

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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BROWN'S APPROVAL RATING HITS NEW HIGH. HOLDS HUGE LEAD IN THE JUNE OPEN PRIMARY ELECTION FOR GOVERNOR. DONNELLY A DISTANT SECOND.

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Voter approval of the job that Democrat Jerry Brown is doing as Governor has reached a new high. At present, 59% of registered voters approve of his performance in office, nearly twice the proportion (32%) who disapprove.

Brown also holds a huge preference lead when likely voters in the June open primary election are asked whom they would support if the election were being held today. When listed with three Republicans, Assemblyman Tim Donnelly, Laguna Hills Mayor and businessman Andrew Blount and businessman Neel Kashkari, Brown is the choice of 57%. Donnelly places a distant second at 17%. No other candidate receives more than 3% of voter preferences.

These are the results of the latest *Field Poll* completed among a statewide random sample of 1,000 registered voters, of whom 504 were considered likely voters in the upcoming June primary.

Brown's job approval continues upward trend

The current survey represents the thirteenth time *The Field Poll* has asked California voters to offer their opinions of Brown's performance since winning election in 2010 to what is now his third stint as Governor. A review of voter opinions over this period shows that Brown's approval ratings ranged narrowly between 43% and 49% throughout 2011 and 2012, but since then have moved higher. The current survey finds 59% of voters registering a positive appraisal of his performance in office, while 32% disapprove.

Three-fourths of Democratic voters (76%) and 60% of independents approve of Brown's performance. Even among registered Republicans more than one out of three (35%) give Brown a positive rating.

Table 1
Trend of job performance ratings of Jerry Brown
during his current term as Governor
(among registered voters)

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
April 2014	59%	32	9
December 2013	58%	33	9
July 2013	51%	33	16
February 2013	57%	31	12
October 2012*	46%	37	17
September 2012	46%	37	17
July 2012	44%	42	14
Late May 2012	43%	40	17
February 2012	45%	38	17
November 2011	47%	36	17
September 2011	49%	32	19
June 2011	46%	31	23
March 2011	48%	21	31
Party registration (April 2014)			
Democrats	76%	16	8
Republicans	35%	55	10
No party preference/others	60%	33	7

* Survey conducted among likely voters in the November 2012 general election.

Brown holds huge re-election lead in the June open primary

In this year's June open primary election, candidates from all parties – Democrats, Republicans and others – will be listed together on one ballot and voters can choose to vote for a candidate from any party. The two candidates who receive the most votes will then proceed to the November general election, regardless of party.

Voters will face a long list of fifteen candidates on the 2014 gubernatorial primary ballot. When likely voters in the June primary are asked whom they would prefer if the election for governor were being held today, Brown, at 57%, leads the field by a wide margin. Donnelly is in second place at 17%. Well back, receiving 3% and 2% respectively, are Blount and Kashkari. Another 1% of voters support other candidates and 20% are undecided.

Table 2			
Voter preferences for Governor in the June 2014 open primary election			
	Likely voters	All registered voters	
	April 2014	April 2014	December 2013
Jerry Brown (D)	57%	56%	52%
Tim Donnelly (R)	17	15	9
Andrew Blount (R)	3	4	N/A
Neel Kashkari (R)	2	2	3
Others	1	1	11
Undecided	20	22	25

(D) denotes Democrat (R) denotes Republican

N/A: Blount not included in December 2013 survey, while the name of former Lt. Governor Abel Maldonado was included in that poll as a possible candidate.

Brown holds solid leads across virtually all voter subgroups

Brown is favored by big margins among voters across virtually all voter subgroups. The Governor is preferred by overwhelming majorities of Democrats (87%), liberals (96%), independents (66%), middle-of-the-road voters (67%) and voters who do not identify with the Tea Party political movement (81%). Brown also holds impressive leads regardless of a voter's gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, region, homeowner – renter status, and among voters living in both union and non-union households.

The only voter blocs where Brown is not currently favored are Republicans, conservatives and Tea Party identifiers, where Donnelly holds the advantage.

Table 3
Voter preferences for governor in the June 2014 open primary election across political and demographic subgroups (among likely voters – April 2014)

	Brown	Donnelly	Blount	Kashkari	Other/ No opinion
Total registered voters	57%	17	3	2	21
<u>Party registration</u>					
(.42) Democrats	87%	3	**	1	9
(.37) Republicans	17%	34	8	3	38
(.21) No party preference/other	66%	15	1	1	17
<u>Political ideology</u>					
(.37) Conservative	16%	36	6	3	39
(.34) Middle-of-the-road	67%	10	2	2	19
(.29) Liberal	96%	2	**	1	1
<u>Tea Party identification</u>					
(.36) A lot/some	20%	31	7	4	38
(.64) Not at all/other	81%	8	1	1	9
<u>Area</u>					
(.67) Coastal counties	61%	17	3	2	17
(.33) Inland counties	48%	17	3	2	30
<u>Gender</u>					
(.47) Male	57%	16	3	2	22
(.53) Female	57%	18	3	1	21
<u>Age</u>					
(.33) 18-49	59%	19	3	2	17
(.33) 50-64	57%	17	3	1	22
(.34) 65 or older	55%	14	3	3	25
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>					
(.75) White non-Hispanic	54%	18	3	2	23
(.13) Latino*	74%	6	2	2	16
(.12) All others	61%	16	4	**	19
<u>Tenure</u>					
(.69) Homeowner	54%	17	4	2	23
(.31) Renter/other	64%	15	1	2	18
<u>Union affiliated household</u>					
(.21) Yes	66%	16	2	1	15
(.79) No	54%	18	3	2	23
<u>Education</u>					
(.16) High school grad or less*	63%	10	2	*	25
(.30) Some college/trade school	43%	22	3	4	28
(.44) College graduate	59%	18	4	1	18

