

# 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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## **VOTER PREFERENCES IN STATEWIDE “DOWN-BALLOT” CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE RACES LARGELY UNFORMED.**

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by Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

In addition to this year’s elections for Governor and U.S. Senator, California voters in the upcoming June 6 primary election will be asked to select party nominees for a number of other statewide constitutional offices. In its most recent survey of likely voters in the June primary, *The Field Poll* measured voter recognition and image ratings of many of the major party candidates running in these “down-ballot” contests, and assessed initial voter preferences in the contested primaries of each major party.

The results indicate that, in most contests, voter preferences are largely unformed at this stage. The following are the survey’s main findings for each contest measured:

### **Lt. Governor**

Among the candidates running for Lt. Governor are four current state officeholders – one Republican, State Senator Tom McClintock, and three Democrats, Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi, and State Senators Jackie Speier and Liz Figueroa. The poll finds that majorities of likely voters have an opinion of McClintock and Garamendi, while fewer than one in three can offer an impression of Speier or Figueroa. Of the four, McClintock possesses the most positive image, with 40% of likely voters viewing him favorably and 18% unfavorably.

**Table 1**  
**Voter recognition and image ratings of some of the**  
**candidates running for Lt. Governor**  
**(among likely voters in the June primary election)**

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Tom McClintock, State Senator	40%	18	42
John Garamendi, Insurance Commissioner	36%	25	39
Jackie Speier, State Senator	18%	14	68
Liz Figueroa, State Senator	11%	12	77

When likely voters in the Democratic primary are asked who they would support if the primary election for Lt. Governor were being held today, Garamendi leads with 31%, followed by Speier at 21% and Figueroa at 12%. Greater than 36% of Democratic primary voters are undecided. The poll finds a sizeable “gender gap” in initial preferences, with Garamendi leading by a wide margin among men, while women voters are dividing their preferences more closely among the three Democrats.

**Table 2**  
**Initial voter preferences in the Democratic primary**  
**for Lt. Governor**  
**(among likely Democratic primary voters)**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
Garamendi	31%	40%	25%
Speier	21	21	21
Figueroa	12	10	14
Undecided	36	29	40

### **Attorney General**

Two Democrats, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown and Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, and one Republican, State Senator Charles Poochigian, are candidates in this year’s open seat election for state Attorney General. Brown, who served two terms as this state’s Governor from 1975-1982, is far better known to voters than either of the other two A.G. candidates. Statewide eight in ten likely voters (80%) have an opinion of Brown, with 45% holding a favorable view and 35% unfavorable. Much smaller proportions of likely voters have an opinion of Delgadillo or Poochigian, and their image ratings among these voters is mixed.

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**Table 3**  
**Voter recognition and image ratings of some of the**  
**candidates running for Attorney General**  
**(among likely voters in the June primary election)**

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	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>	<b><u>Unfavorable</u></b>	<b><u>No opinion</u></b>
Jerry Brown, Oakland Mayor	45%	35	20
Rocky Delgadillo, Los Angeles City Attorney	16%	18	66
Charles Poochigian, State Senator	8%	9	83

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Brown currently leads Delgadillo by a wide margin (59% to 18%) among likely voters in the Democratic primary, although 23% remain undecided. Brown's lead is particularly large in Northern California.

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**Table 4**  
**Initial voter preferences in the Democratic primary**  
**for Attorney General**  
**(among likely Democratic primary voters)**

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	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>Southern California</u></b>	<b><u>Northern California</u></b>
Brown	59%	43%	76%
Delgadillo	18	26	9
Undecided	23	31	15

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### **State Controller**

Among the candidates running for the office of State Controller are two Democrats, State Senator Joe Dunn and State Board of Equalization member John Chiang, and two Republicans, State Senator Abel Maldonado and former Assemblyman Tony Strickland. None is well known to sizeable segments of voters statewide, and their image ratings among those who have an opinion are generally mixed.

**Table 5**  
**Voter recognition and image ratings of some of the**  
**candidates running for State Controller**  
**(among likely voters in the June primary election)**

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Abel Maldonado, State Senator	11%	12	77
John Chiang, member State Board of Equalization	10%	9	81
Tony Strickland, former Assemblyman	9%	8	83
Joe Dunn, State Senator	8%	8	84

When likely voters in the Democratic primary are asked which Democrat they would choose if the election were held today, there is an almost even division in preferences, with Chiang the choice of 16% and Dunn supported by 15%. A huge 69% of Democratic primary voters are undecided.

**Table 6**  
**Initial voter preferences in the Democratic primary**  
**for State Controller**  
**(among likely Democratic primary voters)**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Southern California</u>	<u>Northern California</u>
Chiang	16%	16%	17%
Dunn	15	18	13
Undecided	69	66	70

On the Republican side, Strickland is holding an early lead over Maldonado 23% to 14%, although a very large 61% of likely GOP primary voters are undecided. Strickland's statewide lead appears to be derived from his greater initial support among Republican voters in Southern California.

