



Key Findings Briefing

March 2025

N=506 Likely Voters Statewide



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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.

Key Findings

STATE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

- A plurality of respondents (**47%**) think 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.

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 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.

Key Findings

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).

STATE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

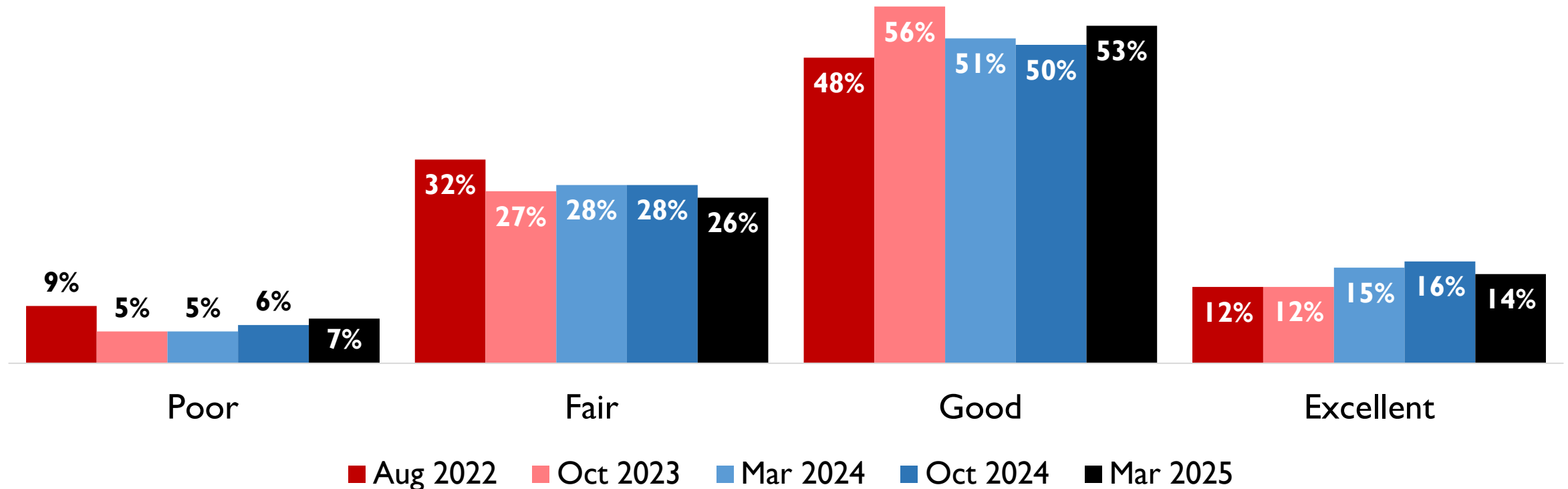
- Only 3% of respondents said they would like to see a state government budget surplus be spend in an Increase in State Employee Pay and Benefits. 33% believe it should be spent on Tax Relief and 21% believe it should be spent to Offset Energy Prices.
- A plurality of respondents think that State Employees 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.

STATE ECONOMY AND WAY OF LIFE

Quality 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%).

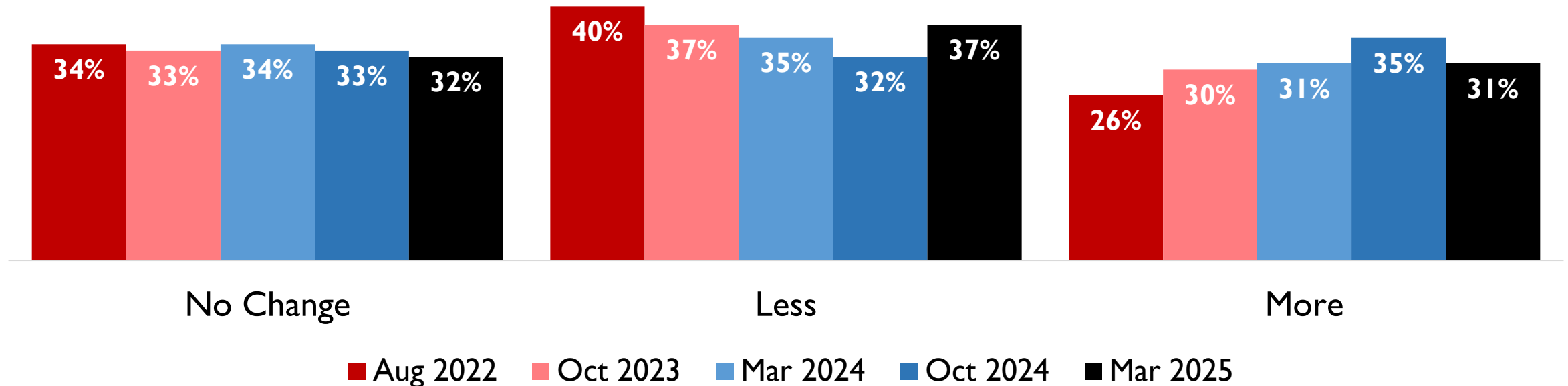
How would you rate your overall quality of life in Connecticut? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair or poor?



Future Outlook

- Optimism of the future continued to fall slightly from October 2023 with slightly less than a third (32%) of respondents thinking the future holds More Opportunity.
- Yet a strong majority (69%) believe the future will hold less opportunity (32%) or will not change (37%).

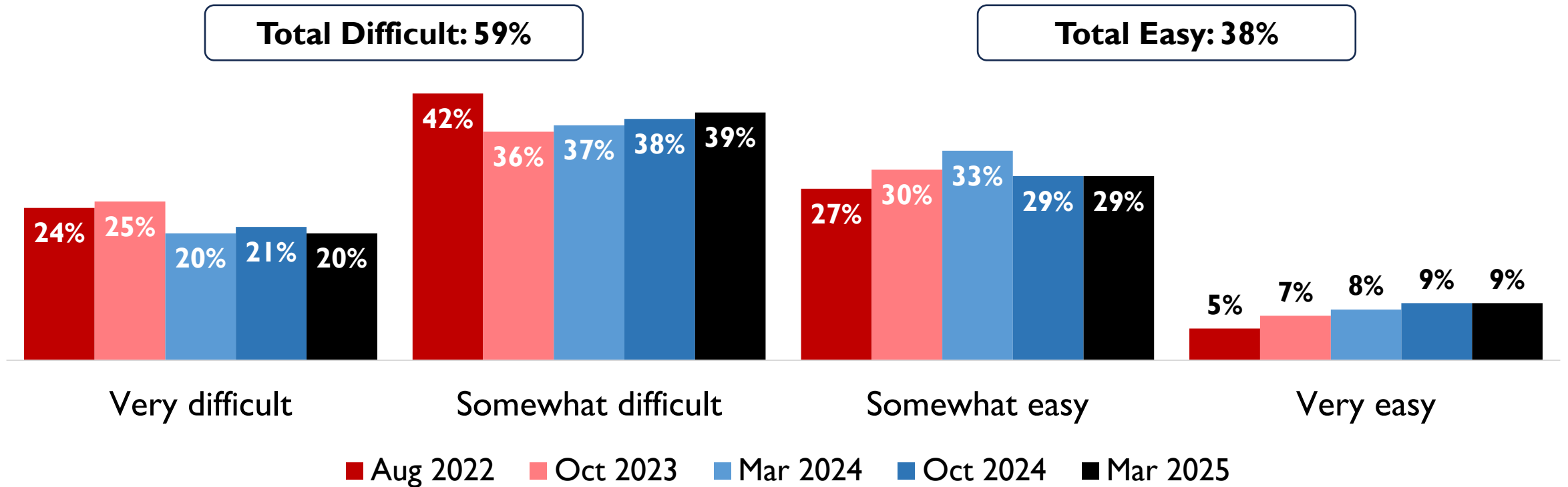
Do you think the future of Connecticut holds more opportunity for you and your family, less opportunity or that there will be no change?



Affordability

➤ Virtually no change in respondents' responses from Oct 2024.

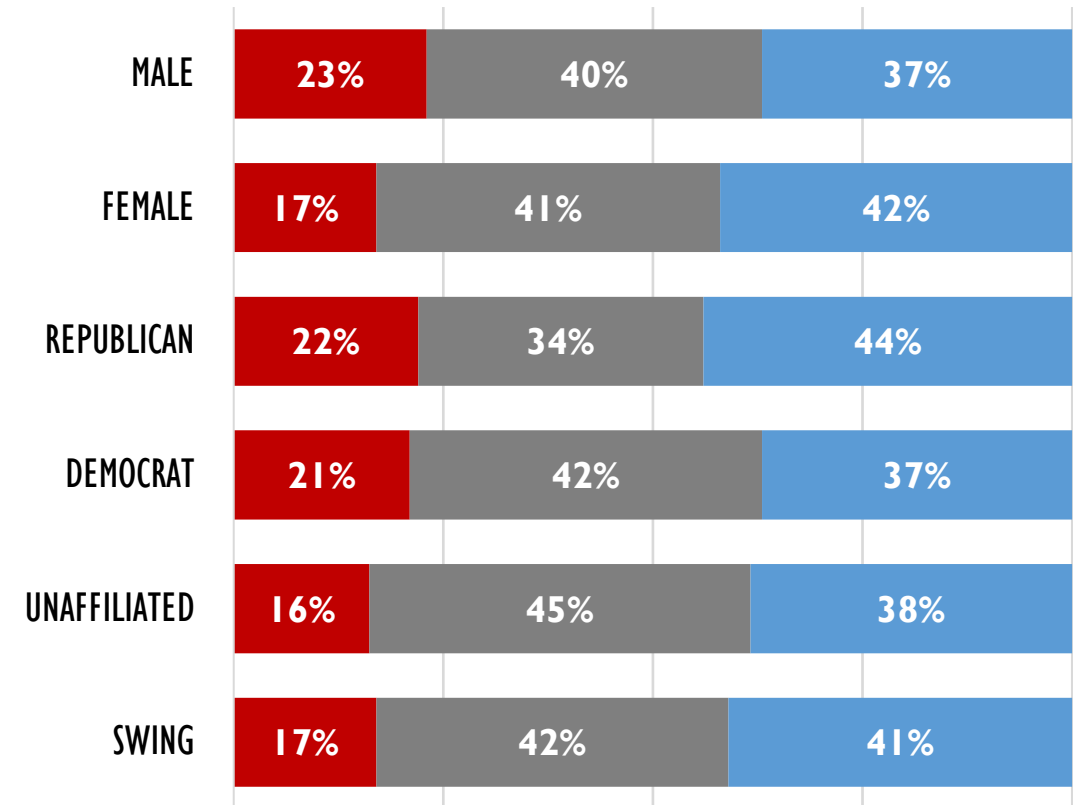
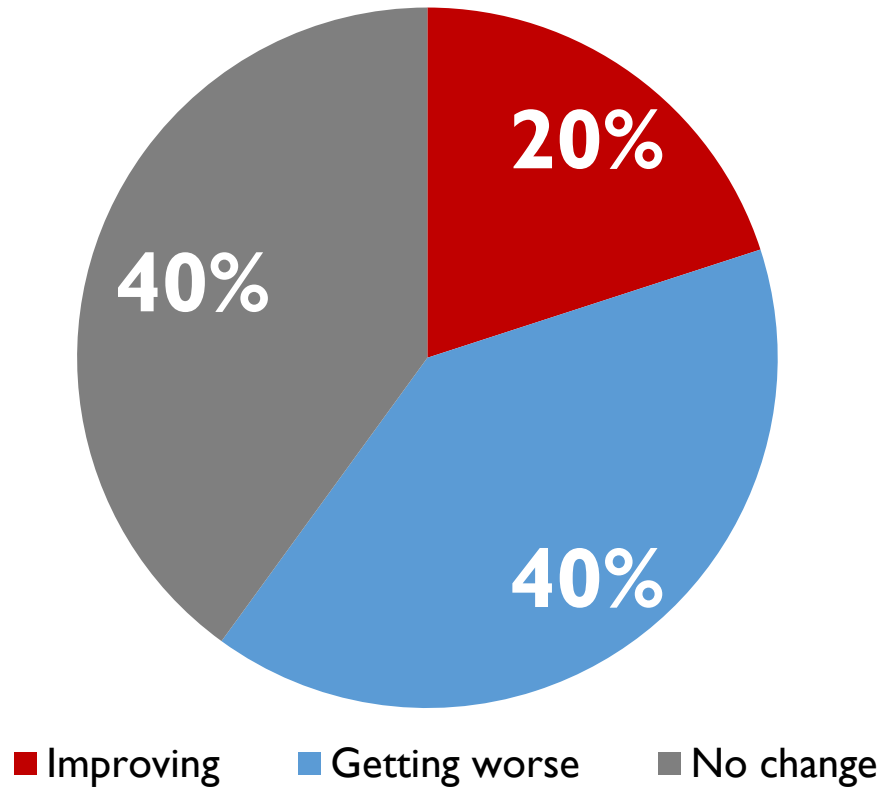
Overall, how easy or difficult are you finding it to maintain your standard of living out of your total household income today?



