



POLICY DELIBERATIONS FOR
OUR LONG-TERM SUCCESS

Full Technical Report

April 2023

Berkeley Public Policy
The Goldman School

Stanford | Deliberative
Democracy Lab
Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law

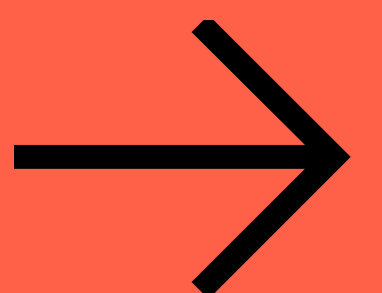


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CALIFORNIA CONSIDERS ORGANIZERS

ABOUT CALIFORNIA 100

The California 100 Initiative envisions a future that is innovative, sustainable, and equitable for all. Our mission is to strengthen California's ability to collectively solve problems and shape our long-term future—through research, policy innovation, advanced technology, and engagement—by identifying, mobilizing, and supporting champions for innovative and equitable solutions.

California 100 is organized among interrelated streams of work: research, policy innovation, advanced technology and engagement. Each stream is led by a director and strengthened through a growing list of partners in the public and private sector. Through these various projects and activities, California 100 seeks to move California towards an aspirational vision—changing policies and practices, attitudes and mindsets, to inspire a more vibrant future.

The California 100 initiative is incubated through the University of California and Stanford. To learn more about California 100, visit: california100.org.

ABOUT UC BERKELEY'S GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

The Goldman School of Public Policy is a graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley that prepares students for careers in public leadership. As a professional school of public policy grounded in scholarly practice, the Goldman School mobilizes the rich intellectual resources of the UC Berkeley campus to provide a transformational academic and cultural experience that instills standards of excellence and a deep sense of pride in one's work, learning community, peers, and academic home. It is ranked one of the top three public policy schools in the world according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

Goldman School faculty represent the top researchers in their respective fields, which include economics, political science, law, social psychology, and engineering. Their expertise ranges from education policy to racial profiling to clean energy. As teachers, they are dedicated to training tomorrow's policy leaders. As researchers, their work is shaping public policy today.

ABOUT STANFORD UNIVERSITY'S DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY LAB

The Deliberative Democracy Lab (DDL) at Stanford University is housed within the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law, part of the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. DDL is devoted to research about democracy and public opinion obtained through Deliberative Polling. The method of Deliberative Polling has been used in over 50 countries and jurisdictions around the world through over 120 projects, at varying levels of government and society. To learn more about DDL, visit: deliberation.stanford.edu.

WHAT IS DELIBERATIVE POLLING[®]?



Pioneered by James Fishkin at Stanford University's Deliberative Democracy Lab, Deliberative Polling[®] was developed over 30 years ago, and has been conducted more than 120 times in over 50 countries and jurisdictions under the direction of the team at the Deliberative Democracy Lab.

The Deliberative Polling[®] method begins with a scientific, representative sample of the public completing a confidential survey upon first contact. They are then invited to participate in the deliberative event. The events, like California Considers, have moderated small group discussions and plenary sessions with experts and policymakers. An entire weekend is spent in alternating small groups and plenary sessions. Upon completion, participants complete another confidential survey about their views. During Deliberative Polls[®], participants discuss their views with fellow participants who also have been randomly selected (and randomly assigned to the small groups). To help prepare for the discussions, participants are sent briefing materials on the issues. They contain background analysis and competing arguments for and against the policy proposals. Participants deliberate in the small groups and then arrive at key questions to be posed to competing experts in the plenary sessions. A separate control group takes the initial and final surveys, but does not deliberate.²

While the briefing materials are generally long documents, we first present executive summaries on each of the sessions. We tell participants that we hope they will read the entire document, but we realize everyone's time varies, and we tell them not to worry if they do not get the chance to read the document before they join. The written briefings are supplemented by video versions, about 5 minutes long, played before each session.

The Deliberative Democracy Lab has conducted Deliberative Polling[®] in-person and online, using our AI-assisted Stanford Online Deliberative Platform, a collaboration with the Crowdsourced Democracy Team at Stanford University. The platform was designed based on Deliberative Polling[®] and uses an automated moderator to facilitate small group discussions. It maintains a queue to speak, manages a timed agenda, nudges people to speak if they have not participated, and it monitors for any toxic behavior. The platform maintains civility in the discussion, encourages equitable participation by all participants, asks participants to consider arguments from both sides of all proposals, and provides a structured collaboration phase for participants to develop questions for the plenary sessions. For more information about DDL and the Stanford Online Deliberative Platform, visit deliberation.stanford.edu.

¹ Deliberative Polling is a registered trademark of James S. Fishkin and any fees are used to support the work of the Deliberative Democracy Lab at Stanford University

² In this project, there were two control groups, one that received the video briefing and one that did not.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CALIFORNIA CONSIDERS DELIBERATIVE POLL[®]

The California Considers Deliberative Poll[®] engaged a representative sample of Californians to deliberate on the future of the state of California. It provided a unique opportunity to be one of more than 700 Californians scientifically selected to represent the entire state over several days in February and March 2023. During these virtual sessions, participants joined together to discuss the issues confronting California over the next few decades. They learned about key issues and challenges facing the state, including those related to housing, climate change, business climate, education, and income inequality. At the beginning of the event, participants were presented with a video depicting a realistic vision of California in the year 2050, based on present trends, as a means of exploring future possibilities and needs. The video highlighted three significant factors shaping California's current context: climate and environmental changes, income inequality, and the advancement of technology and innovation. Participants were prompted to consider policy proposals from the viewpoint of Californians living in 2050.

Ordinary polls provide a snapshot of the public's impressions of sound bites and headlines. However, most citizens do not have the time or opportunity to become well informed about complex public issues.

This event, however, provided a neutral ground where this representative sample of Californians could speak together to think about and challenge one another on the various arguments of a diverse set of policy options. After reviewing balanced and in-depth briefing materials, discussing their perspectives in small groups, and asking questions of experts, each participant was asked to express their opinions in a confidential questionnaire following the deliberation. The results revealed what an informed public would think if they had the opportunity to weigh the pros and cons of different policy options under conditions that allow for structured deliberation.

The California Considers Deliberative Poll[®] revealed that, not only do Californians care deeply about the future of this state, but they believe that their voices are worth listening to. The 719 participants in this event deliberated for a combined total of more than 8,400 hours. They shared countless arguments for and against the policy proposals that encompassed California's infrastructure and environment, community health and well-being, talent and workforce, economic development, and governance and external relations. This report sheds light on what policy proposals an informed public has in mind for their future of California.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

The 719 participants who joined California Considers were a representative sample of the state's population. The findings in this report are based on data weighted by demographics and political affiliation, as noted in the methodology and recruitment section of this report. On the whole, the weighted findings are very similar to the unweighted data.

The gender distribution of participants was roughly:

- 49% female,
- 48% male, and
- 3% non-binary or other.

The racial composition of the group was approximately:

- 40% white,
- 33% Hispanic or Latino,
- 8.6% Asian or Pacific Islander,
- 6.1% Black or African American,
- 7.1% two or more races,
- 0.8% Middle Eastern,
- 0.6% Native American, and
- 3.3% Other.

In terms of age, the group was:

- 22% between 18-29 years old,
- 32% between 30-49,
- 28% between 50-65, and
- 19% over 65.

Regarding political affiliation:

- 41% identify as Democrats,
- 30% as Independents,
- 18% as Republicans, and
- 9% as Other or Not Sure.

Using a 7-point political party preference scale, the participant sample had:

- 26% Strong Democrats,
- 16% Not very strong Democrat,
- 18% Lean Democrat,
- 14% Independent,
- 6% Lean Republican,
- 10% Not very strong Republican, and
- 9% Strong Republicans.

Participants were broken down along the following income brackets:

- 16% earn less than \$19,999
- 25% earn between \$20K-\$49,999
- 20% earn between \$50K-\$79,999
- 17% earn between \$80K-\$119,999
- 12% earn between \$120K-\$199,999
- 5% earn more than \$200K
- 5% preferred not to say

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CONCERNS ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

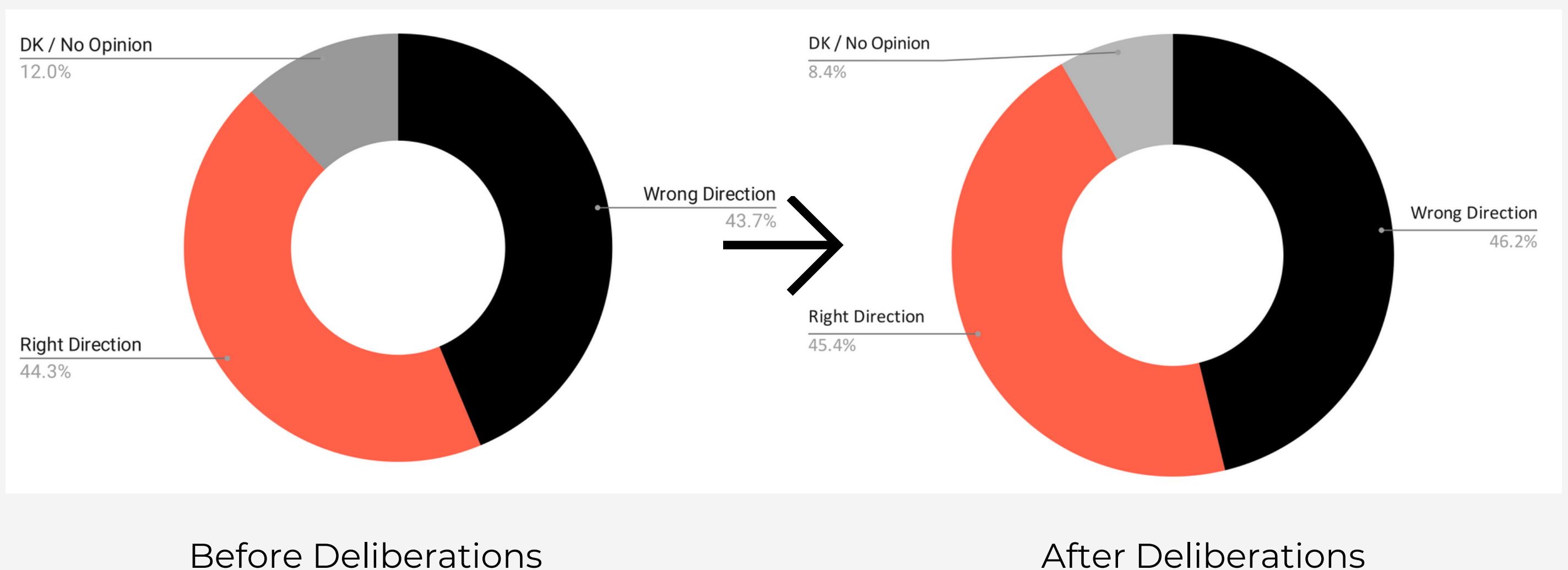
During the deliberations, participants became more “worried” about the future of California, with the percentage rising from 66% to 73%. They also became more “hopeful” and “energized,” but they started from a lower base with percentages rising from 32% to 37% and from 27% to 34%, respectively. It is possible that participants are more worried about the future of California given the challenges that face the state in the coming years. But, after discussions with other participants, they felt more encouraged and confident that some of these obstacles could be overcome or addressed.

As the charts below show, when asked whether California is headed in the right or wrong direction, deliberations caused

participants to increase their thoughts that California is headed in the wrong direction, from 43.7% to 46.2%. However, deliberations also increased some participants' beliefs that California is headed in the right direction, from 44.3% to 45.4%.

Through deliberations, and as this report illustrates, participants told us that their top three concerns were: improved, high-quality civics education, ensuring streamlined access to government services, and free and universal mental healthcare. Each of these policies had more than 75% support. The deliberations focused on other specific policy proposals that posed trade-offs and hard choices.

Do you think things in California are generally going in the right or wrong direction?



USING CALIFORNIA 100'S FIVE THEMES TO ORGANIZE THIS REPORT

California, like any other state in the country, faces a range of issues that are critical to the long-term success of its people, including the places where they live, work, and play. In 2019, the Governor of California assembled a commission on the future of work in California, and it produced a set of recommendations to improve economic prosperity and mobility in the state. The California 100 Initiative goes much further, addressing not only the future of work, but also the future of nearly everything else in the state, as these areas are shaped by large-scale and long-term factors such as climate change, advances in technology, and trends in internal governance and external relations. By June 2023, California 100 will have produced 15 issue-based reports on the long-term future of California, with topics ranging from agriculture and food systems, to health and wellness, education, fiscal reform, and federalism and foreign policy.

In the course of our analysis, we have found a few areas of interconnectedness and interdependence among several issue areas, which we outline here and which we use to organize this report. First is the *physical infrastructure and natural environment* in the state, including housing and community development, transportation and urban planning, and energy and natural resources. The built and natural environment sets the context for

how California organizes its economy and society.

The next set of interrelated issues deal with *economic development*, ranging from the rural communities throughout the state, to factors related to advanced technology, business climate, and economic mobility that structure the growth and development of various industrial sectors. A closely related set of issues pertain to *workforce and talent*, which include systems of education and immigrant inclusion, to economic mobility and arts and entertainment that shape various labor markets in the state. The future of California's society also depends critically on the *health and well-being* of its people, including its systems of healthcare, of justice and public safety, and engaging its young citizens that help Californians make meaning and build a sense of community.

Finally, California's future success depends on its internal *governance and external relations*. This broad theme covers the ways that California taxes, spends, and regulates, as well as the ways that news media and community organizations are organized. It also includes ways that federal laws and global dynamics—economic, social, and political—set constraints as well as create opportunities for state and local governments to enact various policies.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: POLICIES THAT RECEIVED STRONG SUPPORT

Participants were asked their opinions about 56 diverse policy proposals before attending the event, and they were asked these same questions again following their review of balanced and extension briefing materials, participating in small group deliberations, and hearing from experts on the various topics. For about two-thirds of the 56 policies (~37), participant support decreased somewhat—as one might expect after hearing the different views shared from fellow participants. However, for one-third of the policies (~19), support increased. Regardless, many of the policies discussed had strong levels of support both before and after deliberation.

Here we present those policies that received more than 58% in support at the end of deliberations:

HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

- Provide incentives for growing businesses that subsidize or create affordable housing within a 30-minute commuting area of new office and retail developments (68.8% → 70.2% support)
- Give grants to non-profit organizations that would build rental units in which the tenants can share any increase in value (65.3% → 67.7% support)
- Ban home sales to foreign purchasers who don't reside in them (67.1% → 67.3% support)
- Provide financial incentives (vouchers) for public transit for low-income riders (75.5% → 66.9%)
- Penalize local governments that deny housing projects in violation of state law (60.0% → 62.1%)

WATER AND CLIMATE

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

- Build desalination plants to provide reliable and (76.8% → 68.2% support)
- Convert large warehouses to indoor and vertical farming (60.5% → 64.0% support)
- Provide farmers with financial incentives to transition to drought-resistant crops (68.6% → 64.0%)
- Create a Department of Water combining the powers to plan for water usage and to allocate water throughout the state (61.9% → 60.8% support)
- Allow timber harvesting to help pay the cost of thinning the forests to prevent wildfires (55.4% → 58% support)

JOBS AND BUSINESSES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Expand “one-stop-shops” for local business permits on a range of items, including water, sewer, electricity, parking, land use, and business licensing (62.4% → 75.8% support)
- Invest in rural areas to ensure that they have adequate funding for infrastructure such as roads and digital broadband (70.8% → 73.7% support)
- Examine regulations for business in California to make sure that the benefits are greater than the costs (68.6% → 72.6% support)
- Provide all adults with a minimum amount of guaranteed income that they need to meet basic housing and living expenses, but only as long as they are employed, looking for work, disabled, or providing some kind of public service for the state or their community (57.5% → 58.5% support)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: POLICIES THAT RECEIVED STRONG SUPPORT

EDUCATION

- Strengthen high schools civics requirements to include experiences with participation, discussion, negotiation, and compromise in democracy (68.9% → 80.3% support)
- Increase support for K-12 education by enough to be in the top third of student achievement among the states (73.4% → 73.2% support)
- Create a registration system for California colleges and universities that would allow students to register for any course in California's higher education system (60.3% → 60.9% support)

WORKFORCE AND TALENT

SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTHCARE

- Develop “one-stop-shops” for easier access by the public to government services dealing with unemployment and poverty (68.5% → 78% support)
- Provide universal and free mental healthcare (73.3% → 76.9% support)
- Pay users for their data (64.6% → 69.6% support)
- Shift some state funding for law enforcement towards increased social services instead of additional officers (58.1% → 62.4% support)
- Provide single-payer healthcare to all residents (58.5% → 61.3% support)

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

FEDERALISM AND GOVERNANCE

- Get Congress to modify federal laws to allow states like California to have higher than federal standards on clean air, clean water, and climate change regulations (62.1% → 67.7% support)
- Require plaintiffs and defendants in CEQA lawsuits to identify every person or entity contributing \$1,000 or more to either the plaintiff or defendant in the lawsuit (61.4% → 67.2% support)
- Give indigenous communities stewardship of parts of already protected lands such as parks and natural reserves (60.7% → 61.6% support)

GOVERNANCE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

NOTABLE CHANGES IN SUPPORT FOR POLICIES

While the proposals that ended up with strong support after deliberation can be interpreted as the public's considered judgments, having withstood adverse arguments, it is also worth noting some of the significant changes in support for proposals, whether that support went up or down. For example, support for *large scale desalination plants* decreased in magnitude but still maintained strong support (support changed from 77% to 68%). Two proposals related to *reforming CEQA* (the California Environmental Quality Act) went up significantly: "New legislation should limit who can sue to those who can show they are seriously affected" (significant increase from 52% to 57% support). Further, California should require plaintiffs and defendants in CEQA lawsuits to identify who contributes \$1,000 or more to either side in the lawsuit went up significantly from 61% to 67%.

There was also a sizable change related to civics education. "*California should strengthen its high school civics requirement to include experiences with*

participation, discussion, negotiation and compromise in a democracy" saw a significant increase from 70% to 80% support. However, when asked about having the general public deliberate on policy issues, there was a sizable decrease in support for "*California should convene representative samples of the public to deliberate about the merits and drawbacks of ballot propositions,*" where majority support remained at the end (51.2% → 54% support).

In other areas there was significantly increased support for reorganizing some government services to improve access and convenience for the public. "*California should encourage the expansion of one-stop shops for local permits...including water, sewer, electricity, parking, land use...*" increased support from 62% to 76%, and "*one-stop shops for easier access by the public to government services dealing with unemployment and poverty*" saw increased support of almost 10 points from 68.5% to 78% in support.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT

This report presents results in two ways: means and percentages. The means are generated from the participants' surveys where they indicated their opinions of support on 0 to 10 scales. The means for a given question are an average of all the participants' opinions for that question. So, the mean tells us whether the overall support for a policy changed positively or negatively, even if the majority of participants lowered or strengthened their support of a policy. If the change in the means was sizable after deliberation, compared to before deliberation, then this report will note that there was statistical significance in the change between opinions. Each of the questions had a "don't know or no opinion" option.

In some questions, 0 was strongly opposed, 10 was strongly in support, and 5 was in the middle. Not all questions used an oppose-support scale; there were also agree-disagree scales, unimportant-important scales, and knowledge questions.

We also report the percentages of participants that supported, opposed, or indicated "don't know" for each proposal asked of them. Because of the size of the scale, this report collapses the scale into a few categories based on the scales outlined above: 0-4 represents oppose, 5 is in the

middle, 6-10 represents support, and participants were able to specifically respond when they "don't know or [have] no opinion." We collapsed the outcomes using this breakdown for all data provided along the oppose-support scale.

