

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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**NO SIDE LEADS YES SIDE ON ALL
FOUR OF THE PROPOSITIONS BACKED
BY GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER.**

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

In next Tuesday's special election California voters will be asked to pass judgment on eight statewide ballot initiatives.

Between the period October 18-30, *The Field Poll* conducted two separate, back-to-back statewide surveys of likely voters in the upcoming special election. The first was completed October 18-24, while the second was completed October 25-30.

This report covers the survey's findings for five of the initiatives – Prop. 74 (Public School Teacher Tenure); Prop 75 (Public Employee Union Dues); Proposition 76 (State Spending and School Funding Limits); Prop. 77 (Redistricting); and Prop. 80 (Electric Service Providers Regulation). A companion report to be released tomorrow will deal with voter reactions toward three health-related initiatives – Prop. 73, the parental notification of teen abortion initiative, and Props. 78 and 79, the two prescription drug discount measures.

In each polling period, voters were first asked whether they had seen or heard anything about each initiative and voters who were already familiar with each initiative were asked for their initial reaction to it prior to being read a summary of its official ballot description. Following this, all voters regardless of their prior awareness were asked how they intended to vote after being read a summary of its official ballot label.

The results show that large majorities now report being familiar with most of the initiatives, and that in the poll's final interviewing wave the NO side was prevailing in all five of the propositions, including the four backed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

High voter awareness on most initiatives; aware voters more predisposed to vote NO than YES on each initiative

The sample of likely voters interviewed in each survey wave were first asked the extent to which they had seen or heard anything about each of the initiatives. The level of expressed awareness was extremely high with regard to four of the five initiatives. In the survey's final interviewing period 93% said they were familiar with Prop. 75, 88% had heard of Prop. 74, 81% were aware of Prop 76, and 76% had some prior knowledge of Prop. 77. By contrast, just 50% were familiar with Prop. 80.

Voters who reported some prior awareness of an initiative were then asked, without any further prompting, whether they were inclined to support or oppose it.

Results from the survey's final interviewing wave show the following initial predispositions among those voters already familiar with each initiative (prior to being read its official ballot summary):

- Among the 88% of voters familiar with Prop. 74, 44% were initially opposed, 34% were in favor and 10% were undecided.
- Among the 93% of likely voters aware of Prop. 75, 46% were initially predisposed to vote NO, 29% were in favor and 18% were undecided.
- Among the 81% of voters with some prior knowledge of Prop. 76, 40% initially reported being opposed, 27% were inclined to support it and 14% were undecided.
- With regard to the 76% of likely voters familiar with Prop. 77, 36% were predisposed to vote NO, 31% indicated their initial support and 9% were undecided.
- Among the 50% of voters with some prior awareness of Prop. 80, 23% were initially opposed, 13% said they were inclined to support it and 14% were undecided.

Table 1
Voter awareness and initial predispositions regarding five of the special election propositions before being read its official ballot summary (among likely voters)

	<u>Have not heard</u>	<u>Have heard</u>	<u>Aware voters initially inclined to...</u>		
			<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Prop. 74 (Public School Teacher Tenure)</u>					
October 25-30	12%	88	34%	44	10
October 18-24	11%	89	35%	37	17
<u>Prop. 75 (Public Employee Union Dues)</u>					
October 25-30	7%	93	29%	46	18
October 18-24	17%	83	26%	39	18
<u>Prop. 76 (State Spending and School Funding Limits)</u>					
October 25-30	19%	81	27%	40	14
October 18-24	18%	82	29%	40	13
<u>Prop. 77 (Redistricting)</u>					
October 25-30	24%	76	31%	36	9
October 18-24	36%	64	29%	24	11
<u>Prop. 80 (Electric Service Providers Regulation)</u>					
October 25-30	50%	50	13%	23	14
October 18-24	59%	41	8%	20	13

Following these initial questions, all voters regardless of any prior awareness, were read summaries of the official ballot description that they will see when they mark their ballots to vote, and asked how they would vote on each if the election were being held today.

Voters moving to the NO side on Prop. 74 (Public School Teacher Tenure)

In the poll's final interviewing period, voters have moved to the NO side on Prop. 74. Half of all likely voters interviewed between Oct. 25 and 30 said they intended to vote NO on Prop. 74 (50%), while 44% were intending to vote YES.

This compares to a narrower 3 percentage point NO side advantage in the poll's Oct. 18-24 interviewing period and YES side leads of 9 points in late August and 29 points in June.

This measure is strongly backed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and vigorously opposed by the California Teachers Association. The campaign has seen a great deal of pro and con advertising and other efforts which will likely continue into the final week leading up to the election.

