



CAIR
ACTION

IL-09 Democratic Primary Poll



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Overview

- Survey: IL-09 Democratic Primary on March 17th
- Client: CAIR Action
- Conducted by: Community Pulse, Molitico
- Date: February 15th - 20th, 2026
- Sample (n): 638
- Universe: IL-09 Democratic primary electorate (modeled/weighted to district)
- Weighting: Age, Gender, Race, and Primary Turnout Score
- Margin of Error: $\pm 3.9\%$ at 95% confidence

Executive Summary

- Fragmented field with Daniel Biss as the clear front-runner, but
- There is significant room for movement driven by turnout dynamics, especially among
- Non-primary and lower-turnout voters, who represent nearly half of the modeled electorate.
- Issue priorities are heavily concentrated around accountability and checks on power, ICE oversight, and corporate influence,
- This primary is ideal for community-focused voter activation

Key Takeaways

- Turnout is the key to the election through a “GOTV growth” universe
 - Voters who either did not vote in the 2024 primary
 - Have low/medium modeled primary-turnout scores
 - Represent 48.4% of the weighted electorate
- Low-participation supporters are motivated by accountability + ICE oversight.
 - Limiting unchecked presidential power (65.5%)
 - ICE abuse without accountability (57.8%)
 - Corporate/billionaire power over elections (37.4%)

