

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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**GIULIANI STILL LEADING GOP
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FIELD
IN CALIFORNIA. ROMNEY AND
THOMPSON MAKING GAINS.
McCAIN'S SUPPORT FALLING.**

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani continues to lead the field of Republicans running to capture this state's large number of delegates to the 2008 GOP presidential nominating convention.

Arizona Senator John McCain, who was in a strong second position earlier this year, has dropped to fourth place as former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and former Tennessee Senator Fred Thompson have both made significant gains in GOP voter support.

In a statewide poll of voters likely to participate in this state's February 5, 2008 Republican presidential primary, Giuliani leads with 35%, Romney is at 14%, followed by Thompson at 13% and McCain at 9%. The combined vote for six others, each of whom receives between 1% and 3% of GOP preferences, is 9%. One in five voters (20%) are undecided.

When compared to a *Field Poll* survey conducted earlier this year, support for Giuliani's candidacy has remained virtually unchanged (34% in March 2007 and 35% now). On the other hand, Romney's support has doubled over this period from 7% to 14%. Preferences for Thompson, who has not yet officially declared his candidacy, has also increased from 8% to 13%. By contrast, the proportion of likely GOP primary voters preferring McCain has dropped markedly – from 24% to 9% – over this period.

Table 1
Voter preferences in the California Republican primary for President
(among likely Republican primary voters)

	<u>August 2007</u>	<u>March 2007</u>
Rudy Giuliani	35%	34%
Mitt Romney	14	7
Fred Thompson	13	8
John McCain	9	24
Tom Tancredo	3	3
Duncan Hunter	2	3
Mike Huckabee	1	3
Sam Brownback	1	2
Ron Paul	1	1
Tommy Thompson	1	N/A
Undecided	20	15

Note: The March 2007 survey included the names of Newt Gingrich and Chuck Hagel. For comparative purposes voters favoring these candidates have been allocated to their second choice preferences.

Giuliani's lead is less among GOP voters following the race very closely

There are large differences in GOP voter preferences between those who have been closely following the presidential contest versus those who haven't. Statewide, one in three (33%) of likely GOP primary election voters say they are following campaign events "very closely." This compares to a little less than half (46%) who are following the race somewhat closely and 20% who are paying little or no attention to the election.

Among GOP voters paying the most attention to the race, Giuliani's lead over Romney and Thompson is much narrower than it is among voters who are not as engaged. For example, among voters who say they're following the race very closely, Giuliani's lead over Romney is just 13 percentage points and his lead over Thompson is just 15 points. By contrast, among those who are not closely attending to the contest, Giuliani holds a 31 percentage-point lead over Romney and a 22 point lead over Thompson.

Table 2
Voter preferences in the California Republican primary for president
– by how closely voters are following the presidential election
(among likely Republican primary voters)

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Somewhat closely</u>	<u>Not closely</u>
Giuliani	35%	34%	37%	32%
Romney	14	21	14	1
Thompson	13	19	11	10
McCain	9	5	9	19
Others	9	8	10	6
Undecided	20	13	19	32

Sub-group preferences

An examination of the major subgroups of the likely GOP primary electorate reveals the following differences in California voter preferences:

- Giuliani's support is broad-based, and is 30% or more across all major GOP voting blocs.
- Support for Romney is greater among older voters and those who are not born-again Christians.
- Thompson does somewhat better among men, born-again Christians, and those likely to vote by means of an absentee ballot.

Table 3
Preferences in the California Republican presidential primary – by subgroup
(among likely Republican primary voters)

	<u>Giuliani</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Thompson</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>All Others</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Statewide	35%	14	13	9	9	20
<u>Region</u>						
(.64) Southern California	37%	15	12	11	10	15
(.36) Northern California	32%	13	16	7	3	29
(.63) Coastal	38%	13	14	9	7	18
(.37) Inland	30%	16	12	10	9	23
<u>Gender</u>						
(.50) Male	37%	14	16	9	8	16
(.50) Female	34%	14	11	10	8	23
<u>Age</u>						
(.41) 18 – 49	39%	10	11	11	9	20
(.59) 50 or older	32%	17	15	8	9	19
<u>Political ideology</u>						
(.37) Strongly conservative	38%	16	16	5	12	13
(.63) All other	34%	13	12	12	5	24
<u>Born-again Christian</u>						
(.32) Yes	37%	7	16	12	15	13
(.68) No	35%	17	11	9	5	23
<u>Voting method</u>						
(.51) Precinct voter	40%	12	10	10	10	18
(.49) Absentee voter	31%	15	17	9	6	22

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 348 California voters who are likely to vote in the state's February 5th Republican presidential primary. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish August 3-12, 2007. Up to eight attempts were made to reach and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period.

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* stratifies the sample by region and age to insure that the poll includes adequate representations of voters across each major region of the state and across different age categories. Once a voter's name and telephone number has been selected, interviews are attempted only with the specified voter. Interviews can be conducted on either the voter's landline or cell phone, depending on the source of the telephone listing from the voter file. After the completion of interviewing, the results are weighted slightly to *Field Poll* estimates of the demographic and regional characteristics of the state's registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to any probability-based survey depend on sample size. According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from findings based on the overall sample of 348 likely GOP primary voters are subject to a sampling error of +/- 5.4 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, the sequencing of questions, the rigor with which sampling procedures are implemented, as well as other factors.

Questions Asked

I am going to read the names of some Republicans who are running or considering running for the Republican presidential nomination next year. For each, please tell me whether there would be a good chance, some chance or no chance that you would vote for that person in California's presidential primary election. You may name as many or as few persons as you like as people you would be inclined to vote for. (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) I am going to read back the names of the candidates you said you would have at least some chance of voting for. (NAMES OF CANDIDATES READ BACK) Of these persons, who would be your first choice if the California Republican primary election for President were being held today?