



**TO: Christy Smith For Congress**  
**FROM: The Mellman Group**  
**DATE: September 6, 2022**  
**RE: Smith Leads Republican Congressman Mike Garcia**

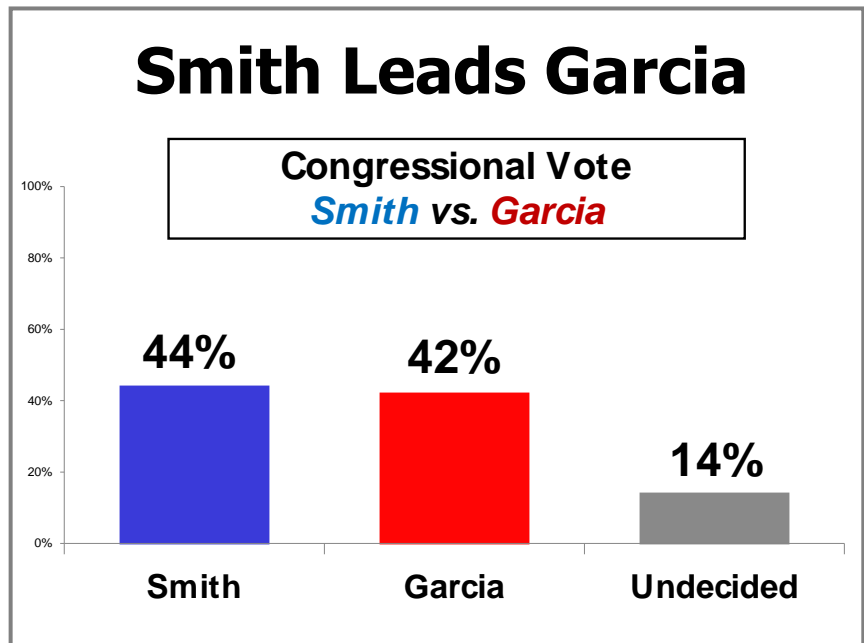
*This analysis represents the findings of a survey of 600 likely voters in the November 2022 election in California's 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Interviews were conducted August 25-30, 2022, using a registration-based sample, with live interviewers calling cellphones and landlines as well as text-to-online interviews sent to cell phones. The margin of error for the overall results is +/-4% at a 95% level of confidence. The margin of error is higher for subgroups.*

Our just completed survey shows Christy Smith with a narrow lead over incumbent GOP Congressman Mike Garcia – a lead that grows once voters hear more about both candidates. With the resources to communicate her message, in a district with a 12-point Democratic registration advantage, Smith has one of the best opportunities in the country to flip a seat from red to blue.

### SMITH BEGINS WITH A NARROW LEAD OVER GARCIA

With two months remaining until Election Day, and one month until voters receive ballots in the mail, Christy Smith narrowly leads incumbent Mike Garcia 44% to 42%, with 14% undecided.

Those undecided voters are inclined to move towards Smith. They are 35% Democratic, compared to only 8% Republican (57% are independent) and Trump is deeply unpopular among undecideds (23%



(23% favorable, 72% unfavorable). This party affiliation is emblematic of a district that, post-redistricting, is substantially more Democratic than the district Garcia narrowly won in 2020.

Indeed, 57% of all voters believe “supports Donald Trump and the national Republican Party too much” describes Mike Garcia.

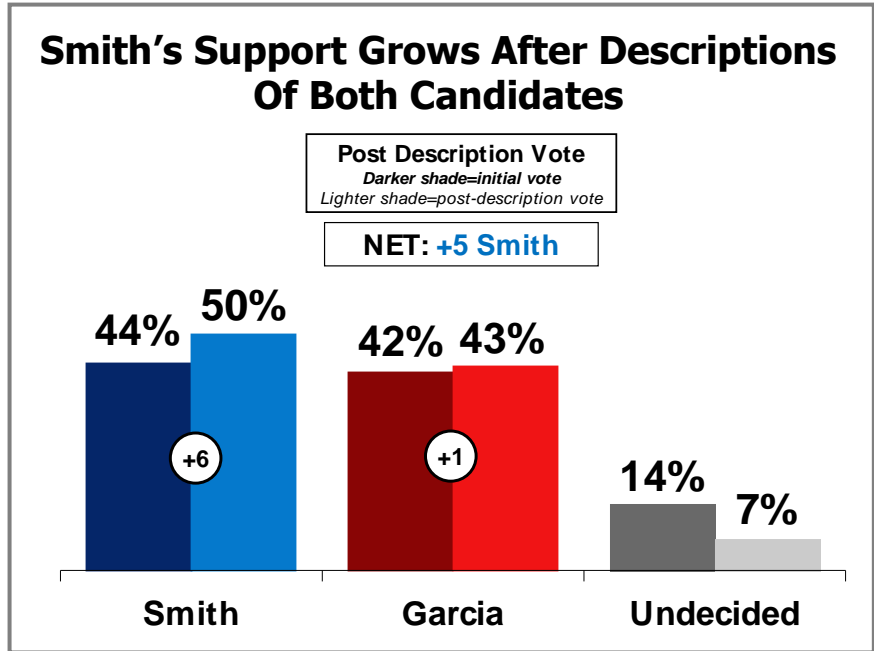
**SMITH LEADS AMONG VOTERS WHO KNOW BOTH CANDIDATES**

Among those familiar with both candidates, Smith gets 50% of the vote, with Garcia at 46% and 4% undecided – another indication that as voters learn more about the candidates, the advantage goes to Smith.

**UNDECIDEDS BREAK TO SMITH AFTER HEARING MORE ABOUT BOTH CANDIDATES**

Indeed, after a description of Mike Garcia, reflecting his campaign message<sup>1</sup>, and a description of Christy Smith focusing on her work with others to deliver results<sup>2</sup>, Smith’s vote grows 6 points to 50%, while Garcia’s vote only grows 1-point to 43%.

In the net, after descriptions of both candidates, Smith’s initial 2-point lead expands to 7-points and puts her at the critical 50% mark.



With Smith leading on many indicators, including the vote, with undecideds more likely to break to her than to Garcia, and with Smith’s lead expanding after voters learn more about the candidates, all in a district with a clear Democratic tilt, if Smith has the resources to stay even with Garcia in voter communications, she will stand a very good chance of defeating the incumbent and flipping this seat to the Democrats.

<sup>1</sup> Republican Mike Garcia currently represents this district in Congress. A first-generation American citizen, an Iraq war veteran, and a highly decorated fighter pilot, Garcia believes in the constitution, capitalism, competition, and charity. A leader, patriot, husband, and father, in Congress Garcia is working on the issues that matter most— lowering taxes, growing jobs, limiting terms for career politicians, controlling wildfires, and fighting crime. Garcia participated in the largest drug bust in LA history. And Garcia’s using his military and business experience to make sure taxpayer dollars are spent effectively and responsibly.

<sup>2</sup> Democrat Christy Smith, a 40-year resident of Santa Clarita, is a wife, mother, former state legislator, and school board member. Smith put party aside, community first, and worked with Democrats and Republicans to get things done. Smith expanded local health clinics and senior centers, created good jobs, improved schools, and expanded vocational education. In Congress, she’ll work with both parties to reduce drug prices, crack down on corporate price gouging, and protect Social Security and Medicare. Working families can count on Smith, a proven, effective leader, to work with others and deliver results.