



CLEAN ENERGY SURVEY MEMO

2019 National Polling Results · Attitudes Toward Clean Energy

MEMORANDUM

TO: Conservative Energy Network

FROM: Glen Bolger

RE: Key Findings – Annual National Survey on Clean Energy

DATE: November 22, 2019

METHODOLOGY

Public Opinion Strategies completed a telephone survey of 800 likely voters nationwide. The survey was conducted November 2-5, 2019 and included 400 interviews with cell phone respondents. The margin of error for this survey is +3.46% in 95 out of 100 cases.

THE BOTTOM LINE

This is the fourth annual survey on clean energy issues we have conducted for the Conservative Energy Network, and the data is extremely consistent with our previous polling for you.

There is strong, bi-partisan support on most issues related to clean energy. Republicans are not quite as supportive of clean energy as Democrats are, but there is not much of a gap between voters in either parties. Republican support for renewable and clean energy solutions continues to increase.

Clean energy issues also provide a bridge to Independent voters that is otherwise quite challenging in the current political environment.

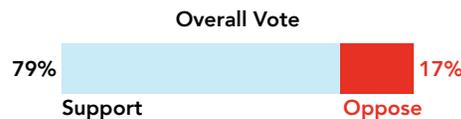
Overall, clean energy issues are important to both Republican and Independents voters who are crucial to the success of GOP candidates in swing districts/states in 2020. These voters will respond well to candidates who are talking about it. It is not a wedge issue, but having a proclean energy agenda, based on conservative principles like competition and private property rights, provides an opportunity to connect with those key Independent voters while not alienating Republican voters. It may not be crucial in all districts, but in those districts key to maintaining or gaining a GOP majority, it is vital candidates have a solid position on clean energy.

KEY FINDINGS

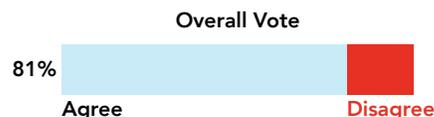
1. An overwhelming majority of voters support markets instead of mandates, favor electricity choice/competition options, and want their state to be a national leader in clean energy development.

To increase clean energy production, by 70% to 26%, voters prefer “approaches that allow markets and businesses to provide more clean energy production” over “government mandates and quotas.”

Fully 79% support a new system for purchasing electricity that allows people to have a choice of where and what kind of electricity to buy, while 17% want to keep the current system.

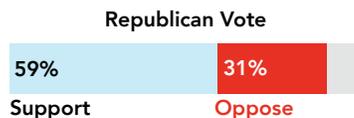


Fully 81% of voters agree that “we should accelerate the growth of clean energy so that our state can be a national leader in the competition for economic development and good-paying jobs.”

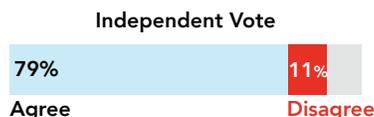


2. Clean energy is an electoral winner for Republican candidates. It is particularly helpful in opening doors to Independent voters in general elections, while backed by a significant number of Republicans.

Among Republicans, 59% say they would vote for “elected officials or candidates who support clean energy development like solar and wind,” while just 31% would vote against such candidates.

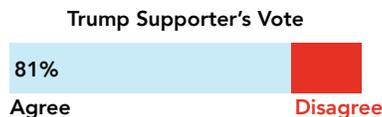


Independents vote for clean energy supporters by an overwhelming 79%-11% margin.



3. Voters who approve of President Trump back clean energy.

Voters who approve of the President are supportive of more domestic energy from solar and wind. Fully 81% agree that “we should accelerate the growth of clean energy so that our state can be a national leader in the competition for economic development and good-paying jobs.”



These voters prefer it be done via markets instead of mandates by 68% to 28%.



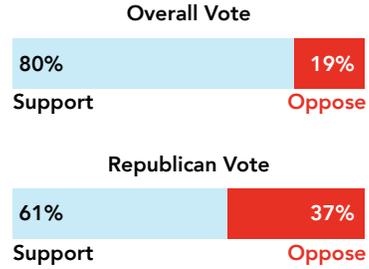
A majority of Trump approvers (62%) support “the government taking action to accelerate the development and use of clean energy in the United States,” with just 36% being opposed.



KEY FINDINGS

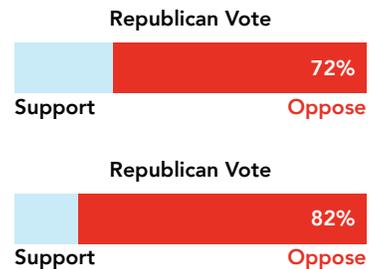
4. Voters see an important limited role for government on clean energy issues. That role centers on supporting innovation and the development of technology.

Overall, 80% support “the government taking action to accelerate the development and use of clean energy in the United States,” with just 19% being opposed. GOPers back it 61% to 37%.



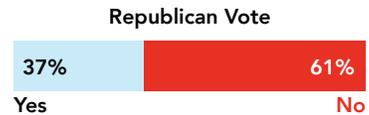
5. Solutions that are a tax are not well-received, with Republicans especially negative.

Fully 72% of GOPers oppose “a new tax system that would help reduce carbon emissions by rewarding low carbon emitters and penalizing high carbon emitters.” Opposition among GOPers jumps to 82% when a carbon tax is tested.



6. Republican voters remain opposed to the idea that humans are causing climate change.

Only 37% of Republicans believe in human-caused climate change, while 61% do not. There may be some very small areas of the country where GOPers believe in it, but the survey’s sample size do not allow for identifying data in small geographic areas.



A majority of GOPers, 63%, are less likely to vote for a candidate who believes human activity is contributing to climate change, while only 24% are more likely.

