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Title

Release #2018-10: Poll of voters in eight of the state's GOP-held congressional districts shows Democratic candidates lead in two, hold a small advantage in two others, and in statistical dead heats in three of the four others.

Permalink

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7g96g21r

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Publication Date

2018-10-04

Release #2018-10   Thursday, October 4, 2018

Poll of voters in eight of the state's GOP-held congressional districts shows Democratic candidates lead in two, hold a small advantage in two others, and in statistical dead heats in three of the four others.

By Mark DiCamillo, Director, *Berkeley IGS Poll*
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A new *Berkeley IGS Poll* of over 5,000 likely voters in eight congressional districts in California finds Democratic candidates well positioned to capture a number of GOP-held seats considered by neutral observers to be in play in this year's congressional elections. According to the poll, the Democrats hold a significant lead over their Republican opponents in two of the districts, they appear to hold a small advantage in two others, while in three of the four other districts the races are statistical dead heats.
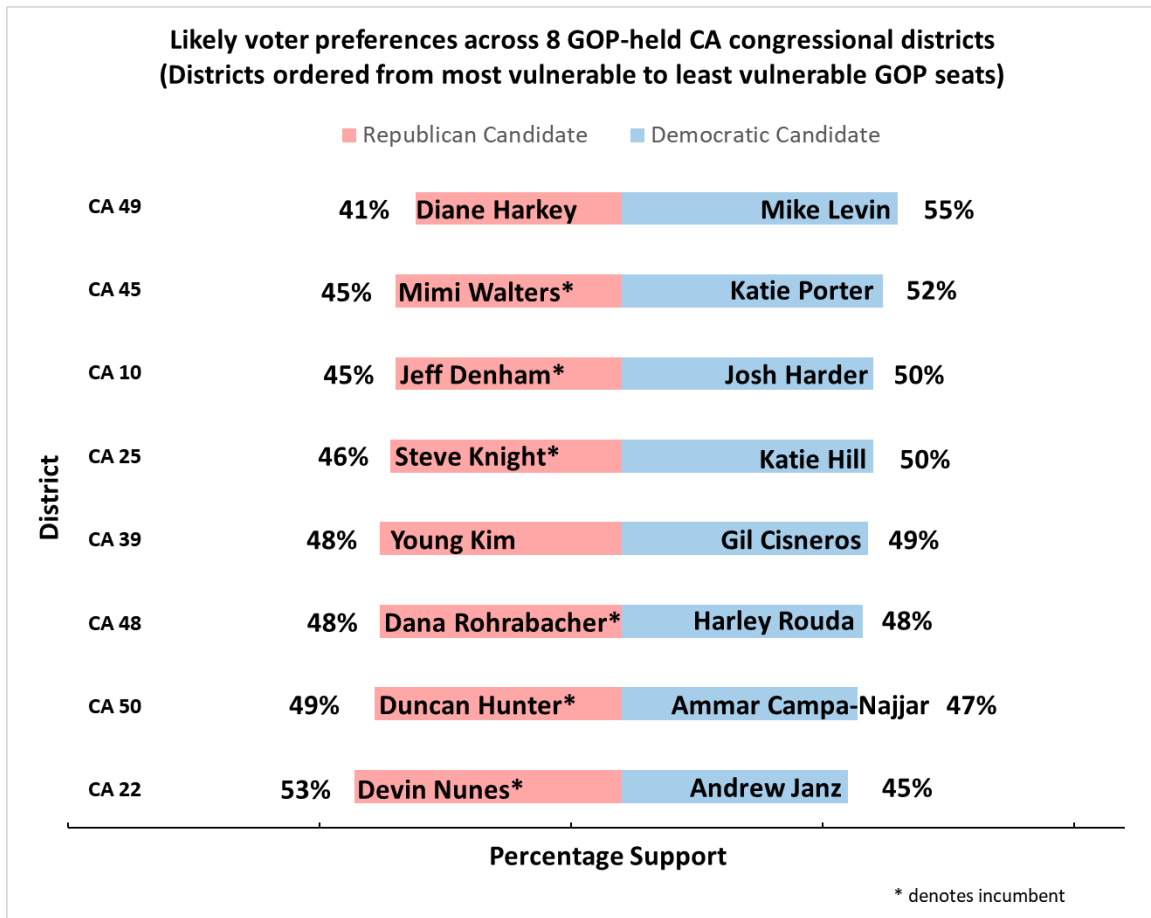
In the 49th district Democrat Mike Levin holds the largest lead, leading his GOP opponent Diane Harkey by 14 points, 55% to 41%. The district, which spans southern Orange and northern San Diego counties, is an open seat currently held by Republican Darrell Issa, who is retiring this year. In district 45, also in Orange County, Democrat Katie Porter leads Republican incumbent Mimi Walters by seven points, 52% to 45%.

Democratic candidates also appear to hold an advantage in two other congressional districts where Republican incumbents are seeking re-election – the 10th district in the Central Valley and the 25th district covering parts of northern Los Angeles and southern Ventura counties. In the 10th district, Democrat Josh Harder is receiving the support of 50% of likely voters, while 45% favor incumbent Republican Jeff Denham. In the 25th district, the poll finds 50% of likely voters backing Democrat Katie Hill, while 46% are supporting Republican incumbent Steve Knight. While these results favor the Democrats in each district they are within the poll's margin of error.

Three other GOP-held congressional seats are even closer contests. In the 39th district, an open seat that includes parts of northern Orange, southeastern Los Angeles and western San Bernardino counties, Democrat Gil Cisneros is the choice of 49% of the likely voters

polled, while 48% said they prefer Republican Young Kim. Similarly, in the coastal Orange County Republican 48th district, incumbent Republican Dana Rohrabacher and his Democratic rival, Harley Rouda, each receives 48% of the vote. And, in the 50th district, which includes inland San Diego County and parts of Riverside County, GOP incumbent Duncan Hunter and Democrat Ammar Campa-Najjar are also locked in a very close race, with Hunter at 49% and Campa-Najjar at 47%., a statistical dead heat.

In just one of the GOP-held districts polled, the 22nd in the Central Valley, does the Republican maintain a significant lead. In that district incumbent Devin Nunes is the choice of 53% of likely voters, while his Democrat challenger Andrew Janz is preferred by 45%.