**Table 7**  
**Initial voter preferences in the Republican primary**  
**for State Controller**  
**(among likely GOP primary voters)**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Southern California</u>	<u>Northern California</u>
Strickland	23%	28%	15%
Maldonado	14	13	15
Other	2	1	3
Undecided	61	58	67

**State Treasurer**

State Attorney General Bill Lockyer is running unopposed in the Democratic primary for State Treasurer, while two Republicans, Assemblyman Keith Richman and State Board of Equalization member Claude Parrish, are facing each other in the GOP primary. Lockyer is by far the best known candidate in the race, with 56% of voters statewide having an opinion. Much smaller proportions know something about either Richman (17%) or Parrish (16%). Lockyer's image among those who know him is more than two to one positive, while initial voter impressions of his Republican opponents are divided.

**Table 8**  
**Voter recognition and image ratings of some of the**  
**candidates running for State Treasurer**  
**(among likely voters in the June primary election)**

	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>	<b><u>Unfavorable</u></b>	<b><u>No opinion</u></b>
Bill Lockyer, Attorney General	38%	18	44
Keith Richman, Assemblyman	8%	9	83
Claude Parrish, member State Board of Equalization	7%	9	84

Voter preferences in the GOP primary for State Treasurer are largely unformed, with a huge majority (71%) undecided. Among those expressing an opinion, preferences are closely divided, with Parrish the early choice of 16% and Richman the choice of 13%.

**Table 9**  
**Initial voter preferences in the Republican primary**  
**for State Treasurer**  
**(among likely GOP primary voters)**

	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>Southern California</u></b>	<b><u>Northern California</u></b>
Parrish	16%	16%	16%
Richman	13	16	7
Undecided	71	68	77

**Secretary of State**

One current state officeholder seeking re-election this year is Republican Secretary of State Bruce McPherson. McPherson, who was appointed to the post following the resignation of Democrat Kevin Shelley, is running unopposed in the GOP primary. On the Democratic side, two State Senators, Debra Bowen and Deborah Ortiz, are vying for their party's nomination. None of the candidates, including McPherson, is well-known to voters at this stage, with only about one in three to one in four voters having an opinion of each candidate. Among voters able to offer an opinion, McPherson's image is nearly two to one positive, while those of the Democrats are slightly less positive.

**Table 10**  
**Voter recognition and image ratings of some of the**  
**candidates running for Secretary of State**  
**(among likely voters in the June primary election)**

	<b><u>Favorable</u></b>	<b><u>Unfavorable</u></b>	<b><u>No opinion</u></b>
Bruce McPherson, Secretary of State	21%	12	67
Deborah Ortiz, State Senator	16%	14	70
Debra Bowen, State Senator	14%	10	76

When likely voters in the Democratic primary are asked whether they currently prefer Ortiz or Bowen, a very large majority (61%) are undecided. Early preferences among those offering an opinion divide closely between Ortiz (21%) and Bowen (18%).

**Table 11**  
**Initial voter preferences in the Democratic primary**  
**for Secretary of State**  
**(among likely Democratic primary voters)**

	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>Southern California</u></b>	<b><u>Northern California</u></b>
Ortiz	21%	16%	26%
Bowen	18	20	15
Undecided	61	64	59

## **Information About The Survey**

### **Sample Details**

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of Californians likely to vote in the June 6 primary election. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish between the period April 3-10, 2006. A total of 1,431 California adults was reached and screened by telephone, of whom 612 reported being likely to vote in the June primary. The sample included 303 likely voters in the Democratic primary and 239 likely voters in the Republican 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 overall sample of likely primary election voters have a sampling error of +/- 4.1 percentage points. Findings from likely voters in the Democratic primary have a sampling error of +/- 5.8 percentage points, while results from likely voters in the GOP primary have a sampling error of +/- 6.5 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**

Next, I am going to read the names of four of the candidates running for Lieutenant Governor this year. (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Is your opinion of \_\_\_\_\_ favorable or unfavorable?

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

Next, I am going to read the names of three of the candidates running for California Attorney-General this year. (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Is your opinion of \_\_\_\_\_ favorable or unfavorable?

(ASKED OF DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS) Two of the candidates in the June Democratic primary election for California Attorney-General are (NAMES AND TITLES OF THE CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for California Attorney-General?

Next, I am going to read the names of three of the candidates running for State Treasurer this year. (NAMES AND TITLES OF THE CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Is your opinion of \_\_\_\_\_ favorable or unfavorable?

(ASKED OF GOP PRIMARY VOTERS) Two of the candidates in the June Republican primary election for State Treasurer are (NAMES AND TITLES OF THE CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for State Treasurer?

Next, I am going to read the names of four of the candidates running for State Controller this year. (NAMES AND TITLES OF THE CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Is your opinion of \_\_\_\_\_ favorable or unfavorable?

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

(ASKED OF GOP PRIMARY VOTERS) Two of the candidates in the June Republican primary election for State Controller are (NAMES AND TITLES OF THE CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER). If the election were being held today, for whom would you vote for State Controller?

Next, I am going to read the names of three of the candidates running for California Secretary of State this year. (NAMES AND TITLES OF THE CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Is your opinion of \_\_\_\_\_ favorable or unfavorable?

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