Results from the Early September 2021 *Berkeley IGS Poll* of California Registered Voters about Recall Election Reform

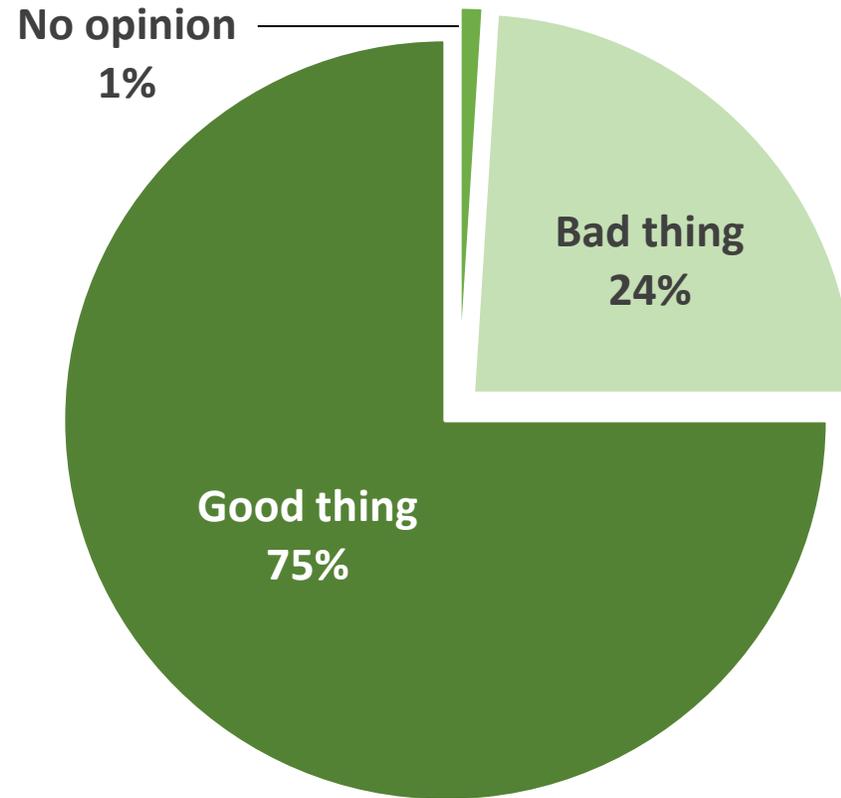Institute of Governmental Studies
University of California, Berkeley

