



## California Business Roundtable Statewide Voter Survey March 2012

April 19, 2012

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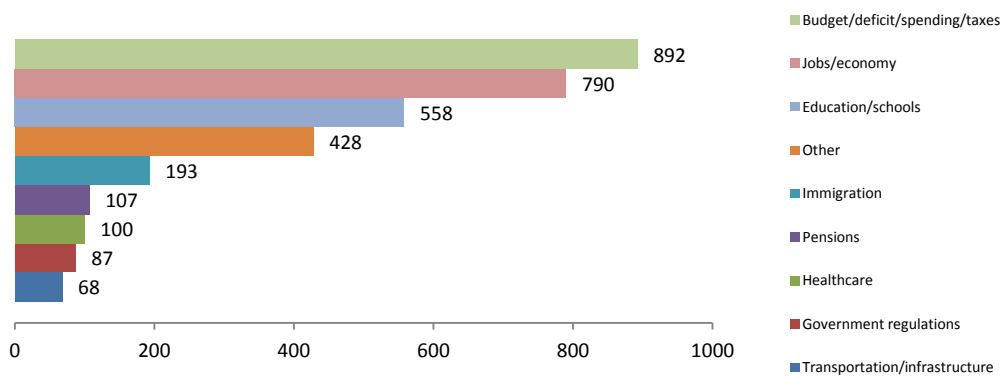
### Methodology

- The California Business Roundtable survey of voters was conducted online February 26 through March 5, 2012, by M4 Strategies for 1,504 likely General Election voters.
  - A large-scale random sample panel provider was used to obtain the sample, and a small amount of compensation, typically a value of \$0.50 to \$0.75, was awarded to participants. A sample size this large allows for statistical confidence in the percentages obtained.
  - Controls were placed on party, gender, age, ethnicity and geography to reflect the likely 2012 General Election turnout.
  - In addition, to ensure quality data the panel provider institutes a limit on the number of surveys that panelists can complete and that panelists provide authentic responses (e.g., no “speeding” or “flatline” their responses).
  - Qualified participants were invited to participate in a survey about “community issues.”
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### *Voters Perceive Budget/Deficit/Spending/Taxes, Jobs/Economy, Education/Schools as Key Issues and That Taxes Should Not be Raised, Rather Spending Cut*

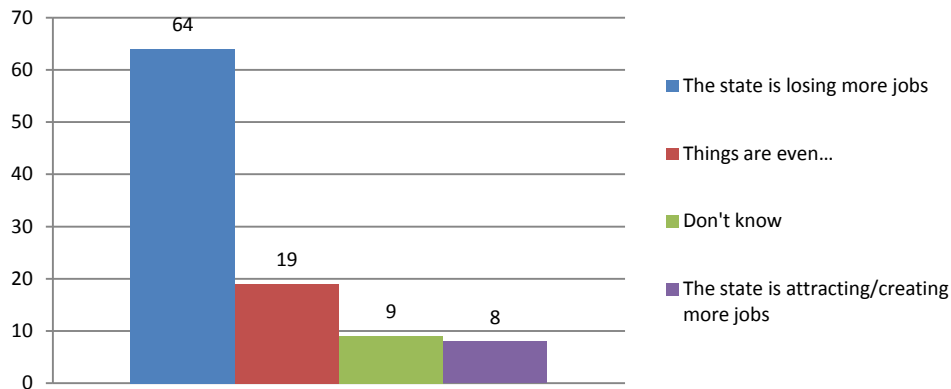
- Voters’ top three most challenging issues affecting the state are budget/deficit/spending/taxes, jobs/economy, and education/schools (see graph below for counts of voters).

*Thinking about the challenges facing California... what are the most important (“select all that apply” format)?*



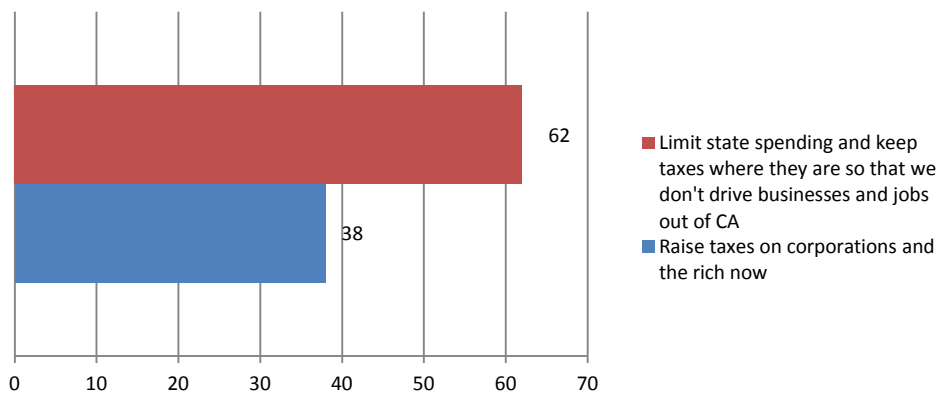
- **Sixty-four percent of voters see the state continuing to suffer a net loss of jobs** (see graph below)
- Forty-six percent of voters report being directly or indirectly affected by jobs leaving the state.

