

THE FIELD POLL

THE INDEPENDENT AND NON-PARTISAN SURVEY
OF PUBLIC OPINION ESTABLISHED IN 1947 AS
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

FOR ADVANCE PUBLICATION BY SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.

COPYRIGHT 2006 BY FIELD RESEARCH CORPORATION.

Release #2210

Release Date: **Wednesday, September 27, 2006**

SCHWARZENEGGER HOLDS TEN- POINT LEAD OVER ANGELIDES IN GOVERNOR'S RACE.

IMPORTANT: Contract for this service is subject to revocation if publication or broadcast takes place before release date or if contents are divulged to persons outside of subscriber staff prior to release time. (ISSN 0195-4520)

by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

As this year's gubernatorial election campaign moves into its final six weeks, the latest *Field Poll* shows incumbent Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger holding a ten-point lead – 44% to 34% – over his Democratic challenger, State Treasurer Phil Angelides. Another 7% of the state's likely voters prefer other candidates and 15% are undecided.

The poll also finds that apart from whom they personally prefer, two in three voters (67%) continue to expect Schwarzenegger to prevail on Election Day, more than three times the proportion (20%) anticipating that Angelides will win.

Trend of preferences

This is the ninth *Field Poll* pairing Schwarzenegger against Angelides in gubernatorial election trial heats. The first measure, taken in February of last year, showed Schwarzenegger with a commanding 17-point lead. However, in three subsequent measures conducted in 2005, prior to last year's unpopular special election, the Governor lost considerable favor with voters and narrowly trailed Angelides.

The Governor pulled even with Angelides in February of this year and then regained the lead over Angelides by seven points. In two *Field Poll* measures conducted since Angelides won the Democratic nomination, Schwarzenegger continues to lead – by eight points in July and by ten points in the current survey.

Table 1
Trend of November general election preferences for Governor
(among likely general election voters)

	<u>Schwarzenegger</u>	<u>Angelides</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Late September 2006	44%	34	7	15
July 2006	45%	37	3	15
Late May 2006	46%	39	4	11
April 2006	44%	40	3	13
February 2006	39%	39	2	20
October 2005	41%	47	**	12
August 2005	40%	43	**	17
June 2005	42%	46	**	12
February 2005	52%	35	**	13

** Not measured.

Sub-group preferences

Schwarzenegger currently receives the support of greater than three in four Republican voters (77%), while losing just 4% of the GOP vote to Angelides. Another 20% are undecided or prefer other candidates.

By contrast, Angelides is obtaining a lower level of support (61%) among members of his own party, and loses 16% of the Democratic vote to the Governor. Another 23% are undecided or favor other candidates.

Schwarzenegger holds a narrow lead over Angelides (41% to 37%) in traditionally Democratic-leaning Los Angeles County, while Angelides holds a nine-point lead in the San Francisco Bay Area. On the other hand, Schwarzenegger is maintaining large leads in Southern California outside of Los Angeles County, the Central Valley, and in other parts of Northern California.

Voters living in the state's coastal counties, which comprise slightly more than seven in ten of all likely voters, are closely dividing their preferences, with 40% backing Schwarzenegger and 37% favoring Angelides. On the other hand, voters living in the state's inland counties back the Governor by a greater than two to one margin (55% to 25%).

Men strongly prefer the Governor (51% to 29%). But among women, who comprise 58% of all Democratic voters, Angelides is narrowly preferred 39% to 36%.

White non-Hispanics who comprise 72% of the likely voters in this survey, heavily favor the Governor (49% to 30%). Latinos, a traditionally strong Democratic constituency, are lining up in support of Angelides, 42% to 30%, with 8% supporting other candidates and 20% undecided. Other racial and ethnic voters are backing Angelides by a somewhat larger margin, 49% to 34%.

Older voters are more supportive of Schwarzenegger than younger voters. Those age 65 years or older prefer Schwarzenegger 52% to 25%. By contrast, voters under age 45 favor Angelides 44% to 38%.

