

THE FIELD POLL

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THE CALIFORNIA POLL BY MERVIN FIELD

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Release #2522

CLINTON MAINTAINS 11-POINT LEAD OVER SANDERS AMONG LIKELY VOTERS IN CALIFORNIA'S DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY. BOTH CANDIDATES ARE HIGHLY REGARDED.

Release Date: **Wednesday, January 6, 2016**

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By Mark DiCamillo, Director, *The Field Poll*

Hillary Clinton is maintaining an eleven-point lead over Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders among likely voters in California's June Democratic primary election. Currently, 46% of likely Democratic primary voters support the former First Lady and U.S. Senator, while 35% are backing Sanders. Clinton's current preference advantage over Sanders is similar to what it was in the last *Field Poll* completed in October.

Clinton's lead is derived from her maintaining big leads among major segments of the state's likely Democratic primary electorate, including women, ethnic voters, voters age 40 or older and registered Democrats. Sanders, on the other hand, leads Clinton among Democratic primary voters under age 40, and among independent voters who say they'll be voting in the state's Democratic presidential primary.

Very large majorities of Democratic primary voters – about three in four – have a favorable opinion of both Clinton and Sanders. In addition, when all registered voters statewide, not just likely voters in the Democratic primary, are asked their opinions of the two leading Democrats, each is viewed more positively than negatively, although slightly more voters statewide hold an unfavorable opinion of Clinton than Sanders.

Clinton is maintaining her lead over Sanders in California

The latest statewide *Field Poll* finds 46% of the state's likely Democratic primary voters supporting Clinton, while slightly more than a third (35%) are backing Sanders. Clinton's current 11-point lead is similar to the twelve-point advantage she held over the Vermont Senator in October.

Table 1 Trend of preferences for the Democratic presidential nomination (among likely voters in California's Democratic primary)				
	January <u>2016</u>	October <u>2015</u>	May <u>2015</u>	February <u>2015</u>
Hillary Clinton	46%	47%	66%	73%
Bernie Sanders	35	35	9	10
Martin O'Malley	1	1	*	1
Others/undecided	18	16	23	13

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Women, ethnic voters, those age 40 or older and registered Democrats are bolstering Clinton's lead

Clinton's lead in California is the result of her holding large leads over Sanders among major segments of the state's Democratic primary electorate. For example, Clinton is preferred over Sanders by big margins among women, ethnic voters, those age 40 or older, and registered Democrats.

On the other hand, Sanders leads Clinton among likely voters under age 40 and voters registered as no party preference who say they will be voting in the state's Democratic presidential primary. He is also running about even with Clinton among liberals, men and white non-Hispanics.

Table 2 Preferences in California's June 2016 Democratic primary for president – by subgroup (among likely voters in California's Democratic primary)			
	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Sanders</u>	<u>Others/ no preference</u>
Total statewide	46%	35	19
<u>Party registration</u>			
Democrat	50%	31	19
No party preference*	30%	50	20
<u>Region</u>			
Southern California	45%	35	20
Northern California	48%	36	16
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	41%	40	19
Female	49%	32	19
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	38%	38	24
Ethnic populations	57%	32	11
<u>Age</u>			
18-39	32%	57	11
40-64	55%	23	22
65 or older*	54%	22	24
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Liberal	45%	47	8
All others	46%	25	29

* Small sample base.

Large majorities of Democratic primary voters view both Clinton and Sanders favorably

About three in four likely voters in California's Democratic presidential primary hold positive views of the two leading Democratic contenders.

However, the poll finds that Sanders is viewed more favorably by Democratic primary voters who are currently backing Clinton than the former First Lady is among voters currently supporting Sanders.

Table 3 Image ratings of Clinton and Sanders among likely voters in California's Democratic primary			
	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
Hillary Clinton (total)	<u>74%</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>4</u>
Clinton supporters	99%	*	1
Sanders supporters	54%	39	7
Bernie Sanders (total)	<u>76%</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
Sanders supporters	99%	*	1
Clinton supporters	71%	12	17

* Less than ½ of 1%.

