

MINNESOTA STATEWIDE CLEAN ENERGY ONLINE SURVEY

Interview Schedule



PUBLIC OPINION
STRATEGIES

turning questions into answers

August 16-24, 2022

Project #: 220496

N=600 Registered Voters

Credibility Interval= \pm 4.56%

* Denotes result under 0.5%.

^ Denotes rounding. Due to rounding, some figures may be higher or lower by less than one-half of one percent.

A. In which state do you live?

100% MINNESOTA

C. Are you registered to vote in Minnesota?

100% YES (**CONTINUE**)

D2. Please record your gender.

48% MALE

52% FEMALE

E. Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed by a newspaper, television or radio station, or by a political party or a candidate for office?

100% NO (**CONTINUE**)

F. Do you write your own political blog or frequently comment on blogs regarding political issues or elections?

100% NO

D1. In what year were you born?

7%	18 - 24
14%	25 - 34
16%	35 - 44
15%	45 - 54
21%	55 - 64
27%	65 AND ABOVE

D6A. What is your main racial or ethnic heritage? Is it... **(ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE ONLY)**

91%	CAUCASIAN OR WHITE
4%	AFRICAN AMERICAN OR BLACK
3%	HISPANIC OR LATINO
2%	ASIAN
*	AMERICAN INDIAN

– OTHER **(SPECIFY: _____)****(IF PUNCH, THEN ASK: Now you just indicated your main ethnic or racial heritage does not fall into any of the categories previously shown...but if you had to choose JUST ONE of these categories, which ONE would you choose?)****(SHOW LIST AGAIN)**

1. Generally speaking, would you say that things in Minnesota are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

48% RIGHT DIRECTION
52% WRONG TRACK

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Joe Biden is doing as President?

16% STRONGLY APPROVE
29% SOMEWHAT APPROVE
18% SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE
38% STRONGLY DISAPPROVE

44%^ TOTAL APPROVE
56% TOTAL DISAPPROVE

3. And, how important is it to you that a candidate for political office supports clean energy initiatives? Is it... **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

40% VERY IMPORTANT
35% SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT
16% NOT TOO IMPORTANT
...or...
10% NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT?

74%^ TOTAL IMPORTANT
26% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT

Thinking now about energy sources...

Do you think that, as a state, Minnesota should put more emphasis, less emphasis, or about the same emphasis as it does now on producing domestic energy from each of the following sources:

(RANDOMIZE)

	MORE EMPHASIS	LESS EMPHASIS	SAME
4. Coal	18%	54%	28%
5. Natural gas	47%	20%	33%
6. Wind power	62%	17%	21%
7. Solar power	67%	15%	18%
8. Nuclear power	29%	35%	36%
9. Hydropower	51%	13%	36%
10. Biomass	24%	19%	57%
11. Clean Coal	39%	28%	33%
12. Renewable hydrogen	46%	14%	41%
13. Renewable natural gas	61%	11%	28%

Now please read the list of issues below and indicate which party you think would do a better job the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, or both about the same? If you think that neither would do a good job, please indicate that below.

	GOP	DEM	SAME	NEITHER
14.	The environment 22%	50%	15%	13%
15.	Energy issues 32%	43%	15%	9%
16.	Clean energy issues 20%	48%	19%	13%
17.	Climate change 19%	50%	14%	17%

18. And, for whom would you vote... **(ROTATE)**

29% Candidate A says that Minnesota should focus on having its energy needs met by coal and natural gas because it is less expensive than so-called clean energy sources. Candidate A says that coal and natural gas remain quite plentiful and have gotten cleaner and less expensive and that spending on clean energy is a waste of money.

...while...

71% Candidate B says that Minnesota should focus on an all-of-the-above energy strategy that includes clean energy sources such as wind and solar power in addition to coal and natural gas. Candidate B says that by lowering our dependence on fossil fuels, we can help keep the air and water cleaner, and growing the clean energy industry in Minnesota will create thousands of jobs and help grow our economy as it has in other states.

