

NEW JERSEY OPINIONS ON OFFSHORE WIND POWER

The Monmouth University Polling Institute conducted a survey of New Jersey residents in September 2013 on behalf of the Sierra Club to assess public opinion on offshore wind power. The poll was conducted Sept. 6-10, 2013 with 783 adults. The results have a potential sampling error of +/-3.5%.

Summary results:

Fully 3-in-4 (75%) New Jerseyans favor building electricity generating windmills off the coast of their state. This includes nearly half (46%) who strongly favor it and 29% who somewhat favor it. Just 13% of Garden State residents oppose building wind farms off the coast.

About 2-in-3 (66%) New Jerseyans say the state should focus on developing more renewable sources of energy for the future compared to just 13% who say the focus should be on more fossil fuel development.

About 2-in-3 (66%) New Jerseyans say that building offshore wind power in New Jersey would help the state’s economy. Another 17% say wind power development would have no impact and just 6% say it would hurt the state’s economy.

About 2-in-3 (65%) New Jerseyans support having Gov. Chris Christie make offshore wind power development a priority for his administration. This includes 33% who strongly favor this priority and 32% who somewhat favor it. Just 25% are opposed to Christie making offshore wind development a priority.

Demographic differences:

There are few differences in support for wind power development in New Jersey across key demographic groups. The poll found no significant variations in opinion for registered voters, by partisan affiliation (Democrat, Republican, independent), or by residents of the four Jersey Shore counties, including residents of coastal communities specifically.

WIND POWER SUPPORT BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUP							
	<u>All Adults</u>	<u>Registered Voters</u>	<u>Demo- crats</u>	<u>Repub- licans</u>	<u>Indepen- dents</u>	<u>Shore Counties</u>	<u>Coastal Towns</u>
Favor offshore wind	75%	75%	79%	71%	77%	71%	76%
Focus on renewable	66%	66%	69%	63%	68%	69%	63%
Helps NJ economy	66%	65%	72%	66%	62%	65%	60%
Christie priority	65%	63%	67%	61%	66%	63%	65%

NEW JERSEY OFFSHORE WIND POWER SURVEY
September 2013

1. Electricity is generated from a number of different sources, such as fossil fuels and nuclear energy as well as renewable sources like offshore wind. When it comes to generating electricity for the future, which should New Jersey focus on developing – more fossil fuel sources or more renewable sources such as offshore wind?

- 13% More fossil fuel sources
- 66 More renewable sources such as offshore wind
- 7 (VOL) Both equally
- 14 (VOL) No opinion/Don't know/Refused

2. Would you favor or oppose building electricity-generating windmills off the coast of New Jersey? [*PROBE*: And is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?]

- 46% Strongly favor
- 29 Somewhat favor
- 7 Somewhat oppose
- 6 Strongly oppose
- 11 (VOL) No opinion/Don't know/Refused

3. Do you believe building offshore wind power in New Jersey would help, hurt, or have no impact on the state's economy?

- 66% It would help New Jersey's economy
- 6 It would hurt New Jersey's economy
- 17 It would have no impact on New Jersey's economy
- 11 (VOL) No opinion/Don't know/Refused

4. Would you favor or oppose Governor Chris Christie making offshore wind development in New Jersey a priority for his administration? [*PROBE*: And is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?]

- 33% Strongly favor
- 32 Somewhat favor
- 16 Somewhat oppose
- 9 Strongly oppose
- 11 (VOL) No opinion/Don't know/Refused

This telephone survey was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from September 6 to 10, 2013 with a statewide random sample of 783 adult New Jersey residents, including 580 contacted on a landline telephone and 203 on a cell phone. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups, such as separate figures reported by gender or party identification, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>			
37% Dem	49% Male	27% 18-34	63% White
42% Ind	51% Female	40% 35-54	13% Black
21% Rep		33% 55+	15% Hispanic
			9% Asian/Other