Likely voter preferences across 8 GOP-held CA congressional districts
(Districts ordered from most vulnerable to least vulnerable GOP seats)

■ Republican Candidate ■ Democratic Candidate

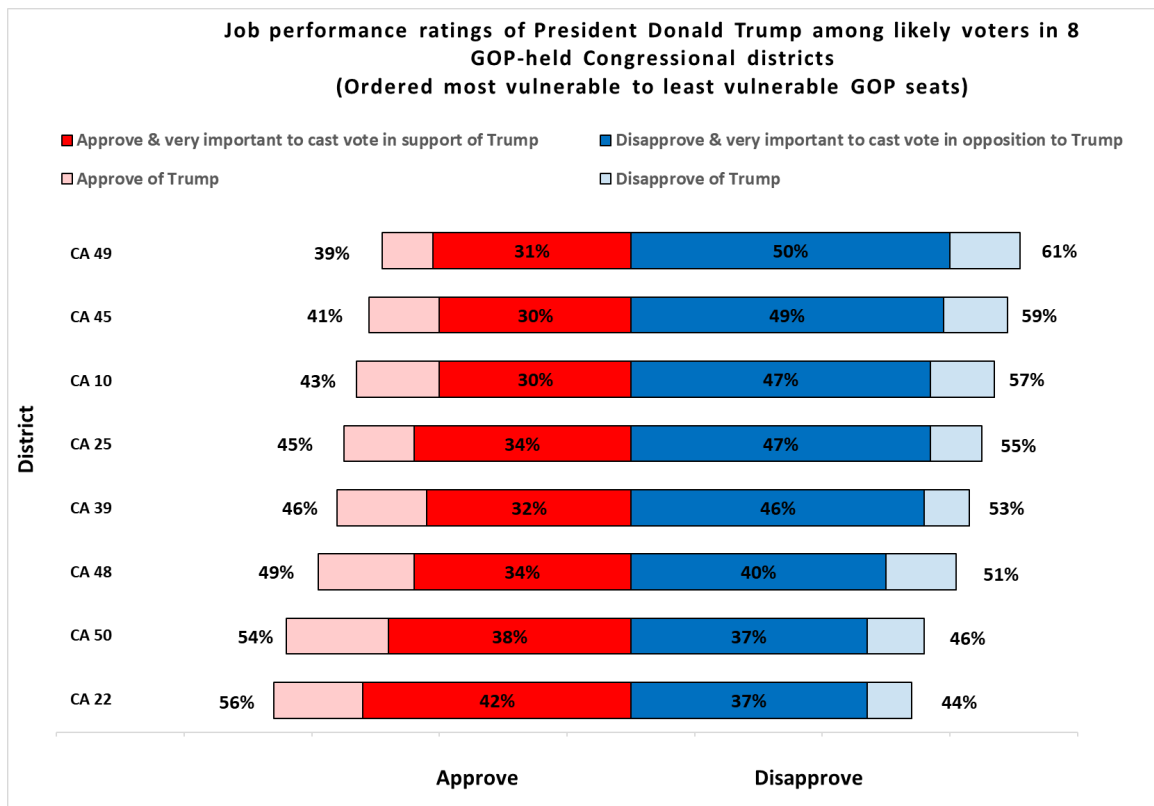| District	Republican		Democratic	
CA 49	41%	Diane Harkey	Mike Levin	55%
CA 45	45%	Mimi Walters*	Katie Porter	52%
CA 10	45%	Jeff Denham*	Josh Harder	50%
CA 25	46%	Steve Knight*	Katie Hill	50%
CA 39	48%	Young Kim	Gil Cisneros	49%
CA 48	48%	Dana Rohrabacher*	Harley Rouda	48%
CA 50	49%	Duncan Hunter*	Ammar Campa-Najjar	47%
CA 22	53%	Devin Nunes*	Andrew Janz	45%

Percentage Support

* denotes incumbent

The shadow of President Trump looms large in each congressional race

The shadow of President Donald Trump looms large over voters in each district and appears to be a reason why a number of these historically Republican-leaning districts are in play. This is because many voters consider their preferences for Congress to be importantly tied to their views about Trump, and in most of the districts significantly more likely voters disapprove than approve of the President's performance.

There is a direct relationship between voter support for the Republican candidates in each district and their views about Trump's job rating. In the four districts where Democratic candidates are leading or hold the advantage, the proportions of voters who disapprove of Trump outnumber those who approve by ten points or more.

In addition, large majorities of voters across all districts say that when considering whom to support in this year's Congressional elections they attach high importance to their vote being either a vote in support of or in opposition to the President. And, in six of the eight districts the proportions of those voting against the President significantly outnumber those voting to support him. These are also the districts where the Republicans appear to be the most vulnerable.

Job performance ratings of President Donald Trump among likely voters in 8 GOP-held Congressional districts
(Ordered most vulnerable to least vulnerable GOP seats)

- Approve & very important to cast vote in support of Trump
- Disapprove & very important to cast vote in opposition to Trump
- Approve of Trump
- Disapprove of Trump

District	Approve		Disapprove	
CA 49	39%	31%	50%	61%
CA 45	41%	30%	49%	59%
CA 10	43%	30%	47%	57%
CA 25	45%	34%	47%	55%
CA 39	46%	32%	46%	53%
CA 48	49%	34%	40%	51%
CA 50	54%	38%	37%	46%
CA 22	56%	42%	37%	44%

Democratic candidates consistently lead among non-partisans, Latinos, younger voters and women; GOP candidates winning the support of evangelical Christians and white non-Hispanics without a college degree

When examining voter preferences across major subgroups of the likely voter population in each district, a number of consistent patterns emerge with regard to who's backing the Democratic and Republican candidates.

The impact of partisanship on voter preferences is overwhelming in each race. Likely voters who are registered Democrats are nearly unanimous in their support of the Democratic candidates in each district, while registered Republicans overwhelmingly back their fellow GOP candidates. Aiding the Democratic cause in these predominantly Republican districts, are voters not affiliated with either major party. These voters consistently favor the Democrats in each district, in most cases by large double-digit margins.

But beyond partisanship, other consistent voting patterns are also present. Latino voters are one of the strongest Democratic constituencies, backing Democratic candidates by margins of 23 to 46 percentage points in each district.

Younger voters age 18-39 are the next strongest segment favoring the Democrats. In six of the eight districts – district 10, district 25, district 39, district 45, district 48, and district 49 – these voters support the Democratic nominees by margins of 20 to 39 points. The two exceptions are district 22 and district 50, the two least vulnerable GOP-held districts, where the Democratic advantage among younger voters narrows to single digits.

A third consistently Democratic voting constituency is women. This is true even in districts where the Republicans are fielding female candidates. For example, in district 49 Democrat Mike Levin is preferred over Republican Diane Harkey among women by 26 points. Similarly, in the 48th district Democrat Gil Cisneros leads Republican Young Kim among female voter, albeit by a narrow 6-point margin. And, in the 45th district where both candidates are women, Democrat Katie Porter is running 8 points ahead of GOP incumbent Mimi Walters among females.

Conversely, the strongest GOP voting segment other than Republican partisans is evangelical Christians. These voters are consistently backing the Republican candidates by huge margins, ranging from 40 to 74 points.

While Republican congressional candidates poll better among men than among women, GOP candidates hold significant leads among men in only half of the districts – CA10, CA22, CA 48 and CA50, while in the four other districts male voters are more divided.

Seniors age 65 or older tend to be more supportive of Republican than Democratic candidates, but this too varies somewhat by district. For example, the GOP candidates hold significant leads among seniors in five of the eight districts – CA10, CA22, CA39, CA49 and CA50. However, seniors in the 25th district and 45th district are about evenly divided, while in the 49th district Democrat Mike Levin leads among the senior set.

White non-Hispanic voters are also more likely to favor Republican than Democratic candidates. The GOP nominees hold significant leads among white non-Hispanics in four of the eight districts -- CA10, CA22, CA39 and CA50. White voters are more divided in their preferences in the 25th district, the 45th district and the 48th district, while in the 49th district the Democratic candidate leads. However, among the subset of white non-Hispanics who are non-college graduates, a segment that played a pivotal role in Trump's election victory in 2016, the Republican candidates lead across all districts.

