

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Working Families for Education Excellence
DATE: June 30, 2026
RE: Democratic Primary Voters in CT Support a Progressive Agenda

Executive Summary

- Democratic primary voters in Connecticut support progressive policies across issues and want new candidates who do politics differently and can champion these ideas (rather than experienced candidates who know how to get things done) — even while approving of the way current Democrats in Connecticut are running the state.
- On the economy, voters want to hold corporations accountable for price gouging, to close tax loopholes for ultra-wealthy Americans, and to make billionaires pay, prioritizing these economic strategies over lowering taxes for working families.
- On healthcare, voters want a public health insurance option leading to universal healthcare, and they view it as cost-saving in the long run rather than detrimental to state jobs.

As the 2026 primary election in Connecticut approaches, new polling from Working Families for Education Excellence and Data for Progress finds that Democratic likely primary voters in Connecticut view Democratic officials in the state as mostly doing a good job, but voters prioritize a progressive agenda and prefer a progressive, new candidate over a more experienced and moderate Democrat.

Key Takeaways

- Most voters view **Connecticut** (69%) and their **community** (57%) as moving in the **right direction**, while 93% view the country as on the wrong track.
- **Eighty-four percent of voters approve of the way Democrats are running Connecticut.**
- **Every progressive stance tested would make voters more likely to vote for a hypothetical candidate.**
- **Primary voters favor new, bold leadership** over experienced representation, 56% to 36%
- **School choice is a net-negative issue** with this primary electorate overall. **Supporting school choice is the one issue that makes voters less likely to vote for a candidate**, and 68% say school choice should not be expanded.
- Actions a potential candidate in Connecticut might take lead to intense, nearly universal support for that candidate, making voters especially more likely to vote for them if they work on **lowering utility costs** (93% total more likely, 67% much more likely), **fighting corruption** (93%, 77%), and **supporting universal healthcare** (89%, 73%), with very little variation in support across ideology or demographics.

- **ICE opposition is universal and intense.** More than 90% of primary voters hold an unfavorable view of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), with 84% very unfavorable, the highest intensity negative of anything tested. Meanwhile, 89% say a candidate who fights back against ICE makes them more likely to vote for them (77% much more likely), and 81% prefer abolishing ICE entirely.
- **Universal healthcare is universally popular:** 66% view a public option as a step toward universal coverage, and 85% believe it will save money and create jobs.

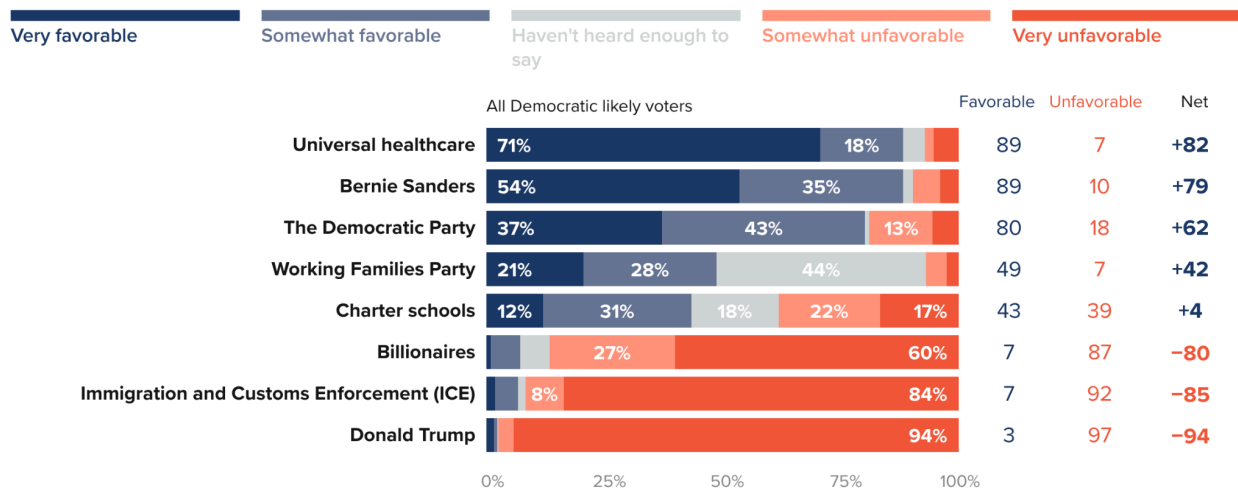
Favorability

Eighty-nine percent of Democratic primary voters view universal healthcare and Senator Bernie Sanders as favorable, including 71% very favorable for universal healthcare and 54% for Sanders. Eighty percent of voters also view the Democratic Party as favorable (37% very favorable). The Working Families Party (49% favorable, 7% unfavorable) is also net-positive in favorability.

