

Options for Funding Transportation: An Evaluation Framework & Recommended Actions for the State of California

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Overview

1. Evaluation criteria
2. Political acceptability & public support
3. Recommended state actions

Evaluation criteria

1. Revenue generation
2. Ease of implementation
3. Equity
4. Transportation system performance
5. Promotion of interlinked public policy goals
(sustainability, economic dev't . . .)
6. Political feasibility

Overview

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Sources of Information

1. Local and state ballot measures
2. Surveys

Ballot measures

1. In 2014, 71% of 59 “transportation” ballot measures were approved nationally (CFTE data)
2. Californian voters have approved:
 - Local-option sales taxes in 20 counties
 - Toll increase on Bay Area bridges
 - Local vehicle registration fee surcharges

8 MTI surveys on transportation \$

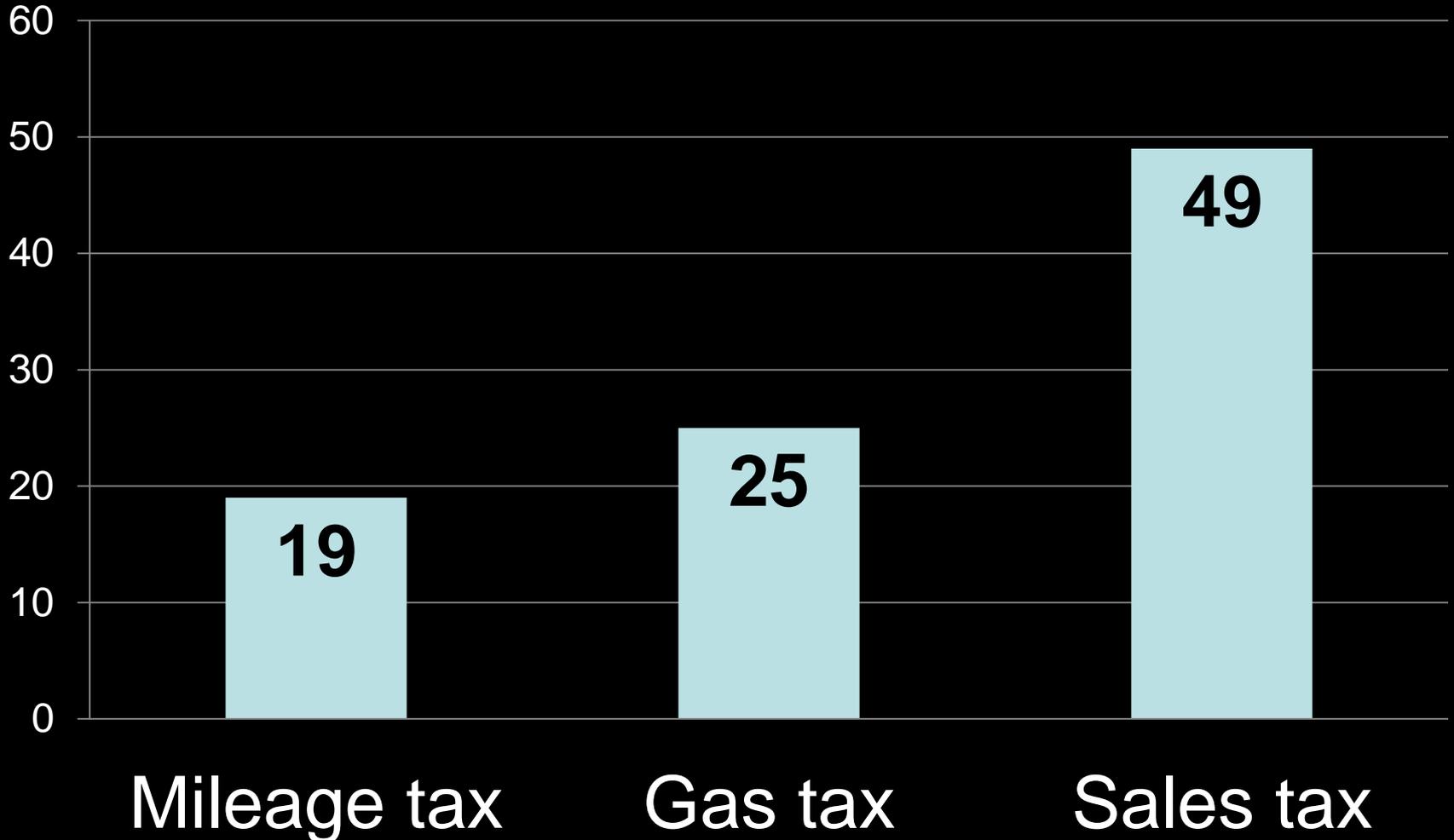
3 CA surveys (2006 & 2009)