* Small sample base. ** Less than 1/2 of 1%

Early voter impressions of the gubernatorial candidates

Brown's image among likely voters is very well defined and is largely positive. Virtually all voters (96%) offer an opinion, with 61% having a favorable view and 35% viewing him negatively. Brown is held in high regard by nearly nine in ten Democrats (88%). By contrast, Republicans view the Governor more negatively than positively by a 63% to 33% margin.

Large segments, between 50% and 71% of likely voters, cannot offer an opinion of Brown's main Republican challengers. Half of voters (50%) offer an impression of Donnelly and his image among these voters is about evenly divided, with 26% holding a favorable view and 24% an unfavorable view. Republican voters are very positive about Donnelly, with 47% holding a favorable impression and 8% an unfavorable opinion. However, Donnelly's image is more than two-to-one negative among voters outside the Republican Party.

Blount is not as well known, with just 29% of likely voters offering an impression. His image among these voters is also evenly split, with 15% having a favorable opinion and 14% an unfavorable opinion. Republicans who are able to rate Blount tend to view him positively, while Democrats and non-partisans hold a more negative than positive view.

Only about one in three likely voters (36%) has an opinion of Kashkari. Among these voters 16% view him positively and 20% negatively. Kashkari's image is also highly partisan, with Republicans generally viewing him favorably and Democrats mostly having a negative impression. Non-partisans are evenly divided.

Table 4
Image ratings of four major party candidates for Governor in the June 2014 primary
(among likely voters – April 2014)

	Total likely voters	Democrats	Republicans	No party preference/ other*
<u>Jerry Brown, Governor (D)</u>				
Favorable	61%	88%	33%	59%
Unfavorable	35	9	63	37
No opinion	4	3	4	4
<u>Tim Donnelly, Assemblyman (R)</u>				
Favorable	26%	14%	47%	13%
Unfavorable	24	39	8	25
No opinion	50	47	45	62
<u>Andrew Blount, Mayor/businessman (R)</u>				
Favorable	15%	9%	25%	10%
Unfavorable	14	23	4	16
No opinion	71	68	71	74
<u>Neel Kashkari, businessman (R)</u>				
Favorable	16%	12%	25%	9%
Unfavorable	20	36	9	9
No opinion	64	52	66	82

* Small sample base.

(D) denotes Democrat (R) denotes Republican

Background about Brown

Brown, who is 75, is now the longest serving Governor in California history measured by cumulative service. Prior to his current term, Brown also served as Governor between the period 1975-83.

One consequence of the 28-year gap between his second and third terms is that Brown has been both the youngest and oldest California governor since 1863.

Information About The Survey

Methodological Details

The findings in this report are based on a *Field Poll* completed March 18-April 5, 2014 among a random sample of 1,000 registered voters in California, including 504 voters considered likely to vote in the June 2014 open primary election. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize possible voter fatigue, the candidate image questions cited in this report were asked of a random subsample of 243 likely voters statewide.

Interviewing was conducted by telephone using live interviewers working from Field Research Corporation's central location telephone interviewing facilities in San Diego. Up to six attempts were made to reach, screen and interview each randomly selected voter from the state's registered voter rolls on different days and times of day during the interviewing period.

Interviewing was completed on either a voter's cell phone or a regular landline phone, depending on the source of the telephone listing from the voter file. In this survey about 59% of all voters were contacted on their cell phone, while 41% were contacted on a regular landline phone. After the completion of interviewing, the overall registered voter sample was weighted to 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 as well as the percentage distribution being examined. The maximum sampling error for results from the overall registered voter sample is +/- 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, while findings from the overall likely voter sample have a sampling error of +/- 4.5 percentage points. The maximum sampling error is based on results in the middle of the sampling distribution (i.e., percentages at or near 50%). Percentages at either end of the distribution (those closer to 10% or 90%) have a smaller margin of error. There are other potential sources of error in surveys besides sampling error. However, the overall design and execution of the survey sought to minimize these 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 annual funding from media subscribers of *The Field Poll*, from several California foundations, and 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

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jerry Brown is handling his job as Governor of California?

I am going to read the names of some people who are considered to be candidates for statewide office in this year's June open primary elections. As I read each name, please tell me whether your opinion of that person is favorable, unfavorable or whether you don't know enough about that person to have an opinion.

(CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Is your opinion of (NAME) favorable or unfavorable? (SEE RELEASE FOR CANDIDATES READ)

The upcoming June statewide election will be an open primary. This means that candidates from all parties – Democrats, Republicans and others – will be listed together on one ballot and voters can chose to vote for a candidate from any party or affiliation. I am going to read the names of some of the likely candidates for Governor in the June open primary election and please tell me who you would be your first choice if the election were being held today. Suppose the candidates were (CANDIDATES READ IN RANDOM ORDER) Who would be your first choice for Governor? (REPEAT IF NECESSARY) (SEE RELEASE FOR CANDIDATES READ)