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Nine in Ten Pennsylvania Voters Support Stricter Regulations on Fracking

To: Interested Parties

From: Upswing Research & Strategy

On behalf of the Ohio River Valley Institute, Upswing Research & Strategy conducted an online survey across the state of Pennsylvania among 700 likely 2024 general election voters to assess voters' attitudes towards renewable energy and fracking and to gauge their concerns about their state's environment.

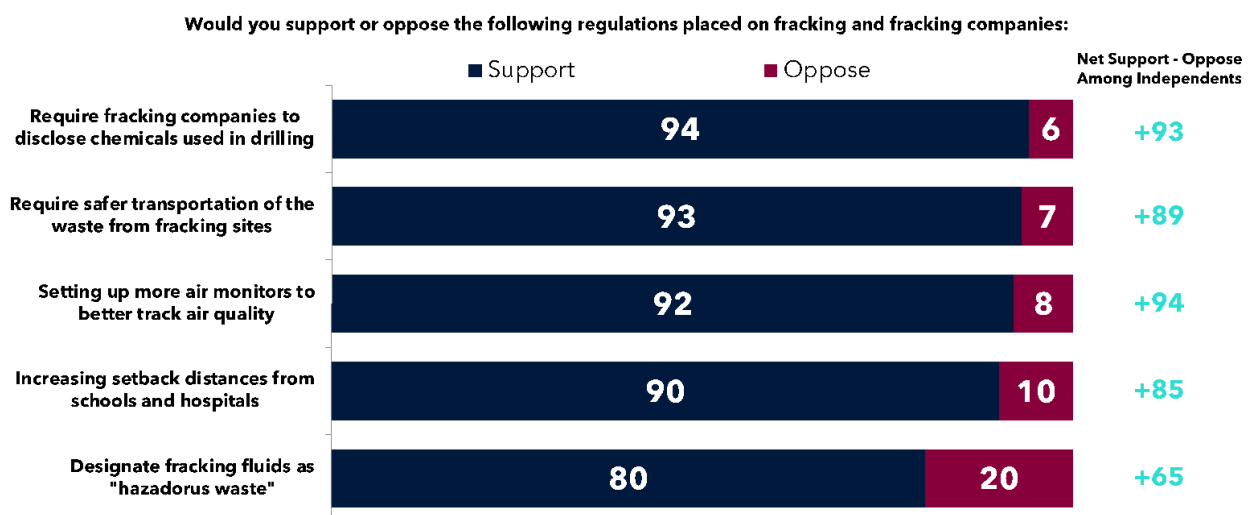
This survey finds that voters have deep concerns about air and water pollution and broadly support increased regulations on the fracking industry. Voters also view renewable energy sectors more favorably than fracking, coal, and the oil and gas industry.

This memo summarizes the findings from this survey.

Key Findings

- There is near unanimity on stricter regulations on fracking, including requiring companies to disclose chemicals used in drilling operations (94%), requiring safer transportation of fracking waste (93%), expanding air monitoring near fracking wells (92%), and increasing “setback” distances from schools and hospitals (90%).

Figure 1: Support for Regulations on Fracking Companies



- Air and water pollution are major concerns for Pennsylvania voters. Respectively, 86% and 82% of Pennsylvanians say they are concerned about water and air pollution. Digging a bit deeper on this issue, nearly eight in ten say they worry about the effects of pollution on the health of their families (79% total concern) and the communities in which they live (77% total concern).
- Support for a total ban on fracking nears a majority. More than four in ten (42%) of the state’s voters support an outright ban on fracking. Six in ten (60%) Democrats, 38% of independents, and even a quarter (26%) of Republicans support an outright ban.
- Clean energy industries are extremely popular and voters support government investment to expand renewable energy sectors.
 - Solar (80%) and wind (73%) are both overwhelmingly popular, and the vast majority (84%) support spending taxpayer dollars on solar and wind development to increase renewable energy usage. Federal subsidies for clean

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energy development also earn the support of 83% of voters.

