



Connecticut State Option Public Opinion Survey

Key findings from our survey of Connecticut likely voters on the state option

Methodology



Statewide Survey:

- N=800 Connecticut likely voters
- Balanced to current state demographics by gender, age, race, income, education, and political ideology
- Fielded online January 8-24, 2021
- MOE: +/- 3.5%

Summary of Key Findings

1

A majority of Connecticut voters do **NOT support** the state option (36% support).

2

80% of voters prefer for lawmakers to **BUILD ON Connecticut's health care system** rather than create a new state government-designed option.

3

Voters are especially **CONCERNED** about the impacts of the state option on access to quality care (77%), jobs/economic growth (74%), and costs (72%).

4

82% of voters are **UNWILLING to pay more in health care costs** and 78% are **UNWILLING to pay more in taxes** to finance the cost of the state option.

5

A majority of voters (65%) – including Democrats (55%) – are **LESS LIKELY** to vote for a lawmaker who supports a state option.

CT voters' top issue: **ECONOMY and JOBS**

Which of the following issues do you believe are MOST important for the Connecticut state government to address?
(COMBINED CHOICE – TOP TWO)

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
The economy and jobs	60%	55%	60%	68%
Taxes	48%	30%	50%	73%
Health care	30%	40%	30%	12%
Education	18%	21%	20%	10%
Infrastructure	15%	11%	20%	12%
Social justice	13%	22%	7%	9%
The environment	8%	12%	6%	5%
Energy	7%	8%	6%	10%

U.S.: n=800 likely voters statewide

DEM: n=297 likely Democratic voters statewide

SWING: n=330 likely Swing voters statewide

GOP: n=173 likely Republican voters statewide

HOSPITAL favorability is highest among CT voters

How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following in Connecticut? (NET FAVORABLE)

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
Hospitals	63%	65%	63%	59%
Governor Ned Lamont	49%	64%	50%	22%
State Government	40%	55%	40%	17%
Health insurers	35%	36%	35%	34%
Comptroller Kevin Lembo	22%	31%	20%	13%

CT voters are **SATISFIED** with their current health coverage

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your current health insurance plan, the coverage you have today?

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
SATISFIED (NET)	69%	70%	69%	66%
Neither	16%	17%	16%	15%
DISSATISFIED (NET)	15%	13%	15%	19%

Most voters trust the **FREE MARKET** over state government to meet their health care needs

Which do you trust MORE to design an effective health insurance plan that meets the needs of Connecticut residents?

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
Free market	55%	34%	65%	75%
State government	45%	66%	35%	25%

CT voters' top health care priority: **lowering COSTS**

Which of the following do you believe are the MOST important priorities to improve Connecticut's health care system?
(COMBINED CHOICE – TOP TWO)

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
Lower health care costs	60%	56%	62%	64%
Ensure everyone has health insurance coverage	38%	48%	41%	12%
Reduce burdensome regulations and administrative requirements	21%	8%	24%	36%
Make health care simpler	19%	22%	18%	16%
Increase consumer choice and control	19%	6%	23%	32%
Increase access to health care	18%	27%	14%	12%
Improve the quality of health care	16%	24%	9%	17%
Increase transparency in health care	9%	9%	7%	11%

Lowering health care costs for everyone is more important than universal coverage for CT voters

Which of the following two health care priorities is MORE important to you? That Connecticut...

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
Lowers health care costs for everyone	57%	43%	60%	76%
Ensures that everyone has health care coverage	43%	57%	40%	24%

Awareness of the Connecticut Option is **LOW** among voters

Please be honest. How familiar or unfamiliar are you with the following health care proposals and how they would work?
(NET FAMILIAR)

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
Medicare for All	52%	58%	49%	48%
Public Option	32%	41%	24%	33%
Connecticut Option	23%	31%	15%	25%

Fixing what we have today earns far more support than the Connecticut Option

Now, we're going to present you with a series of health care policy proposals. For each, please indicate your level of support or opposition to them. (SUPPORT)

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
<u>Fix what we have today.</u> We should build on and improve our current health insurance system – not start over.	60%	56%	63%	61%
<u>Medicare for All.</u> We should replace private insurance plans with a single federal government-run insurance system that covers all Americans and is funded by federal taxes.	40%	58%	34%	20%
<u>Public option.</u> We should create a new federal government-run insurance plan available for every American to purchase.	40%	57%	33%	25%
<u>Connecticut Option.</u> We should create a new state government-designed health insurance plan that is available for purchase by Connecticut residents and small businesses and is subsidized by taxes.	36%	49%	31%	22%

Most CT voters would rather **build on and improve the current system** than create a state option

Which of the following proposals to reform Connecticut's health care system do you support MORE?

