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Strong support for tax extension and criminal sentencing initiatives; cigarette tax leads, but by narrower margin.

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**STRONG SUPPORT FOR TAX EXTENSION
AND CRIMINAL SENTENCING
INITIATIVES; CIGARETTE TAX LEADS,
BUT BY NARROWER MARGIN.**

Release Date: **Tuesday, September 27, 2016**

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By Mark DiCamillo, Director, *The Field Poll*

Likely voters are giving strong initial support to two state ballot propositions, one to extend a recent income tax hike on high income residents (Proposition 55), and another to offer new parole opportunities for non-violent offenders (Proposition 57). While voters are also backing a third initiative to increase cigarette taxes (Proposition 56), it leads by a narrower margin.

Proposition 55, the initiative to extend by twelve years the income tax hike on upper income residents enacted by voters in 2012, is currently backed two-to-one, 60% to 30%. By an even wider 60% to 21% margin Californians are embracing Proposition 57, Governor Jerry Brown's criminal sentencing reform amendment that would offer new parole opportunities for non-violent criminal offenders. A third measure to increase by \$2 per pack the state tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products receives the support of 53% of voters, although 40% are opposed and another 7% are undecided.

These findings come from the latest *Field/IGS Poll*, a statewide survey conducted jointly by The Field Poll and UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies. The poll completed in English and Spanish among Californians considered likely to vote in the November general election using YouGov's online panel.

Voters favor Propositions 55, 56 and 57, but by varying margins

Likely voters in the poll were presented with the exact wording of each proposition's official ballot title and summary that they will see when they go to the polls to vote and asked how they would vote if the election were being held today. The following table displays the ballot labels of these three propositions and voters' reactions to each in the poll.

Table 1
Likely voter preferences regarding Prop. 55 (Tax Extension), Prop. 56 (Cigarette Tax) and Prop. 57 (Criminal Sentences) after being presented with their official ballot labels

PROPOSITION 55: TAX EXTENSION TO FUND EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Extends by twelve years the temporary personal income tax increases enacted in 2012 on earnings over \$250,000, with revenues allocated to K-12 schools, California Community Colleges, and in certain years, healthcare. Fiscal Impact: Increased state revenues – \$4 billion to \$9 billion annually from 2019 – 2030 – depending on economy and stock market. Increased funding for schools, community colleges, health care for low-income people, budget reserves and debt payments.

<u>September 2016</u>	
<u>Vote intentions on Prop. 55</u>	
Yes	60%
No	30
Undecided	10

PROPOSITION 56: CIGARETTE TAX TO FUND HEALTHCARE, TOBACCO USE PREVENTION, RESEARCH, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Increases cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack, with equivalent increase on other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine. Fiscal Impact: Additional net state revenue of \$1 billion to \$1.4 billion in 2017-18, with potentially lower revenues in future years. Revenues would be used primarily to augment spending on health care for low-income Californians.

<u>September 2016</u>	
<u>Vote intentions on Prop. 56</u>	
Yes	53%
No	40
Undecided	7

PROPOSITION 57: CRIMINAL SENTENCES. PAROLE. JUVENILE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND SENTENCING. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Allows parole consideration for nonviolent felons. Authorizes sentence credits for rehabilitation, good behavior and education. Provides juvenile court judge decides whether juveniles will be prosecuted as adult. Fiscal Impact: Net state savings likely in the tens of millions of dollars annually, depending on implementation. Net county costs of likely a few million dollars annually.

<u>September 2016</u>	
<u>Vote intentions on Prop. 57</u>	
Yes	60%
No	21
Undecided	19

Similar voter segments supporting Prop. 55's income tax extension and Prop. 56's cigarette tax hike

The poll finds that the two tax-related measures – Prop. 55's tax extension and Prop. 56's cigarette tax hike – are backed by similar segments of voters. Most likely to be supporting each tax measure are Democrats, liberals, women, younger voters, Latinos, and parents. By contrast, majorities of Republican and conservative voters oppose both initiatives.

