



TO: Interested Parties
 FROM: Andrew Baumann and Nicole Jaconetty, Global Strategy Group
 DATE: November 30, 2021
 RE: **NEW POLL:** Arizona Voters Are Increasingly Concerned about Climate, Strongly Support Clean Energy Policies

New survey data from research conducted by Global Strategy Group reveals that Arizona voters are increasingly concerned about climate change and want to see the state shift investments away from fossil fuels like coal and oil and toward clean energy sources like wind and, especially, solar. Further, there is strong support for proposals that do just that – including a plan to transition Arizona utilities to get 50% of their electricity from clean energy by 2035 and transitioning public vehicle fleets like school buses, transit buses, and government cars to all-electric vehicles. Finally, support for a shift from fossil fuels to clean energy is broad and robust; it holds up after a simulated debate that includes messaging using the actual language used by opponents. Moreover, after this debate, voters believe such a plan would have a positive impact on all metrics tested, including Arizona’s economy and families like theirs.

The following memo contains key findings from the survey conducted for the American Lung Association between November 11 and November 18, 2021 among 801 registered voters in Arizona.

KEY FINDINGS

Arizona voters see climate change as a significant problem – with voters more likely to say it is a crisis than they were a year ago. Over three-quarters of Arizona voters believe climate change is a serious problem including nearly all Democrats, more than three-quarters of independents, and more than half of Republicans. These data are consistent with a November 2020 poll which found a similar 78% saying that climate change is a serious problem. But now, nearly a third call it a crisis (30%) – 8 points higher than last year (22% crisis).

CLIMATE CHANGE							
	Registered Voters	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	White Non-college	White College
% Total serious problem	78	97	77	58	85	75	74

Moreover, nearly seven-in-10 agree that climate change is already having a serious impact on the southwest region, and over 70% agree that we should let science and experts guide the response to it. An overwhelming majority of independents and even a sizeable share of Republicans join with Democrats in these beliefs.

CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENTS									
	Registered Voters			Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	White Non-col.	White College
	% Agree	% Disagree	NET Agree						
We should let science and experts guide our response to climate change.	71	22	+49	+73	+60	+15	+40	+47	+59
Climate change is already having a serious impact on this part of the country.	67	27	+40	+89	+34	-5	+53	+32	+35

Voters continue to be very concerned about wildfires, droughts, and hot temperatures, along with air pollution and its health impacts. More than three quarters of voters are concerned that Arizona’s reliance on fossil fuels could lead to more and bigger wildfires, longer and more severe droughts, and more days with extremely hot temperatures. These concerns are shared across the political spectrum, including by nearly two-thirds of Republicans. Nearly eight-in-10 voters are also concerned that reliance on fossil fuels will lead to increased levels of smog and other air pollution that threaten all residents. The level of fear about the negative consequences of using fossil fuels is consistent with what it was in 2020.

IMPACT OF USING FOSSIL FUELS

	Registered Voters		% Concerned						
	% Very Concerned	% Concerned	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	White Non-college	White College	
Longer and more severe droughts	53	80	94	79	66	89	77	76	
More and bigger wildfires	53	79	96	76	65	88	77	73	
Increased levels of smog and other pollution	48	79	94	77	65	93	74	77	
More days with extremely hot temperatures	51	76	93	74	60	85	72	72	

Voters overwhelmingly want to see Arizona move towards wind and solar and away from coal and oil. Voters on both sides of the aisle want to see their state use more solar (by a 73-point margin) and wind (by a 55-point margin) as well as less oil and coal. Further, over three-quarters agree that the country should make significant investments in clean energy as a part of the effort to rebuild the economy, and two-thirds agree we should do it in a just and equitable way – statements with which Democrats, Independents, and Republicans agree by wide margins.

