

Los Angeles Times / CNN / Politico Poll

by Opinion Research Corporation

Press Release 2 –Direction of the State and The Term Limits Initiative

Field dates: January 23-27, 2008

Californians Think The State Is On the Wrong Track

Proposition 93 – Term Limits – Barely Ahead

Most Californians are not happy about the way the state is heading, according to the latest Los Angeles Times / CNN / Politico poll, conducted by Opinion Research Corporation. Nearly six out of 10 adults, and more than six out of 10 voters likely to cast ballots in the February 5th primary, said that the state is off on the wrong track. Likely voters are split over voting to implement or reject a Proposition 93, a term limits measure on the ballot, tending toward voting for it, but possibly not in great enough measure to overcome the tendency of the undecided to vote "no" on election day.

Proposition 93 would rework the current term limits law by trimming the total number of years an elected official can serve in the legislature from 14 to 12, while allowing a lawmaker to serve out their entire term in either the Assembly, the Senate, or both. It contains a grandfather clause that would allow those currently holding office to serve an entire 12 year term in whichever house they are serving, regardless of prior service. The current law, Proposition 140, was passed in 1990 by California voters on a close 52% to 48% vote. It allows a lawmaker to serve a maximum of three terms in the assembly and two terms in the senate and prohibits anyone who has reached those maximums from ever running for any office they've held again.

Voters in California have a history of rejecting attempts to soften the term limits laws... In March 2002, they voted down, by 58% to 42%, Proposition 45 on the governor's primary ballot – a measure which would have extended the limit by four years. Democrats, who made up 49% of the electorate in that election, voted for the measure by 58% to 42% but two-thirds of independents (8% of the electorate) joined the three out of four Republicans (39% of the electorate) to vote against it, and it was defeated.

Primary voters in this survey were read the ballot summary for the proposition and then asked if they would vote for or against it if the election were held today. Half of all primary likely voters said they would vote for it, and 46% said they'd vote against it, a lead just within the poll's margin of error. It is backed by 56% of Democratic-primary voters while Republican-primary voters are split 49% to 49%.

Unlike the situation with Proposition 45 in 2002, independents are backing Proposition 93 by 58% to 37%. The only majority political opposition – so far – comes from conservative Republicans, a bare majority of whom would vote against it by 51% to 46%.

Proposition 93 Vote by Party and Ideology among California primary voters

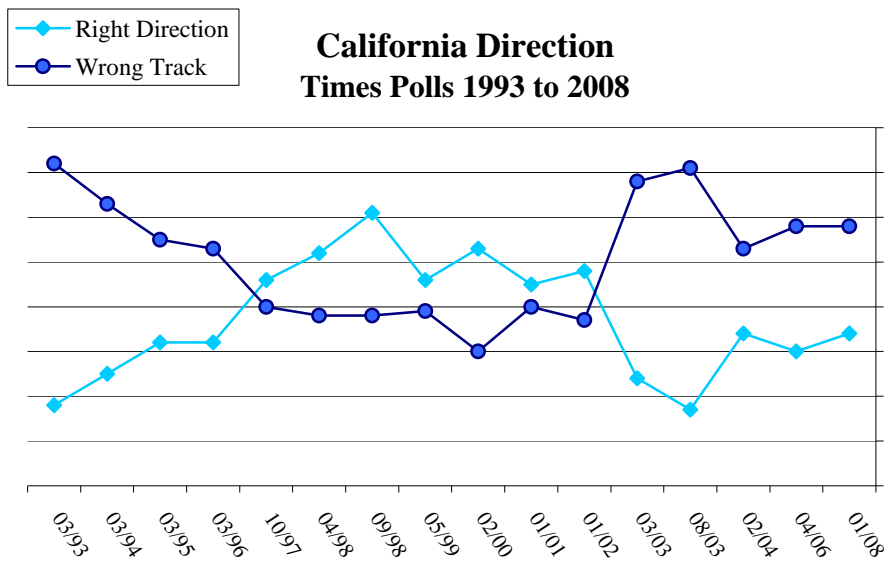
As you may know, one of the initiatives on the ballot is Proposition 93, the "Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office Initiative Constitutional Amendment". This measure would reduce the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years either in the Assembly, the Senate or a combination of both. It provides a transition period to allow current members to serve a total of 12 consecutive years in the house which they are serving, regardless of any prior service. Having heard more, if the election were being held today, would you vote for or against this amendment? (Includes leaners)

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
All primary likely voters	50%	46	4
All primary voters	53%	43	4
Democratic-primary voters	56%	40	4
Republican-primary voters	49%	49	2
Registered Democrats (net)	54%	41	5
• Liberal Democrats	54%	43	3
• Moderate Democrats	54%	40	6
Registered Republicans (net)	49%	49	2
• Moderate Republicans	54%	44	2
• Conservative Republicans	46%	51	3
Registered independents	58%	37	5
Liberal	55%	41	4
Moderate	56%	39	5
Conservative	49%	48	3
All absentee voters	52%	44	4
• Already voted absentee	52%	46	2
Precinct Voters	53%	43	4
Male	51%	44	5
Female	55%	41	4
18-34	55%	39	3
35-44	55%	41	4
45-64	55%	42	3
65+	47%	50	3
Household income less than \$20K	51%	44	5
Household income \$20K-\$40K	60%	36	4
Household income \$40-\$60K	51%	46	3
Household income \$60K-\$99,999K	50%	44	6
Household income \$100K or more	55%	43	2
Non-Hispanic White	52%	45	3
Non-Hispanic Black*	50%	47	3
Latino or Hispanic	55%	38	7

* *small N*

California Right Direction / Wrong Track

Californians, facing a \$14.5 billion budget deficit and the prospect of widespread cuts in health and other services in the state, gave a thumbs-down to the way things are going in the Golden State. By 57% to 39%, they said that things have gotten off on the wrong track. Among voters likely to cast ballots in the primary on February 5th, displeasure is even greater – 62% think the state is off track, compared to 36% who disagree.



