

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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Release #2170

Release Date: **Wednesday, September 7, 2005**

**MAJORITY NOT INCLINED TO RE-ELECT
SCHWARZENEGGER. DEMOCRATIC
CHALLENGERS NOT WELL-KNOWN, BUT
POLL WELL AGAINST THE GOVERNOR.
FEINSTEIN DEMONSTRATING EARLY
STRENGTH IN HER RE-ELECTION BID FOR
U.S. SENATE.**

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

A sizeable (56%) majority of California voters says they are not inclined to vote for Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger if he decides to run for re-election as Governor next year.

By contrast, a majority (52%) is inclined to support the re-election of Democrat Dianne Feinstein to the U.S. Senate.

In the Democratic Primary for Governor, State Treasurer Phil Angelides continues to hold the early lead over State Controller Steve Westly, although a huge 46% of potential Democratic primary voters are undecided. And, despite their being much less well-known to voters than the Governor, when matched against Schwarzenegger in simulated general election match-ups, both Angelides and Westly lead by narrow margins.

These are the findings from the latest *Field Poll* concerning voter preferences for Governor and U.S. Senate in next year's statewide elections.

Disinclination to support Schwarzenegger

Last February the mood of the California electorate toward a Schwarzenegger bid for a second term was much different than it is today. Then, a 56% majority indicated support for the Governor's re-election, while 42% were disinclined. Now, just 36% favor returning the former movie actor to the statehouse, while 56% are disinclined.

Among subgroups of the electorate, only Republicans and conservatives give the Governor strong support for another term. Southern California voters outside of L.A. County are evenly divided, while majorities of the other major voter subgroups are disinclined to re-elect Schwarzenegger.

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>
Late August 2005	36%	56	8
June 2005	39%	57	4
February 2005	56%	42	2
<u>Party</u>			
Democrat	13%	82	5
Republican	70%	21	9
Non-partisans/others	27%	61	12
<u>Region</u>			
Los Angeles County	29%	64	7
Other Southern California	46%	45	9
Central Valley	35%	56	9
San Francisco Bay Area	28%	63	9
Other*	40%	54	9
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	40%	52	8
Female	31%	60	9
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White (non-Hispanic)	44%	48	8
Latino	14%	82	4
Other	25%	63	12
<u>Age</u>			
18–39	31%	58	11
40–49	39%	55	6
50–64	39%	56	5
65 or older	37%	53	10
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Conservative	63%	28	9
Moderate	29%	62	9
Liberal	12%	83	5

Note: All subgroups are from the Late August 2005 survey.

** Small sample.*

Angelides holds the early lead over Westly in Democratic primary

Some time ago Angelides and Westly announced their candidacies for Governor in next year's election. When asked whether they would be inclined or not inclined to support the two Democratic candidates, about four in ten Democrats (42%) say they're inclined to support Angelides, 21% are disinclined and 37% have no opinion. This is slightly better than the voter assessments of Westly, of whom 33% are inclined to back, 23% not inclined and 44% having no opinion..

Table 2
Inclination to vote for the Democratic candidates for Governor in 2006
(among registered Democrats)

	<u>Late August</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>June</u> <u>2005</u>
<u>Phil Angelides</u>		
Inclined	42%	37%
Not inclined	21	26
No opinion	37	37
<u>Steve Westly</u>		
Inclined	33%	27%
Not inclined	23	30
No opinion	44	43

When those eligible to vote in next year's Democratic gubernatorial primary – both registered Democrats and non-partisans intending to vote in the Democratic primary – are asked who would be their first choice if the Democratic primary election were being held today, 32% choose Angelides, 22% favor Westly, while 46% are undecided.

The proportion of prospective Democratic voters undecided in the gubernatorial primary has risen from 35% to 46% since June, indicating slightly greater difficulty among voters in making their preference.

Table 3
Voter preferences in the 2005 Democratic primary for Governor
(among prospective Democratic primary voters)

	<u>Late August</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>June</u> <u>2005</u>
Angelides	32%	37%
Westly	22	28
Undecided	46	35

Schwarzenegger vs. the Democrats

If the gubernatorial general election were being held now, the poll finds the election would be a close one between Schwarzenegger and either Angelides or Westly. Each Democrat leads Schwarzenegger by a slim three percentage-point margin, similar to what was found in June.

Table 4
Trial heat pairings of Democratic party candidates vs. Republican
Arnold Schwarzenegger in the Nov. 2006 general election for Governor
(among registered voters)

	Late August 2005	June 2005
Angelides (D)	43%	46%
Schwarzenegger (R)	40	42
Undecided	17	12
Westly (D)	42%	44%
Schwarzenegger (R)	39	40
Undecided	19	16

(D) denotes Democrat
(R) denotes Republican

What if Gray Davis were running for Governor?

