

# 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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**WESTLY MOVES AHEAD OF  
ANGELIDES IN DEMOCRATIC  
PRIMARY FOR GOVERNOR.  
GENERAL ELECTION MATCH-UPS  
AGAINST SCHWARZENEGGER  
REMAIN CLOSE.**

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

The latest *Field Poll* finds a big shift in the preferences of likely voters in the Democratic primary for Governor. With less than two months remaining before the June primary, State Controller Steve Westly has turned the tables on State Treasurer Phil Angelides and opened up an eleven point lead 37% to 26%. This is a reversal from *Field Poll* measurements dating back to last June, when Angelides held consistent leads of eight to eleven points over Westly.

From Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's standpoint, the latest poll contains both troubling and hopeful signs in his run for re-election this year. On the negative side, about half of likely voters (48%) say they view him unfavorably and just 36% are currently inclined to support his re-election. On the plus side, fewer voters (45%) are disinclined to re-elect the Governor than last year and neither of Schwarzenegger's two leading Democratic opponents, despite being currently engaged in an expensive and bitter primary election battle, are well-known to voters. As a result, the Governor runs even with Westly and narrowly leads Angelides in November general election simulations.

These are the findings from a statewide survey conducted April 3-10 among a random sample of likely voters.

### **Westly now leads the Democratic primary**

In four successive *Field Polls* completed between June 2005 and February 2006, Angelides was maintaining a fairly consistent lead of eight to eleven points over Westly. However, in the last two months the pace of the Democratic nomination battle has picked up considerably. The campaigning has benefited Westly to a considerable degree, and he has opened up an eleven point lead – 37% to 26% – over Angelides. Another 3% favor other Democratic candidates, while 34% of Democratic primary voters remain undecided.

**Table 1**  
**Voter preferences in the 2006 Democratic primary election for Governor**  
**(among likely Democratic primary voters)**

	<u>Westly</u>	<u>Angelides</u>	<u>Someone else</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
<b>April 2006</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>34</b>
February 2006	18%	26	2	54
October 2005	26%	37	**	37
August 2005	22%	32	**	46
June 2005	28%	37	**	35

\*\* Not asked.

Note: 2005 surveys conducted among registered voters eligible to vote in the Democratic primary.

**Plurality of likely voters remain disinclined to re-elect Schwarzenegger**

One important indicator of where an officeholder stands early in a campaign is whether likely voters are generally inclined or not inclined to re-elect the incumbent.

Fourteen months ago a 56% majority of voters said they would be inclined to re-elect Schwarzenegger governor in the 2006 election. However, after calling an unpopular special election last year in which voters rejected all initiatives put before them, the Governor fell out of grace with the state's electorate. By August just 36% said they were inclined to re-elect him and that proportion has remained virtually unchanged in each of three subsequent *Field Polls*, including the current one. One trend working in Schwarzenegger's favor over the past two months is that fewer voters say they are not inclined to support the Governor's re-election than felt this way last year, with more voters moving to undecided.

**Table 2**  
**Voter inclination to re-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger as Governor in 2006**  
**(among likely general election voters)**

	<u>Inclined</u>	<u>Not inclined</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
<b>April 2006</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>19</b>
February 2006	37%	47	16
October 2005	36%	55	9
August 2005	36%	56	8
June 2005	39%	57	4
February 2005	56%	42	2
<u>Party (April 2006)</u>			
Democrats	16%	69	15
Republicans	60%	18	22
Non-partisans/others	36%	45	19

\* Small sample size.

Note: 2005 surveys conducted among all registered voters.

**Governor known to more than twice as many voters as his Democratic challengers**

Nine out of ten (92%) likely voters have an opinion of Schwarzenegger and the view that voters have of the Governor remains divided, with 48% viewing him unfavorably and 44% favorably.

Both of his Democratic rivals, on the other hand, are much less known to the state's electorate. Just 45% of likely voters have an impression of Angelides, and slightly fewer have an opinion of Westly (40%). Assessments of Angelides are now more mixed than they were in February, with 23% holding a favorable view and 22% an unfavorable opinion. Westly's profile remains more positive than negative (26% to 14%).

Even large majorities of rank-and-file Democrats report not knowing enough about the candidates to have an opinion (59% in Angelides' case and 58% for Westly).

**Table 3**  
**Image ratings of the gubernatorial candidates**  
**(among likely general election voters)**

	April 2006			February 2006		
	<u>Favor- able</u>	<u>Unfavor- able</u>	<u>No opinion</u>	<u>Favor- able</u>	<u>Unfavor- able</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Arnold Schwarzenegger</u>						
Total voters	44%	48	8	44%	49	7
Democrats	19%	72	9	23%	72	5
Republicans	71%	20	9	73%	18	9
Non-partisans/others	42%	47	11	34%	56	10
<u>Steve Westly</u>						
Total voters	26%	14	60	19%	9	72
Democrats	33%	9	58	24%	10	66
Republicans	19%	19	62	16%	10	74
Non-partisans/others	18%	14	68	17%	4	79
<u>Phil Angelides</u>						
Total voters	23%	22	55	24%	13	63
Democrats	28%	13	59	33%	10	57
Republicans	15%	28	57	17%	15	68
Non-partisans/others	20%	26	54	19%	17	64

**General election contests continue to be close**

A little more than a year ago Schwarzenegger held a commanding nineteen-point preference lead over Westly and a seventeen-point lead over Angelides in simulated general election match-ups for Governor. However, in five subsequent measurements since June of last year, including this one, voter preferences have been more closely divided. The latest poll finds voters evenly split between the Governor and Democratic front-runner Westly, with each receiving 43% of voter preferences. The current poll finds Schwarzenegger opening up a narrow four point lead over Angelides, 44% to 40%.

