

Los Angeles Times/KTLA Poll

CALIFORNIA SAME SEX MARRIAGE ISSUES SURVEY – MAY 2008

Field dates: May 20-21, 2008

Press Release #2: California November Matchups

WILL CALIFORNIANS VOTE FOR A DEMOCRAT IN THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?

Since 1992, California voters have voted for a Democratic president and it appears that California will remain a blue state in the upcoming presidential election this year, according to a new Los Angeles Times/KTLA Poll. The demographics are still in the Democrats' favor – Latinos, African-Americans, moderates, women and voters in the counties of Los Angeles and in the Bay Area – which would make it harder for a Republican to win. Also, in California, voters register by party and registered Democrats have almost a 10 point registration advantage over registered Republicans, while less than a fifth are registered as independents. The last time a Republican won in the Golden State was in 1988, when the elder George H. W. Bush beat Michael Dukakis. In that year, only 9% of registered voters were registered as independents and Democrats had a seven point registration advantage. Of course, historically, turnout is the key in all elections and the ratio of Democrats to Republicans to independents may differ in the November election.

In the current survey, Illinois Senator Barack Obama leads the presumptive Republican nominee John McCain by seven points, while NY Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton narrowly leads McCain by three points, although within the poll's margin of error. These results are comparable to a poll conducted in March by PPIC (Public Policy Institute of California) where Obama beat McCain by 49% to 40% and Clinton eked out a three point lead (46% to 43%). But registered Democrats are solidly behind both Democratic candidates, while slightly less Republicans support their nominee.

If the November 2008 general election for president were being held today and the choices were (Hillary Clinton/Barack Obama) the Democrat, and John McCain, the Republican, for whom would you vote: Clinton/Obama or McCain, or would you vote for a candidate from some other party?

	<u>RV</u>		<u>RV</u>
Barack Obama	47%	Hillary Clinton	43%
John McCain	40	John McCain	40
Someone Else	3	Someone Else	5
Don't Know	10	Don't Know	12

General Presidential Elections: 1988-2004

	<u>NATIONAL</u>	<u>CALIFORNIA</u>
1988		
George H.W. Bush	53%	51%
Michael Dukakis	46	48
1992		
Bill Clinton	43%	47%
George H. W. Bush	38	31
Ross Perot	19	21
1996		
Bill Clinton	49%	52%
Bob Dole	41	38
Ross Perot	9	7
2000		
George W. Bush	49%	42%
Al Gore	48	54
Ralph Nader	3	4
2004		
George W. Bush	51%	44%
John Kerry	48	55

Source: National and California Los Angeles Times Poll exit polls weighted to outcome of the elections.

Clinton, with big primary wins in West Virginia and Kentucky over the last two weeks, has not moved the delegate count toward her favor. (Obama won big in Oregon on Tuesday.) She said she is not giving up and will continue through the end of the primaries on June 3 (Puerto Rico on June 1, Montana and South Dakota on June 3), even though mathematically she cannot win the delegates she needs. Obama is 100 delegates shy of capturing the nomination. As per the AP count of delegates, Obama has 1,956 delegates to Clinton's 1,776.

Each candidate has his/her own strengths as seen in the Democratic and Republican primaries. But some of Clinton's and Obama's strengths overlap with the strengths McCain has, such as independents. Both Obama and McCain do well with this group, so it will be interesting to see who gets the most support from them.

Some State Issues

Californians are almost as pessimistic as the rest of the country. In the latest Times/Bloomberg national poll earlier this month, more than three-quarters of respondents felt the country was seriously off on the wrong track, compared to two-thirds of residents in California who think the largest western state in the country is seriously off on the wrong track. The negative rating about the state has increased nine points from 57% in a January 2008 Times/CNN/Politico.com poll. This is also the worst rating Californians have

given since 2003, just before voters recalled Governor Gray Davis, when more than seven in 10 thought the state was moving in the wrong direction.