Presented to the
Little Hoover Commission

October 14, 2021

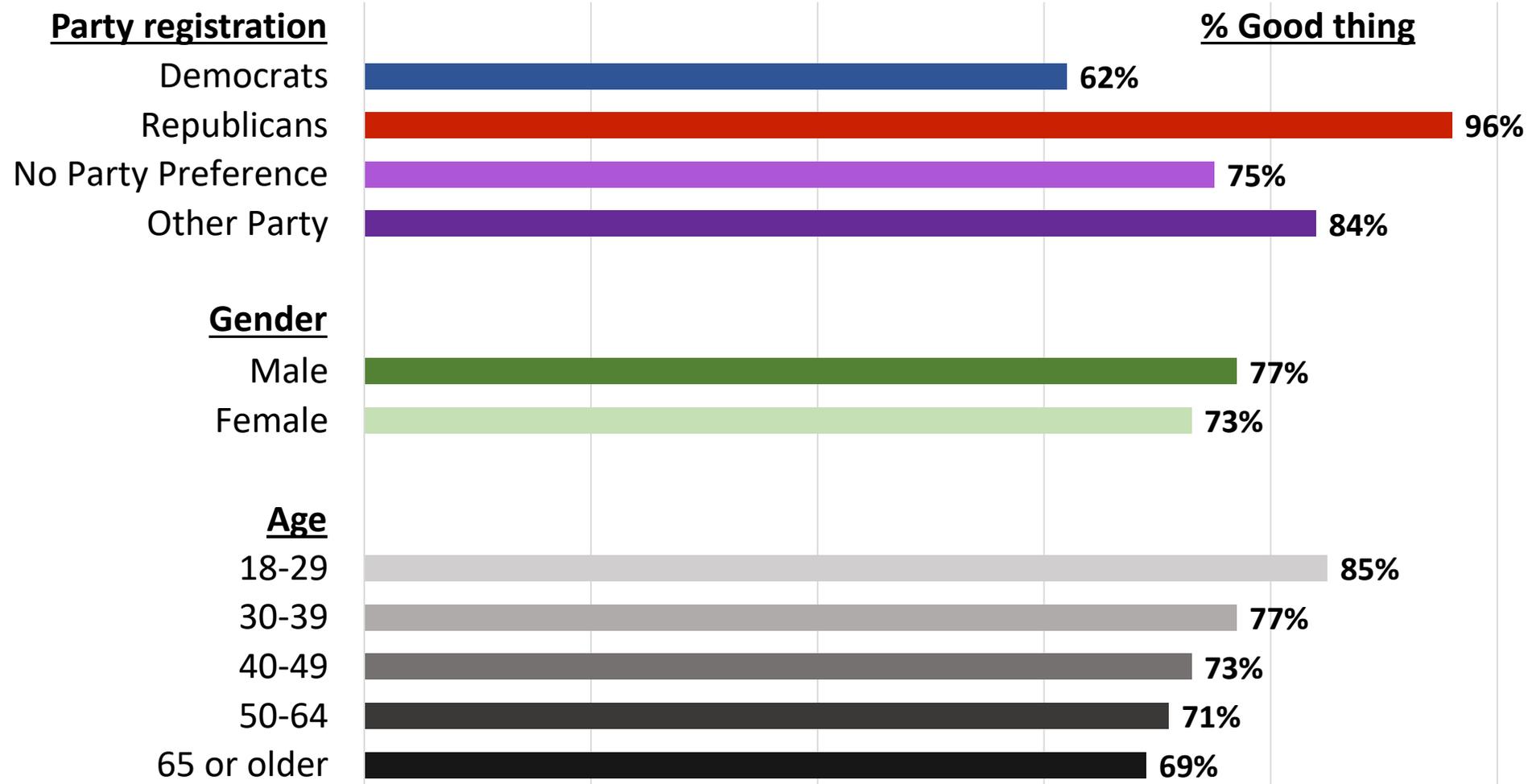# About the Early September 2021 *Berkeley IGS Poll*

- **Auspices:** The poll was conducted by the non-partisan Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) at the University of California, Berkeley, which conducts periodic surveys of public opinion in California on political and public policy issues facing the state. Funding for the poll was provided to IGS in part by the *Los Angeles Times.*

- **Data collection period:** August 30 – September 6, 2021

- **Methodology:** Online by distributing email invitations in English and Spanish to a stratified random sample of registered voters drawn from the state's voter rolls.

- **Weighting:** The overall sample was weighted to align it to demographic, political and regional characteristics of the California registered voter population.

- **Sample size:** 9,809 California registered voters.

- **Sampling error:** +/- 1.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Three in four voters say it is a good thing that the California constitution provides a way to recall state elected officials
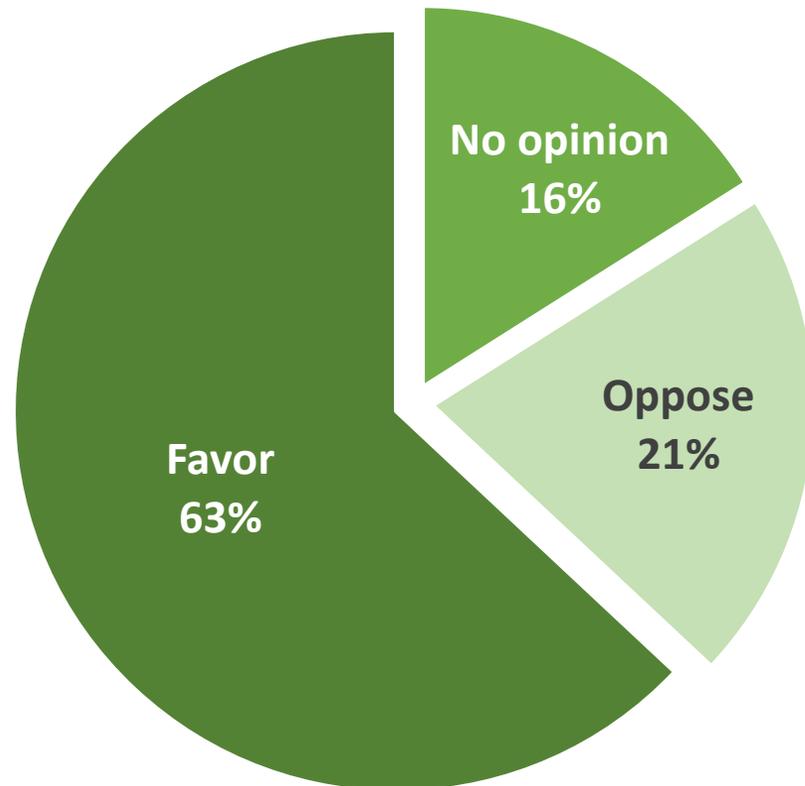
No opinion
1%