This measure has had its ups and downs, corresponding to the political and economic roller coaster the state has experienced throughout the last couple of decades.

Displeasure with the direction of where California was headed reached a high point in 1998, when more than six in 10 statewide said they were pleased with the direction. Home prices were high, and the dot com boom had yet to go bust.

It hit a low point in 2003 when more than seven in 10 said that the state was off on the wrong track, after the energy crisis drained the budget surplus into the pockets of energy suppliers, and just before voters kicked Gray Davis out of the governor's office in Sacramento and replaced him with Arnold Schwarzenegger.

In the current survey, Democrats have the most pessimistic view of the direction the state is heading, with 62% saying it is on the wrong track. The most optimistic political groups, at 42% each, are registered independents and Republicans. Californians between 18 and 24 are more optimistic, at 52%, while those between the ages of 45 and 64 are less so. Household income has little to do with optimism – those in families making less than \$20,000 annually are barely less optimistic than those living in the highest income households.

---- Analysis by Jill Darling

Data Tables

Guide to column headings:

ALL	All California adults
REG	California registered voters
ALLPRIM	California Primary voters
DEMPRIM	Democratic Primary Voters (includes registered Republicans and independents who say they will definitely vote, or who are very or extremely likely to vote.)
REPPRIM	Republican Primary Voters (registered Republicans who say they will definitely vote, or who are very or extremely likely to vote.)
LIKELY	Likely Voters (Registered voters deemed most likely to vote due to past voting behavior and other indicators)
R/DEM / R/IND / R/REP	Registered Democrats, Independents and Republicans
LIB / MOD / CON	Self described liberals, moderates and conservatives

Notes:

- (vol.) indicates a volunteered response
- ‘-’ indicates that a response added up to less than 0.5% of the question base
- The order of candidate names and the order of any arguments or statements are rotated in all questions that mention them. Question order is also rotated whenever applicable.
- Missing questions are operational, or will be published in a subsequent release

Survey Methodology

The Times/CNN/Politico Poll, conducted by Opinion Research Corporation, contacted 2,212 adults in the state of California by telephone January 23-27, 2008. Among them were 1,820 registered voters, of which 1,561 said they intend to vote in the Democratic primary, in the Republican primary or for ballot measures alone. Primary voters were screened for their likelihood of voting and 1,218 were deemed most likely to vote in the February 5th California primary. Likely voters were determined by a process which included questions on intention to vote, absentee vote, and vote history. First time voters are included, depending on their interest and intention.

Telephone numbers were randomly selected from among a list of all exchanges in the state, allowing contact with both listed and unlisted numbers. Multiple attempts were made to contact each number. Adults in the entire sample were weighted slightly to conform with census proportions for sex, ethnicity, age, education, region, and the Secretary of State’s latest report of party registration.

The margin of sampling error for all adults, primary voters, and likely primary voters is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For other subgroups, the error margin may be somewhat higher. Poll results may also be affected by factors such as question wording and the order in which questions are presented. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

Q1 Asked of All Adults

Q1. Do you think things in California are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?

	-----Among All Respondents -----												
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>LIKELY</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>PRIM</u>	<u>RE</u>	<u>PRIM</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>R/DEM</u>	<u>R/IND</u>	<u>R/REP</u>
Right direction	39	39	36	34	41	37	38	37	35	42	42		
Wrong track	57	58	62	63	57	59	59	61	62	53	56		
D/Know	4	3	2	3	2	4	3	2	3	5	2		

Q18 Asked of Registered Voters who Intend to Vote for Candidates or Initiatives in the California Primary

Q18. As you may know, one of the initiatives on the ballot is Proposition 93, the "Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office Initiative Constitutional Amendment". This measure would reduce the total amount of time a person may serve in the state legislature from 14 years to 12 years either in the Assembly, the Senate or a combination of both. It provides a transition period to allow current members to serve a total of 12 consecutive years in the house which they are serving, regardless of any prior service. Having heard more, if the election were being held today, would you vote for or against this amendment? (ACCEPT "HAVEN'T HEARD ENOUGH" OR "WOULDN'T VOTE" AS A VOLUNTEERED RESPONSE) (IF "HAVEN'T HEARD ENOUGH", "NOT SURE" OR "REFUSED", ASK) Well, as of today do you lean more toward voting for it or lean more toward voting against it?

	----- Among All Primary Voters -----												
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>PRIM</u>	<u>LIKELY</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>PRIM</u>	<u>RE</u>	<u>PRIM</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>R/DEM</u>	<u>R/IND</u>	<u>R/REP</u>
Vote for	53	50	56	49	55	56	49	54	58	49			
Vote agt	43	46	40	49	41	39	48	41	37	49			
D/Know	4	4	4	2	4	5	3	5	5	2			