



MEMO

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Rodriguez Gudelunas Strategies
RE: Connecticut Likely Voter Survey
DATE: December 22, 2023

Overview

In November 2023, Governor Ned Lamont withdrew a proposal under consideration by the Legislative Regulation Review Committee to ban the sale of new gas-powered vehicles in Connecticut by 2035. In response, the Governor and some legislative leaders in the General Assembly are considering taking legislative action to pass the ban during the 2024 session.

A recent survey conducted by RG Strategies in Connecticut polled voters about their views on the proposed law that would ban the sale of new gas-powered cars and trucks by 2035. The survey results show that Connecticut voters are opposed to a gas-powered vehicles ban. Voters are primarily concerned that the state’s infrastructure cannot support an influx of electric vehicles, that electric vehicles are unaffordable, and that a ban would restrict individual choice. While Connecticut voters are concerned about climate change, a majority are unwilling to drive only electric vehicles.

Attitudes Toward a Mandate on Zero-Emission Vehicles

When voters are asked if they would support legislation to ban the sale of new gas-powered cars and trucks by 2035, 59% voters oppose the law, with nearly half (47%) opposing it strongly. After hearing details about legislation to ban gas-powered cars and trucks, opposition is 24 points higher than support, with only 35% of voters in support of such a law, and just 16% in strong support.

Would you support or oppose legislation in Connecticut that bans the sale of new gas-powered cars and trucks by 2035?

Support, strongly	16	→35%
Support, somewhat	19	
Oppose, somewhat	12	→59%
Oppose, strongly	47	
Don't know	6	



Opposition to a ban is at or above 55% in all Congressional Districts in the state. Nine-in-ten Republican voters (90%) oppose the ban, with 63% of non-partisan voters also in opposition. Sixty-five percent of Black and Latino voters oppose the ban.

Demographic Breaks: Would you support or oppose legislation in Connecticut that bans the sale of new gas-powered cars and trucks by 2035?

	Support	Oppose	Don't Know
TOTAL	25	59	6
Democrat	57	37	6
Republican	6	90	4
Non-Partisan	30	63	6
Black/Latino	19	65	16
Under 45	39	54	7
Over 45	32	62	5
CD 1 (Larson)	40	55	5
CD 2 (Courtney)	42	55	3
CD 3 (DeLauro)	30	61	9
CD 4 (Himes)	31	64	5
CD 5 (Hayes)	31	62	7
Under \$75K	38	54	9
Over \$75K	36	59	5

When asked for their reasons for opposing, voters who oppose a mandate on zero-emission vehicles say that Connecticut does not have the infrastructure necessary to support more electric vehicles, that electric vehicles are unaffordable, and that a ban would take away freedom of choice. Voters who support the ban volunteer that switching to electric vehicles is necessary to fight climate change and a step in the right direction toward reducing reliance on gas-powered vehicles.

When specifically asked about typical concerns about mandates on zero-emission vehicles, 27% of voters agree that vehicle affordability is an issue, 21% agree that limiting consumer choice concerns them, and 17% agree that Connecticut’s limited charging infrastructure for electric vehicles will create concerns.

A majority of voters (51%) say they are less likely to vote for an elected official who supports the ban on new gas-powered vehicles, including 44% who say they are much less likely. Fifty-six percent (56%) of non-partisan voters say are less likely to vote for an elected official who supports the ban.



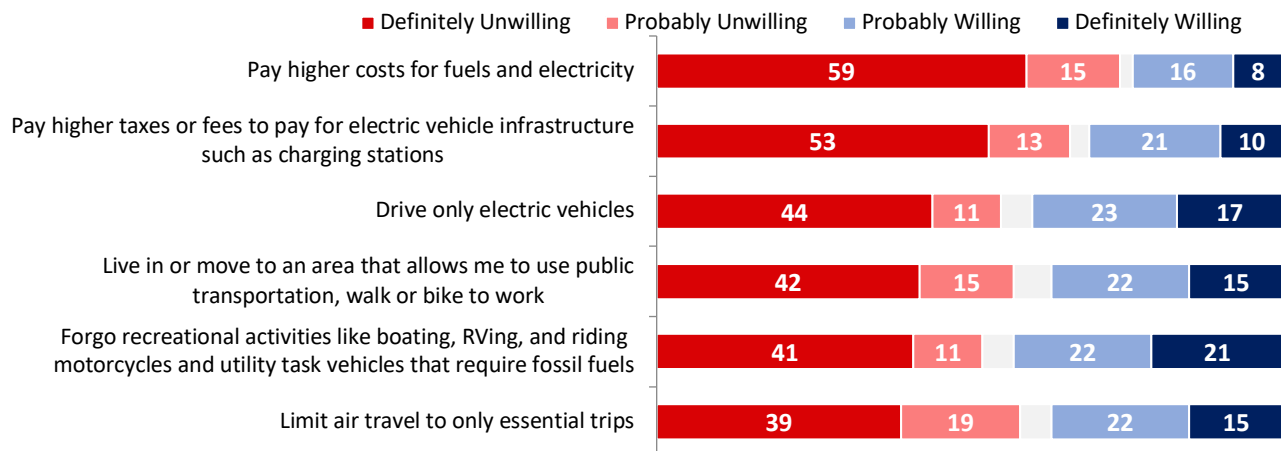
Current Attitudes Toward Climate Change

Nearly half of Connecticut voters (48%) think that things in Connecticut are going in the wrong direction, compared to 38% of voters who think things are on the right track. Opinion is divided along party lines, with a sixty-point divide between Republicans who think the state is heading in the wrong direction compared to Democrats (83% to 23%). A majority of non-partisan voters (53%) say the state is heading in the wrong direction.

When asked to volunteer the most important issues facing Connecticut, voters say that taxes, inflation, and jobs and the economy are the top issues. Only 3% of voters volunteer that climate change is the most important issue facing Connecticut.

When asked specifically about climate change, 60% of voters say that climate change is affecting Connecticut. Only 5% of voters place the blame on people who drive automobiles. Voters are far more likely to blame the oil and gas industry (24%), think that climate change is naturally occurring (21%), or say that climate change is caused by pollution from countries like India and China (15%).

Connecticut voters are not enthusiastic about taking individual action to fight climate change, with a majority (55%) who say they are unwilling to drive only electric vehicles, and three-quarters (74%) who are unwilling to pay higher prices for fuels and electricity.



Methodology

- RG Strategies conducted 500 interviews from December 6th to December 10th 2023.
- The survey used mixed modes of 50% telephone (mobiles and landlines) and 50% online text-to-web.
- Respondents were likely November 2024 registered Connecticut voters.
- Party composition: Democrat 37%, Republican 21%, Non-Partisan 41%.
- The survey was conducted in English.
- The margin of the sampling error is $\pm 4.4\%$ at the 95% confidence level.