Voters living in union households, which comprise 25% of all likely voters, support Angelides by ten points, 44% to 34%. However, voters in non-union households are behind the Governor 47% to 30%.

Table 2
Preferences for Governor – by voter subgroup
(among likely general election voters)

	<u>Schwarzenegger</u>	<u>Angelides</u>	<u>Other**</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Statewide	44%	34	7	15
<u>Party</u>				
(.45) Democrats	16%	61	6	17
(.35) Republicans	77%	4	6	13
(.20) Non-partisans/others*	51%	23	12	14
<u>Region</u>				
(.24) Los Angeles County	41%	37	6	16
(.31) Other Southern California	48%	26	8	18
(.15) Central Valley*	52%	28	14	6
(.24) San Francisco Bay Area	36%	45	4	15
(.06) Other Northern California*	45%	28	7	20
<u>Area</u>				
(.72) Coastal counties	40%	37	6	17
(.28) Inland counties	55%	25	10	10
<u>Gender</u>				
(.52) Male	51%	29	7	13
(.48) Female	36%	39	8	17
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
(.72) White non-Hispanic	49%	30	8	13
(.17) Latino*	30%	42	8	20
(.11) All others*	34%	49	3	14
<u>Age</u>				
(.24) 18 – 39	38%	44	6	12
(.48) 40 – 64	42%	34	9	14
(.28) 65 or older	52%	25	5	18
<u>Union affiliation</u>				
(.25) Union household	34%	44	11	11
(.75) Non-union household	47%	30	6	17

* Small sample base.

** The names of four other gubernatorial candidates will appear on the election ballot: Peter Miguel Camejo (Green Party), Janice Jordan (Peace and Freedom), Edward C. Noonan (American Independent) and Art Olivier (Libertarian).

Greater than three to one majority think Schwarzenegger will win

Apart from whom voters personally prefer, there continues to be a broad consensus among voters believing that Schwarzenegger will win re-election this year. Almost seven in ten of the state’s electorate (67%) think the Governor will be re-elected, while just 20% expect Angelides to prevail. These results are similar to what was seen in July.

Voters currently supporting Schwarzenegger are nearly unanimous in this view, with 89% expecting their man to win and just 3% thinking Angelides will win. Undecided voters and those currently supporting other candidates also believe Schwarzenegger will win re-election by a 63% to 19% margin. By contrast, Angelides’ supporters are not nearly as confident, with about as many (42%) expecting him to lose the election, as think he will win (43%).

Table 3
Apart from whom you prefer, who do you think is going to win the election for Governor? (among likely general election voters)

	Schwarzenegger will win	Angelides will win	Don’t know
Late September 2006	67%	20	13
July 2006	61%	24	15
<u>Schwarzenegger voters</u>			
Late September 2006	89%	3	8
July 2006	86%	4	10
<u>Angelides voters</u>			
Late September 2006	42%	43	15
July 2006	33%	49	18
<u>Other/undecided voters</u>			
Late September 2006	63%	19	18
July 2006	54%	21	25

Preferences continue to relate primarily to voter impressions of Schwarzenegger

In July, *The Field Poll* found that two-thirds of those supporting Schwarzenegger (65%) said their preference was more a vote for the Governor than a vote against Angelides. The current finds a similar result, with 67% of Schwarzenegger voters now feeling this way.

A majority of Angelides supporters (51%) say their preference is more a vote against Schwarzenegger than a vote for Angelides, although this is down somewhat from 65% who felt this way in July. A growing proportion of Angelides’ backers in the current survey (42%, up from 28% in July) say their vote choice is more an endorsement of the State Treasurer’s candidacy than a vote against the Governor.

