

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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**CLINTON CONTINUES TO HOLD
DOMINANT POSITION IN CALIFORNIA'S
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR PRESIDENT.
NO CLEAR FRONTRUNNER ON THE
REPUBLICAN SIDE.**

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Former Secretary of State and former First Lady Hillary Clinton continues to be the overwhelming choice of California Democrats in next year's Democratic primary election for president. Clinton is currently preferred by 53% of this state's likely voters in the Democratic primary. Her closest potential challenger, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, receives just 13% support. However, Clinton's current level of support is less than it was in February, when 59% of California's likely Democratic primary voters supported her candidacy. Over this same period, the proportion of Democratic primary voters who are undecided has tripled from 7% to 22%.

The poll also finds that fewer than half of Democratic primary voters (46%) say they would be enthusiastic were Clinton to become their party's nominee, although most of the rest (38%) say they would be satisfied. Just 10% say they would be dissatisfied or upset with Clinton as the Democrat nominee. Women, strong liberals and voters living in the San Francisco Bay Area are the Democratic constituencies most likely to be enthusiastic about Clinton as their party's nominee.

On the Republican side, the poll finds that none of the announced or potential GOP presidential candidates has yet emerged as the frontrunner. Three Republicans receive nominally higher levels of support among likely voters in the GOP primary than the others. They include former Florida Governor Jeb Bush (11%), Florida Senator Marco Rubio (11%), and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker (10%). However, support for each is not particularly large. Another 37% of likely voters in the Republican primary are supporting other GOP potential candidates, and a large proportion (31%) are undecided.

When Clinton is paired against each of the leading Republicans in simulated general election trial heats, she holds commanding double-digit leads among the overall California electorate.

Clinton continues to hold dominant position in California's Democratic presidential primary

The former First Lady, who won the California Democrat primary in her last bid for the presidency in 2008, holds a huge preference lead in next year's presidential primary. She is currently the choice of 53% of this state's likely Democratic primary voters. Her closest potential rival, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, is well back at 13%. Another 6% say they would support Vice President Joe Biden were he to run, while Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who announced his candidacy earlier this month, is the choice of 5%.

While Clinton's lead remains formidable, the percentage of likely Democratic primary voters favoring her candidacy has declined six points since February, when she was the choice of 59%. Over this same period, the proportion of primary voters who are undecided has tripled from 7% to 22%.

	May 2015	February 2015
Hillary Clinton, <i>former U.S. Secretary of State</i>	53%	59%
Elizabeth Warren, <i>Massachusetts Senator</i>	13	17
Joe Biden, <i>Vice President</i>	6	9
Bernie Sanders, <i>Vermont Senator</i>	5	6
Jim Webb, <i>former Virginia Senator</i>	1	2
Martin O'Malley, <i>former Maryland Governor</i>	*	*
Lincoln Chafee, <i>former Rhode Island Governor</i>	*	NA
Other/undecided	22	7

NA: Not measured in February 2015 survey

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Enthusiasm for Clinton among Democratic primary voters

The survey also asked likely voters in the Democratic primary for their reactions should Clinton become the party's nominee for President next year. In response greater than four in ten Democrats (46%) say they would be enthusiastic about Clinton as their party's nominee, and most of the rest (38%) say they would be satisfied. Just 10% say they would be dissatisfied or upset.

There are big differences in stated enthusiasm for Clinton between Democrats who are currently supporting her candidacy and those who are not. Among those currently backing her candidacy, 67% say they'd be enthusiastic were Clinton to win the nomination and virtually all the rest say they'd be satisfied. However, just 21% of Democratic primary voters currently backing other Democrats or who are undecided say they would be enthusiastic about Clinton as their party's nominee.

Table 2a
Democratic voter reaction to Clinton becoming
their party's presidential nominee in 2016
(among likely voters in California's Democratic primary)

	Total likely Democratic primary voters	Clinton supporters	Democrats undecided or supporting other candidates
Enthusiastic	46%	67%	21%
Satisfied	38	30	46
Dissatisfied/upset	10	*	20
No opinion	6	3	13

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Women, strong liberals and voters in the San Francisco Bay Area are the Democratic voter constituencies most likely to be enthusiastic about Clinton as their party's nominee. For example, 52% of Democratic women voters polled said they would be enthusiastic about Clinton as the nominee, compared to 38% among Democratic men.

Six in ten Democrats who identify themselves as strongly liberal in politics (60%) say they'd be enthusiastic about Clinton as their party's nominee, while among all other Democrats 41% say this.

In addition, a larger proportion of Bay Area Democrats (56%) than Democrats in other parts of the state say they would be enthusiastic were Clinton to become their party's nominee.

Table 2b
Democratic voter reaction to Clinton becoming their party's
presidential nominee in 2016 across major subgroups
(among likely voters in California's Democratic primary)

	Enthusiastic	Satisfied	Dissatisfied /upset	No opinion
Total likely voters	46%	38	10	6
Political ideology				
Strongly liberal	60%	27	8	5
Moderately liberal/middle-of-the-road/conservative	41%	41	10	8
Region				
Los Angeles County	47%	32	10	11
San Francisco Bay Area	56%	31	8	5
All other parts of California	40%	45	10	5
Gender				
Men	38%	44	14	4
Women	52%	33	6	9

Note: Subgroup data have relatively small sample sizes.

