

Proposition 6: Repealing the Gas Tax Increase

In November, Californians will vote on Proposition 6, which would repeal recently enacted fuel taxes and vehicle fees passed by the legislature in April 2017. When read the Proposition 6 ballot title and label, 48 percent of likely voters would vote no; 41 percent would vote yes and 11 percent are undecided. Findings were similar in September (52% no, 39% yes, 8% undecided). Today, a slight majority of Republican likely voters (53%) and nearly half of independents would vote yes on Proposition 6, while fewer Democrats (28%) would do so. Regionally, support is highest in Orange/San Diego (52%) and lowest in the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area (36% each). Indeed, fewer than half of likely voters across all demographic groups say they would vote yes on Proposition 6.

“Proposition 6 is called the ‘Eliminates Certain Road Repair and Transportation Funding. Requires Certain Fuel Taxes and Vehicle Fees be Approved by the Electorate. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.’ If the election were held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 6?”*

<i>Likely voters only</i>		Yes	No	Don't know
All likely voters		41%	48%	11%
Party	Democrats	28	59	12
	Republicans	53	35	12
	Independents	49	43	8
Region	Central Valley	36	56	9
	Inland Empire	43	42	15
	Los Angeles	41	48	11
	Orange/San Diego	52	38	10
	San Francisco Bay Area	36	51	13

**For complete text of proposition question, see p. 24.*

Forty-six percent of likely voters say that the outcome of Proposition 6 is very important to them, while a further 35 percent say it is somewhat important. A slight majority of Republican likely voters (53%) say the outcome of Proposition 6 is very important to them while fewer Democratic (44%) and independent (41%) likely voters feel the same. Among those who would vote yes on Proposition 6, 57 percent say the outcome is very important; among those who would vote no, 43 percent say the outcome is very important.

“How important to you is the outcome of the vote on Proposition 6?”

<i>Likely voters only</i>	All likely voters	Party			Vote on Proposition 6	
		Dem	Rep	Ind	Yes	No
Very important	46%	44%	53%	41%	57%	43%
Somewhat important	35	38	32	38	33	40
Not too important	10	11	6	12	10	12
Not at all important	2	2	1	3	–	3
Don't know	7	5	8	6	–	1

If Proposition 6 passes, it would eliminate the revenue from the recent increases in fuel tax and vehicle fees which are currently expected to fund transportation infrastructure projects. When asked about traffic congestion on freeways and major roads in their region, a solid majority of likely voters (66%) say it is a big problem (23% somewhat of a problem, 10% not a problem). More than six in ten likely voters across parties, and both supporters and opponents of Proposition 6 say traffic congestion is a big problem.