

#### **Emerging Energy Issues and North Carolina Trends**





April 3, 2019

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### Methodology

This poll of 600 registered voters living in North Carolina was conducted via telephone by professional interviewers over the course of two nights, March 17 & 18, 2019. Interview selection was random within predetermined election units. These units were structured to correlate with actual voter participation from past midterm/Presidential General Election cycles.

The poll of 600 likely general election voters has an accuracy of +/- 4.00% at a 95% confidence interval.

Paul Shumaker served as project manager and Hays Shumaker as research coordinator.



#### **Voter Intensity**







#### **NC Voter Registration Trends**







#### NC Ideological Trends







#### Partisan Ideological Breaks







#### **Ideological Intensity Profile**







## Would you be more likely to support or oppose a lawmaker or candidate who supports policies that encourage the development of more fossil fuel energy such as coal and oil?

**3 Year Trend Data** 







Would you be more likely to support or oppose a lawmaker or candidate who supports policies that encourage the development of more fossil fuel energy such as coal and oil? 2019 Data Set







Would you be more likely to support or oppose a lawmaker or candidate who supports policies that encourage renewable energy options such as wind, solar, and waste to energy technologies?

**5 Year Trend Data** 



Strategic Partners Solutions, LLC

CleanEnergy

Would you be more likely to support or oppose a lawmaker or candidate who supports policies that encourage renewable energy options such as wind, solar, and waste to energy technologies? 2019 Data Set







Would you be more likely to support or oppose a lawmaker or candidate who supports legislation that would provide additional ways for home or business owners to finance energy efficiency upgrades such as improved insulation, lighting, or windows? 5 Year Trend Data







Would you be more likely to support or oppose a lawmaker or candidate who supports legislation that would provide additional ways for home or business owners to finance energy efficiency upgrades such as improved insulation, lighting, or windows? 2019 Data Set







Would you be more likely to support or oppose a lawmaker or candidate who supports increasing access to natural gas resources by placing a priority on pipeline development and new pipeline construction?

**3 Year Trend Data** 







Would you be more likely to support or oppose a lawmaker or candidate who supports increasing access to natural gas resources by placing a priority on pipeline development and new pipeline construction?







Would you be more likely to support or oppose a lawmaker or candidate who wants to change North Carolina's energy regulatory policies to allow for more competition and consumer choice?

2019 Data Set







#### Would you be more likely to support or oppose a lawmaker or candidate who supports off-shore drilling exploration for natural gas off the coast of North Carolina? 2019 Data Set







### Which one of the following do you think is the number one cause for electricity rates to increase in North Carolina?

5 Year Data Trend







## Which of the following do you think is the most important to you and you think should be the top priority for lawmakers to consider?

**5 Year Trend Data** 







Do you believe climate change is real and we are seeing the effects with dramatic shifts in our weather or that climate change is not real and air pollution from man has had very little impact in our weather patterns?









#### Renewables are Not About the Environment, They're About Economics

Message Test	Climate Change Real (N=397)	Not Real (N=150)
A lawmaker or candidate who supports policies that encourage the development of more fossil fuel energy such as oil and coal?	32.7 % Support	84.7% Support
A lawmaker or candidate who supports policies that encourage renewable energy options such as wind, solar and waste to energy technologies?	95.0% Support	64.0% Support
A lawmaker or candidate who supports legislation that would provide additional ways for home or business owners to finance energy efficiency upgrades such as improved insulation, lighting or windows?	93.7% Support	78.0% Support
A lawmaker or candidate who supports increasing access to Natural Gas resources by placing a priority on pipeline development and new pipeline construction?	50.6% Support	86.0% Support
A lawmaker or candidate who wants to change North Carolina's energy regulatory policies to allow for more competition and consumer choice?	79.1% Support	87.3% Support
A lawmaker or candidate who supports Off-shore-drilling exploration for natural gas off the coast of North Carolina?	32.5% Support	78.0% Support
Our current system of a public utility where access to electricity is controlled by one source has served us well and will continue to do so in the future?	11.1% Agree	20.7% Agree
Solar and Wind bring very little benefit to our energy supply and are just feel good programs promoted by politicians.	4.8% Agree	40.0% Agree
Do you think lawmakers should change this law to allow individuals and businessowners the ability to sell their excess power and provide consumers more choice, or do you think things should stay the same?	73.3% Change the Law	70.0% Change the Law
We need of modernize the current system by relying more on micro-grids and renewable energy sources such as wind and solar	81.4% Agree	70.0% Agree





Do you think our controlled system of a public utility, with one source controlling electricity access, has served us well and will continue to do so? Or that technology is making this model outdated and legislators should enact laws that promote innovation and competition to meet our energy needs? 2019 Data Set



