

Poll Reports Reagan Trails Ford in Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 3 (AP)—Ronald Reagan has lost substantial ground in his home state over the summer in his quest for the Republican presidential nomination, the California Poll reported today.

The statewide survey said the former governor trailed President Ford by percentage points. In May, he led Mr. Ford by nine points.

The most recent poll was conducted in early August among 1,006 persons in various parts of the state.

Pollster Mervin Field attributed the switch to Mr. Ford's increasing visibility and the apparent inability of Reagan to expand his conservative constituency.

"The incumbency of the presidency has power that is just now being asserted in Ford's case," Field said. "Reagan's constituency hasn't changed much."

The poll found that 45 per cent of California Republicans favored Mr. Ford, while 30 per cent favored Reagan. Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) was next with 6 per cent, followed by Vice President Rockefeller and others, who trailed far behind.

Last May, 39 per cent said they would vote for Reagan in the GOP primary next year while 30 per cent said they would vote for Mr. Ford.

"Reagan has only a slight edge over Ford among conservative Republicans, and the President gets large majority support from moderates and liberals within the California GOP," Field said.