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Author

DiCamillo, Mark

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THE FIELD POLL

Field Research Corporation
601 California Street, Suite 900,
San Francisco, CA 94108-2814
415.392.5763 • FAX: 415.434.2541
field.com/fieldpollonline

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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SAN FRANCISCO
• SANTA BARBARA
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UCB Contact

Dr. Jack Citrin: 510-642-4692 (office)
510-847-8306 (cell)

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HARRIS WIDENS LEAD OVER SANCHEZ IN CALIFORNIA'S ALL- DEMOCRATIC PARTY U.S. SENATE RACE.

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By Mark DiCamillo, Director, *The Field Poll*

Democratic state Attorney General Kamala Harris has expanded her lead over Democratic rival Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez in California's November election to fill the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Barbara Boxer. In a poll of likely voters completed jointly by *The Field Poll* and the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California, Berkeley and administered using YouGov's online panel, Harris now holds a twenty-two point advantage over Sanchez, up from earlier fourteen and fifteen leads observed in previous *Field Polls* conducted in late May and July.

Greater than four in ten Californians likely to vote (42%) in the *Field-IGS Poll* are now backing Harris, while 20% support Sanchez. However, an unusually large proportion of voters (26%) remain undecided. In addition, another 12%, mostly Republicans, volunteer that they will abstain from voting in this year's U.S. Senate election, presumably because there are no Republicans in the race.

The poll also finds that Harris is viewed somewhat more favorably than Sanchez when voters are asked their overall opinions of the two candidates. Greater than six in ten likely voters (61%) now say they have a favorable opinion of Harris, while 53% who say this about Sanchez. However, relatively few voters hold strong opinions about the candidates.

Trend of likely voter preferences in the U.S. Senate race

The *Field/IGS Poll* finds Harris receiving the support of 42% of likely voters, similar to levels of support she garnered in each of two prior *Field Polls* completed since late spring. Sanchez, by contrast, appears to have lost ground since her second place finish to Harris in the June open primary election. The latest poll finds 20% of likely voters now backing the Southern California Congresswoman, down from 24% in July and 26% in late May.

Table 1			
Trend of California voter preferences for U.S. Senate in the November 2016 general election (among likely voters)			
	September 2016	July 2016	Late May 2016
Harris	42%	39%	40%
Sanchez	20	24	26
Neither/won't vote	12	15	14
Undecided	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 subgroups of the likely electorate. For example, the state Attorney General leads among voters in all major regions of the state, among men and women, as well as voters across all age ranges, education and income classes. The only major subgroups where Sanchez holds an advantage are among Republicans and conservative voters, although in both segments only about one in five are backing Sanchez, and an even large proportion of voters say they will abstain and not vote in the fall general election. The latest poll also finds Latino voters, a key Sanchez constituency, about evenly dividing their preferences.

Table 2				
California voter preferences in the 2016 election for U.S. Senate across subgroups of the likely voter population				
	<u>Harris</u>	<u>Sanchez</u>	<u>Neither/ Won't vote</u>	<u>Undecided</u>
Total likely voters	42%	20	12	26
<u>Party registration</u>				
Democrat	62%	24	1	13
Republican	13%	20	30	37
No party preference/other	41%	15	11	33
<u>Political ideology</u>				
Conservative	11%	20	30	39
Moderate	41%	26	9	24
Liberal	67%	16	1	16
<u>Area</u>				
Coastal counties	46%	19	11	24
Inland counties	33%	23	14	30
<u>Region</u>				
Los Angeles County	46%	20	10	24
South Coast	41%	17	13	29
Other Southern CA	32%	20	14	34
Central Valley	36%	26	13	25
San Francisco Bay Area	50%	21	8	21
Other Northern CA*	36%	14	19	31
<u>Gender</u>				
Male	38%	23	14	25
Female	46%	18	9	27
<u>Age</u>				
18-29	36%	30	5	29
30-39	41%	27	6	26
40-49	39%	23	13	25
50-64	42%	14	15	29
65 or older	45%	19	15	21
<u>Race/ethnicity</u>				
White non-Hispanic	41%	18	13	28
Latino	35%	34	9	22
African American*	74%	7	7	12
Asian American	54%	11	14	21
<u>Education</u>				
High school graduate or less	36%	19	17	28
Some college/trade school	36%	22	14	28
College graduate	45%	22	9	24
Post-graduate work	52%	18	8	22
<u>Marital status</u>				
Married/domestic partner	39%	24	13	24
Single/never married	47%	20	7	26
Widowed/separated/divorced	44%	13	13	30
<u>Household income</u>				
Less than \$20,000	33%	24	10	33
\$20,000 – \$59,999	42%	23	11	24
\$60,000 – \$99,999	41%	20	10	29
\$100,000 or more	47%	19	11	23

* Small sample base.

Image ratings of the Senate candidates

When likely voters are asked their overall opinions of the two Senate candidates, a somewhat larger proportion reports having a favorable opinion of Harris than Sanchez. Statewide, greater than six in ten (61%) likely voters say they hold a positive impression of Harris, while 53% say this about Sanchez. However, the opinions of most voters toward the Senate candidates are not deeply felt, with relatively few holding strong opinions about either of the candidates.

While Sanchez is regarded favorably by most Democrats, Harris is viewed even more positively. In addition, most no party preference voters rate Harris positively, but opinions of Sanchez among this key constituency are divided. Both candidates are viewed negatively by large majorities of Republicans, although Harris's ratings are slightly lower than Sanchez's.

Table 3				
Voter image ratings of the U.S. Senate candidates overall and by party (among likely voters)				
	Total likely voters	Democrats	Republicans	No party preference/ others
Kamala Harris, attorney general, Democrat				
<u>Favorable</u>	<u>61%</u>	<u>91%</u>	<u>16%</u>	<u>59%</u>
Very favorable	25	42	3	21
Somewhat favorable	36	49	13	38
<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>38%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>82%</u>	<u>40%</u>
Somewhat unfavorable	20	7	37	25
Very unfavorable	18	1	45	15
No opinion	1	1	2	1
Loretta Sanchez, Congresswoman, Democrat				
<u>Favorable</u>	<u>53%</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>24%</u>	<u>49%</u>
Very favorable	11	19	3	5
Somewhat favorable	42	56	21	44
<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>46%</u>	<u>24%</u>	<u>76%</u>	<u>49%</u>
Somewhat unfavorable	28	19	41	29
Very unfavorable	18	5	35	20
No opinion	1	1	*	2

* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

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 September 7-13, 2016 in English and Spanish among 1,800 registered voters in California, including 1,426 considered likely to vote in the November 2016 general election. In order to cover a broad range of issues and still minimize possible respondent fatigue, some of the questions included in this report are based on a random subsample of voters statewide.

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.

Question 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)

What is your overall opinion of Democratic State Attorney General Kamala Harris?

VERY FAVORABLE; SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE; SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE; VERY UNFAVORABLE
(ASKED OF A RANDOM SUBSAMPLE OF LIKELY VOTERS)

What is your overall opinion of Democratic Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez?

VERY FAVORABLE; SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE; SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE; VERY UNFAVORABLE
(ASKED OF A RANDOM SUBSAMPLE OF LIKELY VOTERS)

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.