



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 South Carolina Support Continuing to Fund Clean Energy Investments

New Bridge Strategy and Meeting Street Insights, Republican polling firms, conducted a survey of voters in South Carolina¹ 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 South Carolina 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:

- **South Carolina voters overwhelmingly support investments in clean energy.** About two-thirds of voters (66%)—including majorities of Republicans (51%) and 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.*

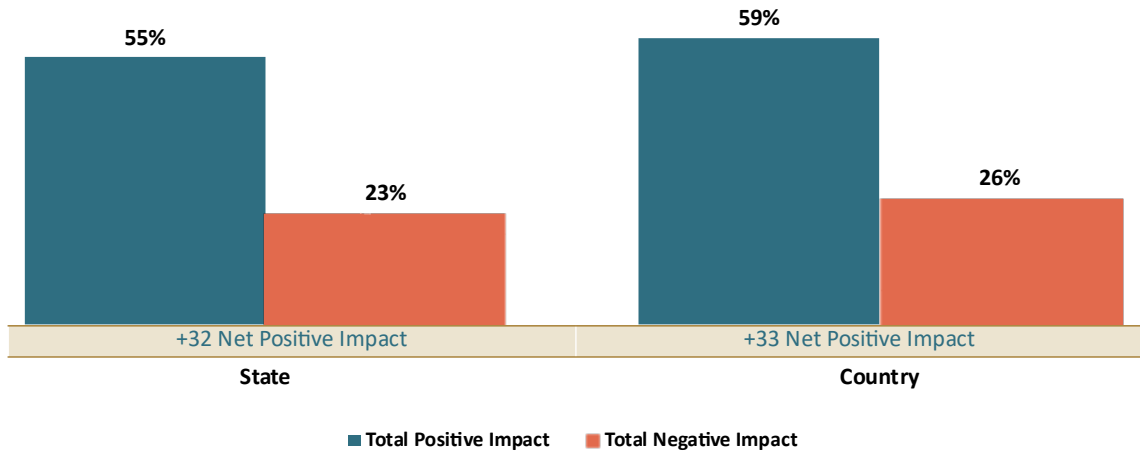
The desire to see this funding remain intact is evident across the state, in almost every type of community and with almost all key sub-groups of the electorate, including:

- 61% of men and 69% of women;
- 66% of those without a college degree and 64% of those with a college or post-graduate degree;
- 62% of White voters and 74% of non-White voters; and
- 81% of those in cities, 63% of those in the suburbs, and 62% of small-town/rural voters.

¹ The survey was conducted May 30–June 3, 2024, among N=500 registered voters in South Carolina. Respondents were reached through cell phone, landline, text-to-web, and online interviews. The margin of error for a survey of N=500 is ±4.38%.

- Majorities of voters think these energy investments will have a positive impact on both South Carolina and the country alike.

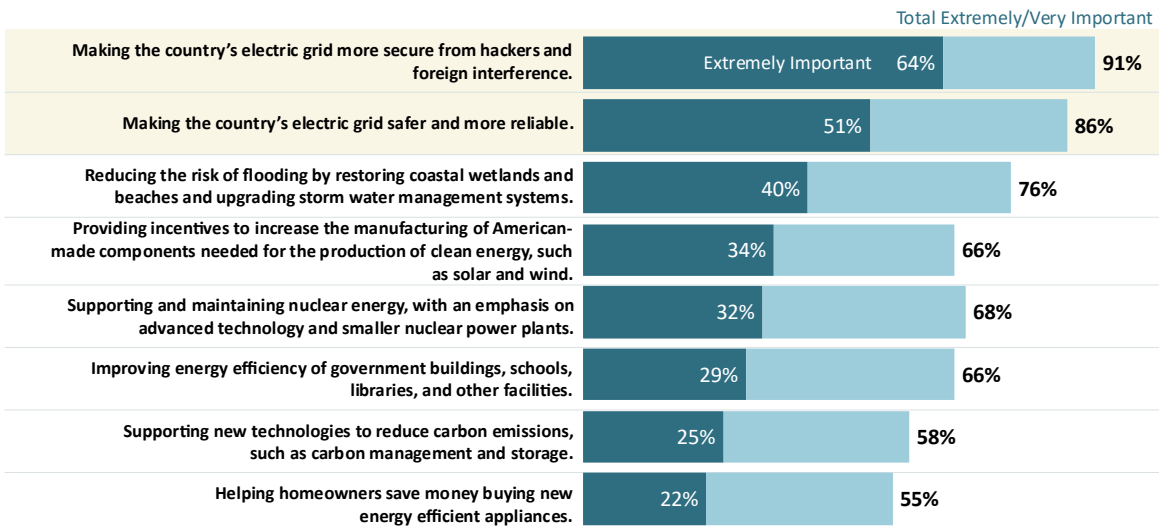
“And, do you think these investments will have a positive impact on (your state / our country), a negative impact on (your state / our country), or no real impact one way or the other?”



