

No Matter How the Question is Framed, Term Limits Get Strong Public Approval, Every Time Asked

Twenty states have passed term limits with regard to state legislatures.

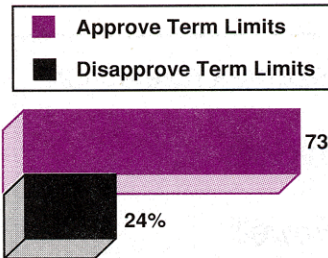
Federal Offices

How the questions were framed:

Yankelovich/Time/CNN

1. Constitutional Amendment
2. Senators and House members
3. No specified term

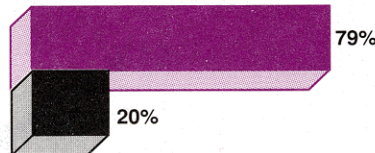
2/24-27/96



Princeton Survey Research Associates for Times Mirror

1. No Constitutional Amendment
2. Congress
3. No specified term

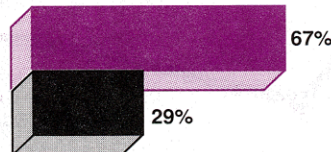
10/25-30/95



Gallup

1. Constitutional Amendment
2. Congress
3. No specified term

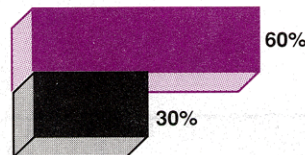
6/5-6/95



PSRA for Times Mirror

1. No Constitutional Amendment
2. House and Senate
3. 12 years

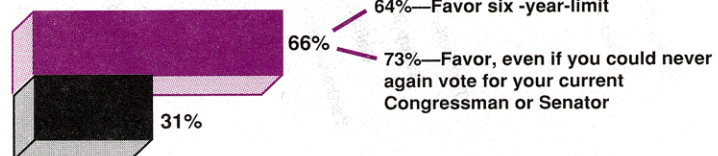
4/6-9/95



CBS/New York Times

1. No Constitutional Amendment
2. Congress
3. No specified term

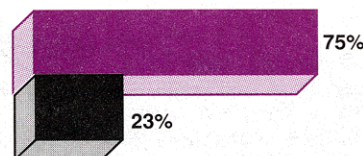
4/1-4/95



ABC News

1. No Constitutional Amendment
2. U.S. Representative in Congress
3. No specified term

1/3-4/95



Term Limits for State Legislators, the Ohio Response

	Yes	No
Statewide	73%	19%
By Party ID		
Democrat	65%	26%
Republican	82%	14%
Independent	79%	11%
By Education		
Less than high school	68%	14%
High school grad	77%	20%
Some college	71%	20%
College Grad	73%	20%

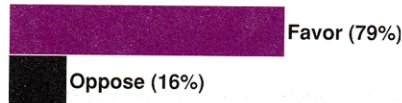
Question: Suppose you were in the polling booth voting on Issue 3...the proposed amendment to limit to eight years the terms of State Representatives and State Senators in Ohio. would you vote yes or no on this amendment to the Ohio Constitution or do you think you would decide not to vote on Issue 3?

Source: The Ohio Poll, October 16-25, 1992.

Questions: (Yankelovich) Which...do you think should be included in the 1996 Republican Party platform for President in 1996, and which do you think should not be?...A constitutional amendment to limit the terms of Senators and members of the House of Representatives? (Princeton Survey Research Associates)...tell me whether you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it, or completely disagree with....There should be a limit on how many terms a person can serve in Congress. (Gallup) Do you favor or oppose a new Constitutional amendment which would limit the number of terms that members of U.S. Congress may serve? (PSRA) ...Do you approve or disapprove of this proposal...Term limits of 12 years for members of the U.S. House and Senate...((CBS News/NYT) Should the terms of members of Congress be limited, or should they be able to serve as long as they are able to get re-elected? (ABC News) Do you favor or oppose a limit on the number of years a person could serve as a U.S. Representative in Congress?

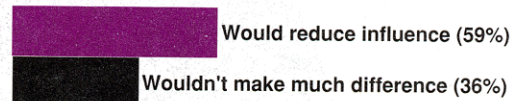
Money in Politics: Limit Lobbyists

Question: Congress is considering a law which would place stricter limits on the value of gifts that House and Senate members can accept from lobbyists. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?



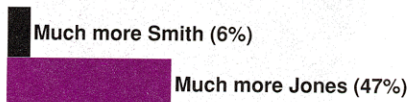
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates, September 28-October 1, 1995.

Question: Do you think a law like this, which places stricter limits on the kinds of free gifts and meals members of Congress can accept from lobbyists, would help to reduce the influence of special interests, or do you think it wouldn't make much difference?



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates, September 28-October 1, 1995.

