

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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**VOTERS SHARPLY DIVIDED ON STEM
CELL RESEARCH BOND MEASURE.
FAVOR TWO OTHER HEALTH-RELATED
PROPOSITIONS BUT OPPOSE A FOURTH.**

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

In its latest survey, *The Field Poll* obtained preference measures regarding four health-related ballot propositions – Propositions 61, 63, 76 and 71 – that California voters will be asked to decide on in the November 2 general election.

Perhaps the most controversial of the four, and the one that is generating the most voter interest and attention, is Proposition 71, the statewide bond initiative to fund stem cell research. Currently 40% of likely voters reports being aware of Prop. 71. However, voter preferences are sharply divided, with 45% intending to vote Yes, 42% intending to vote No and 13% undecided.

Voter awareness of the three other health-related proposals is much lower, with just 17%-18% saying they had heard of each prior to being read a summary of their official ballot description. Initial voter preferences on these measures show the following:

- More voters are lining up on the No side (47%) than the Yes side (37%) on Proposition 67, the initiative to provide additional funding for emergency medical services through a surcharge on telephone users.
- By a two to one margin (59% Yes vs. 29% No), voters are supporting Proposition 63, an initiative to expand mental health services through a tax on those with a personal income of greater than \$1 million.
- More voters are also disposed to support (47%) than oppose (31%) Proposition 61, a \$750 million dollar bond to expand funding for children's hospitals around the state.

Proposition 71 (Stem Cell Research Bonds)

Statewide voters are about evenly divided on Prop. 71, with 45% favoring it, 42% opposed and 13% undecided.

Opinions are sharply split along party, education, age, religious and political lines. For example...

- Democrats are more than two to one in favor of the initiative (57% Yes vs. 27% No), while Republicans are opposed by a roughly comparable margin (59% No vs. 31% Yes). Non-partisans and those affiliated with other parties are closely divided 48% Yes and 43% No.
- College graduates and those with a post-graduate education favor the initiative by double digits margins, while voters with no more than a high school education are opposed.
- Voters under age 40 are supportive 52% to 36%, while voters age 65 or older are opposed 45% to 38%.
- Majorities of Protestants, and especially those who are born-again Christians, are opposing Prop. 71. On the other hand, large majorities of voters with no religious preference or those affiliated with other non-Christian religions are supporting the stem cell bonds proposal.
- Preferences are also split according to who a voter intends to support for President. Those supporting Democrat John Kerry favor Prop. 71 by more than a two to one margin, while those supporting Republican George Bush are opposed two to one.

Table 1
Voter preferences regarding Proposition 71, the
Stem Cell Research, Funding, Bonds initiative
(among likely voters)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total Statewide	45%	42	13
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	57%	27	16
Republicans	31%	59	10
Non-partisans/others	48%	43	9
<u>Education</u>			
High school or less	38%	53	9
Some college/trade school	43%	43	14
College graduate	50%	34	16
Post graduate	52%	38	10
<u>Age</u>			
18 – 39	52%	36	12
40 – 64	44%	45	11
65 or older	38%	45	17
<u>Religion</u>			
Protestant	35%	51	14
“Born Again” Christian	30%	60	10
Catholic	41%	47	12
Other religions	63%	27	10
No religious preference	62%	21	17
<u>Presidential preference</u>			
Kerry voter	59%	26	15
Bush voter	30%	60	10

Proposition 67 (Emergency Medical Services Funding/Telephone Surcharge)

By a 47% to 37% margin, a plurality of voters reports are currently opposed to Prop. 67, the initiative to provide additional emergency medical services funding through a telephone surcharge.

While a narrow plurality of Democratic voters favors the proposal (45% to 38%), Republicans are lining up against the initiative by a nearly two to one margin (59% No vs. 32% Yes).

