

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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CONTINUING NEGATIVE JOB APPRAISALS OF THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE, DESPITE INITIAL SUPPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE BONDS.

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

At the end of this year's primary election season, *The Field Poll* updated voter appraisals of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's job performance and the state legislature, how they viewed the general direction of the state and the voting dispositions of likely voters regarding the four infrastructure bond proposals that will be on the November election ballot.

The survey finds that there has been little change in overall voter evaluations of the job the governor and state legislature is doing. Currently, 46% disapprove of Schwarzenegger's performance, while 41% approve, not much different from a 47% - 39% negative rating in April.

Voters remain even more critical of the legislature's performance, with 51% disapproving and 26% approving. That's not much different than the two to one negative to positive assessment it received in April.

Contributing to these poor evaluations is the fact that a majority of voters (57%) believes the state is seriously off on the wrong track, while just 32% feel it is moving in the right direction. This is a slightly more optimistic assessment than what was observed in April.

On the other hand, voters are initially supportive of three of the four infrastructure bond proposals that will appear on the November election ballot. Majorities of large pluralities favor issuing multi-billion dollar bonds for disaster preparedness/flood protection, surface transportation and public school facility construction.

Governor's job performance

Currently, 46% of registered voters disapprove of Schwarzenegger's job performance while 41% approve. These findings are not a great deal different than those received by the governor in two earlier measures this year, although they are an improvement over the readings he obtained during the last half of 2005.

Table 1
Trend of Arnold Schwarzenegger's job performance as Governor
(among registered voters)

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Late May 2006	41%	46	13
April 2006	39%	47	14
February 2006	40%	49	11
October 2005	37%	56	7
August 2005	36%	52	12
June 2005	37%	53	10
February 2005	55%	35	10
September 2004	65%	22	13
August 2004	65%	22	13
May 2004	65%	23	12
February 2004	56%	26	18
January 2004	52%	27	21
<u>Party (Late May 2006)</u>			
Democrats	21%	68	11
Republicans	66%	23	11
Non-partisans/others	41%	41	18

State legislature ratings

Throughout most of the past three years, voter assessments of the state legislature's job performance have been highly critical. Voters' current ratings are more of the same, with about twice as many holding a negative (51%) than positive (26%) view.

Table 2
Trend of voter appraisals of the job the state legislature is doing
(among registered voters)

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Late May 2006	26%	51	23
April 2006	28%	56	16
February 2006	31%	48	21
October 2005	26%	58	16
Late August 2005	27%	54	19
June 2005	24%	57	19
February 2005	34%	52	14
September 2004	33%	46	21
August 2004	33%	49	18
May 2004	27%	52	21
February 2004	26%	58	16
January 2004	23%	62	15
July 2003	19%	67	14
April 2003	31%	51	18
2002 (average)	40%	40	20
2001 (average)	43%	37	20
2000 (average)	48%	25	27
1999 (average)	45%	28	27
1998 (average)	45%	33	22
1997 (average)	38%	40	22
1996 (average)	41%	49	10
1995 (average)	34%	59	7
1993 (average)	28%	64	8
1992 (average)	32%	64	4
1990 (average)	45%	48	7
1988 (average)	57%	36	7
1983 (average)	43%	49	8
<u>Party (Late May 2006)</u>			
Democrats	29%	48	23
Republicans	22%	56	22
Non-partisan/other	27%	49	24

Note: Measures prior to 1996 conducted among all adults using a three- or five-point response scale, which was converted to the current two-point approve/disapprove scale for comparative purposes.

Direction of the state

As has been the case since early 2005, a large majority of California voters (57%) believe the state is seriously off on the wrong track, while only about one in three (32%) feel it is heading in the right direction. Even so, this current 32% positive rating is a slightly more optimistic assessment than was observed in April, when only 28% felt this way.