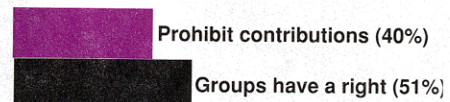
Question: ...Congressman Smith receives almost half of his campaign contributions from Political Action Committees. He argues that running for Congress is very expensive and besides these political action committees represent groups he supports such as business, labor, environmental groups and teachers' associations.... Mr. Jones feels that political action committees have far too much influence on Congress. He feels that you can't take money from political action committees and truly represent the people. For that reason he refuses to accept any contributions from these PACs....**[Which candidate you would be more likely to vote for?]**



Source: Survey by American Viewpoint, March 28-April 1, 1992.

But Interest Groups Have a Right To Contribute to Campaigns

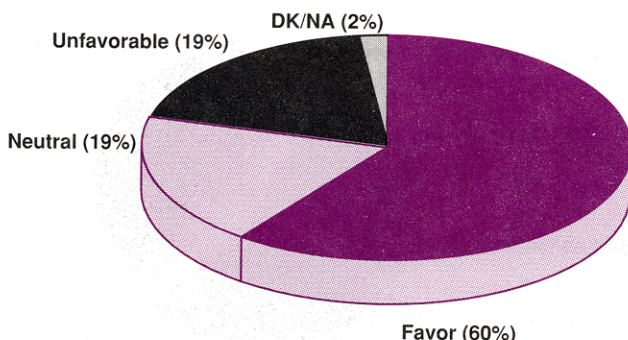
Question: Should laws be passed to prohibit interest groups from contributing to campaigns, or do groups have a right to contribute to the candidates they support?



Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners, Inc. for Time/CNN, March 18, 1993.

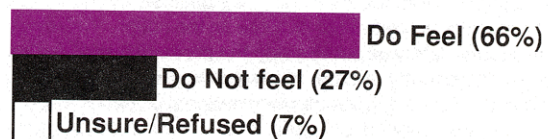
Free Air Time For Candidates Is A Good Idea

Question: (Now I am going to read to you some reforms...that have been proposed to make democracy work better...and ask you to rate each of these on the 0-100 scale...100 means...you are very favorable to it...0 means you are very unfavorable to it, and 50 means...neutral....the higher the number, the more you favor the proposal....**Require broadcasters to fairly allocate free air time to all qualified candidates for Congress...**

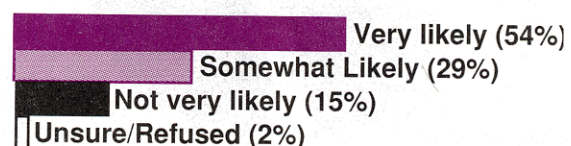


Source: Survey by Market Strategies, March 10-15, 1993.

Question: Do you feel that there ought to be enough *free television time* given to major candidates to allow the voters to get to know them, or do you not feel that way?

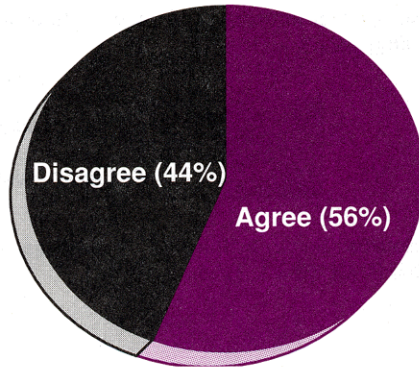


Question: How likely is it that you yourself would watch a *5 to 15 minute unfiltered television* presentation on the issues made by a candidate for president?...



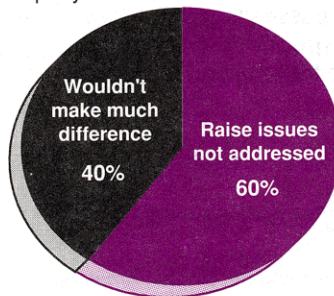
Source: Survey by Hill Research Consultants of registered voters, May 19-20, 1996.

Would A New (Third) Party Help? Americans Just Aren't Sure

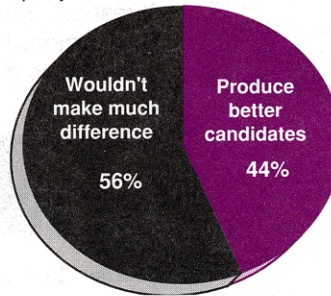


Question: Some people say the country needs a third political party—a new party to compete with the Democratic and Republican parties. Do you agree or disagree?

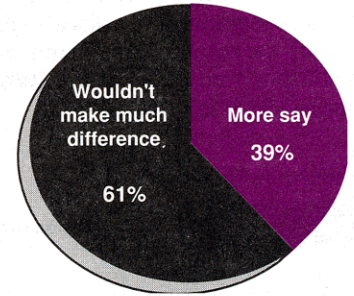
Question: If a third political party were created, do you think that would raise issues that the current parties do not address, or wouldn't a third party make that much difference?



