

# THE FIELD POLL

THE INDEPENDENT AND NON-PARTISAN SURVEY  
OF PUBLIC OPINION ESTABLISHED IN 1947 AS  
THE CALIFORNIA POLL BY MERVIN FIELD

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## **PROPOSITIONS 68 AND 70** **BOTH GAMING INITIATIVES NOT** **APPEALING TO STATE'S VOTERS**

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Two casino gambling initiatives, Propositions 68 and 70 on the November 2 statewide ballot, do not appear to be holding much appeal to voters.

Proposition 68 is the "Non-Tribal Commercial Gambling Expansion, Tribal Gaming Compact Amendments" Initiative. Sponsored by the state's racetracks and card clubs, it calls for increasing state taxes on Indian-owned casinos. If the tribes don't accept its terms, it would then permit 16 non-tribal race tracks and gambling entities to open casino gambling operations in the state. After being read a summary of Prop. 68's official ballot label that voters will see when they go to the polls to vote, more voters say they would vote No as would vote Yes by a 48% to 30% margin. Another 22% are undecided.

Proposition 70 is the "Tribal Gaming Compact, Exclusive Gaming Rights" Initiative. Sponsored by the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, it would expand gambling within Indian tribe casinos, provide for exclusive tribal casino gambling and contribute a percentage of their gaming income to the state. When voters are read a summary of its official ballot label, sentiment divides 40% No and 33% Yes, with 27% undecided.

In its latest survey completed July 30-August 8, *The Field Poll* finds that half of the likely voter electorate (50%) reports having seen or heard about these gambling-related initiatives, while half have not.

Voter preferences toward each initiative were then obtained. The wording of the questions posed to voters was as follows:

*“Proposition 68 is the “Non-Tribal Commercial Gambling Expansion, Tribal Gaming Compact Amendments” initiative. It authorizes tribal compact amendments. Unless they are accepted by the tribes, it authorizes casino gaming for sixteen non-tribal establishments, with a percentage of the gaming revenues to fund government services. Fiscal impact: Increased gambling revenues, potentially over 1 billion dollars annually, primarily to local governments for additional specified services. Depending on the outcome of tribal negotiations, potential loss of state revenue totaling hundreds of millions of dollars annually. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 68?”*

*“Proposition 70 is the “Tribal Gaming Compact, Exclusive Gaming Rights” initiative. Upon the tribes request, the Governor must execute a 99-year compact. The tribes contribute a percentage of their net gaming income to state funds, in exchange for exclusive tribal casino gaming . Fiscal impact: Unknown effect on payments to the state from Indian tribes. Potential increase or decrease could be in the tens of millions to over a hundred million dollars annually. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 70?”*

There are no large partisan differences on either measure. Pluralities of Democratic and Republican voters are currently taking the No side on both initiatives.

**Table 1**  
**Voter reaction to the ballot label summary of Prop. 68, the**  
**Non-Tribal Commercial Gambling Expansion/Tribal**  
**Gaming Compact Amendments initiative**  
**(among likely voters)**

	<b><u>Total voters</u></b>	<b><u>Democrats</u></b>	<b><u>Republicans</u></b>	<b><u>Non-partisans/ others</u></b>
<u>Inclined to vote</u>				
No	48%	42%	55%	48%
Yes	30	34	27	27
Undecided	22	24	18	25

**Table 2**

**Voter reaction to the ballot label summary of Prop. 70, the Tribal Gaming Compact/Exclusive Gaming Rights initiative  
 (among likely voters)**

	<b>Total voters</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Non-partisans/ others</b>
<u>Inclined to vote</u>				
No	40%	39%	42%	37%
Yes	33	33	32	36
Undecided	27	28	26	27

**Schwarzenegger’s opposition**

Voters in the sample were also asked whether Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s opposition to the two initiatives would have any effect on how they might vote. Three out of four (73%) report that the Governor’s position on the initiatives would have no effect on their vote. However among those who say they would be influenced, about twice as many voters report the Governor’s opposition would make them more inclined to vote No (15%) than vote Yes (8%).

**Table 3**

**Does Governor Schwarzenegger’s opposition to  
 Props. 68 and 70 make you more inclined  
 to vote Yes, No, or does it have no effect?  
 (among likely voters)**

<u>His opposition makes me more inclined to vote</u>	<b>Total voters</b>
No	15%
Yes	8
No effect	73
No opinion	4

## **Information About the Survey**

### **Sample Details**

The findings in this report are based on interviews conducted among a random sample of 534 Californians likely to vote in the November general election. Interviews were conducted by telephone in English and Spanish July 30 – August 8, 2004. Sampling was carried out using random digit dial methodology which gives all voters, including those whose phone number is listed and unlisted, an equal chance of being contacted. Up to five attempts were made to reach a randomly selected voter at each number dialed. After the completion of interviewing the larger registered voter sample was weighted to *Field Poll* estimates of the state's total registered voter population.

According to statistical theory, the overall results in this report have a sampling error of +/- 4.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. These are other possible sources of error in any survey in addition to sampling variability. Different results could occur because of differences in question wording, sequencing or through omissions or errors in sampling, interviewing or data processing. Extensive efforts were made to minimize such potential errors.

### **Questions Asked**

Two initiatives on the November election ballot, Propositions 68 and 70, have to do with Indian gaming and gambling expansion. Have you seen, read or heard anything about these initiatives?

Proposition 68 is the “Non-Tribal Commercial Gambling Expansion, Tribal Gaming Compact Amendments” initiative. It authorizes tribal compact amendments. Unless they are accepted by the tribes, it authorizes casino gaming for sixteen non-tribal establishments, with a percentage of the gaming revenues to fund government services. Fiscal impact: Increased gambling revenues, potentially over 1 billion dollars annually, primarily to local governments for additional specified services. Depending on the outcome of tribal negotiations, potential loss of state revenue totaling hundreds of millions of dollars annually. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 68?

Proposition 70 is the “Tribal Gaming Compact, Exclusive Gaming Rights” initiative. Upon the tribes request, the Governor must execute a 99-year compact. The tribes contribute a percentage of their net gaming income to state funds, in exchange for exclusive tribal casino gaming. Fiscal impact: Unknown effect on payments to the state from Indian tribes. Potential increase or decrease could be in the tens of millions to over a hundred million dollars annually. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 70?

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is opposed to both Propositions 68 and 70. Does his opposition make you more inclined to vote YES, more inclined to vote NO, or does it have no effect on how you will vote on these propositions?