	N=	One Source	Innov./ Comp.	DK/Refused		N=	One Source	Innov./ Comp.	DK/Refused
Republican	173	17.3%	75.7%	6.9%	NC <5 Years	24	8.3%	87.5%	4.2%
Democrat	243	11.5%	79.0%	9.5%		20		04.00/	5.00/
Unaffiliated	168	16.7%	76.8%	6.5%	NC 6-10 Years	38	10.5%	84.2%	5.3%
Vote Democratic	282	10.3%	82.3%	7.4%	NC 11-20 Years	94	12.8%	78.7%	8.5%
Vote Republican	242	19.8%	71.1%	9.1%	NC>20 Years	217	13.4%	78.3%	8.3%
	76	42.2%		C (1)	NC Entire Life	211	17.5%	74.4%	8.1%
Vote Undecided	76	13.2%	80.3%	6.6%	Male	282	16.7%	74.8%	8.5%
Urban	92	14.1%	76.1%	9.8%	Female	318	12.6%	79.9%	7.5%
Suburban	241	14.5%	76.8%	8.7%	Suburban White	02	10.99/	92.0%	E 49/
Rural	247	13.4%	81.0%	5.7%	Female	93	10.8%	83.9%	5.4%





Do you think solar and wind energy bring very little benefit to our energy supply and are just feel good programs promoted by politicians? Or that solar and wind energy represent new technological advances in energy production and should be expanded to help meet our future energy needs? 2019 Data Set



	N=	Little Benefit	Productive/Expand	DK/Refused		N=	Little Benefit	Productive/Expand	DK/Refused
Republican	173	28.3%	65.9%	5.8%	NC <5 Years	24	8.3%	91.7%	0.0%
Democrat	243	5.3%	88.1%	6.6%	NC 6-10 Years	38	13.2%	84.2%	2.6%
Unaffiliated	168	17.9%	71.4%	10.7%			42.00/	02.0%	4.00/
Vote Democratic	282	2.8%	91.5%	5.7%	NC 11-20 Years	94	12.8%	83.0%	4.3%
					NC>20 Years	217	15.7%	72.4%	12.0%
Vote Republican	242	31.4%	57.4%	11.2%	NC Entire Life	211	17.1%	77.7%	5.2%
Vote Undecided	76	13.2%	82.9%	3.9%	Male	282	21.3%	70.9%	7.8%
Linkan	02	C F0/	00.00/	F 40/	Female	318	10.7%	81.8%	7.5%
Urban	92	6.5%	88.0%	5.4%				$\frown$	
Suburban	241	17.4%	74.7%	7.9%	Suburban White	93	12.9%	83.9%	3.2%
Rural	247	16.6%	<u>76.1%</u>	7.3%	Female				





Do you think our current system is the best way to ensure our a stable supply of electricity to meet all of our state's energy needs? Or that we need to modernize our current system by relying more on microgrids and renewable sources such as wind and solar? 2019 Data Set



	N=	Current Fine	Need Modernize	DK/Refused		N=	Current Fine	Need Modernize	DK/Refused
Republican	173	25.4%	61.8%	12.7%	NC <5 Years	24	12.5%	87.5%	0.0%
Democrat	243	10.7%	84.4%	4.9%	NC 6-10 Years	38	18.4%	76.3%	5.3%
Unaffiliated	168	17.9%	73.2%	8.9%		30	10.470	70.370	3.370
Vote Democratic	282	7.4%	88.7%	3.9%	NC 11-20 Years	94	10.6%	84.0%	5.3%
Vote Democratic	202	7.470	00.770	3.970	NC>20 Years	217	16.1%	73.3%	10.6%
Vote Republican	242	29.8%	56.6%	13.6%	NC Entire Life	211	19.4%	71.6%	9.0%
Vote Undecided	76	10.5%	80.3%	9.2%	Male	282	20.2%	69.9%	9.9%
vote ondecided	70	10.5%	80.3%	9.2%	Female	318	13.8%	78.9%	7.2%
Urban	92	7.6%	85.9%	6.5%					
Suburban	241	17.4%	73.4%	9.1%	Suburban White	93	10.8%	79.6%	9.7%
Rural	247	19.8%	71.7%	8.5%	Female				





Currently NC law allows a homeowner or business to generate and store their own energy, but are prohibited to sell their excess power to another business, even one located in the same business complex. Do you think legislators should change this law and allow the sale of excess power and provide consumers more choice?



