INDEPENDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
Survey analysis · September 2026

CALIFORNIA'S 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

# Rep. Kiley Positioned to Win Nonpartisan Sentiment

One month ago, Kevin Kiley trailed by five points. Today the race is a dead heat — and among undecided voters who lean, Kiley leads better than two-to-one. **He is surging by gaining support from Democrats, Independents, and Republicans alike.**

## ±0

### From five down to even in one month.

Kiley, running as the Independent, now stands at 36.5% to Pan's 36.7% — a statistical tie, up from a five-point deficit in last month's survey. And the remaining undecideds break his way: among those who lean, Kiley leads 28% to 12%.




Undecided leaners: Kiley 28%, Pan 12%, still undecided 59%.

## 75%

### The district loves exactly one thing in politics: working with both sides.

Majorities are unfavorable toward *both* parties — yet three-quarters are favorable toward "a politician willing to work with both sides of the aisle."




## 37%

### A double-digit plurality will look past party labels.

Asked how they'll approach 2026, the top answer — 11 points clear of the Democratic option and 16 clear of the Republican one — is "I will look past party labels to vote for candidates who prioritize bipartisan cooperation."

## 51%

### Over half want a candidate who caucuses with neither party.

51% prefer a representative who "does not caucus with either major political party" and evaluates every bill on the district's interests alone — double the 26% who prefer a party-line caucusing candidate.

THE RECORD BEHIND THE MESSAGE

*Rep. Kevin Kiley's recent bipartisan record:*

**The Fix It Act**
Introduced with Democratic Rep. Sam Liccardo to extend Affordable Care Act premium tax credits — a cross-party fix on healthcare costs.

**Fix Our Forests Act**
Bipartisan wildfire-resilience and forest-management legislation for California's highest-stakes hazard.

**Santini–Burton Modernization Act**
Updating conservation funding around Lake Tahoe.

**Iran War Powers Resolution**
Voted with a bipartisan, cross-party coalition to reassert congressional oversight of executive military action — standing up against costly forever wars that constituents don't want and can't afford.

**SAFE AI Research Act (H.R. 6402)**
Safeguards for federally funded AI research.

**The PRESS Act**
Co-sponsoring federal shield protections for journalists — a press-freedom bill with support across the aisle.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Survey of 927 likely voters in California's 6th Congressional District, fielded September 1–6, 2026. Margin of error ±3.2 percentage points. Prior-month comparison from the August survey of this district. Legislative record as compiled by the campaign's public materials. Independent Leadership Council.

INDEPENDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL · SURVEY OF CALIFORNIA'S 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

# California 6th Congressional District Survey

Topline Results

## Survey Methodology

| | |
|---|---|
| **Sponsor** | Independent Leadership Council |
| **Population** | Registered voters in California's 6th Congressional District likely to vote in the November 2026 election |
| **Sample size** | n = 927 |
| **Margin of error** | ±3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level |
| **Field dates** | September 1–6, 2026 |
| **Mode** | Mixed Mode (95% SMS to web, 5% web panel) |
| **Screening** | All respondents are registered voters screened for likelihood of voting in the November 2026 election. |
| **Weighting** | Results are weighted to reflect the expected composition of the likely electorate. |

Rounding: percentages are shown to one decimal place and may not sum to exactly 100.0%. Long question and response wordings are abbreviated in places.

# Full Topline

Unless a base note says otherwise, the base is all 927 respondents.

## I. SAMPLE, MODE AND SCREENING

### SCREEN1

*Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed by the news media, a market research firm, an elected official, or actively involved with political campaigns?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| No | **100.0%** |

### SCREEN2

*Are you currently registered to vote?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Yes | **100.0%** |

### SCREEN3

*How likely are you to vote in the November 2026 midterm elections?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Likely | **96.2%** |
| Somewhat Likely | **3.8%** |

