

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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**CRUZ AND TRUMP NOW SIT ATOP THE
REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL FIELD IN
CALIFORNIA. BUT, OTHER POLL DATA
SHOW TRUMP TO BE IN A MUCH WEAKER
POSITION AMONG THIS STATE'S
REPUBLICANS, AS WELL AS ITS OVERALL
ELECTORATE.**

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By Mark DiCamillo, Director, *The Field Poll*

GOP voter support for Ted Cruz has surged in California over the past three months and the Texas Senator has now moved into a statistical tie with businessman Donald Trump for the lead in this state's Republican presidential primary. Cruz is the first choice of 25% of likely GOP voters in the latest statewide *Field Poll*, while Trump is backed by 23%. Florida Senator Marco Rubio is now in third at 13%, while support for retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson has fallen to 9%. Each of the other Republicans vying for their party's presidential nomination poll in single digits.

Despite the closeness of the standings between Cruz and Trump, other results from the poll indicate that Trump is in a weaker position than Cruz, and in some respects Rubio, among all GOP voters, as well as the broader statewide electorate. For example, just 11% of likely GOP voters name Trump as their second choice preference for president, while twice as many (22%) say this in regard to Cruz. Another 14% choose Rubio as their second choice.

Many more California Republican primary voters also have an unfavorable opinion of Trump (45%) than say this about Cruz (20%) or Rubio (26%). Similarly, greater than four in ten Republican voters (43%) say they would be dissatisfied or upset were Trump to become their party's nominee, while only about half as many say this about Cruz (21%) or Rubio (24%). This means that Trump is in a weaker position to broaden his support among the state's GOP electorate should voters now supporting other candidates change their minds and migrate to one of other Republicans as the June California primary draws nearer.

Finally, when the state's overall registered voter population, not just likely Republican primary voters, are asked their opinions of the three leading GOP candidates, many more Californians (73%) say they hold an unfavorable opinion of Trump than say this about Cruz (51%) or Rubio (46%).

Cruz and Trump sit atop of the crowded GOP presidential field in California

The latest *Field Poll* finds that Cruz and Trump are leading in first choice preferences among Californians likely to vote in the state's June 7 Republican presidential primary over a large field of GOP candidates. Currently 25% of likely GOP primary voters are supporting Cruz, while 23% back Trump. Rubio is in third at 13%. Each of the other Republicans presidential hopefuls poll in single digits.

Support for Cruz has surged in California over the past three months. His current 25% level of support was just 4% – 6% in each of three previous statewide *Field Poll* surveys conducted during 2015. The Texas Senator appears to be the chief beneficiary of the declining fortunes of two other Republicans, Carson and businesswoman Carly Fiorina, both of whom have lost considerable support in California over the past three months.

Table 1 Trend of preferences in the 2016 California Republican primary for President (among likely voters in California's GOP primary)				
	January 2016	October 2015	May 2015	February 2015
Ted Cruz	25%	6%	4%	5%
Donald Trump	23	17	N/A	N/A
Marco Rubio	13	10	11	7
Ben Carson	9	15	5%	8%
Rand Paul	6	5	8	10
Jeb Bush	4	8	11	16
Chris Christie	3	2	6	3
Carly Fiorina	3	13	3	N/A
John Kasich	1	2	1	N/A
Others/undecided	13	16	43	49

N/A: Not measured.

Note: All other candidates receive less than 1% each in the current poll.

Both Cruz and Rubio receive more second choice votes than Trump

Despite the closeness in first choice preferences, Cruz receives twice as many second choice preference votes (22%) than does Trump (11%). Rubio also receives another 14% of Republicans' second choice votes.

When the first and second choice preferences of likely GOP primary voters are combined, 47% choose Cruz, compared to 34% for Trump and 27% for Rubio.

Table 2			
First and second choice preferences in the 2016 California Republican primary for President (among likely voters in California's GOP primary)			
	1st choice preference	2nd choice preference	Combined 1st/2nd choice preferences
Ted Cruz	25%	22%	47%
Donald Trump	23	11	34
Marco Rubio	13	14	27
Ben Carson	9	7	16
Rand Paul	6	4	10
Jeb Bush	4	5	9
Chris Christie	3	8	11
Carly Fiorina	3	8	11
John Kasich	1	2	3
Others/Undecided	13	19	

Support for the Republican candidates varies across subgroups of the state's likely GOP voters

Support for Cruz is greatest among California Republicans identifying themselves as strongly conservative in politics and among born-again Christians. He also now leads among Republicans under age 50. Trump leads among GOP voters age 50-64 and among Republicans who are not evangelical Christians.

