

Voter / Consumer Research
 CA Government Reform
 VCR10144
 Topline Results
 N=800

Field date: September 29- October 5, 2010
 Margin of Error ± 3.47%

Hello, I am _____ with Voter / Consumer Research. We're a national survey research company doing a public opinion survey in your area. Could I please speak with the youngest (male / female) available now. This person must be registered to vote at this address.

Q01. In the elections this November, who will you probably vote for in the Governor's race between (ROTATE) Meg Whitman, the Republican businesswoman and Jerry Brown, the Democratic Attorney General of California?

1 Meg Whitman	38
2 Jerry Brown	42
3 Neither / won't vote (DNR)	5
4 Other / 3 rd party candidate (DNR)	1
5 Don't know (DNR)	14
6 Refused (DNR)	1

Q02. (VERSION A:) Thinking about state government in Sacramento for a moment, do you believe we need major changes, minor changes or no change at all in the way state government is run?

1 Major change	85
2 Minor change	14
3 No change at all	1
4 Don't know (DNR)	*
5 Refused (DNR)	*

Q03. (VERSION B:) And what about local government in your area, the governments of the city and county you live in, do you believe major changes, minor changes or no change at all is needed in the way your city and county governments are run?

1 Major change	47
2 Minor change	43
3 No change at all	7
4 Don't know (DNR)	3
5 Refused (DNR)	-

Q04. (VERSION A:) Which of the following two statements best describes your feelings about state government in Sacramento (ROTATE)

That for the most part decisions are made to benefit special interests rather than the residents of the state / or /

That for the most part decisions are made to benefit the residents of the state rather than special interests

1 Benefit special interests	72
2 Benefit the citizens of the state	20
3 Neither / other / mix (DNR)	4
4 Don't know (DNR)	4
5 Refused (DNR)	*

Q05. (VERSION B:) And now with regard to your city and county government, do you believe (ROTATE)

That for the most part decisions are made to benefit special interests rather than the residents of the city and county / or /

That for the most part decisions are made to benefit the residents of the city and county rather than special interests

- 1 Benefit special interests 46
- 2 Benefit the citizens of the state 45
- 3 Neither / other / mix (DNR) 4
- 4 Don't know (DNR) 5
- 5 Refused (DNR) *

Here are the names of some organizations in the news. Please tell me for each of these whether you feel they have too much influence in state and local government, about the right amount of influence, or not enough influence. If you haven't heard enough about them to say, just let me know (RANDOMIZE q07 to q13, q06 always first)

	Too much	About the right amount	Not enough	mixed, different between state and local	Not aware of them	Don't know	Refused (DNR)
Q06. Labor unions representing public employees	51	23	14	1	3	9	*
Q07. (VERSION A :) The California Teachers Association	41	21	30	-	3	6	*
Q08. (VERSION A :) The California Chamber of Commerce	21	26	18	*	5	29	1
Q09. (VERSION B :) The California Manufacturers and Technology Association	10	13	24	1	21	31	*
Q10. (VERSION B :) The California Correctional Peace Officers Association	37	21	16	1	7	18	*
Q11. (VERSION A :) The Peace Officers Research Association of California	19	20	12	-	21	28	1
Q12. (VERSION B :) The California Professional Fire Fighters Association	24	39	18	1	4	15	*

Q13. Specifically thinking about public employees, can you remember seeing or hearing any stories in the news that talked about the influence of unions representing about public employees in California, or had you not heard any news stories about that?

- 1 Had heard 64
- 2 Had not heard 34
- 3 Don't know (DNR) 2
- 4 Refused (DNR) -

Q14. (IF HEARD:) And do you recall what specifically that news story was about?