The preferences of likely voters across major subgroups in each district are reported in the Appendix section at the back of this release.

Image ratings of the congressional candidates in each district

Large majorities of voters across all districts are able to offer an opinion of both congressional candidates in their district. And, in the six districts where incumbent Republicans are on the ballot nearly all of the district's likely voters can provide an assessment.

However, in only one of the districts where GOP incumbents are running -- district 22 (Nunes) does the proportion of voters holding a favorable view outnumber those with an unfavorable opinion. In the five other districts, slightly more voters in each expressing a negative than positive view. This includes GOP incumbents in the 50th district (Hunter), the 48th district (Rohrabacher), the 25th district (Knight), the 10th district (Denham), and the 45th district (Walters). Voters also hold mixed views of non-incumbent Republican Diane Harkey in the district 49. On the other hand, more voters in the 39th district offer a positive than negative opinion of congressional newcomer Young Kim.

Opinions of likely voters toward the Republican candidates running for Congress in their district
(ordered most vulnerable to least vulnerable GOP seats)

	Unfavorable	Favorable	No opinion
CA 49 Diane Harkey	40%	37%	23%
CA 45 Mimi Walters*	50%	45%	5%
CA 10 Jeff Denhan*	49%	44%	7%
CA 25 Steve Knight*	48%	45%	7%
CA 39 Young Kim	28%	49%	23%
CA 48 Dana Rohrabacher*	48%	45%	7%
CA 50 Duncan Hunter*	49%	43%	8%
CA 22 Devin Nunes*	44%	52%	4%
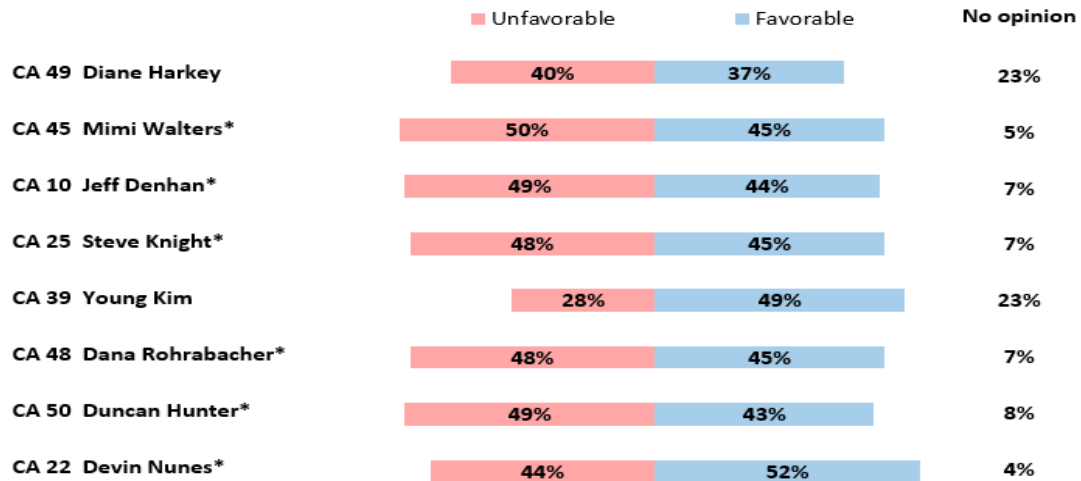
* denotes incumbent

These decidedly mixed assessments of the Republican candidates contrast with likely voter opinions of the Democratic challengers running in nearly all of the districts. The survey finds more likely voters giving a favorable than unfavorable assessment to seven of the eight Democratic candidates -- Andrew Janz in the 22nd district, Ammar Campa-Najjar in 50th district, Harley Rouda in 48th district, Josh Harder in 10th district, Katie Porter in the 45th district and Mike Levin in 49th district. The exception is the 39th district, where slightly more voters offer a negative than positive assessment of Democrat Gil Cisneros.

Opinions of likely voters toward the Democratic candidates running for Congress in their district
(ordered most vulnerable to least vulnerable GOP seats)

	Unfavorable	Favorable	No opinion
CA 49 Mike Levin	32%	49%	19%
CA 45 Katie Porter	38%	50%	12%
CA 10 Josh Harder	35%	47%	18%
CA 25 Katie Hill	36%	49%	15%
CA 39 Gil Ciscernos	45%	41%	14%
CA 48 Harley Rouda	31%	44%	25%
CA 50 Ammar Campa-Najjar	33%	42%	25%
CA 22 Andrew Janz	35%	47%	18%
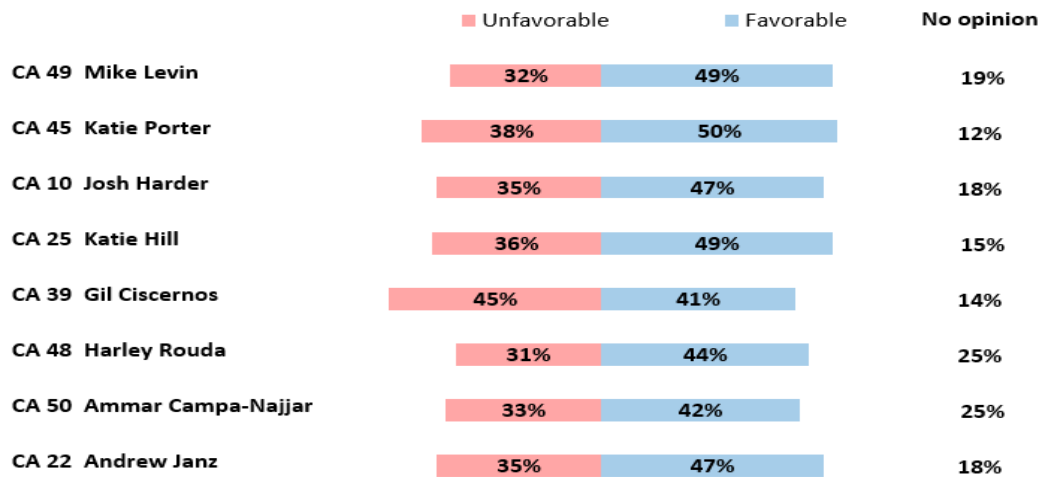
About the Study

The study was conducted across eight Republican-held congressional districts in California – CA10, CA22, CA25, CA39, CA45, CA48, CA49, and CA50 by the *Berkeley IGS Poll,* housed at the University of California at Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS). The results are based on the responses of 5,090 registered voters considered likely to vote in the November congressional elections in their district.

The poll was administered online by distributing emails to stratified random samples of registered voters across each district in English or Spanish, and in the 48th CD, in Vietnamese as well.   Data collection spanned the period September 16-23, 2018.

A common questionnaire was developed for the survey, although questions specific to the candidates running in each district were tailored to the district. Once the questionnaire and email invitation scripts had been finalized, they were translated into the non-English languages and reviewed for accuracy and cultural appropriateness. They were then programmed onto Qualtrics, a survey platform frequently used by the University of California, Berkeley when distributing email invitations as part of an opinion research study.

Each email invitation asked voters to participate in a short non-partisan survey conducted by IGS, and were provided a link to the IGS website where the survey was housed. Reminder emails were distributed to non-responding voters over a seven-day period. An opt out link was provided at the bottom of each invitation for voters not wishing to participate or not wanting to receive future emails from IGS about the survey.