Voters are more split when it comes to charter schools: 43% are favorable, 39% unfavorable. Billionaires (87%), ICE (92%), and President Donald Trump (97%) are the most unfavorable people or institutions.

Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Most Favor Universal Healthcare, Bernie Sanders, and the Democratic Party, While Being Most Critical of Billionaires, ICE, and Donald Trump

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people or institutions?



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 36

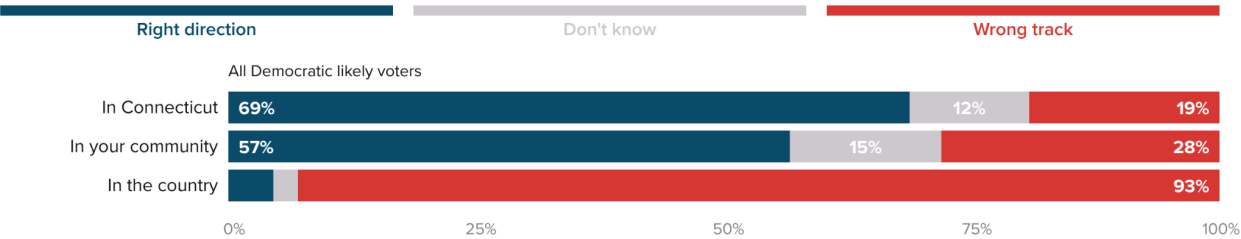
DATA FOR PROGRESS

Current Political Satisfaction Is High for Democratic Leaders

Democratic primary voters view the state (69%) and community (57%) as generally moving in the right direction, while 93% view the country as being on the wrong track.

Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut View Their Community and State as Moving in the Right Direction

Generally speaking, would you say that things are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track in each of the following places?



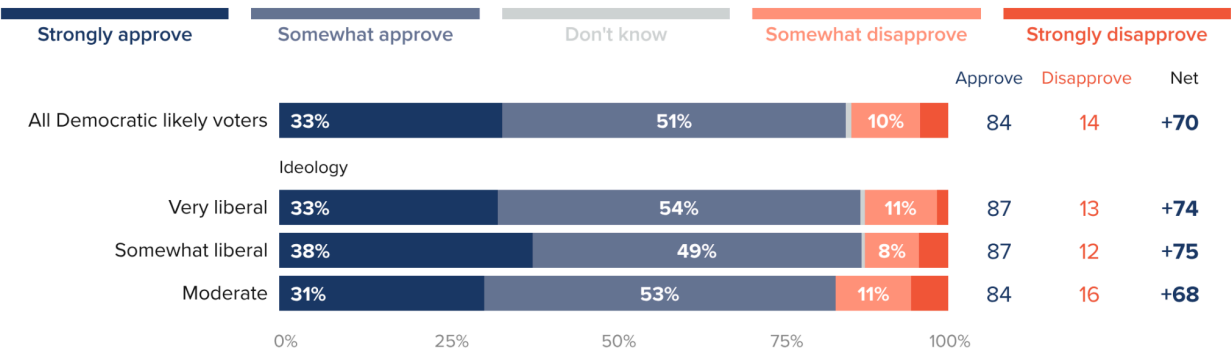
May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 36

DATA FOR PROGRESS

More than 4 in 5 Democratic primary voters approve of the way Democrats are handling their job running the state of Connecticut, with one-third of voters strongly approving. There is no notable difference in approval based on ideology.

Most Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Approve of Their Party's Handling of Issues in Connecticut

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Democrats are handling their job running the state of Connecticut?



