Launched in January 2014, The California Report Card is an innovative social engagement platform that allows participants to advise elected state leaders on timely issues.

Developed in collaboration with the Office of Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, the California Report Card has a novel bilingual interface (see Figure 1) that combines peer-to-peer review with statistical models to streamline and structure public feedback, allowing Californians to:

- Assign grades to the state on timely issues
- Inform state leaders about public opinions and priorities
- Connect English- and Spanish-speaking communities
- Propose topics for future versions of the Report Card


Figure 1. California Report Card User Interface

Please visit the website on any device and click “Participate”: http://californiareportcard.org
## Six Current Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Median Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of the Affordable Care Act</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of K-12 public education</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordability of higher education</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to state services among undocumented immigrants</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laws and regulations regarding recreational marijuana</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage rights for same-sex partners</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Six Emerging Issues

Participants provide suggestions for issues to be graded on the next report card. Below are the top six issues from participants’ suggestions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Median Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Disaster preparedness</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing affordability</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**STATS**

**Total Participants**

*Total number of participants by county*

![Color scale with values 1 to 1000.]

**Total number of participants by county**

- Government, Lobbying, Voting
- Urban, Housing
- Taxes, Budget
- Environment, Water, Fracking
- Police, Prisons

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**Top-Rated Suggested Issues**

*Top-rated suggested issues by county*

![Map of California with color-coded issues.]

Legend:
- Light purple: Government, Lobbying, Voting
- Urban, Housing
- Medium blue: Taxes, Budget
- Dark blue: Environment, Water, Fracking
- Black: Police, Prisons
TOP-RATED SUGGESTIONS

Participants provide suggestions for issues to be graded on the next report card and rate the importance of others’ suggestions. Below are a few of the top-rated suggestions.

“Being located in earthquake country, California will inevitably experience large, devastating seismic events in the future. How would you grade California’s seismic safety and preparedness?”

“Mentorship programs offer an opportunity for long-term unemployed people to start micro-businesses. How would you grade California on availability of mentorship programs for the long-term unemployed?”

“Infrastructure maintenance and repair is important to the safety of Californians. How would you grade California on its maintenance of public infrastructure?”

“California residents need access to quality public transportation. How would you grade California’s public transportation?”

“Open Data and Open Government are the foundations for transparency and trust. How would you grade California’s open data and open government efforts?”

QUAKE CAFE

QuakeCAFE (http://quakecafe.org) emerged from the California Report Card where disaster preparedness was revealed as one of the top suggested issues submitted on the platform.

QuakeCAFE enables participants to assess their personal preparedness for earthquakes and provide qualitative feedback on how the California state government can help people and communities better prepare for a major earthquake. The platform combines peer-to-peer review with statistical models to crowdsource the most helpful suggestions for statewide earthquake preparedness.

It takes just two minutes to participate and works on all screens: http://quakecafe.org

“The California Report Card is a new way for elected officials, including myself, to keep an ear to the ground,” said Lt. Governor Newsom. “The platform has revealed statewide support for more attention to disaster preparedness, which has become one of my top priorities.”

March 20, 2014, California Report Card Public Forum, UC Berkeley