- Q15. And still thinking about the influence of unions representing California public employees, do you believe legislation is needed to limit their influence or do you think such legislation is not needed?
- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1 Is needed | 45 |
| 2 Is not needed | 45 |
| 3 Don't know (DNR) | 9 |
| 4 Refused (DNR) | 1 |
- Q16. (IF NEEDED ASK:) And what are one or two reasons why you believe such legislation is needed? (PROBE FOR 2ND RESPONSE)
- Q17. (IF NOT NEEDED ASK:) And what are one or two reasons why you believe such legislation is not needed? (PROBE FOR 2ND RESPONSE)
- Q18. From what you have heard do California public employees make more than people who have comparable jobs in the private sector, about the same amount, or less than people with comparable jobs in the private sector? If you haven't heard enough to say just let me know.
- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1 More | 43 |
| 2 About the same | 19 |
| 3 Less | 16 |
| 4 Don't know (DNR) | 22 |
| 5 Refused (DNR) | 1 |
- Q19. (VERSION A:) And thinking just about pension benefits, do you believe California public employees get more generous pensions than people in the private sector, about the same, or less generous pensions than people in the private sector? If you haven't heard enough to say just let me know.
- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1 More generous | 62 |
| 2 About the same | 13 |
| 3 Less generous | 9 |
| 4 Don't know (DNR) | 16 |
| 5 Refused (DNR) | 1 |
- Q20. (VERSION B:) And thinking about the benefits like medical and dental insurance, paid vacations and holidays, paid sick leave and other benefits like it, do you believe California public employees get more generous benefits than people in the private sector, about the same, or less generous benefits than people in the private sector? If you haven't heard enough to say, just let me know.
- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1 More generous | 62 |
| 2 About the same | 17 |
| 3 Less generous | 8 |
| 4 Don't know (DNR) | 13 |
| 5 Refused (DNR) | - |

Here are some specific proposals dealing with public employees, please tell me for each of these whether you would favor or oppose that proposal. (RANDOMIZE Q19 TO Q22)

Q21. (VERSION A:) This proposal deals with the portion of public employee union dues that is used for political purposes, like campaign contributions. Currently government withholds all dues from public employees including the portion used for campaign contributions and transfers them to labor unions. Under this proposal government could no longer collect the portion of dues that is used for political purposes – instead unions themselves would have to collect that portion of dues from their members. Do you favor or do you oppose this proposal? (PROMPT) And do you strongly or just somewhat (favor / oppose)?

Favor	59
Oppose	24
1 Strongly favor	36
2 Somewhat favor	24
3 Somewhat oppose	10
4 Strongly oppose	15
5 Don't know (DNR)	15
6 Refused (DNR)	1

Q22. (VERSION B:) This proposal deals campaign contributions from corporations and with the portion of public employee union dues that is used for political purposes, like campaign contributions. Currently government withholds all dues from public employees including the portion used for campaign contributions and transfers them to labor unions. Under this proposal government could no longer collect the portion of dues that is used for political purposes – instead unions themselves would have to collect that portion of dues from their members. In addition, corporations could not withhold political contributions from employees paychecks . Do you favor or do you oppose this proposal? (PROMPT) And do you strongly or just somewhat (favor / oppose)?

Favor	70
Oppose	17
1 Strongly favor	46
2 Somewhat favor	25
3 Somewhat oppose	6
4 Strongly oppose	11
5 Don't know (DNR)	12
6 Refused (DNR)	1

Q23. Currently many government departments and agencies are unionized and public employees are required to join a union. This proposal would make union membership voluntary, and public employees would no longer be required to join or pay them dues as a union as a condition of employment. Do you favor or do you oppose this proposal? (PROMPT) And do you strongly or just somewhat (favor / oppose)?

Favor	70
Oppose	22
1 Strongly favor	49
2 Somewhat favor	21
3 Somewhat oppose	7
4 Strongly oppose	14
5 Don't know (DNR)	7
6 Refused (DNR)	1

Q24. Another proposal dealing with union dues paid by public employee would require that public employee unions would have to get the written consent of each of their members to use any portion of their dues for political purposes once a year. Do you favor or do you oppose this proposal? (PROMPT) And do you strongly or just somewhat (favor / oppose)?