Personal Financial Situation

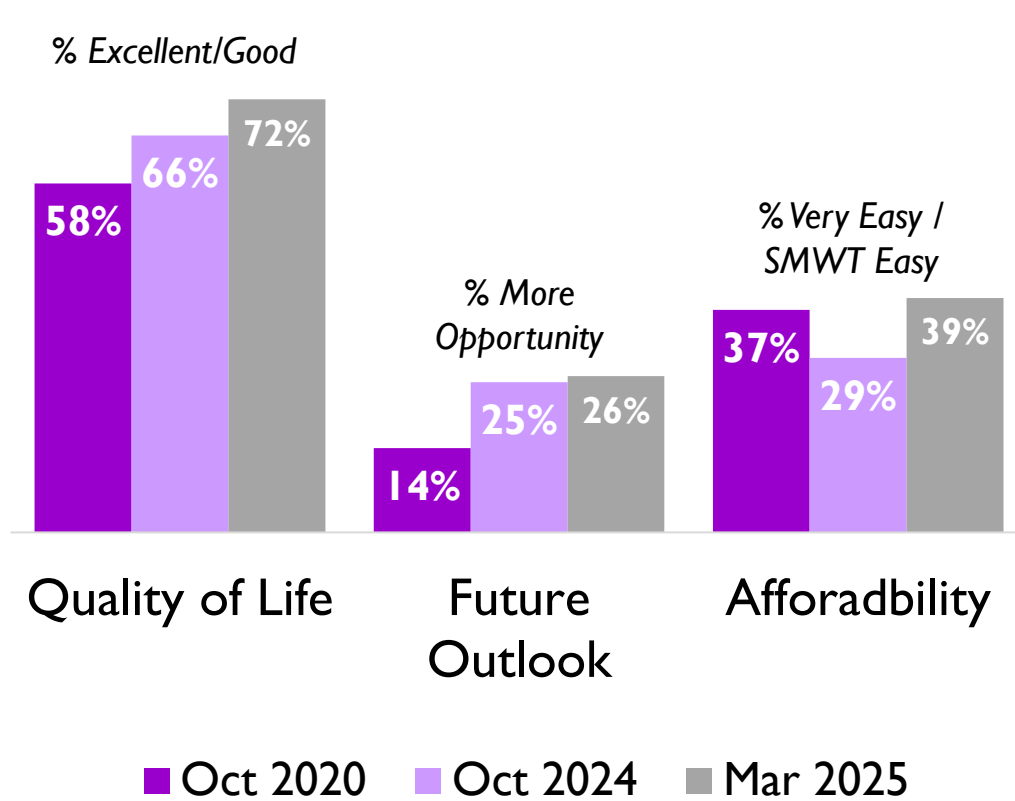
- Twice as many respondents feel that their financial situation is getting worse (40%) than believe it is improving (20%).
- Since October 2024, respondents indicating that their personal financial situation is improving dropped -6 points from 26% to 20%.
- In the same time frame, those that indicating that that there was no change in the financial situation rose +8 points to 41%.

Would you say that your personal financial situation is improving or getting worse?

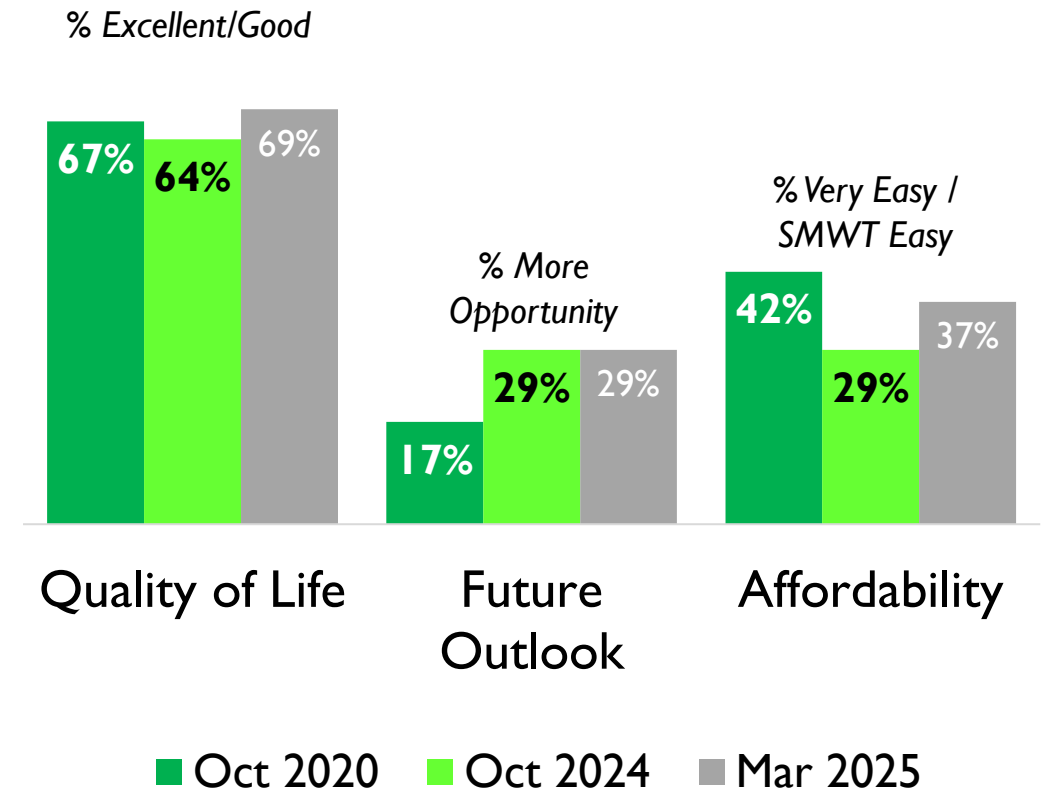


October 2020 to March 2024

UNAFFILIATED



SWING VOTERS

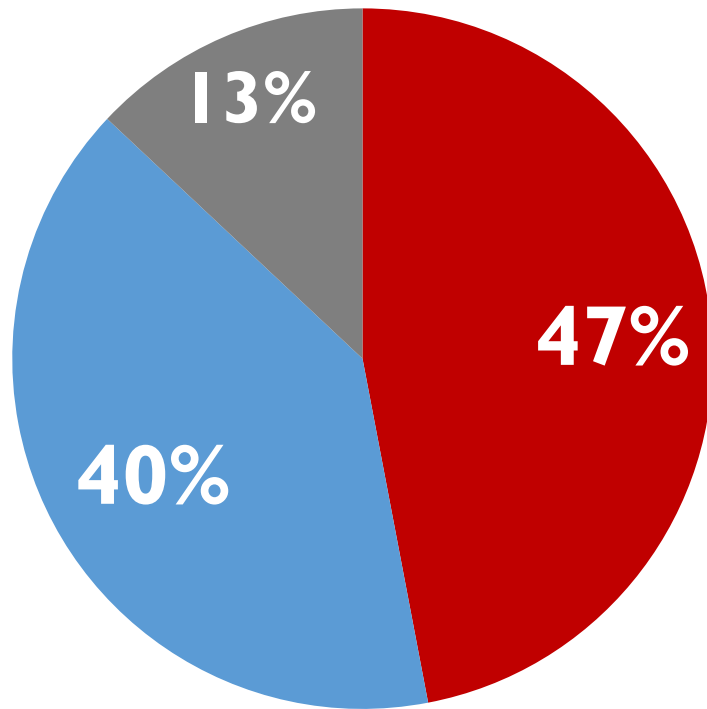


STATE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

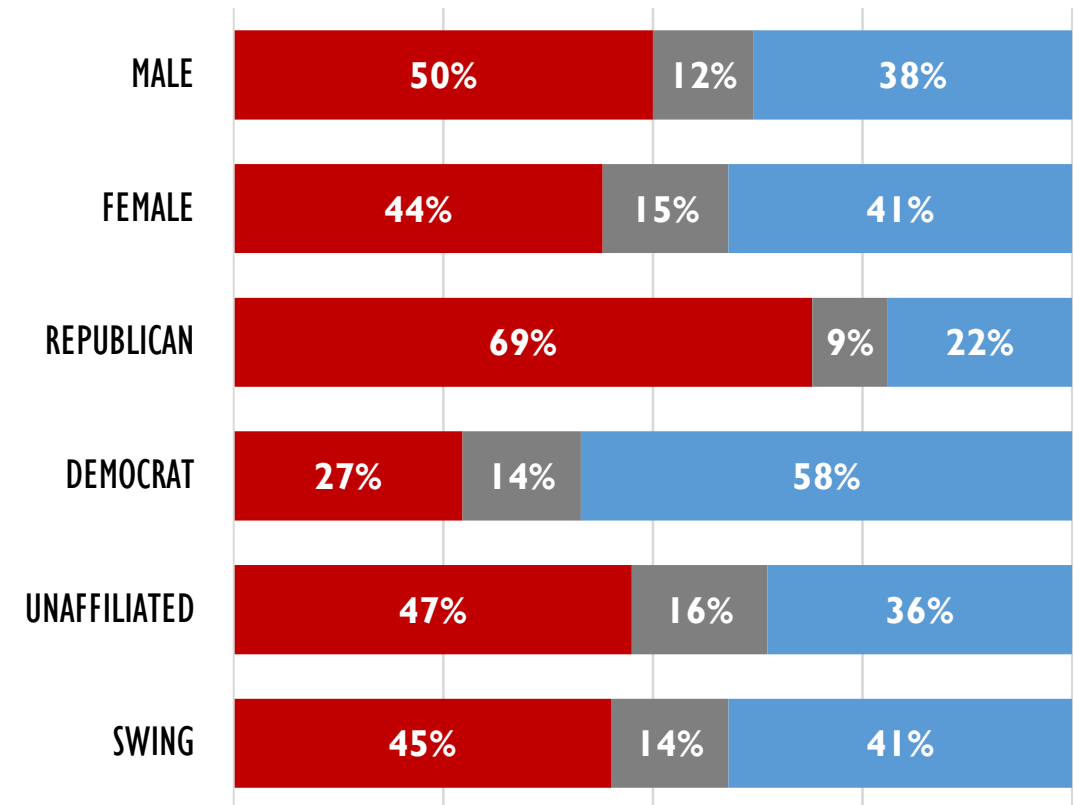
Right Direction/Wrong Track

- A plurality of respondents (47%) think the state of Connecticut is heading off on the wrong track compared to 40% that think it is headed in the right direction.

Generally speaking, do you think the **state of Connecticut** is headed in the right direction, or do you think things have gotten off on the wrong track?



■ Wrong Track ■ Right Direction ■ Don't know

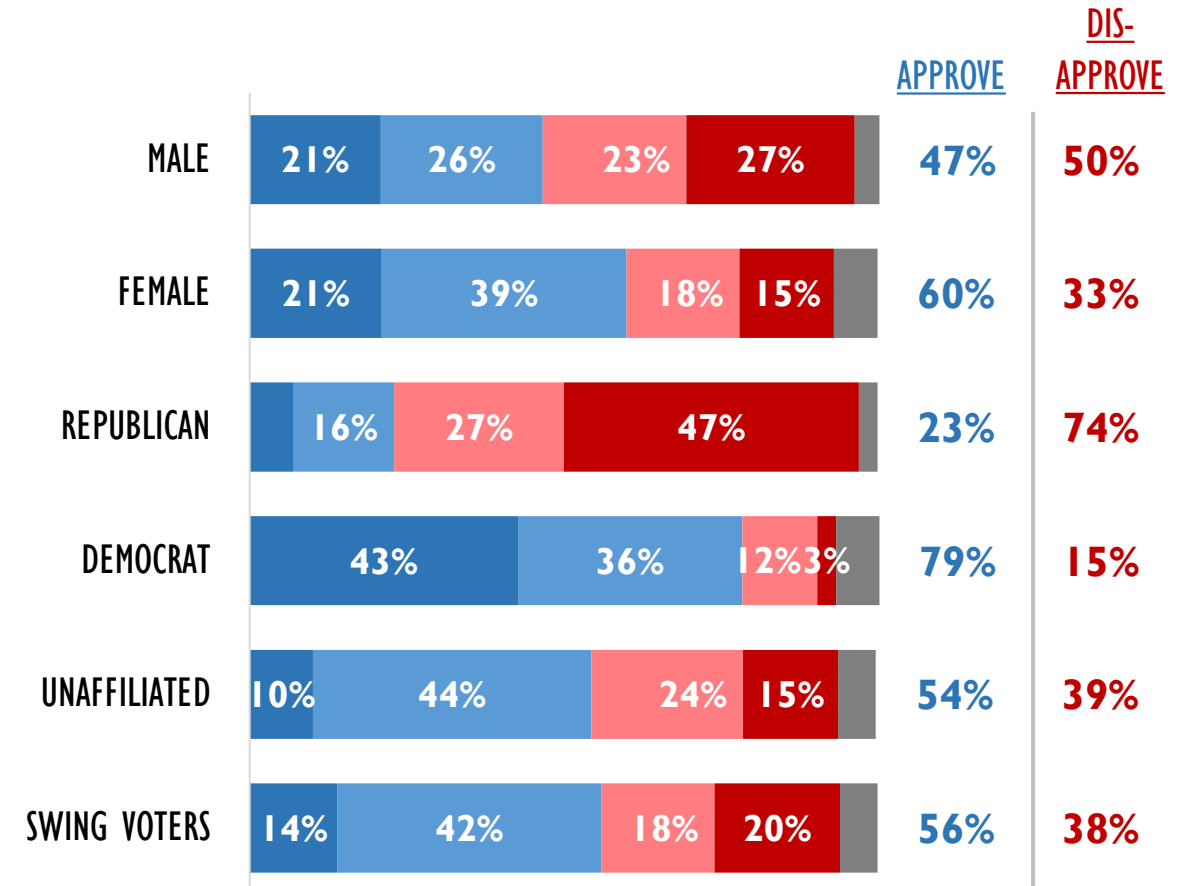
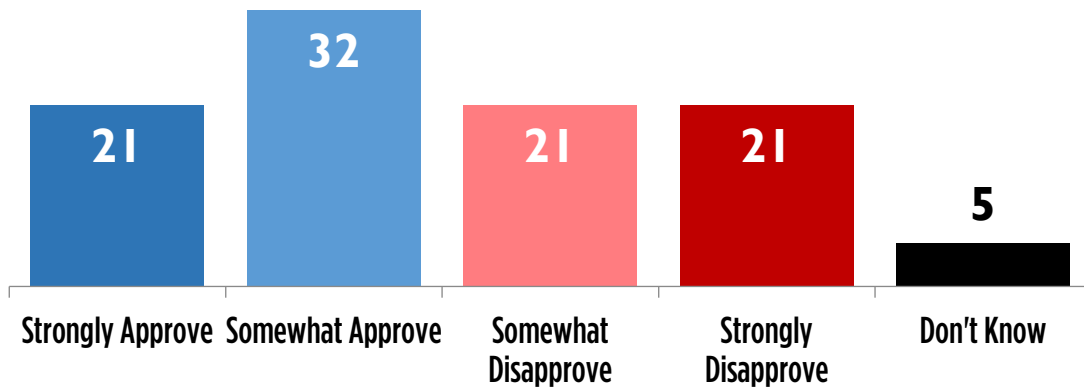


Job Approval: Ned Lamont

➤ Lamont's job approval lowest level in the past two years, down 5 points from October 2024. Disapproval also went up 5 points.

