BUDGET: HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS RELEASES

DRAFT OF BUDGET CUTS

Bowing to the House Republican Study Conference, comprised of 170 members of the majority, the House Appropriations Committee agreed on February 10, 2011 to draft a Continuing Resolution for the remainder of FY2011 that reflects $100 billion in funding cuts. The day before, the Committee Chairman, Harold Rogers (KY), had announced $58 billion in non-security discretionary spending reductions, based on the Administration’s FY2011 budget request, but that figure was considered too low by House budget hawks.

The Appropriations Committee now hopes to unveil the revised CR on Friday, February 11th, and Speaker John Boehner (OH) had said he would still like to bring it to the floor next week for a vote.

President Obama is scheduled to send his FY2012 Budget to the Hill on Monday, February 14th.

Before deciding to go back and find additional cuts to reach $100 billion overall, the Committee released a partial list of programs on the chopping block. That list is set out below. Among the largest cutbacks of agencies and programs of particular interest to California are the following:

- Job Training Programs  -$2B
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)   -$1.6B
- Dept. Of Energy Loan Guarantee Authority   -$1.4B
- Community Health Centers   -$1.3B
- DOE Office of Science   -$1.1B
- High Speed Rail   -$1B
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)   -$1B
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy   -$899M
- Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)   -$758M
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund   -$700M
- Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)   -$600M
- HUD Community Development Fund   -$530M
- Community Services Block Grant   -$405M

CONTENTS:

Budge t: House Appropriations Releases Draft Of Budget Cuts .................................................. 1
Trade: House Ways and Means Explores Administration Trade Policy ....................................... 3
Immigration: House Subcommittee Examines EVerify Program ................................................. 4
Education: House Education Committee Looks At Challenges Facing Education System ........... 5
Health: House Education Committee Examines Impact of Health Care Overhaul ....................... 7
Budget: House Oversight Committee Examines State and Municipal Debt Situation .................. 8
Report: PPIC Releases New Statewide Survey on California and Healthy Communities ............... 8
The California Institute wishes to express its gratitude to the following donors for their generous support, without which our work would not be possible.

**Benefactors**
- Center for California Studies, CSUS
- University of California

**Patrons**
- AT&T
- PG&E Corporation
- Sempra Energy
- Southern California Edison
- Verizon Foundation

**Sponsors**
- Applied Materials
- California Chamber of Commerce
- California Federation of Teachers
- California Institute of Technology
- Century Housing
- Chevron
- League of California Cities
- Pacific Life
- University of Southern California

**Contributors**
- Assn of California Water Agencies
- California Bankers Association
- California School Boards Association
- California State Association of Counties
- City of Los Angeles
- Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
- RAND
- Bay Area Economic Forum
- California Association of Realtors
- California Farm Bureau Federation
- California Space Authority
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters
- Jacobs Engineering

Other reductions initially announced by the Committee are as follows:
- Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies -$30M
- Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability -$49M
- Nuclear Energy -$169M
- Fossil Energy Research -$31M
- Clean Coal Technology -$18M
- Strategic Petroleum Reserve -$15M
- Energy Information Administration -$34M
- Power Marketing Administrations -$52M
- Department of Treasury -$268M
- Internal Revenue Service -$593M
- Treasury Forfeiture Fund -$338M
- GSA Federal Buildings Fund -$1.7B
- Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) -$69M
- International Trade Administration -$93M
- Economic Development Assistance -$16M
- Minority Business Development Agency -$2M
- National Institute of Standards and Technology -$186M
- National Drug Intelligence Center -$11M
- Law Enforcement Wireless Communications -$52M
- US Marshals Service -$10M
- FBI -$74M
- Juvenile Justice -$2.3M
- NSF -$139M
- Legal Services Corporation -$75M
- Food Safety and Inspection Services -$53M
- Farm Service Agency -$201M
- LIHEAP Contingency fund -$400M
- Natural Resource Conservation Service -$46M
- Rural Development Programs -$237M
- International Food Aid grants -$544M
- National Archives and Record Service -$20M
- EPA ENERGY STAR -$7.4M
- NASA -$379M
- Land and Water Conservation Fund -$348M
- NOAA -$336M
- State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance -$256M
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund -$250M
- Agriculture Research -$246M
- Amtrak -$224M
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA) -$220M
- Maternal and Child Health Block Grants -$210M
- NASA -$379M
- USGS -$27M
- EPA Cap and Trade Technical Assistance -$5M
- EPA State and Local Air Quality Management -$25M
- Fish and Wildlife Service -$72M
- Smithsonian -$7.3M
- National Park Service -$51M
- EPA Brownfields -$48M
TRADE: HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS EXPLORES ADMINISTRATION TRADE POLICY

