

Poll: Pennsylvania voters support a serious crackdown on fracking operations.

A new poll conducted by Data for Progress finds that Pennsylvania voters across demographics are **concerned about the impacts of fracking and skeptical of its benefits**. Democrats, Republicans, and Independents; men and women; college- and non-college-educated voters; and every age group and region of the Keystone State **favor a shift from fracking to clean energy development**.

TOP TAKEAWAYS:

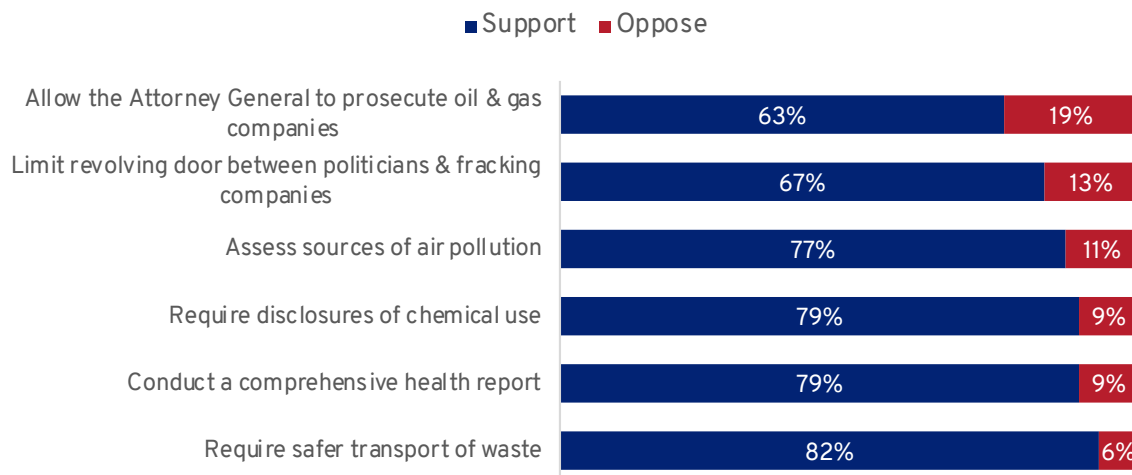
1. The Attorney General's recommendations to restrict fracking operations are supported by overwhelming numbers of Pennsylvania voters.
2. Subsidies for fossil fuels are very unpopular, but public spending on clean energy is very popular.
3. Clean energy and environmental advocates are far more popular than fossil fuel interests.
4. By wide margins, Pennsylvania voters support a major crackdown on fracking.
5. Large and bipartisan majorities of Pennsylvania voters are concerned about fracking waste and want the state to strengthen protections.
6. The vast majority of Pennsylvania voters are concerned about air and water pollution.
7. A majority of Pennsylvania voters want to end fracking; they are skeptical about its benefits and worry about its impacts.

Download the full report at www.ohiorivervalleyinstitute.org/dfp-poll.

1. The Attorney General’s recommendations to restrict fracking operations are supported by overwhelming numbers of Pennsylvania voters.

Support for every one of the Attorney General’s recommendations to tighten regulations on fracking includes overwhelming majorities of every demographic assessed in the poll.

Which of the following recommendations do you support or oppose for the fracking industry:



Voters support requiring safer transport of the contaminated waste created from fracking sites by a 76 point margin.

Voters support adding up all sources of air pollution from fracking in a given area to accurately assess air quality by a 66 point margin.

Voters support requiring fracking companies to publicly disclose all chemicals used in drilling and fracking before they are used on-site by a 70 point margin. In the wake of new research showing that dangerous PFAS chemicals have been used extensively in fracking, public support is likely even stronger.

Voters support conducting a comprehensive health response to the effects of living near drilling sites by a 70 point margin.

Voters support limiting the revolving door of politicians and state regulators going to work for fracking companies after leaving office by a 54 point margin.

Voters support allowing the Office of the Attorney General to prosecute oil and gas companies by a 44 point margin.

