

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: OPINION DIAGNOSTICS
BRIAN WYNNE, PRESIDENT
DATE: APRIL 19, 2026
RE: SURVEY OF LIKELY 2026 RHODE ISLAND VOTERS



Opinion Diagnostics surveyed 802 likely 2026 general election voters in Rhode Island, assessing their attitudes and opinions about the upcoming gubernatorial election. The poll showed that independent Ken Block is currently in second place in hypothetical matchups that include either incumbent Governor Dan McKee or Democratic challenger Helena Foulkes, with Aaron Guckian in third place in either matchup. After respondents are provided with a small amount of additional information about Ken Block, he easily takes the lead over McKee and is tied with Foulkes. Notably, of the four gubernatorial candidates tested, Ken Block is the only one for whom voters hold a net-favorable opinion.

METHODOLOGY STATEMENT: This survey was fielded April 13-16, 2026. Potential respondents were randomly selected from a database of Rhode Island voters and contacted via either a live-operator phone call or an SMS message that led to a web-based survey. Respondents were pre-screened for demonstrated history or modeled probability of voting in midterm general elections, and screened within the survey to ensure they were residents of the state and that they were likely to vote in the 2026 general election. Results were weighted using an iterative proportional fitting process to match the known attributes of the state's general electorate on the variables of gender, age, geographic area, party, and ethnicity. This weighting model was created using data sourced from the Rhode Island Board of Elections. The final sample of qualified respondents is n=802 likely voters, and the survey has a margin of error of $\pm 3.5\%$ with 95% confidence. This poll was sponsored by the Committee to Elect Ken Block.

TOP ISSUES:

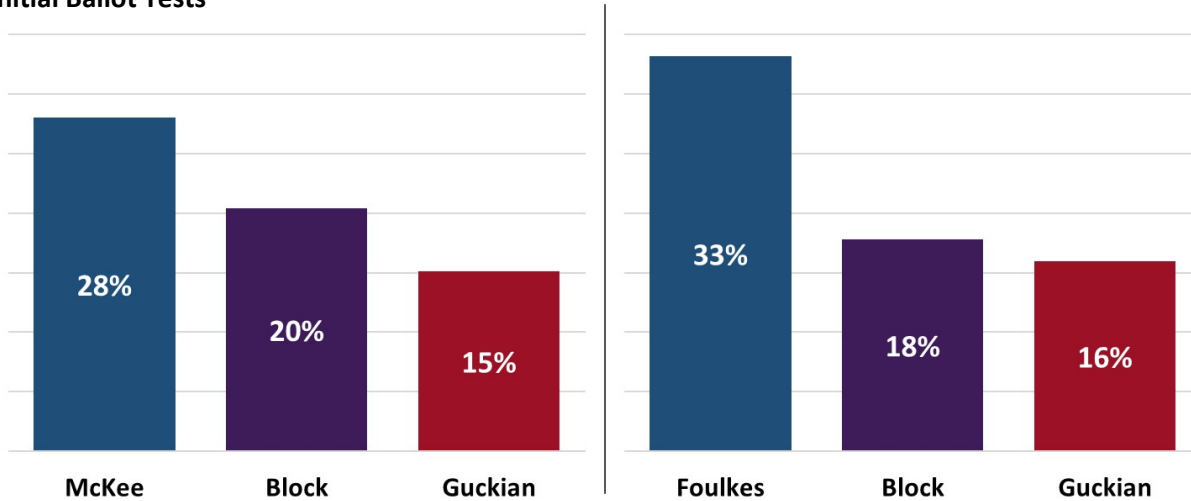
- Affordability is the primary concern for a plurality of Rhode Island voters, with 38% selecting it as the top issue, including a plurality of every demographic subgroup. Democrats were particularly likely to select this as the top issue.
- Infrastructure was the second highest concern at 12%, driven primarily by voters in Bristol and Newport counties who have most suffered from the failure of the Washington Bridge.
- Eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in state government was the third most important issue at 12%, driven primarily by Republicans and voters over 55 years old.
- These issues provide excellent context for a political outsider with experience in business, management, and government efficiency.

FAVORABILITY:

- Ken Block has a +10% favorable rating, the only candidate who is viewed more positively than negatively. There is room to grow, as 54% of voters have yet to form an opinion of Block.
- McKee's favorability rating is abysmal at -33%. No demographic subgroups, even registered Democrats (-7%), have a net-favorable opinion of McKee.
- Foulkes' net-favorability rating is -3%. Her favorability rating is only +6% among registered Democrats, revealing a pre-existing group of Democrats who hold unfavorable opinions of her.
- Guckian is nearly unknown, with 74% of voters having no opinion or never having heard of him. Voters who do know him view him unfavorably by a net -3%.

