

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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**SPECIAL ELECTION HURTING
GOVERNOR'S CHANCES FOR RE-
ELECTION. LARGE PORTIONS OF
DEMOCRATS DO NOT KNOW THEIR
PARTY'S GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES.
FEINSTEIN STRONGLY FAVORED FOR
ANOTHER U.S. SENATE TERM.**

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

By a 55% to 36% margin California voters are disinclined to re-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger to another term as Governor next year. The poll also finds that Schwarzenegger's call for a special election is hurting his re-election chances, with a larger proportion of voters saying his calling the election makes them more likely to oppose (46%) than support him (29%) next year. The main reasons voters give for feeling this way relates to its cost and to the view that the Governor's reasons for calling the election have more to do with his desire to strengthen his own political position than to bring about needed reforms to state government.

Even so, when the Governor is matched against possible Democratic candidates who might be facing him in next year's general election, Schwarzenegger continues to be competitive with each.

Democrats who have either formally announced their candidacies or who have been reported as interested in running for Governor next year include State Treasurer Phil Angelides, State Controller Steve Westly, and movie director Rob Reiner and actor Warren Beatty. Relatively large portions of the Democratic electorate are either unfamiliar with or disinclined to support these Democratic possibilities. In an early preference test conducted among potential Democratic primary voters, Angelides leads the field.

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, who will be up for re-election next year, is heavily favored by voters in her re-election bid. The current poll finds that by a 56% to 37% margin, voters support her serving another term. When matched against businessman Bill Mundell, a possible Republican challenger, Feinstein is running comfortably ahead 61% to 30%.

These are the findings from the latest *Field Poll* completed last week among a random sample of the state's registered voters.

Disinclination to re-elect Schwarzenegger

As recently as last February, *The Field Poll* found that a large majority (56%) of this state's voters were inclined to support Schwarzenegger for another term as Governor. However, by June sentiment had turned completely around, with 57% saying they opposed his re-election. That negative disposition has persisted throughout the summer months and now into the fall. At present 55% of the state's registered voters are not inclined to support Schwarzenegger's re-election bid, while 36% are supportive.

Four-fifths (81%) of Democratic voters are not inclined to re-elect Schwarzenegger. While a 66% majority of Republicans favors another term for the Governor, a sizeable minority (22%) are opposed. Among the approximately one in five voters who are not affiliated with either major party, 56% are disinclined to support the Governor's re-election bid, while 34% are supportive.

In the large population areas where Democrats predominate – Los Angeles County and the San Francisco Bay – three-fifths or more of all voters say they are disinclined to want Schwarzenegger to serve another term.

There is a large gender gap in voter preferences regarding Schwarzenegger's re-election. While only a small plurality of men are disinclined to have the Governor serve another term, women feel this way by a greater than two-to-one margin.

Among white non-Hispanic voters, sentiment is running against the Governor's re-election 49% to 41%. In addition, large majorities of Latinos and other ethnic voters do not favor another term for Schwarzenegger.

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

	<u>Inclined</u>	<u>Not inclined</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Late October 2005	36%	55	9
Late August 2005	36%	56	8
June 2005	39%	57	4
February 2005	56%	42	2
<u>Party</u>			
Democrat	13%	81	6
Republican	66%	22	12
Non-partisans/others	34%	56	10
<u>Region</u>			
Los Angeles County	29%	65	6
Other Southern California	44%	47	9
Central Valley	39%	50	11
San Francisco Bay Area	28%	61	11
Other*	47%	51	2
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	44%	49	7
Female	29%	61	10
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White (non-Hispanic)	41%	49	10
Latino	23%	72	5
Other	34%	57	9
<u>Age</u>			
18–39	30%	60	10
40–49	36%	57	7
50–64	39%	54	7
65 or older	42%	46	12
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Conservative	61%	30	9
Moderate	31%	58	11
Liberal	8%	87	5

*Note: All subgroups are from the Late October 2005 survey. * Small sample size.*

Special election hurting Governor’s chances for re-election

Voters in the current survey were asked whether the Governor’s call for a statewide special election this year makes them more inclined to support or oppose Schwarzenegger in his bid for re-election next year. The results indicate that the special election is hurting the Governor’s re-election chances.