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 36

DATA FOR PROGRESS

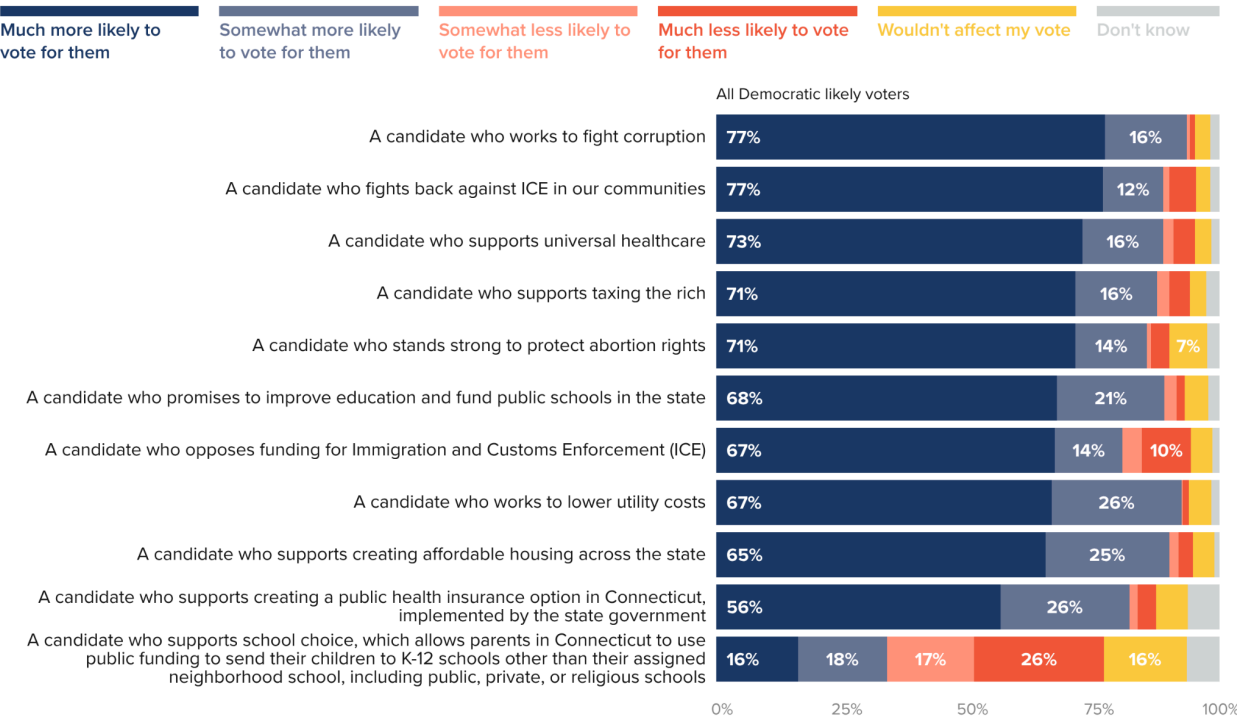
Electoral Candidates Are Much More Likely to Gain Democratic Votes With a Progressive Agenda

Democratic primary voters are more likely to vote for a candidate who takes a variety of progressive stances, and with high intensity for each. More than half of voters are much more likely to vote for a candidate who takes any of the stances tested — with the exception of supporting school choice, a more moderate position. A plurality of voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports school choice, including 26% who are much less likely.

Seventy-seven percent of voters are much more likely to vote for a candidate who works to fight corruption (93% overall more likely), as well as a candidate who fights back against ICE in our communities (89% overall more likely).

Every Action Makes Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Overwhelmingly Much More Likely to Vote for a Candidate, Except For Supporting School Choice

Below are actions that a potential candidate in Connecticut might take. For each, please say if the action would make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate.



