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Washington, DC 20009
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Interviews: 606 voters
Dates: January 18-20, 2005

FINAL

Study #7496
California Community College Funding Survey
January 2005

48	Male
52	Female
[109]	

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

1a. First, does anyone in this household work for a radio station, a television station, a newspaper, an advertising agency, a market research firm, or as an active political campaign worker?

No.....	100	CONTINUE	[138]
Yes	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure	-		

1b. Are you currently registered to vote at this address? (IF "YES," ASK:) Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, as Decline to State, or as something else?

Registered--Democrat	43		[139]
Registered--Republican	34	CONTINUE	
Registered--Decline to State	10		
Registered--independent/other party	13		
Not registered	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure	-		

1c. Thinking back on the different state and federal elections in which you have been eligible to vote in the past few years, would you say that you have voted in all these elections, most of them, about half of them, or fewer than half of these elections?

All of them	70		[140]
Most of them	25	CONTINUE	
About half of them	4		
Fewer than half of them	-	TERMINATE	
Was not eligible/too young to vote (VOL)	1	CONTINUE	
Not sure	-	TERMINATE	

1d. What are the chances that you will vote in the June 2006 primary elections for governor, U.S. senator, and other offices--are you very likely to vote, fairly likely to vote, just somewhat likely to vote, or not that likely to vote?

Very likely to vote	93		[141]
Fairly likely to vote	7	CONTINUE	
Just somewhat likely to vote	-		
Not that likely to vote	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure	-		

2. Generally speaking, do you feel that things here in California are going in the right direction these days, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

		8/04	5/04	
Right direction	46	45	44	[142]
Wrong track.....	37	40	43	
Not sure	17	15	13	

3. I am going to read you some goals that people have mentioned for the state of California. Please tell me which ONE or TWO of them are the most important to try to achieve over the next five to ten years. (IF "ALL," ASK:) Well, which ONE or TWO do you think are the most important goals to try to achieve?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Improving kindergarten-through-high-school education.....	49	[144-145]
Creating good-paying jobs	24	>
Making housing more affordable.....	23	
Reducing traffic congestion.....	16	
Protecting the environment and open space	15	
Reducing state taxes	12	
Lowering university fees	10	
Lowering community college fees.....	9	
All (VOL).....	8	
None/other (VOL).....	2	
Not sure	-	

4a. How would you rate the quality of California's kindergarten-through-high-school system--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

Excellent	4	[146]
Good	23	
Only fair.....	41	
Poor	24	
Not sure	8	

4b. How would you rate the quality of California's community colleges--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

Excellent	14	[147]
Good	45	
Only fair.....	23	
Poor	4	
Not sure	14	

4c. How would you rate the quality of California's universities--excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

Excellent	31	[148]
Good	42	
Only fair.....	12	
Poor	3	
Not sure	12	

5. I'm going to name some people and organizations active in education, and I would like you to rate your feelings toward each one as either very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative. If you don't recognize one, please just say so.

	<u>Very Positive</u>	<u>Somewhat Positive</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Somewhat Negative</u>	<u>Very Negative</u>	<u>Don't Know Name/ Not Sure</u>	
Governor Schwarzenegger							[149]
January 2005.....	23	33	17	13	13	1	
August 2004	31	29	17	11	11	1	
The state legislature							[150]
January 2005.....	5	27	27	17	13	11	
The University of California Board of Regents							[151]
January 2005.....	6	24	23	8	5	34	
The California State University Board of Trustees							[152]
January 2005.....	5	21	25	8	3	38	
The California Community College Board of Governors							[153]
January 2005.....	6	21	25	4	2	42	
Local community college district boards of trustees							[154]
January 2005.....	9	28	21	5	2	35	
The California Teachers Association							[155]
January 2005.....	17	28	16	15	11	13	

Q6a Thinking about some different education institutions in California, do you think that the state government is currently spending too much, spending too little, or spending the right amount on (READ ITEM)?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY SPENDING TOO LITTLE

	<u>Spending Too Much</u>	<u>Spending Too Little</u>	<u>Spending The Right Amount</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Junior high and high schools.....	5	69	17	9	[160]
Elementary schools	6	69	16	9	[158]
Community colleges	3	46	35	16	[159]
The Cal State University system	6	39	35	20	[156]
The University of California system.....	8	34	40	18	[157]

6b. Which of California's education systems serves the public best?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Community colleges	27	[161]
Elementary schools	17	
The University of California system	16	
The Cal State University system	12	
Junior high and high schools	9	
All (VOL)	7	
None/other (VOL)	3	
Not sure	9	

7a. Realistically speaking, do you think that state funding needs to be increased to improve the quality of California's public schools from kindergarten through high school, or do you think that the current level of funding is sufficient to support public schools from kindergarten through high school?

