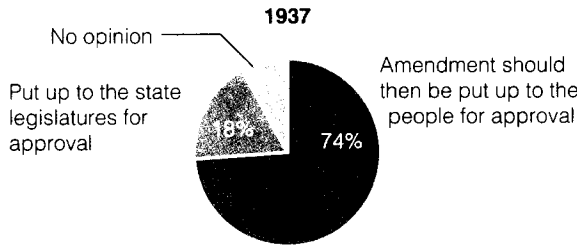


# Curbing Their Power

Dissatisfaction with institutional performance in a relentlessly individualist polity like ours manifests itself in an embrace of direct democracy devices—initiatives, referendums, term limits, recalls, and direct primaries—designed to curb the power of malperforming institutions.

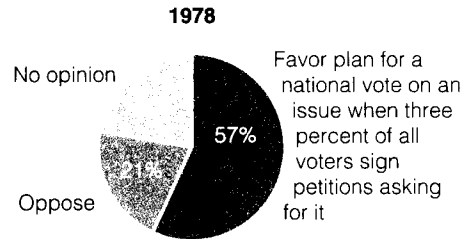
Question: **Whenever Congress has voted to amend the Constitution, should the amendment then be put up to the state legislatures or directly to the people of each state for approval?**

Whenever congress has voted to amend the Constitution



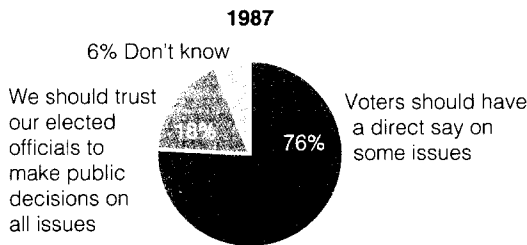
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, March 3-8, 1937.

Question: **The U.S. Senate will consider a proposal that would require a national vote—that is, a referendum—on an issue when three percent of all voters who voted in the most recent presidential election sign petitions asking for such a nationwide vote. How do you feel about this plan—do you...?**



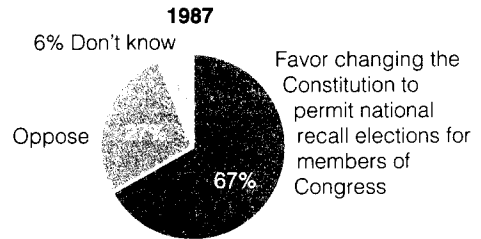
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, January 6-9, 1978.

Question: **Opponents of referendums and recall elections say people won't be able to cast informed votes and we should trust our elected representatives to make public decisions. Supporters of referendums and recall elections say people are able to cast informed votes and deserve more of a say in government. What is your opinion...?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Thomas E. Cronin, September 1987.

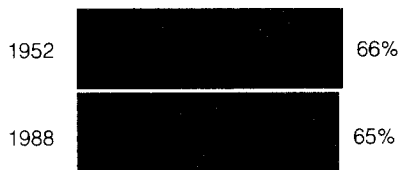
Question: **In many states and communities if a large number of people sign a petition, citizens can vote to remove an elected official who is unresponsive or doing a poor job. This is called a recall election. Other states and communities do not provide for recall elections, believing such elections lessen the independence of elected officials. What is your opinion—would you...?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Thomas E. Cronin, September 1987.

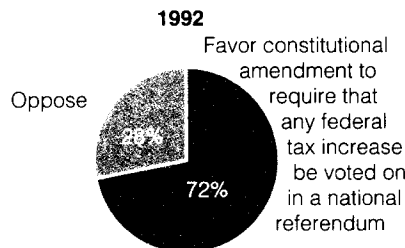
Question: **It has been suggested that presidential candidates be chosen by the voters in a nationwide primary election instead of by political party conventions as at present. Would you favor or oppose this?**

Favor voters choosing presidential candidates in a nationwide primary election



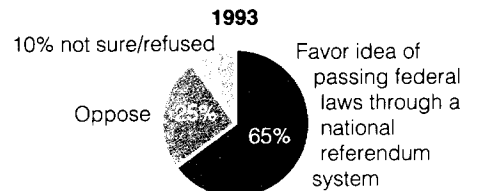
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, latest that of March 8-12, 1988.

Question: **Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment to require any federal tax increase be voted on in a national referendum by the general public?**



Source: Survey by Gordon S. Black Corp. for B. Thomas Golisano, May 1992.