NED LAMONT

APPROVE 53% | DISAPPROVE 42%



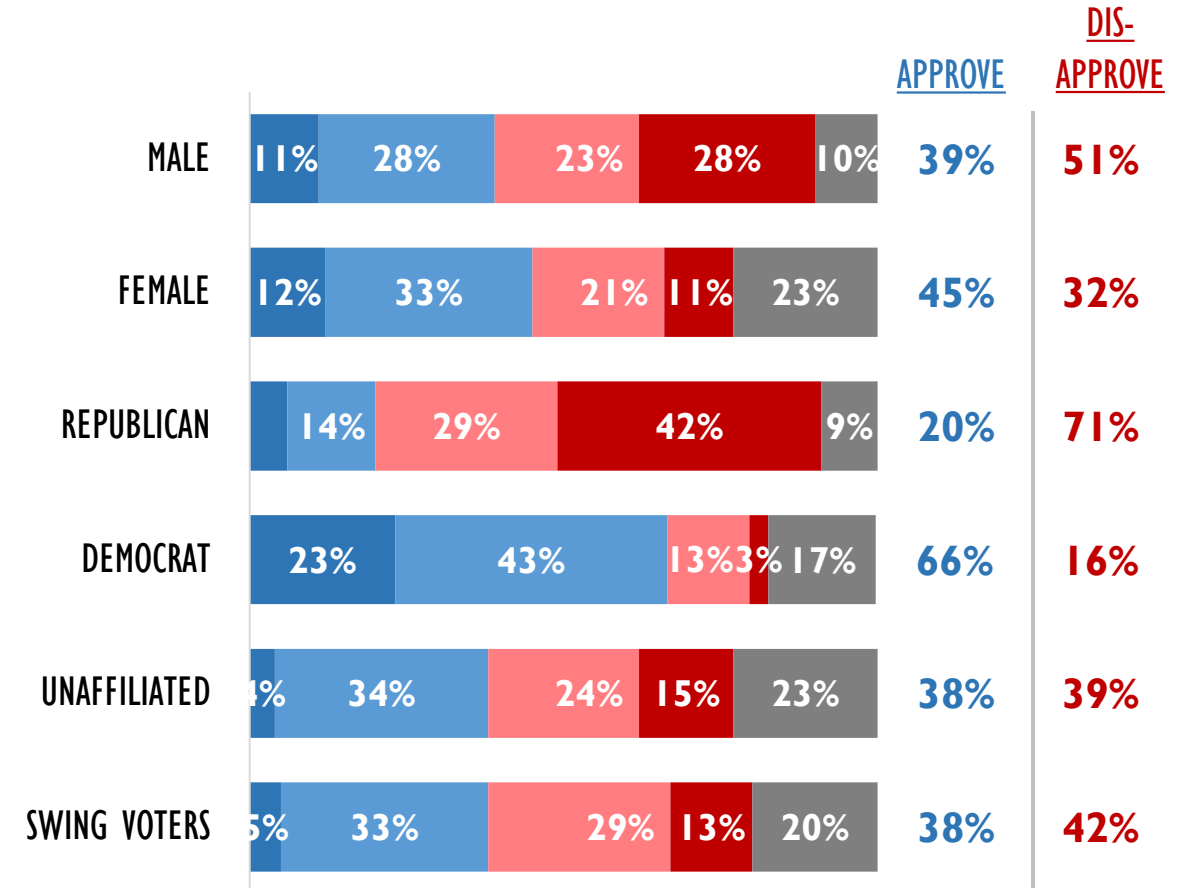
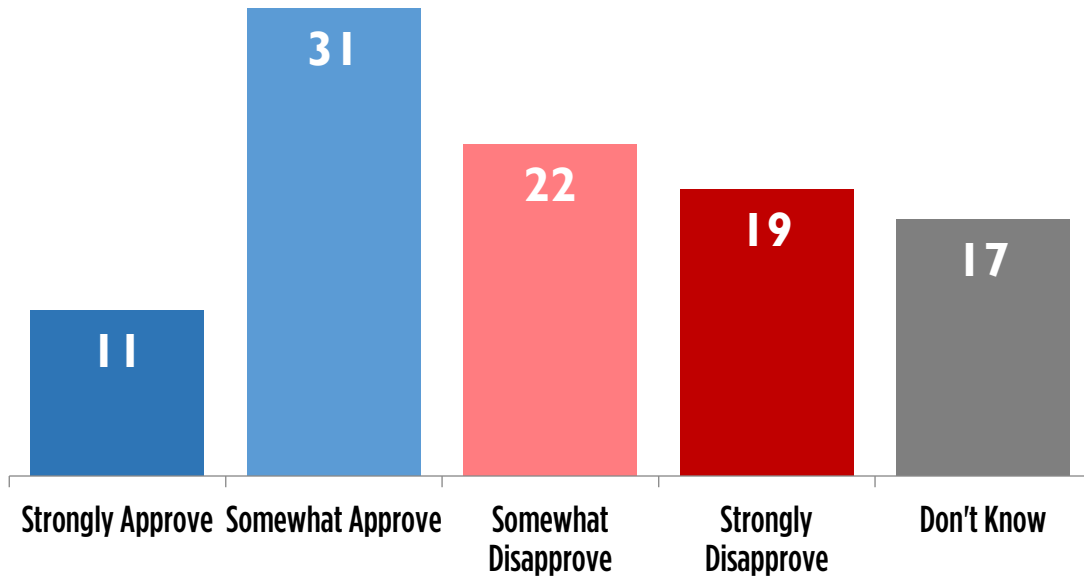
	Total Approve	Total Disapprove	Str App	Smwt App	DK	Smwt Dis	Str Dis
OCT 2024	58%	37%	23%	35%	6%	18%	19%
AUG 2024	58%	38%	25%	33%	4%	20%	18%
OCT 2023	60%	37%	23%	37%	3%	22%	15%

Job Approval: CT General Assembly

➤ General Assembly job approval is slightly above water with 42% approving of the job they are doing 41% disapproving.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

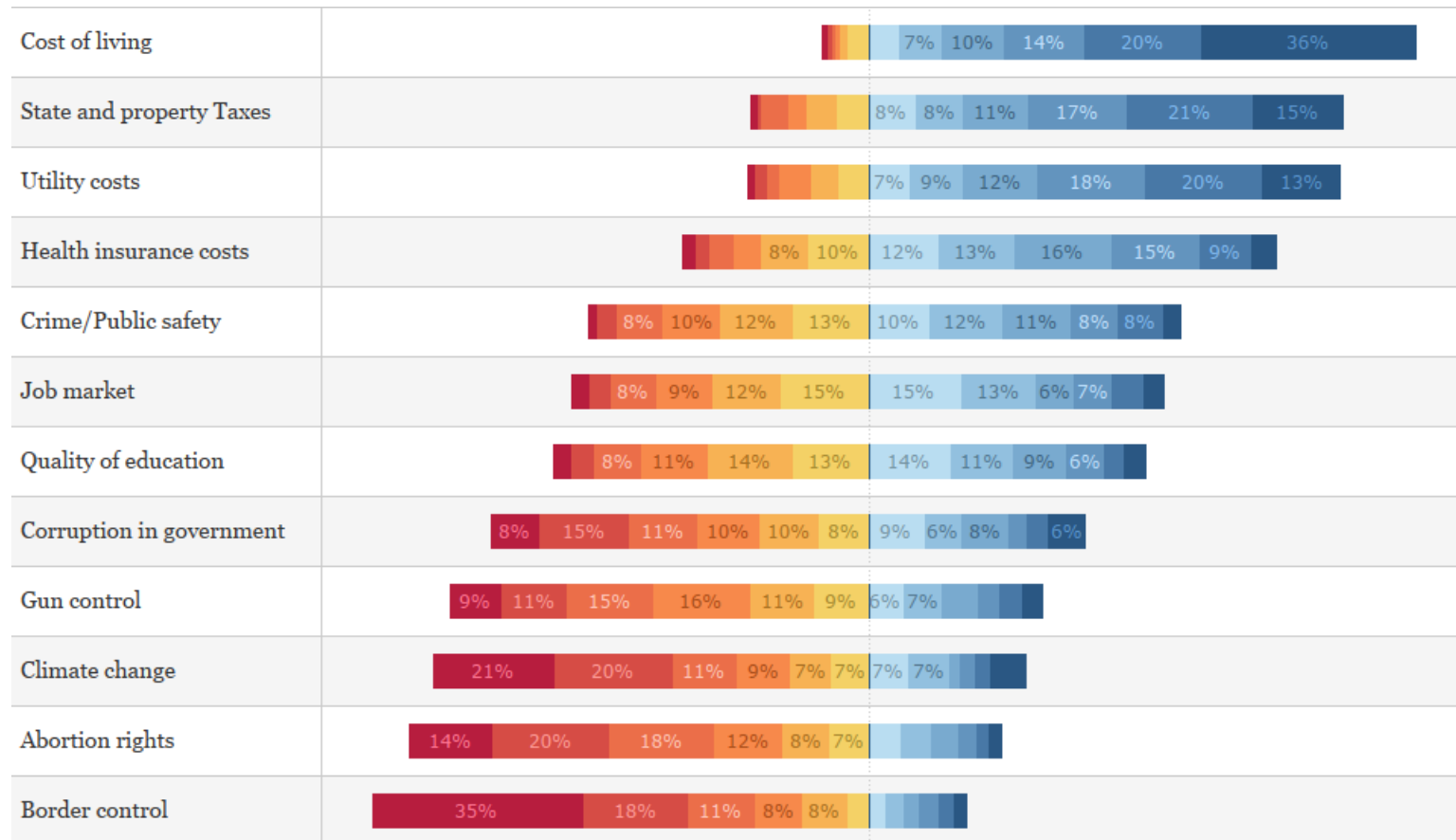
APPROVE 42% | DISAPPROVE 41%



Issue Importance: Full Sample

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. 64% of respondents listed Border Control in their bottom 3, 52% listed abortion in their bottom 3, 52% listed Climate Change

When thinking about the issues impacting Connecticut, please rank the following from MOST IMPORTANT to LEAST IMPORTANT:



RANK	Oct 2024
1	Cost of Living
2	State and Property Taxes
3	Health Insurance Costs
4	Job Market
5	Crime/Public Safety
6	Quality of Education
7	Gun Control
8	Corruption in Gov't
9	Climate Change
10	Abortion Rights
11	Border Control

Issue Importance: Compared

Cost of Living remains the most important issued for all voter segments. **There is almost universal agreement of the top five most important issues and they all deal with the cost of living.** Only Republicans listed Public Safety in the top five issues.

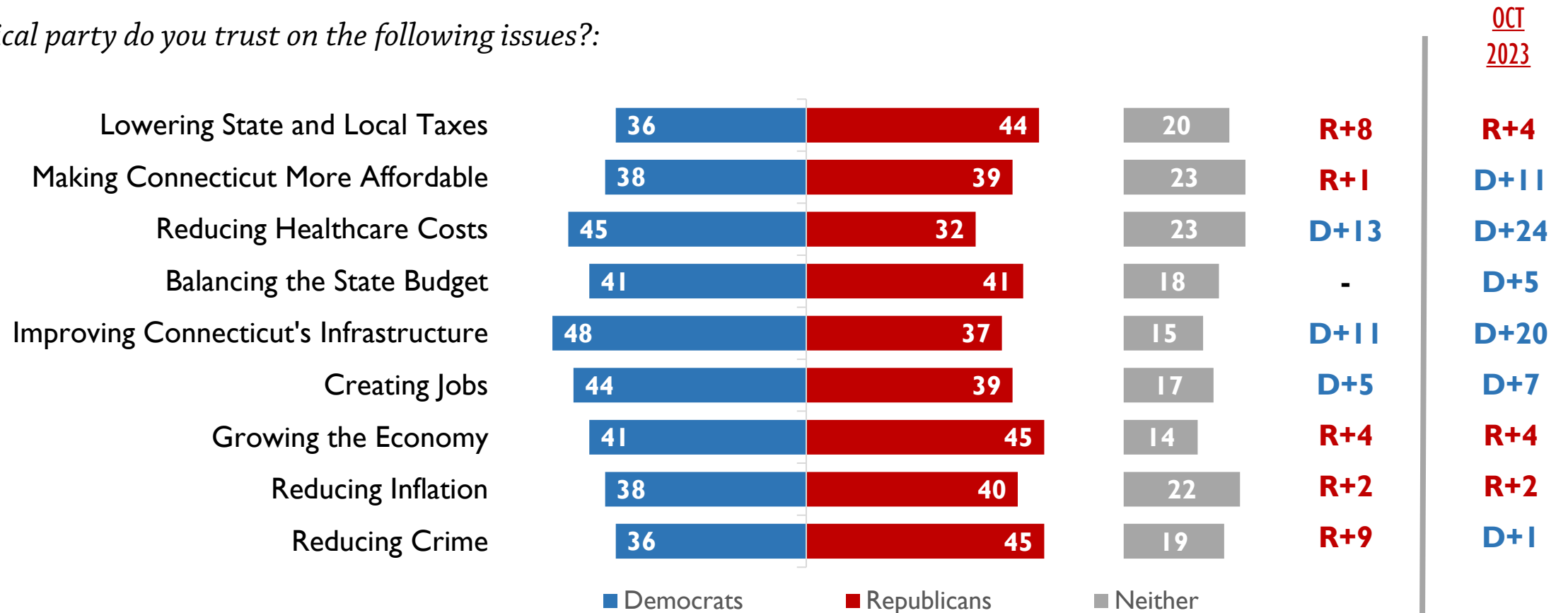
When thinking about the issues impacting Connecticut, please rank the following from MOST IMPORTANT to LEAST IMPORTANT:

