

**CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE
SMALL BUSINESS ISSUES
620-293
FINAL**

Thank you agreeing to fill out this survey. It will take about 10 minutes of your time. Please make sure to answer all of the questions.

1. Would you say that things in California are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

Right direction ----- 20%
Wrong track ----- 68%
(DON'T KNOW/NA) ----- 12%

2. Please rate the following items about California as either excellent, pretty good, only fair, or poor. (ROTATE)

		<u>EXC</u>	<u>PRETTY GOOD</u>	<u>ONLY FAIR</u>	<u>POOR</u>	<u>(DK/ NA)</u>
[] a.	The economy -----	1%	32%	51%	16%	1%
[] b.	The business climate -----	1%	21%	49%	28%	1%
[] c.	The business climate for small businesses -----	2%	10%	39%	48%	1%
[] d.	Public schools educating the state's future workers -----	0%	9%	28%	61%	2%

3. Over the next few years, do you think the business climate for small businesses in California will get much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse, much worse or stay about the same?

Much better ----- 2%
Somewhat better ----- 35%
Somewhat worse ----- 24%
Much worse ----- 8%
About the same ----- 23%
(DON'T READ) DK/NA ----- 7%

4. Here are some issues affecting small businesses that people have said should be addressed by your elected officials in Sacramento. For each one I read, please tell me whether you think it should be the top priority for your elected officials, a high priority, a medium priority, or a low priority for your elected officials in Sacramento. **(ROTATE)**

	<u>TOP PRIORITY</u>	<u>HIGH PRIORITY</u>	<u>MEDIUM PRIORITY</u>	<u>LOW PRIORITY</u>	(DON'T READ) DK/NA
[]a. The worker's compensation system -----	51%	31%	11%	5%	2%
[]b. The availability and rising cost of health care -----	54%	34%	10%	2%	0%
[]c. Too much regulation of small businesses -----	32%	32%	28%	6%	2%
[]d. Access to capital -----	12%	27%	42%	18%	1%
[]e. The cost of energy -----	25%	36%	30%	9%	0%
[]f. Reducing taxes -----	32%	29%	26%	13%	0%
[]g. The quality of public education -----	45%	34%	16%	4%	1%

5. In the past year or two, have worker's compensation rates in California increased a lot, increased a little, decreased a little, decreased a lot, or stayed about the same?

Increased a lot -----	44%
Increased a little -----	19%
Decreased a little -----	22%
Decreased a lot -----	1%
Stayed about the same -----	8%
(DON'T READ) DK/NA -----	6%

6. In the next few years, will worker's compensation rates in California increase a lot, increase a little, decrease a little, decrease a lot, or stay about the same?

Increase a lot -----	22%
Increase a little -----	21%
Decrease a little -----	19%
Decrease a lot -----	1%
Stay about the same -----	11%
(DON'T READ) DK/NA -----	26%

7. Have you heard anything about efforts to reform the state’s worker’s compensation system?

Yes----- 91%
 No ----- 6%
 (DON'T READ) DK/NA ----- 3%

8. From what you know, have the efforts to reform worker’s compensation been very successful, somewhat successful, or not too successful?

Very successful ----- 0%
 Somewhat successful ----- 36%
 Not too successful ----- 57%
 (DON'T READ) DK/NA ----- 7%

(ASK ALL RESPONDENTS)

9. In fact, last year the Governor and the State Legislature passed legislation to reform the state’s worker’s compensation system. In hearing that, which of the following two statements do you agree with more? **(ROTATE)**

Implement the reforms that were just passed.----- 12%
 OR
 Pass new, more effective reforms because the system still has serious problems. ----- 26%
(BOTH) ----- 47%
(NEITHER) ----- 2%
(DON'T KNOW/NA) ----- 13%

10. I am going to read you some proposals addressing health care. Please tell me if you would strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal. **(ROTATE)**

	<u>STR.</u> <u>SUPP.</u>	<u>S.W.</u> <u>SUPP.</u>	<u>S.W.</u> <u>OPP.</u>	<u>STR.</u> <u>OPP.</u>	(DON'T READ) <u>DK/NA</u>
[]a. An individual mandate that would require every person to buy their own health insurance, just like with auto insurance-----	9%	25%	18%	41%	7%
[]b. A single-payer system similar to what Canada has where the government finances health care but keeps the delivery of health care to mostly private sources -----	23%	29%	12%	30%	6%
[]c. Provide tax credits to low income workers to help them pay for health care -----	29%	44%	14%	8%	5%
[]d. Expand the Health Families state health insurance program so that more children can qualify -----	29%	38%	13%	10%	10%

- []e. Create purchasing pools for small businesses to make health insurance more affordable for small companies ----- 64% -----31% ----- 3% -----1%----- 1%
- []f. A plan that ensures every child in California has health care coverage----- 39% -----34% ----- 11% -----11%----- 5%

11. Now, turning to energy, have you done anything recently to lower your company’s energy bill?

Yes----- 67%
 No ----- 28%
 (DON'T READ) DK/NA ----- 5%

12. There may be a proposal to provide financial incentives for businesses to invest in capital improvements that reduce their energy use. Would you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this proposal?

