

# 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](mailto:fieldpoll@field.com)  
[www.field.com/fieldpollonline](http://www.field.com/fieldpollonline)

**FOR ADVANCE PUBLICATION BY SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.**

COPYRIGHT 2006 BY FIELD RESEARCH CORPORATION.

Release #2216

Release Date: **Wednesday, November 1, 2006**

**FAVORABLE TURN-AROUND IN  
GOVERNOR'S STANDING WITH  
VOTERS CONTINUES. NOW LEADS  
ANGELIDES BY SIXTEEN POINTS.**

**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

The striking year-long favorable turn-around in Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's standing with California voters is continuing. Now, in the closing days of the 2006 gubernatorial election campaign, the Governor's lead over Democrat Phil Angelides has grown to its highest point – sixteen points – 49% to 33%.

One year ago, a *Field Poll* taken just before the Governor was about to suffer a wholesale defeat of all of the ballot propositions he was promoting in the 2005 special election, Schwarzenegger trailed Angelides by six points in a gubernatorial trial heat.

However, the Governor has improved his standing in each of the six subsequent *Field Polls* conducted in 2006, pulling even with Angelides in February, leading by four points in April, by seven points in May, eight points in July, ten points in September and sixteen points in the current poll.

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

	<b>Schwarzenegger</b> <sup>(R)</sup>	<b>Angelides</b> <sup>(D)</sup>	<b>Other*</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
<b>Late October 2006</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
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. (D) denotes Democrat. (R) denotes Republican.

\* 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).

### **Sub-group analysis**

Schwarzenegger leads Angelides by an overwhelming 85% to 7% margin among registered Republicans. By contrast, Angelides' lead among rank-and-file Democrats is much more modest – 59% to 21%. Non-partisans also prefer the Governor by a 39% to 28% margin.

Angelides narrowly leads the Governor in Los Angeles County 42% to 36%, and is evenly splitting the vote among voters in the San Francisco Bay Area. But, in the Southern California counties other than Los Angeles, as well as the Central Valley, which combined represent about half of the state's likely voters, Schwarzenegger is preferred by a greater than two to one margin.

When the state is divided between coastal and inland counties, Schwarzenegger holds a small 45% to 37% lead among voters in the coastal areas, but is preferred by a greater than two to one margin among inland voters.

The poll finds little evidence of a gender gap in voter preferences, with both men and women favoring Schwarzenegger by roughly equivalent margins. White non-Hispanics prefer the Governor overwhelmingly, 55% to 31%. Latinos narrowly support Angelides 40% to 36%, and other racial and ethnic voters support the Democrat 42% to 30%.

Angelides narrowly trails Schwarzenegger among voters under age 40, but Schwarzenegger is preferred by very large margins among both middle age and older voters, especially those age 65 or older.

Union household voters are about evenly divided in their preferences, but non-union households are heavily in favor of the Governor.

There are some differences in preferences between those who either have already voted or plan to vote absentee versus those who plan to cast a ballot at their local precinct polling place. Absentee voters, who comprise nearly half of all those likely to vote – are lining up solidly behind Schwarzenegger 54% to 32%. Precinct voters are supporting the Governor but by a smaller 45% to 35% margin.

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

	<b>Schwarzenegger</b>	<b>Angelides</b>	<b>Other**</b>	<b>Undecided</b>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Party</b>				
(.45) Democrats	21%	59	6	14
(.39) Republicans	85%	7	2	6
(.16) Non-partisans/others	39%	28	15	18
<b>Region</b>				
(.22) Los Angeles County	36%	42	7	15
(.34) Other Southern California	59%	26	5	10
(.16) Central Valley	59%	25	4	12
(.23) San Francisco Bay Area	40%	40	8	12
(.05) Other Northern California	40%	40	9	11
<b>Area</b>				
(.72) Coastal counties	45%	37	6	12
(.28) Inland counties	60%	24	5	11
<b>Gender</b>				
(.48) Male	50%	34	6	10
(.52) Female	48%	33	6	13
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>				
(.73) White non-Hispanic	55%	31	5	9
(.15) Latino	36%	40	10	14
(.12) All others	30%	42	7	21
<b>Age</b>				
(.22) 18 – 39	40%	38	7	15
(.19) 40 – 49	44%	35	9	12
(.30) 50 – 64	52%	30	6	12
(.29) 65 or older	56%	32	3	9
<b>Union affiliation</b>				
(.24) Union household	40%	39	9	12
(.76) Non-union household	52%	31	5	10
<b>Voting method</b>				
(.55) Precinct voter	45%	35	6	14
(.45) Absentee voter	54%	32	6	8

\*\* 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).

