

CONNECTICUT STATEWIDE VOTER SURVEY

Survey Findings

Prepared for

Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance

Prepared by

The STATS Group

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Key Findings at a Glance

Voters overwhelmingly recognize the importance of Connecticut's community nonprofits

Fully 92% of voters say community nonprofits play an important role in providing services to Connecticut residents, including 54% who say they play a critically important role.

Voters overwhelmingly want Connecticut to respond if federal support is reduced.

Eighty-six percent say it is important for Connecticut state government to step in to make up for federal cuts to social services, including 46% who say it is very important. In addition, 65% believe the Trump Administration's efforts to cut social-service funding to the states are going too far.

A majority supports modifying the budget guardrails to increase services.

By a 54% to 46% margin, voters favor modifying Connecticut's budget guardrails so services may be increased. Similarly, 51% favor using some of the state's surplus to improve social services rather than using almost all of it to pay down debt and increase the rainy-day fund.

Support for increased nonprofit funding can influence candidate preference.

A 56% majority of registered voters say they would be more likely to support a candidate who wants to adjust the state budget guardrails to increase funding for community nonprofits, compared with just 16% who would be less likely — a net positive of 40 percentage points. Results are similar among likely voters, with 57% saying they would be more likely to support such a candidate.

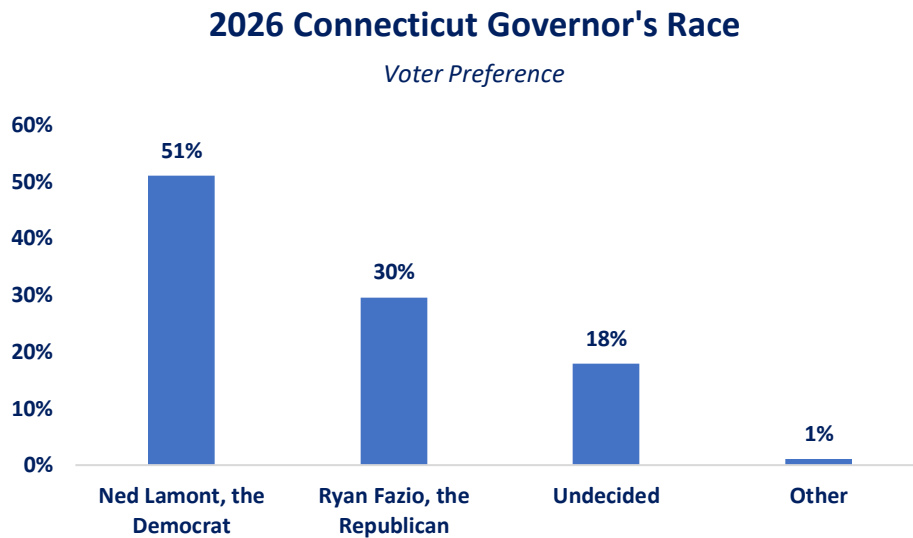
Survey Findings

This report summarizes the findings from an August 2026 survey of Connecticut voters. The survey was conducted online with a scientific sample of 602 registered voters in the state of Connecticut. Sampling error is +/-4% at the 95% level of confidence. The STATS Group conducted the survey for the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance.

Following are the key findings from the survey:

