

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 #2218

Release Date: **Friday, November 3, 2006**

LT. GOVERNOR'S RACE DEADLOCKED. DEMOCRATS HOLD BIG LEADS IN ATTORNEY GENERAL AND TREASURER RACES, AND SMALLER LEADS FOR SECRETARY OF STATE AND CONTROLLER. REPUBLICAN AHEAD IN INSURANCE COMMISSIONER'S RACE.

IMPORTANT: Contract for this service is
subject to revocation if publication or
broadcast takes place before release date.
(ISSN 0195-4520)

by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

In the six "down-ballot" partisan elections for statewide constitutional offices to be decided next Tuesday, *The Field Poll* found the following to be the shape of voter preferences in the closing days of the campaign.

- Democrat John Garamendi and Republican Tom McClintock were in a virtual dead heat for Lt. Governor, with 44% of likely voters supporting Garamendi and 43% backing McClintock.
- In the Attorney General's race, Democrat Jerry Brown was maintaining a big lead over Republican Chuck Poochigian – 56% to 31%.
- Democrat Bill Lockyer continued to hold a large 45% to 26% lead over Republican Claude Parrish in the contest for State Treasurer.
- Democrat Debra Bowen was narrowly ahead of Republican Bruce McPherson 40% to 34% for the office of Secretary of State.
- In the election for State Controller, Democrat John Chiang continued to lead Republican Tony Strickland, although his margin had narrowed some. In the current poll, Chiang led by seven points (38% to 31%), down from eleven points in July. A huge 31% of voters remained undecided.
- Republican Steve Poizner had opened up a nine-point lead (46% to 37%) over Democrat Cruz Bustamante in the race for State Insurance Commissioner. Last July Bustamante led by four points.

Lt. Governor's race a virtual dead heat

In the early stages of the general election campaign for Lt. Governor, Democrat John Garamendi had a ten point lead (48% to 38%) over Republican Tom McClintock. Last month the race tightened, with Garamendi's lead cut to just two points (41% to 39%). Now, the race is a virtual dead heat, with 44% supporting Garamendi and 43% backing McClintock.

Table 1
Trend of voter preferences in the election
for LT. GOVERNOR
(among likely voters)

	<u>Garamendi (D)</u>	<u>McClintock (R)</u>	<u>Other/ undecided</u>
Late October	44%	43	13
Late September	41%	39	20
July	48%	38	14
<u>Party (Late October)</u>			
Democrats	73%	13	14
Republicans	9%	81	10
Non-partisan/other	47%	32	21

(D) denotes Democrat (R) denotes Republican

Both candidates are fairly well-known to the state's electorate, with about two in three likely voters able to offer an opinion. Garamendi's image profile is 40% favorable and 27% unfavorable. McClintock is viewed even more positively (46% favorable to 19% unfavorable).

Table 2
Trend of voter image ratings of major party candidates
for LT. GOVERNOR
(among likely voters)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>John Garamendi (D)</u>	<u>40%</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>33</u>
Democrats	55%	17	28
Republicans	30%	39	31
Non-partisans/others*	21%	30	49
<u>Tom McClintock (R)</u>	<u>46%</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>35</u>
Democrats	24%	31	45
Republicans	74%	4	22
Non-partisan/other*	36%	21	43

* Small sample size. (D) denotes Democrat (R) denotes Republican

Brown comfortably ahead in Attorney General race

Democrat Jerry Brown is maintaining a large lead over Republican Chuck Poochigian in the election for Attorney General. Brown is currently preferred by 56% of likely voters, compared to 31% for Poochigian.

Table 3
Trend of voter preferences in the election
for ATTORNEY GENERAL
(among likely voters)

	<u>Brown (D)</u>	<u>Poochigian (R)</u>	<u>Other/ undecided</u>
Late October	56%	31	13
Late September	45%	30	25
July	54%	33	13
Party (Late October)			
Democrats	83%	8	9
Republicans	22%	64	14
Non-partisan/other	61%	20	19

(D) denotes Democrat (R) denotes Republican

Brown, a former two-term California Governor and current Mayor of Oakland, is much better known to the state's voting electorate than Poochigian. Eighty-four percent of likely voters offer an opinion of Brown, and most hold a positive view (54% to 30%). By contrast, just 41% have an impression of Poochigian and opinions are equally divided (21% favorable and 20% unfavorable).