The findings in this report are of weighted data. The weighting methodology is specified in the Methodology and Recruitment Section of this report. On the whole, the weighted findings are very similar to the unweighted data.

Furthermore, although some proposals experienced a statistically significant change in support, some did not have overwhelming support either before or after deliberations. However, the purpose of highlighting the proposals that gained statistical significance is to demonstrate the role that deliberations played in these changes. Alternatively, some proposals received substantial support both before and after deliberations, which means that the support opinions did not change significantly. Therefore, even after deliberations and weighing the tradeoffs of these policy proposals, participants maintained their views. These results are critical to our findings, as they show the considered judgments of the participants after considering the competing arguments.

METHODOLOGY AND RECRUITMENT

This Deliberative Poll[®] engaged YouGov America to recruit a scientifically representative sample of California. YouGov is a global public opinion company that maintains online web panels around the world. The YouGov America panel, a proprietary opt-in survey panel, is composed of 1.8 million U.S. residents who have agreed to participate in YouGov's web surveys as well as the YouGov Online community. Participants are not paid to join the YouGov community, but do receive incentives through a points-based loyalty program to take individual surveys. Additionally, YouGov community members can share opinions on essentially any topic in the member forum, read about YouGov's proprietary research, and are notified if a study the member participated in has received coverage in the media. All recruited members must pass through a double opt-in procedure, where respondents must confirm their consent again by responding to an email. The database checks to ensure the newly recruited panelist is, in fact, new and that the address information provided is valid.

The Deliberative Democracy Lab has worked with YouGov America since the early 2000s to recruit online and in-person Deliberative Polling[®] events. The YouGov team has significant expertise in recruiting for Deliberative Polls[®] as they are much more than just one-off surveys, and require complex outreach and touch points with participants to ensure participation through the entire process.

For this Deliberative Poll[®], the initial sample consisted of 5,809 respondents that completed the pre-deliberation survey. After completion of the pre-survey, respondents were randomly assigned to either the *deliberation* or the *control* group. After random assignment, 2,448 respondents received an invitation to participate in this Deliberative Poll[®]. Of the 2,448 respondents, 719 deliberators took part in the entire deliberative process, which included a pre-survey, 12 hour-long discussions with small groups and plenary session panels (during either weekday or weekend sessions), and completion of a post-deliberation survey. For this event, deliberators received an honorarium of \$300 as a token of appreciation and also a \$40 gift card as a meal stipend. Some participants also received additional funds support if there were requests such as dependent care, child care, and/or assistance with technology and internet stability.

This event had two control groups. One control group had a 'future of California video' (video control group), which the deliberation group also received in their survey. The second control group did not receive the video, and acted as a pure control group. Both controls completed a pre and post survey. The total size of the control group was 793. The video control group had 309 respondents and the pure control group had 484 respondents.

METHODOLOGY AND RECRUITMENT

YouGov applied post-stratification weights for both the participants and the control groups. The respondents were separated into a Control group (793) and a Treatment group (719) to form two datasets, each with their own group weight.

Control group weight:

The cases were weighted to a sampling frame using propensity scores. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the subset of the full 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year sample for California residents with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file). The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, and years of education. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles.

The weights were then post-stratified on 2020 Presidential vote choice, and a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (4-categories), and education (4-categories), to produce the control group weight.

Treatment group weight:

The cases were weighted to the same aforementioned full 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year sample using raking. The raking consisted of a stratification on race (4-categories), a stratification on education (4-categories) and a two-way stratification on gender and age (4-categories) to produce the treatment group weight.

POLICIES FOR DELIBERATION

HOUSING

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Housing costs have increased dramatically and low-income people cannot afford housing. Housing production has fallen short of its production targets for years. Homelessness results partly from the lack of affordable housing, and the state's Constitution requires local voter approval for cities to build affordable public housing.

- Should California change the Constitution and allow cities to construct public housing without a vote of local residents?
- Should California ban home sales to foreign purchasers who do not reside in them?
- Should California require every city and county to provide housing for those who are homeless and should the homeless be obliged to accept this shelter?
- Should California provide housing assistance (such as a state income tax credit or down payment assistance) to those who have student debt and are under the age of 35?
- Should California establish a fund for affordable housing construction that is financed by penalties for local governments who deny housing projects in violation of state law?
- Should California support affordable housing by giving grants to non-profit organizations that would build rental units in which the tenants can share in the equity when it increases?
- Should California support affordable housing by permitting religious institutions to build multifamily projects on their properties with expedited zoning and environmental reviews?
- Should California provide incentives for growing businesses that subsidize or create affordable housing within a 30-minute commuting area of new office and retail developments?

ENERGY AND UTILITIES

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

California has one of the most ambitious plans to electrify its cars, homes, and businesses, while producing electric power using renewable energy (wind, solar, hydro). California has three major public utilities that provide power and they have been criticized for power outages, wildfires, and increasing costs and for not being innovative enough as California transitions to new sources of energy.

- Should California break-up these three large electric companies to empower communities to choose locally-owned and locally-controlled utilities?

WATER AND WILDFIRES

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Climate change is reducing California's water and causing wildfires. California must recycle water and find new sources of water, which require new investments in water technology and infrastructure, but experts say that the water governance system is fragmented and outdated. As for wildfires, it is hard to see how state and local governments can afford to pay for thinning California's forests to reduce wildfire severity.

- Should California build large-scale desalination plants to provide clean and reliable water for residents throughout the state.
- Should California establish a Department of Water that combines the powers to plan for water usage and to allocate water throughout the state?
- Should California allow for the management of forests to include timber harvesting to help pay the cost of thinning the forests to prevent wildfires?

POLICIES FOR DELIBERATION

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Agriculture uses 40% of California's total water; the remaining 60% is allocated between environmental uses (50%) and cities (10%). California's agriculture provides much of the nation's produce, but the most lucrative crops grown in the state are often water intensive.

- Should California provide financial incentives for farmers to transition to drought-resistant crops?
- Should California convert large warehouses to indoor and vertical farming?

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

California's low-density housing and freeway network makes cars essential for most people. In the parts of the state with public transit options, public transit is more energy efficient and reduces freeway congestion.

- Should California provide financial incentives (vouchers) for public transit for low-income riders?
- Should California charge fees based on the level of usage on highways throughout the state?

INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

California's Native Americans have faced centuries of unfair deals and mistreatment from Spanish to American rule. Indigenous practices for fire abatement and biodiversity protections appear increasingly useful as ways to deal with the effects of climate change.

- Should California give indigenous communities stewardship of parts of already protected lands, such as parks and natural reserves?

BUSINESS CLIMATE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

California is a home to many successful companies and it is the leader in "venture capital" for innovative startups. Due to its prestigious colleges and universities, the state has a large and highly educated workforce. However, California also has a high cost of living and it is one of most heavily regulated states in the U.S. To operate here, businesses must get an array of permits, licenses, and registrations.

- Should California examine its regulations for business to make sure the benefits are greater than the costs?
- Should it encourage the expansion of "one stop shops" for local permits on a range of items, including water, sewer, electricity, parking, land use, and business licensing?

INNOVATION CLUSTERS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

California is the world leader in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship, but its technology centers are concentrated in Silicon Valley, Los Angeles, and San Diego. Rural areas of the state have lagged behind the urban parts of the state, partly because of their lack of infrastructure, including broadband and safe roads.

- Should California provide extra R&D credit to corporations that create innovation centers in areas of the state that do not have them now?
- Should California invest in rural areas to ensure that they have adequate funding for infrastructure such as roads and digital broadband?

POLICIES FOR DELIBERATION

AUTOMATION AND JOBS

WORKFORCE AND TALENT

Many low wage jobs have been automated, and now many white collar jobs may be automated through the use of artificial intelligence. Research indicates that automation contributes to high income inequality in California. Automation also often involves the use of large volumes of personal data. Because automation contributes to high income inequality, it is possible that many people will not have enough income to live as automation proceeds.

- Should California require companies to pay users for the use of their data?
- Should California find ways to provide workers whose productivity is increased by the use of robots or artificial intelligence with a share in the economic benefits?
- Should California provide all adults with a minimum amount of guaranteed income that they need to meet basic housing and living expenses?
- Should any guaranteed income require that people be employed, looking for work, disabled, or providing some kind of public service for their community?

K-12 EDUCATION

WORKFORCE AND TALENT

Among the states, California ranks 20th from the top in spending per pupil, and it ranks near the bottom in reading and math achievement. New technologies make it possible to teach completely online and artificial intelligence programming allows students to practice skills at their own pace, thus saving the costs of buildings and meeting students at their individual academic level. Experts also believe that high school civics instruction is outdated and that to reduce political polarization, we need more emphasis on participation, discussion, and compromise. Despite an increasingly diverse society with a global orientation, California is also behind Europe and other countries in language instruction.

- Should California work towards eliminating physical public schools and focus on education provided through virtual reality or online?
- Should it increase support for K-12 education to be in the top third of student achievement among the states?
- Should California strengthen its civic instruction to include experiences with participation, discussion, and compromise?
- Should California require all students to learn a foreign language, starting in kindergarten?

HIGHER EDUCATION

WORKFORCE AND TALENT

Experts describe California's public higher education (10 University of California campuses, 23 California State Universities, and 116 community colleges) as the best in the world. But it is hard for students to move from one part of the system to another.

- Should California colleges provide a registration system where students could enroll for any course in California's higher education system?

POLICIES FOR DELIBERATION

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

WORKFORCE AND TALENT

Foreign immigration has helped California grow. Immigrant workers, through their work and taxes, help to support those under age 18 and in school and those over 65 who are retired. But the future of foreign immigration is not clear because national policy has been in a stalemate.

- Should Congress pass a law allowing states like California to create state work visas?
- Should California provide every adult with the right to work, get a driver's license, to receive government benefits, and to vote in local and state elections?

HEALTHCARE

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

California has increased healthcare accessibility through public and private insurance options over the past two decades. Healthcare costs are still high and health insurance is often hard to navigate. About half of Californians with serious mental health issues do not get needed care.

- Should California provide single-payer healthcare to all residents?
- Should California provide universal, free mental health care?

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND PUBLIC SAFETY

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Although there has been a recent small uptick, violent and property crime are at less than half the rates they were in the 1990s. After peaking around 2005, California's prison population is now nearly as low as it was in 1993. Experts find no evidence that crime has increased with reductions in imprisonment. Some people have called for changes in policing because of the impact policing has on low-income communities and communities of color trapped in a cycle of poverty.

- Should California shift some state funding toward better technology for surveillance, enforcement and fines instead of additional police officers?
- Should California shift some state funding for law enforcement towards increased social services instead of additional officers?

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Young people are less involved in politics than their elders, yet they indicate interest in politics.

- Should Californians 16 or 17 be allowed to vote in school board elections?
- Should every state Commission or Board have one member under the age of 35?

POLICIES FOR DELIBERATION

LOCAL MEDIA

GOVERNANCE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Good journalism informs voters, reduces political corruption, and produces better government. However, daily newspapers in California have declined by one-third since 2004 due to the Internet.

- Should California extend its sales tax to digital media advertising and use the proceeds to support a fund for non-profit media?
- Should it support the creation of investigative journalism certificates in its 116 community colleges, with the goal of providing more information about local issues and local government decisions?

GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND EFFICIENCY

GOVERNANCE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

It is often hard for residents to figure out how to get state benefits, such as CalFresh (Food Stamps) and unemployment insurance, when necessary. Government inefficiency is also a problem. Part of the problem may be too little spending on training for government employees.

- Should California develop a “one stop shop” for easier access by the public to government services dealing with unemployment and poverty?
- Should California double its worker training budget for government employees to emphasize topics focused on efficiency and effectiveness?

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ELECTORAL REFORM

GOVERNANCE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Many people worry that politics does not represent all perspectives equally leading to political polarization. Experts have proposed that single member districts do not provide representation for all perspectives. In polls, Californians support limiting political contributions from the super wealthy to ensure more equal representation.

- Should California provide four \$25 “Democracy Vouchers” to voters every two years that they can use for any candidate in any race, with their names and the names of the candidates posted on the Internet.?
- Should California create “multi-member districts” in the State Assembly of five members for each district, with each party getting the number of representatives proportional to their votes?

STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVES

GOVERNANCE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

California has very permissive rules for allowing ballot initiatives (Propositions). The number of initiatives and spending on them has increased over time. Many experts think that ballot initiatives have become a tool of moneyed special interests.

- Should California require 25 percent of both houses of the Legislature to support an initiative proposal before it appears on the ballot to amend the state's Constitution?
- Should California require 60% approval in order to approve Constitutional amendments through the initiative process?
- Should Californians convene representative samples of the public to deliberate about the merits of ballot propositions and to make recommendations about them?
- Should California convene representative samples of the public to identify public interest propositions that could go on the ballot with a reduced number of signatures?

POLICIES FOR DELIBERATION

COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATES AND NATIONS

GOVERNANCE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

California's Gross Domestic Product is fifth in the world among all countries. California has special needs for dealing with immigration, pollution standards, and many policy areas.

- Should Congress modify federal laws to allow states like California to have higher standards on clean air, clean water and climate change regulations?
- Should California team up with other like-minded states like Oregon, Washington, Colorado, and New York and create inter-state compacts on issues ranging from health insurance to the environment?
- Should California open up foreign offices in its top trading countries in order to strengthen its economy and its international ties?

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) REFORM

GOVERNANCE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

CEQA was established in 1970 to require environmental impact assessments of new construction projects. CEQA has expanded to cover almost any project, to require mitigation of adverse impacts within each project, and to allow any individual or firm to anonymously file a lawsuit, thus slowing up projects.

- Should CEQA be amended to limit those who can sue to those who can show they are seriously and directly affected by a project?
- Should California require plaintiffs and defendants in CEQA lawsuits to identify every person or entity who contributes \$1,000 or more to either the plaintiff or the defendant in the lawsuit?

PROPOSITION 13 AND OTHER TAXES

GOVERNANCE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Proposition 13 has decreased government revenue by requiring a 2/3 vote (66%) for increasing local government taxes, and it has protected homeowners and businesses from property tax increases. As a result, California relies heavily on sales and income taxes to fund K-12 education, healthcare, corrections, law enforcement, and many other areas. In addition, state sales taxes exclude the taxation of services.

- Should Proposition 13 be amended to decrease the vote requirement needed to raise taxes used to fund specific programs for local governments (special taxes) from 2/3 to greater than 55% of the vote?
- Should California lift the Proposition 13 restrictions to allow for greater assessments than the current ceiling of 2% per year on non-residential property?
- Should California apply sales taxes to services and use the money to lower personal income tax rates?

THE RESULTS: PROPOSALS WITH STRONG SUPPORT

Upon recruitment, participants watched a 3-minute video that described what the future of California could look like if we proceeded with business as usual. After watching this video, but before taking part in the Deliberative Poll, 44% of participants felt 'California was moving in the right direction' and 44% thought California was moving in the wrong direction – just about an even split. But, about 74% of participants were concerned about the future of California, with 73% indicating they were worried about the future and 64% feeling upset. After hours of deliberation about the 56 policy proposals, participants expressed even higher rates of concern for the future of California, with 82% feeling concerned, 73% feeling worried, and 64% feeling upset. Although the participants' worry increased, they did also become slightly more hopeful, increasing from 32% to 37%, and significantly more curious about the future, with an increase of 40% to 57%.

In this section, we discuss findings in each of the topic areas related to the policy proposals that were discussed. To start, out of the 56 policy proposals, here are the top 10 proposals after deliberations, and their rankings before deliberation as well.

The top three rated proposals after deliberations were also within the top 10 rankings before deliberations. This shows that deliberators felt strongly about these proposals before deliberations, and that

their support increased statistically significantly after deliberations. For example, the top ranking proposal (#1) was that *California should strengthen its high school civics requirement to include experiences with participation, discussion, negotiation, and compromise in a democracy*. This proposal was rated an 8 on a 10-point scale after deliberations. The second and third ranked proposals were that (#2) *California should provide universal, free mental healthcare* and (#3) *California should require plaintiffs and defendants in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lawsuits to identify every person or entity who contributes \$1,000 or more to either the plaintiff or the defendant in the lawsuit*.

The respective proposals asking if *California should provide a one-stop-shop for government services as well as business services* were ranked much higher after deliberations. A one-stop-shop for government services moved from rank #10 to rank #4 and a one-stop-shop for businesses moved from rank #14 to #5. One notable proposal that just missed the top 10 cut was *Congress should modify federal laws to allow states like California to have higher than federal standards on clean air, clean water, and climate change regulations*. This proposal moved from rank #22 to #11 after deliberations, making quite the jump on participants' priorities.

Beyond the top results, here are some

THE RESULTS: PROPOSALS WITH STRONG SUPPORT

other notable findings: Participants discussed policy proposals regarding affordable housing and homelessness. After deliberations, participants held their views with respect to *allowing non-profits to run affordable housing rental units* (68% support) and *banning home sales to foreign purchasers that do not reside in those homes* (67% support).

On the subject of water, there was a significant decrease in support for *desalination plants*; however, support for this proposal remained high among participants (68% support). Many participants expressed their support for this proposal, while also keen on wanting to learn more about the impacts of the process and learning from other places that have used this technology.

The discussions about guaranteed income, whether due to technology offsets or other matters, drew lots of discussions from participants and participants did not have clear support for these types of proposals. Support for *providing guaranteed income for all adults, without any conditions*, started at 60%, but after deliberations decreased to 56%. The proposals regarding

guaranteed income “but only as long as they are employed, looking for work, disabled, or providing some kind of public service for the state or their community” started at 58% and after deliberations ended at 59%. While participants had similar levels of support for these proposals, there was a slight increase and preference for offering guaranteed income for certain adult populations, not all.

One area that had clear opposition was the proposal to *eliminate K-12 physical schools in order to focus on virtual education*.

Many participants cited the issues that teachers and parents are still facing from the pandemic; rather, participants wanted more money to be injected into schools so that K-12 education could be conducted in person.

It is important to note that for every policy proposal, the “don’t know” option results decreased after deliberation. This shows that the deliberation process helped participants to form opinions on these issues. Initially, some proposals had “don’t know” percentages as high as 25%, but after deliberation, these responses dropped to single-digit percentage points.