19. Still thinking about energy, please read the statement below. After you read it, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with that statement:

Minnesota should pursue an all-of-the-above energy strategy, which means lowering our heavy dependence on fossil fuels over time and allowing an increase in electricity generation from renewable energy sources as well as more energy efficiency, and I support taking action to accelerate the development and use of clean energy in Minnesota.

38% STRONGLY AGREE
42% SOMEWHAT AGREE
14% SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
6% STRONGLY DISAGREE

80% TOTAL AGREE
20% TOTAL DISAGREE

20. If you could afford to do it, would you want rooftop solar panels installed on your property to generate all or nearly all of your electricity?

79% YES
21% NO

Now please read a few statements about why some people want to accelerate the growth of clean energy, by speeding up the development of sources of renewable energy like wind and solar power. After you read each statement, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with that statement.
(RANDOMIZE)

STRG	SMWT	SMWT	STRG
AGR	AGR	DISAGR	DISAGR

(SPLIT SAMPLE, ASK SAMPLE A Qs 21-23, N=296)

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|----|-------------|-------------|
| 21. | We should accelerate the growth of clean energy so that we can produce more of our own electricity in Minnesota and rely less on importing from other states and countries, increasing our energy independence and security. | 44% | 41% | 11% | 4% | 85% | 15% |
| 22. | We should accelerate the growth of clean energy so that we can have cleaner, healthier air and less pollution in our state and communities. | 47% | 37% | 10% | 6% | 84% | 16% |
| 23. | We should accelerate the growth of clean energy to allow American innovation and entrepreneurs to drive economic growth and job creation. | 34% | 49% | 11% | 6% | 82%^ | 18%^ |

(SPLIT SAMPLE, ASK SAMPLE B Qs 24-26, N=304)

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|-------------|
| 24. | Minnesota should give businesses and consumers more choices about how to transition away from burning fossil fuels in order to drive innovation and competitive pricing. | 37% | 48% | 11% | 4% | 85% | 15% |
| 25. | We should accelerate the growth of clean energy so that Minnesota can be a national leader in the competition for economic development and good-paying jobs. | 38% | 41% | 15% | 6% | 79% | 21% |
| 26. | Minnesota should accelerate the growth of clean energy in order to help conserve God's creation. | 24% | 43% | 22% | 12% | 67% | 33%^ |
-

Continuing to think about clean energy...

27. To increase clean energy production, would you prefer...**(RANDOMIZE)**

15% Government mandates, subsidies, and quotas

71% Approaches like competition that allow markets and businesses to provide more clean energy production

...OR...

14% A price or tax put on carbon emissions

Thinking now about electric vehicles...

28. When you make your next vehicle purchase, how likely are you to consider purchasing an electric vehicle... **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)**

14% VERY LIKELY

31% SOMEWHAT LIKELY

27% NOT VERY LIKELY

...OR...

29% NOT AT ALL LIKELY

45% TOTAL LIKELY

55%^ TOTAL NOT LIKELY

Now please read a list of policies that advocates have prioritized to help expand Minnesota’s commitment to clean energy. After you read each one, please indicate whether you think that policy is **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)** very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all. **(RANDOMIZE)**

	VERY IMPT	SMWT IMPT	NOT TOO IMPT	NOT AT ALL IMPT
29. Net metering policies are a specific type of billing that allows homeowners and farmers to invest in their own renewable energy by paying them for extra energy they generate but do not use.	33%	51%	13%	2%
	84%		16%^	
30. Permit third-party sales of electricity from outside the monopoly utility so that customers can have more choice to shop for the lowest-cost option.	35%	45%	17%	2%
	81%^		19%	
31. Strengthen community solar projects that provide customers more choices about how to purchase solar energy at the lowest cost.	44%	40%	11%	5%
	84%		16%	
32. Encourage utilities to invest more in efficiency programs to reduce the amount of power we need to generate and purchase.	45%	43%	9%	3%
	88%		12%	
33. Streamline the process for installing renewable energy sources like wind and solar.	42%	39%	13%	6%
	81%		19%	
34. Stop local barriers such as Homeowners Associations from putting unreasonable restrictions on installing rooftop solar panels.	44%	36%	15%	5%
	80%		20%	

35. And, are you satisfied with your options for electricity, or do you prefer to have additional options for getting electricity?

