



Opinion Research  
Strategic Communication

# National Low Income Housing Coalition Connecticut Voter Survey

Conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research; telephone interviewing May 18 to May 20, 2015; n=625 registered Connecticut voters; margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points for a probability sample of this size; percents may add to 99% or 101% due to rounding; \* indicates less than 1%.

As you may know, homeowners can claim a deduction on their federal income taxes for interest payments on mortgages up to one million dollars for their primary or second homes. This is called the mortgage interest deduction, which lowers income taxes for some homeowners. The amount that the mortgage interest deduction lowers a homeowner's income tax depends on how much interest the homeowner paid over the year and the homeowner's tax bracket.

Q1. Overall, do you think the mortgage interest deduction, as it is now, is a very good idea, somewhat good, not very good, or a poor idea?	Very good	34%
	Somewhat good	42
	Not very good	10
	Poor idea	6
	Not sure	8

Q2. Do you think the mortgage interest deduction, as it is now, helps you, hurts you, or has no effect on you?	Helps	46%
	Hurts	9
	No effect	44
	Not sure	1

Now I am going to read you some proposals people have made for changing the mortgage interest deduction. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal. (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Q3. Cap the maximum mortgage for which someone can claim a deduction at 500,000 dollars, meaning a taxpayer could claim the deduction for the first 500,000 dollars he or she borrows.	20%	27	21	22	10

(continued)	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
Q4. Replace the deduction that now depends on a person's tax bracket with a flat 15 percent tax credit that is the same for all homeowners with a mortgage.	18%	27	17	30	9

Making these two changes to the mortgage interest deduction would save the federal government an average of 30 billion dollars a year over ten years. There are a number of things the government could do with this money. Please tell me how high a priority each of the following would be for you personally as a way to use the money saved: top priority, high priority, middle priority, low priority, or not a priority at all.

	Top priority	High priority	Middle priority	Low priority	Not a priority	Not sure
Q5. Reduce the federal deficit.	14%	37	22	11	13	3
Q6. End homelessness in Connecticut and the United States.	17%	36	22	13	11	1
Q7. Lower federal income tax rates.	11%	35	29	16	8	*
Q8. Build more affordable housing for low income people in Connecticut.	9%	29	23	21	15	2

Q9. Would you favor or oppose increasing federal funding for affordable housing to help end homelessness in Connecticut and the United States? (Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?)	Strongly favor	33%
	Somewhat favor	38
	Somewhat oppose	16
	Strongly oppose	12
	Not sure	1

Q10. Do you think that Connecticut has an adequate range of housing choices to meet the needs of all the people in the state, or do you think Connecticut does not have an adequate range of housing choices?	Has adequate range	45%
	Does not have adequate range	49
	Not sure	5

###