

To: Devin Carney, Nutmeg Research Initiative
From: AJ Rehberg, G2 Analytics
RE: NRI_CT12 Key Findings
Date: March 17, 2025



KEY FINDINGS

STATE ECONOMY AND WAY OF LIFE

- Quality of life in Connecticut remains high with strong majority of voters (67%) describing it as either good (53%) or excellent (14%). This has remained relatively consistent over the past four years.
 - Democrats were twice as likely to think that their overall quality of life is Excellent (21%) compared to Republicans (9%), Unaffiliated (10%), and Swing Voters (11%).
- Less than one-third (31%) of respondents believe the future of Connecticut holds More Opportunity. This is down 4 percentage points since October 2024, a strong majority (69%) believe the future will hold less opportunity (37%) or will not change (32%).
- Overall, a majority of voters (59%) find it difficult to maintain their standard of living in Connecticut. – 20% Very Difficult / 39% SMWT Difficult.
 - 57% of Unaffiliated Voters feel that it is difficult to maintain their standard of living (26% Very Difficult/44% SMWT Difficult), which is down from 70% in October 2024.
 - 59% of Swing Voters feel that it is difficult to maintain their standard of living – 21% Very Difficult / 47% SMWT Difficult, which is down from 68% in October 2024.
- Twice as many respondents feel that their financial situation is getting worse (40%) than believe it is improving (20%).
 - Since October 2024, respondents indicating that their personal financial situation is improving dropped -6 points from 26% to 20%.
 - In the same time frame, those that indicating that that there was no change in the financial situation rose +8 points to 41%.
- Again, despite respondents' views of their quality of life and optimism for the future staying relatively stable, 80% reported that their personal financial is either getting worse or not changing.

STATE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- A plurality of respondents (**47%**) **thinks the state of Connecticut is heading off on the wrong track** compared to 40% that think it is headed in the right direction. This is an 11-point swing in opinion from October 2023.

	OCT 2023	MAR 2024	OCT 2024	MAR 2025
Right Direction	48%	44%	43%	40%
Wrong Track	43%	45%	43%	47%

- Lamont's job approval (53%) remains above water (+11) but this is -10 point drop from October 2024 NET Approval. This drop was driven by male respondents whose Approval dropped from 56% in October 2024 to 46%.

	OCT 2023	MAR 2023	OCT 2023	MAR 2025
Total Approve	60	58	58	53
Total Disapprove	36	38	37	42
NET Approval	+24	+20	+21	+11

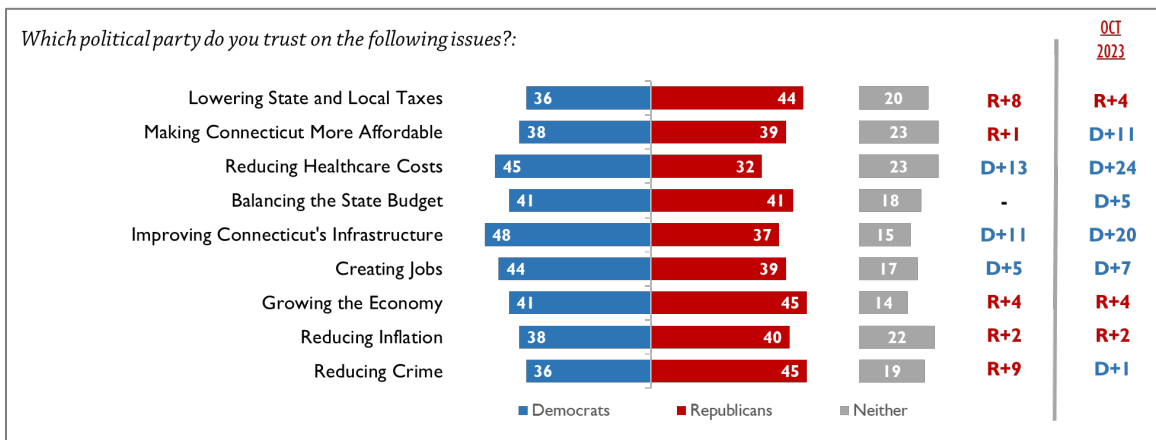
- General Assembly job approval is slightly above water (+1) with 42% approving of the job they are doing 41% disapproving.