Statewide 46% of registered voters say Schwarzenegger’s call for a special election makes them more likely to oppose him in next year’s gubernatorial election. This compares to 29% who say the special election makes them more likely to support the Governor’s re-election, while 16% reporting it has no effect and 9% have no opinion.

Schwarzenegger's call for a special election has a proportionately greater negative impact among Democrats, women, Latinos and other ethnic voters, as well as voters in union households.

	<u>More likely to oppose</u>	<u>More likely to support</u>	<u>No effect</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Total statewide	46%	29	16	9
<u>Party</u>				
Democrat	71%	7	15	7
Republican	14%	54	21	11
Non-partisans/others	46%	31	11	11
<u>Likelihood of voting in special election</u>				
Not a likely voter	49%	20	19	12
Likely voter (total)	<u>45%</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>
Absentee ballot voter	45%	34	10	11
Precinct voter	44%	30	19	7
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	39%	39	18	4
Female	52%	19	15	14
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
White (non-Hispanic)	39%	34	20	7
Latino	62%	18	7	13
Other	54%	19	13	14
<u>Union affiliation</u>				
Union household	51%	21	17	11
Non-union household	44%	31	16	9

More voters feel Governor's call for a special election is a bad thing than a good thing for California

By a 49% to 37% margin more voters believe the Governor's call for a special election this year is a bad thing rather than a good thing for California. Democrats feel this way by a nearly four to one margin (68% to 18%). By contrast, Republicans think the special election is a good thing for the state by a 61% to 25% margin.

Somewhat larger proportions of likely voters, women, and ethnic voters believe the decision to call a special election was a bad thing compared to other voters.

Table 3
Is Governor Schwarzenegger's decision to call a statewide special election this year a good thing or bad thing for California (among registered voters)

	<u>Bad thing</u>	<u>Good thing</u>	<u>Mixed</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Total statewide	49%	37	5	9
<u>Likelihood of voting</u>				
Likely voter	51%	39	5	5
Not a likely voter	42%	34	5	18
<u>Party</u>				
Democrats	68%	18	4	10
Republicans	25%	61	6	8
Non-partisans/others	48%	37	5	10
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	45%	42	5	8
Female	52%	33	5	10
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
White non-Hispanic	46%	40	4	10
Latino	51%	36	4	9
Black/Asian/other	55%	27	8	10

When voters who feel the special election is a bad thing or have mixed views are asked to volunteer their reasons for feeling this way, the single greatest reply relates to its cost. Statewide 59% of all registered voters cite its cost as a reason why they feel holding the election is a bad thing for the state. The next most frequently cited comments relate to voter distrust or dislike of the Governor (36%), while another 29% feel the election is unnecessary and that a vote on these issues could have waited until the next regularly scheduled election in June.

Table 4
Reasons why voters think the special election is a bad thing for California (among voters who believe the special election is a bad thing or have mixed views)

	<u>Total registered voters</u>	<u>Likely voters</u>
It's a waste of money/costs too much/money would be better spent on other things	59%	62%
Don't like or trust Governor Schwarzenegger/ he has his own agenda, is trying to take advantage	36	34
It's not necessary/the issues on the ballot aren't so important that they couldn't wait until next year	29	32
They've been calling too many elections/it's not the right way to solve problems	2	2
Other mentions (less than 1% each)	2	1
No opinion	3	2

Columns add to more than 100% due to multiple mentions.

When those who feel the election is a good thing or have mixed views are asked to specify their reasons, the single greatest comment relates to the feeling that the state needs change and reform now (41%). Three other comments are cited with some frequency: elections get the public more involved/give voters a choice (27%), support the Governor and his agenda (19%), and disapprove of the job the legislature is doing in not bringing about reforms or failing to deal with the deficit (12%).

Table 5
Reasons why voters think the special election is a good thing for California
(among voters who believe the special election
is a good thing or have mixed views)

	Total registered voters	Likely voters
California needs change/needs reform now/ something has to be done	41%	42%
Elections get the public more involved/gives voters a choice/allows people to decide	27	26
I trust and support the Governor and what he is trying to do	19	19
The legislature is not doing its job/legislators oppose reforms, don't deal with the deficit	12	16
I support one (or more) of the ballot propositions	5	6
Unions have gotten too powerful and this needs to be limited	1	2
Enables voters a chance to send the Governor a message	1	1
Other mentions (less than 1% each)	4	4
No opinion	3	2

Columns add to more than 100% due to multiple mentions.

