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## Bay Area Survey: Public Attitudes about the Economy, Government and Public Policy (June 2011)

University of San Francisco, Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good

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Leo T. McCarthy Center  
for Public Service  
and the Common Good

**University of San Francisco  
Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good**

**BAY AREA SURVEY:  
Public Attitudes about the Economy, Government and Public Policy**

**June 2011**

**Contents**

Survey Overview	2
Press Release	3
Principal Findings	5
Survey Methodology	12
Questionnaire and Top-Line Results	13
Regional Map	22
About the McCarthy Center at USF	23
Contact for More Information	24

<http://www.usfca.edu/centers/mccarthy/>

## SURVEY OVERVIEW

The Leo T McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good launched its inaugural Bay Area Regional Survey in June 2011. The Center interviewed nearly 1,200 respondents over the age of 18 in eight Bay Area counties to get the current pulse of San Francisco and the Bay Area on a range of important issues.

In this first McCarthy Center survey, a baseline of opinions is established so that regional changes in perception can be measured over time. Included are such topics as concern over the economy, pension reform, and other public policy issues, and overall assessments of trust and confidence in the government.

The survey was conducted June 1-7 2011. Respondents were randomly selected from across the Bay Area, representing a full cross-section of age, ethnicity, and socio-economic standing. Surveys were taken of adult residents in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma Counties. In addition to the base sample, the report includes an oversample of San Francisco County. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish (11 percent of the sample) and residents were contacted by landline or cellphone (10 percent of the sample).

This report presents the responses of the 1,177 persons surveyed. The margin of error for the population estimates is  $\pm 2.8\%$ . Margins for subgroups are larger; significantly so in some cases. This report contains findings on the following topics:

- Public perceptions of most important issues to Bay Area communities, assessments of whether things are heading in the right direction, and sentiments about the direction of the economy;
- Individual preferences for options for reviving the economy including public investments in education, and tax and regulatory policy;
- Trust in governmental institutions, including separated evaluations of national, state, and local governments and confidence in an array of social and political organizations.
- Levels of concern about governmental budgets and preferences for typical components of pension reform proposals designed to reduce public obligations; and
- Evaluations of the net consequences of immigration; whether immigrants are a benefit or a burden to California.

A completed white paper including in-depth analysis of these issues will be available on the McCarthy Center website by the end of June. Please see <http://www.usfca.edu/centers/mccarthy/> for more information.

**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Anne-Marie Devine

University of San Francisco

415.422.2697

abdevine@usfca.edu

## USF's McCarthy Center Releases First Bay Area Regional Survey

SAN FRANCISCO—(June 15, 2011)— Ever wondered what Bay Area residents think about pension reform? How about their trust levels of local, state, and federal government? Or what they cite as the most crucial issue keeping them awake at night? Those are some of the questions tackled in the first ever survey conducted by the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good at the University of San Francisco (USF). Findings of the survey were released today and gauge the pulse of residents from across the Bay Area on a range of key issues.

- **The Economy:** The state of the economy is by far the most pressing issue on the minds of Bay Area residents. In an open-ended question, more than one-third of those surveyed listed the economy, employment, or the high cost of living as the most important problems facing the residents of their community. Ambivalent about the future, respondents are worried about the economy and the security of their jobs, but are not wholly pessimistic—with 38% of respondents indicating that they believe the economy is getting either “somewhat” or “much” better.

Showing the Bay Area's liberal leanings, respondents overwhelmingly preferred improving education and technical training in local community colleges (86% positive), rather than depending on tax breaks to stimulate the economy. Surprisingly, the survey found only 12% favored policies that involved government acquisition of land to be resold to private developers. Fully 67% of Bay Area respondents oppose what is a standard component of redevelopment policy. This is a particularly notable finding in light of current state efforts to drastically alter local redevelopment institutions.

- **Trust in Government:** With the turbulent economy and recent headlines about local, state, and national politicians, the McCarthy Center survey examined how Bay Area citizens viewed all levels of government. Local government earned highest marks when respondents were asked which form of government did its job best: Federal (12%), State (6%), County (15%), or Local (22%). Overall, Bay Area residents seem to want local solutions from people they trust to help stimulate the economy, without giving up too much of their own power in the process.

- **Pension Reform:** On the issue of pension reform, the survey results showed people are receptive to moderate changes in public employee pension systems, and want some version of reform, but there is no clear preference for eliminating the current system entirely.

Conducted June 1-7, 2011, The McCarthy Center's Bay Area Regional Survey is comprised of nearly 1,200 respondents over the age of 18 in eight Bay Area counties. Those surveyed were randomly selected from across the Bay Area, representing a full cross-section of age, ethnicity, and socio-economic standing.

Surveys were taken of adult residents in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma counties. In addition to the base sample, the report includes an over sample of San Francisco County. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish (11% of the sample) and residents were contacted by landline or cell phone (10% of the sample).

“We are proud of this inaugural survey because it is one of the few public interest research projects that focuses entirely on the Bay Area,” said Corey Cook, associate professor of politics and director of the Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good at USF. “Because of the diverse nature of the Bay Area, it is especially important to gather a wide sampling of opinions from across the region that will help educate and inform our communities. We’ll be able to better understand how the Bay Area thinks about important public policy issues, not just as a whole, but down to the city and county level as well.”

