



VOICES of VALUE

October 2026 Survey Report



COMPILED BY

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Katie Sonder is Associate Director and Fellow at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy at Salve Regina University. Sonder's current research involves applying conflict resolution best practices to U.S. political polarization. Sonder earned her M.A. in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University in Washington, DC and her B.A. in Philosophy from New York University. She has lived and worked abroad in Thailand through the Princeton in Asia fellowship and in Ethiopia as a Peace Corps volunteer.

ABOUT THE PELL CENTER

The Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy at Salve Regina is a multidisciplinary research center focused at the intersection of politics, policies and ideas. Dedicated to honoring Sen. Claiborne Pell's legacy, the Pell Center promotes American engagement in the world, effective government at home and civic participation by all Americans.

Our programs are designed to generate new ideas, to expand public understanding of important issues and, ultimately, to help the public and its leaders make better decisions. Working with students and faculty, we don't just study the world, we try to change it.

The Pell Center is animated by Sen. Claiborne Pell's belief that politics is about translating ideas into action to help people. We work to supplement the education available to Salve Regina students by fostering civic participation to make the world a better place.

ABOUT SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. It offers rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 students from around the world are enrolled in Salve's 60+ academic programs, which include bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees along with graduate certificates and combined bachelor's/master's programs. Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year experience that charts a personalized, values-based path connecting college to a successful, fulfilling career and life.



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

CONGRESSIONAL BALLOTS

Incumbent Senator Jack Reed (55%) holds a 23-point lead over Republican challenger Raymond McKay (32%). Reed has at least 60% support among women, voters aged 18-34 and 65+, people of color, and college-educated voters. Among the Rhode Island counties, his strongest support is in Providence County (56%).

Both incumbent members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Gabe Amo and Seth Magaziner, receive 52% support, though the race for Rhode Island's 2nd Congressional District is more competitive. Victor Mellor (39%) trails Magaziner by 13 points, while Kellie Keenan (33%) trails Amo by 19 points.

STATEWIDE BALLOTS

Helena Foulkes (39%) leads the gubernatorial race by 11 points, followed by Ken Block (28%), the strongest independent candidate, and Republican Aaron Guckian (17%). Foulkes leads across major demographic groups, though the combined support for Block and Guckian outweighs that of Foulkes in some groups, including across all Rhode Island counties. Thirteen percent of voters remain undecided.

The Lieutenant Governor's race is the closest contest tested on the midterm ballot, with a statistical tie between incumbent Sabina Matos (43%) and John Loughlin (44%). Matos performs well among women (53%) and Hispanic voters (56%), while Loughlin has stronger support among men (58%) and White voters (47%).

Kim Ahern (52%) leads Alan Gordon (34%) in the Attorney General's race while 13% of likely voters remain unsure.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

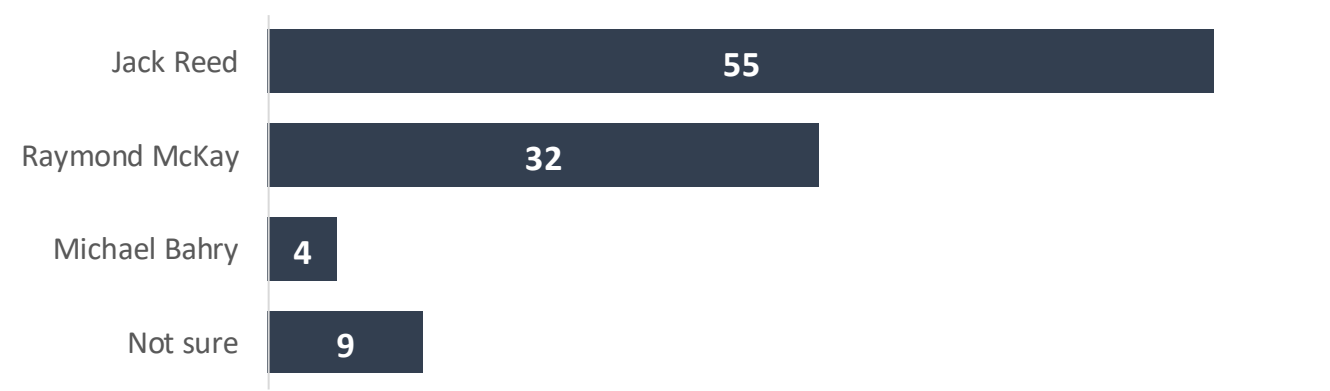
On behalf of the Pell Center, Embold Research surveyed 815 likely 2026 voters in Rhode Island from October 5-8, 2026. Respondents were recruited via dynamic online sampling, and SMS text-to-web sampling to attain a sample reflective of the electorate. To represent likely midterm voter turnout as accurately as possible, the data was weighted to 2024 vote choice and demographic characteristics including age, gender, ethnicity, education, and region, but not party registration. Weighting parameters are based on likely electorate demographic composition, based on available voter file data. The modeled margin of error is +/- 3.6%. Subgroup analyses are based on smaller sample sizes and therefore have larger margins of error than the full sample. Full methodology statement [here](#).