RANK	FEMALE	MALE	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRAT	UNAFFILIATED	SWING
1	Cost of Living (41%)	Cost of Living (31%)	Cost of Living (43%)	Cost of Living (38%)	Cost of Living (34%)	Cost of Living (34%)
2	State and Property Taxes	State and Property Taxes	State and Property Taxes	State and Property Taxes	State and Property Taxes	State and Property Taxes
3	Utility Costs	Utility Costs	Utility Costs	Utility Costs	Utility Costs	Utility Costs
4	Health Insurance Costs	Health Insurance Costs	Public Safety	Health Insurance Costs	Health Insurance Costs	Health Insurance Costs
5	Job Market	Public Safety	Health Insurance Costs	Job Market	Job Market	Job Market

Party Trust on Issues: Full Sample

- Unaffiliated voters trust Republicans over Democrats on the following issues: Border Control (63%), Economy and Inflation (62%), Crime and Public Safety (60%), and Israel-Hamas War (53%).
- Swing voters trust Republicans over Democrats on the following issues: Border Control (71%), Economy and Inflation (70%), Crime and Public Safety (68%), and Israel-Hamas War (61%), Corruption in Government (55%), Ukraine-Russia Conflict (53%).

Which political party do you trust on the following issues?:



Party Trust on Issues: Unaffiliated and Swing

The following is a list of policy goals promoted by politicians in Connecticut. For each, please indicate which political party you think is most capable of actually achieving these outcomes.

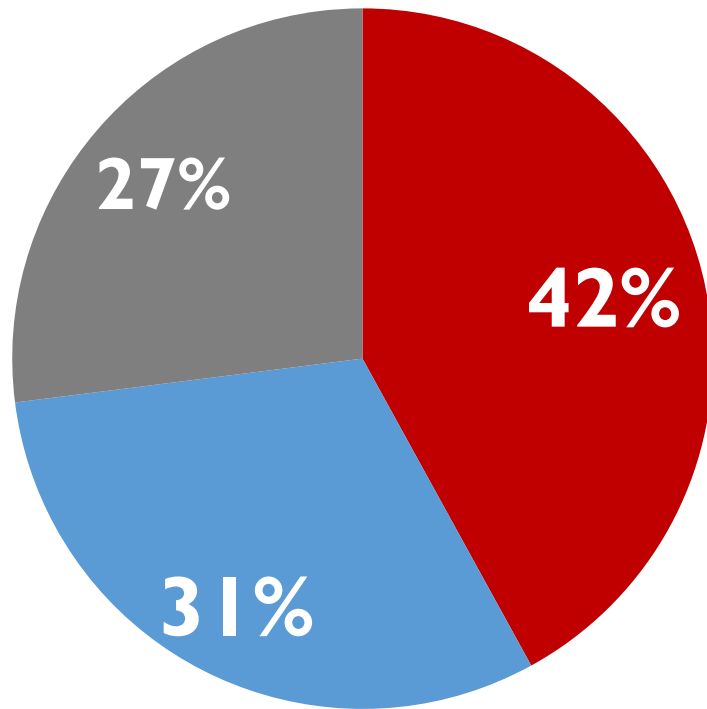
	UNAFFILIATED			SWING		
	DEM	REP	ADV	DEM	REP	ADV
Lowering state and local taxes	25%	46%	R+21	20%	44%	R+24
Making Connecticut more affordable	28%	33%	R+5	27%	34%	R+7
Reducing healthcare costs	41%	23%	D+18	42%	21%	D+21
Balancing the state budget	33%	33%	-	28%	37%	R+9
Improving Connecticut's infrastructure	46%	24%	D+22	39%	31%	D+8
Creating jobs	35%	35%	-	36%	34%	D+2
Growing the economy	32%	42%	R+10	28%	44%	R+16
Reducing inflation	27%	36%	R+9	27%	34%	R+7
Reducing crime	27%	41%	R+14	22%	48%	R+26

EDUCATION

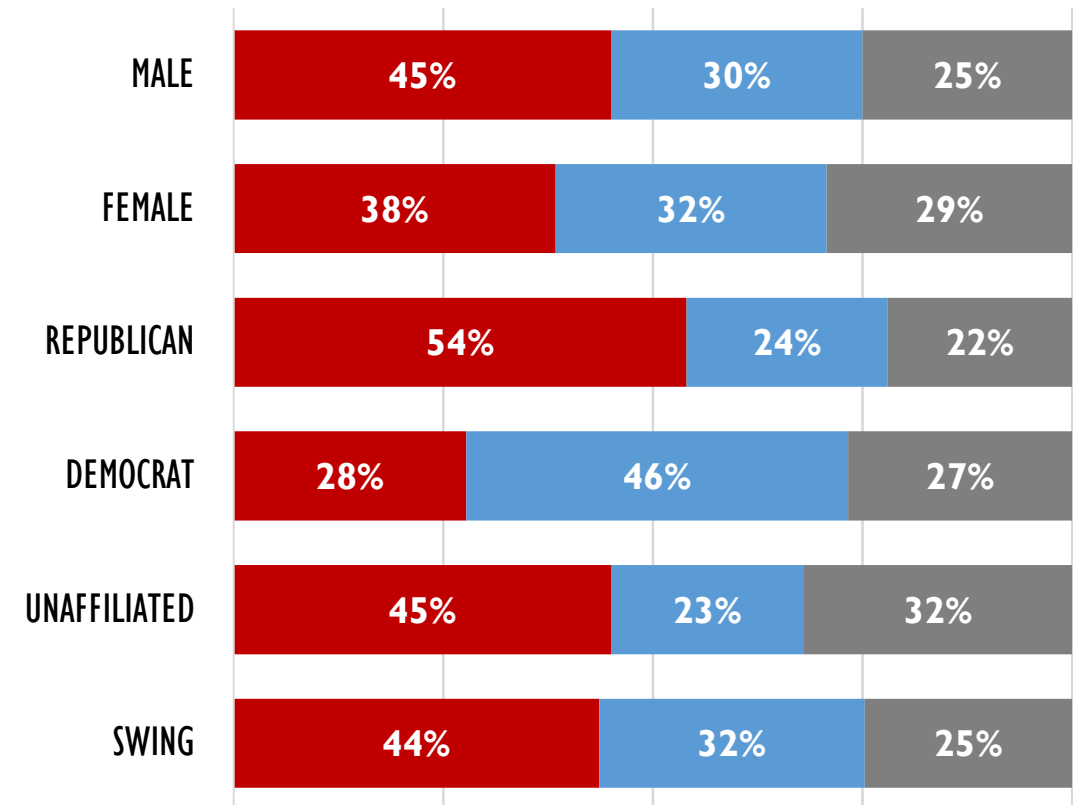
Education: Right Track/Wrong Direction

➤ 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.

Do you think public K-12 education in Connecticut is headed in the right direction, or have things gotten off on the wrong track?

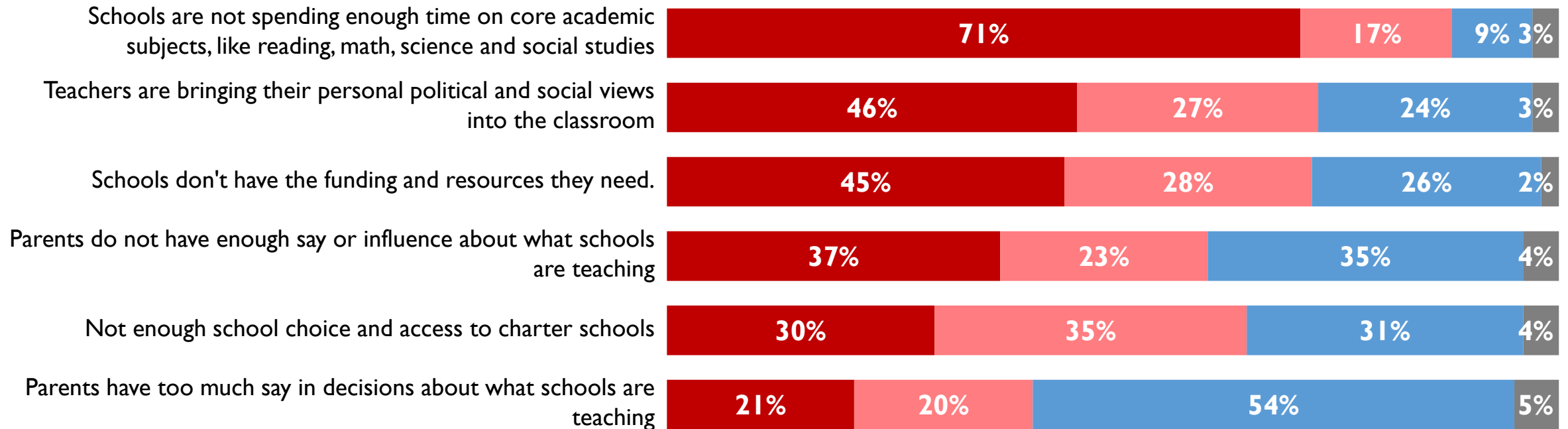


■ Wrong Track ■ Right Direction ■ Don't know



Education: Wrong Track Reasons

For each of the following, please indicate whether it is a major reason, minor reason or not a reason why you think the public K-12 education system in Connecticut is going in the wrong direction.



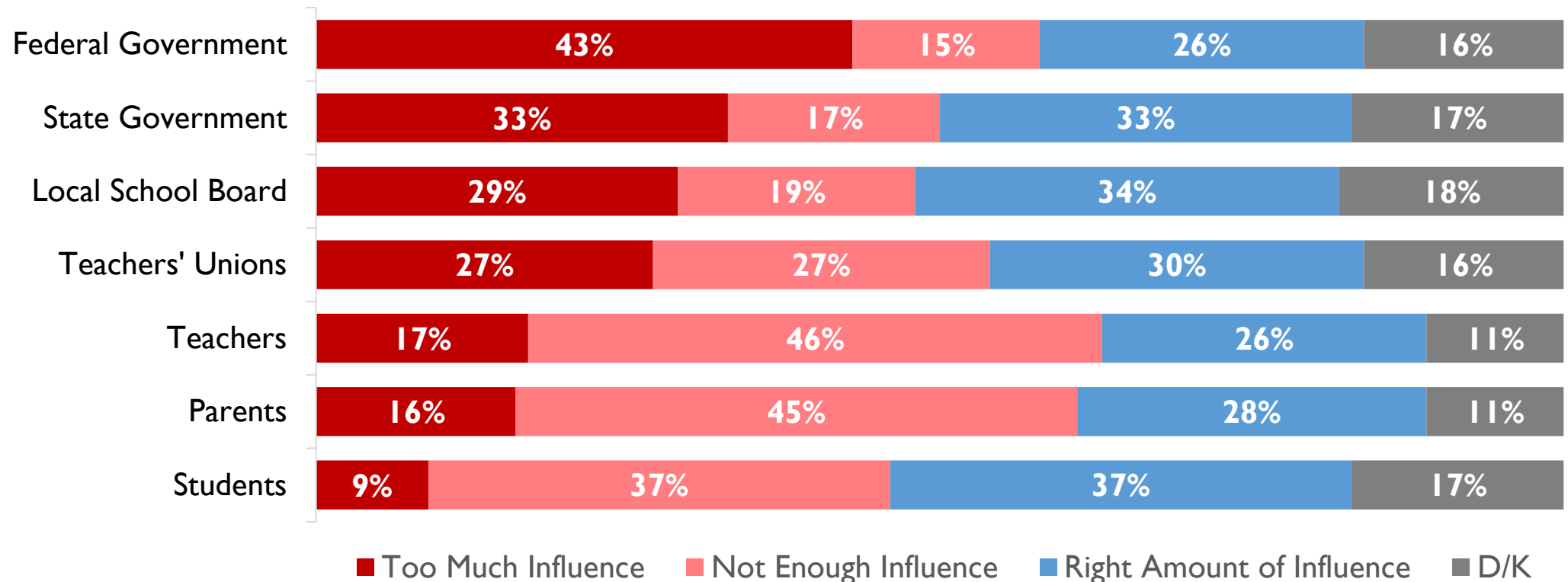
■ Major Reason ■ Minor Reason ■ Not a Reason ■ D/K

ASKED ONLY TO RESPONDENTS THAT BELIEVE EDUCATION HAS GOTTEN OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK

Education: 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.

