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Roll Call

April 27, 2005 Wednesday

SECTION: AT THE RACES**LENGTH:** 230 words**HEADLINE:** California;
Poll Finds Voters Want Redistricting Reform**BODY:**

A new poll shows substantial support for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's (R) push for redistricting reform.

Schwarzenegger is hoping to take redistricting powers away from the Legislature and place them in the hands of a panel of retired judges. He wants new Congressional and legislative boundaries drawn before the 2006 elections and is hoping to put the question to the voters in a special election later this year.

If a special election takes place, it appears as if the redistricting measure has a good chance of passing.

The poll of 800 likely voters, conducted April 12-16 by the **Rose Institute** of Claremont McKenna College, found that 73 percent of those surveyed agreed that it is a conflict of interest for legislators to draw their own district boundaries. Asked whether they'd rather have district lines drawn by the Legislature or retired judges, 64 percent said judges and only 23 percent said the Legislature.

And asked whether they'd rather have the new lines drawn next year or in 2011, after the next Census, 59 percent said 2006 and 31 percent said 2011. The poll had a 3.5 percent error margin.

"The **Rose Institute** has studied redistricting for more than 30 years," said Ralph Rossum, the **institute's** director. "These results are the most convincing we have ever seen that a large majority of the electorate is now prepared to back reform."

- J.K.

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