

THE FIELD POLL

THE INDEPENDENT AND NON-PARTISAN SURVEY
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THE CALIFORNIA POLL BY MERVIN FIELD

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BROWN HOLDS 21-POINT LEAD OVER KASHKARI IN CLOSING DAYS OF THE GOVERNOR'S RACE. DEMOCRATS LEADING IN ALL OTHER PARTISAN STATEWIDE ELECTION CONTESTS. VOTERS EVENLY DIVIDED IN RACE FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

In the closing days of an unusually lackluster election campaign, Democrat Jerry Brown appears headed for a resounding re-election victory, to what would become his fourth term as California's Governor.

The final pre-election *Field Poll* completed earlier this week finds Brown enjoying a 21-point preference advantage, 54% to 33%, over his Republican opponent Neel Kashkari. Since the June open primary in which Kashkari finished second and earned the right to challenge Brown in the November general election, Brown has maintained large double-digit leads over Kashkari ranging narrowly from 16 to 21 points.

The latest poll also finds that in the six other partisan statewide election contests to be decided next week – Lt. Governor, Attorney General, State Controller, State Treasurer, Secretary of State and Insurance Commissioner – the Democratic candidate holds the lead over the Republican by margins ranging from seven to thirteen points.

The closest statewide candidate race, and the one which voters appear to be having the hardest time coming to judgment, is the non-partisan election for Superintendent of Public Instruction. The latest *Field Poll* finds incumbent Tom Torlakson running even with challenger Marshall Tuck. According to the poll 28% of likely voters are supporting Torlakson and 28% are backing Tuck. However, greater than four in ten likely voters (44%) were undecided

These are the findings from the final pre-election *Field Poll*, conducted among a statewide random sampling of 1,536 registered voters, including 941 voters considered likely to participate in next week's general election.

Table 1			
Trend of likely voter preferences for Governor in the November 2014 general election			
	<u>Brown (D)</u>	<u>Kashkari (R)</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Late October 2014	54%	33	13
Late August/Early Sept. 2014	50%	34	16
June 2014	52%	32	16

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

Brown's preference lead is extremely broad-based

Brown's lead over Kashkari in the governor's race is extremely broad-based. Large majorities or pluralities of voters across nearly all of the state's major demographic, geographic and political subgroups are supporting Brown.

Brown is overwhelmingly preferred among strong liberals (+94 percentage points), Democrats (+77), moderate liberals (+76), African Americans (+64), those living in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area (+48), voters living in union households (+41), Latinos (+39), no party preference voters (+37), younger voters under age 30 (+36), and those living in Los Angeles County (+34). In addition, Brown holds large double-digit leads among both men and women, precinct as well as mail ballot voters, and across all major age and racial/ethnic subgroups of the voting population, including white non-Hispanics (+13).

The only subgroups where Kashkari leads Brown are among the state's registered Republicans and those who identify themselves as being conservative in politics.

Table 2			
Likely voter preferences for Governor in the November 2014 general election (Late October 2014)			
	Brown	Kashkari	Undecided
Total statewide	54%	33	13
<u>Voting method</u>			
(.40) Precinct voter	55%	32	13
(.60) Mail ballot voter	54%	34	12
<u>Party registration</u>			
(.43) Democrats	83%	6	11
(.34) Republicans	14%	76	10
(.23) No party preference/other	59%	22	19
<u>Political ideology</u>			
(.20) Strongly conservative	16%	78	6
(.11) Moderately conservative	23%	64	13
(.41) Middle-of-the-road	55%	25	20
(.11) Moderately liberal	82%	6	12
(.17) Strongly liberal	95%	1	4
<u>Area</u>			
(.70) Coastal counties	60%	29	11
(.30) Inland counties	41%	43	16
<u>Region</u>			
(.22) Los Angeles County	61%	27	12
(.35) Other Southern California	48%	40	12
(.16) Central Valley	41%	42	17
(.21) San Francisco Bay Area	69%	21	10
(.06) Other Northern California*	46%	40	14
<u>Gender</u>			
(.50) Male	52%	39	9
(.50) Female	57%	28	15
<u>Age</u>			
(.11) 18 – 29	59%	23	18
(.14) 30 – 39	59%	27	14
(.16) 40 – 49	51%	31	18
(.32) 50 – 64	54%	35	11
(.27) 65 or older	52%	41	7
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
(.70) White non-Hispanic	51%	38	11
(.16) Latino	62%	23	15
(.06) African American*	76%	12	12
(.08) Asian American/other*	53%	31	16
<u>Union affiliation</u>			
(.18) Union member in household	66%	25	9
(.82) Non-union household	52%	35	13

* Small sample base.