ENERGY SOURCE USAGE

	Registered Voters				White					
	% More	% Less	% About the same	NET More	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	Non-college	White College
Solar	80	3	13	+77	+89	+74	+67	+79	+73	+84
Wind	63	8	21	+55	+73	+47	+41	+65	+55	+51
Oil	11	39	39	-28	-52	-32	-2	-21	-28	-39
Coal	8	49	27	-41	-60	-46	-18	-35	-39	-51

CLEAN ENERGY STATEMENTS

	Registered Voters			White					
	% Agree	% Disagree	NET Agree	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	Non-col.	White College
America should make significant investments in clean energy as part of our efforts to rebuild the economy.	75	20	+55	+89	+55	+21	+65	+48	+54
As we move the country to clean energy, we should make sure that our investments benefit the communities most impacted by pollution, including Black, Hispanic, and Native American communities.	64	22	+42	+79	+41	+6	+61	+30	+42

Voters strongly support Arizona shifting investments away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy. Three-quarters of Arizona voters support the state “shifting its investments away from fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal and toward clean energy sources and technologies like wind, solar, and zero-emission vehicles.” The proposal is supported by large majorities of Democrats, independents, and less-conservative Republicans. Only very conservative Republicans are in opposition. Furthermore, a large majority of voters – including Democrats, independents, and less-conservative Republicans – would be more favorable to a legislator who supports shifting investments away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy.

INITIAL SUPPORT

Would you support or oppose the state of Arizona shifting its investments away from fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal and toward clean energy sources and technologies like wind, solar, and zero-emission vehicles?

Registered Voters			Dem.	Ind.	Non-Very Cons. GOP	Very Cons. GOP	Latino	White Non-college	White College
% Support	% Oppose	NET Support							
75	25	+50	+92	+46	+38	-22	+62	+46	+46

IMPACT ON FAVORABILITY

Would you feel more or less favorable toward your state legislator if he or she supported Arizona shifting its investments away from fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal and toward clean energy sources and technologies like wind, solar, and zero-emission vehicles, or would it make no difference in your opinion?

Registered Voters			Dem.	Ind.	Non-Very Cons. GOP	Very Cons. GOP	Latino	White Non-college	White College
% More favorable	% Less favorable	NET More							
59	18	+41	+83	+36	+28	-29	+51	+35	+39

After a full debate, voters remain overwhelmingly supportive of shifting investments towards clean energy.

After hearing a simulated debate that includes strong attacks from opponents claiming that such a shift would kill jobs and “cause electricity bills to skyrocket and force Arizona families to buy expensive electric cars,” more than two-thirds of voters continue to support shifting Arizona’s investments away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy (see Appendix for full language). Democrats, independents, and less-conservative Republicans all continue to support such a shift after the simulated debate.

INFORMED SUPPORT

Would you support or oppose the state of Arizona shifting its investments away from fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal and toward clean energy sources and technologies like wind, solar, and zero-emission vehicles?

Registered Voters			Dem.	Ind.	Non-Very Cons. GOP	Very Cons. GOP	Latino	White Non-college	White College
% Support	% Oppose	NET Support							
68	32	+36	+82	+40	+14	-46	+48	+32	+32

Voters recognize that shifting Arizona’s investments toward clean energy will have a positive impact on air quality, climate change, and the economy and reject opponents’ attacks on costs. Even after hearing opposition messaging, nearly eight-in-10 voters recognize that the state shifting its investments away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy will have a positive impact on air quality in Arizona, while about two-thirds say it will have a positive impact on climate change, the health of families like theirs, and future generations of their families, and

a solid majority believe it will have a positive impact on the economy and jobs in Arizona. Meanwhile, a 57% majority rejects the idea that such a shift would negatively impact the finances of families like theirs.

PROPOSAL IMPACTS				
	% Positive impact	% Negative impact	% No impact	NET Positive Impact
Air quality in Arizona	76	9	15	+67
Climate change	68	12	20	+56
The health of families like yours	68	15	17	+53
Future generations of your family	68	19	12	+49
Arizona seniors and children	64	25	11	+39
Communities of color in Arizona	57	25	18	+32
Your family	58	27	15	+31
The economy and jobs in Arizona	57	35	8	+22
The finances of families like yours	43	43	14	0

Policies that support a switch to clean energy and electric vehicles and promote energy efficiency have broad, cross-partisan appeal. All six of the proposals tested are supported by at least two-thirds of Arizona voters with cross-partisan backing. Most popular among these policies is a proposal to help homeowners increase their home energy efficiency. Investing state money to transition one-fifth of Arizona's school buses to zero-emission buses, transitioning public vehicle fleets to electric vehicles, incentivizing the purchase of electric vehicles, and investing in publicly available charging infrastructure for electric vehicles on highways and roads are all supported by about two-thirds of voters. Finally, voters strongly back a plan to require Arizona utilities to cut carbon emissions in half by the year 2035 and get 100% of their electricity from clean, carbon-free sources like wind and solar by 2050.

