Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

HEARST | CONNECTICUT MEDIA GROUP

Institute for Public Policy

2018 Gubernatorial Race

greatblue
WHAT'S NEXT.

Report of Findings   September 2018

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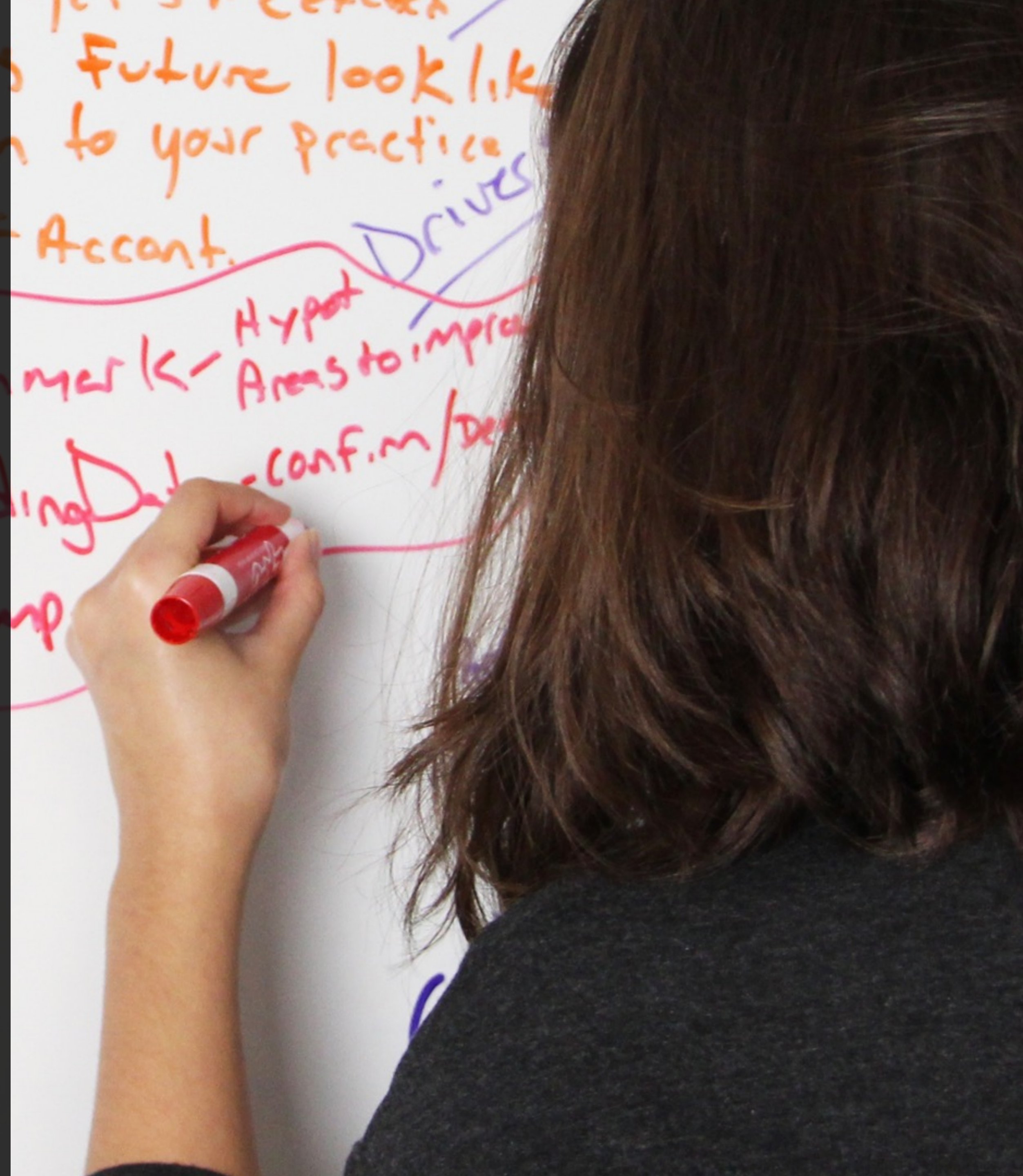
Our Story

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 Republic Candidates for Governor
- Presidential Job Approval
- Gubernatorial Job Approval
- Issues facing the State of Connecticut
- Demographic profiles of respondents

Research Methodology Snapshot

Methodology	No. of Completes	No. of Questions	Sample
Telephone*	501	21**	Connecticut residents

Target	Margin of Error	Confidence Level	Research Dates
"Likely voters" ***	+/- 4.32%	95%	Sept. 12 - 17

* 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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SHU Institute for Public Policy - Key Findings & Headlines

❖ Data indicated that Ned Lamont (D), currently, has a slight edge over Bob Stefanowski (R) in the race for Governor in Connecticut. Approximately six weeks out for Election Day, Lamont holds a 6.2 percentage point lead over Stefanowski in a poll conducted from September 12 - 17, 2018. This marks a slight increase over the 3.9 percentage point lead he held about a month ago.

- Stefanowski's support among unaffiliated voters has increased over the past month as 36.5% support the Republican candidate for Governor compared to 29.8% in August 2018. In addition, another 28.6% of unaffiliated voters remain undecided at the time of the most recent poll.

- A major gender gap exists as 50.5% of female voters support Ned Lamont (D) compared to 28.5% of female voters who support Bob Stefanowski (R). However, 43.4% of male voters support Bob Stefanowski (R) compared to 37.8% of male voters who support Ned Lamont (D).

❖ In September 2018, 31.7% of Connecticut voters have a "favorable" view of Ned Lamont (D) compared to 34.3% who have an "unfavorable" view of the candidate. 30.5% have a "favorable" view of Bob Stefanowski (R) compared to 29.9% who have an unfavorable view.

❖ The top issues driving voters' behavior heading into the race of governor was the "high overall tax burden" (23.2%) or "State budget crisis" (22.8%) in Connecticut.

SHU Institute for Public Policy - Key Findings & Headlines

❖ In addition, only 16.8% of Connecticut voters "approve" of the job Dannel Malloy is doing as governor, which remains consistent over the 15.9% who approved of his job as governor a month ago.

❖ In September 2018, data indicated that one-half of Connecticut voters (52.2%) 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 a slight increase over the 49.8% who agreed with the same statement about one month ago.

