

THE CALIFORNIA POLL

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INCUMBENTS HOLD BIG LEAD IN RACES
 FOR THREE OUT OF FIVE TOP
 STATEWIDE OFFICES

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by Mervin D. Field

Lieutenant Governor Glenn Anderson, Attorney General Thomas Lynch, and State Controller, Alan Cranston -- all Democrats and incumbents -- hold substantial leads over their Republican rivals as November's general election campaign begins.

Two incumbents -- Republican Secretary of State Frank Jordan and Democrat Treasurer Bert Betts -- are facing strong challenges in their bid to win re-election.

A California Poll survey of public opinion has just been completed in which proportionate numbers of Democrats, Republicans, and other potential voters were interviewed. The survey finds present voter sentiment in five statewide political races to be as follows:

<u>Lieutenant Governor</u>	<u>Preference Votes Statewide</u>
Glenn Anderson, Dem. Inc.	48%
Robert Finch, Rep.	34
Undecided	18
<u>Attorney General</u>	
Thomas Lynch, Dem. Inc.	49%
Spencer Williams, Rep.	24
Undecided	27

(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. 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 1,000 or more respondents. Interim surveys sometimes are made with smaller samples of not less than 600 interviews.

<u>State Controller</u>	<u>Preference Votes Statewide</u>
Alan Cranston, Dem. Inc.	59%
Houston Flournoy, Rep.	24
Undecided	17
<u>Secretary of State</u>	
Frank Jordan, Rep. Inc.	39%
Norbert Schlei, Dem.	34
Undecided	27
<u>State Treasurer</u>	
Ivy Baker Priest, Rep.	40%
Bert A. Betts, Dem. Inc.	38
Undecided	22

Traditionally, these statewide races are overshadowed by the usually hard fought and noisy contests for the state's Chief Executive spot. As a result, public preferences do not really solidify until the latter stages of the campaign, and it is during this eleventh hour period that candidates for these offices usually try to bring the most campaign pressure to bear.

The California Poll will continue to measure public opinion on these races during the coming months.