

# 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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**FEINSTEIN LEADING MOUNTJOY NEARLY  
TWO TO ONE. BROWN HAS LOST SOME  
OF HIS BIG LEAD OVER POOCHIGIAN.  
GARAMENDI AND McCLINTOCK LOCKED  
IN TIGHT RACE.**

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

In this year's U.S. Senate race, incumbent Democrat Dianne Feinstein continues to hold a huge lead over Republican Richard Mountjoy. The current survey shows 57% of likely voters supporting Feinstein, while just 29% favor Mountjoy.

In the election for state Attorney General, Democrat Jerry Brown is maintaining a 15-point advantage (45% to 30%) over his Republican rival Chuck Poochigian. However, Brown's lead is down from a larger 21-point advantage found in a July *Field Poll*.

The race for Lt. Governor is tightening. The latest *Field Poll* finds the race to be about even, with 41% favoring Garamendi and 39% supporting McClintock. This is down from a ten-point Garamendi lead in July.

### **Feinstein comfortably ahead in the U.S. Senate race**

What is unusual about this year's U.S. Senate race is the fact that in five separate *Field Polls* taken this year Feinstein has maintained an almost immovable two-to-one margin in voter preference over Mountjoy. In addition, historically in a contest for high elective office like the U.S. Senate, there are sizeable expenditures of campaign money devoted to TV advertising and extensive media reporting. However, this has not been the case in the 2006 U.S. Senate election.

Feinstein is losing only a smattering (4%) of the Democratic vote to Mountjoy, but captures the support of almost one in five (18%) Republican voters. She also garners more than twice as many non-partisan votes as Mountjoy (58% to 23%).

Feinstein has commanding leads over Mountjoy across all regions of the state, with the exception of the Southern California region outside of Los Angeles County.

While 70% of conservatives favor Mountjoy, Feinstein holds an overwhelming advantage among liberals (92% to 2%) and moderates (62% to 19%).

Male voters back Feinstein 53% to 34%, while female voters are even more supportive (61% to 23%).

Feinstein gets strong support from white non-Hispanics (53% to 34%) and overwhelming backing from Latinos, blacks, Asians and other ethnic voters.

**Table 1**  
**Trend of voters' preferences in the election for U.S. SENATE**  
**(among likely voters)**

	<b>Feinstein (D)</b>	<b>Mountjoy (R)</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
<b>Late September</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>
July	56%	34	1	9
Late May	54%	28	3	15
April	59%	31	2	8
February	56%	28	1	15
<b>Party</b>				
Democrats	86%	4	4	6
Republicans	18%	64	6	12
Non-partisans/others*	58%	23	9	10
<b>Area</b>				
Coastal counties	60%	27	6	7
Inland counties	51%	34	5	10
<b>Region</b>				
Los Angeles County	56%	29	6	9
Other Southern California	37%	49	7	7
Central Valley*	54%	31	3	12
San Francisco Bay Area	71%	15	5	9
Other Northern California*	52%	31	6	11
<b>Political ideology</b>				
Conservative	17%	70	3	10
Moderate	62%	19	8	11
Liberal	92%	2	4	2
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	53%	34	6	7
Female	61%	23	5	11
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>				
White non-Hispanic	53%	34	4	9
Latino*	67%	13	10	10
Black/Asian/other*	70%	13	6	11

\* Small sample size. (D) denotes Democrat (R) denotes Republican

Note: All subgroups are from Late September 2006 survey.

\*\* Other candidates include Todd Chretien (Green), Marsha Feinland (Peace and Freedom), Don J. Grundman (American Independent) and Michael S. Metti (Libertarian).

**Brown holds double-digit lead for Attorney General, but his lead has diminished**

Last July *The Field Poll* found Brown holding a big lead over Poochigian – 54% to 33%. However, the latest *Field Poll* shows Brown’s advantage, while still substantial, has narrowed (45% to 30%).

Brown is gaining proportionately greater support among Democratic voters (70%) than Poochigian is getting among Republicans (60%), although more Republicans are undecided. Brown’s current two-to-one preference edge among non-partisans/others is accounting for a good portion of his overall lead.