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 36

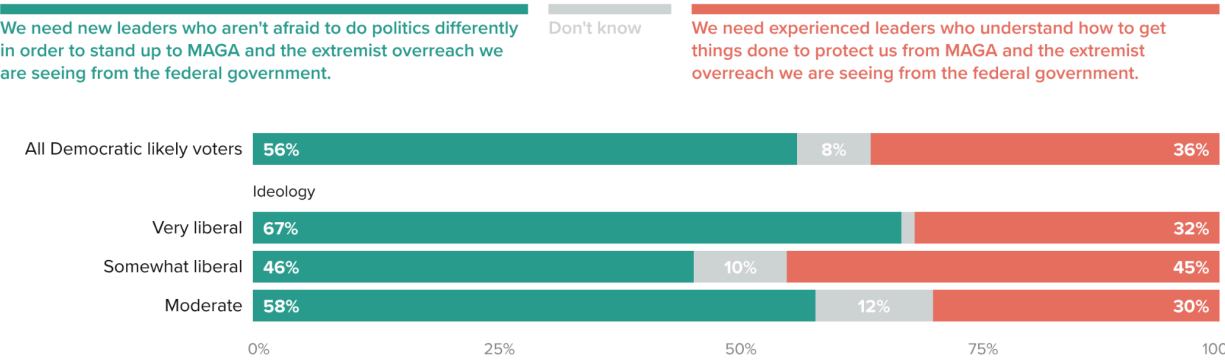
DATA FOR PROGRESS

Most voters say we need new leaders who aren’t afraid to do politics differently (56%), rather than experienced leaders who understand how to get things done (36%), in order to address MAGA and extremist overreach from the federal government.

Most very liberal Democrats (67%) and moderate Democrats (58%) say we need new leadership, while somewhat liberal voters are split.

Most Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Prefer New Leaders Who Lead Differently Over Those With Experience

When thinking about what kind of leaders we want Democratic officials in Connecticut to be in this moment, which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 46

DATA FOR PROGRESS

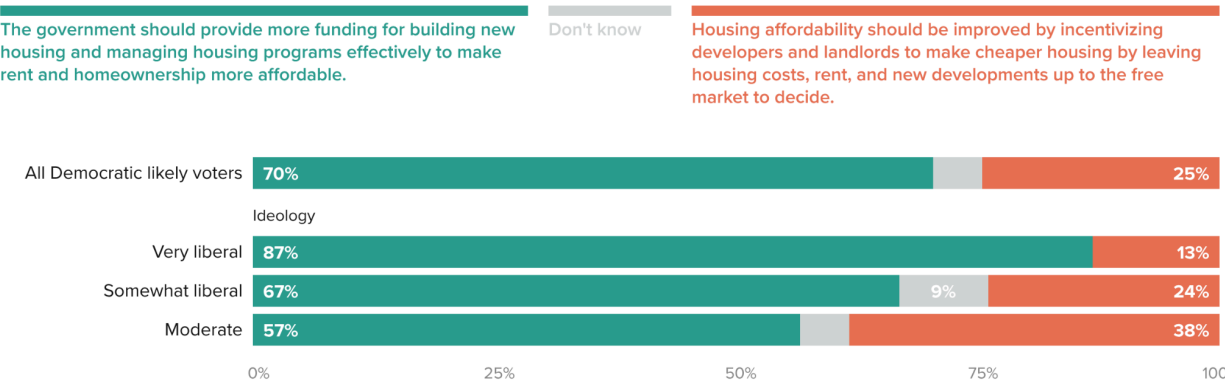
Democratic Voters Support Government Funding for Affordable Housing and View Landlords as Exploitative

Seventy percent of Democratic primary voters prefer the government to provide more funding for new housing and effectively manage housing programs rather than incentivize developers and landlords to make housing cheaper and leave it up to the market to decide (25%).

Democratic voters across ideological lines favor increased government funding, though levels vary by ideology: 87% of very liberal Democrats prefer this approach, while 67% of somewhat liberal Democrats and 57% of moderate Democrats say the same.

Seventy Percent of Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Say the Government Should Provide More Funding for New Housing Rather Than Letting the Market Decide Costs

Which policy regarding affordable housing do you prefer, even if neither is exactly right?



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 38

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Similarly, 72% of Democratic primary voters say landlords have too much power rather than viewing them as just doing their jobs — including 84% of very liberal Democrats, 64% of somewhat liberal Democrats, and 69% of moderate Democrats.

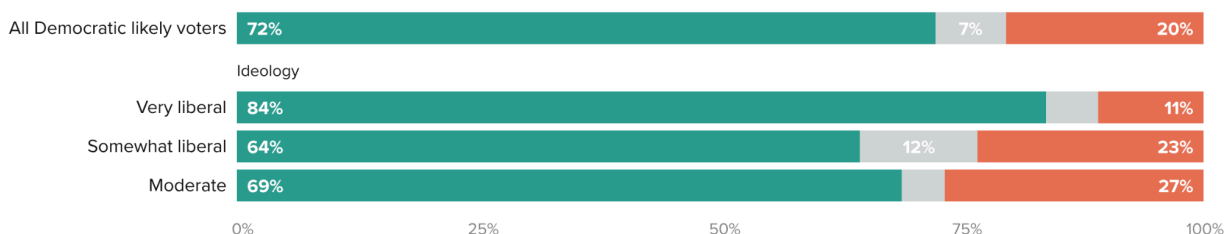
More Than 7 in 10 Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Say Landlords Have Too Much Power

When thinking about housing in Connecticut, which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Landlords hold too much power and take advantage of renters and tenants. By setting prices at a whim and often neglecting maintenance, landlords profit by exploiting people just trying to meet their basic needs.