Most voters are cynical about the Governor's motives for calling the special election

In addition, many voters are cynical of Schwarzenegger's motives for calling the election. Statewide, 51% of voters believe the Governor's call for the special election is motivated more by a desire to strengthen his own political position and that of his political allies than believe he called the election because of sincere desire to bring about needed reforms to state government (36%).

Democrats hold this view by a greater than four to one margin (77% to 18%), and non-partisans also feel this way 50% to 32%. By contrast, Republicans, by a three to one margin (62% to 20%), believe Schwarzenegger's call for the special election was motivated more by a sincere desire to bring about needed reforms.

Voters who are not likely to participate in the special election are somewhat more cynical of the Governor's motives for calling the election than are likely voters. In addition, among likely voters, those intending to vote at their precinct polling place are more suspicious of the Governor's reasons for calling the election than are those who intend to vote by absentee ballot.

Women, Latinos and voters living in union households are also more cynical of Schwarzenegger's call for a special election than other voters.

Table 6			
Is the Governor's call for a special election driven more by a sincere desire to bring about needed reforms or is it more an attempt to strengthen his own political position and that of his political allies?			
(among registered voters)			
	Strengthen own political position	Desire to bring about needed reforms	No opinion
Total statewide	51%	36	13
<u>Party</u>			
Democrat	77%	18	5
Republican	20%	62	18
Non-partisans/others	50%	32	18
<u>Likelihood of voting in special election</u>			
Not a likely voter	54%	23	23
Likely voter (total)	<u>50%</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>9</u>
Absentee ballot voters	44%	45	11
Precinct voters	54%	37	9
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	47%	43	10
Female	55%	30	15
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	46%	45	9
Latino	71%	15	14
Black/Asian/other	53%	21	26
<u>Union affiliation</u>			
Union household	59%	34	7
Non-union household	49%	37	14

Schwarzenegger's possible Democratic opponents

Large portions of Democratic voters cannot express an opinion as to their inclination to support either of the two announced candidates for Governor, Angelides and Westly. While larger proportions of Democrats can express their opinion of Reiner and Beatty, in both cases more voters are not inclined than inclined to back these possible candidacies.

Table 7
Trend of inclination to vote for the possible
Democratic candidates for Governor in 2006
(among registered Democrats)

	<u>Inclined</u>	<u>Not inclined</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Phil Angelides</u>			
Late October 2005	37%	26	37
Late August 2005	42%	21	37
June 2005	37%	26	37
<u>Steve Westly</u>			
Late October 2005	28%	28	44
Late August 2005	33%	23	44
June 2005	27%	30	43
<u>Rob Reiner</u>			
Late October 2005	36%	41	23
Late August 2005	N/A	N/A	N/A
June 2005	33%	38	29
<u>Warren Beatty</u>			
Late October 2005	30%	52	18
Late August 2005	N/A	N/A	N/A
June 2005	24%	53	23

N/A: Not asked in August poll.

When voters are asked who they would vote for if the Democratic primary were being held today, the distribution is Angelides (31%), Westly (20%), Reiner (17%), and Beatty 10%, with 22% unable to make a choice. When Reiner and Beatty are excluded from the list of possible candidates, Angelides leads Westly 37% to 26%, with 37% undecided.

General election match-ups

Despite voters' negative sentiments about Schwarzenegger serving another term, none of his four possible Democratic opponents holds a substantial lead over the Governor when each is paired against him in a simulated general election match-up.

Angelides and Westly lead the Governor by just six points each and Reiner leads by two points, while Beatty trails the Governor by three points.

Table 8
Trial heats pairings between possible Democratic Party candidates and
Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger in the Nov. 2006 general election for Governor
(among registered voters)

	Total Voters				Late October 2005		
	<u>Late Oct 2005</u>	<u>Late Aug 2005</u>	<u>June 2005</u>	<u>Feb 2005</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Non-partisans/ others</u>
Angelides (D)	47%	43%	46%	35%	73%	16%	45%
Schwarzenegger (R)	41	40	42	52	14	76	36
Undecided	12	17	12	13	13	8	19
Westly (D)	46%	42%	44%	33%	72%	16%	42%
Schwarzenegger (R)	40	39	40	52	13	76	35
Undecided	14	19	16	15	15	8	23
Reiner (D)	45%	N/A	42%	37%	71%	14%	45%
Schwarzenegger (R)	43	N/A	44	52	17	77	38
Undecided	12	N/A	14	11	12	9	17
Schwarzenegger (R)	44%	N/A	46%	N/A	18%	81%	41%
Beatty (D)	41	N/A	37	N/A	67	10	36
Undecided	15	N/A	17	N/A	15	9	23

