

# 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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### **PELOSI'S JOB RATING TAKES NEGATIVE TURN. BOTH BOXER AND FEINSTEIN VIEWED FAVORABLY.**

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's job rating among this state's voters has taken a negative turn, with more now holding an unfavorable than favorable view. At the same time, voters give similar three-to-two positive assessments of the job performance of the state's two Democratic U.S. Senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

These are the results of the latest statewide *Field Poll* completed in late May among a cross-section of the state's registered voters.

#### **Pelosi job performance**

Last December California voters held mixed views of the job House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was doing. Now her ratings have taken a negative turn. Thirty percent of this state's voters say they approve of the job Pelosi is doing, but 39% disapprove. Despite the high profile office of House Speaker that she has held for about seventeen months, about one in three registered voters in this state (31%) have no opinion of the job she is doing.

Prior to assuming the House Speakership in January 2007, Pelosi was the Democratic Minority Leader. While she held that office most voters with an opinion viewed her performance in a more favorable than unfavorable light, although large proportions were unable to offer an opinion.

In March 2007, after she had been Speaker for about two months, voters viewed her quite favorably, with 48% approving and 27% disapproving. Since that time voter opinions of Pelosi have declined steadily to where now more view her performance negatively (39%) as positively (30%).

While rank-and-file Democrats hold Pelosi in relatively high regard (47% approve and 23% disapprove), the view that Republicans have of her is very unfavorable (62% disapprove and 16% approve). While almost half (45%) of non-partisans have no opinion of Pelosi, among those who give an assessment more disapprove than approve (37% to 18%).

**Table 1**  
**Job performance of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi**  
**(among California registered voters)**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<b>May 2008</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31</b>
December 2007	35%	38	27
October 2007	35%	40	25
August 2007	39%	37	24
March 2007	48%	27	25
August 2004*	37%	29	34
April 2003*	34%	25	41
<u>Party (May 2008)</u>			
Democrats	47%	23	30
Republicans	16%	62	22
Non-partisans/others	18%	37	45
<u>Region (May 2008)</u>			
Los Angeles County	35%	34	31
Other Southern California	25%	39	36
San Francisco Bay Area	32%	39	29
Other Northern California	28%	45	27

\* Measures prior to March 2007 were asked with regard to Pelosi's role as House Minority Leader.

### **Feinstein's job appraisal**

Since Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein was first elected to the Senate in 1993 she has always received favorable job appraisals ranging from three-to-two positive to two-to-one positive.

Currently 48% approve and 32% disapprove of Feinstein's performance, while 20% have no opinion. This rating is not much different than those found in last October and December. However, it is down from roughly two to one favorable assessments that Feinstein obtained earlier in 2007.

Democrats have a very high regard for Feinstein, rating her positively by a better than three to one margin (64% approve and 19% disapprove). Republicans take a dimmer view of the Senator – 28% approve and 51% disapprove. The views of non-partisans are very similar to Feinstein's overall statewide ratings – 47% approve and 31% disapprove.

**Table 2**  
**Trend of Dianne Feinstein's job performance ratings as U.S. Senator**  
**(among California registered voters)**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<b>May 2008</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>
December 2007	50%	32	18
October 2007	51%	31	18
August 2007	56%	28	16
March 2007	61%	27	12
July 2006	51%	32	17
February 2005	51%	29	20
June 2005	54%	26	20
February 2005	50%	29	21
August 2004	55%	29	16
May 2004	53%	23	24
July 2003	55%	31	14
April 2003	49%	34	17
2002 (Average)	49%	26	25
2001 (Average)	57%	27	16
2000 (Average)	57%	27	16
1999 (Average)	51%	28	21
1998 (Average)	56%	27	17
1997 (Average)	47%	35	18
1996 (Average)	46%	36	18
1995 (Average)	50%	40	10
1994 (Average)	47%	39	14
1993 (Average)	47%	32	21
<u>Party (May 2008)</u>			
Democrats	64%	19	17
Republicans	28%	51	21
Non-partisans/others	47%	31	22

*Note: For measures conducted prior to 1997, original surveys used a five-point response scale, which has been converted to a two-point approve/disapprove scale for comparative purposes. In addition, surveys prior to 1997 also were conducted among all California adults.*

### **Boxer's job appraisal**

Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer, who also has been in the Senate since 1993, has always been viewed in a positive light but generally not to the extent that Feinstein has. However, in the current survey Boxer's rating (48% approve and 31% disapprove) is almost identical to the one voters have of Feinstein.

Views of Boxer are somewhat more partisan than those of Feinstein. Democrats have an overwhelmingly favorable regard for Boxer (70% approve and 12% disapprove), while Republicans take an almost opposite view (20% approve and 62% disapprove).

While one third of non-partisans have no opinion of Boxer, although among those who have an opinion she is seen favorably (44% approve to 24% disapprove).

**Table 3**  
**Trend of Barbara Boxer’s job performance ratings as U.S. Senator**  
**(among California registered voters)**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<b>May 2008</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>21</b>
December 2007	45%	35	19
October 2007	44%	35	21
August 2007	48%	33	19
March 2007	54%	31	15
July 2006	45%	34	21
February 2005	41%	34	25
June 2005	47%	30	23
February 2005	49%	36	15
August 2004	49%	36	15
May 2004	44%	33	23
July 2003	49%	35	16
April 2003	43%	35	22
2002 (Average)	45%	29	26
2001 (Average)	49%	31	20
2000 (Average)	50%	30	20
1999 (Average)	45%	35	20
1998 (Average)	45%	29	26
1997 (Average)	41%	35	24
1996 (Average)	42%	36	22
1995 (Average)	45%	39	16
1994 (Average)	43%	37	20
1993 (Average)	41%	35	24
<u>Party (May 2008)</u>			
Democrats	70%	12	18
Republicans	20%	62	18
Non-partisans/others	44%	24	32

*Note: For measures conducted prior to 1997, original surveys used a five-point response scale, which has been converted to a two-point approve/disapprove scale for comparative purposes. In addition, surveys prior to 1997 also were conducted among all California adults.*

## **Information About The Survey**

### **Sample Details**

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 550 registered voters statewide. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish May 17-26, 2008. Up to six 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 depends on the sample size. The maximum sampling error for results based on the overall sample of 550 registered voters is +/- 4.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The maximum sampling error is based on percentages +-in the middle of the sampling distribution (percentages around 50%). Percentages at either end of the distribution (percentages around 10% or around 90%) have a smaller margin of error. While there are other potential sources of error in surveys besides sampling error, the overall design and execution of the survey minimized the potential for these other sources of error. The maximum sampling error will be larger for analyses based on subgroups of the overall sample.

### **Questions Asked**

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nancy Pelosi is handling her job as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barbara Boxer is handling her job as U.S. Senator?

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Dianne Feinstein is handling her job as U.S. Senator?