General Election

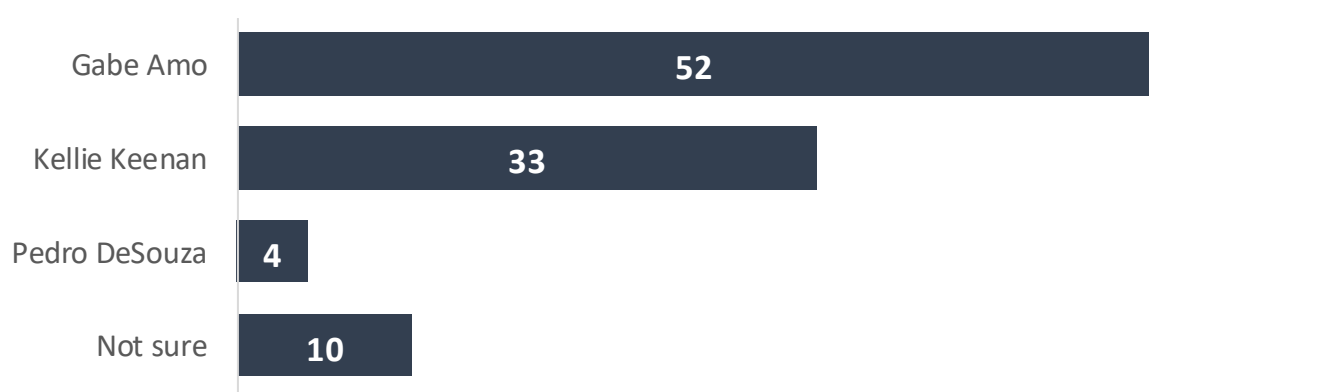
LIKELY VOTERS

If the election were held today, % who would vote for ...

