



Latino Policy Coalition

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MOST CALIFORNIA VOTERS SUPPORT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Sacramento, CA – California voters are deeply dissatisfied with the direction of the state according to a recent survey conducted by Lake Research Partners on behalf of the Latino Policy Coalition. Of these likely 2010 California voters, respondents indicated a great sense of urgency for major reform in how the state is governed.

A majority of California voters solidly support major structural reforms, including fifty-nine percent who support convening a Citizen’s Constitutional Convention, with 40 percent saying they support the convention strongly. Only 22 percent are opposed, 15 percent strongly. Just under one in five (19%) are undecided.

“This survey clearly shows that Californians believe our state government is broken and are ready to vote for major reforms to revolutionize the way this state is governed,” said Jim Gonzalez, Chair of the Latino Policy Coalition.

Four out of five California voters feel the state is on the wrong track. The top issue driving this negative attitude is the growing concern for jobs and the economy (38%), followed by balancing the state budget (15%), and education (15%). Indeed, the survey suggests that the lengthy budget standoff has built support for convening a Citizen’s Constitutional Convention.

Voters also strongly support such reforms such as creating a state budget rainy day savings fund that will require the state to save each year in case of an emergency (86%), creating a Sunset Commission to review every state agency for cost effectiveness and make recommendations to close those which are ineffective (76%), setting a mandatory cap on state spending (73%), and requiring that a mandatory percentage of the state budget be spent on infrastructure improvements (73%).

A majority of California voters also support adopting a two year budget cycle (66%) and replacing the current two – thirds vote requirement to pass a budget with a 55 percent majority vote requirement (54%).

On another note, the poll also revealed strong support for investment in renewable energy technologies. Seventy-seven percent agree that investing in renewable technologies like solar, wind, and geothermal power is the way for California to create thousands of green jobs and help end the recession. Only 17 percent disagree, with six percent undecided.

“California voters agree that investing in renewable technologies right here in California will create the thousands of high paying jobs we need to end this economic recession,” said Gonzalez.

METHODOLOGY

These findings are based on 800 telephone interviews with a random sample of likely 2010 voters in California. Interviews were conducted from February 17 – 19, 2009. Sampling error is +/- 3.5%

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