



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Lori Weigel & Kathryn Hahne / New Bridge Strategy  
Rob Autry & Martin Shull / Meeting Street Insights  
**DATE:** June 12, 2024  
**RE:** Voters in Tennessee Support Continuing to Fund Clean Energy Investments

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New Bridge Strategy and Meeting Street Insights, Republican polling firms, conducted a survey of voters in Tennessee<sup>1</sup> on clean energy investments and climate change on behalf of Centerline Liberties.

The survey found broad, bipartisan support for clean energy infrastructure and manufacturing. Voters say that investments in clean energy will have a positive impact on both Tennessee and the country. Additionally, there is strong and widespread support for both federal government and state government taking action to reduce carbon pollution.

Specifically, the survey found that:

- **Tennessee voters overwhelmingly support investments in clean energy.** About two-thirds of voters (65%)—including nearly half of Republicans (48%) almost seven-in-ten Independents (66%)—say Congress should continue to fund laws that invest in clean energy infrastructure. We asked voters whether Congress should continue to fund or stop funding the items below:
  - *Modernizing, improving, and securing the electric grid and related infrastructure;*
  - *Helping homeowners and businesses become more energy efficient;*
  - *Providing tax credits to support increased domestic energy supply—including clean, renewable energy such as wind, solar, and hydrogen power—to meet the increasing electricity demands; and,*
  - *Providing incentives for domestic manufacturing and purchase of electric vehicles, trucks, and buses in the U.S.*

The desire to see this funding remain intact is evident across the state, in almost every type of community and with almost all key sub-groups of the electorate, including:

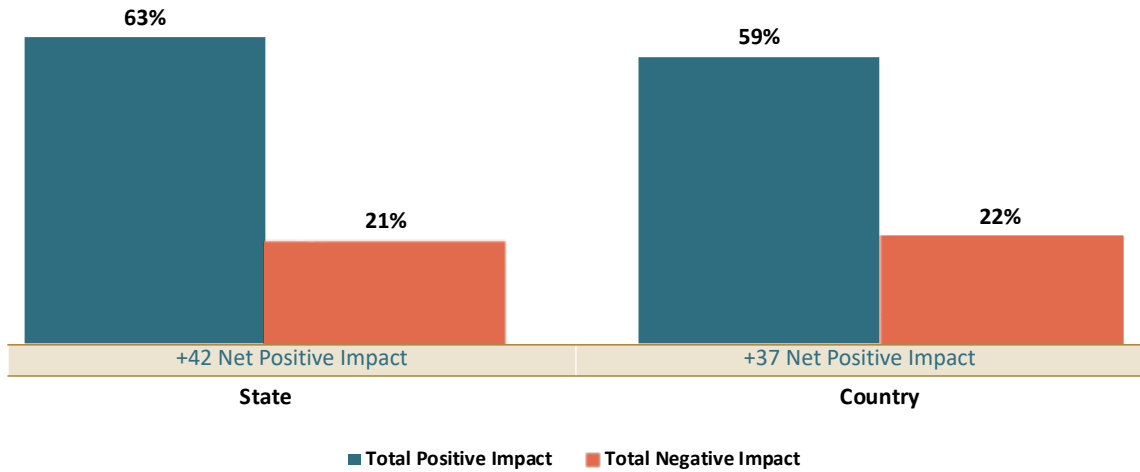
- 59% of men and 69% of women;
- 67% of those without a college degree and 61% of those with a college or post-graduate degree;
- 61% of White voters and 83% of non-White voters; and
- 75% of those in cities, 69% of those in the suburbs, and 54% of small-town/rural voters.

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<sup>1</sup> The survey was conducted May 29–June 2, 2024, among N=500 registered voters in Tennessee. Respondents were reached through cell phone, landline, text-to-web, and online interviews. The margin of error for a survey of N=500 is  $\pm 4.38\%$ .

- **About three-in-five voters think these energy investments will have a positive impact on both Tennessee and the country alike.**

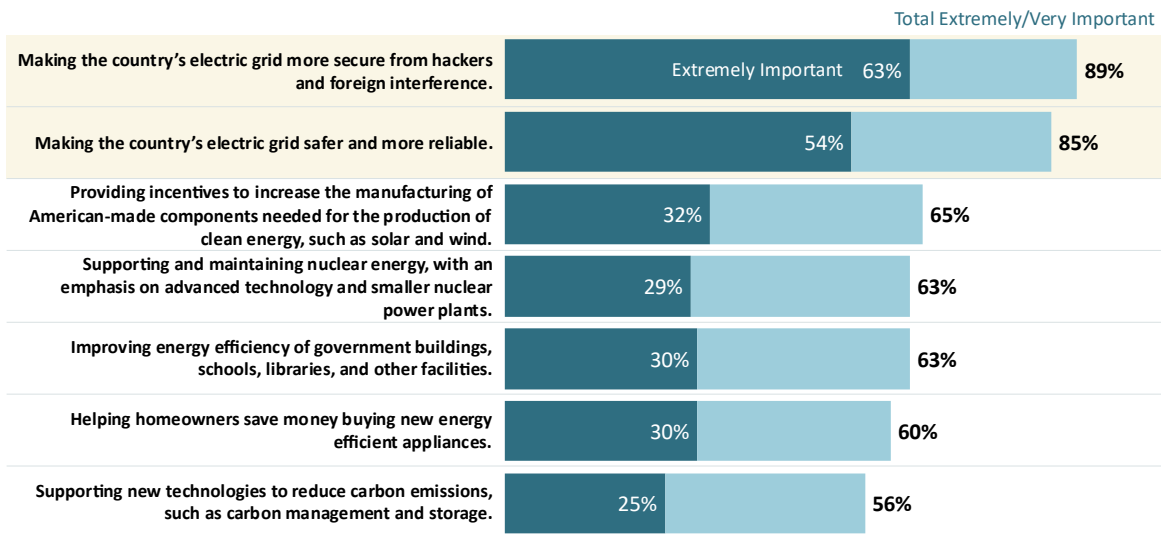
“And, do you think these investments will have a positive impact on (your state / our country), a negative impact on (your state / our country), or no real impact one way or the other?”