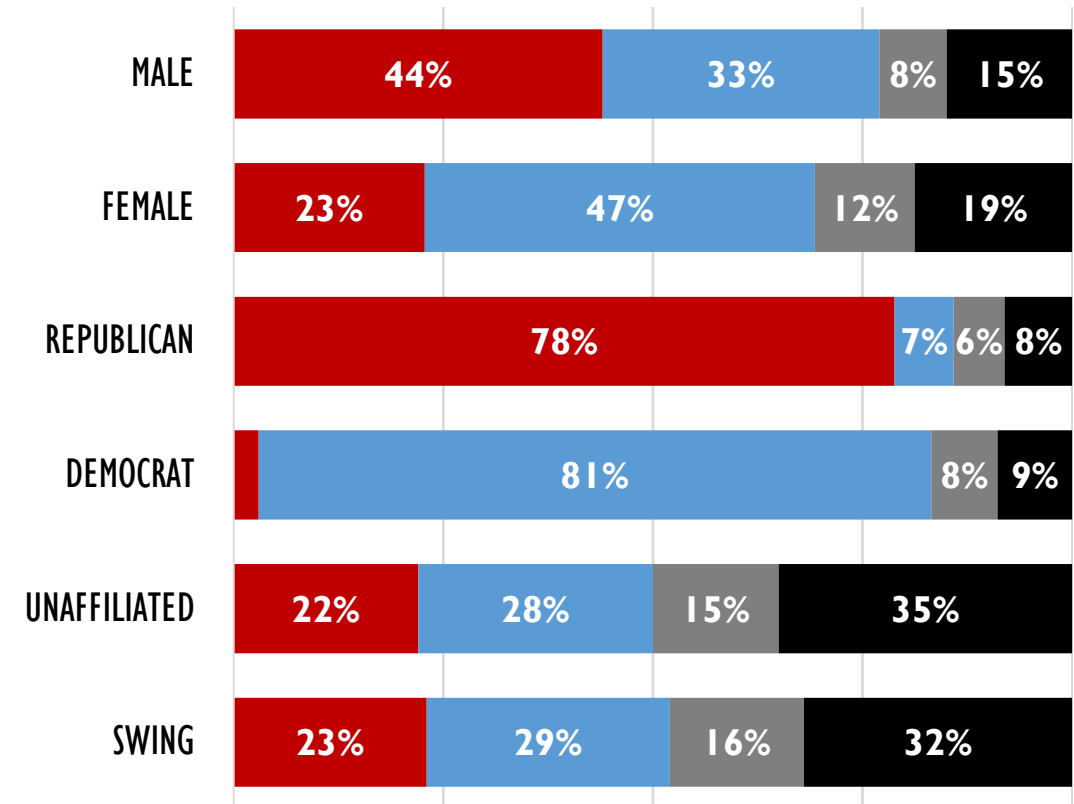
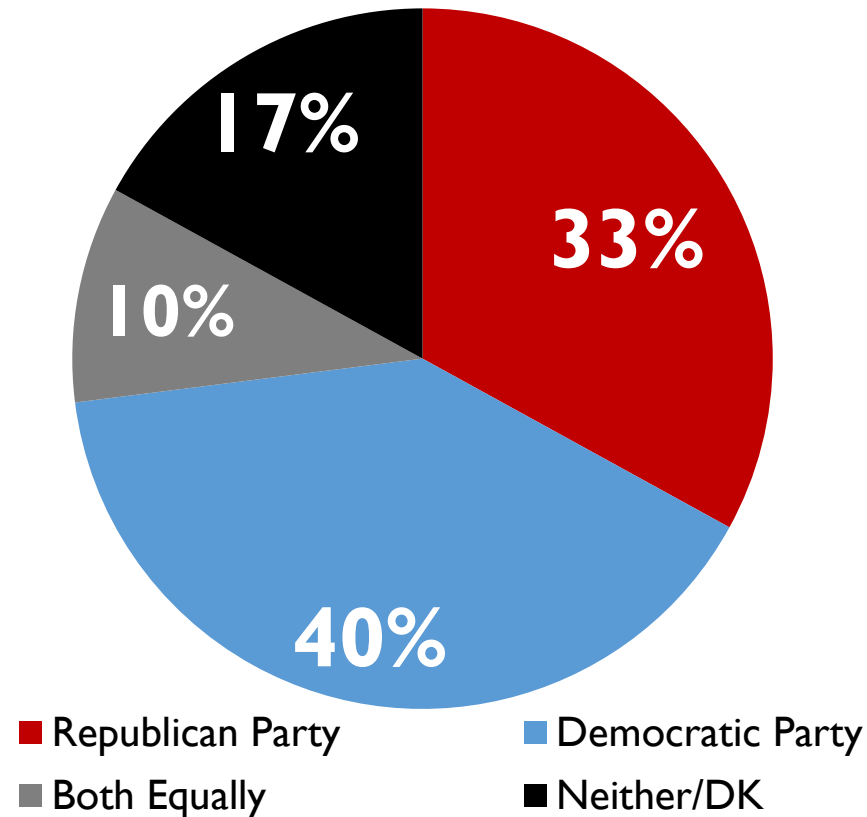
How much influence would you say each of the following have when it comes to what public K-12 schools in your area are teaching?



Education: Party Trust

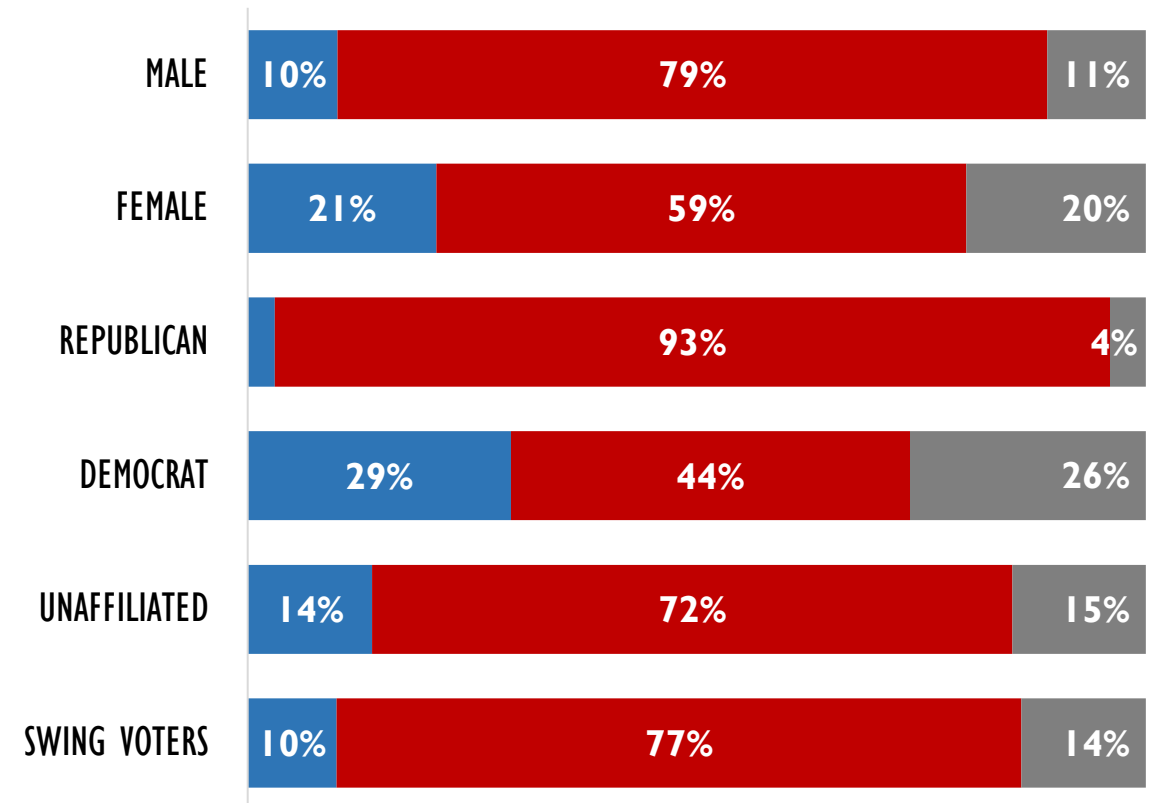
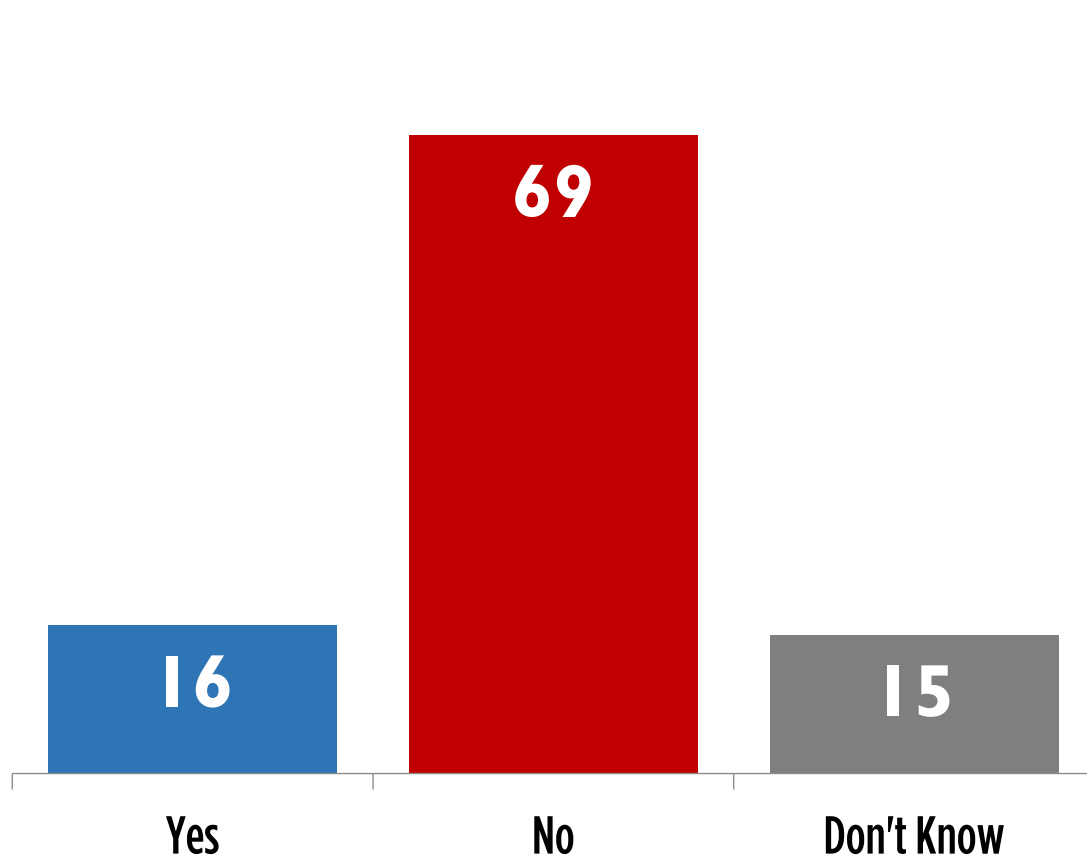
- There is a huge gender divide with Males trusting Republicans (44%) more than Democrats (33%) and Females trusting Democrats (47%) more than Republicans (23%).

Which political party do you trust more to improve public school education issues?



Education: Transgender in Sports

Do you believe transgender women should be able to compete in girls' sports?

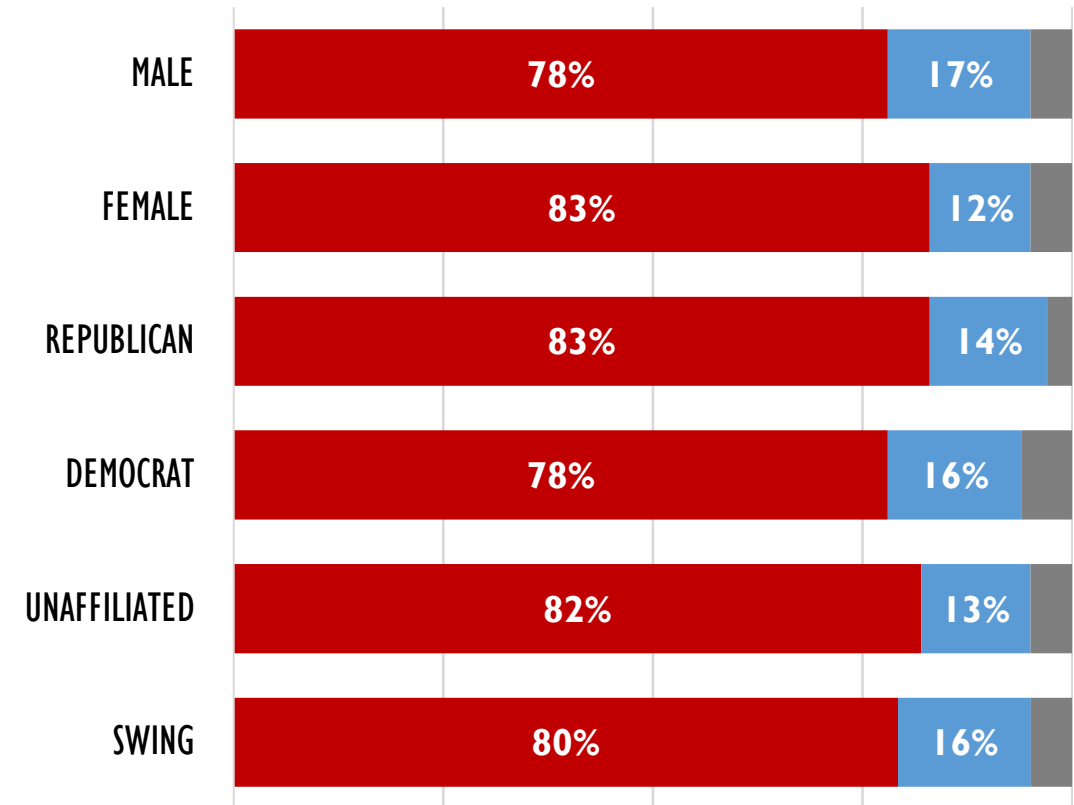
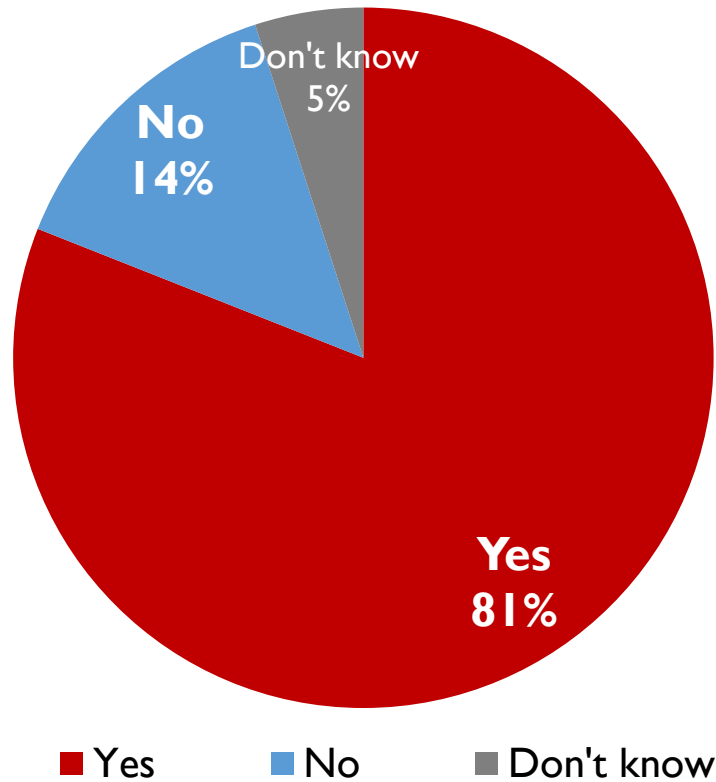