	N=	Change Law	Stay the Same	DK/Refused		N=	Change Law	Stay the Same	DK/Refused
Republican	173	71.7%	22.5%	5.8%	NC <5 Years	24	54.1%	41.7%	4.2%
Democrat	243	67.9%	21.4%	10.7%	NC 6-10 Years	38	73.7%	15.8%	10.5%
Unaffiliated	168	77.4%	14.9%	7.7%	NC 11-20 Years	94	81.9%	12.8%	5.3%
Vote Democratic	282	73.0%	18.8%	8.2%	NC>20 Years	217	77.9%	14.3%	7.8%
Vote Republican	242	70.7%	22.3%	7.0%	NC Entire Life	211	64.9%	25.6%	9.5%
Vote Undecided	76	71.1%	15.8%	13.2%	Male	282	77.7%	17.0%	5.3%
Urban	92	73.9%	15.2%	10.9%	Female	318	66.7%	22.3%	11.0%
Suburban	241	75.1%	16.6%	8.3%	Cubunhan Mikita Famala	02	77.40/	14.00/	0.0%
Rural	247	70.4%	22.7%	6.9%	Suburban White Female	93	77.4%	14.0%	8.6%





Just recently, Governor Cooper announced a 300 thousand-dollar plan to study bringing wind-turbine components manufacturing to North Carolina to support off-shore wind farm development. Do you agree or disagree with the Governor that North Carolina should be looking for ways to enhance wind turbine components manufacturing?







Advancements in battery capacity now make it affordable for renewable producers to store electricity, improving reliability and lowering costs. Utility companies see this as competition and want to stop this practice. Do you think renewable energy companies should be allowed to store their energy to better compete against local utilities?







# All things being equal, if elections were held today, are you more likely to vote for a Democratic candidate or Republican candidate for the North Carolina State Legislature?

2019 Data Set



	N=	Democratic	Republican	DK/Refused		N=	Democratic	Republican	DK/Refused
Republican	173	6.9% 🚽	<b>82.1%</b>	11.0%	NC <5 Years	24	58.3%	25.0%	16.7%
Democrat	243	81.9%	7.8%	10.3%	NC 6-10 Years	38	47.4%	36.8%	15.8%
Unaffiliated	168	36.9% ┥	→ 46.4%	16.7%					
Vote Democratic	282	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	NC 11-20 Years	94	58.5%	30.9%	10.6%
					NC>20 Years	217	45.6%	44.2%	10.1%
Vote Republican	242	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%		/	1010/0	1.112/0	2012/0
					NC Entire Life	211	41.7%	43.1%	15.2%
Vote Undecided	76	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	Male	282	36.2%	48.9%	14.9%
			$\frown$			-			
Urban	92	62.0%	22.8%	15.2%	Female	318	56.6%	32.7%	10.7%
Suburban	241	48.5%	39.0%	12.4%	Suburban	93	54.8%	32.3%	12.9%
Rural	247	36.7%	49.4%	10.9%	White Female	55	57.070	52.376	12.370





#### Trump vs. Biden







#### Trump vs. Sanders







### **Key Findings**

- For the first time, more Unaffiliated voters described themselves as moderate instead of conservative. GOP candidates will have to work harder to build a winning coalition, especially in the suburbs.
- Democrats are not without their problems. Registration numbers continue to erode and the Party's drift to the left will only benefit Republicans.
- Five-year trend data on all clean energy issues show overwhelming support for wind, solar and waste to energy technologies. The issue strength is based in technology and modernization.
- Over half of the voters who favor a GOP candidate for the state legislature agree with Governor Cooper's effort to bring wind-turbine manufacturing to North Carolina.
- Support for natural gas pipeline construction has increased overall to 62%. Republicans are the strongest supporters (81.5%), followed by Unaffiliated voters (62.5%). Democrats are split on the issue.





### **Key Findings**

- North Carolina voters clearly want more competition and more consumer choices for purchasing their electricity. Keeping the status quo is supported by only 14.5% of all voters.
- North Carolina voters understand that technology is changing the world and they see clean energy alternatives as new technology.
- While some support renewables because they are seen as beneficial to the environment, support is driven by economics and free-market choices.
- Renewable clean energy technology is a blue-sky issue for conservatives, they just don't need to be flying a Boeing 737-max.
- However, it can be a slippery slope for Democrats if they chose to drive on the environmental front instead of the economic issue set. Governor Cooper's efforts on wind development is a good example of the right way for a Democrat.





#### Demographic Overview of Survey (N=600)

15.3% Urban 40.2% Suburban 41.2% Rural	28.8% Republican 40.5% Democratic 28.0% Unaffiliated	25.0% Cell Phone 75.0% Landline
35.2% Entire Life 36.2% + 20 Years 15.7% 11-20 Years 6.3% 6-10 Years 4.0% < 5 Years	71.2% White 19.3% Black 1.3% Hispanic 0.5% Asian 4.0% Other	22.0 % Post Graduate 34.0% College Degree 24.3% Some College 13.3%High School Degree 1.7% Some High School
7.5% Under \$20,000 11.0% \$20,000-\$40,000 13.0% \$40,000-\$60,000 17.5% \$60,000-\$100,000 11.8% \$100,000-\$150,000 10.3% More Than \$150,00	31.3% RDU 27.0% Charlotte 17.7% Triad 5.3% Wilmington 10.2% East 8.5% West	29.0% 65+ 24.8% - 55-64 Yrs. Old 20.5% - 41-54 Yrs. Old 18.0% - 26-40 Yrs. Old 3.8% 18-25 Yrs. Old
	47.0% Male	

53.0% Female