	Favor	73
	Oppose	21
1	Strongly favor	54
2	Somewhat favor	20
3	Somewhat oppose	10
4	Strongly oppose	11
5	Don't know (DNR)	5
6	Refused (DNR)	1

Q25. (VERSION A:) And of these 3 proposals which one did you think was the best? (RANDOMIZE 1 - 4)

1	Not allowing government to collect dues used for politics	19
2	Making membership in government employee unions voluntary	36
3	Requiring approval from union members to use their dues for political purposes	25
4	(ALWAYS LAST) If you did not like any of them, just let me know	16
5	Don't know (DNR)	4
6	Refused (DNR)	1

Q26. (VERSION B:) And of these 3 proposals which one did you think was the best? (RANDOMIZE 1 - 4)

1	Not allowing government to collect dues used for politics	20
2	Making membership in government employee unions voluntary	35
3	Requiring approval from union members and banning paycheck withholding by corporations to raise funds for political purposes	25
4	(ALWAYS LAST) If you did not like any of them, just let me know	15
5	Don't know (DNR)	4
6	Refused (DNR)	-

Q27. And between the following two who do you agree with more (ROTATE)

People who say that California has too many public employees that cost too much, that the only way to get government spending under control is to eliminate thousands of positions in state government and to get pay and pensions under control / or /

People who say that between furloughs and cut backs we've already reduced public employee costs, that further cutbacks would hurt the state's ability to provide services to its citizens

1	Too many / cost too much	40
2	Have already cut back / further cuts would hurt services	48
3	Neither / Other / in between (DNR)	6
4	Don't know (DNR)	6
5	Refused (DNR)	*

Q28. And thinking just about public employee pensions, who do you agree with more (ROTATE)
 People who say that public employees get pensions that are far more generous than people in the private sector get, often 90,000 a year or more, that the state is short 500 billion dollars from what it needs to pay for the pensions, that reform is needed to cut cost / or /
 People who say pension costs are a problem, but we should not reduce the pensions of public employees, police and fire fighters in particular who risk their lives day after day to provide for our safety

1	Need reform	48
2	Can't break our promise	39
3	Neither / Other / in between (DNR)	5
4	Don't know (DNR)	7
5	Refused (DNR)	1

Q29. (VERSION A:) Here is a specific proposal: under this proposal current employees would keep the retirement system that is in place today, but new hires would be enrolled in retirement plans like a 401K that most people in the private sector get. Do you favor or do you oppose this proposal? (PROMPT) And do you strongly or just somewhat (favor / oppose)?

	Favor	67
	Oppose	23
1	Strongly favor	39
2	Somewhat favor	28
3	Somewhat oppose	9
4	Strongly oppose	14
5	Don't know (DNR)	9
6	Refused (DNR)	1

Q30. (VERSION B:) Here is a specific proposal: under this proposal current employees would keep the retirement system that is in place today, but new hires would be enrolled in retirement plans like a 401K that most people in the private sector get. Police and fire fighters would be exempt from this proposal. Do you favor or do you oppose this proposal? (PROMPT) And do you strongly or just somewhat (favor / oppose)?

	Favor	48
	Oppose	41
1	Strongly favor	22
2	Somewhat favor	27
3	Somewhat oppose	16
4	Strongly oppose	25
5	Don't know (DNR)	10
6	Refused (DNR)	1

Here are some words or phrases describing public employee unions. For each of these please tell me whether you think it is very accurate, somewhat accurate, somewhat inaccurate or very inaccurate. (PROMPT:) And do you strongly or just somewhat (agree / disagree)? (RANDOMIZE)

	Accurate	Inaccurate	Very accurate	Somewhat accurate	Somewhat inaccurate	Very inaccurate	Don't know (DNR)	Refused (DNR)
Q31. (VERSION A :) Public employee unions are among the most powerful special interest groups in Sacramento	73	17	46	27	9	8	10	-

