

CA *forward*

What Just Happened?

Jim Mayer,

Executive Director, *California Forward*

Saving CA's Communities

Davis, CA May 15, 2010

Or is
about to...



The Last Time We Saw Our Heroes

- ✓ The economy (& public budgets) a mess ... and getting messier
- ✓ Special interest groups preparing for war
- ✓ Public interest groups rallying for reform

Fast Forward to May 2010

- ✓ Economy has hopefully bottomed out (or is it flat lining?)
- ✓ State (& local) budgets getting worse
- ✓ The special interest war is limited, but happening
- ✓ Public interest reforms are alive, but...

Initiatives That Won't Be on the Ballot

- ✘ Majority Vote for Budget & Taxes
- ✘ Paycheck Protection
- ✘ Photo ID Requirement for Voting
- ✘ Split role for property taxes
- ✘ Pension Reform
- ✘ Part-time Legislature

Might Be On the Ballot

- Term limit reform
- Majority vote for budget
- Repeal of 2008-09 business tax cuts
- Local Revenue Protection (LCC)
- Fee restrictions (Sinclair Paint)
- AB 32 repeal
- Congressional redistricting
- Anti-redistricting

What About Public Interest Reforms?

City County Schools Partnership

Constitutional Convention

CA Forward



A State-of-the-Art Budget Process

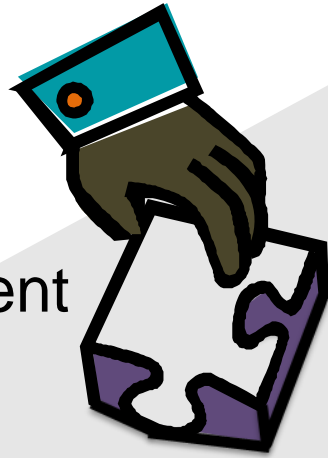


- Multiyear planning
- Results and accountability
- Performance review
- Manage revenue spikes
- Pay-as-you-go
- Majority vote budget

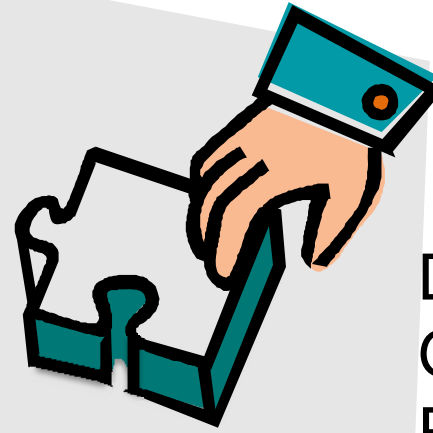
**Take one step back
...and one deep breath**

