

Candidate compare

Gubernatorial primary candidates on health care

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For health care voters in next Tuesday's primary, we've collected health care policies from the major candidates running for Governor.

Connecticut's next administration will face significant health care challenges but also benefit from unique and historic opportunities to improve our state's health. Some of the issues the next Governor will need to address:

- Skyrocketing health care costs and declining value of health coverage
- Enroll approximately 150,000 new Medicaid members in 2014, recruit new providers, and fix the deeply troubled program that struggles to provide care to the more than 400,000 current members
- Growing public health challenges including tobacco, obesity and emergency preparedness
- Nurture the growth and effectiveness use of health information technology and exchange of information while protecting privacy and security, all while building trust among a skeptical public
- Looming shortages of health professionals, especially in primary care
- Take advantage of new federal opportunities under national health reform including grants and building an effective health insurance exchange
- Improve the transparency of health care policymaking in Connecticut and fiscal accountability to taxpayers for the increasing budget share devoted to health costs
- Develop the SustiNet plan as an option to improve coverage options for state residents, provide competition in a crowded, consolidated health care market, and reduce costs for taxpayers, businesses, and especially for state residents facing an individual mandate
- Hold insurers accountable for rate increases, access to care, and market abuses
- Educate the public about the changing landscape and their new roles and options

The Democratic candidates have released health plans.

Dan Malloy's plan (http://danmalloy.com/policy/health_care) emphasizes covering the uninsured, using the power of state health care purchasing to improve the quality of care and lower costs for everyone, SustiNet, PCCM for HUSKY families, improving access to mental health care for those in need, prevention, properly funding institutional care, support for home care, patient-centered medical homes and expand health care workforce training.

Ned Lamont's plan (<http://action.nedlamont.com/page/s/healthcare1>) emphasizes health information technology, payment reform, patient-centered medical homes, evidence-based medicine, primary care workforce training support, consumer-directed health plans, value-

based insurance design, encourage healthy lifestyles, reform long term care payment and simplify access, expand home care, and expand access to mental health care.

The Republican candidates have not yet released specific health plans, but each mentions health care in their plans for the future.

Tom Foley (http://www.tomfoley2010.com/?page_id=697 and http://www.tomfoley2010.com/?page_id=791) has identified reducing state coverage mandates, promoting wellness, capping medical malpractice, health information technology, and permitting interstate sales of insurance policies as critical issues. He would focus on attracting new health care businesses to Connecticut.

Mike Fedele (http://fedele2010.com/images/stories/press_pdf/Fedele2010_03.17.10_-_Fedele_Plan.pdf) has identified restructuring state employee benefits, freezing state spending for four years, and increasing cost sharing and reducing benefits for Medicaid enrollees. He believes that the state must balance government responsibilities to those in need and public safety with economic realities.

Oz Griebel (<http://www.ozforgovernor.com>) does not outline health-related policies he would pursue if elected but emphasizes his experience which includes health leadership roles.