

# QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

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## **FOLEY UP 6 POINTS IN CONNECTICUT GOVERNOR'S RACE, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; VOTERS SAY REPUBLICAN IS BETTER ON ECONOMY, SPENDING**

Connecticut likely voters say Tom Foley, the Republican challenger in the governor's race, would do a better job than Gov. Dannel Malloy, the Democrat, handling two top issues, the economy/jobs and government spending, as they give Foley a 46 – 40 percent lead eight weeks before Election Day, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Foley leads 82 – 9 percent among Republicans and 48 – 35 percent among independent voters, while Gov. Malloy takes Democrats 77 – 10 percent, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll finds. This survey of likely voters can not be compared to prior surveys of registered voters.

Malloy's 45 – 38 percent lead with women is offset by Foley's 54 – 35 percent lead among men.

Joe Visconti, running as an independent candidate, gets 7 percent of the vote. When the race is recalculated without Visconti, Foley leads Malloy 49 – 43 percent.

Among Connecticut likely voters who name a candidate, 69 percent say their mind is made up, while 30 percent say they might change their mind by Election Day. Their minds are made up, say 68 percent of Malloy voters and 77 percent of Foley backers, while 75 percent of Visconti supporters say they might change their mind.

“In our first likely voter poll, Tom Foley has the edge but Gov. Dannel Malloy is certainly within striking distance,” said Douglas Schwartz, PhD, director of the Quinnipiac University poll. “Foley has a double-digit lead among the key swing group, independent voters. With eight weeks until Election Day, there are 6 percent undecided and another 30 percent who say they could change their mind.”

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“A difficult problem for Malloy to overcome is his high negative favorability rating, as 53 percent say they have an unfavorable opinion of him, including 40 percent who say they have a strongly unfavorable opinion,” Dr. Schwartz added.

“It is tough for a well-known incumbent to change voter opinion once formed. In contrast, only 33 percent have an unfavorable opinion of Foley.”

Connecticut likely voters have a negative 40 – 53 percent favorability rating of Malloy. Foley gets a positive 42 – 33 percent favorability rating. For Visconti, 89 percent don’t know enough about him to form an opinion.

The economy/jobs matters most in their vote for governor, 40 percent of likely voters say, while 19 percent list government spending and 16 percent list taxes.

Foley would do a better job than Malloy handling these top issues, voters say:

- 54 – 37 percent on the economy and jobs;
- 59 – 31 percent on taxes;
- 54 – 36 percent on finding the right balance between needed and unneeded government spending.

Looking at Malloy’s character traits, Connecticut voters say:

- 51 – 38 percent that he is honest and trustworthy;
- 48 percent that he cares about their needs and problems, while 46 percent say he doesn’t care;
- 57 – 38 percent that he has strong leadership qualities.

Looking at Foley’s character, voters say:

- 44 – 28 percent that he is honest and trustworthy;
- 46 – 35 percent that he cares about their needs and problems;
- 53 – 24 percent that he has strong leadership qualities.

“Foley leads Malloy in large part because he is viewed by most voters as better able to handle pocketbook issues. Voters think Foley is better able than Malloy to handle their top issue – the economy and jobs. Foley also has big leads on taxes and government spending, while Malloy has small leads on gun policy and education,” Dr. Schwartz said.

From September 3 – 8, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,304 likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.7 percentage points.

The Quinnipiac University Poll conducts public opinion surveys in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

**For more information or RSS feed, visit <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/polling>, call (203) 582-5201, or follow us on [Twitter](#).**

1. If the election for Governor were being held today, and the candidates were Dan Malloy the Democrat, Tom Foley the Republican, and Joe Visconti running as an independent, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Malloy, Foley, or Visconti? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Malloy	40%	9%	77%	35%	35%	45%
Foley	46	82	10	48	54	38
Visconti	7	5	7	8	5	9
SOMEONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	1	-
DK/NA	6	4	5	8	5	7

1a. (If candidate chosen q1) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....			
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1.....			
	CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1			
	Tot	Malloy	Foley	Visconti
Mind made up	69%	68%	77%	25%
Might change	30	31	21	75
DK/NA	1	1	1	-

2a. (If Malloy voter q1) Is your vote for governor mainly for Malloy or against Foley?

	LIKELY MALLOY VOTERS Q1		
	Tot	Men	Wom
For Malloy	58%	59%	58%
Against Foley	33	31	34
DK/NA	9	10	8

2b. (If Foley voter q1) Is your vote for governor mainly for Foley or against Malloy?

	LIKELY FOLEY VOTERS Q1		
	Tot	Men	Wom
For Foley	33%	38%	26%
Against Malloy	62	56	70
DK/NA	5	5	5

2c. RECALCULATED MATCHUP Q1 ASKING VISCONTI VOTERS: Who is your second choice?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	MATCHUP Q1 WITHOUT VISCONTI.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Malloy	43%	11%	80%	38%	36%	49%
Foley	49	85	12	52	58	42
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	2	1	1	1
DK/NA	7	4	6	9	5	8

3. Is your opinion of Dan Malloy favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	40%	13%	69%	37%	37%	43%
Unfavorable	53	79	24	56	59	48
Hvn't hrd enough	5	6	5	4	3	6
REFUSED	2	3	2	3	1	3