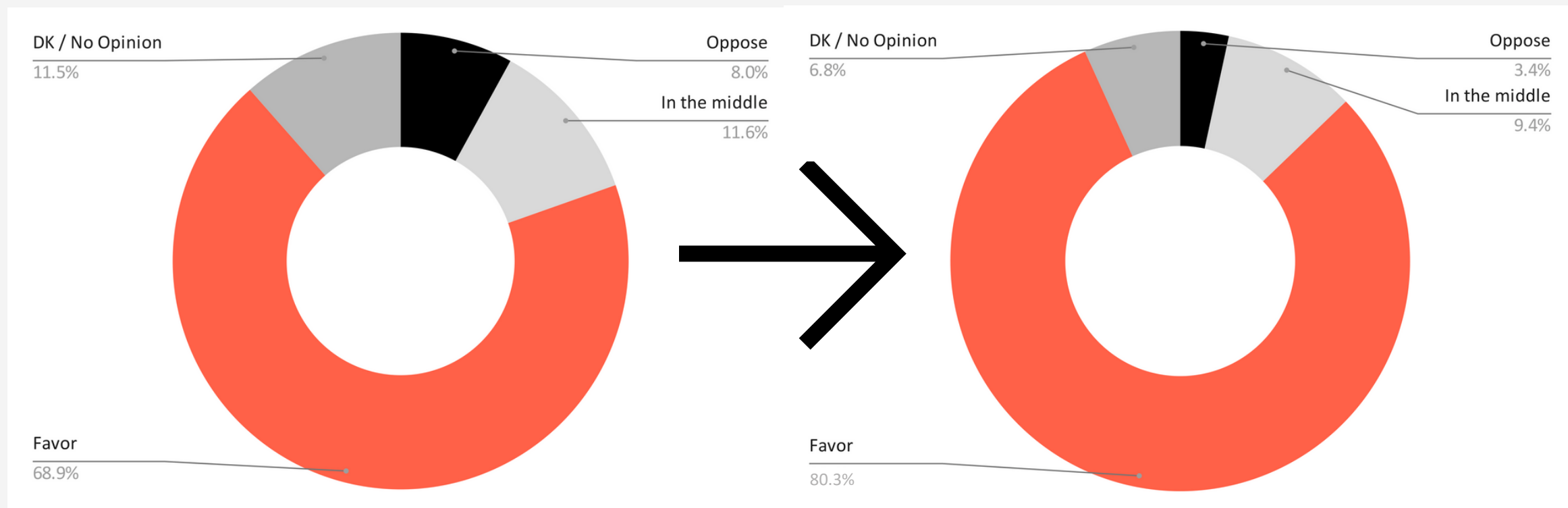
THE RESULTS: TOP 10 PROPOSALS

Before Deliberations

1

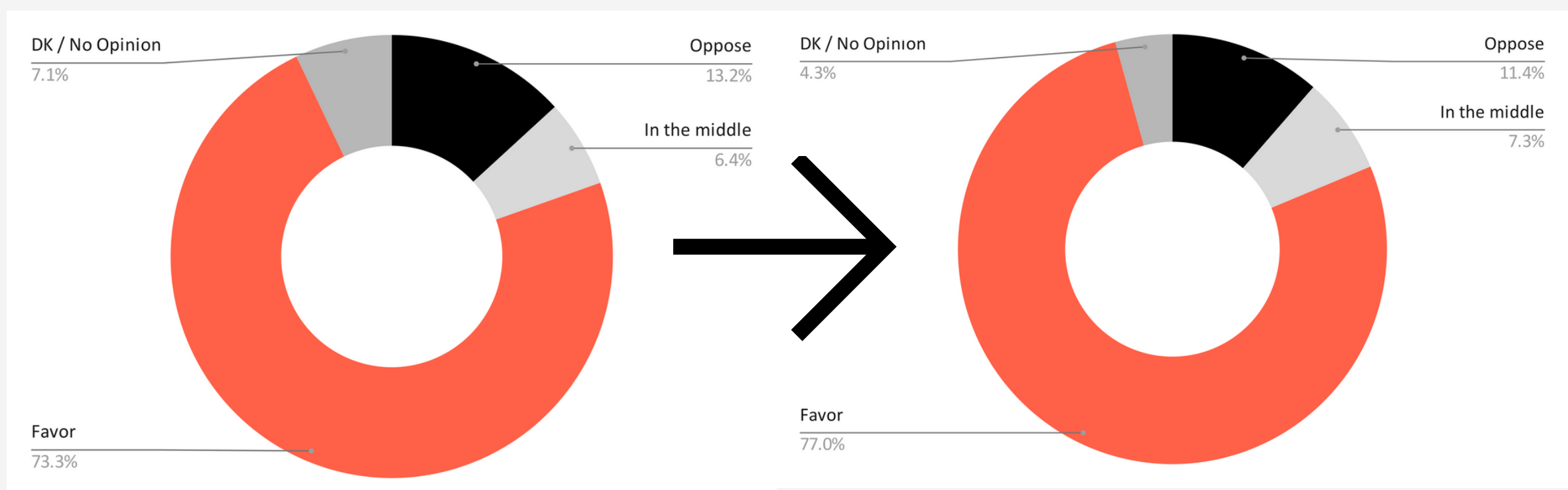
After Deliberations

Should California strengthen its high school civics requirement to include experiences with participation, discussion, negotiation, and compromise in a democracy?



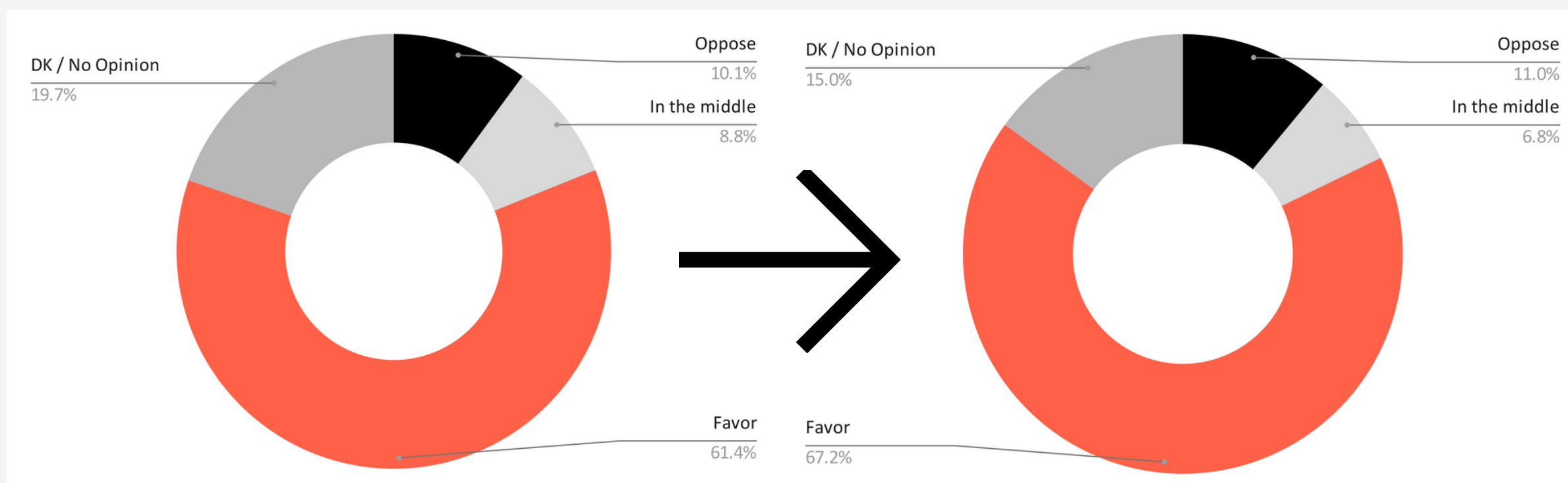
2

Should California provide universal, free mental healthcare?



3

Should California require those in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lawsuits to identify every person or entity who contributes \$1,000 or more to either the plaintiff or the defendant in the lawsuit?



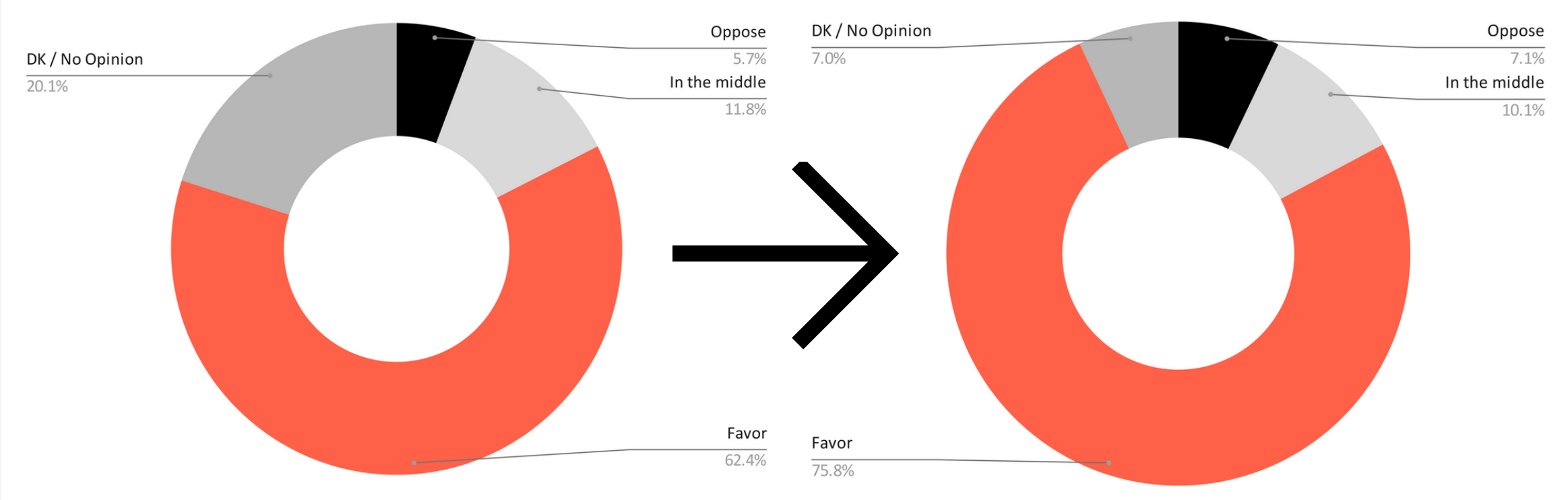
THE RESULTS: TOP 10 PROPOSALS

Before Deliberations

4

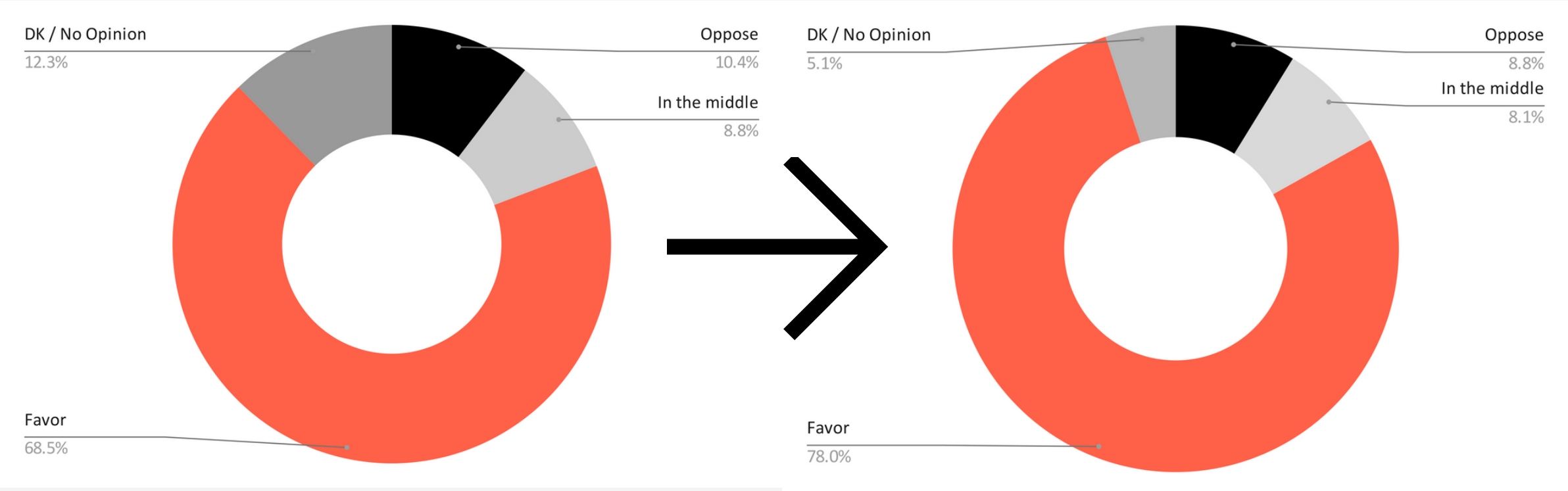
After Deliberations

Should California encourage the expansion of “one-stop shops” for local permits on a range of items, including water, sewer, electricity, parking, land use, and business licensing?



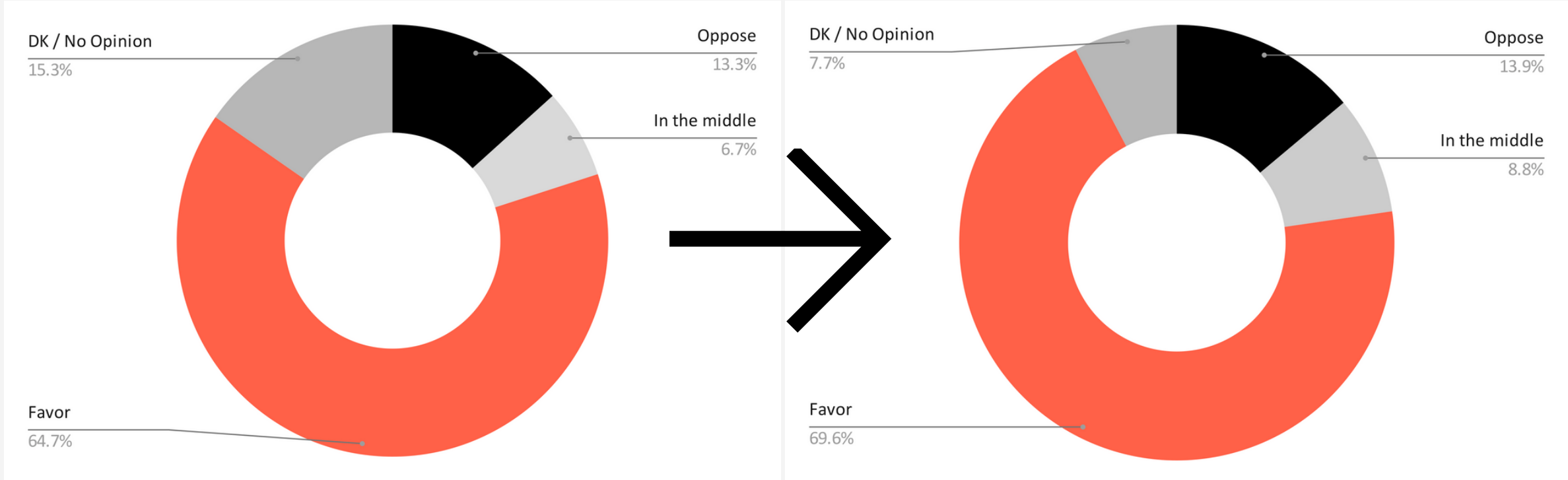
5

Should California develop a “one-stop shop” for easier access by the public to government services dealing with unemployment and poverty?



6

Should California require companies to pay users for the use of their data?



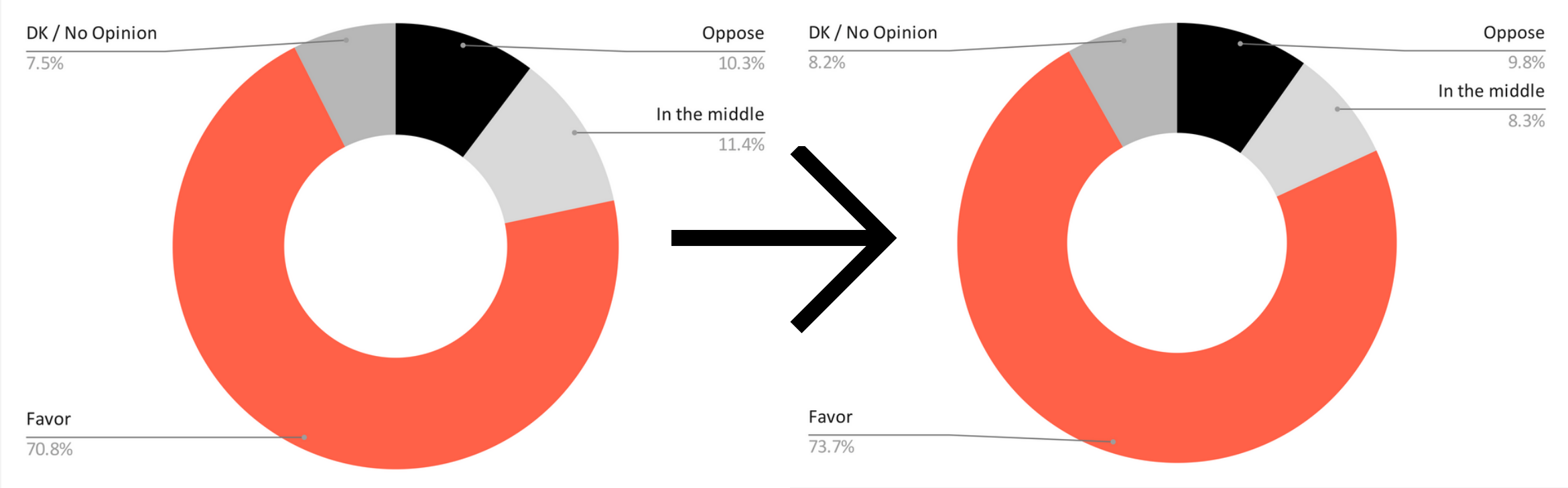
THE RESULTS: TOP 10 PROPOSALS

Before Deliberations

7

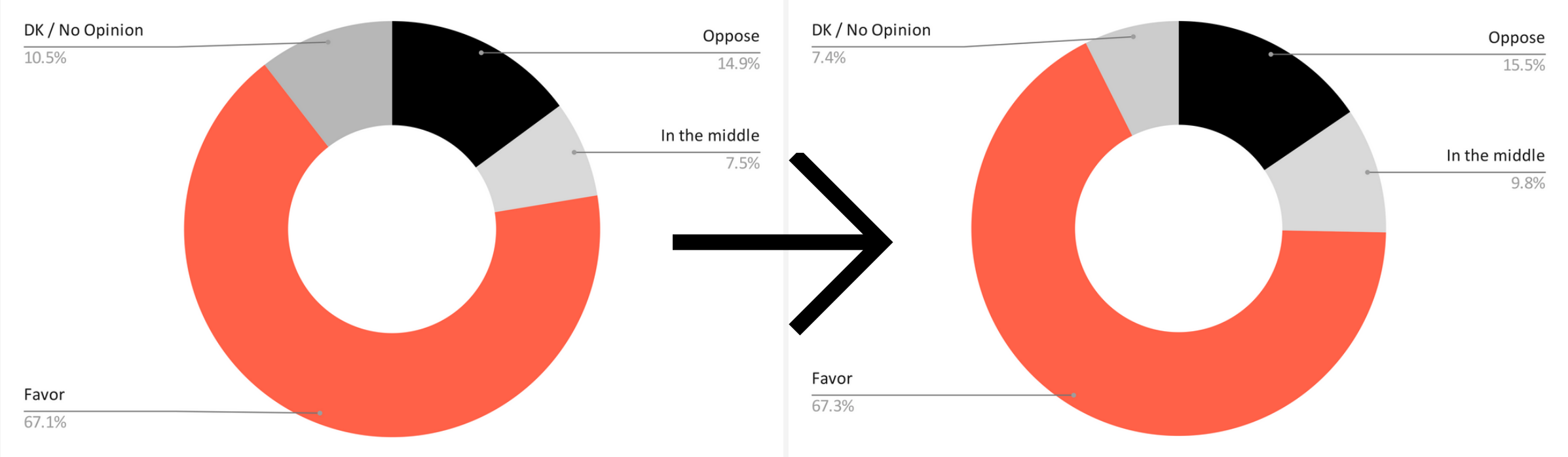
After Deliberations

Should California invest in rural areas to ensure that they have adequate funding for infrastructure, such as roads and digital broadband?