- **Making our country’s electric grid more secure from hackers and making our electric grid safer and more reliable are considered the most important ways to invest in America’s energy future.** We gave voters a list of specific clean energy investments and asked them to indicate how important it is to them personally that investments continue to be made.

Grid security, safety, and reliability investments rise to the top, followed by investments in American-made components needed for clean energy.

Important That We Continue to Invest



These grid investments are considered extremely or very important almost universally across party lines. 86% of Republicans, 91% of Independents, and 91% of Democrats say making the country’s electric grid more secure from hackers and foreign interference is either extremely important or very important. 81% of Republicans, 88% of Independents, and 90% of Democrats say making the country’s electric grid safer and more reliable is extremely or very important.

- Tennessee voters overall and across party lines recognize the positive impacts investments in hybrid and electric vehicle production have on their state.** We told voters nearly \$15 billion has been invested and 11,000 new jobs created in manufacturing related to hybrid and electric vehicles over the last five years in Tennessee. 59% say these have had a positive impact on Tennessee, while just 14% say they’ve had a negative impact. Republicans (54% positive impact – 18% negative impact), Independents (51% – 16%), and Democrats (77% – 4%) agree. Majorities of voters overall and across party say they would have a more favorable impression of their State Legislator in Nashville if he or she supported continuing these types of investments. And, nearly two-thirds of voters overall (64%) say they would feel more favorable toward their State Legislator if he or she supported investing in more clean energy sources, such as solar, wind, advanced storage, and nuclear.
- There is widespread support for both federal government and state government action on reducing carbon pollution.** More than two-thirds of voters (69%) say they support the United States government taking action to reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change. That same amount (69%) also say they support the state government taking action to reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change. Support for federal or state government action on climate change is bipartisan.

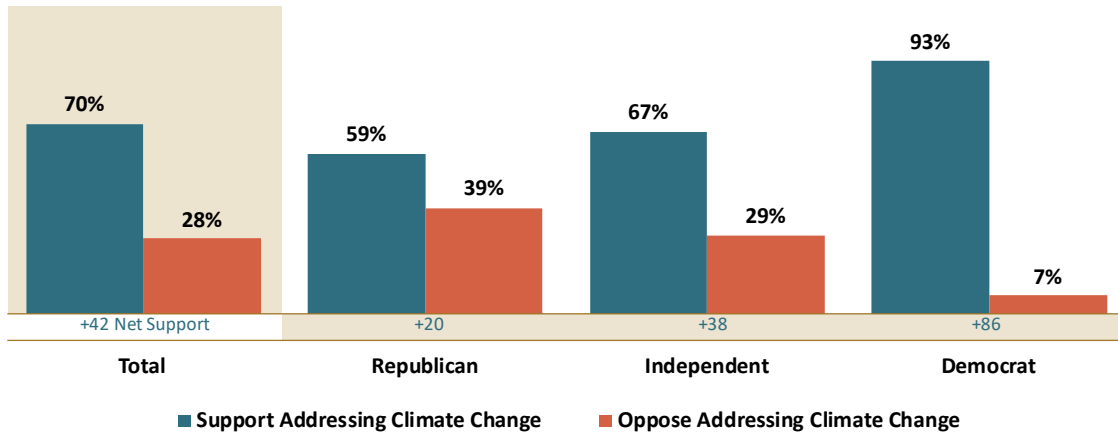
“Do you support or oppose (the United States government / your state government) taking action to reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change?”

<i>% Total Support – Oppose</i>	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
<b>U.S. Government</b>	<b>55% – 45%</b>	<b>68% – 31%</b>	<b>95% – 5%</b>
<b>State Government</b>	<b>58% – 42%</b>	<b>67% – 30%</b>	<b>92% – 8%</b>

Voters are also more likely to have a positive impression of their Senator or Governor if he or she supported taking action on climate change. 58% say they would have a more favorable impression of their U.S. Senator if he or she supported the U.S. government taking action to reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change, while just 20% would feel less favorable. 54% say they would feel more favorable toward their Governor if he or she supported the Tennessee state government taking action to reduce carbon pollution, while 24% say they would feel less favorable.

- **70% of Tennessee voters say they would prefer to vote for a candidate for public office who supports doing something to address climate change compared to 28% who would prefer a candidate opposed to action on climate change.** Majorities across party agree.

“If given a choice, would you prefer to vote for a candidate for public office who supports doing something to address climate change or who opposes doing something to address climate change?”



***In summary, voters in Tennessee believe that investments in clean energy will have a positive impact on their state and on the country and they support maintaining investments in clean energy infrastructure. These investments are supported across party lines and with almost all key sub-groups of the electorate, including Republicans, voters in small town/rural areas, voters across race, and those without a college degree. Voters are overwhelmingly supportive of investments in making the electric grid more secure from hackers, safer, and more reliable. Investments in energy efficiency are also particularly important to Tennessee voters. Finally, there is widespread support for the government taking action to reduce carbon pollution and 70% would prefer to vote for a candidate who supports doing something on climate change than someone who opposes taking action.***