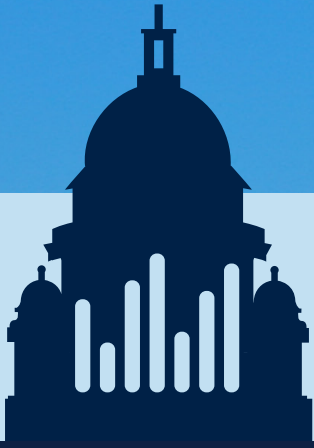




THE RHODE ISLAND SURVEY INITIATIVE
URI SOCIAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND POLICY
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Healthcare and Governance in Rhode Island



Photo by: Quintin Soloviev

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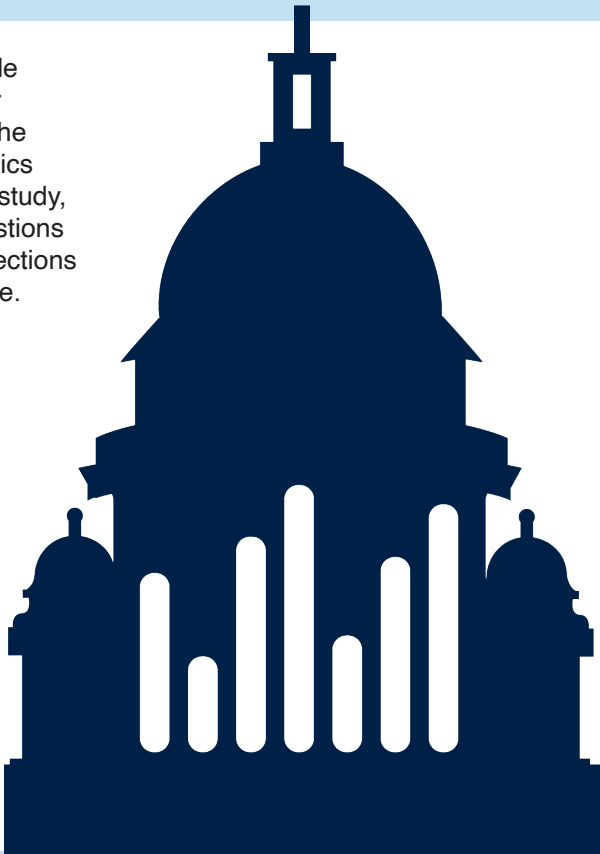
ABOUT

The Rhode Island Survey Initiative (RISI) is led by the University of Rhode Island’s College of Arts and Sciences and the Social Science Institute for Research, Education, and Policy. RISI received additional support from the College of Health Sciences and the John Hazen White Sr. Center for Ethics and Public Service. Each year, one major theme is selected for in-depth study, as well as a set of timely current-events items, and a core battery of questions tracked annually. Previous RISI major themes were education (2023), elections (2024), and housing (2025). For RISI 2026, the major theme is healthcare.

COMPILED BY:
Julie C. Keller
Associate Professor of Sociology
Special thanks to Leah Pisari and Michael DiNardi

METHODOLOGY

The fourth annual survey (2026) was administered online by YouGov, an international market-research and data-analytics firm, from July 29 to August 13, 2026 and includes N=500 Rhode Island adults (18+). Respondents were matched to a statewide sampling frame and the final data were weighted to known targets for gender, age, race/ ethnicity, education, and region. The estimated margin of error for the full sample is ±5.73 percentage points. Not all survey questions are presented in this report.



PART 1: EVALUATION OF HEALTHCARE SYSTEM



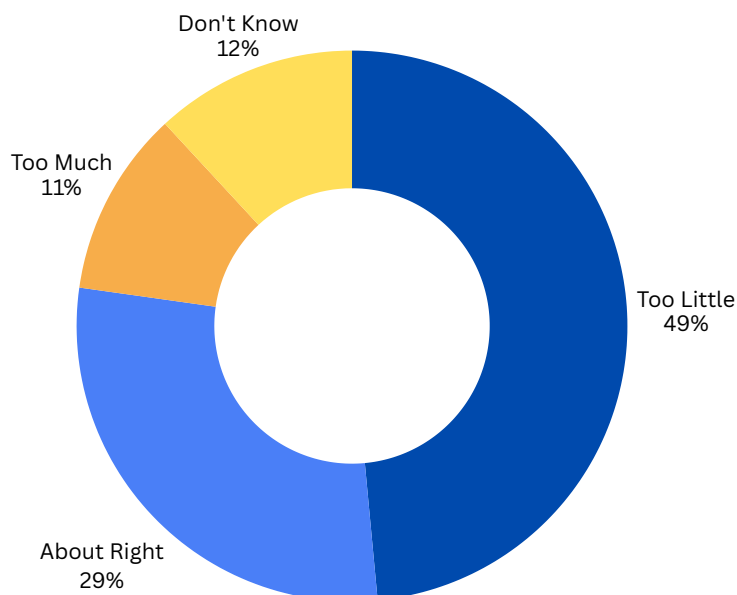
Evaluating Rhode Island's Healthcare System

What grade would you give the healthcare system in Rhode Island for each of the following right now?

	A Excellent	B Good	C Satisfactory	D Poor	F Fail	Unsure
RI Healthcare System Overall	11%	27%	36%	18%	6%	2%
 Cost of Healthcare	10%	14%	26%	34%	12%	3%
 Access to Healthcare	14%	28%	34%	17%	4%	3%
 Quality of Healthcare	14%	37%	31%	16%	1%	1%

State Spending on Healthcare

Are we spending too much money, too little, or about the right amount on improving and protecting health in the state of Rhode Island?