❖ Three-fifths of Connecticut voters as of September 2018 (61.3%) 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 66.3% who agreed with the same statement about one month ago.

❖ Nationally, slightly more than one-third of Connecticut voters "approve" (33.9%) of how Donald Trump is handling his job as President, which marks a slight increase over the 30.5% who approved of his job performance one month ago.

- Further, if the elections of the U.S. House of Representatives were held today, 45.3% of Connecticut voters suggest they will support the Democratic candidate in their district compared to 32.3% who will support the Republican candidate.

- Among unaffiliated voters, 36.5% support the Democratic congressional candidate in their district compared to 30.2% who support the Republican candidate.

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Gubernatorial Race

Overall, in regards to the 2018 Gubernatorial election being held in November, as of September 2018, 43.1% of "likely voters" in Connecticut suggest they will support Ned Lamont (D) for governor in the fall. This marks a slight increase over the 40.8% who supported Lamont in August 2018. 36.9% of "likely voters" continue to suggest they will support Bob Stefanowski (R) in November. However, it is important to note that 16.2% of voters remain undecided at the time of the poll.

❖ Both candidates have strong support within their own parties as 78.6% of Republicans support Bob Stefanowski (R) and 79.3% of Democrats support Ned Lamont (D).

❖ Currently, unaffiliated voters favor Bob Stefanowski (R) by a 36.5% to 30.2% margin.

❖ Female voters suggest supporting Ned Lamont (D) by a 50.5% to 28.5% margin, while male voters support Bob Stefanowski (R) by a 43.4% to 37.8% margin.

Q If the election for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ned Lamont (D) and Bob Stefanowski (R) for whom would you vote?
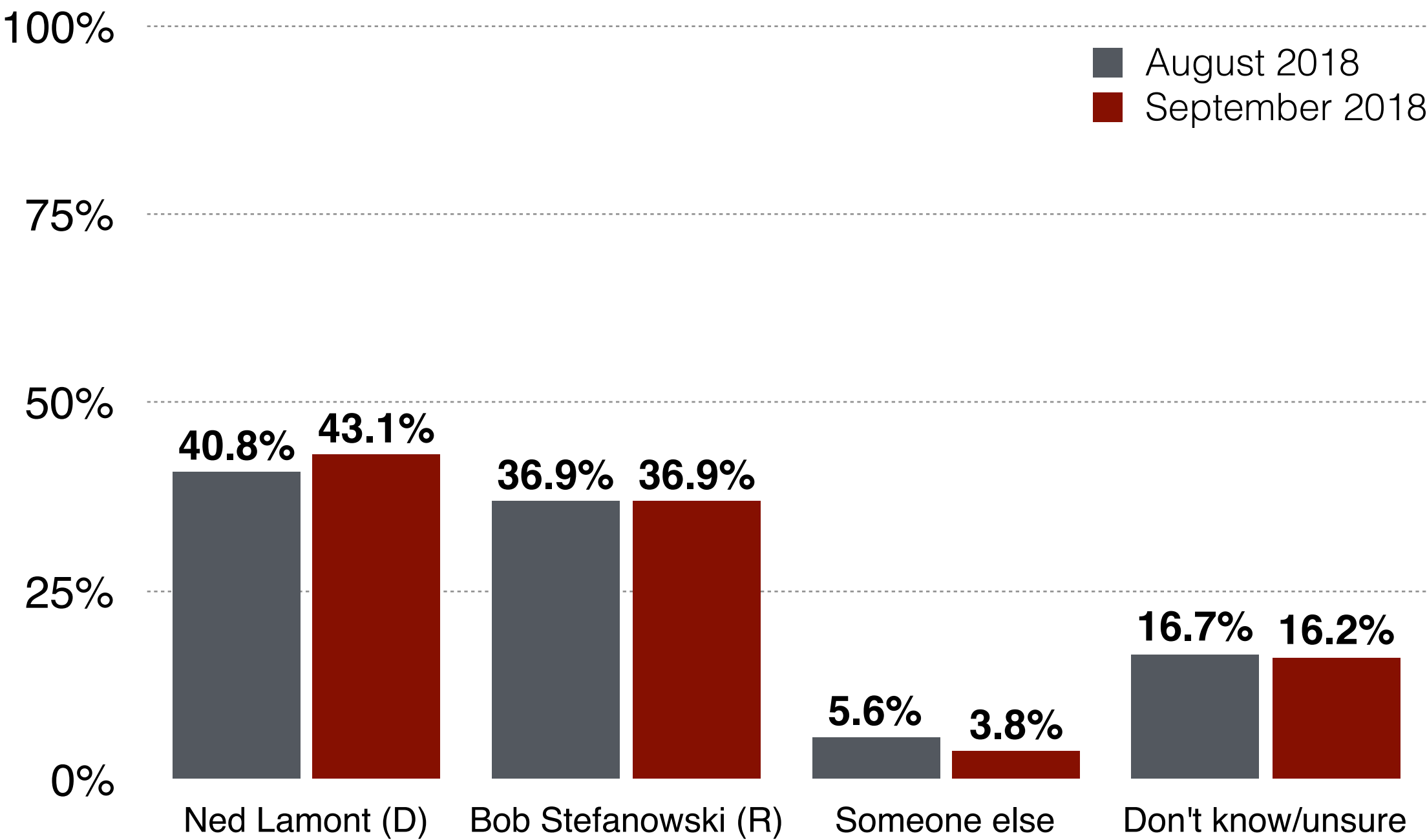
If the election for governor were being held today, and the candidates were Ned Lamont (D) and Bob Stefanowski (R) for whom would you vote?	Total	Party affiliation…			Gender…		College degree…		Age…				Race/ethnicity…		
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No	18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic
Ned Lamont (D)	43.1	79.3	8.8	30.2	50.5	37.8	46.2	39.4	45.6	42.0	43.2	43.7	40.5	77.4	58.3
Bob Stefanowski (R)	36.9	5.6	78.6	36.5	28.5	43.4	35.3	39.4	32.0	34.8	41.0	36.3	42.7	6.5	8.3
Someone else	3.8	3.5	3.1	4.8	4.7	3.1	3.4	4.4	5.8	7.2	2.7	2.2	3.5	3.2	4.2
Don't know/unsure	16.2	11.6	9.4	28.6	16.4	15.7	15.1	16.7	16.5	15.9	13.1	17.8	13.3	12.9	29.2