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
Building on and improving Connecticut's health care system	80%	78%	80%	86%
Creating a new government-designed state option insurance system	20%	22%	20%	14%

Most voters do **NOT** trust the Connecticut state government to design an effective health insurance plan

Do you trust or distrust the Connecticut state government to design an effective health insurance plan that meets the needs of Connecticut residents without increasing costs?

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
TRUST (NET)	35%	47%	32%	21%
Neither	29%	34%	31%	13%
DISTRUST (NET)	36%	18%	37%	65%

The vast majority are **CONCERNED** about the access, jobs, cost, and coverage impacts of a state option

How concerned would you be if a state option had the following impacts in Connecticut? (NET CONCERNED)

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
Reduced access to quality care	77%	72%	83%	74%
Loss of up to 24,000 health care jobs and \$7.7 billion in economic growth	74%	67%	81%	72%
\$25 million in higher costs for residents	72%	66%	76%	75%
Fewer health coverage options	68%	64%	73%	67%
\$2 million state budget deficit	62%	62%	58%	71%

Most voters would rather **KEEP** their current coverage than buy state option coverage

Assuming that what you currently pay would be the exact same, would you rather keep your current health insurance coverage or get coverage through a state government-designed option?

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
Keep my current coverage	76%	68%	78%	84%
Purchase state option coverage	24%	32%	22%	16%

Most voters – even Democrats – are **UNWILLING** to pay **more** in health care costs or taxes to create a state option

Would you personally be willing to pay more than you currently do for **health care, including premiums, co-pays, and out-of-pocket expenses**, to fund the creation of a Connecticut state option?

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
No, I would not be willing to pay more than I currently do for health care	82%	76%	85%	89%
Yes, I would be willing to pay more than I currently do for health care	18%	24%	15%	11%

Would you personally be willing to pay more in **taxes** than you currently do to fund the creation of a Connecticut state option?

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
No, I would not be willing to pay more in taxes than I currently do	78%	72%	78%	87%
Yes, I would be willing to pay more in taxes than I currently do	22%	28%	22%	13%

A majority **OPPOSE** increasing taxes or costs for those with private coverage to finance a state option

Now, we're going to present you with a series of potential proposals to fund the creation of a Connecticut state option. For each, please indicate your level of support or opposition to them. **Increasing taxes on Connecticut residents**

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
SUPPORT (NET)	10%	18%	5%	8%
Neither	18%	23%	18%	11%
OPPOSE (NET)	71%	59%	77%	81%

Now, we're going to present you with a series of potential proposals to fund the creation of a Connecticut state option. For each, please indicate your level of support or opposition to them. **Increasing costs for Connecticut residents with private health insurance coverage**

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
SUPPORT (NET)	15%	21%	12%	8%
Neither	21%	27%	20%	14%
OPPOSE (NET)	64%	52%	68%	78%

Most do **NOT support** creating an individual mandate or cutting rates to CT health care providers

Now, we're going to present you with a series of potential proposals to fund the creation of a Connecticut state option. For each, please indicate your level of support or opposition to them. **Creating an individual mandate that requires all Connecticut residents to purchase health insurance or pay a fine**

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
SUPPORT (NET)	22%	29%	18%	19%
Neither	23%	28%	25%	12%
OPPOSE (NET)	55%	43%	57%	69%

Now, we're going to present you with a series of potential proposals to fund the creation of a Connecticut state option. For each, please indicate your level of support or opposition to them. **Cutting the rates Connecticut health care providers and hospitals receive for the services they provide to patients**

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
SUPPORT (NET)	37%	45%	34%	30%
Neither	30%	31%	30%	29%
OPPOSE (NET)	32%	23%	36%	41%

Voters would be **LESS likely** to support a state lawmaker who votes for a state option

Would you be more or less likely to vote for a Connecticut lawmaker who voted to create a state option that was funded by higher taxes or higher costs for Connecticut residents with employer-provided coverage?

	TOTAL	DEM	SWING	GOP
MORE LIKELY (NET)	24%	32%	20%	17%
No impact	12%	13%	13%	7%
LESS LIKELY (NET)	65%	55%	68%	76%



Thank You