Institute for Public Policy

2018 Gubernatorial Race

Report of Findings October 2018
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- Detailed Study Findings
Hearst Connecticut Media Group has commissioned the Sacred Heart University Institute for Public Policy to work in partnership with GreatBlue Research to analyze salient issues facing the State of Connecticut. This collaboration combines the academic excellence of a top-rated private University with the research design, analysis, and reporting expertise of GreatBlue Research.
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Detailed Study Findings
The Hearst Connecticut Media Group & Sacred Heart University Institute for Public Policy leveraged quantitative research through a telephonic methodology to address the following areas of investigation:

- Voter preferences regarding the 2018 CT Gubernatorial Race
- Voter preferences regarding the 2018 election for the U.S. House of Representatives
- Impressions of Democratic and Republic Candidates for Governor
- Presidential Job Approval
- Gubernatorial Job Approval
- Issues facing the State of Connecticut
- Demographic profiles of respondents
## Research Methodology Snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methodology</th>
<th>No. of Completes</th>
<th>No. of Questions</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Research Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephone*</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>23**</td>
<td>Connecticut residents</td>
<td>Oct. 13 - 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Likely voters”***</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margin of Error</td>
<td>Confidence Level</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+/- 4.32%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Supervisory personnel in addition to computer-aided interviewing platforms ensure the integrity of the data is accurate. All interviews were conducted by live agents and both landlines and cell phones were included in the sample.

** This represents the total possible number of questions; not all respondents will answer all questions based on skip patterns and other instrument bias.

*** Respondents to the survey indicated they were registered to vote, had voted in the 2016 election, and were “very” or “somewhat” likely to vote in the 2018 election in order to qualify for the survey.
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Detailed Study Findings
Data indicated that Ned Lamont (D), currently, has a slight edge over Bob Stefanowski (R) in the race for Governor in Connecticut. Approximately two weeks out for Election Day, Lamont holds a 3.4 percentage point lead over Stefanowski in a poll conducted from October 13 - 17, 2018. This marks a slight decrease over the 6.2 percentage point lead he held about a month ago.

- Stefanowski’s support among unaffiliated voters has increased over the past month as 43.2% support the Republican candidate for Governor compared to 36.5% in September 2018 and 29.8% in August 2018.
- A major gender gap exists as 50.0% of female voters support Ned Lamont (D) compared to 25.2% of female voters who support Bob Stefanowski (R). However, 47.0% of male voters support Bob Stefanowski (R) compared to 29.1% of male voters who support Ned Lamont (D).

In October 2018, 35.7% of Connecticut voters have a “favorable” view of Ned Lamont (D) compared to 38.7% who have an “unfavorable” view of the candidate. 34.9% have a “favorable” view of Bob Stefanowski (R) compared to 35.9% who have an unfavorable view.

The top issues driving voters’ behavior heading into the race of governor was the “high overall tax burden” (22.0%) or “State budget crisis” (17.6%) in Connecticut.
In addition, only 14.6% of Connecticut voters “approve” of the job Dannel Malloy is doing as governor, which remains consistent over the 16.8% who approved of his job as governor a month ago.

In October 2018, data indicated that one-half of Connecticut voters (52.1%) reported to agree with the statement “Electronic highway tolls that collect significant money from out-of-state motorists and interstate trucks as well as from Connecticut residents would be an effective way to help pay for highway improvements to relieve congestion.” This remains consistent with the 52.2% who agreed with the same statement about one month ago.

Three-fifths of Connecticut voters as of October 2018 (64.9%) reported to “agree” with the statement “If Connecticut cannot solve its budget crisis by cutting state services and spending, raising taxes on people with incomes over $1 million would be fair and effective.” This marks an increase over the 61.3% who agreed with the same statement about one month ago.

Nationally, slightly more than one-third of Connecticut voters “approve” (35.1%) of how Donald Trump is handling his job as President, which remains consistent with the 33.9% who approved of his job performance one month ago.

Further, if the elections of the U.S. House of Representatives were held today, 48.7% of Connecticut voters suggest they will support the Democratic candidate in their district compared to 34.1% who will support the Republican candidate.