State funding needs to be increased	72	[162]
Current level of funding is sufficient	25	
Not sure	3	

7b. Realistically speaking, do you think that state funding needs to be increased to improve the quality of California's community colleges, or do you think that the current level of funding is sufficient to support California's community colleges?

State funding needs to be increased	50	[163]
Current level of funding is sufficient	39	
Not sure	11	

8a. The passage of Proposition ninety-eight in 1998 required that at least forty percent of the state's general fund revenue be shared between California's public schools from kindergarten through high school and community colleges. From what you know, how well do you think Proposition ninety-eight is working—very well, fairly well, somewhat well, or not well at all? *

Working very well	1	[164]
Working fairly well	9	
Working somewhat well	27	
Not working well at all	33	
Not sure	30	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

8b. The passage of Proposition ninety-eight in 1998 required that at least forty percent of the state's general fund revenue be shared between California's public schools from kindergarten through high school and community colleges. Do you think that any changes should be made to Proposition ninety-eight, or not? **

Yes, changes should be made	28	[165]
No, changes should not be made	44	
Not sure	28	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

As you may know, California's public schools from kindergarten through high school receive about ninety percent of Proposition ninety-eight funding and community colleges receive about ten percent of Proposition ninety-eight funding.

9a. Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the level of funding provided to California's public schools from kindergarten through high school under the Proposition ninety-eight formula?

Very satisfied	15	[166]
Somewhat satisfied	36	
Somewhat dissatisfied	18	
Very dissatisfied	18	
Not sure	13	

9b. Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the level of funding provided to community colleges under the Proposition ninety-eight formula?

Very satisfied	10	[167]
Somewhat satisfied	29	
Somewhat dissatisfied	27	
Very dissatisfied	20	
Not sure	14	

10a. Now I'm going to read you a ballot initiative that may be on the next statewide election, and then ask how you would vote.

The ballot initiative would allow California community colleges to roll back fees from twenty-six dollars to fifteen dollars per unit.

It would change the state constitution by restructuring the administration of the entire community college system by giving the community college chancellor, community college system board, and local boards of elected trustees more independence from the governor and the legislature.

The initiative would maintain the Proposition ninety-eight guaranteed state funding for California's public schools from kindergarten through high school, but it would add a provision for separate guaranteed state funding to community colleges based on enrollment.

Based on this wording, if the election were held today, would you vote yes on this ballot initiative, or would you vote no? (IF "YES" OR "NO," ASK:) And do you feel strongly about your vote or not?

Vote Yes		
Feel strongly	40	[168]
Do not feel strongly	22	
Vote No		
Do not feel strongly	9	
Feel strongly	13	
Not sure	16	

10b. Why would you vote that way on the ballot initiative to change the administration and funding for state community colleges?

(PROBE:) What are some reasons to vote for this measure?

(PROBE:) What are some reasons to vote against this measure? [169-175]

Net Reasons To Vote For	57%	Net Reasons To Vote Against	33%
Education is important, need more support/funding	24	Don't trust the state, the money won't go where they say it will	5
Agree with local control, out of the hands of the state	14	Too much autonomy is bad, need oversight	5
Increase affordability of/accessibility to higher education	13	Colleges get enough money already, need to use funds better	4
Good idea to roll back fees	7	Criticisms of government/politicians, just playing politics	4
Enrollments will increase, more people will go to college	3	Elementary/high schools will lose funding to pay for it	3
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		Don't know; no response	10%

11. Now I would like to read you some specific provisions that are included in the community college ballot initiative. For each one, please tell me whether your reaction is very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE

	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure	
The initiative would not raise taxes.....	65	21	3	5	6	[208]
The initiative would separate the funding guarantee for kindergarten through high school from the funding guarantee for community colleges, allowing each to grow based on their enrollment.....	53	31	5	4	7	[178]
The initiative would allow the community college Proposition ninety-eight funding to grow according to enrollment in community colleges, not just enrollment in public schools from kindergarten through high school.....	44	38	5	4	9	[179]
The initiative would roll back fees from twenty-six dollars to fifteen dollars per unit.....	57	21	10	8	4	[180]
The initiative would change the membership of the community college system board by requiring that more of the public members have been elected local community college district board members, faculty members, or students.....	37	37	6	4	16	[177]
The initiative would give the statewide community college chancellor, board of governors, and local boards of elected trustees more authority and independence from the governor and the state legislature, including the ability to set fees, a power that state universities already have.....	36	33	11	10	10	[176]

12. Now I am going to list some characteristics of California's community colleges, and I'd like you to tell me which ONE or TWO are most appealing to you. (IF "ALL," ASK:) If you absolutely had to choose, which one or two would you say are most appealing to you?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Prepares students to transfer to a four-year college	35	[209-210]
Affordable.....	30	>
Accessible, anyone can attend	25	
Provides useful work force training	24	
Offers quality education	22	
Serves a diverse student body.....	7	
Provides English as a second language instruction.....	5	
All (VOL).....	12	
None/other (VOL).....	1	
Not sure.....	1	