Table 3
Overall direction that California is heading
(among registered voters)

	<u>Right direction</u>	<u>Wrong track</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Late May 2006	32%	57	11
April 2006	28%	56	16
February 2006	31%	55	14
October 2005	30%	63	7
August 2005	30%	57	13
June 2005	28%	60	12
February 2005	35%	53	12
September 2004	46%	38	16
May 2004	37%	51	12
February 2004	35%	54	11
August 2003	16%	76	8
July 2003	18%	75	7
April 2003	26%	65	9
September 2002	33%	54	13
January 2002	41%	50	9
2001 (average)	43%	50	7
2000 (average)	58%	35	7
1999 (average)	52%	34	14
1998 (average)	48%	42	10
1997 (average)	36%	54	10
1996 (average)	39%	49	12
1995 (average)	32%	57	11
1994 (average)	21%	70	9
1993 (average)	11%	83	6
1992 (average)	7%	90	3
1989 (average)	50%	42	8
1988 (average)	52%	43	5
<u>Party (Late May 2006)</u>			
Democrats	27%	62	11
Republicans	39%	52	9
Non-partisan/other	32%	54	14

Note: Surveys prior to 1996 conducted among all California adults, not just registered adults.

Infrastructure bond proposals

As a result of an agreement between the Governor and the state legislature, voters will be asked to approve four separate, multi-billion dollar infrastructure bond proposals on the November general election ballot. In this survey, likely voters in the November general election were asked whether they would vote Yes or No on each proposal.

The results indicate that there is currently greater than two to one support (58% to 25%) for Proposition 1e, the \$4.1 billion bond for disaster preparedness and flood protection.

By a similar margin (57% to 24%) voters also support a \$19.9 billion proposal, Prop. 1b, called the “Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond Act.”

A smaller, but still substantial, plurality of voters (48% to 34%) are also inclined to support Prop. 1d, a \$10.4 billion bond for “Kindergarten through University Public Education Facilities.”

However, there is less support for Prop. 1c, a \$2.8 billion proposal for “Housing and Emergency Shelter,” with voters dividing 39% in favor and 38% opposed.

Table 4
Initial voter preferences toward the four infrastructure bond proposals on the November 2006 election ballot (among likely general election voters)

	<u>Would vote...</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
<u>Prop. 1e, Disaster Preparedness and Flood Protection (\$4.1 billion)</u>			
<u>Total voters</u>	<u>58%</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>17</u>
Democrats	57%	16	17
Republicans	49%	35	16
Non-partisan/other	52%	27	21
<u>Prop. 1b, Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security (\$19.9 billion)</u>			
<u>Total voters</u>	<u>57%</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>19</u>
Democrats	61%	17	22
Republicans	53%	30	17
Non-partisan/other	53%	28	19
<u>Prop. 1d, Kindergarten through University Public Education Facilities (\$10.4 billion)</u>			
<u>Total voters</u>	<u>48%</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>18</u>
Democrats	57%	22	21
Republicans	35%	50	15
Non-partisan/other	51%	29	20
<u>Prop. 1c, Housing and Emergency Shelter (\$2.8 billion)</u>			
<u>Total voters</u>	<u>39%</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>23</u>
Democrats	50%	24	26
Republicans	25%	58	17
Non-partisan/other	37%	36	27

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 986 Californians registered to vote. Interviewing was conducted in English and Spanish between the period May 23-31, 2006. Findings relating to the infrastructure bonds race are based on 702 likely voters in the November general election.

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 are 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.

According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the overall registered voter sample have a sampling error or +/- 3.2 percentage points, while findings relating to the infrastructure bonds have a sampling error of +/- 3.8 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, or sequencing or through undetected omissions or errors in interviewing or data processing. Extensive efforts were made to minimize such potential errors.

Questions Asked

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Arnold Schwarzenegger is handling his job as Governor of California?

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way the California state legislature is doing its job?

Thinking about the state, do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things are seriously off on the wrong track?

ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS IN THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION:

The Governor and the state legislature recently approved placing a package of state bonds totaling 37 billion dollars for infrastructure projects, such as educational facilities, surface transportation, flood protection and affordable housing, on the November 2006 election ballot. I am going to read the four bond proposals and for each please tell me whether you would be inclined to vote YES or NO if the election were being held today. (BOND PROPOSALS READ IN NUMERIC ORDER) If the election were being held today, would you be inclined to vote YES or NO on this bond proposal? (SEE RELEASE FOR SPECIFIC PROPOSALS READ)