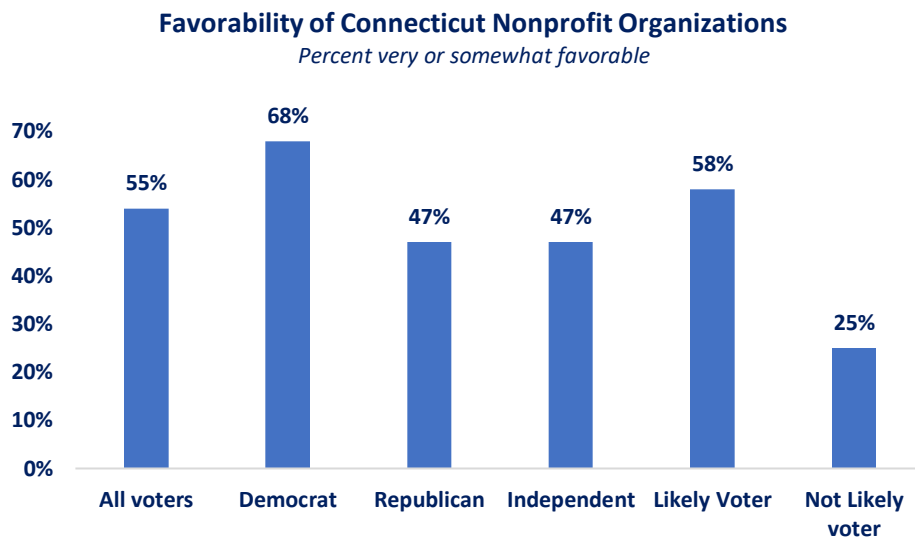
A. Connecticut maintains its “blue state” political culture.

- In the upcoming race for governor, 51% of Connecticut voters say they plan on voting for incumbent Democrat Ned Lamont and 30% say they will vote for Republican challenger Ryan Fazio. 18% are undecided about how they will vote in November.



- Voters are similarly in favor of the Democratic candidates in the races for the state legislature – 49% favor the Democratic candidate compared to 31% who opt for the Republican, with 19% undecided. Also, by a margin of 51% to 30%, voters prefer the Democratic candidate for congress in their district over the GOP candidate.

- 48% of voters have a favorable impression of Democratic Governor Ned Lamont and 31% hold an unfavorable impression of the governor, with 20% having a neutral opinion of him. This compares to only 28% who have a favorable impression of Republican Ryan Fazio and 23% who have an unfavorable impression. Fully 34% are neutral on Fazio and another 15% have not heard of him.
- By contrast 63% have an unfavorable impression of President Donald Trump (fully 54% say their impression is “very” unfavorable).
- When it comes to the Connecticut state legislature generally, 35% have a favorable opinion while 26% have an unfavorable opinion and 37% are neutral. Democrats in the state legislature fare better than Republicans on favorability by a margin of 44% to 29%.
- Connecticut state government is viewed favorably by 42% of voters.
- Connecticut nonprofit organizations have strong favorability, with 55% of voters saying they have a favorable impression of them.



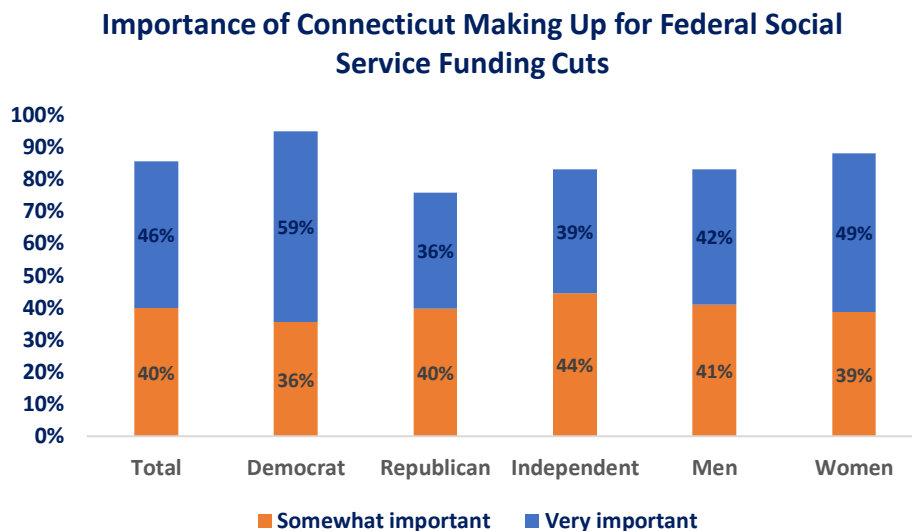
B. Voters Are Negative About the Direction of the State and Nation

- The general mood about the direction of how things are going in the U.S. is pessimistic. Only one-third say things are moving in the right direction while two-thirds say they are on the wrong track. Only 30% say the U.S. economy is going in the right direction. The mood is a little better when it comes to how things are going in Connecticut – 45% say the state is going in the right direction (55% say wrong track) and 40% say Connecticut’s economy is in the right direction (60% say wrong track).

