



Institute for Public Policy  
2018 Gubernatorial Race



Report of Findings

November 2018



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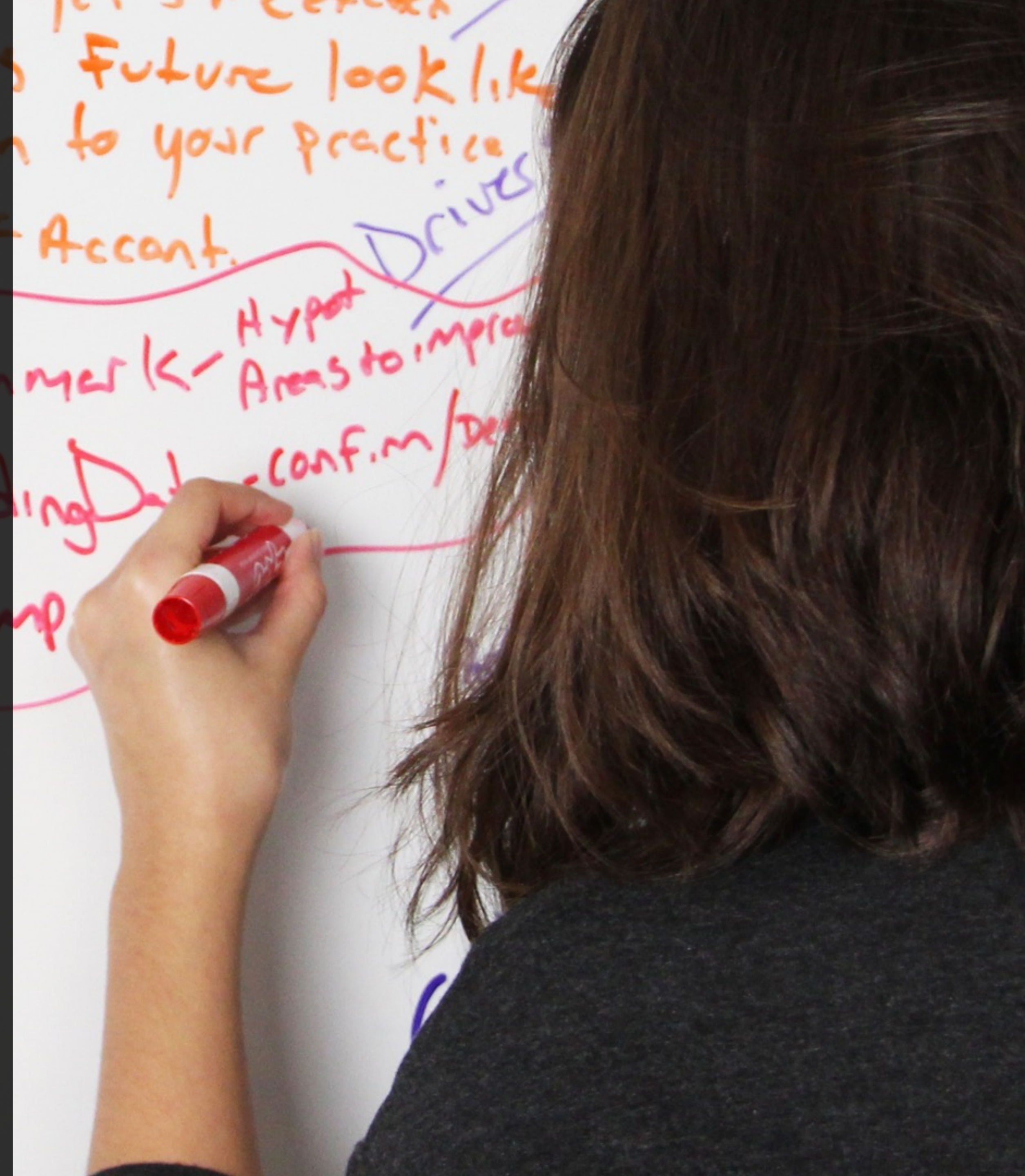
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Sacred Heart  
UNIVERSITY



## Our Story

Hearst Connecticut Media Group has commissioned the Sacred Heart University Institute for Public Policy to work in partnership with GreatBlue Research to analyze salient issues facing the State of Connecticut. This collaboration combines the academic excellence of a top-rated private University with the research design, analysis, and reporting expertise of GreatBlue Research.

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# Areas of Investigation

The Hearst Connecticut Media Group & Sacred Heart University Institute for Public Policy leveraged quantitative research through a telephonic methodology to address the following areas of investigation:

- Voter preferences regarding the 2018 CT Gubernatorial Race
- Voter preferences regarding the 2018 election for the U.S. House of Representatives
- Impressions of Democratic and Republican Candidates for Governor
- Presidential Job Approval
- Gubernatorial Job Approval
- Issues facing the State of Connecticut
- Demographic profiles of respondents



# Research Methodology Snapshot

Methodology <b>Telephone*</b>	No. of Completes <b>500</b>	No. of Questions <b>23**</b>	Sample <b>Connecticut residents</b>
Target <b>“Likely voters” ***</b>	Margin of Error <b>+/- 4.32%</b>	Confidence Level <b>95%</b>	Research Dates <b>Oct. 29 - 31</b>

\* Supervisory personnel in addition to computer-aided interviewing platforms ensure the integrity of the data is accurate. All interviews were conducted by live agents and both landlines and cell phones were included in the sample.

\*\* This represents the total possible number of questions; not all respondents will answer all questions based on skip patterns and other instrument bias.

\*\*\* Respondents to the survey indicated they were registered to vote, had voted in the 2016 election, and were “very” or “somewhat” likely to vote in the 2018 election in order to qualify for the survey.

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71.5%

would still purchase  
at an increased  
price point

8.9%

5.4%

2.8%

0.0%

Negative Impact

Boomers

No Impact

Positive Impact

# SHU Institute for Public Policy - Key Findings & Headlines

- ❖ For the second straight poll, data indicated a statistical tie between Ned Lamont (D) and Bob Stefanowski (R) in the race for Governor in Connecticut. Currently, Stefanowski has a slight edge over Lamont in the race for Governor in Connecticut. Less than one week out from Election Day, Stefanowski holds a 2.4 percentage point lead over Lamont in a poll conducted from October 29 - 31, 2018 (40.0% to 37.6%). This marks a shift within the margin of error from a poll conducted from October 13 - 17, 2018, which showed Lamont with a 3.4 percentage point lead over Stefanowski.
  - Stefanowski's support among unaffiliated voters has remained steady over the past few weeks as 43.6% support the Republican candidate for Governor, currently, compared to 43.2% recorded in early October 2018. This remains up from the 36.5% of unaffiliated voters who supported Stefanowski in September 2018.
  - Ned Lamont's lead among female voters has decreased as 40.8% currently support his candidacy compared to 50.0% in October 2018. 45.2% of male voters continue to support Bob Stefanowski (R) compared to 34.4% of male voters who support Ned Lamont (D).
- ❖ Currently, 38.4% of Connecticut voters have a "favorable" view of Ned Lamont (D) compared to 40.8% who have an "unfavorable" view of the candidate. 41.6% have a "favorable" view of Bob Stefanowski (R) compared to 37.8% who have an unfavorable view. Voters with a "favorable" view of Stefanowski increased from 34.9% recorded in October 2018.
- ❖ The top issues driving voters' behavior heading into the race for governor was "high overall tax burden" (17.6%), "State budget crisis" (17.6%), and "low economic growth" (12.6%) in Connecticut.