Sample listings of registered voters with email addresses were provided to IGS by Political Data, Inc., which is partnering with IGS in its pre-election polling and are derived from information contained on the official voter registration rolls. When drawing samples of registered voters within each district, the listings were stratified in an attempt to obtain a proper balance of survey respondents across major segments of the registered voter population, such as by age, gender, region, and party registration.

After the completion of data collection, the data files were forwarded to Davis Research, LLC and were edited using machine-cleaning procedures to verify that the information compiled was complete and internally consistent. To protect the anonymity of survey respondents, voters' email addresses and all other personally identifiable information obtained from the voter file were purged and replaced with a unique and anonymous identification number. Post-stratification weights were applied to align each district's respondents to the population characteristics of registered voters in their district. Following this, likely voters were identified based on each voter's stated intention to vote in this year's congressional election, and factoring in their history of voting in past elections or interest in voting in this election.

The sample sizes of the likely voters surveyed varied somewhat across the districts and included 726 in the 10th district, 912 in the 22nd district, 650 in the 25th district, 552 in the 39th district, 519 in the 45th district, 623 in the 48th district, 551 in the 49th district and 527 in the 50th district. The sampling error associated with each district's survey results are difficult to calculate precisely because of the effects of sample selection and post-stratification weighting. Nevertheless, it is likely that results from each district's overall sample are subject to a sampling error of +/- 4 percentage points to +/- 6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Topline findings of the survey results in each district can be found at the *Berkeley IGS Poll* website at https://igs.berkeley.edu/igs-poll/berkeley-igs-poll.

Questions Asked

Below are the candidates running in the election for the U.S House of Representatives in your district. If the election were being held today for whom would you vote? (**IF UNDECIDED**) If you had to vote at this moment, which of the two candidates would you more inclined to support? (**NAME, JOB DESCRIPTION AND PARTY OF CANDIDATES LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER**)

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?

IF APPROVE: How important is it for you to cast a vote for Congress that shows your support for President Trump?

IF DISAPPROVE: How important is it for you to cast a vote for Congress that shows your opposition to President Trump?

Generally speaking, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of (**NAME, JOB DESCRIPTION AND PARTY OF CANDIDATES LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER**)

About the Institute of Governmental Studies

The Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) is an interdisciplinary organized research unit that pursues a vigorous program of research, education, publication and public service. A component of the University of California (UC) system's flagship Berkeley campus, it is the oldest organized research unit in the UC system and the oldest public policy research center in the state. The director of the Institute of Governmental Studies is Lisa Garcia Bedolla.

IGS conducts periodic surveys of public opinion in California on matters of politics and public policy through its *Berkeley IGS Poll*. The poll, which is disseminated widely, seeks to provide a broad measure of contemporary public opinion, and to generate data for subsequent scholarly analysis. The director of the *Berkeley IGS Poll* is Mark DiCamillo. For a complete listing of stories issued by the *Berkeley IGS Poll* go to https://igs.berkeley.edu/igs-poll/berkeley-igs-poll.

Appendix A
Voter preferences in California's 10th congressional district across major subgroups
(Among likely voters)

■ Jeff Denham (R)   ■ Josh Harder (D)

Subgroup	Jeff Denham (R)	Josh Harder (D)
Total	45%	50%
Democrat	6%	89%
Republican	92%	3%
No Party Preference/Other	33%	57%
Male	52%	43%
Female	39%	55%
18-39	38%	58%
40-64	44%	49%
65 or older	53%	43%
White, non-Hispanic (total)	52%	43%
White, not a college graduate	55%	40%
White, college graduate	42%	53%
Latino	28%	65%
Homeowner	52%	44%
Renter/Other	30%	61%
Evangelical	66%	26%
Non-Evangelical	38%	58%
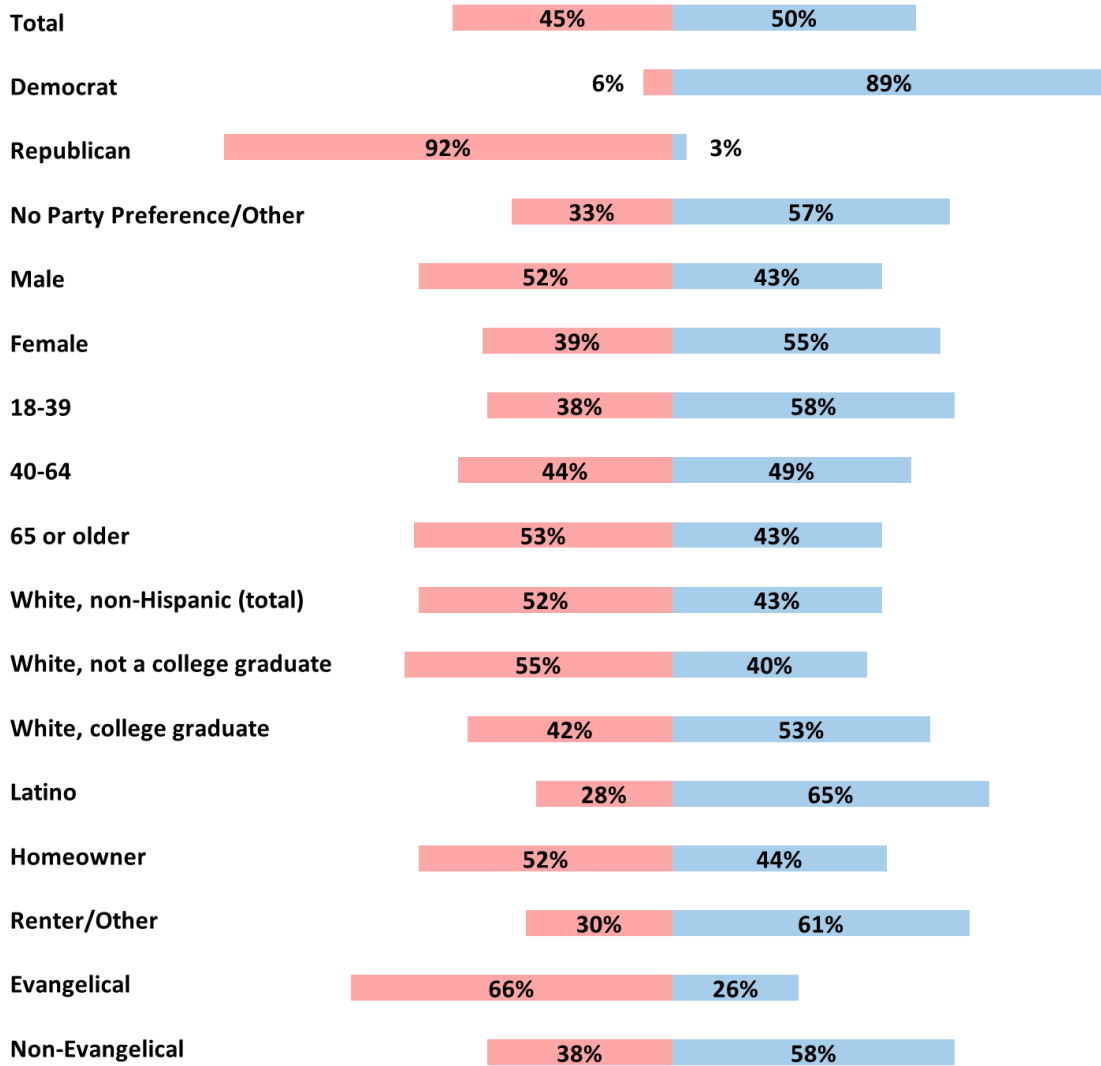
Percentage Support

