

To: Interested parties
From: Patrick Toomey, Co-head of Research, New River Strategies
Date: March 2, 2026
Re: New polling on support for a renters' tax credit in Connecticut

Key findings:

- While the majority of Connecticut voters are worried about housing costs, for home renters, housing costs are their biggest concern by far when it comes to expenses.
- More than 2-in-3 likely 2026 voters in Connecticut (68%) support establishing a renters' tax credit for people with a household income below \$75,000 per year, when given a neutral description of the policy.
- The policy has broad support, with majorities of registered Democrats (84%), unaffiliated voters (61%), and Republicans (52%) all supporting the policy – and majorities of both home renters (84%) and homeowners (60%).

The context on affordability:

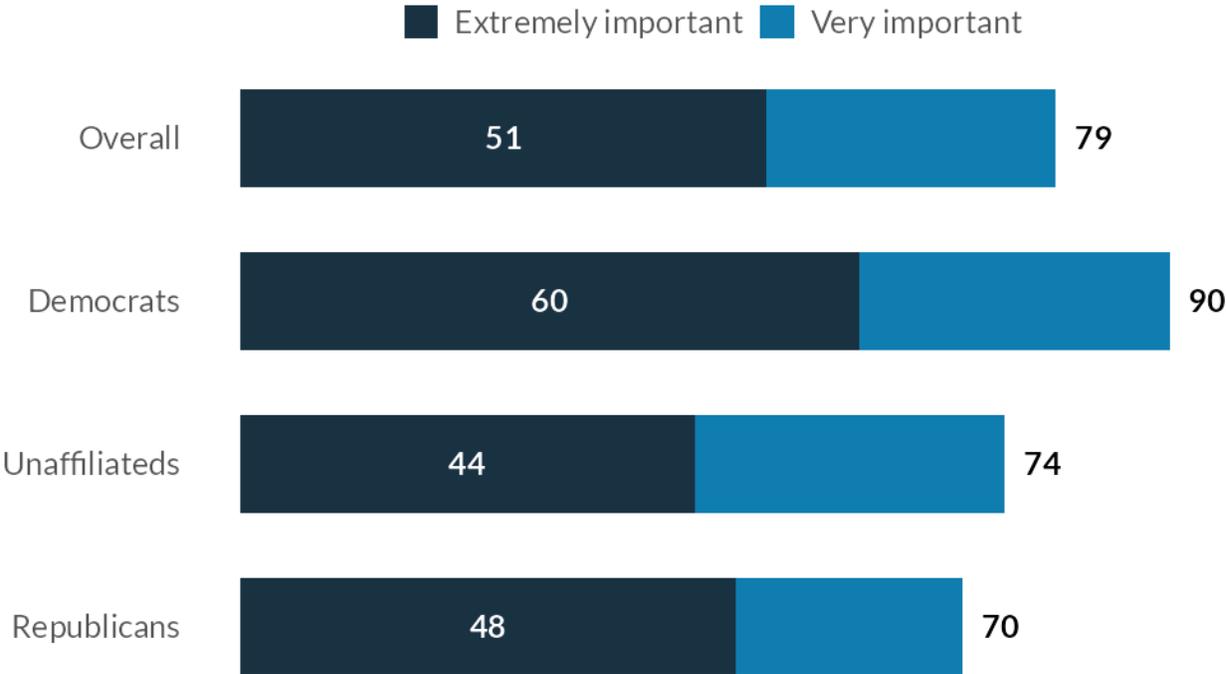
- Connecticut voters are worried about costs, and more believe that they will be in a worse financial position in a year from now than believe they will be better off. Among likely 2026 voters overall:
 - Just 22% say they believe they will be in a better financial position next year, while 33% believe they will be worse off.
 - The remaining 45% say they will be in the same place they are today.
- Today, more than 1-in-6 Connecticut voters (18%) say their current housing costs “are more than [they] can afford” while another 55% say that while their “costs are manageable currently” they are “worried they will become unaffordable in the near future.”
 - Only about a quarter of Connecticut voters (28%) say they “can afford [their] current housing costs” and are “not very worried about them becoming unaffordable.”
- While high housing costs are a source of concern for the vast majority of voters, they are particularly unbearable for home renters. The share of renters who say they can't afford their current costs is more than double the state average: 33% of CT voters who rent their home say they can't afford their housing costs.
- Housing costs are also a bigger source of concern for renters than other costs like groceries, healthcare, taxes, and more. When asked to choose which costs are their biggest and second biggest concern from a list that included a range of expenses and the option to name others, 40% of home renters said housing costs were their biggest concern and 63% said housing is one of their two biggest concerns, far more than any other cost listed.
 - Even as many homeowners are worried about their housing costs, just 6% said that housing costs are their *biggest* cost concern (overall 19% said it is one of their top 2 concerns).



