

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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VOTERS MOVING TO THE NO SIDE ON PROP. 82 (PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION). SPEIER PULLS AHEAD OF GARAMENDI IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR LT. GOVERNOR.

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

In addition to the intensely fought contest for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, next week's statewide primary election will feature a number of other contested races for state constitutional offices, as well as Proposition 82, the pre-school education initiative. In its final pre-election survey, *The Field Poll* asked likely voters in the primary their voting preferences in these contests. The following are the survey's highlights:

- **Prop. 82 (Pre-School Education):** Two previous *Field Polls* had shown voters lining up in support of Prop. 82, the pre-school education initiative, albeit by declining margins. In February the Yes side held a 21-point advantage (55% to 34%). This declined to a 13-point lead (52% to 39%) in April. The current poll shows voters moving to the No side, with 46% now opposing the initiative, while just 41% remain in favor. Another 13% are undecided.
- **Lt. Governor (Democratic):** In the contested Democratic primary for Lt. Governor, State Senator Jackie Speier has pulled ahead of State Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi and State Senator Liz Figueroa. The current poll finds Speier the choice of 30% of likely Democratic primary voters, with Garamendi at 25% and Figueroa far behind at 8%. More than one in three voters (37%) are undecided. The current findings are a reversal of voter preferences from April when Garamendi held the lead over Speier.
- **Attorney General (Democratic):** Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown continues to hold a comfortable lead over Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo in the Democratic primary for Attorney General. The current poll finds Brown favored by 51% of the likely Democratic primary electorate, while just 24% support Delgadillo. One in four voters (25%) are undecided.
- **Controller (Republican):** Former Assemblyman and taxpayer organization president Tony Strickland leads State Senator and business controller Abel Maldonado 32% to 21% in the GOP primary for Controller, while 4% favor other candidates. However, a large 43% of likely Republican primary voters remain undecided.

- **Controller (Democratic):** Fewer than four in ten likely voters in the Democratic primary offer a voting preference in the election for Controller. Among those who can, preferences are closely divided. Currently, 19% of likely voters support Board of Equalization member John Chiang, while 18% are backing State Senator Joe Dunn. A huge 63% remain undecided.
- **Treasurer (Republican):** Only about one in three likely voters in the GOP primary currently express a preference between Assemblyman Keith Richman and state Board of Equalization member Claude Parrish in the Republican primary for Treasurer. Richman is currently the choice of 18% of likely GOP primary election voters, Parrish is favored by 17%, while 65% are undecided.
- **Secretary of State (Democratic):** A majority (56%) of likely voters in the Democratic primary have still not made up their minds in the race for Secretary of State that features two female State Senators, Deborah Ortiz and Debra Bowen. Among those able to choose, Ortiz currently leads Bowen 25% to 19%.

These are the findings from the final pre-election *Field Poll* completed this week among a statewide random sample of likely voters in the upcoming June 6 primary election.

Opposition to Proposition 82 (Pre-School Education) growing

When *The Field Poll* first measured voter preferences regarding Prop. 82, the pre-school education initiative in February, supporters outnumbered opponents 55% to 34%. That 21-point lead declined to 13 points in the poll's second measure in April, when preferences divided 52% Yes to 39% No. The current poll finds support for the initiative declining further and opposition growing. Now, a larger proportion of voters are lining up on the No side (46%) than are in favor (41%) of the initiative.

Democrats favor a Yes vote by a three to two margin. However, Republicans are opposed by better than a two and one-half to one margin. Non-partisans currently favor the measure by six points.

Los Angeles County, San Francisco Bay Area, Central Valley and other Northern California voters are about evenly divided in their support or opposition to Prop. 82. However, there is relatively strong opposition to the initiative in the Southern California counties outside of Los Angeles.

There is a gender gap in feelings about Prop. 82. Women narrowly favor the measure, but men are substantially opposed.

White non-Hispanics are voting No by a five to four margin, while Latinos are on the Yes side nearly two to one.

Those voters living in households earning less than \$40,000 a year favor the initiative by a six-point margin. However, middle and higher income classes are opposed, especially those earning more than \$80,000.

Among the 74% of voters who reported some prior awareness of the initiative, opponents outnumber supporters five to four (51% to 40%)

Table 1
Voter preferences about Proposition 82, the
Pre-School Education Initiative
(among likely primary election voters)

	Would vote...		
	Yes	No	Undecided
Total statewide – Late May	41%	46	13
– April	52%	39	9
– February	55%	34	11
<u>Party</u>			
Democrat	53%	33	14
Republican	25%	65	10
Non-partisans/others	45%	39	16
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Conservative	27%	63	10
Moderate	42%	42	16
Liberal	61%	30	9
<u>Region</u>			
Los Angeles County	44%	42	14
Other Southern California	33%	54	13
Central Valley	47%	46	7
San Francisco Bay Area	42%	44	14
Other Northern California*	44%	42	14
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	37%	51	12
Female	45%	42	13
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White (non-Hispanic)	39%	51	10
Latino*	55%	28	17
Other*	34%	42	24
<u>Education</u>			
High school graduate or less	40%	45	15
Some college/trade school	41%	46	13
College graduate	42%	45	13
Post-graduate work	41%	50	9
<u>Household income</u>			
Less than \$40,000	46%	40	14
\$40,000 - \$80,000	41%	44	15
More than \$80,000	39%	53	8
<u>Prior awareness of Prop. 82</u>			
Yes, had heard of it	40%	51	9
No, not aware	44%	34	22
<u>Voting method</u>			
Precinct voters	41%	44	15
Absentee voters	40%	51	9

Note: All subgroup percentages are from the Late May survey.