# SHU Institute for Public Policy - Key Findings & Headlines

- ❖ In addition, only 20.6% of Connecticut voters “approve” of the job Dannel Malloy is doing as governor, which marks an increase over the 14.6% who approved of his job as governor in early October 2018.
- ❖ In October 2018, data indicated that one-half of Connecticut voters (56.2%) reported to agree with the statement “*Electronic highway tolls that collect significant money from out-of-state motorists and interstate trucks as well as from Connecticut residents would be an effective way to help pay for highway improvements to relieve congestion.*” This marks an increase over the 52.1% who agreed with the same statement in early October 2018.
- ❖ Three-fifths of Connecticut voters as of October 2018 (60.8%) reported to “agree” with the statement “*If Connecticut cannot solve its budget crisis by cutting state services and spending, raising taxes on people with incomes over \$1 million would be fair and effective.*” This marks a decrease over the 64.9% who agreed with the same statement in early October 2018.
- ❖ Slightly more than one-third of Connecticut voters “approve” (38.4%) of how Donald Trump is handling his job as President, which marks a slight increase over the 35.1% who approved of his job performance one month ago.
  - Further, if the elections of the U.S. House of Representatives were held today, 48.2% of Connecticut voters suggest they will support the Democratic candidate in their district compared to 37.8% who will support the Republican candidate. This 10.4 percentage point margin is down from the 14.6 percentage point margin recorded in October 2018.
  - However, 40.9% of unaffiliated voters support the Republican congressional candidate in their district compared to 34.9% who support the Democratic candidate.

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No Impact

Positive Impact

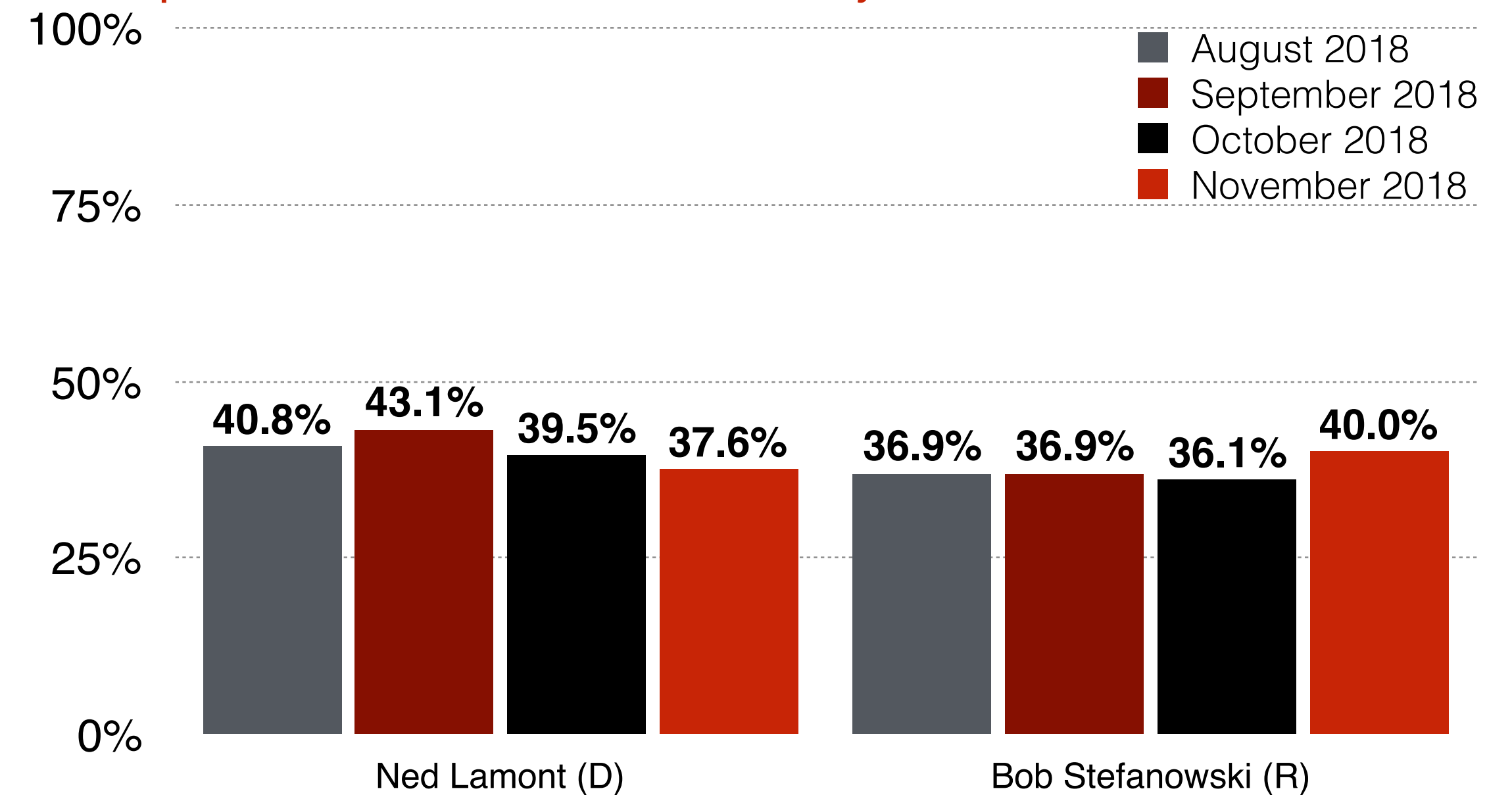


# Gubernatorial Race

Overall, data again shows a statistical tie in regards to the 2018 Gubernatorial election being held in November. As of November 2018, 40.0% of “likely voters” in Connecticut suggest they will support Bob Stefanowski (R) for governor in the fall. This marks a slight increase over the 36.1% who supported Stefanowski in October 2018. 37.6% of “likely voters” suggest they will support Ned Lamont (D) in November, whose support has steadily declined since September 2018.

