

HOOVER INSTITUTION

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2004

KERRY ONLY DEMOCRAT LEADING BUSH IN CALIFORNIA ACCORDING TO NEW HOOVER-KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS POLL

STANFORD -- Without even setting foot in the Golden State, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry now leads President Bush, according to a Hoover Institution-Knowledge Networks survey of 567 registered California voters. The survey was administered via the web-enabled panel between February 4 and February 13 and has a sampling margin of error of 4.1 percentage points.

Respondents were asked how they would vote if the presidential election were between Bush and Kerry. Of those who had a preference, 48 percent preferred Bush and 52 percent Kerry. (When people who hadn't decided were included, Kerry won by 42-38.)

Kerry is the only Democratic candidate who beats Bush one-on-one; against Edwards, Bush wins narrowly by 52 to 48. (Given the margin of error, Kerry's lead could be as high as +12 or as low as -4).

The survey indicates that Californians are already strongly divided by their party affiliation. Bush wins only 8 percent of the state's Democrats, while Kerry is the choice of the same proportion of Republicans. Among Independents, Bush has a slight advantage, by 53 to 47.

The survey also reveals that the public sees major differences between the two parties on key issues. By more than 2:1, Californians believe that Republicans are better than Democrats in dealing with terrorism. On healthcare, the results are reversed, with the Democrats holding a 2:1 margin. The issue that is most closely contested is the economy: here, 42 percent favor Democrats, 31 percent Republicans.

Survey respondents generally give California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger high marks for his performance in office. Seventy-four percent of the sample rated the governor's performance as good or very good. Schwarzenegger's popularity gives President Bush a potential advantage in his re-election bid; among respondents who approve of Schwarzenegger, Bush defeats Kerry 62-38.

There is a 5 percent gender gap in presidential vote choice. Men split between Bush and Kerry evenly, while Kerry wins (by 5 percent) among women. Bush wins narrowly among white voters (52-48) and Hispanics (51-49), while Kerry is the overwhelming choice of African-Americans (86-14).

The poll was designed by Stanford University communications and political science professor Shanto Iyengar and Stanford political science professors David Brady and Morris Fiorina, who also are Hoover Institution fellows, to learn more about voter attitudes and preferences as the California presidential primary approaches on March 2. They worked in concert with Knowledge Networks' vice president and manager director Michael Dennis on the administration of the survey and analysis of the results.

This is the first of two surveys prior to the California primary. The second survey will measure changes that occur in the views of voters in the days immediately before the election and the most important California propositions.

**Appendix to the News Announcement for the
Stanford University Hoover Institution/Knowledge Networks
California Primary Election Survey
February 18, 2004**

Survey Results

The results are from 567 interviews conducted between February 4 and February 13 with registered voters in California. The survey was conducted by Knowledge Networks (<http://www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp>) in collaboration with Stanford University's Hoover Institution. This is the first of two surveys to be conducted on the California primary election. The second survey will measure changes that occur in the views of voters in the days immediately before the election and the most important California propositions.

Bush-Kerry Trial Heat Results by Party ID Among Registered Voters

	All	Dems	Rep	Ind
Bush	38	7	80	29
Kerry	42	79	7	26
Can't Say	20	14	12	45

N=560

Excluding can't say:

	All	Dems	Rep	Ind
Bush	48	8	92	53
Kerry	52	92	8	47

N=450

Bush-Edwards Trial Heat Results by Party ID Among Registered Voters

	All	Dems	Rep	Ind
Bush	39	8	81	34
Edwards	36	67	5	21
Can't Say	25	25	14	45

N=562

Excluding can't say:

	All	Dems	Rep	Ind
Bush	52	11	94	61
Edwards	48	89	6	39

N=422

Percent Voting for Bush (excluding 'can't say' responses) by Party ID Among Registered Voters:

Democrats	8
Republicans	92
Independent/Other	53

Bush versus Kerry: Policy Preferences by Preference to Vote for Bush vs. Kerry
 (Example: 81 percent of those who favor unilateral intervention report a preference for Bush over Kerry)

	Favor Bush	Favor Kerry
Favor unilateral intervention	81	19
In-between	62	38
Favor intervention only w/ UN approval	19	81

	Favor Bush	Favor Kerry
Support free trade	68	32
In-between	39	61
Support protecting US industries	41	59

	Favor Bush	Favor Kerry
Top priority to war on Terrorism	85	15
In-between	51	49
Top priority to Domestic issues	10	90

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	Favor Bush	Favor Kerry
Approve Bush's performance	96	4

Bush Performance on Iraq

	Favor Bush	Favor Kerry
On Iraq (good + very good)		
In-between (fair)	68	32
Disapprove (poor + very poor)	3	97

Bush Performance on Economy

	Favor Bush	Favor Kerry
Approve on Economy	95	5
In-between	19	81
Disapprove	2	98

Governor Schwarzenegger Approval Ratings

	Favor Bush	Favor Kerry
Approve	62	38
Disapprove	11	89

Do you favor Repubs or Dems on:

	Terrorism	Healthcare	Education	Economy
Reps	50	20	26	31
Dems	19	52	46	42
No diff	31	28	28	28

Percent voting for Bush by:

Favor Reps on terror 92
Favor Dems 0
No diff 13

Favor Reps on econ 93
Favor Dems on econ 3
No diff 55

Favor Reps on health 100
Favor Dems 12
No diff 69

Methodological Note

The poll was conducted February 4 through February 13 using the Knowledge Networks web-enabled panel, which provides a representative sample of Californian households (see <http://www.knowledgenetworks.com/ganp>).

The sampling margin of error for the sample 567 likely voters adults is 4.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

The survey results were weighted to U.S. Census population benchmarks for adults residing in the State of California in terms of age, race/ethnicity, education attainment, and urban/rural, and to the California Secretary of State records for political party identification.

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