Q32.	(VERSION B :) Because they're among the largest campaign contributors in California public employee unions are extremely influential in the state legislature and local decision making bodies	79	14	48	31	8	6	7	-
Q33.	(VERSION A :) The influence of public employee unions is one of the main reasons why the state budget can't be cut	55	38	31	24	18	20	8	-
Q34.	Public employee unions are needed to protect public employees from undue political pressure	49	46	20	29	22	24	5	*
Q35.	Public employee unions are needed to protect public employees who want to bring problems in government to the public's attention, without fear of being fired	59	36	27	31	18	18	5	*
Q36.	(VERSION A:) Because of the influence of their unions public employees get salaries and benefits that are more generous than people get in the private sector	61	33	38	23	18	15	6	-
Q37.	(VERSION B:) Public employee unions use their political influence that get pay and benefits for public employees that we simply cannot afford	64	29	38	26	19	10	7	-
Q38.	(VERSION B :) Public employee unions make it impossible to fire a government employee who is not doing his or her job right	62	30	37	25	15	15	8	*

Q39. On these issues who do you agree with more (ROTATE)
 People who say reforms are needed because public employee unions collect hundreds of millions of dollars in dues, making them some of the most powerful groups in Sacramento, which has led to pay and pensions we can't afford, and making it impossible to cut budgets / or /

People who say strong public employee unions are important to protect government employees from undue political influence and that it is unfair to limit the influence of public employees without also limiting the influence of corporations

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1 Reforms are needed to limit the influence of public employees | 54 |
| 2 Strong public employee unions are needed | 37 |
| 3 Neither / other (DNR) | 3 |
| 4 Don't know (DNR) | 6 |
| 5 Refused (DNR) | 1 |

Here are some of the examples that are mentioned by the organizations who want to limit the influence of public employee unions. Please tell me for each of these whether you find their example very convincing, somewhat convincing, somewhat unconvincing or very unconvincing. If this issue does not matter to you or you don't believe the statement is correct, just let me know. (RANDOMIZE)

	Convincing	Unconvincing	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Issue does not matter	Statement not correct	Don't know (DNR)	Refused (DNR)
Q40. Retired public employees get guaranteed pensions that are adjusted for inflation and health care costs, while virtually no one outside of government gets pensions like that	59	26	38	21	13	13	2	5	8	*
Q41. (VERSION A :) More than 12,000 retired public employees get over 100,000 a year in retirement pay and a few get almost 1 million a year	57	21	34	24	13	8	4	7	10	*
Q42. In some cities 80% of the city budget goes to pay and benefits leaving only 20% for everything else	50	27	29	21	16	11	3	9	12	*
Q43. (VERSION B :) One water district in southern California has to set aside 23,000 dollars a month for the pension of just one of its employees	49	25	34	15	13	12	3	5	17	*
Q44. California public employee unions spend about 250 million dollars a year on lobbying, campaign contributions and other political activities	71	12	43	27	7	5	4	2	11	*
Q45. (VERSION A :) Former Governor Gray Davis gave prison guards a 50% increase in pensions and collected 1 and ½ million dollar campaign contribution 3 days later	57	13	37	20	6	7	4	4	23	1

Q46.	(VERSION B :) Many retired public employees get 2 separate pensions from 2 government jobs, and they make more in retirement than when they were still working	61	22	43	18	13	9	3	5	9	1
Q47.	The Los Angeles school district spends millions a year paying teachers that they won't let in the classroom but which they cannot fire because of union protections	61	20	45	16	8	12	2	7	10	*
Q48.	Since 2005 1.3 million jobs were lost in the private sector in California while 38 thousand new jobs were added by the state government	58	22	34	24	12	10	4	4	12	1

For each of the following statements please tell me whether you agree or disagree.
(PROMPT:) And do you strongly or just somewhat (agree / disagree)? (RANDOMIZE)