Senator from Rhode Island



U.S. House Representative – Rhode Island’s 1st Congressional District

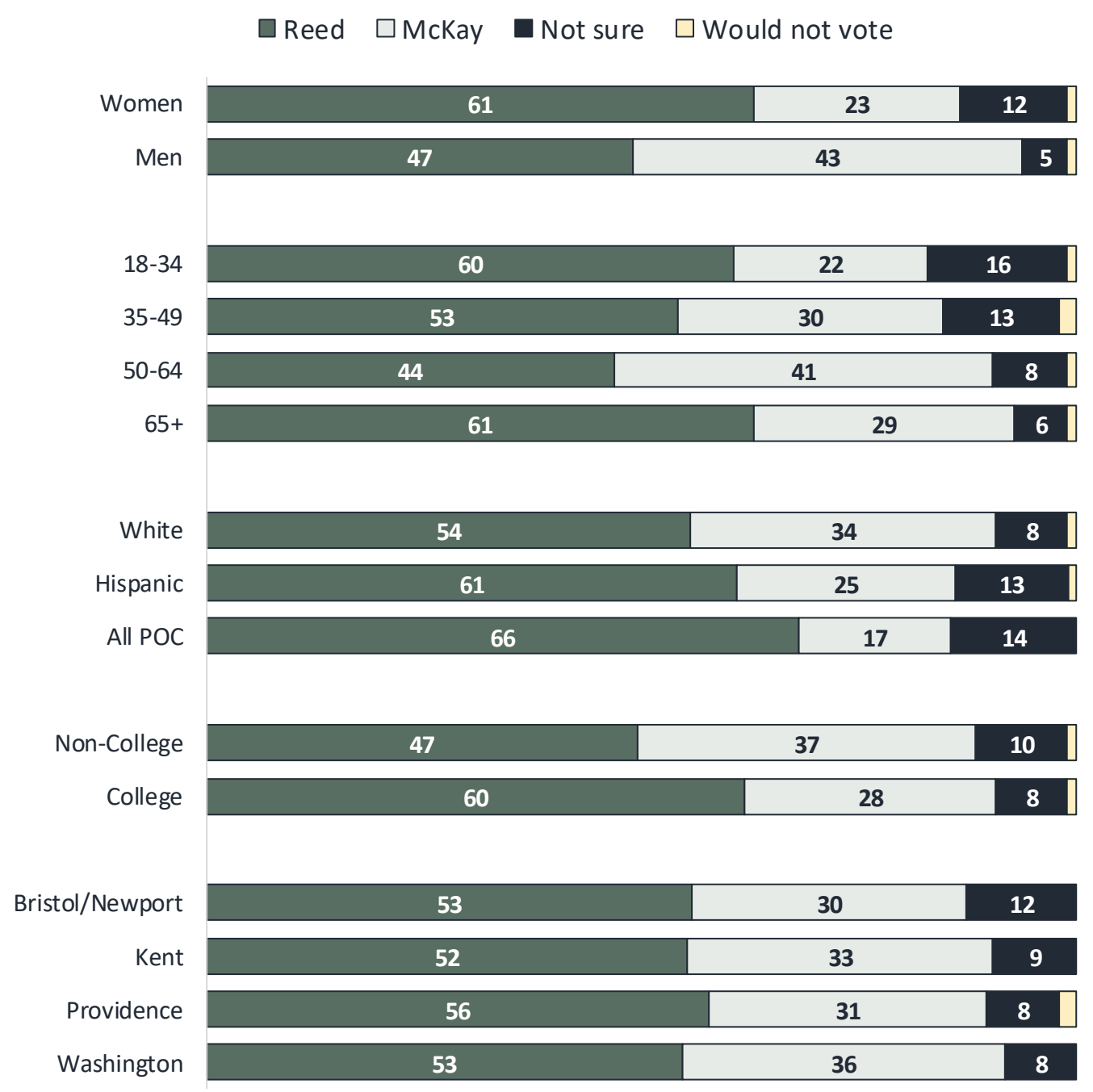


General Election

UNPACKING THE SENATE RACE

If the election were held today, % who would vote for ...