“The McCarthy Center has a keen interest in linking the public with strong academic work,” said David C. Latterman, associate director of the Leo T. McCarthy Center and program director of the Master’s Program in Public Affairs at USF. “We wish to be an integral part of the city and region’s public policy decision making, which comes through knowledge of how stakeholders think. Because we are of the City, we see it as our duty to add value our own surroundings with research that can inform and advise.”

#### ABOUT THE LEO T. MCCARTHY CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

The Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good is dedicated to inspiring and equipping students at USF to pursue lives and careers of ethical public service and service to others. The Center provides a non-partisan forum for education, service and research in public programs and policy-making. It supports undergraduate and graduate academic programs, including a Masters’ Program in Public Affairs and an undergraduate Minor in Public Service through curricula that blends rigorous intellectual training with fieldwork experience prepares students to articulate and promote the common good of all society’s members through careers or service in government, non-profits or the private sector. Additionally, the McCarthy Center provides community-based learning opportunities both domestically and abroad and facilitates government experiences for students.

The McCarthy Center values civic engagement and seeks to promote public interest research that encourages civil discourse and constructive interaction among the great diversity of residents and officials in the Bay Area. The Center strives to accomplish its goals by being transparent, nonpartisan and rigorous in designing its work and products.

Established in 1855, USF is San Francisco’s oldest university and is consistently ranked as one of the most ethnically diverse universities in the country. The University of San Francisco is committed to being a premier Jesuit Catholic, urban university with a global perspective that educates leaders who will fashion a more humane and just world. With nearly 9,600 students enrolled both on- and off-campus, the university offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional students the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as persons and professionals, and the values and sensitivity necessary to be men and women for others. For more information about the University of San Francisco, please visit [www.usfca.edu](http://www.usfca.edu).

To request interviews with the research team for this survey, please contact Anne-Marie Devine, director of Media Relations at USF, at 415.422.2697 or [abdevine@usfca.edu](mailto:abdevine@usfca.edu).

## PRINCIPAL FINDINGS

### The Economy: Anxiety, and Ambivalence

The state of the economy is by far the most pressing issue on the minds of Bay Area residents. In an open-ended question, more than one-third of respondents listed the economy, employment, or the high cost of living as the most important problem facing the residents of their community. Further indication of fretfulness over the condition of the economy is that 46% of the respondents indicated that they were concerned that they or someone in their family will lose her/his job in the next year.

Following the state of the economy were concerns about crime at 12 percent, government budgets at 11 percent, and education at 8.3 percent. Table 1 indicates that the respondents across the eight-counties included in the survey are generally consistent in their perceptions of “the most important” problems.

	Total	San Francisco	East Bay	South Bay	North Bay
<b>Economy: Jobs, Cost of Living</b>	34%	37%	36%	29%	35%
<b>Crime and Corrections</b>	12%	11%	10%	15%	13%
<b>Budget</b>	11%	11%	11%	11%	9%
<b>Education</b>	8%	7%	8%	10%	10%
<b>Government</b>	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%
<b>Health</b>	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	19%	21%	18%	18%	19%
<b>Don't Know</b>	12%	9%	14%	14%	13%

There is also evidence that citizens remain on edge and uncertain about the economy, even if they are not as anxious as they were during the steep downward spiral of the recent recession. For example, the following table indicates that 37% of all the Bay Area respondents indicated that their communities’ respective economies were doing “pretty poorly” or “very poorly.” Only 16% of the Bay Area’s adult residents assessed their local economies as doing “well” or “very well.”

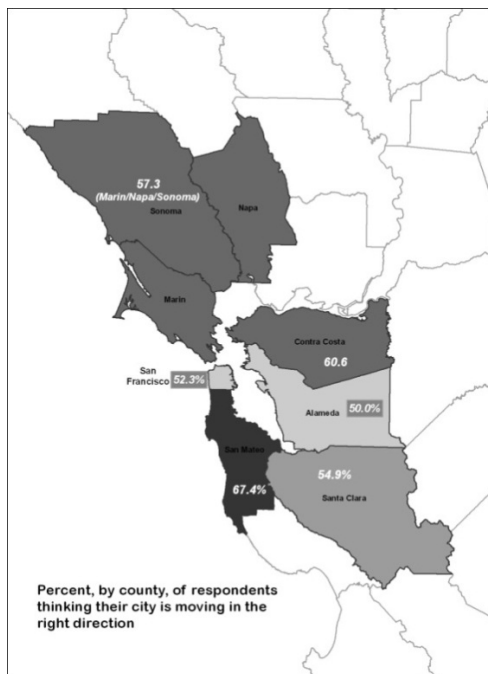
Respondents in different Bay Area counties also perceive how the economy is doing somewhat differently as well. When combining the “pretty poorly” and “very poorly” categories Sonoma County respondents appear to be the most pessimistic about how their communities’ economies are doing, while those in Marin and Napa counties express the least amount of pessimism.