### SCREEN4

*Thinking about the upcoming election this November, which of the following best describes the MAIN reason you are motivated to turn out and vote?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| There is a Specific Candidate Running Who I Really Like and Want to Support. | **7.0%** |
| I Am Primarily Voting to Oppose a Specific Candidate and Make Sure They Do not Win. | **8.2%** |
| I Always Vote Because I See It as My Civic Duty, Regardless of Who is on the Ballot. | **68.3%** |
| I Am Motivated to Vote Because of a Specific Issue or Policy That is Deeply Important to Me. | **14.4%** |
| I Never Usually Vote, But I Am Thinking That I Will This Year | **0.6%** |
| Don’t Know/Refused | **1.4%** |

### REGID

*According to your official voter registration, how are you currently registered to vote?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| As a Democrat | **39.0%** |
| As an Independent, No Party Preference or ‘other’ | **30.0%** |
| As a Republican | **31.0%** |
| Refused | **0.0%** |

## II. VOTE INTENTION AND CANDIDATES

### CA06

*If the election for U.S. Congress were held today, for whom would you vote?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Kevin Kiley, the Independent | **36.5%** |
| Richard Pan, the Democrat | **36.7%** |
| Don’t Know/Refused | **26.7%** |

### CA06A

*And would you say you are definitely supporting, or are you just somewhat supporting them?*

Base: 725 respondents asked this item (202 not asked).

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Definitely Supporting | **61.0%** |
| Somewhat Supporting | **32.0%** |
| Unsure / Could Still Change My Mind | **7.0%** |

### CA06B

*Even though you are undecided, if you had to choose right now, which candidate would you say you lean toward:*

Base: 202 respondents asked this item (725 not asked).

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Kevin Kiley, the Independent | **28.1%** |
| Richard Pan, the Democrat | **12.4%** |
| Don’t Know/Refused | **59.4%** |

### CA2

*I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don’t know or haven’t heard of the subject, please note that. KEVIN KILEY*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Favorable | **19.1%** |
| Somewhat Favorable | **20.8%** |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | **12.3%** |
| Very Unfavorable | **21.2%** |
| Never Heard of | **7.2%** |
| Unsure | **19.5%** |

### CA3

*I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don’t know or haven’t heard of the subject, please note that. RICHARD PAN*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Favorable | **8.8%** |
| Somewhat Favorable | **27.2%** |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | **5.6%** |
| Very Unfavorable | **20.9%** |
| Never Heard of | **15.8%** |
| Unsure | **21.7%** |

## III. JOB APPROVAL

### STA

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

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Strongly Approve | **21.5%** |
| Somewhat Approve | **14.7%** |
| Somewhat Disapprove | **5.4%** |
| Strongly Disapprove | **57.6%** |
| Don’t Know/Refused | **0.7%** |

### GSCA

*Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Strongly Approve | **1.9%** |
| Somewhat Approve | **12.9%** |
| Somewhat Disapprove | **22.3%** |
| Strongly Disapprove | **55.3%** |
| Don’t Know/Refused | **7.7%** |

## IV. OUTLOOK AND THE STATE OF DEMOCRACY

### GSPS

*At this time next year, do you think that you will personally be better or worse off than you are today?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Much Better Off | **14.6%** |
| Somewhat Better Off | **29.6%** |
| Somewhat Worse Off | **22.0%** |
| Much Worse Off | **8.6%** |
| Don’t Know/Refused | **25.1%** |

### GSAS

*At this time next year, do you think America will be better or worse off than it is today?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Much Better Off | **9.4%** |
| Somewhat Better Off | **20.9%** |
| Somewhat Worse Off | **23.4%** |
| Much Worse Off | **27.2%** |
| Don’t Know/Refused | **19.1%** |

### MSOH

*Moving on... Overall, how would you rate the current health of American democracy?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Healthy | **6.2%** |
| Somewhat Healthy | **11.1%** |
| Somewhat Unhealthy | **24.7%** |
| Very Unhealthy | **56.7%** |
| Don’t Know/Refused | **1.2%** |

### MSEO

*How do you think federally elected officials in Washington, DC are doing at their job?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| They’re Doing Fine | **2.7%** |
| We Can Do Better | **96.1%** |
| Don’t Know/Refused | **1.2%** |

## VI. FAVORABILITY

### 04FV001

*I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don’t know or haven’t heard of the subject, please note that. DONALD TRUMP*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Favorable | **22.8%** |
| Somewhat Favorable | **13.5%** |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | **4.5%** |
| Very Unfavorable | **57.1%** |
| Never Heard of | **0.9%** |
| Unsure | **1.2%** |