Don't know

Landlords are just doing their jobs. They provide housing and make sure people have a place to live – something that someone has to do – and they deserve to be compensated for this work.



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 39

DATA FOR PROGRESS

BY NARRATOR

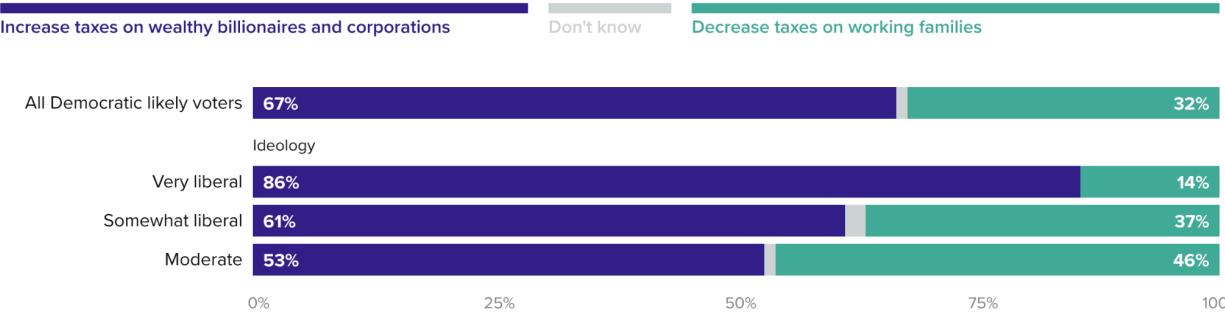
Taxing Ultra-Wealthy Americans Tops Cutting Taxes for Working Families

When it comes to taxation, two-thirds of Democratic primary voters would prefer that Democrats in Connecticut prioritize increasing taxes on wealthy billionaires and corporations over decreasing taxes on working families.

Voters across ideology prioritize increasing taxes on billionaires over decreasing taxes on working families, including 53% of moderates, 61% of somewhat liberal Democrats, and 86% of very liberal Democrats.

Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Prefer Increasing Taxes on the Wealthy Over Decreasing Taxes on Working Families

Which of the following would you prefer Democratic officials in Connecticut prioritize: increase taxes on wealthy billionaires and corporations or decrease taxes for working families?



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 36

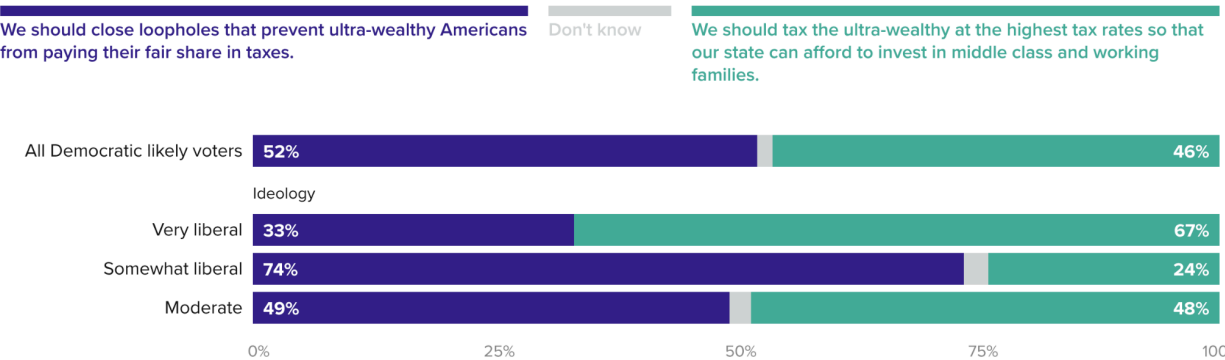
DATA FOR PROGRESS

As for the approach to taxation, most Democratic primary voters would rather close loopholes in the tax code that prevent the ultra-wealthy from paying their fair share (52%) than tax the ultra-wealthy at the highest tax rate to invest more in middle- and working-class families (46%).

