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Californians oppose the tax reform bill five to three; opinions highly partisan
Most voters believe it will negatively impact the state, and just 20% think it will benefit themselves and their families.

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Most California voters oppose the tax reform bill now making its way through Congress. When asked their overall opinion of the bill, 51% say they are opposed, while just 30% support it. What's more, of voters opposed to the bill, 42% do so strongly.

While most major subgroups of the California electorate oppose the bill, there are wide partisan differences of opinion. For example, Democrats oppose the bill greater than four to one (67% to 15%), while Republicans support it three to one, 60% to 21%.

Underlying voter opposition is the widespread perception that the bill will have a negative impact on California overall, with 52% holding to this view. Just 17% believe the tax bill will impact the state positively, another 14% do not foresee much impact and 17% have no opinion.

When asked about the impact they think the bill will have on themselves and their families, just 20% think it will benefit themselves directly, while 40% foresee a negative impact. About one in four (27%) do not expect much of an impact, while 13% don't know.

Even as Congress appears set to pass its first major piece of legislation of the year, the poll finds that California voters overwhelmingly disapprove of the job it is doing, 76% to 15%. Disapproval of the performance if Congress is bipartisan, with 80% of Democrats, 70% of Republicans and 76% of No Party Preference voters offering a negative assessment.

These are the topline findings from the latest *Berkeley IGS Poll* just completed by telephone in English and Spanish among a random sample of 1,000 registered voters.

Table 1
Overall opinions of the tax reform bill
(among California registered voters)

	%
Support (net)	**<u>30</u>**
Strongly	19
Not strongly	11
Opposed (net)	**<u>51</u>**
Not strongly	9
Strongly	42
No opinion	**19**

<u>Most Californians oppose the tax bill, but opinions are highly partisan</u>
While most major subgroups of the California electorate oppose the tax bill, there are wide partisan differences of opinion. For example, Democrats oppose the bill greater than four to one (67% to 15%), while Republicans support it three to one, 60% to 21%.

Opposition spans all age segments of the voting population. In addition, pluralities of both men and women are opposed, although women oppose it by a wider margin.

Low-income voters with household incomes of less than $20,000 oppose the bill nearly three to one (55% to 20%), as do high-income voters making more than $100,000 annually (56% to 34%). Voters with incomes of $40,000-$59,999 are more divided (39% opposed vs. 32% in favor).

Voters living in the state's coastal counties, who comprise over 70% of the electorate, oppose the bill nearly two to one (54% to 28%). Voters living in inland counties are more divided, with 41% opposed and 36% in favor. Opposition is greatest among voters in the state's two major urban areas, the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area (61% to 21%) and Los Angeles County (57% to 24%). Voters living in the South Coast or in other areas of Southern California outside of Los Angeles County are about evenly divided.

Table 2
California voter opinions of the tax reform law across major voter subgroups

	Support %	Oppose %	No opinion %
Total registered voters	**30**	**51**	**19**
Party registration			
Democrats	15	67	18
Republicans	60	21	19
No Party Preference/other	26	51	23
Area			
Coastal counties	28	54	18
Inland counties	36	41	23
Region			
Los Angeles County	24	57	19
South Coast	40	42	18
Other Southern California	43	43	14
Central Valley	32	41	27
San Francisco Bay Area	21	61	18
Other Northern California*	20	55	25
Gender			
Male	36	47	17
Female	25	53	22
Age			
18-29	25	52	23
30-39	25	52	23
40-49	31	49	20
50-64	35	48	17
65 or older	33	52	15
Race/ethnicity			
White non-Hispanic	30	54	16
Latino	33	40	27
African American*	15	62	23
Asian American/other	29	51	20
Household income			
Less than $20,000	20	55	25
$20,000-$39,999	29	56	15
$40,000-$59,999	32	39	29
$60,000-$99,999	33	46	21
$100,000 or more	34	56	10

small sample base

Widespread belief that the bill will negatively impact the state

Underlying voter opposition to the tax bill is the view, shared by 52%, that it will have a negative overall impact on the state. Just 17% see the bill as benefiting the state.

Relatively few voters in any party believe the bill will benefit the state overall, although Republicans (33%) are somewhat more likely to see a benefit than Democrats (10%) or No Party Preference voters (13%).

The state's traditional Democratic voting constituencies voice the greatest concerns about the potential negative impact of the bill on the state, with 65% of Democrats, 64% of San Francisco Bay Area, 62% of African Americans and 59% of Los Angles County voters holding this view.

Table 3
Perceived impact that the tax reform law will have on the state of California overall

	Positive %	Negative %	Not much impact %	No opinion %
Total registered voters	**17**	**52**	**14**	**17**
Party registration				
Democrats	10	65	9	16
Republicans	33	33	21	13
No Party Preference/other	13	50	17	21
Area				
Coastal counties	15	56	14	15
Inland counties	21	44	17	18
Region				
Los Angeles County	14	59	12	15
South Coast	22	41	15	22
Other Southern California	25	44	17	14
Central Valley	19	44	15	22
San Francisco Bay Area	10	64	15	11
Other Northern California*	10	59	15	16
Gender				
Male	21	49	16	14
Female	13	55	13	19
Age				
18-29	15	49	18	18
30-39	16	53	16	15
40-49	21	50	12	17
50-64	17	52	13	18
65 or older	15	57	14	14
Race/ethnicity				
White non-Hispanic	16	57	12	15
Latino	21	37	21	21
African American*	3	62	13	22
Asian American/other	18	59	11	12

small sample base

Relatively few Californians see the bill as benefiting themselves and their families
When asked to assess the impact that the bill will have on themselves and their families, relatively few Californians -- just 20% -- believe it will benefit themselves directly, while 40% expect to be negatively impacted. Another 27% do not foresee much impact and 13% don't know.

