

Fazio’s record defines his campaign

GOP candidate for governor describes himself as ‘a pragmatist’

By Alex Putterman and Paul Hughes
STAFF WRITERS

In the next few weeks, Connecticut voters are likely to learn a lot about Greenwich state Sen. Ryan Fazio and where the Republican candidate for governor stands politically.

Fazio faces an uphill battle in the Nov. 3 election against two-

term Gov. Ned Lamont, who describes himself as a moderate Democrat and who benefits from strong approval ratings in a solid blue state at a time when the political climate appears to favor Democrats.

According to a recent Quinnipiac poll, which had Lamont ahead 55% to 38% among likely voters, 29% of those polled have a favorable opinion of Fazio, while



Fazio

39% have an unfavorable opinion — leaving 33% who either are neutral or don’t know enough to say. Fazio’s hopes could hinge on winning over that uncertain one-third of voters, or a big enough slice of them. Fazio’s campaign has said their internal polls show a smaller margin.

So, who is Fazio? And what can his five-year tenure in the legislature tell us about who he’d be

as governor?

The Lamont campaign and the Connecticut Democratic Party have sought to portray Fazio as ideologically extreme and aligned with President Donald Trump and conservative causes and special interests rather than Connecticut families.

One Lamont TV ad called Fazio’s immigration position “too extreme for Connecticut” and another said he supported Trump’s cuts to the Affordable Care Act. In public statements, the Con-



necticut Democratic Party has charged that Fazio embraces “extreme policies” and describes him as part of “the extreme MAGA wing of the GOP.”

“Calling me extreme is a lie. I’ve been a very effective bipartisan legislator,” Fazio told reporters immediately after the Lamont campaign started airing its immigration attack ad. “I co-authored and passed seven laws in my just five years in the minority party in

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More rapes reported at Yale than at other Ivies

By Natasha Sokoloff
STAFF WRITER

There were more reported rapes at Yale University last year than at most other Connecticut colleges and all other Ivy League schools, according to recently released campus crime statistics.

In 2025, there were 27 reported rapes at Yale, according to the university’s annual security report, which is federally mandated under the Clery Act that requires colleges and universities to publish campus crime data and safety policies each year.

The release of the reports — which showed that more than 100 rapes were reported across colleges and universities in Connecticut in 2025 — come as rape allegations at Cornell University have sparked national outrage and reignited discussions of sexual assault on college campuses.

CT Insider reviewed the latest Clery reports for more than a dozen Connecticut colleges and universities, and for every Ivy League school. The statistics in the reports showed that Yale’s rape numbers in 2025 — up from 2024 but down from 2023 — far exceed those at several other larger and smaller institutions in Connecticut and in the Ivy League.

“Recent incidents of sexual assault and other violence on college campuses underscore the importance of maintaining a focus on prevention, reporting, timely response, and support for those affected,” said Duane Lovello, head of Yale Public Safety, in a statement emailed to CT Insider.

He said Yale treats all incidents with the utmost seriousness, and encouraged anyone who has been the victim of a crime to report it as soon as possible. “The safety and security of the Yale community is Yale’s top priority,” Lovello said.

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Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media
Yale University’s Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall in New Haven.

‘EYE in the SKY’

Inside Connecticut’s highway command center, where crashes and issues become alerts in minutes

By Jordan Nathaniel Fenster
STAFF WRITER

The room is kept dark on purpose with the ambient light mostly coming from the dozens of highway camera feeds stretched across the wall.

Each one shows a different part of Connecticut’s road network. Cars move through interchanges; trucks pass under signs; every screen is watched by operators whose work most drivers never see.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation’s *Command continues on A6*

Photos by Dave Zajac/Hearst Connecticut Media
Antonio Dutchin, crew leader, works at his station at the Connecticut Department of Transportation Highway Operations Center in Newington on Tuesday. Above, command center monitors display feeds from traffic cameras along state highways. At top, one of those cameras, at the Interstate 91, Interstate 691 and Route 15 interchange in Meriden on Tuesday.

Warmer autumns are extending Connecticut’s allergy season



Cities in all U.S. climate regions have seen their freeze-free fall seasons lengthen since 1970.

By Dan Amarante
NEWSROOM METEOROLOGIST

Fall in Connecticut brings apple picking, foliage forecasts and, for many residents, the familiar search for tissues. That last item may be sticking around longer: warmer autumns can give ragweed and other plants more time to grow and release pollen.

Connecticut’s fall average temperature has risen 3.5 degrees Fahrenheit since 1970, ac-

cording to NOAA data. That does not tell us exactly how many extra days Connecticut residents experience allergy symptoms, but the trend is not the friend of allergy sufferers. As temperatures stay above freezing later into the year, plants can keep growing later, too.

Ragweed is a major culprit. Its pollen typically peaks in September and can persist through October in much of the country, Climate Central reports. The

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America estimates that about 50 million people in the U.S. are allergic to ragweed pollen.

The first freeze is arriving later in many cities

A September analysis by Climate Central counted consecutive days with minimum temperatures above 32 degrees during September, October and November. It found the freeze-free fall season had lengthened since

1970 in 177 of 202 U.S. cities studied, by an average of 11 days.

That is a national average, not a Connecticut-specific result. The analysis offers a useful measure of the conditions ragweed can take advantage of, but it does not directly measure pollen in the air or the number of days people have symptoms.

The distinction matters: a freeze is not the same as the first light frost, which can occur at temperatures above 32 degrees

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