An issue that may play into the general election as it did in 2004 is the same-sex marriage issue. About eleven states passed an initiative on their state ballots in the last presidential election to make marriage only between a man and a woman. Republicans were able to get these marriage initiatives on the ballots in states where George W. Bush had to win. Ohio, one of the states with a marriage measure, had more conservatives come out to vote than in other elections, which helped put Ohio in the Republican column. Will the same thing happen this year with marriage initiatives on state ballots or will the war in Iraq and the dire economic problems be uppermost on voters' minds? It appears that the same-sex issue is not looked upon as the most important issue facing the state. Californians in this most recent poll said that the same-sex marriage was an important issue (53%), but only 11% said it was the *most* important and a third said it wasn't an important issue at all.

The California Supreme Court overturned Proposition 22 which passed by 61% in 2000 that stated that marriage was only between a man and a woman. In the current survey, 54% of voters said they would vote for a constitutional amendment to reinstate the gay marriage ban. There seems to be a softening of support over the last eight years. In the majority opinion, Supreme Court Justice George declared "that any law that discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation will from this point on be constitutionally suspect in California in the same way as laws that discriminate by race or gender." Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who previously vetoed two bills in favor of same-sex marriage, said that he would respect the Court's decision and would not support a ballot measure to amend the constitution to reinstate the ban on gay marriage. However, Californians were divided on whether they agreed with the governor's decision – 45% agreed, 46% disagreed. Nearly half of Californians disagreed with Schwarzenegger's stance, including a little more than a third who strongly disagree. Among the majority of voters who would vote yes on the amendment, they would solidly support McCain over both Democratic candidates by roughly 20 points. Among the group of voters that would vote no on the amendment, they would solidly endorse Clinton and Obama over McCain by more than 35 points each.

As you may also know, a proposed amendment to the state's constitution may appear on the November ballot which would reverse the Supreme Court's decision and reinstate a ban on same-sex marriage. The amendment would state that marriage is only between a man and a woman. If the November election were held today, would you vote for or against amending the state constitution to make marriage only between a man and a woman?

	<u>Vote Yes</u>	<u>Vote No</u>
Hillary Clinton	33%	61
John McCain	53%	24
Barack Obama	34%	67
John McCain	53	23

May not add to 100% due to some categories are not shown.

However, this societal issue is not weighing heavily on voters' minds. Almost six out of 10 voters said they could vote for a candidate who disagreed with them on same-sex marriage, as long as they agreed on

most other issues. Conversely, a quarter of voters said they could only vote for a candidate that agreed with them on the same-sex marriage issue.

Some demographic differences: During the Democratic primaries, Clinton and Obama had their core constituencies that followed them through most elections – Clinton would usually get the lower socioeconomic voters, along with loyal support from women; Obama would usually get the affluent and higher educated voters with strong support from African-Americans. But the complexion of the campaign changes now that the country is going into a general election. What may have been a strong group for Obama or Clinton may not be a strong constituency in the general election and the same goes for McCain.

Some of the demographic results from this California poll bear that out.

- Three-quarters of registered Democratic voters would vote for Clinton or Obama when matched against McCain. McCain would receive less than a fifth of the Democratic vote when matched against Obama, and just over one in seven against Clinton. But Obama would receive slightly more support from registered Republican voters than Clinton – 20% would vote for Obama and 11% for Clinton when paired against McCain. In the Clinton-McCain match-up, registered independents and other party voters would give McCain a slight four point lead, while the same share of independent voters would vote for Obama over McCain. Both Obama and McCain are vying for the independent vote. Obama has won this group in almost every primary and since McCain ran for president in 2000, he positioned himself and was seen as a maverick or a candidate with an independent streak. The Republican nominee has positioned himself that way in his current campaign with his Straight Talk Express campaign.
- McCain is trying to move away from Bush and the more conservative voters and expand the groups necessary for his winning the presidency, such as moderates and moderate Republicans. In California, he has a lot of work to do in trying to capture this group. Nearly half of the moderate voters support Clinton over her rival, while a majority support Obama. A plurality of moderate Republicans are moving toward Obama.
- White voters are virtually splitting their vote between Obama and McCain by 42% to 46%, while Clinton loses this group to his Republican rival by eight points. Latino voters and non-white voters are supporting the Democratic candidates. Although there has been chatter about Latinos not being able to support a black candidate, this poll does not bear this out in the Golden State. In 2004, Bush received 31% of the Latino vote and in 2000, he received 23%. In this poll, McCain is doing better among this group when paired against either Democratic candidate. When matched with Clinton, Clinton leads McCain among Latinos by 47% to 41%; when paired with Obama, it is 52% for Obama and 38% for McCain.

