

West Virginia Voters Support the Clean Electricity Standard



In mid-June 2021, Data for Progress and the Chesapeake Climate Action Fund polled likely voters in West Virginia to assess support for President Biden's proposed clean electricity standard, along with other key climate and clean energy provisions in the American Jobs Plan.

We find that **a clear majority of West Virginia voters support putting America on a path to achieving 100 percent clean electricity by 2035**, including a majority of Democrats and Independents and nearly 40 percent of Republicans.

We also find that West Virginia voters support federal investments in clean energy jobs, even after being presented with Republican counter-arguments, and support the American Jobs Plan's incentives for low-pollution technologies. Additionally, we find that West Virginia voters strongly agree that the federal government should ensure West Virginia is a leader in the new clean energy economy, as well as ensure that a federal infrastructure bill includes funding for fossil fuel communities, like those in West Virginia.

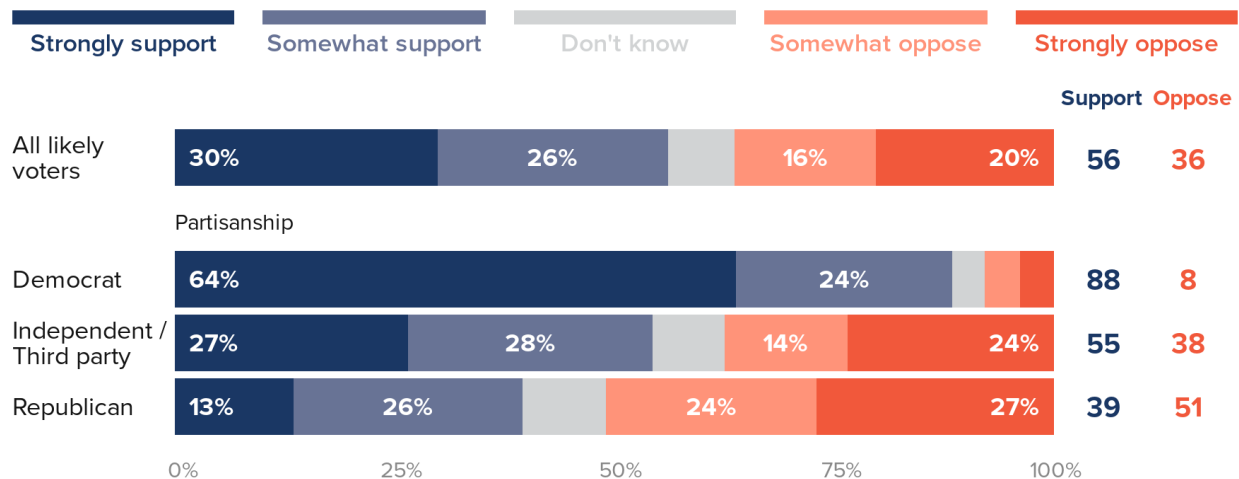
WEST VIRGINIA VOTERS SUPPORT A FEDERAL CLEAN ELECTRICITY STANDARD

We first asked respondents about the American Jobs Plan's proposed clean electricity standard, which would put America on a path towards achieving a 100 percent carbon-free electricity grid by 2035. We find that West Virginia voters support this proposal to transition to a cleaner, more reliable grid by a 20-point margin (56 percent support, 36 percent oppose). The proposal is overwhelmingly popular with Democrats, who support it by an 80-point margin, and also receives majority support from Independents, who favor it by a 17-point margin. While Republican voters oppose the clean electricity standard by a 12-point margin, nearly 40 percent say they support the proposal.

West Virginia Voters Support Transitioning to a 100 Percent Clean Electricity Grid

The American Jobs Plan includes a proposal that puts America on a path to achieving a 100% clean and reliable electricity system by 2035.

Do you support or oppose this proposal?



