | 8 |
| 2015 (average) | 45% | 41 | 14 |
| 2014 (average) | 42% | 43 | 15 |
| 2013 (average) | 44% | 44 | 12 |
| 2012 (average) | 30% | 59 | 11 |
| 2011 (average) | 24% | 66 | 10 |
| 2010 (average) | 13% | 80 | 7 |
| 2009 (average) | 17% | 75 | 8 |
| 2008 (average) | 22% | 69 | 9 |
| 2007 (average) | 45% | 43 | 12 |
| 2006 (average) | 37% | 49 | 14 |
| 2005 (average) | 31% | 58 | 11 |
| 2004 (average) | 39% | 48 | 13 |
| 2003 (average) | 20% | 72 | 8 |
| 2002 (average) | 37% | 52 | 11 |
| 2001 (average) | 43% | 50 | 7 |
| 2000 (average) | 58% | 35 | 7 |
| 1999 (average) | 52% | 34 | 14 |
| 1998 (average) | 48% | 42 | 10 |
| 1997 (average) | 36% | 54 | 10 |
| 1996 (average) | 39% | 49 | 12 |
| 1995 (average) | 32% | 57 | 11 |
| 1994 (average) | 21% | 70 | 9 |
| 1993 (average) | 11% | 83 | 6 |
| 1992 (average) | 7% | 90 | 3 |
| 1989 (average) | 50% | 42 | 8 |
| 1988 (average) | 52% | 43 | 5 |
| <u>Party registration</u> (September 2016) | | | |
| Democrat | 76% | 24 | * |
| Republican | 18% | 82 | * |
| No party preference/other | 45% | 55 | * |
| <u>Area</u> (September 2016) | | | |
| Coastal counties | 56% | 43 | 1 |
| Inland counties | 40% | 60 | * |

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Note: Surveys prior to 1996 conducted among all California adults, not just registered adults.

Voters continue to view Brown's job performance positively

The latest survey also updated registered voter opinions of the job performance of the governor and the state legislature. Voter assessments of Governor Brown continue to be very positive, with 60% approving and 40% disapproving. In thirteen *Field Poll* measures of the governor dating back to February of 2013, majorities of California voters have approved of the job Brown has been doing.

Democrats and Republicans hold contrasting views about the Democratic governor's performance. Among members of his own party Brown receives an 85% approval rating. By contrast, three times as many Republicans offer a negative assessment of the governor (75%) as a positive one (25%).

| Table 3 | | | |
|--|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Trend of Brown's job performance ratings during his current tenure as Governor (among California registered voters) | | | |
| | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>No opinion</u> |
| September 2016 | 60% | 40 | * |
| July 2016 | 56% | 30 | 14 |
| April 2016 | 55% | 36 | 9 |
| January 2016 | 56% | 30 | 14 |
| October 2015 | 56% | 32 | 12 |
| May 2015 | 58% | 26 | 16 |
| February 2015 | 56% | 32 | 12 |
| September 2014 | 58% | 36 | 6 |
| June 2014 | 54% | 29 | 17 |
| April 2014 | 59% | 32 | 9 |
| December 2013 | 58% | 33 | 9 |
| July 2013 | 51% | 33 | 16 |
| February 2013 | 57% | 31 | 12 |
| October 2012 | 46% | 37 | 17 |
| September 2012 | 46% | 37 | 17 |
| July 2012 | 44% | 42 | 14 |
| Late May 2012 | 43% | 40 | 17 |
| February 2012 | 45% | 38 | 17 |
| November 2011 | 47% | 36 | 17 |
| September 2011 | 49% | 32 | 19 |
| June 2011 | 46% | 31 | 23 |
| March 2011 | 48% | 21 | 31 |
| <u>Party registration</u> (September 2016) | | | |
| Democrat | 85% | 15 | * |
| Republican | 25% | 75 | * |
| No party preference/other | 56% | 44 | * |
| <u>Area</u> (September 2016) | | | |
| Coastal counties | 64% | 36 | * |
| Inland counties | 52% | 48 | * |

* Less than 1/2 of 1%

Divided views about the job the state legislature is doing

Californians are about evenly divided when asked about the job the state legislature is doing. At present, 50% approve, while 49% disapprove. Partisanship and where a voter lives also have an impact on evaluations of the legislature. While 75% of Democrats approve of its performance, 82% of Republicans disapprove. In addition, while coastal county voters approve of the legislature's performance 56% to 43%, among inland county voters 38% approve and 61% disapprove.