* Small sample size.

Large proportions undecided in “down-ballot” contests

The following tables report the findings to each of the “down-ballot” statewide constitutional office contests measured by the poll:

Table 2
Voter preferences in the Democratic primary for Lt. Governor
(among likely Democratic primary voters)

	<u>Speier</u>	<u>Garamendi</u>	<u>Figueroa</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Late May	30%	25	8	37
April	21%	31	12	36
<u>Region</u>				
Southern California	19%	24	10	47
Northern California	42%	25	5	28
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	26%	29	9	36
Female	33%	21	7	39

Table 3
Voter preferences in the Democratic primary for Attorney General
(among likely Democratic primary voters)

	<u>Brown</u>	<u>Delgadillo</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Late May	51%	24	25
April	59%	18	23
<u>Region</u>			
Southern California	47%	27	26
Northern California	57%	21	22

Table 4
Voter preferences in the Republican primary for State Controller
(among likely GOP primary voters)

	<u>Strickland</u>	<u>Maldonado</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Late May	32%	21	4	43
April	23%	14	2	61
<u>Region</u>				
Southern California	36%	14	3	47
Northern California	26%	30	6	38

Table 5
Voter preferences in the Democratic primary for State Controller
(among likely Democratic primary voters)

	<u>Chiang</u>	<u>Dunn</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Late May	19%	18	63
April	16%	15	69
<u>Region</u>			
Southern California	14%	21	65
Northern California	25%	15	60

Table 6
Voter preferences in the Republican primary for State Treasurer
(among likely GOP primary voters)

	<u>Richman</u>	<u>Parrish</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Late May	18%	17	65
April	13%	16	71
<u>Region</u>			
Southern California	20%	17	63
Northern California	16%	18	66

Table 7
Voter preferences in the Democratic primary for Secretary of State
(among likely Democratic primary voters)

	<u>Ortiz</u>	<u>Bowen</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Late May	25%	19	56
April	21%	18	61
<u>Region</u>			
Southern California	22%	22	56
Northern California	28%	15	57

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of likely voters in the June 6 California primary election. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish between the period May 23-31, 2006. In the main survey, total of 1,545 California adults were reached and screened, of whom 663 reported being likely to vote in the June 6 primary election. This included 351 voters who said they were likely to vote in the Democratic primary, and 250 who reported being likely to vote in the Republican primary.

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

To increase the precision of the poll's estimates, an additional 150 voters likely to vote in the Democratic primary were interviewed in a separate augmented sample, bringing the total Democratic primary likely voter sample to 501. These additional voters were randomly sampled from a statewide list of registered voters who were then screened for their likely participation in the Democratic primary.

Results from both the main sample and the augmented sample were weighted to conform to *Field Poll* estimates of the state's registered voter population.

According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the overall sample of likely voters in the primary election have a sampling error of +/- 3.9 percentage points, results from the combined Democratic primary sample of likely voters have a sampling error of +/- 4.5 percentage points, and findings from the GOP primary sample of likely voters have a sampling error of +/- 6.3 percentage points. There are other possible sources of error in any survey other than sampling variability. Different results could occur because of differences in question wording, sampling, the sequencing of questions, or through undetected omissions or errors in interviewing or data processing. Extensive efforts were made to minimize such potential errors.

Questions Asked

ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY:

Three of the candidates in the June Democratic primary election for Lieutenant Governor are (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for Lieutenant Governor?

Two of the candidates in the June Democratic primary election for California Attorney-General are (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for California Attorney-General?

Two of the candidates in the June Democratic primary election for State Controller are (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for State Controller?

Two of the candidates in the June Democratic primary election for California Secretary of State are (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for California Secretary of State?

ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS IN THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY:

Two of the candidates in the June Republican primary election for State Treasurer are (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for California Secretary of State?

Two of the candidates in the June Republican primary election for State Controller are (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for State Controller?

ASKED OF ALL LIKELY VOTERS:

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 82, the Pre-School Education initiative, that will appear on the June statewide primary election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition 82 is called the Public Pre-school Education; Tax Increase on Incomes Over \$400,000 for Individuals and \$800,000 for Couples initiative. It establishes voluntary pre-school education for all four-year olds, and is funded by a 1.7% tax on individual income over \$400,000; and for couples' income over \$800,000.

Fiscal impact: Increased annual revenues of \$2.1 billion in 2007-2008, growing with the economy in future years. All revenues would be spent on the new pre-school program. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 82?