Clinton and Sanders are also viewed more favorably than unfavorably by the state's overall electorate

When a cross section of all registered voters, not just likely Democratic primary voters, are asked their impressions of the leading Democratic presidential candidates, about half have a favorable opinion of the two Democrats. However, a somewhat larger proportion of voters statewide has a negative view of Clinton (44%) than Sanders (31%).

Views of the two leading Democratic contenders are highly partisan and ideological, with large majorities of Democrats and liberals viewing each positively, while Republicans and conservatives have mostly unfavorable opinions.

Table 4 following compares how opinions of Clinton and Sanders vary across major demographic and regional subgroups of the state's overall registered voter population.

Table 4 Image ratings of Clinton and Sanders (among the overall California registered voter population)				
	Clinton		Sanders	
	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>
Total registered voters	50%	44	52%	31
<u>Party registration</u>				
Democrats	76%	18	70%	14
Republicans	13%	83	21%	68
No party preference/other	48%	43	58%	20
<u>Area</u>				
Coastal counties	54%	39	58%	27
Inland counties	40%	55	40%	40
<u>Region</u>				
Los Angeles County	59%	35	60%	24
Other Southern CA	43%	51	44%	37
Central Valley	35%	59	40%	41
San Francisco Bay Area	60%	33	65%	23
Other Northern CA*	56%	41	61%	28
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	45%	49	53%	35
Female	55%	39	52%	28
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
White non-Hispanic	42%	53	52%	37
Latino	63%	29	52%	21
African American	79%	16	56%	18
Asian American/other	51%	41	53%	19
<u>Age</u>				
18-39	51%	41	65%	17
40-49	52%	43	52%	30
50-64	50%	45	45%	42
65 or older	48%	47	43%	39
<u>Political ideology</u>				
Strongly conservative	15%	84	15%	69
Moderately conservative	40%	54	27%	51
Middle-of-the-road	51%	41	52%	26
Moderately liberal	66%	28	79%	8
Strongly liberal	77%	17	86%	6

* Small sample base.

Note: Differences between the sum of each candidate's percentages and 100% equal proportion with no opinion.

Information About the Survey

Methodological Details

The findings in this report come from a *Field Poll* completed December 16, 2015-January 3, 2016 among 1,003 registered voters in California, of whom 329 are considered likely to vote in the state's June Democratic presidential primary election.

Interviews were administered by telephone using live interviewers in English and Spanish. Individual voters were sampled at random from listings derived from the statewide voter registration rolls. Once a voter's name and telephone number had been selected, interviews were attempted with voters on their landline or cell phone depending on the source of the listing from the voter file and the preference of the voter.

Up to four attempts were made to reach, screen and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period. After the completion of interviewing, the sample was weighted to align it to the proper distribution of voters by race/ethnicity and other demographic, geographic and party registration characteristics of the state's registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to the results of any probability-based survey depend on sample size and the percentage distributions being examined. The maximum sampling error for results from the overall registered voter sample is ± 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level and ± 5.6 percentage points for the Democratic primary voter sample. These estimates are based on survey findings in the middle of the sampling distribution (i.e., results at or near 50%). Percentages at or near either end of the tail of the distributions (i.e., results closer to 10% or 90%) have somewhat smaller margins of error. There are other potential sources of error in surveys of public opinion besides sampling error. However, the overall design and execution of this survey sought to minimize these other possible errors.

The Field Poll was established in 1947 as *The California Poll* by Mervin Field. The *Poll* has operated continuously since then as an independent, non-partisan survey of California public opinion. *The Field Poll* receives financial support from leading California newspapers and television stations, who purchase the rights of first release to *Field Poll* reports in their primary viewer or readership markets. The *Poll* also receives funding from the University of California and California State University systems, who receive the data files from each *Field Poll* survey shortly after its completion for teaching and secondary research purposes, as well as from foundations, non-profit organizations, and others as part of the *Poll's* policy research sponsor program.

Questions Asked

ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY:

I am going to read the names of the candidates running for the Democratic nomination for President. If the June Democratic primary for President in California were being held today, for whom would you vote – (NAMES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) – or someone else? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES READ)

ASKED OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS:

Please tell me whether your opinion of the following Presidential candidates is favorable, unfavorable or whether you don't know enough about that person to have an opinion. (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Is your opinion of (NAME) favorable or unfavorable? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES READ)