Gubernatorial Race

Data indicated that as "likely voters" learn more about each candidate they have less of a favorable view of the individual candidates. While both candidate's favorability ratings remained consistent in September 2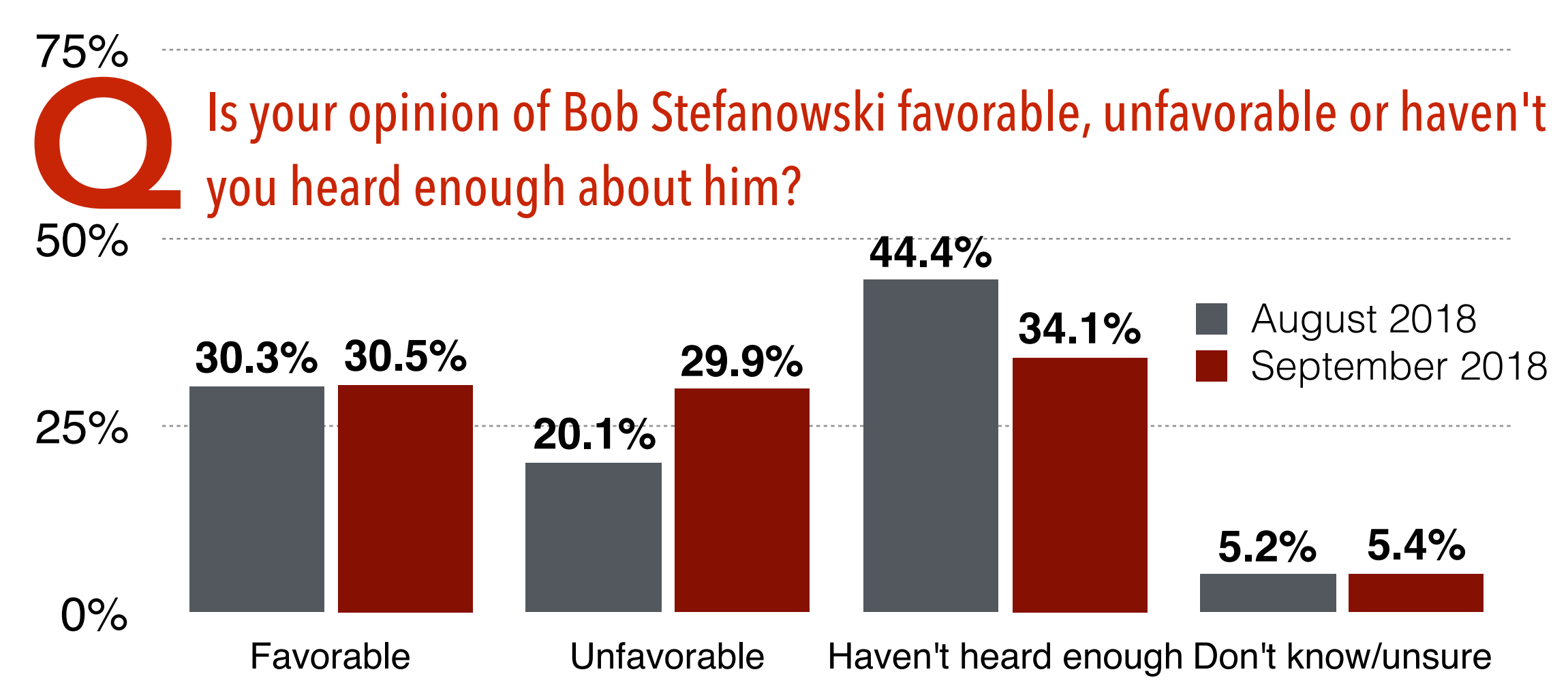018 over August 2018, the rate of "likely voters" who have an unfavorable view of each candidate increased in the same time span.

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

Q Is your opinion of Bob Stefanowski 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	31.7	57.1	8.2	22.2	33.6	30.4	34.9	27.6
Unfavorable	34.3	9.6	68.6	30.2	27.6	39.2	31.2	38.4
Haven't heard enough	28.5	28.8	19.5	40.5	33.6	24.8	27.7	29.6
Don't know/unsure	5.4	4.5	3.8	7.1	5.1	5.6	6.2	4.4

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	31.7	28.2	36.2	27.9	37.0	30.4	51.6	50.0
Unfavorable	34.3	29.1	33.3	38.3	33.6	38.3	6.5	8.3
Haven't heard enough	28.5	40.8	24.6	26.8	24.0	26.4	35.5	37.5
Don't know/unsure	5.4	1.9	5.8	7.1	5.5	4.9	6.5	4.2

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	30.5	6.1	64.8	27.0	22.9	36.4	29.1	32.5
Unfavorable	29.9	51.5	9.4	19.8	37.9	23.8	33.2	25.1
Haven't heard enough	34.1	38.4	22.6	44.4	34.6	33.9	31.8	37.4
Don't know/unsure	5.4	4.0	3.1	8.7	4.7	5.9	5.8	4.9

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	30.5	24.3	29.0	33.3	32.2	34.6	12.9	4.2
Unfavorable	29.9	26.2	31.9	27.9	34.2	29.1	29.0	41.7
Haven't heard enough	34.1	45.6	31.9	33.3	28.1	32.3	48.4	45.8
Don't know/unsure	5.4	3.9	7.2	5.5	5.5	4.0	9.7	8.3

Congressional Race

In regards to the U.S. congressional races also being held in November, 45.3% of Connecticut "likely voters" in September 2018 suggest they will support the Democratic candidate in their district compared to 32.3% who will support the Republican candidate.

❖ Female voters supported the Democratic candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives by a 50.9% to 24.8% margin, while male voters support the Democratic candidate by a much tighter margin; 40.9% to 38.1% as of September 2018.

❖ While unaffiliated voters in September 2018 were more likely to support the Republican candidate for Governor, unaffiliated voters currently favor the Democratic candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives in their district by a 36.5% to 30.2% margin.

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?