*Thinking about the state economy, do you think California is attracting or creating more new jobs than it is losing, or do you think the state is experiencing a net loss of jobs?*



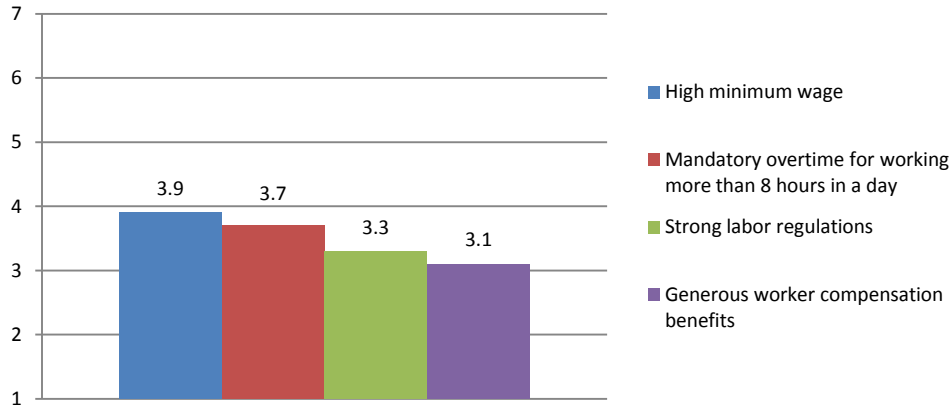
- **Sixty-two percent of voters support keeping taxes at current levels and limiting state spending** so businesses and jobs do not leave the state, as compared to raising taxes on corporations and the rich (see the graph below).

*Which of the following comes closer to your opinion?*



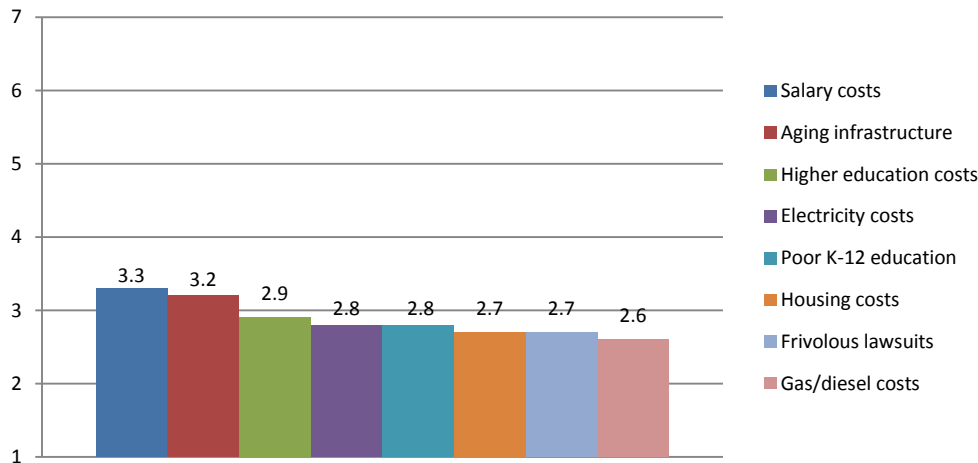
- Voters see strong labor requirements and generous worker compensation benefits as **labor-related job growth inhibitors** (see the graph below for average scores on each item).

Using a scale from one (“very inhibiting to job growth”) to seven (“very encouraging to job growth”), please tell me how much each policy and factor inhibits or encourages creating jobs and opportunity in California?



- Voters see housing costs, frivolous lawsuits, and gas/diesel costs as the most important **global government and debt-related job growth inhibitors** (see the graph below for average scores on each item).

Using a scale from one (“very inhibiting to job growth”) to seven (“very encouraging to job growth”), please tell me how much each policy and factor inhibits or encourages creating jobs and opportunity in California?



