

To: End Citizens United
From: GBA Strategies
Date: September 24, 2018

Porter Edging Walters in Neck and Neck Race in CA-45

Democrat Katie Porter is in a strong position to turn California's 45th Congressional District blue this year. With just over six weeks until Election Day, Porter leads Republican Incumbent Congresswoman Mimi Walters 48 – 47 percent.

California's 45th District is a true “toss-up” this year, although President Trump's low favorability and Walters' mediocre standing give Porter the slightest of advantages. In addition, an enthusiasm gap benefits Democrats here. The following are key findings from a recent survey in California's 45th Congressional District¹ followed by some strategic recommendations.

Key Findings

- ***CA-45 a true toss-up, but Trump struggling.*** A generic race for Congress between an unnamed Democrat and an unnamed Republican results in a 45 – 46 percent race. Likewise, the Gubernatorial race is totally knotted up with Democrat Gavin Newsome and Republican John Cox both getting 48 percent.

President Trump's 40 – 52 percent fav/unfav rating is not strong. His job approval sits at 45 percent, with 51 percent disapproving (including 45 percent who strongly disapprove).

- ***Walters standing is unimpressive.*** Mimi Waters is pretty well known here (84 percent) but her 34 – 38 percent fav/unfav rating is not particularly imposing. Independent voters—a pivotal bloc—reflect the overall district here (34/38 percent fav/unfav).
- ***Porter has significant advantages on independence and advocacy.*** Despite being less well known than Walters, Katie Porter has a 10-point edge on which candidate is more ‘independent’ and an 8-point advantage on who ‘cares about regular people’.
- ***Porter has slightest of leads; enthusiasm gap helps.*** Porter's lead over Walters slightly outpaces the generic ballot. She leads the incumbent 48 – 47 percent. Somewhat encouraging for Porter here is that voters who rate their interest in the election as a 6 or higher out of 10 (89 percent of all voters) give the Democrat a 50 – 46 percent advantage.

¹ Survey of 400 likely voters in California's 45th Congressional District was conducted by professional interviewers between September 20-23, 2018. Respondents were interviewed by live dialers and reached on land lines and cell phones. Results carry a margin of error of +/- 4.9 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence interval.

- ***Money in politics upsetting to CA-45 voters.*** By a 57- 26 percent margin, voters here say that the amount of money corporations and the wealthy spend on political campaigns impacts issues that affect them or their family.

In addition, nearly half of all voters (48 percent) say they would be more likely to support a candidate who pledged not to accept any corporate special interest money. That includes 30 percent of everyone who considers themselves a ‘weak’ Walters voter.