3a. Is your opinion of Dan Malloy favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him? COMBINED WITH: (If Favorable/Unfavorable q3) Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Strongly favorable	17%	6%	34%	12%	14%	20%
Somewhat favorable	22	7	35	25	22	23
Somewhat unfavorable	13	17	11	12	13	13
Strongly unfavorable	40	61	13	44	46	35
Hvn't hrd enough	5	6	5	4	3	6
REFUSED/DK/NA	2	3	2	3	1	3

4. Is your opinion of Tom Foley favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	42%	74%	15%	42%	52%	34%
Unfavorable	33	10	59	28	30	35
Hvn't hrd enough	23	14	23	28	17	28
REFUSED	2	1	3	2	2	2

4a. Is your opinion of Tom Foley favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him? COMBINED WITH: (If Favorable/Unfavorable q4) Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Strongly favorable	20%	38%	9%	16%	25%	15%
Somewhat favorable	22	35	7	26	26	19
Somewhat unfavorable	12	4	18	11	12	12
Strongly unfavorable	21	6	41	17	18	23
Hvn't hrd enough	23	14	23	28	17	28
REFUSED/DK/NA	2	2	3	2	2	3

5. Is your opinion of Joe Visconti favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	6%	4%	7%	6%	7%	6%
Unfavorable	4	3	7	3	5	4
Hvn't hrd enough	89	92	86	90	88	90
REFUSED	1	1	1	1	1	1

5a. Is your opinion of Joe Visconti favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him? COMBINED WITH: (If Favorable/Unfavorable q5) Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Strongly favorable	3%	2%	4%	1%	3%	3%
Somewhat favorable	4	3	3	4	4	3
Somewhat unfavorable	2	1	2	1	2	1
Strongly unfavorable	2	2	4	1	2	3
Hvn't hrd enough	89	92	86	90	88	90
REFUSED/DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	1

6. Which one of these five issues matters most in deciding how you vote for Governor: the economy and jobs, government spending, taxes, gun policy, or education?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Economy and jobs	40%	38%	47%	39%	40%	41%
Government spending	19	24	12	20	19	19
Taxes	16	24	8	17	15	17
Gun policy	11	7	13	10	14	8
Education	12	4	18	11	10	13
DK/NA	3	3	3	2	3	3

7. Would you say that Dan Malloy - is honest and trustworthy or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	51%	30%	75%	49%	49%	52%
No	38	57	16	39	43	33
DK/NA	12	13	9	12	8	15

8. Would you say that Dan Malloy - cares about the needs and problems of people like you or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	48%	27%	74%	45%	45%	51%
No	46	69	19	49	51	42
DK/NA	6	4	7	6	5	7

9. Would you say that Dan Malloy - has strong leadership qualities or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	57%	35%	75%	58%	54%	59%
No	38	61	18	37	43	34
DK/NA	5	4	7	5	3	7

10. Do you think Dan Malloy is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Liberal	45%	75%	15%	48%	55%	37%
Conservative	5	3	7	5	5	5
About right	43	15	73	41	36	49
DK/NA	7	7	5	6	4	9

11. Would you say that Tom Foley - is honest and trustworthy or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	44%	72%	21%	43%	53%	36%
No	28	11	47	27	25	31
DK/NA	28	17	32	29	22	33

12. Would you say that Tom Foley - cares about the needs and problems of people like you or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	46%	76%	19%	46%	53%	39%
No	35	11	59	33	31	38
DK/NA	19	13	21	21	16	23

13. Would you say that Tom Foley - has strong leadership qualities or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	53%	76%	29%	56%	60%	48%
No	24	10	41	21	21	26
DK/NA	23	14	30	23	19	26

14. Would you say that Tom Foley - has the right kind of experience to be governor of Connecticut or not?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes	57%	84%	27%	59%	65%	49%
No	30	9	54	27	25	34
DK/NA	14	8	19	14	10	17

15. Do you think Tom Foley is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Liberal	6%	6%	4%	6%	4%	7%
Conservative	29	7	56	23	28	30
About right	48	77	17	53	55	42
DK/NA	17	9	23	18	13	21

16. Regardless of who you may support, who do you think would do a better job handling  
- the economy and jobs, Malloy or Foley?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Malloy	37%	7%	72%	32%	31%	43%
Foley	54	85	21	56	63	45
DK/NA	9	8	7	12	6	11

17. Regardless of who you may support, who do you think would do a better job handling  
- taxes, Malloy or Foley?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Malloy	31%	6%	60%	27%	25%	36%
Foley	59	89	28	61	69	49
DK/NA	10	4	12	12	6	15

18. Regardless of who you may support, who do you think would do a better job handling  
- education, Malloy or Foley?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Malloy	46%	17%	75%	45%	43%	49%
Foley	40	72	12	38	45	36
DK/NA	14	11	13	17	13	15

19. Regardless of who you may support, who do you think would do a better job handling  
- gun policy, Malloy or Foley?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Malloy	46%	20%	75%	43%	42%	49%
Foley	41	67	14	42	49	33
DK/NA	14	12	12	15	9	18

20. Regardless of who you may support, who do you think would do a better job when it  
comes to finding the right balance between cutting government spending that is not needed  
and continuing government spending that is needed, Malloy or Foley?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Malloy	36%	8%	66%	33%	31%	41%
Foley	54	85	22	57	64	45
DK/NA	10	7	12	10	6	13