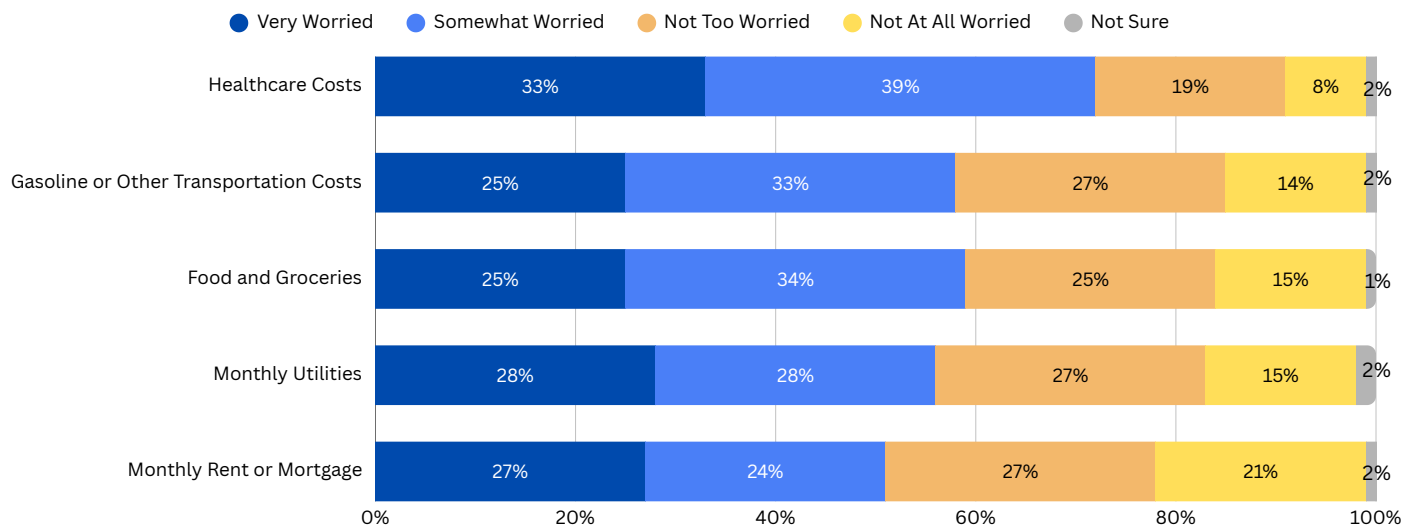


PART 2: AFFORDABILITY & INSURANCE



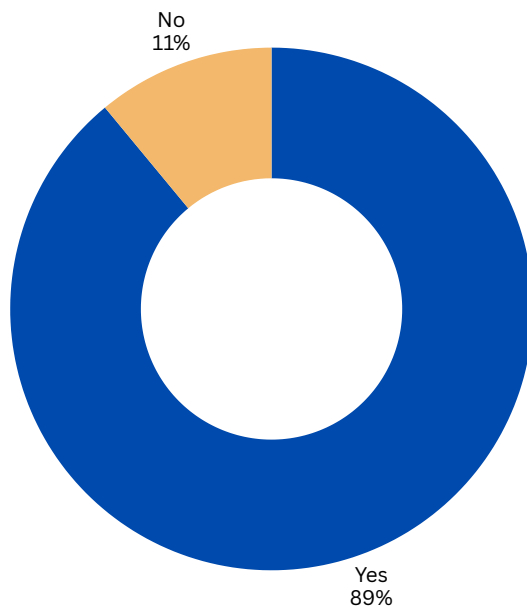
Affordability

How worried, if at all, are you about being able to afford each of the following for you and your family?



Health Insurance Coverage

Are you covered by any kind of health insurance (for example, private health insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, Children's Health Insurance Program) or some other kind of health care plan?



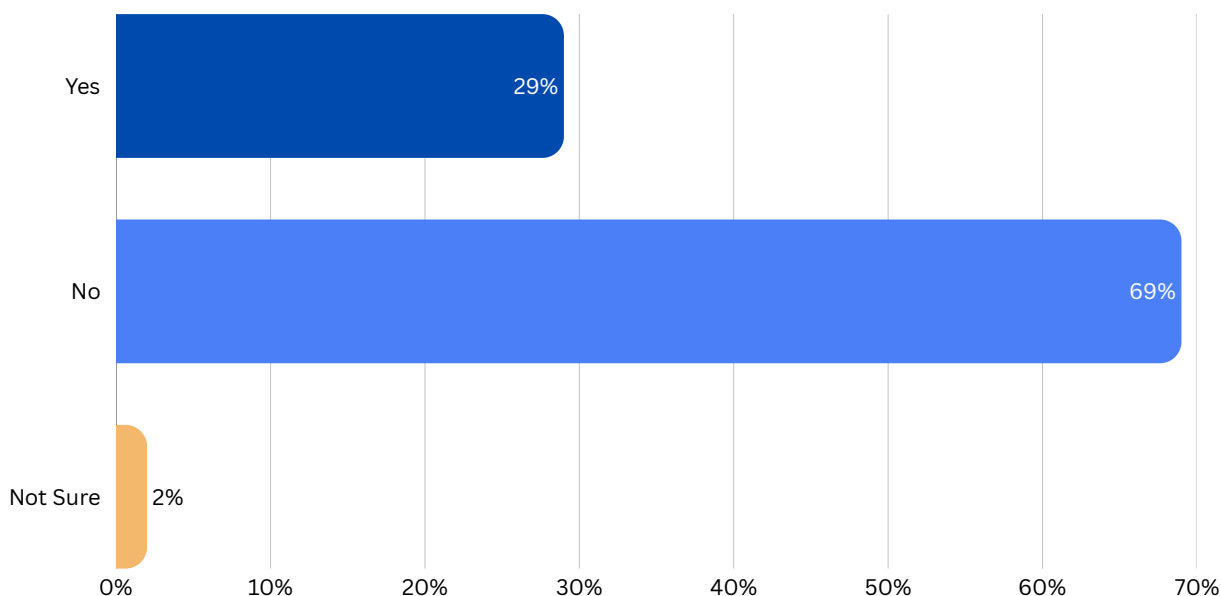
PART 2: AFFORDABILITY & INSURANCE



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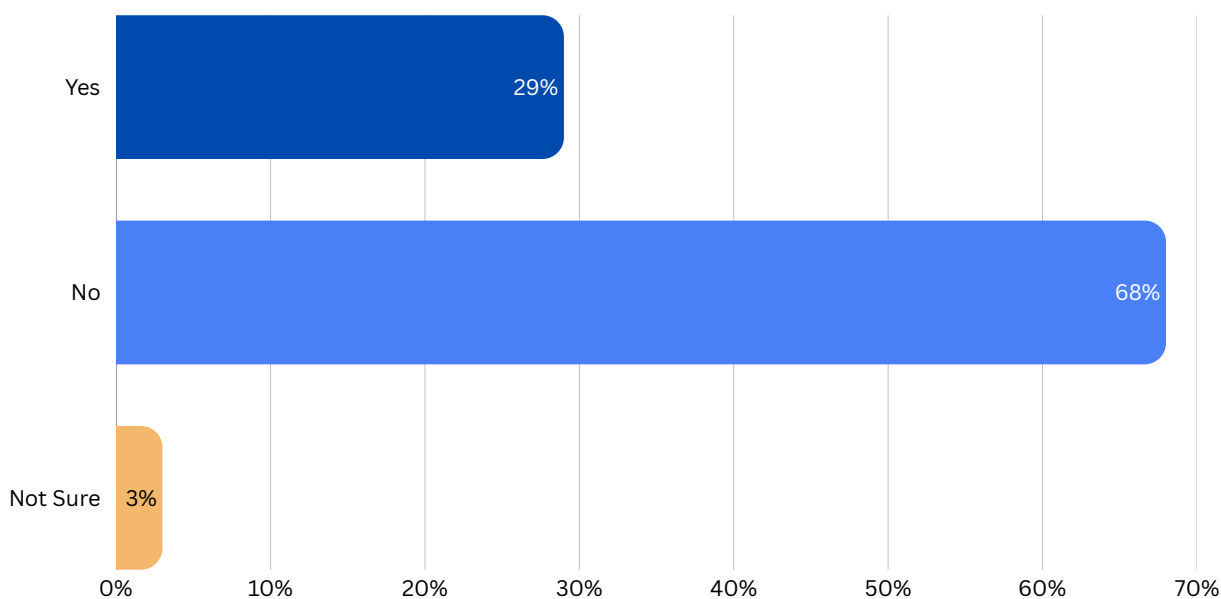
Delaying Medical Treatment Due to Cost

Has there been a time in the last 12 months when you or a member of your household had a health problem, but you did not seek treatment due to the cost of care?



Delaying Medical Procedures or Lab Tests

Has there been a time in the last 12 months when you chose not to have a medical procedure, lab test, or other evaluation that a doctor recommended to you?