June 12–20, 2021 survey of 848 likely voters

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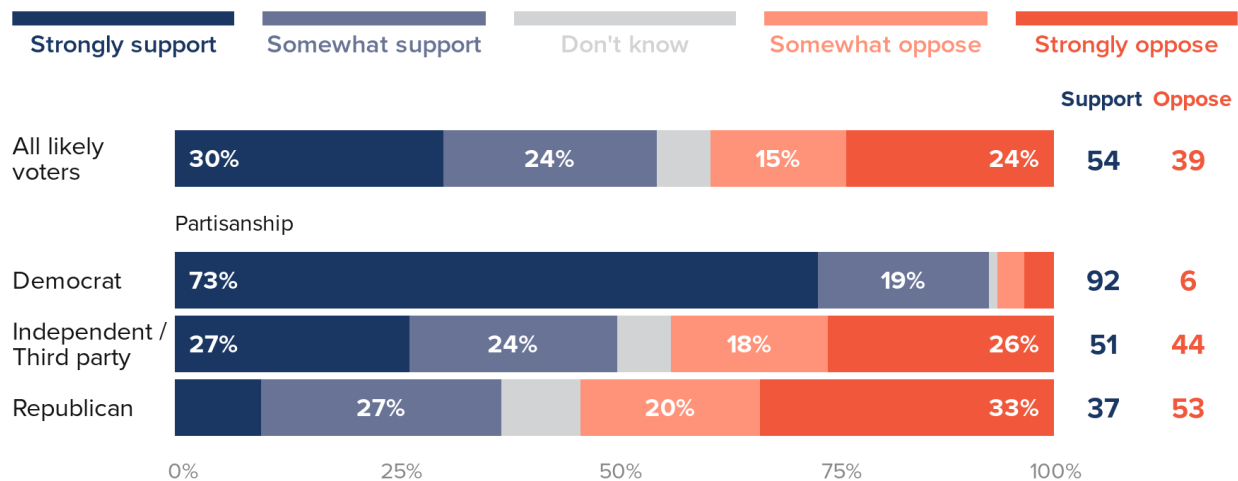


WEST VIRGINIA VOTERS SUPPORT GOVERNMENT INVESTMENTS TO CREATE MILLIONS OF CLEAN ENERGY JOBS WITH FAIR LABOR STANDARDS

Next, we asked respondents if they support or oppose the American Jobs Plan's provisions to create new good-paying, union jobs in manufacturing new clean energy technologies such as wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicles. We find that West Virginia voters support these investments by a clear 15-point margin (54 percent support, 39 percent oppose). This includes an overwhelming 86-point majority of Democrats and a 7-point majority of Independents. While Republican voters oppose these investments by a 16-point margin, there is again notable GOP voter support, with nearly 40 percent of West Virginia Republicans backing clean energy job investments.

West Virginia Voters Support the American Jobs Plan's Investments in Clean Energy Jobs

The American Jobs Plan includes investments to create new good-paying, union jobs to manufacturing the technologies of the future, like wind turbines, solar panels, and electric vehicles. Do you support or oppose these investments?