Table 4
Is your vote preference more a vote for your candidate
or against his opponent?
(among likely voters of each candidate)

	<u>For my candidate</u>	<u>Against his opponent</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Schwarzenegger voters</u>			
Late September	67%	29	4
July	65%	30	5
<u>Angelides voters</u>			
Late September	42%	51	7
July	28%	65	7

Voters' changing views of Schwarzenegger

When Schwarzenegger first burst upon the political scene in 2003, after a successful career as a movie and body building celebrity, voters initially held a mixed view of him as a political personality, with about as many holding a unfavorable view as a favorable view.

However, following Schwarzenegger's victory in the historic October 2003 recall election and his early successes as Governor in working with the legislature to first place on the ballot and then persuade voters to approve Proposition 57, the Economic Recovery Bond Act, voter impressions of the Governor soared. A May 2004 *Field Poll* found 64% of voters holding a favorable impression of opinion and just 25% an unfavorable view.

During 2005 Schwarzenegger's standing with voters plummeted, as he took a more confrontation stance with the legislature and he called what turned out to be a very unpopular special election to enact a number of initiatives that he proposed or backed, all of which were rejected by the voters. It was at that time that voter impressions of Schwarzenegger reached a low point, with 54% viewing him unfavorably and 38% holding a favorable view.

In two subsequent *Field Poll* surveys taken earlier this year, voter perceptions of the Governor became somewhat less critical. In July his image returned to positive territory, with 51% holding a favorable view and 44% unfavorable.

The current survey finds voters remaining more positive than negative in their assessments of Schwarzenegger, with 49% now viewing him positively and 41% negatively.

Table 5
Trend of voter image ratings of Arnold Schwarzenegger
(among likely general election voters)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Late September 2006	49%	41	10
July 2006	51%	44	5
Late-May 2006	46%	46	8
February 2006	44%	49	7
October 2005*	38%	54	8
February 2005*	62%	33	5
May 2004*	64%	25	11
Early October 2003*	48%	41	11
Late September 2003*	46%	48	6
Early September 2003*	42%	41	17
Early August 2003*	44%	37	19
<u>Party (Late Sept. 2006)</u>			
Democrats	26%	63	11
Republicans	80%	14	6
Non-partisans/others	50%	38	12

* Survey conducted among all registered voters.

Trend of voter impressions of Angelides

Majorities had no opinion of Angelides during 2005 and early 2006, although his image among those with an impression was more positive than negative. Last May, more voters held an opinion of the State Treasurer, although due in part to very contentious nature of the Democratic primary, his standing with voters was slightly more unfavorable (34%) than favorable (27%).

In July, following his June primary election win, voter impressions of Angelides improved modestly, with 41% holding a favorable impression and 38% unfavorable. However, in the current survey Angelides' image has slipped again, with more voters holding an unfavorable (43%) than favorable (35%) view.

Table 6
Trend of voter image ratings of Phil Angelides
(among likely general election voters)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Late September 2006	35%	43	22
July 2006	41%	38	21
Late-May 2006	27%	34	39
February 2006	24%	13	63
October 2005*	23%	12	65
February 2005*	24%	14	62
<u>Party (Late Sept. 2006)</u>			
Democrats	58%	21	21
Republicans	5%	73	22
Non-partisans/others	37%	45	18

* Survey conducted among all registered voters.

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.

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 likely voter sample have a sampling error of +/- 4.3 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 Governor, Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger, incumbent Governor, is running against Democrat Phil Angelides, State Treasurer. If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for Governor – Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Republican, Phil Angelides, the Democrat, or someone else?

IF SCHWARZENEGGER: Is your preference more a vote for Schwarzenegger or more of a vote against Angelides?

IF ANGELIDES: Is your preference more a vote for Angelides or more of a vote against Schwarzenegger?

(THE NEXT 2 QUESTIONS WERE READ IN RANDOM ORDER)

Is your overall opinion of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger favorable or unfavorable?

Is your overall opinion of State Treasurer Phil Angelides favorable or unfavorable?

Apart from whom you prefer in the election for Governor, who do you think is going to win the election - Schwarzenegger or Angelides? (IF NECESSARY:) Just your best guess.