

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested parties

FROM: Brian Wynne, Opinion Diagnostics

DATE: September 28, 2026

RE: Survey of 800 likely Rhode Island voters on the 2026 race for Governor, conducted for Ken Block for Governor

Block Leads Foulkes Head-to-Head as Guckian Heads for the Worst Republican Finish Since 1856

THE SURVEY

Fielded **September 23–25, 2026**

Sample **800 likely voters**

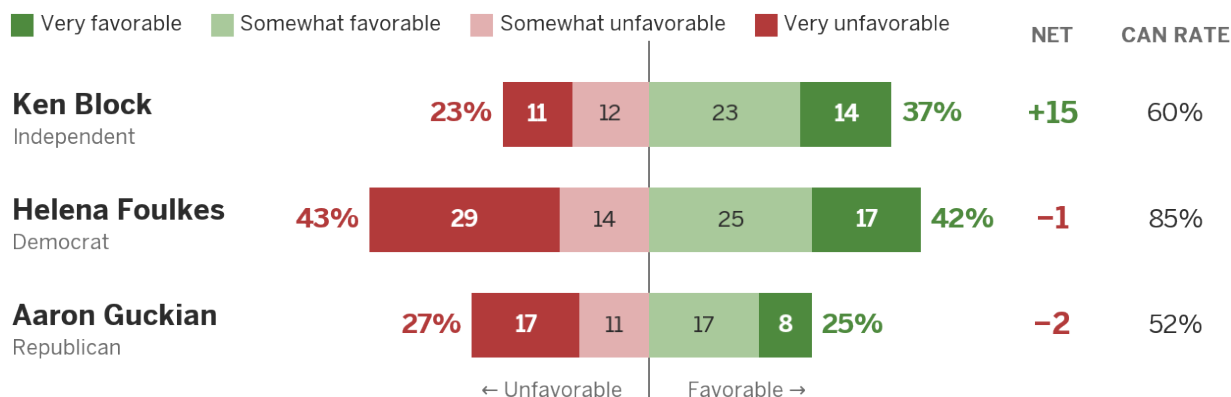
Margin of error **±3.5%**

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Ken Block would beat Helena Foulkes head-to-head.** In a two-way race, Block would lead 44 to 39, with 17 percent undecided. He would carry independents 59 to 22 and Republicans 78 to 4, and the lead holds under every turnout model we tested.
- 2 Block is the only candidate Rhode Island voters like.** Block is 37 percent favorable and 23 percent unfavorable, a net of +15. Foulkes is 42 favorable and 43 unfavorable (–1), with 29 percent very unfavorable two weeks after winning her primary. Aaron Guckian is 25 favorable, 27 unfavorable (–2).
- 3 Block runs second in the current field, and has in every poll since June.** The five-way ballot stands at Foulkes 41, Block 24, Guckian 19, with 16 percent undecided. Independents, the largest bloc in the state, give Block 35 percent to Guckian's 18.
- 4 Guckian is on track for the worst Republican result for governor since the founding of the Republican Party in 1856.** No Republican nominee has finished below 21.5 percent in 104 elections since 1856. Guckian holds only 62 percent of registered Republicans; Block already has 23 percent of them without having asked.
- 5 Guckian's voters are Block voters in a two-way race.** Asked to choose between Foulkes and Block, Guckian's supporters pick Block 76 to 4. A vote for Guckian in November is, in practice, a vote that lets Foulkes win with a plurality.
- 6 A majority of voters do not want Foulkes as governor, and Block has room to grow.** 59 percent of likely voters are not voting for Foulkes today. 40 percent cannot yet rate Block; among those who can, 62 percent are favorable. He is above water with independents (+34), Republicans (+29) and self-described moderates (+28).