8

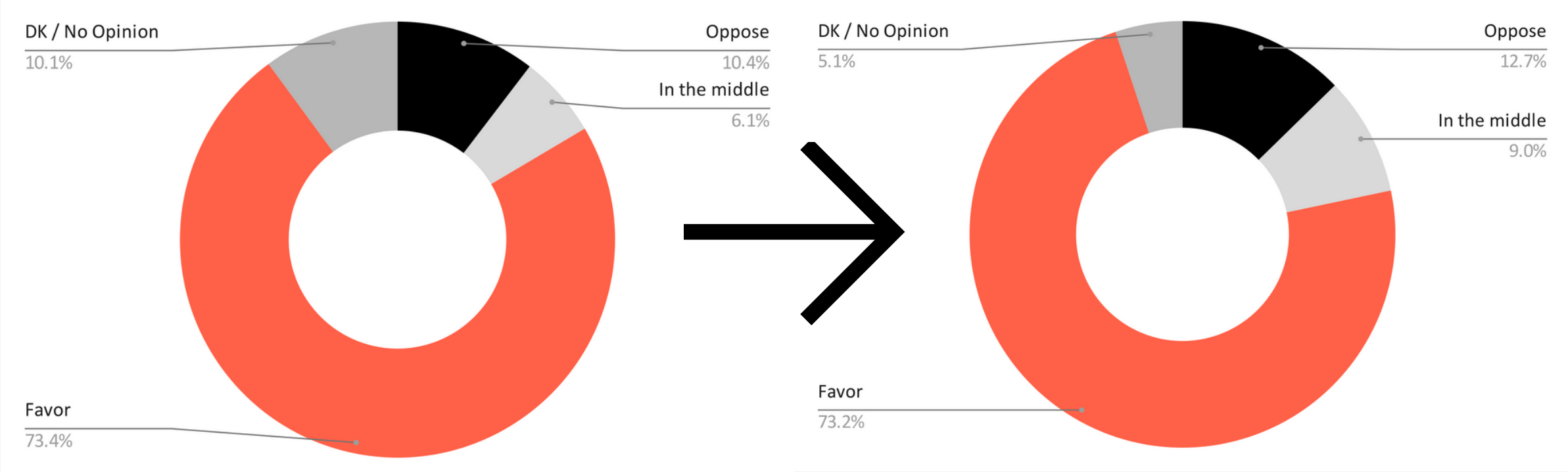
Should California ban home sales to foreign purchasers who do not reside in them?



THE RESULTS: TOP 10 PROPOSALS

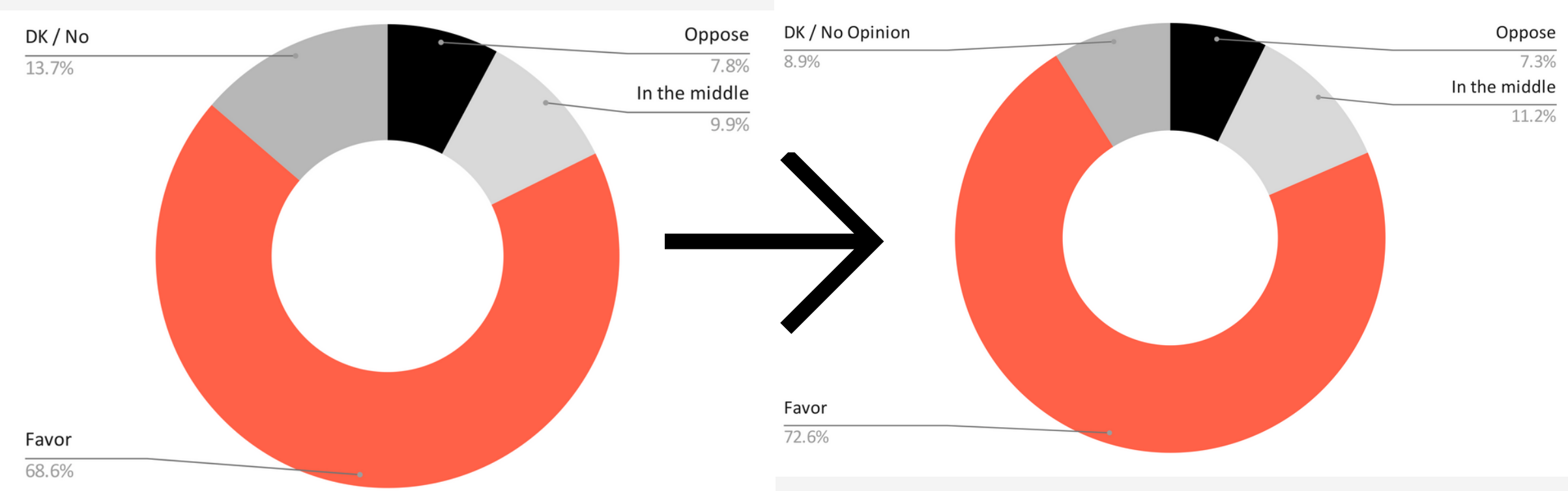
Before Deliberations **9** After Deliberations

Should California increase support for K-12 education by enough to be in the top third of student achievement among the states?



10

Should California examine its regulations for business to make sure the benefits are greater than the costs?



THE RESULTS: KNOWLEDGE GAINS AND TRUST

In the pre- and post- deliberation surveys, participants were asked a series of knowledge questions that related to the various topics of discussion. These knowledge questions represented some of the key facts that participants should know before discussing policy proposals during deliberations. For example, one question asked about CEQA and whether it was

- (a) a part of the state constitution,
- (b) a state law that permits citizens to bring lawsuits for environmental protection,
- (c) a state law that was required by Federal law,
- (d) none of the above, or
- (e) don't know.

Before deliberations, only about 38% answered this question correctly, while after deliberations, that accuracy grew to 55%. This showed a 17% gain in knowledge by participants.

The survey asked participants to share their views about how much they trust or distrust state and local governments. Participants were asked to rate their levels of trust on a 0 to 10 scale, with 0 being distrust and 10 being trust. Participants came to trust their state (41% to 44%) and local (37% to 40%) governments more after the deliberations.

While the increase was not overwhelming, there were sizable increases in trust, nevertheless. The means for trusting state government increased from 4.409 to 4.697. This increase was statistically significant. The means for trusting local government increased from 4.542 to 4.852, and this was significant. The participants' level of trust actually started more on the side of 'distrust' and moved closer to the middle of the scale following deliberations.

The deliberations appear to have caused participants to feel more warmly towards both political parties, with a significant increase towards Democrats. In fact, participants felt statistically significantly warmer towards Democrats after the deliberations. The question asked participants to indicate a number from 0 to 100 on how they felt about the Democrats. Before deliberating, 40% of participants indicated their feelings about Democrats between 67-100 (out of 100), but this number grew to 44% following deliberations. More broadly, the average rating for Democrats was 55% before and 57% after. While this growth may not appear large, the participants' rating showed they felt warmer toward Democrats after deliberations. The change was statistically significant. Participants

THE RESULTS: KNOWLEDGE GAINS AND TRUST

also indicated a slight increase in their feelings towards Republicans. On average, the rating before was 34% and after deliberations, the rating was 35%. However, this increase was not statistically significant.

Participants felt warmer towards the State Legislature and Governor after deliberations. For both, the increase in support was statistically significant. For the State Legislature, the average rating grew from 46% to 51% following deliberations. For the Governor, the average rating grew from 52% to 54%.

Participants enjoyed the deliberations and event overall. 86% of the participants felt the overall event was valuable, with 82% of the participants noting the small groups

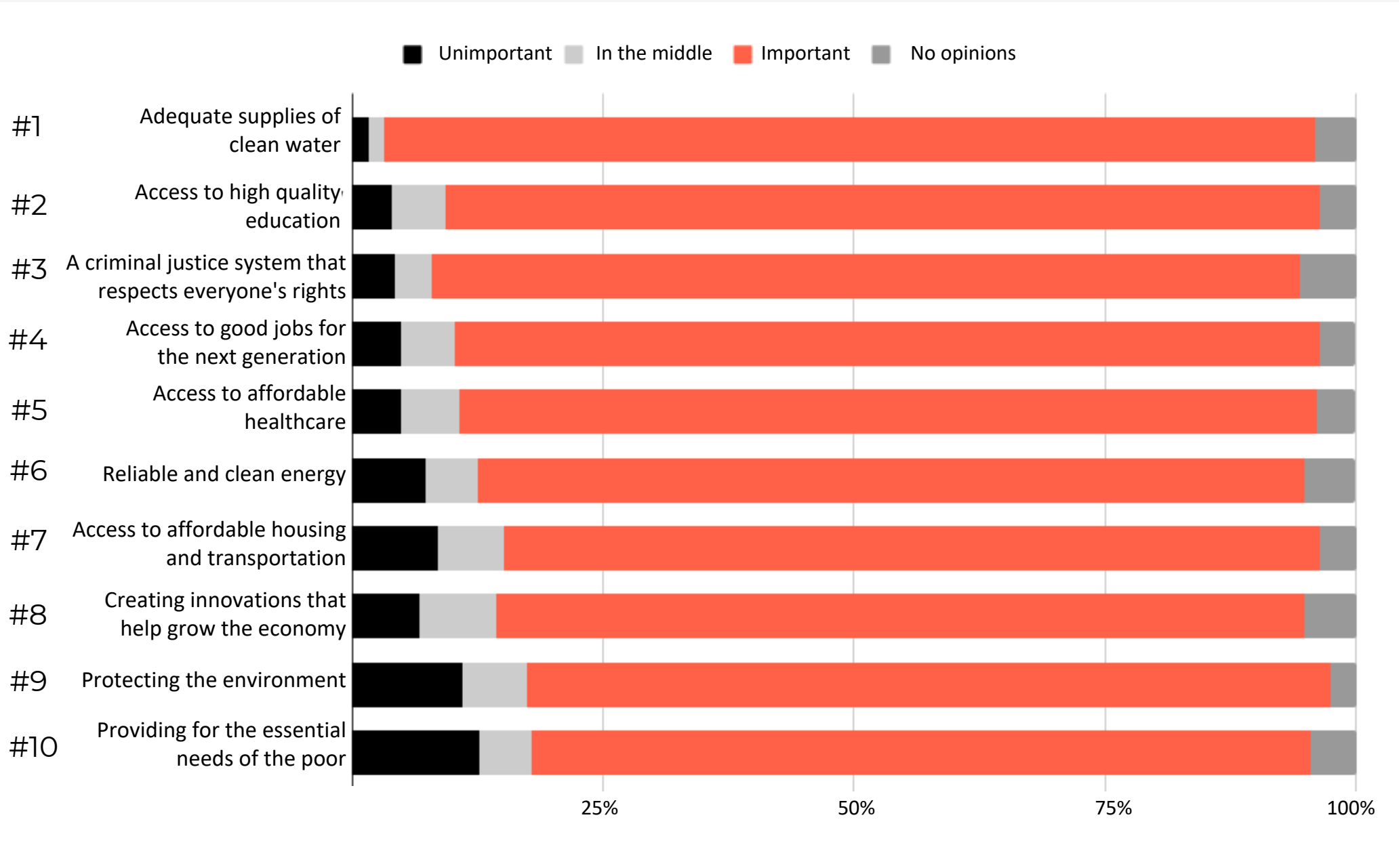
were valuable, and 82% noting the briefing materials were also valuable. Nearly 70% (69%) of the participants thought the plenary sessions with subject matter experts were valuable. 78% of the participants felt the briefing materials and briefing videos were fair and balanced.

With respect to the AI-assisted Stanford Online Deliberation Platform, 86% of the participants felt the platform allowed everyone to participate, 81% of the participants noted that the important aspects of the issues were covered in the discussions, and 73% felt that the platform made sure that opposing arguments were considered. Lastly, 77% of the participants agreed with the statement “I learned a lot about people very different from me – about what they and their lives are like.”

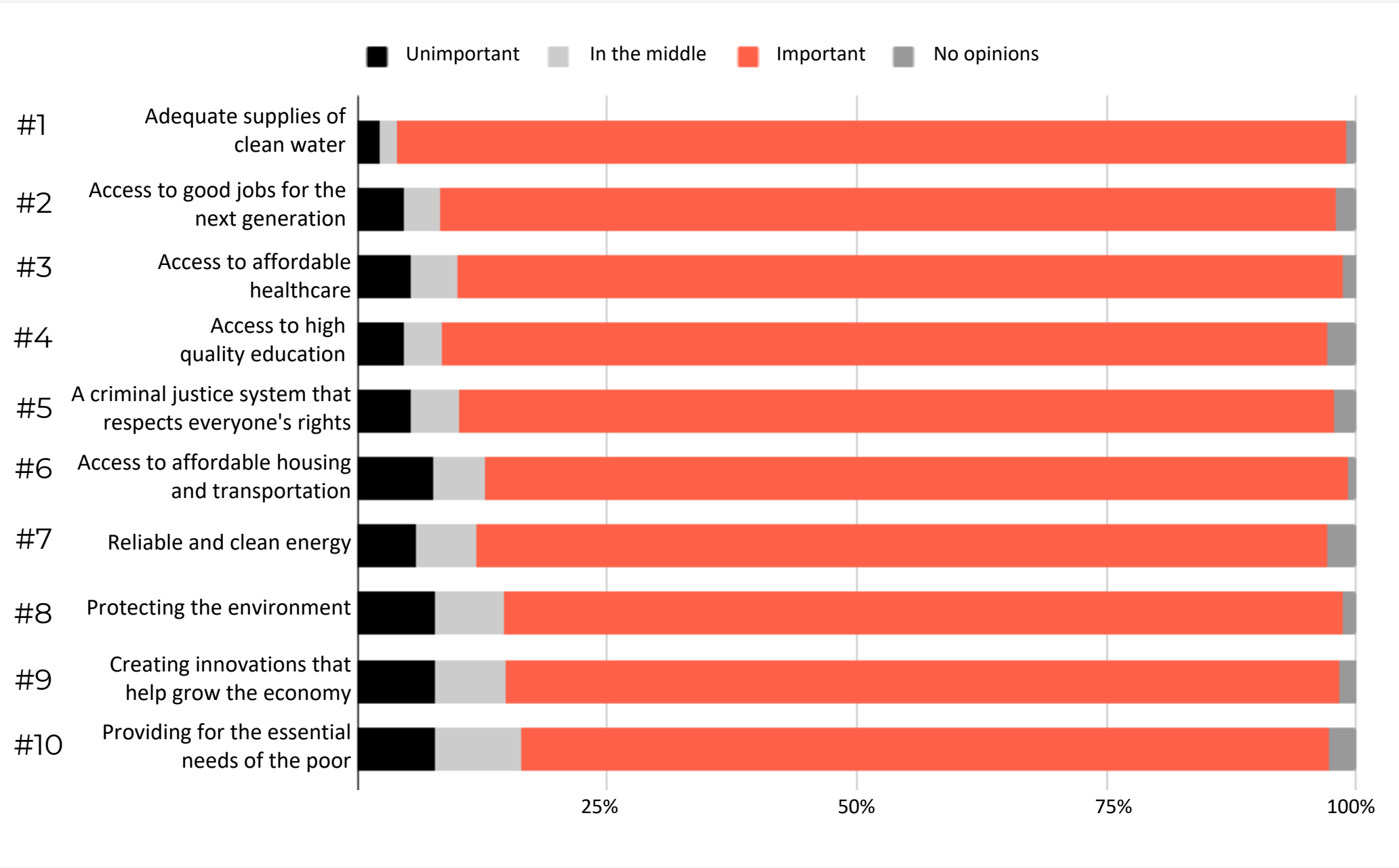
THE RESULTS: MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

We asked participants to note how important or unimportant some key public policy issues were to them. Out of the 10 issues we asked them to review, participants prioritized California having adequate supplies of clean water (92.7% rated this issue as important before deliberations and 95.1% after). Please note the changes in rank for different issues before and after deliberations.

Before deliberations



After deliberations



THE RESULTS: VALUES

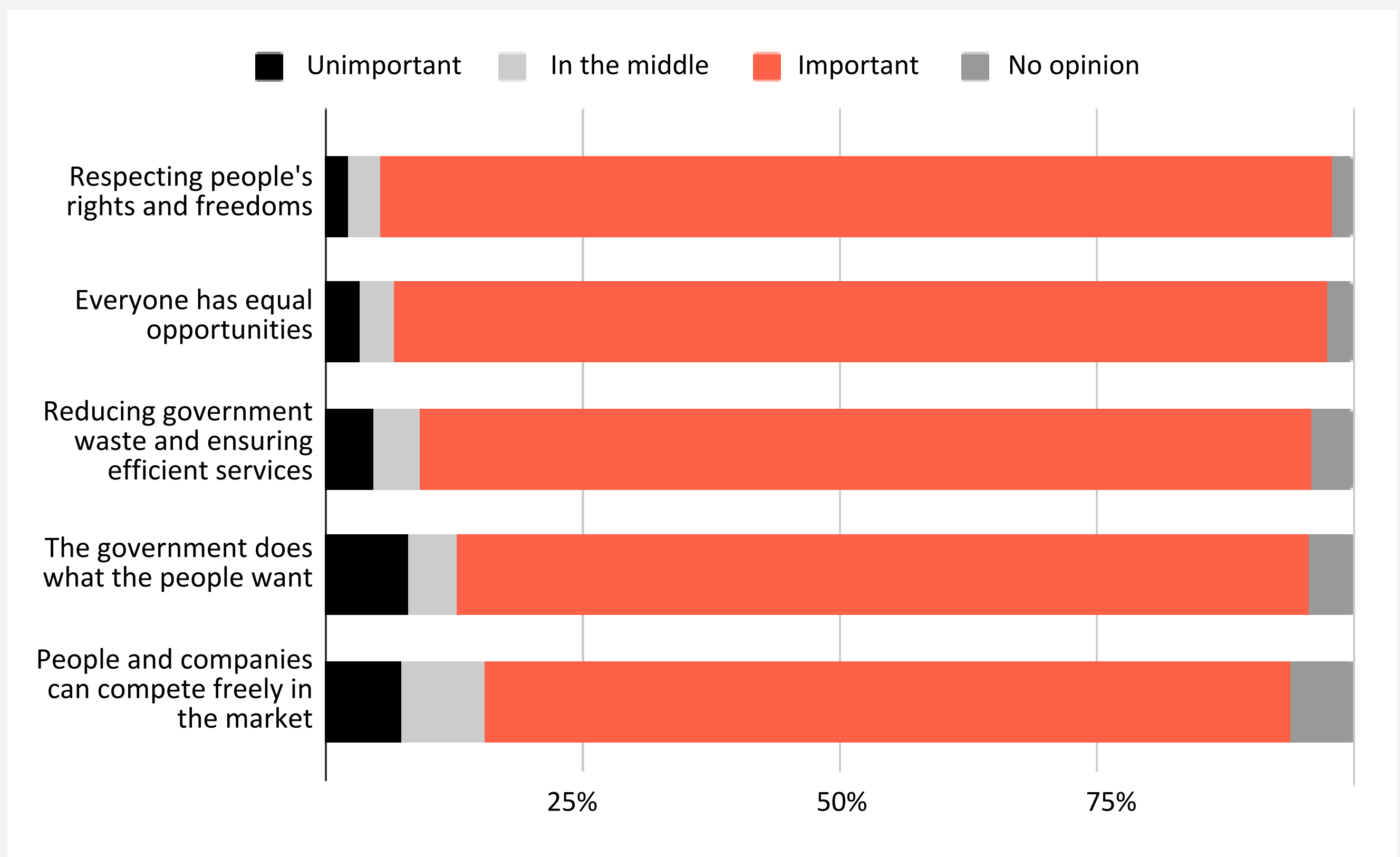
To gauge how participants felt about values important to them, we asked a handful of values questions at both ends of the poll. Specifically, we asked how important they rated the following statements:

- Everyone has equal opportunities.
- People and companies can compete freely in the market.
- The government does what the people want.
- Respecting people’s rights and freedoms.
- Reducing government waste and ensuring efficient services.