(R) denotes Republican, (D) denotes Democrat

Appendix B
Voter preferences in California's 22nd congressional district
across major subgroups
(Among likely voters)

■ Devin Nunes (R)   ■ Andrew Janz (D)

Subgroup	Devin Nunes (R)	Andrew Janz (D)
Total	53%	45%
Democrat	4%	95%
Republican	91%	9%
No Party Preference/Other	42%	50%
Male	62%	36%
Female	45%	53%
18-39	46%	51%
40-64	57%	42%
65 or older	55%	42%
White, non-Hispanic (total)	62%	36%
White, not a college graduate	66%	32%
White, college graduate	55%	43%
Latino	26%	72%
Homeowner	54%	44%
Renter/Other	52%	47%
Evangelical	69%	29%
Non-Evangelical	42%	55%

Percentage Support

(R) denotes Republican, (D) denotes Democrat

Appendix C
Voter preferences in California's 25th congressional district
across major subgroups
(Among likely voters)

■ Steve Knight (R)   ■ Katie Hill (D)

	Steve Knight (R)	Katie Hill (D)
Total	46%	50%
Democrat	5%	94%
Republican	92%	5%
No Party Preference/Other	37%	54%
Male	49%	47%
Female	44%	53%
18-39	36%	63%
40-64	49%	46%
65 or older	48%	50%
White, non-Hispanic (total)	51%	47%
White, not a college graduate	57%	41%
White, college graduate	41%	57%
Latino	32%	62%
Homeowner	49%	48%
Renter/Other	41%	54%
Evangelical	76%	20%
Non-Evangelical	38%	59%

Percentage Support

(R) denotes Republican, (D) denotes Democrat

Appendix D
Voter preferences in California's 39th congressional district
across major subgroups
(Among likely voters)

■ Young Kim (R)   ■ Gil Cisneros (D)

Subgroup	Young Kim (R)	Gil Cisneros (D)
Total	48%	49%
Democrat	2%	94%
Republican	87%	10%
No Party Preference/Other	42%	56%
Male	51%	46%
Female	45%	51%
18-39	32%	63%
40-64	48%	50%
65 or older	57%	39%
White, non-Hispanic (total)	54%	42%
White, not a college graduate	61%	34%
White, college graduate	46%	52%
Latino	33%	65%
Homeowner	53%	44%
Renter/Other	39%	57%
Evangelical	79%	20%
Non-Evangelical	38%	59%

Percentage Support

(R) denotes Republican, (D) denotes Democrat

Appendix E
Voter preferences in California's 45th congressional district
across major subgroups
(Among likely voters)

■ Mimi Walters (R)　　■ Katie Porter (D)

Subgroup	Mimi Walters (R)	Katie Porter (D)
Total	45%	52%
Democrat	2%	95%
Republican	94%	3%
No Party Preference/Other	31%	66%
Male	47%	50%
Female	43%	54%
18-39	34%	63%
40-64	50%	47%
65 or older	46%	51%
White, non-Hispanic (total)	48%	49%
White, not a college graduate	56%	41%
White, college graduate	43%	55%
Latino	37%	60%
Homeowner	44%	53%
Renter/Other	45%	51%
Evangelical	81%	18%
Non-Evangelical	36%	61%

Percentage Support

(R) denotes Republican, (D) denotes Democrat

Appendix F
Voter preferences in California's 48th congressional district
across major subgroups
(Among likely voters)