A New Age Creates New Challenges

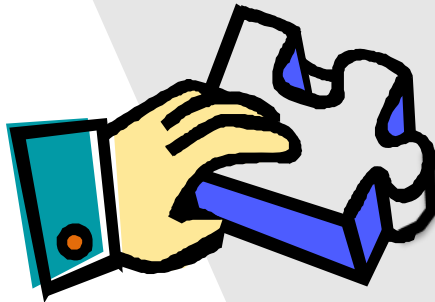
Underachievement



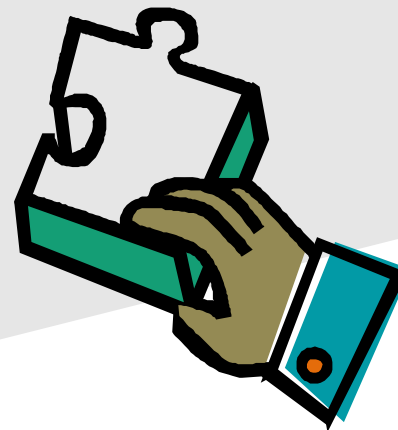
Dynamic & Growing Population



Hyper-partisanship

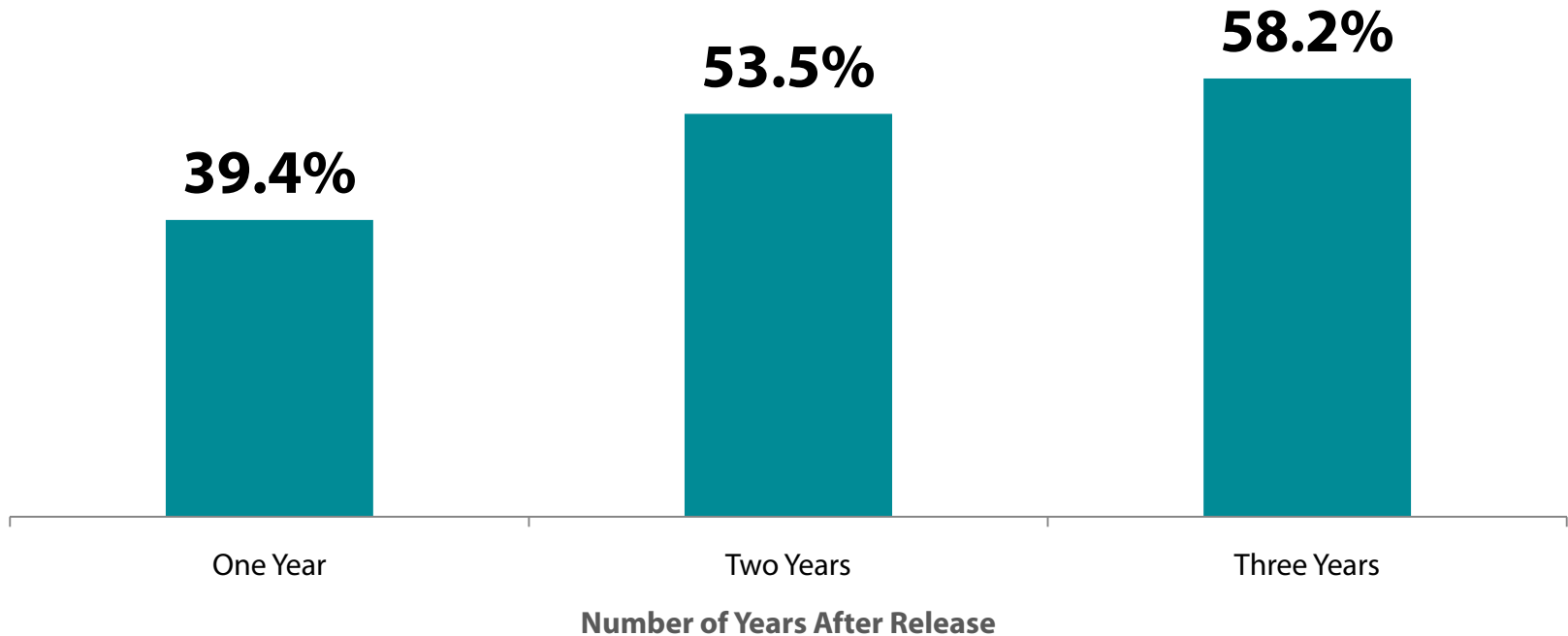


Globally Competitive Markets



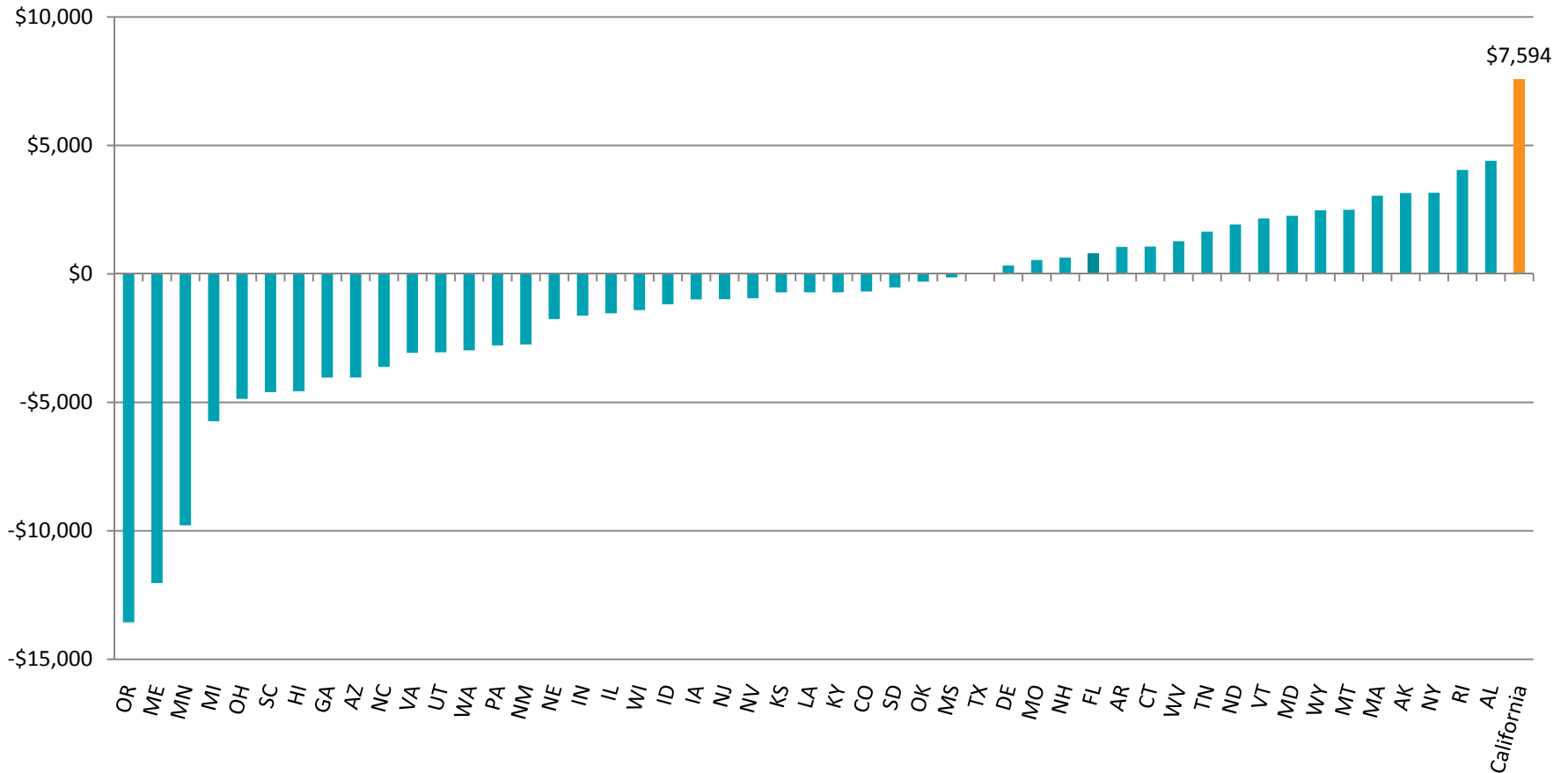
Results Matter: What are consequences when... two in three felons end up back in prison within three years.

Recidivism Rates: All Paroled Felons Released from Prison
for First Time in 2005



And when our per inmate costs are going up faster than... well, faster than anywhere else

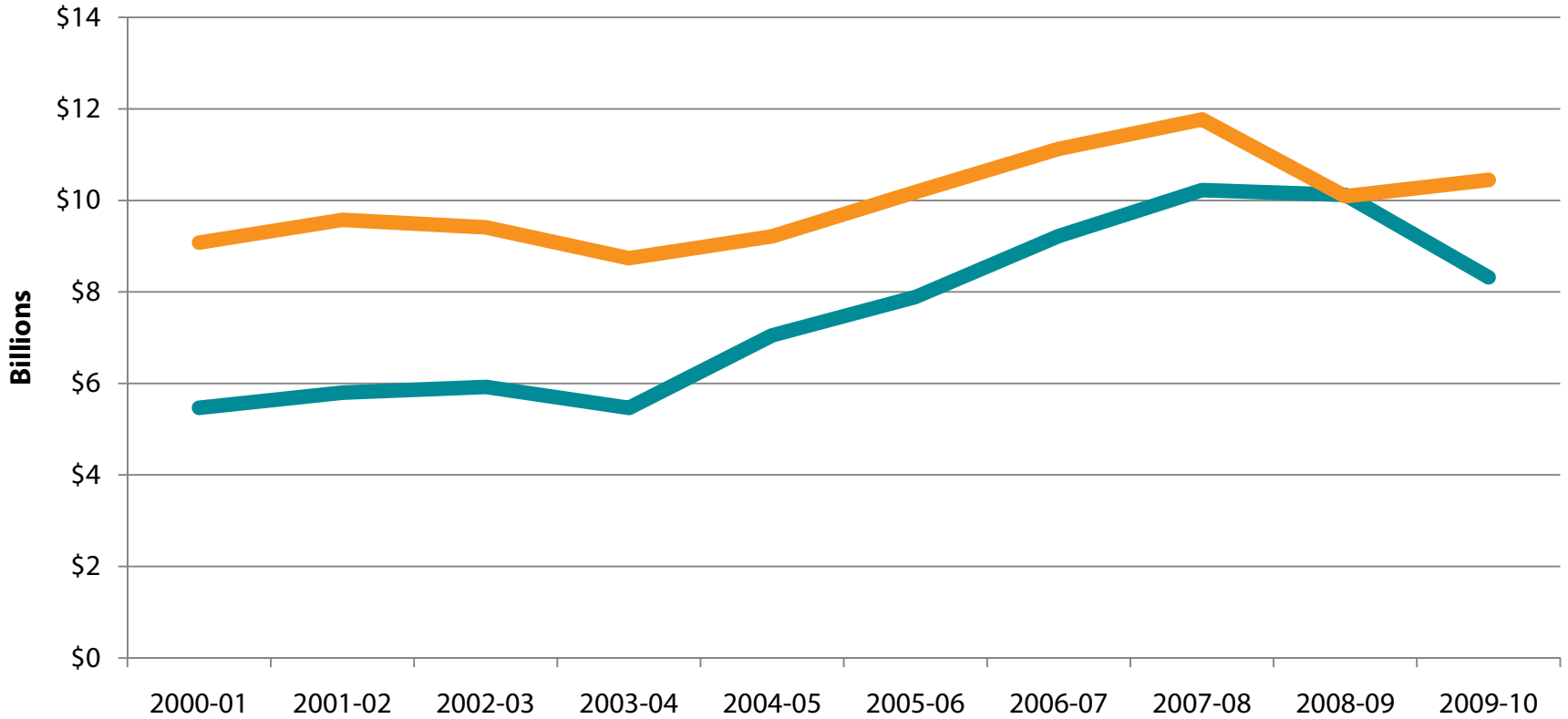
Change in Per Inmate Prison Costs (Inflation Adjusted), 2001-2005