2. Subsidies for fossil fuels are very unpopular, but public spending on clean energy is very popular.

By a 29 point margin, Pennsylvania voters believe that fracking companies should not receive financial incentives such as tax breaks or subsidies from the state government, including a majority of Republicans and Independents.

Do you agree or disagree that fracking companies should receive financial incentives such as tax breaks or subsidies from the state government?

■ Agree ■ Don't know ■ Disagree



Every demographic assessed in the poll objects to state subsidies and tax breaks for fracking, including clear majorities of: Democrats, Republicans, and Independents; men and women; college- and non-college-educated voters; and every age group and region of Pennsylvania.

By at least a 17 point margin, voters oppose tax breaks for the Shell ethylene cracker plant in Beaver County.

Voters strongly favor subsidies for clean energy. Voters support tax credits to bring clean energy manufacturers to Pennsylvania by 70% to 10%, including 89% of Democrats and clear majorities of both Republicans and Independents.

By a 78 point margin, voters in Pennsylvania believe that fracking companies should pay the full cost for the pollution they create so taxpayers do not have to foot the bill for the cleanup of hazardous pollution.

Overwhelming and bipartisan majorities of Pennsylvania voters support Congressional spending of \$2 trillion on infrastructure for clean energy and other priorities, and voters show clear support for every clean energy provision tested.

If the federal government makes investments in new infrastructure and clean energy projects that have the potential to create millions of new jobs and reduce pollution, do you think these investments will have a positive impact on Pennsylvania?

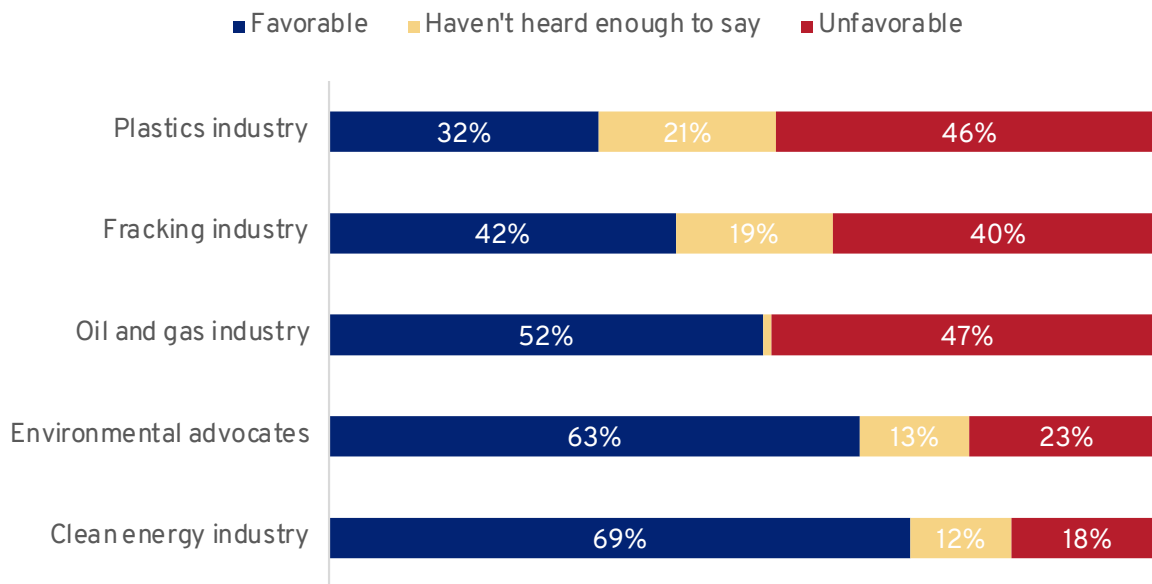
■ Yes ■ Don't know ■ No



3. Clean energy and environmental advocates are far more popular than fossil fuel interests.

The clean energy industry enjoys a net favorability rating from Pennsylvania voters of 51%, while environmental advocates are nearly as popular. The oil and gas industry, the fracking industry, and the plastics industry are all viewed much less favorably by state voters.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following groups and people?



