

To: Interested Parties

From: Ben Tulchin, Corey O'Neil, Corey Teter, and Kelsey Bullis; Tulchin Research

August 2, 2024

## California Assemblyman Evan Low Tied with Former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo in New Poll in California's 16th Congressional District

A recent Tulchin Research poll among likely November 2024 voters in California's 16th Congressional District shows a highly competitive race for Congress, with California Assemblyman Evan Low in a strong position against former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. Low is statistically tied with Liccardo in a head-to-head matchup, bolstered by solid support from young voters and Democrats in this heavily Democratic district. Notably, this poll was conducted *after* President Joe Biden ended his campaign and Vice President Kamala Harris became the presumptive Democratic nominee, dramatically energizing Democrats and young voters across the country, including in California. Detailed findings from the poll are presented below.

### California Assemblyman Evan Low in a Dead Heat with Former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo

The results are very encouraging for Evan Low. The Assemblymember is currently statistically tied with Sam Liccardo at 29% to 30% with 41% of voters undecided. This reflects the horserace for Congress when voters are just provided the names of the candidate, their party affiliation and their ballot labels and nothing more. Low's early strength lies in his large lead over Liccardo among Democrats and young voters, two groups the Assemblymember performed well with in the March primary. Given the new dynamic at the top of the ticket with Vice President Harris now the presumptive Democratic nominee and energizing Democrats and young voters across the country, Low stands to benefit from this new development. In fact, this newfound enthusiasm could significantly boost turnout among Low's strongest supporters in November, further strengthening his position in this highly competitive race.

CA-16 General Election Horserace	
<i>If the November election for U.S. Congress were held today and the candidates were: (ROTATE) California State Assemblymember Evan Low, a Democrat; and Small Businessperson/Educator Sam Liccardo, a Democrat, for whom would you vote? (IF UNDECIDED) Well toward whom would you lean?</i>	
<b>Evan Low</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Sam Liccardo</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>41%</b>

## Low Has Better Favorable Ratings, With Liccardo Having Higher Negatives

Additionally, our poll shows that voters are similarly familiar with Evan Low and Sam Liccardo, with 45% recognizing Low and 55% recognizing Liccardo. However, Low edges out Liccardo in terms of positive personal ratings. Thirty-one percent of voters have a favorable opinion of Assemblyman Low, compared to only 13% who view him unfavorably (+18 favorable). Meanwhile, Liccardo is viewed favorably by a comparable 33% of voters, but his negatives are much higher, with 22% holding an unfavorable opinion of the former mayor (only +11 favorable). This suggests that while both candidates are comparably known, Low’s reputation among voters is notably more positive.

<b>Favorability Ratings of Candidates for CA-16</b>		
<i>Here is a list of public figures and groups. Please indicate if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each. If you've never heard of them, please indicate so.</i>		
	<b>Evan Low</b>	<b>Sam Liccardo</b>
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	13%	22%
<b>Total ID</b>	45%	55%
<b>Net Favorability</b>	<b>+18</b>	<b>+11</b>

Furthermore, Low has attracted support from some of the most respected groups tested in this poll, such as labor unions broadly and nurses, firefighters, and teachers, specifically. These endorsements are expected to significantly bolster Low’s candidacy as voters learn more about his impressive record of championing the interests of working people.

## Conclusion

Our polling finds California Assemblyman Evan Low well positioned in his general election matchup against former San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. Low is already statistically tied with Liccardo, even before voters hear any messaging about the candidates. His strong position is reinforced by substantial support among young voters and Democrats, two groups now more motivated than ever due to the recent announcement that Vice President Kamala Harris will run for President in place of Joe Biden.

Moreover, Evan Low enjoys stronger favorability ratings than Liccardo and has slightly more room to grow in name recognition. He also benefits from the support of widely popular and respected entities in the district, which will further bolster his image as the campaign continues. With just over three months until election day, Low is well-positioned to defeat Liccardo, provided his campaign has the resources to effectively communicate his compelling profile to voters.

###

**Survey Methodology:** From July 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Tulchin Research conducted a survey among 500 likely November 2024 general election voters in California’s 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The poll was conducted in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese using live professional interviewers calling both landlines and cell phones as well as collecting data online. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.38%.