- ❖ Both candidates have strong support within their own parties as 83.9% of Republicans support Bob Stefanowski (R), while only 68.3% of Democrats support Ned Lamont (D).
- ❖ Currently, unaffiliated voters favor Bob Stefanowski (R) by a 43.6% to 22.8% margin. This remains consistent over the 43.2% to 24.0% margin that Stefanowski held among these voters in October 2018.
- ❖ Female voters suggest supporting Ned Lamont (D) by a 40.8% to 34.8% margin, while male voters support Bob Stefanowski (R) by a 45.2% to 34.4% margin.

**Q** If the election for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ned Lamont, the Democrat, Bob Stefanowski, the Republican, or Oz Griebel, the independent candidate, for whom would you vote?



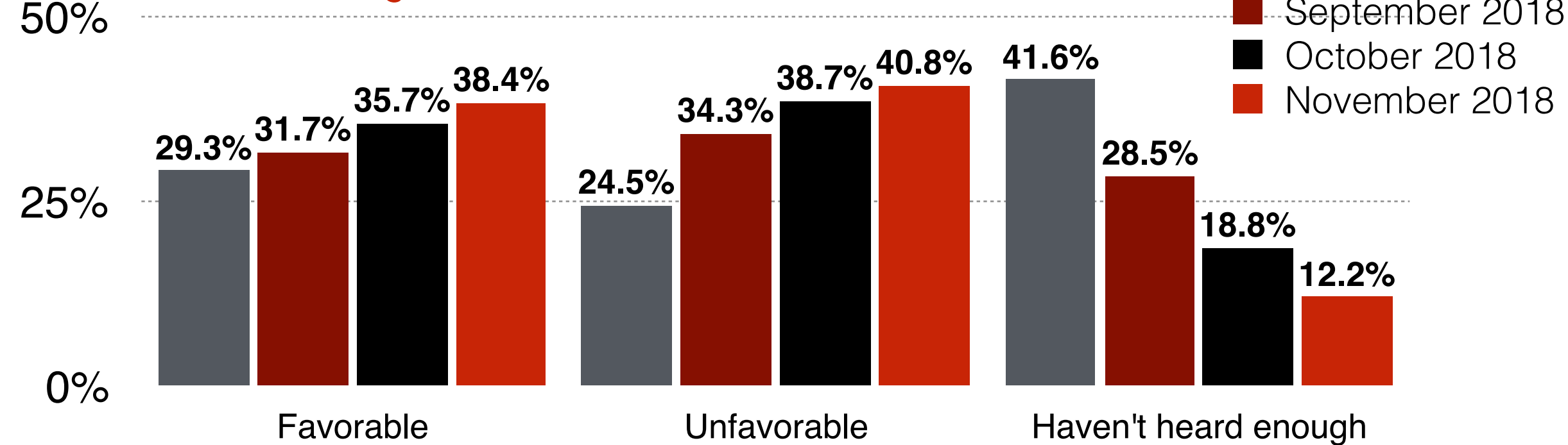
If the election for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ned Lamont, the Democrat, Bob Stefanowski, the Republican, or Oz Griebel, the independent candidate, for whom would you vote?	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...		Age...				Race/ethnicity...		
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No	18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic
Ned Lamont (D)	37.6%	68.3%	2.4%	22.8%	40.8%	34.4%	37.9%	37.7%	38.9%	42.9%	35.5%	36.8%	36.5%	72.0%	55.0%
Bob Stefanowski (R)	40.0%	13.3%	83.9%	43.6%	34.8%	45.2%	40.1%	40.7%	34.4%	34.3%	45.7%	39.8%	41.4%	8.0%	30.0%
Oz Griebel (Independent)	9.0%	9.6%	4.8%	12.1%	9.2%	8.8%	9.5%	8.4%	8.9%	11.4%	8.1%	9.8%	9.2%	8.0%	0.0%
Someone else	1.2%	0.9%	0.8%	1.3%	1.2%	1.2%	0.9%	1.8%	3.3%	0.0%	1.0%	0.8%	0.9%	4.0%	5.0%
Don't know/unsure	12.2%	7.8%	8.1%	20.1%	14.0%	10.4%	11.6%	11.4%	14.4%	11.4%	9.6%	12.8%	12.0%	8.0%	10.0%

# Gubernatorial Race

While both candidate's favorability ratings have increased in November 2018 over October 2018, the rate of "likely voters" who have an unfavorable view of each candidate has also increased in the same time span. This indicates that voter views are beginning to set in while getting closer to the election. Interestingly, Ned Lamont (D) has a net negative rating of - 2.4 percentage points, while Bob Stefanowski (R) has a net positive rating of + 3.8 percentage points.

75%  
50%  
25%  
0%

**Q** Is your opinion of Ned Lamont favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?



Is your opinion of Ned Lamont favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...	
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No

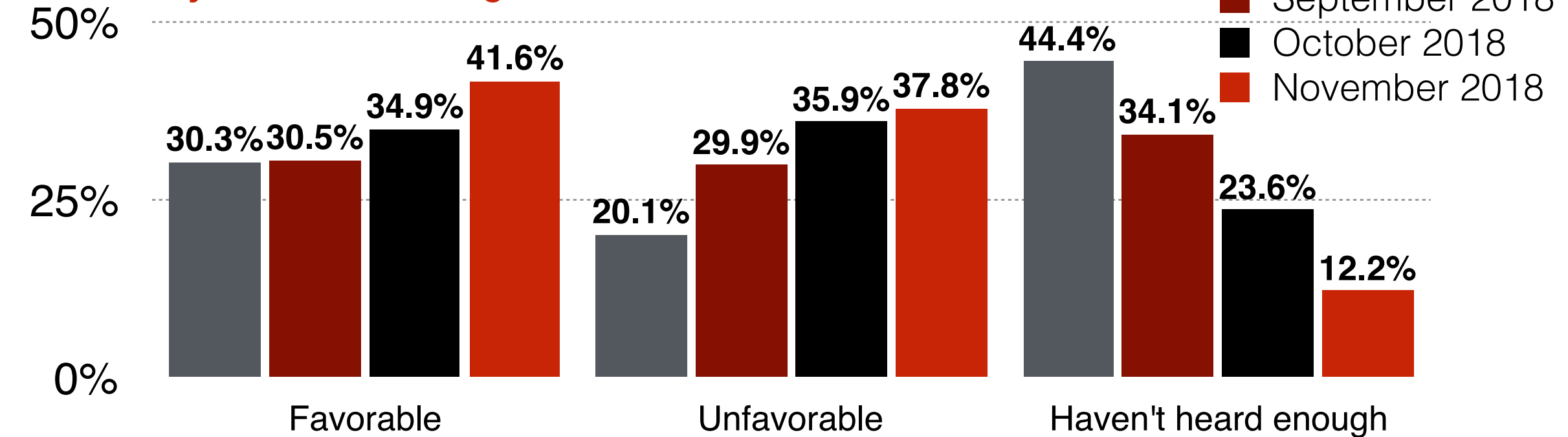
Favorable	38.4%	64.2%	5.6%	28.2%	44.4%	32.4%	40.7%	34.7%
Unfavorable	40.8%	18.8%	75.0%	45.0%	36.0%	45.6%	39.4%	44.9%
Haven't heard enough	12.2%	10.6%	10.5%	15.4%	12.0%	12.4%	13.1%	10.8%
Don't know/unsure	8.6%	6.4%	8.9%	11.4%	7.6%	9.6%	6.7%	9.6%