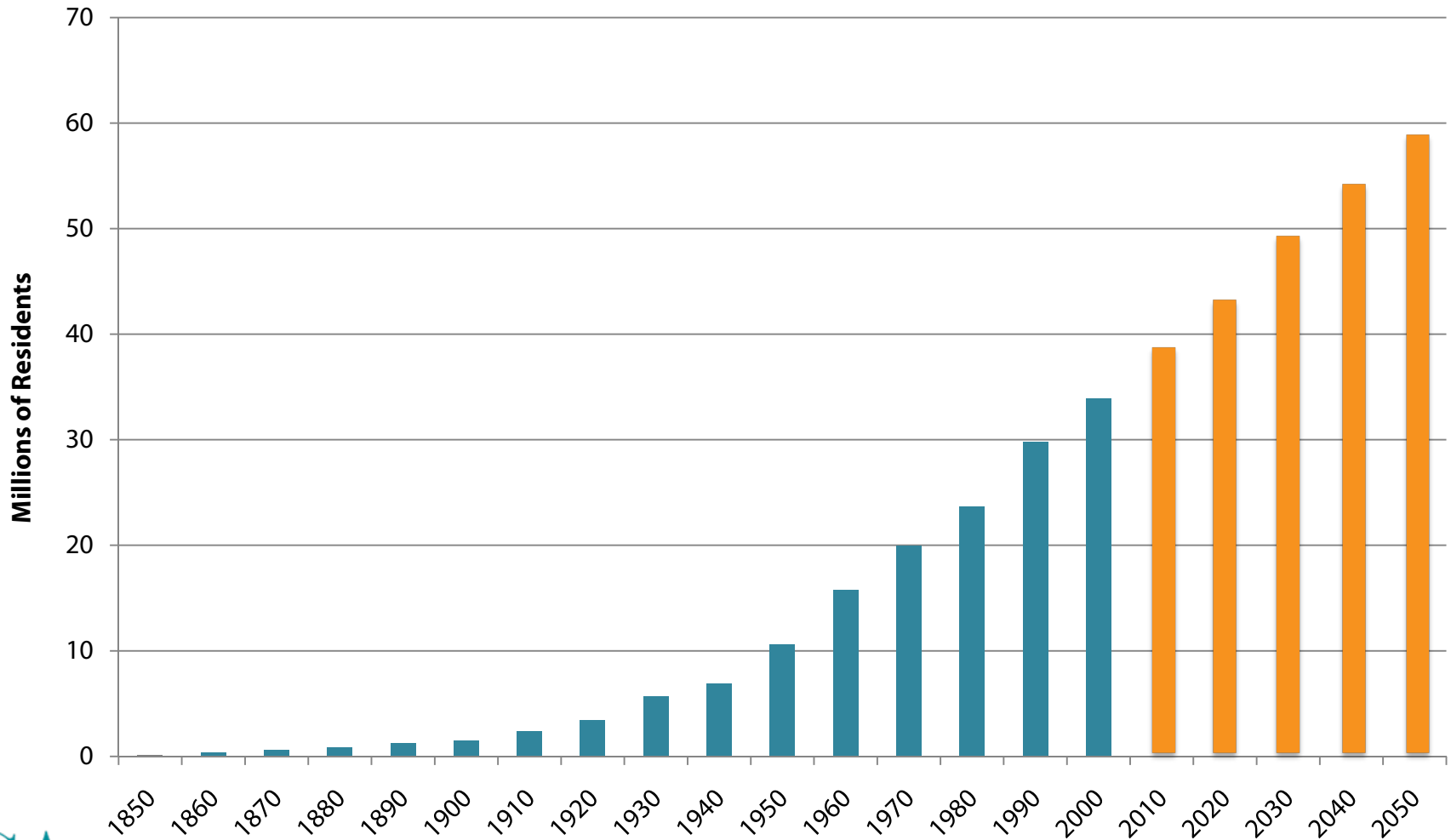
Did We Mean to Make This Choice?