Bad thing
24%

Good thing
75%

"Regardless of how you feel about the upcoming recall election, do you think it is a good thing or bad thing that the California constitution provides a way to recall state elected officials, like the governor?"

Source: Early September 2021 Berkeley IGS Poll

Voter support for having the recall provision remain as part of the state constitution is bipartisan and broad-based

% Good thing

Party registration
- Democrats — 62%
- Republicans — 96%
- No Party Preference — 75%
- Other Party — 84%

Gender
- Male — 77%
- Female — 73%

Age
- 18-29 — 85%
- 30-39 — 77%
- 40-49 — 73%
- 50-64 — 71%
- 65 or older — 69%

Source: Early September 2021 Berkeley IGS Poll

Voters support making a number of changes to the recall election process, but opinions about proposals vary by party
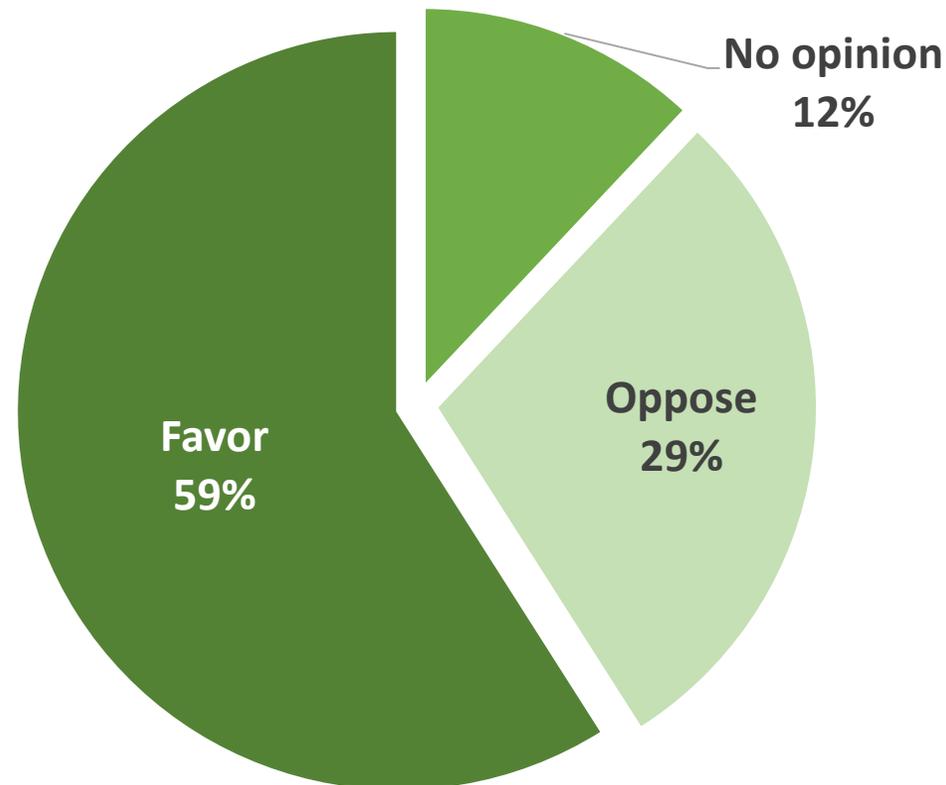
Proposal #1: *Change the rules in replacement elections so that if no one receives a majority of the vote, a runoff election is held between the top two vote getters.*