**Table 2**  
**Trend of voter preferences in the election for ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**(among likely voters)**

	<b><u>Brown (D)</u></b>	<b><u>Poochigian (R)</u></b>	<b><u>Other**</u></b>	<b><u>Undecided</u></b>
<b>Late September</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>
July	54%	33	1	12
<i>Party (Late September)</i>				
Democrats	70%	13	3	14
Republicans	12%	60	7	21
Non-partisan/other*	43%	21	18	18

\* Small sample size. (D) denotes Democrat (R) denotes Republican

\*\* Other candidates include Jack Harrison (Peace and Freedom), Kenneth A. Weissman (Libertarian) and Michael S. Wyman (Green).

**Very close race for Lt. Governor**

The Garamendi-McClintock contest for Lt. Governor has become very close. Garamendi’s initial ten point lead in July (48% to 38%) has narrowed to just two points (41% to 39%) in the current survey.

Garamendi currently loses 12% of the Democratic vote to McClintock, while McClintock loses about the same amount (13%) of the Republican vote to Garamendi. Non-partisans/others are also closely divided, with 32% favoring Garamendi and 27% supporting McClintock.

**Table 3**  
**Trend of voter preferences in the election for LT. GOVERNOR**  
**(among likely voters)**

	<b><u>Garamendi (D)</u></b>	<b><u>McClintock (R)</u></b>	<b><u>Other**</u></b>	<b><u>Undecided</u></b>
<b>Late September</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>
July	48%	38	1	13
<i>Party (Late September)</i>				
Democrats	68%	12	8	12
Republicans	13%	77	3	7
Non-partisan/other*	32%	27	18	23

\* Small sample size. (D) denotes Democrat (R) denotes Republican

\*\* Other candidates include Stewart A. Alexander (Peace and Freedom), Jim King (American Independent), Lynnette Shaw (Libertarian) and Donna J. Warren (Green).

## **Information About The Survey**

### **Sample Details**

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 739 California registered voters, of whom 557 can be considered likely voters in the November general election. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish between the period September 14 – 24, 2006. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize respondent fatigue, preferences relating to the Attorney General and Lt. Governor races were asked of random subsamples of 270 and 267 likely voters each, while preferences relating to the U.S. Senate race were asked of the overall likely voter sample.

The sample was developed from telephone listings of individual voters selected randomly from a statewide list of all registered voters in California. When drawing samples from registration-based lists, *The Field Poll* employs a systematic random selection procedure, giving all voters with phone numbers within each of seven regions of the state an equal chance of being selected. Once a voter's name and telephone number are selected, interviews are attempted only with the specific voter selected.

In an effort to include "hard to reach" voters" into the sample, up to 8 attempts were made to reach and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day. Results from the overall registered voter sample were weighted following the completion of interviewing to conform to *Field Poll* estimates of the demographic and regional characteristics of the state's registered voter population.

According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the overall likely voter sample have a sampling error of +/- 4.3 percentage points, while findings from the random subsamples have a sampling error of +/- 6 percentage points. There are other possible sources of error in any survey other than sampling variability. Different results could occur because of differences in question wording, sampling, the sequencing of questions, the rigor with which sampling procedures were implemented, as well as through undetected errors or omissions in interviewing or data processing. Extensive efforts were made to minimize such potential errors.

### **Questions Asked**

In the election this year for U.S. Senate, Republican Richard Mountjoy, Immigration Control consultant, is running against Democrat Dianne Feinstein, incumbent U.S. Senator. If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for U.S. Senate – Richard Mountjoy, the Republican, Dianne Feinstein, the Democrat, or someone else?

In the election this year for State Attorney General, Republican Charles Poochigian, State Senator, is running against Democrat Jerry Brown, Oakland Mayor. If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for State Attorney General – Charles Poochigian, the Republican, Jerry Brown, the Democrat, or someone else?

In the election this year for Lieutenant Governor, Republican Tom McClintock, State Senator, is running against Democrat John Garamendi, Insurance Commissioner. If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for Lieutenant Governor – Tom McClintock, the Republican, John Garamendi, the Democrat, or someone else?