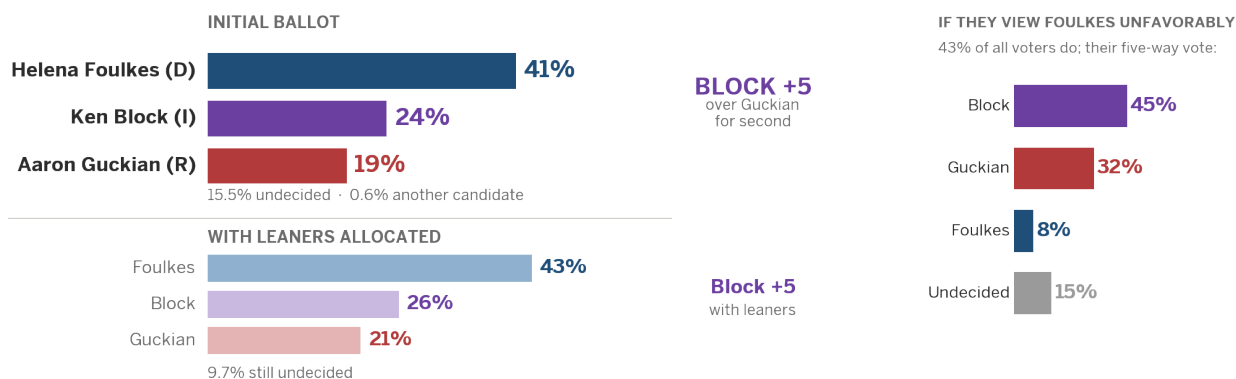
WHERE THE RACE STANDS

Block is the best-liked candidate; Guckian is headed for a historic low



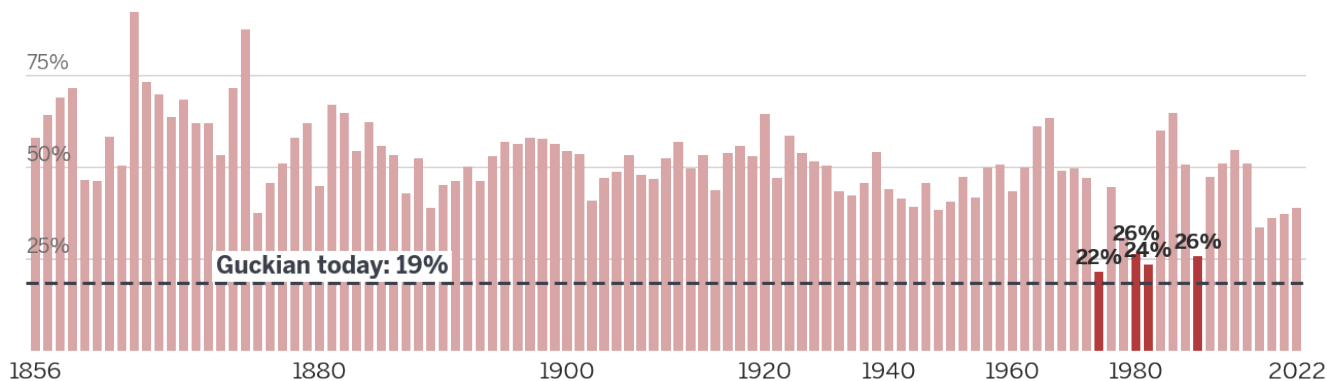
Block is the only candidate above water (+15). Foulkes is -1 with 29 percent very unfavorable; Guckian is -2, and 48 percent cannot rate him.

THE FIVE-WAY BALLOT



With leaners allocated: Foulkes 43, Block 26, Guckian 21. Block has run ahead of Guckian in every public poll since June; Guckian has never been above 22 percent in any of them.

REPUBLICAN SHARE OF THE VOTE FOR GOVERNOR, 104 ELECTIONS SINCE 1856

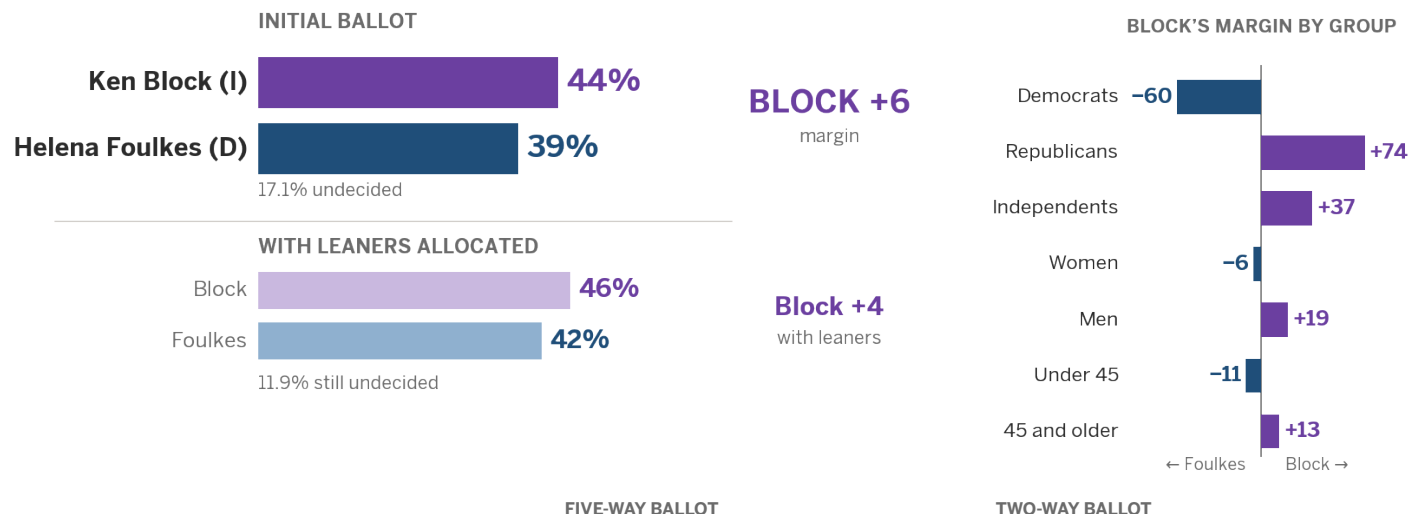


All 104 Rhode Island governor elections since the founding of the Republican Party in 1856; the four results under 30 percent are highlighted (Nugent 1974, Marzullo 1982, DiPrete 1990, Cianci 1980). Certified results, Rhode Island Board of Elections.

