

# 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)

COPYRIGHT 2006 BY FIELD RESEARCH CORPORATION. FOR ADVANCE PUBLICATION BY SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.

Release #2208

Release Date: **Wednesday, August 2, 2006**

**BIG EARLY LEADS FOR PROP. 86  
(CIGARETTE TAXES), PROP. 87  
(ALTERNATIVE ENERGY/OIL TAX)  
AND ESPECIALLY PROP. 83 (SEX  
OFFENDERS).**

---

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

Voters in this year's general election will face a long list of statewide ballot propositions, many of which are expected to generate considerable interest and debate.

Among them are five initiatives that early press accounts have indicated will be getting the greatest attention and campaign advertising efforts. In its most recent survey, *The Field Poll* tested the early preferences of likely voters toward these initiatives, and following are the results:

- Proposition 86, the cigarette tax initiative, starts with an early two to one lead, 63% to 32%.
- Proposition 87, the alternative energy and oil tax initiative, is currently favored by a five to three margin (52% to 31%).
- There is even stronger support (76% Yes and 11% No) for Proposition 83, the so-called Jessica's Law, sex offender punishment initiative.
- A plurality of voters (46%) is also backing Proposition 90, the eminent domain laws initiative, while 31% are opposed.
- Voter sentiment about Proposition 85, the parental notification of teen abortion initiative, is about evenly divided, with 44% on the Yes side and 45% on the No side.

### **Prop. 86, the cigarette tax initiative, supported two to one**

Prior to posing a summary description of Prop. 86, the poll asked voters whether they had seen or heard anything about the initiative. About one in four likely voters (26%) reported some prior awareness.

All voters, regardless of any prior awareness of Prop. 86, were then read the official ballot summary describing the initiative and asked how they would vote if the election were being held today. By a two to one majority (63% to 32%), likely voters in the survey are lining up on the Yes side.

Democrats and liberals are strongly supporting the initiative, while Republicans, non-partisans and conservatives are in favor, but by somewhat smaller margins.

While males support Prop. 86 about four to three (56% to 41%), women are backing the initiative by a greater than three to one margin (71% to 22%). Similarly, while white non-Hispanics favor Prop. 86 by about a five to three margin, larger proportions of ethnic voters, and especially Latinos, are on the Yes side.

Current tobacco smokers, who represent 12% of the likely voters in this survey, oppose the measure 72% to 23%. On the other hand, former smokers, who account for another 32% of the likely electorate, are currently favoring it by a 53% to 39% margin. Voters who have never smoked are the most supportive of the initiative and are endorsing it four to one (76% to 19%).

**Table 1**  
**Initial voter preferences regarding Prop. 86, the**  
**cigarette tax initiative**  
**(among likely voters)**

	<u>Would vote...</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total voters	63%	32	5
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	73%	19	8
Republicans	54%	42	4
Non-partisan/other	56%	40	4
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Strongly conservative	53%	44	3
Moderately conservative	60%	36	4
Middle-of-the-road	64%	29	7
Moderately liberal	66%	27	7
Strongly liberal	73%	21	6
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	54%	42	4
Female	71%	22	7
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	58%	36	6
Latino	83%	14	3
Black/Asian/other*	65%	31	4
<u>Smoking status</u>			
Current smoker*	23%	72	5
Former smoker	53%	39	8
Never smoked	76%	19	5
<u>Prior awareness</u>			
Have heard	56%	41	3
No prior awareness	65%	28	7

\* Small sample size.

**Proposition 85, the parental notification of teen abortion initiative, divides the voting public**

A majority of voters (52%) say they are familiar with Prop. 85, the parental notification of teen abortion initiative. The relatively high awareness of this initiative most likely relates to the fact that voters were previously asked to decide on this issue just last year in the November special election.

After being read its official ballot description, 45% of voters say they oppose it, while 44% are supporting it. This distribution mirrors the very close outcome of last year's election, when a similar initiative, Prop. 73, was narrowly defeated by a 53% to 47% margin at the polls.

Democratic voters are strongly opposing Prop. 85, 61% to 28%. Non-partisans also oppose the measure, but by a narrower 50% to 38% margin. Republicans, on the other hand, are almost three to one in favor (67% to 24%).