Democrat Gray Davis was elected Governor in 1998 and re-elected in 2002. However, a majority of voters in an October 2003 recall election voted to oust Davis from office. Schwarzenegger running against a large slate of over one hundred Republican, Democratic and other party candidates was elected Governor succeeding Davis.

In the current survey, *The Field Poll* sought to measure whether there was any latent desire to reinstall Davis as Governor. Voters were asked whether they would be inclined or not inclined support a Davis candidacy next year. The results show that just 20% are inclined to support the return of the former Governor, while a very large majority (73%) are disinclined. Just 32% of Democrats and only 7% of Republicans indicated support for Davis.

In a hypothetical match-up between Schwarzenegger and Davis, Schwarzenegger holds a comfortable fifteen-point lead (49% to 34%).

U.S. Senate race

Dianne Feinstein was first elected to the Senate in 1992 and has been re-elected in two subsequent elections in 1994 and 2000. Throughout this period, California voters have consistently given Feinstein high job performance marks. This continues in the current survey, with 53% now approving and 26% disapproving of her performance.

The poll also finds that there is a substantial amount of sentiment to re-elect her to another term in office. By a margin of 52% to 38% voters say they are inclined to vote for Feinstein in next year's election. In three surveys taken this year the proportion of voters inclined to re-elect the Senator has ranged from 52% to 56%.

Feinstein enjoys large majority support from Democratic and liberal voters, although a plurality of non-partisan voters back her, as do one in four Republicans. She receives proportionally greater support among voters in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles County, women and older voters.

Table 5
Voter inclination to re-elect Dianne Feinstein
to another term as U.S. Senator in 2006
(among registered voters)

	<u>Inclined</u>	<u>Not inclined</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Late August 2005	52%	38	10
June 2005	56%	37	7
February 2005	53%	39	8
<u>Party</u>			
Democrat	77%	14	9
Republican	25%	68	7
Non-partisans/others	44%	37	19
<u>Region</u>			
Los Angeles County	56%	37	7
Other Southern California	45%	39	16
Central Valley	48%	45	7
San Francisco Bay Area	60%	31	9
Other*	49%	41	10
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	48%	42	10
Female	55%	34	11
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White (non-Hispanic)	50%	47	9
Latino	54%	31	15
Other	57%	30	13
<u>Age</u>			
18–39	44%	40	16
40–49	49%	44	7
50–64	58%	35	7
65 or older	62%	31	7
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Conservative	28%	63	9
Moderate	56%	33	11
Liberal	76%	14	10

Note: All subgroups are from the Late August 2005 survey.

** Small sample.*

*** Less than 1/2 of 1%.*

Bill Mundell, GOP Senatorial candidate

The only individual indicating that he will likely seek the Republican Senatorial nomination and receiving some media attention is millionaire businessman Bill Mundell from West Hollywood. The poll finds that almost one-half (49%) of GOP voters do not know enough about him to say whether they are inclined or not inclined to vote for him. Among those able to rate him, 34% of Republicans are initially inclined to support him, while 17% are not.

Feinstein vs. Mundell

When Feinstein is matched against Mundell in a simulated November 2006 general election pairing, Feinstein leads by a big margin 56% to 30%. She is preferred overwhelmingly (86%) by Democrats and holds a substantial 47% to 25% lead among non-partisans. Republicans currently prefer Mundell to Feinstein 61% to 24%.

Table 6
Trial heat pairing Democrat Dianne Feinstein and Republican
Bill Mundell in the 2006 general election for U.S. Senate
(among registered voters)

	<u>Feinstein (D)</u>	<u>Mundell (R)</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total	56%	30	14
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	86%	7	7
Republicans	24%	61	15
Non-partisans/others	47%	25	28

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a survey of a random sample of 1,301 California adults contacted by telephone August 19-29, 2005 in English and Spanish, including 891 registered voters.

Households were sampled using a random digit dial methodology, which randomly selects operating 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 permits access to all landline telephone numbers statewide, both listed and unlisted, and gives each residential phone listing an equal chance of being selected.

According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the overall registered voter sample have a sampling error of +/- 3.4 percentage points.

Questions Asked

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

I am going to read the names of some people who have been mentioned as possible candidates for Governor or U.S. Senator 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 _____ for (Governor) (U.S. Senator) in next year's statewide election?

(ASKED OF DEMOCRATS AND NON-PARTISANS VOTING IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY:) Suppose that in next year's Democratic primary election for Governor the candidates were Phil Angelides, State Treasurer, and Steve Westly, Sate Controller. If the Democratic primary election for Governor were being held today and these were the candidates, for whom would you vote – Angelides or Westly?

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. (NAMES AND PARTIES OF CANDIDATE PAIRINGS READ IN RANDOM ORDER) 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?

Suppose in next year's general election for U.S. Senate, Democratic U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein were running against Republican businessman Bill Mundell. If these were the candidates and the election for U.S. Senate were being held today, for whom would you vote – Feinstein or Mundell?