Table 2
Trend of voter preferences regarding Prop. 74,
the public school teacher tenure initiative,
after being read a summary of its official ballot label
(among likely voters)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
October 25-30	44%	50	6
October 18-24	44%	47	9
Late August	46%	37	17
June	61%	32	7

Prop.75 (Public Employee Union Dues) now trailing

Voters in the survey's first late-October interviewing wave (October 18-24) were evenly divided after being read a summary of Prop. 75's official ballot label. However, in the poll's final interviewing wave completed October 25-30, the NO side had opened up a significant eleven-point lead, with 50% intending to vote NO, 40% YES and 10% undecided.

Findings from two previous *Field Poll* surveys conducted in June and August had shown the YES side leading by comfortable margins, so the current findings represent a decided shift toward the NO side over the past eight weeks.

Table 3
Trend of voter preferences regarding Prop. 75,
the public employee union dues initiative,
after being read a summary of its official ballot label
(among likely voters)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
October 25-30	40%	50	10
October 18-24	44%	45	11
Late August	55%	32	13
June	57%	34	9

Majority of voters remain on NO side on Prop. 76 (State Spending and School Funding Limits)

Prop. 76 is considered the linchpin of the initiatives that Governor Schwarzenegger wants voters to approve in the November special election. The Governor has devoted considerable campaigning and financial support to persuade voters to approve the measure, but he has encountered fierce opposition from the state's education leaders, including the powerful California Teacher's Association.

Majorities of voters have remained on the NO side on Prop. 76 in each *Field Poll* survey since late-August. In the poll's final interviewing wave, 60% of likely voters were intending to vote NO, while 32% were intending to vote YES. While the current 28-percentage-point lead remains formidable, it is down some from a 32-point lead in the poll's first late-October interviewing wave, and compares to a 46-point lead in the August survey.

Table 4
Trend of voter preferences regarding Prop. 76,
the state spending and school funding limits initiative,
after being read a summary of its official ballot label
(among likely voters)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
October 25-30	32%	60	8
October 18-24	28%	60	12
Late August	19%	65	16
June	35%	42	23

Prop. 77 (Redistricting) trailing

Since June more voters have been on the NO side than YES side with regard to Prop. 77. This continues into the poll's final interviewing wave, with 51% of likely voters now intending to vote NO, 35% intending to vote YES and 14% undecided.

Most of the state's leading newspapers have joined Governor Schwarzenegger and some government reform groups in advocating a YES vote on Prop. 77, but the two major political parties, for the most part, have been vigorously opposed.

Table 5
Trend of voter preferences regarding Prop. 77,
the redistricting initiative,
after being read a summary of its official ballot label
(among likely voters)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
October 25-30	35%	51	14
October 18-24	38%	41	21
Late August	32%	46	22
June	35%	46	19

Voters moving to the NO side on Prop. 80 (Electric Service Providers Regulation)

Prop. 80 has gotten relatively little media attention, and the amount of advertising on either side has been minimal compared to the other initiatives. In August voters were evenly divided, with 35% intending to vote NO, 33% on the YES side, and 32% undecided. Now, the NO side has opened up significant leads in the poll's two latest interviewing waves. In the poll's first interviewing wave the NO side was leading 48% to 22%, while in the poll's final interviewing wave it was 48% to 24%. A relatively large proportion of voters in each wave, about three in ten, remained undecided.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
October 25-30	24%	48	28
October 18-24	22%	48	30
Late August	33%	35	32
June	N/A	N/A	N/A

N/A: Not asked in June survey.

Schwarzenegger' campaigning is hurting each of his initiatives

The Governor has been campaigning extensively, urging voter support for Props. 74, 75, 76, and 77. In this survey an attempt was made to assess the impact of the Governor's support of these measures on voter preferences. The poll finds that in each of the poll's final two interviewing periods, Schwarzenegger is having a more negative than positive impact on voters in regard to each proposition's chances of passage.

Likely voters say that the Governor's support of an initiative makes them more inclined to vote NO than vote YES by a 43% to 24% margin in the poll's final interviewing wave and by a 44% to 25% in the poll's initial wave. About one in three voters say the Governor's endorsement of an initiative has no effect on their preference or have no opinion.

Democrats are most likely to be influenced in a negative way by the Governor's endorsement of a proposition, with 69% saying they are more likely to vote NO, and just 4% would be swayed to vote YES.

Non-partisans are also more negatively than positively influenced by Schwarzenegger's endorsement of an initiative. By a margin of 46% to 16%, non-partisan voters say they are more apt to vote NO if they know the Governor is favoring it, while 38% say this has no effect or have no opinion.