	Registered Voters								
	% Support	% Oppose	NET Support	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	White Non-col.	White College
Providing assistance for homeowners and renters to increase the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce energy use	82	13	+69	+84	+72	+50	+72	+68	+68
A plan to require Arizona utilities to get 50% of their electricity from clean, carbon-free energy like wind and solar by the year 2035 and 100% of their electricity from carbon-free sources by 2050	69	22	+47	+86	+42	+12	+65	+40	+42
Investing state money to transition one-fifth of Arizona's school buses from diesel-powered vehicles to electric, zero-emission buses	68	22	+46	+81	+45	+10	+65	+34	+53
Policies that will transition public vehicle fleets like school buses, transit buses, and government-owned cars to all electric vehicles	67	24	+43	+77	+40	+14	+57	+35	+45
Investing in publicly available infrastructure for charging electric vehicles along major highways and roads	66	23	+43	+77	+43	+7	+53	+38	+42
Providing consumer incentives to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles	66	27	+39	+77	+37	+1	+45	+33	+46

ABOUT THIS RESEARCH

Global Strategy Group conducted an online survey of 801 Arizona registered voters from November 11 to November 18, 2021. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level for registered voters is +/- 3.5%. Care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of the sample matched Arizona's registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables including race, gender, age, education, and region.

APPENDIX

SIMULATED DEBATE ON SHIFTING FROM FOSSIL FUELS TO CLEAN ENERGY

Supporters say:

Every Arizona family deserves an opportunity to live in a healthy community - and we all have a basic responsibility to leave a better world for our kids. But unchecked pollution caused by burning dirty and outdated fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal is endangering public health and putting the future of our children at risk.

Our dependence on fossil fuels is the main reason that Arizona has some of the most polluted air in the United States, which puts millions of Arizonans' health at risk. It also drives climate change, which 97% of scientists, NASA, and the Department of Defense all agree is a threat to our kids' future. In fact, the world's scientists recently said that the accelerating impact of climate change is a "Code Red for Humanity."

Moving to clean energy and clean technologies like zero-emission vehicles will not only dramatically reduce the carbon pollution that is disrupting our climate but will also reduce the sulfur, arsenic, and other pollutants that cause asthma attacks, heart and lung disease, and even cancer - especially in children and seniors.

And economists say that moving to clean energy and technologies will help Arizona's economy recover more quickly from the pandemic and create thousands of good-paying jobs for all kinds of people - from engineers to factory workers to installers - while eventually saving Arizona families thousands of dollars a year in energy and health care costs.

Opponents say:

Dropping inexpensive and reliable energy sources like oil, natural gas, and coal in favor of unreliable and expensive energy sources and technologies would cause electricity bills to skyrocket and force Arizona families to buy expensive electric cars, costing Arizona families thousands of dollars - all for some far-off benefits that we'll probably never even see.

Moving off tried and tested energy sources would also drive prices up for business by thousands of dollars per year, killing jobs, stifling innovation, and reversing the economic recovery that is just beginning in Arizona. Companies will be forced to send good-paying jobs to other states or countries overseas where costs are lower.

In 2018, Arizona voters rejected a proposal like this one because it was bad for Arizona for all of these reasons. But now, liberal activists who are funded by radical, out-of-state environmental groups are trying to overrule the will of the people.

We should leave renewable energy and electric transportation to the free market - not big government; if consumers want it, producers will provide it. In the meantime, it makes no sense to pass laws mandating technologies that will put reliable and affordable energy and transportation at risk and only help people rich enough to put solar panels on their homes or buy a Tesla.