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## CAMPAIGN 2006

### [Last Field Poll before vote sees victory for governor](#)

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Dismissed as political roadkill one year ago, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger now appears poised for a sweeping re-election victory over Democratic state Treasurer Phil Angelides on Tuesday, according to the final Field Poll before the election.

The new poll gives Schwarzenegger a 16 percentage point lead over Angelides among likely voters, 49 percent to 33 percent. Fifty-five percent of those voters also have a favorable image of the GOP governor, up from 38 percent in the days before last November's disastrous special election, where voters smashed Schwarzenegger's heavily promoted package of Republican-friendly initiatives.

"Every poll we've taken this year has been better for the governor," said Mark DiCamillo, the poll's director. "This incredible turnaround is continuing through election day."

The poll is an uninterrupted horror show for Angelides, with nary an encouraging word.

While Schwarzenegger has the backing of 85 percent of Republican voters, Angelides can rely on the support of only 59 percent of Democrats. In the Bay Area, a liberal bastion where Democrats outnumber Republicans 2-to-1, Angelides finds himself in a dead heat with the GOP governor. Angelides has a narrow lead over Schwarzenegger, 40 percent to 36 percent, among typically Democratic Latino voters and is virtually tied with the governor in union households, historically among the strongest Democratic supporters.

Most depressing of all for Democrats, 78 percent of California's likely voters believe Schwarzenegger will be re-elected. Even 63 percent of those voting for Angelides are convinced they're backing the loser.

While Angelides has said for weeks that he wasn't worried about an early lack of Democratic support, "we haven't seen that Democrats are coming home," DiCamillo said. "There are lots of Democratic constituencies where Schwarzenegger is doing very well."

But Angelides and his backers are convinced pollsters are missing the anti-Bush, anti-war, anti-Republican feelings that are creating a Democratic wave they expect will sweep over the nation on Tuesday, carrying Angelides and other Democrats to victory.

Pollsters "have got a view of what the electorate is going to do based on past elections," said Bill Carrick, a consultant for Angelides. "But there's no evidence this is going to be a normal year."



The poll provides little evidence that there are hordes of Democratic and independent voters just looking for a reason to support Angelides. More than half of Angelides' supporters say they are backing him because he's a Democrat, while 63 percent of Schwarzenegger's backers say they like him because of his stand on the issues.

"For Angelides, they're just voting for the 'D,' " DiCamillo said. "Schwarzenegger has been more bipartisan this year, and people are rewarding him for it."

That's the tune Schwarzenegger and his campaign team have been playing for the past year, promoting his efforts to work more closely with the Democrat-controlled Legislature.

"The big thing is that people are coming to realize that (Schwarzenegger) has provided leadership of bipartisan cooperation," said Matthew Dowd, chief strategist for the governor's campaign. "People are seeing the bickering and partisan sniping in Washington and comparing that to what's happening in California."

Schwarzenegger has widened his gap over Angelides. A survey in October 2005 gave Angelides a 47 percent to 41 percent lead over the governor in a head-to-head matchup. But Schwarzenegger pulled even with Democratic hopeful in February and moved to a four-point lead in the April survey. Since then, his lead has steadily grown.

"The momentum is all on Schwarzenegger's side," DiCamillo said. "It would have to be a major event to turn the election around, and we haven't seen it."

In a bit of good news for California Democrats, the poll showed that Sen. Dianne Feinstein was likely to win re-election with a landslide victory over former GOP state Sen. Richard Mountjoy. Feinstein, former mayor of San Francisco, holds a daunting 55 percent to 33 percent lead over Mountjoy, who has been almost invisible during the fall campaign.

"What's surprising is how little Mountjoy is known in the state," DiCamillo said. "This close to the election, almost two-thirds of the likely voters still have no opinion about him, which is very unusual for a U.S. Senate race."

The big question now is what effect Angelides' sagging support will have on other Democratic campaigns in the state.

"Democrats are dispirited," DiCamillo said. "You do wonder what effect that will have on turnout."

From now to election day, the campaigns will concentrate less on their candidates and more on getting their supporters to the polls.

"We want to make sure the turnout is what we want it to be," Dowd said. "Now we need to create enthusiasm."

The poll is based on a telephone survey taken Oct. 23-30 of 1,092 registered voters, including 795 who can be considered likely voters. Questions relating to image ratings and the U.S. Senate race were asked to a random subsample of 401 likely voters. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.5 percent for the likely voter sample and plus or minus 5 percent for the smaller subsample.

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