UTILITY PRICES

Utility Prices: Electricity Rate Increases

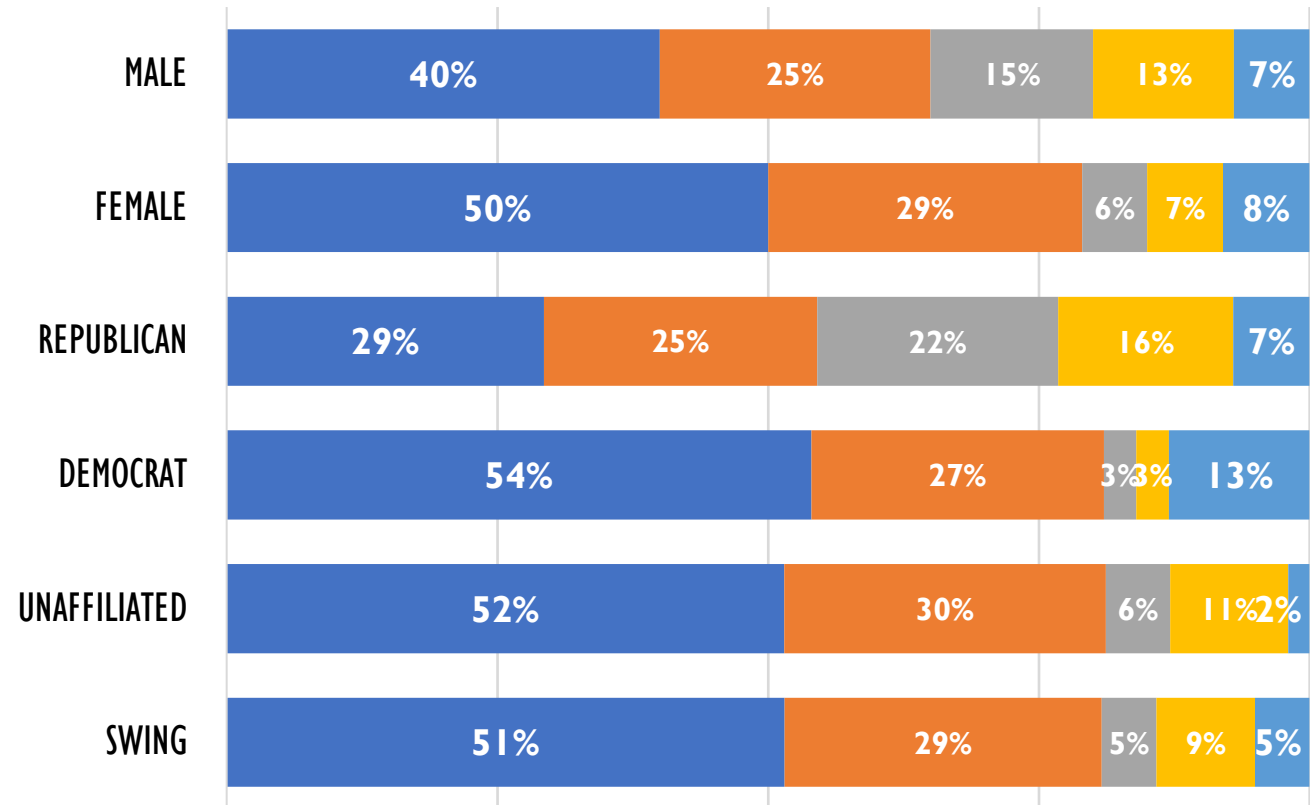
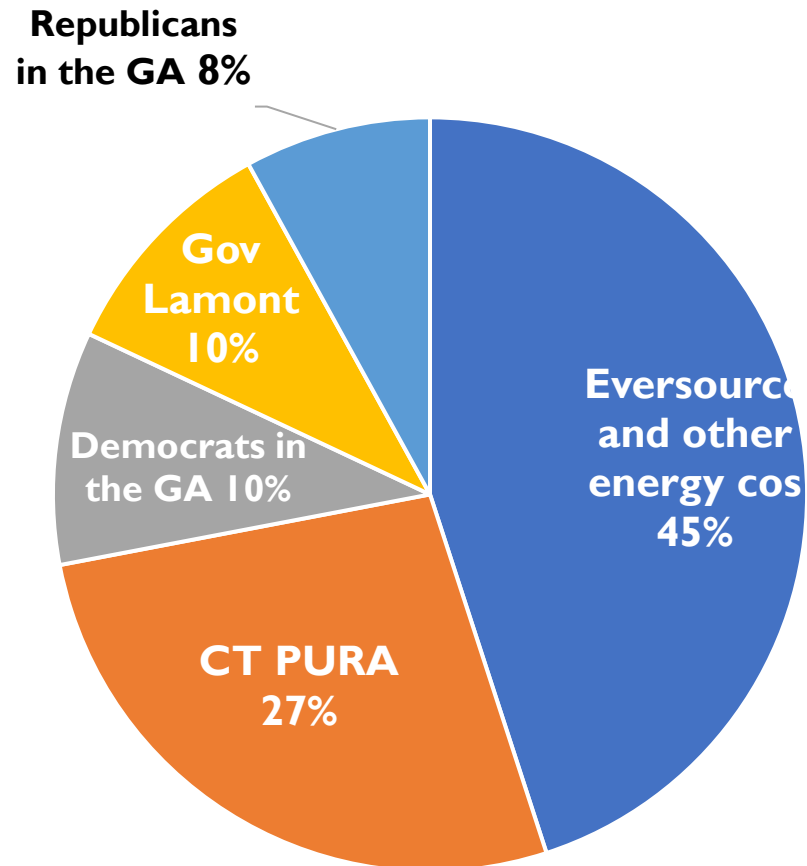
➤ 4 out 5 respondents have experienced a rate increase. This is virtually unchanged since October 2024.

Have you personally experienced an increase in electricity rates in recent months?



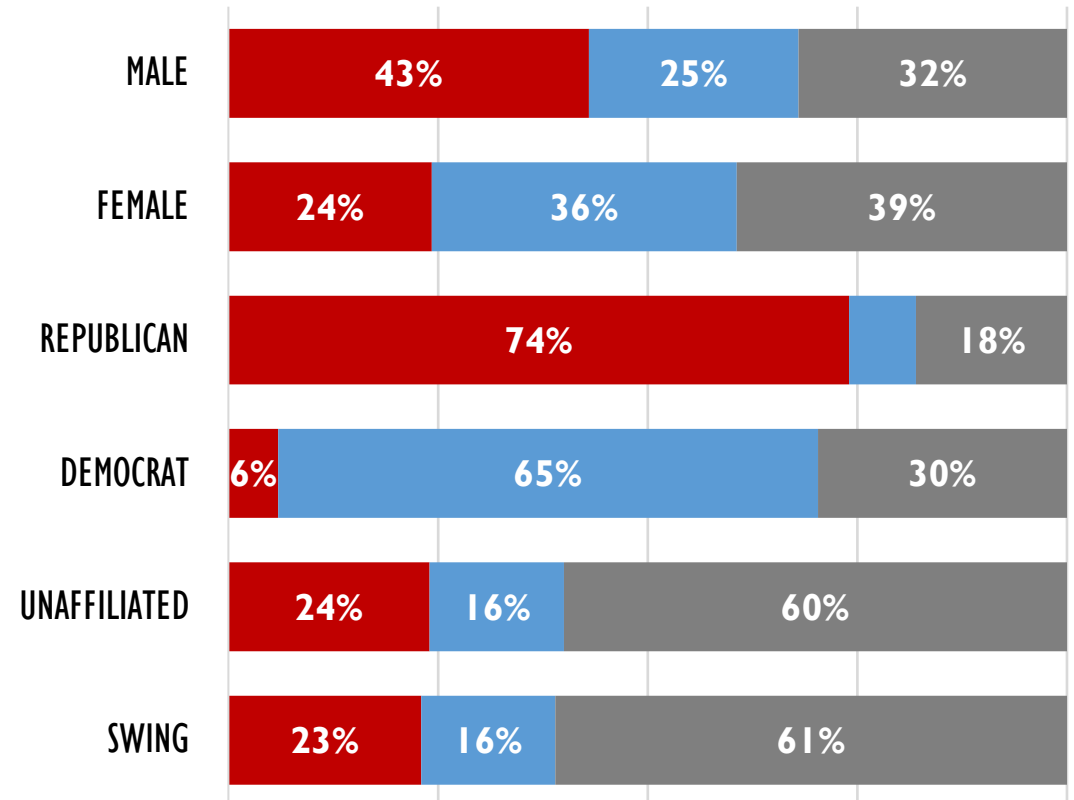
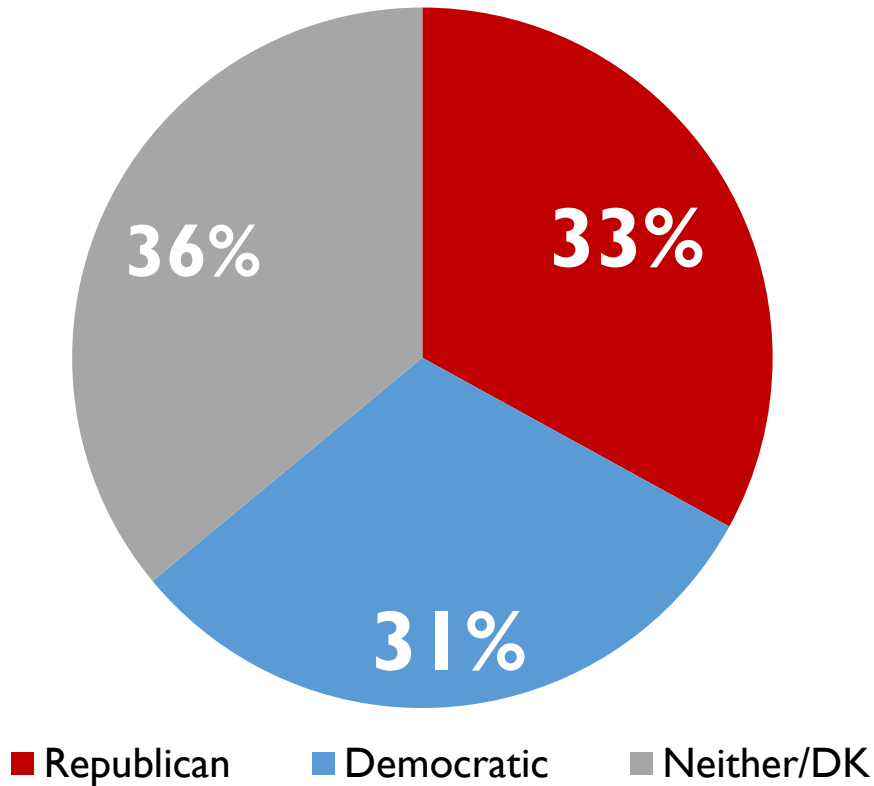
Utility Prices: Blame for Rate Increases

Who do you blame most for the recent increase in electricity rates?