- In thinking about Connecticut’s government and state budget specifically, only 6% rate the state’s financial health as excellent and 41% rate it as good. 31% say not so good and 14% say it is poor.
- Also, only 30% of voters say they are satisfied with how the state uses its tax dollars and 48% are dissatisfied with this.

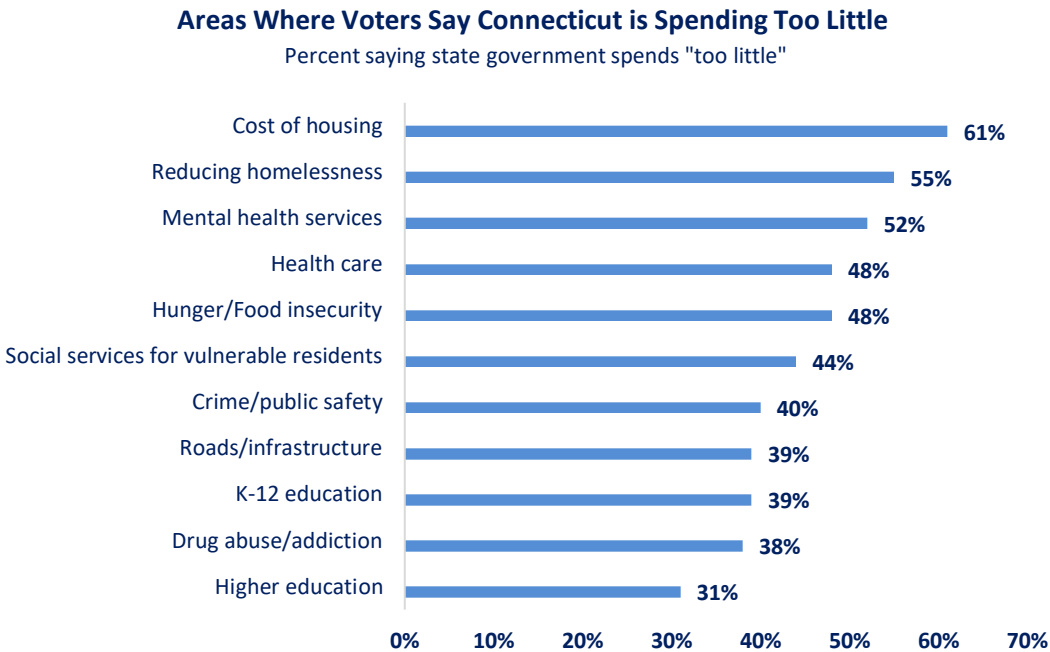
C. Voters See an Important Role for the State in Supporting Social Services

- Connecticut voters are strongly of the opinion that the Trump Administration’s efforts to cut social service funding to the states is problematic. Fully 65% say this effort is “going too far,” while only 28% say it is “about the right amount” and just 7% say it is “not going far enough.”
- Voters were asked how important it is that state government step in to support social services cuts made by the federal government. Fully 46% say it is very important and another 40% say it is somewhat important for Connecticut state government to step in to make up for any federal cuts.



- 47% of state voters feel that the need for social services in the state is increasing while only 17% say it is decreasing.