Legend: August 2018, September 2018

Democratic candidate: 43.0%, 45.3%
Republican candidate: 33.1%, 32.3%
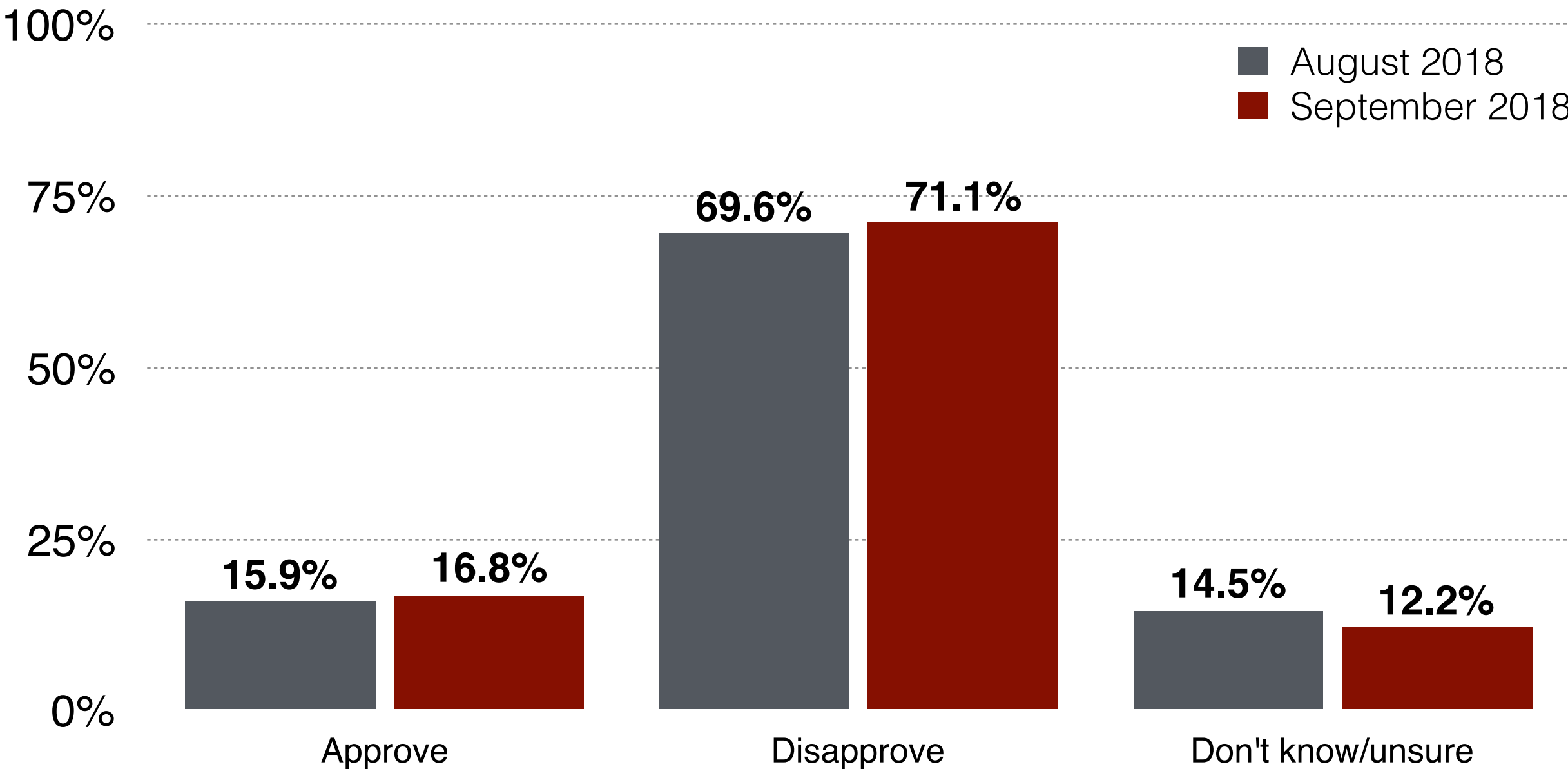Someone else: 4.0%, 2.8%
Don't know/unsure: 19.9%, 19.6%
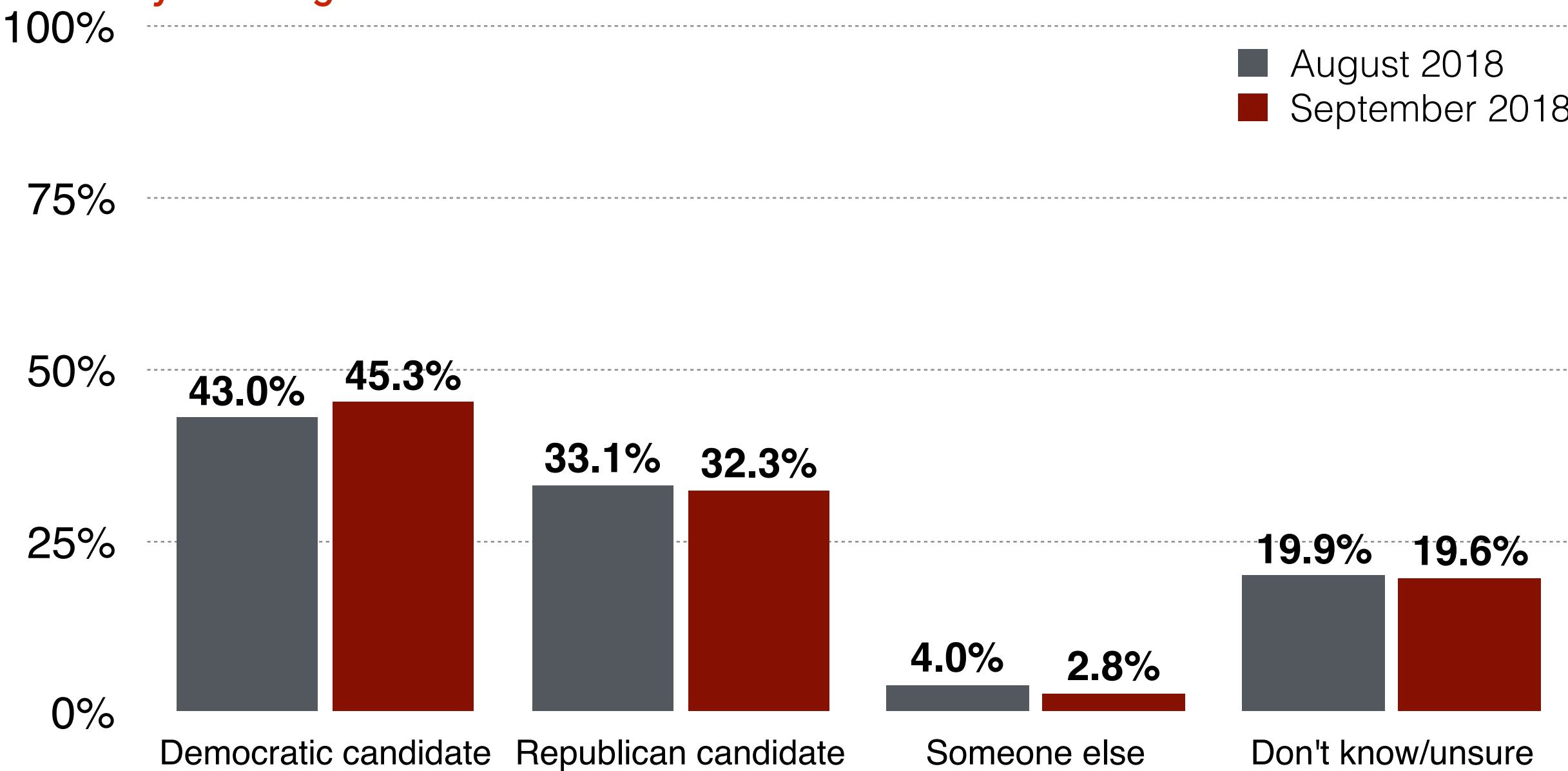
If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your congressional district?	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...		Age...				Race/ethnicity...		
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No	18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic
Democratic candidate	45.3	81.8	7.5	36.5	50.9	40.9	49.0	40.4	50.5	42.0	41.5	47.9	43.5	74.2	50.0
Republican candidate	32.3	4.5	70.4	30.2	24.8	38.1	30.8	35.0	28.2	34.8	36.1	29.5	35.6	9.7	16.7
Someone else	2.8	1.0	1.9	5.6	2.8	2.8	2.7	3.0	2.9	5.8	2.7	1.4	1.7	3.2	12.5
Don't know/unsure	19.6	12.6	20.1	27.8	21.5	18.2	17.5	21.7	18.4	17.4	19.7	21.2	19.3	12.9	20.8

