



CONNECTICUT CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY

Public Input Results

Overview of Connecticut residents' ideas



IDEAS*for*
CHANGE

MAKE.
ORG





Agenda

- 01** Community Discussions @Ben & Jerry's
- 02** Online Results
- 03** Demo & Exploration of Dashboard

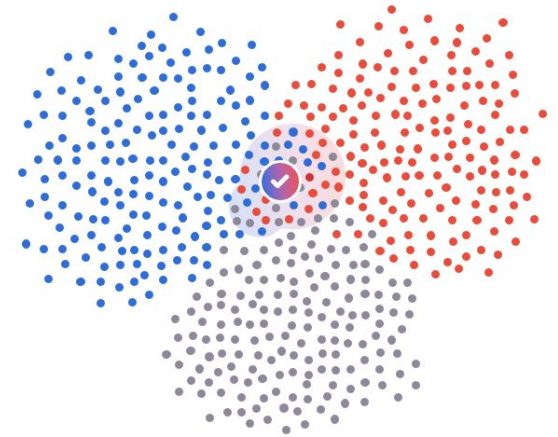
OVERVIEW

What is “public input?”

Recruit Connecticut residents

Understand what issues matter to the public

Engage the public



Helping the Assembly

Identify areas of common ground & further discussion

OVERVIEW

Public Input



In Person

- In-person engagement @ Ben & Jerry's



Online

- Vote
- Contribute ideas

TIMELINE

Public Input: In-Person

30 minute sessions



Learn about the Assembly

Most attendees had never heard of a citizens' assembly before

Deliberate

Participants discuss online proposals & add their own

5 Weeks, evenings
July 27 - Sep 30
at New Haven location

TIMELINE

Public Input: In-Person

30 minute sessions



Learn about the Assembly

Most attendees had never heard of a citizens' assembly before

Deliberate

Participants discuss online proposals & add their own

One event held!

Monday, July 27, 6-9pm

MONDAY, JULY 27

First Event

26

People took part

6

Volunteers

FLOW OF EVENT

3-5 min explainer on citizens' assemblies

15 min small group deliberation

→ Ice cream afterwards & people stayed on to keep talking!



→ 4 more evenings scheduled through September

INVITATION

You can attend & meet the public!

WHO Any Assembly member!

WHAT **Share your experience** at the Assembly

Do not need to stay the whole evening, **30-60 mins**

Organizing team will coordinate people across the evening

15 minute briefing beforehand: overview of event & your part

WHERE Ben & Jerry's,
New Haven,
next to the Omni

WHEN: 6-9pm

Wed, Aug 19 · next event

Tentative:

Wed, Sept 2

Tue, Sept 15

Wed, Sept 30

TO ATTEND

Email: [Civic Concierge email]

Subject line: “**Ben & Jerry's attendance**”