Table 3 First choice preferences for the Republican presidential nomination across subgroups of the likely voter electorate in California					
	<u>Cruz</u>	<u>Trump</u>	<u>Rubio</u>	<u>Carson</u>	<u>Others/ undecided</u>
<u>Total statewide</u>	25%	23	13	9	30
<u>Area</u>					
(.63) Coastal counties	22%	22	14	7	35
(.37) Inland counties	29%	24	12	12	23
<u>Gender</u>					
(.52) Male	25%	24	14	9	28
(.48) Female	24%	21	12	9	34
<u>Age</u>					
(.36) Under 50*	23%	11	14	14	38
(.34) 50-64	27%	31	13	5	24
(.30) 65 or older	23%	27	12	7	31
<u>Political ideology</u>					
(.53) Strongly conservative	33%	28	13	6	20
(.47) All others	16%	16	13	11	44
<u>Born-Again Christian</u>					
(.42) Yes	29%	18	15	11	27
(.58) No	21%	26	12	7	34

* Small sample base.

Nearly half of this state's GOP voters hold an unfavorable opinion of Trump

Likely voters in the state's Republican primary were also asked to offer their overall impressions of each of the leading GOP presidential candidates. The results show that nearly as many likely GOP primary voters hold an unfavorable opinion of Trump (45%) as view him positively (51%).

Cruz holds the most positive image profile of any of the candidates, with 69% of this state's likely GOP electorate viewing him favorably and 20% unfavorably. About twice as many Republicans view Rubio and Carson favorably as hold an unfavorable opinion.

Of the other GOP candidates, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie also receives more positive than negative appraisals from California Republicans. On the other hand, many more GOP voters here view former Florida Governor Jeb Bush negatively as view him positively.

Table 4 Voter image ratings of various GOP candidates for President (among likely voters in California's GOP primary)			
	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Ted Cruz	69%	20	11
Marco Rubio	61%	26	13
Ben Carson	60%	30	10
Chris Christie	52%	33	15
Donald Trump	51%	45	4
Jeb Bush	38%	58	4

Many California Republicans voice anxiety about Trump should he become their party's standard-bearer

When GOP voters are asked what their reactions would be should each of six Republican candidates become their party's standard-bearer, there is greater anxiety about Trump than any of the other leading GOP candidates. While 55% of Republicans say they would be enthusiastic or satisfied if Trump were to win the Republican presidential nomination, greater than four in ten (43%) would be dissatisfied or upset.

By comparison, 74% would be enthusiastic or satisfied should Cruz win the nomination, while just 21% of the state's Republican electorate would be dissatisfied or upset. In addition, 67% of Republicans would be enthusiastic or satisfied with Rubio as their nominee, while just 24% would be dissatisfied or upset.

Table 5 Voter reaction to various GOP candidates becoming the Republican Party's presidential nominee (among likely voters in California's GOP primary)					
	<u>Enthusiastic</u>	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Upset</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Cruz	34%	40	14	7	5
Rubio	27%	40	17	7	9
Trump	24%	31	15	28	2
Carson	21%	41	24	10	4
Christie	14%	40	27	13	6
Bush	10%	33	35	21	1

The state's overall electorate holds a highly negative opinion of Trump

The survey also asked all registered voters statewide, not just likely voters in the GOP primary, their opinions about the three leading Republican candidates. The results show that while pluralities of California voters hold unfavorable opinions of each Republican, many more (73%) say this about Trump than any of the other GOP candidates.

Negative opinions of Trump are broad-based and span most major voter segments. He is viewed most negatively among the state's Democrats, liberals, Latinos and African American voters. Among Latinos, for example, 85% hold an unfavorable opinion of Trump, while just 10% have a favorable view.

By comparison, only about half of the state's overall electorate currently holds negative opinions of Cruz or Rubio.