	Agree	Disagree	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know (DNR)	Refused (DNR)
Q49. Putting restrictions on public employee unions to limit their influence is unfair if nothing is done to limit the influence of corporations	61	34	38	23	17	17	6	-
Q50. With teachers fighting for better schools and cops lobbying for improved public safety, public employee unions help improve government services to everybody's benefit	50	45	18	32	22	23	5	*
Q51. It is unfair that public employees get much better pay and pensions than the taxpayers who pay for them.	60	36	41	19	16	20	3	1
Q52. When pay and pensions for public employees cost too much, less money is left for needed services like better schools, roads and health care for low income families	67	28	44	23	12	16	5	1

Q53.	At one point unions were needed to improve worker safety, but in this day and age unions really aren't needed anymore, particularly in the case of government employees	53	45	32	21	18	27	2	*
Q54.	A strong teacher union is needed to protect teachers against aggressive parents who complain to school principal	37	60	19	19	22	38	3	*
Q55.	Police officers need a strong union to protect them when something goes wrong during an arrest and lawsuits are filed against them	65	31	34	31	14	17	4	*
Q56.	Union bosses only care about their own special interests and don't really do much to help out rank and file members	54	36	33	22	21	15	10	*
Q57.	It's just wrong to force someone to join a union in order to get a job with a state or local government agency or to work for a public school – union membership should be strictly voluntary	79	20	62	16	8	12	1	1
Q58.	All political contributions should be voluntary, and it is wrong for unions to use member dues to give money to politicians their members do not support	84	14	71	13	7	7	2	1
Q59.	Labor unions are doing to government what they did to the airline, auto and steel industries, but instead of hurting shareholders, public employees unions are hurting taxpayers	60	32	39	21	16	16	7	1

Q60. In view of all the issues raised by supporters and opponents, right now would you support or would you oppose passing laws to limit the influence of public employee unions? (IF ANSWERED:) And is that definitely support / oppose, or just somewhat support / oppose?

Support	60
Oppose	34
1 Definitely support	35
2 Somewhat support	25
3 Somewhat oppose	16
4 Definitely oppose	18
5 Don't know (DNR)	6
6 Refused (DNR)	*

Now just a few last questions for statistical purposes...

Q61. Which of the following ranges includes your age? Just stop me when I get to the right one (READ CHOICES 1 - 6)		
1	18 – 24	9
2	25 – 34	8
3	35 – 44	14
4	45 – 54	25
5	55 – 64	25
6	65 & over	20
7	Don't know (DNR)	-
8	Refused (DNR)	*
Q62. Are you registered to vote as (ROTATE:) a Republican, a Democrat, an independent or something else?		
1	Republican	34
2	Democrat	44
3	Independent / Decline to State	15
4	Other / 3rd Party	4
5	Don't know (DNR)	1
6	Refused (DNR)	1
Q63. On political issues, do you consider yourself (ROTATE) a liberal, a moderate or a conservative?		
1	Liberal	22
2	Moderate	39
3	Conservative	35
4	Don't know (DNR)	3
5	Refused (DNR)	1
Q64. Is anyone in your household a member of a union or a teachers association, or not? (PROBE IF NECESSARY:) Would that be a labor union or a teachers association?		
1	Yes / labor	21
2	Yes / teacher	9
3	Yes / both	5
4	No	64
5	Don't know (DNR)	1
6	Refused (DNR)	*
Q65. (IF NO:) And were you ever a member of a union in a previous job, or have you never been a union member?		
1	Yes	36
2	No	63
3	Don't know (DNR)	*
4	Refused (DNR)	*
Q66. Are you, yourself of Hispanic or Latino descent -- for instance Mexican American or Cuban or Puerto Rican, or not		
1	Yes	12
2	No	86
3	Don't know (DNR)	*
4	Refused (DNR)	1

Q67. (IF > 1:) Is your racial or ethnic background (RANDOMIZE) white, black, Asian, American Indian or something else?

1	White	80
2	Black	5
3	Asian	4
4	American Indian	2
5	Other	7
6	Don't know (DNR)	1
7	Refused (DNR)	2

Q68. Sex (BY OBSERVATION)

1	Male	46
2	Female	54