Table 4
Trend of voter image ratings of major party candidates
for ATTORNEY GENERAL
(among likely voters)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Jerry Brown (D)</u>	<u>54%</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>16</u>
Democrats	76%	10	14
Republicans	27%	56	17
Non-partisans/others*	58%	24	18
<u>Charles Poochigian (R)</u>	<u>21%</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>59</u>
Democrats	13%	25	62
Republicans	35%	14	51
Non-partisan/other*	12%	21	67

* Small sample size.

Lockyer holds big lead in State Treasurer's race

Democrat Bill Lockyer is holding a nearly two-to-one lead (45% to 26%) over Republican Claude Parrish in the election for State Treasurer, similar to voter sentiments observed in July.

Table 5
Trend of voter preferences in the election
for STATE TREASURER
(among likely voters)

	<u>Lockyer (D)</u>	<u>Parrish (R)</u>	<u>Other/ undecided</u>
Late October	45%	26	29
July	52%	27	21
<i>Party (Late October)</i>			
Democrats	73%	4	23
Republicans	13%	56	31
Non-partisan/other*	42%	19	39

* Small sample size.

Note: Not asked in Late September

Lockyer, the state's current Attorney General, is known to a majority (56%) of the state's likely voters. Among this group he is viewed more favorably than unfavorably by nearly a two to one margin (37% to 19%).

By contrast, just 18% know something about Parrish, and his image among this group is 12% positive and 6% negative.

Table 6
Trend of voter image ratings of major party candidates
for STATE TREASURER
(among likely voters)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Bill Lockyer (D)</u>	<u>37%</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>44</u>
Democrats	38%	16	46
Republicans	35%	24	41
Non-partisans/others*	39%	17	44
<u>Claude Parrish (R)</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>82</u>
Democrats	7%	6	87
Republicans	16%	7	77
Non-partisan/other*	15%	5	80

* Small sample size.

Bowen holding small lead over McPherson for Secretary of State

Democrat Debra Bowen holds a relatively small lead over Republican Bruce McPherson in the election for Secretary of State. Last July Bowen narrowly led 38% to 35%. Now, she leads 40% to 34%. A large proportion of voters (26%) remains undecided.

Preferences are sharply divided by party, with Bowen leading 67% to 9% among Democrats and McPherson leading among Republicans by a nearly equivalent 69% to 10% margin. Non-partisans are siding with Bowen 37% to 20%.

Table 7
Trend of voter preferences in the election
for SECRETARY OF STATE
(among likely voters)

	<u>Bowen (D)</u>	<u>McPherson (R)</u>	<u>Other/ undecided</u>
Late October	40%	34	26
July	38%	35	27
<i>Party (Late October)</i>			
Democrats	67%	9	24
Republicans	10%	69	21
Non-partisan/other	37%	20	43

Note: Not asked in Late September

Huge majorities of voters do not know much about the two candidates. In the case of Bowen, four out of five likely voters (79%) do not offer an opinion. Similarly, two-thirds of voters (67%) have no impression of McPherson.

Among the small proportions of voters able to rate each candidate, opinions are generally positive. For Bowen, 14% hold a favorable view and 7% unfavorable, while McPherson's image is 24% favorable and 9% unfavorable.

Table 8
Trend of voter image ratings of major party candidates
for SECRETARY OF STATE
(among likely voters)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Debra Bowen (D)</u>	<u>14%</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>79</u>
Democrats	18%	8	74
Republicans	10%	8	82
Non-partisans/others*	11%	5	84
<u>Bruce McPherson (R)</u>	<u>24%</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>67</u>
Democrats	20%	10	70
Republicans	28%	8	64
Non-partisan/other*	22%	8	70

* Small sample size.

Chiang's lead in State Controller race narrows a bit

Democrat John Chiang leads Republican Tony Strickland in the election for State Controller by seven points (38% to 31%), with a huge 31% of voters undecided. Chiang's lead is down slightly from an eleven-point advantage in July.

