



A survey conducted in from April 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026 by Gudelunas Strategies of 800 likely primary voters finds Steve Hilton in first place in the race for Governor, and four candidates within 2 points of each other for second place. Xavier Becerra has gained 11 points since a similar survey conducted just before Eric Swalwell ended his candidacy, and he is now in second place overall, tied with Tom Steyer, and two points ahead of Katie Porter.

⇒ **Xavier Becerra has moved into a first-place tie with Tom Steyer among Democratic candidates, with Katie Porter two points behind. Steve Hilton maintains a 6-point lead over fellow Republican Chad Bianco.**

Compared to a similar poll conducted with the same methodology before Eric Swalwell’s departure from the race, Becerra has gained 11 points, with Steyer gaining 3 and Porter gaining 2. Swalwell’s support has fallen to close to less than one-half percent as voters are now aware that he has ended his candidacy.

**California Governor Primary Support**

	April 14-18	April 1-6	Change
Steve Hilton	20	22	-2
Xavier Becerra	15	4	+11
Tom Steyer	15	12	+3
Chad Bianco	14	13	+1
Katie Porter	13	11	+2
Matt Mahan	6	5	+1
Antonio Villaraigosa	3	2	+1
Tony Thurmond	2	2	0
Betty Yee	2	2	0
Eric Swalwell	<1	18	-18
Someone Else	1	<1	+1
Undecided	10	10	0

⇒ **These results indicate that, as of today, Hilton would make the runoff as one of the top two finishers and four candidates – Becerra, Steyer, Bianco and Porter – are within the margin of error to join him as the second to make the November general election ballot.**

⇒ **Looking only at non-Republicans, Becerra leads with 21%, followed by Steyer and Porter at 19%, and Matt Mahan with 8%.**

⇒ **Also among non-Republicans, Becerra has the highest net favorability at +33, followed by Porter at +8 and Steyer at +5.**

**Candidate Favorable/Unfavorable**

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Net favorable
Xavier Becerra	51	18	+33
Katie Porter	44	36	+8
Tom Steyer	41	36	+5

**Methodology**

GS conducted 800 interviews with likely California primary voters using mixed modes of voter contact, including telephone and text-to-web. Respondents were likely June 2026 voters. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish. The margin of the sampling error is ±3.5%.