Senator from Rhode Island

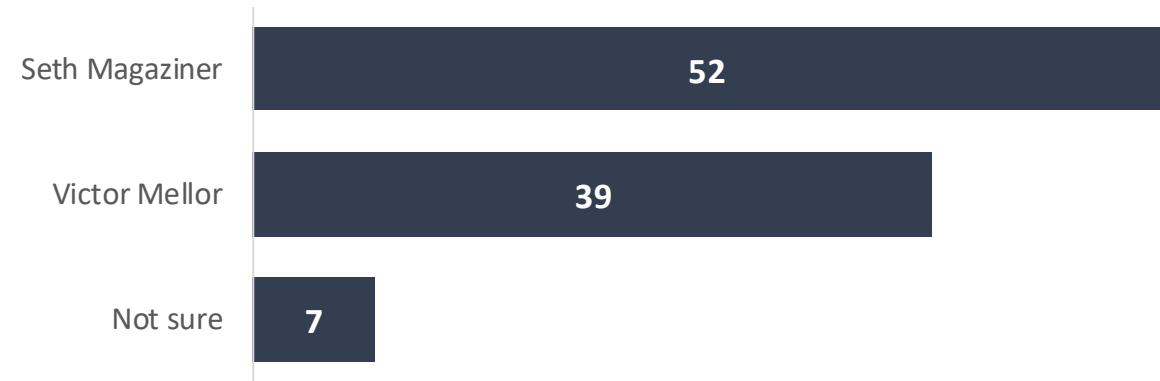


General Election

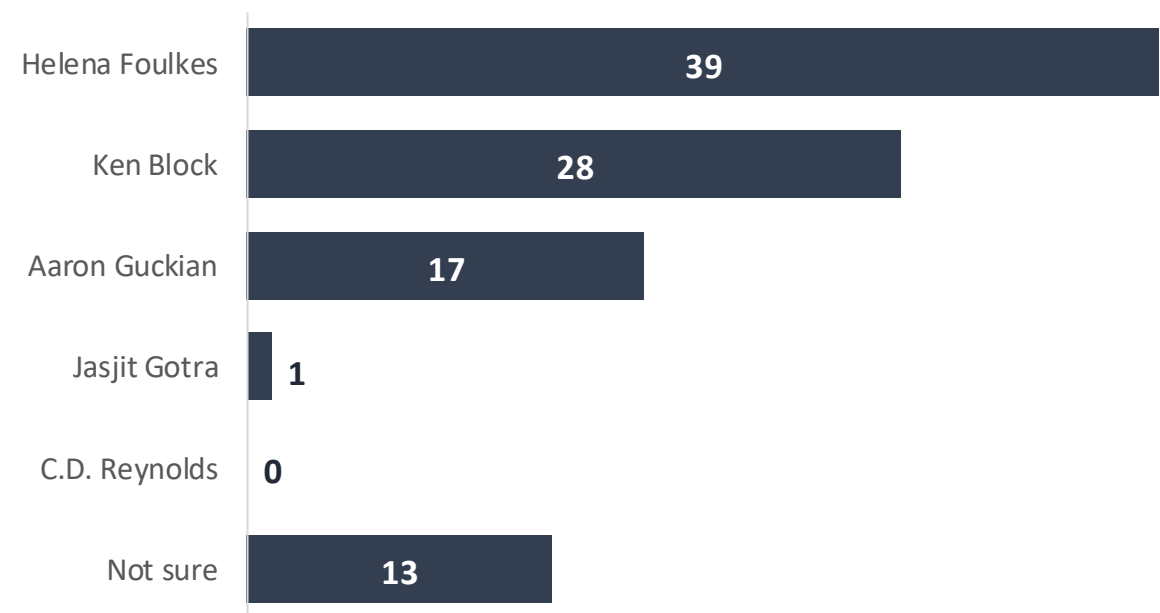
LIKELY VOTERS

If the election were held today, % who would vote for ...

