NEWS

"In order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles."
DAVID BEN-GURION FIRST ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER

Early voters back Lamont, express disillusionment with leaders

BY EMILEE RICE
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER



LOGAN DINKINS / PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

In interviews at the polls last Friday, voters mostly said they backed incumbent Gov. Ned Lamont and Rep. Rosa DeLauro in the midterm elections, though some said they doubted candidates' ability to address the state's most pressing policy issues.

Some early voters in New Haven were dissatisfied with both candidates in the upcoming gubernatorial election but mostly voted for incumbent Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont SOM '80, they said in interviews at the polls last week.

In-person early voting for the midterm elections began on Oct. 19 and ends on Nov. 1. Lamont is running for a third term against Republican state senator Ryan Fazio. Democratic Rep. Rosa DeLauro, seeking her 19th term in Congress, is facing Republican Christopher Lancia, a veteran and federal law enforcement officer, and independent candidate Thomas Egan, a lawyer. Candidates for lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer and attorney general are also on the ballot.

Charlotte Snow, an independent voter from Fair Haven, said she was unimpressed by the options on the ballot this election cycle. She voted early at City Hall on Friday afternoon.

"I haven't really seen evidence that they have working class interests at heart," Snow said, referring to Lamont and Fazio. "That being said, you know, I feel like Lamont is the lesser of two evils in that sort of situation."

Lamont's campaign website lists affordability, lowered energy costs and accountability for big corporations among his priorities. Fazio has proposed an ambitious plan to cut taxes for middle-class families across the state, which his website says will save families with "average income" around $2,500 in taxes per year.

At a debate in Rocky Hill, Conn., last Thursday, Fazio blamed Lamont for increases in Connecticut residents' taxes and energy bills. Lamont touted the state's fiscal stability and growing economy under his tenure.

Ena Fisher, a volunteer with two local nonprofits that serve New Haven's homeless population, also voted early at City Hall on Friday. Fisher said she did not feel confident in either of the options for governor. She said she appreciated Lamont's efforts to hear from locals about the housing crisis in New Haven, but did not think his policies adequately supported vulnerable populations.

Fisher compared Lamont to officials that "speak kindly in front of your face" but "don't keep no promises."

DeLauro's website has a page dedicated to accusations of corruption against President Donald Trump. If she wins and Democrats win back a majority in the House of Representatives, DeLauro is set to reclaim her highly-coveted position as chair of the House Committee on Appropriations, which regulates the allocation of federal funds.

Robert King, a professor emeritus in the Yale Child Study Center at the School of Medicine and an East Rock resident, said he was happy with Lamont and DeLauro's leadership and praised the state for its work to expand voting rights. Earlier this year, legislators guaranteed the right for eligible voters to request no-excuse absentee ballots. King said he voted for Democrats downballot this election cycle.

If he wins, Lamont, who is 72, will become the longest-serving governor in the state's history. DeLauro is already the longest-serving congressperson from Connecticut.

Abi Malec Montalvo said he was concerned about the ages of the Democratic candidates and that he wished there were fresher faces with new ideas on the ballot.

"I just want everyone to be supported, the systems to be fixed. Our most vulnerable minorities are still being, you know, being attacked, and you just have to start changing that, you know?" Montalvo said.

Lancia, DeLauro's Republican opponent, has proposed instituting term limits for members of Congress. In an interview with CT Mirror earlier this month, he said he felt it was time "we get new blood down in D.C."

Montalvo said he was disappointed to hear that DeLauro had previously accepted support from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a pro-Israel lobbying firm, but that he supported most of her policy agenda. After public outcry, DeLauro announced in June that she would no longer accept support from AIPAC.

Polls will be open on election day, Nov. 3, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Contact
EMILEE RICE *at*
emilee.rice@yale.edu.

City to pay $16.5 million in wrongful conviction settlement

BY NELLIE KENNEY
STAFF REPORTER

New Haven agreed to pay $16.5 million to a man who spent decades in prison for a murder he has long maintained he did not commit.

Adam Carmon was convicted in 1995 of fatally shooting an infant and paralyzing the child's grandmother. In 2022, a Connecticut judge overturned Carmon's conviction, arguing that new forensic evidence and evidence that had previously been suppressed by officers put the case in "such a different light as to undermine confidence in the verdict." In 2023, the state of Connecticut officially dismissed the charges and in 2025 awarded Carmon $7.9 million.

In an Oct. 16 agreement that was announced on Thursday, Carmon and New Haven agreed to a settlement of $16.5 million.

"Nothing can ever make up for the years that were taken from me, but I find some solace in the fact that they're coming to grips with their wrongdoing," Carmon said in a Thursday press release posted by a law firm that represented him.

New Haven's move to settle with Carmon comes as the city reckons with the fallout from alleged police misconduct during the 1980s and 1990s that sent at least a dozen Black New Haven men to prison on charges which have since fallen into doubt.

The Board of Alders earlier this month approved $27 million in bonds to fund a pair of settlements with two men who were wrongfully convicted for a 1999 shooting. The city is currently challenging a May court decision that would have it pay $38 million for another wrongful conviction case.

New Haven did not have insurance for wrongful incarceration settlements at the time of Carmon's conviction, so it plans to take out bonds to pay for the settlement, according to a Thursday statement by Mayor Justin Elicker.

"I was not mayor at the time when this incident occurred over thirty years ago, but I am the mayor today – and, today, we aim to make things right," Elicker said in that statement, adding that he hopes the settlement will offer Carmon a sense of "justice and peace."

In an interview earlier this month, Elicker told the News that New Haven has had liability insurance since 2020. That insurance is not retroactive, he said.

At a press conference on the city's financial position at the end of the 2026 fiscal year, Elicker pointed to wrongful conviction suits as a likely source of financial pressure on the city in coming years. New Haven ended the 2026 fiscal year in the red for the first time since 2020.

Because New Haven borrowed money to pay previous settlements, those did not directly increase the city's 2026 deficit, Elicker said at that press conference. However, paying back those debts will mean expenses in coming years, and the city is seeing rising insurance costs related to the cases, he said.

In an interview after the Board of Alders Finance Committee voted to approve bonds on a pair of previous wrongful conviction settlements, committee chair Adam Marchand GRD '99 said that payments on those bonds would not represent a dramatic increase to New Haven's yearly debt payments.

Those payments would add a "meaningful increment," but one that New Haven can "handle," Marchand said at the time.

In a phone interview earlier this month, municipal finance expert David Schleicher described debt finance as "not ideal" for financial settlements because it puts the financial weight of payments on future city residents who are not directly connected to the past wrongdoing. However, the strategy is not unheard of, particularly for "unexpected" expenses, he said.

In the statement released by Carmon's law firm, firm partner Doug Lieb LAW '13 said the case demonstrates "why there are no winners when police departments turn a blind eye to misconduct."

"Wrongfully convicted people lose precious freedom, victims are denied closure, and citizens pay the price," Lieb said, adding that the settlement "represents an important step toward imperfect justice."

The Board of Alders is set to review plans to take out more bonds at a November meeting.



CHRISTINA LEE

In a settlement announced on Thursday, New Haven agreed to pay the sum to a man who was sentenced for murder in 1995 and whose conviction was overturned in 2022. The move adds to a list of wrongful conviction settlements that is causing the city financial strain.

Contact
NELLIE KENNEY *at*
nellie.kenney@yale.edu.