

**CAR Polling Report**  
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Sixty-three percent of the Connecticut voters say the state does not need a tax increase to balance the budget. Democrats (51%) join Republican (79%) and independent (66%) voters in believing the budget can be balanced without a tax increase, according to the latest Quinnipiac poll.

The Q-poll also found that voters oppose another proposal to raise revenue, adding tolls on the state 61% to 35%. Opposition crosses all party lines. At least 50% of voters in all counties oppose tolls. Opposition ranges from 50% opposed in Litchfield County to 73 % opposed in Fairfield County.

In the same poll, there was more grim news for Senator Chris Dodd. In a matchup with former U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons the poll shows the two in a statistical dead heat (Dodd 42% Simmons 43%). The poll also matched Dodd against State Sen. Sam Caligiuri (Dodd 47% Caligiuri 34%) and CNBC host Larry Kudlow (Dodd 46% Kudlow 34%).

Despite his leads over Caligiuri and Kudlow, these match-ups also indicate vulnerability for Dodd. Both relatively unknown challengers (88% of voters don't know enough about Caligiuri and 87% don't know enough about Kudlow to have an opinion about them) hold their own against the well established incumbent. The fact that Caligiuri and Kudlow each received the same percent of the vote indicates that there is a significant "anybody but Dodd" sentiment among Connecticut voters.

In the Dodd-Simmons matchup, Democrats back Dodd 74% to 15% while Simmons leads among Republican (80% to 10%) and independent (49% to 32%) voters. Dodd has to win back independent voters to save his seat. Simmons beats Dodd in his former district, the second CD, and ties him in the first congressional district. Dodd easily wins the 3<sup>rd</sup> CD and has narrow leads in the fourth and fifth CDs.

The survey offers some good news for Senator Dodd. Connecticut voters approve 49% to 44% of the job Dodd is doing, compared to only a 41% approval rating February 10<sup>th</sup> of this year. Dodd's favorability rating holds steady with 46% saying they have a favorable impression of the senator and 45% saying their impression of Dodd is unfavorable.

The survey was conducted from March 3 – 8, 2009. Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,238 Connecticut registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points. To see more about this survey, go to <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x1296.xml?ReleaseID=1272> .