Strongly support ----- 35%
 Somewhat support ----- 47%
 Somewhat oppose ----- 5%
 Strongly oppose ----- 2%
 (DON'T READ) DK/NA ----- 11%

13. Here are some proposals addressing other issues that may affect small businesses. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose that proposal. (ROTATE)

	<u>STR</u> <u>FAVOR</u>	<u>SWHT</u> <u>FAVOR</u>	<u>SWHT</u> <u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>STR</u> <u>OPPOSE</u>	<u>(DK/</u> <u>NA)</u>
[]a. A cell phone bill of rights to protect consumers and businesses -----	39%	33%	5%	5%	18%
[]b. Legislation requiring the public pension plans, such as CALPERS (CAL-PERS), to invest a portion of their funds into emerging and small businesses in California -----	29%	31%	14%	11%	15%
[]c. Require state agencies to consider the impact of policies on small business before they issue final regulations-----	82%	15%	1%	1%	1%

14. In thinking about education, which higher education institution provides better job training skills for the needs of your company? **(ROTATE)**

- Community and technical colleges----- 29%
- OR
- Four year colleges and universities ----- 15%
- (BOTH)** ----- 45%
- (NEITHER)** ----- 8%
- (DON'T KNOW/NA)** ----- 3%

HERE ARE MY FINAL QUESTIONS. THEY ARE JUST FOR CLASSIFICATION PURPOSES.

15. How many full-time employees does your company have?

- 1-4 ----- 44%
- 5-9 ----- 8%
- 10-19----- 18%
- 20-49----- 16%
- 50-99----- 6%
- 100-249----- 4%
- 250 + ----- 1%
- (DON'T KNOW/NA)** ----- 3%

16. What is your official title or position within the company? **(OPEN END, CODE RESPONSE BELOW)**

- Partner ----- 9%
- President ----- 43%
- Chief Executive Officer, C.E.O. ----- 15%
- Chief Operating Officer, C.O.O.----- 4%
- Chief Information Officer, C.I.O. ----- 1%
- Vice President ----- 5%
- Director/Managing Director ----- 6%
- Controller/ Treasurer----- 2%
- (OTHER, SPECIFY)** ----- 2%
- (DON'T KNOW/NA)** ----- 13%

17. Does your company offer health insurance to its employees?

- Yes----- 66%
- No ----- 30%
- (DON'T KNOW/NA)** ----- 4%

18. Are you registered to vote? **(IF YES, ASK:)** Are you registered as a Democrat, Republican or what?

- Yes, Democrat----- 33%
- Yes, Republican ----- 45%
- Yes, Independent ----- 15%
- Other ----- 2%
- No/Don't know ----- 5%

19. Which political party better represents the interests of small businesses: Democrats or Republicans, both equally, or neither?

Democrats ----- 17%
 Republicans----- 38%
 Both----- 7%
 Neither ----- 30%
 (DON'T KNOW/NA) ----- 8%

20. With which racial or ethnic group do you identify yourself?

Anglo/White ----- 75%
 African-American or Black ----- 3%
 Hispanic or Latino ----- 6%
 Asian ----- 5%
 Native American/Indian ----- 1%
 Other ----- 4%
 (DON'T READ) Refused/NA ----- 6%

21. In what year were you born?

1984-1978 (18-24)----- 1%
 1977-1973 (25-29)----- 2%
 1972-1968 (30-34)----- 3%
 1967-1963 (35-39)----- 7%
 1962-1958 (40-44)----- 15%
 1957-1953 (45-49)----- 16%
 1952-1948 (50-54)----- 20%
 1947-1943 (55-59)----- 17%
 1942-1938 (60-64)----- 3%
 1937-1928 (65-74)----- 5%
 1927 or earlier (75 +) ----- 2%
 (REFUSED/NA)----- 9%

22. What is your gender?

Male ----- 64%
 Female ----- 35%
 (DON'T KNOW/NA) ----- 1%

Los Angeles----- 60%
 Other -----40%

Total respondents: 475

THANK AND TERMINATE