Voters’ ideological beliefs impact their views on taxing the ultra-wealthy: 67% of very liberal Democrats want to tax the ultra-wealthy at the highest rates to invest in middle-class and working families, while 74% of somewhat liberal Democrats want to close loopholes, and moderate Democrats are split.

A Majority of Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Prefer Closing Tax Loopholes Over Taxing the Ultra-Wealthy at the Highest Rates

When thinking about taxing the wealthy in Connecticut, which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 37

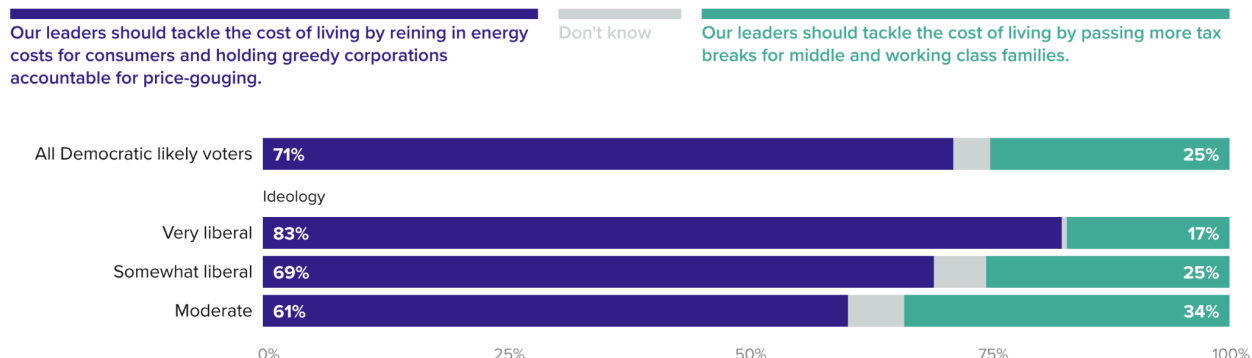
DATA FOR PROGRESS

More than 7 in 10 Democratic voters prefer leaders tackle the cost of living by reining in energy costs for consumers and holding greedy corporations accountable for price gouging, rather than passing tax breaks for middle- and working-class families.

A majority of Democrats across the ideological spectrum align more with corporate accountability, including 83% of very liberal Democrats, 69% of somewhat liberal Democrats, and 61% of moderate Democrats.

Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Prefer Corporate Accountability Over Tax Breaks for Working Families to Address the Cost of Living

When thinking about affordability in Connecticut, which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut
General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 45

DATA FOR PROGRESS

A Public Health Option Is Seen as a Financially Lucrative Transition to Universal Healthcare

Two-thirds of Democratic primary voters view a public health insurance option in Connecticut as just one step on a path toward truly universal coverage, compared with 26% who view it as an option meant to compete and exist alongside private insurance providers.

The more liberal voters are, the more they align with viewing a public option as a stepping stone to universal coverage — a stance held by 90% of very liberal Democrats, 57% of somewhat liberal Democrats, and 49% of moderates.

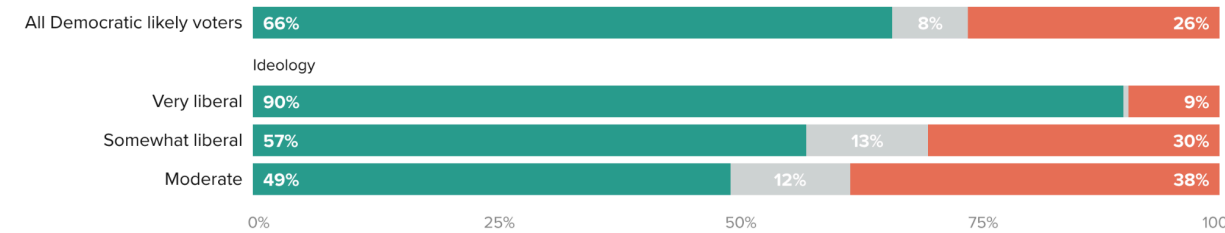
Two-Thirds of Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut View a Public Option as Just One Step Toward Truly Universal Health Coverage, Rather Than as a Separate Option

When thinking about a public health insurance option in Connecticut, which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

A public option is just one step on a path towards truly universal coverage in which all Americans are provided healthcare coverage, regardless of their ability to pay

Don't know

A public option is meant to compete and exist alongside private insurance providers and in so doing drive down costs



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 40

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Meanwhile, Democratic voters across ideology are more closely aligned in viewing a public health option as financially lucrative in the long run (85%), compared with seeing it as too harmful for the state economy (7%).