→ Include availability

→ Will receive follow up email



Online Public Input



OVERVIEW

Public Input



In Person

- In-person engagement @ Ben & Jerry's



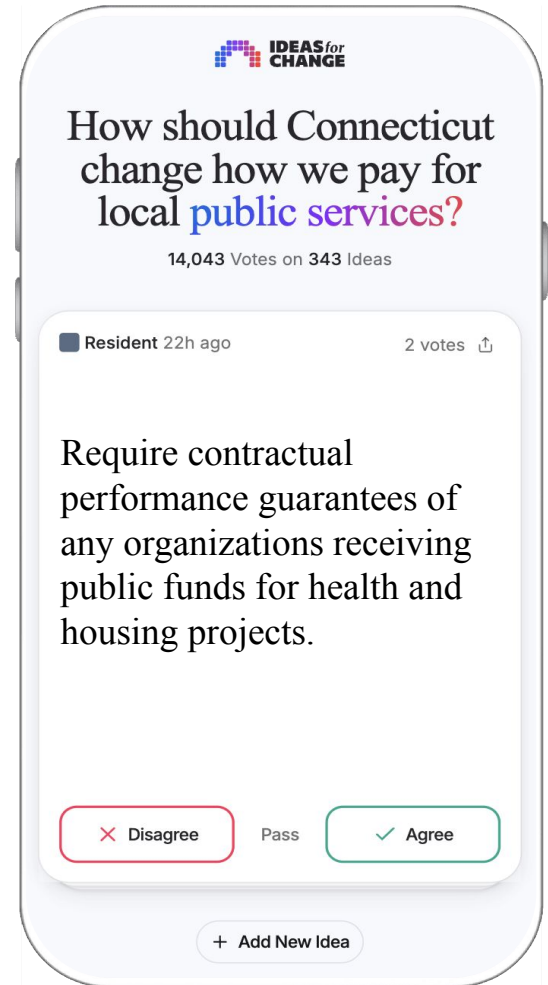
Online

- Vote
- Contribute ideas

PUBLIC INPUT

Large online platform to identify Connecticut residents' opinions

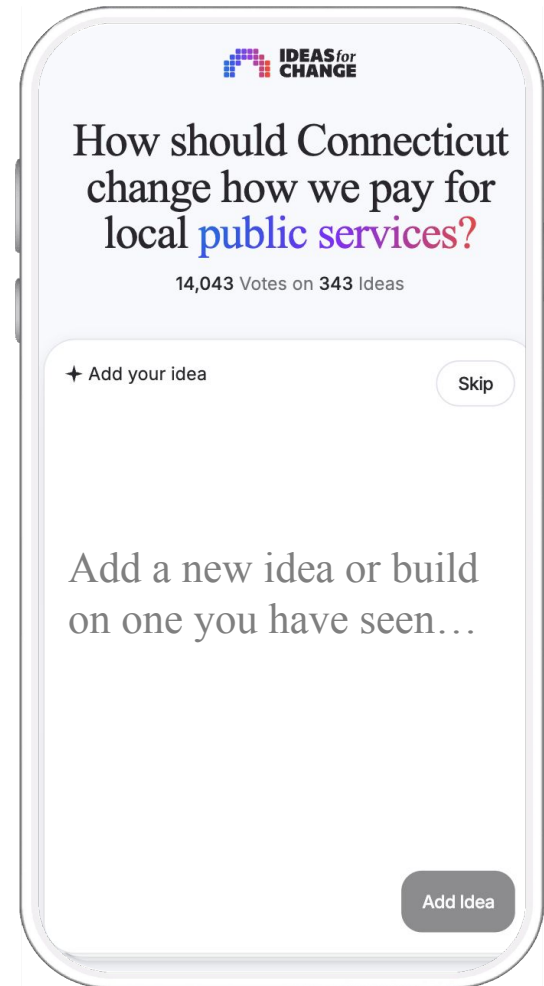
Since May, we've invited CT residents to
Vote on ideas



PUBLIC INPUT

Large online platform to identify Connecticut residents' opinions

Since May, we've invited CT residents to
Vote on ideas
Submit ideas



BY THE NUMBERS

Public Input

Two platforms



May 18 - June 23



June 23 - ongoing

Residents wrote ideas & voted **agree**, **disagree** or **pass on** ideas

500+

Ideas submitted

374 on Ideas for Change,
171 on Make.org

63,000+

Votes cast

18,807 Ideas for Change
44,428 Make.org

900+

Participants



RESULTS

The full results, explorable

ct-stats.changedialogues.org
Password in Wed Aug 5th email

Every idea and every vote

Sorted into **consensus**, **controversial** & **neutral**

- Who voted for it
- Some demographic info

The screenshot shows the 'Public Input' interface for the Connecticut Citizens Assembly. The header includes the assembly's logo and name, a navigation menu icon, and a link to 'Explore with AI'. The main content area is titled 'PUBLIC INPUT' and features a heading 'What Connecticut residents told us about paying for local services'. Below this, a paragraph explains that residents weighed in on the question: 'how should Connecticut change the way we pay for and deliver local public services?'. A section titled 'Your next steps' lists three tasks: 1. Get an overview of the ideas, 2. See how sets of ideas become goals, and 3. Flag for the Assembly. Each task has a 'Start' button. The left sidebar contains sections for 'YOUR SESSION' (Explore the input, Overview, Goals, Saved, Give feedback), 'REFERENCE' (About the process, Make.org, Ideas For Change), and 'WORKING GROUP' (Revenue & K-12 Education).

Public Input
Connecticut Citizens Assembly

Explore with AI

YOUR SESSION

- Explore the input
- Overview
- Goals
- Saved
- Give feedback

REFERENCE

- About the process
- Make.org
- Ideas For Change

WORKING GROUP

- Revenue & K-12 Education

PUBLIC INPUT

What Connecticut residents told us about paying for local services

Between your working sessions, residents across the state weighed in on the question:
how should Connecticut change the way we pay for and deliver local public services? This is an overview of that public input.

Your next steps

0 of 3 done

- 1 Get an overview of the ideas**
Where residents agree, where they split, and the ideas you might not expect. [Start →](#)
- 2 See how sets of ideas become goals**
Ideas asking for related outcomes are collected into one goal, so you can see how much of the input is behind each ask — and read the original ideas underneath it. [Start →](#)
- 3 Flag for the Assembly**
Save 3–5 ideas worth bringing back to your group, with a note on why. [Start →](#)