CA's Annual Spending

Corrections Higher Education



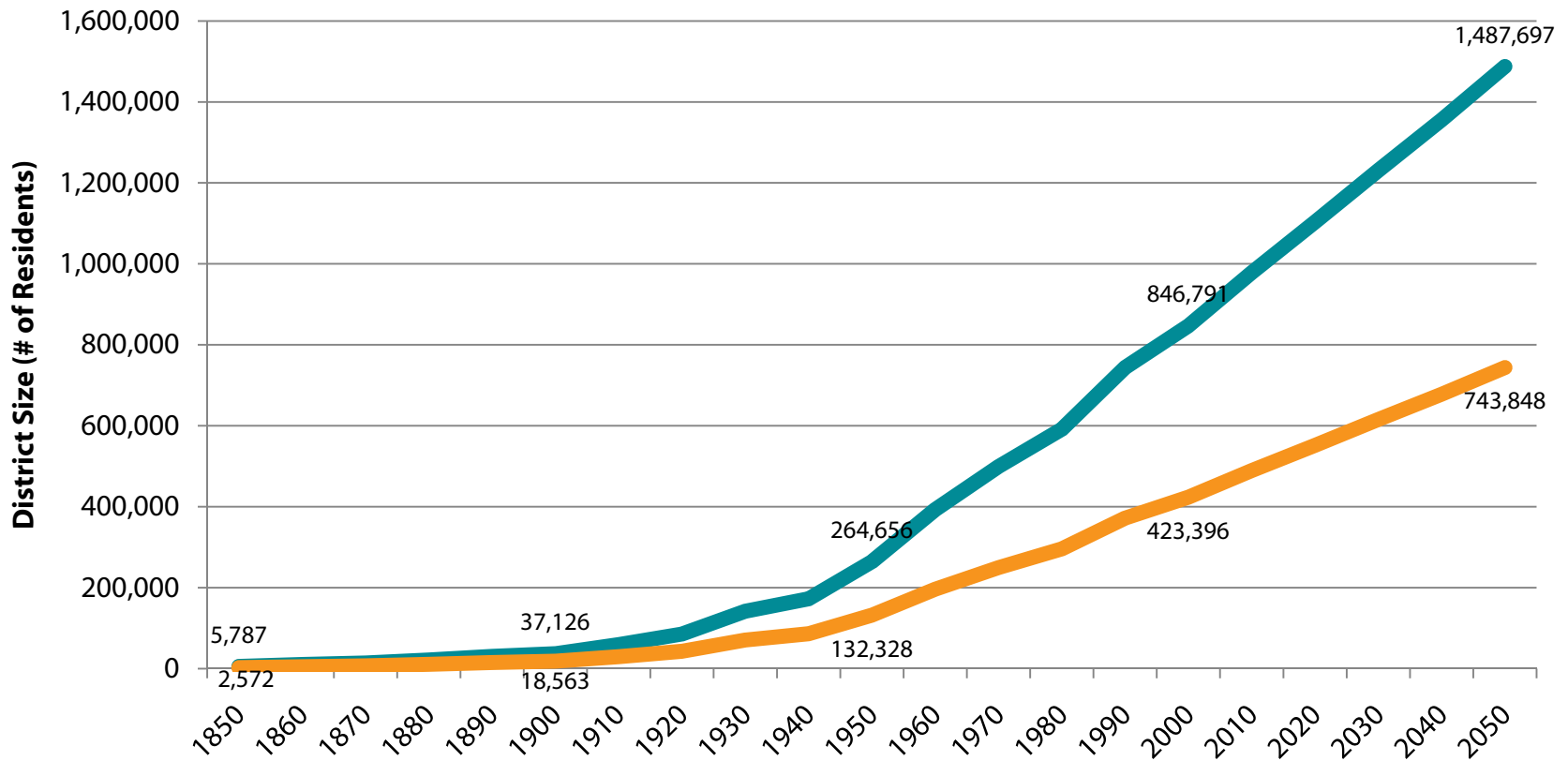
If Democracy is difficult now, what happens when...