Table 2. Responses to "In general, how do you feel your local economy is doing right now?"									
	Total	Alameda	Contra Costa	Marin & Napa*	Marin, Napa, Sonoma*	San Francisco	San Mateo	Santa Clara	Sonoma
Very Well	3%	3%	1%	8%	6%	3%	2%	3%	5%
Well	14%	11%	13%	21%	13%	15%	14%	14%	9%
Just O.K.	46%	45%	44%	55%	40%	47%	52%	44%	34%
Pretty Poorly	22%	25%	25%	11%	22%	19%	20%	23%	34%
Very Poorly	15%	17%	15%	4%	9%	16%	12%	14%	16%
Don't Know or NA	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Total Percent	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Combined Pretty and Very Poorly	37%	42%	40%	15%	31%	35%	31%	37%	50%

\*The results for these counties were combined to ensure there were enough respondents, although the pattern is nearly identical when the counties are considered separately

Differences along county lines are reinforced in the following listing of counties in terms of the percentage of Bay Area respondents reporting that things are generally going in the right, rather than wrong, direction. These differences suggest that while the Bay Area has regional elements, it also likely has intra-regional factors that shape local perceptions about problems and prospects – such as the condition of local housing markets, crime rates, the local economic base, and the prevailing demography that happens to be concentrated within sub-regions.

Table 3. Percent of respondents indicating that things are generally going in the right direction, by county	
San Mateo	67%
Marin, Napa	67%
Contra Costa	61%
Marin, Napa, and Sonoma	57%
Santa Clara	55%
San Francisco	52%
Alameda	50%
Sonoma	49%
All Respondents	55%



On the other hand, there is a 38% plurality of respondents who indicated that they believe “the economy is getting either “somewhat” or “much” better.

Table 4. Responses to “Thinking about where the economy was a year ago, do you feel the economy is getting much better, somewhat better, it’s about the same, it’s getting somewhat worse, or it’s getting much worse?”	
<b>Much Better</b>	4%
<b>Somewhat Better</b>	34%
<b>About The Same</b>	34%
<b>Somewhat Worse</b>	21%
<b>Much Worse</b>	7%
<b>Don’t Know</b>	1%

**Economic Policy: Some Surprises, Some Implications for Redevelopment Policies**

When asked what they thought local governments could do to stimulate the local economy, Bay Area respondents overwhelmingly preferred improving education: primary, secondary, and technical training in local community colleges (86% positive). Reducing business taxes and providing tax subsidies for businesses to hire people were also seen favorably (57% and 62% positive, respectively), perhaps a bit surprising in a region that is conventionally seen as anti-business.

On the other hand, Bay Area respondents did not favor policies that involved giving local officials the power to increase the supply of land for business; while 41% opposed such a policy, only about 33% were positive. Even more starkly, only 12% of Bay Area respondents favored policies that involved government acquisition of land to be resold to private developers. Fully 67% of Bay Area respondents oppose what is a standard component of redevelopment policy. This is a particularly notable finding in light of current state efforts to end drastically alter local redevelopment institutions.



As for making it easier for local officials to overcome “local interests that are always opposed to business,” Bay Area residents seemed surprisingly more conflicted. The region is known for strong local citizen engagement over development issues and it is perhaps a little surprising to find that 31% of the respondents favored giving local officials the power to ignore or overcome opposition to business, while a somewhat larger proportion (38%) was opposed to so empowering local officials.

**Trust in Institutions: Local Government Rated Most Highly, Confidence in Public Safety and Teachers**

Given the troubled state of the economy and the widespread distrust in government, The McCarthy Center examined how Bay Area citizens viewed their government - at the Federal, State, and local levels. We compared the three levels directly in a series of questions, listed below. Clearly, Bay Area respondents trust their local government most, which follows California's, and particularly the Bay Area's, tradition of localized, reformist government.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, local government polled best when asked which form of government did its job best: Federal (12%), State (6%), County 15%), or Local (22%).

Table 5. Evaluations of Federal, State, and City Government			
<b>Responses to “Would you say that the ____ government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?”</b>			
	Federal	State	City
<b>Big Interests</b>	65%	66%	40%
<b>All The People</b>	28%	24%	47%
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	7%	10%	14%
<b>Responses to “When it comes to the elected officials in the ____ government would you say that they can be trusted to “do the right thing” almost all of the time, most of the time, sometimes, or hardly ever?”</b>			
	Federal	State	City
<b>All The Time</b>	1%	3%	5%
<b>Most Of The Time</b>	24%	19%	39%
<b>Sometimes</b>	51%	52%	44%
<b>Hardly Ever</b>	23%	24%	9%
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	1%	1%	3%
<b>Responses to “Do you feel that almost all the people running ____ government are smart people who usually know what they are doing or do you think that quite a few don't seem to know what they are doing?”</b>			
	Federal	State	City
<b>Smart People</b>	43%	36%	52%
<b>Don't Know What They're Doing</b>	53%	56%	39%
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	4%	8%	10%

<sup>1</sup> This was done via a split sample as opposed to asking respondents about all three governments.

Twenty-six percent said all levels of government did an equally good job while 12% said none of them performed well. What is striking is just how low of an opinion Bay Area residents have of California state government, a finding that is consistent with other surveys of California public opinion.

We also tested Bay Area respondents' confidence in various community groups and organizations (following table).As is often the case, most favorable by far, in the 'a great deal' and 'quite a lot' categories were police/fire personnel (68% positive) and public school teachers (61%).Other groups included non-public-safety workers (32%), religious organizations (31%), the Mayor (31%), voters (27%),the City Council (22%), the City Manager (21%), public employee unions (21%), the Chamber of Commerce (20%), County Supervisors (18%), and, reflecting the intense anti-party tradition of California, political parties bring up the rear with just 10% expressing confidence). Political parties were viewed most unfavorably, with 43% of respondents having little or no confidence in them.