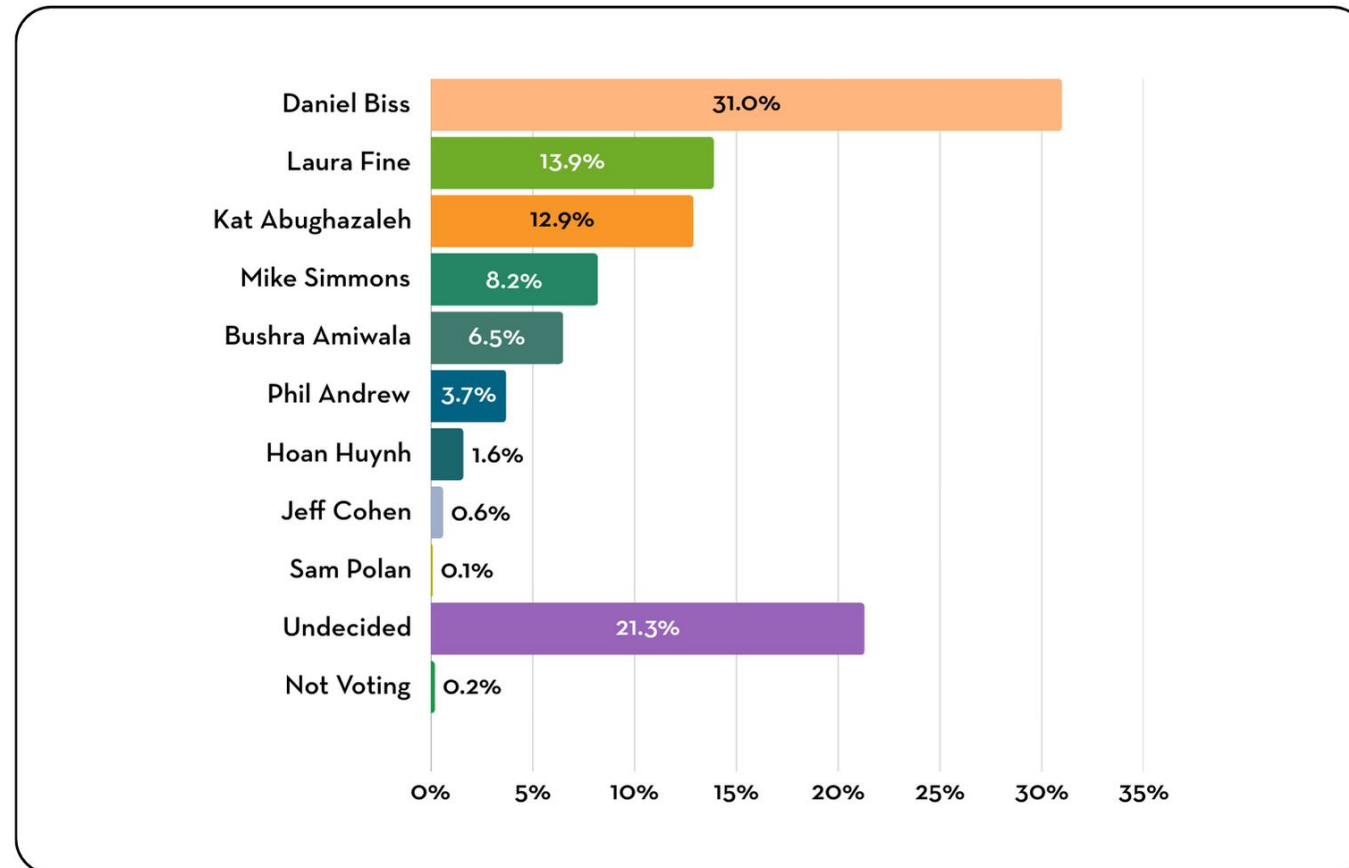
Key Takeaways

- AIPAC/pro-Israel lobby cue is net-negative.
 - A clear majority say (59.3%) ties to AIPAC/pro-Israel lobby make them less likely to support a candidate
 - Only 10.5% of candidates say it's more likely to make them support a candidate
- The Israel/Palestine battery shows a high engagement of voters on human-rights:
 - 41.4% strongly agree Israel is committing a genocide
 - 31.5% agree that Israel is an apartheid state

Vote Choice

On the initial ballot, Mayor Daniel Biss commands a substantial lead but a large proportion of primary voters remain undecided less than a month out from primary day.

Who are you most likely to support in the upcoming Democratic primary for Congress in IL-9?

