



TO: Interested Parties
 FROM: Andrew Baumann and Nicole Jaconetty, Global Strategy Group
 DATE: December 8, 2022
 RE: **NEW POLL:** Concerned about Climate Change, Arizona Voters Seek More Clean Energy Investments

New survey data from research conducted by Global Strategy Group reveals that Arizona voters recognize the impact climate change is having on their region and see climate change as a serious problem. Strong majorities believe Arizona policymakers should do more to deal with the issue and are looking for the state to invest more to move to clean energy, clean up our air, and reduce the pollution that causes climate change – in addition to utilizing the resources provided by the federal government to aid in those goals. Voters not only see clean energy investments as important to dealing with climate change and reducing pollution, but they also overwhelmingly see it as an economic boon that will create jobs and reduce energy prices. Encouragingly, support remains broad and robust after a simulated debate that includes messaging using the actual language used by opponents.

The following memo contains key findings from the survey conducted for the American Lung Association between November 29 and December 4, 2022, among 800 registered voters in Arizona.

KEY FINDINGS

Arizona voters continue to see climate change as a significant problem. Over three-quarters of Arizona voters believe climate change is a serious problem including nearly all Democrats, eight in 10 independents, and a majority of Republicans. These data are consistent with data from both November 2021 and November 2020.

CLIMATE CHANGE							
	Registered Voters	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	White Non-college	White College
% Total serious problem	76	97	81	55	85	73	74

Nearly two-thirds agree that climate change is already having a serious impact on the southwest region; and more, 72%, agree that we should let science and experts guide the response to it. Independents join Democrats in these beliefs, with only Republicans unwilling to acknowledge the serious impact of climate change on the region. Democrats and independents are also looking to Arizona policymakers to do more to combat climate change.

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.	72	21	+51	+81	+38	+28	+55	+47	+50	
Climate change is already having a serious impact on this part of the country.	65	29	+36	+80	+42	-7	+40	+31	+32	
Arizona policymakers need to do more to combat climate change.	62	27	+35	+87	+36	-14	+59	+24	+31	

Arizona voters, regardless of political affiliation, want more solar and wind and less oil and coal. Voters on both sides of the aisle want to see the state use more solar power (by a 68-point margin) and wind (by a 49-point margin) as well as less oil and coal.

ENERGY SOURCE USAGE											
	Registered Voters				White						
	% More	% Less	% About the same	NET More	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	Non-college	White College	
Solar	74	6	17	+68	+83	+61	+56	+59	+69	+76	
Wind	59	10	22	+49	+73	+35	+33	+50	+48	+51	
Oil	13	41	37	-28	-55	-33	-1	-35	-23	-31	
Coal	10	46	29	-36	-62	-31	-14	-31	-32	-46	

Arizona voters want to see more investments in clean energy in part because they believe clean energy will create jobs and bring down energy costs. Seven-in-10 voters agree that the country should make significant investments in clean energy as a part of the effort to rebuild the economy. Support for clean energy is so high, in part, because majorities of Democrats, independents, and Republicans agree that clean energy would create quality jobs, strengthen Arizona’s economy, and save Arizona families money. Moreover, strong majorities agree that as we invest more in clean energy, we should do it in a just and equitable way.

CLEAN ENERGY STATEMENTS										
	Registered Voters			White						
	% Agree	% Disagree	NET Agree	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	Non-col.	College	
Using more clean energy like wind and solar would create quality jobs and strengthen Arizona’s economy.	72	19	+53	+86	+47	+25	+66	+53	+40	
America should make significant investments in clean energy as part of our efforts to rebuild the economy.	70	22	+48	+85	+46	+14	+63	+39	+42	
As we move towards clean energy, we should make sure that we protect communities more impacted by harmful pollution, including low-income communities, communities of color, and Native American communities.	68	22	+46	+84	+47	+9	+39	+55	+21	
Using more clean energy like wind and solar would save Arizona families money.	66	23	+43	+77	+38	+13	+65	+35	+30	
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	23	+41	+82	+45	0	+67	+31	+27	

Voters overwhelmingly believe Arizona should go beyond recent federal action and invest more to move to clean energy, clean up the air, and reduce pollution. Nearly two-thirds of Arizona voters think that recent action by the federal government is a good start, but that Arizona still needs to invest more to move to clean energy, clean up the state’s air, and reduce the pollution that causes climate change. Democrats, independents, and less-conservative Republicans join in agreeing with this statement, leaving only very conservative Republicans in opposition. Furthermore, a large majority of voters – including Democrats, independents, and less-conservative Republicans – would be more favorable to a legislator who supported these investments.

INITIAL AGREEMENT

As you may know, Congress recently passed a new law that will invest \$369 billion in efforts to expand the use of clean energy and combat climate change. Knowing this, please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement: **This action by the federal government is a good start, but Arizona still needs to invest more to move to clean energy, clean up our air, and reduce the pollution that causes climate change.**

Registered Voters			Dem.	Ind.	Non-Very Cons. GOP	Very Cons. GOP	Latino	White Non-college	White College
% Agree	% Disagree	NET Agree							
64	28	+36	+89	+32	+4	-59	+47	+28	+29

IMPACT ON FAVORABILITY

Would you feel more or less favorable toward your state legislator if they supported investing more to move to clean energy, clean up our air, and reduce the pollution that causes climate change, 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	+85	+31	+19	-41	+56	+32	+36

After a full debate, voters remain on board with additional investments to move to clean energy, clean up the air, and reduce pollution. After hearing a simulated debate that includes strong attacks from opponents claiming that such a shift would kill thousands of jobs and undermine the state's economic recovery, a similar number of voters support additional investments (see Appendix for full language). Democrats, independents, and less-conservative Republicans all continue to support such investments after the simulated debate.

