

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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**DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN
VOTER VIEWS OF HILLARY CLINTON
MIRROR IMAGES OF EACH OTHER.
MANY SEE BILL CLINTON AS BEING A
HELP TO HER CAMPAIGN AND HAVING
A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN A POSSIBLE
CLINTON ADMINISTRATION.**

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Throughout Hillary Clinton's tenure as First Lady during her husband's administration, and her subsequent election and re-election as a U.S. Senator from New York, the views that California voters have had of her have not varied a great deal. And, throughout this period, the opinions of Democrats and Republicans have been mirror images of one another.

In its latest statewide survey, *The Field Poll* finds 48% of Californians having a favorable view of Clinton, and 39% holding an unfavorable view. Among Democrats 67% view her favorably, while a nearly equivalent proportion of Republicans (66%) view her unfavorably.

When asked their likelihood of voting for her in the 2008 general election should Clinton win the Democratic nomination, about a third of voters in this state (36%) say they would definitely support her, while about as many (34%) say they definitely wouldn't. Among partisans, nearly six in ten Democrats (58%) say they would definitely support her, while among Republicans 63% say they definitely would not.

A plurality of Californians (45%) thinks that if elected, Clinton would be at least an above average president. But there are big partisan differences of opinion, with three times as many Democrats (62%) as Republicans (21%) holding to this view.

Her husband, former President Bill Clinton, is viewed even more favorably than she is, and most voters here see him as being a help in her election campaign, and as a positive force in a possible Hillary Clinton administration.

These are the findings from the latest *Field Poll* of California voters completed in late October.

Trend in voter impressions of Hillary Clinton

Over the past decade, one remarkably consistent poll finding is the image ratings that Californians have of Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The Field Poll in 1996 found that 37% of all registered voters said they had a negative image of the First Lady. That percentage has not varied more than a couple of percentage points since then and now stands at 39%.

Over the past eleven years, voters expressing a favorable view of Hillary Clinton have ranged narrowly between 46% to 55%. Today a little less than one-half (48%) of this state's voters say they have a positive view of her.

The views of rank-and-file Democrats and Republicans about Clinton are mirror images of one another. Two thirds of Democrats (67%) view her favorably, while a similar proportion (66%) of Republicans view her unfavorably. Non-partisans divide 52% favorable and 34% unfavorable.

Table 1
Trend of voter opinions of Hillary Clinton
(among California registered voters)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
October 2007	48%	39	13
February 2006	51%	39	10
January 2001	46%	34	20
August 1999	55%	37	8
September 1996	54%	33	13
June 1996	52%	37	11
<i>Party (October 2007)</i>			
Democrats	67%	21	12
Republicans	22%	66	12
Non-partisans/others	52%	34	14

Likelihood of voting for her in a general election

All voters in this survey were asked whether or not they consider voting for Clinton for president, should she win this year's Democratic nomination.

The results divide almost equally between those saying that they would either definitely vote for her (36%) and those who say they would definitely not vote for her (34%). Another 26% take the middle position, saying that they would consider voting for her, while 4% are undecided.

As reported in a *Field Poll* report last week, Clinton is currently holding a big lead in California in the race for her party's nomination. She also holds a substantial preference edge in general election match-ups against each of the leading Republican candidates.

There are large differences across subgroups of the California voting population with regard to whether or not voters would support Clinton in the general election. Among Republicans, 63% now say they would definitely not vote for her, while just 8% say that they would definitely support Clinton. Another 24% of GOPers say they would consider the possibility of voting for her.

This contrasts with almost six in ten Democrats (58%) who say they would definitely vote for her in the general election. Another 23% would consider it, while 16% of Democrats would definitely not vote for her.

Non-partisans tend to split in Clinton's favor, with 35% saying they'd definitely vote for her and 25% saying definitely not. Another 37% say they'd give her some consideration.

While 38% of women voters line up as definitely supportive, 30% take the opposite position. More men say they would definitely not vote for her as say they definitely would (38% to 33%).

More younger voters say they definitely would vote support Clinton (34%) as definitely would not (26%). By contrast, a larger proportion of voters age 65 or older say they definitely would not vote for Clinton (43%) as say they definitely would (38%).

There are also big differences by race and ethnicity. More white non-Hispanic voters say they definitely would not back Clinton (43%) as definitely would (30%). On the other hand, more than twice as many Latinos and over five times as many blacks say they definitely would support Clinton as definitely would not.

Table 2
Voter consideration of Hillary Clinton for president
if she were the Democratic party's nominee
(among California registered voters)

	Would definitely vote for her	Would consider voting for her	Would definitely not vote for her	No opinion
Statewide	36%	26	34	4
<u>Party</u>				
Democrats	58%	22	16	4
Republicans	8%	24	63	5
Non-partisans/others	35%	37	25	3
<u>Political ideology</u>				
Conservative	15%	15	66	4
Middle-of-the-road	34%	36	25	5
Liberal	69%	24	6	1
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	33%	25	38	4
Female	38%	28	30	4
<u>Age</u>				
18-39	34%	36	26	4
40-64	36%	24	37	3
65 or older	38%	15	43	4
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
White non-Hispanic	30%	25	43	2
Latino	47%	30	18	5
Black*	62%	23	11	4
Asian*	27%	27	30	16

* Small sample base.

What kind of president would Hillary Clinton make?

Expectations of the kind of president that Hillary Clinton would make are wide-ranging. Forty-five percent of California voters think Clinton would be either one of the best (13%) or an above average (32%) president. By contrast, one in four (25%) would anticipate either a below average presidency (12%) or one of the worst (13%). Another one in five (22%) see a potential Clinton presidency as being about average.