Views on a renters' tax credit

- With so many Connecticut voters worried about housing costs, and these being particularly salient for home renters, it's unsurprising that there is a strong desire for action from state leaders to help make housing more affordable: a full 79% of likely 2026 voters say policies to lower the cost of housing should be an "extremely" or "very" important priority.
 - There is broad agreement across party lines that action is essential:

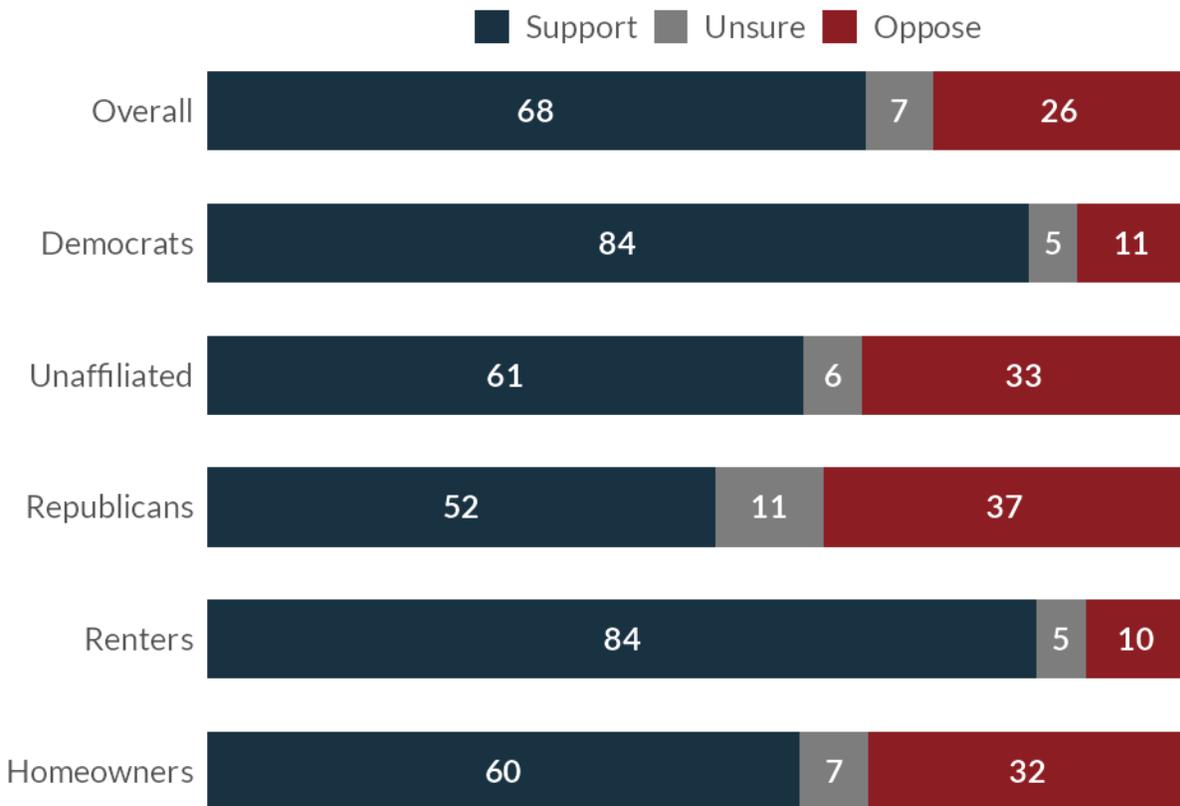
% Say enacting policies to lower the cost of housing should be an "extremely" or "very" important priority for state leaders