5 national surveys (2010 – 2014)

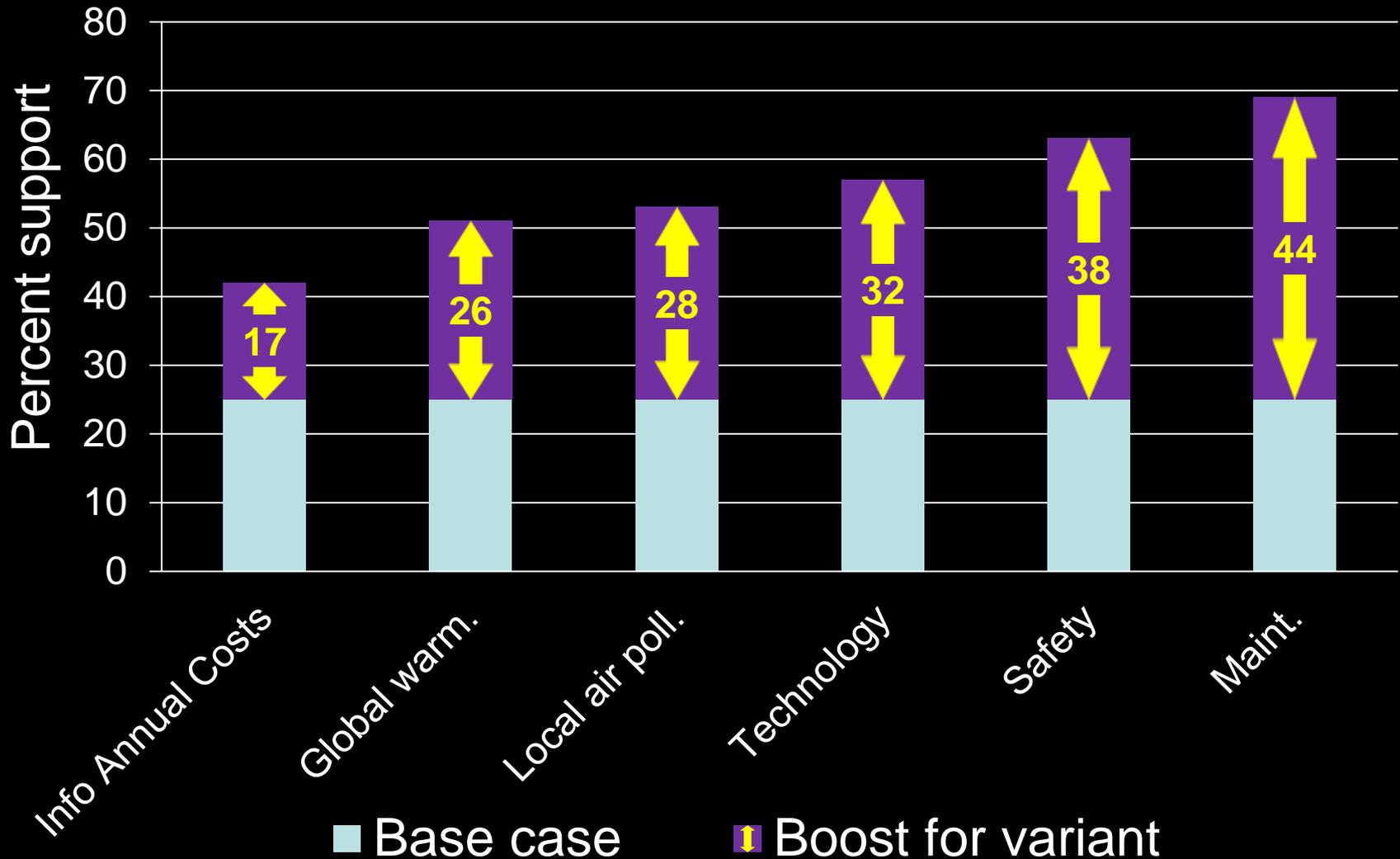
Random-digit-dial

Samples mostly 1,500+

2014 US survey: "base-case" taxes



Gas tax variants (2014)



Who supports tax variants?