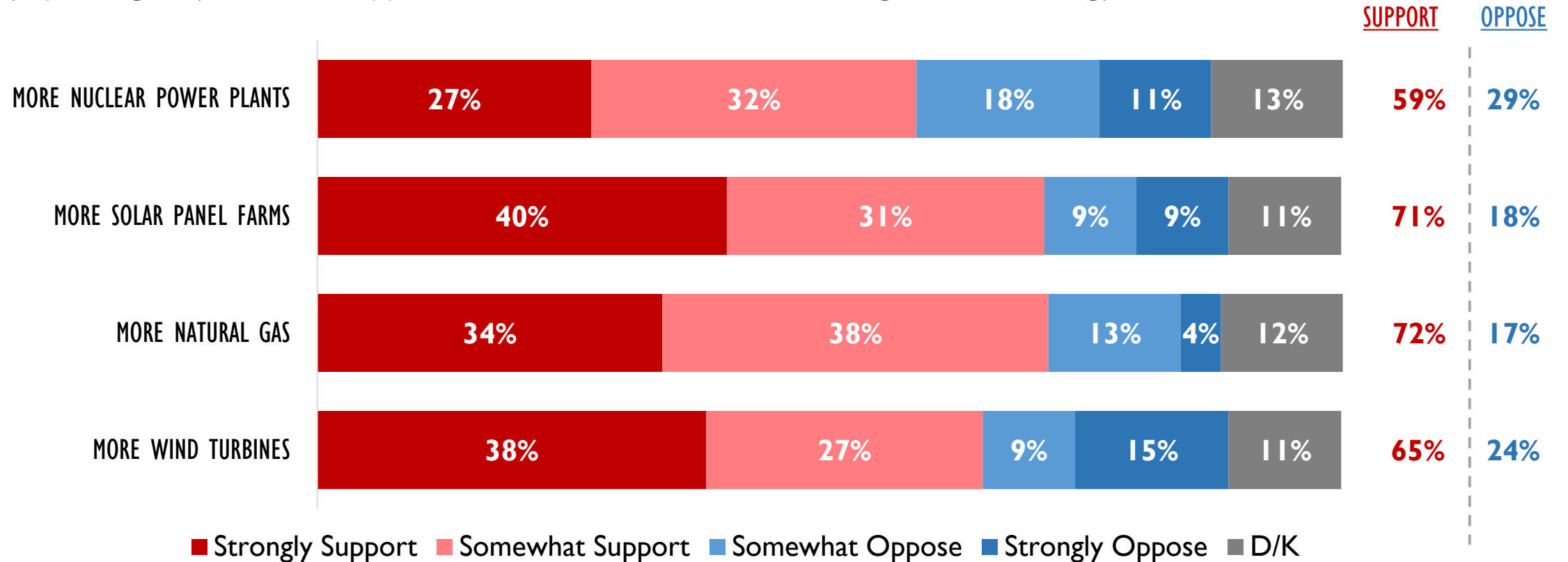
Utility Prices: Party Trust

Which political party do you feel is more capable of reducing the cost of electricity in Connecticut?



Utility Prices: Sources of Energy

Generally speaking, do you favor or oppose EXPANDING each of the following sources of energy in Connecticut?

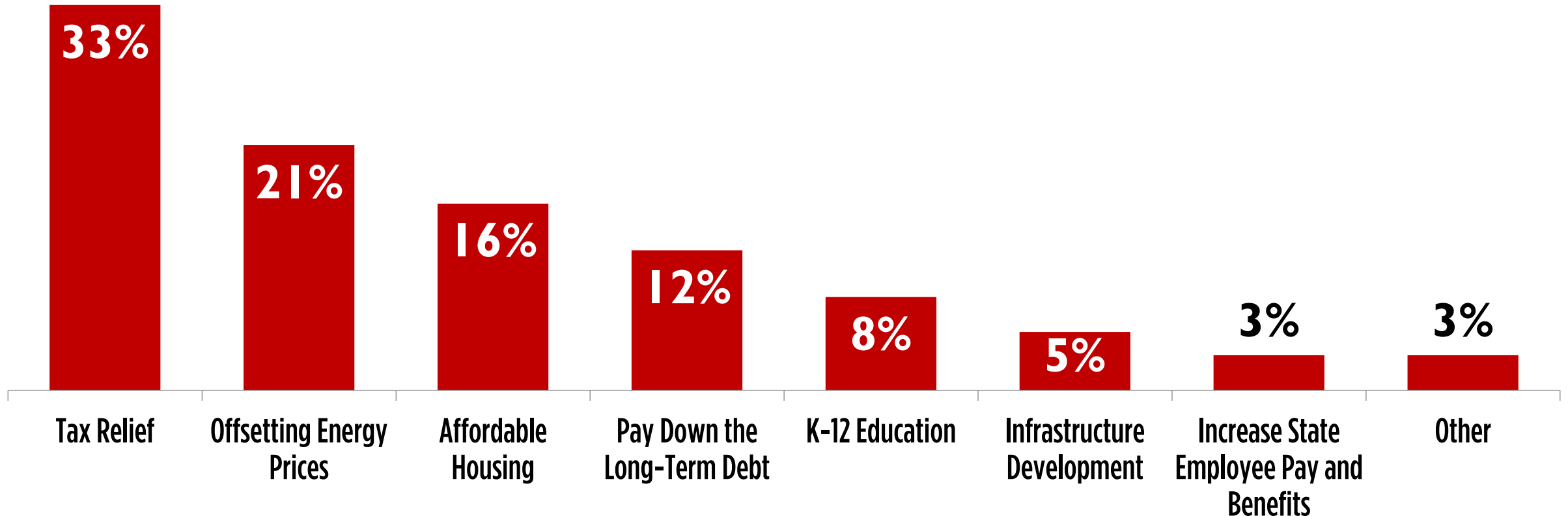




STATE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

State Employee Benefits: Priorities

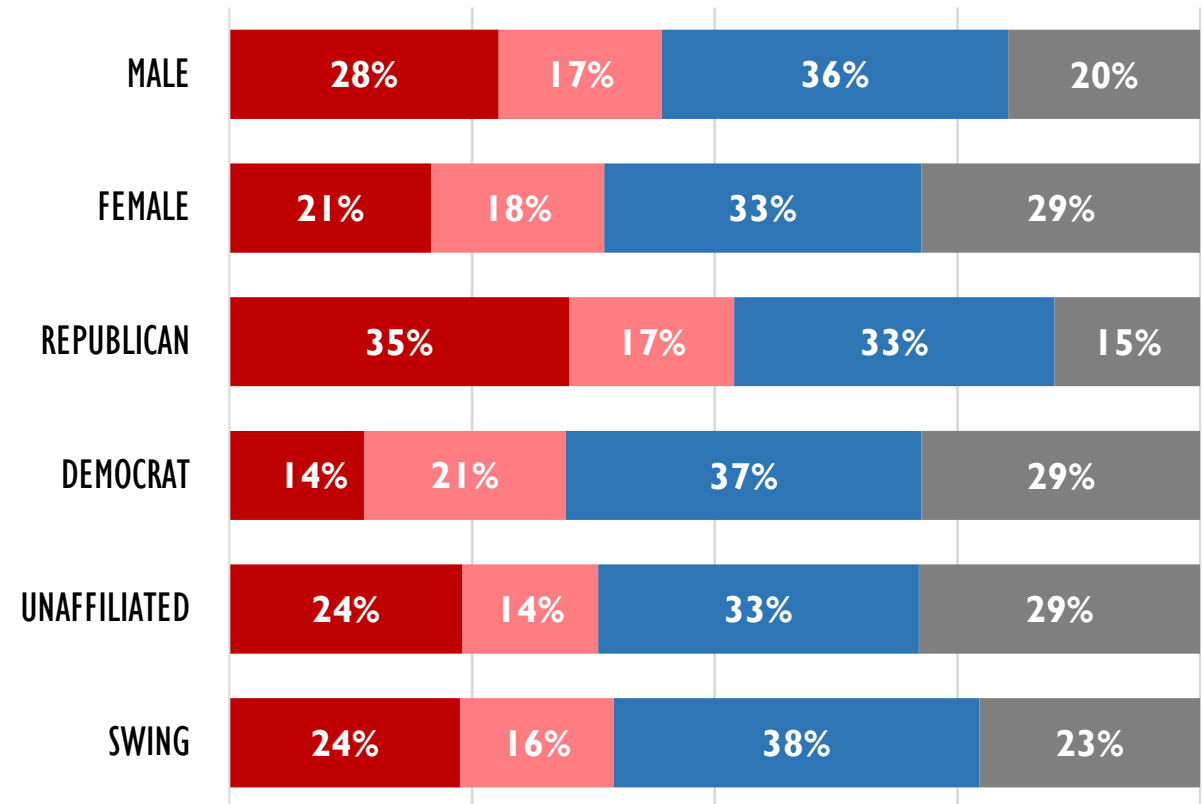
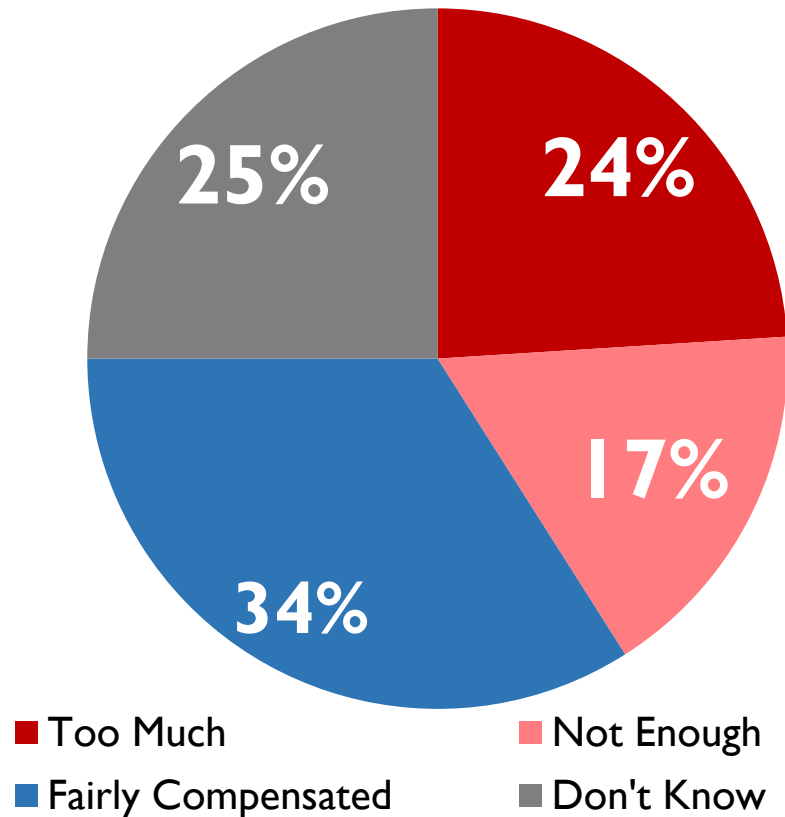
If the state of Connecticut were to have a budget surplus this year, where would you most like to see the money spent?



State Employee Benefits: Compensation Fairness

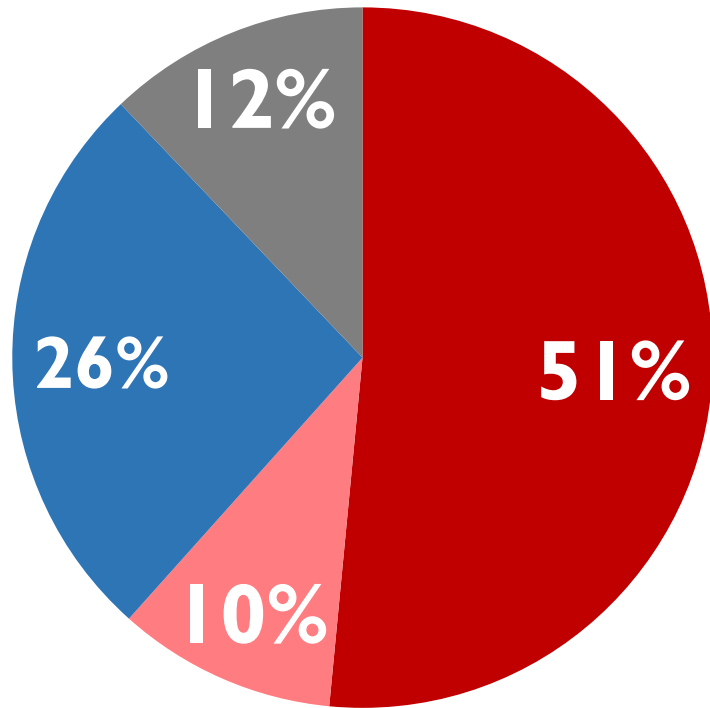
- A plurality of voters (34%) feel that the state employees are fairly compensated.
- A quarter of respondents indicated they Didn't Know.

Thinking about Connecticut's state employees' compensation packages, would you say they are fairly compensated, do not receive enough compensation, or receive too much compensation?

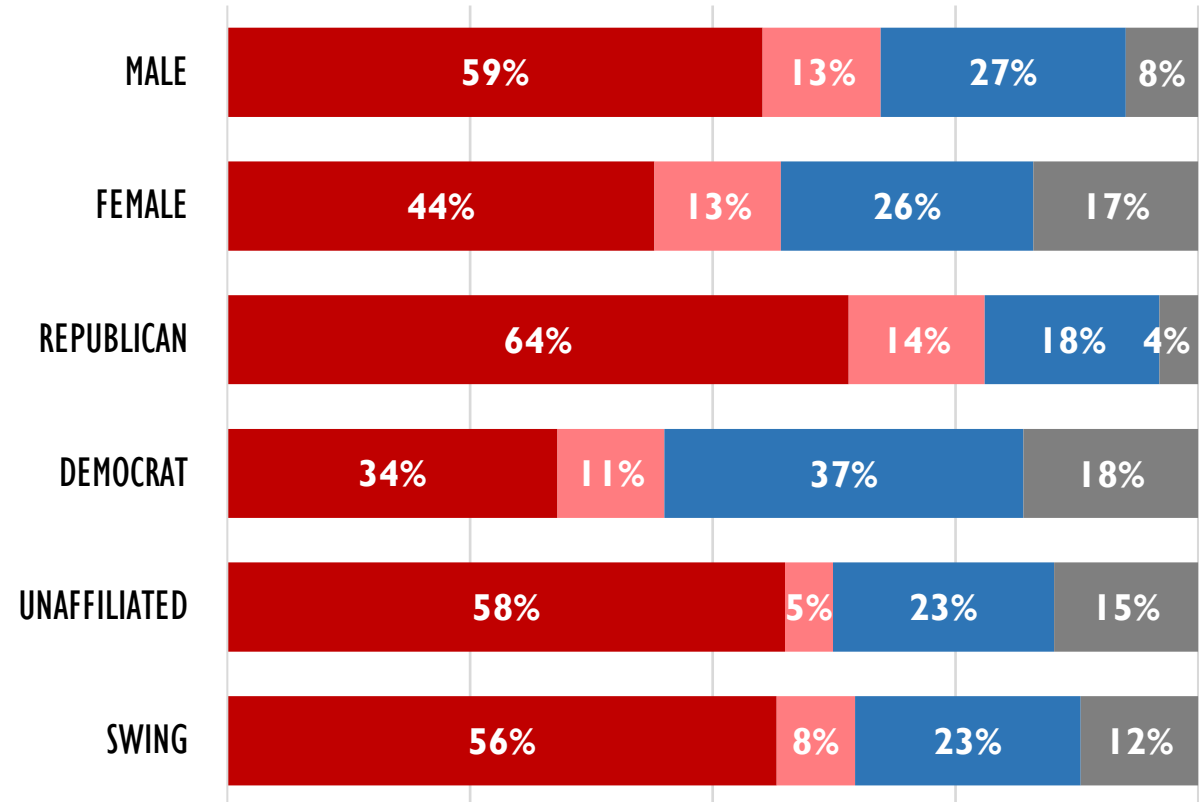


State Employee Benefits: Wage Increases

Over the past 4 years, state employees wages have increased 33%. Do you believe this is too much, too little, or just right?