Six in ten Democrats (62%) expect Clinton to be either one of the best or an above average president. This contrasts with 49% of Republicans who say she would be one of the worst or a below average president.

Non-partisans have a more positive than negative view of a possible Clinton presidency, with about half (51%) believing she would be either one of the best or above average, while one-third as many (17%) think she would be either the worst or perform below average.

There are significant differences between the sexes, by age and race/ethnicity. Among women, 52% think she'd either be one of the best or above average. Among men, just 38% feel this way.

While 40% of white non-Hispanics and Asian voters think Clinton would be at least an above average president, larger proportions of blacks (65%) and Latinos (57%) hold this view.

Table 3
If Hillary Clinton were to be elected president, what kind of president would she make?
(among California registered voters)

	<u>One of the best</u>	<u>Above average</u>	<u>About average</u>	<u>Below average</u>	<u>One of the worst</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
Statewide	13%	32	22	12	13	8
<u>Party</u>						
Democrats	21%	41	20	5	6	7
Republicans	6%	15	23	23	26	7
Non-partisans/others	12%	39	22	10	7	10
<u>Political ideology</u>						
Conservative	7%	12	19	24	29	9
Middle-of-the-road	15%	35	25	9	6	10
Liberal	19%	53	16	1	4	7
<u>Gender</u>						
Male	12%	26	23	13	15	11
Female	15%	37	20	11	11	6
<u>Age</u>						
18-39	14%	36	26	12	7	5
40-64	11%	32	21	11	15	10
65 or older	19%	23	18	16	18	6
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>						
White non-Hispanic	11%	29	23	14	17	6
Latino	22%	35	18	8	5	12
Black*	22%	43	17	**	3	15
Asian*	2%	38	32	15	6	7

* Small sample base.

** Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Trend of voter impressions of Bill Clinton

The image that California voters have had of Bill Clinton since he first hit the national political scene has also been remarkably stable over the past fifteen years, even in times of triumphs and failures.

In October 1992, before he was first elected, 54% of the voters in this state said their regard for Bill Clinton was favorable. Clinton's favorable image reached its high point in September 1996, when 65% rated him positively. That declined to the mid-fifty percent range during the remaining years in office, and today stands at 56% favorable and 37% unfavorable.

Table 4
Trend of voter opinions of Bill Clinton
(among California registered voters)

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
October 2007	56%	37	7
June 2000	56%	39	5
October 1999	54%	41	5
August 1999	55%	42	3
February 1998	58%	38	4
February 1997	65%	32	3
September 1996	61%	35	4
December 1995	60%	37	3
October 1992	54%	35	11
<i>Party (October 2007)</i>			
Democrats	74%	18	8
Republicans	27%	64	9
Non-partisans/others	64%	28	8

Hillary helped or hurt in campaign if Bill has an active role

Greater than seven in ten Californians (72%) think that if Bill Clinton were to take an active role in his wife's presidential campaign, it would help Hillary either a lot or somewhat.

By contrast, just 16% think his presence in the campaign would hurt her to some degree.

Large majorities of Democrats (76%), Republicans (65%) and non-partisans (73%) contend that Bill Clinton's active presence in the campaign would help Hillary to some degree.

Table 5

Effect Bill Clinton taking an active role in his wife's election campaign would have on Hillary Clinton's chances of winning the presidential election (among California registered voters)

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Non-partisans/ others</u>
Helps a lot	38%	46%	28%	39%
Helps somewhat	34	30	37	34
Hurts somewhat	10	9	12	10
Hurts a lot	6	5	10	3
No effect	5	4	7	6
No opinion	7	6	6	8

Effect of Bill Clinton's role in a possible Hillary Clinton administration

Six in ten California voters (62%) also believe that, if Hillary was elected, it would be a good thing if Bill Clinton took an active role in her administration.

Opinions about this are highly partisan, with 77% of Democrats feeling this would be a good thing, compared to just 38% among Republicans. The views of non-partisans are more in line with Democrats, with 71% saying this would be a good thing.

Table 6

If Hillary Clinton were elected president and Bill Clinton took an active role in her administration, would this be a good thing or a bad thing? (among California registered voters)

	<u>Statewide</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Non-partisans/ others</u>
Very good thing	30%	39%	15%	37%
Somewhat good thing	32	38	23	34
Somewhat bad thing	14	8	23	10
Very bad thing	16	7	29	11
No opinion	8	8	10	8

Information About The Survey

Sample Details

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 579 registered voters statewide. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish October 11-21, 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. 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 weighted 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 findings based on the overall sample of 579 registered voters are subject to a sampling error of +/- 3.7 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

Generally speaking, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Hillary Clinton?

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Bill Clinton?

If Hillary Clinton were to be the Democratic nominee for President, would you definitely vote for her in the general election for president, would you consider voting for her, or would you definitely not vote for her?

Suppose Hillary Clinton were to win the Democratic Party's nomination for president next year. If her husband, former President Bill Clinton, takes an active role in her election campaign, do you think this would help her a lot, help her somewhat, hurt her somewhat or hurt her a lot?

If Hillary Clinton were elected president in next year's election, what kind of president do you think she would make – one of the nation's best presidents, an above average president, about average, a below average president or one of the nation's worst presidents?

If Hillary Clinton were elected president and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, took an active role in her administration, do you think this would be a very good thing, somewhat of a good thing, somewhat of a bad thing or a very bad thing?