Is your opinion of Ned Lamont favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?	Total	Age...				Race/ethnicity...		
		18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic

Favorable	38.4%	37.8%	42.9%	36.0%	39.8%	37.2%	56.0%	55.0%
Unfavorable	40.8%	42.2%	25.7%	44.7%	42.9%	42.8%	8.0%	25.0%
Haven't heard enough	12.2%	12.2%	20.0%	10.7%	10.5%	12.0%	24.0%	20.0%
Don't know/unsure	8.6%	7.8%	11.4%	8.6%	6.8%	8.0%	12.0%	0.0%

75%  
50%  
25%  
0%

**Q** Is your opinion of Bob Stefanowski favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?



Is your opinion of Bob Stefanowski favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...	
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No

Favorable	41.6%	16.5%	83.9%	45.0%	37.2%	46.0%	41.6%	42.5%
Unfavorable	37.8%	60.6%	8.1%	29.5%	40.8%	34.8%	39.8%	35.3%
Haven't heard enough	12.2%	15.6%	3.2%	14.1%	13.6%	10.8%	11.3%	13.8%
Don't know/unsure	8.4%	7.3%	4.8%	11.4%	8.4%	8.4%	7.3%	8.4%

Is your opinion of Bob Stefanowski favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?	Total	Age...				Race/ethnicity...		
		18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic

Favorable	41.6%	33.3%	34.3%	48.7%	42.1%	42.6%	12.0%	35.0%
Unfavorable	37.8%	45.6%	38.6%	32.5%	39.8%	39.1%	32.0%	40.0%
Haven't heard enough	12.2%	12.2%	21.4%	11.2%	8.3%	11.1%	40.0%	15.0%
Don't know/unsure	8.4%	8.9%	5.7%	7.6%	9.8%	7.3%	16.0%	10.0%

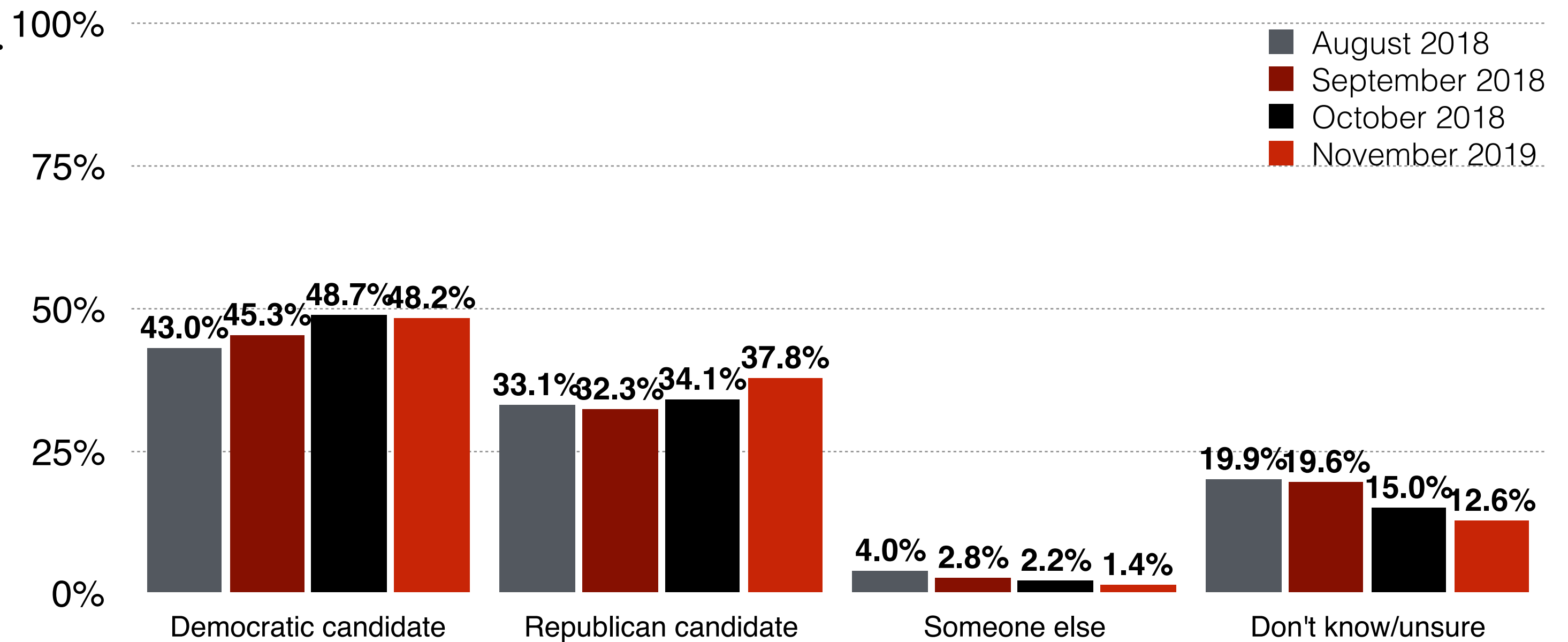


# Congressional Race

In regards to the U.S. congressional races also being held in November, 48.2% of Connecticut “likely voters” in November 2018 suggest they will support the Democratic candidate in their district compared to 37.8% who will support the Republican candidate. This 10.4 percentage point margin is down from the 14.6 percentage point margin in October 2018.

- ❖ 51.2% of female voters supported the Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, which is up down from 59.2% in October 2018, but consistent with the 50.9% in September 2018. Male voters also favored the Democratic candidate by a 45.2% to 41.6% margin.
- ❖ Unaffiliated voters in November 2018 were more likely to support the Republican candidate for Governor and more likely to support the Republican candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives in their district (40.9% to 34.9%).