- Specifically, there is overwhelming support for establishing a fully-refundable renters' tax credit of up to \$2,500 (based on both income and cost of rent) for full-time Connecticut residents who rent their home and make under \$75,000 a year.
 - Overall 68% of likely 2026 voters in Connecticut support the policy, which includes a majority of voters regardless of party registration, as well as majorities of both home renters and homeowners:



Support for a renters' tax credit



- In their own words, Connecticut voters said they support the policy for a variety of reasons, including: supporting economic relief for working class families, a belief that rent is just too expensive, feeling that the state is facing a housing affordability crisis, worry that young people will be forced to leave the state and it will harm the state overall, and more. For example:

“Because most Connecticut residents don't know how they're going to keep paying their rent, and many already have two or three jobs and are barely making ends meet with the high cost of living we're experiencing.” - Unaffiliated, Woman, 18-44 years old, Home renter

“All 4 of my adult children are struggling to make ends meet. They all have “good” jobs with decent benefits but my oldest daughter and her teenage daughters had to move back home with me . She can't afford to buy a house so a renters tax would be beneficial.” - Unaffiliated, Woman, 45-64 years old, Homeowner

“If people can't afford housing in CT, they will move elsewhere and the jobs they would have had will not be filled. A state can't survive with only higher income residents. We have a responsibility to make housing affordable for more people.” - Democrat, Woman, 65+ years old, Homeowner

“Housing costs are too high, and home owners get breaks for interest and taxes paid and renters should also get some help.” - Republican, Man, 45-64 years old, Renter



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*“I believe **people who can’t afford a home should not be penalized for renting.**” - Republican, Woman, 65+ years old, Homeowner*

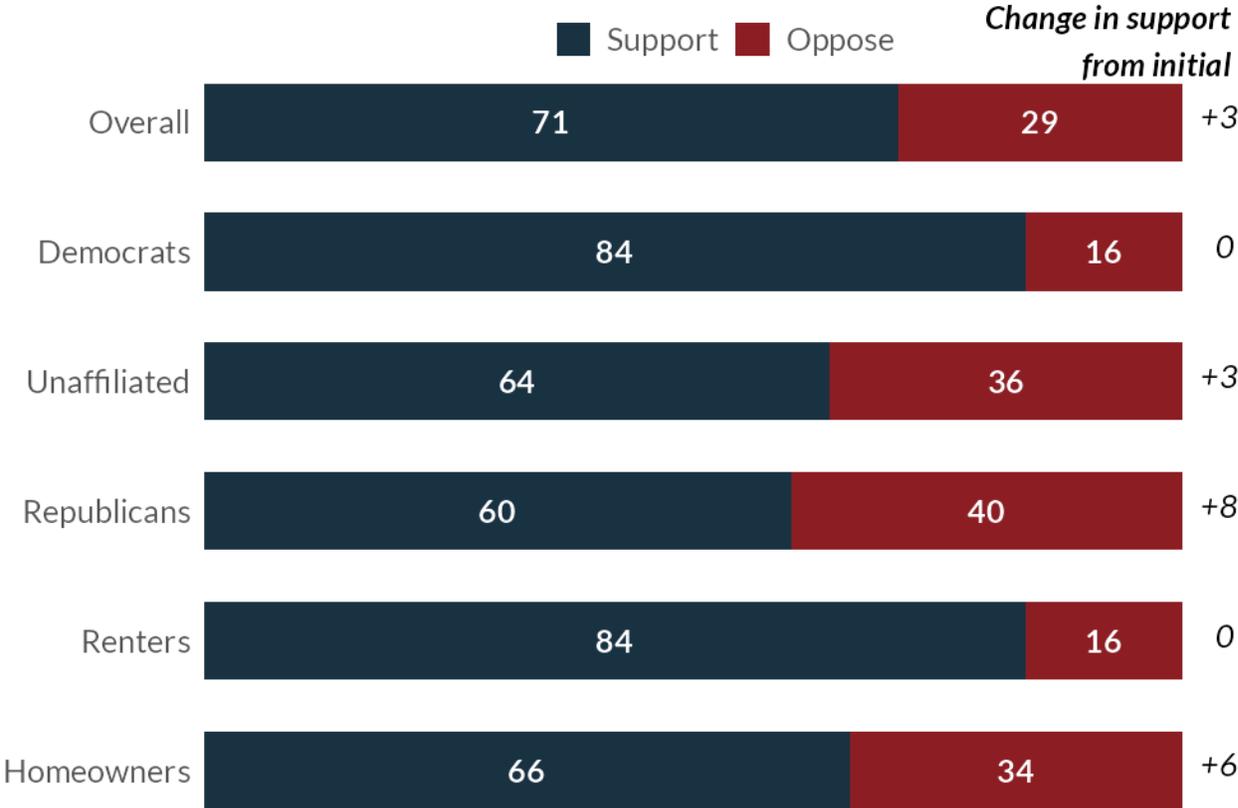
- Additionally, many renters are not only worried about their current costs, but also that the high cost of housing means they will never be able to afford to purchase a home. Among home renters in our survey, half (49%) said they “would like to own a home one day but [they] worry that will never happen because of costs.”
 - And when describing why they support the policy in their own words, many specifically noted that high rents make it impossible for people to save up to buy a home:

*“It would **help further what little savings I have so that over the course of a few years I could save enough to maybe save enough money for a down payment on a house.**” - Democrat, Man, 18-44 years old, Home renter*

*“Young people today can’t afford to buy a home. I **have three children who are renters now and they pay a ridiculous amount of money. How are they supposed to save for a home of their own?**” - Unaffiliated, Woman 45-64 years old, Homeowner*

- Providing the context that homeowners are allowed to deduct the money they spend paying interest on mortgages from their federal taxes, helped to further increase support for the policy, particularly among Republicans and homeowners:

Support for a renters’ tax credit after additional information



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- Connecticut voters also reacted very favorably to statements in support of a renters’ tax credit, with large majorities saying the statements make them even more likely to support a renters’ tax credit.
 - These statements included ones that addressed fairness for renters, the impact impossibly high housing costs are having on communities, and context about Connecticut’s finances:

*Impact of statements on support for a renters’ tax credit
(among likely 2026 voters in CT overall)*

Statement	% Much more/Total more likely to support a renters’ tax credit based on statement
<p>Hard-working people who keep our communities running are being priced out of our towns because they can’t afford rent. Many teachers, early educators, firefighters, EMTs, service workers, public works, and other vital community members can’t afford rent in the towns where they work. A tax credit can help prevent them from being priced out.</p>	<p>44/68</p>
<p>Around one in three people in Connecticut rent. But renters don’t get the same tax credits that homeowners can. A renters’ tax credit would lower taxes for 300,000 working class Connecticut households who currently receive no tax relief for their housing costs.</p>	<p>44/67</p>
<p>Connecticut has always been expensive, but it’s even harder right now to get by, let alone get ahead. Rent is one of the biggest expenses for many working class household budgets. A renters’ tax credit will lower costs for many working families.</p>	<p>44/65</p>
<p>Connecticut had a nearly \$2 billion budget surplus in 2025, which means that Connecticut is sitting on billions of dollars in extra funds. Our state can afford the renters’ tax credit, and it will lower costs for working class people, which will help our communities and our economy.</p>	<p>43/64</p>

Summary:

- Put simply, it’s clear that Connecticut voters, regardless of party or home-type, strongly support establishing a renters’ tax credit for people with household incomes below \$75,000 a year.

Methodology: New River Strategies fielded a survey using text-to-web and online methodologies among n=1,196 likely 2026 voters in Connecticut from February 14-19, 2026, on behalf of The Connecticut Project.