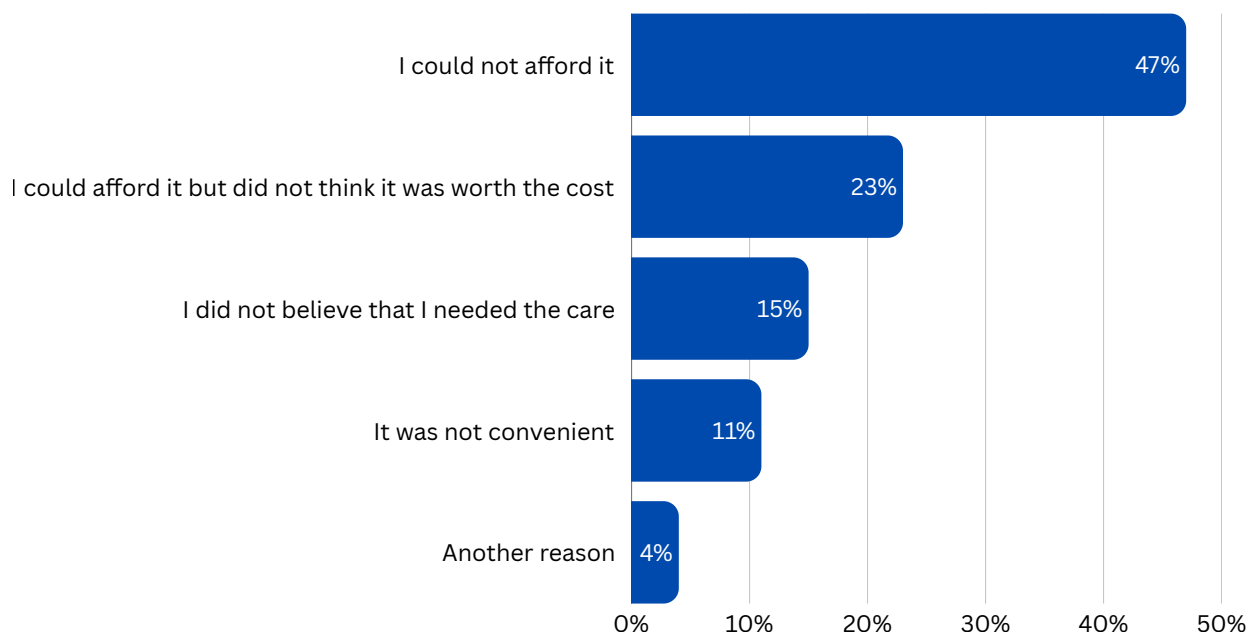
PART 2: AFFORDABILITY & INSURANCE



CONTINUED

Reason for Delaying Care

[To respondents who delayed recommended care] What is the primary reason that you chose not to pursue the recommended care?

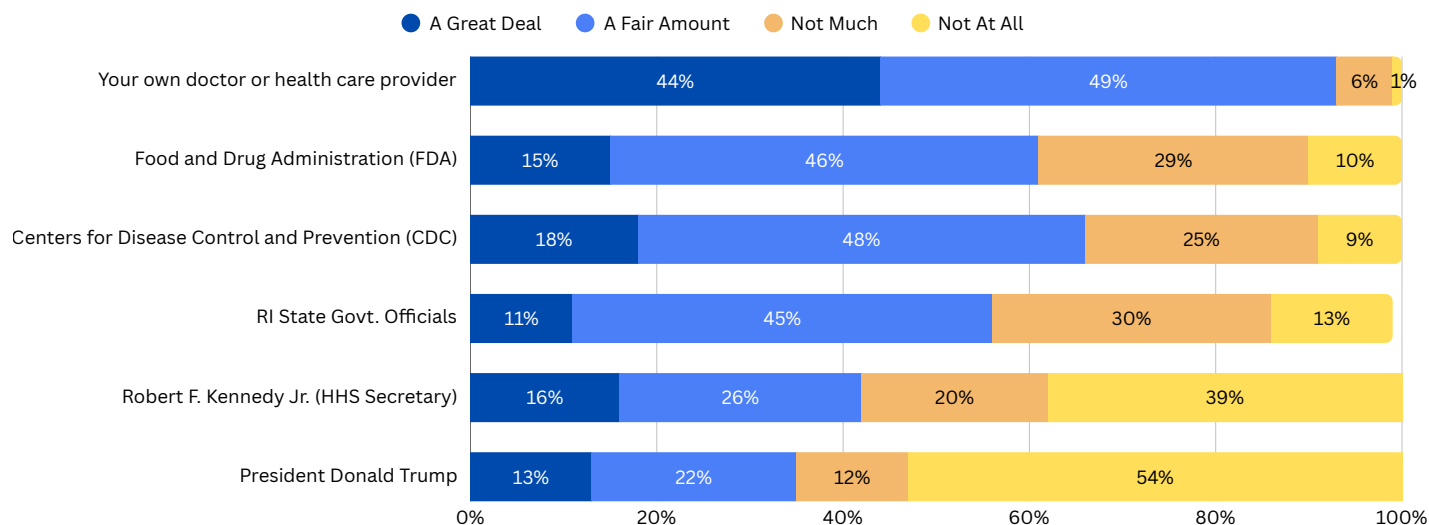


PART 3: HEALTH INFORMATION & TRUST



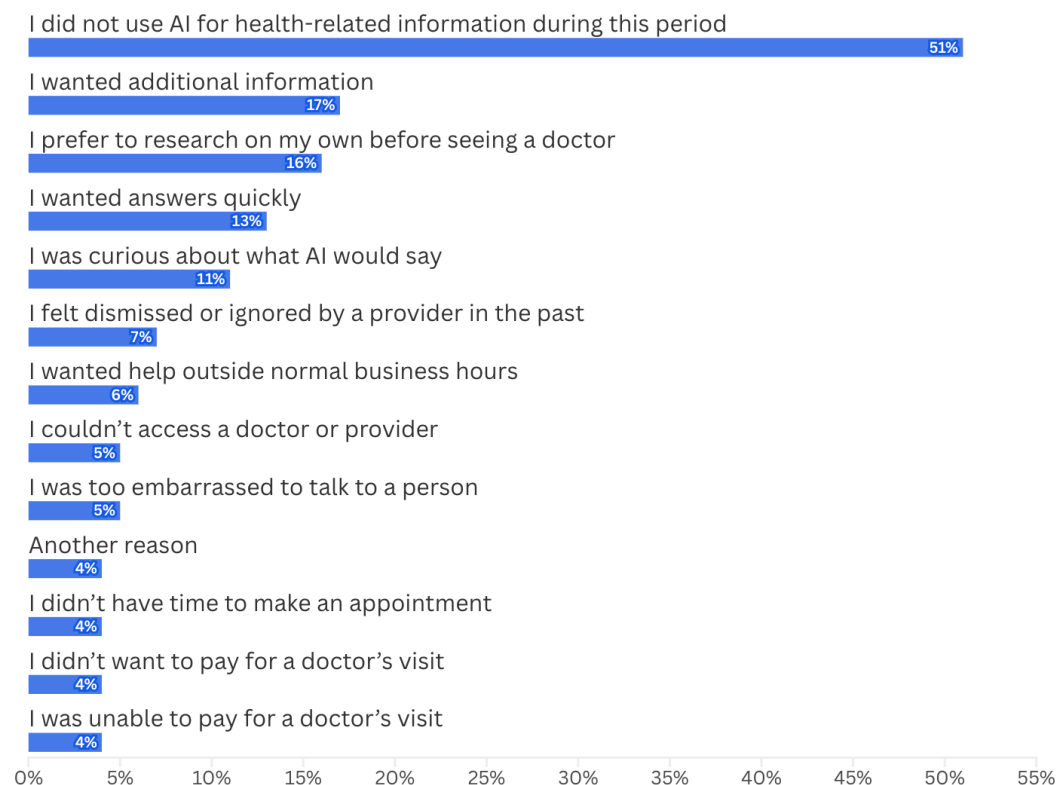
Who Rhode Islanders Trust for Health Information

How much do you trust each of the following for reliable information about health issues?



AI Use for Health Information and Advice

In the past 30 days, did you use an AI tool or chatbot for health-related information or advice for any of the following reasons? Please select all that apply.

