

THE FIELD POLL

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THE CALIFORNIA POLL BY MERVIN FIELD

Field Research Corporation
222 Sutter Street, Suite 700
San Francisco, CA 94108-4411
(415) 392-5763 FAX: (415) 434-2541
EMAIL: fieldpoll@field.com
www.field.com/fieldpollonline

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**2008 REPUBLICAN PRIMARY
GIULIANI LEADS MCCAIN IN
CALIFORNIA. NO OTHER REPUBLICAN
RECEIVES MORE THAN 7%. EACH OF
THE THREE LEADING DEMOCRATIC
CONTENDERS RUN AHEAD OF THE
REPUBLICANS IN GENERAL ELECTION
PAIRINGS.**

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani currently holds a twelve-point lead over Arizona Senator John McCain (36% to 24%) for the 2008 Republican nomination among potential voters in California's February 5th primary election. Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney is a distant third at 7%. No other Republican candidate receives more than 4% of voter preferences.

For some months the political press has been focusing primarily on the efforts of Giuliani, McCain and Romney among the likely Republican presidential candidates. Others who have been getting less attention are Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo, California Congressman Duncan Hunter, Kansas Senator Sam Brownback, Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, and Texas Congressman Ron Paul.

In recent weeks there has been growing speculation in political circles about the possibility of Newt Gingrich, former Georgia Congressman, and/or Fred Thompson, former Tennessee Senator, becoming candidates.

When Gingrich and Thompson are included as possible candidates, Giuliani still leads with 29% of the preferences, McCain remains in second at 21%, while Gingrich places third with 9% and Thompson is tied with Romney at 7%.

Table 1
Voter preferences in the California Republican primary for President
(among likely Republican primary voters)

	Preferences without Gingrich/ Thompson	When Gingrich/ Fred Thompson are included
Rudy Giuliani	36%	29%
John McCain	24	21
Newt Gingrich	--	9
Fred Thompson	--	7
Mitt Romney	7	7
Duncan Hunter	4	3
Tom Tancredo	4	3
Mike Huckabee	3	2
Chuck Hagel	2	2
Sam Brownback	2	2
Ron Paul	1	1
Undecided	17	14

Voter images of the leading candidates

Very large majorities of California's Republican primary voters are familiar with Giuliani and McCain, and both are viewed in a very favorable light. Romney is not as well-known to this state's likely GOP electorate, with nearly half (47%) having no opinion. However, among those able to rate Romney, more than twice as many view him favorably as unfavorably.

Table 2
Image ratings of three of the potential Republican Presidential candidates
(among likely Republican primary voters)

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
Giuliani	80%	15	5
McCain	71%	20	9
Romney	37%	16	47

Chances of voting for each candidate

Likely GOP primary voters were also asked whether there was a good chance, some chance or no chance that they could support each of the candidates.

In Giuliani's case 37% say there is a good chance and 40% some chance he would get their vote. Fewer than one in five (19%) say there is no chance the former New York Governor would get their vote.

Sixty-four percent said there was either a good chance (25%) or some chance (39%) they would vote for McCain. But, one in three (33%) indicated that there is no chance of their supporting the Arizona Senator.

Even larger proportions – ranging from 40% to 55% – say there is no chance that they could support each of the nine other GOP presidential possibilities measured.

Table 3
Chances voters give of voting for each of the possible Republican candidates for President in the Republican primary (among likely Republican primary voters)

	<u>Good chance</u>	<u>Some chance</u>	<u>No chance</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Giuliani	37%	40	19	4
McCain	25%	39	33	3
Gingrich	18%	33	45	4
Thompson	14%	31	40	15
Romney	12%	37	40	11
Hunter	10%	26	46	18
Tancredo	9%	23	49	19
Hagel	4%	26	55	15
Huckabee	3%	27	52	18
Brownback	5%	21	53	21
Paul	3%	22	55	20

Sub-group preferences

An examination of voting preferences across some of the major GOP voter subgroups shows the following:

- Giuliani receives his strongest support among Republican primary voters in Northern California, those age 50 or older and Republicans who do not identify themselves as born-again Christians.
- McCain does better among Republicans who are ideologically moderate or moderate conservatives, and among voters in Southern California.

Table 4
Preferences in the California Republican Presidential primary – by subgroup
(among likely Republican primary voters)

	<u>Giuliani</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>All Others</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Statewide	36%	24	7	17	16
<u>Region</u>					
(.63) Southern California	31%	27	8	20	14
(.37) Northern California	44%	20	6	10	20
<u>Gender</u>					
(.48) Male	38%	26	7	19	10
(.52) Female	34%	23	8	13	22
<u>Age</u>					
(.47) 18 – 49	31%	25	7	21	16
(.53) 50 or older	40%	23	8	13	16
<u>Political ideology</u>					
(.39) Strongly conservative	38%	16	8	19	19
(.61) All other	35%	30	6	14	15
<u>Born-again Christian</u>					
(.35) Yes	28%	24	7	21	20
(.65) No	41%	24	7	14	14
<u>Permanent absentee voter</u>					
(.39) Yes	38%	21	10	17	14
(.61) No	35%	26	5	16	18

Subgroup preferences (including Gingrich and Thompson)

When Newt Gingrich and Fred Thompson are offered as GOP Presidential possibilities along with the other candidates, Gingrich draws heavily from the state’s strong conservatives and born-again Christians. Thompson’s support is more evenly distributed across the voter subgroups.