U.S. House Representative – Rhode Island’s 2nd Congressional District



Rhode Island Governor



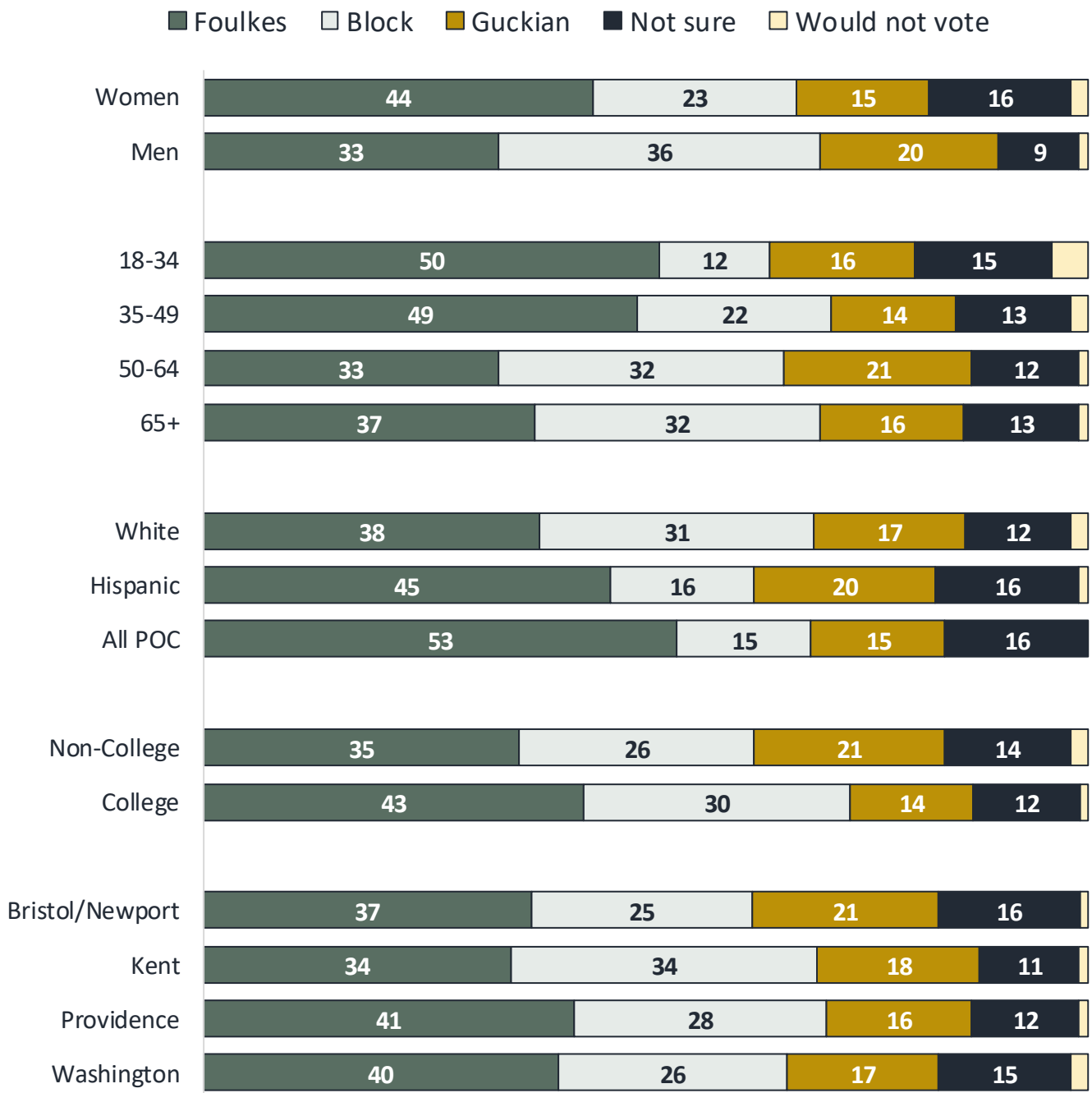
Note: Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding and exclusion of respondents selecting 'Would not vote' (1-2%).

General Election

UNPACKING THE GOVERNOR’S RACE

If the election were held today, % who would vote for ...