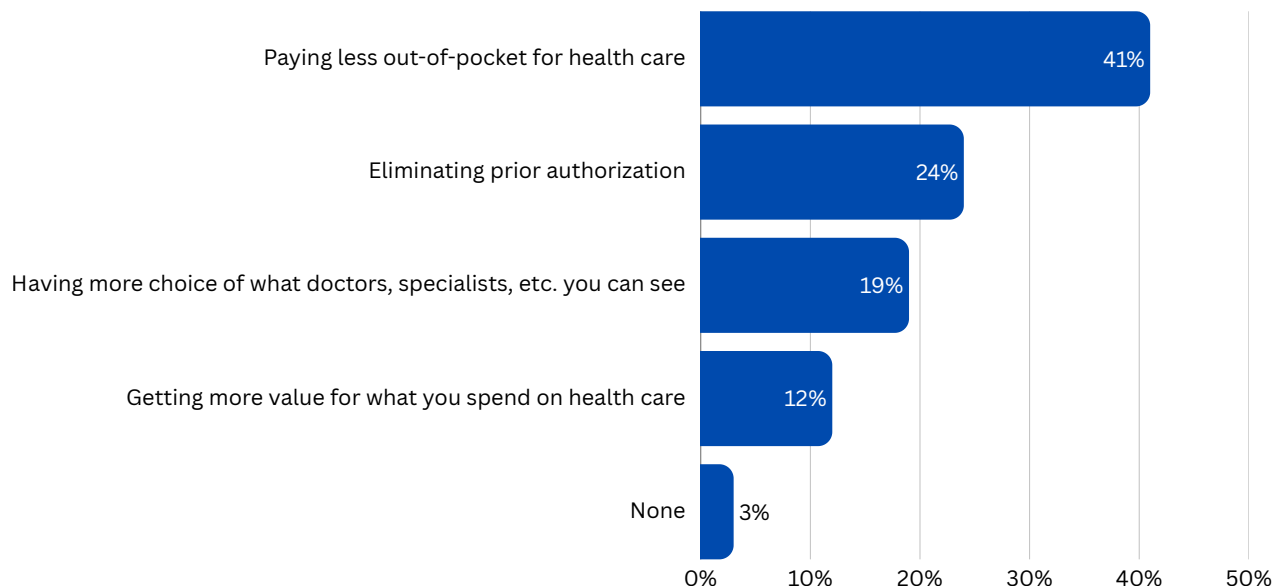


PART 4: SOLUTIONS

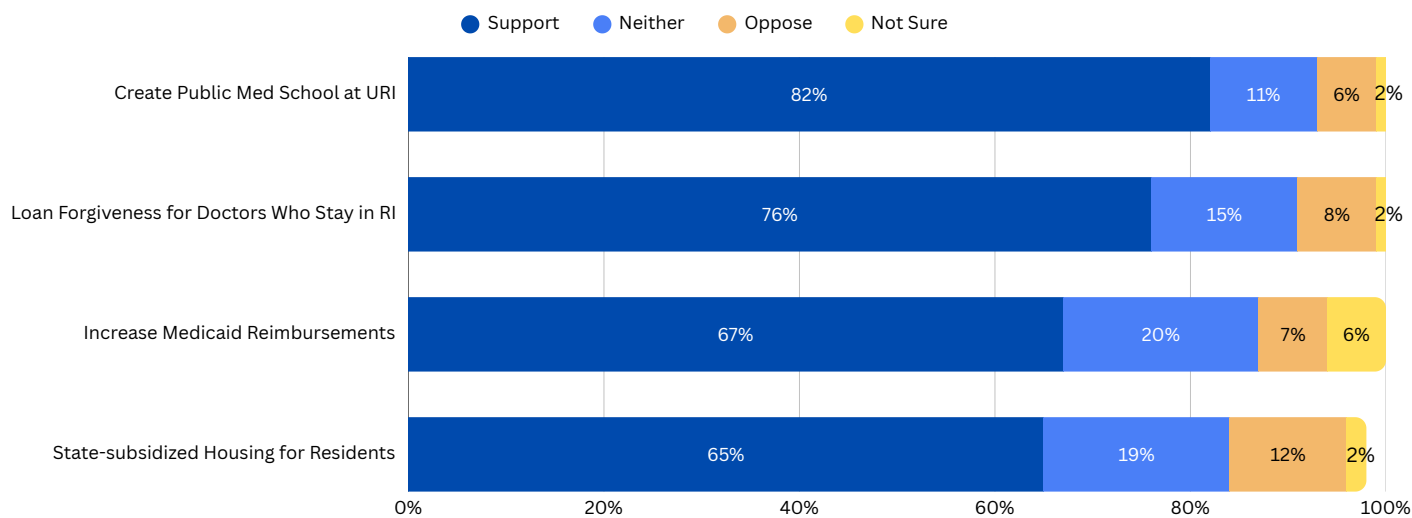


Changes to Health Insurance

[To respondents who are insured] When it comes to possible changes that could be made to your health insurance, which of the following would be most important to you personally?



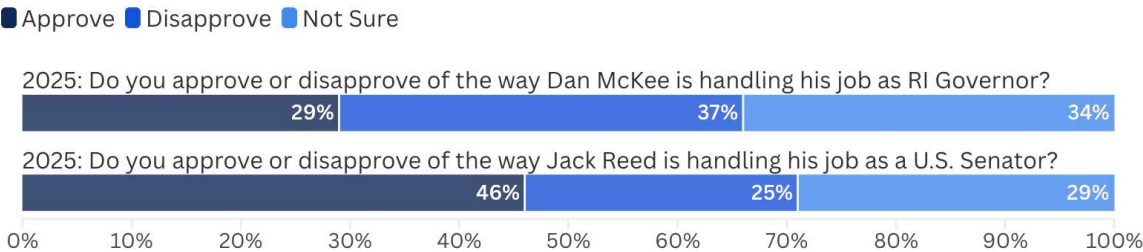
Support for Proposals to Address RI's Primary Care Doctor Shortage