Dear Senator: I Think We Are Growing Apart

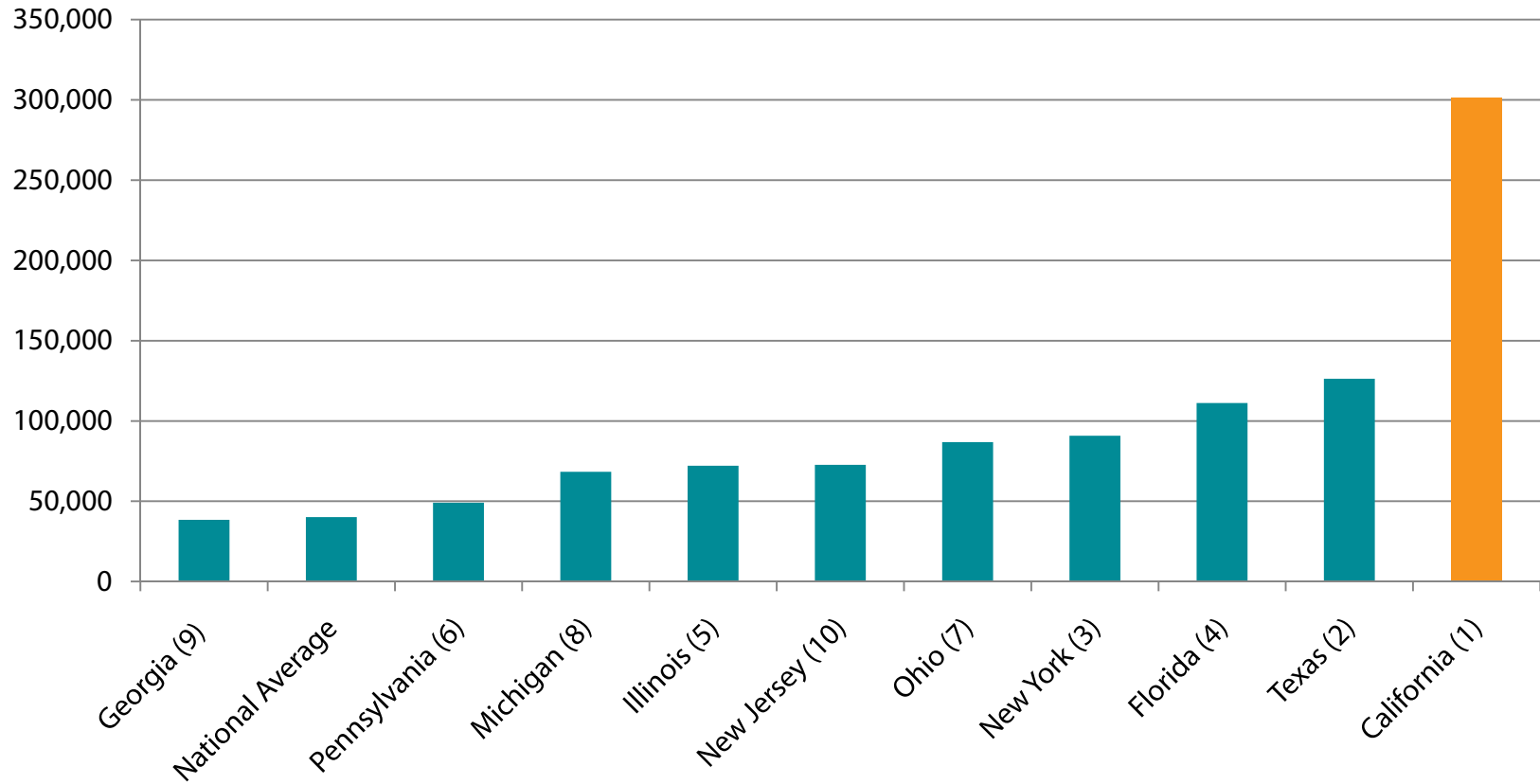
California Legislative Representation

Senate Representation Assembly Representation



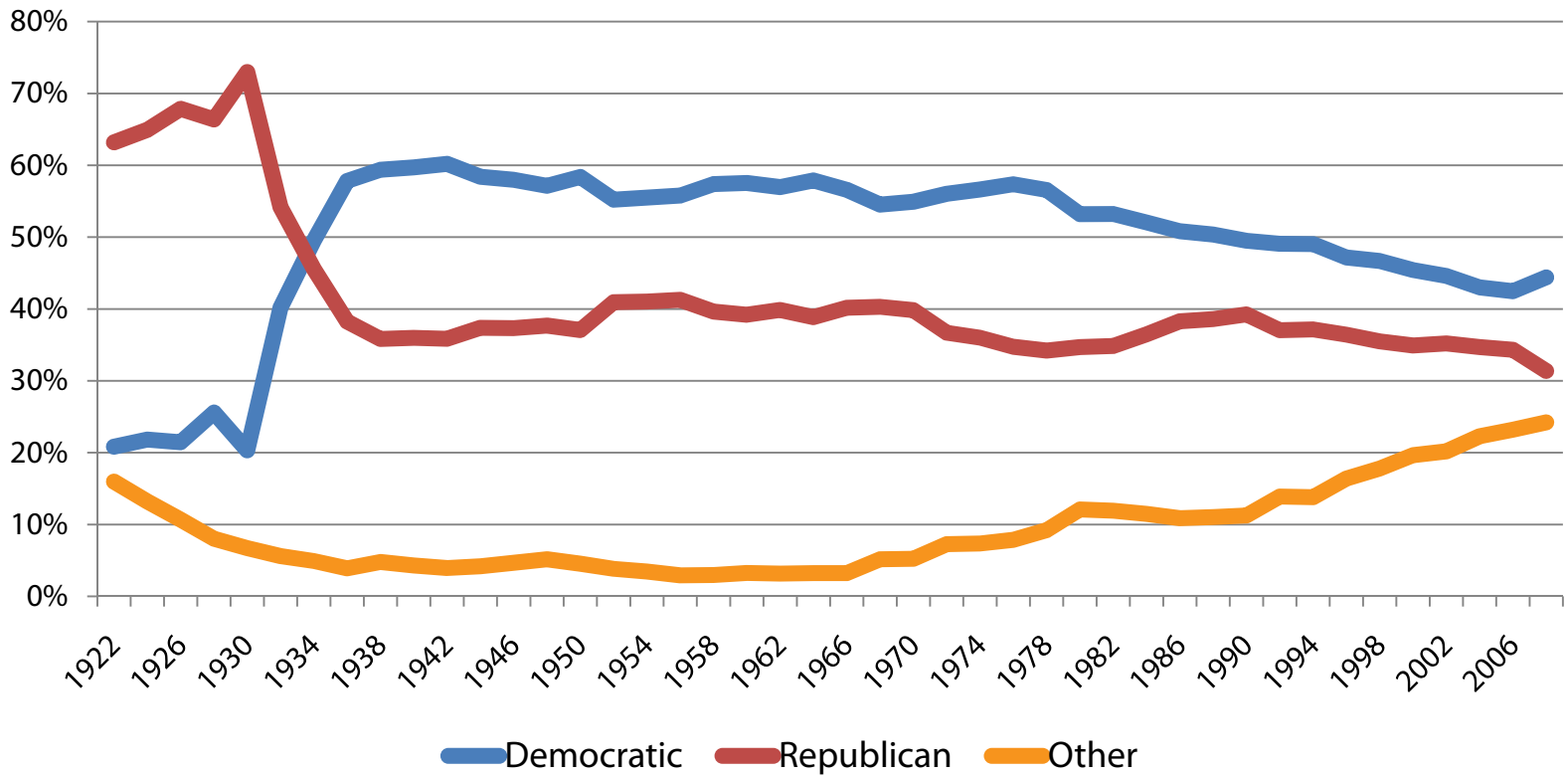
CA Lawmakers: Twice as Many Constituents

Residents per Lawmaker: Most Populous States



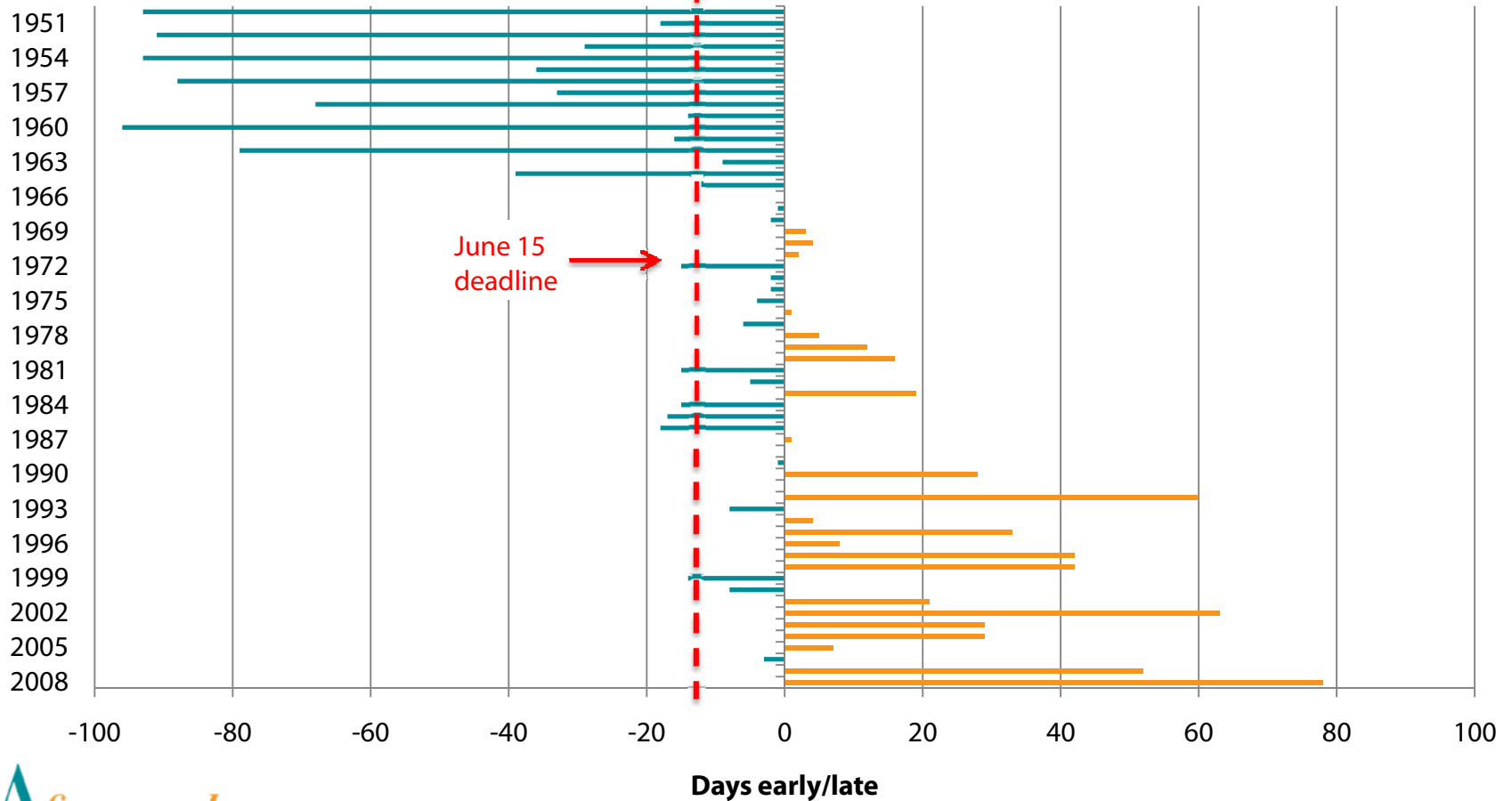
The Two Party System isn't Working for Some of Us