**Q** If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your congressional district?



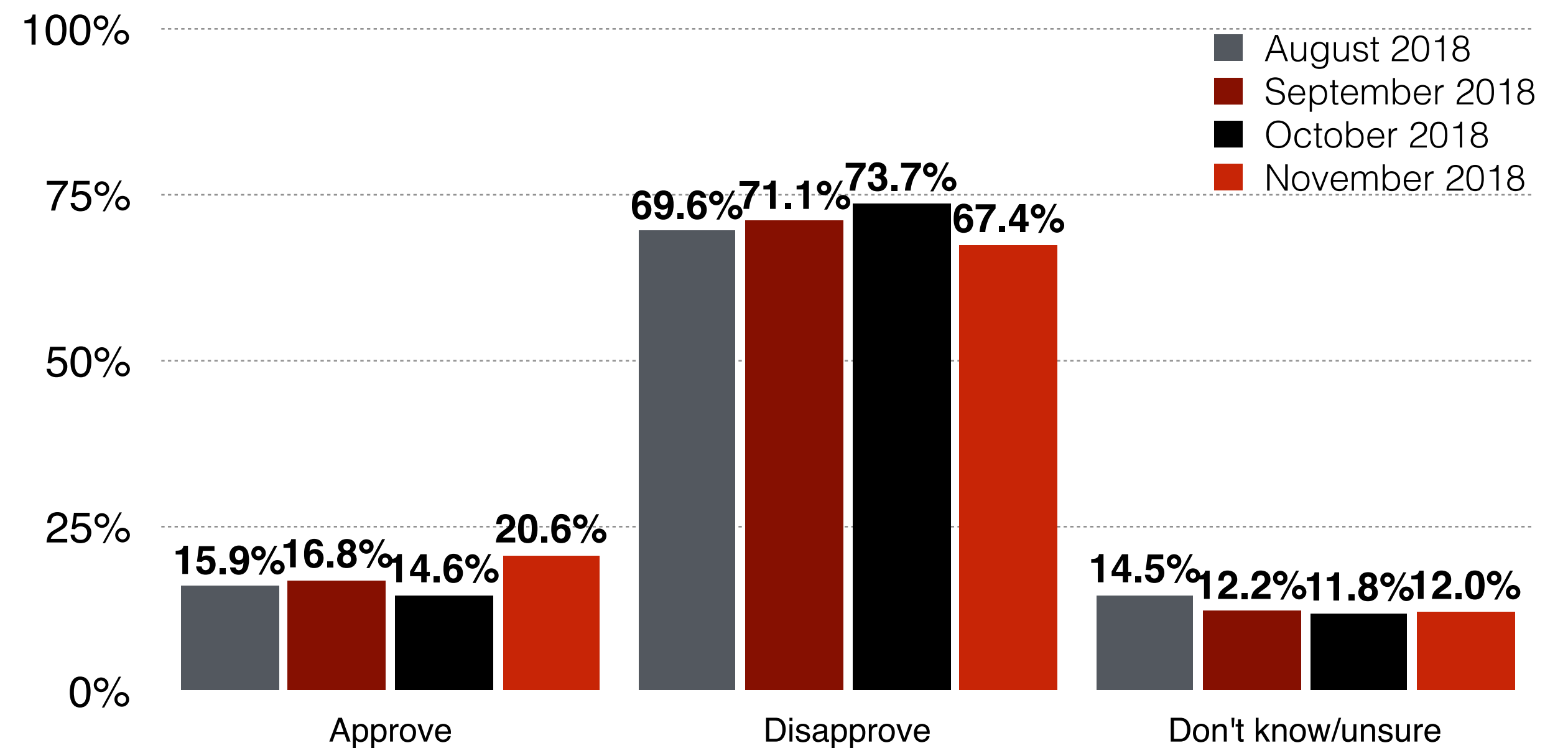
If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your congressional district?	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...		Age...				Race/ethnicity...		
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No	18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic
Democratic candidate	48.2%	80.7%	8.1%	34.9%	51.2%	45.2%	49.2%	47.3%	51.1%	51.4%	44.7%	48.9%	47.5%	80.0%	65.0%
Republican candidate	37.8%	11.5%	80.6%	40.9%	34.0%	41.6%	36.4%	41.3%	33.3%	31.4%	43.1%	37.6%	38.6%	4.0%	30.0%
Someone else	1.4%	0.5%	0.0%	3.4%	0.4%	2.4%	0.9%	2.4%	1.1%	1.4%	2.0%	0.8%	1.2%	4.0%	5.0%
Don't know/unsure	12.6%	7.3%	11.3%	20.8%	14.4%	10.8%	13.5%	9.0%	14.4%	15.7%	10.2%	12.8%	12.7%	12.0%	0.0%

# Job Approval Ratings

Over two-thirds of Connecticut voters “disapprove” of how Dannel Malloy is handling his job as governor (67.4%), while only 20.6% “approve” of his job performance.

- ❖ Only 5.6% of Republican voters in the state currently approve of Dannel Malloy’s job performance, which is completely consistent with the 5.6% who reported the same in October 2018.
- ❖ 77.2% of unaffiliated voters currently “disapprove” of how Dannel Malloy is handling his job as Governor, which marks a decrease from 81.5% who disapproved in October 2018.

**Q** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Dannel Malloy is handling his job as Governor?



Do you approve or disapprove of the way Dannel Malloy is handling his job as Governor?	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...		Age...				Race/ethnicity...		
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No	18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic
Approve	20.6%	35.8%	5.6%	12.1%	22.4%	18.8%	23.2%	16.2%	20.0%	22.9%	19.3%	22.6%	21.4%	20.0%	20.0%
Disapprove	67.4%	48.6%	88.7%	77.2%	64.4%	70.4%	67.6%	67.7%	66.7%	62.9%	71.1%	64.7%	67.8%	48.0%	65.0%
Don't know/unsure	12.0%	15.6%	5.6%	10.7%	13.2%	10.8%	9.2%	16.2%	13.3%	14.3%	9.6%	12.8%	10.8%	32.0%	15.0%