Question: If a third political party were created, do you think that would produce better candidates for political office, or wouldn't a third party make that much difference?



Question: If a third political party were created, do you think that would give people like you more say in government, or wouldn't a third party make that much difference?

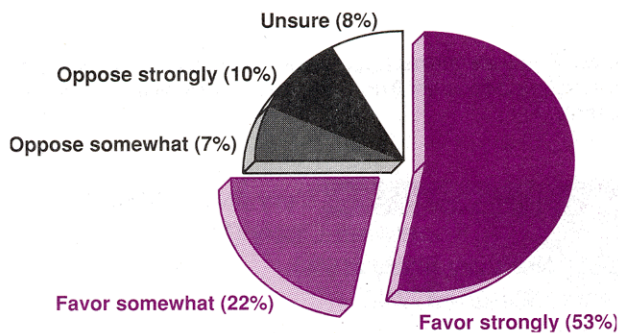


Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, March 31-April 2, 1996.

Note: All "don't know responses" under 10% to all the questions on this page have been calculated out for display purposes.

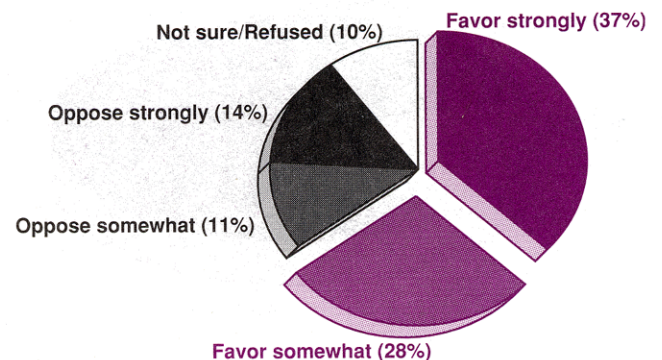
More Direct Democracy Finds Favor

Question: ...[S]ome states allow issues to be decided by the voters themselves through the placement of an issue on the ballot...There has been some discussion lately about allowing the presentation of issues on ballots across the country in order to resolve key issues facing the nation. Would you favor or oppose allowing national issues to appear on ballots across the country? (If choice is made): And do you strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?



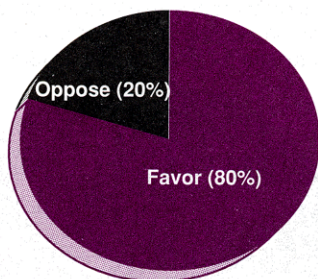
Source: Survey by the Tarrance Group & Mellman & Lake, August 16-18, 1994.

Question: ...the President and Congress make the laws for the federal government. Some people have proposed that laws also be passed by national referendum....Would you favor or oppose the idea of passing federal laws through a national referendum system? (If favor or oppose): Is that favor/oppose strongly or favor/oppose somewhat?



Source: Survey by the Los Angeles Times, June 12-14, 1993.

Yes to National Referenda



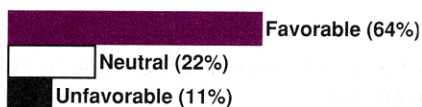
Question: Would you favor or oppose having a national referendum system in which all citizens voted on proposals that deal with major national issues—voting either for them or against them—before they became law?

Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners, Inc. for *Time/CNN*, September 1, 1994.

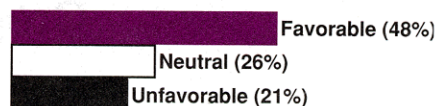
And Make Them Binding

Question: (Now I am going to read to you some reforms...that have been proposed to make democracy work better...and ask you to rate each of these on the 0-100 scale... 100 means...you are very favorable to it...0 means you are very unfavorable to it, and 50 means...neutral....the higher the number, the more you favor the proposal...

...Conduct national referendums or votes on major issues and require the government to treat a referendum approved by a majority of all registered voters in the same manner as legislation passed by Congress



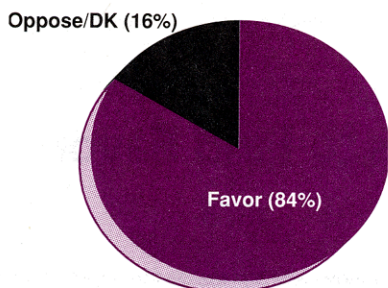
...Conduct national referendums or votes on major issues, open to all voters but with the results not binding on the Congress



Source: Survey by Market Strategies, March 10-15, 1993.

