



TO Interested Parties
FROM FM3 Research
RE: Summary of Assembly District 65 Survey Results
DATE February 27, 2026

A survey conducted among California’s 65th Assembly District voters who are likely to cast a ballot in the June 2026 primary election shows Democrats Ayanna Davis and Fatima Iqbal-Zubair and Republican Lydia Gutierrez to be in a highly competitive race to place in the top two spots to qualify for the November general election. The results also show voters respond positively to Ayanna Davis’s personal and professional background, and support for her increases as they learn more about her career as an educator.

There is a realistic chance that Republican Lydia Gutierrez may finish in one of the top two spots in the June primary, effectively ending the race after the primary as whichever Democrat advances with Gutierrez to the general election is essentially guaranteed to win in this safe blue district. If Ayanna Davis has the resources to compete, she has a strong pathway to being the top vote getter in the June primary

The following are key highlights from the survey:

- As **Figure 1** shows, the AD65 primary race is highly competitive as the initial ballot test has the top three candidates all within several points of each other, with the sole Republican candidate narrowly leading with 23%. Democrats Iqbal-Zubair and Davis are effectively tied in second, the rest of the field polls in the single digits and 28% are undecided. **Following positive profile statements about Ayanna Davis, Fatima Iqbal-Zubair and Eugene Allen, support for Davis increases 11-points and puts her in the lead with 28%, followed by Gutierrez (22%) and Iqbal-Zubair (20%).**

Figure 1: AD65 Primary Vote

Response	Initial Vote	Vote After Candidate Profiles
Ayanna Davis	17%	28%
Fatima Iqbal-Zubair	18%	20%
Lydia Gutierrez	23%	22%
Eugene Allen	6%	8%
Magali Sanchez-Hall	7%	4%
Lamar Lyons	1%	2%
Undecided	28%	16%

- **Ayanna Davis’s record as a local classroom teacher and school principal resonates strongly with AD65 voters. (See Figure 2)** Notably, more than eight in ten voters are more likely to support a candidate like Ayanna Davis who established programs to provide residents with access to apprenticeship and workforce development programs; three in four would support a candidate who expanded student mental health services and two-thirds are likely to back a candidate who increased access to pre-school and is working to keep ICE off of school campuses.

Figure 2: Likelihood to Vote for a Candidate Based on Descriptions

Statement	Percentage More Likely to Support
Created apprenticeship and workforce development programs to train local residents for good-paying jobs in construction, healthcare, auto repair and the food industry	84%
Was a leader in opening a workforce development center that allowed adults to develop new skills and learn new trades to help them train for good-paying jobs	83%
As a local school board member led the effort to expand mental health services to all school campuses to provide students access to counseling	73%
Was a leader in opening an accessible, quality preschool in the Watts community to expand access to early childhood education programs	68%
As a local school board member has enacted policies that protect immigrant students and keep ICE out of neighborhood schools	67%

- **The survey results also show that Fatima Iqbal-Zubair’s reliance on campaign funds from weapons contractor Raytheon Corporation raises concern among voters.** Specifically, Iqbal-Zubair’s record of violating state election laws by not disclosing income from this corporation, and that this company has billion-dollar contracts with the Trump Administration, supplies foreign dictators with arms, and has been fined for breaking the law and violating clean water laws creates serious doubts about her candidacy.

This survey shows Ayanna Davis to be well-positioned for the June primary. As voters learn more information about her background as a local educator and school principal, she gains support and moves into the lead ahead of Lydia Gutierrez and Fatima Iqbal-Zubair. Furthermore, with only one Republican candidate in the field, there is a possibility that only one Democrat will advance to the November general election. Therefore, if Ayanna Davis and her supporters have sufficient resources to communicate with voters, she appears to have a strong chance of being the top vote getter in the June primary.

Methodology: From February 17-23, 2026, Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) conducted a survey among 426 California 65th Assembly District voters likely to cast a ballot in the June 2026 statewide primary election. The survey was conducted using a dual-mode methodology where voters were contacted by telephone (cellular and landlines), email or text message. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The margin of error for the full sample is +/-4.9% at the 95% confidence level. Not all results will sum to 100% due to rounding.