

March 19, 2018

Bipartisan support in Pennsylvania for 100% clean energy

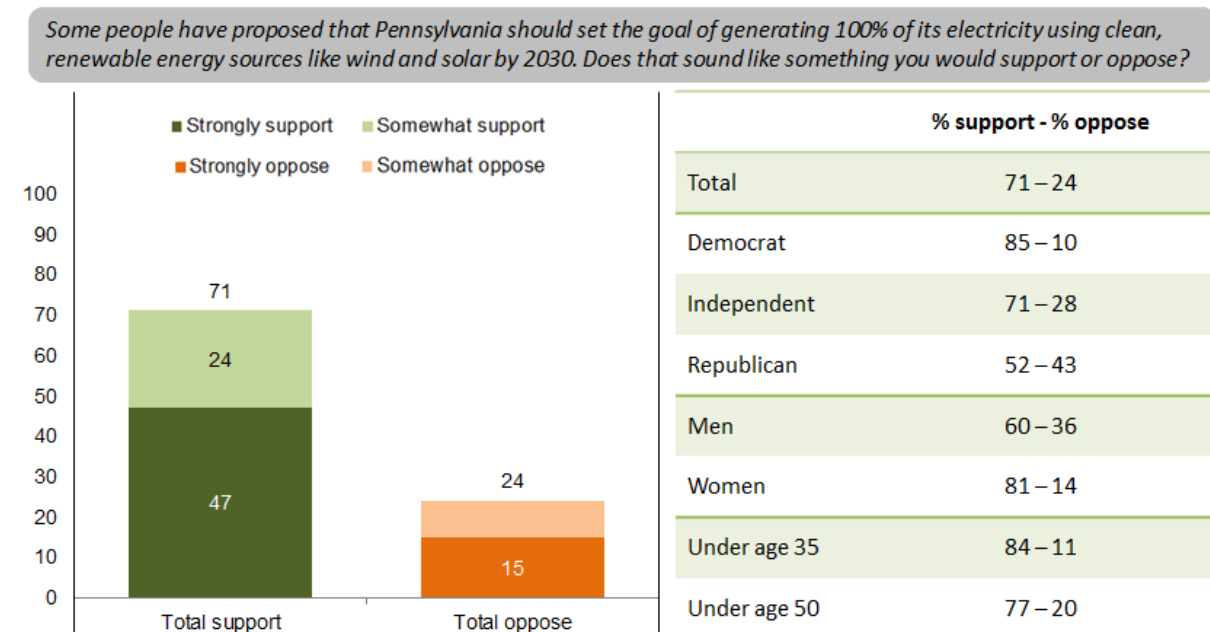
To: Interested Parties

From: Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

A recent survey¹ of registered voters in Pennsylvania finds strong bipartisan support for setting a goal of generating 100% of the state's electricity using clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar, with 2030 as the target date for completing this transition.

Seventy-one percent of voters support this proposal, an 11-point increase since August 2017. This support cuts across party lines, claiming over half of Republican and independent voters. About two-thirds of both Republican women and ideologically liberal to moderate Republicans back this goal, and some conservative Republicans are also open to the proposal (45 percent support). Support for 100% renewable energy clears the majority threshold across the state, reaching 86 percent in Allegheny County and 76 percent in the Philadelphia area.

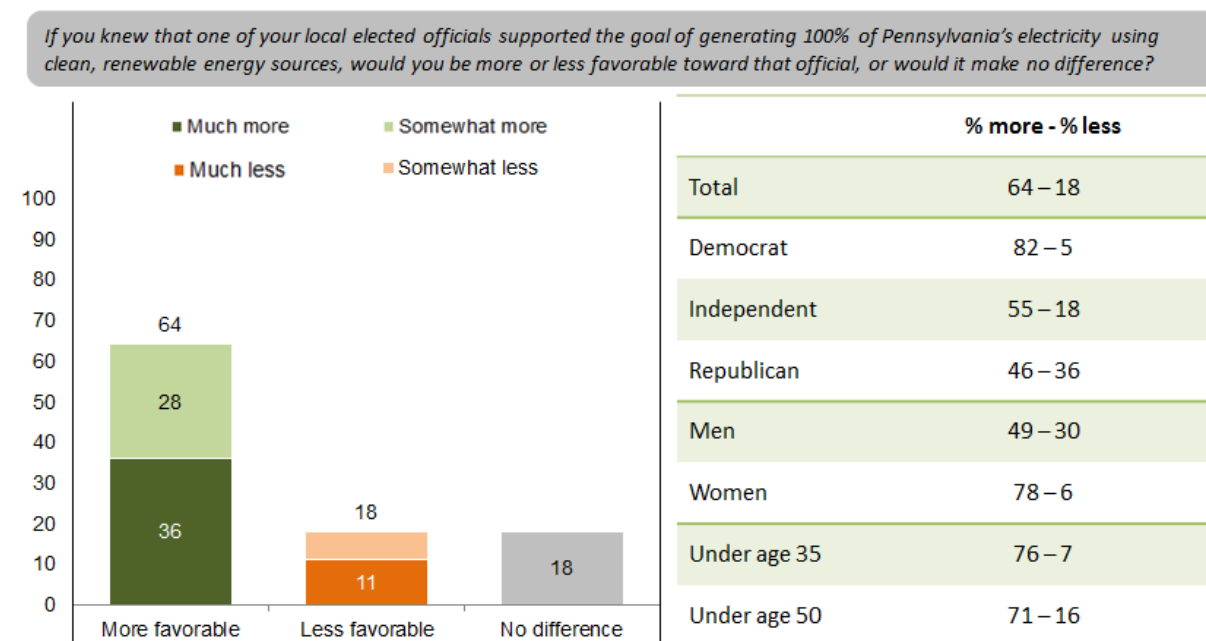
Figure 1: Broad support for setting goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030



¹ On behalf of the Sierra Club, GQR conducted a survey among 500 registered voters in Pennsylvania from December 13–17, 2017 using live interviewers. Thirty-one percent of interviews were conducted on cell phones. The data are subject to a margin of error of +/- 4.4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence interval. Margin of error is higher among subgroups.

Nearly two-thirds of voters say they would feel more favorable toward an elected official who supports this goal. Women are more likely to express positive feelings toward such an elected official, from 62 percent of Republican women to 88 percent of women under age 50. Among Republicans, 61 percent of those who are liberal to moderate would view this official more favorably, while conservative Republicans are divided. Among voters of color, 67 percent would feel more favorable toward this elected official.

Figure 2: Voters feel more favorable toward elected official supporting clean energy



Just over half of voters are optimistic about Pennsylvania's ability to meet this goal, with 53 percent saying they believe this goal is realistic. This belief is higher among voters of color (61 percent), voters under 35 (63 percent) and Democratic women (73 percent). Hearing that over 50 cities across the country have already adopted this goal, including 3 in their own state, motivates some voters, as the share saying this goal is realistic grows to 61 percent.