Both before and after deliberations, participants valued "respecting people's rights and freedoms" highest (91.8% → 92.6%). Participants significantly grew in their support for "everyone has equal opportunities" from 86.9% to 90.6%.

Following deliberations, participants reduced their rating of the importance of "reducing government waste and ensuring efficient services" from 88% to 86.6%. This is particularly interesting considering the support for proposals focused on these efforts, which we describe in detail throughout the rest of this report.

After deliberations



THE PARTICIPANTS AND CONTROL GROUP

The 719 participants that joined California Considers were a representative sample of Californians. There were about 49% females and 48% males, with about 3% of participants identifying as non-binary and/or other. Of the 719 participants, about 40% identified as white, 33% Hispanic, 6.1% Black, 8.6% Asian, 7.1% identified as two or more races, 0.6% Native American, 0.8% Middle Eastern, and 3.3% other.

In terms of age, about 22% of participants were in the 18-29 age cohort, 32% between 30-49, 28% between 50-65 and 19% were over 65.

For party identification, about 41% of participants identified themselves as Democrats, 30% as Independents, 18% as Republicans, and 9% as other and/or not sure. To further understand the party preferences of participants, we used the 7-point political party preference ranking. The participant sample had 26% of Strong Democrats, 16% of Not very strong Democrats, 18% of Lean Democrats, 14% of Independents, 6% of Lean Republicans, 10% of Not very strong Republicans, and 9% of Strong Republicans.

In comparison to the control group upon recruitment, before the deliberators had any exposure to deliberation, there were few demographic differences between the control group and deliberators. Notably, there were no differences in gender, race, education, age, and party ID.

The deliberators were slightly more interested in the news, with 53% indicating their interest in the news 'most of the time' versus 44% interest among the control group. The control group had a higher percentage for 'some of the time' interest in the news at 31% versus 24% among deliberators. The control group consumed news through social media at the same rates as the deliberators, but 'sometimes' consumed news through television news more often (33%) than deliberators (25%).

In terms of political party preference, while there were no statistical differences among the party ID between the control group and deliberators. However, when asked about strength of their party affiliation, there appeared to be more 'Strong Democrats' among the control

THE PARTICIPANTS AND CONTROL GROUP

'group (33%) versus the deliberators (26%). There were higher percentages of 'Lean Democrats,' 'Not very strong Democrats' and 'Not very strong Republicans' among deliberators.

There were also higher percentages of deliberators that indicated their political ideology as more conservative (18%) versus amongst the control group (12%).

An analysis comparing the substantive opinions of the control group and deliberators also showed that there were few substantive differences. Of the 93 questions that were asked of both groups upon recruitment, only 17 questions yielded statistical significance. All the differences were small; there were no instances where the deliberators and control group were on different sides of the scale and where there were differences, deliberators were slightly more interested or supportive of the proposals than the control group. For example, for one of the questions regarding

the future of California, deliberators were lightly more concerned about the future of California with 74% deliberators concerned versus 70% of the control group who did not see the video depicting California in 2050. Deliberators were also more interested in politics and public affairs in California with 75% deliberators demonstrating interest versus 71% of the control group. On housing policy proposals, deliberators were more in support of having non-profits have a role in affording housing rental, 65% deliberators versus 58% control group. Deliberators were also more in support of low-income riders have public transit benefits, deliberators 75% versus 68% control group. Though these changes were statistically significant, the actual magnitude of difference is small and remained on the same side of the scale. The minimal differences between the deliberators and control group indicate that those that participated in Deliberative Poll[®] are demographically the same compared to those that did not attend.

THEME 1: INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

In 2023, California can be defined by several key contradictions: its beautiful and diverse landscape is increasingly under threat from natural disasters like wildfires and floods; its role as an agricultural center for the world may wane due to its water scarcity struggles; and its reputation as a symbol of prosperity dims amidst growing inequality and a severe housing crisis.

Under the topic of infrastructure and environment, the participants examined how California can improve its policies regarding housing supply and affordability, the growing scarcity for critical resources such as water, and other opportunities for resiliency against wildfires and aging infrastructure. The participants also discussed the supply of energy and our complex transportation and transit systems.

As the most populous state, the third largest in land area, the richest in terms of GDP, and the most environmentally sensitive, California has a particular stake in these endeavors and the potential to make major changes for California residents and the country and world at large.

There were eight housing proposals in the deliberations and they focused on affordable housing, homelessness, voting on public housing, and foreign purchasers

of homes. Participants had strong views about banning foreign purchasers of homes if they don't reside in them, while also supporting businesses and non-profit organizations to be a part of the solution for affordable housing.

The topics of water, wildfire, and energy covered four proposals in total. The primary discussion about energy surrounded the discussion about whether participants thought the three electric companies should be broken up. There were strong views on both sides of the discussion, and the deliberations led to a significant drop in support. Although 65% of participants supported this proposal at the outset, their support ultimately dropped to 53%, only barely maintaining majority support. Similarly, the water policy discussions focused on desalination plants as a steady source of clean and reliable water for the state. There was a lot of discussion about the desire to learn from others that have implemented desalination before California builds these expensive plants. Support dropped from 77% to 68%, which still shows a strong interest in finding and securing sources of clean water for the state.

Participants also discussed California's transportation and transit systems, and talked about the overall quality of the state's transportation and how it will depend on management of other

THEME 1: INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

intertwined issues like climate, housing, energy, and the electric grid. Many had strong views of the topic of incentives, and agreed that new infrastructure will be necessary to reverse decreases in public transit ridership in recent years.

Participants discussed whether Native and indigenous communities should be given stewardship over certain lands. Native Americans are the original inhabitants of California and have faced centuries of unfair deals and mistreatment from Spanish to American rule, resulting in their losing influence and land. In 2019, California established a Truth and Healing Council to comprehensively investigate the relationship between Native Americans and the state and to make recommendations aimed at reparations and restoration, with a report due in 2025. As Native Americans gain more

recognition for the indignities they have suffered in California and the United States, there may be an increased willingness to right some historical wrongs. Participants' discussions on this issue were less clear after deliberations. Some participants supported this proposal, and others were less certain of how to accomplish this and what would happen after such a proposal was implemented.

The groups discussed agriculture and food systems, and touched on potential financial incentives for farmers and a push toward vertical and indoor farming. While both proposals had support, the opposition to these two proposals also increased after deliberations. There remained some questions about the feasibility of these proposals, even among its support from participants.

HOUSING: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should allow cities to authorize the construction of public housing without requiring a vote of the public in that city.	50%	
2	California should ban home sales to foreign purchasers who do not reside in them.	67%	
3	California should require every city and county to provide housing for those experiencing homelessness and should require the homeless to accept the shelter when offered.	50%	Yes
4	California should establish a fund for affordable housing construction that is financed by penalties for local governments who deny housing projects in violation of state law.	62%	Yes
5	California should support affordable housing by giving grants to non-profit cooperative organizations that would build rental units in which the tenants can share any increase in value.	68%	
6	California should permit religious institutions to build affordable housing on their properties with zoning for multi-family projects and expedited environmental reviews.	56%	Yes
7	California should provide housing assistance (such as a state income tax credit or down payment assistance) to those who have student debt and are under the age of 35.	38%	Yes
8	California should provide incentives for growing businesses that subsidize or create affordable housing within a 30-minute commuting area of new office and retail developments.	70%	Yes

Legend:

- Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
- Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
- Received less than 50% support following deliberations

HOUSING: STRONG SUPPORT

California should provide incentives for growing businesses that subsidize or create affordable housing within a 30-minute commuting area of new office and retail developments.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.077
Mean post-deliberations	6.801
Support pre-deliberations	68.8%
Support post-deliberations	70.2%
Oppose pre-deliberation	10.8%
Oppose post-deliberations	13.7%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	12.8%
Don't Know post-deliberations	7.8%

“I think [this proposal] makes the most sense that businesses need to create affordable housing for commuters, especially if it's 30 minutes within the area of the office. So commuting is a big problem and that would solve that, and then a lot of people who are working right now, can't afford to work in the city that they're working in because it's too expensive.”

From Group AA (Weekend), Participant 1309

HOUSING: STRONG SUPPORT

California should support affordable housing by giving grants to non-profit cooperative organizations that would build rental units in which the tenants can share any increase in value.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.962
Mean post-deliberations	6.813
Support pre-deliberations	65.3%
Support post-deliberations	67.7%
Oppose pre-deliberation	10.9%
Oppose post-deliberations	13.7%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	12.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	7.1%

“I'm kind of mixed on this one. [It] would have to be heavily regulated by the government... to make sure there would be no discrimination or corruption going there because I see that, [there] would be a lot of things like that going on.”

From Group AB (Weekend), Participant 1819

HOUSING: STRONG SUPPORT

California should ban home sales to foreign purchasers who do not reside in them.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.315
Mean post-deliberations	7.365
Support pre-deliberations	67.1%
Support post-deliberations	67.3%
Oppose pre-deliberation	14.9%
Oppose post-deliberations	15.5%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	10.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	7.4%

“I agree with [banning foreign sales]. Unfortunately, it's not just foreign nationals or foreign purchasers, I work in an industry where I see... our own corporations that are buying old neighborhoods. It's single family housing and using them as investment vehicles. So it's not just, you know, these outside entities there.”

From Group A (Weekend), 2741

HOUSING: STRONG SUPPORT

California should establish a fund for affordable housing construction that is financed by penalties for local governments who deny housing projects in violation of state law.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.775
Mean post-deliberations	6.489
Support pre-deliberations	60.0%
Support post-deliberations	62.1%
Oppose pre-deliberation	16.4%
Oppose post-deliberations	18.5%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	15.3%
Don't Know post-deliberations	8.9%

“I think that [this] proposal... might be better done if—instead of penalizing local governments, you were like giving them extra funding for other projects when they do build affordable housing.”

From Group AC (Weekend), Participant 1213

HOUSING: MAJORITY SUPPORT

Local religious institutions like churches, synagogues, and mosques should have the right to build affordable housing on their properties.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.270
Mean post-deliberations	5.981
Support pre-deliberations	56.3%
Support post-deliberations	56.4%
Oppose pre-deliberation	18.1%
Oppose post-deliberations	26.1%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	12.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	5.9%

“I like the ideas of nonprofits helping to solve the problem but not religious entities, I think religious groups, there's a possibility for abuse including indoctrination, favoritism for their people and creatively using such a system to profit their Church which we have ample evidence of that in the past. I also think businesses should be incentivised to stimulate housing to respond to the increased demands their employees will expect in the area.”

From Group I (Weekend), Participant 2138

HOUSING: DELIBERATIONS INCREASED SUPPORT

California should allow cities to authorize the construction of public housing without requiring a vote of the public in that city.	
Mean pre-deliberations	5.471
Mean post-deliberations	5.394
Support pre-deliberations	46.7%
Support post-deliberations	49.8%
Oppose pre-deliberation	31.4%
Oppose post-deliberations	33.3%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	11.1%
Don't Know post-deliberations	6.5%

“My biggest issue I have is [the voting proposal] allowing cities to authorize public housing construction, without a public vote ... it really shifts the burden to the people instead of the city and the builders knowing who's there.”

From Group AB (Weekend), Participant 2916

HOUSING: DELIBERATIONS REDUCED SUPPORT

California should require every city and county to provide housing for those experiencing homelessness and oblige the homeless to accept the shelter when offered.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.069
Mean post-deliberations	5.413
Support pre-deliberations	54.6%
Support post-deliberations	49.6%
Oppose pre-deliberation	21.3%
Oppose post-deliberations	33.6%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	9.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	5.2%

“I don't agree that homeless people should be required to take shelter, but then I believe they should be required to sign a waiver. It's like saying you don't want to wear a helmet. If you're riding a motorcycle but then you're responsible for all the consequences so, you know, people should clean up. But if you're an addict, it's hard to clean up in terms of housing assistance and student debt.”

From Group A (Weekend), Participant 1654

HOUSING: STRONG OPPOSITION

California should provide housing assistance (such as a state income tax credit or down payment assistance) to those who have student debt and are under the age of 35.	
Mean pre-deliberations	5.479
Mean post-deliberations	4.750
Support pre-deliberations	47.5%
Support post-deliberations	37.9%
Oppose pre-deliberation	27.5%
Oppose post-deliberations	39.2%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	14.6%
Don't Know post-deliberations	11.1%




"I want to say something about a proposal for housing assistance, for those under 35 with student debt. I think it's a start. But how do you address those who don't have student debt? There are a lot of people, you know, left out by that kind of proposal and how do you make it more inclusive. Maybe something for community college students. But even then all of the farm workers that live in this area. I wonder how you help them if they don't have student debt and they're just workers, basically, trying to make things as inclusive as possible for those who need it."

From Group A (Weekend), Participant 2466

ENERGY, WATER, AND WILDFIRES: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should break up the 3 large electric companies in California to allow communities to choose locally-owned and locally-controlled utilities.	53%	Yes
2	California should build large-scale desalination plants (converting salt water to fresh water) to provide clean, reliable, inexpensive water for residents throughout the state.	68%	Yes
3	California should establish a Department of Water that combines the powers to plan for water usage and to allocate water throughout the state (powers now distributed among several state agencies).	61%	
4	California should allow timber harvesting to help pay the cost of thinning the forests to prevent wildfires.	58%	

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

WATER: STRONG SUPPORT

Build large-scale desalination plants (converting salt water to fresh water) to provide clean, reliable, inexpensive water for residents throughout the state.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.888
Mean post-deliberations	6.992
Support pre-deliberations	76.8%
Support post-deliberations	68.2%
Oppose pre-deliberation	4.4%
Oppose post-deliberations	15.0%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	11.4%
Don't Know post-deliberations	5.6%

"I'm completely in favor of item one about building desalination plants. We see countries around us that do not have enough water, and have built massive desalination plants. Look at the Middle East, for instance, and we have a lot of water because of the ocean and we have a lot of shortage of water because we don't have enough reservoirs to collect water. A recent example of all the heavy rains that we had. Most of the water all went back into the ocean. So desalination plants do not cost as much as some people think to do but provide a major supply of water."

From Group O (Weekend), Participant 2248

WATER: STRONG SUPPORT

California should establish a Department of Water that combines the powers to plan for water usage and to allocate water throughout the state (powers now distributed among several state agencies).	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.731
Mean post-deliberations	6.530
Support pre-deliberations	61.9%
Support post-deliberations	60.8%
Oppose pre-deliberation	13.5%
Oppose post-deliberations	17.7%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	16.0%
Don't Know post-deliberations	9.8%

“I don't like the idea of... having a centralized Department of Water. We were just talking about breaking up the electric companies, the power companies. And then we're going to, this is kind of opposite. We won't have a Department of Water when you know, put one together for the whole state and I don't think that's a great idea.”

From Group N (Weekend), Participant 1011

WILDFIRES: MAJORITY SUPPORT

California should allow timber harvesting to help pay the cost of thinning the forests to prevent wildfires.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.499
Mean post-deliberations	6.306
Support pre-deliberations	55.4%
Support post-deliberations	58.0%
Oppose pre-deliberation	16.2%
Oppose post-deliberations	18.5%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	17.3%
Don't Know post-deliberations	10.7%

“I want to say this does work, removing timber that's fallen or dried. We have a farm in Virginia and it's surrounded by woods and our family and three other families around them sell all of them ... they have someone come in and take all of the old trees ... they haven't had any fires”

From Group Y (Weekend), Participant 1093

ENERGY AND UTILITIES: SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF SUPPORT

California should break up the three large electric companies in California to allow communities to choose locally-owned and locally-controlled utilities.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.189
Mean post-deliberations	6.196
Support pre-deliberations	64.8%
Support post-deliberations	52.8%
Oppose pre-deliberation	10.0%
Oppose post-deliberations	24.1%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	15.1%
Don't Know post-deliberations	11.3%




“I'm probably in the lower majority but I don't feel we should break them up. I have lived in areas where there were smaller towns that had a different company than this town and things sometimes happen. Like they had in Texas [in] the winter, the grid went down because ‘cause they didn't have the same maintenance all around. So I mean that's just my opinion. I feel that they should not break down because when you have a just like it says, you have a patchwork...”

From Group Y (Weekend), Participant 1093

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should provide financial incentives (vouchers) for public transit for low-income riders.	67%	Yes
2	California should charge fees based on the level of usage on highways throughout the state.	29%	Yes

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT SYSTEMS: STRONG SUPPORT

California should provide financial incentives (vouchers) for public transit for low-income riders.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.456
Mean post-deliberations	6.682
Support pre-deliberations	75.5%
Support post-deliberations	66.9%
Oppose pre-deliberation	10.9%
Oppose post-deliberations	17.5%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	5.2%
Don't Know post-deliberations	5.0%

“I believe that giving low-income people access to transportation is never a bad idea. It’s going to reduce the number of cars. It’s going to reduce the number of accidents. It’s going to reduce the number of people driving without licenses and that sort of thing.”

From Group A (Weekend), Participant 1265

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT SYSTEMS: WEAK SUPPORT

California should charge fees based on the level of usage on highways throughout the state.	
Mean pre-deliberations	4.040
Mean post-deliberations	3.613
Support pre-deliberations	33.0%
Support post-deliberations	28.5%
Oppose pre-deliberation	44.8%
Oppose post-deliberations	52.3%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	13.3%
Don't Know post-deliberations	9.7%

"I don't agree with charging fees on highways based on usage. That would involve the mileage on your car and how much you drive it. If you have a 30-minute commute, that's what you have and you have to do that to earn money... Why don't you use taxes? You already have for the purpose of funding transportation and taking care of the roads and stuff like 'you're supposed to.'"

From Group A (Weekend), Participant 1972

INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP

California should give indigenous communities stewardship of parts of already protected lands, such as parks and natural reserves.

Mean pre-deliberations	6.851
Mean post-deliberations	6.589
Support pre-deliberations	60.7%
Support post-deliberations	61.6%
Oppose pre-deliberation	16.1%
Oppose post-deliberations	18.6%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	17.0%
Don't Know post-deliberations	10.7%

“We have a lot of pre-existing reservations and some of those reservations have been lost or moved around. If it was a situation where a particular tribe or tribal group had previously been granted those lands then, and they are public lands, then sure, they should be given them back and assisted in handling them appropriately or just give them serenity over it. Lord knows we have stolen so much and hunted down a lot of the California Indians people used to pay for it for.”

From Group AG (Weekday), Participant 2220

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should provide financial incentives for farmers to transition to drought-resistant crops.	64%	Yes
2	California should convert large warehouses to indoor and vertical farming.	64%	Yes

Legend:

- Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
- Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
- Received less than 50% support following deliberations

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS: STRONG SUPPORT DESPITE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN OPINIONS

California should provide financial incentives for farmers to transition to drought-resistant crops.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.837
Mean post-deliberations	6.427
Support pre-deliberations	68.6%
Support post-deliberations	64.0%
Oppose pre-deliberation	12.0%
Oppose post-deliberations	17.1%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	11.0%
Don't Know post-deliberations	6.6%

“I have a degree in agricultural engineering from Cal Poly. This is a huge issue to me. Government can’t tell farmers what to grow. All that does is create massive problems. In our food system, people need to grow what the market wants to buy. That’s the way this works, and growing crops inside gets rid of California’s major advantage, which is the giant Central Valley, which is one of the best areas to grow crops in the world, and the Imperial Valley. California has an agricultural paradise and it generates a lot of food for the entire United States and for a lot of the world. And right now the farmers are really hampered because they haven’t been getting the water that they need to grow crops. The answer is, we need to have more water available to farmers and let them put it to use. Believe me, farmers don’t want to use any more water than they have to because water is very expensive. So, they’ve invested a lot of money in being very efficient. Irrigation systems over the last 50 years use less water to grow more crops. So the truth is, we need to make sure farmers get their water they want and we need to build the infrastructure to do that.”