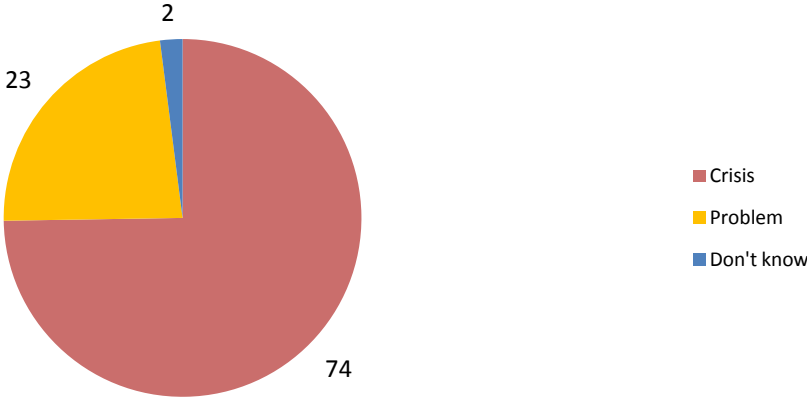
- When voters are asked about possible reforms to boost future economic growth, the most important reforms in order of preference are reducing wasteful spending, improving K-12 education, and providing tax incentives for expansion/relocation.
- On a scale of one (“strongly on the wrong track”) to seven (“strongly on the right track”), voters give the state a mean score of only three.

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***Voters Perceive the Current State Budget Situation to be a “Crisis,” Prefer Waste Reduction and Spending Cuts to Tax Increases***

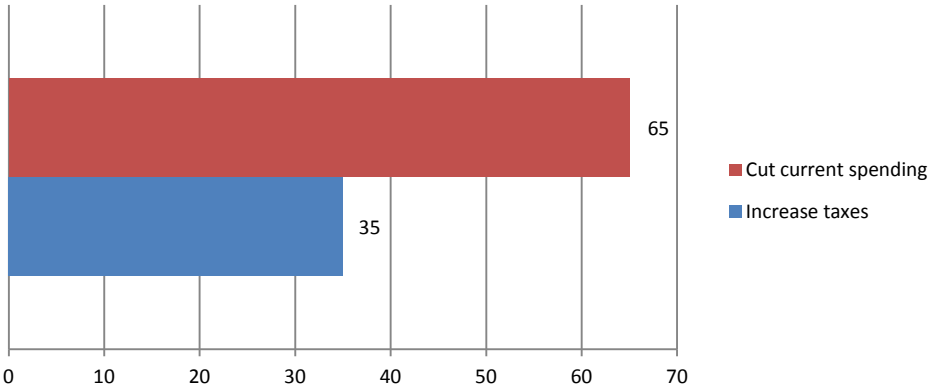
- ***Seventy-four percent of voters see the state’s deficit as a “crisis”*** (see the graph below).
- Nearly 82% say they have been directly or indirectly affected by spending cuts.

*“... describes California’s current budget situation...”*



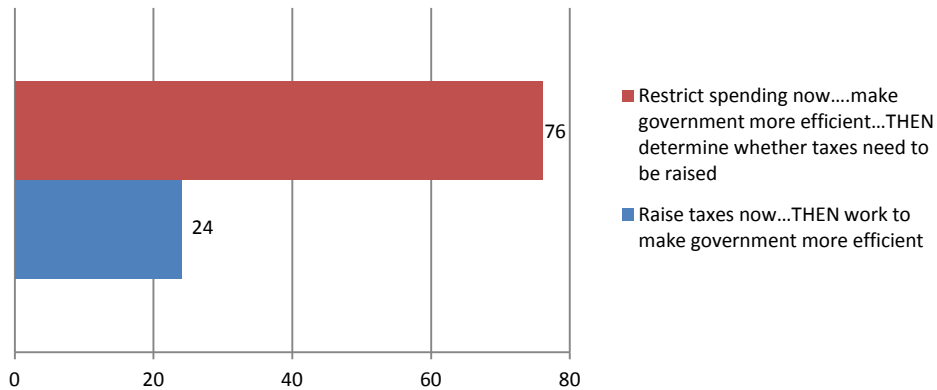
- When given two options to balance the budget, voters overwhelmingly prefer cutting current spending to increasing taxes (see the graph below).

*If you could only do one of the following two things to balance the state budget...*



- Seventy-six percent of voters prefer to restrict spending now and work to make government more efficient before determining whether taxes need to be raised (see the graph below for percentage of endorsement).

*If you could only do one of the following two things to balance the state budget...*



- Regarding current spending and taxes, forty-four percent of California voters believe spending cuts have already gone too far and sixty-one percent of voters feel California taxes are too high.
- ***When voters were asked to quantify government waste, sixty-nine percent perceive that 11% or more of state spending is the result of waste and abuse in government.***
- Voters are highly distrustful of the legislature’s ability to manage new revenue sources (average score is 2.3 on a seven point scale from 1 “not at all trust” to 7 “trust a great deal”).
- Voters are somewhat mixed on reform options, slightly preferring budget/government reform (35%), to a spending cap (24%), public employee pension reform (23%), and education reform (18%).
- With respect to possible policy proposals, voters strongly support restoring flexibility to overtime rule requirements (64%) and halting the state’s high speed rail project (58%).