No frontrunner in California’s GOP presidential primary

None of the many announced or potential Republican presidential candidates has yet to emerge as the frontrunner to win this state’s largest-in-the-nation trove of delegates to the GOP nominating convention. Three Republicans – Bush (11%), Rubio (11%), and Walker (10%) – currently receive nominally higher levels of support than the others. However, support for each is not particularly large. Another 37% of likely GOP voters divide their preferences among the many other candidate possibilities, and a large proportion (31%) are undecided.

Last February support for Walker and Bush was somewhat greater among likely GOP primary voters than it is now, while support for Rubio has increased over the past three months. In addition, significantly more Republican voters are now undecided.

Table 4
Preferences in the 2016 California Republican primary for President
(among likely voters in California’s Republican primary)

	May 2015	February 2015
Jeb Bush, <i>former Florida Governor</i>	11%	16%
Marco Rubio, <i>Florida Senator</i>	11	7
Scott Walker, <i>Wisconsin Governor</i>	10	18
Rand Paul, <i>Kentucky Senator</i>	8	10
Mike Huckabee, <i>former Arkansas Governor</i>	6	5
Chris Christie, <i>New Jersey Governor</i>	6	3
Ben Carson, <i>author and medical doctor</i>	5	8
Ted Cruz, <i>Texas Senator</i>	4	5
Carly Fiorina, <i>businesswoman</i>	3	NA
Bobby Jindal, <i>Louisiana Governor</i>	1	1
John Kasich, <i>Ohio Governor</i>	1	NA
Lindsay Graham, <i>South Carolina Senator</i>	1	NA
Rick Perry, <i>Texas Governor</i>	*	4
Others (<i>less than ½ of 1% each</i>)	2	8
Undecided	31	19

* Less than ½ of 1%.

NA: Not measured in February 2015 survey

Clinton holds large leads over the leading Republicans in general election match-ups

Clinton holds commanding double-digit leads when paired against each of the leading Republicans in simulated general election trial heats among the overall California electorate. Against Bush, the former First Lady leads by a 53% to 32% margin. Against Rubio, her lead is 52% to 31%, while against Walker, she leads 54% to 30%.

There are huge partisan differences in voter preferences in each of the general election match-ups. In each case, Clinton currently receives the support of nearly nine in ten Democrats, but only obtains 12%-17% support among Republican voters. Non-partisans are more divided, with much larger proportions undecided.

Table 5				
California voter general election preferences pairing Democrat Hillary Clinton against various Republican candidates for President (among California likely voters)				
	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Non-partisan/ others</u>
Hillary Clinton (D)	53%	86%	17%	32%
Marco Rubio (R)	32	6	69	36
Undecided	15	8	14	32
Hillary Clinton (D)	52%	86%	12%	37%
Jeb Bush (R)	31	8	69	28
Undecided	17	6	19	35
Hillary Clinton (D)	54%	88%	12%	41%
Scott Walker (R)	30	5	72	29
Undecided	16	7	16	30

(D) denotes Democrat, (R) denotes Republican.

Information About The Survey

Methodological Details

The results in this report come from a telephone survey completed April 23-May 16, 2015 among a random sample of 801 California registered voters consider likely to vote in next year's presidential election. Preferences in the Democratic primary are based on 356 likely Democratic voters, while preferences in the Republican primary are based on 227 likely Republican voters. To capture the diversity of the California adult population, the survey was administered in six languages and dialects – English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Korean, depending on the preference of the voter. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize respondent fatigue the November general election trial heat questions are based on a random subsample of 435 likely voters in the November general election.

The sample was developed using a dual frame random cell phone and landline listings covering the state of California. Up to six 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 combined landline and cell phone sample was weighted to match demographic, geographic and voter registration estimates of the adult population in California. The weighting process also takes into account the higher probability of reaching respondents who receive calls on both a landline and cell phone.

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 random subsample of likely voters in the November general election are +/- 5.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The maximum sampling error for preferences in the Democratic primary are +/- 5.5 percentage points, while those relating to the Republican primary are +/- 7.0 percentage points.

The maximum sampling error 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 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, who is still an active advisor. The Poll has operated continuously since then as an independent, non-partisan survey of California public opinion. The Poll receives funding from media subscribers, from California foundations and independent not-for-profit organizations, and 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.

Questions Asked

(IF LIKELY DEMOCRAT PRIMARY VOTER) I am going to read a list of possible candidates for the Democratic nomination for President next year. If the Democratic nomination for President were being held today and the candidates were (NAMES OF DEMOCRATS READ IN RANDOM ORDER), who would be your first choice? (IF FIRST CHOICE GIVEN, ASK:) Who would be your second choice? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES READ)

How would you feel if Hillary Clinton were the 2016 Democratic Party's presidential election nominee – enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not upset, or upset?

(IF LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTER) I am going to read a list of possible candidates for the Republican nomination for President next year. If the election for the Republican nomination for President were held today and the candidates were (NAMES OF REPUBLICANS READ IN RANDOM ORDER), who would be your first choice? (SEE RELEASE FOR NAMES READ)

(IF LIKELY GENERAL ELECTION VOTER) Suppose that (Florida Senator Marco Rubio) (former Florida Governor Jeb Bush) (Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker) became the Republican nominee and was running against Democrat Hillary Clinton in the general election for President next year. If the election were being held today and these were the candidates, for whom would you vote for President?