

Housing Policy

Housing has emerged as an issue of great importance, as high costs and limited supply cause problems for many Californians. In addition to half of Californians saying the cost of housing places a financial strain on them and their family, our March survey report found that 68 percent of Californians say housing affordability is a big problem in their part of the state. What do Californians think about policy proposals aimed at increasing the supply of affordable housing? Just under half of Californians (47%) favor reducing state regulations by changing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); 24 percent are unsure. Six in ten Californians (61%) support requiring local governments to approve new housing before receiving transportation funding. A similar share (62%) favor requiring local governments to change zoning for new development from single to multi-family housing near transit or job centers.

“Next, do you favor or oppose these state government proposals to provide more affordable housing in your part of California? How about...?”

<i>All adults</i>	Reducing state regulations by changing CEQA	Requiring local governments to approve new housing before receiving transportation funding	Requiring local governments to change zoning for new development from single to multi-family housing near transit/job centers
Favor	47%	61%	62%
Oppose	30	31	30
Don't know	24	8	8

Republicans and independents are more likely to be in favor of changing CEQA than Democrats. Across regions, Inland Empire and Central Valley residents are more likely than those in other regions to express support. In contrast, Republicans are less likely than Democrats to favor tying transportation funds to new housing and to favor changing zoning for new development near transit or job centers. Majorities across regions as well as age and education groups favor tying transportation funds to new housing. Majorities across regions and demographic groups favor changing zoning laws. Homeowners are less likely than renters to favor CEQA changes (40% to 54%), tying transportation funds to new housing (50% to 71%), and changing zoning laws (51% to 72%). Support for all three proposals is higher among Latinos and African Americans than among Asian Americans and whites.

“Next, do you favor or oppose these state government proposals to provide more affordable housing in your part of California? How about...?”

% Favor		Reducing state regulations by changing CEQA	Requiring local governments to approve new housing before receiving transportation funding	Requiring local governments to change zoning for new development from single to multi-family housing near transit/job centers
All adults		47%	61%	62%
Party	Democrats	38	63	74
	Republicans	49	48	36
	Independents	50	53	57
Region	Central Valley	53	56	62
	Inland Empire	59	66	61
	Los Angeles	46	65	60
	Orange/San Diego	40	55	65
	San Francisco Bay Area	40	61	64