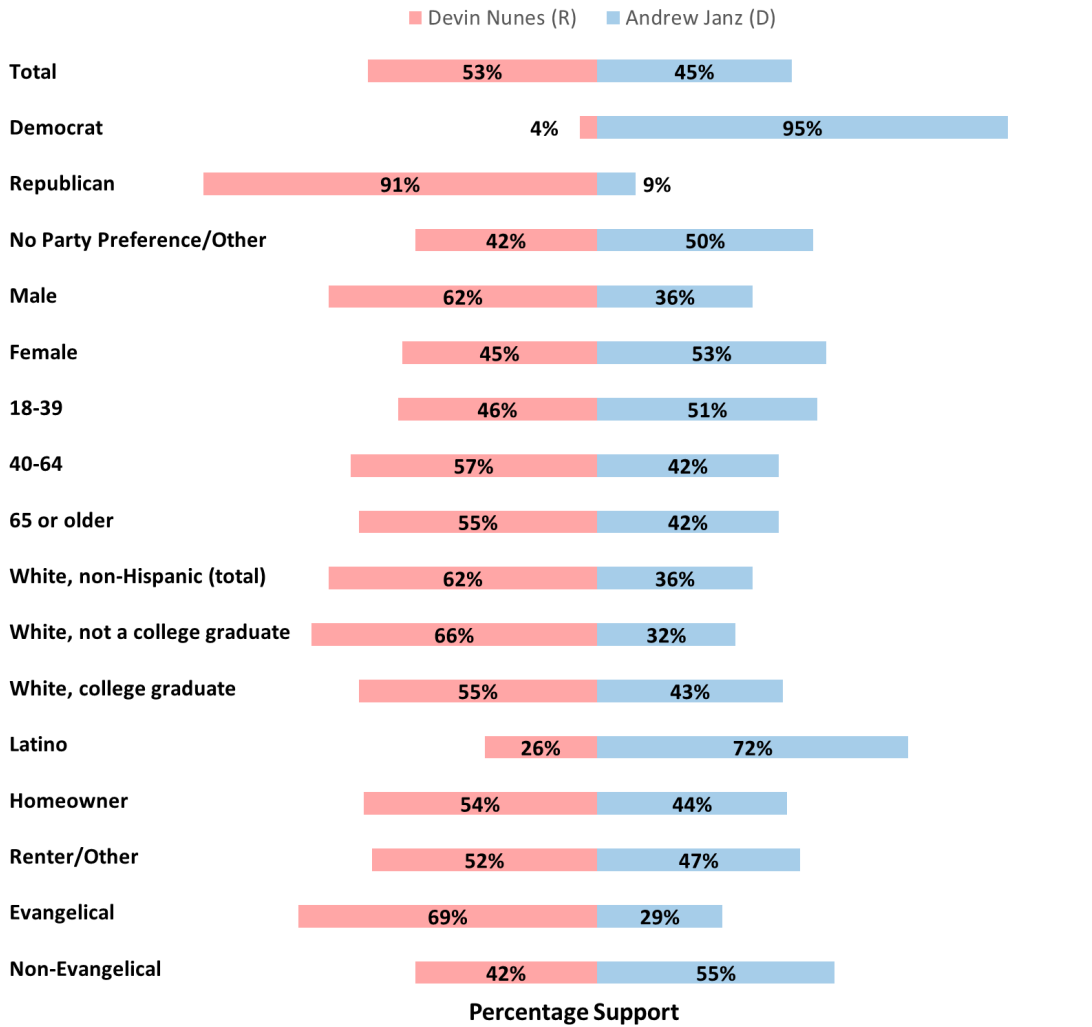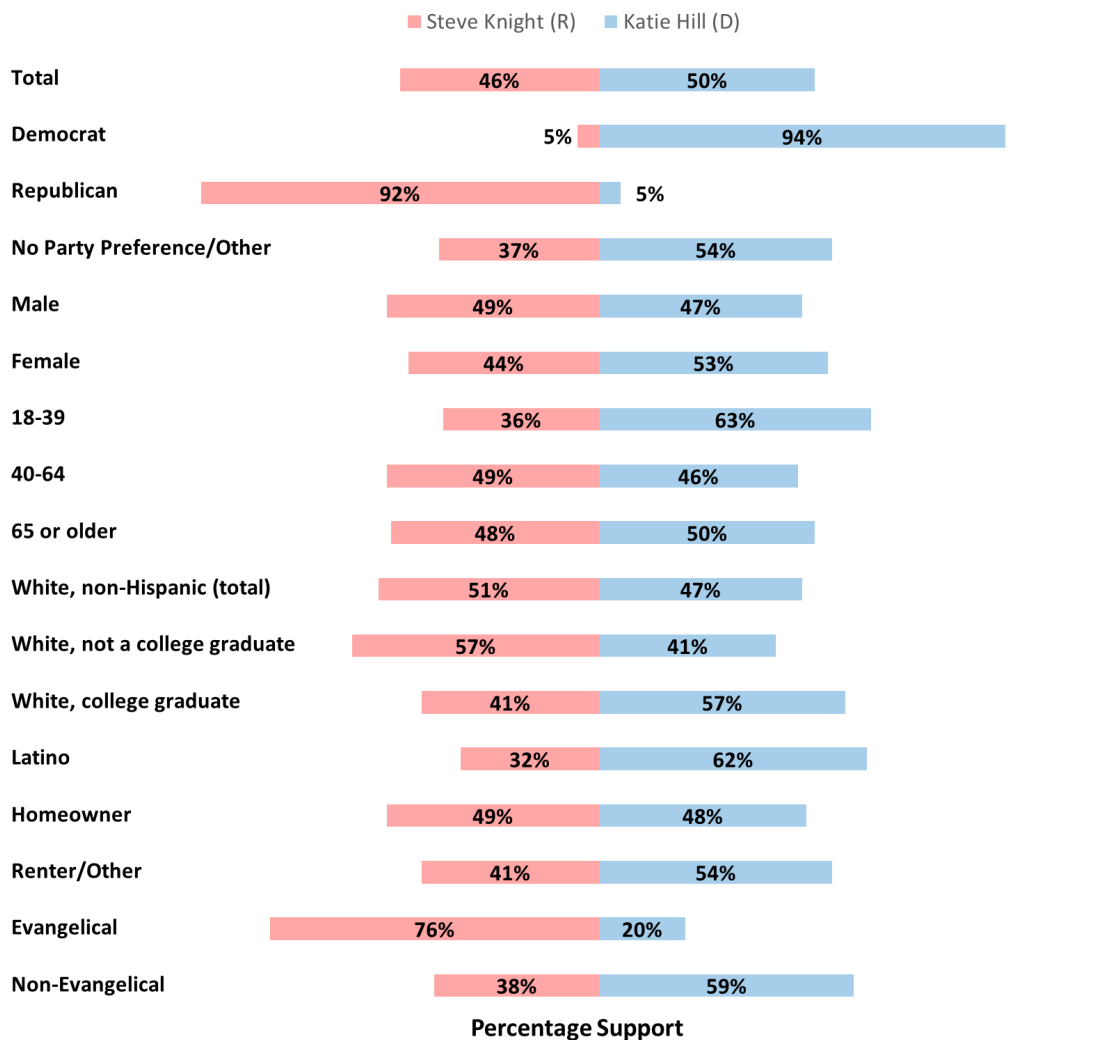■ Dana Rohrabacher (R)　　■ Harley Rouda (D)