- Women who usually have given Clinton their staunch support, are now supporting her over McCain by 5 points, while Obama gets almost the same lead over his Republican rival.

Demographics of November Matchups among Groups of Women:

	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>
All Women	45%	40	46%	40
Married	35%	51	37%	8
Not married	60%	24	59%	28
Less than 45	35%	46	44%	45
45 and older	51%	37	47%	37
Less/college	42%	43	43%	44
College+	48%	36	51%	35
White	42%	45	39%	45
Non-white	48%	32	54%	33

May not add to 100% due to some categories are not shown.

- College educated voters have been a strong constituency for Obama in the Democratic primaries and this group is still strong for him. He takes a 14 point lead over McCain among this group. Clinton and McCain virtually divide this group by 42% for Clinton, 39% for McCain. Clinton was stronger among the less educated in the Democratic primaries, but splits this group with her Republican rival – 44% to 42%. Obama did not do well with these less educated voters, but against McCain, he has a five point advantage, 47% to 42%.
- Voters less than 45 years of age are giving Obama a slight three point advantage over McCain, but McCain leads Clinton by 13 points in this younger voter group. The older voters are more strongly behind both Democratic candidates.
- The Bay area, a bastion of liberal voters, solidly support either Democratic candidate, as do voters in Los Angeles county. Voters in the rest of southern California (up through Kern county) give McCain a slight advantage over Clinton, while Obama and his opponent split the voters in this part of the state. Voters in the the rest of northern California, not including the Bay area, marginally go for McCain over Clinton and Obama by four points each.

	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>
Los Angeles	51%	34	53%	37
Rest of southern CA	35%	46	45%	46
Bay Area*	50%	32	54%	24
Rest of northern CA	40%	44	40%	44

May not add to 100% due to some categories are not shown.

*Bay Area is a small base of 89 voters

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

The governor has fallen from grace since the beginning of the year. In January, Arnold Schwarzenegger's job approval rating was at 57% while 40% disapproved. In the current poll, Californians are divided – 42% to 43% (among registered voters it is 43% to 42%). This may be because of heated discussions of spending cuts on schools and education, raising fees, among other things to reduce the huge budget deficit. Also, people are divided over whether they agree or not on the governor's decision to respect the Supreme Court's decision on overturning the ban to allow gay couples to marry and his decision also not to support an amendment to the constitution that will appear on the November ballot to reinstate the ban on same-sex marriage. First, 51% of all Californians and 54% of registered voters would vote yes on a proposed amendment to the constitution to reinstate the ban on same-sex marriage. And 46% of all Californians and 49% of registered voters disagree with the governor's decision to uphold the Supreme Court's decision and not to support the amendment to reinstate the ban. Among those who agree with the Court's decision about same-sex marriage, 42% approve of the way the governor is handling his job, compared to 46% who disapprove. And among those who disagree with the governor's decision, 43% disapprove of the governor's job performance, while 41% approve. Another reason why the governor may not be as popular as he once was, nearly two-thirds of Californians believe the state is seriously off on the wrong track and a majority of them disapprove of Schwarzenegger's job performance. More than three-quarters of those who think the state is in the right direction (which is only 20%) give the governor a positive appraisal.

Men and women look at the way the governor is performing his job differently – men give the governor a positive rating (50% to 41%), while women give him a negative rating (44% to 35%). White and non-white Californians also look at the governor from different prisms – white residents give the governor a positive job rating (49% to 37%), while non-whites think the total opposite (48% negative vs. 35% positive). Those with less than a college education view Schwarzenegger's job performance negatively, while those with a higher education view him much more positively.

Californians who describe themselves as Democrats give the governor a negative rating, while independents and Republicans give him a positive ranking.

--- Analysis by Susan H. Pinkus

Survey Methodology

The Los Angeles Times/KTLA Poll contacted 834 adults in the state of California by telephone May 20 –21, 2008. Among them were 705 registered voters. 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 report of party registration. The margin of sampling error for all adults is plus or minus 3 percentage points; for registered voters it is 4 points. For certain 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 by Interviewing Service of America, Van Nuys, California. Data tables, analysis and stories are available online at latimes.com/timespoll.

