



TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: JIM HOBART

RE: KEY FINDINGS FROM A RECENT STATEWIDE SURVEY IN NORTH DAKOTA

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Public Opinion Strategies conducted a statewide survey of 400 likely voters in North Dakota. The survey was conducted December 2-5, 2021, with 135 interviews conducted with landline respondents and 265 interviews with cell phone respondents. The survey has a margin of error of $\pm 4.9\%$

Key Findings

1. North Dakota voters are extremely supportive of the energy industry in the state.

Fully 72% of North Dakota voters are supportive of the use of coal to produce electricity in the state, including close to half (47%) who are strongly in favor, while just 22% of voters are opposed.

A similar number (66%) of voters support continuing to mine coal in North Dakota for the next fifty years because coal provides the region with affordable energy, creates good paying jobs, and increases tax revenue.

2. Voters are also strongly in favor of research and development projects that would update existing lignite coal-based power plants.

An overwhelming majority (81%) of North Dakotans are supportive of projects that would update existing lignite coal-based power plants in the state. Majorities of Republicans (95%), Independents (84%) and even Democrats (51%) back these types of projects.

3. North Dakota voters are enthusiastic about using carbon capture and storage technology in the state, and that excitement is only growing.

Respondents were read the following statement about carbon capture technology:

As you may know, carbon dioxide, or CO₂ as it is sometimes called, is thought to contribute to climate change. One method to reduce carbon dioxide emissions would be to use carbon capture and storage technology to capture the carbon dioxide from coal based power plants and store it underground instead of releasing it into the atmosphere. Would you favor or oppose using carbon capture and storage technology in North Dakota?

After hearing that statement, more than three-quarters (76%) of voters in the state are in favor of using carbon capture, compared to just 17% who are opposed.

This sentiment is very consistent across partisan lines as 74% of Republicans, 74% of Independents, and 81% of Democrats back the use of carbon capture and storage technology in the state.

Voters are also clearly growing more enthusiastic about using carbon capture in the state, as support has increased from an already high 61% in September 2019, to the current 76%.

4. *There is also strong support for using carbon dioxide that is stored underground to produce additional oil in the state.*

Continuing the trend of high levels of support for the energy industry in North Dakota, 76% of voters back using carbon dioxide that is captured and stored underground to produce additional oil in the state. Just 16% of voters are opposed.

Once again, voters across the partisan spectrum are in agreement here, with clear majorities of Republicans (88%), Independents (64%), and Democrats (60%) supportive of using carbon dioxide stored underground for this purpose.

This is also another issue area where support has only grown, as over the last 2+ years support has increased from a solid 59% to the current 76% level of support.

The Bottom Line

North Dakota voters are big fans of the state's energy industry and would like to see it continue to flourish. They are very supportive of both coal as an energy source as well as research and development projects that would update existing lignite-based coal power plants.

There is also rapidly increasing support for the use of carbon capture storage and technology in the state, with voters in both parties excited about this new technology becoming more prevalent in North Dakota.