**Table 4**  
**November general election pairings between**  
**Schwarzenegger (R) and Westly (D) for Governor**  
**(among likely general election voters)**

	<u>Schwarzenegger</u>	<u>Westly</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
<b>April 2006</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>
February 2006	37%	41	1	21
October 2005	40%	46	**	14
August 2005	39%	42	**	19
June 2005	40%	44	**	16
February 2005	52%	33	**	15
<u>Party</u>				
Democrats	18%	70	2	10
Republicans	73%	14	2	11
Non-partisans/others	42%	38	5	15
<u>Area</u>				
Coastal counties	38%	48	3	11
Inland counties	54%	33	2	11
<u>Region</u>				
Los Angeles County	31%	55	3	11
Other Southern California	52%	34	2	12
Central Valley	56%	30	3	11
San Francisco Bay Area	30%	56	2	12
Other Northern California*	50%	35	5	10
<u>Age</u>				
18-39	34%	52	5	9
40-49	38%	48	3	11
50-64	46%	40	2	12
65 or older	49%	38	2	11
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	48%	41	3	8
Female	39%	45	3	13
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
White non-Hispanic	47%	40	2	11
Latino	23%	60	6	11
Other	40%	46	1	13

\* Small sample base.

\*\* Not asked.

Note: 2005 surveys conducted among all registered voters.

**Table 5**  
**November general election pairings between**  
**Schwarzenegger (R) and Angelides (D) for Governor**  
**(among likely general election voters)**

	<u>Schwarzenegger</u>	<u>Angelides</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
<b>April 2006</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>
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
<u>Party</u>				
Democrats	19%	65	2	14
Republicans	75%	12	1	12
Non-partisans/others	43%	36	8	13
<u>Area</u>				
Coastal counties	40%	44	4	12
Inland counties	53%	33	1	13
<u>Region</u>				
Los Angeles County	32%	50	3	15
Other Southern California	55%	30	3	12
Central Valley	53%	30	2	15
San Francisco Bay Area	34%	50	4	12
Other Northern California*	44%	39	1	16
<u>Age</u>				
18-39	33%	48	6	13
40-49	42%	43	3	12
50-64	47%	40	1	12
65 or older	49%	33	4	14
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	48%	38	3	11
Female	40%	41	3	16
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
White non-Hispanic	49%	36	3	12
Latino	23%	63	1	13
Other	40%	40	2	18

\* Small sample base.

\*\* Not asked

Note: 2005 surveys conducted among all registered voters.

## **Information About The Survey**

### **Sample Details**

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of California likely voters. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish between the period April 3–10, 2006. A total of 1,431 California adults were reached and screened by telephone, including 706 likely voters in the November general election. Findings from the Democratic gubernatorial primary are based on 303 voters likely to participate in the June Democratic primary

Telephone households were sampled using a random digit dial methodology, which randomly selects operating landline telephone exchanges within all area codes serving California households in proportion to population. Within each exchange, random samples of telephone numbers are created by adding random digits to each selected telephone exchange. This method gives each phone listing an equal chance of being selected and permits access to all landline telephone numbers both listed and unlisted.

According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the sample of likely voters in the general election have a sampling error of +/- 3.8 percentage points, while findings from likely voters in the Democratic primary have a sampling error of +/- 5.8 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, or sequencing or through undetected omissions or errors in interviewing or data processing. Extensive efforts were made to minimize such potential errors.

### **Questions Asked**

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is running for re-election this year. Are you inclined or not inclined to vote for Schwarzenegger in the November general election for Governor?

I am going to read the names of some of the candidates for Governor this year. As I read each name, please tell me whether your opinion of that person is favorable, unfavorable or whether you don't know enough about that person to have an opinion. (NAMES AND TITLES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Is your opinion of (NAME) favorable or unfavorable?

ASKED ONLY OF LIKELY VOTERS IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY: Two of the candidates in the June Democratic primary election for Governor are (NAMES AND TITLES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote in the Democratic primary for Governor?

I am going to read some possible match-ups between the leading Democratic and Republican candidates for Governor in this year's November general election. For each pairing, please tell me which candidate you would vote for if the election for Governor were being held today. (NAMES READ IN RANDOM ORDER ALONG WITH PARTY AND TITLES) If these were the candidates for Governor in the November general election, for whom would you vote if the election were being held today?