

Raising Revenues

In November 2012, voters passed Proposition 30 (55% yes), which included a temporary income tax increase on wealthy Californians and a temporary state sales tax increase. This November's ballot is likely to include an initiative that would extend the Proposition 30 tax on earnings above \$250,000 for 12 years to fund education and health care. About six in 10 adults (64%) and likely voters (58%) favor extending the tax for that purpose. Support for this proposal was similar in March (61% adults, 58% likely voters). Today, solid majorities of Democrats (80%) and independents (68%) favor extending the income tax increase, compared to only 31 percent of Republicans. Though majorities across regions and demographic groups favor the extension, support decreases as age and income levels increase.

Those who say the state budget situation is a big problem are slightly more likely to favor extending the Proposition 30 income tax than to oppose it (52% to 46%). Those who have a more positive view of the budget situation are much more likely to favor the extension (73% somewhat of a problem, 81% not a problem).

“As you may know, voters passed Proposition 30 in November 2012. It increased taxes on earnings over \$250,000 until 2018 and sales taxes by one quarter cent until 2016. Do you favor or oppose extending for 12 years the tax increase on earnings over \$250,000 to fund education and health care?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	64%	80%	31%	68%	58%
Oppose	32	17	66	29	39
Don't know	4	3	3	3	2

The November ballot may also include a tax increase on cigarettes to fund health care. About seven in 10 adults and likely voters favor increasing cigarette taxes for this purpose. In January, 53 percent of adults said that raising cigarette taxes to pay for health care was very important to them. Today, majorities across parties are in favor, though Democrats (82%) are much more likely to favor an increase than are independents (68%) or Republicans (53%). Across regions and racial/ethnic, age, education, and income groups, at least six in 10 favor increasing the tax on cigarettes.

The initiative that may appear on the November ballot would increase the cigarette tax by \$2 per pack. In June 2012, Proposition 29—which would have raised the state cigarette tax by \$1 per pack to fund cancer research—fell short of the simple majority needed to pass (49.8% yes).

“In general, would you favor or oppose increasing the tax on the purchase of cigarettes to fund health care?”

	All adults	Party			Likely voters
		Dem	Rep	Ind	
Favor	69%	82%	53%	68%	67%
Oppose	29	17	45	31	31
Don't know	2	2	2	2	2