Superintendent of Public Instruction race even, with many voters undecided; Democrats lead in all partisan “down ballot” statewide election contests

Seven statewide partisan offices other than governor will be decided by voters in next week’s election. These include partisan elections for the offices of Lt. Governor, Attorney General, State Controller, State Treasurer, Secretary of State and Insurance Commissioner, as well as the non-partisan election for Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Similar to the results of an earlier *Field Poll*, the Democratic candidate leads the Republican in each of the six partisan contests, albeit by varying margins. The partisan races with the smallest Democratic advantage are for the offices of Secretary of State and Controller. In the contest for Secretary of State, Democratic State Senator Alex Padilla holds a seven-point advantage over Republican educator and Institute Director Pete Peterson 44% to 37%, with 19% of likely voters undecided. In the Controller’s race, Democratic Board of Equalization member Betty Yee holds an eight-point lead over Republican Mayor and CEO Ashley Swearingin, 44% to 36%, with 20% undecided.

Voters are having the hardest time coming to judgment in the non-partisan race for Superintendent of Public Instruction. In that contest, the poll finds incumbent educator and California Superintendent Tom Torlakson and educator and schools’ executive Marshall Tuck deadlocked, with 28% supporting Torlakson and 28% favoring Tuck. However, nearly half of likely voters (44%) remain undecided at this late stage.

Table 3		
Trend of likely voter preferences in California's statewide "down ballot" candidate races in the November general election		
	Late October	Late August/ Early September
<u>Superintendent of Public Instruction*</u>		
Tom Torlakson	28%	28%
Marshall Tuck	28	31
Undecided	44	41
<u>Lt. Governor</u>		
Gavin Newsom (D)	47%	49%
Ron Nehring (R)	37	29
Undecided	16	22
<u>Attorney General</u>		
Kamala Harris (D)	49%	49%
Ronald Gold (R)	36	37
Undecided	15	14
<u>Secretary of State</u>		
Alex Padilla (D)	44%	43%
Pete Peterson (R)	37	36
Undecided	19	21
<u>Controller</u>		
Betty Yee (D)	44%	46%
Ashley Swearengin (R)	36	32
Undecided	20	22
<u>Treasurer</u>		
John Chiang (D)	46%	52%
Greg Conlin (R)	35	26
Undecided	19	22
<u>Insurance Commissioner</u>		
Dave Jones (D)	45%	47%
Ted Gaines (R)	33	32
Undecided	22	21

(D) indicates Democratic candidate, (R) indicates Republican candidate.

* This is a non-partisan race.

Preferences in State Schools Superintendent's race differ across voter subgroups

There are a number of significant differences in preferences in the race for Superintendent of Public Instruction across subgroups of the likely voter population.

One relates to the region of the state where a voter lives. The poll finds the incumbent Torlakson preferred by nine points among voters in Northern California, and by fourteen points in the San Francisco Bay Area. By contrast, Tuck holds a six-point advantage among likely voters in the larger Southern California region.

Another significant difference in the preferences of voters is by race and ethnicity. Torlakson leads by a seven-point margin among the state's white non-Hispanic voters, who the poll finds account for 70% of the likely electorate. On the other hand, Tuck is preferred by double digit margins among the state's Latino and African American voters and by seven points among Asian Americans.

There are also ideological differences in voter preferences. Torlakson is favored by a greater than two-to-one margin among voters identifying themselves as strong liberals. By contrast, Tuck is leading among conservative voters.

Voters living in households where a union member resides prefer Torlakson by eight points, while Tuck is narrowly favored among voters in non-union households.

Table 4			
Likely voter preferences for Superintendent of Public Instruction in the November 2014 general election (Late October 2014)			
	Torlakson	Tuck	Undecided
Total statewide	28%	28	44
<u>Voting method</u>			
(.40) Precinct voter	24%	28	48
(.60) Mail ballot voter	31%	27	42
<u>Party registration</u>			
(.43) Democrats	28%	24	48
(.34) Republicans	25%	32	43
(.23) No party preference/other	31%	28	41
<u>Political ideology</u>			
(.20) Strongly conservative	24%	36	40
(.11) Moderately conservative	25%	29	46
(.41) Middle-of-the-road	26%	28	46
(.11) Moderately liberal	26%	23	51
(.17) Strongly liberal	40%	18	42
<u>Area</u>			
(.57) Southern California	25%	31	44
(.43) Northern California	32%	23	45
<u>Region</u>			
(.22) Los Angeles County	23%	33	44
(.35) Other Southern California	26%	30	44
(.16) Central Valley	27%	23	50
(.21) San Francisco Bay Area	37%	23	40
(.06) Other Northern California*	29%	26	45
<u>Gender</u>			
(.50) Male	28%	30	42
(.50) Female	27%	25	48
<u>Age</u>			
(.11) 18 – 29	21%	35	44
(.14) 30 – 39	28%	26	46
(.16) 40 – 49	26%	19	55
(.32) 50 – 64	31%	28	41
(.27) 65 or older	28%	29	43
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
(.70) White non-Hispanic	32%	25	43
(.16) Latino	20%	33	47
(.06) African American*	11%	49	40
(.08) Asian American/other*	21%	28	51
<u>Parent of child under age 18</u>			
(.25) Yes	28%	25	47
(.75) No	28%	29	43
<u>Union affiliation</u>			
(.18) Union member in household	31%	23	46
(.82) Non-union household	27%	29	44

* Small sample base.