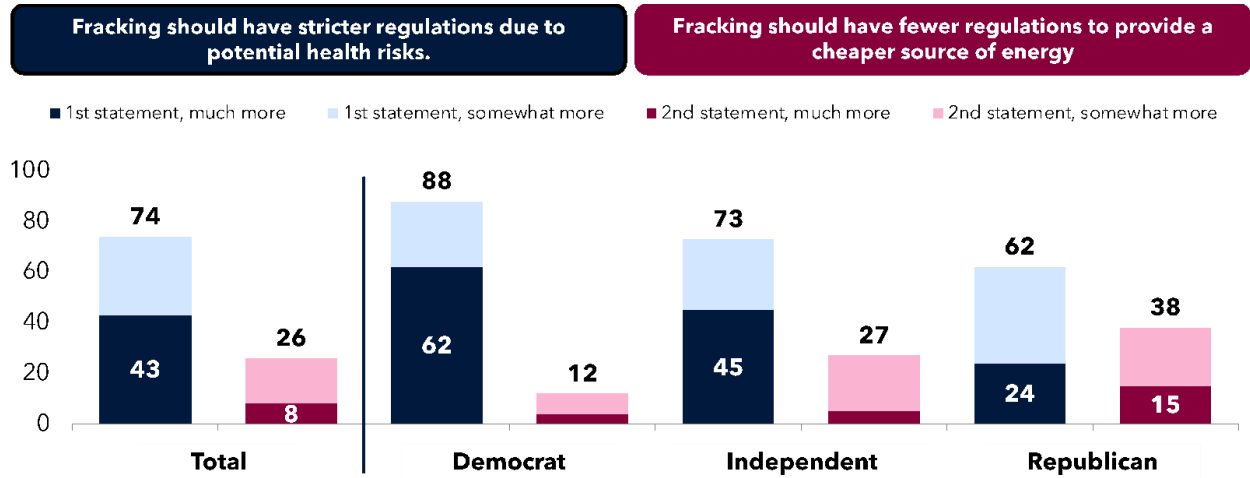
- Nine in ten (93%) Pennsylvanians express concern about the rising costs of their utilities. Nearly three-quarters (74%) say the cost of energy has gone up in the past year.
- To combat the effects of climate change and pollution, Pennsylvania voters overwhelmingly support infrastructure upgrades, efficiency improvements, and repairing the damage caused by fossil fuels. Below is a table showing Pennsylvania's support for various initiatives the state government could take to improve local infrastructure, create jobs, and improve the environment. Each initiative is supported by the vast majority of voters.

Table 1: Support for Potential State Government Initiatives

Initiative	Support (Strong Support)	Oppose (Strong Opposition)
Repairing roads and bridges	99 (74)	1 (0)
Weatherizing homes to make them more energy efficient	95 (56)	4 (1)
Cleaning up old oil and gas wells	95 (49)	5 (1)
Reclaiming abandoned mine lands	86 (31)	14 (2)
Federal subsidies for clean energy development	83 (38)	17 (5)

- Voters prioritize stricter regulations to protect from health risks over having a cheaper source of energy. When forced to choose between stricter regulations to combat potential health risks and fewer regulations in order to provide a cheaper energy source, nearly three quarters of Pennsylvania voters support stricter regulations, including a majority of Republicans.

Figure 2: Stricter Safety Regulations vs Fewer Regulations for Cheap Energy



- In addition to increased regulations on fracking companies, Pennsylvanians – including a majority of Democrats, independents, and a plurality of Republicans – distrust fracking companies to self-report environment and public health impacts of their industry.

Figure 3: Pennsylvania Voters Distrust Companies to Self-Report Impacts

From what you know about fracking companies, do you trust or distrust fracking companies to self-report environmental and public health impacts of their industry?