### 04FV002

*I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don’t know or haven’t heard of the subject, please note that. THE REPUBLICAN PARTY*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Favorable | **17.6%** |
| Somewhat Favorable | **21.7%** |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | **9.8%** |
| Very Unfavorable | **47.0%** |
| Never Heard of | **0.5%** |
| Unsure | **3.4%** |

### 04FV003

*I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Favorable | **12.0%** |
| Somewhat Favorable | **29.1%** |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | **17.1%** |
| Very Unfavorable | **37.1%** |
| Never Heard of | **0.5%** |
| Unsure | **4.2%** |

### 04FV004

*I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. A POLITICIAN WILLING TO WORK WITH BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Favorable | **40.0%** |
| Somewhat Favorable | **34.9%** |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | **6.4%** |
| Very Unfavorable | **8.5%** |
| Never Heard of | **2.1%** |
| Unsure | **8.2%** |

### 04FV101

*I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. A BIPARTISAN CANDIDATE*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Favorable | **10.7%** |
| Somewhat Favorable | **42.7%** |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | **9.5%** |
| Very Unfavorable | **7.4%** |
| Never Heard of | **8.6%** |
| Unsure | **21.2%** |

### 04FV102

*I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. A NON-PARTISAN CANDIDATE*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Favorable | **12.6%** |
| Somewhat Favorable | **29.2%** |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | **17.0%** |
| Very Unfavorable | **5.6%** |
| Never Heard of | **9.1%** |

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Unsure | **26.5%** |

### 04FV103

*I will now read a list of political officials and entities in the United States. After each, please tell me whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you don't know or haven't heard of the subject, please note that. A POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Favorable | **11.4%** |
| Somewhat Favorable | **47.9%** |
| Somewhat Unfavorable | **11.3%** |
| Very Unfavorable | **4.1%** |
| Never Heard of | **5.3%** |
| Unsure | **19.9%** |

## VII. INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES AND VOTER OUTLOOK

### MSRV

*Thinking about your role as a voter in the upcoming 2026 elections, which of the following best describes how you intend to use your vote to ensure the continued health of our democracy?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| I Will Vote for Candidates Who Will Go to Washington to Work and Vote with Republicans to Advance a Conservative Agenda and Ensure That Democratic Policies Do not Pass. | **20.7%** |
| I Will Vote for Candidates Who Will Go to Washington to Work and Vote with Democrats to Advance a Progressive Agenda and Ensure That Republican Policies Do not Pass. | **25.5%** |
| I Will Look Past Party Labels to Vote for Candidates Who Prioritize Bipartisan Cooperation and Seek to Modernize the System to Make It More Accountable and Stable for the People. | **36.7%** |
| I Do not Believe That My Choice of Candidate Has a Significant Impact on the Long-term Health of Our Democracy. | **9.0%** |
| Unsure / Other | **8.1%** |

### GSTI

*Regardless of your past voting history or political affiliation, which of the following do you find to be the most compelling reason to support an independent candidate?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| The 'problem Solver' Argument: Independent-minded Leaders Are Free to Look at Problems From Many Angles and Find the Best Solution, Rather Than Being Forced to View Every Issue Through a Single Partisan Lens. | **18.9%** |
| The 'competition' Argument: in Every Other Aspect of American Life, Choice and Competition Yield Better Results, Ending the Two-party Duopoly Would Force Politicians to Work Harder to Earn Our Support. | **5.7%** |
| The 'gridlock' Argument: Because They Don't Answer to Party Leadership, Independents Are Uniquely Positioned to Bridge the Divide, De-escalate Anger, and Force the Two Sides to Work Together. | **6.3%** |
| The 'people Over Party' Argument: Political Parties Have Become Too Focused on Special Interests and Self-preservation, an Independent is Beholden Only to Their Constituents, not a National Party Agenda. | **29.3%** |

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| The 'revolution' Argument: the Two-party Establishment is Fundamentally Corrupt and Beyond Repair, Electing Independents is a Revolution That Will Strip Power From Party Elites and Completely Overhaul the System. | **8.7%** |
| None of These / Other | **15.6%** |
| Unsure | **15.5%** |