Three-quarters of moderate Democrats, 81% of somewhat liberal Democrats, and nearly every very liberal Democrat (98%) view the overall impact of creating a public health insurance option as cost-saving in the long run.

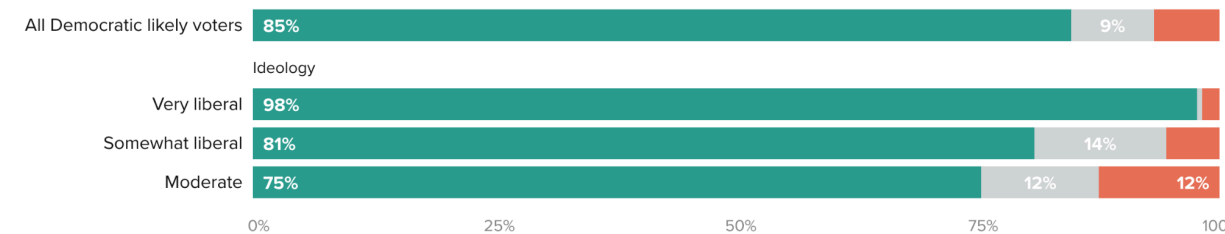
Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Overwhelmingly See the Financial Benefits of Creating a Public Health Insurance Option

When thinking about implementing a public health insurance option in Connecticut, which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

The overall impact of creating a public health insurance option will save Connecticut families money, save costs for small businesses, and create new jobs in the long run.

Don't know

The job loss from creating a public health insurance option will be too harmful for our economy. We cannot afford the consequences of job cuts that would impact thousands of workers.



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 41

DATA FOR PROGRESS

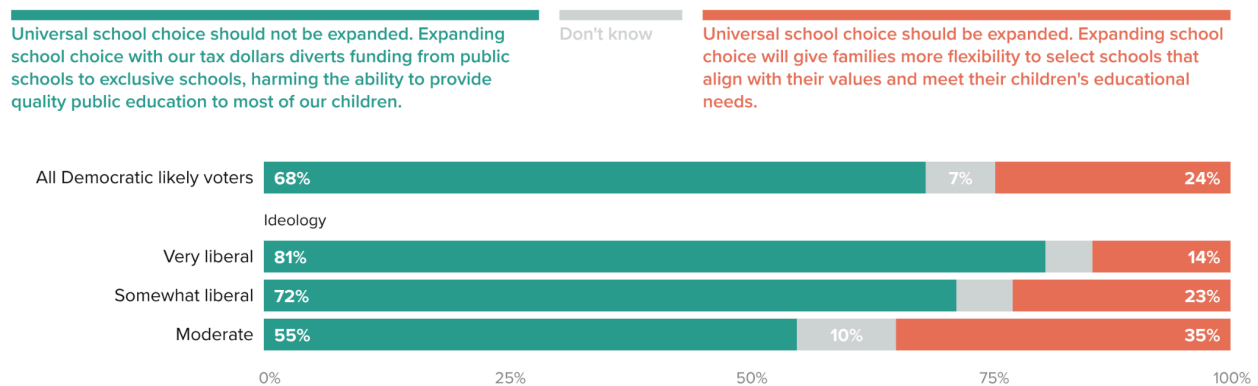
Democratic Voters Are Against Public Funding for Charter Schools and School Choice Expansion

More than 2 in 3 Democratic voters say universal school choice should not be expanded.

Across ideology, Democratic voters are against expansion, especially the more liberal they are: 55% of moderate Democrats, 72% of somewhat liberal Democrats, and 81% of very liberal Democrats say universal school choice should not be expanded.