RESULTS

The full results, explorable

ct-stats.changedialogues.org
Password in Wed Aug 5th email

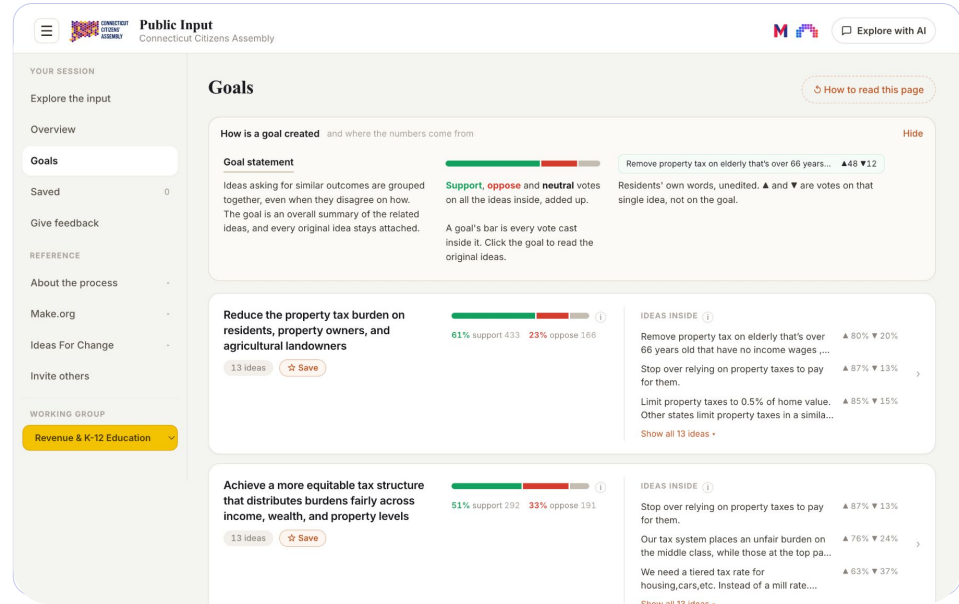
Every idea and every vote

Sorted into **consensus, controversial & neutral**

- Who voted for it
- Some demographic info

Ideas → Goals

- Ideas asking for same outcome → under one goal statement
- Even when they disagree on how
- Each original idea is attached



→ You will continue to have access to this dashboard!



