

## **PPIC Report—*Californians and Higher Education-October 2018***

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) has released a [statewide survey](#) primarily on the attitude of voters toward California's three segments of public higher education. This is part of the nonprofit, nonpartisan series of such surveys conducted annually since 2007, except for a few years during the recession.

### ***Conclusions***

- As Gavin Newsom assumes office, the state is in a very strong financial position and public higher education is in high regard.
- There is deep concern about public higher education opportunity for students of lower income and minority groups.
- Across most groups, there is a stronger concern about tuition and fees than of housing and other living costs. Student debt is of deep concern.
- Voters believe the state needs to invest more in scholarships and grants, although that conclusion is not weighed against other non-aid investments.
- Likely voters give overwhelmingly positive ("excellent" or "good") job approval ratings to all three public segments.
- Likely voters express support for a public higher education bond, although at 57%, an active effort to explain the need would be required if there is opposition.
- After years of an "access crunch," voters are now equally concerned with the quality of programs and services provided students.
- Californians expect more online certificates and degrees for community colleges.