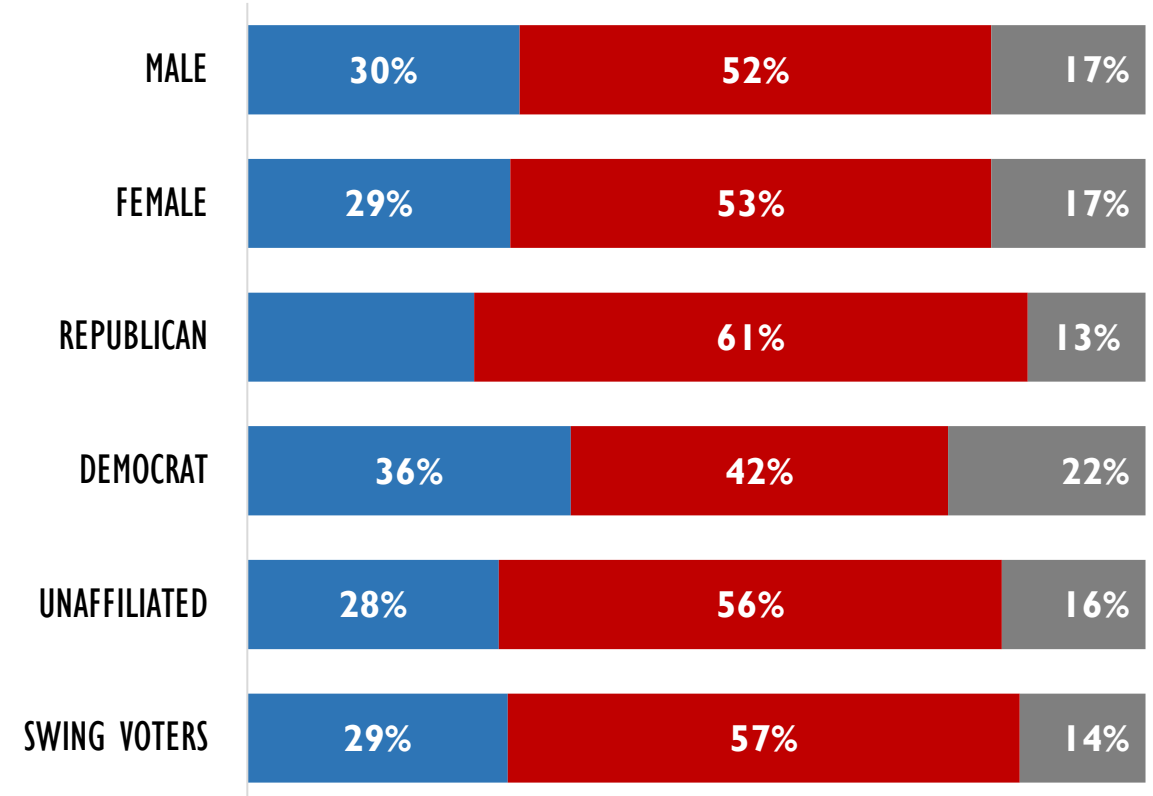
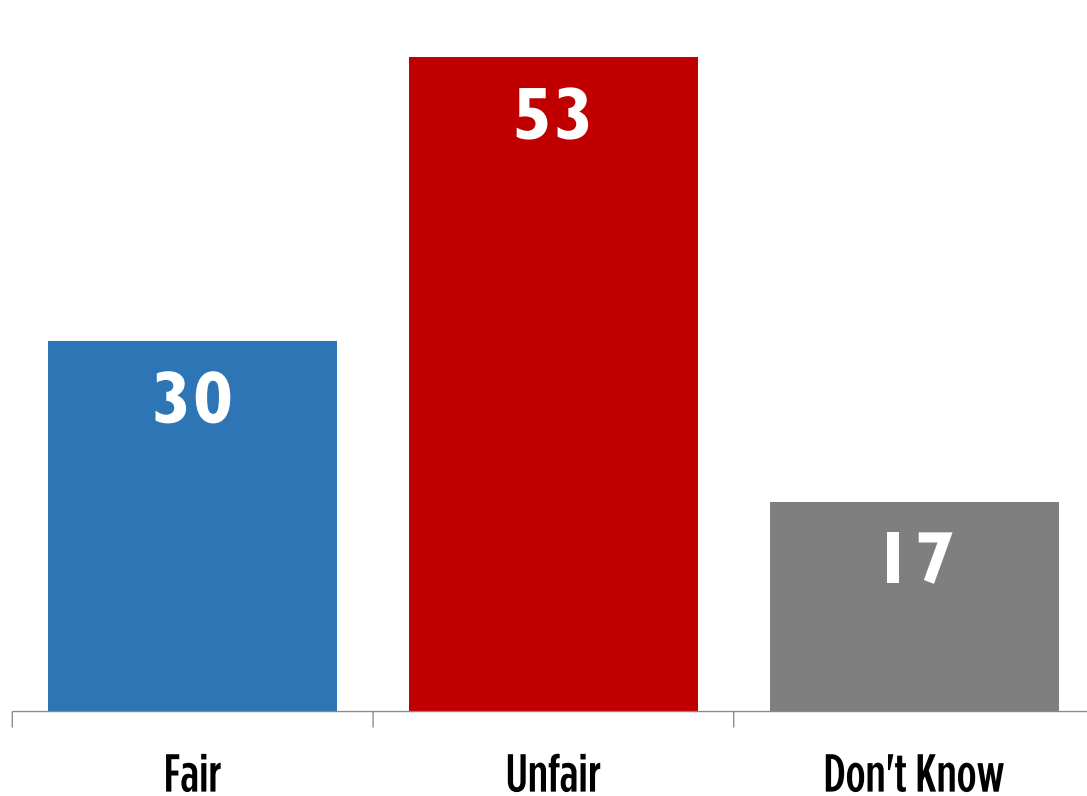


■ Too Much ■ Too Little ■ Just Right ■ Don't Know



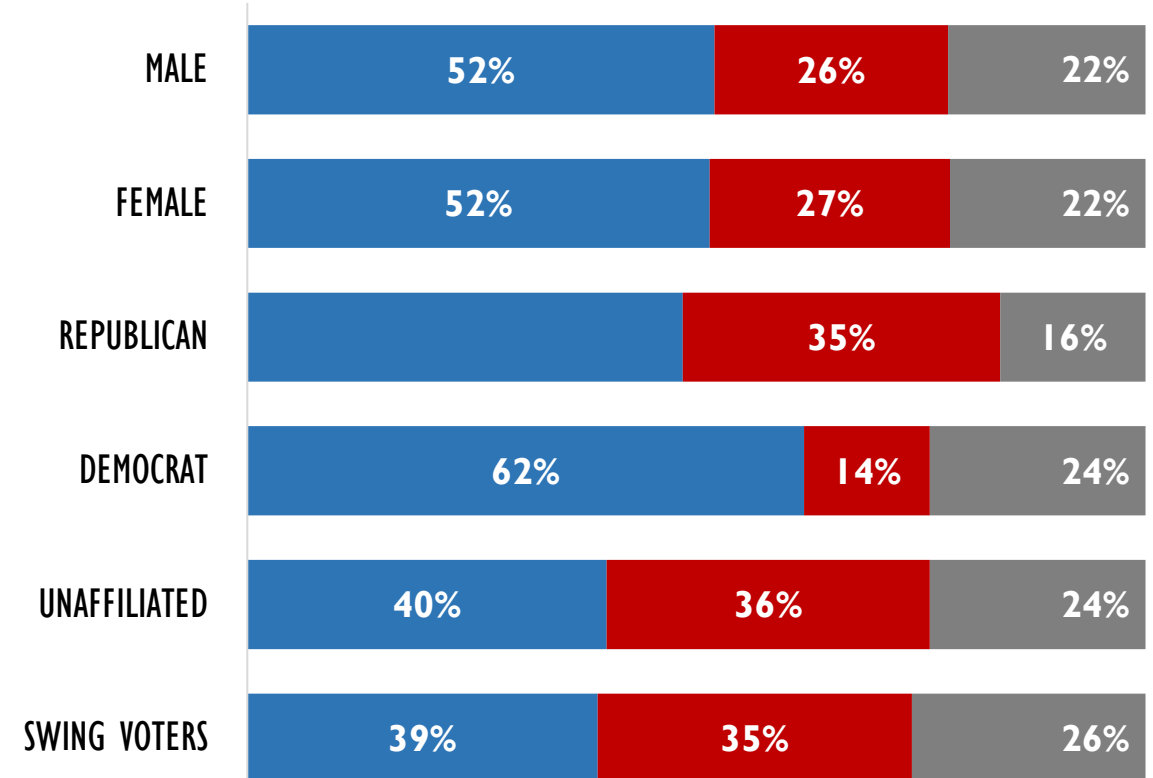
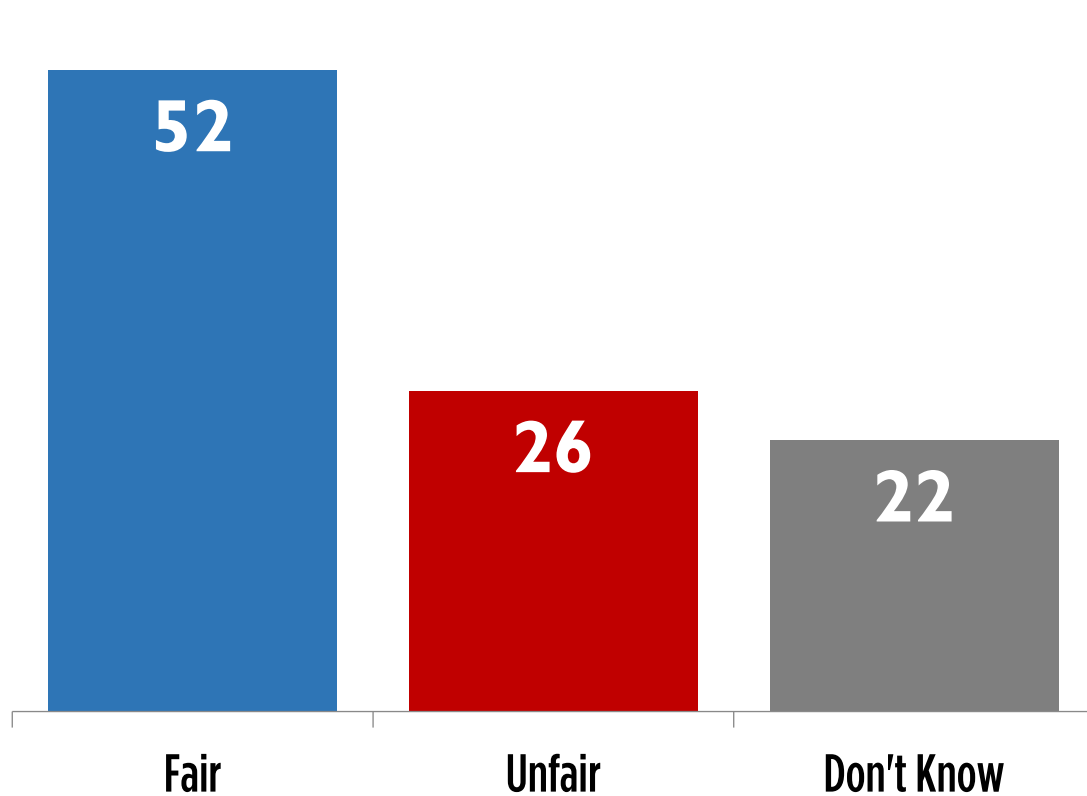
State Employee Benefits: Health Insurance

Connecticut state employees are only required to pay 15% of their insurance premiums and 2% of their copays and deductibles. Do you think this is fair or unfair to Connecticut taxpayers?



State Employee Benefits: Health Insurance

If you knew that Connecticut's state employee healthcare benefits were the most generous in the country and far better than the average private sector employee, would you think these benefits are fair or unfair to Connecticut taxpayers?



ASKED ONLY TO RESPONDENTS THAT BELIEVE 15% PREMIUMS AND 2% COPAYS ARE FAIR

State Employee Benefits: Telework

Do you think that Connecticut state employees should be allowed to continue to work from home 3-4 days a week?