The House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on February 9, 2010 to explore the Administration’s trade policy agenda. The sole witness was Ambassador Ron Kirk, the United States Trade Representative.

Most of the discussion among the members and Ambassador Kirk centered on the pending U.S. Free Trade Agreements with South Korea, Columbia, and Panama. Ambassador Kirk testified that the Administration is pushing to resolve all outstanding issues on the Columbia and Panama agreements before the end of the year. It expects that the South Korea agreement will be completed within “a matter of weeks” and stated that it is trying to finalize the language now. Rep. Dave Camp (MI), Chairman of the Committee, as well as most of the majority members, pushed Ambassador Kirk on why the agreements haven’t been completed by now.

Rep. Wally Herger (Marysville) noted the numerous statements made by the Administration over the last two years on the importance of completing these agreements, but the fact that they still haven’t finished the negotiations. Ambassador Kirk stressed the importance of ensuring that the agreements reflect the Administration’s overall trade policy and its international policy. In response to questioning by Rep. Devin Nunes (Tulare), he defended as equally important Columbia’s record on workers’ rights and violence against workers and the opening of the Columbian market to U.S. exporters. In his testimony, he said: “we will not sign agreements for agreements’ sake. They must be enforceable and of the highest standard, in the interests of our workers, farmers, and businesses. They must not simply replicate the templates of the past, but build frameworks for the future.” Chairman Camp called on the Administration to lay out the specific areas of disagreement with Columbia and Panama, as well as for a specific timetable for completion of the agreements.

On China, Ambassador Kirk reiterated the Administration’s efforts to push China for greater intellectual property enforcement, as well as positive movement on its currency policy. He noted the progress that has been made, including addressing “indigenous innovation” policies, improving intellectual property right protections -- including securing greater use of legal software-- securing technology neutrality in the telecommunication and smart grid sectors, and providing new opportunities for U.S. firms in the wind power market. “Importantly,” Ambassador Kirk stated, “China agreed to delink its innovation policy from the provision of government procurement preferences and to cover sub-central entities in its next offer to join the Government Procurement Agreement.”

The hearing also discussed the Trans-Pacific Partnership – a nine-country regional trade agreement that the United States has joined to integrate the economies of the Asia-Pacific. The other countries are: Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Peru, and Vietnam. Ambassador Kirk testified that there is “an ambitious negotiating schedule” for the TPP.

He also called for the reauthorization of Trade Adjustment Assistance, which was taken of the House floor schedule on February 8th, as well as renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and the Andean Trade Preference Act.
I MMIGRATION: HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINES E-VERIFY PROGRAM

The House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement held a hearing on February 10, 2011 on the E-Verify program, the electronic employment eligibility verification system run by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Employers use the Social Security numbers and alien identification numbers of new employees to check Social Security Administration and Homeland Security and State Department databases to ensure that the employee is eligible to work in the U.S. Witnesses at the hearing were: Ms. Theresa Bertucci, Associate Director, Enterprise Services Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; and Mr. Richard M. Stana, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

In his opening remarks, Chairman Lamar Smith (TX) called E-Verify an “effective program to help ensure jobs are reserved for citizens and legal workers.” While noting criticism of the program, Chairman Smith cited recent studies that show E-Verify’s work eligibility confirmation rates improving. USCIS data from last year show that 98.3% of employees were confirmed as work authorized instantly or within 24 hours, and a 2009 Westat report found that those eligible to work are immediately confirmed 99.5% of the time. Nearly 250,000 businesses now use E-Verify and over 1,300 more sign up for it each week, Smith said.