California Historical Voter Registration
1922-2008



Partisan Gridlock

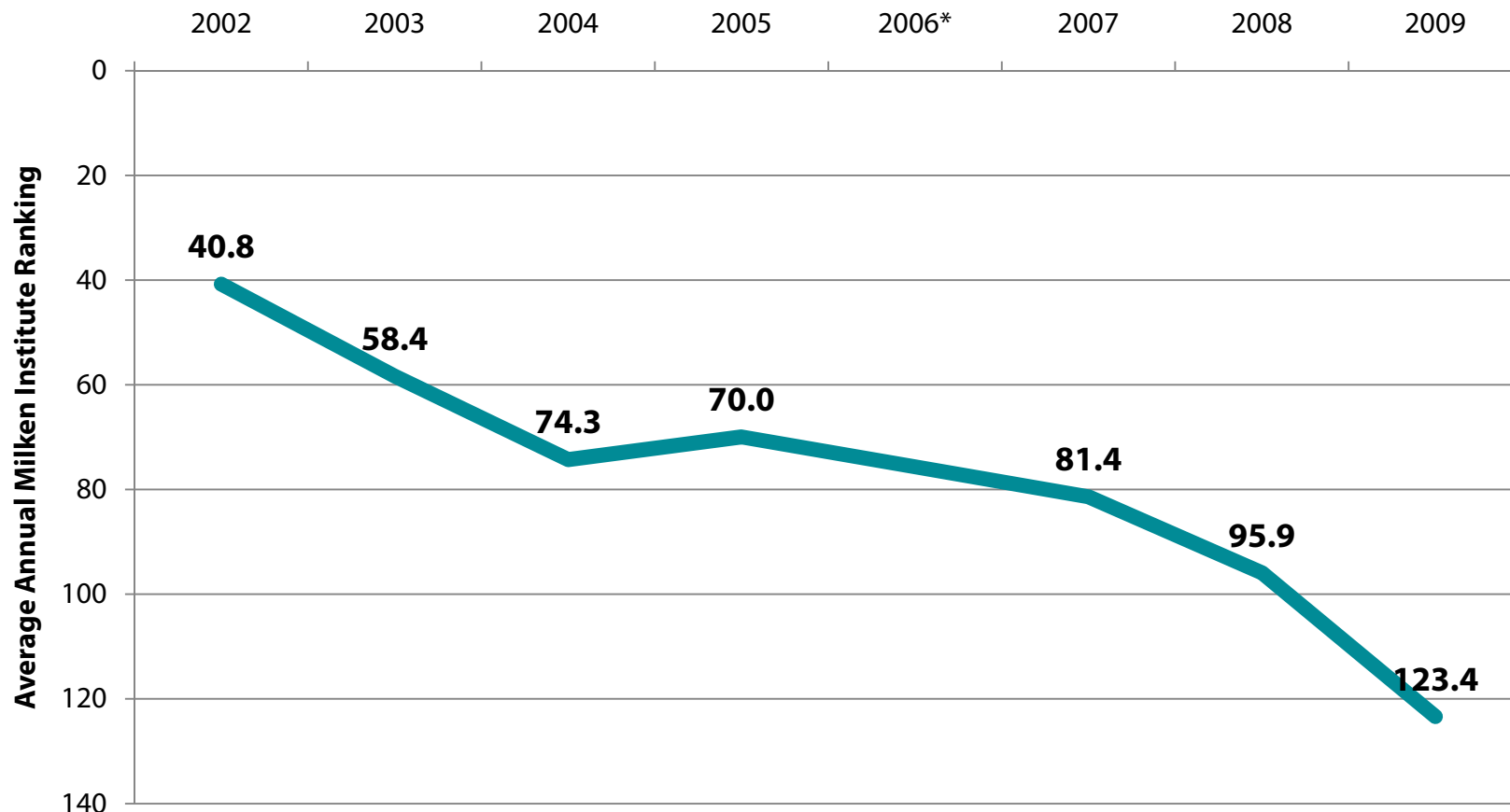
CA's Enacted Budget: Days Past New Fiscal Year,
1950-2008