Los Angeles Times/KTLA Poll

Data Tables – Survey 556 – Release #2

Guide to column headings:

ALL	All respondents
REG	All registered voters
DEM, IND, REP	Registered Democrats, Independents and Republicans
LIB, MOD, CONS	Self-described liberal, moderates and conservatives
MALE, FEMALE	Sex of respondent

Survey Notes:

- (vol) indicates a volunteered response
- ‘-’ indicates that a response added up to less than 0.5% of the question base
- The order of names and the order of arguments or statements are rotated in all questions that mention them. Question order is also rotated, whenever required to eliminate order bias.
- Numbers are percentages, tables are read vertically
- Unless otherwise noted, missing questions are operational or were published in a previous release
- Tables are either asked only of registered voters, or registered voters have been selected.

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

	----- Among Registered Voters -----									
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	
Right direction	17	15	18	20	25	13	15	22	13	
Wrong track	70	71	61	73	62	68	77	60	77	
Don't know	13	14	21	7	13	19	8	18	10	

Q4. If the November 2008 general election for president were being held today and the choices were Hillary Clinton, the Democrat, and John McCain, the Republican, for whom would you vote: Clinton or McCain, or would you vote for a candidate from some other party? (Includes leaners)

	----- Among Registered Voters -----									
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	
Clinton	43	76	30	11	71	45	13	40	45	
McCain	40	15	29	78	11	21	81	41	40	
Other Candidate	5	3	16	1	6	9	2	8	3	
Don't know	12	6	25	10	12	25	4	11	12	

Q5. If the November 2008 general election for president were being held today and the choices were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and John McCain, the Republican, for whom would you vote: Obama or McCain, or would you vote for a candidate from some other party? (Includes leaners)

	----- Among Registered Voters -----									
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	
Obama	47	75	42	20	77	52	18	49	46	
McCain	40	18	31	70	14	22	75	39	40	
Other Candidate	3	2	8	1	1	8	1	5	2	
Don't know	10	5	19	9	8	18	6	7	12	

Q6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Arnold Schwarzenegger is handling his job as governor? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	----- Among Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Approve (net)	<u>43</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>36</u>
Approve strongly	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>6</u>
Approve somewhat	<u>33</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>30</u>
Disapprove (net)	<u>42</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>43</u>
Disapprove somewhat	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>
Disapprove strongly	<u>27</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>
Don't know (net)	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>21</u>

Q9. As you may know, last week the California Supreme Court ruled that the California Constitution requires that same-sex couples be given the same right to marry that opposite-sex couples have. Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the Court's decision to allow same-sex marriage in California? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you strongly or only somewhat (approve/disapprove)?

	----- Among Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Approve (net)	<u>43</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>40</u>
Strongly approve	<u>32</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>30</u>
Somewhat approve	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>
Disapprove (net)	<u>51</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>56</u>
Somewhat disapprove	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>
Strongly disapprove	<u>42</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>48</u>
Don't know (net)	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>

Q11. As you may know, Governor Schwarzenegger said he will respect the Supreme Court's decision on same-sex marriage. He also said he will not support a ballot measure to amend the constitution to define marriage as only between a man and a woman. Do you agree or disagree with the governor's decision to respect the Supreme Court ruling and not support a ballot initiative? (IF AGREE/DISAGREE) Do you strongly or only somewhat (agree/disagree) with the governor's decision?

	----- Among Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Agree (net)	<u>44</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>42</u>
Strongly agree	<u>34</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>31</u>
Somewhat agree	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
Disagree (net)	<u>49</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>53</u>
Somewhat disagree	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>
Strongly disagree	<u>38</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>45</u>
Don't know (net)	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>

Q13. When voting in the November election for president, would you only vote for a candidate who agrees with your position on same-sex marriage, or would you vote for a candidate who held a different position than you on same-sex marriage, but agreed with you on most other issues?

	----- Among Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Only vote for candidate who agrees	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>29</u>
Could vote for candidate who disagrees	<u>58</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>55</u>
Don't know	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>