A Majority of Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Say School Choice Should Not Be Expanded

When thinking about universal school choice – which allows parents in Connecticut to use public funding to send their children to K-12 schools other than their assigned neighborhood school, including public, private, or religious schools – which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 42

DATA FOR PROGRESS

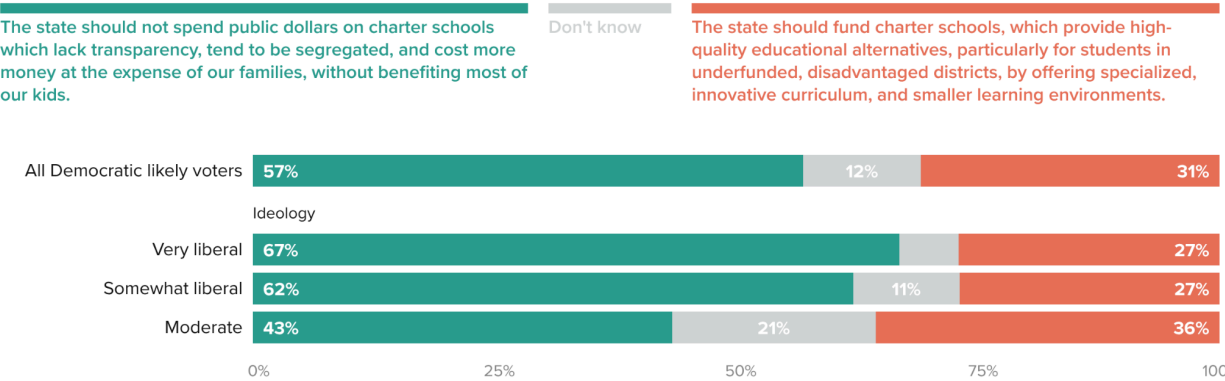
50 HARRIS

Democratic voters also say the state should not spend public dollars on charter schools (57%).

A majority of very liberal (67%) and somewhat liberal (62%) Democrats say the state should not spend public dollars on charter schools, while moderates are more divided (43% against, 36% for).

Most Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Say the State Should Not Spend Funds on Charter Schools

When thinking about state funding for charter schools in Connecticut, which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 43

DATA FOR PROGRESS

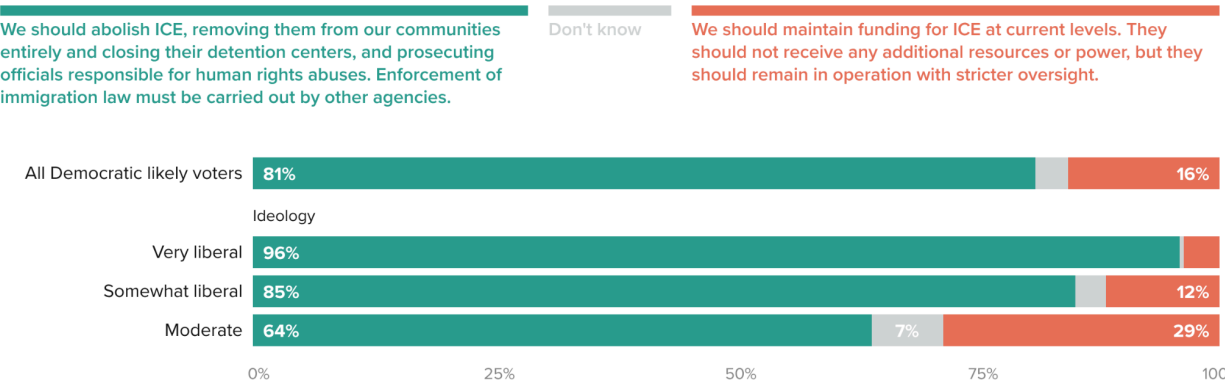
Democratic Voters Support Abolishing ICE

More than 4 in 5 Democratic voters support abolishing ICE, rather than maintaining funding for the agency at current levels and increasing oversight.

Nearly every very liberal Democrat (96%), 85% of somewhat liberal Democrats, and 64% of moderate Democrats choose to abolish ICE rather than maintaining funding.

More Than 80% of Democratic Primary Voters in Connecticut Say We Should Abolish ICE

When thinking about funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Connecticut, which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



May 21–27, 2026 survey of 356 likely Democratic primary voters pooled across Connecticut General Assembly HDs 10, 19, 58, 92, 93, 94, 106, 118, 126, 136, and SDs 2, 7, 9, 13, 25, 26, 44

DATA FOR PROGRESS

The crosstabs are available [here](#).

Paid for by Working Families for Education Excellence. This message was made independent of any candidate or political party. Supported by District 1199 LEAD Fund and SEIU Local 32BJ CT PAC. Additional information about Working Families for Education Excellence may be found on the State Elections Enforcement Commission's website.