Guckian is at 19 percent, below every Republican nominee for governor in 170 years. He holds 62 percent of registered Republicans and 18 percent of independents; Block has 23 and 35. The vote against Foulkes exists. It is split.

In a two-way race, Block would lead

As asked. “If the election for Governor were held today and the candidates were Helena Foulkes and Ken Block, for whom would you vote?” The two-way ballot is a hypothetical: it measures how the vote would consolidate in a two-way race between the two leading candidates.



Democrats are 37 percent of the likely electorate, independents 48 percent, Republicans 15 percent.

Block would win 44 to 39 today, 46 to 42 with leaners allocated. Guckian's own voters choose Block over Foulkes 76 to 4. The Republican vote does not go home to the Democrat; it goes to the independent.

CONCLUSIONS: KEN BLOCK HAS THREE TASKS

- **Continue increasing name ID. People like what they hear; more need to hear it.** 40 percent of likely voters cannot yet rate Block. Among those who can, 62 percent are favorable, and he is above water with independents (+34), Republicans (+29), moderates (+28) and every age group 45 and older.
- **Continue making the case against Foulkes. Rhode Island voters do not like what they have heard, and a majority do not want her as governor.** She is 42 favorable and 43 unfavorable, with 29 percent very unfavorable, and 59 percent of the electorate is not voting for her today. She is underwater with independents (-18) and with self-described moderates (-3).
- **Clarify the race for Guckian supporters. A vote for Guckian is effectively a vote for Foulkes, and therefore a vote for the status quo.** Guckian cannot reach the vote he would need: he is at 19 percent, holds 62 percent of his own party, and would finish below every Republican nominee since 1856. His voters already prefer Block to Foulkes 76 to 4. The only question is whether they cast that preference in November.

About the Pollsters

Opinion Diagnostics is a polling, market research, and consulting firm based in New England and the Carolinas. Established in 2023, our team brings a combined thirty years of experience across polling, data analytics, and predictive modeling.

Our clients range from Fortune 500 corporations to nationally recognized non-profits and Congressional leadership. Our publicly released research has been covered by more than 600 national and international media publications.

METHODOLOGY

The survey was fielded September 23–25, 2026. Potential respondents were randomly selected from the Rhode Island voter file and contacted by an SMS message linking to a web survey; each link carried a unique identifier so the survey could be taken only once, by that person. Respondents were screened to confirm they are registered to vote in Rhode Island and are definitely or probably voting in the November 2026 general election. Results were weighted using an iterative proportional fitting process to match the known attributes of the likely November 2026 electorate on party registration, region, gender, age, and race, modeled on the average of the 2018 and 2022 general elections. The final sample is 800 likely general election voters, with a margin of error of $\pm 3.5\%$ at the 95% confidence level. Subgroups carry a wider margin of error. Figures are rounded once from the unrounded result, so rows may not sum to 100 and margins may differ by a point from the difference of the rounded figures. The survey was conducted for Ken Block for Governor.

FIVE-WAY AND TWO-WAY BALLOT BY GROUP

Group	FIVE-WAY BALLOT				TWO-WAY BALLOT			n
	Foulkes	Block	Guckian	Und.	Block	Foulkes	Und.	
All likely voters	41	24	19	16	44	39	17	800
Democrats	76	10	3	10	13	73	14	278
Independents / unaffiliated	26	35	18	21	59	22	19	402
Republicans	3	23	62	11	78	4	18	120
Men	35	31	20	13	53	34	13	423
Women	46	18	18	17	37	43	20	345
Age 18–44	52	15	21	11	35	46	19	212
Age 45–64	35	29	19	16	52	33	15	300
Age 65 and older	38	26	15	20	44	38	18	288
Providence County	47	21	16	16	42	42	15	400
Kent and Washington counties	38	25	22	15	46	36	18	286
Bristol and Newport counties	30	32	19	18	49	30	21	114
College graduates	46	25	15	13	42	43	15	516
No college degree	32	23	25	20	48	30	22	284

Percent of each group. Columns two through five are the five-way ballot (Gotra, Reynolds and others omitted); columns six through eight are the two-way ballot. Full crosstabs are available from Opinion Diagnostics.