



David Binder Research

California Voter Survey June 9, 2019

A survey of California voters conducted by David Binder Research reveals a strong majority (63%) of California voters support a proposal in the California budget that would triple the size of the state’s current Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income working families, paid for by restricting tax deductions for businesses and households with annual income over \$500,000.

The proposal to expand the EITC is opposed by only one in four California voters. By comparison, the California Road Repair and Accountability Act that was passed by the State Legislature in April 2017, raising gas taxes and vehicle-licensing fees to finance infrastructure improvements, was opposed by a majority of voters shortly after it passed. A Berkeley IGS poll of California voters conducted in May 2017 showed that 58% of voters opposed the California Road Repair and Accountability Act.

	Support	Oppose	No Opinion
<p style="text-align: center;">GAS TAX TO FUND ROADS</p> <p><i>Last month the state legislature passed and Governor Brown signed into law a \$5 billion per year plan devoted to repairing state and local roads and highways. To pay for the plan, state taxes on gasoline will increase by 12 cents per gallon while taxes on diesel fuels will increase by 16 cents per gallon. State vehicle registration fees will also go up by \$25 to \$175 depending on the value of the vehicle. Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose the new transportation funding law?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Berkeley IGS Survey, May 2017)</p>	35% Favor	58% Oppose	7% No Opinion
<p style="text-align: center;">LIMIT DEDUCTIONS TO FUND EITC EXPANSION</p> <p><i>The proposal would triple the size of California’s earned income tax credit (EITC); the EITC provides a tax credit for low-income working families and this proposal would expand the tax credit to cover more working families. The proposal would restrict certain tax deductions for businesses and families with incomes above \$500,000. The new tax deduction rules would bring state rules in line with federal rules and would raise \$1.2 billion from eliminating tax deductions to fund the expansion of the earned income tax credit. Do you support or oppose this proposal?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(David Binder Research Survey, June 2019)</p>	63% Support	24% Oppose	13% Don’t Know

The expansion of California’s Earned Income Tax Credit is supported by strong majorities in each of the state’s major regions. By contrast, majorities *opposed* the California Road Repair and Accountability Act in every region of the state except the Bay Area.

In the June 2019 David Binder Research poll, voters were asked about each individual component of the proposed Earned Income Tax Credit expansion, and asked whether they support or oppose each component. A majority of voters supports each component of the proposal, with less than one in three voters opposing any element of the proposal.

Do you support or oppose...			
	Support	Oppose	Don’t Know
This proposal would expand the tax credit to cover more working families	73%	16%	11%
The EITC provides a tax credit for low-income working families	71	17	12
The proposal would restrict certain tax deductions for families with incomes above \$500,000	61	28	11
The new tax deduction rules would bring state rules in line with federal rules	56	22	22
The proposal would raise \$1.2 billion from eliminating tax deductions to fund the expansion of the earned income tax credit	54	28	18
The proposal would restrict certain tax deductions for businesses	53	31	16
The proposal would triple the size of California’s earned income tax credit (EITC)	51	26	23

Methodology

David Binder Research conducted a survey of 750 likely November 2020 voters from June 5th – 7th, 2019. 250 interviews were conducted via telephone including cell phones, and 500 were conducted online. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error for the entire sample is ±3.6%.

The Institute of Government Studies at the University of California, Berkeley conducted a survey of 1271 registered voters from May 4th to 29th, 2017. The survey was conducted in English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Korean. Details on their methodology can be found here:

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/5hm1s9kb>