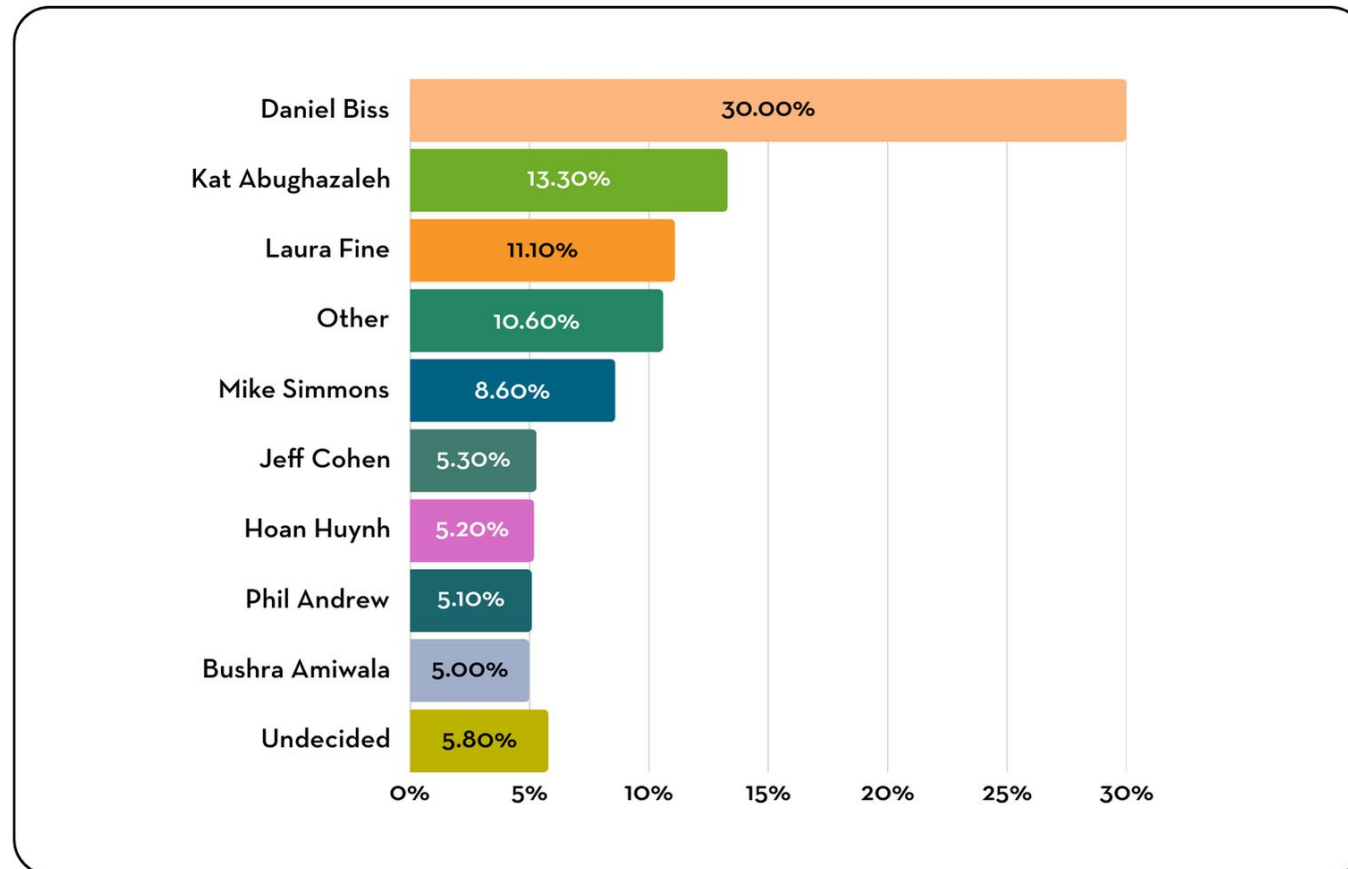


(n=638)

Undecideds Lean

Daniel Biss remains the top choice (33.6%), indicating his name recognition advantage persists. Abugazaleh gains significant ground, especially among low propensity voters.

We understand you're undecided, but if you had to choose one candidates, who would you lean towards?



(n=135)

Top Issues

Most voters used both choices indicating high engagement, and the top issues across the electorate are centered on power and accountability.

Q4. Considering the state of the economy, healthcare, and threats to democracy, which of the following represents your main concern or sentiment? Pick up to 2.

