

To: Interested Parties
From: Data for Progress
Date: May 20, 2026
Re: Vang Overtakes Matsui in CA07 Primary as Voters Learn About the Candidates

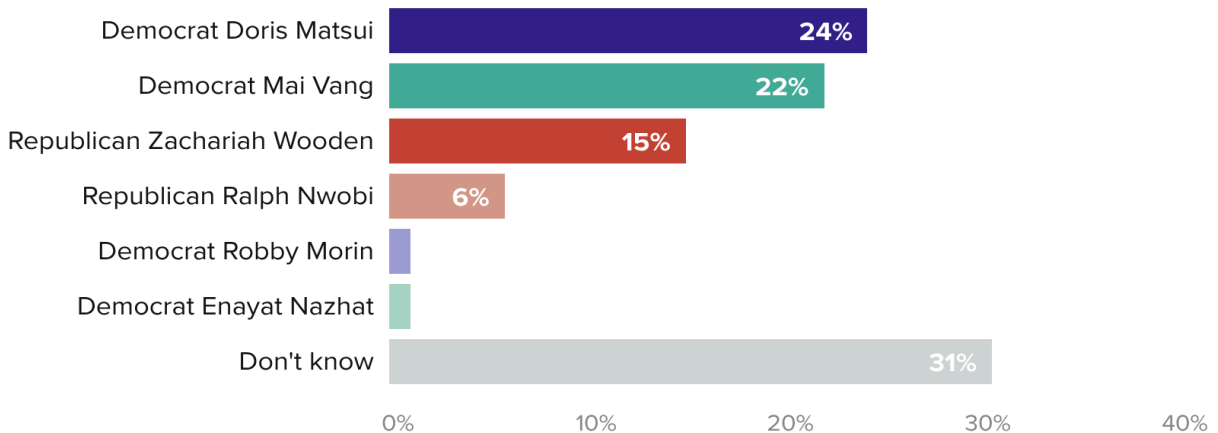
Executive Summary:

- Doris Matsui and Mai Vang are statistically tied in the initial ballot
After voters read neutral biographies of both Democrats, Vang overtakes Matsui by a statistically significant 8 points
Matsui enters the race underwater at -11 net favorability, while Vang is net positive at +7, with room to grow her name ID
Matsui's second-place position is precarious, and as voters learn more about the candidates, they move toward Vang and away from Matsui. Consolidation of Republican support behind a single GOP candidate could push Matsui out of the top two entirely

A new survey conducted in California's 7th congressional district from May 1 to May 5 by Data for Progress finds Mai Vang tied with incumbent Doris Matsui, and gaining significant ground on her as voters learn more about both candidates. In an initial blind horse race ballot test, Matsui leads with 24%, followed by Vang at 22% and Republican Zachariah Wooden at 15%, with 31% of voters undecided.

Matsui, Vang Statistically Tied in CA07 Congressional Primary

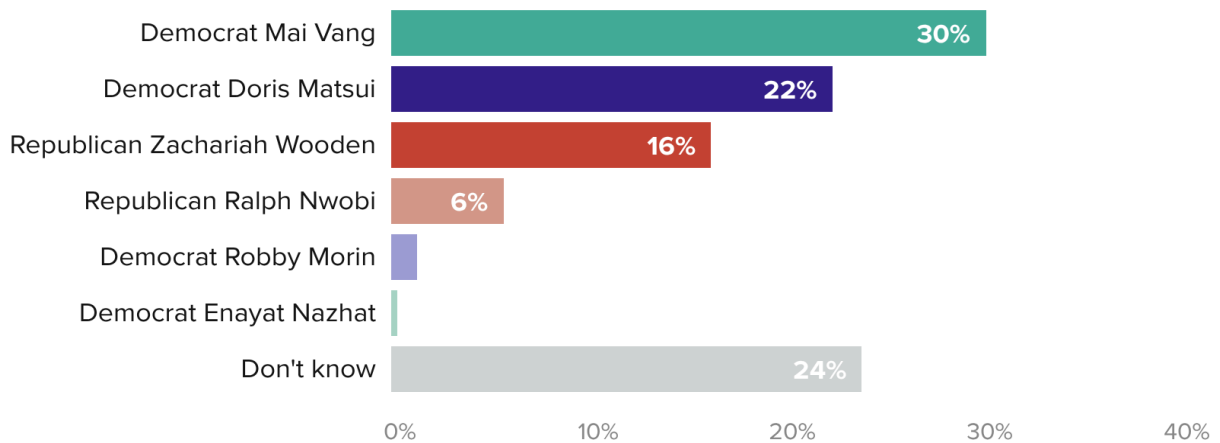
If the June 2026 nonpartisan primary election for the U.S. House of Representatives was held tomorrow, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?



