

THE CALIFORNIA POLL

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CALIFORNIA REPUBLICANS WANT GOP
TO BE PARTY OF MODERATE
CONSERVATISM

by Mervin D. Field

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One of the big questions left over from the presidential election of last November is the extent to which Senator Barry Goldwater's showing can be classified as a disaster for the GOP or an encouraging sign that a conservative majority may be shaping up.

The California Poll's latest statewide survey of a cross section of the electorate finds little evidence that the extreme conservative wing of the GOP is yet ready to command a majority of the party's rank-and-file in California, but some form of "conservatism" is generally the order of the day for Republicans in the state. The Poll's interviewers questioned Republicans as follows:

"There has been some discussion recently about what direction Republican Party policies should take in the future. Would you personally like to see the Republican Party take a conservative stand, a middle of the road stand, or a liberal stand?"

(IF "CONSERVATIVE" OR "LIBERAL"):"Would you like the party to take a strong or a moderate (conservative) (liberal) stand?"

Conservative Approach

Their answers show a pronounced preference for conservatism, but relatively few want to go to the strongly conservative extreme. A majority of Republicans want the party to be near the middle-of-the-road or to be "moderately conservative".

Want GOP to be --	California Republicans
Strongly conservative	17%
Moderately conservative	26
Middle of the road	36
Moderately liberal	6
Strongly liberal	4
No opinion	11

Goldwater Vote

Since the election there has been a lot of discussion about how many of the 27 million votes cast for Goldwater-Miller were actually an endorsement of the strong conservative position. The California Poll's findings indicate that even in this state which is generally credited with giving

(MORE)

The California Poll was founded in 1946 as a medium for promoting public opinion research. The California Poll is completely independent of all political parties and candidates. Its sole purpose is to report public opinion accurately and objectively. Most of the financial support for the Poll comes from newspapers and television stations that have exclusive rights within the city of publication. The Poll utilizes accepted scientific sampling and questioning procedures in obtaining the data reported in its releases. Representative samples of adults are interviewed at periodic intervals on election issues and other socially important questions of the day. Proportionate numbers of people of both sexes, from all parts of the state, from different sized communities, and of all age, economic, political, and occupation groups are included in the samples. Major surveys are made with samples of 1,200 or more respondents. Interim surveys sometimes are made with smaller samples but not less than 600 interviews.