- 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 reducing the risk of flooding.

Important That We Continue to Invest



These grid investments are considered extremely or very important by large majorities of voters across party lines. 95% of Republicans, 89% of Independents, and 86% of Democrats say making the country’s electric grid more secure from hackers and foreign interference is either extremely important or very important. 83% of Republicans, 88% of Independents, and 88% of Democrats say making the country’s electric grid safer and more reliable is extremely or very important.

- South Carolina voters overall and across party lines recognize the positive impacts investments in hybrid and electric vehicle production and advanced battery technology have on their state.** We told voters \$13 billion has been invested and 10,000 new jobs created in manufacturing related to hybrid and electric vehicles and advanced battery technology over the last five years in South Carolina. 69% say these have had a positive impact on the state, while just 10% say they’ve had a negative impact. Republicans (69% positive impact – 11% negative impact), Independents (60% – 12%), and Democrats (78% – 6%) agree. Majorities of voters overall and across party say they would have a more favorable impression of their State Legislator in Columbia if he or she supported continuing these types of investments. And, nearly two-thirds of voters overall (66%) 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.** Nearly three-quarters of voters (71%) say they support the United States government taking action to reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change. Similar numbers (72%) 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.

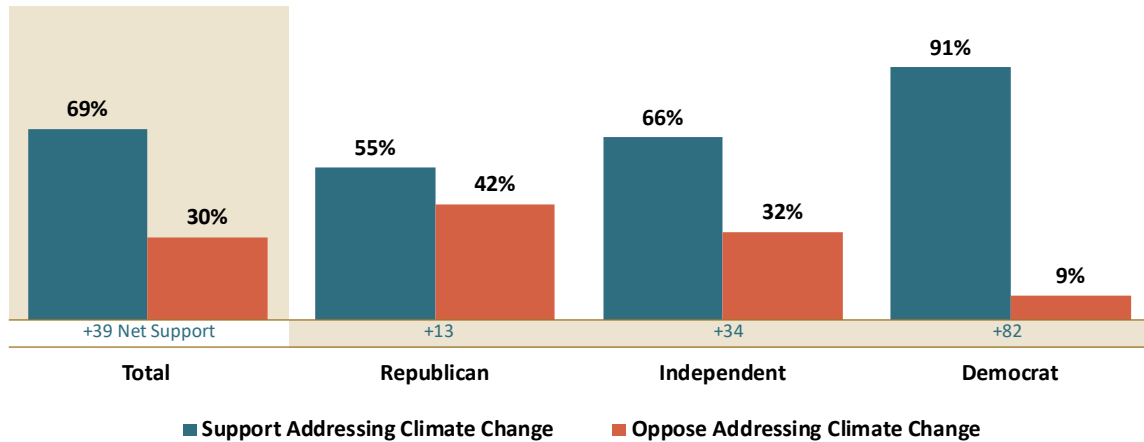
“Do you support or oppose (the United States government / your state government) taking action to reduce the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change?”

<i>% Total Support – Oppose</i>	Republicans	Independents	Democrats
U.S. Government	56% – 44%	70% – 30%	92% – 8%
State Government	58% – 41%	76% – 24%	91% – 9%

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. 56% 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 22% would feel less favorable. 53% say they would feel more favorable toward their Governor if he or she supported the South Carolina state government taking action to reduce carbon pollution, while 20% say they would feel less favorable.

- **Two-thirds of South Carolina voters (69%) say they would prefer to vote for a candidate for public office who supports doing something to address climate change compared to 30% 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 South Carolina 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 South Carolina voters. Finally, there is widespread support for the government taking action to reduce carbon pollution and two-thirds of voters would prefer to vote for a candidate who supports doing something on climate change than someone who opposes taking action.