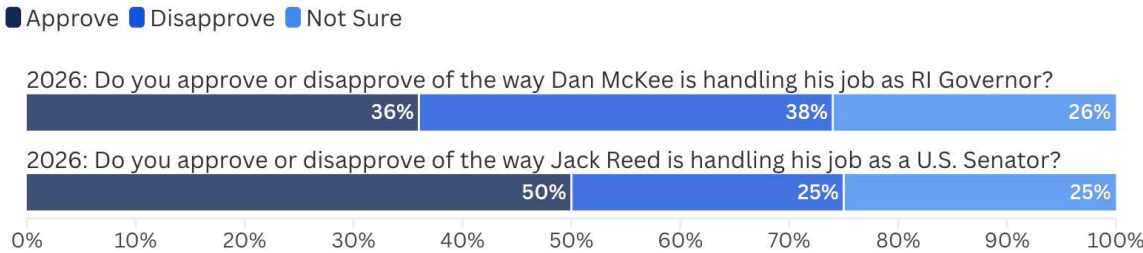


VIEW OF THE TOP

Approval Ratings, 2025



Approval Ratings, 2026



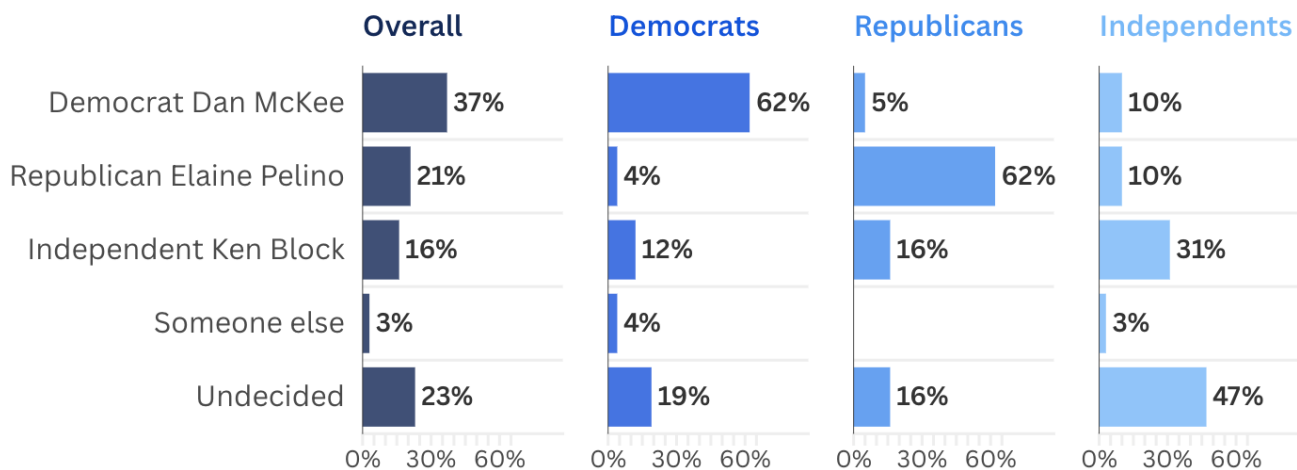
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GUBERNATORIAL GENERAL ELECTION



Hypothetical Matchup: McKee vs. Pelino vs. Block

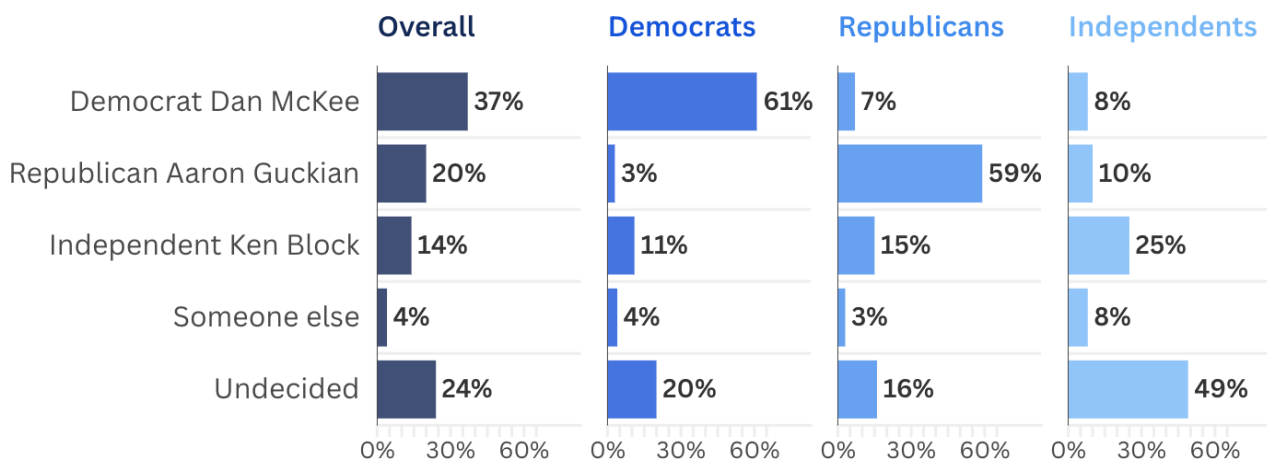
If the 2026 election for governor were held today, and the candidates were Democrat Dan McKee, Republican Elaine Pelino, and independent Ken Block, whom would you support?



Note: Registered voters only

Hypothetical Matchup: McKee vs. Guckian vs. Block

If the 2026 election for governor were held today, and the candidates were Democrat Dan McKee, Republican Aaron Guckian, and independent Ken Block, whom would you support?



Note: Registered voters only

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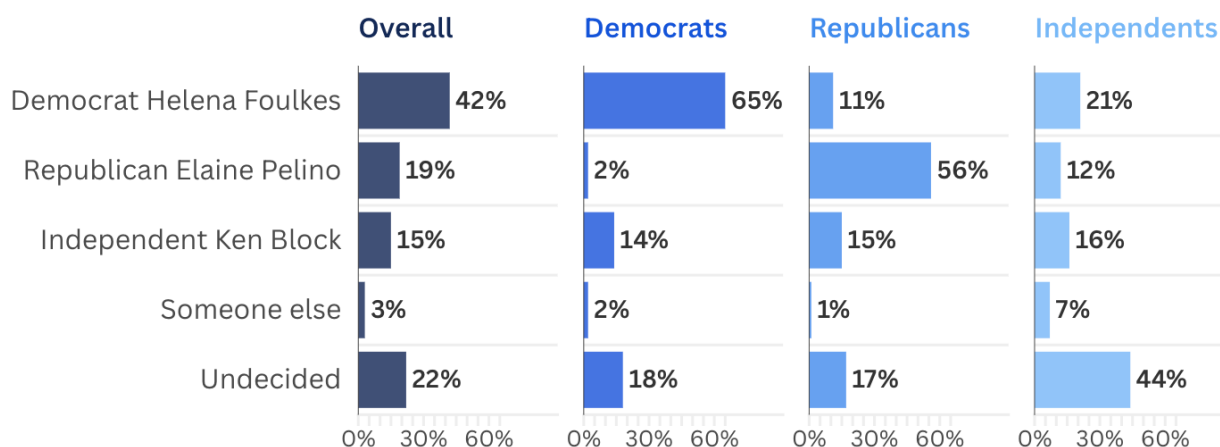
GUBERNATORIAL GENERAL ELECTION



CONTINUED

Hypothetical Matchup: Foulkes vs. Pelino vs. Block

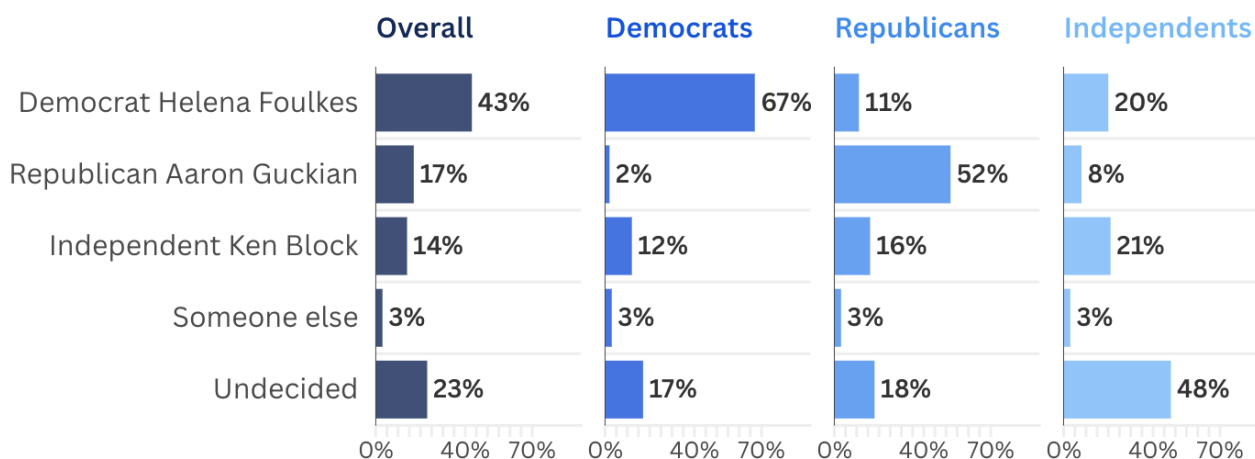
If the 2026 election for governor were held today, and the candidates were Democrat Helena Foulkes, Republican Elaine Pelino, and independent Ken Block, whom would you support?