Job Approval Ratings

Over two-thirds of Connecticut voters "disapprove" of how Dannel Malloy is handling his job as governor (71.1%), while only 16.8% "approve" of his job performance.

❖ Only 1.9% of Republican voters in the state currently approve of Dannel Malloy's job performance.

❖ 71.4% of unaffiliated voters currently "disapprove" of how Dannel Malloy is handling his job as Governor.

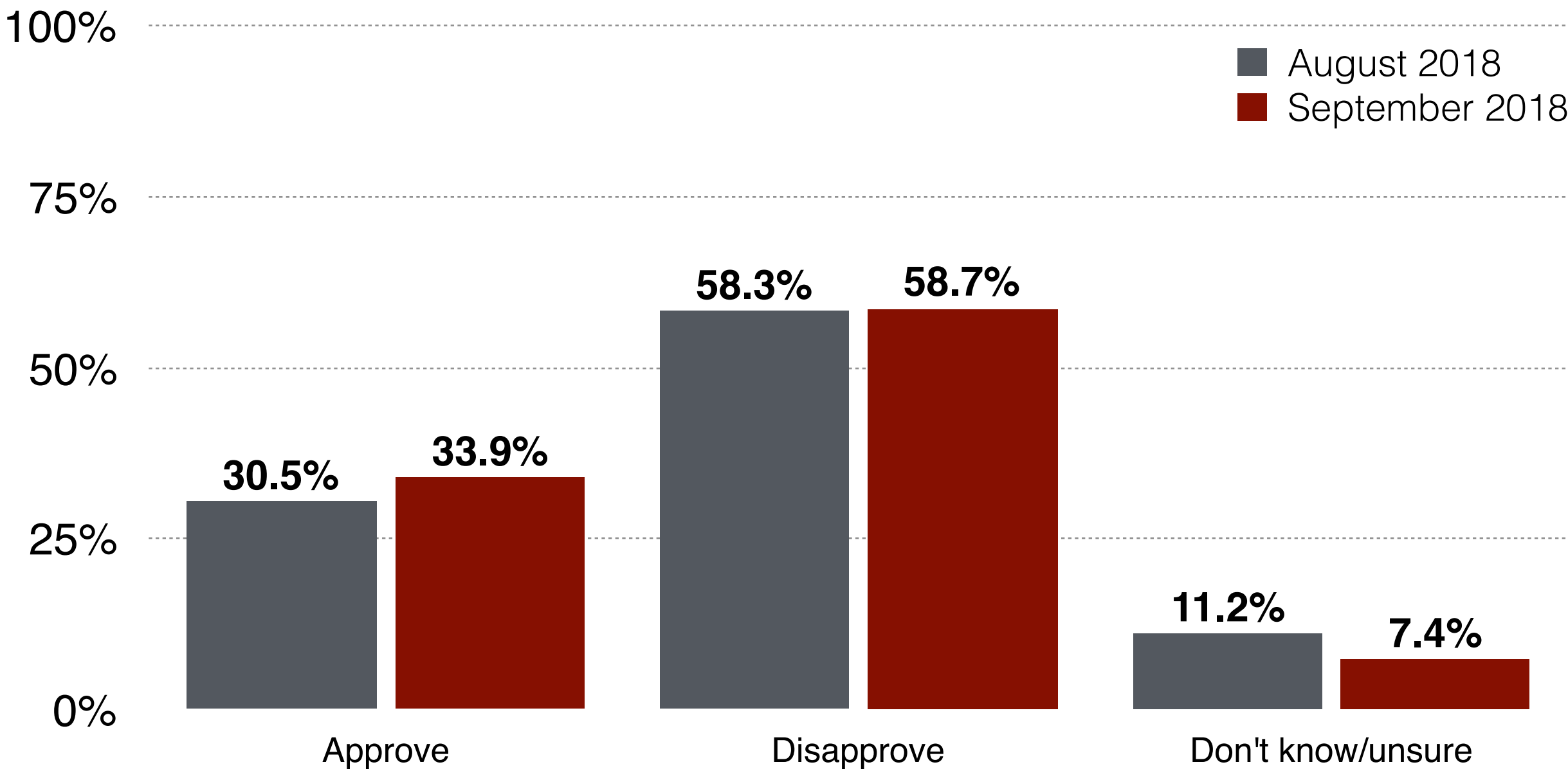**Q** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Dannel Malloy is handling his job as Governor?

