

# THE CALIFORNIA POLL

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## MURPHY LEADS IN GOP SENATORIAL RACE BUT ONE OUT OF TWO GOP VOTERS UNDECIDED

by Mervin D. Field

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Although George Murphy leads Leland Kaiser and Fred Hall in the Republican Senatorial race, the significant fact about this contest is that at present about half of the GOP rank and file have yet to make a choice.

Prospects for a Republican victory in November, no matter who wins the primary, are bleak. At the present time it appears that either Alan Cranston or Pierre Salinger, the two Democrats leading that party's senatorial primary, would handily defeat any of the Republicans by landslide proportions.

These results were obtained in the latest California Poll survey completed during the first week of this month in which a representative sample of Republicans and Democrats throughout the state were interviewed.

Responses from Republicans as to their first choice preference continue to show former screen actor George Murphy in the lead, and San Francisco Bay Area businessman Leland Kaiser has gained some ground. Former Kansas Governor, Fred Hall, has slipped to third place in the standings.

### Undecided Increase

Most significant, however, is the sharp increase in the proportion of Republicans who are undecided, indicating that it is becoming increasingly difficult for Republicans to make a choice.

(MORE)

Below are the results from the current poll showing the trend since the last poll, taken during the last week of March.

	Republican voters	
	Early May	Late March
Murphy	27%	38%
Kaiser	14	8
Hall	11	20
Undecided	48	34

Big Democratic Edge

In the latest survey each Republican candidate was also paired off against each of the leading Democratic candidates. (Alan Cranston, Pierre Salinger, and George McLain). The results show that as of today, each of these Democrats has a lead over each Republican ranging from substantial to overwhelming among voters at large.

Listed below are the results of simulated November election senatorial pairings wherein Murphy, the present Republican leader, is matched against Cranston and Salinger. If Californians were voting today, either of the two leading Democratic candidates would win substantial victories.

Cranston	56%
Murphy	26
Undecided	18
Salinger	46%
Murphy	30
Undecided	24

Tomorrow, the California Poll will preview the November Presidential race. How well do the various leading Republican candidates impress California voters today when paired against President Lyndon Johnson in simulated Presidential trial heats?