Table 6 Image ratings of the leading GOP candidates (among the overall California registered voter population)						
	Cruz		Trump		Rubio	
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Favorable	Unfavorable	Favorable	Unfavorable
Total registered voters	29%	51	22%	73	30%	46
<u>Party registration</u>						
Democrats	10%	69	8%	89	20%	56
Republicans	64%	22	48%	46	58%	27
No party preference/other	21%	55	17%	77	20%	49
<u>Political ideology</u>						
Strongly conservative	73%	14	58%	36	60%	24
Moderately conservative	38%	40	27%	65	40%	31
Middle-of-the-road	23%	50	18%	75	31%	44
Moderately liberal	11%	71	8%	91	13%	57
Strongly liberal	6%	81	2%	97	9%	72
<u>Area</u>						
Coastal counties	25%	55	19%	77	29%	48
Inland counties	37%	44	29%	65	34%	40
<u>Region</u>						
Los Angeles County	23%	55	16%	80	27%	49
Other Southern CA	34%	46	26%	69	38%	38
Central Valley	39%	40	31%	60	30%	44
San Francisco Bay Area	20%	62	15%	82	26%	51
Other Northern CA*	32%	59	27%	68	29%	60
<u>Gender</u>						
Male	30%	55	25%	70	33%	47
Female	28%	48	20%	76	28%	44
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>						
White non-Hispanic	34%	50	28%	67	34%	46
Latino	19%	51	10%	85	28%	43
African American*	10%	68	11%	83	16%	58
Asian American/other	28%	48	21%	76	23%	47
<u>Age</u>						
18-39	20%	52	12%	85	17%	49
40-49	25%	56	28%	66	30%	50
50-64	35%	51	24%	69	35%	46
65 or older	37%	47	29%	67	44%	37
<u>Education</u>						
Less than college	32%	45	26%	68	30%	43
College graduate	30%	54	20%	74	34%	47
Post-graduate work	21%	64	12%	87	28%	52

* Small sample base.

Note: Differences between the sum of each candidate's percentages and 100% equal proportion with no opinion.

California possesses 14% of the delegates needed to win the GOP Presidential nomination

If the Republican presidential nomination has not been decided by the time California holds its presidential primary on June 7, the state's large trove of delegates to the GOP national convention could prove pivotal in deciding the winner. Four states will be holding presidential primary elections on June 7 in addition to California – New Jersey, South Dakota, Montana and New Mexico. However, because California's 172 GOP delegates constitute more delegates than are at stake in these four other states combined, it will have by far the greatest potential impact on June 7. In fact, the state's 172 delegates represent 14% of the 1,236 total needed to win the GOP nomination.

The rules governing how the California Republican Party will be choosing its delegates to the GOP national convention also has the potential to increase its clout. That's because 159 of the delegates will be selected on a winner-take-all basis within each of the state's 52 congressional districts, while most of the rest will be awarded to the candidate winning statewide. This means that should one of GOP presidential contenders generate broad-based appeal across California, it would be possible for that candidate to be awarded most, if not all, of the state's delegates.

Information About The Survey

Methodological Details

The findings come from a *Field Poll* completed December 16, 2015-January 3, 2016 among 1,003 registered voters in California, including 325 Republicans considered likely to vote in the state's June Republican presidential primary election.

Interviews were administered by telephone using live interviewers in English and Spanish. Individual voters were sampled at random from listings derived from the statewide voter registration rolls. Once a voter's name and telephone number had been selected, interviews were attempted with the voter on either their landline or cell phone depending on the source of the listing from the voter file and the preference of the voter.

Up to four attempts were made to reach, screen and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period. After the completion of interviewing, the sample was weighted to align it to the proper distribution of voters by race/ethnicity and other demographic, geographic and party registration characteristics of the state's registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to the results of any probability-based survey depend on sample size and the percentage distributions being examined. The maximum sampling error for results from the overall statewide sample is ± 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level and ± 5.6 percentage points for the Republican primary voter sample. These estimates are based on survey findings in the middle of the sampling distribution (i.e., results at or near 50%). Percentages at or near either end of the tail of the distributions (i.e., results closer to 10% or 90%) have somewhat smaller margins of error. There are other potential sources of error in surveys of public opinion besides sampling error. However, the overall design and execution of this survey sought to minimize these other possible errors.

The Field Poll was established in 1947 as *The California Poll* by Mervin Field. The *Poll* has operated continuously since then as an independent, non-partisan survey of California public opinion. *The Field Poll* receives financial support from leading California newspapers and television stations, who purchase the rights of first release to *Field Poll* reports in their primary viewer or readership markets. The *Poll* also receives funding from the University of California and California State University systems, who receive the data files from each *Field Poll* survey shortly after its completion for teaching and secondary research purposes, as well as from foundations, non-profit organizations, and others as part of the *Poll's* policy research sponsor program.

Questions Asked

ASKED OF REPUBLICANS LIKELY TO VOTE:

I am going to read the names of some candidates who are running for the Republican nomination for President next year. If the June Republican primary for President in California were held today and the candidates were (NAMES OF ALL REPUBLICANS READ IN RANDOM ORDER), who would be your first choice? Who would be your second choice? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES READ)

How would you feel if (CANDIDATE) were to become the 2016 Republican Party's nominee for president – enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not upset, or upset? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES READ)

ASKED OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS:

Please tell me whether your opinion of the following Presidential candidates is favorable, unfavorable or whether you don't know enough about that person to have an opinion. (NAMES AND TITLES OF CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Is your opinion of (NAME) favorable or unfavorable? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES READ)