Regional Economies Define CA's Nation-State Landscape



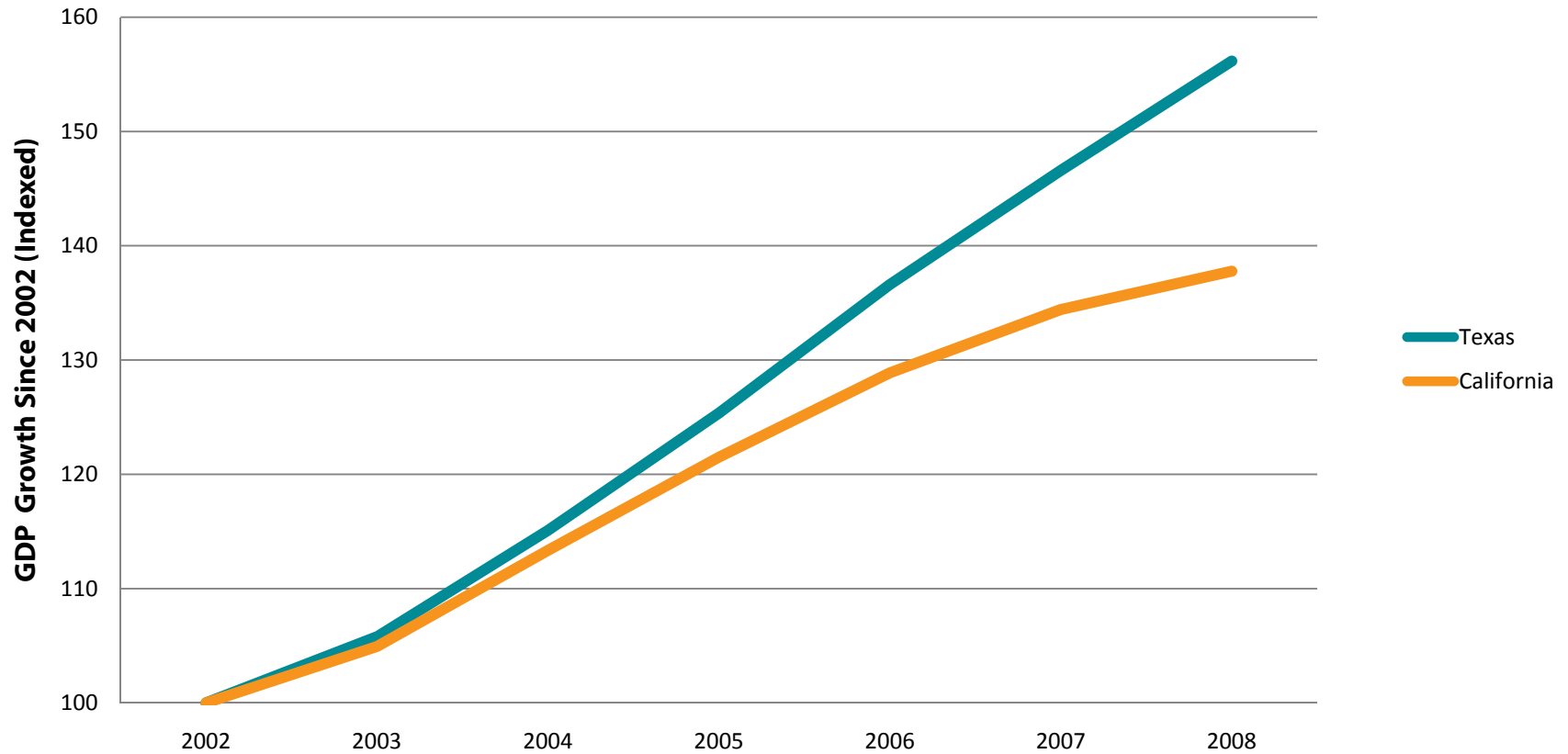
Milken: Steady Decline in the Economic Performance of California Cities



*2006 data is not available.



What if California's GDP had grown at the same rate as that of Texas between 2002 and 2008?



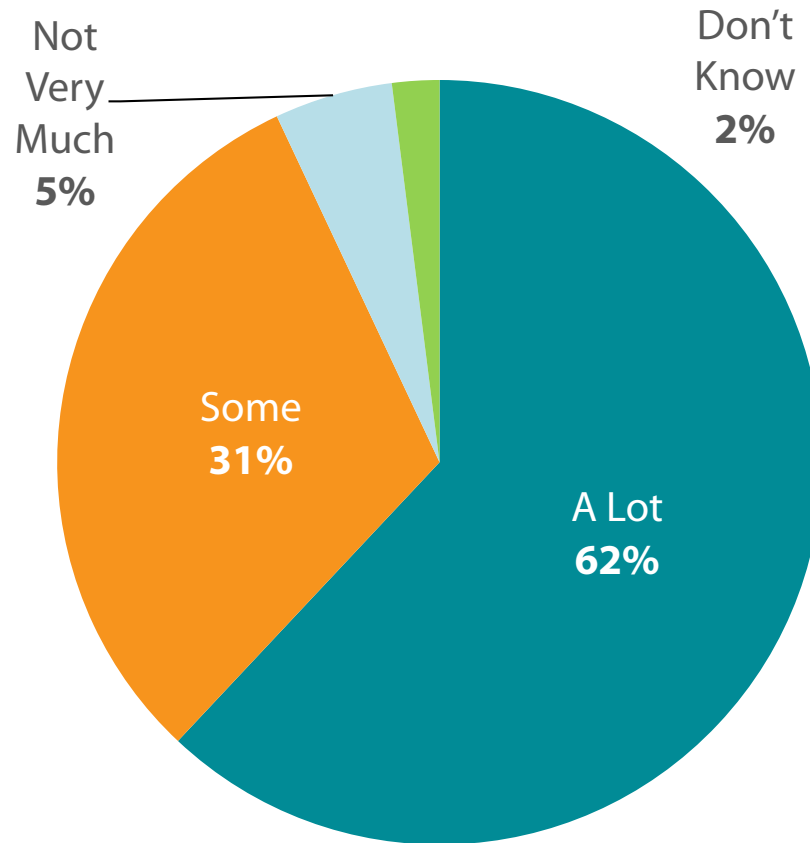
Regional Economies Define CA's Nation-State Landscape



**We also are running low on
trust**

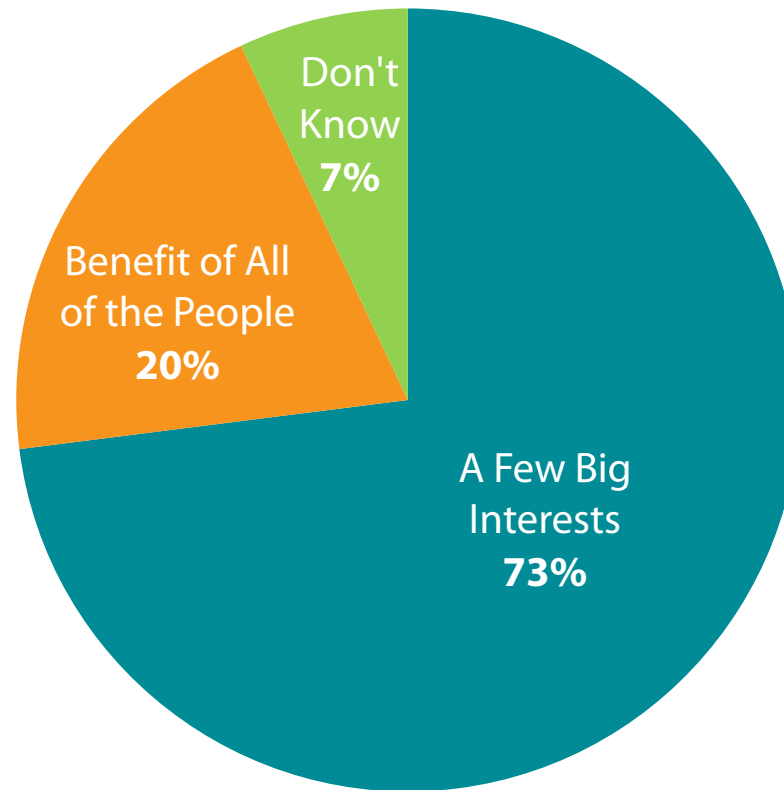
CA: Rampant Waste, Fraud & Abuse?

