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**TO** Interested Parties

**FROM** CA-BAM! PAC  
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**RE:** 25<sup>th</sup> California Congressional District Survey Results

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**A recently conducted survey<sup>1</sup> among likely voters in California’s 25<sup>th</sup> Congressional District finds Republican incumbent Steve Knight highly vulnerable, and that a strong Democratic candidate is well-positioned to defeat him in the November election.** In this district, where Clinton defeated Trump by nearly seven points, this survey affirms the perception that CD25 presents Democrats with an outstanding chance to “flip a district” in the party’s effort to win a majority in the House of Representatives.

**Rep. Steve Knight is Less Favorable than Donald Trump in CA-25**

Majorities of CD25 voters hold unfavorable opinions of Donald Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan and the Republican Party (See Figure 1). Among those with an opinion about their Congressman, Steve Knight is polarizing, with only four in ten rating him favorably and a third holding an unfavorable opinion.

**Figure 1: Favorability Ratings**

Person/Organization	Total Favorable	Total Unfavorable	Can’t Rate/ Don’t Know
Donald Trump	45%	53%	2%
Speaker of the House Paul Ryan	38%	52%	10%
The Republican Party	41%	52%	7%
Steve Knight	39%	33%	28%

The generic congressional ballot underscores the strong opportunity Democrats have to win this seat in November as it favors the Democratic candidate by 10 points. If the election for Congress were held today, half (49%) would support the Democratic candidate, four in ten (39%) would vote for the Republican, and 12% are undecided. (See Figure 2 on the following page)

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<sup>1</sup> **Survey Methodology:** From January 24-28, 2018 FM3 conducted a survey of 650 randomly-selected voters in California’s 25<sup>th</sup> Congressional District likely to cast a ballot in the November 2018 statewide election. Interviews were conducted via landline and cell/mobile telephone by live interviewers. The full sample margin of error is +/-3.8% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups will be higher. Due to rounding, some percentages may not sum to 100%.

It is notable that Steve Knight’s favorability rating (39%) and the generic Republican vote share (39%) are identical. Despite serving in Congress and the State Assembly, Steve Knight has done nothing to distinguish himself with CD25 voters that would insulate him from voter antipathy towards the Republican Party, and thus, Knight is defined by a president and party that is unpopular.

**Figure 2: Generic Congressional Ballot Test**

Vote	Percentage
Democrat	49%
Republican	39%
Don’t know	12%

**The survey also exposes Knight’s weakness as his staunch support for Congressional Republicans’ agenda raises serious doubts among CD25 voters** (See Figure 3). Notably, Knight’s record of voting to deny women access to reproductive health services and opposition to laws promoting equal pay and other workplace protections for women elicited highly intense reactions as more than six in ten voters (65%) say such positions raise “serious” doubts about Knight. Additionally, voters express a high degree of concern about Knight’s extreme positions and highly partisan record that puts political gamesmanship ahead of getting things done. These results not only show Knight’s vulnerability to critical statements, but also imply that voters may be willing to seek a candidate who would be a stronger advocate for women, particularly on issues such as health care, equal rights, and equal pay.

**Figure 3: Impact of Statements about Steve Knight**

Statement	Serious Doubts	Total Doubts
Knight has repeatedly voted against women’s access to health care; he favors allowing health insurance plans to deny access to birth control; and voted to ban a woman’s right to choose even in the case of rape or incest	65%	74%
Knight voted to block equal pay legislation; voted to allow employers to discriminate against women for using birth control; opposes maternity care benefits; and he sponsored legislation to allow employers to fire unmarried women for being pregnant	61%	73%
Knight denied climate change, weakened clean air and clean water regulations to go easier on corporate polluters, and supports massive new oil drilling off the California coast	55%	72%
Knight voted for historic budget cuts, slashing billions of dollars in funding for public education, making college tuition more expensive, making drastic cuts to health care for children and working families, and cutting Medicare benefits	52%	65%
Knight always puts partisan politics first, even at the expense of his constituents. He sided with Republican leaders in Congress to raise taxes on California homeowners and increase federal taxes on millions of middle-class families, made massive budget cuts to local schools and health care for children; and he recently ended federal tax breaks for victims of California wildfires who are trying to rebuild their homes.	50%	69%

