

THE FIELD POLL

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

Field Research Corporation

601 California Street, Suite 900
San Francisco, CA 94108-2814
(415) 392-5763 FAX: (415) 434-2541
EMAIL: fieldpoll@field.com
www.field.com/fieldpollonline

FOR ADVANCE PUBLICATION BY SUBSCRIBERS ONLY.

COPYRIGHT 2007 BY FIELD RESEARCH CORPORATION.

Release #2236

**WIDENING CLINTON LEAD OVER
RIVAL DEMOCRATS IN CALIFORNIA.
GOP CONTENDERS TRAIL HER AND
OTHER DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES IN
GENERAL ELECTION MATCH-UPS.**

Release Date: **Friday, August 17, 2007**

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

New York Senator and former First Lady Hillary Clinton has enlarged her lead among California's likely voters in next February's Democratic primary over her two main opponents, Illinois Senator Barack Obama and former North Carolina Senator John Edwards.

Currently Clinton is preferred by 49%, up from 41% last March. Over the same period, support for Obama has declined 9 points from 28% to 19%, while support for Edwards has slipped from 13% to 10%. This results in wider Clinton leads of 30 percentage points against Obama and 39 points versus Edwards. Last March, her margins over her two main rivals were 13 and 28 points, respectively.

When Clinton is matched against each of the four leading Republican contenders, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, former Tennessee Senator Fred Thompson and Arizona Senator John McCain, in November general election simulations, she holds sizeable leads ranging from 15 to 20 points. Obama and Edwards also run ahead of the leading Republican contenders in general election match-ups in this state.

These are the findings from the latest *Field Poll* survey of likely voters in the Democratic primary and likely voters in the general election completed last week.

Clinton widens lead over Obama and Edwards

Nearly half (49%) of those most likely to vote in next February's Democratic primary election now favor Clinton, up 8 percentage points from 41% last March. By contrast, support for Obama has declined nine points from 28% in March to 19% at present. One in ten likely Democratic primary voters (10%) are now supporting Edwards, down slightly from 13% in March.

Table 1
Voter preferences in the California Democratic primary for president
(among likely voters in the Democratic primary)

	<u>August 2007</u>	<u>March 2007</u>
Hillary Clinton	49%	41%
Barack Obama	19	28
John Edwards	10	13
Bill Richardson	3	4
Joe Biden	3	3
Dennis Kucinich	2	2
Chris Dodd	1	*
Mike Gravel	1	N/A
Undecided	12	9

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

N/A: Not asked.

Clinton's support is broad-based

An examination of voting preferences across major subgroups of the likely Democratic primary electorate in California shows that Clinton's support is broad-based, with greater than four in ten voters in each group supporting her candidacy. She holds especially large leads among Latinos, older voters and voters with no more than a high school education.

Obama runs best among younger voters, college graduates and African-Americans.

Table 2
Preferences in the California Democratic presidential primary – by subgroup
(among likely voters in the Democratic primary)

	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Edwards</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Statewide	49%	19	10	10	12
<u>Region</u>					
(.29) Los Angeles County	51%	18	8	8	15
(.28) Other Southern California	47%	24	8	10	11
(.26) San Francisco Bay Area	48%	19	12	10	11
(.17) Other Northern California*	49%	12	8	16	15
(.75) Coastal counties	48%	19	11	9	13
(.25) Inland counties	52%	17	7	12	12
<u>Gender</u>					
(.44) Men	47%	16	11	12	14
(.56) Women	50%	21	9	8	12
<u>Age</u>					
(.32) 18 – 39	47%	24	10	6	13
(.47) 40 – 64	50%	19	10	11	10
(.21) 65 or older	49%	11	10	10	20
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>					
(.60) White non-Hispanic	43%	18	11	14	14
(.23) Latino	63%	14	12	3	8
(.17) African-American/Asian*	52%	28	5	**	15
<u>Education</u>					
(.24) High school or less	59%	12	12	5	12
(.35) Some college/trade school	49%	19	11	9	12
(.41) College graduate	42%	23	6	15	14
<u>Voting method</u>					
(.60) Precinct voter	51%	17	11	9	12
(.40) Absentee voter	47%	23	8	8	14

* Small sample size.

** Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Democratic candidates lead in general election match-ups

Each of the three leading Democrats are preferred over each of the four major Republican contenders among likely voters in the November general election.

In this setting, Clinton leads Giuliani by 15 points and McCain by 17 points. These are larger leads than the advantages held by Obama or Edwards over these two Republican possibilities. When paired against Romney and Thompson, each of the three Democrats hold large leads ranging from 19 to 25 percentage points.

Table 3
General election pairings between the leading Democratic and Republican contenders for president in California (among likely voters in the November general election)

	<u>August 2007</u>	<u>March 2007</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Non-Partisans/ others*</u>
Clinton (D)	52%	53%	79%	18%	55%
Giuliani (R)	37	40	6	77	32
Undecided	11	7	15	5	13
Clinton (D)	55%		80%	22%	62%
Romney (R)	35	N/A	7	73	24
Undecided	10		13	5	14
Clinton (D)	55%		86%	13%	62%
Thompson (R)	35	N/A	8	76	21
Undecided	10		6	11	17
Clinton (D)	52%	48%	81%	12%	60%
McCain (R)	35	43	10	73	23
Undecided	13	9	9	15	17
Obama (D)	48%	51%	73%	15%	54%
Giuliani (R)	38	40	10	75	30
Undecided	14	9	17	10	16
Obama (D)	53%		76%	23%	59%
Romney (R)	31	N/A	6	65	21
Undecided	16		18	12	20
Obama (D)	52%		74%	18%	62%
Thompson (R)	32	N/A	13	66	18
Undecided	16		13	16	20
Obama (D)	49%	51%	72%	14%	58%
McCain (R)	36	39	18	67	24
Undecided	15	10	10	19	18
Edwards (D)	47%	51%	73%	13%	55%
Giuliani (R)	42	41	14	81	29
Undecided	11	8	13	16	16
Edwards (D)	52%		74%	18%	64%
Romney (R)	33	N/A	9	68	18
Undecided	15		17	14	18
Edwards (D)	55%		83%	17%	57%
Thompson (R)	30	N/A	7	66	16
Undecided	15		10	17	27
Edwards (D)	48%	49%	75%	14%	48%
McCain (R)	38	42	16	70	30
Undecided	14	9	9	16	22

(D) denotes Democrat, (R) denotes Republican

N/A: Not asked in March 2007.

* Small sample size.

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The Democratic primary preferences reported in this release are based on a random sample survey of 418 California voters who are likely to vote in this state's February 5th Democratic presidential primary. Findings from the simulated general election pairings for president are based on random samples of either 474 or 433 likely voters in the November general election. All 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 weighed 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 the survey have a sampling error of +/- 4.7 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 Democrats who are running or considering running for the Democratic 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 Democratic primary election for president were being held today?

I am going to read some possible match-ups between Democratic and Republican candidates for president in the November 2008 general election. For each pairing, please tell me which candidate you would choose if the election for president were being held today. What about... (PAIRINGS READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) If the election were being held today and these were the candidates, for whom would you vote for president?