**Vote motivations**

Greater than six in ten Schwarzenegger voters (63%) say their main reason for supporting the Governor is his stand on the issues. This reason is cited more than twice as frequently as his party affiliation (29%) or personal qualities (21%) as a reason for a voter’s support of Schwarzenegger. By contrast, a majority of Angelides supporters say they are backing him because of his party affiliation (51%). Smaller proportions say their backing of Angelides relates mainly to his stand on the issues (44%), while few (12%) say it is because of his personal qualities.

Previous *Field Poll* surveys had found that voter support for Angelides was also motivated by a dislike for Schwarzenegger more than by their positive feelings toward Angelides. However, now those supporting the State Treasurer are about evenly divided, with about as many saying their preference is more a positive vote for the Democrat (49%) than a negative vote against the Governor (47%).

By contrast, in Schwarzenegger’s case, a better than two to one majority of those backing the Governor say their support is more a vote for his candidacy than a vote against Angelides.

<b>Table 3</b>			
<b>Is your vote preference more a vote for your candidate or against his opponent? (among likely voters of each candidate)</b>			
	<b><u>For my candidate</u></b>	<b><u>Against his opponent</u></b>	<b><u>No opinion</u></b>
<u>Schwarzenegger voters</u>			
<b>Late October</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>
Late September	67%	29	4
July	65%	30	5
<u>Angelides voters</u>			
<b>Late October</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>4</b>
Late September	42	51	7
July	28%	65	7

**Nearly eight in ten expect the Governor to win re-election**

By a seven to one margin (78% to 11%), voters in this survey say they expect the Governor to be re-elected. Schwarzenegger voters are almost unanimous in this view, with 93% anticipating his re-election. Even six in ten (63%) of those supporting Angelides expect Schwarzenegger to win, as do 69% of voters who are still undecided or who are supporting other candidates.

**Table 4**  
**Apart from whom you prefer, who do you think is**  
**going to win the election for Governor?**  
**(among likely voters)**

	<b>Schwarzenegger will win</b>	<b>Angelides will win</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
<b>Late October 2006</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
Late September 2006	67%	20	13
July 2006	61%	24	15
<u>Schwarzenegger voters</u>			
<b>Late October 2006</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
Late September 2006	89%	3	8
July 2006	86%	4	10
<u>Angelides voters</u>			
<b>Late October 2006</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>
Late September 2006	42%	43	15
July 2006	33%	49	18
<u>Other/undecided voters</u>			
<b>Late October 2006</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>
Late September 2006	63%	19	18
July 2006	54%	21	25

### **Candidate images**

The Governor's year-long increase in voter support for his re-election has also been accompanied by a big improvement in voter impressions of him on a personal level. Currently, 55% of likely voters say they view the Governor favorably, while just 37% hold an unfavorable opinion. This is an almost complete reversal from the views voters had of him last year prior to the special election, when just 38% viewed him favorably and 54% held a negative opinion.

The view that voters have of Angelides is about evenly divided, with 43% viewing him favorably and 44% unfavorably. Opinions divide largely along partisan lines, with Democrats viewing him positively and Republicans holding a negative view.

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

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<b>Late October 2006</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>
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 Oct. 2006)</u>			
Democrats	32%	62	6
Republicans	84%	10	6
Non-partisans/others	52%	33	15

\* Survey conducted among all registered voters.

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

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<b>Late October 2006</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>13</b>
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 Oct. 2006)</u>			
Democrats	65%	26	9
Republicans	18%	69	13
Non-partisans/others	39%	33	18

\* Survey conducted among all registered voters.

### **Feinstein maintaining big lead in U.S. Senate race**

In a contest that has not attracted much voter interest or media attention, incumbent Democrat Dianne Feinstein remains comfortably ahead of Republican challenger Richard Mountjoy in her bid for re-election to the U.S. Senate.

