



RECLAIM Act Regional Survey
Interview Schedule

CONFIDENTIAL
September 8-15, 2016
Public Opinion Strategies
Project #: 16725

N = 150 Registered Voters per State
N = 1050 Total Registered Voters
Overall Margin of Error = $\pm 3.02\%$
Overall Credibility Interval = $\pm 3.45\%$

In this Interview Schedule:

- An asterisk (*) in a response category means that less than 0.5% of respondents chose that response category and a dash (-) represents no response.
 - A carrot (^) beside a figure denotes rounding. Due to rounding, some figures may be higher or lower by less than one-half of one percent.
 - The survey was conducted among N=150 Registered Voters in each of seven states; West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, and Tennessee.
 - The data presented in this Interview Schedule is aggregate data, combined proportionally relative to the registered voter population in each state.
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1. How would you rate the current state of the economy in your state?

38%[^] TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD

61% TOTAL FAIR/POOR

3% EXCELLENT

36% GOOD

42% ONLY FAIR

19% POOR

* UNSURE/REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

2. More specifically, how would you rate the current state of the economy in more rural, coal-mining areas of your state?

10% TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD

81%[^] TOTAL FAIR/POOR

1% EXCELLENT

9% GOOD

34% ONLY FAIR

46% POOR

10% UNSURE/REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

3. And, what proportion of the workers who are currently or used to be coal miners do you think have the knowledge and skills they need to transition into different types of jobs--nearly all miners, most miners, about half of all miners, fewer than half of all miners, or very few miners?

12% TOTAL NEARLY ALL/MOST

58% TOTAL FEWER/VERY FEW

3% NEARLY ALL MINERS

9% MOST MINERS

20% ABOUT HALF OF ALL MINERS

28% FEWER THAN HALF OF ALL MINERS

30% VERY FEW MINERS

3% NO MINERS (**DO NOT READ**)

7% UNSURE (**DO NOT READ**)

4. Do you think elected officials and decision-makers in your state should prioritize –

62% Assisting rural, coal-mining areas to attract new employers, diversify the economy, and ensure workers get new jobs in growing industries

...OR...

32% Fighting government regulations that have made it harder to produce coal, to ensure the good-paying jobs in mining come back

2% BOTH (**DO NOT READ**)
 1% NEITHER (**DO NOT READ**)
 2% UNSURE/REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

Getting more specific –

5. A proposal in Congress would release one billion dollars in existing money from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund which was collected from coal producers over the last forty years. The proposal, known as the RECLAIM Act, would release this money to affected states to help revitalize coal communities hit hardest by the downturn in the coal industry. Communities could apply for grants to restore abandoned mine lands, invest in economic development projects to put people to work, and tackle infrastructure needs such as ensuring clean drinking water.

Does this proposal sound like something you would support or oppose?

(IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE, ASK:) And would that be STRONGLY (support/oppose) or just SOMEWHAT (support/oppose)?

89% TOTAL SUPPORT
9%[^] TOTAL OPPOSE

54% STRONGLY SUPPORT
 35% SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
 4% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
 4% STRONGLY OPPOSE

2% DON'T KNOW (**DO NOT READ**)
 * REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

(ASKED OF N=723 RESPONDENTS)

6. What are the one or two main reasons why you would (SUPPORT/OPPOSE) this proposal?
(PROBE AND CLARIFY ON PHONE) Why else?

SEE VERBATIM RESPONSES

7. And if coal communities in your state receive funding to revitalize their communities, which one of the following best describes how you would feel?

POSITIVES:

44%	PLEASED
13%	EXCITED
11%	RELIEVED

NEGATIVES:

15%	SKEPTICAL
8%	CONCERNED
7%	UNINTERESTED

-- ALL/COMBINATION **(DO NOT READ)**

* NONE OF THESE **(DO NOT READ)**

1% UNSURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

Thinking some more about releasing funding from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to help revitalize coal communities --

8. I'd like to read you two viewpoints about this proposal and please tell me which one comes closer to what you think, even if neither perfectly matches your viewpoint.

73% Supporters say that using existing funds from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to help revitalize coal communities is a bipartisan idea that provides a step in the right direction with no effect on the federal budget. It will provide new, good jobs in industries that the community feels are best for their area, and put people back to work getting skills that provide long-term benefits. At the same time, it will clean up pollution in our rivers, streams, and drinking water.

25% Opponents say that using existing funds from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund will end up wasting more money on bureaucracy than helping coal communities. Coal communities do not need a big federal bail-out. Instead, we should get rid of federal regulations that are killing thousands of good-paying jobs that allowed people to support their families with dignity.