47% SATISFIED
53% PREFER ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

36. And, do you favor or oppose the government taking steps to reduce emissions of gases like carbon dioxide and methane emissions that cause global climate change?

41% STRONGLY FAVOR
34% SOMEWHAT FAVOR
15% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
10% STRONGLY OPPOSE

75% TOTAL FAVOR
25% TOTAL OPPOSE

Continuing to think about climate change...

37. Please read the following statements about the impact of climate change on society, and after you read each one, please indicate which statement is closest to your own opinion... **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM/BOTTOM TO TOP)**

- 43% Climate change is an extreme threat.
- 27% Climate change is a threat to be considered.
- 20% Climate change is a minor threat.
- 9% Climate change is not at all a threat.

71%^ TOTAL EXTREME/CONSIDERED
29% TOTAL MINOR/NOT

-
38. Assuming climate change is caused by humans, which do you think is the best way to deal with the issue. . . **(RANDOMIZE PUNCHES 1-5)**

- 6% Phasing out the use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas
- 26% Putting more efforts in to research, development, and innovation of clean energy sources
- 16% Improving market structure and incentives to allow clean energy technologies to more fairly compete
- 2% Joining international agreements such as the Paris Climate Accord

...OR...

- 7% Increased regulations to force businesses to comply with carbon emission standards
 - 43% All of the above
-

39. Would you be more likely or less likely to support a Republican candidate who embraces an innovation-based approach to addressing climate change?

18% MUCH MORE LIKELY
62% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
12% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
8% MUCH LESS LIKELY

80% TOTAL MORE LIKELY
20% TOTAL LESS LIKELY

40. How important is the issue of climate change to your vote in the November 2022 election?
(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

32% VERY IMPORTANT
34% SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT
21% NOT TOO IMPORTANT
...or...
13% NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT?

66% TOTAL IMPORTANT
34% TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT

(ROTATE Q41 & Q42)

41. Thinking ahead to future elections... would you vote **(ROTATE)** for or against elected officials or candidates who support clean energy development like solar and wind, or would it make no difference to your vote?

30% DEFINITELY FOR
34% PROBABLY FOR
8% PROBABLY AGAINST
4% DEFINITELY AGAINST

24% NO DIFFERENCE

64% TOTAL FOR
12% TOTAL AGAINST

42. Are you more likely or less likely to support a candidate for public office who believes human activity is contributing to climate change?

28% MUCH MORE LIKELY
43% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
21% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
8% MUCH LESS LIKELY

71% TOTAL MORE LIKELY
29% TOTAL LESS LIKELY

Thinking now about nuclear energy...

43. Please read the following statement and indicate whether you agree or disagree with that statement:

Nuclear energy should be included and prioritized as part of Minnesota's clean energy mix.

21% STRONGLY AGREE
45% SOMEWHAT AGREE
24% SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
9% STRONGLY DISAGREE

66% TOTAL AGREE
34%^ TOTAL DISAGREE

44. Do you favor or oppose using more nuclear power as a source of energy in Minnesota?

16% STRONGLY FAVOR
41% SOMEWHAT FAVOR
31% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
12% STRONGLY OPPOSE

57% TOTAL FAVOR
43% TOTAL OPPOSE

45. Do you believe or not believe the following statement:

To reduce carbon emissions, we need nuclear power.

48% YES, BELIEVE
 52% NO, DO NOT BELIEVE

46. In general, do you think that nuclear power stations are... **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

12% Extremely dangerous for the environment
 18% Very dangerous for the environment
 39% Somewhat dangerous for the environment
 25% Not very dangerous for the environment
 ...or...
 6% Not dangerous at all for the environment

69% TOTAL DANGEROUS
31% TOTAL NOT DANGEROUS

Now, please read the list below of policies that supporters have proposed to help expand Minnesota's commitment to clean energy. After you read each one, please indicate whether you think that policy is... **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)** very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important. **(ROTATE)**

VERY IMPT	SMWT IMPT	NOT TOO IMPT	NOT AT ALL IMPT
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47. Protecting property owners' ability to produce energy on their land.