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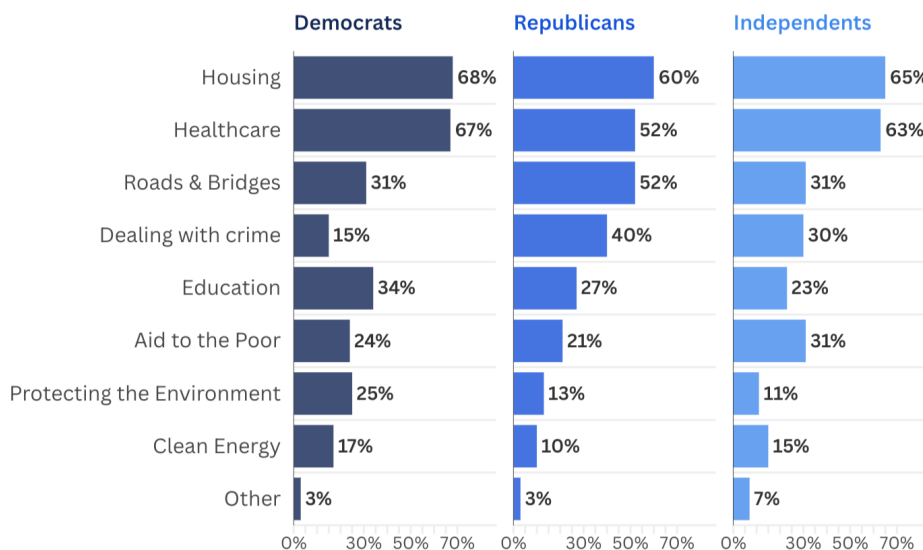
Note: Registered voters only

WHAT SHOULD THE STATE DO NEXT?



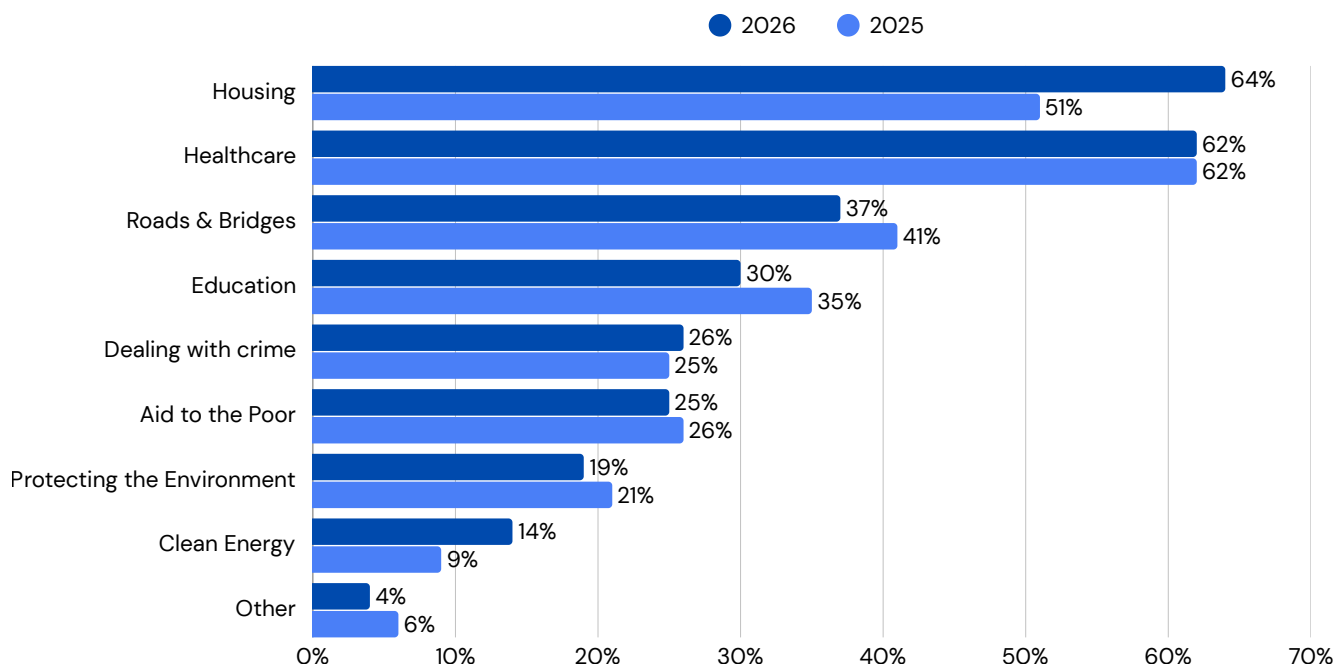
Top Policy Priorities for Governor & General Assembly (2026)

What do you think are the most important priorities for the Rhode Island governor and general assembly to address? Select your top three (3) priorities.



Note: Respondents could select up to three priorities; totals exceed 100%.

Top Policy Priorities for Governor & General Assembly, 2026 vs. 2025



Note: Respondents could select up to three priorities; totals exceed 100%.

WHAT SHOULD THE STATE DO NEXT?

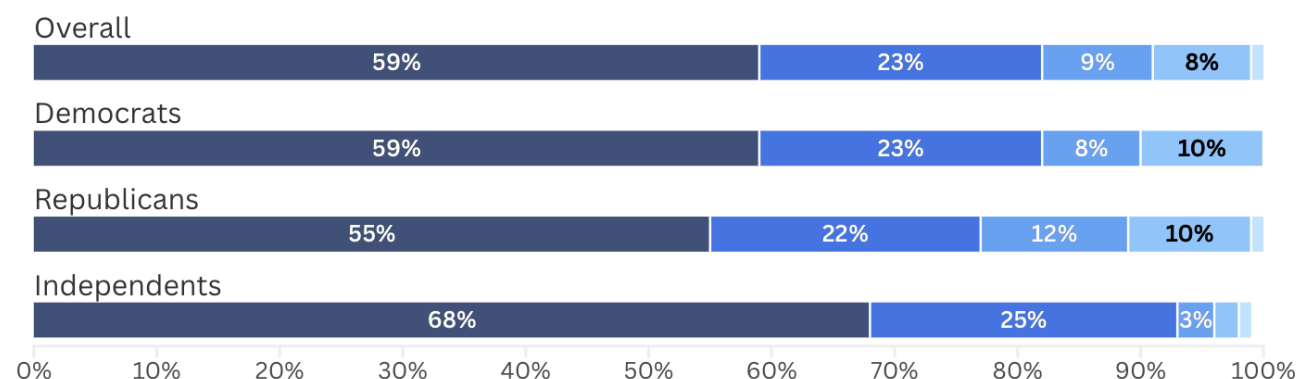


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Cost of Housing In Rhode Island

