SCHOEN COOPERMAN RESEARCH

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES **FROM:** SCHOEN COOPERMAN RESEARCH
DATE: May 8, 2026
RE: 2026 MAINE GUBERNATORIAL DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY – POLL FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

Schoen Cooperman Research completed a survey on behalf of 314 Action Maine Victory Fund with 522 Democratic Primary voters in Maine between April 30 to May 4, 2026. The poll assessed the state of the 2026 gubernatorial primary and Nirav Shah's position in the race.

The findings show Shah leading a five-candidate field by a substantial margin – a lead that grows among the most committed voters and consolidates decisively under Maine's ranked choice voting system.

SHAH LEADS A COMPETITIVE FIELD

Nirav Shah leads the Democratic primary field by 7 points with 28% of the vote – well ahead of Angus King III (21%), Shenna Bellows (16%), Hannah Pingree (15%), and Troy Dale Jackson (13%). Seven percent of voters remain undecided.

Among those who say they are absolutely certain to vote, Shah's **lead widens to 9 points, with King's support declining slightly and other opponents' support holding flat.**

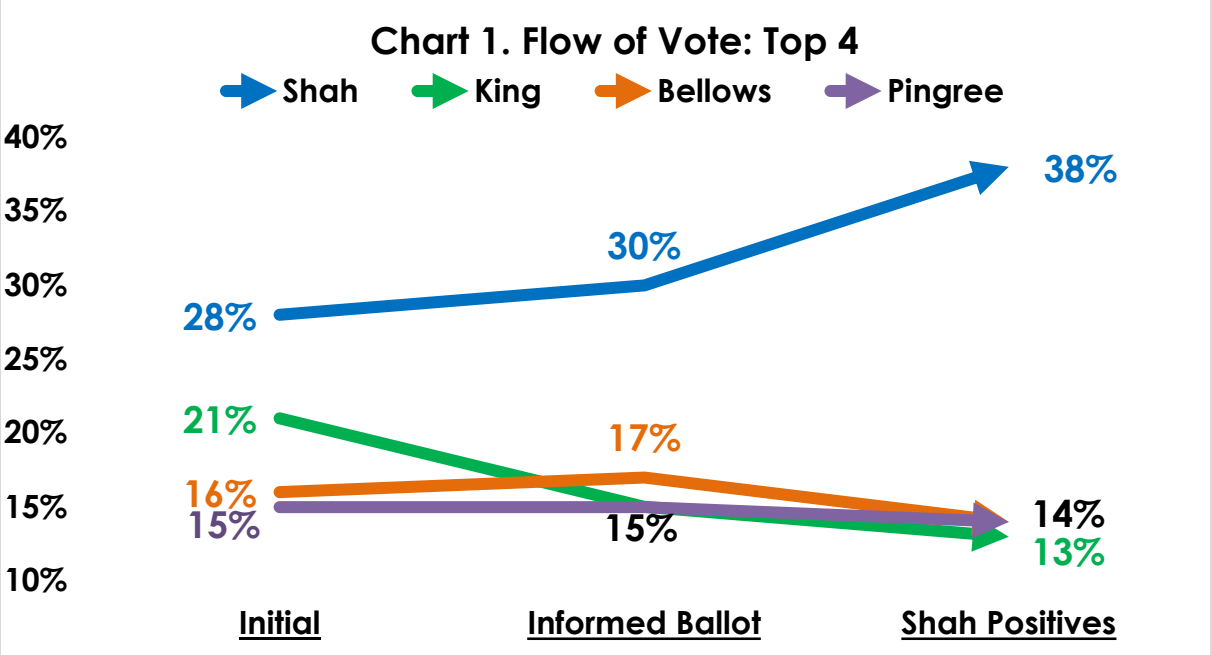
Table 1. Democratic Primary Horserace

Candidate	All Likely Voters	Absolutely Certain to Vote
Nirav Shah	28%	28%
Angus King III	21%	19%
Shenna Bellows	16%	16%
Hannah Pingree	15%	16%
Troy Dale Jackson	13%	14%
Undecided	7%	7%
MARGIN	SHAH +7	SHAH +9

SHAH WINS UNDER RANKED CHOICE VOTING

When simulating the ranked choice voting process, Shah wins in the fourth round with 58% of the vote. Shah gains support at each round of vote transfers, growing from 30% initially to a strong majority by the last round, demonstrating a strong base and broad second-choice appeal.

Table 2. Ranked Choice Vote Simulation				
Candidate	1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	4th Round
Shah	30%	35%	43%	58%
Bellows	17%	21%	29%	42%
King	23%	25%	28%	
Pingree	16%	19%		
Jackson	14%			

FLOW OF THE VOTE

With exposure to positive messaging about his record, **support for Shah increases significantly – peaking at 38%** and extending his lead to 24 points over the field.