Table 6. Confidence in Selected List of Groups and Organizations	
Groups and Organizations	Percent of respondents indicating "A Great Deal" or "Quite a Lot of Confidence"
Police and Firemen	68%
Public School Teachers	61%
Non-Public Safety	33%
Mayor	31%
Local Religious Organizations	31%
Voters	27%
City Council	22%
Public Employee Unions	21%
Chamber of Commerce	20%
City Manager	20%
County Supervisors	19%
Political Parties	10%

Overall, the results show that Bay Area adults trust their local officials and the education system to help solve economic problems more than the officials from other levels of government or elected or partisan officials. When it comes to considering how to mobilize localities on behalf of economic development, then, Bay Area residents seem to want local solutions from people they trust to help stimulate the economy, without giving up too much of their own power in the process.

**Fiscal Policy: Limits to Squeezing the Public Sector for Bay Area Residents?**

Budget deficits and revenue shortfalls, together with public wariness about raising taxes and fees, along with worries about household income; have produced much greater scrutiny of government budgets. The result seems to be an on-going, even unprecedented, series of service cuts at all levels of government. Indeed, it is possible that the severity and pervasiveness of these cuts are creating public unease: 66% of respondents were worried that service cuts would adversely affect their family.

However, in looking for solutions to general malaise in government budgets, respondents in general did not appear inclined to scapegoat public sector unions. The results below indicate that while pension reform is certainly on the table, there is no clear preference for demolishing the current system of benefits or pensions in the Bay Area. As the following table indicates, there is an approximate parity between Bay Area respondents who believe that pension benefits received by government workers in

California are “about right” (40%) and those who believe such benefits are “too generous” (38%) while a smaller proportion indicate that benefits are “not generous enough.” Perhaps not surprisingly, substantial variation in attitudes is evident between those identifying with different political parties.

Table 7. Responses to “How generous would you say pension benefits received by most state and local government workers in California are?”					
	Overall	Democrats	Independents	Republicans	Other
<b>Too Generous</b>	38%	34%	40%	57%	27%
<b>About Right</b>	40%	45%	37%	29%	39%
<b>Not Generous Enough</b>	22%	21%	23%	14%	34%

When asked about several frequently discussed options for managing the burden of public employee benefits and pensions, a notable majority (55%) of Bay Area adults appear willing to accept a higher age at which public employees can begin to receive benefits (following table). There does appear to be parity between those Bay Area residents who would support completely replacing the current pension system with a 401K-style system (43% favor replacing; 43% oppose replacing). However, the option of mixing the current, prevailing system of defined benefit pensions with a 401K-style component has a substantially higher level of support (54% approval) than does the proposal to completely replace the current system with a 401k-Style system. Responses to these proposals vary substantially by ideology.

Table 8. Pension Reform Options					
Responses to “Increase Age At Which Public Employees Can Begin To Receive Benefits”					
	Overall	Progressive	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Approve</b>	55%	49%	56%	55%	59%
<b>Disapprove</b>	37%	41%	36%	38%	33%
<b>Don't Know</b>	8%	11%	9%	7%	8%
Responses to “Completely Replace Current Pension System For Public Employees With 401k-Style System”					
	Overall	Progressive	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Approve</b>	44%	23%	43%	49%	49%
<b>Disapprove</b>	43%	65%	46%	39%	32%
<b>Don't Know</b>	14%	12%	11%	13%	19%
Responses to “Establish A System That Combines A Lower Guaranteed Pension With A 401k-Style Component”					
	Overall	Progressive	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Approve</b>	54%	42%	50%	60%	57%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	43%	35%	25%	22%
<b>Don't Know</b>	17%	16%	16%	15%	20%

**Immigration: Benefit or Burden**

It is also notable that even in these troubled economic times, when negative, anti-immigrant sentiment might be expected to increase; Bay Area adults strongly endorse a *positive* assessment of immigrants. When asked whether immigrants are a benefit to California because of their hard work and job skills or whether immigrants are a burden to California because they use public services, 65% of Bay Area residents indicate immigrants are a benefit to California, while only 24% think immigrants are a public

service burden. Among ethnic and racial groups, Latino/Hispanic respondents were overwhelmingly positive (86%) about immigrants, followed by Asian and Pacific Islander (68%), Black (60%), and White respondents (59%). Nevertheless, it is important to note the stark partisan divide concerning the topic of how Bay Area adults perceive of immigrants' benefits or burdens.<sup>2</sup> Republican respondents are almost evenly divided on whether immigrants are a burden or benefit. In contrast, 7 in 10 respondents self-identified as Democrats and 6 in 10 Independents express the belief that immigrants are a benefit.

Table 9: Views of Immigrants: Net Benefit or Net Burden by Race and Ethnicity						
	Total	Latino/Hispanic	White	Asian/Pac.Islander	Black	Other
<b>Immigrants as Benefit</b>	65%	86%	59%	68%	60%	52%
<b>Immigrants as Burden</b>	23%	9%	29%	19%	23%	31%
<b>Don't Know</b>	9%	5%	9%	11%	11%	12%
<b>Refused</b>	3%	0%	3%	2%	5%	5%
Table 10: Views of Immigrants: Net Benefit or Net Burden by Party Affiliation						
		Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Other	Refused
<b>Immigrants as Benefit</b>		72%	42%	60%	78%	72%
<b>Immigrants as Burden</b>		19%	42%	28%	15%	14%
<b>Don't Know</b>		7%	14%	9%	8%	9%
<b>Refused</b>		3%	2%	3%	0%	4%

<sup>2</sup> The McCarthy Center and the authors of this report are not assessing or judging the merits of respondents' views concerning immigration. It is important to underscore, however, these kinds of findings for what they reveal about why the issue of immigration is so complex and challenging to manage.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The McCarthy Center Bay Area Regional Survey has been established in order to understand important trends in public opinion in the San Francisco Bay Area. The defined area of study includes eight counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma. The Bay Area is a heterogeneous metropolitan region; and it is as important to policy makers and stakeholders to understand differences within the Bay Area as it is to understand the Bay Area's views compared to the rest of the state.