Yes to Recall Elections

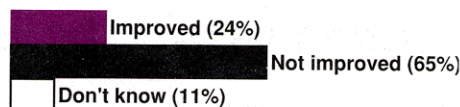
Question: Some states permit citizens to sign petitions asking for a recall election for an elected public official. When enough signatures are obtained, a special election is held where the voters can vote a public official out of office. Would you favor or oppose giving citizens the right to have a recall election...?



Source: Survey by Gordon S. Black Corporation, registered voters likely to vote 11/92, May 1992.

But No To Teledemocracy

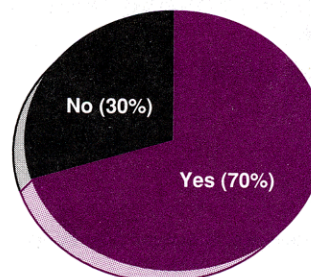
Question: How do you feel about using computer systems for instant votes or referendums on important political issues? Do you think...our democracy is improved when public officials and politicians are guided by the results of these instant votes, or our democracy is not improved because people who vote by computer don't represent the full range of interests in our society?



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates, February 16-17, 1995.

Californians Say Yes to a new Form of "Cross Filing"

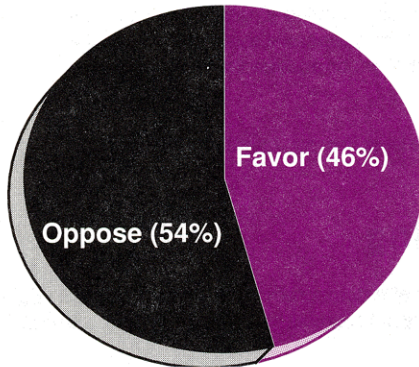
Question: "Proposition 198 is the Elections Open Primary Initiative. it provides that all persons entitled to vote can vote for any candidate in primary elections regardless of the candidate's political affiliation and provides a single primary election ballot on which the names of all candidates are placed. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 198?"



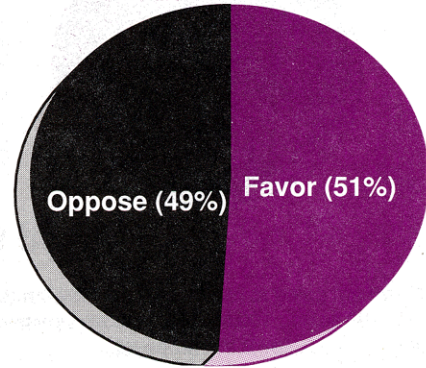
Source: Survey by the Field Poll of California registered voters, March 15-20, 1996.

Voting by Mail: Americans Are Evenly Split

Question: ...[D]o you favor or oppose changing the election laws to allow everyone to vote by mail? [Asked of form A, half sample.]



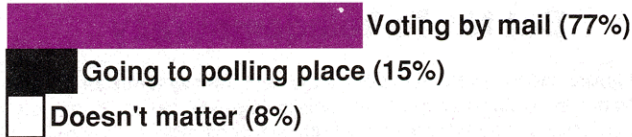
Question: Currently most states do not allow voting by mail except for absentees. Overall, do you favor or oppose changing the election laws to allow everyone to vote by mail? [Asked of form B half sample.]



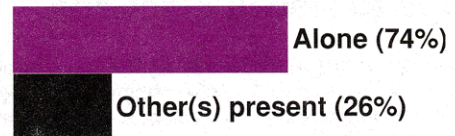
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates, February 22-25, 1996.

Oregonians Like It

Question: Which method of voting do you prefer, voting by mail or going to a polling place?



Question: When you voted, were you alone or was another person in the same room with you?

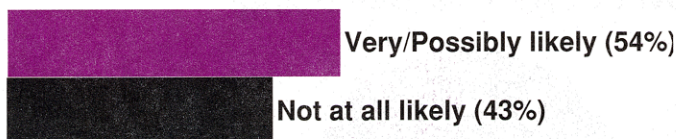


Source: Survey by the Oregon Survey Research laboratory, University of Oregon, January 30-February 11, 1996.

Voting NOA: The Idea Continues to Find Favor

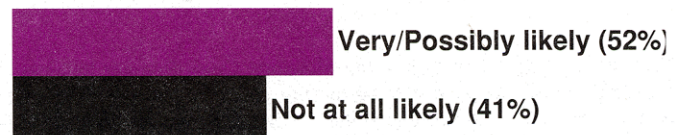
1992

Question: Suppose there was a place on the ballot where you could refuse to vote for any of the candidates—a vote of no confidence in all of the candidates running for office? How likely is it that you would vote that way?



1976

Question: Suppose there was a place on the ballot where you could refuse to vote for any of the candidates—a vote of no confidence in all of the candidates running for office? How likely is it that you would vote that way...?



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates, May 28-June 10, 1992.

Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, February 27-March 1, 1976