	Favor %	Oppose %	No opinion %
Democrats	75	9	16
Republicans	41	45	14
No Party Preference	64	18	18
Other Party	56	24	20

No opinion 16%

Oppose 21%

Favor 63%

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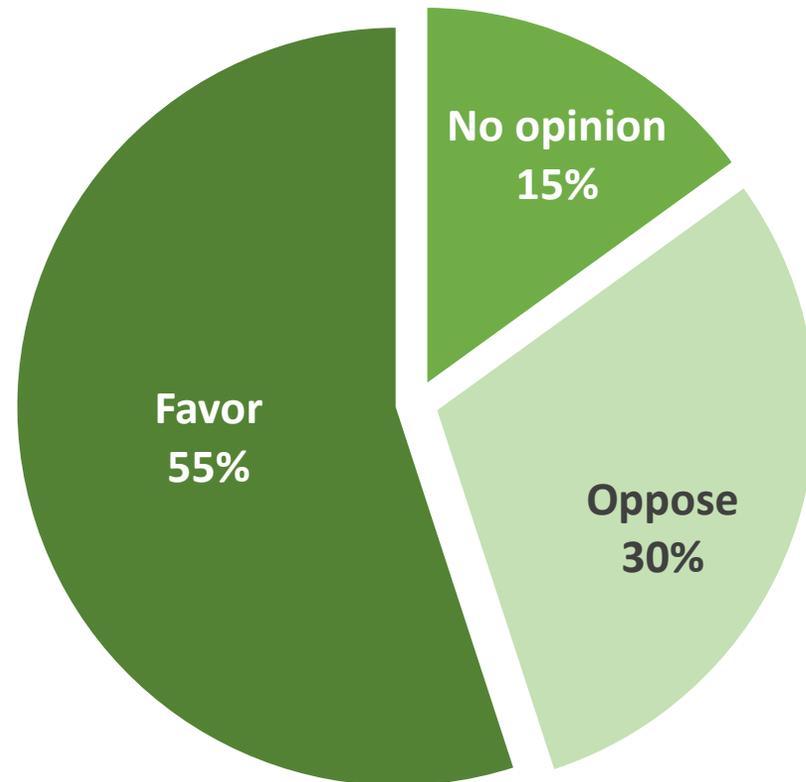
Proposal #2: *Toughen the rules for recalling state elected officials so they can only be recalled for cause, such as when an officeholder commits illegal or unethical conduct.*

	Favor %	Oppose %	No opinion %
Democrats	78	12	10
Republicans	29	61	10
No Party Preference	58	29	13
Other Party	49	35	16

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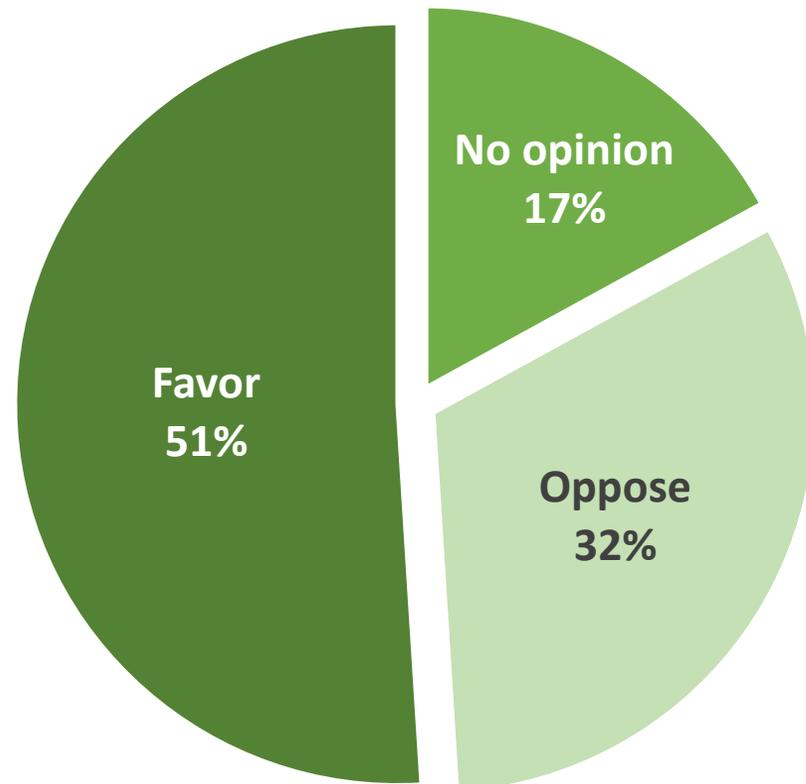
Proposal #3: *Increase the number of signatures required to qualify a recall election for the ballot from 12% of the total votes cast in the last statewide election to 25%.*