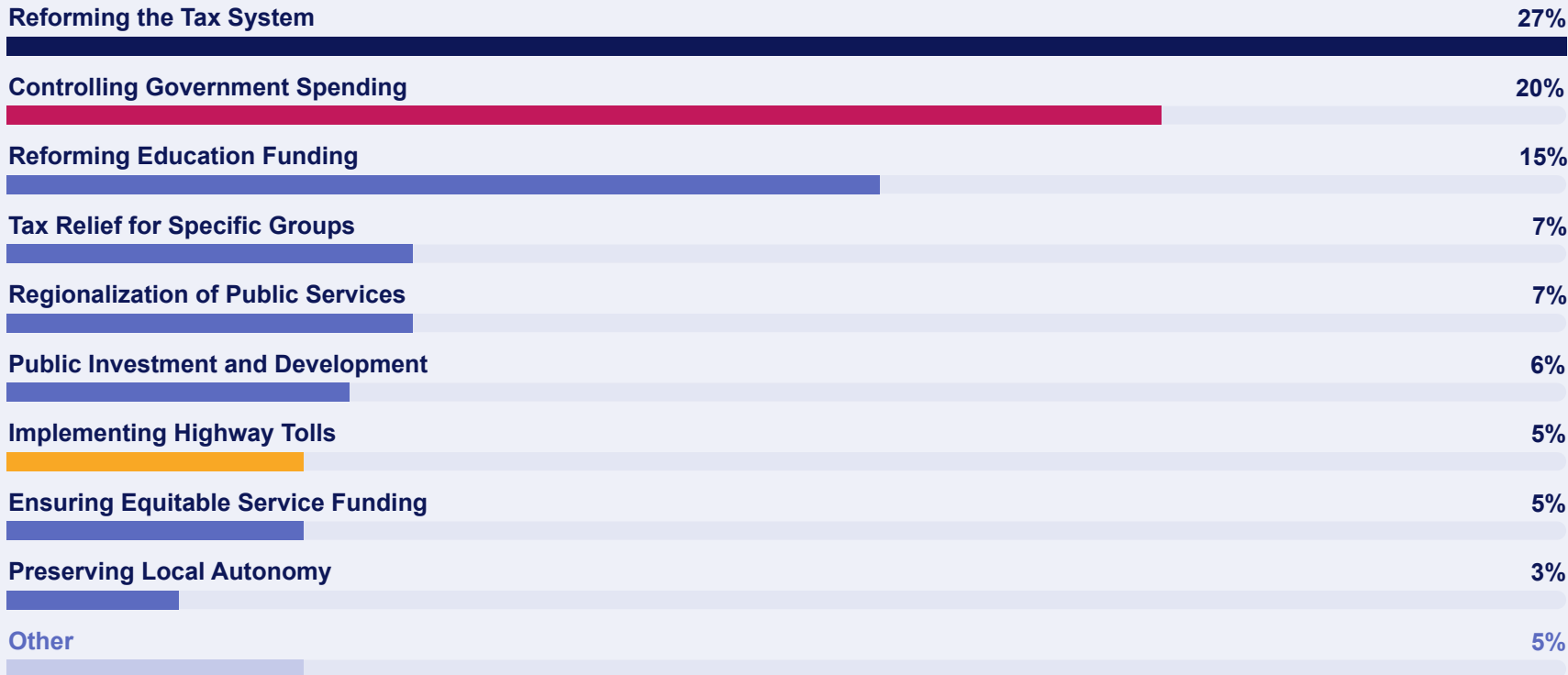
Results



RESULTS

Themes

As a percentage of the 171 accepted Make.org proposals



PUBLIC INPUT

Who Participated

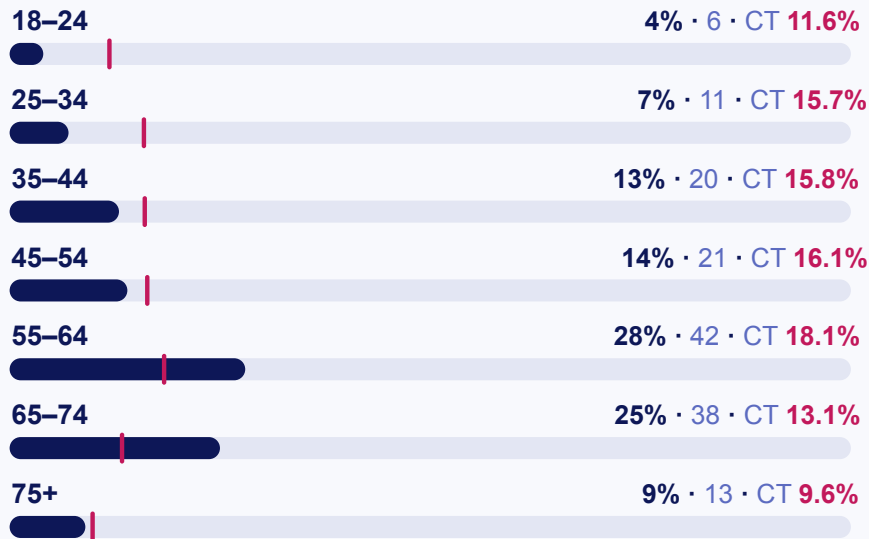
Participants skewed

- Older (average, 56 years)

Same reading: bar is the participants, **pink marker** is Connecticut.

What is your age?

153 answered · 93 skipped · mean 55.9 (0–88)



PUBLIC INPUT

Who Participated

Participants skewed

- Older (average, 56 years)
- Homeowners (75%)

Same reading: bar is the participants, **pink marker** is Connecticut.

What is your housing status? (owners combined)

244 answered · 43 skipped

I own 75% · 182 · CT **66.2%**



I rent 21% · 51 · CT **33.8%**



I live for free (with family, friends, etc) 5% · 11



PUBLIC INPUT

Who Participated

Participants skewed

- Older (average, 56 years)
- Homeowners (75%)
- No children under 18

Same reading: bar is the participants, **pink marker** is Connecticut.

Do you have children under 18 living in your household?

213 answered · 38 skipped

No 80% · 171 · CT 71.3%



Yes 20% · 42 · CT 28.7%



PUBLIC INPUT

Who Participated

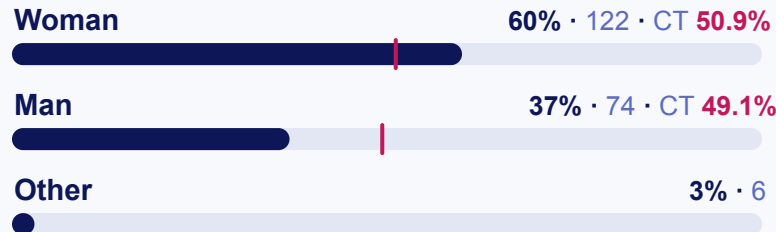
Same reading: bar is the participants, **pink marker** is Connecticut.

Participants skewed

- Older (average, 56 years)
- Homeowners (75%)
- No children under 18
- More women (60%)

What is your gender?

202 answered · 44 skipped



Who Participated

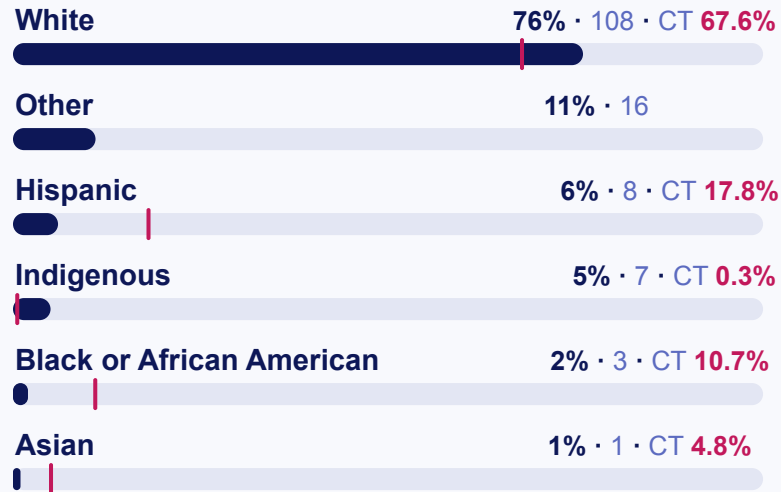
Same reading: bar is the participants, **pink marker** is Connecticut.

Participants skewed

- Older (average, 56 years)
- Homeowners (75%)
- No children under 18
- More women (60%)
- Race

What is your race? (check all that apply)

132 answered · 70 skipped



PUBLIC INPUT

Who Participated

Same reading: bar is the participants, **pink marker** is Connecticut.

Participants skewed

- Older (average, 56 years)
- Homeowners (75%)
- No children under 18
- More women (60%)
- Race

Participant representation

- Party Affiliation

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a...

254 answered · 35 skipped

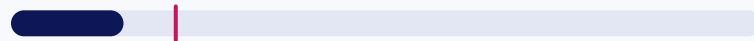
Independent 41% · 104 · CT **41.5%**



Democrat 30% · 75 · CT **35.2%**



Republican 15% · 39 · CT **21.7%**



Other 14% · 36 · CT **1.5%**



→ Not a representative survey, but one slice of Connecticut!

