



To: Interested Parties

From: Global Strategy Group

Date: May 26, 2026

Re: New Polling in CT-01

New polling from Global Strategy Group shows former Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin leading 28-year incumbent Rep. John Larson in the primary for Connecticut's 1st Congressional District, which takes place on August 11th. Bronin is well-liked and receives overwhelmingly positive ratings for his two terms as mayor.

Key Findings

Bronin has an 8-point lead in the primary for Congress. In the initial ballot test, Bronin (38%) leads Larson (30%) with 18% still undecided. The two other candidates tested are much further behind: state rep. Jillian Gilcrest (10%) and Ruth Fortune (4%). Fortune failed to win sufficient support at the recent district Democratic convention but is seeking signatures to qualify for the ballot.

Bronin's advantage is broad-based, positioning him well for the campaign to come. Bronin, who recently received the Democratic Party endorsement, benefits from a broad coalition. He leads by 9 points (44%-35%) among voters over age 55 and leads by 8 points (28%-20%) among voters under age 55, who are characteristically less familiar with the candidates at this stage. He leads among both men and women, and among white college graduates, non-college graduates, and voters of color.

The two-term former mayor of Hartford is buoyed by strong approval ratings. Bronin served as mayor of Hartford from 2016 to 2024. Nearly three-quarters of primary voters districtwide (72%) are still able to rate his performance, and they rate him overwhelmingly positively: 60% excellent/good to 12% not so good/poor, giving him a unique leg up in both name recognition and goodwill as the campaign gets underway. Bronin's personal ratings are similarly positive, with 59% favorable and just 16% unfavorable.

About the research: Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 500 likely Democratic primary voters in Connecticut's 1st Congressional District from May 18 to 21, 2026, via phone and text. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.4%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic, political, and demographic divisions of the population of the likely Democratic primary electorate are properly represented.