

# 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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**PLEASE NOTE  
EMBARGO DATE**

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**VOTE TREND RUNNING AGAINST  
PROP. 93 (TERM LIMITS) AND IN  
FAVOR OF PROPS. 94-97 (INDIAN  
GAMING).**

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By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

Up until last week, most of the heavy political campaign messages appearing on TV in California have dealt with not the presidential election but the controversial ballot measures, Prop. 93 (Term Limits) and Props. 94-97 (Indian Gaming), that will also appear on tomorrow's election ballot. These extensive advertising efforts have resulted in high voter awareness of the propositions, with about four out of five likely voters now professing to know something about each measure.

The latest *Field Poll* finds that as voter awareness has increased over the past two months opinions have changed. Voters are becoming increasingly negative about Prop. 93, the term limits reform initiative, while at the same time they have become more positive about Props. 94-97, the Indian gaming referendums.

In a survey completed in the closing days of the election campaign, 46% of likely voters now say they will be voting No on Prop. 93, while just 33% are intending to vote Yes. Another 21% are undecided about the term limits reform initiative. Last December Prop. 93 was leading by 50% to 32%, while a mid-January *Field Poll* found voters dividing evenly 39% Yes and 39% No.

Conversely, the relatively small plurality of voters favoring Props. 94-97 in earlier surveys increased in the campaign's final week. Statewide, 47% of likely voters are now inclined to vote Yes on the four Indian gaming referendums, while 34% are on the No side. This 13-point Yes side advantage is up from earlier five and six percentage point leads in December and mid-January.

**Table 1**  
**Trend of voter awareness and preferences toward Proposition 93,**  
**the "Limit on Legislators' Terms in Office" initiative**  
**(among likely voters in the February 2008 primary)**

	<b>Late- January <u>2008</u></b>	<b>Mid- January <u>2008</u></b>	<b>December <u>2007</u></b>	<b>October <u>2007</u></b>
<u>Voter awareness of Prop. 93</u>				
Had heard	80%	65%	25%	19%
Hadn't heard yet	20	35	75	81
<u>Voter preferences toward Prop. 93</u>				
Voting YES	33%	39%	50%	49%
Voting NO	46	39	32	31
Undecided	21	22	18	20

**Table 2**  
**Trend of voter awareness and preferences toward Propositions**  
**94-97, the four Indian gaming referendums**  
**(among likely voters in the February 2008 primary)**

	<b>Late- January <u>2008</u></b>	<b>Mid- January <u>2008</u></b>	<b>December <u>2007</u></b>
<u>Voter awareness of Props. 94-97</u>			
Had heard	84%	70%	27%
Hadn't heard yet	16	30	73
<u>Voter preference toward Props. 94-97</u>			
Voting YES	47%	42%	39%
Voting NO	34	37	33
Undecided/mixed	19	21	28

### **Prop. 93 sub-group differences**

By large margins, Republicans and non-partisans are increasingly lining up against Prop. 93. Opposition to Prop. 93 among Republican voters is now running two and one-half to one (56% No and 27% Yes). Non-partisans are also opposed but by a narrower 42% to 32% margin. Democrats are now about evenly divided, 37% Yes and 39% No.

The No side is leading in all the major population areas in the state, among both men and women, and among voters in all age categories.

Voters who describe themselves as strongly conservative are opposed two to one (57% to 28%). Moderate conservatives and moderates are also opposed, but by narrower twelve- to fifteen-point margins. Voters who describe themselves as strongly liberal are backing Prop. 93 by a 46% to 34% margin, although those who say they are moderately liberal are opposed 43% to 36%.

Voters who have already sent in their ballots or intend to vote by mail are opposing Prop. 93 by a wide 51% to 32% margin. Those intending to vote at their voting precincts on Election Day are also on the No side, but by a smaller 42% to 33% margin.

**Table 3**  
**Voter preferences toward Proposition 93, the "Limits on Legislators'  
Terms in Office" initiative – Late-January vs. Mid-January**  
**(among likely voters in the February 2008 primary)**

	<u>Late-January</u>			<u>Mid-January</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>
<u>Party</u>						
(.45) Democrats	37%	39	24	39%	33	28
(.37) Republicans	27%	56	17	38%	46	16
(.18) Non-partisans/others	32%	42	26	41%	40	19
<u>Region</u>						
(.24) Los Angeles County	33%	42	25	36%	33	31
(.18) Orange/San Diego	33%	47	20	39%	40	21
(.14) Other Southern California	30%	45	25	42%	42	16
(.17) Central Valley	32%	51	17	47%	36	17
(.22) San Francisco Bay Area	35%	44	21	36%	42	22
(.05) Other Northern California*	28%	52	20	31%	46	23
<u>Gender</u>						
(.47) Male	36%	48	16	38%	42	20
(.53) Female	29%	44	27	39%	36	25
<u>Political ideology</u>						
(.22) Strongly conservative	28%	57	15	40%	44	16
(.13) Moderately conservative	32%	44	24	35%	42	23
(.41) Middle-of-the-road	30%	45	25	40%	39	21
(.10) Moderately liberal	36%	43	21	38%	27	35
(.14) Strongly liberal	46%	34	20	37%	34	29
<u>Age</u>						
(.13) 18-29	28%	49	23	30%	35	35
(.15) 30-39	31%	34	35	53%	26	21
(.20) 40-49	37%	40	23	46%	30	24
(.30) 50-64	34%	51	15	36%	43	21
(.22) 65 or older	30%	51	19	33%	49	18
<u>Voting method</u>						
(.54) Precinct voter	33%	42	25	37%	38	25
(.46) Mail ballot voter	32%	51	17	41%	40	19

\* Small sample base.

