



March 2, 2026

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Erik Iverson, President, Peak Insights
RE: [GOP Primary Voters Reject Erin Stewart's Record as Mayor of New Britain](#)

A recent statewide survey of likely 2026 Connecticut Republican Primary voters finds Erin Stewart's record as Mayor of New Britain is deeply unpopular with voters. The survey data revealed two key findings.

Erin Stewart's record as Mayor of New Britain is deeply unpopular with Republican Primary voters.

When asked which issues are most important for the next Governor of Connecticut to address, 49% of likely Republican Primary voters cite fiscal matters such as "lowering taxes," "controlling state spending" and "improving the economy and creating jobs." At the same time, fully 36% cite issues like "stopping illegal immigration" and "fighting the woke agenda" as top concerns.

Not surprisingly, given these issue concerns, voters overwhelmingly reject Stewart's record as Mayor. For example, GOP Primary voters are less likely to vote for Stewart after learning:

- Erin Stewart puts woke DEI ahead of public safety. As Mayor of New Britain, Stewart announced an initiative to prioritize diversity in the police hiring process. Stewart also supported a pledge led by then-President Barack Obama to stand with the Black Lives Matter movement to "reimagine" policing and combat "systemic racism." (73% "much" less likely to vote for Stewart, 82% total less likely)
- Erin Stewart backs woke DEI policies and rhetoric saying, "diversity and inclusion" would be her priorities. As Mayor, Stewart mandated a Gay Pride Day in New Britain and advocated handing out condoms in public high schools. (73% "much" less likely to vote for Stewart, 81% total less likely)
- Erin Stewart stood with liberal activists to oppose the deportation of illegal immigrants by federal law enforcement. (72% "much" less likely to vote for Stewart, 80% total less likely)
- The cost of living and tax burden in Connecticut continue to outpace most other states. Erin Stewart would make things worse. Stewart repeatedly hiked taxes as the Mayor of New Britain including numerous double-digit tax hikes. Stewart even proposed a 13% tax hike to take effect during her final full fiscal year as mayor. (70% "much" less likely to vote for Stewart, 81% total less likely)
- As a member of the Connecticut Board of Regents, the appointed board charged with overseeing Connecticut's state colleges and universities, Erin Stewart said nothing as administrators funneled grants, internships and jobs to illegal immigrants instead of Connecticut students. (69% "much" less likely to vote for Stewart, 80% total less likely)
- Erin Stewart cannot be trusted to keep Connecticut families safe. As Mayor of New Britain, Erin Stewart repeatedly undermined law enforcement requests for more resources. And on her watch, violent crime skyrocketed 21%, including a staggering 55% increase in rapes and a 75% increase in aggravated assaults. (69% "much" less likely to vote for Stewart, 79% total less likely)

- Erin Stewart says she doesn't support President Trump or his policies. (69% "much" less likely to vote for Stewart, 79% total less likely)
- Erin Stewart won't drain the corrupt Hartford swamp, she'd fit right in. As Mayor of New Britain, Stewart appointed her own husband and father to city jobs. And on the Connecticut Board of Regents, meant to oversee Connecticut's state colleges, Stewart did nothing as administrators spent tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars on luxuries, including lavish steak dinners and pricey liquor. (68% "much" less likely to vote for Stewart, 79% total less likely)

Ryan Fazio opens a wide lead on the ballot when voters learn about Stewart's record.

After voters hear about Stewart's dismal record as Mayor of New Britain, she comes in third place on the GOP primary ballot — and Ryan Fazio opens up a wide lead as voters' top choice.

Informed ballot	
Ryan Fazio	30%
Betsy McCaughey	14%
Erin Stewart	13%
Harry Arora	2%
Don't know/someone else	41%

Methodology

The survey was conducted by Peak Insights among a representative sample of 400 likely August 2026 Connecticut Republican Primary election voters. Live calls and text interviews were conducted February 7-9, 2026. The potential sampling error is +/- 5% at the 95% confidence level.