In six *Field Poll* statewide surveys taken this year there has been relatively little movement in voter preferences. In each survey Feinstein has led Mountjoy by margins approaching two to one.

---

**Table 7**  
**Trend of voters' preferences in the election for U.S. SENATE**  
**(among likely voters)**

---

	<b><u>Feinstein (D)</u></b>	<b><u>Mountjoy (R)</u></b>	<b><u>Other*</u></b>	<b><u>Undecided</u></b>
<b>Late October 2006</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
Late September 2006	57%	29	6	8
July	56%	34	1	9
Late May	54%	28	3	15
April	59%	31	2	8
February	56%	28	1	15
<b>Party (Late Oct. 2006)</b>				
Democrats	87%	5	5	3
Republicans	15%	68	3	14
Non-partisans/others	61%	23	5	11

---

\* Other candidates include Todd Chretien (Green), Marsha Feinland (Peace and Freedom), Don J. Grundman (American Independent) and Michael S. Metti (Libertarian).

### **Senate candidate images**

Feinstein is extremely well-known to voters and has consistently enjoyed a very favorable image. At present, 59% of likely voters view her favorably compared to 36% who hold an unfavorable view. By contrast, almost two-thirds of the state's likely voters (64%) still have no opinion of Mountjoy. Among those who give an assessment, opinions divide 21% favorable and 15% unfavorable.

**Table 8**  
**Trend of image ratings of Dianne Feinstein**  
**(among likely voters)**

	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>	<b><u>Unfavorable</u></b>	<b><u>No opinion</u></b>
<b>Late October 2006</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>5</b>
July 2006	60%	35	5
April 2006	54%	37	9
February 2006	51%	34	15
<b><u>Party (Late Oct. 2006)</u></b>			
Democrat	86%	13	11
Republican	25%	67	8
Non-partisan/other	64%	27	9

**Table 9**  
**Trend of image ratings of Richard Mountjoy**  
**(among likely voters)**

	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>	<b><u>Unfavorable</u></b>	<b><u>No opinion</u></b>
<b>Late October 2006</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>64</b>
July 2006	23%	15	62
April 2006	8%	10	82
February 2006	5%	7	88
<b><u>Party (Late Oct. 2006)</u></b>			
Democrat	6%	24	70
Republican	38%	7	55
Non-partisan/other	20%	12	68



## **Information About The Survey**

### **Sample Details**

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 1,092 California registered voters, of whom 795 can be considered likely voters in the November general election. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish between the period October 23-30, 2006. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize respondent fatigue, questions relating to the U.S. Senate race and candidate image ratings were administered to a random subsample of 401 likely voters. Questions about the governor's race were administered to the overall sample of 795 likely voters.

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* employs a stratified random selection procedure giving all voters with phone numbers within each of seven regions of the state and within each of four age categories an equal chance of being selected. Once a voter's name and telephone number are selected, interviews are attempted at the phone number dialed only with the specific voter selected.

In an attempt to include hard-to-reach voters, up to 6 attempts were made to reach and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period. Results from the overall registered voter sample were weighted 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 overall likely voter sample have a sampling error of +/- 3.5 percentage points, while results from the random subsample 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, 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. In the upcoming election, for whom (would) (did) you vote for Governor – Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Republican, Phil Angelides, the Democrat, or someone else?

Is your preference more a vote for (Schwarzenegger) (Angelides) or more of a vote against (Angelides) (Schwarzenegger)?

Is the reason you are supporting (Schwarzenegger) (Angelides) more because of his stand on the issues, more because of his party affiliation, or more because of his personal qualities?

Apart from whom you prefer in the election for Governor, who do you think is going to win the election – Schwarzenegger or Angelides?

In the election this year for U.S. Senate, Republican Richard Mountjoy, Immigration Control consultant, is running against Democrat Dianne Feinstein, incumbent U.S. Senator. In the upcoming election, for whom (would) (did) you vote for U.S. Senate – Richard Mountjoy, the Republican, Dianne Feinstein, the Democrat, or someone else?

Next, I am going to read some names of people who are running for statewide office in the upcoming election. As I read each name, please tell me if your opinion of that person is favorable, unfavorable or whether you don't know enough about that person to have an opinion. Is your opinion of (Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor) (Phil Angelides, State Treasurer) favorable or unfavorable?