

California Poll Has Ford Losing Ground to Reagan

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SAN FRANCISCO Nov. 24— ahead in a state where he had In the last three months, President Ford has lost ground among California Republicans to former Gov. Ronald Reagan, according to a study released today by Mervin D. Field, operator of the California Poll.

As totals now stand, according to a spokesman for the Republican National Committee, there will be 2,259 votes in the 1976 nominating convention. Under a formula that takes into account the Republican vote, number of Republicans in state office and other factors, California will have 167 votes, which is 7.3 percent, the largest bloc.

The figures reported by Mr. Field were as follows:

	November	August
Reagan	48%	45%
Ford	47	45
Undecided	6	1

This was taken by observers here to indicate that President Ford's moves to the right had failed to bring the desired shift away from Mr. Reagan, at least among the voters of the state where Mr. Reagan is best known.

Mr. Field said that his survey had a plus or minus margin of error of 5.5 per cent. It was based on interviews with 1,164 persons of whom 354 were registered Republicans.

The announcement that Vice President Rockefeller will not be on the Ford ticket was the most significant of Mr. Ford's moves. Mr. Ford has also appeared to be meeting objections from the Republican right by his Cabinet changes and some of his positions on issues.

Conservatives' Reaction

Mr. Field's survey indicated that Republican conservatives in California were not impressed with these moves. The conservative segment of his sample answered the question "If the choice were between Ford and Reagan, whom would you prefer?" with these percentages:

	November	August
Reagan	51%	51%
Ford	44	48
Undecided	5	1

Among moderates and liberals, Mr. Ford lost even more, and Mr. Reagan made a substantial gain.

	November	August
Ford	55%	68%
Reagan	43	31
Undecided	2	1

Mr. Ford's backers may say that certainly Mr. Reagan would be expected to run

twice been elected governor.

However, Mr. Reagan won in 1966 with 56.6 percent of the vote, and by 1970 his following trailed off to 52.8 percent.

Before he left office, he lost a major statewide election in which he had staked his reputation on passage of a bill that would have radically changed California's fiscal system.

"It's not that this is Reagan country," Mr. Field said today in a luncheon speech to the American Statistical Association. "As with any two-term governor, he left office with much less support than he took in with him."

Conflict Described

"There's an increasing loss of confidence in President Ford. The conflict for Republican voters seems to be that they want to elect the next President and feel that Mr. Ford has a better chance there," Mr. Field said, but "instinctively they want to vote for Reagan."

"Those are some of the reasons why Ford dropped 10 points relative to Reagan since August," he said.

The Republicans here will hold a "winner-take-all" Presidential primary as in the past, so even a one-vote plurality will carry the party's largest delegation.

The Democratic primary here will be on a proportional basis, however.

Suspect Is Seized in Texas In Robbery and Abduction

LUBBOCK, Tex., Nov. 24 (UPI)—City and state policeman captured today a suspect who allegedly robbed a restaurant, took an employee hostage and threatened to kill the hostage unless the police gave in to his demands.

The suspect, who refused to identify himself to the police but finally told a court-appointed lawyer he was Eugene Lawson, 49 years old, was held in lieu of \$120,000 bond in the county jail. His home address was unknown.

Before dawn today, policemen chased the suspect from a southside restaurant as he fled with the assistant manager, Mike Langston, as a hostage. After speeds of up to 120 miles per hour, policemen shot out both rear tires and stopped the car about 20 miles south of Lubbock.