



From: Jim Williams, Public Policy Polling

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Connecticut Voters Have Mixed Feelings On Vote By Mail; Majority Still Plan To Vote In Person, But Record Numbers Will Vote Absentee

Date: October 19, 2020

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds Connecticut voters are split on whether they believe voting by mail or absentee ballot (AB) is as secure as in-person voting. 77% of voters have not yet voted (the poll was conducted from October 14-15), with 84% of that group saying they plan to vote in person on Election Day.

Approximately half of all voters -- 49% -- they say trust the security of AB and vote by mail as much as in-person voting, while 43% say they do not, and 11% remain undecided as Connecticut nears Election Day on November 3. Connecticut passed laws earlier this year to make it easier for people concerned about COVID-19 to vote, including allowing for “no excuse” absentee ballot voting. A vast majority of voters -- 84% -- say they are aware of these new options.

Despite those recent changes, Connecticut remains one of only six states nationally to not offer any form of early in-person voting for all its elections. A majority of Connecticut voters -- 61% -- say the state should pass a law allowing early voting in-person.

Other key findings include:

- 33% of voters said they would not vote by mail under any circumstances, while an additional 25% said they would prefer not to vote by mail but would consider it.
- Only 11% of voters said they would prefer to vote by mail.
- Asked to rank the most important issues for them when choosing a candidate, 37% of voters said “jobs and the economy” was most important, while 27% chose “responding to COVID-19” and 10% chose “lowering healthcare costs.”

PPP surveyed 910 likely General Election voters in Connecticut from October 14-15, 2020. The margin of error is 3.3%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone and 50% by text message.