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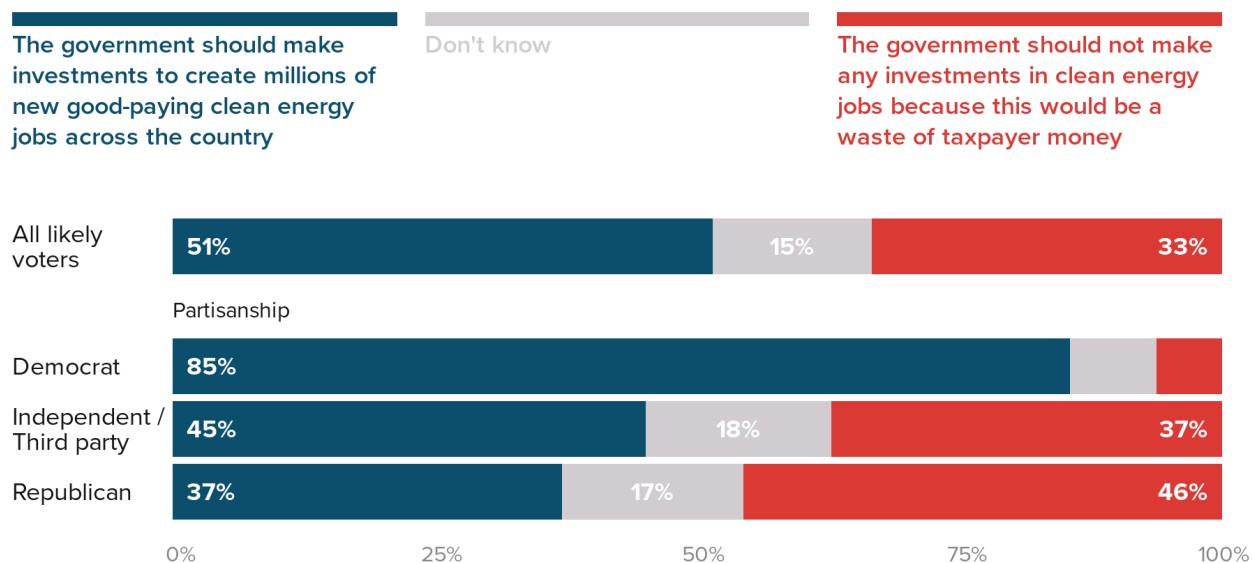
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To assess how support for federal investments in clean energy job creation is resilient to pushback, we also presented voters with two response options relating to clean energy jobs, and asked them to select the one they most agree with. One option argued that the government should create millions of good-paying clean energy jobs, while the other argued that the government should not make these investments because they would be a waste of taxpayer money. We find that even after presenting voters with this counter-argument, support for clean energy jobs remains high: by an 18-point margin, West Virginia voters agree the government should make investments to create millions of new clean energy jobs across the country. Support also remains strong among Democrats and Independents, who agree with this stance by 79-point and 8-point margins, respectively. While a majority of Republicans think federal investments in clean energy jobs would be a waste of taxpayer money, over a third (37 percent) support these investments.

West Virginia Voters Support Federal Investments to Accelerate Clean Energy Job Growth

Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



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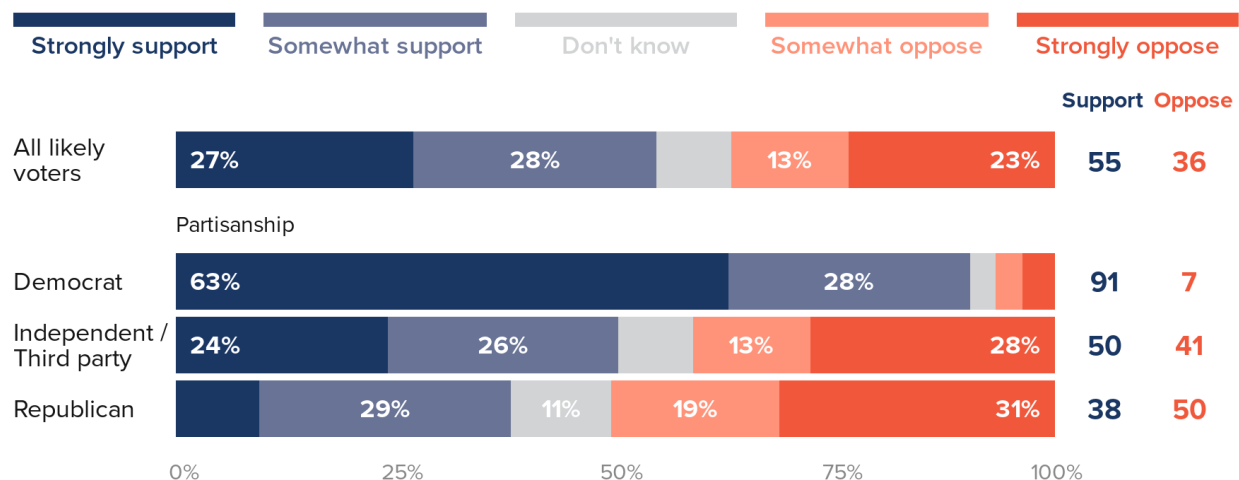
WEST VIRGINIA VOTERS WANT TO PROVIDE CONSUMERS INCENTIVES FOR PURCHASING LOW-POLLUTION TECHNOLOGIES

