TO: Interested Parties
FROM: EMC Research, Inc.
RE: Research on the race for State Superintendent
DATE: April 14, 2026

The following findings come from a recent survey completed by EMC Research among likely June 2026 Primary election voters in California to assess the state of the race for State Superintendent of Public Education.

Conclusion: The race for State Superintendent is wide open, with all of the candidates largely unknown to voters. Voters respond very positively to information about Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi.

The vote for State Superintendent is wide open today.

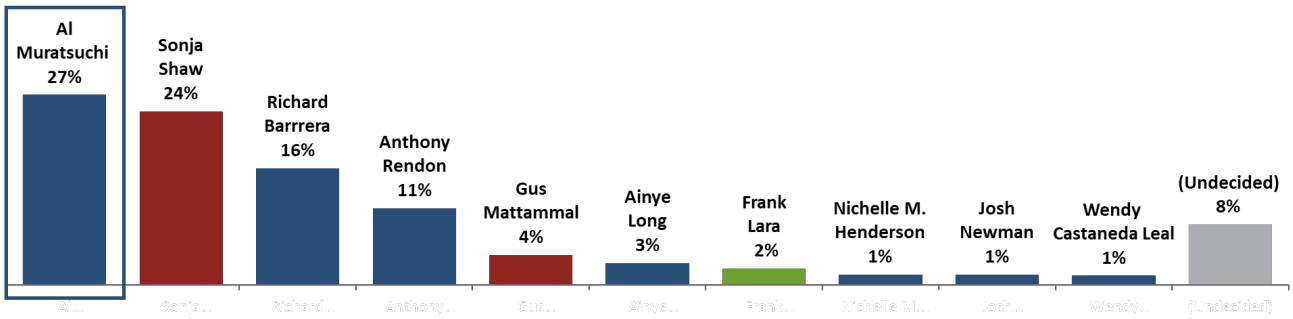
There is no clear frontrunner in the race, with three-quarters or more of voters unfamiliar with each of the candidates. A plurality of voters are undecided in an initial matchup: *Ainye Long (13%), Richard Barrera (11%), Anthony Rendon (10%), Sonja Shaw (9%), Al Muratsuchi (8%), Frank Lara (7%), Gus Mattammal (6%), Nichelle M. Henderson (5%), Wendy Castaneda Leal (5%), Josh Newman (5%), Undecided (20%)*

Voters respond positively to additional information about Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi.

After brief bios were provided about Al Muratsuchi, Anthony Rendon, Richard Barrera, and Sonja Shaw, Muratsuchi is regarded very favorably by voters – three-quarters say they have a favorable opinion of him after reading more about him, and nearly 4-in-10 (38%) say they have a strongly favorable opinion of him.

Al Muratsuchi moves into the lead after candidate bios.

Total candidate support, including solid and lean support



Methodology

The findings in this memo come from an email- and text-to-web survey conducted March 25th – 30th, 2026 by EMC Research Inc. among 800 likely voters in California. Email and text invitations were sent with link to the web survey, which was offered in English and Spanish. The results have an overall margin of error of ±3.4 percentage points.

The poll included ballot designations for all candidates tested. Designations read as follows:
Assemblymember/Classroom Educator Al Muratsuchi
Democracy Advocate/Educator Anthony Rendon
State Superintendent Advisor Richard Barrera
Educator/Strategic Advisor Josh Newman
Teacher/Union VP Frank Lara
School District President Sonja Shaw
College Trustee/Teacher Nichelle M. Henderson
Public School Teacher Ainye Long
School District Superintendent Wendy Castaneda Leal
Educator/Executive/Author Gus Mattammal