Rhode Island Governor

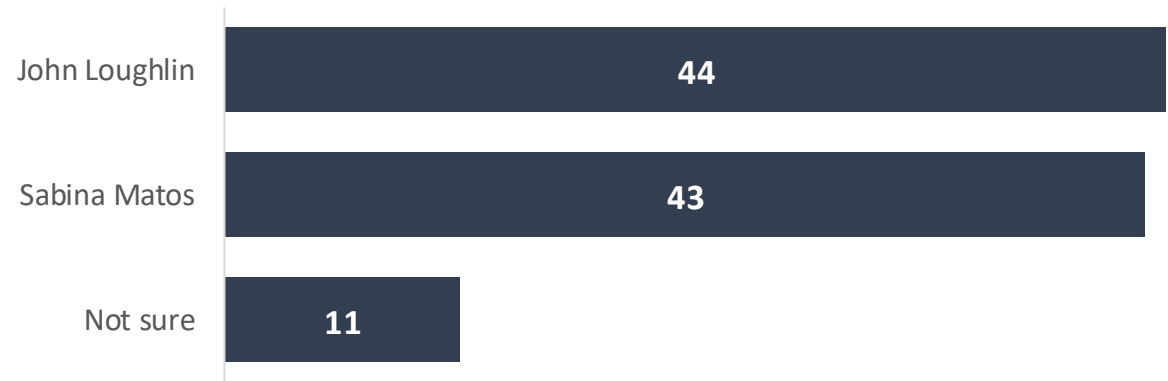


General Election

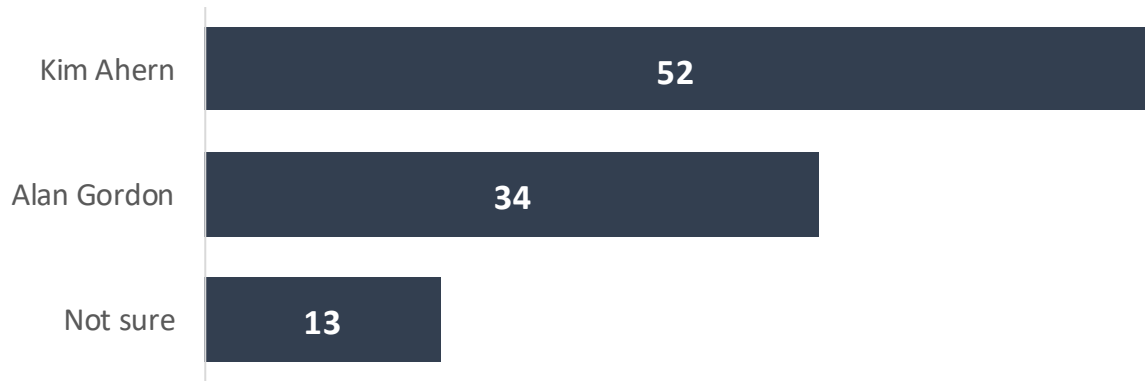
LIKELY VOTERS

If the election were held today, % who would vote for ...

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor



Rhode Island Attorney General



Note: Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding and exclusion of respondents selecting 'Would not vote' (1-2%).