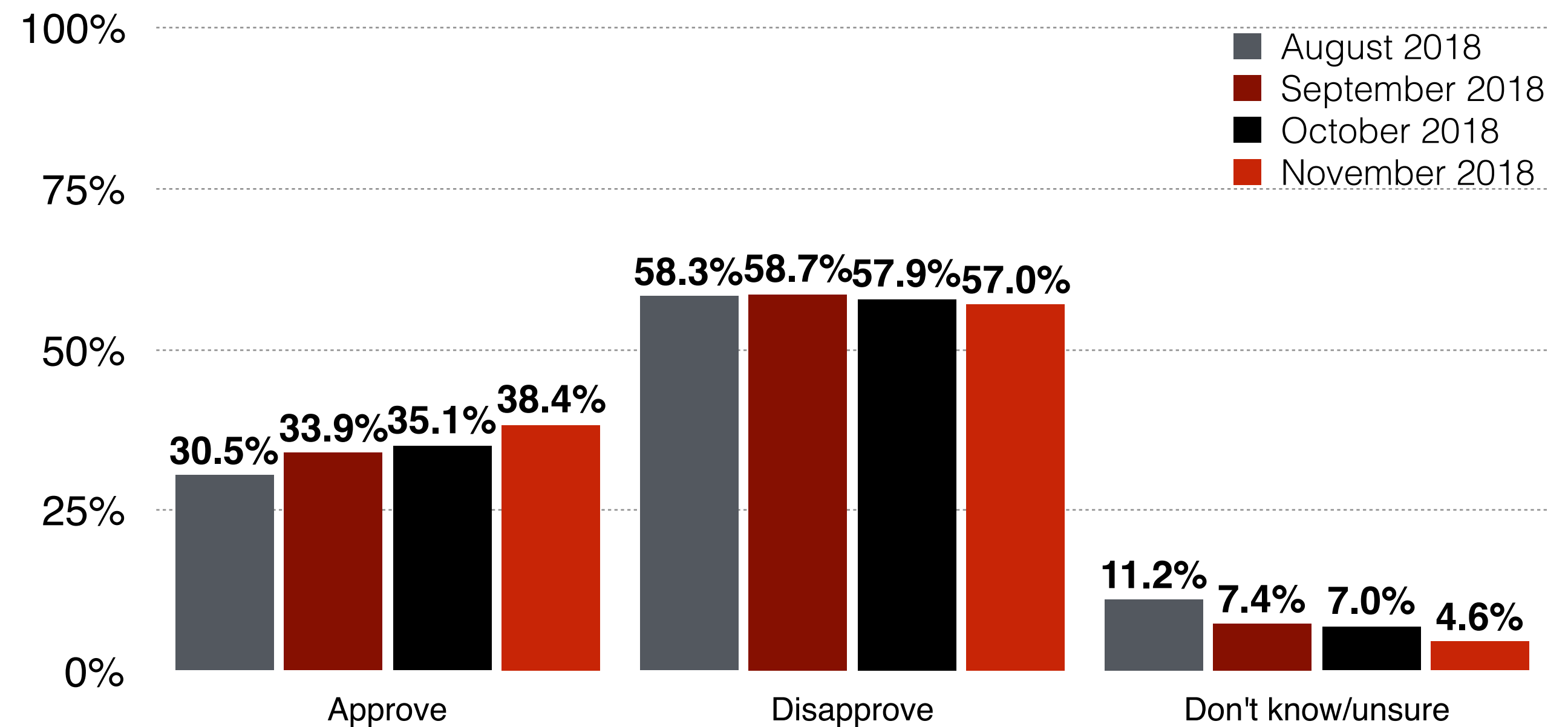


# Job Approval Ratings

57.0% of Connecticut voters as of November 2018, “disapprove” of how Donald Trump is handling his job as President, while slightly more than one-third “approve” of his job performance (38.4%).

- ❖ Only 10.6% of Democratic voters in the state currently approve of Donald Trump’s job performance.
- ❖ 50.3% of unaffiliated voters currently “disapprove” of how Donald Trump is handling his job as President, which remains consistent with the 50.0% of unaffiliated who reported the same in October 2018.

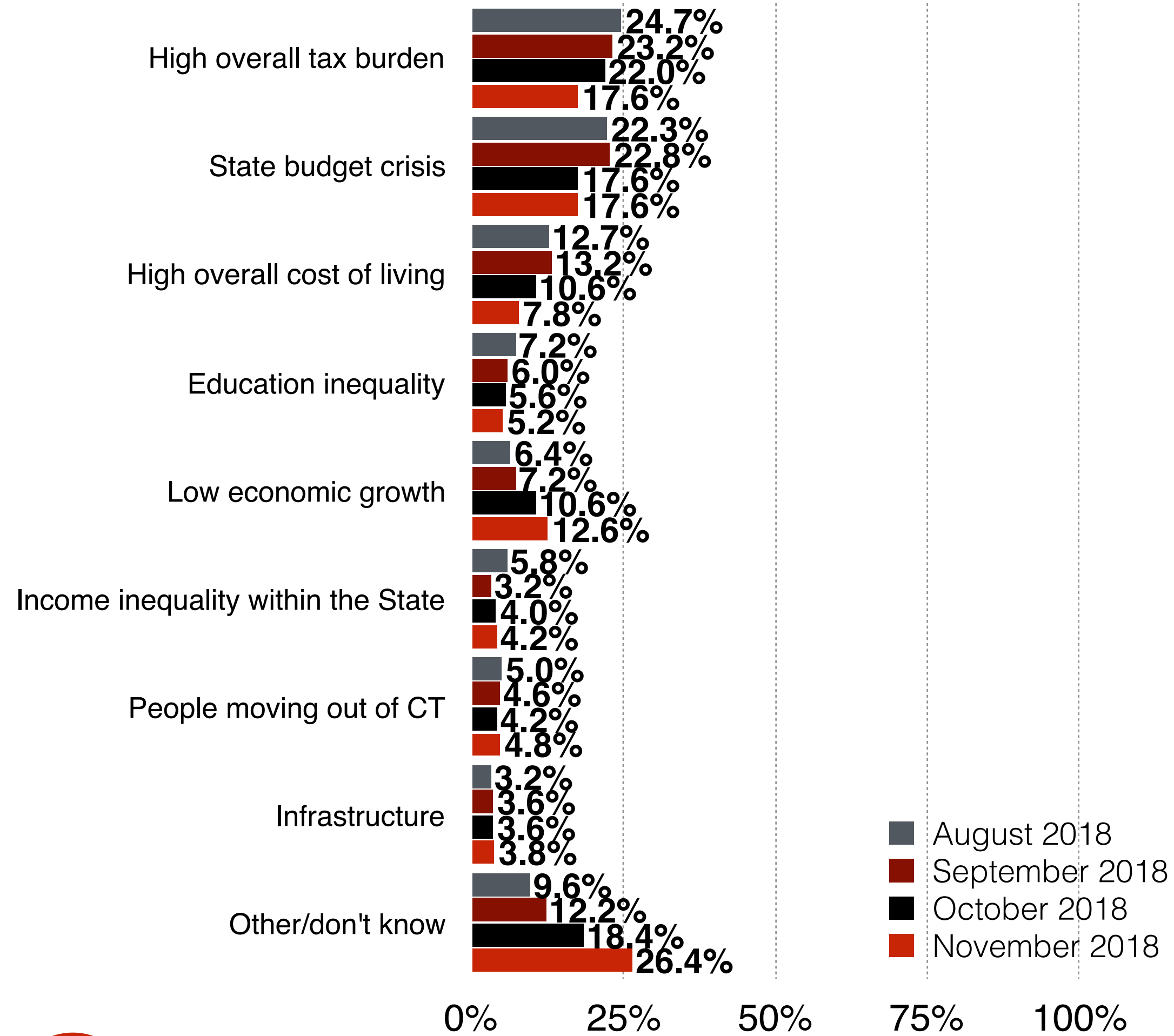
**Q** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?



Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...		Age...				Race/ethnicity...		
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No	18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic
Approve	38.4%	10.6%	82.3%	42.3%	34.8%	42.0%	36.4%	42.5%	38.9%	28.6%	41.6%	38.3%	39.8%	12.0%	30.0%
Disapprove	57.0%	87.6%	12.1%	50.3%	62.8%	51.2%	59.9%	52.1%	57.8%	68.6%	51.8%	58.6%	56.5%	80.0%	55.0%
Don't know/unsure	4.6%	1.8%	5.6%	7.4%	2.4%	6.8%	3.7%	5.4%	3.3%	2.9%	6.6%	3.0%	3.8%	8.0%	15.0%

# Issues facing the State of Connecticut

The State's "high overall tax burden" (17.6% in November 2018 over 22.0% in October 2018 and 23.2% in September 2018) or "budget crisis" (17.6% in November 2018 over 17.6% in October 2018 and 22.8% in September 2018) continue to be the topics that would determine "likely voters" choice for governor. Another 12.6% reported the "low economic growth" in the State would be the deciding factor for them.



What is the most important issue to you in deciding your vote for governor in November?	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...	
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No
High overall tax burden	17.6%	11.5%	29.0%	16.1%	16.8%	18.4%	16.8%	19.2%
State budget crisis	17.6%	18.3%	13.7%	20.1%	18.0%	17.2%	19.9%	13.8%
Low economic growth	12.6%	11.0%	15.3%	13.4%	11.2%	14.0%	13.1%	12.0%
High overall cost of living	7.8%	9.6%	3.2%	9.4%	9.2%	6.4%	4.9%	13.2%

What is the most important issue to you in deciding your vote for governor in November?	Total	Age...				Race/ethnicity...		
		18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic
High overall tax burden	17.6%	13.3%	10.0%	21.8%	17.3%	17.4%	8.0%	20.0%
State budget crisis	17.6%	13.3%	21.4%	15.2%	21.8%	17.9%	16.0%	20.0%
Low economic growth	12.6%	5.6%	7.1%	15.2%	17.3%	11.8%	16.0%	20.0%
High overall cost of living	7.8%	3.3%	11.4%	6.1%	11.3%	8.0%	16.0%	0.0%

**Q** What is the most important issue to you in deciding your vote for governor in November?

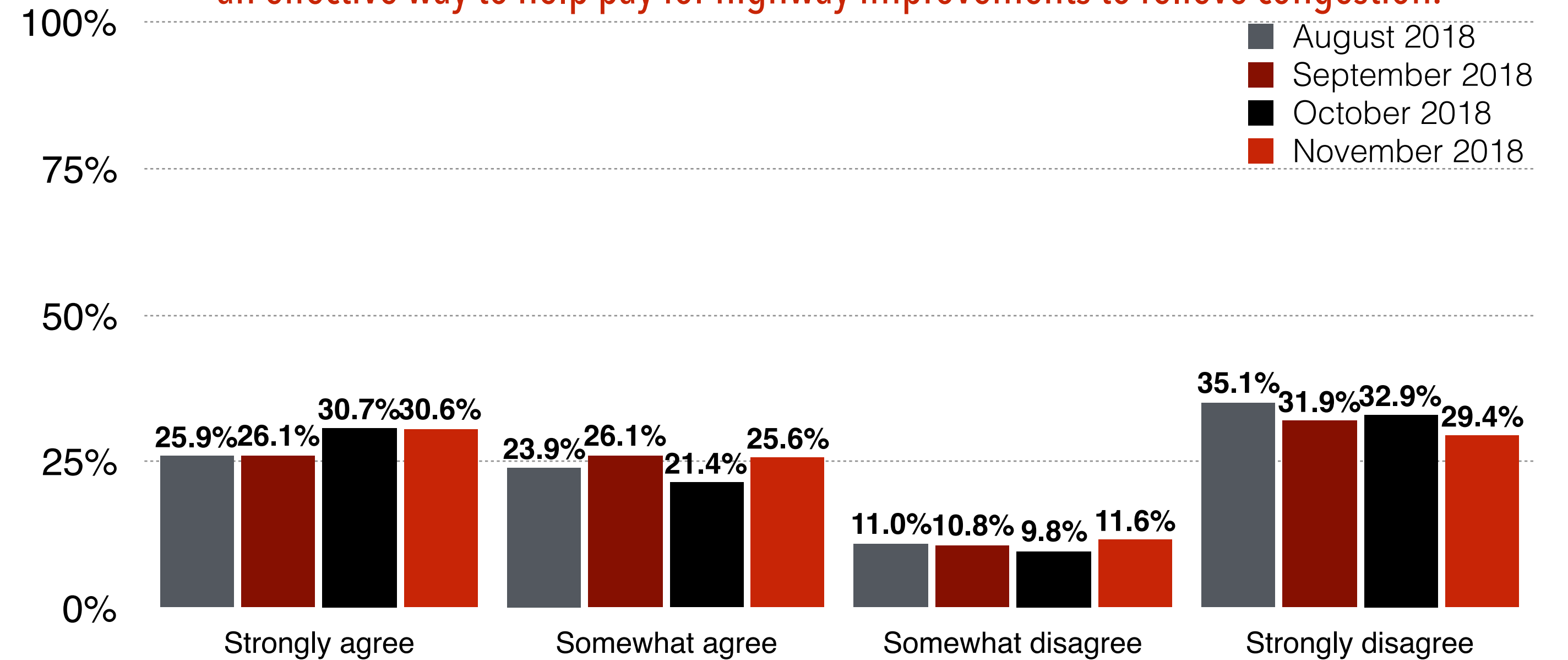


# Issues facing the State of Connecticut

Over one-half of Connecticut voters in continued to either “strongly” or “somewhat agree” (56.2%) with the statement “Electronic highway tolls that collect significant money from out-of-state motorists and interstate trucks as well as from Connecticut residents would be an effective way to help pay for highway improvements to relieve congestion” as of November 2018. This marks a slight increase over the level of support recorded in October 2018 (52.1%).

- ❖ 70.6% of Democratic voters in the State supported electronic highway tolls, which marks a slight increase over 67.0% who reported the same in October 2018.
- ❖ 35.4% of Republican voters supported electronic highway tolls, which marks an increase over 28.2% who reported the same in October 2018.
- ❖ 53.0% of unaffiliated voters supported electric highway tolls compared to 42.9% who opposed these tolls.

**Q** “Electronic highway tolls that collect significant money from out-of-state motorists and interstate trucks as well as from Connecticut residents would be an effective way to help pay for highway improvements to relieve congestion.”



