

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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UNION DUES CONSENT INITIATIVE GETTING HEAVY INITIAL SUPPORT, AS DO TWO DRUG DISCOUNT PROPOSITIONS. VOTERS NARROWLY BACK PARENTAL NOTIFICATION FOR TEEN ABORTION.

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

In addition to the three initiatives that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is promoting in the November statewide special election, voters will be asked to decide on a number of other ballot proposals, some of which are expected to be hotly contested.

One of these measures is titled "Public Employee Union Dues, Required Employee Consent for Political Contributions." It prohibits public employee labor organizations from using dues or fees from its members for political contributions unless the employee provides prior written consent.

A statewide survey completed last week finds that a 57% majority of both registered voters and likely voters are inclined to vote Yes on the initiative, if the election on this proposal were held today. This compares to 32% of registered voters and 34% of likely voters who are inclined to vote No.

Another initiative on the November election ballot is the "Termination of Minor's Pregnancy, Waiting Period and Parental Notification" initiative. It would require parental notification before abortion for a minor under age 18, except in cases of a medical emergency or with a parental or judicial waiver. Voters are narrowly supportive on this issue – 48% in favor and 42% opposed among all voters, and 48% Yes and 43% No among likely voters.

There will also be two competing initiatives on the November special election ballot that would provide some residents prescription drug discounts, one sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry and the other by the consumer group, Health Access. While there are some significant differences between the proposals, both would establish a discount drug program for low income Californians funded through rebates from drug manufacturers. Initial reaction to each proposition is quite favorable with each obtaining a large margin of support.

“Public Employee Union Dues; Required Employee Consent for Political Contributions” initiative

The union dues consent initiative is receiving its strongest initial support from Republicans, conservatives, non-partisans, non-union households, Southern California voters, women, non-college graduates, and those with no prior awareness of the initiative.

The poll finds pluralities of liberals and voters living in union households opposed, while Democrats and voters with some prior awareness of the initiative about evenly divided.

Table 1
Initial voter preferences on the ‘Public Employee Union Dues; Required Employee Consent for Political Contributions’ initiative

	<u>Would vote YES</u>	<u>Would vote NO</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total registered voters	57%	32	11
Likely voters	57%	34	9
<u>Prior awareness of initiative</u>			
Yes, have heard	49%	45	6
No, have not heard	60%	25	15
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	46%	46	8
Republicans	70%	19	11
Non-partisans/others*	51%	37	12
<u>Union affiliation</u>			
Union member in household*	45%	52	3
Non-union household	61%	27	12
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	55%	38	7
Female	59%	29	12
<u>Education</u>			
Not a college grad	62%	29	9
College graduate	50%	39	11
<u>Region</u>			
Southern California	61%	32	7
Northern California	51%	36	13
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Conservative	74%	20	6
Moderate	54%	32	14
Liberal*	39%	55	6

Note: Subgroup percentages based on likely voters only.

** Small sample size.*

“Termination of Minor's Pregnancy; Waiting Period and Parental Notification” initiative

Republicans, conservatives, Christians and voters who are not college graduates are very much in favor of the parental notification of the teen abortion initiative. On the other hand, Democrats, liberals, moderates, college graduates, those under age 50 and voters affiliated with non-Christian religions or with no religious preference are opposed.

Table 2			
Initial voter preferences on the “Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy, Waiting Period and Parental Notification” initiative			
	<u>Would vote YES</u>	<u>Would vote NO</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total registered voters	48%	42	10
Likely voters	48%	43	9
<u>Prior awareness of initiative</u>			
Yes, have heard	43%	48	9
No, have not heard	49%	42	9
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	34%	59	8
Republicans	71%	22	7
Non-partisans/others*	32%	49	19
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	46%	43	11
Female	51%	42	7
<u>Age</u>			
18-49	44%	49	7
50 or older	52%	38	10
<u>Education</u>			
Not a college grad	59%	32	9
College graduate	35%	55	10
<u>Region</u>			
Southern California	51%	40	9
Northern California	45%	46	9
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Conservative	74%	23	3
Moderate	39%	47	14
Liberal*	32%	60	8
<u>Religion</u>			
Protestant/Catholic	57%	35	8
Other/no preference*	29%	61	10

Note: Subgroup percentages based on likely voters only.

** Small sample size.*

Prescription drug discount initiatives

Voters are initially supportive of the two prescription drug discount initiatives that will appear on the November election ballot.

One initiative is called the “Prescription Drugs; Discounts” initiative and it is sponsored by the pharmaceutical industry. According to its official ballot summary, it would establish a discount drug program overseen by the Department of Health Services and enable certain low and moderate income residents to purchase prescription drugs at reduced prices. It also imposes an annual 15 dollar application fee and authorizes the Department to contract with pharmacies to sell prescription drugs at agreed-upon discounts and negotiate rebates with drug manufacturers.

