Governor

Gov. Ned Lamont seeks a third term; Ryan Fazio became the Republican nominee without a primary. Rated Solid Democratic by Cook Political Report (Oct 2026).



Ryan Fazio

REPUBLICAN · CHALLENGER

State senator from Greenwich since 2021; financial adviser with a background in commodities.



Ned Lamont

DEMOCRAT · INCUMBENT

Governor of Connecticut since 2019; telecommunications entrepreneur.

Where the candidates stand on the issues Pope Leo XIV has raised, in their own words and votes. Bracketed numbers link to sources. We do not rate, score, or endorse candidates.

WAR & PEACE

POPE LEO XIV *Leo invited citizens of every country involved in the war with Iran to contact their leaders and members of Congress "to work for peace and to reject war and violence."* Remarks at Castel Gandolfo, Apr. 7, 2026 (Vatican News via The Good Newsroom)

RYAN FAZIO

"I oppose the war in Iran," calling himself "more of a non-interventionist."

[1] CT Mirror: First Lamont–Fazio TV debate (Oct. 2026)

NED LAMONT

Blames "Trump's tariffs and war in Iran" for rising costs and faults Republicans for not opposing the Iran war.

[1] CT Mirror: First Lamont–Fazio TV debate (Oct. 2026)
[2] CT Mirror: Lamont, Fazio lively in last debate (Oct. 2026)

AI & THE DIGNITY OF WORK

POPE LEO XIV *"No one can be reduced to productivity, to cognitive performance, or to mere data."* Magnifica Humanitas presentation, May 25, 2026

RYAN FAZIO

Would end Connecticut's 20-year tax break for data centers, saying taxpayers should not subsidize them; sponsored a cap on occupational licensing fees for workers.

[1] Fazio campaign: Data center tax incentives ad (Oct. 2026)
[2] Wikipedia: Ryan Fazio

NED LAMONT

Campaign says he signed new AI regulations in 2026 with protections for workers, parents and consumers, and signed Connecticut's Paid Family and Medical Leave law.

[1] Lamont campaign: Accomplishments

THE POOR & THE SAFETY NET

POPE LEO XIV *The preferential choice for the poor is "a source of extraordinary renewal both for the Church and for society."* Dilexi Te, Oct. 4, 2025

RYAN FAZIO

Opposed a state subsidy for ACA premiums because it "went outside of the spending caps"; proposes income-tax rate cuts and a property-tax cap.

[1] CT Mirror: Lamont, Fazio lively in last debate (Oct. 2026)
[2] Fazio campaign: Issues

NED LAMONT

Proposes requiring large employers with HUSKY (Medicaid) enrollees to contribute up to $1,000 per employee; backed state help with ACA premiums, raised the minimum wage and delivered a child tax rebate.

[1] Lamont campaign: Priorities
[2] Lamont campaign: Accomplishments
[3] CT Mirror: Lamont, Fazio lively in last debate (Oct. 2026)

ELECTIONS & CIVIC LIFE

POPE LEO XIV *Authentic democracy, "far from being a mere procedure," "recognizes the dignity of every person and calls each citizen to participate responsibly in the pursuit of the common good."* Message to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, Apr. 9, 2026

RYAN FAZIO

No public position found.

NED LAMONT

Campaign says he has signed legislation protecting voting rights.

[1] Lamont campaign: Priorities

LIFE OF THE UNBORN

POPE LEO XIV *Abortion "cuts short a growing life and refuses to welcome the gift of life."* Address to the Diplomatic Corps, Jan. 9, 2026

RYAN FAZIO

Has said he favors keeping abortion legal in Connecticut. Voted against a 2022 bill letting non-physician clinicians perform some abortions, saying it lowered the standard of care; co-wrote a law letting pharmacists prescribe birth control.

[1] Wikipedia: Ryan Fazio

NED LAMONT

Campaign says he "protected the right to abortion and reproductive healthcare" and signed the nation's first post-Roe law making Connecticut a refuge for out-of-state patients.

[1] Lamont campaign: Accomplishments
[2] Lamont campaign: Priorities

THE DEATH PENALTY

POPE LEO XIV *Someone who opposes abortion but favors the death penalty "is not really pro-life."* AP via PBS NewsHour, Sept. 30, 2025

RYAN FAZIO

No public position found.

NED LAMONT

No public position found.

IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

POPE LEO XIV *"Defending human life also includes welcoming, protecting and assisting immigrants."* Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026

RYAN FAZIO

Would repeal the 2019 expansion of the TRUST Act, saying the governor was wrong in "tying the hands of state and federal law enforcement"; says "I love legal immigration and our legal immigrants."

[1] CT Mirror: Lamont ad on Fazio, ICE and Trump (Sept. 2026)
[2] CT Mirror: First Lamont–Fazio TV debate (Oct. 2026)

NED LAMONT

Signed laws barring ICE agents from wearing masks or making warrantless courthouse arrests and expanding the TRUST Act; says the state works with federal agents "when it comes to a case of a serious criminal."

[1] Lamont campaign: Accomplishments
[2] CT Mirror: Lamont ad on Fazio, ICE and Trump (Sept. 2026)

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY & EDUCATION

POPE LEO XIV *Religious freedom is "the right of every person to worship according to conscience."* Letter on the 250th Anniversary of the United States, June 25, 2026

RYAN FAZIO

Supports a tax credit for donations that fund school-choice scholarships; has said he would "give more choice to poor kids stuck in failing schools."

[1] OnTheIssues: 2026 Connecticut governor race
[2] Ballotpedia: Ryan Fazio

NED LAMONT

No public position found.

CARE FOR CREATION

POPE LEO XIV *"We cannot love God, whom we cannot see, while despising his creatures."* AP, Oct. 1, 2025

RYAN FAZIO

Plans to cut electricity bills 20% by ending hidden charges and mandates and expanding supply; supports more natural gas pipeline capacity and nuclear power.

[1] Fazio campaign: Plan to cut electricity bills
[2] Wikipedia: Ryan Fazio

NED LAMONT

Aims for a 100% zero-carbon grid by 2040 and net-zero emissions by 2050; points to a $500 million state "Trump fund" to offset losses: "I'm going to make sure you are able to heat your home."

[1] Lamont campaign: Priorities
[2] Vermont Public/CT Public: Lamont, Fazio debate ICE, taxes, energy costs (Oct. 2026)

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