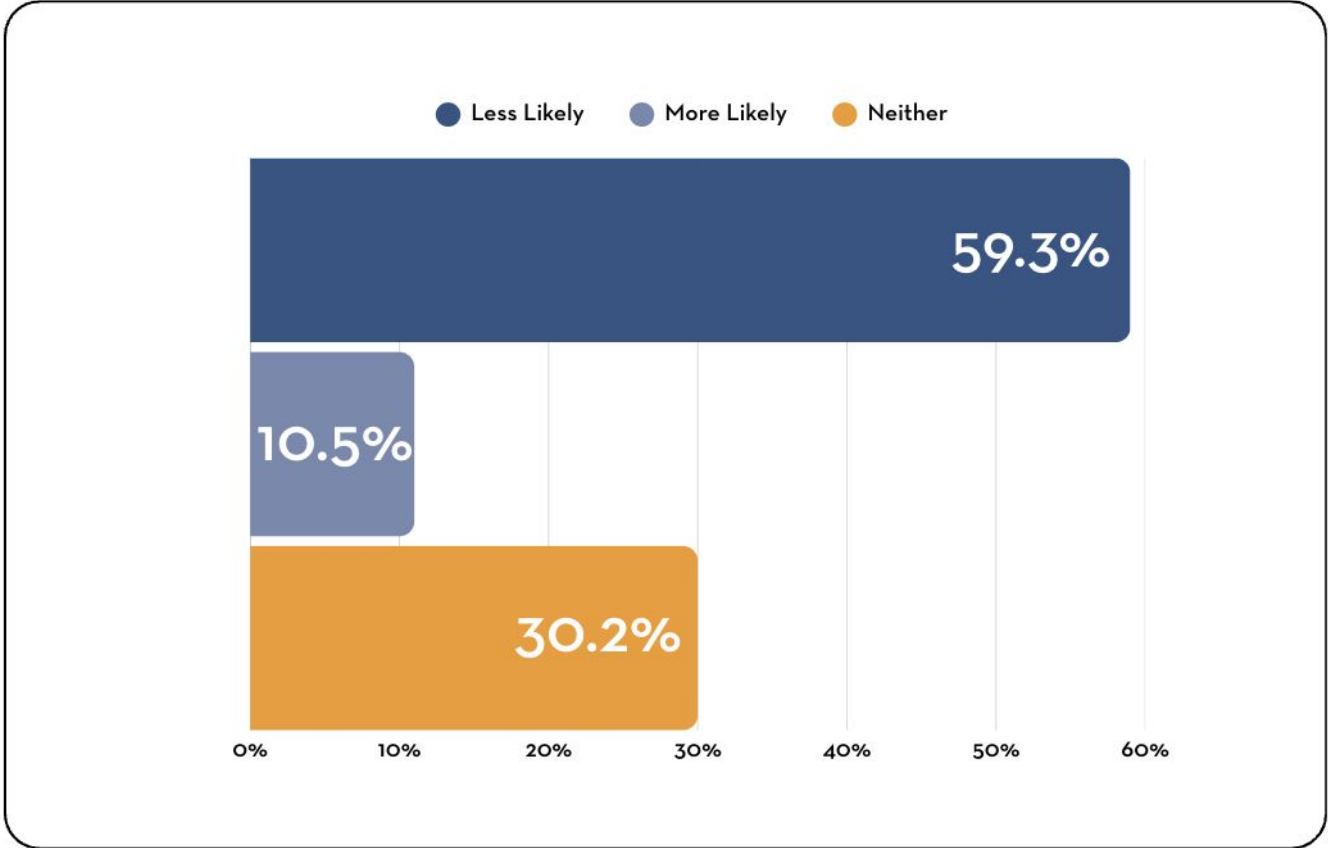
The president has too much power, unchecked by courts or Congress.	50.5%
Billionaires and corporations have too much power, including over elections.	42.5%
ICE is abusing its power without accountability.	42.1%
Inflation and cost of living are too high, including housing/rent.	20.5%
The US economy is headed in the wrong direction.	9.5%
I'm worried about my job and future income.	8.8%
My healthcare is unaffordable.	8.3%
My public benefits are insufficient for food, housing, or social security.	2.9%
I'll never get out of medical debt.	0.2%

(n=636)

AIPAC Support

In this electorate, pro-AIPAC alignment is more often a liability than an advantage for Congressional candidates

Does support for & ties to AIPAC or the pro-Israel lobby make you more or less likely to support a candidate for Congress?



Israel Palestine

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Q6. Among the following statements please check all the statements you strongly agree with.

Israel is committing genocide against the Palestinians.	41.4%
Israel has a right to defend itself, but the current Israeli government is extremist and does not serve the best interests of Israelis.	35.1%
Israel is an apartheid state where Palestinians do not have equal rights as Israelis.	31.5%
In general, I sympathize more with the Palestinians than the Israelis.	30.2%
The Palestinian movement is part of a larger movement for the freedom of all people.	20.9%
Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East that allows freedom of religion for all its citizens.	12.4%
Israel has a right to defend itself and is abiding by international law.	8.8%
In general, I sympathize more with the Israelis than the Palestinians.	4.7%

(n=432)