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

Feinstein's re-election supported

In four separate *Field Poll* surveys conducted this year, majorities of voters have been inclined to reelect Feinstein to another term in the U. S. Senate. The current poll finds 56% inclined and 37% disinclined to back her serving another term.

The desire to have Feinstein remain in the Senate is strong among both Democrats and non-partisans. Even one in four (25%) Republicans are supportive. Large majorities of voters in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles County support Feinstein's re-election. On the other hand, voters in the Central Valley are about evenly divided.

Majorities of men and women favor Feinstein, with the latter group favoring her by a 28-point margin. Majorities of voters across all race and ethnic groups line up favoring her re-election.

Table 9
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 October 2005	56%	37	7
Late August 2005	52%	38	10
June 2005	56%	37	7
February 2005	53%	39	8
<u>Party</u>			
Democrat	80%	13	7
Republican	25%	68	7
Non-partisans/others	57%	33	10
<u>Region</u>			
Los Angeles County	59%	32	9
Other Southern California	50%	42	8
Central Valley	46%	48	6
San Francisco Bay Area	71%	24	5
Other*	49%	42	9
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	53%	42	5
Female	59%	31	10
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White (non-Hispanic)	53%	41	6
Latino	60%	30	10
Other	62%	25	13
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Conservative	30%	63	7
Moderate	63%	29	8
Liberal	82%	12	6

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

** Small sample.*

Feinstein vs. a possible GOP challenger

Businessman Bill Mundell is the only Republican who has so far been reported as a possible candidate for his party's nomination for the U.S. Senate. When pitted against Feinstein in a simulated general election match-up, Feinstein is preferred by a two-to-one margin, 61% to 30%.

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a telephone survey of 1,450 California registered voters conducted October 18-30, 2005 in English and Spanish. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize possible voter fatigue, questions reported in this release were asked of voters interviewed in one of two polling periods. The first was October 18-24, 2005 and included 676 registered voters statewide, while the second was conducted October 25-30, 2005 and included 774 registered voters. Democratic primary preferences are based on interviews conducted during the first interviewing period and included 305 voters eligible to participate in the 2006 Democratic primary election.

Households for both surveys were sampled using a random digit dial methodology, which randomly selects operating telephone exchanges within all area codes serving California households in proportion to population. Within each exchange, telephone numbers are created by adding random digits to each 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 each registered voter sample have a sampling error of approximately +/-4 percentage points, while findings from the Democratic primary voter sample have a sampling error of +/- 6 percentage points.

Questions Asked

QUESTIONS ASKED DURING FIRST INTERVIEWING PERIOD (OCTOBER 18-24):

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, ASKING:) Would you be inclined or not inclined to vote for (NAME AND PARTY) for (Governor) (U.S. Senator) in next year's statewide election? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES READ)

ASKED OF DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS ONLY: 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... (REPEAT LAST NAMES)? Who would be your second choice? (NAMES OF REMAINING CANDIDATES REPEATED)? (SEE RELEASE FOR 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. (NAMES AND PARTIES OF CANDIDATE PAIRINGS READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) 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? (SEE RELEASE FOR PAIRINGS READ)

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?

QUESTIONS ASKED DURING SECOND INTERVIEWING PERIOD (OCTOBER 25-30):

Generally speaking, do you feel Governor Schwarzenegger's decision to call a statewide special election this year is a good thing or a bad thing for California? (IF GOOD THING OR MIXED:) Why do you feel it is a good thing? (PROBE) Any other reasons? (IF BAD THING OR MIXED:) Why do you feel it is a bad thing? (PROBE) Any other reasons?

Do you think the Governor's call for a statewide special election is driven more by a sincere desire to bring about needed reforms to state government or is it more an attempt to strengthen his own political position and that of his political allies?

Does the Governor's call for a statewide special election this year make you more likely to support or more likely to oppose Schwarzenegger when he runs for re-election next year?