Legend: August 2018 / September 2018

- Approve: 15.9% / 16.8%
- Disapprove: 69.6% / 71.1%
- Don't know/unsure: 14.5% / 12.2%

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	16.8	27.3	1.9	17.5	19.2	15.0	18.5	14.8	16.5	14.5	17.5	17.1	14.8	25.8	29.2
Disapprove	71.1	54.0	92.5	71.4	70.6	71.3	68.2	74.9	74.8	72.5	72.7	65.8	73.6	54.8	58.3
Don't know/unsure	12.2	18.7	5.7	11.1	10.3	13.6	13.4	10.3	8.7	13.0	9.8	17.1	11.6	19.4	12.5

Job Approval Ratings

58.7% of Connecticut voters as of September 2018, "disapprove" of how Donald Trump is handling his job as President, while slightly more than one-third "approve" of his job performance (33.9%).

❖ Only 9.1% of Democratic voters in the state currently approve of Donald Trump's job performance.

❖ 56.3% of unaffiliated voters currently "disapprove" of how Donald Trump is handling his job as President.
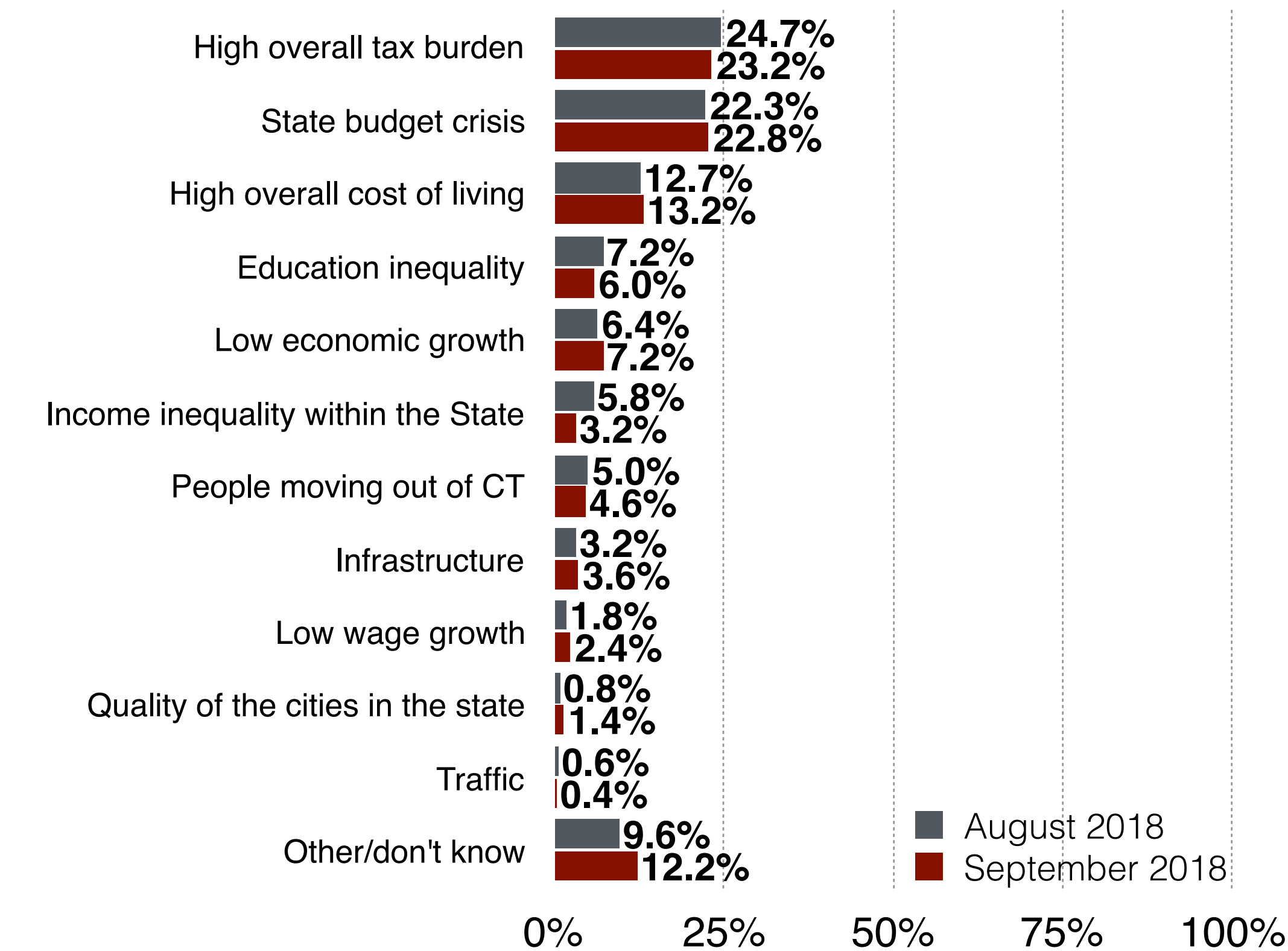
Q Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

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	33.9	9.1	68.6	31.7	25.7	40.2	31.5	37.4	29.1	30.4	37.7	34.2	38.8	9.7	8.3
Disapprove	58.7	86.4	24.5	56.3	68.7	51.0	61.3	55.2	64.1	60.9	54.6	58.9	54.3	83.9	79.2
Don't know/unsure	7.4	4.5	6.9	11.9	5.6	8.7	7.2	7.4	6.8	8.7	7.7	6.8	6.9	6.5	12.5

Issues facing the State of Connecticut

The State's "high overall tax burden" (23.2% in September 2018 over 24.7% in August 2018) or "budget crisis" (22.8% in September 2018 over 22.3% in August 2018) continue to be the topics that would determine "likely voters" choice for governor. Another 13.2% reported the "high overall cost of living" in the State would be the deciding factor for them. "Education inequality" (6.0%), and "low economic growth" (7.2%) were factors for fewer voters.