Among Republicans 51% say the Governor's endorsement of an initiative makes them more inclined to vote YES, 12% are more inclined to vote NO, and 37% say it would have no effect or have no opinion.

Ethnic voters, women, and those residing in union households are more likely than other voters to be negatively affected by Schwarzenegger's backing of an initiative.

Table 7			
Does Schwarzenegger's support of a ballot proposition make you more inclined to vote yes or more inclined to vote no toward the initiative? (among likely voters)			
	Schwarzenegger's support makes you more inclined to vote...		
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No effect/ no opinion</u>
October 25-30	43%	24	33
October 18-24	44%	25	31
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	69%	4	27
Republicans	12%	51	37
Non-partisans/others	46%	16	38
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	40%	25	35
Female	46%	23	31
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	41%	28	31
Latino/Black/Asian/other	48%	15	37
<u>Union affiliation</u>			
Union household	50%	14	36
Non-union household	41%	28	31

Note: Subgroup percentages in this table are from the Oct. 25-30 interviewing period.

Sub-group vote analysis of Prop. 74 preferences

Voters who are more likely to vote YES on Prop. 74 are Republicans, absentee ballot voters, males, white non-Hispanics, those living in non-union households, and those who say they are influenced positively by Schwarzenegger’s support of the initiative or say this has no effect on them.

Those who are more likely to vote NO are precinct voters, Democrats and non-partisans, women, ethnic voters, union household members, and those who are influenced negatively by Schwarzenegger’s support of the initiative.

Table 8
**Voter preferences regarding Prop. 74, the public school
 teacher tenure initiative – by subgroup
 (among likely voters)**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total likely voters	44%	50	6
<u>Voting method</u>			
Absentee ballot voters	49%	48	3
Precinct voters	39%	51	10
<u>Party</u>			
Democrat	19%	76	5
Republican	74%	19	7
Non-partisan/other*	40%	50	10
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	50%	44	6
Female	38%	55	7
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	48%	43	7
Latino/Black/Asian/other	30%	60	10
<u>Union affiliation</u>			
Union household*	38%	55	7
Non-union household	48%	45	7
<u>Impact of Schwarzenegger’s support</u>			
Negative	14%	81	5
Positive	93%	7	**
No effect/no opinion	48%	38	14

* Small sample base.

** Less than ½ of 1%.

Note: Subgroup percentages from interviewing conducted Oct. 25-30.

Sub-group vote analysis of Prop. 75 preferences

Voters who are more likely to vote YES are Republicans, voters living in non-union households, and those who say they are influenced positively by Schwarzenegger’s support of the initiative or say this has no effect.

Those who are more likely to vote NO are Democrats, non-partisans, ethnic voters, union household members, and those who are influenced negatively by Schwarzenegger’s support of the initiative.

Table 9
Voter preferences regarding Prop. 75,
the employee union dues initiative – by subgroup
(among likely voters)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total likely voters	40%	50	10
<u>Voting method</u>			
Absentee ballot voters	37%	52	11
Precinct voters	42%	50	8
<u>Party</u>			
Democrat	15%	72	13
Republican	71%	22	7
Non-partisan/other*	36%	56	8
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	42%	51	7
Female	38%	50	12
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	43%	49	8
Latino/Black/Asian/other	31%	56	13
<u>Union affiliation</u>			
Union household	23%	70	7
Non-union household	46%	44	10
<u>Impact of Schwarzenegger’s support</u>			
Negative	11%	84	5
Positive	89%	8	3
No effect/no opinion	41%	37	22

* Small sample base.
 Note: Subgroup percentages from interviewing conducted Oct. 25-30.

Sub-group vote analysis of Prop. 76 preferences

The only sub-groups where the YES side are Republicans and those who are influenced positively by Schwarzenegger’s support of the initiative. All other sub-groups are lining up against the initiative.

Table 10			
Voter preferences regarding Prop. 76, the state spending and school funding limits initiative – by subgroup (among likely voters)			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total likely voters	32%	60	8
<u>Voting method</u>			
Absentee ballot voters	31%	60	9
Precinct voters	32%	59	9
<u>Party</u>			
Democrat	8%	82	10
Republican	64%	29	7
Non-partisan/other*	23%	68	9
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	34%	58	8
Female	30%	61	9
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	38%	55	7
Latino/Black/Asian/other	18%	70	12
<u>Impact of Schwarzenegger’s support</u>			
Negative	2%	95	3
Positive	79%	13	8
No effect/no opinion	35%	47	18

* Small sample base.
 Note: Subgroup percentages from interviewing conducted Oct. 25-30.

