The recall election

Q: *If the election were being held today and these were the candidates, for whom would you vote?*

	Now	Aug. 16–21
Cruz Bustamante	30%	35%
Arnold Schwarzenegger	25	22
Tom McClintock	18	12
Peter Ueberroth *	8	7
Arianna Huffington	3	3
Peter Miguel Camejo	2	1
Bill Simon	**	6
Larry Flynt	**	1
Others (volunteered)	1	–
Wouldn't vote	8	4
Don't know	5	9

* Ueberroth announced his retirement from the race on Tuesday, while this survey was in progress.
** Simon and Flynt were listed as candidates when the question was asked in the August poll but not in the current poll; Simon dropped out of the race Aug. 23.

Q: *Those who named a candidate were asked: How certain are you to vote for your candidate?*

	Bustamante voters	Schwarzenegger voters	McClintock voters
Definitely	69%	58%	46%
Probably	16	18	19
Still considering	15	24	35

Q: *What one issue or problem in California would you say is most important for the governor to address?*
(Accepted up to two replies. Top four responses shown.)

Budget deficit	34%
Education	26
Economy	21
Immigration	11

Q: *Are you satisfied with the choices for governor or do you wish there were other candidates to choose from?*

Satisfied	65%
Wish there were others	27

Q: *What is your impression of…*

	Now			Aug. 16-21		
	Favor-able	Unfavor-able	Don't know	Favor-able	Unfavor-able	Don't know
Schwarzenegger	52%	38%	10%	46%	44%	10%
McClintock	46	23	31	34	21	45
Bustamante	41	50	9	48	29	23
Davis	39	60	1	33	65	2

Q: *Here are some phrases which could apply to any of the candidates or to Gov. Davis. Do you think each applies more to Cruz Bustamante, or to Arnold Schwarzenegger, or to Tom McClintock, or to Peter Ueberroth,* or to Gray Davis?*

	Bustamante	Schwarzenegger	McClintock	Davis
He has the best experience for the job	20%	1%	25%	35%
He will be a strong leader	14	23	20	18
He will reduce the influence of special interests in Sacramento	7	42	8	5

* Ueberroth responses not shown; he has dropped out of the race.

Q: *Here are some comments that have been made about several of the candidates and about Gov. Davis. Do you agree or disagree with each comment?*

	Agree	Disagree
Schwarzenegger is an outsider who could bring needed reform to Sacramento	45%	44%
Schwarzenegger has tried to avoid taking public positions on important issues	67	23
Bustamante is in touch with the needs and problems of average Californians	43	39
Bustamante has been too much a part of Gray Davis' administration to solve the problems in Sacramento	46	43
McClintock is straightforward and says what he believes even if it is unpopular	54	6
McClintock is too politically conservative to have a realistic chance of being elected governor	44	25
Davis increased money for California's schools and deserves some of the credit for improvement in student test scores	44	40
Davis spends too much time raising campaign funds and not enough time working on the state's problems	58	27

Q: *If Bustamante becomes governor, he will be the first Latino governor of California since 1875. Does knowing that make you more or less likely to vote for him?*

	All likely voters	Non-Latino whites	Latinos
More likely	10%	7%	25%
No difference	85	87	73
Less likely	4	5	2

Q: *Former Gov. Pete Wilson and many of the top advisors from his administration are now advising Schwarzenegger. Does knowing that make you more or less likely to vote for Schwarzenegger?*

	All likely voters	Non-Latino whites	Latinos
More likely	13%	15%	18%
No difference	49	53	31
Less likely	37	31	51

Notes: All results shown are among likely voters. Results in vote questions include those who are "leaning" toward voting a particular way. " – " indicates less than 0.5%. Numbers may not total 100% where more than one response was accepted or some answer categories are not shown.

How the Poll Was Conducted

The Times Poll contacted 2,249 California adults, including 1,553 registered voters and 922 voters considered likely to turn out on Oct. 7th. The survey was conducted by telephone Sept. 6–10. An additional random sample of the state was also conducted over the same period and added to the sample, which brought the total number of Latino likely voters in the survey to 121. The entire sample of adults was weighted slightly to conform with census figures for sex, race, age and education as well as to registration figures provided by the secretary of state. The margin of sampling error for likely voters is 3 percentage points in either direction, and among Latinos it is 9 percentage points. Surveys conducted during busy campaign seasons are also subject to influence by news events; for example, Peter Ueberroth retired from the race on Tues. while this survey was being conducted. Poll results can also be affected by factors such as question wording and the order in which questions are presented. Telephone numbers for Times Poll samples are randomly selected from the set of all telephone exchanges in the state, which allows all Calif. residents equal chance of being contacted without regard to listed or unlisted numbers or their presence on registered voter lists. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. All racial and ethnic groups are proportionally represented in this survey even when there may not be enough in the sample to be specifically mentioned.

Times Poll results are also available at www.latimes.com/timespoll.