| Table 4 | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Trend of the state legislature's job performance ratings (among registered voters) | | | |
| | Approve | Disapprove | No opinion |
| September 2016 | 50% | 49% | 1 |
| May 2015 | 37% | 38 | 25 |
| February 2015 | 42% | 44 | 14 |
| September 2014 | 34% | 42 | 24 |
| June 2014 | 35% | 47 | 18 |
| 2013 (average) | 38% | 48 | 16 |
| 2012 (average) | 22% | 62 | 16 |
| 2011 (average) | 20% | 65 | 15 |
| 2010 (average) | 14% | 76 | 10 |
| 2009 (average) | 15% | 75 | 10 |
| 2008 (average) | 24% | 62 | 14 |
| 2007 (average) | 38% | 43 | 19 |
| 2006 (average) | 30% | 50 | 20 |
| 2005 (average) | 28% | 55 | 17 |
| 2004 (average) | 28% | 53 | 19 |
| 2003 (average) | 25% | 59 | 16 |
| 2002 (average) | 40% | 40 | 20 |
| 2001 (average) | 43% | 37 | 20 |
| 2000 (average) | 48% | 25 | 27 |
| 1999 (average) | 45% | 28 | 27 |
| 1998 (average) | 45% | 33 | 22 |
| 1997 (average) | 38% | 40 | 22 |
| 1996 (average) | 41% | 49 | 10 |
| 1995 (average) | 34% | 59 | 7 |
| 1993 (average) | 28% | 64 | 8 |
| 1992 (average) | 32% | 64 | 4 |
| 1990 (average) | 45% | 48 | 7 |
| 1988 (average) | 57% | 36 | 7 |
| 1983 (average) | 43% | 49 | 8 |
| Party registration (September 2016) | | | |
| Democrats | 75% | 24 | 1 |
| Republicans | 17% | 82 | 1 |
| No party preference/others | 43% | 57 | * |
| Area (September 2016) | | | |
| Coastal counties | 56% | 43 | 1 |
| Inland counties | 38% | 61 | 1 |

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Note: Surveys prior to 1996 were conducted among all adults. In addition, response scales from these surveys were converted from their original five-point scales to the current two-point approve/disapprove scales for comparative purposes.

Strength of job performance assessments also assessed

The new poll also measured the strength of voter approval or disapproval of the governor's and legislature's job performance.

In Brown's case, about as many voters (24%) say they strongly approve of the job he is doing as strongly disapprove (25%). While one in four voters (25%) strongly disapprove of the job the legislature is doing, fewer (12%) strongly approve of its performance.

Majorities of Republicans hold a strongly negative view of the job performance of both the governor and state legislature.

| Table 5 | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Strength of approval and disapproval of the job performance of Governor Brown and the state legislature (among registered voters) | | | | |
| | Total registered voters | Democrats | Republicans | No party preference/ other |
| <u>Governor Brown</u> | | | | |
| Approve strongly | 24% | 36% | 5% | 22% |
| Approve somewhat | 36 | 49 | 20 | 34 |
| Disapprove somewhat | 15 | 11 | 18 | 17 |
| Disapprove strongly | 25 | 4 | 57 | 27 |
| No opinion | * | * | * | * |
| <u>State legislature</u> | | | | |
| Approve strongly | 12% | 21% | 2% | 8% |
| Approve somewhat | 38 | 54 | 15 | 35 |
| Disapprove somewhat | 24 | 19 | 28 | 28 |
| Disapprove strongly | 25 | 5 | 54 | 29 |
| No opinion | 1 | 1 | 1 | * |

* Less than 1/2 of 1%

Information About the Survey

Methodological Details

The findings in this report come from a survey of California voters conducted jointly by *The Field Poll* and the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. The survey was completed online by YouGov September 7-13, 2016 in English and Spanish among 1,800 registered voters in California. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize possible respondent fatigue, the results in this release are based on a random subsample 600 registered voters statewide.

YouGov administered the survey among a sample of the California registered voters who were included as part of its online panel of over 1.5 million U.S. residents. Eligible panel members were asked to participate in the poll through an invitation email containing a link to the survey. YouGov selected voters using a proprietary sampling technology frame that establishes interlocking targets, so that the characteristics of the voters selected approximate the demographic and regional profile of the overall California registered voter population. To help ensure diversity among poll respondents, YouGov recruits its panelists using a variety of methods, including web-based advertising and email campaigns, partner-sponsored solicitations, and telephone-to-web recruitment or mail-to-web recruitment. Difficult-to-reach populations are supplemented through more specialized recruitment efforts, including telephone and mail surveys.

The Field Poll and the Institute of Governmental Studies were jointly responsible for developing all questions included in the survey. After survey administration, YouGov forwarded its data file to *The Field Poll* for processing. *The Field Poll* then took the lead in developing and applying post-stratification weights to more precisely align the sample to *Field Poll* estimates of the demographic characteristics of the California registered voter population both overall and by region. The *Field Poll* was also responsible for determining which voters in the survey were considered most likely to vote in this year's election.

The Field Poll was established in 1947 as *The California Poll* by Mervin Field. The Poll has operated continuously since then as an independent, non-partisan survey of California public opinion. *The Field Poll* receives financial support from leading California newspapers and television stations, which purchase the rights of first release to *Field Poll* reports in their primary viewer or readership markets. The Poll also receives funding from the University of California and California State University systems, who receive the data files from each *Field Poll* survey shortly after its completion for teaching and secondary research purposes, as well as from foundations, non-profit organizations, and others as part of the Poll's policy research sponsor program.

Questions Asked

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?

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?

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

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature is doing its job?

Note about Sampling Error Estimates

Polls conducted online using an opt-in panel do not easily lend themselves to the calculation of sampling error estimates as are traditionally reported for random sample telephone surveys.