

THE FIELD POLL

THE INDEPENDENT AND NON-PARTISAN SURVEY
OF PUBLIC OPINION ESTABLISHED IN 1947 AS
THE CALIFORNIA POLL BY MERVIN FIELD

222 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94108-4411
(415) 392-5763 FAX: (415) 434-2541
EMAIL: fieldpoll@field.com

COPYRIGHT 2003 BY FIELD RESEARCH CORPORATION. FOR PUBLICATION BY SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.

Release #2068

Release Date: **Wednesday, April 16, 2003**

**NONE OF THE NINE DEMOCRATIC
PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDERS IS
DOMINANT IN CALIFORNIA. BUSH
HOLDS EARLY LEAD IN GENERAL
ELECTION SIMULATION.**

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

California's 2004 presidential primary election is just eleven months away, but none of nine Democrats seeking their party's nomination seems to be dominating the field in respect to voter preferences in this state. Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman currently leads in first choice preferences with 22%, followed by Massachusetts Senator John Kerry (16%) and Missouri Congressman Dick Gephardt (12%).

When a cross-section of all voters are asked who they'd likely support in a presidential match-up between incumbent Republican George W. Bush and the nominee of the Democratic Party, Bush currently leads by a 45% to 40% margin.

These are the results from a *Field Poll* survey completed April 1-6 in which an oversample sample of 695 registered voters in California were interviewed.

Inclination to support

The survey asked a representative sample of the state's Democratic voters about their preferences for California's Democratic primary election. All Democrats were first asked the degree to which they were inclined to support each of nine candidates who have been reported by the national press to be actively seeking Democratic nomination. Voters could offer as many or as few candidate names as they liked as being persons they would be inclined to support. If a voter indicated an inclination to support more than one candidate, he or she was then asked for their first choice preference.

Two U.S. Senators, Kerry of Massachusetts at 43% and Lieberman of Connecticut at 42%, receive the largest proportion of California Democrats saying they currently are inclined to support their candidacies. Slightly more than one-third (35%) say this about Congressman Gephardt. Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, at 20%, received the next largest share of votes in this measure.

Lieberman, Gephardt and Dean each appear to draw as many voters who say they are disinclined as say they are inclined to vote for the candidates. Kerry has a more favorable balance between those who say they are inclined versus those not inclined to support his candidacy.

Listed below are the candidates and the proportion of Democratic voters who say that, at this point, they would be inclined or not inclined to support each candidate, as well as those who have no opinion.

Table 1
Are you currently inclined or not inclined to support the following candidates in the California primary for President? (among registered Democrats)

	<u>Inclined</u>	<u>Not inclined</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
John Kerry, Massachusetts Senator	43%	21	36
Joseph Lieberman, Connecticut Senator	42%	36	22
Richard Gephardt, Missouri Congressman	35%	31	34
Howard Dean, former Vermont Governor	20%	24	56
Carol Moseley Braun, former Illinois Senator	19%	31	50
John Edwards, North Carolina Senator	18%	27	55
Al Sharpton, New York civil rights leader	14%	61	25
Bob Graham, Florida Senator	9%	38	53
Dennis Kucinich, Ohio Congressman	8%	30	62

First choice preferences

When voters are asked to state their first choice preference among the Democratic candidates, Lieberman currently leads with 22% of the vote, followed by Kerry at 16%, Gephardt at 12% and Dean at 7%. Women are displaying somewhat greater support for Lieberman than men, while the reverse is true in the case of Gephardt.

Table 2
First choice preference in the Democratic President primary election in California (among registered Democrats)

	Statewide	Men	Women
Lieberman	22%	15%	26%
Kerry	16	18	15
Gephardt	12	17	9
Dean	7	8	6
Moseley Braun	4	5	3
Sharpton	4	4	3
Edwards	3	3	3
Graham	2	4	1
Kucinich	1	1	1
Undecided	29	25	33

Bush vs. Democratic nominee

All registered voters were asked how they would vote given the choice between incumbent Republican George W. Bush and the nominee of the Democratic Party. In this simulated setting, Bush is currently preferred by a 45% to 40% margin in California.

California Republicans solidly back Bush (85% to 5%), while Democrats favor the eventual Democratic nominee 68% to 15%. Non-partisans are closely divided.

These are wide variations in preferences by region. The eventual Democratic Party's nominee is preferred over the President by roughly five to three margins in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Los Angeles County. On the other hand, Bush is favored by wide margins in all other areas of the state.

White non-Hispanics prefer Bush by a 51% to 36% margin. Among Latinos, preferences are fairly close with the Democratic Party nominee favored by a 42% to 36% margin. Among other minorities, the Democratic nominee is preferred greater than two to one (54% to 21%).

Table 3
If the 2004 Presidential election were being held now,
who would Californians most likely support?
(among all registered voters)

	President <u>Bush</u>	Nominee of the Democratic <u>Party</u>	Other/ <u>Don't know</u>
Statewide	45%	40	15
<u>Party</u>			
Democrats	15%	68	17
Republicans	85%	5	10
Non-partisans/others	41%	37	22
<u>Region</u>			
Los Angeles County	34%	50	16
Other Southern California	59%	25	16
San Francisco Bay Area	31%	55	14
Other Northern California	50%	34	16
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>			
White non-Hispanic	51%	36	13
Latino	36%	42	22
Others	21%	54	25

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The results in this report are based on a statewide survey of 695 Californians who are registered to vote. The survey was completed during the period April 1-6, 2003 by telephone in English and Spanish. Subgroups reported in this release have the following sample sizes: Democrats (292), Republicans (232), non-partisans/others (171), Los Angeles County (178), other Southern California (218), San Francisco Bay Area (150), other Northern California (149).

According to statistical theory 95% of the time results from the overall sample would have a sampling error of +/- 3.8 percentage points, while findings from the Democratic voter sample would have a sampling error of +/- 5.8 percentage points.. Findings from subgroups of the overall sample would have larger sampling error estimates.

There are many 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 errors or omissions in interviewing or data processing. Extensive efforts were made to minimize such potential errors.

Questions Asked

If the 2004 Presidential election were being held today, who would you be more likely to vote for – Republican George W. Bush or the nominee of the Democratic Party?

(ASKED OF DEMOCRATS ONLY)

Next I am going to read the names of some people who could be candidates in the Democratic primary election for President next year. As I read each person, please tell me whether you would be inclined or not inclined to vote for that person in California's March 2004 Democratic primary for President or whether you don't know enough about that person to have an opinion. You may name as many or as few persons as you want as being persons you would be inclined to vote for. (NAMES AND TITLES OF PERSONS READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Would you be inclined or not inclined to vote for (NAME) in California's March 2004 Democratic primary for President?

Let's see, you told me that you would be inclined to vote for (NAMES OF PERSONS INCLINED TO VOTE FOR READ BACK IN RANDOM ORDER). If California's Democratic primary election for President were being held today and these were the candidates, who would be your first choice?