

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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LOW AWARENESS BUT INITIAL VOTER BACKING OF FIVE STATEWIDE BALLOT MEASURES – PROPS. 1, 2, 4, 7 AND 11.

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Twelve state propositions have qualified for the November general election ballot, and it is possible for the governor and state legislature to add even more measures to the ballot.

In a statewide survey completed last week, *The Field Poll* measured initial voter awareness and preference with regard to six of these measures. This report covers the results of five of them – Props. 1, 2, 4, 7 and 11. Findings for Prop. 8, the "Limits on Marriage" constitutional amendment, were published by *The Field Poll* last Friday.

In each measure the sample of voters was asked an introductory question which asked, "Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition (#), which has to do with (a short neutral reference to the initiative) to appear on the November statewide election ballot?" Following that question all voters regardless of any prior awareness were read a summary of each proposition's official ballot description and asked how they would vote if the election were being held today.

The survey results show that there is low voter awareness but initial support for each of the five ballot measures.

Low awareness

On four of the five initiatives measured – Props. 1, 2, 7 and 11 – less than one voter in four claims to have any prior awareness of the measure. The one exception is Prop. 4, having to do with parental notification of teen abortion, although even here less than half (45%) report any awareness.

The five propositions measured and the levels of voter awareness for each are reported in Table 1.

	Aware of Prop.	Not aware
Proposition 1 (High Speed Rail Bonds)	22%	78
Proposition 2 (Treatment of Farm Animals)	16%	84
Proposition 4 (Parental Notification of Teen Abortion)	45%	55
Proposition 7 (Renewable Energy)	18%	82
Proposition 11 (Redistricting)	23%	77

Generally positive reaction to each ballot description

The poll finds that voters generally have a positive reaction to each of the five propositions after being read their official ballot summary. The smallest pluralities of support relate to Prop. 4, parental notification of teen abortion, and Prop. 11, redistricting.

	<u>Intend to vote...</u>		
	Yes	No	Undecided
Proposition 1 (High Speed Rail Bonds)	56%	30	14
Proposition 2 (Treatment of Farm Animals)	63%	24	13
Proposition 4 (Parental Notification of Teen Abortion)	48%	39	13
Proposition 7 (Renewable Energy)	63%	24	13
Proposition 11 (Redistricting)	42%	30	28

Note to Editors: See official ballot titles and the question wording of each proposition in the "Information About the Survey" section following.

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 672 California voters considered likely to vote in the November general election. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish July 8-14, 2008. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize voter fatigue, the overall sample was divided into two approximately equal sized random subsamples of 314 and 358 likely voters each on these propositions. Up to six 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 were 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 were weighted slightly to re-align the overall sample to characteristics of the state's registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to any probability-based survey depends on the sample size. The maximum sampling error for results based on each of the random subsamples is +/- 5.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

The maximum sampling error is based on percentages in the middle of the sampling distribution (percentages around 50%). Percentages at either end of the distribution (percentages around 10% or around 90%) have a smaller margin of error. The maximum sampling error will be larger for analyses based on subgroups of the overall sample. While there are other potential sources of error in surveys besides sampling error, the overall design and execution of the survey minimized the potential for these other sources of error.

Questions Asked

(ASKED OF SUBSAMPLE A)

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition One, a bond having to do with high-speed passenger trains to appear on the November statewide election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition One is the "Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century." It creates the High Speed Rail Authority with the responsibility of the development and implementation of intercity high-speed rail service. It provides for the issuance of 9.9 billion dollars of general obligation bonds, 9 billion dollars of which would be used with federal funds for the planning and construction of a high-speed train system in California. 950 million dollars of the proceeds would be available for capital projects on other passenger rail lines to provide connectivity to the high speed train system and for capacity enhancements and safety improvements to those lines. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition One, the Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 2, about the treatment of farm animals to appear on the November statewide election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition 2 is the "Treatment of Farm Animals" initiative. It requires that enclosures or tethers confining farm animals allow the animals to fully extend their limbs or wings, lie down, stand up and turn around for a majority of every day. This includes calves raised for veal, egg-laying hens, and pregnant pigs. Exceptions would be made for transportation, rodeos, fairs and other purposes. Provides misdemeanor penalties including a fine not to exceed 1,000 dollars and/or imprisonment of up to 180 days. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 2, the Treatment of Farm Animals initiative?

(ASKED OF SUBSAMPLE B)

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 4, an initiative having to do with parental notification of teen abortion to appear on the November statewide election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition 4 is the “Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy” initiative. It amends the California constitution prohibiting abortion for minors under the age of 18 until 48 hours after a physician notifies the minor’s parent, legal guardian, or if parental abuse, an adult family member. It provides exceptions for a medical emergency or with parental waiver and permits courts to waive notice. It mandates reporting requirements and authorizes monetary damages against physicians for violations. It requires a minor’s consent to abortion and permits judicial relief if a minor’s consent is coerced. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 4, the Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy initiative?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 7, an initiative to establish standards for renewable energy to appear on the November election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition 7 is the “Renewable Energy” initiative. It requires all utilities to generate 20% of their power from renewable energy sources by 2010, increasing to 40% by 2020 and 50% by 2025. It imposes penalties for non-compliance and fast tracks approval for new renewable energy plants. It also requires utilities to sign longer contracts to procure renewable energy and creates a Solar and Clean Energy Transmission Account to purchase property or rights of way for renewable energy. Fiscal impact: State administrative costs of up to 3.4 million annually for regulatory activities. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 7, the Renewable Energy initiative?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 11, a state constitutional amendment having to do with how election district boundary lines are drawn to appear on the November election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition 11 is the “Redistricting Constitutional Amendment.” It creates a 14-member redistricting commission responsible for drawing new district lines for State Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization districts. It requires the State Auditor to randomly select commission members from a voter applicant poll with five members from each of the two largest political parties and four members unaffiliated with either political party. It requires nine votes to approve final district maps, and establishes standards for drawing new lines to include respecting the geographic integrity of neighborhoods and encouraging geographic compactness. If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on Proposition 11, the Redistricting Constitutional Amendment?