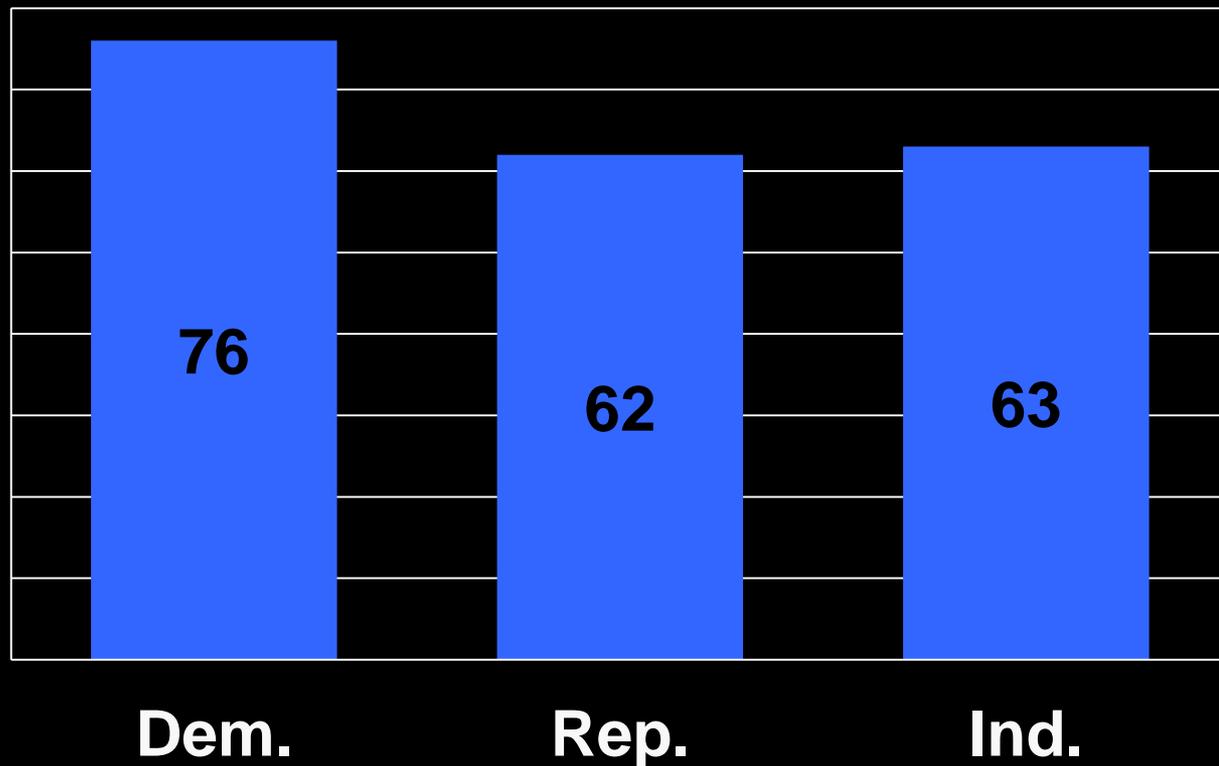
Who supports tax variants?

Everyone!



Virtually all groups prefer variants

% support for maintenance gas tax, by party



Summary: public support

1. Raising transportation taxes/fees can be acceptable to the public, if carefully crafted
2. Increase support with taxes that are:
 - a. Local
 - b. Support specific projects
 - c. Support a specific purpose, especially maintenance, safety, and the environment

Recommended state actions

1. Raise the gas tax
2. Enable local government to raise money
3. Rely judiciously on PPPs and bonds for very specific projects, but not as sources of general transportation revenue
4. Evaluate mileage fees
5. Evaluate other promising revenue options (higher truck weight fees, etc.)

Want to learn more?

- Publications at www.transweb.sjsu.edu
- Email: asha.weinstein.agrawal@sjsu.edu



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