



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2011

INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

California supports gay marriage

Raleigh, N.C. – Just a few years after Californians went to the polls to pass Proposition 8, a majority of the Golden State’s voters now support equal marriage rights. 51% think same-sex marriage should be legal, and only 40% think it should be illegal. When PPP last asked the question in September 2010, a 46% plurality was in support, but an almost equal 44% opposed these rights.

Democrats have remained remarkably stable, with two-thirds in support and a quarter opposed both then and now. The change has come among Republicans and independents. GOP voters have moved from 76-15 opposed to only 64-29, so their support for legal same-sex marriage rights has doubled in four months. Unaffiliated voters were, much like the electorate at large, only tepidly in support previously, at 47-41, but have now moved to 51-35 in favor of gay marriage.

Both women and men have moved toward legalizing same-sex marriage by nine points on the margin. Women were already in support, 49-39, but now stand at 56-37. Men were against by a 43-50 margin last fall, but have moved barely in support, 45-43.

“The tide is turning toward equality in one of the bluest states in the country as the courts head toward a possible overturning of Prop 8,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

Arnold Schwarzenegger left office with two-thirds of voters disapproving of his job performance, so it is no surprise only about a third now think he was the better governor between him and the man he campaigned to recall in 2003, Gray Davis, whom 42% think was the superior of the two. Democrats are more sure Davis was the better than Republicans are sure Schwarzenegger was, and independents favored Davis, 40-33. 26% of all voters cannot decide which they preferred.

But Californians do know they already like Davis’ and Schwarzenegger’s successor, Jerry Brown. With a 50-25 approval rating, he is now the third most popular governor of the 39 on which PPP has measured public opinion in the last year. 70% of Democrats and 52% of independents are behind him, and Republicans only disapprove, 47-20.

PPP surveyed 892 California voters from January 28th to 30th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.3%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





Complete results are attached, and can be found at www.publicpolicypolling.com.





California Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Jerry Brown's job performance?

Approve..... 50% Not sure 25%
Disapprove..... 25%

Q2 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Barbara Boxer's job performance?

Approve..... 45% Not sure 8%
Disapprove..... 47%

Q3 Do you think Arnold Schwarzenegger or Gray Davis was a better Governor?

Arnold Schwarzenegger..... 32%
Gray Davis..... 42%
Not sure 26%

Q4 Do you think same sex marriage should be legal or illegal?

Legal..... 51%
Illegal 40%
Not sure 10%

Q5 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 24%
Moderate..... 46%
Conservative..... 30%

Q6 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q7 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 45%
Republican..... 32%
Independent/Other..... 23%

Q8 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If Asian, press 4. If other, press 5.

Hispanic..... 19%
White 63%
African-American 8%
Asian..... 5%
Other..... 6%

Q9 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 12%
30 to 45..... 30%
46 to 65..... 38%
Older than 65..... 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Brown Approval				
Approve	50%	77%	56%	19%
Disapprove	25%	11%	15%	50%
Not sure	25%	13%	28%	31%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Boxer Approval				
Approve	45%	71%	51%	16%
Disapprove	47%	20%	40%	80%
Not sure	8%	8%	9%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Schwarzenegger or Davis: Better Gov				
Arnold Schwarzenegger	32%	16%	32%	45%
Gray Davis	42%	63%	43%	22%
Not sure	26%	21%	25%	33%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gay Marriage Legal or Illegal				
Legal	51%	81%	53%	23%
Illegal	40%	13%	37%	65%
Not sure	10%	5%	10%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Brown Approval			
Approve	50%	53%	47%
Disapprove	25%	21%	28%
Not sure	25%	26%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Boxer Approval			
Approve	45%	48%	42%
Disapprove	47%	43%	52%
Not sure	8%	9%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Schwarzenegger or Davis: Better Gov			
Arnold Schwarzenegger	32%	29%	36%
Gray Davis	42%	41%	42%
Not sure	26%	30%	22%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage Legal or Illegal			
Legal	51%	56%	45%
Illegal	40%	37%	43%
Not sure	10%	8%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Brown Approval				
Approve	50%	70%	20%	52%
Disapprove	25%	11%	47%	20%
Not sure	25%	19%	33%	28%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Boxer Approval				
Approve	45%	74%	11%	36%
Disapprove	47%	19%	84%	49%
Not sure	8%	7%	5%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Schwarzenegger or Davis: Better Gov				
Arnold Schwarzenegger	32%	21%	48%	33%
Gray Davis	42%	56%	23%	40%
Not sure	26%	24%	29%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage Legal or Illegal				
Legal	51%	66%	29%	51%
Illegal	40%	25%	64%	35%
Not sure	10%	10%	7%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Brown Approval						
Approve	50%	62%	46%	61%	54%	32%
Disapprove	25%	14%	28%	21%	28%	31%
Not sure	25%	24%	26%	18%	18%	37%

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Boxer Approval						
Approve	45%	54%	41%	65%	41%	39%
Disapprove	47%	37%	52%	28%	42%	58%
Not sure	8%	9%	7%	7%	17%	2%

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Schwarzenegger or Davis: Better Gov						
Arnold Schwarzenegger	32%	18%	40%	4%	23%	44%
Gray Davis	42%	58%	34%	71%	27%	37%
Not sure	26%	24%	26%	24%	50%	19%

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Asian	Other
Gay Marriage Legal or Illegal						
Legal	51%	55%	51%	33%	60%	51%
Illegal	40%	33%	40%	54%	37%	42%
Not sure	10%	12%	9%	14%	3%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Brown Approval					
Approve	50%	50%	45%	52%	53%
Disapprove	25%	20%	24%	27%	25%
Not sure	25%	30%	31%	21%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Boxer Approval					
Approve	45%	40%	47%	45%	45%
Disapprove	47%	47%	46%	49%	45%
Not sure	8%	13%	7%	5%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Schwarzenegger or Davis: Better Gov					
Arnold Schwarzenegger	32%	40%	26%	35%	32%
Gray Davis	42%	47%	46%	40%	35%
Not sure	26%	13%	28%	25%	34%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage Legal or Illegal					
Legal	51%	60%	53%	50%	42%
Illegal	40%	37%	31%	44%	47%
Not sure	10%	3%	17%	5%	11%