We then asked voters if they support or oppose the American Jobs Plan's proposal to provide consumers rebates and other financial incentives for low-pollution technologies, such as electric vehicles, solar panels, and energy-efficient home appliances. We find that by a 19-point margin, West Virginia voters support federal initiatives to make low-pollution technologies more affordable for consumers (55 percent support, 36 percent oppose). This includes an overwhelming 84-point margin of support among Democrats and a 9-point margin of support among Independents. While Republicans oppose these incentives by a 12-point margin, nearly 40 percent say they support these incentives.

West Virginia Voters Support Consumer Incentives for Purchasing Low-Pollution Technologies

The American Jobs Plan includes funding to give consumers rebates and other incentives to purchase items such as electric vehicles, solar panels, and home appliances that are more efficient and create less pollution.

Do you support or oppose this proposal?



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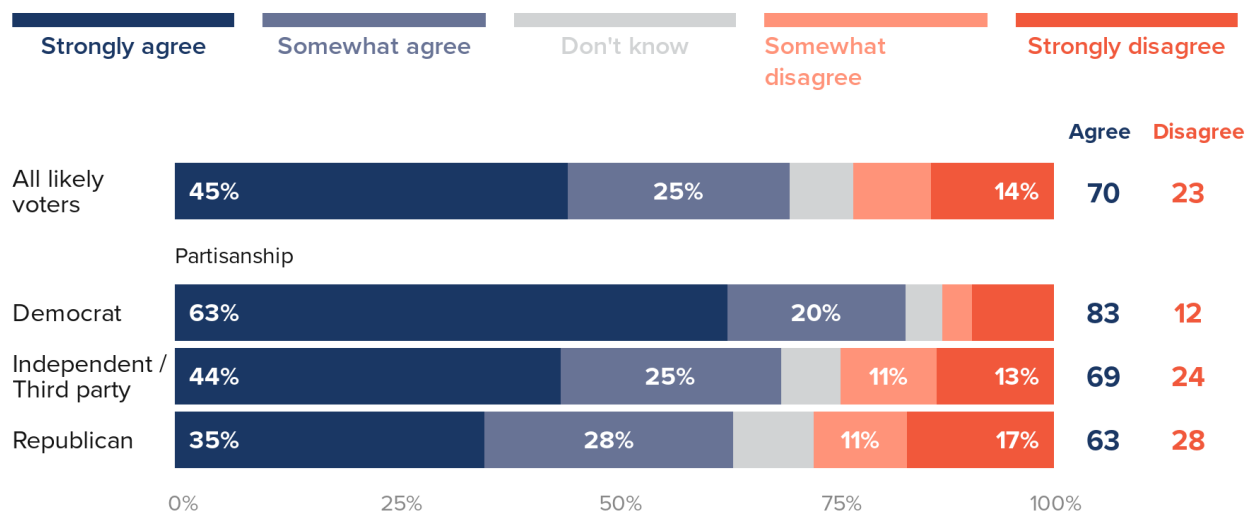
WEST VIRGINIA VOTERS WANT FEDERAL SUPPORT TO ENSURE THE STATE LEADS IN A NEW CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

Next, we asked voters whether they agreed or disagreed with a statement regarding the federal government's role in assuring West Virginia maintains its status as an energy leader as both the nation and the world transition away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy. We find that over two-thirds of Mountain State voters agree the federal government should help the state transition to be a leader in a new clean energy economy (70 percent agree, 23 percent disagree). This includes strong majorities of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans, who all agree with this statement by margins of 71-points, 45-points, and 35-points, respectively.