Table 2						
Voter preferences regarding Prop. 55 (Tax Extension) and Prop. 56 (Cigarette Tax) across major subgroups of the likely voter population						
	Prop. 55			Prop. 56.		
	Yes	No	Undec.	Yes	No	Undec.
Total likely voters	60%	30	10	53%	40	7
<u>Party registration</u>						
Democrat	82%	9	9	73%	20	7
Republican	26%	64	10	26%	68	6
No party preference/other	62%	27	11	49%	43	8
<u>Political ideology</u>						
Conservative	27%	66	7	30%	65	5
Moderate	59%	27	14	55%	37	8
Liberal	85%	6	9	70%	22	8
<u>Region</u>						
Los Angeles County	66%	23	11	56%	36	8
South Coast	51%	38	11	48%	45	7
Other Southern CA	55%	36	9	52%	41	7
Central Valley	56%	34	10	52%	44	4
San Francisco Bay Area	65%	24	11	56%	37	7
Other Northern CA*	68%	30	2	46%	46	8
<u>Gender</u>						
Male	57%	37	6	49%	45	6
Female	63%	23	14	57%	35	8
<u>Age</u>						
18-29	82%	8	10	79%	16	5
30-39	70%	19	11	68%	29	3
40-49	67%	23	10	52%	39	9
50-64	54%	38	8	43%	50	7
65 or older	50%	38	12	46%	45	9
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>						
White non-Hispanic	56%	34	10	49%	44	7
Latino	73%	19	8	66%	28	6
African American*	78%	9	13	47%	40	13
Asian American/Other*	54%	36	10	54%	40	6
<u>Education</u>						
High school graduate or less	52%	35	13	43%	47	10
Some college/trade school	62%	30	8	49%	47	4
College graduate	63%	27	10	60%	35	5
Post-graduate work	61%	28	11	59%	31	10
<u>Marital status</u>						
Married/domestic partner	56%	35	9	54%	41	5
Single/never married	73%	18	9	61%	32	7
Widowed/separated/divorced	53%	31	16	40%	49	11
<u>Parent of child under 18</u>						
Yes	70%	22	8	65%	31	4
No	57%	32	11	49%	43	8

* Small sample base.

Governor Brown's criminal sentencing reform constitutional amendment strongly backed by the state's Democrats and liberals

Governor Brown's plan to revamp the state's prison parole rules to offer new parole opportunities to non-violent offenders is overwhelmingly supported by Democrats and voters identifying themselves as liberal in politics. Within each voting bloc greater than three in four are intending to vote Yes, while fewer than one in ten are currently on the No side. Voters registered as no party preference or who consider themselves moderate in politics are also supporting the plan by wide margins. By contrast, pluralities of the state's Republican and conservative voters are currently on the No side.

Table 3			
Voter preferences regarding Proposition 57 (Criminal Sentences) across major subgroups of the likely voter population			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total likely voters	60%	21	19
<u>Party registration</u>			
Democrat	78%	8	12
Republican	37%	43	20
No party preference/other	54%	16	30
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Conservative	37%	43	20
Moderate	63%	17	20
Liberal	76%	6	18

-30-

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. Voter preferences on Proposition 55 are based on a random sample of 967 likely voters statewide; those on Proposition 56 are based on a random sample of 943 likely voters, while the findings on Proposition 57 are based on a random subsample of 484 likely 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

Proposition 55: TAX EXTENSION TO FUND EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. Extends by twelve years the temporary personal income tax increases enacted in 2012 on earnings over \$250,000, with revenues allocated to K-12 schools, California Community Colleges, and in certain years, healthcare. Fiscal Impact: Increased state revenues – \$4 billion to \$9 billion annually from 2019 – 2030 – depending on economy and stock market. Increased funding for schools, community colleges, health care for low-income people, budget reserves and debt payments. If the election were being held today, how would you vote on Proposition 55? YES; NO; UNDECIDED

Proposition 56: CIGARETTE TAX TO FUND HEALTHCARE, TOBACCO USE PREVENTION, RESEARCH, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Increases cigarette tax by \$2.00 per pack, with equivalent increase on other tobacco products and electronic cigarettes containing nicotine. Fiscal Impact: Additional net state revenue of \$1 billion to \$1.4 billion in 2017-18, with potentially lower revenues in future years. Revenues would be used primarily to augment spending on health care for low-income Californians. If the election were being held today, how would you vote on Proposition 56? YES; NO; UNDECIDED

Proposition 57: CRIMINAL SENTENCES. PAROLE. JUVENILE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND SENTENCING. INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND STATUTE. Allows parole consideration for nonviolent felons. Authorizes sentence credits for rehabilitation, good behavior and education. Provides juvenile court judge decides whether juveniles will be prosecuted as adult. Fiscal Impact: Net state savings likely in the tens of millions of dollars annually, depending on implementation. Net county costs of likely a few million dollars annually. If the election were being held today, how would you vote on Proposition 57? YES; NO; UNDECIDED (ASKED OF A RANDOM SUBSAMPLE OF LIKELY VOTERS)

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.