The poll finds it leading in the early going, with registered voters supporting it by a 60% to 23% margin, while likely voters favor it 57% to 26%.

The other initiative is called the "Prescription Drug Discounts: State Negotiated Rebates" initiative and is sponsored by the consumer group, Health Access. According to its official ballot summary, it would provide prescription drug discounts to low income Californians funded through rebates from participating drug manufacturers negotiated by the California Department of Health Services.

The poll finds it also leading by a somewhat smaller margin – 54% to 28% among all registered voters and 48% to 33% among all likely voters.

Virtually all of the voter subgroups examined favor each of the two prescription drug discount proposals.

Table 3
Initial voter preferences on two initiatives having to do
with prescription drug discounts

	Prescription Drug Discount Initiatives					
	PhRMA-sponsored initiative			Health Access-sponsored initiative		
	Yes	No	Undecided	Yes	No	Undecided
Registered voters	60%	23	17	54%	28	18
Likely voters	57%	26	17	48%	33	19
<u>Prior awareness of initiative</u>						
Yes, have heard	63%	26	11	48%	36	16
No, have not heard	52%	26	22	47%	30	23
<u>Party</u>						
Democrats	64%	21	15	57%	24	19
Republicans	46%	32	22	37%	41	22
Non-partisans/others	63%	26	11	47%	35	18
<u>Gender</u>						
Male	60%	28	12	52%	32	16
Female	54%	25	21	43%	33	24
<u>Age</u>						
18-49	62%	25	13	53%	30	17
50 or older	51%	26	23	41%	35	24
<u>Education</u>						
Not a college grad	53%	24	23	47%	30	23
College graduate	62%	27	11	49%	36	15
<u>Region</u>						
Southern California	58%	27	15	48%	34	18
Northern California	55%	25	20	46%	31	23
<u>Household income</u>						
Less than \$40,000	61%	20	19	48%	34	18
\$40,000 - \$79,999	60%	26	14	50%	28	22
\$80,000 or more	51%	31	18	46%	41	13

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 955 California adults, which included interviews with 711 registered voters, 501 of whom are considered most likely to vote in the November 8 special election. The survey was conducted by telephone June 13-19, 2005 in English and Spanish. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize respondent fatigue the overall voter sample was divided into two random subsamples of 371 and 340 voters respectively on the survey questions.

Households were sampled using a random digit dial methodology, which randomly selects operating landline telephone exchanges within all areas codes serving California households in proportion to population. Within each exchange, telephone numbers are created by adding random digits to the selected telephone exchange. This method gives each phone listing an equal chance of being selected and permits access to all landline telephone numbers statewide, both listed and unlisted.

According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the registered voter sample have a sampling error of +/- 3.8 percentage points, while findings from each random voter subsample have a sampling error of +/- 4.5 points. Findings from the likely voter sample have a sampling error of +/- 4.5 percentage points, while the findings from each random subsample of voters have a sampling error of +/- 6.3 points.

Questions Asked

Have you seen, read or heard anything about an initiative on the upcoming November statewide special election having to do with abortion and parental notification?

(As you know) This is the "Termination of Minor's Pregnancy, Waiting Period and Parental Notification" initiative. It amends the state constitution to bar abortion by minors under the age of 18 until 48 hours after a physician notifies the minor's parent or legal guardian, except in cases of a medical emergency or with a parental or judicial waiver. Physicians must report abortions performed on minors and compile statistics. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on this initiative?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about an initiative on the upcoming November statewide special election having to do with government employee union dues?

(As you know) This is the "Public Employee Union Dues; Required Employee Consent for Political Contributions" initiative. It prohibits public employee labor organizations from using dues or fees for political contributions unless the employee provides prior consent. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on this initiative?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about either of two initiatives on the upcoming November statewide special election having to do with prescription drug discounts?

(THE ORDERING OF THE FOLLOWING TWO ITEMS WAS RANDOMIZED TO AVOID POSSIBLE SEQUENCE BIAS)

(One) (The other) is called the "Prescription Drug Discounts; State Negotiated Rebates" initiative. It provides for prescription drug discounts to low income Californians funded through rebates from participating drug manufacturers negotiated by the California Department of Health Services. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on this initiative?

(One) (The other) is called the "Prescription Drugs; Discounts" initiative. It establishes a discount drug program overseen by the Department of Health Services. It enables certain low and moderate income residents to purchase prescription drugs at reduced prices and imposes an annual 15 dollar application fee. It authorizes the department to contract with pharmacies to sell prescription drugs at agreed-upon discounts and negotiates rebates with drug manufacturers. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on this initiative?