ISSUES AND PARTY TRUST

- Cost of Living and State and Local Taxes remained the top two important issues respectively. One-third of voters (34%) selected Cost of Living as their most important issue. This is down from a high of 45% in October 2024.
- Utility Costs were added to the list in October 2024 and remained the third most important issue to all respondents. Climate Change, Abortion Rights and Border Control were ranked the least important issues.
- Across all voter segments analyzed, **Cost of Living, State and Property Taxes,** and **Utility Costs** are the top three most important issues.
- **63%** of respondents ranked **Border Security** in their bottom three and **52%** ranked **Abortion** and **Climate Change** in their bottom three.
- Trust in the Republican Party has increased since October 2023 on key issues. In 2003, the only issues Republicans were trusted over Democrats were Lowering State and Local Taxes (R+4), Growing the Economy (R+4), and Reducing Inflation (R+2). Today, Republicans are trusted more than Democrats on, Reducing Crime (R+9), Lowering

State and Local Taxes (R+8), Growing the Economy (R+4), Reducing Inflation (R+2), and Making Connecticut More Affordable,

- **Unaffiliated Voters** trust Republicans over Democrats on the following issues: Lowering State and Local Taxes (+21%), Reducing Crime (R+14), Growing the Economy (R+10), Reducing Inflation (R+9), and Making Connecticut More Affordable (R+5). Creating Jobs and Balancing the Budget were tied with 35% and 33%, respectively.
- **Swing Voters** trust Republicans over Democrats on the following issues: Reducing Crime (R+26), Lowering State and Local Taxes (+24%), Growing the Economy (R+16), Balancing the Budget (R+9) Reducing Inflation (R+7), and Making Connecticut More Affordable (R+7). Creating Jobs and were tied with 35% and 33%, respectively.



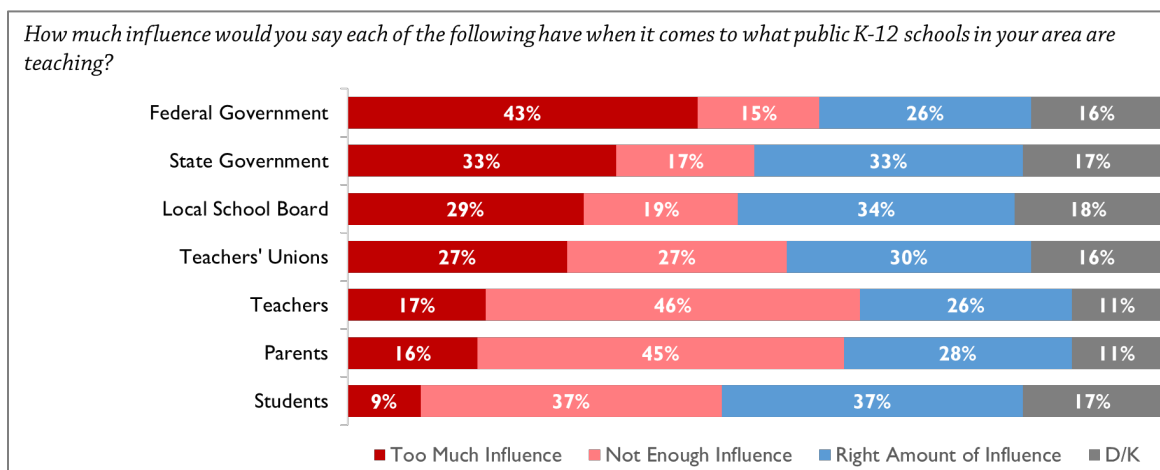
UTILITY PRICES

- 81% of respondents reported having personally experienced an increase in their electricity rates. This is exactly the same as October 2024.
- 45% of all respondents blame Eversource and/or other energy companies for the increase in electricity prices (compared to 47% in October 2024) and 27% place the blame on CT Public Utility Regulatory Authority (compared to 47% in October 2024). 20% place the blame on Democrats in the GA or Gov. Lamont (down from 25%). Only 8% think Republicans in the GA are to blame.
- Republicans hold a slight edge in terms of trust on this issue. 33% believe the Republican Party is most capable of reducing the cost of electricity in Connecticut. 31% believe the Democrat Party is most capable, and 36% think neither party is capable or do not know. Pluralities of Unaffiliated (24%) and Swing Voters (23%) favor the Democratic Party over the Republican Party to reduce the cost of electricity.

- Overall, more slightly more respondents support expanding the production of Natural Gas (72%) than expanding solar farms (71%). There was a higher intensity for solar with farms (40% Strongly Support) compared with natural gas (34% Strongly Support).