There is a big gender divide on this issue. Men favor Prop. 85 53% to 40%, while women are opposed 51% to 36%.

Substantial majorities of Protestants and Catholics are lining up on the Yes side on Prop. 85. However, those affiliated with other religions or who have no religious preference are strongly opposed.

**Table 2**  
**Initial voter preferences regarding Prop. 85, the parental notification of teen abortion initiative (among likely voters)**

	<u>Would vote...</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total voters	44%	45	11
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	28%	61	11
Republicans	67%	24	9
Non-partisan/other*	38%	50	12
<u>Gender</u>			
Male	53%	40	7
Female	36%	51	13
<u>Religion</u>			
Protestant	57%	34	9
Catholic*	52%	38	10
Other religions*	31%	61	8
No preference*	20%	69	11
<u>Prior awareness</u>			
Have heard	49%	45	6
No prior awareness	39%	47	14

\* Small sample size.

**Prop. 87, the alternative energy/oil tax initiative, is favored five to three**

Just 19% of voters say they have seen or heard anything about Prop. 87, the alternative energy and oil tax initiative.

When asked how they would vote on Prop. 87 after being read its official ballot summary, a majority (52%) favors the measure, while 31% are opposed.

Democrats and liberals are very much in favor, supporting it by 66% to 18% and 74% to 9% margins, respectively. Non-partisans and middle-of-the-road voters also back the initiative, but by somewhat smaller margins. However, Republicans are opposed (51% to 34%), as are conservatives (47% to 40%).

<b>Table 3</b>			
<b>Initial voter preferences regarding Prop. 87, the alternative energy, oil tax initiative (among likely voters)</b>			
	<b><u>Would vote...</u></b>		
	<b><u>Yes</u></b>	<b><u>No</u></b>	<b><u>Undecided</u></b>
Total voters	52%	31	17
<b><u>Party</u></b>			
Democrats	66%	18	16
Republicans	34%	51	15
Non-partisan/other	58%	26	16
<b><u>Political ideology</u></b>			
Conservative	40%	47	13
Middle-of-the-road	49%	33	18
Liberal*	74%	9	17
<b><u>Prior awareness</u></b>			
Have heard*	53%	41	6
No prior awareness	52%	29	9

\* Small sample size.

**Proposition 83, the sex offender punishment initiative, is overwhelmingly supported**

Three in ten likely voters (30%) say they have seen or heard about Prop. 83, the so-called Jessica's Law initiative to increase criminal penalties for those convicted of sex offenses.

After Prop. 83's official ballot description was read, three out of four voters (76%) say they are inclined to vote Yes, while just 11% are opposed. Large majorities of voters across each partisan subgroup favor the initiative.

---

**Table 4**  
**Initial voter preferences regarding Prop. 83, the**  
**sex offender punishment initiative**  
**(among likely voters)**

---

	<u>Would vote...</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total voters	76%	11	13
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	68%	12	20
Republicans	87%	10	3
Non-partisan/other*	70%	12	18
<u>Prior awareness</u>			
Have heard	78%	11	11
No prior awareness	75%	11	14

---

\* Small sample size.

**Proposition 90, the eminent domain law initiative, leads although many are undecided**

Another initiative likely to generate controversy and debate relates to laws about government acquisition of private property. Currently, only about one in four voters (28%) is aware of the initiative.

When asked where they presently stand on Prop. 90 after being read its official summary, 46% of likely voters are on the Yes side and 31% are opposed. One in four voters (23%) are undecided.

Democrats and non-partisans favor Prop. 90 by nearly identical ten-point pluralities. There is even greater support among Republicans, who favor it 51% to 28%.

While pluralities of conservatives and moderates currently support Prop. 90, liberals are narrowly opposed (39% to 36%).

**Table 5**  
**Initial voter preferences regarding Prop. 90, the**  
**eminent domain initiative**  
**(among likely voters)**

	<u>Would vote...</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total voters	46%	31	23
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	42%	32	26
Republicans	51%	28	21
Non-partisan/other*	43%	33	24
<u>Political ideology</u>			
Conservative	46%	30	24
Middle-of-the-road	50%	27	23
Liberal	36%	39	25
<u>Prior awareness</u>			
Have heard	53%	32	15
No prior awareness	43%	31	26

\* Small sample size.