* BOTH EQUALLY (**PROMPT:** but if you had to choose, which one would you say you agree with more?) (**DO NOT READ**)

1% NEITHER (**DO NOT READ**)

1% UNSURE/REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)

Still thinking about this issue – I’m going to read you a number of specific possible benefits of releasing funding from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund to help revitalize coal communities. After I read each one, I’d like you to tell me how important you think each one of these is: is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important? **(RANDOMIZE)**

	TOT EXTR/ VERY	EXTR IMPRT	VERY IMPRT	SMWT IMPRT	NOT IMPRT	DK (DNR)	REF (DNR)
9. Provide job opportunities to former coal-miners and workers.	86%	47%	39%	11%	2%	*	*
10. Diversify the economy so there are many new and different types of employers, rather than relying on coal mining.	72%^	36%	37%	20%	7%	1%	*
11. Clean-up hazardous abandoned mines.	77%	44%	33%	18%	4%	*	*
12. Restore streams and rivers polluted by toxic drainage from old mines.	86%	52%	34%	12%	3%	–	--
13. Provide areas for outdoor recreation for those who come to hike, camp, hunt, ride off-road vehicles and enjoy natural areas near mountains.	43%	17%	26%	42%	14%	*	*
14. Create economic opportunities for local small businesses so they can create more jobs.	81%	39%	42%	15%	3%	–	*
15. Allow communities to voluntarily apply for grants for economic redevelopment projects that best meet their needs.	69%	29%	40%	24%	6%	*	–

Summary of Potential Benefits - Ranked by % Extremely/Very Important

<i>Potential Benefit</i>	% Extremely/ Very Important	% Extremely Important
Restore streams and rivers polluted by toxic drainage from old mines.	86%	52%
Provide job opportunities to former coal-miners and workers.	86%	47%
Create economic opportunities for local small businesses so they can create more jobs.	81%	39%
Clean-up hazardous abandoned mines.	77%	44%
Diversify the economy so there are many new and different types of employers, rather than relying on coal mining.	72%	36%
Allow communities to voluntarily apply for grants for economic redevelopment projects that best meet their needs.	69%	29%
Provide areas for outdoor recreation for those who come to hike, camp, hunt, ride off-road vehicles and enjoy natural areas near mountains.	43%	17%

And do you agree or disagree that... (ROTATE)

	AGREE	DISAGREE	DK (DNR)	REF (DNR)
16. Rather than using more coal, we should become more energy efficient and move toward cleaner sources of energy, like wind and solar.	75%	23%	1%	1%
17. Communities that have traditionally relied on coal mining should work to diversify their economies and attract new types of businesses.	90%	8%	2%	*

Finally, there are just a few more questions for statistical purposes only...

D1. In what year were you born?

19%	18 - 34
23%	35 - 44
15%	45 - 54
23%	55 - 64
20%	65 AND ABOVE
*	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

D2. STATE (WEIGHTED TO PROPER REPRESENTATION OF TOTAL SAMPLE):

4%	West Virginia
8%	Kentucky
25%	Pennsylvania
12%	Indiana
22%	Ohio
16%	Virginia
12%	Tennessee

D3. Are you or is anyone in your household currently or ever been employed in coal mining or a company that provides products or services to a coal company?

12%	TOTAL YES
3%	YES/CURRENTLY
8%	YES/IN PAST
88%	NO
--	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

D4. And in politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or something else?

(IF SOMETHING ELSE, ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to... **(ROTATE)** the Republican or to the Democratic party?

34% TOTAL REPUBLICAN
37% TOTAL DEMOCRAT
28% TOTAL IND/ELSE

28% REPUBLICAN
6% LEAN TO REPUBLICANS

6% LEAN TO DEMOCRATS
31% DEMOCRAT

16% INDEPENDENT
12% SOMETHING ELSE

1% UNSURE/REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

D5. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be conservative, moderate, or liberal on most issues?

33% CONSERVATIVE
44% MODERATE
20% LIBERAL

1% DON'T KNOW **(DO NOT READ)**
2% REFUSED **(DO NOT READ)**

D6. Other than being an American, what is your main racial or ethnic heritage?

79%	CAUCASIAN OR WHITE
13%	AFRICAN-AMERICAN OR BLACK
4%	HISPANIC/ LATINO
2%	ASIAN AMERICAN
1%	OTHER/MORE THAN ONE (DO NOT READ)
1%	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

D7. Gender.

48%	MALE
52%	FEMALE

D8. Are you currently...

61%	TOTAL EMPLOYED
39%	TOTAL NOT EMPLOYED
52%	EMPLOYED FULL-TIME
9%	EMPLOYED PART-TIME
2%	STUDENT
6%	STAY-AT-HOME PARENT
24%	RETIRED
3%	UNEMPLOYED AND LOOKING FOR WORK
4%	PERMANENTLY DISABLED
*	REFUSED (DO NOT READ)

D9. And for statistical purposes only...is your total annual household income...

28%	<\$40K
18%	\$40K - \$60K
24%	\$60K - \$100K
24%	\$100K+
10%	LESS THAN \$20,000
18%	\$20,000 - \$39,999
18%	\$40,000 - \$59,999
13%	\$60,000 - \$74,999
11%	\$75,000 - \$99,999
19%	\$100,000 - \$199,999
5%	\$200,000 OR GREATER

5% REFUSED (**DO NOT READ**)
