

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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**GIULIANI STILL LEADS IN
CALIFORNIA'S GOP PRIMARY.
HUCKABEE MOVES UP TO SECOND.
CLINTON AND OBAMA HAVE BIG
DOUBLE-DIGIT LEADS AGAINST EACH
REPUBLICAN.**

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Mike Huckabee's dramatic rise in Republican voter support nationally and in the early caucus and primary states is being reflected here in California.

Rudi Giuliani still leads the GOP field in this state, with 25% support, unchanged from October. However, Huckabee, who was receiving just 4% of Republican voter preferences in California in October, is now in second place, receiving 17% support - just ahead of Mitt Romney (15%) and John McCain (12%).

Fred Thompson's support has declined sharply, from 12% in October to 6% now.

Huckabee's big gain is attributable to his getting strong support from California Republicans who are born-again Christians.

Despite the changes in the GOP candidate standings, the two leading Democratic contenders, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, are still heavily preferred among a cross-section of all voters in possible general election match-ups against the leading Republicans.

These are the findings from the latest *Field Poll* completed December 10-17.

Giuliani leads, but Huckabee on the rise

Giuliani continues to lead the pack in California's Republican presidential primary, with 25%. However, Huckabee's support among likely voters in this state's GOP primary has jumped from 4% in October to 17%, putting him in second position.

Bunched together closely behind Huckabee are Mitt Romney (15%) and John McCain (12%).

Fred Thompson's standing with California Republicans has dropped from 12% in October to 6% in the current survey.

Table 1
Voter preferences in the California Republican primary for president
(among likely voters in the CA Republican primary)

	<u>December</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>March</u>
	2007	2007	2007	2007
Rudy Giuliani	25%	25%	35%	37%
Mike Huckabee	17	4	1	3
Mitt Romney	15	13	17	7
John McCain	12	12	9	24
Fred Thompson	6	12	13	8
Ron Paul	3	4	1	1
Duncan Hunter	3	3	2	3
Tom Tancredo	1	*	2	2
Undecided	18	22	20	15

Note: The March 2007 survey included the names of Tommy Thompson Newt Gingrich and Chuck Hagel. For comparative purposes voters favoring these candidates were allocated to their second choice preferences.

** Less than ½ of 1%.*

Big differences among GOP demographic subgroups

This survey finds that about one-third (32%) of likely Republican primary voters in this state are born-again Christians. Among this group the former Arkansas Governor is in first place with 31%, ahead of Giuliani (22%), and followed by McCain and Romney with 11% and 10%, respectively.

Huckabee and Romney, at 20% each, are also very close to Giuliani (25%) among Republicans who classify themselves as strongly conservative.

However, Giuliani holds double-digit leads over his rivals among Republicans who are not born-again Christians, voters under age 50, and among Republicans earning more than \$80,000 per year in household income.

Table 2
Likely voter preferences in the California Republican
primary for president – by subgroup

	Giuliani	Huckabee	Romney	McCain	Others	Undecided
Statewide	25%	17	15	12	13	18
<u>Political ideology</u>						
(.42) Strongly conservative	25%	20	20	9	12	14
(.58) Moderately conservative/ moderate/liberal	25%	14	12	15	12	22
<u>Born-again Christian</u>						
(.32) Yes	22%	31	10	11	11	15
(.68) No	27%	10	16	13	13	21
<u>Region</u>						
(.62) Southern California	24%	16	14	13	14	19
(.38) Northern California	28%	17	16	11	11	17
<u>Gender</u>						
(.48) Male	26%	20	11	10	17	16
(.52) Female	25%	14	19	14	7	21
<u>Age</u>						
(.44) 18-49	28%	13	14	14	15	16
(.56) 50 or older	23%	20	16	10	10	21
<u>Voting method</u>						
(.49) Precinct voter	22%	14	17	14	16	17
(.51) Mail ballot voter	28%	19	13	11	11	18
<u>Household income</u>						
(.22) Less than \$40,000*	18%	20	11	13	13	25
(.29) \$40,000 - \$79,999*	19%	11	21	14	22	13
(.49) \$80,000 or more	33%	18	15	11	9	14

* Small sample base.