	Favor %	Oppose %	No opinion %
Democrats	77	10	13
Republicans	18	70	12
No Party Preference	55	26	19
Other Party	42	41	17

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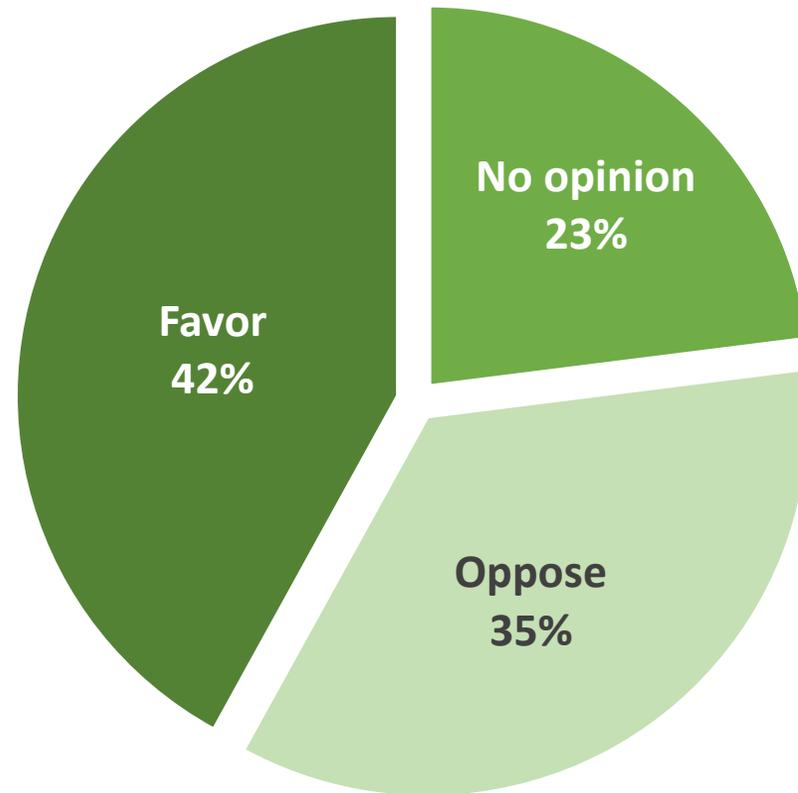
Proposal #4: *Make it more difficult to run as a candidate in a gubernatorial recall by instituting a higher threshold than the current $4,000 filing fee and 7,000 voter signature requirements.*

	Favor %	Oppose %	No opinion %
Democrats	65	18	17
Republicans	31	54	15
No Party Preference	46	33	21
Other Party	38	42	20

Voters support making a number of changes to the recall election process, but opinions about proposals vary by party

Proposal #5: *Allow officeholders facing a recall election to be listed among the candidates in the replacement election.*

	Favor %	Oppose %	No opinion %
Democrats	58	17	25
Republicans	16	68	16
No Party Preference	39	34	27
Other Party	36	37	27

A press release and detailed tabulations from the poll, as well as all past reports of the Berkeley IGS Poll, can be found at the Berkeley IGS Poll website at:
https://www.igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll.