

Poll: Californians dislike Congress

By Josh Richman, San Jose Mercury News

Six times as many California voters disapprove of how Congress is doing its job compared with those who approve, a new Field Poll finds.

But as dismal as that sounds, it isn't even a record. The 13 percent approval rating Congress now boasts is better than the 9 percent all-time low it cratered to in September 2011 and mirrors the 13 percent approval rating that Gallup found nationwide this month.

As usual, Californians feel better about their trees than about the forest: More voters approve (44 percent) than disapprove (33 percent) of the job their own representatives are doing.

"If there's one thing that unites members of Congress, it's the message that they send out to their own constituents: 'I'm great, and the problem is with all those other clowns,'" said Jack Pitney, a Claremont McKenna College professor and an expert on Congress.

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