

**From: Justin Mayhew, Public Policy Polling**

**Subject: Majority of Virginia Voters Favors E.P.A.'s Clean Power Plan**

**Date: November 11, 2015**

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that a majority of Virginia voters supports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's plan to limit the amount of carbon pollution that power plants can release. 64% of Virginians favor the E.P.A.'s Clean Power Plan, while only 32% oppose it. Confidence in the E.P.A.'s direction on the issue is high, with 62% saying they trust the scientists at the E.P.A. more than members of Congress to decide whether there should be limits on air and water pollution. Majorities across a broad range of demographic groups—including women, men, Democrats, Independents, young voters, and seniors—are highly receptive to the E.P.A.'s expertise.

Key findings from the survey include:

- The Clean Power Plan is backed by a diverse, broad-based coalition, including majorities of women (75%), men (52%), Democrats (92%), Independents (52%), young voters (60%), and seniors (66%).
- 57% of voters say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for U.S. Senate from Virginia if he/she supported the Clean Power Plan, including 35% who say they would be much more likely to vote for such a candidate. Just 31% of Virginians say they would be less likely to back a candidate who supported the plan.
- By a 50/42 split, Virginians think that the state should be investing more in clean, renewable energy sources like solar and wind instead of traditional sources like coal, oil, and gas.
- Climate change is an increasingly important issue for Virginia voters. 54% have reached the consensus that climate change is a serious problem, with 36% of those saying that it is a "very serious" problem.

PPP interviewed 548 registered Virginia voters from November 5-8. The margin of error for the poll is +/-4.2%. The poll was sponsored by the Sierra Club.

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## Virginia Survey Results

**Q1** Are you registered to vote in Virginia?

Yes.....100%  
No..... 0%  
Not sure ..... 0%

**Q2** Electricity can be generated from a number of different sources, such as fossil fuels, like coal, as well as from renewable sources, like solar. Do you think Virginia should be investing more in traditional energy sources like coal, oil, and gas, or do you think Virginia should be investing more in renewable energy sources like solar and wind?

*Virginia should be investing more in traditional energy sources like coal, oil, and gas*..... 42%  
*Virginia should be investing more in renewable energy sources like solar and wind* ..... 50%  
Not sure ..... 8%

**Q3** How much of a problem do you consider climate change or global warming to be: a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, not that much of a problem, or not a problem at all?

*Very serious problem*..... 36%  
*Somewhat serious problem*..... 18%  
*Not that much of a problem*..... 22%  
*Not a problem at all*..... 21%  
Not sure ..... 3%

**Q4** In general, do you think the United States should be doing more or less to address the issue of climate change or global warming, or is it currently doing the right amount?

*The United States should be doing more to address the issue of climate change or global warming* ..... 45%  
*The United States should be doing less to address climate change or global warming* .... 36%  
*The United States is currently doing the right amount to address climate change or global warming* ..... 14%  
Not sure ..... 5%

**Q5** Who do you trust more to decide whether there should be limits on air and water pollution: the scientists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or the elected members of Congress?

*Trust the scientists at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency more to decide whether there should be limits on air and water pollution*..... 62%  
*Trust the elected members of Congress more to decide whether there should be limits on air and water pollution*..... 25%  
Not sure ..... 13%

**Q6** How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan: a lot, a little, the name only, or nothing at all?

*A lot*..... 22%  
*A little* ..... 37%  
*The name only*..... 18%  
*Nothing at all* ..... 22%  
Not sure ..... 1%





**Q7** As you may already know, the centerpiece of the Clean Power Plan is having the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or E.P.A., limit the amount of carbon pollution that power plants can release. The plan gives states the flexibility to choose the best set of cost-effective pollution reductions for their own needs. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the plan to have the E.P.A. limit the amount of carbon pollution that power plants can release?

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Strongly favor</i> .....  | 46% |
| <i>Somewhat favor</i> .....  | 18% |
| <i>Somewhat oppose</i> ..... | 12% |
| <i>Strongly oppose</i> ..... | 20% |
| <i>Not sure</i> .....        | 4%  |

**Q8** If you knew that a candidate for U.S. Senate from Virginia supported the Clean Power Plan, would you be much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely, or much less likely to support that candidate, or would it have no impact on your support?

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <i>Much more likely</i> .....                | 35% |
| <i>Somewhat more likely</i> .....            | 22% |
| <i>Somewhat less likely</i> .....            | 8%  |
| <i>Much less likely</i> .....                | 23% |
| <i>Would have no impact on support</i> ..... | 11% |
| <i>Not sure</i> .....                        | 2%  |

**Q9** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| <i>Woman</i> ..... | 53% |
| <i>Man</i> .....   | 47% |

**Q10** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Democrat</i> .....            | 35% |
| <i>Republican</i> .....          | 33% |
| <i>Independent / Other</i> ..... | 32% |

**Q11** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Hispanic</i> .....         | 5%  |
| <i>White</i> .....            | 69% |
| <i>African-American</i> ..... | 20% |
| <i>Other</i> .....            | 7%  |

**Q12** If you are 18 to 45 years old, press 1. If 46 to 65, press 2. If older than 65, press 3.

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| <i>18 to 45</i> .....      | 34% |
| <i>46 to 65</i> .....      | 38% |
| <i>Older than 65</i> ..... | 28% |

**Q13** Area Code

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| <i>276</i> ..... | 10% |
| <i>434</i> ..... | 9%  |
| <i>540</i> ..... | 30% |
| <i>703</i> ..... | 18% |
| <i>757</i> ..... | 15% |
| <i>804</i> ..... | 18% |