Question: **As things stand now, the president and Congress make the laws for the federal government. Some people have proposed that laws also be passed by national referendum, which would mean putting various proposals on the ballot so people across the country could vote them up or down directly. Would you...?**

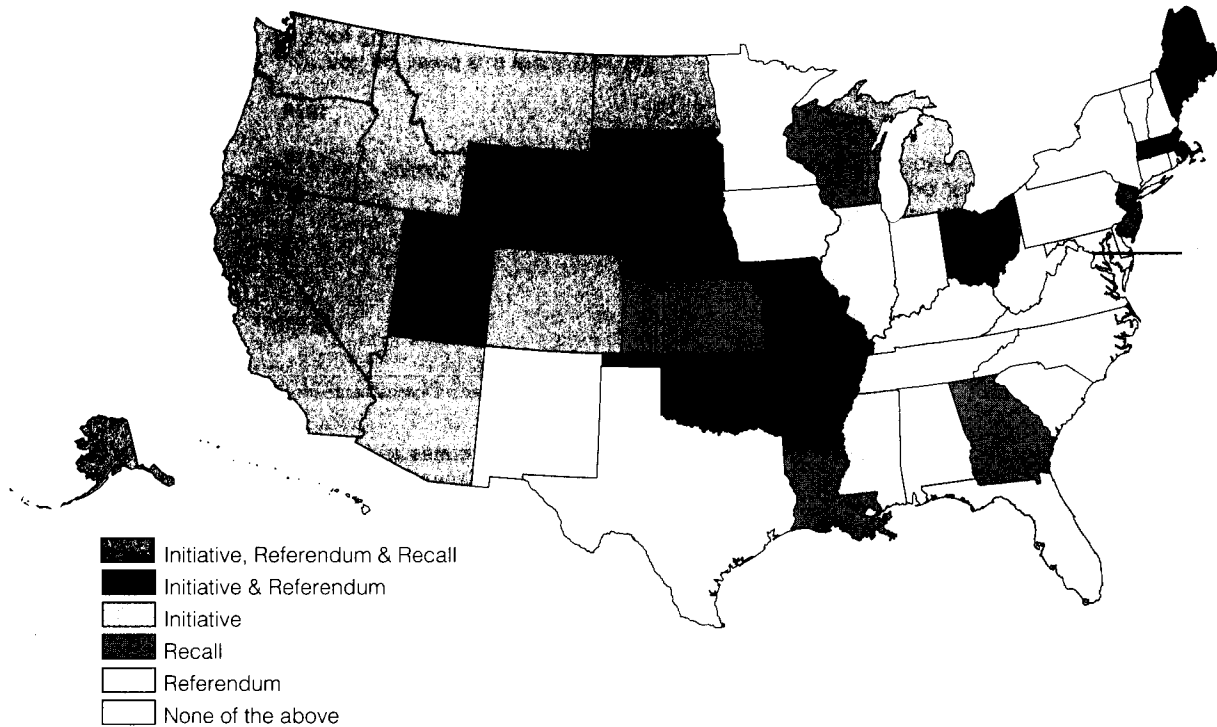


Source: Survey by the Los Angeles Times, June 12-14, 1993.

# Initiatives, Referendums, Recalls

The map below shows the states that use initiative, referendum, and recall devices. Californians, who have voted on a substantial number of statewide propositions in the last decade, are not as enthusiastic about them as they were in the past, but the device still enjoys solid majority support there.

Tools of Direct Democracy

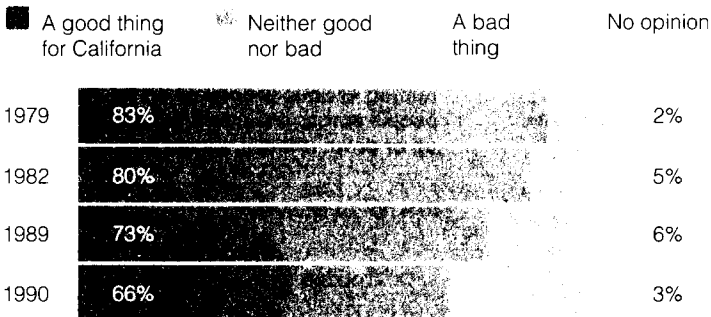


Source: Thomas E. Cronin, 1989, *Direct Democracy*, plus updates.

Question: **Do you think that statewide ballot proposition elections are a good thing for California, a bad thing, or don't you think they make much difference?**

**Respondents in California**

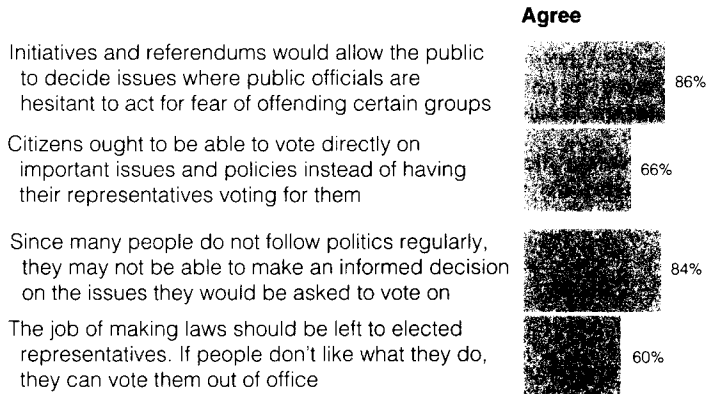
**Statewide proposition elections are...**



Source: Surveys by the Field Institute, latest that of August 17-27, 1990

Question: **Next I am going to read you various statements that have been made concerning proposition races and I would like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with each one. Do you...?**

**Respondents in California**



Source: Survey by the Field Institute, October 1-4, 1982