West Virginia Voters Want the State to Lead in a New Energy Economy

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

West Virginia coal has powered the nation for over a century. Now, there is a global energy transition underway that is moving the world away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy. The federal government should provide support to ensure West Virginia can be a leader in the new clean energy economy.



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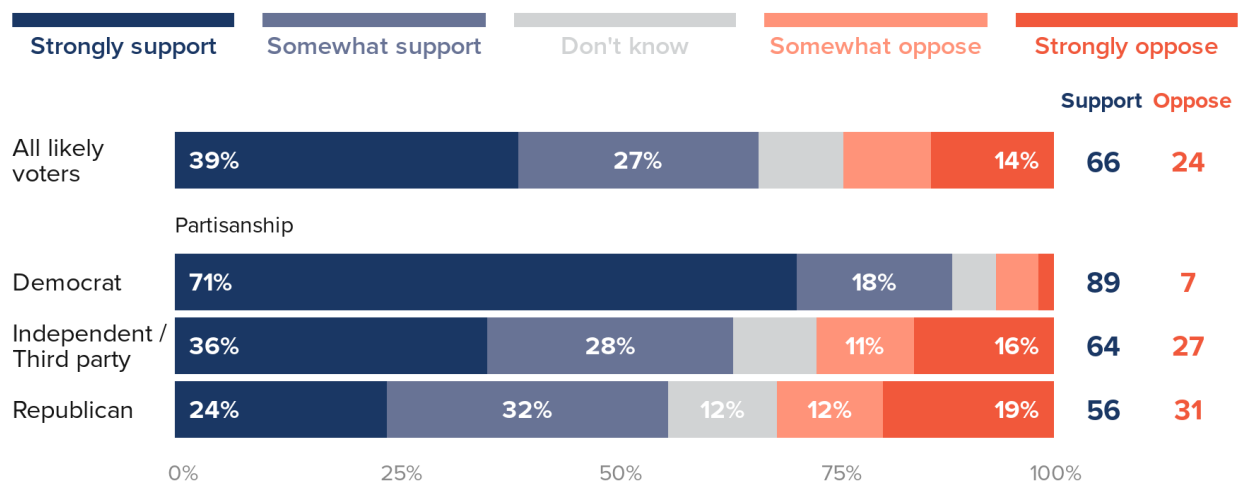


WEST VIRGINIA VOTERS WANT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED FOSSIL FUEL WORKERS

Finally, we asked West Virginia voters whether they support or oppose the American Jobs Plan's investments to assist communities — including those in West Virginia — that have lost jobs as the country transitions away from fossil fuels. We find that these investments are overwhelmingly popular across party lines, with a 42-point margin of support (66 percent support, 24 percent oppose), including an 82-point majority of Democrats, a 37-point majority of Independents, and a 25-point majority of Republicans.

West Virginia Voters Support Federal Assistance for Displaced Fossil Fuel Workers

Do you support or oppose the American Jobs Plan including specific investments in communities, like those in West Virginia, that have lost jobs as the country transitions away from using fossil fuels?



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CONCLUSION

These findings make it clear that West Virginia voters broadly support federal investments to create new jobs transforming our nation's electricity grid and manufacturing clean energy technologies. Furthermore, West Virginia voters strongly agree that the federal government should ensure the state — and workers — are in a position to succeed in a new clean energy economy. As lawmakers in Congress move to pass the bipartisan infrastructure framework and a budget reconciliation proposal, they should feel confident including investments to create millions of clean energy jobs.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

From June 12 to 20, 2021, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 848 likely voters in West Virginia using SMS and web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ± 3 percentage points.

Toplines can be found [here](#).