13. Now let me read you some reasons that people have given for why they SUPPORT the ballot initiative to restructure community college governance and funding in California. For each one, please tell me whether you think it is a very strong reason, a fairly strong reason, a medium reason, or a weak reason to support the ballot initiative.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR FAIRLY STRONG REASON

	<u>Very Strong Reason</u>	<u>Fairly Strong Reason</u>	<u>Medium Reason</u>	<u>Weak Reason</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Community colleges are the only chance that many Californians have to get a college education.....	65	17	7	9	2	[216/224]
California's community colleges are the only affordable option to provide a higher education to the five hundred thousand additional high school graduates who will be eligible for college in the next few years. It costs the state only one-fourth of the price to educate a student in community college as compared to the cost of educating a student at the University of California for the first two years	62	19	12	6	1	[217/225]
A strong and healthy community college system is critical to California's economic growth. A Chamber of Commerce study shows that the top factor in a business locating to a state is the quality of the work force, and community colleges are California's largest work force education provider.....	57	23	12	6	2	[215/223]
Investing in community colleges pays off. Studies show that the lifetime income of a person attending a two-year community college is five hundred thousand dollars higher than those with only a high school diploma.....	57	20	11	8	4	[213/221]
This proposal will allow California community colleges to roll back fees from twenty-six dollars to fifteen dollars per unit, which will help make education more affordable. The last time the state raised fees, one hundred and twenty thousand students were pushed out of the community college system because of high costs	59	12	12	15	2	[214/222]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).
** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Q.13 (cont'd).

	<u>Very Strong Reason</u>	<u>Fairly Strong Reason</u>	<u>Medium Reason</u>	<u>Weak Reason</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Community colleges have different goals from kindergarten-through-twelfth-grade schools and deserve a separate governing structure with their own guaranteed funding so that the future of community colleges will not be threatened by politicians.....	53	18	14	11	4	[211/219]
Community colleges do not get enough state support under the current Proposition ninety-eight formula. For example, California community college funding from the state is ranked forty-fifth among all states **	49	18	18	11	4	[226]
Community colleges serve a diverse population of working- and middle-class students of all racial backgrounds. The average student age is twenty-eight and sixty percent of the student population is female.....	42	21	16	16	5	[212/220]
Community colleges do not get enough state support under the current Proposition ninety-eight formula. The state provides twenty thousand dollars for every UC student and ten thousand dollars for every Cal State student, but only four thousand dollars for every community college student *	42	19	14	19	6	[218]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

14. On the other side of the coin, let me read you some reasons that people have given for OPPOSING the ballot initiative to restructure how community colleges are governed and funded in California. For each one, please tell me whether you think it is a very strong reason, a fairly strong reason, a medium reason, or a weak reason to oppose the ballot initiative.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR FAIRLY STRONG REASON

	<u>Very Strong Reason</u>	<u>Fairly Strong Reason</u>	<u>Medium Reason</u>	<u>Weak Reason</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
What supporters fail to mention is that there is a mechanism to increase community college funding beyond the current formula if enrollment grows, which means that it would require more money from the state's general fund and take away money from other critical programs such as law enforcement, transportation, and health care.....	18	21	24	31	6	[228]
A change in governing structure is the worst of both worlds. It will make community colleges less accountable to the governor and the legislature while adding another layer of bureaucracy in Sacramento	16	15	19	44	6	[229]
Separating the funding for California's public schools from kindergarten through high school and community colleges is not needed because both systems are being funded adequately now. If this initiative passes, the next thing we know, health care and everyone else will be arguing for their own separate funding, too.....	13	10	14	58	5	[230]

Q.14 (cont'd)

	<u>Very Strong Reason</u>	<u>Fairly Strong Reason</u>	<u>Medium Reason</u>	<u>Weak Reason</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
This initiative needlessly tampers with Proposition ninety-eight, which has provided more and stable state funding for California's public schools from kindergarten through high school AND community colleges	11	12	27	40	10	[227]

15. Based on everything we have discussed in this survey, how would you vote on the ballot initiative to restructure the administration and funding of California's community colleges? If the election were held today, would you vote yes on this ballot initiative, or would you vote no? (IF "YES" OR "NO," ASK:) And do you feel strongly about your vote or not?

Vote Yes		
Feel strongly	49	[231]
Do not feel strongly	20	
Vote No		
Do not feel strongly	6	
Feel strongly	11	
Not sure	14	

Changing subjects . . .

16a. Governor Schwarzenegger has recommended REDUCING the funding for kindergarten through high school and community colleges that is guaranteed by Proposition ninety-eight to address the state's eight-billion-dollar shortfall. Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of this proposal?