46%	44%	8%	2%
90%		10%	

48. Protecting property owners' rights to lease their land for renewable energy production.

39%	49%	10%	3%
88%		12%^	

49. Thinking now about clean energy... As you may know, solar panels, wind turbines, and catalytic converters for hybrid cars require rare metals such as copper and nickel that currently are mined in countries like the Congo, China, and Russia, where children and underpaid workers are sometimes used to do the mining under dangerous conditions. Northeast Minnesota also has those metals, and mining those metals are supported by unions because in Minnesota the rare metals would be responsibly and safely mined by highly paid union workers.

Please read the two statements below about mining for rare metals in Northeast Minnesota, and after you read each one, please indicate which one comes closest to your own opinion.

(ROTATE)

- 67% **(Some/Other)** people say the mining for rare metals such as copper and nickel should be done in Northeast Minnesota so that we are NOT dependent on children and underpaid adults working in dangerous conditions in countries that are hostile to the United States. They say that if we want to transition to clean energy, we should use rare metals safely mined in America, which would create good union jobs at high wages.

...or...

- 33% **(Other/Some)** people say the mining for rare metals such as copper and nickel should not be done in Northeast Minnesota because there is too much risk of pollution in our lakes and land. They say that even if it means slowing our transition to clean energy, the United States should continue to import rare metals from other countries.

-
50. Would you be more likely or less likely to supporting transitioning to clean energy if Northeast Minnesota became an important part of the supply chain for the mined rare metals such as copper and nickel that are used for wind turbines, solar panels, and catalytic converters?

- 17% MUCH MORE LIKELY
61% SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY
16% SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY
6% MUCH LESS LIKELY

- 78% TOTAL MORE LIKELY**
22% TOTAL LESS LIKELY
-

Now, in this section, we are collecting general data for statistical purposes only. As a reminder, the data are anonymous and your responses will be kept completely confidential. Thinking some more about you...

D3. What is the last grade you completed in school?

*	SOME GRADE SCHOOL (GRADES 1-8)
2%	SOME HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-11)
14%	GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL (GRADE 12)
13%	TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL
25%	SOME COLLEGE
36%	GRADUATED COLLEGE
10%	GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL
16%	TOTAL HS OR LESS
38%	TOTAL SOME COLLEGE
46%	TOTAL COLLEGE+

D4A. And, in politics today, do you consider yourself ... **(ROTATE)**

a Republican,
a Democrat,
or something else?

(IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, FOLLOW UP SCREEN) Would you call yourself a **STRONG (Republican/Democrat)** or a **NOT-SO-STRONG (Republican/Democrat)**?

(IF SOMETHING ELSE, FOLLOW UP SCREEN) Do you think of yourself as closer to **(ROTATE)** the Republican or to the Democratic party?

18%	STRONG REPUBLICAN
17%	NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN
3%	LEAN REPUBLICAN
16%	UNAFFILIATED / INDEPENDENT / SOMETHING ELSE
4%	LEAN DEMOCRAT
18%	NOT-SO-STRONG DEMOCRAT
23%	STRONG DEMOCRAT
38%	TOTAL REPUBLICAN
45%	TOTAL DEMOCRAT

D5A. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be **(ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM , BOTTOM TO TOP)** conservative, moderate or liberal on most issues?

(IF CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL, FOLLOW UP SCREEN:) And would you say you are VERY **(CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL)**, or just SOMEWHAT **(CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL)**?

12%	VERY CONSERVATIVE
18%	SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE
44%	MODERATE
15%	SOMEWHAT LIBERAL
12%	VERY LIBERAL
30%	TOTAL CONSERVATIVE
27%	TOTAL LIBERAL