Sub-group vote analysis of Prop. 77 preferences

Voters who are more likely to vote YES are Republicans, men, and those who are influenced positively by Schwarzenegger’s support of the initiative.

Voters who are more likely to vote NO include Democrats, non-partisans, women, ethnic voters, and those who are influenced negatively by Schwarzenegger’s support of the initiative.

Table 11
Voter preferences regarding Prop. 77, the redistricting initiative
– by subgroup
(among likely voters)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total likely voters	35%	51	14
<u>Voting method</u>			
Absentee ballot voters	37%	52	11
Precinct voters	34%	51	15
<u>Party</u>			
Democrat	18%	73	9
Republican	64%	24	12
Non-partisan/other*	21%	54	25
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	46%	46	8
Female	26%	55	19
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	39%	48	13
Latino/Black/Asian/other	25%	57	18
<u>Impact of Schwarzenegger’s support</u>			
Negative	12%	80	8
Positive	77%	13	10
No effect/no opinion	37%	39	24

* Small sample base.

Note: Subgroup percentages from interviewing conducted Oct. 25-30.

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Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The late October survey findings in this report are based on two separate statewide surveys conducted among random samples of likely voters in California’s upcoming statewide special election. Interviewing for the first survey spanned the period October 18-24, 2005, while data collection for the second survey was completed October 25-30, 2005. A total of 1,074 California adults were reached and screened by telephone in English and Spanish during the first survey, of whom 506 were considered likely voters in the statewide special election. For the second survey a total of 1,214 California adults were reached and screened in English and Spanish, of whom 581 were considered likely voters.

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

In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize possible voter fatigue, likely voters were divided into two approximately equal-sized random subsamples. Each subsample included approximately 300 likely voters in the final survey. According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the combined voter samples have a sampling error of +/-4 percentage points, while findings from each of the random subsamples have a sampling error of +/-6 percentage points.

Questions Asked

ASKED OF FORM A RESPONDENTS:

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 74, having to do with tenure for public school teachers? (IF YES:) From what you have seen or heard, are you inclined to vote YES or NO on Proposition 74?

(As you know) Prop. 74 is the “Public School Teachers; Waiting Period for Permanent Status; Dismissal” initiative. It increases the probationary period for public school teachers from two to five years and modifies the process by which school boards can dismiss a teaching employee who receives two consecutive unsatisfactory performance evaluations. (After hearing its official ballot summary) If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 74?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 77, having to do with how election district boundary lines are drawn? (IF YES:) From what you have seen or heard, are you inclined to vote YES or NO on Proposition 77?

(As you know) Prop. 77 is the Redistricting initiative. It amends the state constitution’s process for redistricting California’s Senate, Assembly, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts. It requires a three-member panel of retired judges, selected by legislative leaders. (After hearing its official ballot summary) If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 77?

ASKED OF FORM B RESPONDENTS:

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 75, having to do with government employee union dues? (IF YES:) From what you have seen or heard, are you inclined to vote YES or NO on Proposition 75?

(As you know) Prop. 75 is the “Public Employee Union Dues; Restrictions on Political Contributions, Employee Consent Requirement” initiative. It prohibits using public employee union dues for political contributions without individual employees' prior consent. It excludes contributions benefiting charities or employees and requires unions to report political contributions to the state’s Fair Political Practices Commission. (After hearing its official ballot summary) If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 75?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 76, having to do with state spending and school funding limits? (IF YES:) From what you have seen or heard, are you inclined to vote YES or NO on Proposition 76?

(As you know) Prop. 76 is the “State Spending and School Funding Limits” initiative. It limits state spending to prior year's levels plus the average revenue growth of the three previous years. It also changes the minimum school funding requirements under Proposition 98 and permits the Governor, under specified circumstances, to reduce budget appropriations of the Governor's choosing. Fiscal Impact: State spending would likely be reduced, due to the additional spending limit and the Governor's new powers. Reductions could apply to schools and shift costs to other local governments. (After hearing its official ballot summary) If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 76?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 80, having to do with the regulation of electric service? (IF YES:) From what you have seen or heard, are you inclined to vote YES or NO on Proposition 80?

Prop. 80 is called the “Electric Service Providers. Regulation” initiative. It subjects electric service providers to regulation by the California Public Utilities Commission. It restricts electricity customers’ ability to switch from private utilities to other providers and requires all retail electric sellers to increase their renewable energy resource procurements by 2010. (After hearing its official ballot summary) If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 80?

ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS IN BOTH SURVEYS

Does Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s support of a ballot proposition make you more inclined to vote YES or more inclined to vote NO?