### GSTL

*WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS OR PRIORITIES WOULD YOU MOST NEED TO HEAR FROM AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE RUNNING FOR OFFICE TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER SUPPORTING THEIR CANDIDACY?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| A Clear Commitment to Work Across the Aisle with Both Parties to Bring the Best Ideas to the Forefront and Get Things Done. | **15.2%** |
| A Promise to Listen to Regular People and be Beholden Strictly to Local Voters and Constituents, not National Political Parties or Special Interests. | **16.2%** |
| A Focus on Lowering the Toxic Political Rhetoric, Reducing Partisan Division, and Restoring Common Sense and Sanity to Government. | **14.8%** |
| A Concrete Plan to Immediately Lower the Daily Cost of Living, Combat Inflation, and Rein in Wasteful Government Spending. | **29.3%** |
| A Common-sense Commitment to Strictly Enforce Border Security and Fix the Immigration System Without Playing Political Games. | **9.0%** |
| None of These / Other | **9.2%** |
| Unsure | **6.4%** |

### GSSA

*Which of the following statements comes closer to your own opinion about independent candidates running for elected office, even if neither is exactly right?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Independent Candidates Offer a New, Fresh Perspective to Move the Country Forward, Free From Partisan Gridlock and Beholden Only to the Voters.' | **43.0%** |
| Independent Candidates Just Pull Votes Away From a Major-party Candidate, Ultimately Helping the Side That the Voter Least Wanted to Win.' | **32.9%** |
| Unsure | **24.0%** |

### GSSI

*Which of the following statements comes closer to your own view about the role independent candidates could play in our political system, even if neither is exactly right?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Electing a Few Independent Candidates Could Provide a Necessary, Stabilizing Voice, Acting as the Adult in the Room to Lower the Temperature and Bring Both Sides Together to Get Things Done.' | **70.6%** |
| The Current System is not Broken, and the Two Major Parties Remain the Most Effective and Stable Way to Pass Laws and Represent the Country.' | **7.3%** |
| Unsure | **22.1%** |

### GSSZ

*Which of the following candidates would you prefer to represent your district in the U.S. House of Representatives), even if neither is exactly perfect?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| A Candidate Who Goes to Washington to Caucus, Vote, and Work on Legislative Committees Exclusively Within One Political Party, Giving Them More Institutional Power to Pass Legislation. | **25.7%** |
| A Candidate Who Does Not Caucus with Either Major Political Party, so That They Can Independently Evaluate Every Single Bill That Crosses Their Desk Based Entirely on What is Best for the People of Their District. | **50.7%** |
| A Candidate Who Has Pledged not to Join with the Republicans or Democrats in Washington and Will Remain Independent From Both Parties. | **23.6%** |
| Unsure | **0.0%** |

## VIII. POLITICAL IDENTITY

### PARTYID

*In politics today, and regardless of how you are registered, do you consider yourself to be a…*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Strong Democrat | **18.6%** |
| Not so Strong Democrat | **3.4%** |
| Independent Leaning Democrat | **20.5%** |
| Independent | **11.6%** |
| Independent Leaning Republican | **12.2%** |
| Not so Strong Republican | **2.3%** |
| Strong Republican | **23.8%** |
| Other | **6.9%** |
| Don’t Know/Refused | **0.7%** |

### PSY

*When it comes to your political philosophy, where would you place yourself on the following scale?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| 0 - Very Liberal / Progressive | **14.9%** |
| 1 | **6.8%** |
| 2 | **7.0%** |
| 3 | **5.9%** |
| 4 | **4.8%** |
| 5 - Moderate / Centrist | **23.2%** |
| 6 | **4.8%** |
| 7 | **7.8%** |
| 8 | **9.5%** |
| 9 | **4.0%** |
| 10 - Staunch / Strong Conservative | **11.5%** |

