



TO Interested Parties

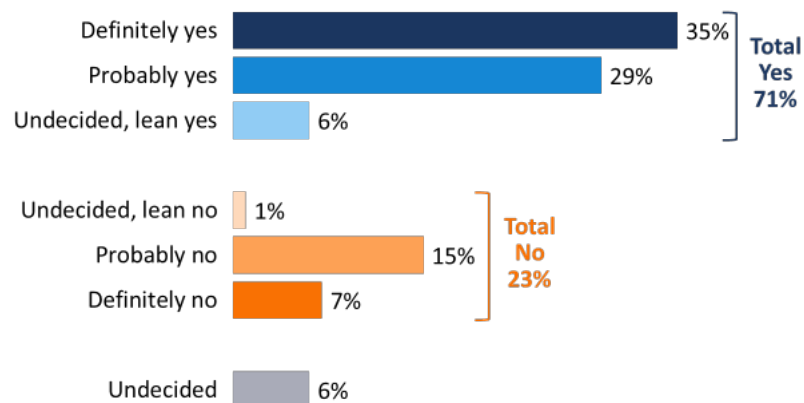
FROM Paul Maslin and Rick Sklarz
FM3 Research

RE: California Open Records Ballot Initiative Survey Results

DATE July 28, 2023

A survey¹ of California voters likely to cast a ballot in the November 2024 election shows very strong and bipartisan support for a statewide initiative to strengthen California’s open record laws to make state government agencies more responsive to public requests for government documents and to increase state legislators’ disclosure requirements regarding meetings with lobbyists to discuss legislation. **As Figure 1 shows, California voters back the proposed initiative by three to one based on a simulated title and summary, as 71% would vote “yes” in favor and 23% would vote “no” to oppose.** The intensity of voter support should be noted; more than a third (35%) say they would vote “definitely yes” on the initiative if the election were held today compared to fewer than one in ten (7%) who vote “definitely no.”

Figure 1: Title & Summary Vote on California Open Records Law Initiative



Voters across all major demographic groups favor the initiative with overwhelming majorities supporting regardless of party, ideology, gender, race/ethnicity, age and in all regions of the state. As Figure 2 on the next page shows voters of all stripes are aligned in the belief that the public should have greater access to government documents to ensure effective oversight and scrutiny of public officials and their decisions. It is extremely rare in our experience, particularly in the recent polarized environment, to see such broad support as this for a measure across partisan and ideological lines.

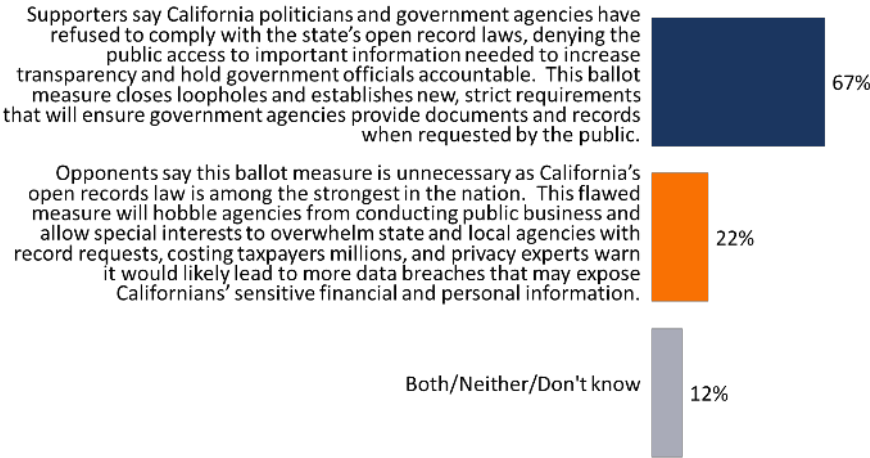
¹ **Survey Methodology:** From April 4-12, 2023, FM3 conducted a survey of 800 California voters likely to cast a ballot in the November 2024 statewide general election. Respondents were contacted via text messaging, email and telephone and interviews were conducted online and via landline and cell/mobile telephone by live interviewers. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The sample margin of error for the results is +/-3.5% at the 95% confidence level; the margin of error for population subgroups will be higher. Due to rounding, some percentages may not sum to 100%.

Figure 2: Title & Summary Vote on California Open Records Law Initiative by Demographic Groups

Demographic Group	Total Yes	Total No	Undecided
GENDER			
Men	71%	24%	5%
Women	70%	22%	8%
PARTY			
Democrats	73%	21%	6%
Nonpartisans	71%	22%	7%
Republicans	67%	27%	6%
IDEOLOGY			
Liberals	74%	20%	6%
Moderates	70%	25%	5%
Conservatives	69%	26%	5%
AGE			
18-49	69%	25%	6%
50-64	72%	20%	8%
65+	74%	22%	4%
RACE/ETHNICITY			
Whites	74%	21%	5%
Voters of Color	67%	25%	8%
REGION			
LA County	69%	18%	13%
Counties Surrounding LA County	74%	25%	4%
Bay Area	72%	24%	4%
San Diego	76%	21%	3%
Sacramento/Rural North	68%	30%	2%
Central Valley/Central Coast	67%	26%	7%

Two-thirds of California voters continue to support the initiative following statements from supporters and opponents. As Figure 3 illustrates, respondents back this proposal, again by a margin of three to one, to strengthen state public records laws after being presented with arguments for and against the initiative -- 67% side with proponents and 22% agree with the opposition statement.

Figure 3: Agreement with Statements from Supporters & Opponents of California Open Records Law Initiative



In sum, this survey suggests voters are likely to approve this proposed initiative to strengthen the state's open record laws and increase disclosure rules for state legislators if it were to appear on the ballot in the 2024 November election. There is widespread agreement among voters across the political spectrum that government agencies must be more responsive to public requests for documents in order to promote accountability among government officials.