

March 19, 2018

## Virginia voters support moving to 100% clean energy

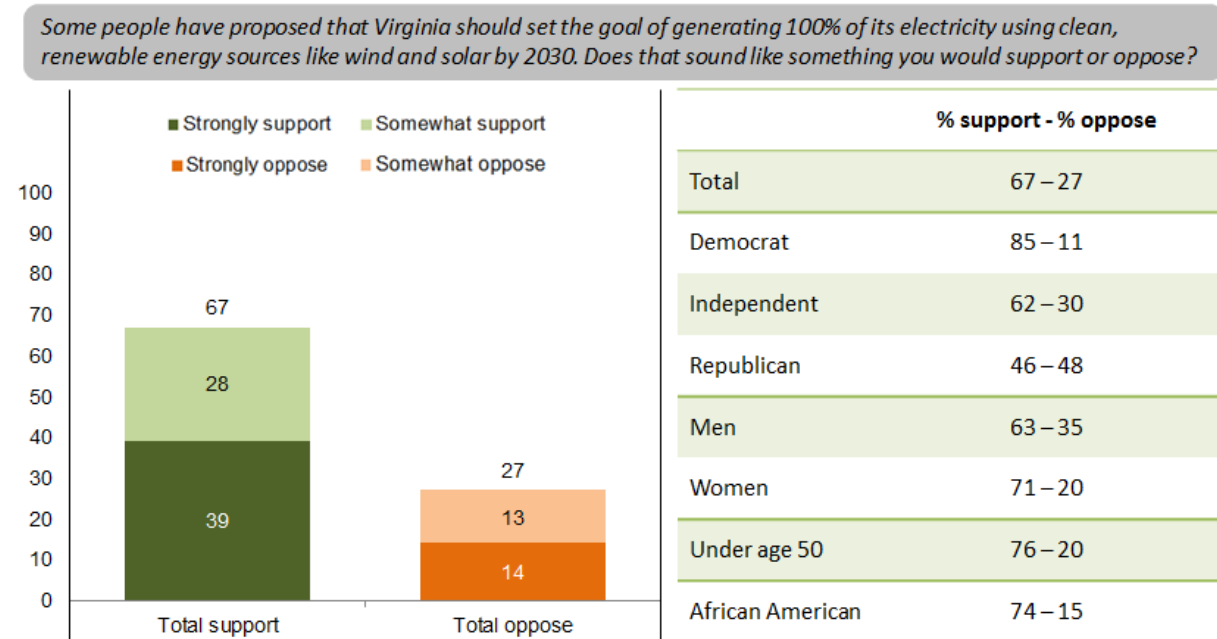
**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

A recent survey<sup>1</sup> of registered voters in Virginia finds a solid majority support 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.

Two-thirds of voters support this goal, a 7-point increase since August 2017. Democrats are nearly unanimous in their support and a considerable majority of independents are on board. Republican voters are evenly divided overall, though a gap emerges along ideological lines as 69 percent of those who identify as liberal to moderate support this goal, compared to 39 percent of conservative Republicans. Support for 100% clean energy spikes among younger voters and African Americans, and women across all parties are more likely to support this goal.

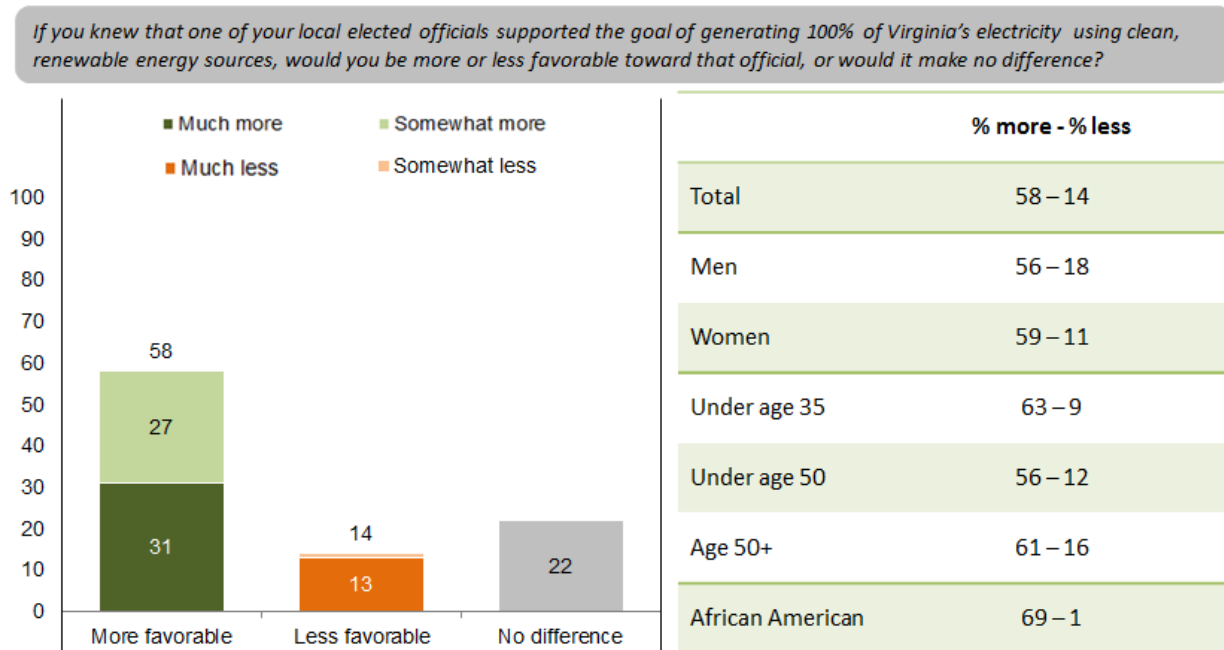
**Figure 1: Strong majority of voters support goal of 100% renewable energy by 2030**



<sup>1</sup> On behalf of the Sierra Club, GQR conducted a survey among 500 registered voters in Virginia from December 12–17, 2017 using live interviewers. Twenty-seven 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.

Overall, 58 percent of voters say an elected official's support for 100% clean energy would positively influence their view of that official. This opinion cuts across gender lines and is fairly stable across age as well. African American voters are far more interested in seeing their elected officials support this goal, as are about 8 in 10 Democrats and 6 in 10 independents. A 54 percent majority of ideologically liberal to moderate Republicans also say this would make them more favorable toward their elected official.

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



A majority of voters are optimistic about Virginia's ability to meet this 100% clean energy goal by 2030, with 55 percent saying they believe this goal is realistic. Democrats drive this belief as over three-quarters say it is realistic; 65 percent of African Americans agree. Informing Virginians that over 50 cities across the country have already adopted this goal gives some voters a boost of confidence, as the share saying the goal is realistic grows to 62 percent.