

# TULCHIN RESEARCH

To: Interested Parties

From: Tulchin Research

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## Marni von Wilpert Rises as CA-48 Primary Field Takes Shape

A new Tulchin Research poll in California's 48th Congressional District finds Marni von Wilpert emerging as the leading Democratic candidate, while Republican Jim Desmond is rapidly consolidating Republican support following incumbent Darrell Issa's withdrawal from the race. The poll finds von Wilpert's support has more than doubled since February as primary voters have learned more about her. Conversely, Ammar Campa-Najjar's support has softened as his standing with voters has deteriorated.

CA-48 Vote Summary Table			
	Feb 16-22	Apr 27-30	Net Vote Shift
Darrell Issa (R)	41%	-	-
Marni von Wilpert (D)	7%	16%	+9
Ammar Campa-Najjar (D)	14%	13%	-1
Brandon Riker (D)	5%	8%	+3
Jim Desmond (R)	-	27%	-
Kevin Patrick O'Neil (R)	-	9%	-
Other	8%	7%	-1
Undecided	25%	20%	-5

### Marni von Wilpert is Surging While Ammar Campa-Najjar is Slipping

- **Von Wilpert is now in second place and leads with Democrats.** Our poll finds that von Wilpert has more than doubled her support since our previous poll conducted in February, rising from 7% to 16% and overtaking Ammar Campa-Najjar (13%) in second place. Among Democrats, von Wilpert leads Campa-Najjar 31% to 23%.
- **Von Wilpert has doubled her name ID and is viewed highly favorably by Democrats.** While February polling found that just over 1 in 5 voters (22% ID) could rate von Wilpert, she is now known to 49% of the primary electorate (+2 net favorable), including 57% of Democrats (+36 net favorable).
- **Campa-Najjar's negatives have spiked and his support has softened as the primary electorate has become more familiar with him.** While Campa-Najjar is now known to 61% of voters (up from 43% ID in February), he is viewed negatively by a 14-point margin (down from -6 net favorable in February). While his Democratic rivals have made gains in recent weeks, Campa-Najjar's support has declined slightly from 14% to 13%, and he has fallen into third place.

### Jim Desmond's Republican Consolidation Extinguishes Path to "Top-Two" GOP General Election

- **Desmond has emerged as the dominant Republican candidate since Issa's withdrawal.** Desmond leads the full primary field with 27% of the vote – a 3-to-1 lead over the only other Republican on the June ballot, Kevin Patrick O'Neil at 9%. Desmond is already attracting the support of a majority of Republicans (55%) while less than 1 in 5 (19%) choose O'Neil. Given this dynamic,



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Desmond is virtually assured of advancing to the November general election while O’Neil has very little hope of leap-frogging the Democratic field.

### **Conclusion**

While the race for second place in the June primary remains close, our polling finds Marni von Wilpert has overtaken Ammar Campa-Najjar and is likely to prevail and advance to November assuming the current communication trajectory continues. With von Wilpert gaining support efficiently and improving her image, while Campa-Najjar’s campaign has suffered from negative discovery, von Wilpert has not only opened up a clear lead among Democrats but has a higher growth ceiling. At the same time, Jim Desmond’s overall lead and dominance with Republicans strongly suggests the race is consolidating around one Republican and one Democrat advancing to November.

**Survey Methodology:** Between February 16-22, 2026, and April 27-30, 2026, Tulchin Research fielded surveys among 600 likely June 2026 primary voters in California’s 48<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The margin of error for each poll is  $\pm 3.99$  percentage points.