

Election 2008: California Presidential Election

California: Obama Holds onto Solid Lead in Big Blue State
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The Presidential race in California – not surprisingly – continues to lean strongly in Barack Obama’s favor. The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey in the Sunshine State finds Obama on top 51% to 37%.

Nationally, the race between McCain and Obama remains competitive in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll and in the Electoral College.

When “leaners” are included, Obama leads McCain 54% to 41%. Leaners are survey participants who initially indicate no preference for either major candidate but indicate that they are leaning towards either McCain or Obama.

The race has held steady since last month, when the Democrat had a twelve-point lead.

McCain is viewed favorably by 51% of voters in California and unfavorably by 48%. Obama’s ratings are 61% favorable, 39% unfavorable.

The latest survey also found that while 80% of voters in California say finding new energy sources is an urgent national need, 70% say that of reducing energy consumption. When given the choice of which is more important, 59% chose finding new energy sources while 35% said reducing the amount of energy Americans consume. Those figures are similar to the national average.

When it comes to presidential campaigns, 61% of voters in California say most politicians will break the rules in order to help those who contribute money to their campaigns. Like voters on the national level more voters in California (51%) say media bias is a bigger problem today than big campaign contributions. Forty-one percent (41%) take the opposite view. Slightly more voters in California (44%) say McCain is too influenced by campaign contributors and lobbyists than those who think that of Obama (38%).

Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger earns good or excellent ratings from 28% of voters, while 32% say he is doing a poor job.

President Bush earns good or excellent ratings from just 23% of voters, down from 30% last month, while 63% say he is doing a poor job, up from 57% last month. Nationally, the president’s approval ratings continue to hover around record lows.