The research team for this project consisted of Corey Cook, Director of the McCarthy Center; David Latterman, Associate Director of the McCarthy Center for Graduate Studies; Patrick Murphy, Chair, Department of Politics, USF; and Max Neiman, Senior Resident Scholar, Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California at Berkeley. Funding for this project came entirely from the University of San Francisco: the Office of the Provost, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Faculty Development Fund.

There were 1175 completed interviews recorded for this survey: 1062 landline (90%) and 115 by cell phone (10%). Many Bay Area residents only use their cell phone, and surveys must capture this growing proportion of cell-phone users. Surveys were conducted in English (90%) and Spanish (10%). Eastern Research conducted the interviews in both languages, as well as providing the Spanish Translation.

Both landline and cellphone samples were provided by Eastern Research and SSI. Landline numbers were chosen through computer-generated random digit dialing (RDD), and the cellphone portion was randomized but manually-dialed. Callers attempted to dial numbers from both pools up to seven times to reach the respondent. Once a respondent was reached, it was verified that they were 18 or over, and asked in what language they would like to take the survey.

San Francisco was oversampled in this survey so we could more accurately subsample it in later analyses. For this report, the sample was weighted based on county population and other regional demographic indicators, as defined by the 2010 US Census and recent American Community Survey figures. California registration data were also examined for weighting issues with political party coverage. Not all analyses are weighted by the same method, depending on the overall weighting variables used and the specific analyses that were run. The overall sampling error on this survey was  $\pm 2.9\%$  at a 95% confidence interval, based on the over-18 population. County and other demographic subsamples will have a higher sampling error, depending on the sample size. Please note that some percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding, or because there is a component of "refused" responses.

Results here are presented primarily in topline form, which incorporates all respondents. Some analyses are broken out by ethnicity and county. Future analyses from this dataset will examine political leanings, age, and other demographic and psychographic variables. Also, counties will be recoded into four regional categories: San Francisco (San Francisco County), South Bay (San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties), East Bay (Contra Costa and Alameda Counties), and North Bay (Marin, Napa, and Sonoma Counties).

**QUESTIONNAIRE AND TOP-LINE RESULTS**

1. In thinking about your city or town as a whole, do you think things are generally going in the right direction or the wrong direction?

<b>Right Direction</b>	56%
<b>Wrong Direction</b>	33%
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	11%

2. What do you believe is the one, most important problem facing the residents of your community? (Open Ended)

3. Please indicate, on a scale from 0-10, how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with how each of the following issue is being taken care of in your community. 0 means extremely dissatisfied and 10 is extremely satisfied. A 5 means you are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Also indicate if you are not familiar with the issue or you have no opinion. (rotated)

	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Not Familiar</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>
<b>Public Transportation</b>	5.99	4.9%	8.0%
<b>Public Schools</b>	5.82	3.9%	8.7%
<b>Street Maintenance</b>	5.55	0.2%	1%
<b>Crime</b>	5.46	0.5%	1.7%
<b>Land Use Planning</b>	5.36	7.8%	9.9%
<b>Attracting/Keeping Business</b>	5.30	4.2%	6.1%
<b>Traffic</b>	5.18	0.2%	1.7%
<b>Homelessness</b>	4.84	3.4%	6.0%
<b>Housing Costs</b>	4.54	0.8%	3.9%
<b>Job Opportunities</b>	4.29	3.3%	4.7%

4. In general, how do you feel your local economy is doing right now? Would you say it's doing very well, pretty well, it's just okay, it's poorly, or it's doing very poorly?

<b>Very Well</b>	3%
<b>Well</b>	13%
<b>Just Okay</b>	45%
<b>Pretty Poorly</b>	23%
<b>Very Poorly</b>	14%
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	1%

5. Thinking about where the economy was a year ago, do you feel the economy is getting much better, somewhat better, it's about the same, it's getting somewhat worse, or it's getting much worse?

<b>Much Better</b>	4%
<b>Somewhat Better</b>	34%
<b>About The Same</b>	34%
<b>Somewhat Worse</b>	21%
<b>Much Worse</b>	7%

Don't Know/Not Sure	1%
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**--Split 1-- Asking Each Issue Individually**

6. There are a variety of things local governments can do in order to try to improve the city or area's economic performance. After each of the following suggestions, please state whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose them for your community. Also state if you have no opinion or are not familiar with the issue.

