

This memo summarizes the results 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.

- **Most voters do not want to expand offshore drilling. Voters across the political spectrum 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, more voters would prefer to either decrease the area available for drilling (24 percent) or eliminate offshore drilling (15 percent) than would prefer to increase (23 percent). A quarter say they would rather continue existing drilling but not increase the area available.
    - Majorities of Democratic voters (53 percent) and voters under 30 (52 percent) want to either decrease the area available for offshore drilling or eliminate offshore drilling entirely.
  - Voters support a proposal to prevent new offshore drilling by a net margin of 16 points (50% favor / 34% oppose).
- **Moreover, voters overwhelmingly prefer expanding clean energy over expanding offshore oil and gas drilling.**
  - Two-thirds (67 percent) of voters would prefer the Administration increase clean energy like wind and solar over offshore drilling for oil and gas, which includes majority support across party lines (84 percent of Democrats, 59 percent of independents, and 51 percent of Republicans).
- **Strong majorities of coastal voters, from the Gulf to the eastern seaboard, do not want to increase offshore drilling. Coastal voters, including Republican coastal voters, 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.**
  - Across coastal states, only a quarter of 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.
  - 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 Democratic voters on climate and energy issues. Young people are particularly dissatisfied 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. His rating on combating climate change is 34 percent excellent/good to 57 percent just fair/poor.
    - Voters under 30 disapprove of Biden overall (net -16) and even more on climate (net -31) and protecting the environment (net-37).
  - Many voters cannot name a specific action Biden has taken on climate. When asked, 35 percent say he has done nothing when it comes to policy that impacts pollution, the environment, and climate change, including 22 percent of Democrats and 35 percent of voters under 30.
  - Oil and gas corporations are also unpopular among voters, especially Democrats (60 percent unfavorable) and independents (55 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.*