METHODOLOGY

Overview of ideas

CONSENSUS

253

proposals

≥ 60% “agree” ≥ 100 overall
votes

CONTROVERSY

139

proposals

≤ 50% “agree” ≥ 25% “disagree”
≥ 100 overall votes

NEUTRAL

34

proposals

> 40% “neutral”, or insufficient
votes to be classified in another
category

Where almost everyone agreed

Not just a high average — **every** opinion group landed on the same side of these.

Hold state and local government accountable when an audit reveals a problem — consequences must follow.



96% agree 1% disagree

[MAKE.ORG](https://make.org)

Audit taxpayer spending independently and publish it online, service by service.



89% agree 4% disagree [IDEAS FOR CHANGE](#)

Make local tax assessments and the process for raising taxes far more transparent.



87% agree 4% disagree [IDEAS FOR CHANGE](#)

When the state mandates a program for schools, the state should fund it — or at least half of it.



87% agree 2% disagree [IDEAS FOR CHANGE](#)

IDEAS

Where it Splits

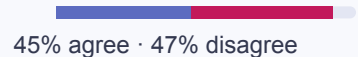
Lower Connecticut income tax to a flat 3% to simplify the code and cut tax-prep time.



Tax the very wealthy on income above a threshold, plus extra tax on non-primary residences.



Add a toll at our state borders.



Overall Topics

Reforming the Tax System

POPULAR IDEAS

- Revise property tax assessment & burden
- Restructure / eliminate vehicle-related taxes
- Reduce the overall tax burden on individuals

CONTROVERSIAL

Increase taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations

Controlling Government Spending

POPULAR IDEAS

- Audit government spending to eliminate waste
- Implement stricter budgeting and fiscal controls
- Increase transparency and accountability in public spending

Reforming Education Funding

POPULAR IDEAS

- Overhaul the state's education funding formula
- Separate funding for education from other services
- Increase competition in the education system

CONTROVERSIAL

Encourage and allow school choice

Tax Relief for Specific Groups

POPULAR IDEA

Reduce or eliminate property taxes for senior homeowners

Regionalization of Public Services

CONTROVERSIAL IDEA

Establish new funding mechanisms for shared regional services

Implementing Highway Tolls

CONTROVERSIAL IDEA

Install tolls on major highways

THE METHOD

How ideas become goals

ct-stats.changedialogues.org
Password in Wed Aug 5th email

Public Input
Connecticut Citizens Assembly

YOUR SESSION

- Explore the input
- Overview
- Goals**
- Saved 0
- Give feedback

REFERENCE

- About the process
- Make.org
- Ideas For Change
- Invite others

WORKING GROUP

- Revenue & K-12 Education

Goals

[How to read this page](#)

How is a goal created and where the numbers come from Hide

Goal statement

Ideas asking for similar outcomes are grouped together, even when they disagree on how. The goal is an overall summary of the related ideas, and every original idea stays attached.

A goal's bar is every vote cast inside it. Click the goal to read the original ideas.

Support, oppose and neutral votes on all the ideas inside, added up.

Residents' own words, unedited. ▲ and ▼ are votes on that single idea, not on the goal.

Remove property tax on elderly that's over 66 years... ▲48 ▼12

Reduce the property tax burden on residents, property owners, and agricultural landowners

61% support 433 23% oppose 166

13 ideas [Save](#)

IDEAS INSIDE

- Remove property tax on elderly that's over 66 years old that have no income wages ,... ▲80% ▼20%
- Stop over relying on property taxes to pay for them. ▲87% ▼13%
- Limit property taxes to 0.5% of home value. Other states limit property taxes in a simila... ▲85% ▼15%

[Show all 13 ideas](#)

Achieve a more equitable tax structure that distributes burdens fairly across income, wealth, and property levels

51% support 292 33% oppose 191

13 ideas [Save](#)

IDEAS INSIDE

- Stop over relying on property taxes to pay for them. ▲87% ▼13%
- Our tax system places an unfair burden on the middle class, while those at the top pa... ▲76% ▼24%
- We need a tiered tax rate for housing,cars,etc. Instead of a mill rate.... ▲63% ▼37%

[Show all 13 ideas](#)

THE METHOD

How ideas become goals

Nothing is rewritten or thrown away. Grouping is a way to read 545 ideas without reading each one.

1 Goal statement

Ideas asking for similar outcomes are grouped together, even when they disagree on how.

Goal: overall summary of the related ideas, every original idea stays attached.

2 The vote bar

Support, oppose and neutral votes on all the ideas inside, added up.



3 Proposed solutions

Open a goal and you read residents' own words, unedited. The ▲ and ▼ on each one are votes on that single idea, not on the goal.

NOTE

A goal can hold ideas that pull in opposite directions
Grouping tells you what people were arguing about, not what they concluded.

NOTE

Evidence, not instructions

Just input!

545 ideas from your neighbours

Where they agreed, where they split, and what (more!) needs to be discussed

Start from the common ground

Transparency, audits, funded mandates: the room is already with you.