In her remarks, Ranking Member Zoe Lofgren (San Jose) said she supported “a carefully-designed electronic employment eligibility verification system that works and contains sufficient safeguards.” But she cautioned against efforts to make the program mandatory. She cited a 2008 Congressional Budget Office analysis that concluded “mandating E-Verify without reforming our broken immigration laws would suck $17.3 billion out of the tax system.” It would also depress wages and working conditions for all workers, and decimate the agriculture economy, Lofgren said. She also expressed concern about the E-Verify error rate and hoped that the witnesses would discuss both the ongoing efforts to improve the system, as well as the complexities and challenges remaining.

After detailing how the E-Verify program works, Ms. Bertucci’s testimony discussed numerous steps USCIS has taken, or has planned, in response to a December 2010 Government Accountability Office report on deficiencies in the program. She testified that USCIS has initiated three steps to improve efforts to protect workers, including increased collaboration with offices within DHS and other federal organizations, as well as expanded access to information about E-Verify for employees whose employers use it. She also detailed other actions USCIS has taken over the last several years to improve the program, including adding naturalization and passport data to the system and streamlining how an employer can contest a Social Security Administration mismatch.

Ms. Bertucci outlined two other initiatives to increase the integrity of the program. One is a study being conducted by an independent research firm studying the impact of name and date-of-birth mismatches on Tentative Non-Confirmation (TNC) notices. The findings from the study will be used to develop better name-matching algorithms and provide enhanced assistance to users. USCIS also plans to pilot the E-Verify “Self Check” process in 2011 to provide workers with the opportunity to verify and correct their records. It will be a free, web-based service that will allow individuals to check their work authorization status before they are hired and facilitate correction of potential errors in federal databases that provide input into the E-Verify process.

Ms. Bertucci also testified that USCIS believes the E-Verify program is “well-equipped to handle continued expansion. E-Verify currently has the capacity to receive at least 60 million electronic queries annually if all new hires were run through the E-Verify program,” she said.

More information, including the Ambassador’s testimony, can be found at: http://waysandmeans.house.gov.
In his testimony, Mr. Stana discussed GAO’s December 2010 report and its recommendations, many of which Ms. Bertucci discussed. He also reported three conclusions garnered from the report:
- that USCIS and SSA have reduced TNCs, but the accuracy of E-Verify continues to be limited by both inconsistent recording of employees’ names and fraud;
- that DHS has instituted employee privacy protections for E-Verify, but resolving erroneous TNCs can be challenging; and
- USCIS and SSA have taken actions to prepare for mandatory implementation of E-Verify, but face challenges in estimating costs.

The testimony of the witnesses can be found at: http://judiciary.house.gov.

**EDUCATION: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE LOOKS AT CHALLENGES FACING EDUCATION SYSTEM**

The House Education and the Workforce Committee held a hearing on Thursday, February 10, 2011, entitled, "Education in the Nation: Examining the Challenges and Opportunities Facing America's Classrooms." Witnesses included: Ted Mitchell, New Schools Venture Fund (San Francisco, CA); Dr. Tony Bennett, Superintendent, Indiana Department of Education; Lisa Graham Keegan, Education Breakthrough Network; and Andrew Coulson, CATO Institute.

In his opening statement, Chairman John Kline (MN) presented these statistics to the committee:
- Nationally, 9 percent of the workforce is unemployed and 14.2 percent of adults without a high school diploma are looking for a job.
- College Graduates are currently experiencing an unemployment rate of 4.2 percent.
- Only 69 percent of students earn their high school diploma.
- Currently, an eighth grade student has only a 30 percent chance of being able to read at grade level.
- Reading and math scores for teens on the verge of graduation remain largely unchanged since 1973.

“In 1980, federal spending on education has increased by 425 percent yet student achievement has failed to improve,” Chairman Kline stated. “Clearly, the current system isn’t working. It is time we stopped measuring our commitment to education by the dollars we spend.”

Dr. Bennett explained to the committee that the best way the federal government can drive improved student performance is by setting high expectations, enforcing strict accountability measures, and allowing states the flexibility to work on behalf of their students.