From Group W (Weekend), Participant 1657

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS: STRONG SUPPORT

California should convert large warehouses to indoor and vertical farming.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.022
Mean post-deliberations	6.800
Support pre-deliberations	60.5%
Support post-deliberations	64.0%
Oppose pre-deliberation	9.5%
Oppose post-deliberations	13.6%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	19.8%
Don't Know post-deliberations	8.3%

“I think both [Agriculture and Food Systems] proposals are good for looking towards the future because the future we’re talking about is 2050 and we’re in 2023... like, [Governor] Newsom is trying to get everybody to use solar power. So that way you don’t use a lot of power even in the vertical [ware]house thing.”

From Group C (Weekend), Participant 1771

THEME 2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

California has a diverse and dynamic economy, with major industries including technology, entertainment, and international trade. The state is home to many successful and innovative companies, including Apple, Google, Pixar, and Meta. Due to its prestigious colleges and universities, California has a large and well-educated workforce. However, the state also has a high cost of living, as well as high taxes and regulations, which can make it difficult for businesses to start and grow. Additionally, California has a high poverty rate, and income inequality is a significant issue in some areas of the state.

Despite these challenges, the state's economy continues to be a major driver of growth and innovation in the United States. A closely related concern is that economic development and its benefits




need to be more evenly distributed throughout the state, rather than solely in the existing innovation hubs, particularly in Silicon Valley and Los Angeles.

This topic of economic development covered two business climate and two innovation clusters proposals. The business climate proposals were well supported by participants. The participants were keen on having a 'one-stop-shop' for people to access all types of permits and also wanted business regulations to have greater benefits than costs for businesses. For innovation clusters, participants were less clear on how extra R&D credit would be more beneficial. Their support for this proposal was less clear. By contrast, the proposal on increasing broadband infrastructure in rural areas was clearly supported by participants.

BUSINESS CLIMATE: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should encourage the expansion of “one-stop shops” for local permits on a range of items, including water, sewer, electricity, parking, land use, and business licensing.	76%	Yes
2	California should examine its regulations for business to make sure the benefits are greater than the costs.	73%	

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

BUSINESS CLIMATE: STRONG SUPPORT

California should encourage the expansion of “one-stop shops” for local permits on a range of items, including water, sewer, electricity, parking, land use, and business licensing.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.220
Mean post-deliberations	7.655
Support pre-deliberations	62.4%
Support post-deliberations	75.8%
Oppose pre-deliberation	5.7%
Oppose post-deliberations	7.1%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	20.1%
Don't Know post-deliberations	7.0%

“The One-Stop shops I am in complete agreement with. I did some work with the city of Manhattan Beach and watched their permitting process. It just takes so long. Also though, there's a reason for having these permits besides just money, so we have to examine why they exist in the first place.”

From Group AM (Weekend), Participant 1616

“Yeah, I think that we should encourage One-Stop shops. The amount of time and the cost of permits and licenses is prohibitive. A really good example is building starter homes. It's so expensive to build because of the time and cost wasted on getting paperwork and licenses. I mean there's obviously other reasons but that's a real problem for the people that I know...”

From Group T (Weekend), Participant 1089

BUSINESS CLIMATE: STRONG SUPPORT

California should examine its regulations for business to make sure the benefits are greater than the costs.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.357
Mean post-deliberations	7.254
Support pre-deliberations	68.6%
Support post-deliberations	72.6%
Oppose pre-deliberation	7.8%
Oppose post-deliberations	7.3%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	13.7%
Don't Know post-deliberations	8.9%

“I agree with the examination of benefits outweighing the cost. Of course, we have to talk about what is a benefit, and who benefits from what, besides just the state or the local entities, getting our money.”

From Group AM (Weekend), Participant 1616




“I agree with the idea of an emphasis on the cost versus benefits and eliminating unnecessary regulations because it does push up the cost, and it confuses people to a certain extent...Because businesses run cost-benefits all the time. However, you don't want to be in a situation like in Turkey where they did away with cost considerations and half their buildings fell down because they didn't keep up with the regulations.”

From Group Y (Weekend), Participant 1717

INNOVATION CLUSTERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should provide extra research and development (R&D) credit to corporations that create innovation centers in areas of the state that do not now have them.	52%	Yes
2	California should invest in rural areas to ensure that they have adequate funding for infrastructure, such as roads and digital broadband.	74%	Yes

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

INNOVATION CLUSTERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE: STRONG SUPPORT

California should invest in rural areas to ensure that they have adequate funding for infrastructure, such as roads and digital broadband.

Mean pre-deliberations	7.075
Mean post-deliberations	7.414
Support pre-deliberations	70.8%
Support post-deliberations	73.7%
Oppose pre-deliberation	10.3%
Oppose post-deliberations	9.8%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	7.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	8.2%

“People are moving out of the cities. More people are working at home and obviously digital broadband is going to be necessary for a lot of those folks... I think building up our rural areas might also help people fleeing to other states.”

From Group AP (Weekend), Participant 2294

INNOVATION CLUSTERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE: SIGNIFICANT OPINION CHANGES

California should provide extra R&D credit to corporations that create innovation centers in areas of the state that do not now have them.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.609
Mean post-deliberations	6.064
Support pre-deliberations	55.0%
Support post-deliberations	51.5%
Oppose pre-deliberation	9.0%
Oppose post-deliberations	19.1%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	26.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	16.8%

“Yeah, for ... providing credits for corporations. Pretty much corporate welfare. We should look at the pharmaceutical industry. The federal government pays for 84% of research and development, our tax dollars. And yet how much do we pay for medications there? Definitely needs to be some serious changes [and] reconsiderations...”

From Group F (Weekend), Participant 1819

THEME 3: WORKFORCE AND TALENT

California has vast disparities amongst many of its communities. Income inequality and poverty plague various communities, while the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and high-income jobs are skyrocketing. As a hundreds of thousands have flooded into the urban cores of the state, California has failed to ensure that all communities have access to jobs and education. Socioeconomic, geographic, and racial and ethnic imbalances between who has and who does not have access to quality educational institutions, and positive interactions with government have created two Californias in the same state.

As automation and robotics replace low- and even middle-wage jobs throughout the state, California must act to ensure that job loss does not result in even wider disparities. In this discussion, participants deliberated on whether companies should pay users for their data, particularly as social media and data mining online become more prevalent, and whether employees whose work is replaced by robots or AI should share in the economic benefits. Participants were more certain about their support for companies paying for use of their data, but less clear on their support for displaced workers to receive compensation or share in the economic benefits. Some participants felt that perhaps companies should play a stronger role in worker training and planning for

their companies' next steps.

Our workforce in California relies on foreign immigration and net domestic migration to California as well. Historically, California has had one of the lowest "dependency ratios" of any state, meaning that it has plenty of working age people to support younger people who cannot work and older people who have retired. However, much has changed in the last 20 years. And now, California will likely continue to have more people leaving it to go to other states than coming here as residents.

Therefore, these discussions addressed proposals that would offer state work visas and also allow adults, regardless of status, to have the right to work and other state benefits. The support for these proposals were not clear. While some participants felt these proposals would be beneficial, others felt that matters like visas should be left to the federal government.

At the K-12 level for education, California provides educational services for more than 6 million students in the public school system, roughly 93% of all students in the state. California serves far more Latino and Asian American students, fewer white and Black students, and more students with Limited English Proficiency than the national average. How does California leverage the many innovations

THEME 3: WORKFORCE AND TALENT

the state has to offer to improve and provide everyone access to quality K-12 education? For this discussion, it was clear to participants that K-12 education should have physical schools and should be held online. Some participants cited the incredible difficulties many are still facing from virtual schools during the pandemic. Participants also overwhelmingly want more funding for K-12 education and are certain about their desire to improve K-12 education.




For the higher education system in California, which is organized into three

public sector “segments,” the University of California (UC) system, the California State University (CSU) system, and the California Community College (CCC) system, participants liked the idea of having curricula that could be universal across the many California higher education campuses. However, many were not sure how such curriculum could be standardized and how this process could be implemented. The desire to streamline and make the system better is there among participants, but participants are not certain whether the proposal discussed was the way to go.

AUTOMATION AND JOBS: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should require companies to pay users for the use of their data.	70%	
2	Displaced workers and employees whose productivity is increased by the use of robots or artificial intelligence should share in the economic benefits.	54%	Yes
3	California should provide all adults with a minimum amount of guaranteed income that they need to meet basic housing and living expenses.	56%	Yes
4	California should provide all adults with a minimum amount of guaranteed income that they need to meet basic housing and living expenses—but only as long as they are employed, looking for work, disabled, or providing some kind of public service for the state or their community.	59%	

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

AUTOMATION AND JOBS: STRONG SUPPORT

California should require companies to pay users for the use of their data.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.316
Mean post-deliberations	7.461
Support pre-deliberations	64.6%
Support post-deliberations	69.6%
Oppose pre-deliberation	13.3%
Oppose post-deliberations	13.9%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	15.3%
Don't Know post-deliberations	7.7%

“And I also feel that, absolutely, all of our data. Currently what we're doing right now. We're giving our permission for them to use our data. This is our personal life. We should be compensated for it by any company.”

From Group AR (Weekend), Participant 2511

AUTOMATION AND JOBS: STRONG SUPPORT

California should provide all adults with a minimum amount of guaranteed income that they need to meet basic housing and living expenses—but only as long as they are employed, looking for work, disabled, or providing some kind of public service for the state or their community.

Mean pre-deliberations	6.006
Mean post-deliberations	5.818
Support pre-deliberations	57.5%
Support post-deliberations	58.5%
Oppose pre-deliberation	28.2%
Oppose post-deliberations	29.1%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	6.0%
Don't Know post-deliberations	3.6%

"We have an unemployment rate of 3.5%. So there's people ... that are working two and three jobs to simply maintain a basic lifestyle. And, and, you know, I believe a minimum amount of income, you know, if they're already working and they still can't make ends meet. I believe that that's a reasonable proposal."

From Group J, Participant 3130

AUTOMATION AND JOBS: WEAKER BUT STILL MAJORITY SUPPORT

California should provide all adults with a minimum amount of guaranteed income that they need to meet basic housing and living expenses.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.241
Mean post-deliberations	5.812
Support pre-deliberations	60.1%
Support post-deliberations	56.0%
Oppose pre-deliberation	24.7%
Oppose post-deliberations	30.7%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	6.9%
Don't Know post-deliberations	4.8%

“So I disagree with [this proposal]. Now I think that's something that we need to do eventually in the future, but I think right now it is very costly and there is [sic] still a lot of jobs that humans can provide value. But I think eventually when robots are going to replace a lot of jobs and they're going to put a lot of people out of jobs, that's what would be very necessary to provide everyone with a basic income. But at that point, the economic benefits that we get from robots is going to be so much that there's not going to be any scarcity, but right now it's going to be very costly to fund this project.”

From Group N (Weekend), Participant 1934

AUTOMATION AND JOBS: WEAKER BUT STILL MAJORITY SUPPORT

Displaced workers and employees whose productivity is increased by the use of robots or artificial intelligence should share in the economic benefits.

Mean pre-deliberations	6.508
Mean post-deliberations	5.902
Support pre-deliberations	58.7%
Support post-deliberations	54.1%
Oppose pre-deliberation	18.9%
Oppose post-deliberations	25.1%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	16.4%
Don't Know post-deliberations	8.8%

“Yeah, I know we do a terrible job of addressing the dislocation that occurs in our economy when something changes. You know, when Youngstown, Ohio loses all its steel plants, a generation of people are put out of work and lose the opportunity or the access to high-paying jobs. Similar things can happen through technology, but I don't think we just, we can't have a blanket piece of legislation that just targets robots and and tech. I think what we need to do is require corporations to contribute more directly to the relocation. Retraining of people who are displaced through changes that businesses make in their internal process.”

From Group AR (Weekend), Participant 1918

EDUCATION: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should work towards eliminating physical K-12 public schools and focus on education provided through virtual reality or online.	18%	Yes
2	California should increase support for K-12 education by enough to be in the top third of student achievement among the states.	73%	
3	California should require all students to learn a foreign language, starting in kindergarten.	58%	
4	California should strengthen its high school civics requirement to include experiences with participation, discussion, negotiation, and compromise in a democracy.	80%	Yes
5	California colleges and universities should provide a registration system where a student could register for any course in California's higher education system.	61%	

Legend:

- Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
- Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
- Received less than 50% support following deliberations

K-12 EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

California should strengthen its high school civics requirement to include experiences with participation, discussion, negotiation, and compromise in a democracy.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.570
Mean post-deliberations	8.053
Support pre-deliberations	68.9%
Support post-deliberations	80.3%
Oppose pre-deliberation	8.0%
Oppose post-deliberations	3%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	11.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	6.8%

“Yeah, I'm glad that there's a civics requirement now because there wasn't for a lot of years and so I would like the kids to have Civics to graduate but I do think it needs to be more well-rounded to know how to converse like we are. We obviously have different opinions on some of this but we're able to have a civil discourse and I think that actually needs to be taught at this point.”

From Group K (Weekday), Participant 2950

K-12 EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

California should increase support for K-12 education by enough to be in the top third of student achievement among the states.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.486
Mean post-deliberations	7.343
Support pre-deliberations	73.4%
Support post-deliberations	73.2%
Oppose pre-deliberation	10.4%
Oppose post-deliberations	12.7%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	10.1%
Don't Know post-deliberations	5.1%

“Investing in education and children yields positive outcomes, including economically, so strong support for [this proposal].”

From Group AF (Weekday), Participant 2891

“As for increasing funding, I mean we already spend almost \$14,000 a year per student in the state. We spent a ton of money and I think we need to have school choice. I think it's fine to have public schools have better teacher student ratios but we should also have school choice. We have a woman's right to choose. Why not have a student's right to choose, a parent's right to choose?”

From Group R (Weekday), Participant 1696

HIGHER EDUCATION: STRONG SUPPORT

California colleges and universities should provide a registration system where a student could register for any course in California's higher education system.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.950
Mean post-deliberations	6.775
Support pre-deliberations	60.3%
Support post-deliberations	60.9%
Oppose pre-deliberation	12.0%
Oppose post-deliberations	14.8%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	16.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	10.2%

“So I work at a university in the admissions system and I would say no to this proposal. It is a logistical nightmare. The problem isn't that students can register for courses at any school within the system, it's more that you have to make sure the courses are transferable. [A] college course... doesn't necessarily transfer to community college courses because you have different people writing the curriculum, you have different people teaching the content... terrible. That's why it makes it hard for them to say, oh, I just took classes at the community college. Can I go to this?... We have a whole team behind the scenes who actually looks at your credits and the syllabus and everything.”

From Group AA (Weekday), Participant 1062

K-12 EDUCATION: MAJORITY SUPPORT

California should require all students to learn a foreign language, starting in kindergarten.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.014
Mean post-deliberations	6.151
Support pre-deliberations	54.7%
Support post-deliberations	57.7%
Oppose pre-deliberation	25.2%
Oppose post-deliberations	26.8%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	11.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	6.6%

“I think we're probably one of the few countries in the world that don't [require a foreign language] and starting in kindergarten is really important because the older you get the more difficult it becomes. Children of that age can absorb many different languages; they could literally learn multiple languages at the same time. Their brain is just wired that way. But by the time we're about 10, it closes down.”

From Group W (Weekday), Participant 4568

K-12 EDUCATION: STRONG OPPOSITION

California should work towards eliminating physical public schools and focus on education provided through virtual reality or online.	
Mean pre-deliberations	3.163
Mean post-deliberations	2.220
Support pre-deliberations	21.1%
Support post-deliberations	18.3%
Oppose pre-deliberation	60.2%
Oppose post-deliberations	71.8%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	10.8%
Don't Know post-deliberations	5.1%




“But when the pandemic started, I had a kindergartener and a third grader. I had to quit work. I had no choice. I had to come home and be here with them. It was a train wreck. It was basically hell on Earth. If there is hell, I was experiencing it and I went through it for like two years. We had to put our kids in private school. They were not learning anything at home. It was absolutely awful. They were behind when they went back into the classroom, they are now ahead, which is great. But yeah. Brick-and-mortar schools, you have to do it.”

From Group A (Weekday), Participant Mary

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	Congress should pass a law allowing states like California to create state work visas.	52%	
2	California should provide every adult in the state the right to work, get a driver's license, receive government benefits, and vote in local and state elections.	47%	Yes

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP: DELIBERATIONS LED TO MAJORITY SUPPORT

Congress should pass a law allowing states like California to create state work visas.	
Mean pre-deliberations	5.834
Mean post-deliberations	5.622
Support pre-deliberations	46.7%
Support post-deliberations	51.7%
Oppose pre-deliberation	22.1%
Oppose post-deliberations	28.36%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	22.1%
Don't Know post-deliberations	8.8%

“I remember when I was first learning about immigration, I was like what [they] came here illegally why should they get benefits? And then my parents explained that a lot of illegal immigrants pay taxes. And I was like, well hell, if they're paying taxes, then they should be able to benefit from the system as well. So I'm, you know, I'm definitely informed of some, I'm definitely in favor of some sort of work visa to maybe perhaps make the illegal immigrants legal, and for legal immigrants, obviously, they can get work anyway.”

From Group N (Weekday), Participant 1112

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP: DELIBERATIONS LED TO LOSS OF MAJORITY SUPPORT

California should provide every adult in the state the right to work, get a driver's license, receive government benefits, and vote in local and state elections.	
Mean pre-deliberations	5.627
Mean post-deliberations	5.033
Support pre-deliberations	49.7%
Support post-deliberations	46.8%
Oppose pre-deliberation	29.9%
Oppose post-deliberations	39.8%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	10.8%
Don't Know post-deliberations	5.6%

“Not so much in favor of having non-citizens vote. I'm also not very much in favor of government benefits. People who are here without documentation. I think a lot of them are afraid to get driver's licenses. I'm in favor of having any adult over the age of 16 have a driver's license, if they qualify, but voting in local and state elections, I'm opposed to [that]. I think one needs to be a citizen to do that.”

From Group O (Weekday), Participant 3048

THEME 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The future of California's society depends critically on the health and well-being of its people, including its systems of healthcare, justice, public safety, and how it engages its young citizens, to help people make meaning and build a sense of community.

Over the last two decades, California has made significant advances in increasing health insurance coverage. Only 7.7% of Californians remain uninsured, despite the expansion of Medi-Cal—the state's Medicaid program—which covers healthcare for the lowest income residents of California—and the establishment of Covered California, which facilitates affordable insurance for people who purchase it on their own. Employer-Sponsored Insurance (ESI) continues to be the main source of coverage for Californians and is, often, more affordable than individually purchased insurance. However, the percentage of Californians covered by employers dropped by 5% from 2001 to 2019. Moreover, disparities in access to quality of the care received persist across the state, with some patients struggling to find a provider that accepts their health insurance.

Participants in this deliberation discussed the single-payer option and universal, free mental healthcare. There was clear support for universal and free mental

healthcare. But, support for a single-payer system was less strong.




For justice reform, California has passed many reforms to reduce its massive prison population over the past decade. So, participants discussed whether the state should shift funds away from law enforcement in order to use it towards better technology for surveillance, enforcement, fines, or to redirect the same funds towards improved social services. Some participants were less inclined to support funds toward better technology and cited concerns about privacy. Other participants were very supportive of both proposals as they cited the importance of equipping law enforcement with more ability to call in social services for incidents that involve mental health issues.

