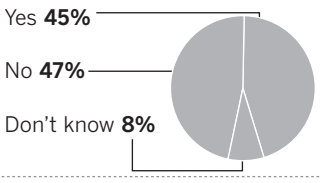
How voters rate the governor and Props. 74-77

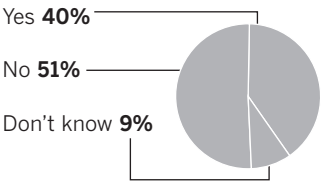
Among likely voters:

Q. *If the November 2005 special election were being held today, how would you vote for these initiatives?*

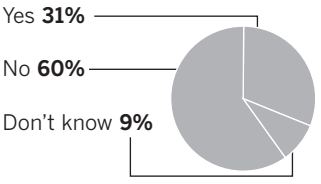
Proposition 74: increases the probationary period for public school teachers from two to five years and modifies the process by which school boards can dismiss a teaching employee who receives two consecutive unsatisfactory performance evaluations. Fiscal impact: it will have an unknown net effect on school districts' costs for teacher compensation, performance evaluations, and other activities.



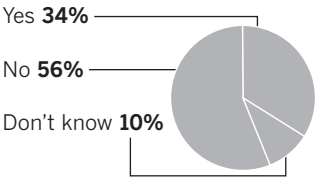
Proposition 75: prohibits public employee unions from using dues for political contributions without each individual employee's prior consent. It excludes contributions benefiting charities or employees. It requires the unions to maintain and upon request report member political contributions to the Fair Political Practices Commission. Fiscal impact: probably minor state and local government implementation costs which may potentially be offset in part by revenues from fines and/or fees.



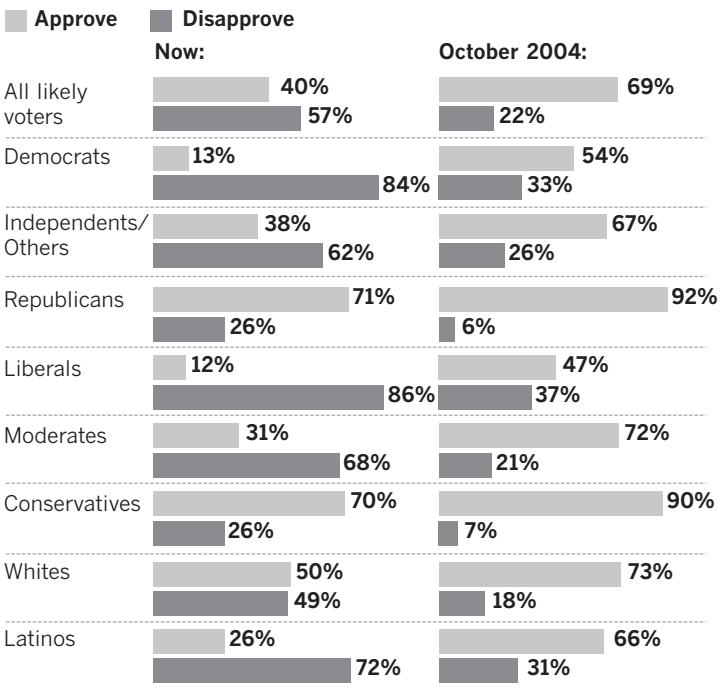
Proposition 76: limits state spending to the prior year's level, plus three previous years' average revenue growth. It changes minimum school funding requirements which were set by Proposition 98. It permits the governor, under specified circumstances, to reduce budget appropriations of the governor's choosing. Fiscal impact: state spending will likely be reduced relative to current law due to additional spending limits and due to new powers granted to the governor. Reductions could apply to schools and could shift costs to other local governments.