Do people in state government waste a lot of the money we pay in taxes, some, or not very much?



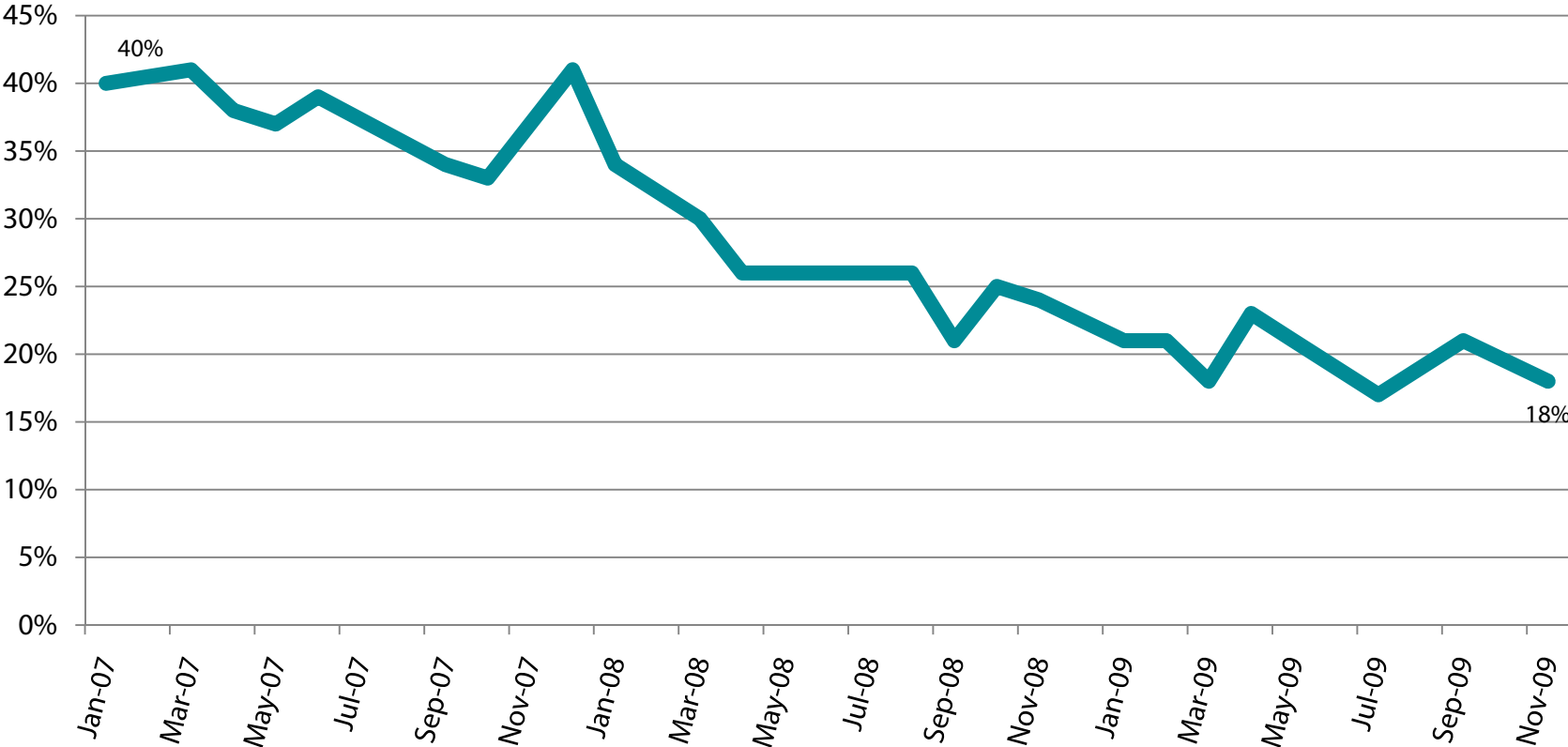
CA: Public Interest vs. Special Interests

Is state government run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or for the benefit of all of the people?



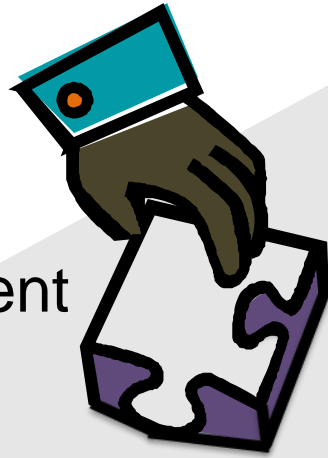
Public Approval of the Legislature is at Record Lows

California Legislature Approval Ratings

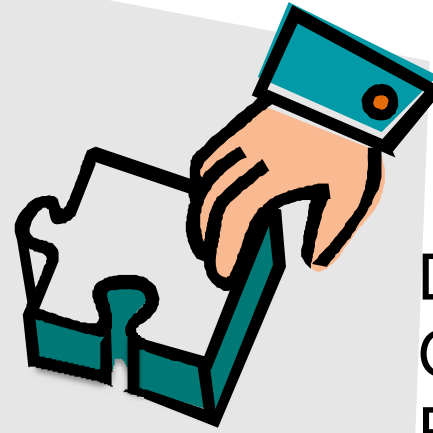


A New Age Creates New Challenges

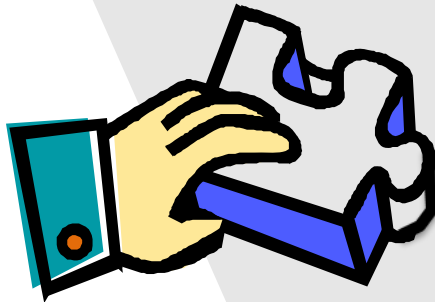
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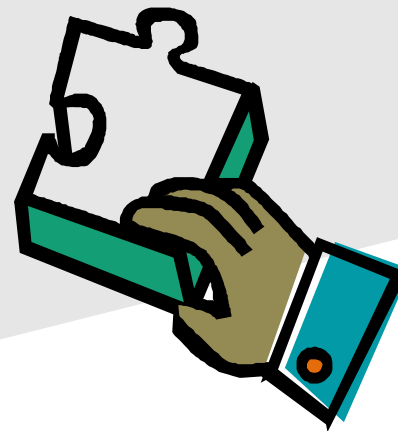
Dynamic & Growing Population



Hyper-partisanship



Globally Competitive Markets



A New Age Requires New Governance

Results &
Accountability

Closer to
the People

Vibrant
democracy

Invest in
the future



Sounds good, but ...

There is a path for transformational reforms

Regional gatherings & community conversations

- The consequences of inaction are unacceptable
- We can learn from our own successes
- Explore options & identify preferred solutions
- Build a solid coalition of leaders & organizations to support transformational changes

What's the next right step?

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

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