The topics regarding youth civic engagement focused on civil society, and covered proposals that included allowing youth over 16 to vote in local school elections and ensuring young voice were represented on state boards and commissions. While some participants were keen on engaging youth through voting and other activities, not all participants felt the same way. There was not clear support for the proposal to allow for voting for those ages 16 and over, even just for school board elections.

HEALTHCARE: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should provide single-payer healthcare to all residents.	61%	Yes
2	California should provide universal, free mental healthcare.	77%	

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

HEALTHCARE: STRONG SUPPORT

California should provide universal, free mental healthcare.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.576
Mean post-deliberations	7.737
Support pre-deliberations	73.3%
Support post-deliberations	76.9%
Oppose pre-deliberation	13.2%
Oppose post-deliberations	11.4%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	7.1%
Don't Know post-deliberations	4.3%

“A while back in California there were a lot of state-run mental institutions facilities for people to get help or if they really, really have a problem to actually live and stay there. They were all shut down. And now that's contributed to the homeless problem that we currently have. I think if they gave people who needed it for free to get mental health that would help a lot of the problem or open up the facilities. Again, that would also go a long way to helping a lot of problems.”

From Group N (Weekday), Participant 3125

HEALTHCARE: STRONG SUPPORT

California should provide single-payer healthcare to all residents.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.769
Mean post-deliberations	6.497
Support pre-deliberations	58.5%
Support post-deliberations	61.3%
Oppose pre-deliberation	18.9%
Oppose post-deliberations	20.6%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	14.1%
Don't Know post-deliberations	9.3%




“...I don't like the way the con argument is structured saying it would increase costs because we're already paying, like you said, for healthcare. I pay through my job if those deductions went away and it was just a funding issue. It's not like healthcare wouldn't change. Other countries, every other industrialized country has a single-payer system. They haven't gone bankrupt. Capitalism hasn't died there. Rich people still exist. So we don't worry about them. It just seems like a pretty obvious one to me personally...”

From Group AD (Weekday) , Participant 1864

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND PUBLIC SAFETY: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should shift some state funding for law enforcement towards better technology for surveillance, enforcement, and fines instead of additional officers.	46%	Yes
2	California should shift some state funding for law enforcement towards increased social services instead of additional officers.	62%	

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND PUBLIC SAFETY: STRONG SUPPORT

California should shift some state funding for law enforcement towards increased social services instead of additional officers.

Mean pre-deliberations	6.192
Mean post-deliberations	6.227
Support pre-deliberations	58.1%
Support post-deliberations	62.4%
Oppose pre-deliberation	26.8%
Oppose post-deliberations	25.5%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	7.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	5.5%

“I agree that it should be shifted over to get more social services because a lot of the calls that police officers make 5150s mental illness issues and they should only be called if it's violent 5150. But a lot of times, the mental health of a person, they're not violent that and, and they just need help. And sometimes officers are not equipped. They aren't trained for that. Not trained to de-escalate someone with a mental health issue. The way that a social service person would be so I'm going to I'm in favor of that.”

From Group AH (Weekday), Participant Cris

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM AND PUBLIC SAFETY: DELIBERATIONS LED TO INCREASED OPPOSITION

California should shift some state funding for law enforcement towards better technology for surveillance, enforcement, and fines instead of additional officers.	
Mean pre-deliberations	5.503
Mean post-deliberations	5.050
Support pre-deliberations	46.7%
Support post-deliberations	46.1%
Oppose pre-deliberation	28.0%
Oppose post-deliberations	38.2%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	12.4%
Don't Know post-deliberations	6.5%

“[This proposal] gives me real 1984 Big Brother vibes. I'm real big about privacy. So I don't like 100% perfect surveillance and that just that sounds terrifying.”

From Group W (Weekday), Participant 1066

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	Californians aged 16 or 17 should be allowed to vote in school board elections, but not other elections.	48%	Yes
2	California should guarantee that every state government board and commission have at least one appointee who is an adult under the age of 35.	52%	

Legend:

- Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
- Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
- Received less than 50% support following deliberations

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: STRONG SUPPORT

California should guarantee that every state government board and commission have at least one appointee who is an adult under the age of 35.	
Mean pre-deliberations	5.875
Mean post-deliberations	5.836
Support pre-deliberations	43.9%
Support post-deliberations	51.8%
Oppose pre-deliberation	22.5%
Oppose post-deliberations	25.2%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	22.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	12.3%

"I do like the idea of having young adults under 35 in the board, but I don't think we should make it mandatory, because it should be based on merit. And the qualifications of each individual on how they can actually make effective decisions."

From Group Q (Weekday), Participant 1375

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: DELIBERATION LED TO INCREASED SUPPORT

Californians aged 16 or 17 should be allowed to vote in school board elections, but not other elections.	
Mean pre-deliberations	4.885
Mean post-deliberations	5.326
Support pre-deliberations	39.6%
Support post-deliberations	47.8%
Oppose pre-deliberation	32.6%
Oppose post-deliberations	32.4%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	18.1%
Don't Know post-deliberations	10.7%

“I think that reducing the voting age to 16 or 17 in any type of election is really a mistake. I think it's not a matter of people being less educated. I think there is just a big immaturity and tendency to follow the mob that would take over.”

From Group AB (Weekday), Participant 3343

THEME 5: GOVERNANCE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The first four themes in this report break down California's most pressing issues and those on which it can take action. But, when we think about Governance and External Relations, we focus on the processes that California uses to govern the state. A well-functioning system of governance should include an informed citizenry that understands the basic rules of the system, proper representation of the public will, effective administration of government policies and services, and public accountability. California must also contend with long-standing laws and policies that may stand in its way from moving forward in the modern age, and into the future.

This section covers seven topics: (1) government services and efficiency, (2) local media, (3) campaign finance and electoral reform, (4) statewide initiatives, (5) cooperation with other states and nations, (6) CEQA reform, and (7) Proposition 13 and other state taxes.

Many participants spoke to the importance of having local media outlets, but not all participants were in favor of having investigative journalism programs in all 116 of the state's community colleges.

Participants were generally supportive of proposals like having a 'one-stop-shop' for services as that would make things easier

for the public. Participants were less clear on their support for programs affecting government efficiency and limiting who can sue through CEQA. Some participants felt that programs on efficiency sound good in concept, but would be difficult to implement.




The proposals on Proposition 13 and related taxes proposals drew a lot of discussion. There was a mixed sentiment for these proposals. On the one hand, some participants felt strongly about taxing non-residential property, while others felt that more taxes wouldn't be the solution. The proposals on campaign finance and electoral reform and statewide initiatives were interesting to participants as well. While there was not clear support, some participants expressed frustration with the current initiative process and recognized its need for some reforms, and others felt that the current initiative process was designed to work as it does and shouldn't be tinkered with.

The proposal about cooperation with other states and nations drew support from participants before and after the deliberations. Some participants recognized that California is unique and should opt to build relationships with other states and nations, while others felt that this type of cooperation may not be necessary.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND EFFICIENCY: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should develop a “one-stop shop” for easier access by the public to government services dealing with unemployment and poverty.	78%	Yes
2	California should double its worker training budget for government employees to emphasize topics focused on efficiency and effectiveness.	46%	Yes

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

GOVERNMENT SERVICES: STRONG SUPPORT

California should develop a “one-stop shop” for easier access by the public to government services dealing with unemployment and poverty.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.056
Mean post-deliberations	7.605
Support pre-deliberations	68.5%
Support post-deliberations	78.0%
Oppose pre-deliberation	10.4%
Oppose post-deliberations	8.8%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	12.3%
Don't Know post-deliberations	5.1%

"it is always good to streamline where there's too much bureaucracy which I'm sure is the case... I had to do unemployment recently, it was really confusing and I'm a literate human being, but... they had a few different agencies, it was very complicated. So let's un-complicate that and have a One-Stop shop."

From Group B (Weekday), Participant 2127

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY: DELIBERATIONS LED TO SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN SUPPORT

California should double its worker training budget for government employees to emphasize topics focused on efficiency and effectiveness.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.195
Mean post-deliberations	5.586
Support pre-deliberations	54.5%
Support post-deliberations	46.3%
Oppose pre-deliberation	19.2%
Oppose post-deliberations	32.0%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	16.6%
Don't Know post-deliberations	9.4%




“Well I agree with the cons. The money will be wasted because it cannot really become more efficient. Given this bureaucratic structure... we have no proof that the worker training will improve government efficiency and until it's proven. So I agree more with the cons.”

From Group A (Weekday), Participant 2418

LOCAL MEDIA: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should extend its sales tax to digital media advertising and use the proceeds to support a fund for non-profit media organizations.	44%	Yes
2	California should support the creation of investigative journalism certificates in its 116 community colleges, with the goal of training new journalists to provide more information about local issues and local government decisions.	58%	

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

LOCAL MEDIA: MAJORITY SUPPORT

California should support the creation of investigative journalism certificates in its 116 community colleges, with the goal of training new journalists to provide more information about local issues and local government decisions.

Mean pre-deliberations	6.490
Mean post-deliberations	6.389
Support pre-deliberations	56.9%
Support post-deliberations	57.5%
Oppose pre-deliberation	15.0%
Oppose post-deliberations	17.5%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	14.1%
Don't Know post-deliberations	13.5%

“I just want to say... I do not think it should necessarily be all community colleges. [It] was stated in some of the literature that it should depend on the college to determine whether or not there is a need and a demand for that certificate, and each individual community college could then decide if it would be appropriate to offer such a [program].”

From Group J (Weekday), Participant 2135

LOCAL MEDIA: WEAK SUPPORT

California should extend its sales tax to digital media advertising and use the proceeds to support a fund for non-profit media organization.	
Mean pre-deliberations	4.994
Mean post-deliberations	5.321
Support pre-deliberations	39.9%
Support post-deliberations	44.1%
Oppose pre-deliberation	32.8%
Oppose post-deliberations	29.9%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	17.6%
Don't Know post-deliberations	14.5%

“I'm in [with] regards to the sales tax on digital advertising because a lot of those advertising agencies like that on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter or something. I don't think they paid too much sales tax, which led to a lot of things like the Bakersfield Californian newspaper—it closed down for many years. And I like reading the material rather than digital media. More supportive and reliable information.”

From Group J (Weekday), Participant 1755

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ELECTORAL REFORM: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	Every two years, California citizens of voting age should get four \$25 “Democracy Vouchers” that they can use for any candidate in any race, with their names and the names of the candidates posted on the Internet.	26%	
2	Elections for the State Assembly should be in multi-member districts of five members, with each party getting the number of representatives proportional to their votes within the district.	38%	Yes

Legend:

- Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
- Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
- Received less than 50% support following deliberations

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ELECTORAL REFORM: DELIBERATIONS LED TO MAJORITY OPPOSITION

Every two years, California citizens of voting age should get four \$25 “Democracy Vouchers” that they can use for any candidate in any race, with their names and the names of the candidates posted on the Internet.

Mean pre-deliberations	3.678
Mean post-deliberations	3.473
Support pre-deliberations	25.7%
Support post-deliberations	26.0%
Oppose pre-deliberation	41.7%
Oppose post-deliberations	53.8%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	22.9%
Don't Know post-deliberations	9.8%

“Well, we tried to pass clean money reforms back years ago for the Secretary of State race, which is a very small race and it failed. I do support some kind of clean money reforms, I don't like this idea of democracy vouchers, voting is a right, it's not a responsibility. I don't think people should vote if they don't have an opinion in a race for a candidate or an issue, I think they muddle it up and they ruin it for everyone else. Who actually does have an opinion. So I'm not a person who says everybody needs to vote. That's really important.”

From Group R (Weekday), Participant 1696

CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND ELECTORAL REFORM: DELIBERATIONS LED TO STRONGER OPPOSITION

Elections for the State Assembly should be in multi-member districts of five members, with each party getting the number of representatives proportional to their votes within the district.

Mean pre-deliberations	5.928
Mean post-deliberations	5.162
Support pre-deliberations	36.1%
Support post-deliberations	38.2%
Oppose pre-deliberation	16.1%
Oppose post-deliberations	31.0%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	34.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	19.4%




“So I don't know how we could get that number up, if we decided to do that as far as the five member districts. We have 52 districts—that's 260 politicians, who's going to pay for all their stuff? I mean, it just seems like a super expensive way.”

From Group Y (Weekday), Participant 4568

STATEWIDE INITIATIVES: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	To get constitutional amendments on the ballot, California should require 25% of both houses of the legislature to support an initiative proposal before it appears on the ballot. Signature collection would also be required.	43%	Yes
2	To approve California Constitutional amendments through the initiative process, 60% of the votes should be required.	59%	
3	California should convene representative samples of the public to deliberate about the merits and drawbacks of ballot propositions and make recommendations that would appear in the voter handbook..	54%	Yes
4	California should convene representative samples of the public to deliberate about public interest propositions that should go on the ballot with a reduced number of signatures.	41%	Yes

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

STATEWIDE INITIATIVES: RELATIVELY STRONG SUPPORT

To approve California Constitutional amendments through the initiative process, 60% of the votes should be required.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.351
Mean post-deliberations	6.303
Support pre-deliberations	53.5%
Support post-deliberations	59.4%
Oppose pre-deliberation	14.7%
Oppose post-deliberations	15.5%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	19.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	12.9%

“So, the initiative system drives me nuts. It takes way too few signatures to put something on the ballot we have. All these people that we are paying to be our legislature, we should hold them accountable for doing their job. There are occasions where we want to actually regulate the legislature itself where it makes sense to have an initiative. And so we should have a process but it is just basically used by corporations try to pass their own legislation. And so anything that reduces the ability to put initiatives on the ballot is something I'm in.”

From Group O (Weekday), Participant 2542

STATEWIDE INITIATIVES: MAJORITY SUPPORT

California should convene representative samples of the public to deliberate about the merits and drawbacks of ballot propositions and make recommendations that would appear in the voter handbook.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.382
Mean post-deliberations	6.069
Support pre-deliberations	51.2%
Support post-deliberations	54.4%
Oppose pre-deliberation	11.2%
Oppose post-deliberations	18.7%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	25.9%
Don't Know post-deliberations	12.0%

“It's an intriguing idea to get public representatives. The only question would be, you know, how can we trust you public representatives; they can be tied to the wealthy. They can somehow be tied to politicians so they have a huge influence. It's so terrible to have to think that way but although I think the idea is a good idea. I just don't know how we can safeguard it against corruption.”

From Group F (Weekday), Participant 1625

STATEWIDE INITIATIVES: DELIBERATIONS LED TO INCREASED SUPPORT

California should convene representative samples of the public to deliberate about public interest propositions that should go on the ballot with a reduced number of signatures.

Mean pre-deliberations	5.371
Mean post-deliberations	5.235
Support pre-deliberations	33.3%
Support post-deliberations	40.8%
Oppose pre-deliberation	18.8%
Oppose post-deliberations	28.1%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	31.4%
Don't Know post-deliberations	15.7%

“We either let the legislation make the call or we let the people make the call. It seems to me that you could use a similar process to jury selection, to find your representative citizens. And, as far as I'm concerned, this, this could, well, be the way to ensure that the general public gets a clearer understanding of what these initiatives actually are.”

From Group S (Weekday), Participant 1928

STATEWIDE INITIATIVES: DELIBERATIONS LED TO INCREASED OPPOSITION

<p>To get constitutional amendments on the ballot, California should require 25% of both houses of the legislature to support an initiative proposal before it appears on the ballot. Signature collection would also be required.</p>	
Mean pre-deliberations	5.598
Mean post-deliberations	5.234
Support pre-deliberations	42.8%
Support post-deliberations	43.1%
Oppose pre-deliberation	20.0%
Oppose post-deliberations	29.0%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	24.7%
Don't Know post-deliberations	17.3%

“It sounds like maybe they're just adding another layer because they don't like some of the petitions or some of the ballot initiatives that get added, they want another layer of insulation to stop the process. It's what it sounds like to me. I'm against [this] as well. I don't like the idea of changing things. I like that we're able to get things on the ballot as it stands, you know, just with the symptoms.”

From Group M (Weekday), Participant 2430

COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATES AND NATIONS: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	Congress should modify federal laws to allow states like California to have higher than federal standards on clean air, clean water, and climate change regulations.	68%	Yes
2	California should team up with other like-minded states like Oregon, Washington, Colorado, and New York and create inter-state compacts on issues ranging from health insurance to the environment.	64%	
3	California should open foreign offices in its top trading countries in order to strengthen its economy and its international ties.	44%	Yes

Legend:

- Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
- Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
- Received less than 50% support following deliberations

COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATES AND NATIONS: STRONG SUPPORT

Congress should modify federal laws to allow states like California to have higher than federal standards on clean air, clean water, and climate change regulations.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.734
Mean post-deliberations	7.159
Support pre-deliberations	62.1%
Support post-deliberations	67.7%
Oppose pre-deliberation	19.5%
Oppose post-deliberations	15.2%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	9.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	7.8%

"Yeah, I think [this proposal] already is true. I mean, we have higher standards than other states do and I can't imagine lowering those standards just so we can be the same as Alabama or something. But, so, I don't know exactly what that [proposal] means because our standards for car emissions are higher than everyone. Now [we] build cars that will be sold in California as well as every place else in the United States."

From Group AE (Weekday), Participant 1936

COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATES AND NATIONS: STRONG SUPPORT

California should team up with other like-minded states like Oregon, Washington, Colorado, and New York and create inter-state compacts on issues ranging from health insurance to the environment.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.663
Mean post-deliberations	6.609
Support pre-deliberations	65.9%
Support post-deliberations	64.1%
Oppose pre-deliberation	18.0%
Oppose post-deliberations	21.2%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	9.4%
Don't Know post-deliberations	6.3%

“I'm a strong regionalist. I've been for regionalism for a while, especially as to the West when we started covid, Governor Newsom, Oregon, and Washington tried to come up with a program that would be suitable for the west and they were pushed back with a lot of complaints, but we have interests here. Another example is the national weather forecast, over 90% of the weather forecast, focuses on New England, the South and the Midwest, they don't even know the West exists. I'm very pro-western region awareness.”

From Group S (Weekday), Participant 1945

COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATES AND NATIONS: DELIBERATIONS INCREASED OPPOSITION

California should open foreign offices in its top trading countries in order to strengthen its economy and its international ties.	
Mean pre-deliberations	6.096
Mean post-deliberations	5.361
Support pre-deliberations	50.3%
Support post-deliberations	44.0%
Oppose pre-deliberation	19.1%
Oppose post-deliberations	32.3%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	20.7%
Don't Know post-deliberations	11.2%




"I also, you know, personally wouldn't want California essentially opening foreign embassies throughout the world as I think that kind of usurps what the federal government is already doing. It sounds redundant and expensive to be operating facilities. Staffing those facilities with Californians all over the world."

From Group U (Weekday), Participant 1771

CEQA REFORM: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), almost anyone in California can bring a lawsuit to stop a construction project on environmental grounds. New legislation should limit who can sue to those who can show they are seriously and directly affected.	57%	Yes
2	California should require plaintiffs and defendants in CEQA lawsuits to identify every person or entity who contributes \$1,000 or more to either the plaintiff or the defendant in the lawsuit.	67%	Yes

Legend:

-  Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
-  Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
-  Received less than 50% support following deliberations

CEQA REFORM: STRONG SUPPORT

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lawsuits to identify every person or entity who contributes \$1,000 or more to either the plaintiff or the defendant in the lawsuit.	
Mean pre-deliberations	7.366
Mean post-deliberations	7.664
Support pre-deliberations	61.4%
Support post-deliberations	67.2%
Oppose pre-deliberation	10.1%
Oppose post-deliberations	11.0%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	19.7%
Don't Know post-deliberations	15.0%

"Where people spend their money is obviously usually where their interests lie in as much as \$1000 can be. When it comes to law and how expensive lawyers can be at times, \$1,000 really isn't that much to contribute to a case or a lawsuit. So I think transparency is key and making sure that everyone is accounted for who actually contributes."

