

# 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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## **MAJORITY SENTIMENT STILL RUNNING IN FAVOR OF PROP. 22, THE LIMIT ON MARRIAGE INITIATIVE.**

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Proposition 22, the "Limit on Marriage" initiative, remains favored by Californians who are likely to vote in next month's primary election.

In a statewide survey completed last week, *The Field Poll* found the latest division of sentiment running 52% Yes and 39% No on the initiative.

These findings are not much different than what was revealed in four previous *Field Poll* surveys.

Prop. 22 is sponsored by Republican state Senator William "Pete" Knight of Palmdale. It would add a provision to the state's Family Code specifying that only marriage between a man and woman is valid or recognized in California. While same-sex unions are not legally recognized in California at the present time, passage of Prop. 22 would deny legal recognition of such unions that might be approved in other states.

In this survey more than one-half (54%) of likely voters in the upcoming March 7 primary election have seen or heard something about the initiative. All voters regardless of any prior awareness were then read a summary of the initiative and asked whether they would vote for or against it if the election were being held at the time they were being interviewed.

The following table shows the overall trend of voter reaction to Proposition 22 going back to last March when the first *Field Poll* survey on this subject was taken.

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**Table 1**  
**Trend of voter reaction to Proposition 22,**  
**the “Limit on Marriage” initiative**  
**(among likely voters)**

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	<u>Feb. 2000</u>	<u>Dec. 1999</u>	<u>Oct. 1999</u>	<u>Aug. 1999</u>	<u>March 1999</u>
<u>Inclined to vote...</u>					
Yes	52%	51%	50%	57%	55%
No	39	40	41	39	39
Undecided	9	9	9	4	6

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*(Note: March measure asked of all registered voters)*

### **Subgroup reaction to Prop. 22**

Democratic voters are opposed to the initiative 55% to 37%, but Republicans favor it by an even wider margin — 72% to 20%. Independents and those affiliated with a minor party are also in favor but by a smaller ratio — 50% to 38%.

Protestants and Catholics who together represent about two-thirds of the state’s voters are inclined to vote Yes on Prop. 22 by very wide margin. Members of other religions are slightly opposed to the measure, with those with no religious preference strongly opposed.

The 24% proportion of California voters who can be classified as the “religious right” support Prop. 22 by a nearly eight to one margin — 86% to 11%. Those who don’t identify with the religious right are narrowly opposed 48% to 42%.

About 10% of the likely voters in this sample indicate that they identify a lot with the gay and lesbian community. This group is very much opposed to Prop. 22 — 79% to 17%. Those who identify somewhat with the gay/lesbian community are also opposed by a narrower 51% to 40% margin. However, among the 57% majority who do not have any identification with the gay/lesbian community, support for Prop. 22 is substantial — 66% to 26% in favor.

There is not much difference in the degree of support for the initiative by ethnicity. Pluralities of white non-Hispanics, Latinos, and others currently favor Prop. 22.

With respect to education, among the 21% of voters who have had a post graduate education, opponents outnumber supporters 51% to 41%. College graduates are evenly divided, while those who have less than a college education support the initiative by wide margins.

**Table 2**  
**How various subgroups react to Prop. 22, the “Limit on Marriage” initiative**  
**(among likely voters)**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Statewide (total)	52%	39	9
<u>Region</u>			
(26%) Los Angeles Co.	50%	41	9
(18%) San Diego/Orange	60%	34	6
(15%) Other Southern California	61%	32	7
(16%) Central Valley	61%	31	8
(25%) San Francisco Bay Area	38%	51	11
<u>Party</u>			
(45%) Democrats	37%	55	8
(39%) Republicans	72%	20	8
(16%) Others	50%	38	12
<u>Religion</u>			
(44%) Protestant	61%	31	8
(25%) Catholic	56%	32	12
(16%) Other	44%	48	8
(15%) No preference	28%	67	5
<u>Identify with gay/lesbian community</u>			
(10%) A lot*	17%	79	4
(31%) Some	40%	51	9
(59%) Not at all	66%	26	8
<u>Marital status</u>			
(60%) Married	57%	35	8
(22%) Separated/divorced/widowed	50%	41	9
(18%) Never married	40%	51	7
<u>Gender</u>			
(48%) Male	56%	36	8
(52%) Female	49%	42	9
<u>Ethnicity</u>			
(71%) White non-Hispanic	52%	39	9
(16%) Latino	54%	38	8
(13%) Other	50%	39	11
<u>Education</u>			
(20%) High school or less	63%	30	7
(36%) Some college/trade school	58%	34	8
(23%) College graduation	44%	45	11
(21%) Post-grad work	41%	51	8
<u>Political ideology</u>			
(35%) Conservative	81%	14	5
(42%) Middle-of-the-road	48%	39	13
(23%) Liberal	18%	78	4
<u>Religious right</u>			
(24%) Yes	86%	11	3
(76%) No	42%	48	10

\* small sample base

## **Information About the Survey**

### **Sample Details**

The results in this report are based on a telephone survey conducted February 2 – 6, 2000 among a representative sample of 1,186 California registered voters, of whom 775 can be considered likely to vote in the March 7 California primary election.

According to statistical theory, 95% of the time survey results from the overall likely voter sample have a sampling error of +/- 3.6 percentage points.

There are many possible sources of error in any survey other than sampling variability. Different results could occur because of differences in question wording, sequencing or through undetected errors or omissions in sampling, interviewing or data processing. Every effort was made to minimize such errors.

### **Questions Asked**

Have you seen or heard anything about Proposition 22, called the “Limit on Marriages” initiative, or not?

(As you know) Proposition 22 provides that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California. If the election were being held today, would you vote Yes or No on Proposition 22?