Table 2
Voter preferences regarding Proposition 67, the Emergency Medical Services, Funding, Telephone Surcharge initiative
(among likely voters)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total Statewide	37%	47	16
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	45%	38	17
Republicans	32%	59	9
Non-partisans/others	31%	45	24

Proposition 63 (Mental Health Services/ Millionaires' Tax)

Voter support for Proposition 63 is currently greater than two to one (59% to 29%). Democrats are favoring it by a four to one margin and non-partisans support it nearly three to one. A small plurality of Republicans opposes the initiative.

Table 3
Voter preferences regarding Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Expansion, Tax on Personal Income Above \$1 Million initiative
(among likely voters)

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total Statewide	59%	29	12
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	72%	17	11
Republicans	41%	47	12
Non-partisans/others	63%	22	15

Proposition 61 (Children's Hospital Projects Bonds)

This proposition is favored by a 47% to 31% margin statewide, with 22% undecided. Democrats and non-partisans are strongly supportive, while Republicans oppose it by a four to three margin.

Table 4

**Voter preferences regarding Proposition 61, the Children's
Hospital Projects, Grant Program Bond Act
(among likely voters)**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total Statewide	47%	31	22
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	55%	22	23
Republicans	34%	43	23
Non-partisans/others	52%	30	18

Information About the Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on interviews conducted among a random sample of 1,034 Californians likely to vote in the November general election. Interviews were conducted by telephone in English and Spanish July 30 – August 8, 2004. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize possible voter fatigue, the overall sample was divided into two approximately equal sized subsamples. Questions about Props. 63 and 67 were asked of 500 likely voters, while questions about Props. 61 and 71 were asked of 534 likely voters. Sampling was carried out using random digit dial methodology which gives all voters, including those whose phone number is listed and unlisted, an equal chance of being contacted. Up to five attempts were made to reach a randomly selected voter at each number dialed. After the completion of interviewing the larger registered voter sample was weighted to *Field Poll* estimates of the state's total registered voter population.

According to statistical theory, the overall results for each proposition have a sampling error of +/- 4.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. These are other possible sources of error in any survey in addition to sampling variability. Different results could occur because of differences in question wording, sequencing or through omissions or errors in sampling, interviewing or data processing. Extensive efforts were made to minimize such potential errors.

Questions Asked

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 61, which would authorize bonds for children's hospital projects?

Proposition 61 is the "Children's Hospital Projects, Grant Program Bond Act." It authorizes 750 million dollars in general obligation bonds for grants to eligible children's hospitals for construction, expansion, remodeling, renovation, furnishing and equipping children's hospitals. Fiscal impact: State costs of about 1.5 billion dollars over 30 years to pay off both the principal and interest costs of the bonds. Payments of about 50 million dollars per year. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 61?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 63, having to do with expanded funding of mental health services and a tax on incomes above 1 million dollars?

Proposition 63 is the "Mental Health Services Expansion, Funding; Tax on Personal Incomes Above 1 Million Dollars" initiative. It establishes a 1 percent tax on taxable personal income above 1 million dollars to fund expanded health services for mentally ill children, adults and seniors. Fiscal impact: Additional state revenues of about 800 million dollars annually by 2006-2007, with comparable annual increases in total state and county expenditures for the expansion of mental health programs. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 63?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 67, which provides additional funding for emergency medical services through a surcharge to telephone bills?

Proposition 67 is the "Emergency Medical Services, Funding, Telephone Surcharge" initiative. It increases the telephone surcharge and allocates other funds for emergency room physicians, hospital emergency rooms, community clinics, emergency personnel training and equipment, and the 9-1-1 telephone system. Fiscal impact: Increased state revenues of about 500 million dollars annually to reimburse physicians and hospitals for uncompensated emergency medical services and other specified purposes. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 67?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 71, which would authorize bonds to fund stem cell research?

Proposition 71 is the "Stem Cell Research, Funding, Bonds" initiative. It establishes a "California Institute for Regenerative Medicine" to regulate and fund stem cell research and establishes a constitutional right to conduct such research and an oversight committee. It prohibits funding of human reproductive cloning research. Fiscal impact: State costs of about 6 billion dollars over 30 years to pay off both the principal and interest on the bonds. State payments averaging 200 million dollars per year. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 71?