Spend your time on the splits

Who pays, and what the state funds, is where deliberation earns its keep.



Password in Wed Aug 5th email

3

Demo



EXPLORE THE RESULTS!

ct-stats.changedialogues.org



Appendix Make.org Analysis



TOPIC 1

Reforming the Tax System

TOPIC 1 · REFORMING THE TAX SYSTEM

POPULAR IDEA

Revise property tax assessment and burden

8 proposals — on average 72% agree, 15% disagree and 13% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT

Reforming property tax by basing it on the property's initial purchase price and capping increases at the rate of inflation. The idea of completely eliminating property tax has also been raised, as has the elimination of sales tax on primary residences. Participants want fair taxation of large apartment complexes and a ban on registering vehicles out of state to avoid taxes.

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PROPOSALS

H.J.

We should reconsider property tax and base it on the amount we paid for our property versus the considered value of our property

427 votes · 64% agree · 16% neutral · 20% disagree

Michael, 70 years old

We should assess property taxes only on the purchase price of the property, not on subsequent valuations.

241 votes · 73% agree · 11% neutral · 16% disagree

Peter, 68 years old

We should disallow the residents of CT from registering their cars in other states to avoid property tax. You live here, you pa...

314 votes · 69% agree · 7% neutral · 24% disagree

Augusto, 50 years old

We should tax large apartment complexes equally compared to houses and condos.

426 votes · 74% agree · 16% neutral · 10% disagree

David

We should cap property tax increases to the inflation rate, even if that decreases the quality of public services

338 votes · 64% agree · 14% neutral · 22% disagree

Gary

We should end the sales tax on our primary homes.

121 votes · 69% agree · 24% neutral · 8% disagree

■ agree ■ neutral ■ disagree

TOPIC 1 · REFORMING THE TAX SYSTEM

POPULAR IDEA

Restructure or eliminate vehicle-related taxes

4 proposals — on average 76% agree, 13% disagree and 11% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT

Restructuring or eliminating vehicle-related taxes, particularly by abolishing the automobile tax and the annual registration tax. There is also a proposal to eliminate the fuel excise tax if the transportation fund reaches \$400 million, while addressing disparities in tax rates.

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PROPOSALS

Anthony, 54 years old

We should address disparities in motor vehicle tax rates.

428 votes · 73% agree · 14% neutral · 13% disagree

Thomasin

We should eliminate the annual vehicle registration tax.

426 votes · 74% agree · 11% neutral · 16% disagree

Daniel, 39 years old

We should eliminate the car tax

427 votes · 79% agree · 8% neutral · 13% disagree

Gary

We should eliminate the excise tax on fuel once the transportation fund reaches a reserve of \$400 million.

122 votes · 78% agree · 11% neutral · 11% disagree

TOPIC 1 · REFORMING THE TAX SYSTEM

POPULAR IDEA

Reduce the overall tax burden on individuals

3 proposals — on average 78% agree, 11% disagree and 11% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT

Reducing the overall tax burden on individuals by lowering taxes. This includes abolishing income tax and capital gains tax to attract residents and businesses, as well as eliminating the tax on public benefits.

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PROPOSALS

Megan, 54 years old

We should get rid of the public benefits tax which none of us voted for and is criminal.

428 votes · 78% agree · 13% neutral · 10% disagree

Matthew

We should also abolish the income tax and capital gains tax so we could easily attract more people and businesses in order to r...

427 votes · 70% agree · 12% neutral · 19% disagree

Lane, 58 years old

We should lower taxes

426 votes · 88% agree · 7% neutral · 5% disagree

TOPIC 1 · REFORMING THE TAX SYSTEM

CONTROVERSIAL IDEA

Increase taxes on wealthy individuals and corporations

5 proposals — on average 45% agree, 36% disagree and 19% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS ARE DIVIDED ON

Raising taxes on wealthy individuals and businesses to fund local services. The introduction of a wealth tax is frequently mentioned, with a suggestion to target incomes above \$300,000.

EXAMPLES OF CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS

Brendan

We should impose a wealth tax.

254 votes · 43% agree · 13% neutral · 45% disagree

Becca, 67 years old

We should tax the rich

254 votes · 48% agree · 23% neutral · 29% disagree

Matt, 35 years old

We should be taxing the wealthy (I'd say \$300k or above). A wealth tax just like they are working to do in NYC.

253 votes · 45% agree · 8% neutral · 47% disagree

Becca, 67 years old

We should tax the wealthy more and make corporations pay taxes.

253 votes · 49% agree · 20% neutral · 31% disagree

Sharon

We should graduate the state income tax rates over \$1-Million (individual) but allow 5 years income averaging for the newly/ rarely wealthy

253 votes · 43% agree · 30% neutral · 27% disagree

TOPIC 2

Controlling Government Spending

TOPIC 2 · CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT SPENDING

POPULAR IDEA

Audit government spending to eliminate waste

7 proposals — on average 80% agree, 11% disagree and 9% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT

Rigorously auditing public spending, at both the state and municipal levels, to identify and eliminate waste. The goal is to increase efficiency, reduce administrative costs, and eliminate unnecessary programs — including certain specific taxes — rather than raising taxes or cutting services.