“I pledge this to you: if you set the bar high for states, put guardrails in place to ensure quality, provide support, enforce accountability, give states the flexibility to achieve those goals, and then get out of our way, we will not fail America’s school children,” Dr. Bennett testified.

Ted Mitchell, former President of the California State Board of Education presented these three recommendations to the Committee:

*Charter Schools Program:* “We urge you to support and fully fund the federal Charter Schools Program to support the growth of high-quality charters, and permit funds also to flow to nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated track record of supporting the development of strong charters.” This gives the federal government capacity to help grow local organizations, he said.

*Teacher training and development:* “Over the past 10 years, we’ve spent more than $30 billion under Title II(a) of ESEA using preset formula grants. This money is supposed to help teachers with professional development, yet few would argue that all these dollars are spent well.” He suggested the Committee should consider allowing the use of a portion of these funds to drive the growth of smart new ideas and organizations. Likewise, “incentive funds can be used to shake up the one-size-fits-all evaluation of teachers that treats them, as The New Teacher Project terms it, like widgets,” he said. He also testified that Incentive funds can help to drive better teacher evaluation, which includes measurable student achievement, and

Use incentives to remove barriers to innovation: Continue to fund innovation in education the way the government supports R&D in defense, medicine and energy. Help states clear away policies, such as fixed student teacher ratios and seat time requirements that prevent the spread of effective technologies that help students learn and teachers teach.

For more information: http://edworkforce.house.gov

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT: ENERGY AND TAX PREVENTION ACT OF 2011**

On Wednesday, February 9, 2011, the Subcommittee of Energy and Power of the House Energy and Commerce Committee held a legislative hearing examining the Energy and Tax Prevention Act of 2011. The subcommittee discussed draft language to this bill and current and pending Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) greenhouse gas regulations. Witnesses included: Senator James Inhofe (OK); Lisa Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; James Goldstene, Executive Officer; California Air Resources Board; Harry Alford, President, National Black Chamber of Commerce; Greg Abbott, Attorney General, State of Texas; Steve Cousins, Lions Oil Company; Steve Rowlan, Nucor Corporation; James Pearce, FMC Corporation; Lonnie Carter, Santee Cooper; Betsey Blaisdell, The Timberland Company; Fred Harnack, U.S. Steel Corporation; Peter Glaser, Troutman Sanders LLP; Mango Thorning, American Council for Capital Formation; Philip Nelson, Illinois Farm Bureau; and Dr. Lynn Goldman, American Public Health Association.

The Clean Air Act is the law that defines EPA's responsibilities for protecting and improving the nation's air quality and the stratospheric ozone layer. The last major change in the law was enacted by Congress in 1990. On February 2, 2011, Chairman Upton (MI) and Congressman Whitfield (KY) together with Senator Inhofe (OK), released a discussion draft of the Energy and Tax Prevention Act of 2011. The Act would amend provisions of the Clean Air Act to establish a general rule prohibiting Green House Gas regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency subject to limited exceptions. These exceptions include certain car/truck emission standards, federal climate change research, and stratospheric ozone protection.

In his opening statement, Congressman Upton, Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, testified that draft legislation of the Energy and Tax Prevention Act of 2011 allows states to continue setting climate policy as they please, but prevents those actions from being imposed or enforced nationally. He also said that draft legislation of the Energy and Tax Prevention Act of 2011 also leaves in place the tailpipe standards for cars and light trucks from model years 2012 through 2016, and allows NHTSA to continue to regulate fuel economy after 2016. “It does not weaken the Clean Air Act.” Upton stated, “It does not limit EPA’s ability to monitor and reduce pollutants that damage public health.”

According to Upton, EPA’s regulations on Green House Gas regulation would raise the cost of energy, not just for homeowners and car owners, but for businesses both large and small. He stated, “EPA may be starting by regulating only the largest power plants and factories, but we will all feel the impact of higher prices and fewer jobs.”

Administrator Lisa Jackson testified that the proposed bill would block the Administration’s announced plan to follow up with Clean Air Act standards for cars and light trucks of Model Years 2017 through 2025. She also said that several states already began implementing safeguards under the Clean Air Act to address carbon pollution increases from the construction or expansion of large emitting facilities.