EDUCATION

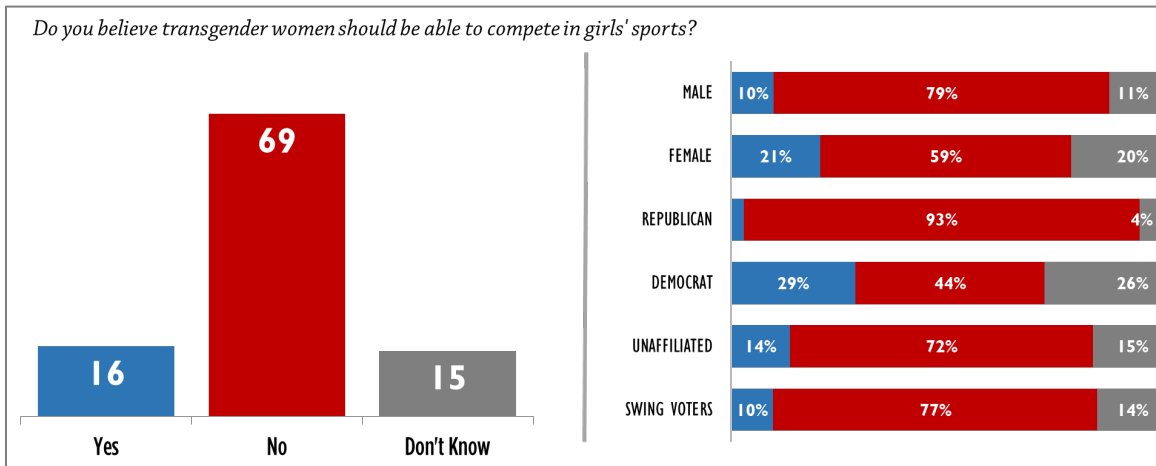
- A plurality of respondents (43%) believe that public k-12 education in Connecticut is gotten off on the wrong track, with 27% reporting that that they Don't Know.
 - Reasons why they felt it has gotten off on the wrong track include: Schools are not spending enough time on core academic subjects (71% Major Reason), Teachers are bringing their personal political and social views into the classroom (46% Major Reason), and schools don't have the funding and resources they need (45% Major Reason).
 - 65 % of respondents think that access to school choice is either a Major or Minor Reason. Schools don't have the funding and resources they need.
- 43% of respondents believe the Federal Government has Too Much Influence in what is taught in K-12 public schools, compared to 41% who believe they have the Right Amount of Influence or Not Enough Influence.



- 33% believe the State Government has Too Much Influence – 33% Right Amount of Influence/17% Not Enough Influence.
 - 41% of parents with children under the age of 18 believe the State Government has Too Much Influence (39% Federal Gov't has Too Much Influence), and 14% think they do not Have Enough Influence.
- Respondents trust the Democratic Party more to improve public education issues (40%) compared to the Republican Party (33%). There is a huge gender divide with Males

trusting Republicans (44%) more than Democrats (33%) and Females trusting Democrats (47%) more than Republicans (23%).

- Large majorities of Males (79%), Unaffiliated (72%), and Swing Voters (77%) do not believe that transgender women should be able to compete in girls' sports. 69% of all respondents think they should not be able to compete and 16% believe they should be able to compete.



STATE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- Only 3% of respondents said they would like to see a state government budget surplus be spend in an Increase in State Employee Pay and Benefits. 33% believe it should be spent on Tax Relief and 21% believe it should be spent to Offset Energy Prices.
- A plurality of respondents think that State Employees are Fairly Compensated (34%). 24% believe they are Paid Too Much and 17% believe they are Not Paid Enough. 25% responded that they Don't Know.
- 51% believe that a 33% increase in State Employee wages over the last 4 years was Too Much. 26% think it is Just Right and 10% believe it is Too Little. 58% of Unaffiliated and 56% of Swing Voters think the wage increased are Too Much.
- A majority of respondents (53%) feel that current State Employee health care plans that only require them to pay 15% of their premiums and 2% of the copays and deductibles is Unfair to Connecticut taxpayers. Including a majority of Males (52%), Females (53%), Unaffiliated (56%), and Swing Voters (57%).
 - A Majority of respondents (52%) do not think that Connecticut state employees should be allowed to continue to work from home 3-4 days a week? Including 60% of Males, 59% of Unaffiliated, and 58% of Swing Voters.