

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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CLARK EDGES OTHERS IN PREFERENCES FOR DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION.

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Retired U.S. General Wesley Clark's formal announcement last month of his candidacy in the Democratic Presidential race has vaulted him to a leadership position in next March's California primary election.

In a survey completed before last week's special statewide recall election, *The Field Poll* found Clark receiving the support of 17% of rank-and-file Democratic voters in the state. Following closely behind is former Vermont Governor Howard Dean and Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman, both at 14%.

Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, at 9%, is in fourth position, ahead of Missouri Congressman Richard Gephardt who obtained 5% support. Trailing the field are New York civil rights leader Al Sharpton (4%), former Illinois Senator Carol Moseley Braun (3%), North Carolina Senator John Edwards (1%) and Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich (1%). Three in ten Democrats (30%) are undecided as to their current preference.

Prior to Clark's entry into the field, Dean, who had moved from 7% in April to 23% in early September, was leading the pack, but the current poll shows that he has now dropped back to a close second position. Following is the preference trend over the course of five months, during which time four measurements have been taken.

Table 1
Trend of voter preferences in the March 7 Democratic presidential primary in California
(among California registered Democrats)

	<u>Late Sept.</u>	<u>Early Sept.</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>April</u>
Wesley Clark	17%	4%	N/A	N/A
Howard Dean	14	23	14%	7%
Joseph Lieberman	14	15	15	22
John Kerry	9	11	15	16
Richard Gephardt	5	8	8	12
Al Sharpton	4	3	4	4
Carol Moseley Braun	3	4	1	4
John Edwards	1	1	4	3
Dennis Kucinich	1	1	3	1
Other/undecided	32	30	36	31

N/A = Not Asked.

Sub-group analysis

Clark appears to exert strong appeal to men and voters over age fifty.

Table 2
Preferences in California Democrat Presidential Primary – by subgroup
(among California registered Democrats)

	<u>Clark</u>	<u>Dean</u>	<u>Lieberman</u>	<u>Kerry</u>	<u>Gephardt</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Statewide (total)	17%	14	14	9	5	9	32
<u>Gender</u>							
Male	24%	15	11	8	7	7	28
Female	12%	13	16	9	3	11	36
<u>Age</u>							
18-39	8%	9	23	7	2	13	38
40-49	17%	13	11	9	6	17	27
50 or older	24%	17	8	10	6	5	30

Bush vs. Democratic contenders

When Republican President George W. Bush is paired against each of the five leading Democratic candidates in simulated general election match-ups, he runs about even against each. In some cases Bush is ahead by two to four points, while when paired against Clark, the President trails by two points.

These results portray an electorate that at this stage appears to be about evenly divided regarding who they are inclined to support in next year's November general election.

Table 3
Voter preferences in the 2004 general election for President
(among California registered voters)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Non-partisans/ others</u>
Clark	45%	73%	7%	51%
Bush	43	15	85	33
Undecided	12	12	8	16
Bush	46%	16%	86%	41%
Dean	42	71	6	44
Undecided	12	13	8	15
Bush	45%	15%	86%	37%
Lieberman	41	70	5	43
Undecided	14	15	9	20
Bush	46%	16%	87%	40%
Kerry	42	70	4	46
Undecided	12	14	9	14
Bush	45%	14%	87%	37%
Gephardt	43	74	4	45
Undecided	12	12	9	18

Hillary Clinton for President?

While Hillary Clinton has repeatedly stated that she will not be a candidate for President next year, the New York Democrat Senator is frequently described in national political circles as someone who can't be ruled out as a possible contender for the nomination.

When asked about a possible candidacy by the former First Lady, four in ten (41%) California Democratic voters say they would prefer Clinton to be their party's nominee in 2004, but a larger proportion (52%) would prefer someone else. This result is somewhat less supportive of a Clinton candidacy compared to a poll taken in July. Women are about evenly divided in whether they would like Clinton as the nominee. Men are strongly opposed to Clinton, as are voters over 50 years of age.

Table 4
Would you like to see New York Senator Hillary Clinton become the Democratic Presidential nominee, or would you prefer someone else?
(among California registered Democrats)

	<u>Clinton</u>	Someone else	No opinion
Late September	41%	52	7
July	43%	48	9
<u>Gender</u>			
Men	32%	61	7
Women	47%	45	8
<u>Age</u>			
18-39	56%	38	6
40-49	41%	52	7
50 or older	29%	63	8

Information About the Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a telephone survey conducted September 25-October 1, 2003 in English and Spanish among a representative sample of registered voters in California. A total of 1,026 registered voters were interviewed overall, including 451 registered Democrats, 364 registered Republicans and 210 voters registered as non-partisans or with a minor party.

Sampling was conducted by means of random digit dialing, which selects telephone exchanges within all area codes serving California in proportion to population. From each exchange a random sample of telephone numbers was created by adding random digits to the telephone exchange selected, permitting access to both listed and unlisted telephones. Up to five attempts were made to reach voters. After the completion of data collection, the sample was weighted slightly to *Field Poll* estimates of the state's total registered voter population.

Preferences in the Democratic Presidential primary were based on the sample of 451 registered Democrats and have a sampling error of +/- 4.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The overall voter sample was divided into two approximately equal sized subsamples of 525 and 501 voters each to measure preferences in the November 2004 general election, with each subsample having a sampling error of +/- 4.5 percentage points. Results from subgroups have somewhat larger sampling errors.

Questions Asked

(ASKED OF REGISTERED DEMOCRATS)

Next I am going to read the names of some people who could be candidates in the Democratic primary election for President next year. As I read each person, please tell me whether you would be inclined or not inclined to vote for that person in California's March 2004 Democratic primary for President or whether you don't know enough about that person to have an opinion. You may name as many or as few persons as you want as being persons you would be inclined to vote for.

Let's see, you told me that you would be inclined to vote for (NAMES OF PERSONS INCLINED TO VOTE FOR READ BACK IN RANDOM ORDER). If California's Democratic primary election for President were being held today and these were the candidates, who would be your first choice? (IF FIRST CHOICE GIVEN) And who would be your second choice? (NOTE: IN THIS REPORT, SUPPORTERS OF BOB GRAHAM WERE ALLOCATED TO THEIR SECOND CHOICE PREFERENCES.)

Would you like to see New York Senator Hillary Clinton become the Democratic Presidential nominee next year or would you rather that someone else be the Democratic Presidential nominee?

(ASKED OF RANDOM SUBSAMPLES OF ALL VOTERS)

I am going to read some possible match-ups between Democratic and Republican candidates for President in next year's general election in California. For each pairing, please tell me which candidate you would choose if the election for President were being held today. What about... (PAIRINGS READ). If the election were being held today and these were the candidates for President, who would you prefer? (SEE RELEASE FOR PAIRING READ)