4. By wide margins, Pennsylvania voters support a major crackdown on fracking.

By 56% to 35%, Pennsylvania voters believe that cities, municipalities, and counties should be able to protect people from fracking if local voters choose to do so, a clear repudiation of the state's current restriction on local authority.

Which of the following approaches to energy regulation would you prefer:

- Cities, municipalities, and counties should be able to regulate fracking if voters choose to do so
- Don't know
- Keep in place the current system where cities cannot ban fracking under Pennsylvania law.



Twice as many Pennsylvania voters (61% versus 30%) believe that the state government should crack down on companies that do not comply with regulation compared with those who think the state government already does enough.

By a whopping 60% margin, state voters support new regulations to increase the required distance between fracking infrastructure like well pads and pipelines and homes, schools, hospitals, childcare centers, and other residential buildings.

Requiring wider protective buffers from fracking operations are supported by overwhelming majorities of: Democrats, Republicans, and Independents; men and women; college- and non-college-educated voters; and every age group and region of Pennsylvania. Every demographic assessed in the poll supports more stringent setback requirements.



5. Large and bipartisan majorities of Pennsylvania voters are concerned about fracking waste and want the state to strengthen protections.

By a 48 point margin, voters believe that fracking fluids should be subject to the state's "hazardous waste" safeguards, a clear repudiation of Pennsylvania's current loophole for the industry.

Classifying fracking fluids as hazardous waste is supported by overwhelming majorities of: Democrats, Republicans, and Independents; men and women; college- and non-college-educated voters; and every age group and region of Pennsylvania. Every demographic assessed in the poll supports classifying fracking fluids as hazardous waste.

By a 76 point margin, voters support requiring safer transport of the contaminated waste created from fracking sites, consistent with recommendations from state Attorney General Josh Shapiro.

Beefing up regulations for safe transport of fracking waste is supported by overwhelming majorities of: Democrats, Republicans, and Independents; men and women; college- and non-college-educated voters; and every age group and region of Pennsylvania. Every demographic assessed in the poll supports more stringent waste transport regulations.



6. The vast majority of Pennsylvania voters are concerned about air and water pollution.

86% of Pennsylvania voters are concerned about air pollution, including 97% of Democrats, 86% of Independents, and 74% of Republicans.

A minimum of 74% of voters in every demographic assessed in the poll is concerned about air pollution, including Democrats, Republicans, and Independents; men and women; college- and non-college-educated voters; and every age group and region of Pennsylvania.

90% of Pennsylvania voters are concerned about water pollution, including 98% of Democrats, 90% of Independents, and 82% of Republicans.

A minimum of 82% of voters in every demographic assessed in the poll is concerned about air pollution, including Democrats, Republicans, and Independents; men and women; college- and non-college-educated voters; and every age group and region of Pennsylvania.

Less than half (43%) of state voters agree that the economic benefits of fracking outweigh the environmental costs.

7. A majority of Pennsylvania voters want to end fracking, are skeptical about its benefits, and worry about its impacts.

Only 31% of Pennsylvania voters want to maintain fracking in the state. A solid majority want it to go away: one-quarter (25%) say it should end as soon as possible, while nearly one-third (30%) say it should be phased out over time.

Less than half (42%) of state voters agree that the economic benefits of fracking outweigh the impacts on community health.

Less than half (43%) of state voters agree that the economic benefits of fracking outweigh the environmental costs.

Only 18% of state voters say they have heard mostly positive things about the impact of fracking on public health. Far more voters, 40%, say that what they have heard is mostly negative.

Only 15% of state voters say they have heard mostly positive things about the impact of fracking on air and water quality. Far more voters, 44%, say that what they have heard is mostly negative.

Only 19% of state voters say they have heard mostly positive things about the impact of fracking on private lands. Far more voters, 36%, say that what they have heard is mostly negative.

Only 14% of state voters say they have heard mostly positive things about the impact of fracking on public lands. Far more voters, 42%, say that what they have heard is mostly negative.