GOP candidates still trail in general election trial heats

The changing preferences in the Republican nomination contest have not altered the overall electorate's voting preferences in the November general election.

Democrats Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama continue to maintain sizeable double-digit leads over each of the four Republican leaders in simulated general election match-ups.

Clinton's preference margins against each of the four leading Republican candidates ranges from seventeen to twenty-one points. Against Obama, each Republican trails from fourteen to twenty-five points.

Table 3
**Trend of general election pairings between the leading Democratic
 and Republican contenders for president in California**
(among likely voters in the November general election)

	<u>December</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>March</u>
<u>Clinton vs. the leading GOP candidates</u>				
Clinton (D)	55%	52%	52%	53%
Giuliani (R)	34	38	37	40
Undecided	11	10	11	7
Clinton (D)	54%			
Huckabee (R)	34	N/A	N/A	N/A
Undecided	12			
Clinton (D)	55%	53%	55%	
Romney (R)	34	33	35	N/A
Undecided	11	14	10	
Clinton (D)	54%	54%	52%	48%
McCain (R)	37	35	35	43
Undecided	9	11	13	9
<u>Obama vs. the leading GOP candidates</u>				
Obama (D)	54%	51%	48%	51%
Giuliani (R)	32	35	38	40
Undecided	14	14	14	9
Obama (D)	54%			
Huckabee (R)	29	N/A	N/A	N/A
Undecided	17			
Obama (D)	54%	54%	53%	
Romney (R)	30	31	31	N/A
Undecided	16	15	16	
Obama (D)	50%	50%	49%	51%
McCain (R)	36	33	36	39
Undecided	14	17	15	10

(D) denotes Democrat, (R) denotes Republican. N/A: Not asked.

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 1,283 registered voters in California, including 439 registered Republicans, of whom 322 can be considered likely to vote in the state's February 5th Republican presidential primary election. General election preferences are based on 1,053 likely voters in the November general election. In order to cover a wide range of issues and still minimize possible respondent fatigue, the sample of likely voters in the November general election was divided into sub-samples of 529 and 524 likely voters. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish December 10-17, 2007. Up to eight attempts were made to reach and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period.

The sample was developed from telephone listings of individual voters selected at random from a statewide list of registered voters in California. Once a voter's name and telephone number has been selected, interviews are attempted only with the specified voter. Interviews can be conducted on either the voter's landline or cell phone, depending on the source of the telephone listing from the voter file. After the completion of interviewing, the results are weighted slightly to *Field Poll* estimates of the demographic and regional characteristics of the state's registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to any probability-based survey depend on sample size. According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from findings based on the overall sample of 322 likely GOP primary voters are subject to a sampling error of +/- 5.7 percentage points, while findings from the general election pairings have a sampling error of +/- 4.5 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, the sequencing of questions, the rigor with which sampling procedures are implemented, as well as other factors.

Questions Asked

I am going to read the names of some Republicans who are running for the Republican presidential nomination next year. For each, please tell me whether there would be a good chance, some chance or no chance that you would vote for that person in California's presidential primary election. You may name as many or as few persons as you like as people you would be inclined to vote for. (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) I am going to read back the names of the candidates you said you would have at least some chance of voting for. (NAMES OF CANDIDATES READ BACK) Of these persons, who would be your first choice if the California Republican primary election for President were being held today? (SEE RELEASE FOR CANDIDATES READ)

(ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS IN THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION)

I am going to read some possible match-ups between Democratic and Republican candidates for President in the November 2008 general election. For each pairing, please tell me which candidate you would choose if the election for President were being held today. What about... (PAIRINGS READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) If the election were being held today and these were the candidates, for whom would you vote for President? (SEE RELEASE FOR PAIRINGS READ)