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Harris maintaining comfortable lead over Sanchez in this year's U.S. Senate race.

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<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2c32f0fs>

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Publication Date

2016-11-05

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Release #2556

**HARRIS MAINTAINING
COMFORTABLE LEAD OVER
SANCHEZ IN THIS YEAR'S U.S.
SENATE RACE.**

Release Date: **Saturday, November 5, 2016**

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By Mark DiCamillo, Director, *The Field Poll*

California Attorney General Kamala Harris is maintaining a comfortably large lead over fellow Democrat, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, in this year's lackluster campaign for U.S. Senate. The final pre-election *Field/IGS Poll*, conducted jointly by *The Field Poll* and UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies, finds Harris to be the choice of 47% of likely voters, while 23% are backing Sanchez. An unusually large proportion of voters remain undecided (17%) or say they will not vote (13%) in the Senate race. Harris' current twenty-four point lead compares to a similar twenty-two point advantage in a mid-September *Field/IGS Poll*.

The election is California's first major statewide candidate election in which both candidates are of the same party. Since two Democrats placed first and second in the state's June open primary, they advanced to the general election and are the only candidates listed. In that June primary Harris was the choice of 40% of voters, while Sanchez finished second with 19% in a crowded field of thirty-seven candidates.

One unique aspect of this year's U.S. Senate race is that an unusually large proportion of likely voters has consistently reported that they will not cast a vote in the Senate race. A big reason for this relates to the difficulty that Republicans and independents who lean Republican appear to be having making a choice between the two Democrats. In this latest poll, about a third of Republican voters (31%) and 12% of non-partisans volunteer that they wouldn't be casting a vote in the Senate race, while just 1% of Democratic voters say this. In addition, the poll finds that Republican voters see very little ideological difference between the two Democrats, with about two in three saying that they believe each of the two candidates is a political liberal.

Harris remains comfortably ahead of Sanchez in the Senate race

Harris has remained the clear leader in each of four statewide *Field Polls* conducted since late May. In the *Poll's* first general election pairing, conducted immediately prior to the June open primary, Harris led Sanchez 40% to 26%, with 14%, mostly Republicans, saying they would not vote and 20% were undecided. Since then support for Harris has increased from 40% to 47%, while support for Sanchez has remained fairly stagnant. Interestingly, the percentages of likely voters who say they won't vote has remained fairly consistent throughout the campaign, ranging narrowly between 12% and 15% in each poll.

Table 1				
Trend of California voter preferences for U.S. Senate in the November 2016 general election (among likely voters)				
	Late Oct. 2016	September 2016	July 2016	Late May 2016
Harris	47%	42%	39%	40%
Sanchez	23	20	24	26
Neither/won't vote	13	12	15	14
Undecided/refused	17	26	22	20

Note: Harris and Sanchez are the only two candidates whose names will appear on the November general election ballot for U.S. Senate. Both are Democrats.

Harris leads among most demographic and regional subgroups of the likely electorate

Harris's preference advantage over Sanchez is broad-based and spans most major demographic and regional subgroups of the likely electorate. According to the latest poll, the state Attorney General leads in all major regions of the state, among both men and women, across voters in all age ranges and educational backgrounds. Sanchez holds a slight advantage over Harris among Republicans and conservative voters, although in both segments only about one in four are backing Sanchez, and even large proportions say they will not vote in the fall general election.

Table 2				
California likely voter preferences in the 2016 U.S. Senate election by subgroup				
	Harris	Sanchez	Neither/ Won't vote	Undecided/ refused
Total likely voters	47%	23	13	17
<u>Voting method</u>				
Precinct	43%	23	13	21
Mail	50%	23	13	14
Already voted	55%	26	14	5
<u>Party registration</u>				
Democrat	68%	20	1	11
Republican	19%	26	31	24
No party preference/other	44%	23	12	21
<u>Political ideology</u>				
Conservative	21%	27	32	20
Moderate	47%	26	9	18
Liberal	71%	16	1	12
<u>Area</u>				
Coastal counties	50%	21	12	17
Inland counties	41%	26	16	17
<u>Region</u>				
Los Angeles County	55%	20	10	15
South Coast	38%	28	15	19
Other Southern CA	39%	24	17	20
Central Valley	40%	28	16	16
San Francisco Bay Area	56%	18	9	17
Other Northern CA*	44%	20	19	17
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	45%	25	15	15
Female	50%	20	11	19
<u>Age</u>				
18-39	43%	28	4	25
40-49	53%	20	10	17
50-64	51%	17	16	16
65 or older	44%	26	20	10
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
White non-Hispanic	48%	21	15	16
Latino	36%	33	10	21
African American*	76%	11	2	11
Asian American	58%	16	7	19
<u>Education</u>				
High school graduate or less	39%	23	20	18
Some college/trade school	39%	24	16	21
College graduate	50%	24	10	16
Post-graduate work	64%	19	6	11
<u>Marital status</u>				
Married/domestic partner	44%	24	16	16
Single/never married	54%	21	4	21
Widowed/separated/divorced	50%	20	16	14

* Small sample base.

** Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Pluralities view both Harris and Sanchez as political liberals

When asked about the political orientations of the two U.S. Senate candidates, voters are much more likely to describe both as liberal than as moderate or conservative. Nearly six in ten voters (59%) believe Harris's political ideology is liberal in politics. Another 22% see her as a political moderate and just 5% see her as conservative, while 14% have no opinion.

Most voters also tend to view Sanchez through the same political prism, with 46% of likely voters believing she is liberal, and just 8% saying she is conservative. About one in four (26%) see Sanchez as a political moderate, and 20% have no opinion.

Some partisan differences are evident in these evaluations. For example, among Democrats many more describe Harris as politically liberal (56%) than say this about Sanchez (38%). By contrast, fewer Republican voters see any ideological difference between the two Democrats, with about two in three describing each candidate as liberal in politics.

Table 3				
Voter perceptions of the political ideologies of Harris and Sanchez (among likely voters)				
	Total likely voters	Democrats	Republicans	No party preference/ other
<u>Kamala Harris</u>				
Very liberal	24%	11%	43%	24%
Liberal	35	45	23	31
Moderate	22	27	13	25
Conservative	3	4	3	1
Very conservative	2	1	3	1
Not sure	14	12	15	18
<u>Loretta Sanchez</u>				
Very liberal	17%	11%	31%	11%
Liberal	29	27	31	29
Moderate	26	32	15	29
Conservative	7	8	6	7
Very conservative	1	2	1	1
Not sure	20	20	16	23

* Small sample base.

Information About the Survey

Methodological Details

The findings in this report come from a survey of California voters conducted jointly by *The Field Poll* and the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. The survey was completed online by YouGov October 25-31, 2016 in English and Spanish among 1,498 Californians considered likely to vote in the November 2016 general election.

YouGov administered the survey among a sample of the California registered voters who were included as part of its online panel of over 1.5 million U.S. residents. Eligible panel members were asked to participate in the poll through an invitation email containing a link to the survey. YouGov selected voters using a proprietary sampling technology frame that establishes interlocking targets, so that the characteristics of the voters selected approximate the demographic and regional profile of the overall California registered voter population. To help ensure diversity among poll respondents, YouGov recruits its panelists using a variety of methods, including web-based advertising and email campaigns, partner-sponsored solicitations, and telephone-to-web recruitment or mail-to-web recruitment. Difficult-to-reach populations are supplemented through more specialized recruitment efforts, including telephone and mail surveys.

The Field Poll and the Institute of Governmental Studies were jointly responsible for developing all questions included in the survey. After survey administration, YouGov forwarded its data file to *The Field Poll* for processing. *The Field Poll* then took the lead in developing and applying post-stratification weights to more precisely align the sample to *Field Poll* estimates of the demographic characteristics of the California registered voter population both overall and by region. The *Field Poll* was also responsible for determining which voters in the survey were considered most likely to vote in this year's election.

The Field Poll was established in 1947 as *The California Poll* by Mervin Field. The Poll has operated continuously since then as an independent, non-partisan survey of California public opinion. *The Field Poll* receives financial support from leading California newspapers and television stations, which purchase the rights of first release to *Field Poll* reports in their primary viewer or readership markets. The Poll also receives funding from 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, as well as from foundations, non-profit organizations, and others as part of the Poll's policy research sponsor program.

Questions Asked

If the election for U.S. Senate in California were held today, for whom would you vote?

KAMALA HARRIS, STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEMOCRAT; LORETTA SANCHEZ, CONGRESSWOMAN, DEMOCRAT; UNDECIDED; WON'T VOTE FOR U.S. SENATE (ORDERING OF PARTY TICKETS RANDOMIZED TO AVOID POSSIBLE SEQUENCE BIAS)

People often talk about political viewpoints in the terms "liberal" and "conservative."

(ASKED IN RANDOM ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE SEQUENCE BIAS)

Where would you place Kamala Harris on this scale? VERY LIBERAL; LIBERAL; MODERATE; CONSERVATIVE; VERY CONSERVATIVE; NOT SURE

Where would you place Loretta Sanchez on this scale? VERY LIBERAL; LIBERAL; MODERATE; CONSERVATIVE; VERY CONSERVATIVE; NOT SURE

Note about Sampling Error Estimates

Polls conducted online using an opt-in panel do not easily lend themselves to the calculation of sampling error estimates as are traditionally reported for random sample telephone surveys.