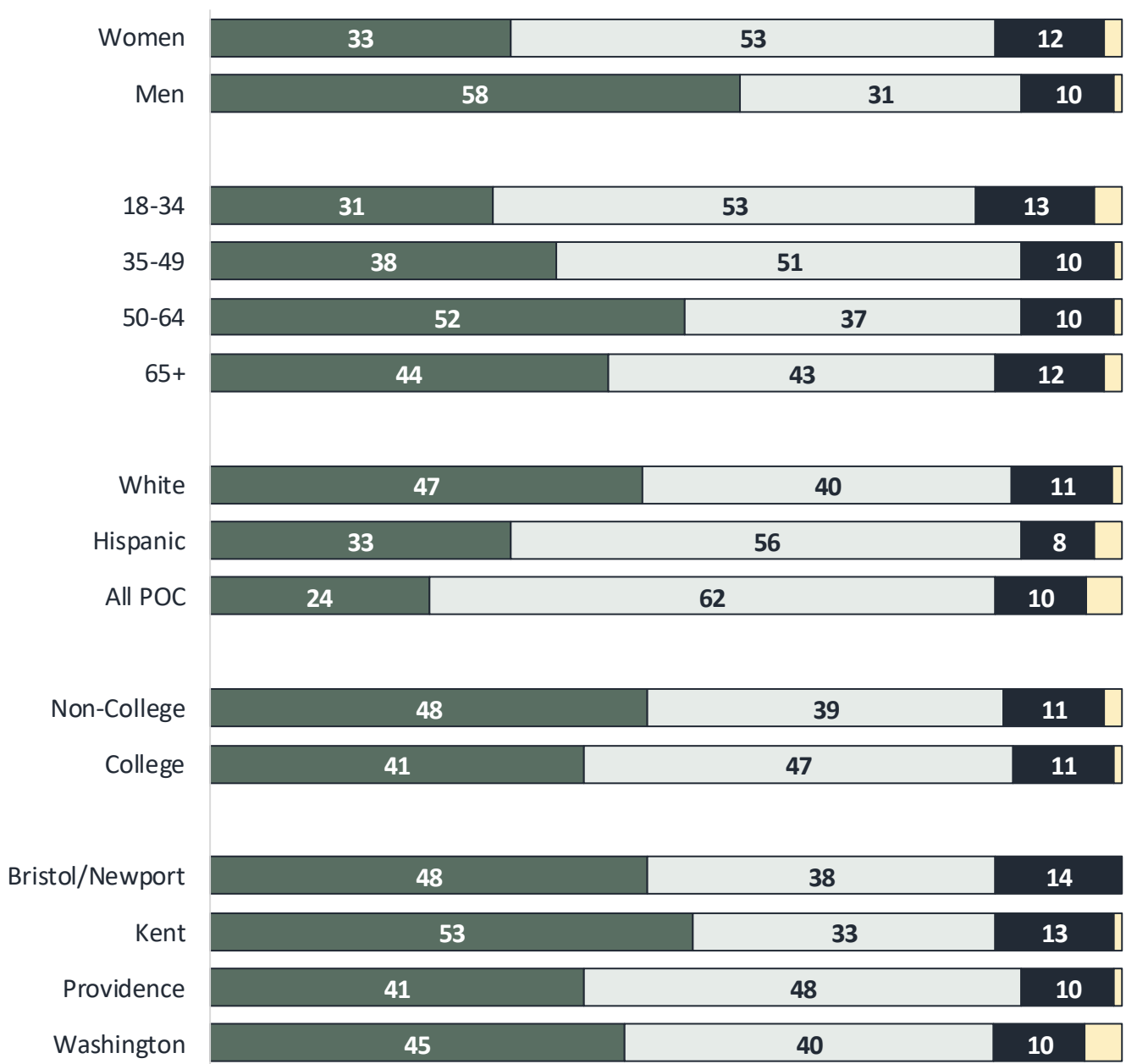
General Election

UNPACKING THE LT. GOVERNOR’S RACE

If the election were held today, % who would vote for ...

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor

Loughlin Matos Not sure Would not vote



Note: Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Survey Demographics	Likely Voters
n = 815 ; modeled margin of error 3.6%	
Registered Party	
Republican	19%
Democrat	39%
Registered to vote, but not with a political party	40%
Some other political party	2%
Party Identification	
Base Republicans	20%
Independents + Leaners	44%
Base Democrats	36%
Vote in 2024 elections	
Kamala Harris, the Democrat	52%
Donald Trump, the Republican	40%
A third-party candidate	3%
Not registered/too young/ineligible	1%
Did not vote	5%
Age	
18-34	9%
35-49	18%
50-64	29%
65+	43%
Race	
White	85%
Hispanic	6%
Black	4%
AAPI	1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%
Other	3%
Identity	
Man	45%
Woman	54%
Another identity	1%

Note: 'not sure' responses not shown

Survey Demographics cont.	Likely Voters
n = 815 ; modeled margin of error 3.6%	
Highest level of education completed	
High school diploma or less	12%
Some college, no degree	20%
Associate's degree	12%
Bachelor's degree	30%
Graduate degree	26%
Congressional district	
1	44%
2	51%
RI Regions	
Bristol/Newport	13%
Kent	16%
Providence	58%
Washington	14%

Note: 'not sure' responses not shown

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Demographics

1. Are you:

- A man
- A woman
- Another identity

2. In what year were you born?

3. In what ZIP code do you currently live?

3b. Here is a map of Rhode Island's two congressional districts. In which district do you live? [SHOW MAP]

- 1
- 2
- Not sure

4. What is your race?

- White / Caucasian
- Hispanic or Latino/a
- Black or African American
- Asian / Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Other (please specify)

4b. [IF NOT HISPANIC] Are you from a Hispanic, Latino/a or Spanish-speaking background?