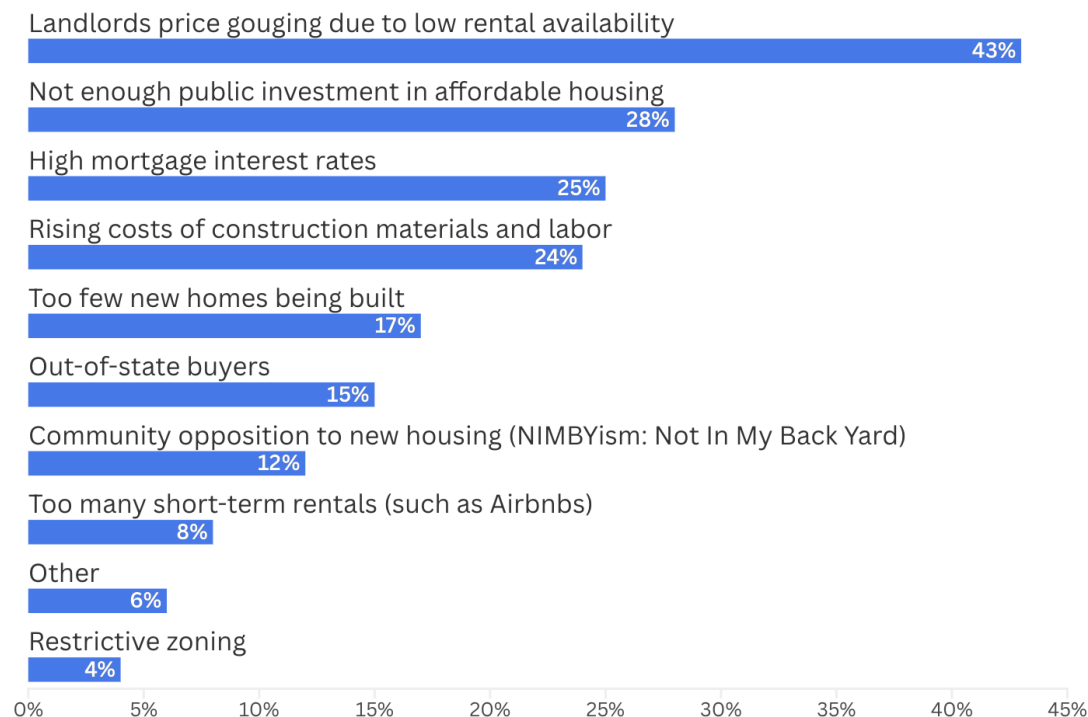
Generally, speaking, do you think that the cost of housing in Rhode Island is...

■ A big problem ■ Somewhat of a problem ■ Not much of a problem ■ Not a problem at all ■ Not sure



Respondents' Reasons for Increase in Housing Prices

What do you think are the top two factors driving up housing prices in Rhode Island? Please select up to two (2) options.



Note: Respondents selected their top two reasons; totals exceed 100%.

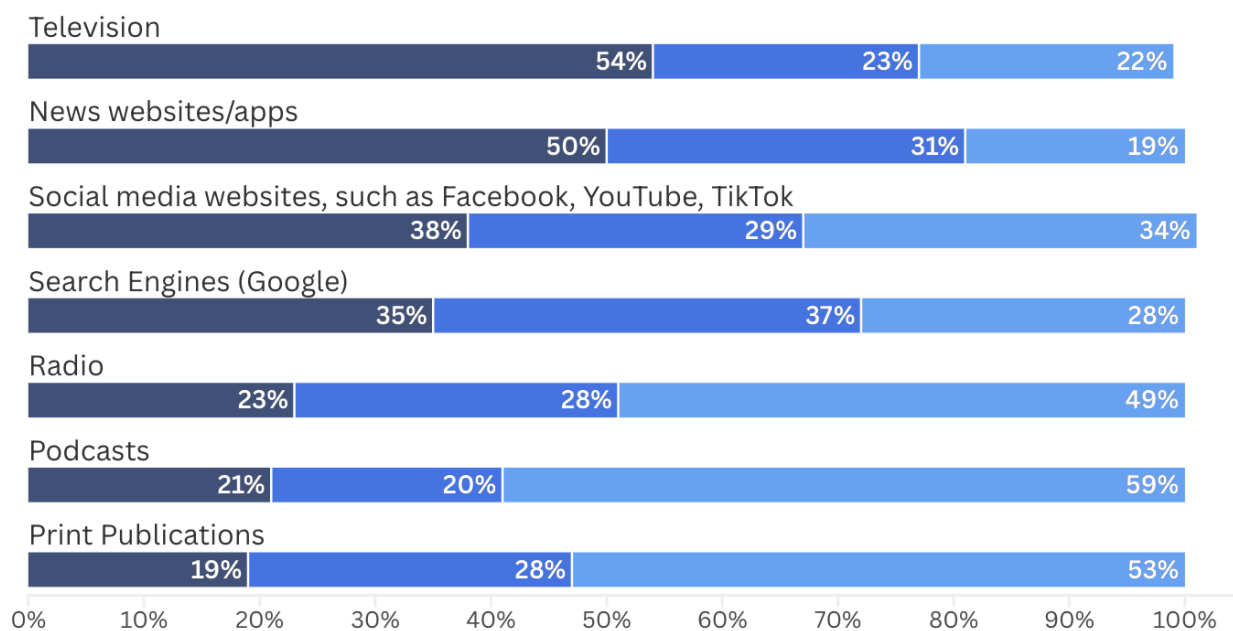
MEDIA USE



Media Type & Frequency: Political News

How often do you get political news from...