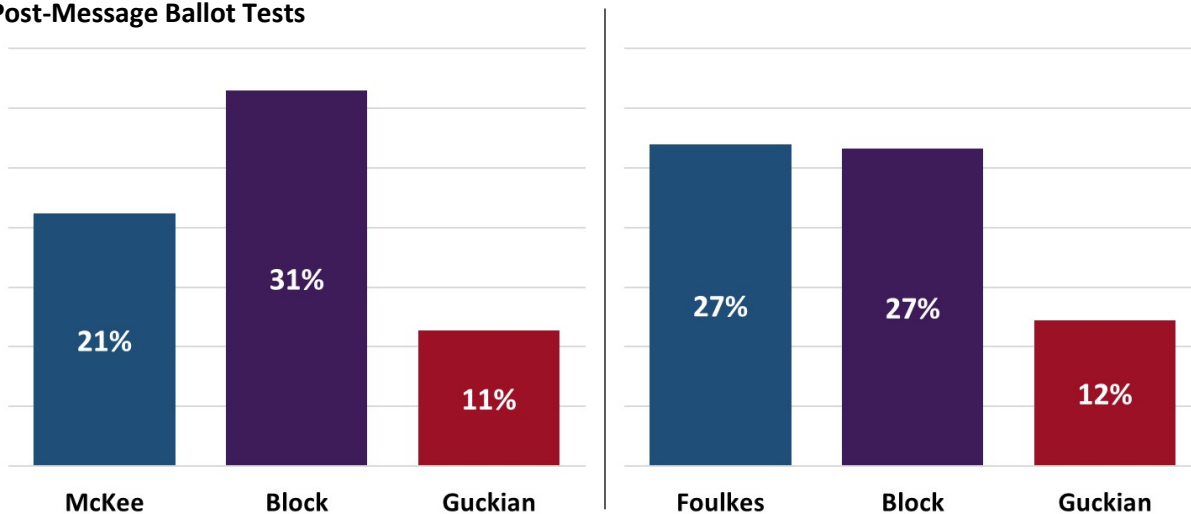
BALLOT TESTS: Two hypothetical matchups were tested: McKee vs. Guckian vs. Block, in the event that McKee survives the September 8 primary, and Foulkes vs. Guckian vs. Block, in the event she prevails over McKee. Each matchup identified the party affiliation of each candidate. The relevant Democrat and Guckian were randomized in the first or second position with Block appearing third to mimic the order candidates will appear on the ballot in November (the draw of which party appears first on the November ballot is expected to occur in July).

Initial Ballot Tests



Respondents were then presented with three pieces of information about Ken Block: 1) Why an independent like Block would be best positioned to address issues that partisan politicians have failed to fix, 2) Block’s experience as an outsider with a past history and future ability to expose and fix waste in government, and 3) Block’s track record as a successful business executive, positioning himself to address issues like the Washington Bridge failure and the issues with Rhode Island’s payroll processor. Each piece of information was portrayed as a campaign message from Block’s supporters, not as a hard fact that respondents should necessarily accept at face value.

Post-Message Ballot Tests



After hearing these statements, Block takes the lead in a matchup versus McKee and is tied in a matchup against Foulkes.

BALLOT TESTS – FURTHER ANALYSIS:

- In the post-message ballot test, Block leads both McKee/Foulkes and Guckian among independents, voters that live in Kent, Washington, Bristol, or Newport counties and among voters over the age of 65 years old.
- Block trails Foulkes by only 8% in union households and 9% with nonwhite voters. Block and Foulkes are tied with women. These demographic groups tend to lean heavily towards Democratic candidates.
- Voters who selected Aaron Guckian in both hypothetical matchups were asked whether they would definitely vote for him, or would switch to vote for an independent candidate if it appeared the independent had a better chance of defeating McKee or Foulkes. Only 42% of Republicans said they would definitely vote for the Republican in that scenario. As Block continues to gain traction, he is well positioned to increase his vote share among Republicans.

UNDECIDED VOTERS:

- Just over one-third of the electorate is still undecided about how they will vote in November, but Ken Block is poised to capture a substantial proportion of them.
- Undecided voters in the hypothetical matchup versus McKee already hold a negative opinion of him (-34% net-favorability). Similarly, undecided voters in the hypothetical matchup versus Foulkes already hold a negative opinion of her (-12% net-favorability).
- Similarly to voters who have already decided on who they will support, undecided voters rank affordability, infrastructure, and eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse as the top issue. Block's resume and track record are strongly aligned to address voters' concerns.
- More than half of undecided voters are independents, a higher proportion than the overall electorate. Undecided voters are more likely to come from the four counties where Ken Block is already winning, with a lower share of undecideds coming from Providence County where Block trails.

CONCLUSION: Ken Block doesn't just have a path to winning the November gubernatorial election, he has a runway. By September 8, Block will have significantly raised his profile with voters, who tend to view him favorably once they know him, and who are inclined to believe Block can solve the pressing issues facing the Ocean State. If incumbent Governor McKee survives his primary, Block ought to be regarded as the frontrunner. If Foulkes defeats McKee, Block would face off against her in a highly competitive race in which he will start with a more positive favorability rating, better positioning on key issues, and a pathway to gain ground among undecideds and Guckian supporters.

Opinion Diagnostics is a public opinion polling and market research firm based in New England and the Carolinas. Our team has a collective 30 years of experience in opinion research, and has surveyed public opinion at every level – from local to national. Our publicly-released work has been covered by more than 300 media publications nationally and internationally, and our clients include Congressional leadership, statewide and federal officeholders, Fortune-500 corporations, and nationally recognized non-profits.