*Mean: 4.83 · SE: 3.11*

### PSEO

*In the perfect world, where on the following scale, would you like to see America's elected officials stand politically?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| 0 - Strongly Along Democratic Lines | **8.0%** |
| 1 | **6.6%** |
| 2 | **7.4%** |
| 3 | **8.5%** |
| 4 | **7.4%** |
| 5 - Centrist / Independent | **28.6%** |
| 6 | **5.8%** |
| 7 | **4.4%** |
| 8 | **8.7%** |
| 9 | **3.5%** |
| 10 - Strongly Along Republican Lines | **10.8%** |

*Mean: 4.95 · SE: 2.93*

### IDEOLOGY

*Now just a few questions to make sure we have a representative sample of participants: Thinking for a moment about your social, economic, and political views…Do you consider yourself to be…*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Very Liberal | **20.2%** |
| Somewhat Liberal | **16.6%** |
| Moderate | **22.9%** |
| Somewhat Conservative | **16.9%** |
| Very Conservative | **17.3%** |
| Libertarian | **0.6%** |
| Unsure | **5.6%** |

## IX. DEMOGRAPHICS

### QGENDER

*Gender*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Female | **52.0%** |
| Male | **48.0%** |
| Other | **0.0%** |

### COUNTY

*In which county do you currently reside?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Sacramento | **64.0%** |
| Placer | **29.0%** |
| Yolo | **7.0%** |

## RACE

*What is your race or ethnicity?*

Multiple mentions possible; percentages may sum to more than 100.

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| White or Caucasian | **67.8%** |
| Black or African American | **8.5%** |
| Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish Origin | **19.0%** |
| Asian or Pacific Islander | **13.1%** |
| Native American or American Indian | **5.1%** |
| Other | **3.2%** |
| Refused | **0.0%** |

## QAGE

*In what year were you born? AGE GROUP*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| 18 to 24 | **6.0%** |
| 25 to 34 | **13.0%** |
| 35 to 44 | **17.0%** |
| 45 to 54 | **17.0%** |
| 55 to 64 | **17.0%** |
| 65 or Older | **30.0%** |

*Mean: 55.09 · SE: 20.74*

## EDUCATION

*What is the highest level of formal education that you have completed?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| High School or Less | **22.0%** |
| Some College, Associate Degree, or Technical School | **32.0%** |
| 4-year College Graduate (Bachelor's Degree) or Higher | **46.0%** |
| Don’t Know/Refused | **0.0%** |

## INCOME

*We want to classify households into broad income groups only. Would you estimate your total annual household income to be…?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Less Than $30,000 | **5.8%** |
| $30,000 to $54,999 | **15.1%** |
| $55,000 to $100,000 | **20.6%** |
| More Than $100,000 | **46.6%** |
| Prefer not to Answer | **11.8%** |

### LGBTQ

*Do you consider yourself to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Yes | **7.3%** |
| No | **85.4%** |
| Unsure | **0.4%** |
| Prefer not to Answer | **6.9%** |

### MARITAL

*What would best describe your marital status?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Single or Never Married | **23.4%** |
| Married | **52.4%** |
| Separated | **3.6%** |
| Divorced | **11.9%** |
| Widowed | **5.3%** |
| Other | **3.4%** |

### CHILDREN

*Do you have children currently living in your household?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Yes | **40.9%** |
| No | **55.9%** |
| Refused | **3.3%** |

### NEIGHBORHOOD

*Would you best describe the neighborhood or area you live in as…*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Urban | **24.0%** |
| Suburban | **70.0%** |
| Rural | **2.1%** |
| Unsure | **3.9%** |

### 401K

*Do you invest into an IRA or 401k?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Yes | **67.2%** |
| No | **32.8%** |

## OCCUPATION

*Please describe your current occupational status.*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Employed (Government) | **13.4%** |
| Employed (Private Sector) | **34.6%** |
| Small Business Owner | **8.5%** |
| Student | **3.8%** |
| Homemaker | **1.6%** |
| Retired | **30.0%** |
| Unemployed | **2.5%** |
| Other | **4.6%** |
| Unsure | **0.9%** |

## HOMEOWNER

*Do you currently own (outright/pay mortgage) your residence?*

| Response | % |
|---|---|
| Own (Outright/pay Mortgage) | **64.2%** |
| I Do not Own My Residence (Rent/other) | **35.8%** |

*Prepared by MainFrame for the Independent Leadership Council.*