



TO: Interested Parties
FROM: The Mellman Group
DATE: May 7, 2026
RE: Mahan Is Neck and Neck With Steyer For Second Among Democrats For Governor

This analysis reflects the findings of a survey of 600 voters representing the likely June 2026 primary electorate in California. This poll was conducted for California Back To Basics, an IE supporting Matt Mahan. Interviews were conducted May 3-6, 2026 using a registration-based sample and a combination of live interviews on cellphones and landlines and text-to-online surveys. The margin of error for the overall results is +/-4% at a 95% level of confidence.

Our newly completed poll shows San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan in a statistical tie for second among Democrats in California's wide-open Gubernatorial primary. Former Democratic Congressman Xavier Becerra and Republican Steve Hilton are tied for the lead with 20%. Republican Chad Bianco trails with 14%, while Mahan and Tom Steyer follow with 10% and 12% respectively. Moreover, in the San Francisco media market, *Mahan is in a dead heat with Becerra for the lead.* Mahan's rise underscores how fluid this race is less than a month from the June 4th primary.

Beccera and Hilton Lead, with Bianco, Steyer and Mahan In a Dead Heat Behind Them

Beccera and Hilton are tied for the lead with 20%, followed by Bianco (14%), Steyer (12%) Mahan (10%). Katie Porter, Antonio Villaraigosa, and Tony Thurmond round out the field in single digits. Only 8% of voters are still undecided.

Only Becerra and Mahan Have a Positive Net Favorable

All the candidates getting double digits have hard ID over 50%. Becerra and Mahan are the only ones who have a positive net favorable -- -with a favorable higher than their unfavorable. Becerra's image is 38% favorable, 34% unfavorable for a +4 net favorable. Mahan is right behind with 28% favorable, 26% unfavorable, for a +2 net favorable. Katie Porter and Tom Steyer are both at the bottom with double digit net unfavorables of -11 and -12.

In The San Francisco Market, Becerra and Mahan Are In a Dead Heat For The Lead.

Becerra and Mahan are in a dead heat in the San Francisco market with 21% and 19% respectively.

With ballots already mailed out and Mahan now on the air, Mahan is in a competitive position for these final three plus weeks until the primary.

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