

### ■ **NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC VOTERS ON THE RISE ...**

At the close of registration for the February 2008 presidential primary, the number of voters registered as independent (“decline to state”) exceeded 3 million for the first time in the state’s history. And by the close of registration for the June 2008 state primary, the number of registered Democrats exceeded 7 million for the first time. Democrats now make up 44% of voters, Republicans 33%, and independents 19%. Prior to the 2004 presidential election, Democrats comprised 43% of the state’s voters, Republicans 35%, and independents 18%.

### ■ **... AND PARTY TIES HAVE GROWN WEAKER FOR DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS SINCE 2004.**

Today, 62% of Democrats and 54% of Republicans say they are strongly affiliated with their respective political parties. Prior to the 2004 presidential election, party ties were more stable (71% of Democrats and 72% of Republicans claimed strong affiliation with their political parties). Among independent likely voters, major party leanings are similar to those in 2004: Today, 43% (compared to 41% in 2004) say they lean closer to the Democratic Party. The percentage of those leaning toward the Republican Party is the same as in 2004 (27%). The percentage who say they feel closer to neither the Democratic nor Republican Party is also about the same (30% today, 28% 2004).

### ■ **CALIFORNIA’S PARTISANS ARE LOCKED IN AN IDEOLOGICAL DIVIDE, WITH INDEPENDENTS IN THE MIDDLE.**

A majority of Democrats (52%) identify as liberal, and an even higher proportion (64%) say they prefer a government that offers more services with higher taxes. On the other hand, 69% of Republicans identify as conservative, and an overwhelming proportion (71%) prefer lower taxes and fewer services. Independents fall in the middle: Most say that they are politically moderate (41%), and about half (51%) prefer a government with lower taxes and fewer services.

#### ADDITIONAL JUST THE FACTS ON CALIFORNIA VOTERS

California’s Partisan Divide

California’s Likely Voters

Latino Voters in California

The Age Gap in  
California Politics

### ■ **DEMOCRATS MORE LIKELY THAN REPUBLICANS TO LIVE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY/SF BAY AREA.**

Over half of the state’s Democrats live in Los Angeles (29%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (27%). The majority of independents also reside in Los Angeles (24%) and the Bay Area (29%). Most Republicans live in Orange/San Diego Counties (22%), the Central Valley (21%), and Los Angeles (20%).

### ■ **PARTY PROFILES ALSO VARY ACROSS GENDER, AGE, EDUCATION, INCOME, AND RACE/ETHNICITY.**

A majority of Democratic likely voters are women (59%); a majority of Republican and independent likely voters are men (54% and 58%, respectively). Older voters make up the largest share of both the Democratic (42%) and Republican (46%) parties; middle-aged Californians (ages 35 to 54) constitute the largest share of independents (45%). A majority of likely voters among independents, Democrats, and Republicans are college graduates; and strong majorities in all three groups reside in households earning more than \$40,000 a year. The Democratic Party has the largest share of likely voters who have not attended college (20%) and who earn less than \$40,000 a year (28%). Among Republican likely voters, 83% are white, compared to 69% of independents and 60% of Democrats. Democrats are more likely than Republicans and independents to be comprised of Latino and black voters (22% and 10%, respectively), and independents have a higher share of Asian voters (10%) than the two major parties (5% each).



## California Voter and Party Profiles

		Likely Voters	Likely Voter Party Registration			
			Dem	Rep	Ind	Other
All Likely Voters			43%	35%	17%	5%
Gender	Men	50	41	54	58	61
	Women	50	59	46	42	39
Age	18 to 34	18	19	13	23	31
	35 to 54	41	39	41	45	50
	55 and older	41	42	46	32	19
Education	No college	17	20	15	14	10
	Some college	29	27	33	29	30
	College graduate	54	53	52	57	60
Household income	Under \$40,000	24	28	19	23	27
	\$40,000 to \$79,999	32	33	31	32	39
	\$80,000 or more	44	39	50	45	34
Race/ethnicity	White	70	60	83	69	79
	Latino	15	22	8	13	12
	Black	6	10	1	5	3
	Asian	6	5	5	10	2
	Other	3	3	3	3	4
Region	Los Angeles	25	29	20	24	19
	SF Bay Area	23	27	15	29	25
	Central Valley	17	14	21	13	19
	Orange/San Diego	17	13	22	18	18
	Inland Empire	9	8	12	8	7
	Other regions	9	9	10	8	12
Political ideology	Liberal	33	52	7	30	62
	Middle-of-the-road	30	31	24	41	21
	Conservative	37	17	69	29	17
Government preference	Higher taxes, more services	45	64	21	41	51
	Lower taxes, fewer services	47	28	71	51	41
	Don't know	8	8	8	8	8
Major party voters' strength of affiliation	Strong		62	54		
	Not very strong		35	42		
	Don't know		3	4		
Independent voters' major party leanings	Republican Party				27	
	Democratic Party				43	
	Neither/don't know				30	

**Sources:** Ten PPIC Statewide Surveys, July 2007 - July 2008, including 12,110 likely voters. PPIC Statewide Survey, September 2004. California Secretary of State, *Report of Registration*, October 2004, May 2008.

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