Information About The Survey

Methodological Details

The findings in this report are based on a *Field Poll* completed October 15-28, 2014 among 1,536 registered voters in California, 941 of whom are considered likely to vote in the November 2014 general election. Interviews were administered by telephone using live interviewers in English and Spanish.

Individual voters were sampled at random from listings derived from the statewide voter registration rolls. Once a voter's name and telephone number had been selected, interviews were attempted with voters on their landline or cell phone depending on the source of the listing from the voter file and the preference of the voter. Up to six attempts were made to reach, screen and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period. After the completion of interviewing, the sample was weighted to demographic, geographic and party registration characteristics of the state's overall registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to the results of any probability-based survey depend on sample size and the percentage distributions being examined. The maximum sampling error for results from the likely voter sample is +/- 3.4 percentage points. These estimates are based on survey findings in the middle of the sampling distribution (i.e., results at or near 50%). Percentages at or near either end of the tail of the distributions (i.e., results closer to 10% or 90%) have somewhat smaller margins of error. There are other potential sources of error in surveys of public opinion besides sampling error. However, the overall design and execution of this survey sought to minimize these other possible errors.

The Field Poll was established in 1947 as *The California Poll* by Mervin Field, who is still an active advisor. The Poll has operated continuously since then as an independent, non-partisan survey of California public opinion. *The Field Poll* receives financial support from leading California newspapers and television stations, who purchase the rights of first release to *Field Poll* reports in their primary viewer or readership markets. The *Poll* also receives funding from the University of California and California State University systems, who receive the data files from each *Field Poll* survey shortly after its completion for teaching and secondary research purposes, as well as from foundations, non-profit organizations, and others as part of the *Poll's* policy research sponsor program.

Questions Asked

In the election for Governor, businessman Neel Kashkari, Republican, is running against Governor Jerry Brown, Democrat. (IF LIKELY TO VOTE) If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for Governor – Republican Neel Kashkari or Democrat Jerry Brown? (IF ALREADY VOTED) For whom did you vote in this year's election for Governor – Republican Neel Kashkari or Democrat Jerry Brown?

In the election for Lieutenant Governor, small businessman and educator Ron Nehring, Republican, is running against Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, Democrat. (IF LIKELY TO VOTE) If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for Lieutenant Governor – Republican Ron Nehring or Democrat Gavin Newsom? (IF ALREADY VOTED) For whom did you vote in this year's election for Lieutenant Governor – Republican Ron Nehring or Democrat Gavin Newsom?

In the election for Secretary of State, educator and Institute Director Pete Peterson, Republican, is running against State Senator Alex Padilla, Democrat. (IF LIKELY TO VOTE) If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for Secretary of State – Republican Pete Peterson or Democrat Alex Padilla? (IF ALREADY VOTED) For whom did you vote in this year's election for Secretary of State – Republican Pete Peterson or Democrat Alex Padilla?

In the election for Controller, Mayor and CEO Ashley Swarengin, Republican, is running against Board of Equalization member Betty Yee, Democrat. (IF LIKELY TO VOTE) If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for Controller – Republican Ashley Swarengin or Democrat Betty Yee? (IF ALREADY VOTED) For whom did you vote in this year's election for Controller – Republican Ashley Swarengin or Democrat Betty Yee?

In the election for Treasurer, businessman and CPA Greg Conlon, Republican, is running against state Controller John Chiang, Democrat. (IF LIKELY TO VOTE) If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for Treasurer – Republican Greg Conlon or Democrat John Chiang? (IF ALREADY VOTED) For whom did you vote in this year's election for Treasurer – Republican Greg Conlon or Democrat John Chiang?

In the election for Attorney General, attorney Ronald Gold, Republican, is running against Attorney General Kamala Harris, Democrat. (IF LIKELY TO VOTE) If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for Attorney General – Republican Ronald Gold or Democrat Kamala Harris? (IF ALREADY VOTED) For whom did you vote in this year's election for Attorney General – Republican Ronald Gold or Democrat Kamala Harris?

In the election for Insurance Commissioner, independent insurance agent Ted Gaines, Republican, is running against Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones, Democrat. (IF LIKELY TO VOTE) If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for Insurance Commissioner – Republican Ted Gaines or Democrat Dave Jones? (IF ALREADY VOTED) For whom did you vote in this year's election for Insurance Commissioner – Republican Ted Gaines or Democrat Dave Jones?

In the election for the non-partisan office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, educator and California Superintendent Tom Torlakson is running against educator and schools' executive Marshall Tuck. (IF LIKELY TO VOTE) If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for Superintendent of Public Instruction – Tom Torlakson or Marshall Tuck? (IF ALREADY VOTED) For whom did you vote in this year's election for Superintendent of Public Instruction – Tom Torlakson or Marshall Tuck?