

QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY

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P O L L

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MALLOY, FOLEY NECK AND NECK IN CONNECTICUT GOV RACE, QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL FINDS; VISCANTI'S 9 PERCENT DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER

Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy is locked in a repeat of the 2010 down-to-the-wire governor's race as he holds 43 percent of likely voters to Republican challenger Tom Foley's 42 percent, with 9 percent for independent candidate Joe Visconti, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 43 – 43 percent dead heat among likely voters in an October 8 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University.

With Visconti out of the race, it's a 45 – 45 percent tie today.

The gender gap is wide in the three-way race as Gov. Malloy leads Foley 51 – 32 percent among women, with 9 percent for Visconti, while Foley leads Malloy 53 – 34 percent among men, with 9 percent for Visconti.

Independent voters are divided with 38 percent for Foley, 36 percent for Malloy and 16 percent for Visconti. Malloy tops Foley among Democrats, 81 – 11 percent, with 4 percent for Visconti. Foley beats Malloy 85 – 6 percent among Republicans, with 6 percent for Visconti.

With 13 days until the election, 81 percent of Connecticut likely voters who name a candidate say their mind is made up, while 18 percent say they might change their mind. Their minds are made up, say 86 percent of Malloy voters and 84 percent of Foley backers, while 49 percent of Visconti supporters say they might change their mind.

“The race for Connecticut governor looks very much like it will go down to the wire – again,” said Douglas Schwartz, PhD, director of the Quinnipiac University poll.

“Republican Tom Foley has to be concerned that this is the first likely voter poll in which Gov. Dannel Malloy has a numerical edge, even though it's razor-thin.”

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“As expected, Democrats and Republicans are coming home with both Malloy and Foley winning at least 80 percent of their bases, but the independent voters are really up for grabs, with independent Joe Visconti now taking 16 percent of the independent vote,” Dr. Schwartz added.

“The gender gap is now a huge 38 points, with men going to Foley by 19 points and women for Malloy by 19 points.

Connecticut likely voters give both major party candidates negative favorability ratings:

- Malloy gets a negative 42 – 50 percent favorability, virtually unchanged from October 8;
- Foley gets a negative 40 – 46 percent favorability, down from his split 41 – 39 percent score two weeks ago;
- 80 percent of voters still don’t know enough about Visconti to form an opinion, compared to an 86 percent “don’t know enough” rating two weeks ago.

“The other bad news for Tom Foley is that his favorability rating continues to tumble,” Schwartz said. “For the first time, more voters have a negative view of him than a positive view. The more voters get to know him, the less they like him.

“The good news for Foley is that Malloy’s favorability is actually slightly worse.

“The Connecticut race recently was rated the most negative in the nation, and voters are giving a thumbs down to both major party candidates. With voters not liking either candidate very much, some voters could just choose the lesser of two evils. The dislike of Malloy and Foley helps explain why independent candidate Joe Visconti is holding onto 9 percent, at least for now.”

From October 14 – 20, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,010 likely voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.1 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.

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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) If you had to choose today, would you vote for Malloy, Foley, or Visconti? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Malloy	43%	6%	81%	36%	34%	51%
Foley	42	85	11	38	53	32
Visconti	9	6	4	16	9	9
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-	2	1	1
DK/NA	6	3	3	8	4	7

TREND: 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) If you had to choose today, would you vote for Malloy, Foley, or Visconti? (Table includes leaners)

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 22 2014	Oct 08 2014	Sep 10 2014
Malloy	43	43	40
Foley	42	43	46
Visconti	9	9	7
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1
DK/NA	6	5	6

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....			
	Tot	CANDIDATE CHOSEN Q1.....		
		CANDIDATE OF CHOICE Q1		
	Malloy	Foley	Visconti	
Mind made up	81%	86%	84%	50%
Might change	18	13	16	49
DK/NA	1	1	-	-

TREND: (If candidate chosen) Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	CANDIDATE CHOSEN.....		
	Oct 22 2014	Oct 08 2014	Sep 10 2014
Mind made up	81	74	69
Might change	18	25	30
DK/NA	1	1	1

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....					
	MATCHUP Q1 WITHOUT VISCONTI.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Malloy	45%	8%	82%	40%	35%	54%
Foley	45	88	12	44	57	35
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	1	4	2	2
DK/NA	8	3	5	11	6	9

TREND: RECALCULATED MATCHUP ASKING VISCONTI VOTERS: Who is your second choice?

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	MATCHUP WITHOUT VISCONTI		
	Oct 22 2014	Oct 08 2014	Sep 10 2014
Malloy	45	46	43
Foley	45	46	49
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	1
DK/NA	8	7	7

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	42%	11%	72%	39%	36%	48%
Unfavorable	50	87	19	52	59	43
Hvn't hrd enough	5	-	7	5	3	6
REFUSED	3	2	2	3	2	3

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 22 2014	Oct 08 2014	Sep 10 2014
Favorable	42	41	40
Unfavorable	50	51	53
Hvn't hrd enough	5	5	5
REFUSED	3	3	2

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	40%	78%	10%	39%	50%	31%
Unfavorable	46	11	74	47	37	54
Hvn't hrd enough	12	9	14	12	11	13
REFUSED	2	2	2	3	2	3

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 22 2014	Oct 08 2014	Sep 10 2014
Favorable	40	41	42
Unfavorable	46	39	33
Hvn't hrd enough	12	18	23
REFUSED	2	2	2

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	11%	13%	7%	14%	14%	9%
Unfavorable	8	6	10	8	11	5
Hvn't hrd enough	80	80	81	77	74	84
REFUSED	1	1	2	1	1	2

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

	LIKELY VOTERS.....		
	Oct 22 2014	Oct 08 2014	Sep 10 2014
Favorable	11	7	6
Unfavorable	8	7	4
Hvn't hrd enough	80	86	89
REFUSED	1	1	1