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PROPOSALS

Lew, 62 years old

We should bring DOGE in to find out where the waste is

428 votes · 63% agree · 5% neutral · 32% disagree

Uli, 67 years old

We should have periodic, forensic financial audits of the state, cities and municipalities. Reduce administrative expenses.

379 votes · 91% agree · 6% neutral · 3% disagree

Arthur, 73 years old

We should, rather than looking for more ways that the state can take in tax money, look for ways to cut spending that will solve it

309 votes · 89% agree · 8% neutral · 3% disagree

Max, 54 years old

We should cut useless programs and/or stop the abuse.

427 votes · 85% agree · 9% neutral · 6% disagree

Marcus, 35 years old

We should investigate and reduce waste and increase efficiency, rather than look at increasing taxes or reducing services.

310 votes · 89% agree · 8% neutral · 3% disagree

Gary

We should end useless programs and their taxes on bottles, bags. People recycle what they can already.

150 votes · 67% agree · 12% neutral · 21% disagree

TOPIC 2 · CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT SPENDING

POPULAR IDEA

Implement stricter budgeting and fiscal controls

5 proposals — on average 81% agree, 7% disagree and 12% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT

Keeping public spending under control and enforcing strict fiscal discipline before raising taxes. Governments should adopt a zero-based budget periodically — ideally every five years — to reassess existing programs. It is imperative not to spend beyond the allocated budget, even if that means cutting services rather than raising taxes.

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PROPOSALS

Frank, 63 years old

We should emphasize fiscal discipline so spending is controlled before taxes are increased.

427 votes · 91% agree · 5% neutral · 3% disagree

Arthur, 73 years old

We should stop spending more than the budget allows. If the budget doesn't cover it then it should take an act of Congress to cut...

427 votes · 88% agree · 7% neutral · 5% disagree

Eric, 63 years old

We should require state and local governments to periodically undergo zero-based budgeting to be sure legacy programs are prope...

347 votes · 75% agree · 18% neutral · 7% disagree

Arthur, 73 years old

We should provide fewer services and you can cut your budget. You can't just keep finding ways to tax people. Fix spending to t...

339 votes · 75% agree · 10% neutral · 15% disagree

Eric, 63 years old

We should require state and municipal governmental departments to undergo a zero-based budgeting process every 5 years.

311 votes · 76% agree · 17% neutral · 7% disagree

TOPIC 2 · CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT SPENDING

POPULAR IDEA

Increase transparency and accountability in public spending

5 proposals — on average 85% agree, 6% disagree and 9% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT

Better controlling public spending and increasing budgetary transparency, particularly through clear charts showing how tax revenue is allocated. Transparency in government operations is crucial to restoring public trust. The government must also be held accountable for any problems revealed by audits, with concrete consequences.

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PROPOSALS

Kent

We should all focus on how tax dollars are budgeted, specifically with easy-to-read graphs of which taxes fund which programs a...

311 votes · 89% agree · 9% neutral · 2% disagree

Kent, 70 years old

We should provide transparency of government operations to bring back the public trust in government.

295 votes · 93% agree · 6% neutral · 1% disagree

Donna, 71 years old

We should hold the government (state, local) accountable when an audit reveals a problem. Consequences must result.

280 votes · 95% agree · 3% neutral · 1% disagree

Kent

We should clearly see tax income from each source and what specific services are funded by which taxes. Taxes earmarked by their purposes.

312 votes · 82% agree · 9% neutral · 8% disagree

Kent, 70 years old

We should transparently fund each public service from a dedicated income stream: roads from gas tax, education from property tax ...

272 votes · 65% agree · 17% neutral · 18% disagree

TOPIC 3

Reforming Education Funding

TOPIC 3 · REFORMING EDUCATION FUNDING

POPULAR IDEA

Overhaul the state's education funding formula

3 proposals — on average 74% agree, 9% disagree and 17% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT

Fundamentally reforming the state's education funding formula, particularly the ECS formula. The goal is to increase the state's contribution to cover 10% of school budgets, in order to address the chronic underfunding of schools and reduce property taxes.

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PROPOSALS

Libby

We should overhaul the ECS formula, which would both address chronic underfunding of schools and lower property taxes.

240 votes · 72% agree · 23% neutral · 6% disagree

Tyler, 19 years old

We should have the state pay for 10% of all public school district budgets to allow for a proportionate decrease in property ta...

239 votes · 69% agree · 15% neutral · 16% disagree

Libby

We should overhaul the state's education cost sharing formula, which would both address underfunding of schools and lower prope...

236 votes · 82% agree · 12% neutral · 6% disagree

TOPIC 3 · REFORMING EDUCATION FUNDING

POPULAR IDEA

Separate funding for education from other services

3 proposals — on average 65% agree, 17% disagree and 18% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT

Separating education funding from that of other local public services. It is also considered essential to specifically distinguish the education budget from the budget allocated to school meals and transportation.

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PROPOSALS

Jasmine, 29 years old

We should treat education funding separately from other local services.

313 votes · 70% agree · 16% neutral · 15% disagree

Kent, 70 years old

We should separate education funding from feeding and transporting children.

273 votes · 61% agree · 18% neutral · 21% disagree

Kent

We should separate funding for education from funding for feeding and transporting children.