High overall tax burden	24.7% / 23.2%
State budget crisis	22.3% / 22.8%
High overall cost of living	12.7% / 13.2%
Education inequality	7.2% / 6.0%
Low economic growth	6.4% / 7.2%
Income inequality within the State	5.8% / 3.2%
People moving out of CT	5.0% / 4.6%
Infrastructure	3.2% / 3.6%
Low wage growth	1.8% / 2.4%
Quality of the cities in the state	0.8% / 1.4%
Traffic	0.6% / 0.4%
Other/don't know	9.6% / 12.2%

■ August 2018
■ September 2018

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

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	23.2	15.2	34.0	24.6	21.5	24.5	20.2	27.1
State budget crisis	22.8	21.2	25.2	21.4	18.7	25.5	25.0	19.2
High overall cost of living	13.2	11.1	13.2	15.9	15.4	11.5	13.4	12.8

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	23.2	15.5	24.6	28.4	21.2	23.5	16.1	20.8
State budget crisis	22.8	21.4	21.7	20.8	26.7	23.7	9.7	25.0
High overall cost of living	13.2	21.4	15.9	8.7	11.6	12.6	25.8	12.5

Issues facing the State of Connecticut

Half of Connecticut voters in September 2018 continued to report to either "strongly" or "somewhat agree" (52.2%) 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 September 2018. This remains primarily consistent over the level of support recorded in August 2018 (49.8%).

❖ 62.6% of Democratic voters in the State supported electronic highway tolls compared 39.0% of Republican voters.

❖ 53.2% of unaffiliated voters supported electric highway tolls compared to 43.7% 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."
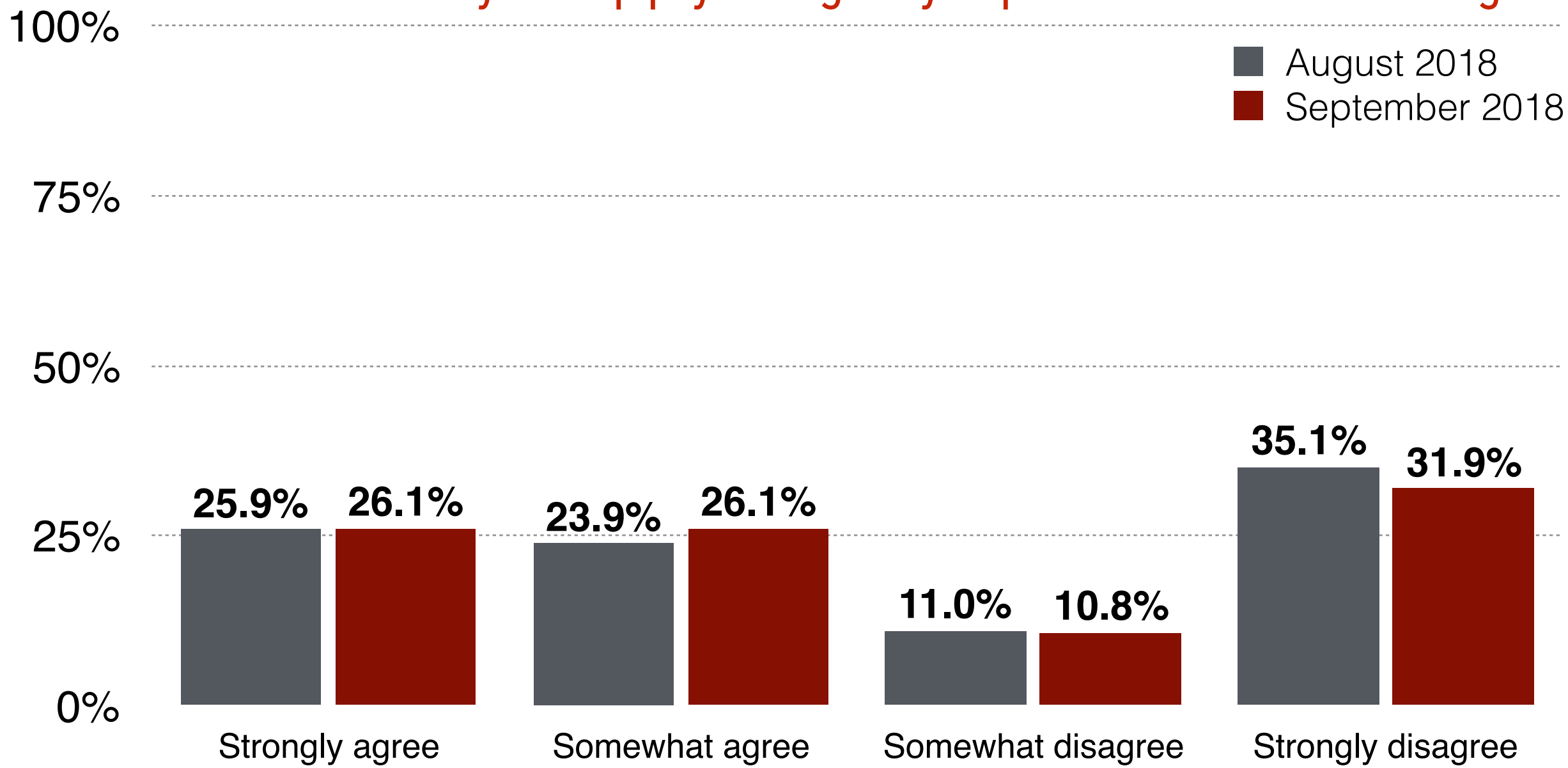

"Electronic highway tolls that collect significant money from out-of-state motorists and interstate trucks as well as from Connecticut residents would be an effective way to help pay for highway improvements to relieve congestion."	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...		Age...				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	26.1	32.3	15.7	28.6	27.6	24.8	28.8	22.7	23.3	24.6	24.0	31.5	26.4	22.6	25.0
Somewhat agree	26.1	30.3	23.3	24.6	28.0	24.8	26.7	26.1	25.2	23.2	25.7	28.8	27.9	16.1	29.2
Somewhat disagree	10.8	10.1	15.7	5.6	9.3	11.9	9.2	13.3	13.6	17.4	10.4	6.2	10.1	16.1	4.2
Strongly disagree	31.9	21.7	39.0	38.1	28.5	34.6	31.5	32.0	29.1	30.4	36.1	29.5	31.6	32.3	33.3
Don't know/unsure	5.0	5.6	6.3	3.2	6.5	3.8	3.8	5.9	8.7	4.3	3.8	4.1	4.0	12.9	8.3

Issues facing the State of Connecticut

Three-fifths of "likely voters" as of September 2018, 61.3%, 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 decline in agreement over the 66.3% recorded in August 2018.