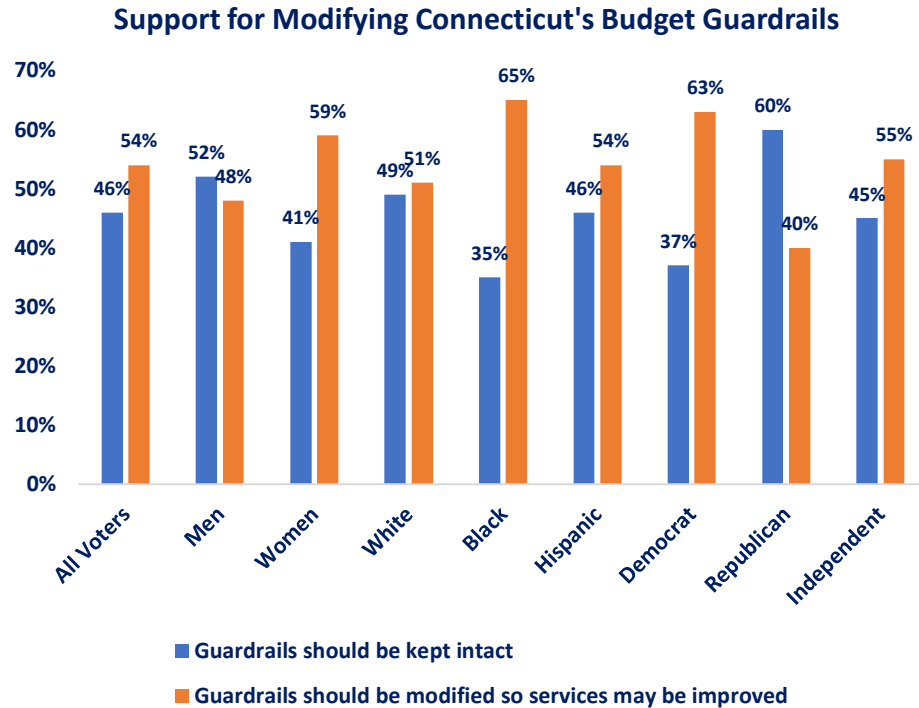
- When asked about state spending across a range of policy areas, voters are most likely to say too little is being spent on addressing the cost of housing, reducing homelessness, and mental health services.



D. Connecticut Budget Guardrails and Social Service Spending

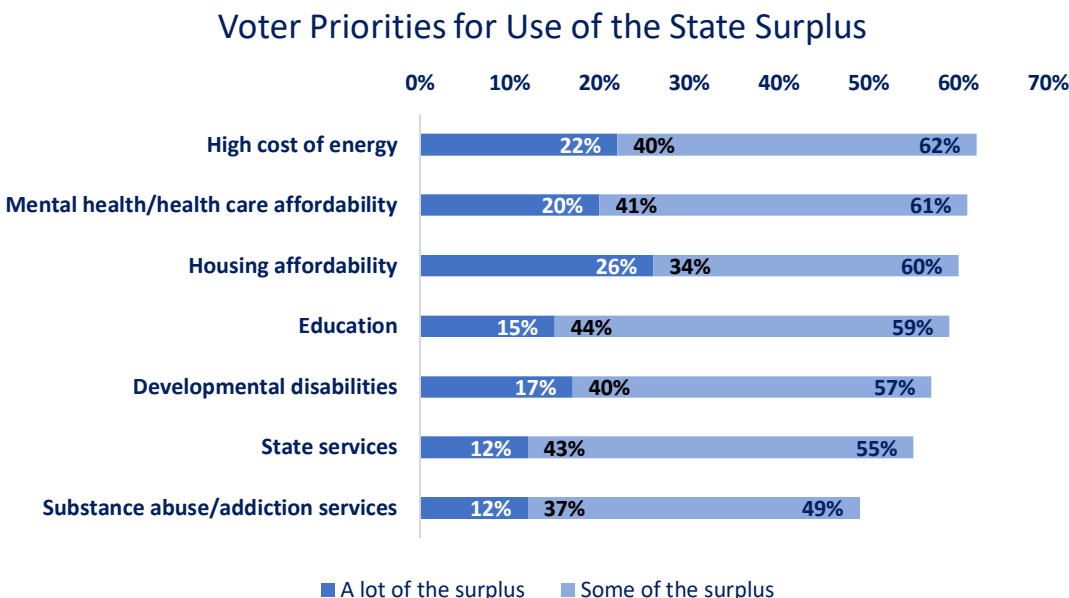
- Fewer than half (44%) of voters say they are at least somewhat familiar with the budget controls that the state has in place around government spending. 42% say they are not too familiar and another 14% say they are not at all familiar with this. Similarly, only 43% know either a lot or some about the budget guardrails for setting aside surpluses and paying down state debt.