Unaffiliated voters are divided as 36.3% support the Democratic congressional candidate in their district compared to 36.3% who support the Republican candidate.
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Gubernatorial Race

Overall, in regards to the 2018 Gubernatorial election being held in November, as of September 2018, 39.5% of “likely voters” in Connecticut suggest they will support Ned Lamont (D) for governor in the fall. This marks a slight decrease over the 43.1% who supported Lamont in September 2018. 36.1% of “likely voters” continue to suggest they will support Bob Stefanowski (R) in November, whose support has remained steady since August.

❖ Both candidates have strong support within their own parties as 79.0% of Republicans support Bob Stefanowski (R) and 71.1% of Democrats support Ned Lamont (D).

❖ Currently, unaffiliated voters favor Bob Stefanowski (R) by a 43.2% to 24.0% margin. This is an increase over the 36.5% to 30.2% margin that Stefanowski held among these voters in September 2018.

❖ Female voters suggest supporting Ned Lamont (D) by a 50.0% to 25.2% margin, while male voters support Bob Stefanowski (R) by a 47.0% to 29.1% margin.

If the election for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ned Lamont (D) and Bob Stefanowski (R) for whom would you vote?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party affiliation</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>College degree</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Race/ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>18 to 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ned Lamont (D)</td>
<td>39.5%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Stefanowski (R)</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oz Griebel (Independent)</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone else</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/unsure</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gubernatorial Race

While both candidate’s favorability ratings have increased in October 2018 over September 2018, the rate of “likely voters” who have an unfavorable view of each candidate has also increased in the same time span. This indicates that voter views are beginning to set in while getting closer to the election.

Q Is your opinion of Ned Lamont favorable, unfavorable or haven’t you heard enough about him?

Q Is your opinion of Bob Stefanowski favorable, unfavorable or haven’t you heard enough about him?
In regards to the U.S. congressional races also being held in November, 48.7% of Connecticut “likely voters” in October 2018 suggest they will support the Democratic candidate in their district compared to 34.1% who will support the Republican candidate. This 14.6 percentage point margin is up slightly from the 13.0 percentage point margin in September 2018.

- 59.2% of female voters supported the Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, which is up from 50.9% in September 2018. Male voters, however, favored the Republican candidate by a 44.2% to 38.2% margin.
- While unaffiliated voters in October 2018 were more likely to support the Republican candidate for Governor, unaffiliated voters currently are split on the candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives in their district (36.3% to 36.3%).

If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your congressional district?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party affiliation...</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Democratic candidate</th>
<th>Republican candidate</th>
<th>Someone else</th>
<th>Don’t know/unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>August 2018</td>
<td>September 2018</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>August 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>82.6%</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>81.0%</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>34.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaffiliated</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Gender...            | Total | Female | Male | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|                      |       | Yes    | No   | 18 to 34 | 35 to 44 | 45 to 64 | 65 or older | White | Black | Hispanic |
| Democratic candidate | 48.7% | 59.2%  | 54.3% | 38.2% | 38.6% | 50.0%  | 43.2%  | 53.0% | 38.3% | 44.9%  |
| Republican candidate | 34.1% | 24.0%  | 30.5% | 44.2% | 42.0% | 24.4%  | 27.1%  | 36.4% | 38.3% | 33.1%  |
| Someone else         | 8.2%  | 2.4%   | 1.0%  | 1.0%  | 3.4%  | 2.2%   | 5.7%   | 1.5%  | 0.8%  | 2.4%   |
| Don’t know/unsure    | 8.2%  | 14.4%  | 15.5% | 14.1% | 15.9% | 18.9%  | 17.1%  | 14.6% | 9.8%  | 14.3%  |
Respondents were asked if they approved or disapproved of the U.S. Senate’s Judiciary Committee handling of the nomination process of the Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh. 72.4% of Connecticut “likely voters” disapproved of the handling in October 2018.

- Interestingly, 54.8% of Republicans disapproved of the handling of the confirmation process of Brett Kavanaugh.
- 80.0% of female voters disapproved of the handling of the confirmation process of Brett Kavanaugh.

Did you approve of the way the Senate Judiciary Committee handled the nomination process of the Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh?
Job Approval Ratings

Almost three-quarters of Connecticut voters “disapprove” of how Dannel Malloy is handling his job as governor (73.7%), while only 14.6% “approve” of his job performance.