From Group X (Weekday), Participant 3123

CEQA REFORM: MAJORITY SUPPORT

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), almost anyone in California can bring a lawsuit to stop a construction project on environmental grounds. New legislation should limit who can sue to those who can show they are seriously and directly affected.

Mean pre-deliberations	5.952
Mean post-deliberations	6.248
Support pre-deliberations	52.1%
Support post-deliberations	57.4%
Oppose pre-deliberation	23.7%
Oppose post-deliberations	21.8%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	13.0%
Don't Know post-deliberations	9.1%

“I think before somebody can bring on the lawsuit, they have to have skin in the game. I think that they need to be able to prove that they are going to be negatively affected by the environmental... destruction to their quality of life, you know? Otherwise, there'll be tons of lawsuits floating around out there and a lot of projects that won't get completed. I am all for protecting the environment but I also know that infrastructure gets affected by that as well. So all those factors need to be considered.”

From Group S (Weekday), Participant 2664

PROP 13 AND OTHER STATE TAXES: SUMMARY FINDINGS

#	Proposal	Ultimate Support	Statistically Significant Change in Opinion?
1	California should amend Proposition 13 to decrease the vote requirement needed to raise taxes used to fund specific programs for local governments (special taxes) from 67% to 55% of the vote.	36%	
2	For non-residential property, the state of California should lift the Proposition 13 restrictions to allow for greater assessments than the current ceiling of 2% per year.	44%	
3	California should apply sales tax to services and use the money to lower personal income tax rates.	38%	Yes

Legend:

- Received greater than 60% support following deliberations
- Received majority support (between 50% and 59% support)
- Received less than 50% support following deliberations

PROPOSITION 13: DELIBERATIONS LED TO INCREASED SUPPORT

<p>For <u>non-residential</u> property, the state of California should lift the Proposition 13 restrictions to allow for greater assessments than the current ceiling of 2% per year.</p>	
Mean pre-deliberations	5.276
Mean post-deliberations	5.445
Support pre-deliberations	37.2%
Support post-deliberations	44.1%
Oppose pre-deliberation	23.0%
Oppose post-deliberations	27.8%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	30.5%
Don't Know post-deliberations	19.1%

"I definitely agree with [this proposal]. And I have seen that on the ballot before and it didn't get approved. I thought it would, but I guess they have enough people to lobby against it, you know, because big business went out on that one."

From Group AE (Weekday), Participant 2256

PROPOSITION 13: STRONG OPPOSITION

California should amend Proposition 13 to decrease the vote requirement needed to raise taxes used to fund specific programs for local governments (special taxes) from 67% to 55% of the vote.

Mean pre-deliberations	4.664
Mean post-deliberations	4.509
Support pre-deliberations	36.0%
Support post-deliberations	36.0%
Oppose pre-deliberation	33.4%
Oppose post-deliberations	41.6%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	22.9%
Don't Know post-deliberations	13.2%

"I disagree with the raising taxes from lowering that amount from 67 percent to 55 percent. You should have to have more of an input for raising taxes, don't mess with Prop 13 there."

From Group A (Weekday), Participant 26542

STATE TAXES: STRONG OPPOSITION

California should apply sales tax to services and use the money to lower personal income tax rates.	
Mean pre-deliberations	4.956
Mean post-deliberations	4.554
Support pre-deliberations	40.3%
Support post-deliberations	38.3%
Oppose pre-deliberation	31.8%
Oppose post-deliberations	40.1%
Don't Know pre-deliberations	16.2%
Don't Know post-deliberations	9.2%

"Yeah, I'm definitely opposed to the sales tax item. Sales Tax is such a regressive tax. I don't I'm not in favor of increasing sales taxes at the expense of property owners paying taxes."

From Group AE (Weekday), Participant 3103

DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES

GENDER

There were few demographic differences between men and women on the complete set of 56 policy proposals. The most notable differences related to housing and water.

The proposal with the largest decrease in support from women related to homelessness. Participants who identified as female lowered their opinions significantly for the proposal that *California should require every city and county to provide housing for those experiencing homelessness and oblige the homeless to accept the shelter when offered*. Among females, the sizable decrease in mean by -0.817 was statistically significant. This result was surprising because, prior to deliberation, a majority of female participants “favored” (51.6%) this proposal. However, after deliberation, there was no majority for female participants to either “favor” (45.4%) or “oppose” (34.8%) this particular proposal. Among males, there was a sizable decrease by -0.472 , but not as large as females. After deliberation a majority of male participants continued to “favor” (56.2%) this proposal, similar to the opinions for this group before deliberation (59%).

For the proposal regarding *the establishment of the Department of Water*, this was one of the few proposals

where men and women moved in different directions after deliberation. Females had a sizable decrease in their support from 6.546 to 5.926. Whereas, males increased their support from 6.946 to 7.005. In percentages, 55% of females supported this proposal before deliberations, which decreased to 46%, while males increased their support from 69 to 75%. There was a clear difference in level of support between the genders for having a Department of Water for the state.

RACE

There were a handful of policy proposals that yielded sizable differences between races. The Hispanic or Latino participants in this deliberation were less supportive of the *energy, housing for homelessness, and timber harvesting* proposals compared to other races. On the proposal of whether to *break up the electric companies*, Hispanic/Latino participants dropped support from 7.636 before to 6.438 after deliberations. In percentages, the decrease was even more obvious: Hispanic/Latino participants dropped their support from 70% to 50% for breaking up the three electric companies. For this proposal, white participants also dropped their support for breaking up electric companies from 62 to 52%; and in means, a decrease of 7.150 to 5.971.

DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES

RACE, CONTINUED

Participants across the board dropped their support, but it was largest amongst these two races.

There was also notable change among Hispanic/Latino participants for the proposal that *California should require every city and county to provide housing for those experiencing homelessness and require the homeless to accept the shelter when offered*. Hispanic/Latino participants initially rated this proposal at a mean of 7.282. However, after deliberations, the mean support decreased to 5.916—a 1.366 decrease in support. In percentages, the decrease was sizable, moving from 68% to 53% support. This change demonstrates that, although the proposal began with strong support before deliberations, deliberations caused Hispanic/Latino participants to significantly lose support to just above the majority after deliberations. This 15% percentage point decrease was the highest among the races. White and Asian participants decreased their support for this proposal by 4% (51% to 47%) and 6% (44% to 50%), respectively. Black participants, however, increased their support by 7% (58% to 65%). Although the majority of participants had relatively low support for this proposal, Black participants were the most supportive of this proposal.

On some of the policy proposals regarding *business services and guaranteed income*, Black participants had the highest support compared to other races. The proposal for having *a one-stop-shop for local business permits* saw one of the highest increases in support from Black participants, growing from 6.689 to 7.970. In percentages, support grew from 59% of Black participants before deliberations to 86% support by the end of the event. The Hispanic/Latino deliberators, on the other hand, were the least supportive of one-stop shops, though their overall support did increase from 59% to 66%. White participants also had a sizable increase in support from 64% to 81%, and Asian participants increased their support slightly from 71% to 73%.

When it came to the two guaranteed income proposals, Black participants were the most supportive both before and after deliberations. The proposal that California should provide *guaranteed income for all* adults decreased only slightly from 82% support with an initial mean of 7.836, to 78% support with slightly lowered mean of 7.808. These data still demonstrate overwhelming support from Black deliberators for the *guaranteed income without any strings*. The modified proposal that *California should provide guaranteed income for adults in certain*

DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES

RACE, CONTINUED

circumstances experienced a slight decrease in support as well from 74% support with a mean of 7.465 to 71% support with an ultimate mean of 6.762. Regardless of these decreases, the support for these proposals from Black deliberators was the highest among the races. Asian participants were less supportive of providing *guaranteed income for all adults*. Their support decreased from 58% to 52%. However, their support for providing *guaranteed income for some adults in certain circumstances* increased significantly, from 54% to 64%. Hispanic participants were also supportive of both of the proposals after deliberation—supporting *guaranteed income for all* at 58%, and *guaranteed income for some* at 70%. White deliberators showed similar support as Asian deliberators, with 54% in favor of *guaranteed income for all* after deliberations and 52% in favor of *guaranteed income for some*.

This same difference between races was present for the policy proposal regarding *sharing in economic benefits for those displaced by AI*. Asian participants were less supportive of the proposal to *share in economic benefits for those that are displaced by AI*. Asian participants initially rated this proposal with a mean of 6.529, dropping support significantly after deliberations to a mean of 4.696. In percentages, Asian deliberators decreased

their support from 59% to 44%. White deliberators also lost significant support for this proposal, dropping from 60% to 52% support. Black participants decreased their support from 81% to 70%. Although that is a sizable decrease in support among Black deliberators, they still maintained their clear, strong support for this proposal after deliberations.

POLITICAL PARTY

There were sizable differences between parties on the proposal regarding whether *California should give indigenous communities stewardship of parts of already protected lands*. Republicans opposed this proposal after deliberations with a mean of 4.896. However, Democrats and Independents were more supportive, with means of 7.577 and 5.967 in support following deliberations, respectively. In percentages, Republicans increased their support slightly from 39% to 44%, which still fell below majority support. Democrats maintained clear support for this proposal, only losing a few percentage points of support (76% to 74%), and Independents grew slightly in support from 53% to 55%. Even after deliberations, participants from their respective parties did not shift their opinions after deliberations.

The immigration policy proposals that

DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES

POLITICAL PARTY, CONTINUED

suggest that *California should create state work visas* as well as the stronger proposal that *California should provide every adult in the state the right to work, get a driver's license, receive government benefits, and vote in local and state elections* had sizable disagreement and little movement in support by political party after deliberations. Republicans strongly opposed these two immigration proposals both before and after deliberations. Before deliberations, 44% of Republicans opposed the idea of a *state work visa*, and this opposition grew significantly to 66% opposition after deliberations—a 22 percentage point increase in opposition. Independents showed similarly low support for this proposal only increasing their support from 43% to 46% after deliberations. Democrats, on the other hand, increased their support for *state work visas* from 56% to 65%. The stronger proposal *allowing for broadened rights, including voting and benefits for all adults* in the state had similar support and opposition by political parties as well. However, the Independents' support for this proposal dropped to 39% after deliberations.

Similarly, the proposals on *guaranteed income* were opposed by Republicans and supported by Democrats, with moderate support from Independents. Republicans increased their support slightly for

guaranteed income for all from 31% to 37%, still demonstrating clear opposition. On the other hand, Democrats demonstrated strong support for *guaranteed income for all*, losing only a few percentage points after deliberations (from 74% to 69% support). Independents actually lost majority support, dropping from 54% to 46% support after deliberations. Republicans were significantly more supportive of the proposal to provide *guaranteed income for some*, with only a slight decrease in support from 47% to 46%. A majority of Independents supported this proposal as well, with 54% supporting before deliberations and 55% supporting after. Democrats strongly supported this proposal as well, with an increase in support from 63% to 67%.

The two proposals related to *shifting law enforcement funds to either technology or social services* were both opposed by Republicans and supported by Democrats, with Independents offering moderate support. In fact, Republicans increased their opposition to *shifting law enforcement funds to technology* from 52% to 61%, with the percentage in favor remaining the same at 29%. After deliberations, 56% of Democrats and 43% of Independents supported this proposal. The other proposal to *shift law enforcement funds to social services* was

DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES

POLITICAL PARTY, CONTINUED

opposed by Republicans before at 64% and after at 60%. The percentage in favor also decreased slightly from 36% to 32%. Democrats were strongly in favor of this proposal, as their support increased from 76% to 79%, and Independents remained moderate, increasing their support from 49% to 55%.

Republicans were opposed to the proposal *that every state government board and commission should have an appointee under the age of 35*, but there was an increase in support, from 29% to 41%. Support for this proposal increased as well for Democrats, from 58% to 66%.

DECREASED SUPPORT FROM REPUBLICANS

When it came to taxes, Republicans were in opposition to the proposals regarding sales taxes. The proposal that California should *extend sales tax to digital media advertising* had 67% of Republicans in opposition, but after deliberations, this opposition decreased to 45%. While the decrease in opposition did not go directly to support (with an increase from 21% to 26%), the percentage of "don't know" responses increased from 8.2% to 18.4% for Republicans. It would appear that while Republicans no longer opposed this proposal, they were unclear as to whether they supported this proposal. Democrats

moderately supported this proposal as they increased from 50% to 56% and Independents moved from 36% to 41%.

Similarly, the proposal to *apply sales taxes to services in order to lower personal income taxes* was opposed by Republicans before and after deliberations, increasing opposition from 46% to 48%. Democrats and Independents were also opposed to this proposal after deliberations, with 45% and 32% support, respectively.

DECREASED SUPPORT FROM DEMOCRATS

Democrats and Independents dropped in their support for *breaking up the electric companies* much more than Republicans. That may also be because Republicans started with very little support for this proposal to begin with. The before and after means support for Democrats were 7.867 and 6.720; Independents were 6.997 and 5.841; while Republicans were 5.735 and 5.286. In percentages, 75% of Democrats were in favor of breaking up the electric companies, but after deliberations, only 59% were in favor—a 16 percentage point decrease. Independents decreased their support by 11 percentage points, from 57% to 44%. Republicans also lost majority support for this proposal, dropping from 52% to 48% support.

DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES

POLITICAL PARTY, CONTINUED

Democrats decreased their support substantially for the proposal to provide *housing assistance to those with student debt*. Prior to deliberations, 64% of Democrats supported this proposal, but after deliberations, the support dropped to 49%—a 14 percentage point decrease. Meanwhile, there was an 8 percentage point drop among Independents (from 35% to 27%), and Republicans only decreased slightly from 28% to 24%.

INCREASED SUPPORT FROM REPUBLICANS

The largest increase in support from Republicans was for the *free mental healthcare* proposal, increasing from 4.877 to 5.934. In percentages, Republican support grew from 41% to 62%—nearly a 20 percentage point increase. Democrats and Independents were both supportive of *free mental healthcare* both before and after deliberations with 88% Democrat and 73% Independent support after deliberations. Perhaps more importantly, the Republican opposition to this proposal decreased from 37% to 29% after deliberations. However, although *free, universal mental healthcare* saw sizable movements among Republicans, they also remained in opposition of *single-payer healthcare for all*, with mean support of 3.536 and 3.200, before and after deliberations, respectively.

Democrats and Independents were both supportive of the proposal, although there was a decrease across political parties.

Republicans also increased their support for the proposal for *affordable housing maintained by non-profit organizations* from 51% to 65%—from a bare majority to strong support. Democrats and Independents were in favor of this proposal before and after deliberations. Democrats were strongly in favor, increasing their support from 76 to 78%, while Independents were supportive from 56 to 57%.

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS MOVED FURTHER AWAY FROM EACH OTHER

The proposal to *provide vouchers or financial incentives for low-income riders* saw a sizable decrease in support from Republicans, and in fact, the change resulted in the participants across political parties moving significantly further apart. After deliberations, Republicans dropped to 4.823 from 6.145. In percentages, Republicans' support decreased from 57% to 40%—a 17 percentage point decrease. Democrats (8.135 to 7.712) and Independents (7.086 to 6.321) also decreased their support, but they still leaned towards support. In fact, 82% of Democrats and 62% of Independents

DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES

POLITICAL PARTY, CONTINUED

remained in favor of this proposal to provide *vouchers for low-income riders* after deliberations.

On the proposal regarding CEQA: *Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), almost anyone in California can bring a lawsuit to stop a construction project on environmental grounds. New legislation should limit who can sue to those who can show they are seriously and directly affected*, Democrats and Republicans moved further away from each other after deliberations. Democrats increased their support from 52% to 63% for this proposal, while Republicans decreased their support from 64% to 54%. It appears that while Democrats were initially lukewarm about the proposal, but they became supportive after deliberations, and the opposite occurred for Republicans. Independent support was generally unchanged after deliberations, at 51%. Overall, participants, regardless of party, ended the deliberations with support for this proposal.

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS MOVED CLOSER TOGETHER

For the proposal about *democracy vouchers*, Republicans were very opposed before deliberations at 1.832 (75% opposition) and after deliberations, the

opposition decreased slightly to 2.512 (71% opposition). As Republicans decreased in their opposition, Democrats increased their opposition, from 25% to 46%—a 21 percentage point increase in opposition. Independents also increased their opposition from 45% to 57%, a 12 percentage point increase. The movement by all participants brought their overall opinions on *democracy vouchers* closer together. Each political party opposed this proposal.

The proposal to develop *one-stop-shops for business services* saw increased support from all parties, particularly from Independents and Republicans. Before deliberations, 70% of Democrats supported this proposal, while only 57% of Independents and 63% of Republicans supported it. After deliberations, however, Independents showed an 18 percentage point increase in support (from 57% to 75%) and Republicans a 14 percentage point increase in support (from 63% to 77%). Overall, 78% of deliberators supported this proposal after deliberations. It is safe to say that participants, regardless of party affiliation, support this proposal.

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

The California Considers Deliberative Poll[®] was a unique test of whether the people of California can engage with the challenges of their long-term future and come to considered judgments about what needs to be done. This was the first Deliberative Poll[®] ever conducted with a long-term future orientation. The public was immersed for four extension sessions in a panoply of nearly intractable challenges: affordable housing, water and climate, K-12 education, business regulation, CEQA reform, civic life and the media, the relation of California to other states and countries, constitutional change, initiative reform, social services, and healthcare. There were actionable reforms in each policy area that emerged with majority or even super-majority (>65%) support. There were also many proposed reforms that the public would not support as it learned more about them, weighed their pros and cons, and asked questions about them from competing experts representing rival perspectives.

These proposals and associated deliberations provide valuable information to California policy makers as they weigh the merits of these, and other related reforms to address the state's many challenges. For the proposals that were supported, it is worth thinking about the reasons why Californians found them so compelling. And for those that declined in support, it is worth asking why they declined. There are already many suggestions in the report for actionable policy options, and the transcripts from the hours of small group discussions illuminate the values and priorities of so many Californians, as well as the benefits and

tradeoffs that we need to consider carefully. The deliberators took their work seriously and weighed identifiable reasons for supporting or opposing each proposal. They also emerged from the experience with greater mutual respect, even for those with whom they disagreed, greater trust in all levels of government, greater knowledge about politics and public policy, greater interest and a greater sense of their own (internal) political efficacy.

One might ask, why did we go through this elaborate process rather than just conduct an ordinary public opinion poll. In an ordinary poll about complex issues, the public is likely to offer little more than its impression of sound bites and headlines. It may not even have real opinions as there is usually some reluctance to admit one does not know about something. Some of our questions may have been as obscure as the classic poll about the "Public Affairs Act of 1975," in which the public answered questions about the Act, even though it does not exist. By contrast, after deliberations in depth over the sessions, the results credibly reveal what the public would really think as it weighs competing arguments, gets answers to its questions, and listens to the perspectives of fellow Californians. Their final views are, as participants said in response to the efficacy question, "opinions worth listening to." The thoughtful, deep, and meaningful ways that everyday Californians engaged in these big policy conversations point the way for future attempts, by governments and communities alike, to grapple seriously with large-scale policy reforms in California.