James Goldstene, Executive Director of California’s Air Resources Board, testified that since the early 1960s, California has established pollution standards for new vehicles sold in the state, predating even the federal government’s efforts in this arena. He also said that each successive California standard has gone on to become the national standard and that cars have become 99.7% cleaner.
Goldstene held up a planned power plant in Northern California to advance his case, saying that the Russell City Energy Plant will stand as an example of how power companies can use the “best available technology” for reducing emissions, as required under a recently issued EPA rule. The plant, to be built on the Hayward shore of San Francisco Bay, is a 600-megawatt plant to be fired by natural gas.

“Preempting California’s ability to set carbon pollution standards for vehicles would increase costs to California consumers.” Goldstene testified, “If Congress strips us of this tool and handcuffs our ability to use the most effective and money-saving options to reduce emissions, it will increase the obligation and burden on other sectors of the economy. Congressional preemption of our state authority will unquestionably lead to increased costs for California consumers and industry.”

For more information: www.energycommerce.house.gov/.

HEALTH: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE EXAMINES IMPACT OF HEALTH CARE OVERHAUL

The House Education and the Workforce Committee held a hearing on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, titled, "The Impact of the Health Care Law on the Economy, Employers, and the Workforce." This committee has jurisdiction over health insurance provided through the workplace, coverage that affects roughly 170 million Americans. This is the first hearing the Committee has convened to investigate The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and its effects on the American workforce and economy. Witnesses included: Dr. Paul Howard, Manhattan Institute; Gail Johnson, International Franchise Association; Dr. Paul Van de Water, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; and Neil Trautwein, National Retail Federation.

In his opening statement, Chairman John Kline (MN) said, “It has been less than a year and already this 2,700 page law has led to more than 4,000 pages in new government regulations. A proposal designed to reduce health care costs will instead increase national health care spending by $311 billion.”

Dr. Howard testified to the committee that there is a critical need for real health care reforms that improve access to affordable health insurance; protect individuals and families from the risk of catastrophic health care expenses; lower the unsustainable rate of health care cost growth for private and public payers; and create better incentives for health care providers to offer more cost effective care. “Creating truly portable individual health insurance would reduce the incidence of job-lock, encouraging entrepreneurship and allowing employees to changes jobs without fear of losing valuable health insurance,” he stated.

Mr. Van de Water spoke in support of The Affordable Care Act, testifying that the legislation will significantly strengthen our nation’s economy over the long haul, although initially its effects will be modest. “The law takes essential steps to slow the growth of health care costs, which are consuming an ever-increasing share of our economic output and have contributed significantly to the stagnation in workers’ real wages in recent years,” he said. Van de Water cited the Congressional Budget Office estimates that health reform will slightly reduce premiums for employer-sponsored health insurance in the near term.

Neil Trautwein, representing the nation’s largest association of retail stores, testified, “The penalty mandate provisions are already affecting hiring decisions in advance of their effective date in 2014,” said Trautwein. “We have heard reports from across the retail community (including our restaurant members) that the penalty mandates are affecting expansion, franchising and hiring decisions today. Retailers employ nearly 25 million workers, and they believe the law will have negative consequences for their workers as well.”

For more information, go to: http://edlabor.house.gov/
BUDGET: HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE EXAMINES STATE AND MUNICIPAL DEBT SITUATION

On Wednesday, February 9, 2011, the House Subcommittee on TARP, Financial Services and Bailouts of Public and Private Programs of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a hearing titled, “State and Municipal Debt: The Coming Crisis?” The purpose of the hearing was to understand the crisis facing state and local governments, to assess its causes, and to consider available solutions. Witnesses included: Nicole Gelinas, Manhattan Institute; Professor David Skeel, University of Pennsylvania Law School; Eileen Norcross, Social Change Project at the Mercatus Center; and Iris Lav, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The committee members discussed possible scenarios if a state simply defaulted on some or all of its obligations, declaring itself unable to pay. The Constitution gives Congress much more authority to provide for the restructuring of a state’s obligations. The Bankruptcy Clause authorizes Congress to enact bankruptcy laws. No American state has defaulted since Arkansas during the great Depression.