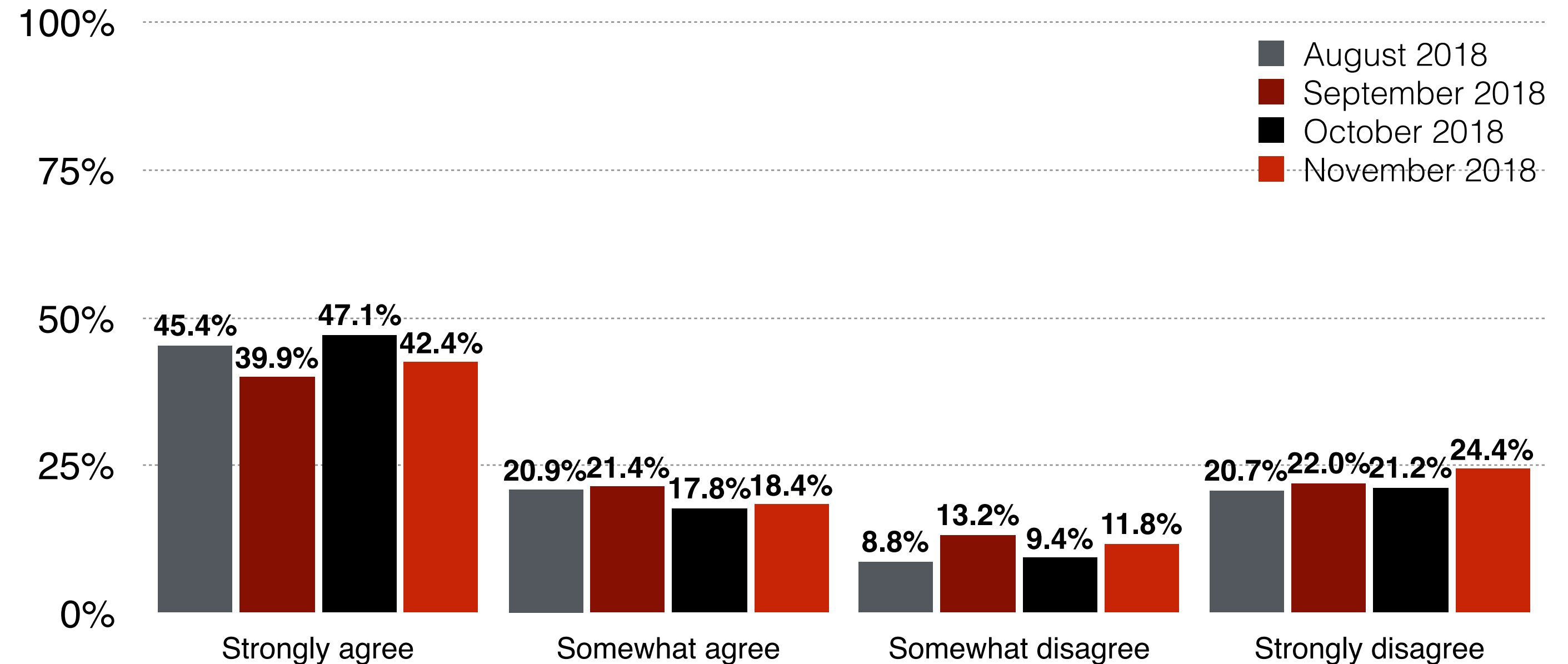
“Electronic highway tolls that collect significant money from out-of-state motorists and interstate trucks as well as from Connecticut residents would be an effective way to help pay for highway improvements to relieve congestion.”	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...		Age...				Race/ethnicity...		
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No	18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic
Strongly agree	30.6%	41.7%	17.7%	24.8%	30.0%	31.2%	27.8%	35.3%	30.0%	38.6%	26.9%	31.6%	29.4%	44.0%	30.0%
Somewhat agree	25.6%	28.9%	17.7%	28.2%	27.2%	24.0%	27.2%	22.8%	25.6%	27.1%	25.9%	24.1%	26.6%	24.0%	25.0%
Somewhat disagree	11.6%	9.2%	14.5%	13.4%	14.8%	8.4%	11.6%	12.0%	5.6%	11.4%	14.2%	12.8%	11.5%	12.0%	5.0%
Strongly disagree	29.4%	17.9%	47.6%	29.5%	24.0%	34.8%	30.6%	28.1%	35.6%	21.4%	31.0%	27.1%	29.6%	16.0%	35.0%
Don't know/unsure	2.8%	2.3%	2.4%	4.0%	4.0%	1.6%	2.8%	1.8%	3.3%	1.4%	2.0%	4.5%	2.8%	4.0%	5.0%

# Issues facing the State of Connecticut

As of November 2018, three-fifths of “likely voters” (60.8%) reported to “strongly” or “somewhat agree” with the statement “If Connecticut cannot solve its budget crisis by cutting state services and spending, raising taxes on people with incomes over \$1 million would be fair and effective.” This marks a slight decrease in agreement from the 64.9% recorded in October 2018.

- ❖ 78.4% of Democratic voters in the State supported raising taxes on people with incomes over \$1 million, which marks a decline from 86.2% who reported the same in October 2018.
- ❖ 33.8% of Republican voters supported raising taxes on people with incomes over \$1 million, which marks a decline from 40.2% who reported the same in October 2018.
- ❖ 57.0% of unaffiliated voters supported raising taxes on people with incomes over \$1 million as of November 2018, compared to 40.9% who opposed these taxes.

**Q** “If Connecticut cannot solve its budget crisis by cutting state services and spending, raising taxes on people with incomes over \$1 million would be fair and effective.”



"If Connecticut cannot solve its budget crisis by cutting state services and spending, raising taxes on people with incomes over \$1 million would be fair and effective."	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...		Age...				Race/ethnicity...		
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No	18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic
Strongly agree	42.4%	61.0%	17.7%	34.2%	48.0%	36.8%	41.0%	44.9%	47.8%	50.0%	42.1%	34.6%	41.2%	64.0%	55.0%
Somewhat agree	18.4%	17.4%	16.1%	22.8%	17.6%	19.2%	19.0%	17.4%	20.0%	14.3%	14.7%	25.6%	19.3%	12.0%	15.0%
Somewhat disagree	11.8%	6.9%	19.4%	13.4%	8.8%	14.8%	13.5%	9.0%	12.2%	15.7%	11.7%	10.5%	12.2%	4.0%	10.0%
Strongly disagree	24.4%	13.3%	39.5%	27.5%	20.8%	28.0%	24.8%	24.6%	18.9%	15.7%	29.9%	24.8%	24.0%	20.0%	20.0%
Don't know/unsure	3.0%	1.4%	7.3%	2.0%	4.8%	1.2%	1.8%	4.2%	1.1%	4.3%	1.5%	4.5%	3.3%	0.0%	0.0%





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