■ Always or Often ■ Sometimes ■ Rarely or Never



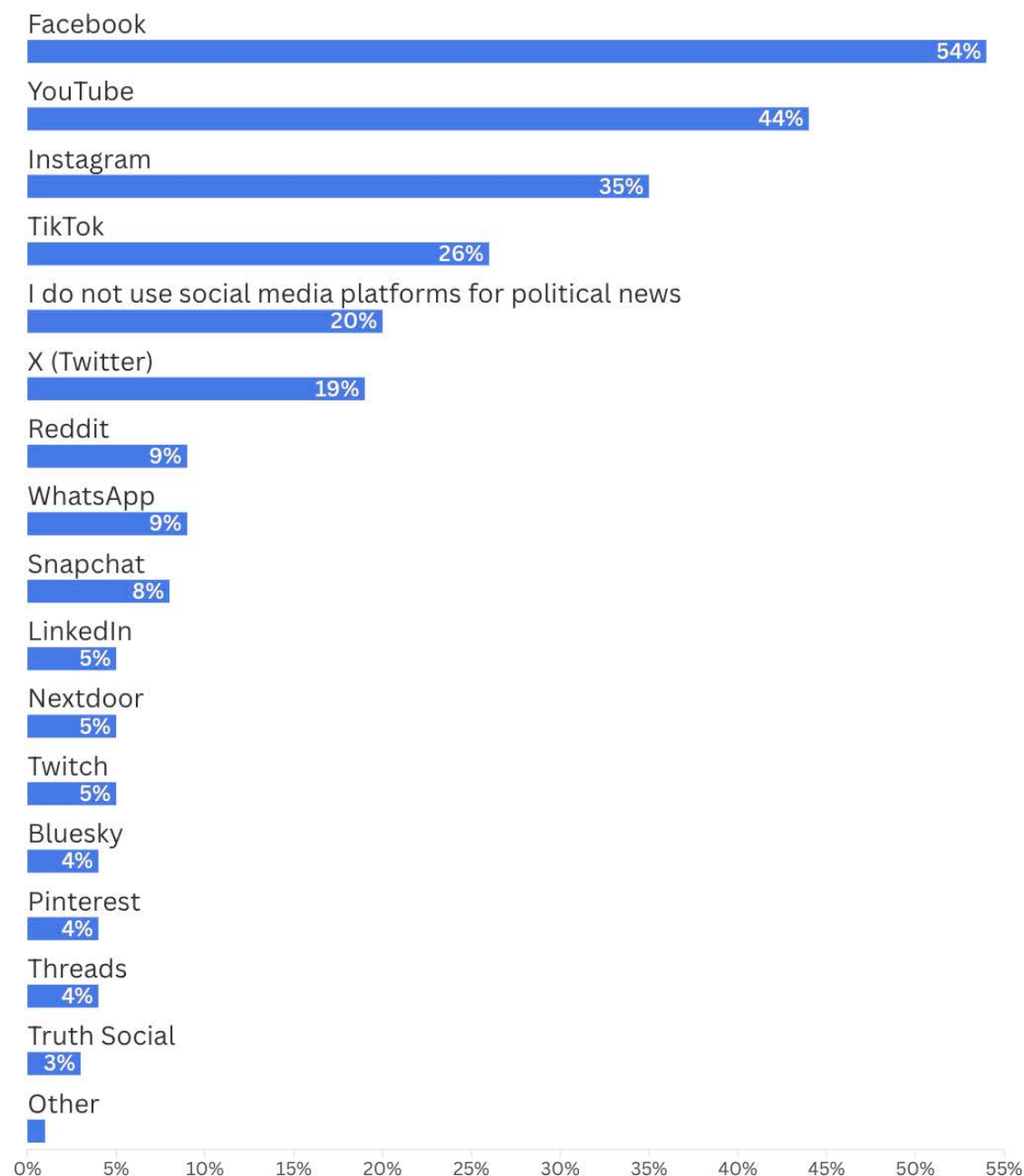
MEDIA USE



CONTINUED

Social Media: Political & Election News

During a typical week, which social media site(s) do you most frequently use to get political and election news? Select all that apply.



Note: Respondents selected all that apply; totals exceed 100%.

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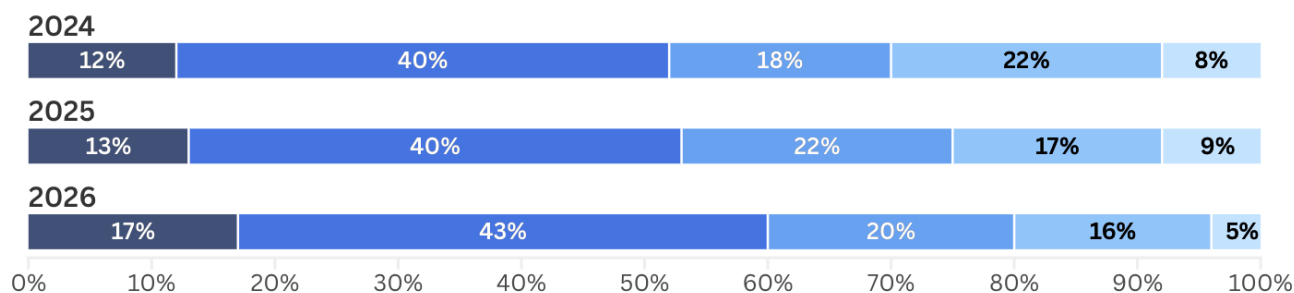
QUALITY OF LIFE, ECONOMY, TRUST



Quality of Life in Rhode Island, 2024-2026

How satisfied are you with the overall quality of life in Rhode Island?

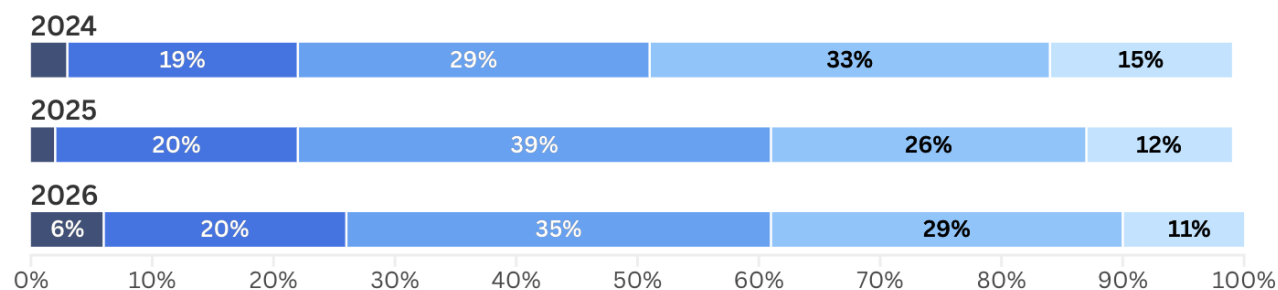
■ Very Satisfied ■ Somewhat Satisfied ■ Neither Satisfied Nor Dissatisfied ■ Somewhat Dissatisfied
■ Very Dissatisfied



Perceptions of the Rhode Island Economy, 2024-2026

What do you think about the current state of the Rhode Island economy? Would you say the state of the Rhode Island economy is:

■ Very Strong ■ Strong ■ Neither Strong Nor Weak ■ Somewhat Weak ■ Very Weak



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QUALITY OF LIFE, ECONOMY, TRUST



CONTINUED

Trust in Government, 2025-2026

How much trust do you have in each of the following levels of government?

■ A Great Deal ■ A Fair Amount ■ Not Very Much ■ None at All

2025 - Local Govt.



2026 - Local Govt.



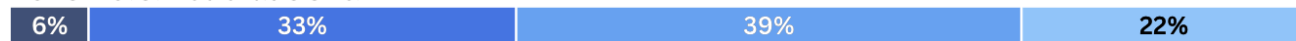
2025 - RI State Govt.



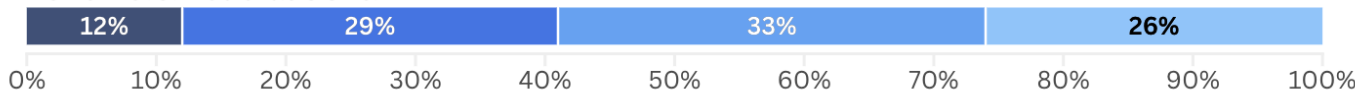
2026 - RI State Govt.



2025 - U.S. Federal Govt.



2026 - U.S. Federal Govt.



SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

“Prefer not to say” and “I am not sure” are not included; totals may not add up to 100%.

Age

	Percent
18 – 34 yrs	28%
35 – 54 yrs	33%
55 yrs +	40%

Gender

	Percent
Man	48%
Woman	52%
Non-binary	<1%
Other	<1%

Race

	Percent
White	75%
Black	6%
Hispanic	9%
Asian	3%
Native American	<1%
Two or more races	3%
Other	3%
Middle Eastern	<1%

Hispanic

	Percent
Yes	18%
No	82%



Education

	Percent
No High School	4%
High school graduate	32%
Some college	16%
2-year	11%
4-year	21%
Post-grad	16%

Family Income

	Percent
≤\$39,999	22%
\$40,000 – \$99,999	41%
≥\$100,000	29%

Religion

	Percent
Protestant	15%
Roman Catholic	30%
Mormon	<1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	1%
Atheist	9%
Agnostic	9%
Nothing in particular	24%
Something else	6%



Sexual Orientation

	Percent
Straight/heterosexual	82%
Bisexual	7%
Gay or Lesbian	5%
Asexual	1%
Pansexual	1%
Queer	1%
Other	<1%

Transgender Identity

	Percent
No, I do not identify as transgender	93%
Yes, I do identify as transgender	3%

Children Under 18 in Household

	Percent
Yes	24%
No	76%

Party ID

	Percent
Democrats/ Independents Leaning Democrat	51%
Independents	18%
Republicans/Independents Leaning Republican	27%

Voter Registration Status

	Percent
Registered	89%