Strongly approve	7	[232]
Somewhat approve	13	
Somewhat disapprove.....	17	
Strongly disapprove	59	
Not sure.....	4	

16b. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to raise the income tax rate on the top tax bracket from nine to eleven percent and use the revenue to MAINTAIN the current funding level for kindergarten through high school and community colleges that is guaranteed by Proposition ninety-eight? (IF "FAVOR/OPPOSE," ASK:) And do you feel strongly about that or not? *

Favor		
Strongly.....	48	[233]
Not strongly.....	14	
Oppose		
Not strongly.....	5	
Strongly.....	26	
Not sure	7	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

16c. Would you favor or oppose a proposal to raise state taxes and use the revenue to MAINTAIN the current funding level for kindergarten through high school and community colleges that is guaranteed by Proposition ninety-eight? (IF "FAVOR/OPPOSE," ASK:) And do you feel strongly about that or not? **

Favor		
Strongly	37	[234]
Not strongly	13	
Oppose		
Not strongly	10	
Strongly	33	
Not sure	7	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1. How old are you? (IF "REFUSED," ASK:) Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?

18-24	10	[239-240]
25-29	6	
30-34	5	
35-39	10	
40-44	10	
45-49	9	
50-54	11	
55-59	11	
60-64	7	
65-69	6	
70-74	3	
75 and over	9	
Refused	3	

F2. Are you currently employed? (IF "CURRENTLY EMPLOYED," ASK:) What type of work do you do?

(IF "NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED," ASK:) Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or unemployed and looking for work?

<u>Currently Employed</u>		
Professional, manager	29	[241-242]
White-collar worker	18	
Blue-collar worker	11	
Farmer, rancher	-	
<u>Not Currently Employed</u>		
Student	6	
Homemaker	5	
Retired	25	
Unemployed, looking for work	3	
Other	-	
Not sure	3	

F3. Regardless of how you may be registered, how would you describe your overall point of view in terms of the political parties? Would you say that you are mostly Democratic, leaning Democratic, completely independent, leaning Republican, or mostly Republican?

Mostly Democratic	33	[249]
Leaning Democratic.....	9	
Completely independent.....	16	
Leaning Republican.....	11	
Mostly Republican	25	
Not sure	6	

F4a. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school.....	-		[250-251]
Some high school	2	Skip to Q.F5a	
High school graduate	15		
Some college, no degree	18		
Vocational training/2-year college.....	15		
4-year college/bachelor's degree	24	CONTINUE	
Some postgraduate work, no degree	4		
2-3 years postgraduate work/master's degree.....	15		
Doctoral/law degree	5		
Not sure/refused	2	Skip to Q.F5a	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY HAVE HAD AT LEAST SOME COLLEGE IN Q.F4a.)

F4b. Did or do you attend a private or public college or university?

(IF "PRIVATE," ASK:) Was/is that here in California?

(IF "PUBLIC," ASK:) Was/is that here in California? (IF "YES," ASK:) Was/is that a community college, a California State University school, or a University of California school?

Private--NOT in California	10	[252]
Private--in California.....	13	>
Public--NOT in California.....	13	
Public--California community college	36	
Public--California State University.....	25	
Public--University of California	10	
Refused/other.....	7	
Not sure.....	2	

F5a. Do you have any children under age 18 currently living in your household?

Yes, kids under 18 in household	29	[253]
No, no kids under 18 in household.....	69	
Not sure.....	2	

F5b. Do you have any children that currently attend or have graduated college? **(IF "YES," ASK:)** Is that a private or public college or university?

(IF "PRIVATE," ASK:) Was that here in California?

(IF "PUBLIC," ASK:) Was that here in California? **(IF "YES," ASK:)** Was that a community college, a California State University school, or a University of California school?

Private--NOT in California	3	[254]
Private--in California	6	>
Public--NOT in California	4	
Public--California community college	15	
Public--California State University	12	
Public--University of California	8	
No children go/went to college	56	
Refused/other	5	
Not sure	-	

F6. For statistical purposes only, would you please tell me whether your total household income for last year was more than \$40,000, or less than \$40,000?

(IF "MORE THAN \$40,000," ASK:) Would you say that your household income was more than \$75,000, or less than \$75,000?

(IF "LESS THAN \$40,000," ASK:) Would you say that your household income was more than \$20,000, or less than \$20,000?

More than \$75,000	36	[255]
\$40,000-\$75,000	26	
\$20,000-\$40,000	15	
Less than \$20,000	8	
Not sure/refused	15	

F7. And finally, are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background? **(IF "NO," ASK:)** What is your race--white, black, Asian, or something else?

Hispanic/Spanish-speaking background	13	[256]
White	70	
Black	5	
Asian	4	
Other	4	
Not sure/refused	4	