- ❖ 78.8% of Democratic voters in the State supported raising taxes on people with incomes over $1 million compared 40.2% of Republican voters.
- ❖ 58.7% of unaffiliated voters supported raising taxes on people with incomes over $1 million as of September 2018, which also marks a decline over the 66.9% of unaffiliated voters who supported raising taxes in August 2018.

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."
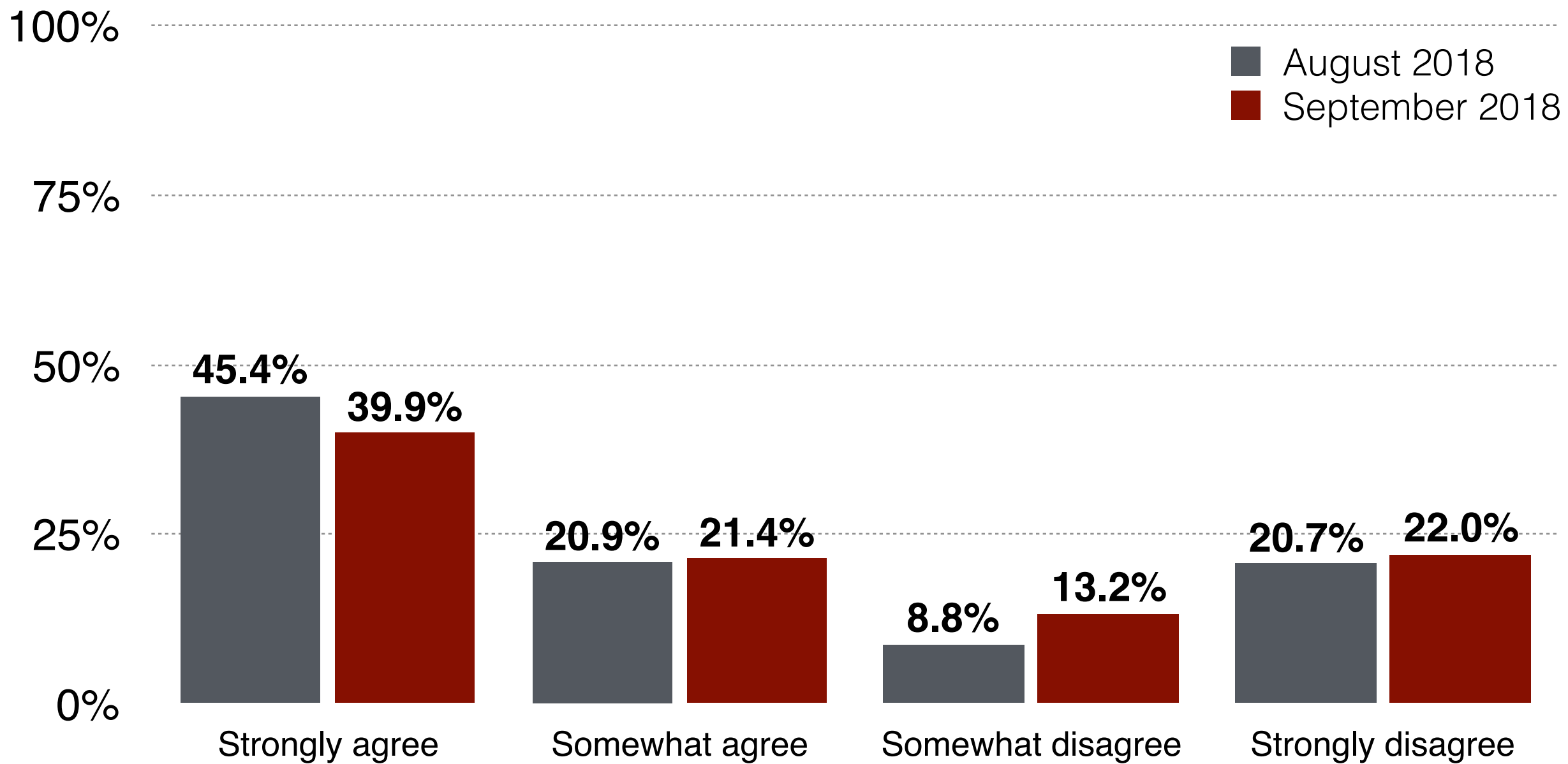
"If Connecticut cannot solve its budget crisis by cutting state services and spending, raising taxes on people with incomes over $1 million would be fair and effective."	Total	Party affiliation...			Gender...		College degree...		Age...				Race/ethnicity...		
		Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated	Female	Male	Yes	No	18 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 or older	White	Black	Hispanic
Strongly agree	39.9	55.6	20.1	36.5	47.2	34.3	39.0	41.4	46.6	33.3	41.0	37.0	37.8	45.2	50.0
Somewhat agree	21.4	23.2	20.1	22.2	21.5	21.3	23.3	19.2	20.4	33.3	17.5	21.2	23.0	19.4	25.0
Somewhat disagree	13.2	9.1	18.2	14.3	10.3	15.4	14.7	11.3	13.6	13.0	13.1	13.0	13.6	16.1	4.2
Strongly disagree	22.0	8.6	36.5	24.6	16.4	26.2	20.5	24.1	15.5	17.4	25.7	24.0	23.0	12.9	16.7
Don't know/unsure	3.6	3.5	5.0	2.4	4.7	2.8	2.4	3.9	3.9	2.9	2.7	4.8	2.7	6.5	4.2

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