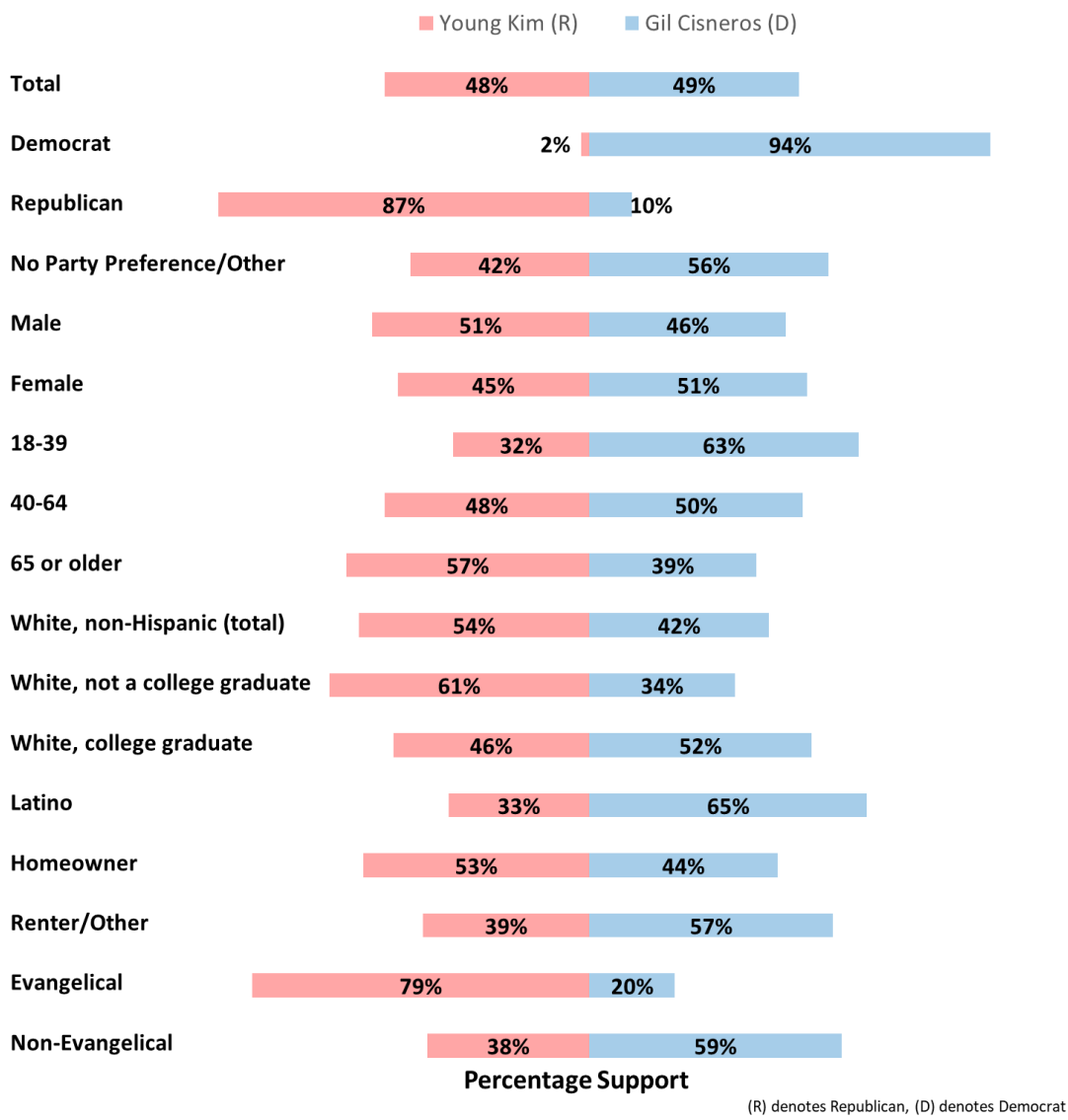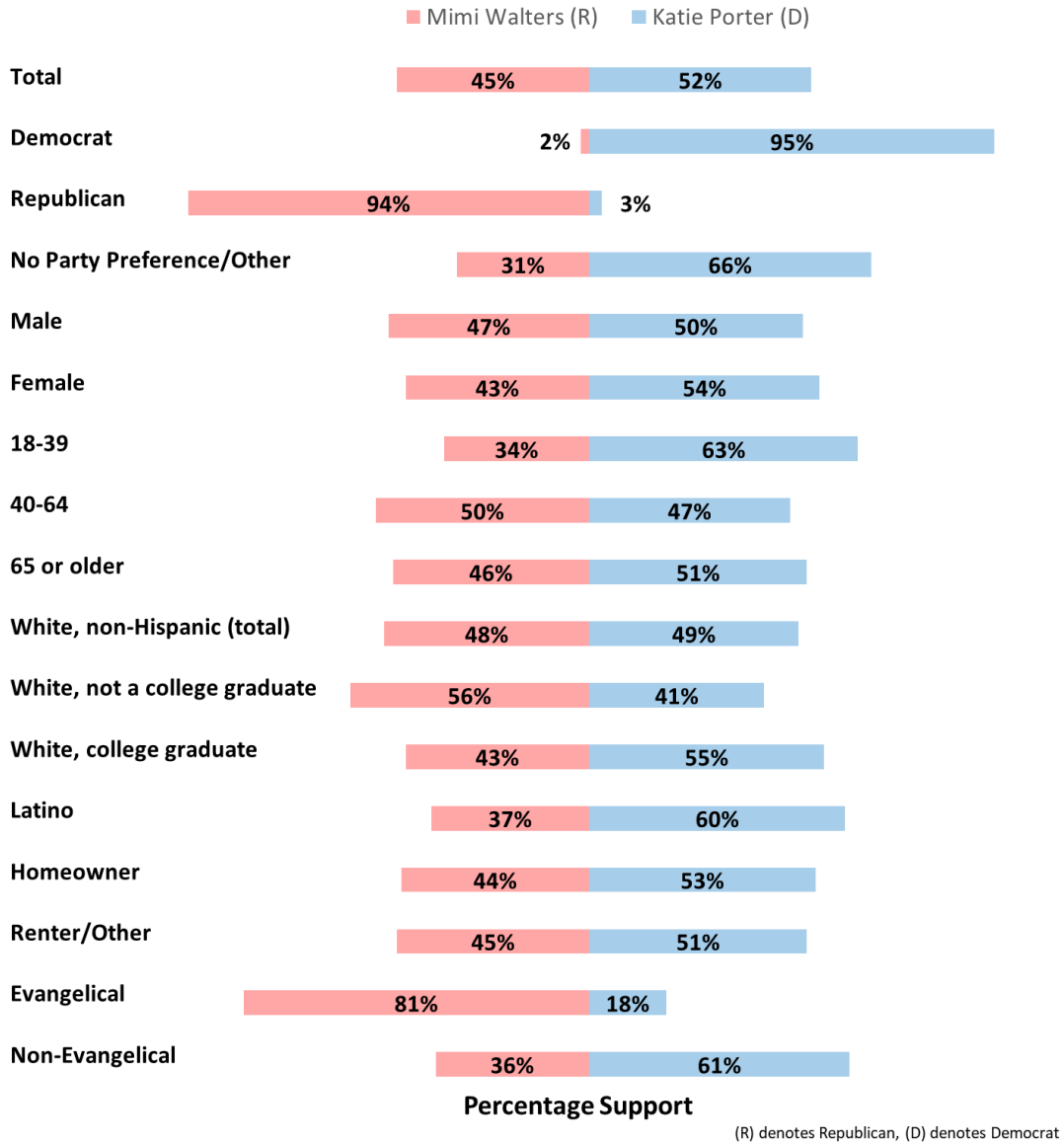|	Dana Rohrabacher (R)	Harley Rouda (D)
Total	48%	48%
Democrat	1%	95%
Republican	90%	9%
No Party Preference/Other	33%	59%
Male	53%	40%
Female	43%	55%
18-39	29%	68%
40-64	47%	49%
65 or older	59%	37%
White, non-Hispanic (total)	49%	48%
White, not a college graduate	58%	39%
White, college graduate	41%	57%
Latino	30%	63%
Asian American	45%	44%
Homeowner	49%	47%
Renter/Other	47%	49%
Evangelical	72%	24%
Non-Evangelical	43%	54%

