

# Field Poll: Jerry Brown easily dominates governor's race

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Riding a new high in popularity, Gov. [Jerry Brown](#) looks to be coasting toward re-election in November, with GOP Assemblyman [Tim Donnelly](#) moving solidly into second place in the June 3 top-two primary, according to a new Field Poll.

The survey "is overwhelmingly good for Brown, but, secondarily, it's good news for Donnelly," said [Mark DiCamillo](#), who runs the poll. "Republicans are coalescing around Donnelly" as the candidate they want to see challenge Brown in the November general election.

Among likely voters, 57 percent back Brown, 17 percent support Donnelly of Twin Peaks (San Bernardino County), 4 percent favor [Andrew Blount](#), the Republican mayor of Laguna Hills (Orange County), and 3 percent are for Neel Kashkari, an Orange County investment banker.

The numbers are a major disappointment for Kashkari, a political novice who is hoping to ride his record as a former Treasury Department official and a well-funded campaign into a general election showdown with Brown.

## Falling short with GOP

Kashkari has been getting plenty of attention from television, newspapers and other media, but it so far hasn't been enough even to pull him past the little-known Blount, DiCamillo said.

"Republican voters are not as enthusiastic about (Kashkari) as they are about Donnelly," DiCamillo said.

Republicans will play a disproportionate role in what's expected to be a low-turnout election in June, and they gravitate toward Donnelly and his pro-gun, anti-illegal immigration and antiabortion views.

Among Republicans, who are expected to make up more than a third of June's voters, 34 percent back Donnelly, compared with 8 percent for Blount and 3 percent for Kashkari.

While all voters will have a chance to decide which two candidates will advance to the No. 4 election, adding decline-to-state voters to the mix doesn't help Kashkari. Fifteen percent of those unaffiliated voters back Donnelly, while only 1 percent apiece support Blount and Kashkari.

Of the three main GOP challengers, Kashkari is the only one seen unfavorably by a plurality of voters, with 16 percent having a favorable opinion and 20 percent with a negative view.

But with 38 percent of GOP voters still undecided on their choice for governor, "there's a lot of room for change if one candidate can communicate with the voters," DiCamillo said.

In a state the size of California, communication means television advertising and that can cost \$1.5 million or more for a week of 30-second spots. Kashkari is the only one of the GOP hopefuls with anything like the cash to start a statewide ad campaign.

As of March 23, when the most recent campaign finance reports were filed, Kashkari had \$903,000 in the bank. Both Donnelly and Blount owed more in bills than they had in their treasuries.

"The greatest return (on advertising) is when voters have a ballot in their hand," which won't be until May 5, when early voting begins, DiCamillo said. "That's when voters are reminded there's an election coming."

### **Brown's ratings high**

But the new Field Poll, and most other surveys of the governor's race, suggest the Republicans are running for a chance to lose to Brown in November.

The governor's 59 percent job approval rating among registered voters is the highest since he was elected in 2010. Seventy-five percent of [Democrats](#) and 60 percent of decline-to-state voters are pleased with Brown's work as governor, and even 35 percent of Republicans think he's doing a good job.

The numbers "aren't really surprising," DiCamillo said. "In the open primary, Brown seems to be just cruising along."

The poll was based on a telephone survey taken from March 18 to April 5 of 1,000 registered voters, including 504 considered likely to cast ballots in the primary. The overall survey has a sampling error of plus or minus 3.2 percentage points, and plus or minus 4.5 percentage points for the likely voter sample.

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