272 votes · 65% agree · 19% neutral · 16% disagree

TOPIC 3 · REFORMING EDUCATION FUNDING

POPULAR IDEA

Increase competition in the education system

3 proposals — on average 63% agree, 20% disagree and 17% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT

Breaking the government's monopoly on children's education. It is considered essential to establish genuine alternatives and introduce healthy competition to challenge the current system, which allocates significant resources to areas other than teaching.

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PROPOSALS

Kent

We should break the government monopoly on the education of children.

274 votes · 67% agree · 14% neutral · 19% disagree

Kent, 70 years old

We should allow true competition to challenge the government monopoly on the education of children.

274 votes · 60% agree · 19% neutral · 21% disagree

Kent

We should provide alternatives to our education monopoly that spends as much on food and transportation as on education.

271 votes · 62% agree · 17% neutral · 21% disagree

TOPIC 3 · REFORMING EDUCATION FUNDING

CONTROVERSIAL IDEA

Encourage and allow school choice

2 proposals — on average 48% agree, 36% disagree and 16% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS ARE DIVIDED ON

Encouraging school choice and introducing universal school vouchers so that parents can freely choose schools. Another controversial aspect concerns the proposal to end social services investigations into families who opt for homeschooling.

EXAMPLES OF CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS

Kendall, 79 years old

We should have universal vouchers to allow parents to choose their own schools.

252 votes · 47% agree · 15% neutral · 38% disagree

Linda, 78 years old

We should encourage school choice and stop the Government from allowing Social Services to investigate those who choose to home...

251 votes · 49% agree · 16% neutral · 35% disagree

TOPIC 4

Tax Relief for Specific Groups

TOPIC 4 · TAX RELIEF FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS

POPULAR IDEA

Reduce or eliminate property taxes for senior homeowners

5 proposals — on average 80% agree, 13% disagree and 7% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT

Completely eliminating property taxes for senior homeowners, specifically targeting their primary residence and also including taxes on vehicles. This measure aims to significantly reduce the tax burden on this population.

EXAMPLES OF POPULAR PROPOSALS

Catherine, 73 years old

We should eliminate home & car taxes for seniors

429 votes · 78% agree · 7% neutral · 15% disagree

Albert, 80 years old

We should stop property taxes on seniors!

238 votes · 75% agree · 9% neutral · 17% disagree

Bob, 75 years old

We should end all property taxes for seniors on their primary residence.

237 votes · 83% agree · 6% neutral · 11% disagree

Holly, 69 years old

We should give elderly home owners a break in paying property taxes. Elderly homeowners are losing their homes due to the taxes.

241 votes · 85% agree · 7% neutral · 8% disagree

Peter, 68 years old

We should eliminate property tax for senior citizens that are below a certain level of income to be determined at a later date.

394 votes · 77% agree · 10% neutral · 12% disagree

■ agree ■ neutral ■ disagree

TOPIC 5

Regionalization of Public Services

TOPIC 5 · REGIONALIZATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

CONTROVERSIAL IDEA

Establish new funding mechanisms for shared regional services

2 proposals — on average 31% agree, 45% disagree and 24% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS ARE DIVIDED ON

The implementation of new funding mechanisms for shared regional services is a source of disagreement. The controversial proposals involve introducing a surcharge on certain professional services or allocating a percentage of real estate transfer taxes to fund these intermunicipal services.

EXAMPLES OF CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS

Jason

We should allow a % of real estate conveyance taxes to fund shared services between towns



Jason

We should allow a small surcharge on certain professional services to fund shared services between towns



TOPIC 6

Implementing Highway Tolls

TOPIC 6 · IMPLEMENTING HIGHWAY TOLLS

CONTROVERSIAL IDEA

Install tolls on major highways

6 proposals — on average 44% agree, 44% disagree and 12% neutral

THE PARTICIPANTS ARE DIVIDED ON

Installing tolls on Connecticut's highways. Proposals differ regarding locations, suggesting tolls on I-84 and I-95, or only on I-95 due to its heavy traffic and existing tolls to other states. Others propose placing tolls at state borders at all entry and exit points.

EXAMPLES OF CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS

Wendy

We should start to collect tolls on route 84 and 95 considering the amount of traffic that is on both highways.

255 votes · 40% agree · 12% neutral · 48% disagree

Mir, 58 years old

We should place tolls where CT begins on all ends and when they leave as well

252 votes · 39% agree · 14% neutral · 47% disagree

Rick, 70 years old

We should create a toll to come into Connecticut, no toll to leave. Residents get a lower amount. Money used for roads and or public safety.

252 votes · 46% agree · 12% neutral · 42% disagree

Sheri, 65 years old

We should have tolls just on 95. That is where traffic is the busiest and it has tolls going into other states

253 votes · 45% agree · 13% neutral · 42% disagree

Jennifer, 57 years old

We should add a toll at our state borders.

252 votes · 45% agree · 8% neutral · 47% disagree

Jim, 68 years old

We should place tolls at the entry/exit locations of 95, 84 & 91. This would target the passing through out of state vehicles.

252 votes · 50% agree · 11% neutral · 39% disagree

■ agree ■ neutral ■ disagree