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Poll: Maine Voters Support Offshore Wind, Strong Labor Requirements

Maine voters overwhelmingly support building offshore wind energy in the state with strong labor standards, according to a new poll released today by Impact Research. The poll found that Maine voters believe offshore wind energy will improve the economy and support requiring developers to provide living wages and workplace safety protections for the jobs offshore wind will create.

"The data clearly serves to transform the universally anecdotal to the objectively definitive: Mainers of all political persuasions do not want, and will not accept, a clean energy economy built on the backs of exploited labor. And that a stable and cleaner energy economy and family supporting jobs cannot and must never be mutually exclusive. So, just as we've done for well over a century, Maine's building trades unions are yet again answering the call to build our state and build our communities, based on the simple Maine values that a hard day's work deserves fair pay and the opportunity to retire with dignity after an honest career. We not only deserve an economy that works for all of us, we're demanding it. And it's clear that Mainers agree," says Jason J. Shedlock, president of the Maine State Building & Construction Trades Council and Regional Organizer, vice president and secretary-treasurer of the Laborers' International Union, Local 327.

Poll findings include:

By a 40-point margin, nearly two-thirds of Maine voters support building offshore wind energy with strong labor standards (63% support / 23% oppose / 14% don't know). This includes solid net support across all demographic subgroups, including non-college voters (+42) and even across party lines: Democrats (+78), Independents (+28), and Republicans (+11). Overall support in Maine is in line with the 66% of voters who support it across the nine states we surveyed.



- Maine voters see workplace safety and living wages as paramount for any jobs created by the offshore wind industry in the state. Maine voters overwhelmingly view workplace safety protections (92%) and living wages and good benefits (84%) as very important requirements for jobs created by the offshore wind industry.
- Maine voters believe offshore wind will be good for the economy and jobs—two of their top priorities for lawmakers. By a 16-point margin, they believe building offshore wind energy will be good for the economy (37% good / 21% bad); and by 32 points, they believe it will create jobs (43% create jobs / 11% cost jobs).
- Supporting offshore wind with strong labor standards is politically beneficial. By a 27-point margin, voters say they are more likely to vote for candidates who support it (43% more / 16% less), including Independents by a 20-point margin (33% more / 13% less).

About the poll: Impact Research conducted an online and text-to-web survey conducted April 14th to 20th, 2023 among N=3300 registered voters in target offshore wind development states, including N=200 interviews in Maine. The margin of error for the overall results is $\pm 1.7\%$ and $\pm 6.9\%$ for results in Maine at the 95% level of confidence.

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