Perceptions of the personal impact of the tax bill on voters divide along party lines. Among Democrats, 52% expect to be negatively affected, while only 13% believe the bill will benefit them. By contrast, more Republicans (38%) believe that they and their families will be better off than foresee a negative impact (18%). Voters in the state's two major urban areas, the Bay Area and Los Angeles County are also more likely than voters elsewhere to feel the bill will negatively impact themselves and their families.

Table 4
Perceived impact that the tax reform law will have on voters and their families

	Positive %	Negative %	Not much impact %	No opinion %
Total registered voters	**20**	**40**	**27**	**13**
Party registration				
Democrats	13	52	22	13
Republicans	38	18	34	10
No Party Preference/other	15	39	29	17
Area				
Coastal counties	19	44	24	13
Inland counties	23	29	33	15
Region				
Los Angeles County	12	49	24	15
South Coast	24	33	29	14
Other Southern California	30	27	35	8
Central Valley	22	31	29	18
San Francisco Bay Area	18	50	23	9
Other Northern California*	21	35	28	16
Gender				
Male	22	35	34	9
Female	18	44	21	17
Age				
18-29	15	36	32	17
30-39	17	40	29	14
40-49	23	46	19	12
50-64	22	42	21	15
65 or older	21	36	33	10
Race/ethnicity				
White non-Hispanic	19	42	28	11
Latino	22	30	31	17
African American*	7	63	18	12
Asian American/other	25	40	18	17
Household income				
Less than $20,000	11	36	30	23
$20,000-$39,999	20	41	29	10
$40,000-$59,999	18	32	33	17
$60,000-$99,999	21	39	25	15
$100,000 or more	22	49	25	4

small sample base

Bipartisan disapproval of the job Congress is doing

Even as the Congress appears set to pass its first major piece of legislation of the year, by a five-to-one margin (76% to 15%) California voters disapprove of the job Congress is doing overall. In addition, of those who disapprove, 51% feel this way strongly.

Distain for the performance of Congress is bipartisan, with 80% of registered Democrats, 76% of No Party Preference registrants, and 70% of the state's registered Republicans disapproving.

Table 5
Overall job performance of the U.S. Congress
(among California registered voters)

	Total registered voters %	Democrats %	Republicans %	No party preference/ other %
Approve	<u>**15**</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>14</u>
Strongly	2	2	2	1
Somewhat	13	9	20	13
Disapprove	<u>**76**</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>76</u>
Somewhat	25	24	30	22
Strongly	51	56	40	54
No opinion	**9**	9	8	10

About the Survey

The findings in this report come from a survey completed by the Institute of Governmental Studies, at the University of California, Berkeley among 1,000 registered voters throughout California December 7-16, 2017. The survey was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish using live interviewers. Voters were randomly sampled from listings of registered voters derived from the state's official registered voter rolls. Up to four attempts were made to reach and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period.

Interviews were administered by professionally trained and supervised interviewers calling from Davis Research's central location call center in Calabasas (Los Angeles County), California. Interviewing was completed on either a voter's cell phone or a household landline phone depending on the source of the telephone listing from the voter file. In this survey 688 interviews were completed with voters on their cell phone, while 312 were completed with voters on a landline phone. After the completion of interviewing, results from the overall registered voter sample were weighted to known demographic, regional and political parameters of the state's registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to the results of any probability-based survey depend on sample size and the percentage distributions being examined. The maximum sampling error for results from the overall registered voter sample is +/- 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Results based on subgroups of the registered voter population are subject to larger margins of sampling error.

Questions Asked

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is doing its job? (**IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE, ASK**) Do you (approve) (disapprove) strongly or somewhat?

Over the past few weeks, the U.S. Congress has been working to pass a major piece of legislation aimed at reforming the nation's tax laws? Generally speaking, do you support or oppose this tax reform package? (**IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, ASK**) Do you feel this way strongly or not strongly?

What impact do you think the new tax reform law would have on the state of California overall– positive, negative or not much impact?

What impact do you think the new tax reform law would have on you and your family overall – positive, negative or not much impact?

About the Institute of Governmental Studies
The Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) is an interdisciplinary organized research unit that pursues a vigorous program of research, education, publication and public service. A component of the University of California (UC) system's flagship Berkeley campus, it is the oldest organized research unit in the UC system and the oldest public policy research center in the state. IGS conducts periodic surveys of California public opinion on matters of politics, public policy and public issues through its *Berkeley IGS Poll,* housed within its newly established Citrin Center for Public Opinion Research. For a complete listing of stories issued by the poll go to https://igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll.