

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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**CLINTON STILL COMFORTABLY
AHEAD IN CALIFORNIA'S
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY. EACH OF
THE LEADING DEMOCRATS
PREFERRED OVER GOP FRONT-
RUNNERS BY WIDE MARGINS.**

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Hillary Clinton continues to lead the Democratic field of presidential candidates in California by a wide margin.

Among likely voters in this state's 2008 Democratic primary election scheduled for February 5, Clinton now receives 45% of the vote, more than twice the proportion supporting her nearest rival, Barack Obama (20%). John Edwards is third with 11% of the vote, ahead of five other contenders – each of whom gets low single digit support.

In recent weeks there has been speculation about a possible Al Gore candidacy into the Democratic primary, following his selection as Nobel Peace Prize winner. However, the current poll shows that Gore's influence on the Democratic primary election in California is now less than it was earlier this year, with Clinton now holding a 13-point lead over the former Vice President, up from 6 points in March.

Democrats Clinton, Obama and Edwards each have big leads over the front-running Republican candidates – Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, John McCain, and Fred Thompson – in simulated match-ups in California among likely voters in the November general election.

These are the findings from the latest statewide *Field Poll* conducted October 11-21, 2007 among a random sample of 1,201 California voters.

Clinton continues to lead the Democratic field by a wide margin

In *The Field Poll's* first measure in the Democratic presidential primary last March, Clinton had a thirteen-point lead over Obama (41% to 28%). That lead grew to thirty points in August (49% to 19%). In the current survey Clinton's lead over her nearest rival is at 25 percentage points (45% to 20%). There has been no appreciable change in support for the other candidates.

Table 1
Voter preferences in the California Democratic primary for president
(among likely voters in the CA Democratic primary)

	<u>October 2007</u>	<u>August 2007</u>	<u>March 2007</u>
Hillary Clinton	45%	49%	41%
Barack Obama	20	19	28
John Edwards	11	10	13
Bill Richardson	4	3	4
Dennis Kucinich	3	2	2
Joe Biden	3	3	3
Mike Gravel	*	1	N/A
Chris Dodd	*	1	*
Undecided	14	12	9

* Less than ½ of 1%.

N/A: Not asked.

Clinton's biggest leads

Clinton has sizeable leads in all parts of California, but is particularly popular among women voters, Latinos, Asians, and voters in Los Angeles County and the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. She also does somewhat better among younger Democratic primary voters than older voters, and among those with lower rather than higher annual household income levels.

Table 2
Likely voter preference in the California Democratic Primary for president
– by subgroup

	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Edwards</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Statewide	45%	20	11	10	14
<u>Region</u>					
(.27) Los Angeles County	50%	16	8	10	16
(.27) Other Southern California	44%	24	9	11	12
(.28) San Francisco Bay Area	50%	17	10	7	16
(.18) Other Northern California*	31%	25	18	12	14
<u>Gender</u>					
(.41) Men	38%	21	10	15	16
(.59) Women	50%	19	11	6	14
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>					
(.56) White non-Hispanic	41%	20	13	12	14
(.30) Latino	52%	16	10	7	15
(.07) Black*	43%	30	**	8	19
(.07) Asian/other*	55%	26	6	3	10
<u>Age</u>					
(.28) 18 – 39	52%	25	3	10	10
(.52) 40 – 64	42%	19	15	9	15
(.20) 65 or older	44%	14	9	14	19
<u>Political ideology</u>					
(.42) Liberal	44%	24	10	15	7
(.47) Middle-of-the-road	48%	16	11	7	18
(.11) Conservative*	36%	21	11	16	26
<u>Union household</u>					
(.29) Yes	45%	23	13	9	10
(.71) No	46%	20	10	10	14
<u>Household income</u>					
(.29) Less than \$40,000	50%	15	9	13	13
(.31) \$40,000 – \$79,999	46%	19	8	16	11
(.40) \$80,000 or more	40%	28	16	7	7
<u>Voting method</u>					
(.57) Precinct voter	43%	22	9	12	14
(.43) Absentee voter	47%	18	13	7	15

* Small sample base.

** Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Gore's potential influence on the race declining

There has been lingering speculation in recent weeks about a possible entrance of Al Gore into the Democratic primary contest.

In this survey, a separate test was obtained of Gore's potential voter support in the California Democratic primary. When Gore is included as a possible candidate, he receives the support of 22% of likely Democratic primary voters, trailing Clinton by 13 percentage points but ahead of Obama and the other Democratic candidates. However, this represents a drop in support for Gore over the past six months. Last March, he was just six points behind Clinton.

Table 3
Voter preference in the California Democratic primary
for president if Al Gore was a candidate
(among likely voters in the CA Democratic primary)

	<u>October 2007</u>	<u>March 2007</u>
Clinton	35%	31%
Gore	22	25
Obama	16	21
Edwards	8	8
Richardson	3	3
Kucinich	3	1
Biden	2	2
Gravel	*	N/A
Dodd	*	*
Undecided	11	9

Note: Gore's name was not included in The Field Poll's August 2007 survey.

** Less than ½ of 1%.*

N/A: Not asked.

Leading Democrats preferred over leading Republicans by wide margins in general election

As reported yesterday by *The Field Poll*, in California's Republican primary for president, Rudy Giuliani leads among likely GOP primary voters with 25%, while his three main Republican challengers –Mitt Romney, John McCain and Fred Thompson – are closely bunched at 13%, 12% and 12%, respectively.

When each of these Republicans are paired against the leading Democrats in simulated November general election pairings, each of the three Democrats out-polls each of the four Republican leaders by wide margins.

The smallest lead for Clinton over any of her possible GOP general election rivals is when matched against Giuliani. In this instance, she leads by 14 points, 52% to 38%. Clinton's preference margins against Romney, McCain and Thompson range from 19 to 25 percentage points.

Obama is ahead of Giuliani by sixteen points, 51% to 35%. Against the other Republican possibilities, his leads range from 17 to 27 percentage points..

Edwards holds a smaller six-point lead over Giuliani (46% to 40%), but he holds much larger margins when paired against Romney, Thompson and McCain.

Table 4
Trend of general election pairings between the leading Democratic and Republican contenders for president in California (among likely voters in the November general election)

	<u>October</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>March</u>
<u>Clinton vs. the leading GOP candidates</u>			
Clinton (D)	52%	52%	53%
Giuliani (R)	38	37	40
Undecided	10	11	7
Clinton (D)	53%	55%	
Romney (R)	33	35	N/A
Undecided	14	10	
Clinton (D)	56%	55%	
Thompson (R)	31	35	N/A
Undecided	13	10	
Clinton (D)	54%	52%	48%
McCain (R)	35	35	43
Undecided	11	13	9
<u>Obama vs. the leading GOP candidates</u>			
Obama (D)	51%	48%	51%
Giuliani (R)	35	38	40
Undecided	14	14	9
Obama (D)	54%	53%	
Romney (R)	31	31	N/A
Undecided	15	16	
Obama (D)	55%	52%	
Thompson (R)	28	32	N/A
Undecided	17	16	
Obama (D)	50%	49%	51%
McCain (R)	33	36	39
Undecided	17	15	10

(D) denotes Democrat, (R) denotes Republican. N/A: Not asked in March 2007.

Table 4 (cont'd)
**Trend of general election pairings between the leading Democratic
 and Republican contenders for president in California
 (among likely voters in the November general election)**

	<u>October</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>March</u>
<u>Edwards vs. the leading GOP candidates</u>			
Edwards (D)	46%	47%	51%
Giuliani (R)	40	42	41
Undecided	14	11	8
<hr/>			
Edwards (D)	52%	52%	
Romney (R)	32	33	N/A
Undecided	16	15	
<hr/>			
Edwards (D)	54%	55%	
Thompson (R)	30	30	N/A
Undecided	16	15	
<hr/>			
Edwards (D)	49%	48%	49%
McCain (R)	33	38	42
Undecided	18	14	9

(D) denotes Democrat, (R) denotes Republican. N/A: Not asked in March 2007.

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 1,201 registered voters in California, including 533 Democrats, 432 Republicans and 236 voters registered as decline to state or with another party. Democratic primary preferences are based on 434 voters likely to vote in the California Democratic primary for president. General election preferences are based on 992 likely voters in the November general election. In order to cover a wide range of issues and still minimize possible respondent fatigue, the sample of likely voters in the November general election were divided into sub-samples of 528 and 464 likely voters, with each subsample asked about six possible pairings.

Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish October 11-21, 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.

The sample was developed from telephone listings of individual voters selected at random from a statewide list of registered voters in California. 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 from the voter file. After the completion of interviewing, the results were 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 overall sample of likely Democratic primary voters are subject to a sampling error of +/- 4.8 percentage points, while findings from the general election pairings have a sampling error of about +/- 4.5 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 VOTERS IN THE CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION)

I am going to read the names of some Democrats who are running or are considering running for the Democratic 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 you like as people you would be inclined to vote for. (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) I am going to read back the names of the candidates you said you would have at least some chance of voting for. (NAMES OF CANDIDATES READ BACK) Of these persons, who would be your first choice if the California Democratic primary election for President were being held today? (IF FIRST CHOICE GIVEN) Who would be your second choice? (SEE RELEASE FOR CANDIDATES READ)

(ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS IN THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION)

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 READ)