	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know	Not Familiar
Improve Public Education In Grammar And High Schools	71%	15%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Invest More In Technical Training Among The Area's Community Colleges	57%	29%	4%	2%	5%	3%
Provide Tax Subsidies For Businesses To Hire People	25%	37%	14%	10%	11%	5%
Reduce Taxes For Local Businesses	24%	33%	20%	10%	8%	5%
Eliminate Regulations That Add Costs To Businesses Locating In Your Community	21%	24%	22%	14%	11%	6%
Adopt Policies That Permit More Land Or Building Space To Be Used For Commercial Purposes	12%	21%	21%	20%	17%	8%
Enable Officials To Overcome Or Ignore Local Interests That Are Always Opposed To Business	11%	20%	21%	18%	20%	10%
Use Government Powers To Accumulate Land From Private Parties, To Be Resold Back To Private Developers	4%	8%	19%	48%	12%	8%

**--Split 2-- Three Paired Policy Choices**

6. There are a variety of things local governments can do in order to try to improve the city or area's economic performance. In each of following statements, please tell me which policy option you would prefer your local government to enact to help improve the local economy.

6A. Would you prefer local government to (A) or would you prefer local government to (B)

	<b>% Time Chosen</b>
<b>Improve Public Education In Grammar And High Schools</b>	23%
<b>Invest More In Technical Training Among The Area's Community Colleges</b>	18%
<b>Reduce Taxes For Local Businesses</b>	15%
<b>Provide Tax Subsidies For Businesses To Hire People</b>	14%
<b>Adopt Policies That Permit More Land Or Building Space To Be Used For Commercial Purposes</b>	10%
<b>Eliminate Regulations That Add Costs To Businesses Locating In Your Community</b>	10%
<b>Enable Officials To Overcome Or Ignore Local Interests That Are Always Opposed To Business</b>	6%
<b>Use Government Powers To Accumulate Land From Private Parties, To Be Resold Back To Private Developers</b>	5%

7. Do you worry that the proposed cuts in state and local government services will adversely affect you or your family?

<b>Yes</b>	66%
<b>No</b>	34%

8. How generous would you say pension benefits received by most state and local government workers in California are? Would you say the pensions are too generous, about right, not generous enough?

<b>Too Generous</b>	38%
<b>About Right</b>	40%
<b>Not Generous Enough</b>	22%

9. In dealing with the financial burden of public employee pension benefits would you approve or disapprove of the following options:

	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>
<b>Increase Age At Which Public Employees Can Begin To Receive Benefits</b>	55%	37%	8%
<b>Completely Replace Current Pension System For Public Employees With 401k-Style System</b>	43%	43%	14%
<b>Establish A System That Combines A Lower Guaranteed (Defined Benefit) Pension With A 401k-Style Component</b>	54%	29%	17%



10. /11. Are you concerned that you or someone in your family will lose her/his job in the next year, or not?

<b>Very Concerned</b>	25%
<b>Somewhat Concerned</b>	21%
<b>Not Concerned</b>	53%
<b>Don't Know</b>	1%

12. Thinking about your own personal finances, how would you rate your personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape, or poor shape financially?

<b>Excellent Shape</b>	9%
<b>Good Shape</b>	36%
<b>Fair Shape</b>	36%
<b>Poor Shape</b>	17%
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure/Refused</b>	1%

13. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation? Are you...

<b>Employed, Full-Time In One Job</b>	39%
<b>Employed Part Time With One Employer</b>	9%
<b>Employed Part Time With Several Employers</b>	4%
<b>Unemployed, But Still Looking For A Job</b>	10%
<b>Unemployed, Have Given Up Looking For A Job For Now</b>	5%
<b>Retired</b>	32%
<b>Refused</b>	2%

***[If Q13 = Employed (Responses A, B, C) Then Goto Q14 Else Q18]***

14. Are you a union member?

<b>Yes</b>	21%
<b>No</b>	79%

16. Do you generally drive or carpool or take public transportation when you go to work?

<b>Generally Drive Or Carpool</b>	75%
<b>Take Public Transportation</b>	17%
<b>Accept Not Relevant/I Generally Work From My Home</b>	8%

17. Approximately how much time does it take for you to get to work? Please give us the estimate in minutes.

Minutes	%
0-10	25%
11-20	32%
21-30	17%
31-40	8%
41-50	7%
51-60	6%
>60	4%

18. Please indicate which statement comes closest to your own view—even if neither is exactly right.

<b>Immigrants Today Are A Benefit To California Because Of Their Hard Work And Job Skills</b>	65%
<b>Immigrants Today Are A Burden To California Because They Use Public Services?</b>	24%
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	9%
<b>Refused</b>	3%

19. Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted? Yes, no, or are you not sure?

<b>Yes</b>	53%
<b>No</b>	19%
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	28%

**Q20-Q22.Split Sample (400 each rotated).**

	Federal	State	City	
20. Would you say that the ___ government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?				
<b>Big Interests</b>	65%	66%	40%	
<b>All The People</b>	28%	24%	47%	
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	7%	10%	14%	
21. When it comes to the elected officials in the ___ government would you say that they can be trusted to "do the right thing" almost all of the time, most of the time, sometimes, or hardly ever?				
<b>All The Time</b>	1%	3%	5%	
<b>Most Of The Time</b>	24%	19%	39%	
<b>Sometimes</b>	51%	52%	44%	
<b>Hardly Ever</b>	23%	24%	9%	
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	1%	1%	3%	
22. Do you feel that almost all the people running the ___ government are smart people who usually know what they are doing or do you think that quite a few don't seem to know what they are doing?				

<b>Smart People</b>	43%	36%	52%	
<b>Don't Know What They're Doing</b>	53%	56%	39%	
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	4%	8%	10%	

23. In thinking about the job each level of government is responsible for, which one would you think does its job the best? Is it the federal government, California state government, your city government, or your county government? Also state if you think none of them do their job well, or if all of them do their job well.