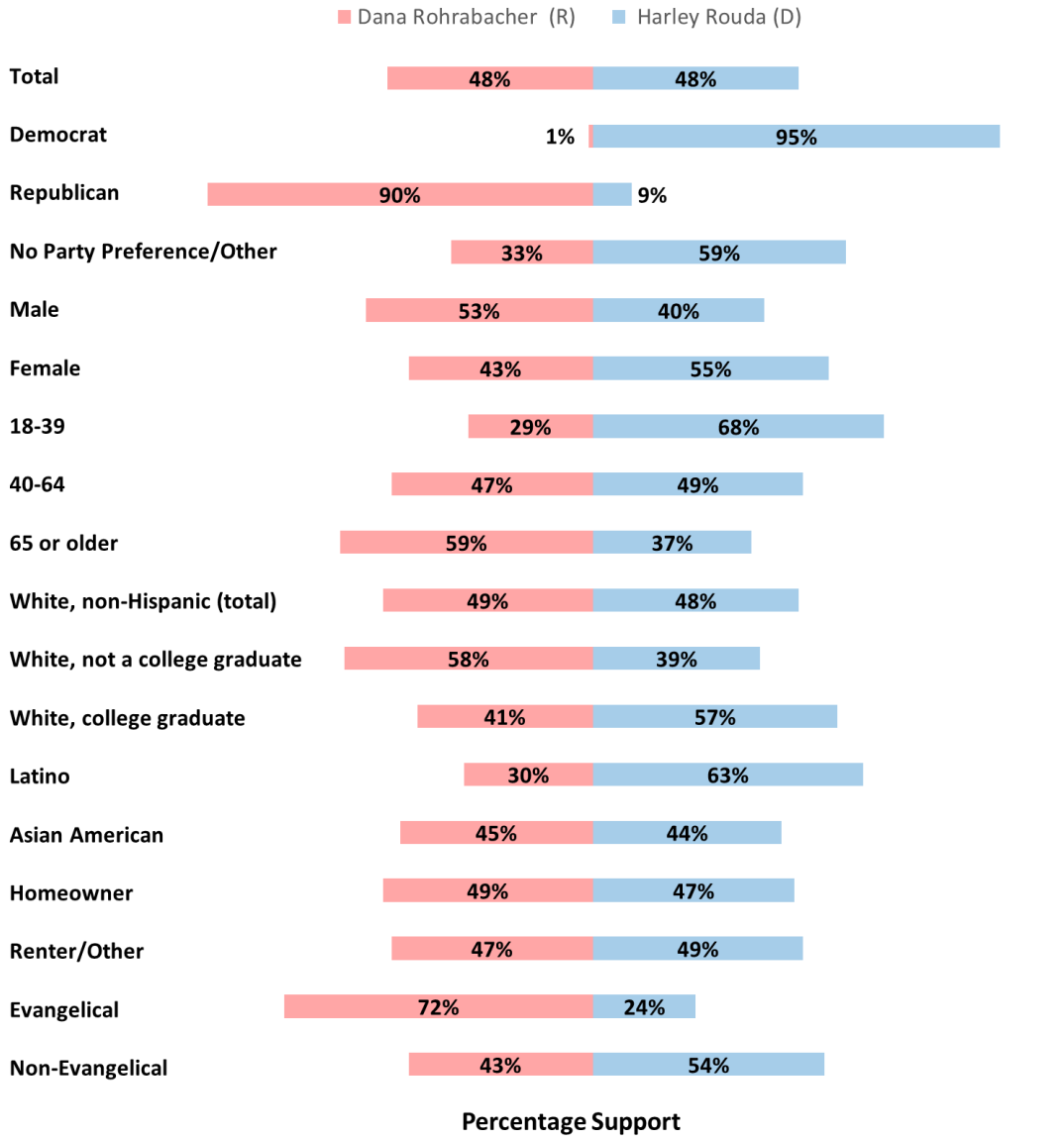**Percentage Support**

(R) denotes Republican, (D) denotes Democrat

Appendix G
Voter preferences in California's 49th congressional district
across major subgroups
(Among likely voters)

■ Diane Harley (R)   ■ Mike Levin (D)

Subgroup	Diane Harley (R)	Mike Levin (D)
Total	41%	55%
Democrat	2%	95%
Republican	83%	12%
No Party Preference/Other	28%	66%
Male	50%	47%
Female	34%	60%
18-39	28%	65%
40-64	46%	51%
65 or older	40%	55%
White, non-Hispanic (total)	43%	53%
White, not a college graduate	53%	43%
White, college graduate	35%	60%
Latino	24%	70%
Homeowner	42%	53%
Renter/Other	38%	59%
Evangelical	84%	10%
Non-Evangelical	29%	67%

Percentage Support

(R) denotes Republican, (D) denotes Democrat

Appendix H
Voter preferences in California's 50th congressional district across major subgroups
(Among likely voters)

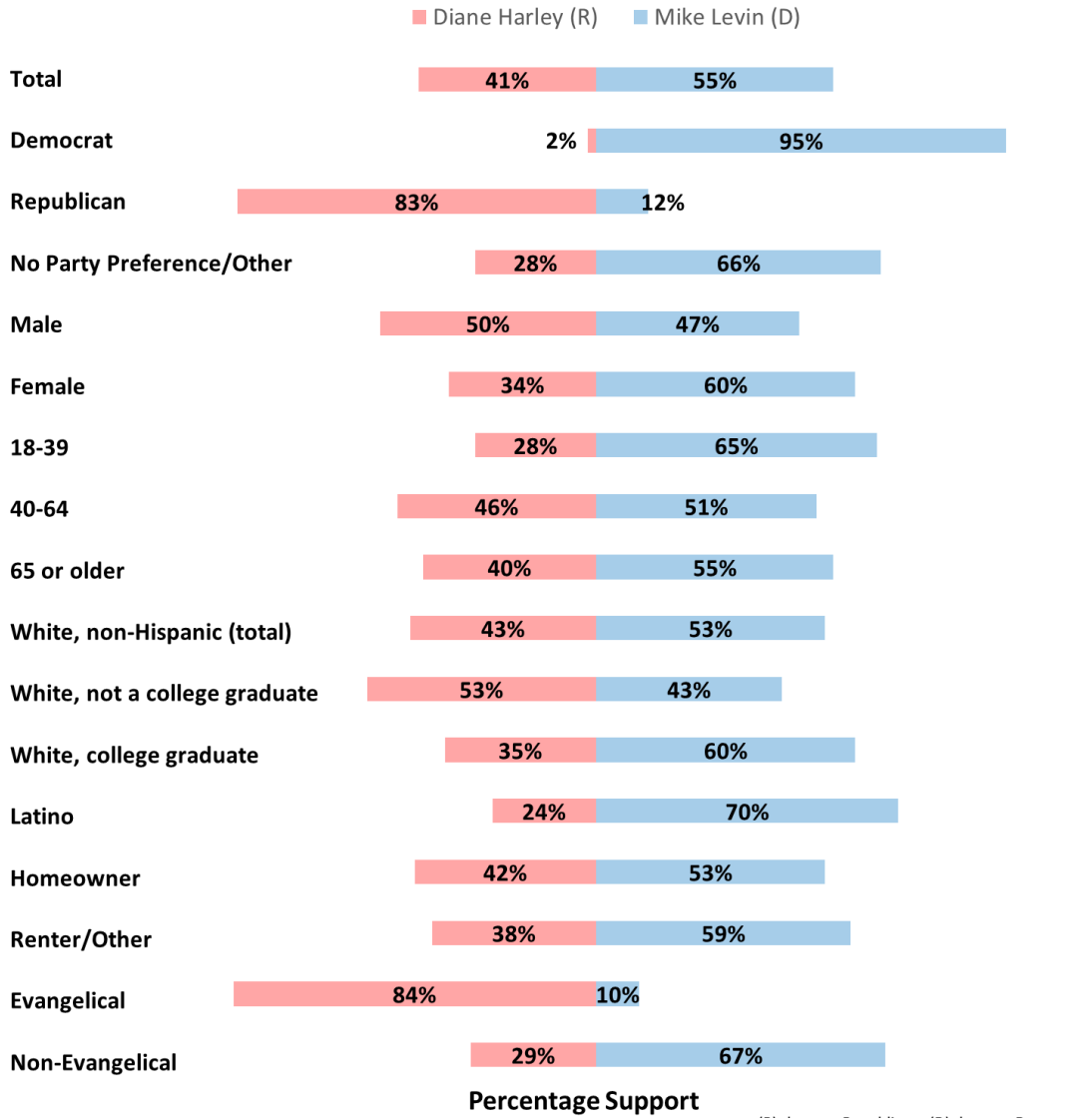■ Duncan Hunter (R)   ■ Ammar Campa-Najjar (D)

Subgroup	Duncan Hunter (R)	Ammar Campa-Najjar (D)
Total	49%	47%
Democrat	5%	90%
Republican	87%	10%
No Party Preference/Other	31%	62%
Male	57%	38%
Female	42%	54%
18-39	45%	54%
40-64	46%	47%
65 or older	55%	41%
White, non-Hispanic (total)	54%	43%
White, not a college graduate	61%	36%
White, college graduate	40%	57%
Latino	24%	62%
Homeowner	56%	40%
Renter/Other	36%	60%
Evangelical	79%	18%
Non-Evangelical	40%	55%

Percentage Support

(R) denotes Republican, (D) denotes Democrat