

# 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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### **VOTER SUPPORT FOR FIVE STATE- WIDE BOND PROPOSALS HOLDING UP SO FAR.**

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Voters in this year's November general election will be presented with five statewide bond proposals, which in the aggregate would represent an expenditure of \$42.6 billion.

Four of the bonds, Props. 1B, 1C, 1D and 1E, were put on the ballot by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the state legislature. A fifth bond measure, Prop. 84, qualified for the ballot by a separate voter signature gathering effort. The Governor has since announced his support for Prop. 84.

In a survey just completed, *The Field Poll* measured for the third time this year how voters were reacting to each of the bond proposals. In the current survey the wording read to poll respondents reflected the description which voters will actually see on their official ballots. In its two previous surveys conducted in May and July of this year, the poll used only a short description of each of the bonds because the official ballot label summary was not yet available.

### **Voter preferences**

The current poll finds that each of the five bond proposals are favored by a plurality of voters. In the case of Prop. 1B, 1D, 1E, and Prop. 84, the current findings are not much different than what was found in earlier *Field Poll* surveys.

However, the current poll shows considerably greater support for Prop. 1C than did earlier measures. This is probably due to the effect that reading the actual ballot label description has on voters.

**Table 1**  
**Trend of voter preferences toward five statewide bond proposals on the November 2006 election ballot (among likely general election voters)**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
<b>Prop. 1B – Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond</b>			
<b>Late September 2006</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>12</b>
July 2006	54%	27	19
Late May 2006	57%	24	19
<b>Prop. 1C – Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act</b>			
<b>Late September 2006</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>
July 2006	33%	42	25
Late May 2006	39%	38	23
<b>Prop. 1D – Kindergarten through University Public Education Facilities Bond Act</b>			
<b>Late September 2006</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>15</b>
July 2006	48%	37	15
Late May 2006	48%	34	18
<b>Prop. 1E – Disaster Preparedness and Flood Protection Bond Act</b>			
<b>Late September 2006</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>13</b>
July 2006	47%	33	20
Late May 2006	58%	25	17
<b>Prop. 84 – Water Quality, Safety and Supply, Flood Control, National Resource Protection and Park Improvement Bond</b>			
<b>Late September 2006</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>
July 2006	49%	31	20
Late May 2006	N/A	N/A	N/A

N/A: Not asked

Note: The wording read to poll respondents changed in late September to reflect the actual wording that voters will see on official ballots, referred to as the “ballot label.” This condensed summary of each proposition was not available for prior poll measures.

### **Preferences could change**

Unlike last year’s special election which contained eight controversial ballot propositions – all of which eventually lost – there has not been much pro or con TV advertising about this year’s bond issues.

In the coming weeks this situation could change. *The Field Poll* has reported on numerous situations in previous elections where late-breaking advertising campaigns has had a big impact on changing a voter’s initial positive predisposition with regard to a ballot proposition. The *Poll* will be conducting one more measurement very close to the election to assess the influence of late campaign advertising on these bond proposals.

## **Information About The Survey**

### **Sample Details**

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 739 California registered voters, of whom 557 can be considered likely voters in the November general election. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish between the period September 14 – 24, 2006. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize respondent fatigue, the questions in this report were administered to random subsamples of 280 and 277 likely voters each.

The sample was developed from telephone listings of individual voters selected randomly from a statewide list of all registered voters in California. When drawing samples from registration-based lists, *The Field Poll* employs a systematic random selection procedure, giving all voters with phone numbers within each of seven regions of the state an equal chance of being selected. Once a voter's name and telephone number are selected, interviews are attempted only with the specific voter selected.

In an effort to include "hard to reach" voters" into the sample, up to 8 attempts were made to reach and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day. Results from the overall registered voter sample were weighted following the completion of interviewing to conform to *Field Poll* estimates of the demographic and regional characteristics of the state's registered voter population.

According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the likely voter sample have a sampling error of +/- 6.0 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, the rigor with which sampling procedures were implemented, as well as through undetected errors or omissions in interviewing or data processing. Extensive efforts were made to minimize such potential errors.

### **Questions Asked**

Proposition 1B is the Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality and Port Security Bond Act ...

Let me read Proposition 1B's official ballot summary. Prop. 1B makes safety improvements and repairs to state highways, upgrades freeways to reduce congestion, repairs local streets and roads, upgrades highways along major transportation corridors, improves seismic safety of local bridges, expands public transit, helps complete the state's network of car pool lanes, reduces air pollution, and improves anti-terrorism security at shipping ports by providing a bond issue not to exceed 19.9 billion dollars. Fiscal impact: state costs of about 38.9 billion dollars with over 30 years to repay the bonds. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 1B?

Proposition 1C is the Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act ...

Let me read Proposition 1C's official ballot summary. Prop. 1C provides shelters for battered women and their children, clean and safe housing for low-income senior citizens; homeownership assistance for the disabled, military veterans, and working families; and repairs and adds accessibility improvements to apartments for families and disabled citizens. The state would issue bonds totaling about 2.8 billion dollars, paid from existing state funds at an average annual cost of 204 million dollars per year over 30 years, requires independent audited reports showing use of funds and limits administration and overhead costs. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 1C?

Proposition 1D is the Kindergarten through University Public Education Facilities Bond Act ...

Let me read Proposition 1D's official ballot summary. This 10.5 billion dollar bond issue will provide needed funding to relieve public school overcrowding, and to repair older schools. It will improve earthquake safety, and fund vocational educational facilities in public schools. Bond funds must be spent according to strict accountability measures. Funds will also be used to repair and upgrade existing public college and university buildings and to build new classrooms to accommodate the growing student enrollment in the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University. Fiscal Impact: State costs of about 20.3 billion dollars, with payments of about \$680 million per year. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 1D?

Proposition 1E is the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Protection Bond Act ...

Let me read Proposition 1E's official ballot summary. Prop. 1E rebuilds and repairs California's most vulnerable flood control structures to protect homes and prevent loss of life from flood-related disasters, including levee failures, flash floods, and mudslides. It protects California's drinking water supply system by rebuilding delta levees that are vulnerable to earthquakes and storms. It authorizes about 4 billion dollars in bonds. Fiscal Impact: State costs of about 8 billion dollars over 30 years to repay bonds. Reduction in local property tax revenues of potentially up to several million dollars annually. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO Prop. 1E?

One of the statewide bond proposals that will appear on the November general election ballot is Proposition 84, the Water Quality, Safety and Supply, Flood Control, Natural Resource Protection, Park Improvements bonds initiative ...

Let me read Proposition 84's official ballot summary. Prop. 84 funds water, flood control, natural resources, park and conservation projects by authorizing about 5.4 billion dollars in general obligation bonds, and contains emergency drinking water safety provisions. Fiscal Impact: State cost of 10.5 billion dollars over 30 years to repay bonds. Reduced local property tax revenues of several million dollars annually. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 84?