



Climate Jobs National Resource Center

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Contact: Sophia Reuss, sophia.reuss@cnrc.org, 917-545-2901

POLL: VOTERS SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND, STRONG LABOR STANDARDS

Voters in key states overwhelmingly support building offshore wind energy with strong labor standards, including paying living wages and good benefits, according to a new poll released today by the Climate Jobs National Resource Center and conducted by Impact Research. The poll found that voters believe offshore wind energy will strengthen local economies.

Poll findings include:

- **By a 47-point margin, two-thirds of voters support building offshore wind energy with strong labor standards** (66% support / 19% oppose / 16% don't know). This includes solid net support across all demographic subgroups, including by a 44-point margin in coastal communities and across party lines: Democrats (+75), Independents (+36), and Republicans (+16).
- **Workplace safety and living wages are paramount.** Voters overwhelmingly view workplace safety protections (89%) and living wages and good benefits (82%) as very important requirements for jobs created by the offshore wind industry.
- **Voters believe offshore wind will be good for the economy and jobs—two of their top priorities for lawmakers.** By a 37-point margin, they believe building offshore wind energy will be good for the economy (47% good / 10% bad); and by a 42-point margin, they believe it will create jobs (51% create jobs / 9% cost jobs).
- **Supporting offshore wind is politically beneficial.** More than four in five voters say that strengthening the state's economy (83%) and creating more good jobs (83%) should be very important issues for lawmakers working on energy and environment issues. By a 24-point margin, voters also say they would be more likely to vote for candidates that support building offshore wind with strong labor standards.

“This poll confirms what we already know, that the public supports developing new clean energy, like offshore wind, and they support the workers who build it. Clean, sustainable energy is the

future – and building it with union jobs will make sure it’s a win-win for our planet and workers,” says **Rick Levy, president of the Texas AFL-CIO and principal officer of Texas Climate Jobs Project.**

“Workers know the climate crisis is creating devastation in communities across the nation, that’s why labor is leading on taking climate action to create good jobs and tackle inequality, too. Workers are already building the new clean energy infrastructure that will provide clean air and water for our communities. We owe it to them and future generations to do it right with strong labor standards to protect our workers and our planet,” says **Pat Crowley, secretary-treasurer of the Rhode Island AFL-CIO and co-chair of Climate Jobs Rhode Island.**

“The data serves to say the quiet part out loud: the public does not want, and will not accept, a clean energy economy built on the backs of exploited labor. And that a stable and cleaner energy economy and family-supporting jobs cannot and must never be mutually exclusive. Just as they’ve done for well over a century, America’s building trades unions are yet again answering the call to build our country and build our communities, based on the simple premise that a hard day’s work deserves fair pay and the opportunity to retire with dignity after an honest career. We not only deserve an economy that works for all of us, we’re demanding it. And it’s clear that America agrees,” says **Jason J. Shedlock, president of the Maine State Building and Construction Trades Council, regional organizer of the Laborers’ International Union, and a leader of the Maine Labor Climate Council.**

About the poll: Impact Research conducted an online and text-to-web survey conducted April 14th to 20th, 2023 among N=3300 registered voters in target offshore wind development states: Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Texas. The margin of error for the overall results is $\pm 1.7\%$ at the 95% level of confidence and is higher for subgroups.

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Climate Jobs National Resource Center is a national labor-led organization advancing a pro-worker, pro-climate agenda to create union jobs, tackle the climate crisis, and advance equity. Learn more at cjinrc.org.