❖ Only 5.6% of Republican voters in the state currently approve of Dannel Malloy’s job performance.
❖ 81.5% of unaffiliated voters currently “disapprove” of how Dannel Malloy is handling his job as Governor, which marks an increase from 71.4% who disapproved in September 2018.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Dannel Malloy is handling his job as Governor?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party affiliation...</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Gender...</th>
<th>College degree...</th>
<th>Age...</th>
<th>Race/ethnicity...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>Unaffiliated</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approve</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disapprove</td>
<td>73.7%</td>
<td>57.8%</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
<td>81.5%</td>
<td>67.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/unsure</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Job Approval Ratings

57.9% of Connecticut voters as of September 2018, “disapprove” of how Donald Trump is handling his job as President, while slightly more than one-third “approve” of his job performance (35.1%).

❖ Only 8.7% of Democratic voters in the state currently approve of Donald Trump’s job performance.

❖ 50.0% of unaffiliated voters currently “disapprove” of how Donald Trump is handling his job as President.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Party affiliation...</th>
<th>Gender...</th>
<th>College degree...</th>
<th>Age...</th>
<th>Race/ethnicity...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>Unaffiliated</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approve</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disapprove</td>
<td>57.9%</td>
<td>87.6%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
<td>71.6%</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/unsure</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Issues facing the State of Connecticut

The State’s “high overall tax burden” (22.0% in October 2018 over 23.2% in September 2018) or “budget crisis” (17.6% in October 2018 over 22.8% in September 2018) continue to be the topics that would determine “likely voters” choice for governor. Another 10.6% reported the “high overall cost of living” in the State would be the deciding factor for them or “low economic growth.”

What is the most important issue to you in deciding your vote for governor in November?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>August 2018</th>
<th>September 2018</th>
<th>October 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High overall tax burden</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State budget crisis</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High overall cost of living</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education inequality</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low economic growth</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income inequality within the State</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People moving out of CT</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/don't know</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is the most important issue to you in deciding your vote for governor in November?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Party affiliation...</th>
<th>Gender...</th>
<th>College degree...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>Unaffiliated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High overall tax burden</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State budget crisis</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low economic growth</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High overall cost of living</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is the most important issue to you in deciding your vote for governor in November?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Age...</th>
<th>Race/ethnicity...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 to 34</td>
<td>35 to 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High overall tax burden</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State budget crisis</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low economic growth</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High overall cost of living</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>13.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Half of Connecticut voters in September 2018 continued to report to either “strongly” or “somewhat agree” (52.1%) with the statement “Electronic highway tolls that collect significant money from out-of-state motorists and interstate trucks as well as from Connecticut residents would be an effective way to help pay for highway improvements to relieve congestion” as of October 2018. This remains primarily consistent over the level of support recorded in September 2018 (52.2%).

- 67.0% of Democratic voters in the State supported electronic highway tolls compared 28.2% of Republican voters.
- 52.8% of unaffiliated voters supported electric highway tolls compared to 44.5% who opposed these tolls.

"Electronic highway tolls that collect significant money from out-of-state motorists and interstate trucks as well as from Connecticut residents would be an effective way to help pay for highway improvements to relieve congestion."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party affiliation...</th>
<th>Gender...</th>
<th>College degree...</th>
<th>Age...</th>
<th>Race/ethnicity...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>Unaffiliated</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly agree</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>42.2%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>28.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat agree</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat disagree</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly disagree</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>54.8%</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/unsure</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Issues facing the State of Connecticut

Almost two-thirds of “likely voters” as of October 2018, 64.9%, reported to “strongly” or “somewhat agree” with the statement “If Connecticut cannot solve its budget crisis by cutting state services and spending, raising taxes on people with incomes over $1 million would be fair and effective.” This marks an increase in agreement over the 61.3% recorded in September 2018.

❖ 86.2% of Democratic voters in the State supported raising taxes on people with incomes over $1 million compared 40.2% of Republican voters.

❖ 54.1% of unaffiliated voters supported raising taxes on people with incomes over $1 million as of September 2018, which also marks a decline over the 58.7% of unaffiliated voters who supported raising taxes in September 2018.