- Yes
- No

5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- High school diploma or less
- Some college, but no degree
- Associate's degree, or two-year college degree
- Bachelor's degree, or four-year college degree
- Graduate degree

6. Are you registered to vote in Rhode Island?

- Yes
- No [TERMINATE]
- Not sure [TERMINATE]

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

- Democrat
- Republican
- Independent/Other

*7a. [If 7 = Democrat/Republican] Do you consider yourself a:

- Strong Democrat/Republican
- Not so strong Democrat/Republican

*7b. [If 7 = Ind/Other] Do you consider yourself closer to:

- The Democrats
- The Republicans
- Neither

8. Regardless of what you think of the political parties, which party are you registered to vote with?

- The Democratic Party
- The Republican Party
- A third party
- Registered to vote, but not with a political party

9. How did you vote in the 2024 election for President, or for some reason were you unable to vote?

- Kamala Harris, the Democrat
- Donald Trump, the Republican
- A third party candidate
- Not registered/Too young/Ineligible
- Did not vote

• 10. How likely are you to vote in the November 2026 election for U.S. Congress, Governor, and other offices?

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, probably
- Maybe (50-50)
- No, probably not
- No, definitely not [TERMINATE]

Midterm Election Ballot

11. If the election for U.S. Senator from Rhode Island were held today, who would you vote for?

- Raymond McKay, the Republican
- Jack Reed, the Democrat
- Michael Bahry, Independent
- Not sure

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for?

- Raymond McKay, the Republican
- Jack Reed, the Democrat
- Michael Bahry, Independent
- Not sure
- Would not vote

12. [SHOW RI-01 ONLY] If the election for Rhode Island U.S. House representative were held today, who would you vote for?

- Kellie Keenan, the Republican
- Gabe Amo, the Democrat
- Pedro DeSouza, Independent
- Not sure [ANCHOR]

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for?

- Kellie Keenan, the Republican
- Gabe Amo, the Democrat
- Pedro DeSouza, Independent
- Not sure [ANCHOR]
- Would not vote [ANCHOR]

13. [SHOW RI-02 ONLY] If the election for Rhode Island U.S. House representative were held today, who would you vote for?

- Seth Magaziner, the Democrat
- Victor Mellor, the Republican
- Not sure [ANCHOR]

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for?

- Seth Magaziner, the Democrat
- Victor Mellor, the Republican
- Not sure [ANCHOR]
- Would not vote [ANCHOR]

14. If the election for Rhode Island Governor were held today, who would you vote for?

- Aaron Guckian, the Republican
- Helena Foulkes, the Democrat
- Ken Block, Independent
- Jasjit Gotra, Independent
- C.D. Reynolds, Independent
- Not sure [ANCHOR]

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for?

- Aaron Guckian, the Republican
- Helena Foulkes, the Democrat
- Ken Block, Independent
- Jasjit Gotra, Independent
- C.D. Reynolds, Independent
- Not sure [ANCHOR]
- Would not vote [ANCHOR]

15. If the election for Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor were held today, who would you vote for?

- John Loughlin, the Republican
- Sabina Matos, the Democrat
- Not sure [ANCHOR]

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for?

- John Loughlin, the Republican
- Sabina Matos, the Democrat
- Not sure [ANCHOR]
- Would not vote [ANCHOR]

16. If the election for Rhode Island Attorney General were held today, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- Alan Gordon, the Republican
- Kim Ahern, the Democrat
- Not sure [ANCHOR]

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- Alan Gordon, the Republican
- Kim Ahern, the Democrat
- Not sure [ANCHOR]
- Would not vote [ANCHOR]