

This memo summarizes the results among coastal states of a recent poll by Lake Research Partners. Following the Willow decision, voters across the political spectrum do not want President Biden to expand new leasing of public waters to oil and gas companies for offshore drilling.

- **Strong majorities of coastal voters, from the Gulf to the eastern seaboard, do not want to increase offshore drilling. Voters understand that the risks outweigh any perceived benefits, and a proposal to prevent new offshore drilling is more popular than expanding drilling.**
 - When told that the government currently leases 2,287 sections of ocean for offshore drilling, only a quarter of coastal voters want to increase offshore drilling and more would rather decrease or eliminate drilling. In Florida 44 percent would prefer to either decrease or eliminate offshore drilling, and in North Carolina, Gulf states (which includes Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi), and the South Atlantic (which includes Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina), 36 percent prefer decreasing or eliminating offshore drilling.
 - More coastal voters favor preventing new offshore drilling than favor increasing drilling. This is especially true in Florida, where support for preventing new drilling is 14 points higher than support for increasing drilling.

- **Moreover, coastal voters overwhelmingly prefer expanding clean energy over expanding offshore oil and gas drilling.**
 - Around two-thirds across coastal states would prefer the Administration increase clean energy like wind and solar over offshore drilling for oil and gas - 68 percent in Florida, 63 percent in North Carolina, 63 percent in Gulf states, and 64 percent in the South Atlantic.

- **Coastal voters, including Republicans, are concerned about offshore oil and gas drilling's impacts on coastal communities, marine life, and seafood. Coastal voters overwhelmingly want to see the administration protect marine life and coastlines from oil spills and prevent new drilling.**
 - Over half of voters in Florida (56 percent), North Carolina (51 percent), Gulf states (54 percent), and the South Atlantic (51 percent) are very concerned about the impact offshore drilling has on pollution to the air and water. Similar numbers are very concerned about the safety of marine life and seafood (which is a top concern for Republicans).
 - Voters in key coastal states think it is important personally to protect marine life and public lands and waters, which influences their views on offshore drilling.
 - Over two-thirds of voters across coastal states (including 72 percent in Florida) say that protecting marine life from oil spills and pollution is a very important action for the U.S. to take. Strong majorities (67 percent in Florida, 64 percent in North Carolina, 62 percent in Gulf states, and 65 percent in the South Atlantic) also say protecting coastal communities from oil spills is very important.

- **There is disappointment and pressure from coastal voters on climate and energy issues and dissatisfaction with what they perceive to be a lack of action on climate.**
 - President Biden’s favorability and job approval ratings are underwater, including when it comes to climate. Voters in North Carolina (62 percent just fair/poor) and the South Atlantic (61 percent just fair/poor) are especially likely to give him a negative rating when it comes to combatting climate change.
 - Many coastal voters cannot name a specific action Biden has taken on climate. When asked, more than a third across coastal states say he has done nothing when it comes to policy that impacts pollution, the environment, and climate change - 31 percent in Florida, 37 percent in North Carolina, 37 percent in Gulf states, and 36 percent in the South Atlantic.
 - Oil and gas corporations are also unpopular among coastal voters, especially in North Carolina (54 percent unfavorable).

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Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey that was conducted online from March 1 – March 9, 2023. The survey reached a total of 1000 registered voters nationwide with additional samples of 400 registered voters in Florida, 400 voters in North Carolina, 50 voters in Georgia and 236 voters in the Gulf States (Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi). Additional samples also include 101 Asian American and 100 Indigenous registered voters. The data were weighted slightly by gender, region, age, educational attainment, race and ethnicity, and party identification to reflect attributes of registered voters nationwide. The margin of error for the registered voter sample is +/- 3.1 percentage points and is larger for subgroups.