INFORMED AGREEMENT

Now that you've read these statements, and thinking again about Congress' recent passage of a new law that will invest \$369 billion in efforts to expand the use of clean energy and combat climate change...

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

This action by the federal government is a good start, but Arizona still needs to invest more to move to clean energy, clean up our air, and reduce the pollution that causes climate change.

Registered Voters			Dem.	Ind.	Non-Very Cons. GOP	Very Cons. GOP	Latino	White Non-college	White College
% Support	% Oppose	NET Support							
63	29	+34	+83	+29	+3	-51	+54	+22	+27

Voters recognize that these investments will have a positive impact on air quality, climate change, their families, and the economy and reject opponents' attacks on costs. Even after hearing opposition messaging, more than three-quarters of voters recognize that the state investing more to move to clean energy, clean up our air, and reduce the pollution that causes climate change will have a positive impact on air quality in Arizona. More than seven-in-10 say these investments will have a positive impact on climate change, the health of families like theirs, and future generations of their families. A solid majority also believe they will have a positive impact on the economy and jobs in Arizona. Voters reject the idea that they would have a negative impact on their family finances by a 19-point margin.

PROPOSAL IMPACTS				
	% Positive impact	% Negative impact	% No impact	NET Positive Impact
Air quality in Arizona	77	9	13	+68
The health of families like yours	72	11	17	+61
Climate change	71	11	19	+60
Future generations of your family	72	14	14	+58
Arizona seniors and children	68	16	15	+52
Communities of color in Arizona	66	15	19	+51
Your family	65	17	19	+48
The economy and jobs in Arizona	62	25	13	+37
The finances of families like yours	51	32	17	+19

Policies that support a switch to clean energy and electric vehicles and promote energy efficiency have broad, cross-partisan appeal. Most popular among these policies is a proposal to help homeowners increase their home energy efficiency. Investing in infrastructure for zero-emission/electric vehicles is also popular, along with providing consumer incentives to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles and shifting state investments toward clean energy sources and technologies and zero-emission vehicles (both rejected by only a narrow margin of Republican voters).

CLEAN ENERGY POLICIES										
	Registered Voters			Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	White Non-col.	White College	NET Support
	% Support	% Oppose	NET Support							
Providing assistance for homeowners and renters to increase the energy efficiency of their homes and reduce energy use	79	14	+65	+81	+56	+53	+65	+67	+57	
Investing in infrastructure for clean energy and zero-emission vehicle charging in small towns and rural communities	64	24	+40	+77	+34	+7	+50	+34	+38	
Investing in publicly available infrastructure for charging electric vehicles along major highways and roads	64	27	+37	+76	+33	+3	+47	+31	+37	
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	62	28	+34	+82	+27	-8	+41	+28	+28	
Providing consumer incentives to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles	60	31	+29	+72	+24	-8	+45	+21	+26	

ABOUT THIS RESEARCH

Global Strategy Group conducted an online survey of 800 Arizona registered voters from November 29 to December 4, 2022. 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 ARIZONA INVESTING MORE TO MOVE TO CLEAN ENERGY

Supporters say:

Our dependence on dirty and outdated energy sources like coal and oil is the main reason that Arizona has some of the most polluted air in the United States. It also drives climate change, which 99% of scientists, NASA, and the Department of Defense all agree is a threat to our kids' future.

Moving to clean energy 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 – and that especially affect children and seniors.

Meanwhile, the cost of wind and solar is already lower than coal and gas – and still dropping. Economists say that moving to clean energy will create thousands of good-paying jobs for all kinds of people – from engineers to factory workers to installers – while saving Arizona families thousands of dollars a year.

And now is the best time for Arizona to accelerate its plans to invest in clean energy to better position ourselves to take advantage of the new federal law and resources. If we act now, Arizona can be a leader in clean energy and capture more of the new clean energy jobs and businesses that are coming. If we don't, other states will take advantage and we'll be left behind.

Opponents say:

The new federal law is already providing Arizona with hundreds of millions of dollars to invest in green energy. Rather than diverting Arizona taxpayers' money on even more Green New Deal-style big spending schemes, the state should use its limited resources to fund other important priorities like our roads and schools.

Besides, going too fast on green energy – and moving completely away from inexpensive and reliable energy sources like natural gas – would cause electricity bills and gas prices to skyrocket at a time when Arizona families and businesses can least afford it.

Moving off tried-and-tested energy sources would also drive prices up for businesses across Arizona, killing thousands of jobs and undermining our economic recovery. Companies will be forced to send good-paying jobs to other states or countries overseas where costs are lower.

Instead of using Arizona taxpayers' money to boost one industry, we should leave green energy to the free market; if consumers want it, producers will provide it. In the meantime, it makes no sense to pass laws pushing unproven technologies that will put reliable and affordable energy at risk.