



## Memorandum

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David Mermin  
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Tresa Udem  
Vice President

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Chief Financial Officer

Alan C. Wolf  
Chief Operating Officer

To: Latino Policy Coalition  
From: Lake Research Partners  
Subject: California Survey Results  
Date: February 23, 2009

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The new Lake Research Partners survey<sup>1</sup> of likely 2010 California voters shows a deep dissatisfaction with the direction of the state and a sense of urgency for major reform in how the state is governed. California voters now solidly support major structural reforms in California government including a two-year budget cycle, and even a Constitutional Convention. Voters also strongly support investment in renewable energy technologies as a way to create jobs and help end the recession.

### The Context

Almost four in five (79%) California voters feel things are pretty seriously off on the wrong track, with only 12% saying the state is headed in the right direction. By far the top issue driving this concern is jobs and the economy (38%), followed by balancing the state budget (15%), and education (15%)

### California Constitutional Convention

To prevent the kind of budget stalemate California just endured, voters solidly support convening **a constitutional convention to reform California government**. Fifty-nine percent of California voters support a convention, with 40 percent saying they support it strongly. Just 22 percent are opposed, 15 percent strongly. Just under one in five (19%) are undecided.<sup>2</sup>

Voters even more strongly support such reforms as **creating a state budget rainy day savings fund** that will require the state to save each year in case of emergency (86% good idea, 59% very good), **creating a Sunset Commission** to review every state agency for cost effectiveness and make recommendations to close those which are ineffective (76% good idea, 48% very), **setting a mandatory cap on state spending**

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<sup>1</sup> 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%.

<sup>2</sup> Some people say that reforms to state government are needed in order to stop gridlock on major issues facing the state like the state budget, education, jobs and taxes. To create these reforms, some have suggested convening a California Constitutional Convention, made up of citizens, that would recommend specific changes to government. The voters of California would then vote on whether or not to adopt the reforms. Do you support or oppose calling a constitutional convention to reform California government, or are you undecided?

1726 M Street, NW | Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20036 | T 202.776.9066 | F 202.776.9074

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(73% good idea, 48% very), and **requiring that a mandatory percentage of the state budget be spent on infrastructure improvements** (73% good idea, 38% very).

Majorities of Californians also support **adopting a two year budget cycle** (66% good idea, 31% very), and **replacing the current two-thirds vote requirement to pass a budget** with a 55 percent majority vote requirement (54% good idea, 27% very good).

### **Renewable Technologies & the Economy**

California voters overwhelmingly believe that **investment in renewable energy technologies** would be a smart move to help end the economic recession. Seventy-seven percent agree (53% strongly agree) that investing in renewable technologies like solar, wind and geothermal power is the way for California to create thousands of jobs and help end the recession. Just 17 percent disagree, with six percent undecided.