In stark contrast to the Steve Knight’s record in Congress, voters in CD25 overwhelmingly prefer a member of Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to achieve results. There is profound frustration with the inability of

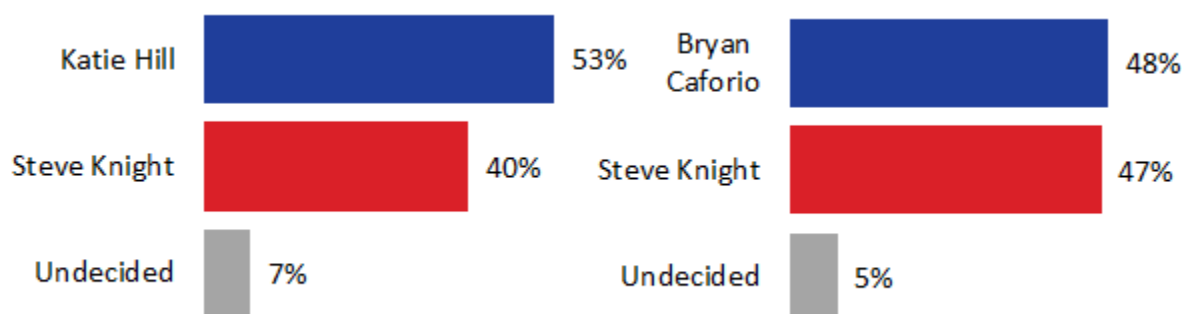
politicians in Congress to work together, which is clearly illustrated by the finding that 82% opt for a leader “willing to work across party lines” compared to 15% who want a partisan Republican, like Steve Knight. (See Figure 4)

**Figure 4: Preferred Type of Candidate for Congress**

Type of Candidate	Percentage
A leader who is willing to work across the aisle and find common ground to get things done for our communities, California, and our nation	82%
A leader who stands up to Democrats in Washington and always votes with Republican leadership in Congress	15%
Other/Don't Know	3%

The survey also demonstrates that Katie Hill would be a strong challenger in the November general election, holding a 13-point lead over Rep. Steve Knight. Bryan Caforio, also finishes ahead of Knight 48%-47% (Figure 5)

**Figure 5: Katie Hill +13% over Rep. Knight; Bryan Caforio +1% over Rep. Knight**



Katie Hill’s strength as a candidate comes from her ability to garner support beyond the Democratic base. Nearly six in ten (58%) non-partisans choose Hill (58%-35% over Knight) giving Hill a +23% advantage among non-partisan voters. Additionally, about one in four (23%) Republicans support Hill, another indication of her ability to mount a strong challenge by eroding Knight’s base. Among Democratic voters Hill leads Knight 84%-6%.

Steve Knight is vulnerable because he is out of step with the voters in California’s 25th Congressional District. Instead of working to address the issues and concerns of his constituents, Knight has embraced the hyper-partisan tactics of Washington. Frustration among CD25 voters is evident in their negative ratings of Donald Trump and the Republican Party.

As a result, these voters express a strong preference for a change in their congressional representation, and believe a Democratic candidate for Congress would better serve their interests. To win this congressional seat, the Democratic Party and its allies must engage with the public now and maintain a well-funded and coordinated effort through the November election to communicate with voters that politicians like Steve Knight are the problem. Voters must be made to understand that Steve Knight is emblematic of the dysfunction and gridlock in Washington, and his removal from office is necessary in order to get things done and address the issues that matter to the nation and the people of CD25. Furthermore, this survey finds that Katie Hill is well-positioned to win a general election because she has a greater ability to appeal to non-partisans, women, and even some Republicans.