<b>Federal Government</b>	12%
<b>Cal Government</b>	6%
<b>County Government</b>	15%
<b>Local Government</b>	22%
<b>All Of Them</b>	26%
<b>None Of Them</b>	12%
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	7%

24. The following is a list of local groups and organizations in your community. Please indicate how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one: a great deal, quite a lot, some, very little, or none. Also state if you have no opinion of them.

	<b>A Great Deal</b>	<b>Quite A Lot</b>	<b>Some</b>	<b>Very Little</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>
<b>Chamber Of Commerce</b>	8%	12%	34%	13%	5%	21%	6%
<b>Public Employee Unions</b>	10%	11%	29%	17%	11%	17%	5%
<b>Political Parties</b>	4%	6%	33%	28%	15%	12%	2%
<b>Voters</b>	12%	15%	41%	17%	6%	8%	2%
<b>County Supervisors</b>	7%	11%	39%	16%	6%	15%	5%
<b>Mayor</b>	11%	20%	33%	12%	6%	14%	3%
<b>City Manager</b>	8%	13%	29%	12%	7%	24%	9%
<b>City Council</b>	7%	15%	35%	15%	6%	16%	6%
<b>Police And Fire</b>	36%	32%	20%	6%	2%	4%	1%
<b>Non-Public Safety Public Workers</b>	12%	20%	32%	10%	5%	14%	7%
<b>Public School Teachers</b>	32%	29%	22%	7%	3%	6%	1%

<b>Religious Organizations</b>	16%	15%	27%	11%	9%	18%	3%
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25. Do you have any school age children at home – yes or no?

<b>Yes</b>	28%
<b>No</b>	72%

26. How many school age children are there in your household?

<b>1</b>	40%
<b>2</b>	41%
<b>3</b>	12%
<b>4-6</b>	7%

27. Do the school-age children in your household go to public or private schools? Or do they attend both public and private schools

<b>Public Schools</b>	77%
<b>Private Schools</b>	13%
<b>Both</b>	9%

28. How satisfied are you with your kids' schools?

<b>Very Satisfied</b>	56%
<b>Somewhat Satisfied</b>	33%
<b>Neither Satisfied Nor Unsatisfied</b>	3%
<b>Somewhat Unsatisfied</b>	5%
<b>Very Unsatisfied</b>	2%
<b>Don't Know/Not Sure</b>	0%

29. Thinking about the quality of public schools in your community, would you say they are doing a good job, a fair job, or a poor job?

<b>Good Job</b>	49%
<b>Fair Job</b>	39%
<b>Poor Job</b>	11%
<b>Don't Know</b>	1%

30. Record Gender

<b>Male</b>	50%
<b>Female</b>	50%

County

<b>Alameda</b>	22%
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<b>Contra Costa</b>	15%
<b>Marin</b>	4%
<b>Napa</b>	2%
<b>San Francisco</b>	14%
<b>San Mateo</b>	10%
<b>Santa Clara</b>	26%
<b>Sonoma</b>	7%

31. Age

<b>18-35</b>	16%
<b>36-50</b>	24%
<b>51-65</b>	30%
<b>66+</b>	26%

33. What is your ethnicity?

<b>Latino/Hispanic</b>	19%
<b>White/Caucasian</b>	57%
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	11%
<b>Black/African-American</b>	6%
<b>Other</b>	7%

34. Do you consider politically...

<b>Progressive</b>	15%
<b>Liberal</b>	27%
<b>Moderate</b>	31%
<b>Conservative</b>	27%

35. Are you registered to vote?

<b>Yes</b>	84%
<b>No</b>	16%
<b>Not Sure</b>	1%

36. Which political party do you more closely identify yourself –

<b>Strong Democrat</b>	33%
<b>Weak Democrat</b>	18%
<b>Strong Republican</b>	7%
<b>Weak Republican</b>	8%
<b>Other Party</b>	3%
<b>Independent</b>	25%
<b>Don't Know/Refused</b>	6%

38. What is your highest completed level of education?

<b>Didn't Graduate High School</b>	7%
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<b>High School Graduate</b>	18%
<b>Some College</b>	20%
<b>College Degree</b>	32%
<b>Post Graduate Degree</b>	23%