Table 5
Preferences in the California Republican Presidential primary
(including Gingrich and Thompson) – by subgroup
(among likely voters in the Democratic primary)

	<u>Giuliani</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Gingrich</u>	<u>Thompson</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Statewide	29%	21	9	7	7	13	14
<u>Region</u>							
(.63) Southern California	26%	24	8	7	7	16	12
(.37) Northern California	34%	17	12	8	6	8	15
<u>Gender</u>							
(.48) Men	30%	22	10	9	7	15	7
(.52) Women	28%	20	8	6	7	11	20
<u>Age</u>							
(.47) 18 – 49	25%	23	9	7	7	16	13
(.53) 50 or older	33%	19	9	9	7	10	13
<u>Political ideology</u>							
(.39) Strongly conservative	31%	12	13	9	7	15	13
(.61) All others	28%	27	6	9	7	11	12
<u>Born-again Christian</u>							
(.35) Yes	20%	20	17	7	6	16	14
(.65) No	35%	21	5	8	7	12	12
<u>Permanent absentee voter</u>							
(.39) Yes	32%	19	9	5	9	14	12
(.61) No	27%	22	9	8	5	14	15

General election match-ups

Yesterday, *The Field Poll* reported that New York Senator Hillary Clinton was leading Illinois Senator Barack Obama and former North Carolina Senator John Edwards among likely Democratic voters in next year's primary election, with the other Democratic candidates far behind.

In the current survey, each of the three leading Democrats was paired against Giuliani and McCain among a cross-section of likely voters in the November general election.

In this setting, Clinton leads Giuliani 53% to 40% and she holds a somewhat narrow lead (48% to 43%) when paired against McCain.

Obama maintains nearly equivalent leads over both Giuliani (51% to 40%) and McCain (51% to 39%).

Edwards currently runs ahead of Giuliani 51% to 41%, but leads McCain by a smaller 49% to 42% margin.

Table 6
General election pairings between the leading Democratic
and Republican candidates for President in California
(among likely voters in the November general election)

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Non-partisan/ others*</u>
Clinton (D)	53%	82%	16%	49%
Giuliani (R)	40	14	77	35
Undecided	7	4	7	16
Clinton (D)	48%	76%	12%	54%
McCain (R)	43	17	81	31
Undecided	9	7	7	15
Obama (D)	51%	72%	20%	55%
Giuliani (R)	40	23	69	29
Undecided	9	5	11	16
Obama (D)	51%	75%	15%	62%
McCain (R)	39	16	74	26
Undecided	10	9	11	12
Edwards (D)	51%	79%	13%	54%
Giuliani (R)	41	17	80	29
Undecided	8	4	7	17
Edwards (D)	49%	76%	14%	51%
McCain (R)	42	17	79	29
Undecided	9	7	7	20

(D) denotes Democrat, (R) denotes Republican.

* Small sample size.

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 1,093 registered voters statewide, of whom 315 can be considered likely voters in the 2008 California Republican primary and 802 voters who can be considered likely voters in the November general election. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish March 21-31, 2007. Up to eight attempts were made to reach and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period. In order to cover a broad range of issues, the overall sample of likely voters in the November general election was divided into two approximately equal-sized subsamples of about 400 likely voters each to measure presidential preferences in that election.

The sample was developed from telephone listings of individual voters selected at random from a statewide list of registered voters in California. When drawing samples from registration-based lists, *The Field Poll* stratifies the sample by region and age to insure that the poll includes adequate representations of registered voters across each major region of the state and across different age categories. Once a voter's name and telephone number has been selected, interviews are attempted only with the specified voter. Interviews can be conducted on either the voter's landline or cell phone, depending on the source of the telephone listing obtained from the voter file. After the completion of interviewing, the results are weighted slightly to *Field Poll* estimates of the demographic and regional characteristics of the state's registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to any probability-based survey depend on sample size. According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from findings based on the sample of likely voters in the Republican primary are subject to a sampling error of +/- 5.8 percentage points. Findings from the general election trial heats have a sampling error of +/- 5.0 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, the sequencing of questions, the rigor with which sampling procedures are implemented, as well as other factors.

Questions Asked

(ASKED OF LIKELY GOP PRIMARY VOTERS)

I am going to read the names of some Republicans who are running or considering running for the Republican presidential nomination next year. For each, please tell me whether there would be a good chance, some chance or no chance that you would vote for that person in California's presidential primary election. You may name as many or as few persons as like as people you would be inclined to vote for.

(NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) Is there a good chance, some chance or no chance that you would vote for (NAME) in the California Republican primary for President?
(SEE RELEASE FOR CANDIDATES READ)

IF GOOD OR SOME CHANCE OF VOTING FOR MULTIPLE CANDIDATES: I am going to read back the names of the candidates you said you would have at least some chance of voting for. (READ BACK NAMES OF CANDIDATES)
Of these persons, who would be your first choice if the California Republican primary election for President were being held today? Who would be your second choice?

I am going to read the names of some people in public affairs and politics and for each please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion or whether you don't know enough about the person to have an opinion. (NAMES READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING) Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of (NAME AND TITLE)? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES READ)

(ASKED OF LIKELY GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS)

I am going to read some possible match-ups between Democratic and Republican candidates for President in the November 2008 general election. For each pairing, please tell me which candidate you would choose if the election for President were being held today. What about... (PAIRINGS READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) If the election were being held today and these were the candidates, for whom would you vote for President?
(SEE RELEASE FOR PAIRINGS)