- Voters were asked whether (A) the guardrails should be kept intact, and the state be kept within those limits to pay off debt and build the rainy-day fund, or (B) the guardrails be modified to be less restrictive so that services may be increased. By a margin of 54% to 46%, voters favor modifying the guardrails to increase spending on services.



- When asked about using some of the state surplus to improve social services in Connecticut, 51% say that some of the surplus should go to this use while 49% say almost all of the surplus should be used exclusively to pay down debt and increase the rainy-day fund.

- Voters were asked to prioritize how much of the state budget surplus should be used to increase spending in a number of areas. The chart below shows the percentage who say either a lot or some of the surplus should go to each area.



E. Key Trends Since the 2024 Survey

- Several questions included in the 2026 survey were also asked in the 2024 statewide survey, providing an opportunity to examine how voter awareness and attitudes have changed over the past two years.

	2024	2026	Change
Familiar with Connecticut's community nonprofit system	39%	48%	+9
Familiar with Connecticut's budget controls	38%	44%	+6
Favorable opinion of Connecticut nonprofits*	51%	55%	+4
Rate Connecticut's financial health excellent/good	46%	47%	+1
Satisfied with how Connecticut uses tax dollars	28%	30%	+2
Dissatisfied with how Connecticut uses tax dollars	54%	48%	-6

**The wording used to describe Connecticut nonprofits differed somewhat between the 2024 and 2026 surveys.*

- Voter familiarity with Connecticut's community nonprofit system has increased since 2024, rising nine points over the past two years. Awareness of Connecticut's budget controls has also increased, rising six points.
- Favorable views of Connecticut nonprofits remain strong and have edged upward, while voters' assessment of Connecticut's financial health is virtually unchanged from 2024.

- Dissatisfaction with how Connecticut uses tax dollars has declined from 54% in 2024 to 48% in 2026.
- As in 2024, a majority of voters indicate that support for increased nonprofit funding would make them more likely to support a candidate. In 2026, 56% say they would be more likely to support a candidate who wants to adjust the state budget guardrails to increase funding for community nonprofits. Because the questions were worded differently, these results are best viewed as showing a consistent pattern rather than a direct trend.

Note: Comparisons are shown for questions that were identical or substantially similar in the 2024 and 2026 surveys. Some question wording and response options differed between surveys and comparisons should be interpreted accordingly.

F. Voters View Connecticut Nonprofits as Playing an Important Role

- About half (48%) of Connecticut voters say they are at least somewhat familiar with the community nonprofit system in Connecticut. 35% say they are not too familiar and 17% say not familiar at all.
- In thinking about how nonprofits in Connecticut deliver services, 54% say they do either an excellent or good job, 23% say not too good, and 5% say they do a poor job.
- Also, 54% of voters say that the nonprofits play a critically important role in the provision of services to state residents, and another 38% say they play an important though not critical role.
- Regarding funding for nonprofits, 36% of voters feel that nonprofits do not receive enough funding from the state, 34% say they receive about the right amount of funding, and only 11% say they receive too much funding.

- Voters are more likely to support a political candidate who takes the position that state budget guardrails should be adjusted in order to increase funding for nonprofits. Specifically, 56% say they are more likely to support a candidate who takes this position while only 16% say they are less likely to support a candidate with this position.

