

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 HAS LOST SOME OF HIS EARLIER BIG LEAD OVER HIS GOP RIVALS IN CALIFORNIA.

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Rudy Giuliani has lost some of his earlier big lead over his Republican rivals in California's GOP presidential primary election contest.

Last August the former New York Mayor was the choice of 35% of his party's rank-and-file in this state. While Giuliani is still in first place, his support has dropped to 25%. Giuliani's three GOP challengers – former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, Arizona Senator John McCain, and former Tennessee Senator Fred Thompson – are closely bunched behind him, receiving the support of 13%, 12% and 12%, respectively. There is somewhat greater support for the other lower ranking GOP candidates whose names will appear on California's February 5th Republican primary ballot for president. In addition, the proportion of likely GOP voters who are undecided has grown.

These are the findings from the latest *Field Poll* of likely GOP voters in the California primary completed October 11-21.

Drop in Giuliani's lead

Giuliani remains atop the crowded GOP field of presidential contenders in California, but his margin has been significantly reduced over the past two months. In August, Giuliani was the choice of 35% of likely GOP voters in this state. Now, the former New York mayor receives just 25% of the first choice preferences of California Republican primary voters. Romney is preferred by 13%, followed by McCain and Thompson at 12% each.

There is also somewhat greater support for the so-called "second tier" candidates than there was in previous *Field Poll* surveys. The combined vote for former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, Texas Congressman Ron Paul, Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo and California Congressman Duncan Hunter now amounts to 14%, double what it was in August. In addition, the proportion of likely voters who are undecided is growing – from 15% last March to 22% at present.

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

	<u>October 2007</u>	<u>August 2007</u>	<u>March 2007</u>
Rudy Giuliani	25%	35%	34%
Mitt Romney	13	14	7
John McCain	12	9	24
Fred Thompson	12	13	8
Mike Huckabee	4	1	3
Ron Paul	4	1	1
Tom Tancredo	3	3	3
Duncan Hunter	3	2	3
Alan Keyes	1	N/A	N/A
John Cox	*	N/A	N/A
Other	*	2	2
Undecided	22	20	15

Note: The March 2007 survey included the names of Tommy Thompson, Newt Gingrich and Chuck Hagel. The October 2007 survey also included the name of Sam Brownback, who recently dropped out of the race. For comparative purposes voters favoring these candidates were allocated to their second choice preferences.

. Less than ½ of 1%.*

N/A: Not asked.

Sub-group voting patterns

There are some variations in the voting preferences of likely GOP voters across California's regional and demographic subgroups. For example, in respect to political ideology, Giuliani holds only a narrow four-point lead over Romney (24% to 20%) among Republicans who describe themselves as strongly conservative, who represent nearly half (47%) of likely GOP voters. Giuliani runs somewhat stronger among older GOP voters than younger voters, among GOP voters who are not born-again Christians, and among GOP voters likely to vote at their precincts rather than by mail.

Table 2
Likely voter preferences in the California Republican
primary for president – by subgroup

	Giuliani	Romney	McCain	Thompson	Others	Undecided
Statewide	25%	13	12	12	16	22
<u>Political ideology</u>						
(.47) Strongly conservative	24%	20	10	13	13	20
(.53) Moderately conservative/ moderate/liberal	26%	7	15	10	18	24
<u>Born-again Christian</u>						
(.37) Yes	21%	12	14	14	12	27
(.63) No	28%	15	12	10	17	18
<u>Region</u>						
(.60) Southern California	23%	14	9	11	18	25
(.40) Northern California	28%	12	18	12	12	18
<u>Gender</u>						
(.49) Male	23%	13	11	14	24	16
(.51) Female	27%	14	14	9	8	28
<u>Age</u>						
(.47) 18-49	21%	14	13	12	18	22
(.53) 50 or older	28%	13	12	11	13	23
<u>Voting method</u>						
(.49) Precinct voter	29%	13	13	10	11	24
(.51) Absentee voter	21%	13	13	14	19	20

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 1,201 registered voters in California, including 432 registered Republicans, of whom 315 can be considered likely to vote in the state's February 5th Republican presidential primary election. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish October 11-21, 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. 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 315 likely GOP primary voters are subject to a sampling error of +/- 5.7 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 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? (IF FIRST CHOICE GIVEN) Who would be your second choice? (SEE RELEASE FOR CANDIDATES READ)