### **Props. 94-97 sub-group differences**

Democrats are now favoring the four Indian gaming referendums by eleven points (45% to 34%), and Republicans are backing them by eighteen points (51% to 33%). Non-partisans are narrowly supportive, 45% Yes and 37% No.

There are big differences in sentiment according to where voters live. In the vote-heavy Southern California regions where the Indian casinos in these referendums are located, voters are favoring the measures by large margins. However, voters in the San Francisco Bay Area are opposed 44% to 36%.

Both men and women are in favor of Props. 94-97, although men are backing them by a larger margin. Middle-of-the-roaders are voting Yes by a five to three margin (49% to 29%). Strong and moderate conservatives also favor the referendums by thirteen and ten points, respectively. Liberals are only narrowly on the Yes side.

Precinct voters are very much in favor of Props. 94-97, 50% to 30%. Mail ballot voters are also in favor, but by a smaller 45% to 38% margin.

In previous surveys, *The Field Poll* had found that voters were about evenly split on the fundamental question of whether Indian gaming should be expanded in California. Now, more voters favor its expansion in general than are opposed, 44% to 38%. Voters who line up in support of casino expansion overwhelmingly favor Props. 94-97, while voters opposed are opposing the referendums greater than four to one.

**Table 4**  
**Voter preferences regarding four statewide referendums (Propositions 94-97)**  
**– Late-January vs. Mid-January**  
**(among likely voters in the February 2008 primary)**

	<u>Late-January</u>			<u>Mid-January</u>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Mixed/ Undecided</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Mixed/ Undecided</u>
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>
<u>Party</u>						
(.45) Democrats	45%	34	21	41%	34	25
(.37) Republicans	51%	33	16	44%	40	16
(.18) Non-partisans/others	45%	37	18	38%	41	21
<u>Region</u>						
(.24) Los Angeles County	55%	25	20	49%	32	19
(.18) Orange/San Diego	51%	33	16	36%	38	26
(.14) Other Southern California	50%	27	23	45%	42	13
(.17) Central Valley	45%	41	14	39%	38	23
(.22) San Francisco Bay Area	36%	44	20	38%	40	22
(.05) Other Northern California*	46%	33	21	35%	34	31
<u>Gender</u>						
(.47) Male	54%	34	12	43%	35	22
(.53) Female	41%	34	25	41%	40	19
<u>Political ideology</u>						
(.22) Strongly conservative	47%	34	19	34%	48	18
(.13) Moderately conservative	49%	39	12	42%	39	19
(.41) Middle-of-the-road	49%	29	22	47%	35	18
(.10) Moderately liberal	41%	43	16	39%	27	34
(.14) Strongly liberal	44%	37	19	42%	31	27
<u>Voting method</u>						
(.54) Precinct voter	50%	30	20	38%	37	25
(.46) Mail ballot voter	45%	38	17	46%	37	17
<u>Opinion of Indian gaming expansion</u>						
(.44) Favor	81%	9	10	75%	13	12
(.38) Oppose	17%	72	11	14%	68	18
(.18) Depends/no opinion	30%	15	55	27%	17	56

\* Small sample size.

## **Information About The Survey**

### **Sample Details**

The findings in this report are based on a random sample survey of 1,105 voters considered likely to vote in the February 5th California primary election. Interviewing was conducted by telephone in English and Spanish January 25-February 1, 2008. Up to six 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. After the completion of interviewing, the results were weighted to re-align the overall sample to characteristics of the state's registered voter population by party, region and other demographic variables. Once a voter's name and telephone number has been selected, interviews are attempted only with the specified voter. Interviews were conducted on either the voter's landline or cell phone, depending on the source of the telephone listing from the voter file.

Sampling error estimates applicable to any probability-based survey depends on the sample size. The maximum sampling error for results based on the overall sample of 1,100 likely voters is +/- 3.0 percentage points. The maximum sampling error is based on percentages in the middle of the sampling distribution (percentages around 50%). Percentages at either end of the distribution (percentages around 10% or around 90%) have a smaller margin of error. The maximum sampling error will be larger for analyses based on subgroups of the overall sample. While there are other potential sources of error in surveys besides sampling error, the overall design and execution of the survey minimized the potential for these other sources of error.

### **Questions Asked**

Have you seen, read or heard anything about Proposition 93, a statewide ballot proposition having to do with term limits that will appear on the February 2008 primary election ballot?

(As you know) Proposition 93 is called the "Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office" initiative. It reduces permissible state legislative service to 12 years and allows all 12 years' service in one house. Current legislators can serve 12 years in their current house, regardless of prior legislative service. (IF ALREADY VOTED, ASK:) Did you vote Yes or No on Proposition 93? (IF DID NOT ALREADY VOTE, ASK:) If the election were being held today, would you vote Yes or No on Proposition 93?

As you know, the state of California allows legal casino gaming, such as playing slot machines, dice, blackjack, and roulette, at casinos located on Indian tribal lands. Tax proceeds from these casinos are shared between the state government and the local governments where they are located. In general, do you favor or oppose expanding the number of casino gaming establishments on Indian tribal lands in California?

Have you seen, read or heard anything about four separate referendums to ratify amendments to four Indian gaming compacts that will appear on California's February primary election ballot as Propositions 94 to 97?

(As you know) these referendums are amendments to four Indian Gaming compacts. A "Yes" vote on each approves and a "No" vote rejects a law that ratifies an amendment to existing gaming compacts between the state and four Southern California Indian tribes. Fiscal impact: Net increase in annual state revenues from each referendum probably in the tens of millions of dollars, growing over time through the year 2030. (IF ALREADY VOTED, ASK:) Did you vote Yes or No on Propositions 94 through 97? (IF DID NOT ALREADY VOTE, ASK:) If the election were being held today, would you vote Yes or No on Propositions 94 through 97?