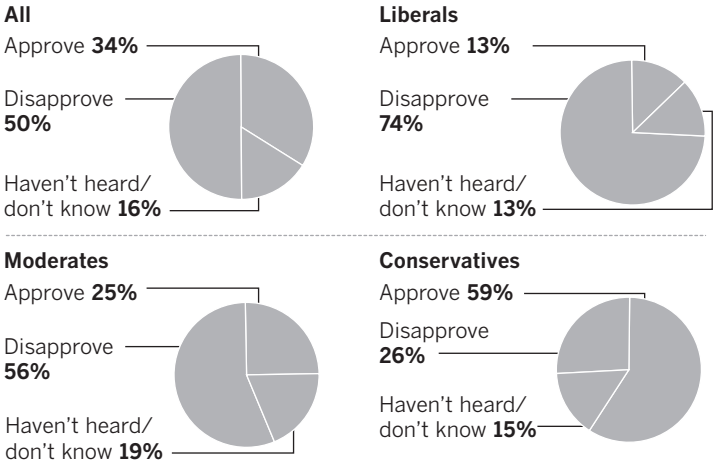
Proposition 77: will amend the state Constitution's process for redistricting California's Senate, Assembly, congressional and Board of Equalization districts. It requires that a three-member panel of retired judges be selected by legislative leaders. Fiscal impact: a one-time state redistricting cost totaling no more than $1.5 million and county costs in the range of $1 million. Also, potential reductions in future costs, but the net impact would depend on decisions by voters.



Q. *Do you approve or disapprove of the way Arnold Schwarzenegger is handling his job as governor?*



Q. *Do you approve or disapprove of Arnold Schwarzenegger calling for a special election?*



Q. *Why do you disapprove of the way Arnold Schwarzenegger is handling his job as governor?* (asked of those who disapproved of Schwarzenegger's job performance as governor)*

Mishandling education	23%
Broke his election promises	13%
Beholden to special interests	11%
Called a special election	10%
Public employee unions pegged as special interests	10%

* Top five mentions, up to two replies accepted

Q. *How interested have you been in following the campaigns for and against the ballot initiatives?*

	Now	Sept. 2003*	Oct. 2002**
Very interested	47%	73%	38%
Somewhat interested	47%	27%	47%
Uninterested	6%	-	15%

* Just before the 2003 special election to recall Grey Davis
** Just before the 2002 governor election

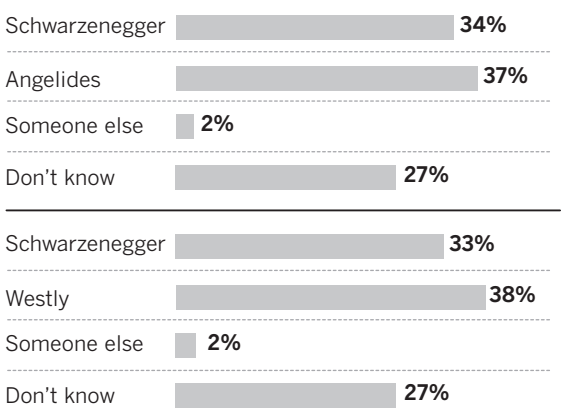
Q. *Things in California are generally:*

	Now	Oct. 2004	Aug. 2003
Going in right direction	26%	45%	14%
Seriously off on wrong track	64%	45%	78%

Asked of registered voters:

Phil Angelides and Steve Westly are unknown to most California registered voters, but each would hold his own against Schwarzenegger if the November 2006 general election were held today.

Q. *If the November 2006 general election for governor of California were being held today and the candidates were Schwarzenegger, a Republican, and California State Treasurer Phil Angelides/ California State Controller Steve Westly, a Democrat, for whom would you vote?*



Note: Some answers may not add up to 100% where some answer categories are not shown. "-" indicates a value of 0.5% or less
Poll results are also available at: http://www.latimes.com/timespoll

How the Poll Was Conducted

The Times Poll contacted 1,778 adults in the state of California by telephone Oct. 26 through Oct. 31, 2005. Among them were 1,405 registered voters, of which 940 were deemed likely to vote in the November 8th special statewide election. Likely voters were determined by a screening process which included questions on intention to vote, certainty of vote, interest in the campaign, absentee voting and past voting history. Telephone numbers were chosen from a list of all exchanges in the state, and random digit dialing techniques allowed listed and unlisted numbers to be contacted. Multiple attempts were made to contact each number. Additional Latino voters were contacted in a separate random sample to allow more accurate analysis of their subgroup. Adults in the entire sample were weighted slightly to conform with their respective census proportions by sex, ethnicity, age, education, region, and party registration figures from the California Secretary of State. The margin of sampling error for registered voters and likely voters is plus or minus three percentage points. For certain subgroups, the error margin may be somewhat higher. Poll results may also be affected by factors such as question wording and the order in which questions are presented. While voters of all racial and ethnic groups were interviewed and are included as part of the overall results, some may comprise too small a subgroup of the sample to be separately reported. Interviews in all samples were conducted in both English and Spanish.

Source: Times Poll

REBECCA PERRY *Los Angeles Times*