In his opening statement, Chairman Patrick McHenry (NC) said that state and municipal governments, who are preparing for aggregate budget shortfalls totaling roughly $125 billion this year, are struggling under a trillion-dollar burden of unfunded pension liabilities, plummeting tax revenues, and an unforgiving bond market. According to McHenry, since 1990, state and local government spending has increased roughly 70 percent faster than inflation. This figure includes the $140 billion in transfers to states included in the stimulus package.

Dr. Skell discussed the benefits of enacting a bankruptcy law for states which would include enabling a state to restructure obligations that are difficult or impossible to restructure under ordinary state law, bringing every constituency to the table, and ensuring that the necessary sacrifices are distributed fairly.

Ms. Gelinas testified to the subcommittee that she believed state bankruptcy would create more problems than it would solve. According to Gelinas, states have made their commitments to creditors through hundreds, in some cases thousands, of legal entities. She said each of these legal entities has its own pre-existing agreements with bondholders and other creditors, set out in individual contracts and in state laws.

Further, Gelinas said that although state governments often run large pension funds through state trusts, including Calpers and CalSTRS in California, it is local governments that owe the bulk of what people think of as “state” pension benefits. Cities, towns, and school districts, however, can already declare bankruptcy, if their home states allow it.

Scenarios discussed at the hearing included:
- Congress could bail out one or more of the states;
- Congress could convert the federal Medicaid program into a block-grant program, rewarding states for saving money rather than spending it;
- Congress could tie some future education aid to changes in states' treatment of local teachers' retirement benefits, ensuring that funds are directed to students, not to labor unions;
- In its upcoming transportation-bill reauthorization, Congress could offer more capital investment money to states whose governors and lawmakers take steps to pare back future workforce liabilities so that they can afford to maintain the infrastructure that they hope to build or upgrade with federal money; and
- Congress could require greater transparency of states in regards to pensions.

For more information: http://oversight.house.gov.

REPORT: PPIC RELEASES NEW STATEWIDE SURVEY ON CALIFORNIA AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

According to a new Statewide Survey released February 9, 2011 from PPIC, Californians have generally positive views of their health, with 80 percent calling it good to excellent. The survey reports most say that health care services in their communities should emphasize prevention more than treatment and
nearly all say universal health care for children is important in preventing illness. The survey finds, however, that there are stark differences in the way key demographic groups view their health and the quality of life in their communities.

This is PPIC’s first survey to look extensively at attitudes about health care and the factors that determine the overall health of a community. And, it points out, it was conducted at a time of intense debate -- over the national reform law passed last year, over significant statewide cuts in health and human services, and over rising health care costs and service delivery issues at all levels of government.

"As Californians and governments at all levels struggle with health care costs and the prospect of cuts in services, most residents view prevention as important, and they see that local conditions can indeed make a difference in their health,” says Mark Baldassare, PPIC’s CEO and survey director.

On national health care reform, Californians (51% for, 36% against) are slightly more likely than adults nationwide (45% for, 50% against in a recent ABC News/Washington Post poll) to support the law enacted by Congress and President Obama last year.

When it comes to the state’s health care system, most Californians think major changes (59%) or minor changes (24%) are needed, while just 11 percent say the system is basically fine as it is. Those who are uninsured (69%) are more likely than those with health insurance (57%) to say that major changes are needed.

When Californians read a list of specific problems, unemployment is by far the biggest concern, with 59 percent calling it a big problem in their community. Far fewer see other issues as big problems: violence and street crime (23%); air pollution and other environment pollutants (23%); lack of places to safely walk, bike, and exercise (13%); and lack of grocery stores and restaurants with healthy food choices (10%).

Governor Jerry Brown’s job approval rating among California adults is at 34 percent, down from 41 percent in the PPIC survey conducted earlier in January. Today, more are unsure (49%) how to rate his job performance (39% earlier in January). The legislature’s approval rating is similar (24% approve today, 26% earlier in January).

To view the entire survey, go to: http://www.ppic.org.