– 30 –

### Information About The Survey

#### Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 762 likely voters in California’s November general election. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish between the period July 10-23, 2006. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize voter fatigue, the overall sample was divided into two approximately equal sized subsamples of 378 and 384 likely voters on some of the initiatives posed in this release. Questions relating to Prop. 86 were asked of the entire likely voter sample, while those relating to Props. 83, 85, 87 and 90 were asked of one of the random subsamples of voters.

Sampling was also divided into two parts. About half of the interviews were conducted 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 were created by adding random digits to each selected telephone exchange, giving each phone listing an equal chance of being selected and permitting access to all landline telephone numbers both listed and unlisted. The other half of the sample was developed from telephone listings of individual voters selected randomly from a statewide list of all registered voters in California. In this sample every *n*th voter was selected from the list at random for inclusion into the sample and interviews were attempted only with the specific voter selected.

In an effort to include “hard to reach” voters into each sample, up to 8 attempts were made to reach a voter at each telephone number dialed in each sample. Results from both samples were combined and 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 +/- 3.8 percentage points, while findings from each of the random subsamples have a sampling error of +/- 5.2 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 or through undetected omissions or errors in interviewing or data processing. Extensive efforts were made to minimize such potential errors.

### **Questions Asked**

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 83, having to do with penalties for sex offenders, on the November statewide election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition 83 is the “Sex Offenders, Sexually Violent Predators, Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring” initiative. It increases penalties for violent and habitual sex offenders and child molesters, and prohibits registered sex offenders from residing within 2,000 feet of any school or park. It also requires lifetime Global Positioning System monitoring of felony registered sex offenders and expands the definition of a sexually violent predator. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 83?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 85, having to do with teen abortion and parental notification, on the November statewide election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition 85 is the “Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy” initiative. It amends the state constitution to prohibit abortion for minors under the age of 18 until 48 hours after a physician notifies the minor’s parent or legal guardian, except in a medical emergency or parental or judicial waiver. It mandates various reporting requirements, including reports from physicians and authorizes monetary damages against physicians for violations. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 85?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 86, having to do with cigarette taxes, on the November statewide election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition 86 is the “Tax on Cigarettes” initiative. It imposes an additional 13 cent tax per cigarette, or two dollars and sixty cents per pack, and indirectly increases the tax on other tobacco products. It provides funding to qualified hospitals for emergency services, nursing education and health insurance to eligible children. Revenue would also go to specified purposes, including tobacco use prevention programs, enforcement of tobacco-related laws and research, and prevention and treatment of various health conditions. Fiscal impact: Increase in state revenues of about 2.1 billion dollars annually by 2007, and declines slightly thereafter. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 86?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 87, having to do with alternative energy and a tax on California oil, on the November statewide election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition 87 is the “Alternative Energy, Research, Production and Incentives; Tax on California Oil” initiative. It establishes a 4 billion dollar program to reduce oil and gasoline usage by 25 percent, with research and production incentives for alternative energy and alternative energy vehicles, energy efficient technologies, and for education and training. It would be funded by a 1 and ½ percent to 6 percent tax per barrel on producers of oil extracted in California, depending on the oil price per barrel. It prohibits producers from passing the tax on to consumers, prohibits changing the tax while indebtedness remains and excludes revenues from Proposition 98 appropriations limits. Fiscal impact: New state revenues of between 200 million and 380 million dollars annually. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 87?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 90, having to do with government acquisition of private property, on the November statewide election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition 90 is the “Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property” initiative. It bars state and local governments from condemning or damaging private property to promote other private projects or uses, and limits government’s authority to adopt certain land use, housing, consumer, environmental and workplace laws and regulations, except when necessary to preserve public health or safety. It voids unpublished eminent domain court decisions, and defines just compensation. Condemned private property must be offered for re-sale to prior owner or their heirs at current market value if the government abandons its condemnation’s objectives. Fiscal impact: Unknown but potentially major future costs for state and local government to pay damages or modify regulatory policies. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Prop. 90?