

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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SHARP DIMINISHMENT IN VOTER INCLINATION TO RE-ELECT SCHWARZENEGGER. ANGELIDES LEADS DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY. BOTH HE AND WESTLY NARROWLY LEAD THE GOVERNOR IN EARLY GENERAL ELECTION MATCH-UPS.

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's once dominant position to win re-election next year has diminished sharply over the past four months.

Last February 56% of this state's registered voters said they were inclined to vote for Schwarzenegger for Governor in 2006 should he decide to seek re-election. However, in a just completed *Field Poll* survey, there has been a complete turn-around in voter dispositions, with 57% now disinclined to support him.

At the same time, State Treasurer Phil Angelides has opened up an early lead over three possible Democratic challengers in the battle to win next year's Democratic gubernatorial primary. In addition, both he and Democratic State Controller Steve Westly now narrowly lead the Governor in simulated general election match-ups.

These are the results of the latest *Field Poll* survey measuring voter sentiments in next year's race for Governor. The survey was conducted among a statewide random sample of 711 registered voters June 13-19.

Inclination to re-elect Schwarzenegger declines across most voter subgroups.

The extent of Schwarzenegger's fall from public favor can be seen in breadth of subgroups who would choose not to re-elect him should he decide to seek a second term.

While 71% of the state's Republicans and 65% of conservatives continue to back the Governor, these margins are more than offset by the proportions of Democrats, non-partisans, moderates and liberals who now oppose his possible bid for a second term.

In the major regions of the state – Los Angeles County, the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as the Central Valley – substantial majorities are disinclined to re-elect the Governor. In areas of Southern California outside of Los Angeles County voters are evenly divided in their vote inclination.

While only a small majority of white non-Hispanics are disinclined to re-elect Schwarzenegger, large majorities of Latinos and voters of other racial/ethnic backgrounds are not prepared to support him.

Women are much less inclined than men to re-elect the Governor.

Table 1
Voter inclination to re-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger
to a second term as Governor in 2006
(among registered voters)

	<u>Inclined</u>	<u>Not inclined</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
June 2005	39%	57	4
February 2005	56%	42	2
<u>Party</u>			
Democrat	16%	83	1
Republican	71%	23	6
Non-partisans/others	35%	61	4
<u>Region</u>			
Los Angeles County	35%	63	12
Other Southern California	47%	47	6
Central Valley	42%	56	2
San Francisco Bay Area	29%	67	4
Other*	43%	57	**
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	46%	51	3
Female	33%	63	4
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White (non-Hispanic)	44%	53	3
Latino	26%	72	2
Other	35%	60	5
<u>Age</u>			
18–39	40%	59	1
40–49	41%	57	2
50–64	38%	57	5
65 or older	39%	55	6
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Conservative	65%	30	5
Moderate	36%	60	4
Liberal	11%	88	1

Note: All subgroups are from the June 2005 survey.

** Small sample.*

*** Less than ½ of 1%.*

Large proportions have no opinion of Democratic challengers

Both Angelides and Westly have formally announced that they will be seeking their party's gubernatorial nomination next year. Two other well-known Democrats from the entertainment industry – director Rob Reiner and actor Warren Beatty – have also been mentioned as possible Democratic gubernatorial candidates.

In its most recent survey *The Field Poll* attempted to gauge how Democratic voters would react to the possible gubernatorial candidacies of each man. At this stage, sizeable proportions, ranging from 23% to 43%, have no opinion when asked whether they would be inclined or not inclined to support each man.

Angelides currently receives the most favorable ratio of inclined (37%) to not inclined (26%) to vote responses among rank-and-file Democrats. At this stage slightly more Democrats are disinclined than inclined to support either Westly or Reiner. In the case of Beatty, a two-to-one majority of Democrats report being disinclined to vote for him should he decide to run for Governor.

Table 2
Inclination to vote for various Democratic possibilities for Governor in 2006
(among registered Democrats)

	<u>Inclined</u>	<u>Not inclined</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Phil Angelides	37%	26	37
Rob Reiner	33%	38	29
Steve Westly	27%	30	43
Warren Beatty	24%	53	23

Angelides the early leader in the Democratic primary

When potential Democratic primary voters are asked who they would support among these four possible candidates if the gubernatorial primary were being held today, Angelides leads with 33%, followed by Westly at 19%, Reiner at 15%, with Beatty trailing at 9%. Another 24% are undecided.

If both Beatty's and Reiner's name were excluded from the list, Angelides holds an early 37% to 28% lead over Westly, with 35% undecided.

Both Angelides and Westly narrowly lead Schwarzenegger

Last February when Schwarzenegger was matched against each of the four possible Democratic candidates the Governor was preferred by margins ranging from fifteen to nineteen points. Now, he trails Angelides and Westly each by four points, and has small leads over Reiner and Beatty.

Table 3
Trial heats pairing possible Democratic party candidates vs. Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger in the Nov. 2006 general election for Governor (among registered voters)

	Total Voters		June 2005		
	<u>June 2005</u>	<u>Feb 2005</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Non-partisans/ others</u>
Angelides (D)	46%	35%	73%	10%	48%
Schwarzenegger (R)	42	52	16	77	36
Undecided	12	13	11	13	16
Westly (D)	44%	33%	72%	11%	43%
Schwarzenegger (R)	40	52	15	74	35
Undecided	16	15	13	15	22
Schwarzenegger (R)	44%	52%	20%	78%	37%
Reiner (D)	42	37	67	10	45
Undecided	14	11	13	12	18
Schwarzenegger (R)	46%	NA	21%	79%	43%
Beatty (D)	37	NA	60	10	36
Undecided	17	NA	19	11	21

(R) denotes Republican
 (D) denotes Democrat
 NA: Not asked in February 2005 survey.

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 711 registered voters in California conducted by telephone June 13-19, 2005 in English and Spanish. Democratic primary preferences are based on a random sample of 340 potential Democratic primary voters statewide.

Households were sampled using a random digit dial methodology, which randomly selects operating landline telephone exchanges within all areas codes serving California households in proportion to population. Within each exchange, telephone numbers are created by adding random digits to the selected telephone exchange. This method gives each phone listing an equal chance of being selected and permits access to all landline telephone numbers statewide, both listed and unlisted.

According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the overall sample have a sampling error of +/- 3.6 percentage points, while Democratic primary preferences have a sampling error of +/- 5.5 percentage points.

Questions Asked

I am going to read the names of some people who have been mentioned as possible candidates for Governor in next year's California statewide elections. As I read each name please tell me whether you would be inclined or not inclined to vote for that person. You may name as many or as few people as you want as being persons you would be inclined to vote for. (NAMES AND PARTIES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Would you be inclined or not inclined to vote for (NAME) for Governor in next year's statewide election?

(ASKED OF POTENTIAL DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS) Suppose that in next year's Democratic primary election for Governor the candidates were (NAMES AND TITLES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the Democratic primary election for Governor were being held today and these were the candidates, who would be your first choice... (LAST NAMES READ)? Who would be your second choice? (REMAINING CANDIDATE NAMES READ)?

I am going to read some match-ups between possible Democratic and Republican candidates for Governor in next year's general election. For each, please tell me which candidate you would choose if the election for Governor were being held today. (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES AND PARTIES OF CANDIDATE PAIRINGS READ) If these were the candidates for Governor in next year's general election, for whom would you vote if the election were being held today?