39. Do you own or rent your home?

<b>Own</b>	62%
<b>Rent</b>	35%
<b>Other</b>	3%

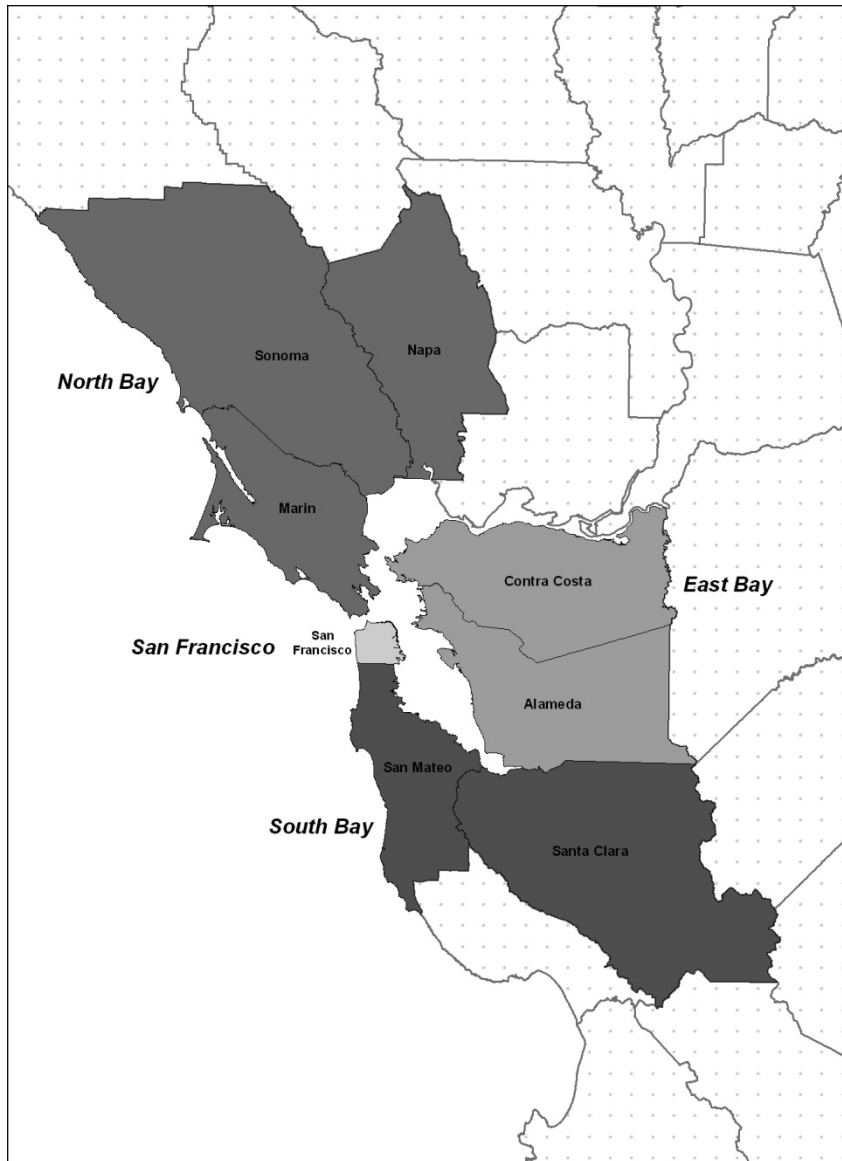
40. What is your present religion, if any?

<b>Agnostic</b>	4%
<b>Atheist</b>	4%
<b>Buddhist/Hindu</b>	4%
<b>Catholic</b>	28%
<b>Christian</b>	7%
<b>Declined To Answer</b>	3%
<b>Jewish</b>	4%
<b>Mormon/Seventh Day Adv/Jeh Wit</b>	2%
<b>Muslim</b>	1%
<b>Nothing</b>	21%
<b>Other</b>	3%
<b>Protestant</b>	17%
<b>Russian/Greek/Eastern Orthodox</b>	1%

41. Finally, what is your household income range?

<b>Less Than \$40k Per Year</b>	27%
<b>Between \$40k And \$80k Per Year</b>	25%
<b>Between \$80k And \$120k Per Year</b>	16%
<b>Greater Than \$120k</b>	19%
<b>Refused</b>	14%

REGIONAL MAP



## ABOUT THE LEO T. MCCARTHY CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

The Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good is dedicated to inspiring and equipping students at USF to pursue lives and careers of ethical public service and service to others. The Center provides a non-partisan forum for education, service and research in public programs and policy-making. It supports undergraduate and graduate academic programs, including a Masters' Program in Public Affairs and an undergraduate Minor in Public Service through curricula that blends rigorous intellectual training with fieldwork experience prepares students to articulate and promote the common good of all society's members through careers or service in government, non-profits or the private sector. Additionally, the McCarthy Center provides community-based learning opportunities both domestically and abroad and facilitates government experiences for students.

The McCarthy Center values civic engagement and seeks to promote public interest research that encourages civil discourse and constructive interaction among the great diversity of residents and officials in the Bay Area. The Center strives to accomplish its goals by being transparent, nonpartisan and rigorous in designing its work and products.

Established in 1855, USF is San Francisco's oldest university and is consistently ranked as one of the most ethnically diverse universities in the country. The University of San Francisco is committed to being a premier Jesuit Catholic, urban university with a global perspective that educates leaders who will fashion a more humane and just world. With nearly 9,600 students enrolled both on- and off-campus, the university offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional students the knowledge and skills needed to succeed as persons and professionals, and the values and sensitivity necessary to be men and women for others.

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**CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

For more information about the McCarthy Center, please contact Corey Cook, Director of the McCarthy Center, 415-422-6163, [cdcook2@usfca.edu](mailto:cdcook2@usfca.edu)

For more information about our public opinion research and research program designed to facilitate public discourse and civic engagement, please contact David Latterman, Associate Director of the McCarthy Center, 415-422-5960, [dclatterman@usfca.edu](mailto:dclatterman@usfca.edu)

For specific questions about public policy issues, please contact the following:

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- Trust in Government: please contact Max Neiman, Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California at Berkeley, 510-643-6846, [max.neiman@berkeley.edu](mailto:max.neiman@berkeley.edu).
- Public pensions and pension reform: please contact Patrick Murphy, Professor, Department of Politics, 415-422-5867, [murphyp@usfca.edu](mailto:murphyp@usfca.edu).
- Immigration policies, please contact Corey Cook, Director of the McCarthy Center, 415-422-6163, [cdcook2@usfca.edu](mailto:cdcook2@usfca.edu).