

## California Primary Poll

11th July, 2025

### > Key Takeaways

**1. Hilton holds a clear lead over Bianco in current primary voting intention**

New polling of 2,012 registered voters in California shows Steve Hilton with a solid advantage over Chad Bianco among likely voters if the primary were held today.

**2. Undecided voters could strengthen Hilton’s position further**

A significant share of voters remain undecided; when pressed to choose, more lean toward Hilton than Bianco, and enough to challenge for a top-two finish overall.

**3. Kamala Harris would reshape the race**

If Kamala Harris enters the contest, the dynamics shift substantially. Hilton would then be competing for second place - a realistic outcome under current conditions.

When likely voters are asked for their first preference, Steve Hilton leads the field with 19%, well ahead of Chad Bianco, who trails at just 6%.

*Thinking ahead to the primary election for the next Governor of California in June 2026, which of the currently declared candidates do you think you will vote for? [Of likely primary voters]*

Candidate	Overall	Forced Choice *	With Harris **	With Harris - Forced Choice ***
Steve Hilton	19%	27%	22%	27%
Chad Bianco	6%	10%	6%	8%
Katie Porter	18%	24%	8%	9%
Kamala Harris	—	—	35%	40%
Other <sup>†</sup>	27%	39%	14%	17%
Undecided	29%	—	15%	—

\* You said that you were currently unsure which candidate you would vote for in the upcoming primary elections, in general, will you vote for a Republican candidate or a Democratic candidate? ...Of the two declared candidates, which one are you most likely to vote for?

\*\* If you were forced to choose, who would you pick?

\*\*\* Kamala Harris is yet to decide if she will run for Governor. If she did, which of these candidates do you think you will vote for?

<sup>†</sup> We tested vote intention across 11 different candidates (12 in the version that included Kamala Harris), along with an option for “Someone else.” The full set of results is available in the appendix.

Hilton’s lead remains steady when undecided voters are prompted to choose a candidate from the party they lean toward. It grows further when voters are required to choose

among candidates from their preferred party - with Hilton rising to 27%, while Bianco climbs only slightly to 10%.

In a scenario where Kamala Harris enters the race, support consolidates heavily around her (35–40%), pushing Katie Porter into single digits and forcing Hilton to fight for second place. Even then, Hilton remains competitive, polling between 22–27%, ahead of Bianco (6–8%) and Porter (8-9%), depending on if undecided voters are allocated.

### Methodology

Stack Data Strategy polled 2,012 registered voters in California between 3rd and 10th July 2025. To ensure robust and comparable results we weight our data to be representative of the Californian electorate in terms of Age, Gender, Education, Ethnicity, Party Registration and 2024 Presidential vote.

Stack Data Strategy are a London-based opinion research firm with extensive international campaign experience, having advised the UK Conservatives in 2019 and 2024, the Australian Liberals in 2019, 2022 and 2025, and the Canadian Conservatives in 2021. They provided national modelling support to NRCC in 2022, and target seat modelling for the NRSC in 2024. Their most recent MRP model of the US electorate was recently covered in Politico's [DC Playbook](#).

### Appendix

Results with the full list of candidates tested:

<i>Thinking ahead to the primary election for the next Governor of California in June 2026, which of the currently declared candidates do you think you will vote for? [Of likely primary voters]</i>				
<i>Candidate</i>	<i>Overall</i>	<i>Forced Choice *</i>	<i>With Harris **</i>	<i>With Harris - Forced Choice ***</i>
Steve Hilton	19%	27%	22%	27%
Chad Bianco	6%	10%	6%	8%
Kamala Harris	—	—	35%	40%
Toni Atkins	1%	2%	1%	1%
Xavier Becerra	4%	7%	1%	2%
Stephen Cloobek	1%	1%	0%	0%
Eleni Kounalakis	4%	6%	3%	3%
Katie Porter	18%	24%	8%	9%
Tony Thurmond	2%	3%	2%	2%
Antonio Villaraigosa	6%	9%	2%	2%
Betty Yee	5%	7%	2%	3%
Butch Ware	1%	1%	1%	1%
Someone else	3%	3%	2%	2%
Undecided	29%	—	15%	—
I would not vote	0%	0%	0%	0%