

## California Statewide Survey Results

**Q1** I am going to read you a description of civil asset forfeiture laws. Civil asset forfeiture laws allow law enforcement to seize and keep a person's cash and property if they suspect it has been involved in criminal activity, such as drug sales. Under these laws, the property owner doesn't have to be charged or convicted of a crime to lose their property. And the same law enforcement agencies that take cash and property get to keep part of the funds for their own budgets. Having heard this, do you think should police be allowed to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime, or not?

*Police should be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime* ..... 14%

*Police should not be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime* ..... 82%

*Not sure* ..... 4%

**Q2** Now that you have heard a description of civil asset forfeiture laws, have you ever had cash or other property taken away by a police officer without being convicted of a crime, or not?

*Have had property taken from you by a police officer without being convicted of a crime* ..... 7%

*Have not had property taken from you by a police officer without being convicted of a crime* ..... 89%

*Not sure* ..... 3%

*Don't care to say* ..... 1%

**Q3** Has someone you know ever had cash or other property taken away by a police officer without being convicted of a crime, or not?

*Someone you know has had property taken from them by a police officer without being convicted of a crime*..... 17%

*Someone you know has not had property taken from them by a police officer without being convicted of a crime* ..... 78%

*Not sure* ..... 4%

*Don't care to say* ..... 1%



**Q4** Now, I will describe arguments in favor of civil asset forfeiture. Law enforcement officials, including District Attorneys and Police Chiefs, say that they use asset forfeiture as a tool to combat large drug trafficking organizations through proven federal, state, and local task force efforts. That these task forces disrupted drug gangs, seized thousands of weapons over the last few years and rescued drug endangered children. That if convictions were required, it would result in less money for these task forces and devastate those efforts. Law enforcement insists that the current process, where a person can sue the government to get their property back is enough to protect the innocent. Having heard these arguments, I'd like to ask again. In your opinion, should police be allowed to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime, or not?

- Police should be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime* ..... 17%
- Police should not be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime* ..... 78%
- Not sure* ..... 5%

**Q5** Now, I will describe arguments against civil asset forfeiture. Critics of asset forfeiture, including conservative, liberal and moderate groups, believe that law enforcement should not rely on money taken from people who were never charged with or convicted of a crime. That it results in innocent people being stolen from and that it's a fundamental violation of due process – that no one should be punished without a conviction. That law enforcement should be funded like all other government programs, through the normal budget process, and not through forfeiture where cash and property is taken from regular people without a charge, conviction or trial. Having heard these arguments, I'd like to ask again. In your opinion, should police be allowed to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime, or not?

- Police should be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime* ..... 11%
- Police should not be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime* ..... 85%
- Not sure* ..... 4%

**Q6** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2

- Woman* ..... 53%
- Man*..... 47%

**Q7** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If an independent, press 3

- Democrat* ..... 48%
- Republican* ..... 34%
- Independent* ..... 17%



**Q8** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If Asian, press 3. If African American, press 4. If other, press 5.

<i>Hispanic</i> .....	21%
<i>White</i> .....	61%
<i>Asian</i> .....	5%
<i>African American</i> .....	6%
<i>Other</i> .....	6%

**Q9** If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If you are older than 65, press 3.

<i>18 to 45</i> .....	29%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	43%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	28%

**Q10** What is your household's annual income: is it less than \$20,000, \$20,000 - \$50,000, \$50,000 - \$75,000, \$75,000 - \$100,000, or more than \$100,000?

<i>Less than \$20,000</i> .....	14%
<i>\$20,000 to \$50,000</i> .....	21%
<i>\$50,000 to \$75,000</i> .....	16%
<i>\$75,000 to \$100,000</i> .....	12%
<i>More than \$100,000</i> .....	18%
<i>Don't care to say</i> .....	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
<b>Police Keep Seized Assets Yes/No Repeat</b>				
Police should be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime	14%	16%	13%	6%
Police should not be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime	82%	79%	83%	88%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
<b>Supporting Statements Seize Property Yes/No</b>				
Police should be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime	17%	21%	15%	9%
Police should not be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime	78%	74%	81%	82%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
<b>Opposing Statements Seize Property Yes/No</b>				
Police should be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime	11%	12%	12%	7%
Police should not be able to seize and permanently take away property from people who have not been convicted of a crime	85%	84%	85%	86%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	7%



	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	Asian	African American	Other
<b>Ever Had Assets Taken Away Yes/No</b>						
Have had property taken from you by a police officer without being convicted of a crime	7%	15%	5%	3%	3%	5%
Have not had property taken from you by a police officer without being convicted of a crime	89%	74%	93%	79%	95%	94%
Not sure	3%	8%	1%	18%	-	-
Don't care to say	1%	3%	1%	-	2%	1%

	Base	Race				
		Hispanic	White	Asian	African American	Other
<b>Someone You Know Had Property Seized Yes/No</b>						
Someone you know has had property taken from them by a police officer without being convicted of a crime	17%	24%	14%	20%	15%	24%
Someone you know has not had property taken from them by a police officer without being convicted of a crime	78%	67%	83%	66%	79%	75%
Not sure	4%	7%	3%	14%	4%	1%
Don't care to say	1%	2%	1%	-	2%	-

	Base	Income					Don't care to say
		Less than \$20,000	\$20,000 to \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$75,000	\$75,000 to \$100,000	More than \$100,000	
<b>Ever Had Assets Taken Away Yes/No</b>							
Have had property taken from you by a police officer without being convicted of a crime	7%	19%	5%	10%	8%	2%	3%
Have not had property taken from you by a police officer without being convicted of a crime	89%	73%	91%	82%	91%	98%	93%
Not sure	3%	9%	4%	5%	1%	-	1%
Don't care to say	1%	-	-	4%	-	-	3%

	Base	Income					Don't care to say
		Less than \$20,000	\$20,000 to \$50,000	\$50,000 to \$75,000	\$75,000 to \$100,000	More than \$100,000	
<b>Someone You Know Had Property Seized Yes/No</b>							
Someone you know has had property taken from them by a police officer without being convicted of a crime	17%	28%	15%	19%	22%	9%	13%
Someone you know has not had property taken from them by a police officer without being convicted of a crime	78%	60%	79%	76%	76%	90%	82%
Not sure	4%	9%	6%	4%	3%	0%	3%
Don't care to say	1%	4%	-	-	-	-	2%