Table 9			
Trend of voter preferences in the election for STATE CONTROLLER (among likely voters)			
	<u>Chiang (D)</u>	<u>Strickland (R)</u>	<u>Other/undecided</u>
Late October	38%	31	31
July	38%	27	35
<i>Party (Late October)</i>			
Democrats	61%	5	34
Republicans	11%	65	24
Non-partisan/other	38%	21	41

Note: Not asked in Late September

Both of the candidates for Controller are not known to three-fourths of the state's likely voters. Chiang's image among those able to rate him is 15% favorable and 9% unfavorable. Voters have a more mixed assessment of Strickland, with 13% seeing him in a favorable light and 12% viewing him negatively.

Table 10			
Trend of voter image ratings of major party candidates for STATE CONTROLLER (among likely voters)			
	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>John Chiang (D)</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>76</u>
Democrats	19%	7	74
Republicans	14%	11	75
Non-partisans/others*	6%	11	83
<u>Tony Strickland (R)</u>	<u>13%</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>75</u>
Democrats	7%	17	76
Republicans	22%	8	70
Non-partisan/other*	6%	6	88

* Small sample size.

Poizner moves ahead of Bustamante in Insurance Commissioner's race

Steve Poizner, the Republican, now leads Democrat Cruz Bustamante 46% to 37% in the election for state Insurance Commissioner. In July Bustamante had a slight 43% to 39% lead over Poizner.

Table 11
Trend of voter preferences in the election
for INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
(among likely voters)

	<u>Poizner (R)</u>	<u>Bustamante (D)</u>	<u>Other/ undecided</u>
Late October	46%	37	17
July	39%	43	18
<i>Party (Late October)</i>			
Democrats	24%	59	17
Republicans	75%	9	16
Non-partisan/other	38%	40	22

Note: Not asked in Late September

Bustamante, the state's current Lt. Governor, is well-known to likely voters (83% hold an opinion). However, his image is more negative (48%) than positive (35%). By contrast, while just 30% have an impression of Poizner, his image is more favorable (18%) than unfavorable (12%).

Table 12
Trend of voter image ratings of major party candidates
for INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
(among likely voters)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>Steve Poizner (R)</u>	<u>18%</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>70</u>
Democrats	12%	18	70
Republicans	28%	6	64
Non-partisans/others*	10%	11	79
<u>Cruz Bustamante (D)</u>	<u>35%</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>17</u>
Democrats	53%	29	18
Republicans	16%	70	14
Non-partisan/other*	29%	48	23

** Small sample size.*

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, preference measures relating to the State Treasurer's race and questions for all candidate image ratings were administered to random subsamples of either 401 or 394 likely voters. All other preference measures in this group 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 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

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 _____ favorable or unfavorable? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES OF CANDIDATES READ)

In the election this year for Lieutenant Governor, Republican Tom McClintock is running against Democrat John Garamendi. In the upcoming election, for whom (would) (did) you vote for Lieutenant Governor – Tom McClintock, the Republican or John Garamendi, the Democrat?

In the election this year for State Attorney General, Republican Charles Poochigian is running against Democrat Jerry Brown. In the upcoming election, for whom (would) (did) you vote for Attorney General – Charles Poochigian, the Republican, or Jerry Brown, the Democrat?

In the election this year for California Secretary of State, Republican Bruce McPherson is running against Democrat Debra Bowen. In the upcoming election, for whom (would) (did) you vote for California Secretary of State – Bruce McPherson, the Republican, or Debra Bowen, the Democrat?

In the election this year for State Treasurer, Republican Claude Parrish is running against Democrat Bill Lockyer. In the upcoming election, for whom (would) (did) you vote for State Treasurer – Claude Parrish, the Republican, or Bill Lockyer, the Democrat?

In the election this year for State Controller, Republican Tony Strickland is running against Democrat John Chiang. In the upcoming election, for whom (would) (did) you vote for State Controller – Tony Strickland, the Republican, or John Chiang, the Democrat?

In the election this year for State Insurance Commissioner, Republican Steve Poizner is running against Democrat Cruz Bustamante. In the upcoming election, for whom (would) (did) you vote for State Insurance Commissioner – Steve Poizner, the Republican, or Cruz Bustamante, the Democrat?