After voters read neutral biographies of Matsui and Vang, the race shifts: Vang takes an 8-point lead, earning 30% of the vote share compared to Matsui's 22%, while Wooden holds at 16% and undecideds drop to 24%.

Vang Overtakes Matsui in CA07 Primary as Voters Learn More About Both Candidates

Knowing what you know now, if the **June 2026 nonpartisan primary election** for the **U.S. House of Representatives** was held tomorrow, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?



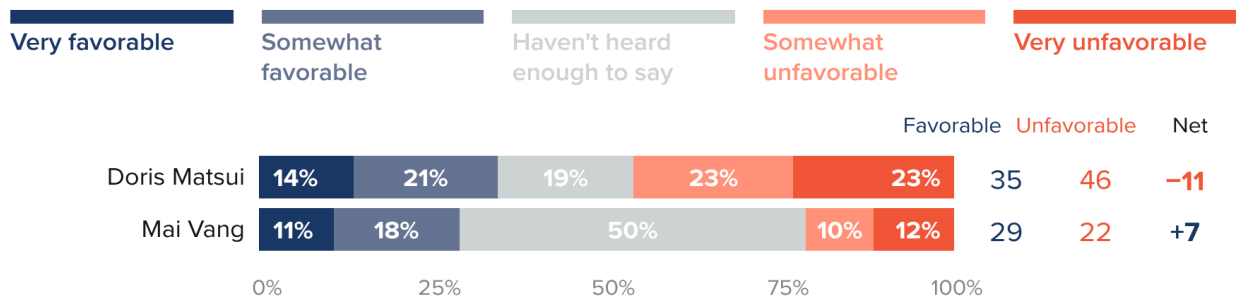
May 1–May 5 survey of 572 likely primary voters in CA's 7th congressional district

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Vang's surge tracks with how voters view the two candidates. Matsui enters the race underwater, with 35% of voters viewing her favorably and 46% unfavorably, for a net favorability of -11. Vang, by contrast, holds a net favorability of +7, with 29% favorable to 22% unfavorable. Half of voters say they have not heard enough about Vang, leaving her significant room to grow as the race develops, which is exactly what we see when voters read her bio.

Doris Matsui is Underwater Among Likely Primary Voters in Her District, While Vang is Viewed Positively

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people or institutions?



May 1–May 5 survey of 572 likely primary voters in CA's 7th congressional district

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These findings have direct implications for who advances in this primary. Under California's top-two system, only the first- and second-place finishers move on to November. Matsui currently sits in second, but her initial ballot vote share of 24% only narrowly exceeds the 21% combined Republican vote share, and after voters read bios for both Democrats, Matsui slips to 22% while Vang opens up an 8-point lead, outside the poll's margin of error. With Matsui's favorability underwater at -11 and voters moving toward Vang as they learn more, any consolidation of Republican support behind a single GOP candidate could push Matsui out of the top two and out of the general election entirely.

Methodology

From May 1 to 5, 2026, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 572 likely primary voters in California's 7th congressional district using SMS and web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely primary voters by age, gender, education, race, geography, and recalled presidential vote. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error associated with the sample size is ± 4 percentage points. Results for subgroups of the sample are subject to increased margins of error. For more information, please visit dataforprogress.org/our-methodology.