

Ohio Voters on Energy and the Environment: New Poll Findings



Ohio Environmental Council

MARCH 12, 2026

Topline Takeaways

Ohio voters rate energy costs as a top concern, blaming data centers and the need to increase energy supplies.

Common-sense clean energy policies find broad bipartisan support as a solution to rising energy costs.



Affordability issues, particularly energy costs, a top concern

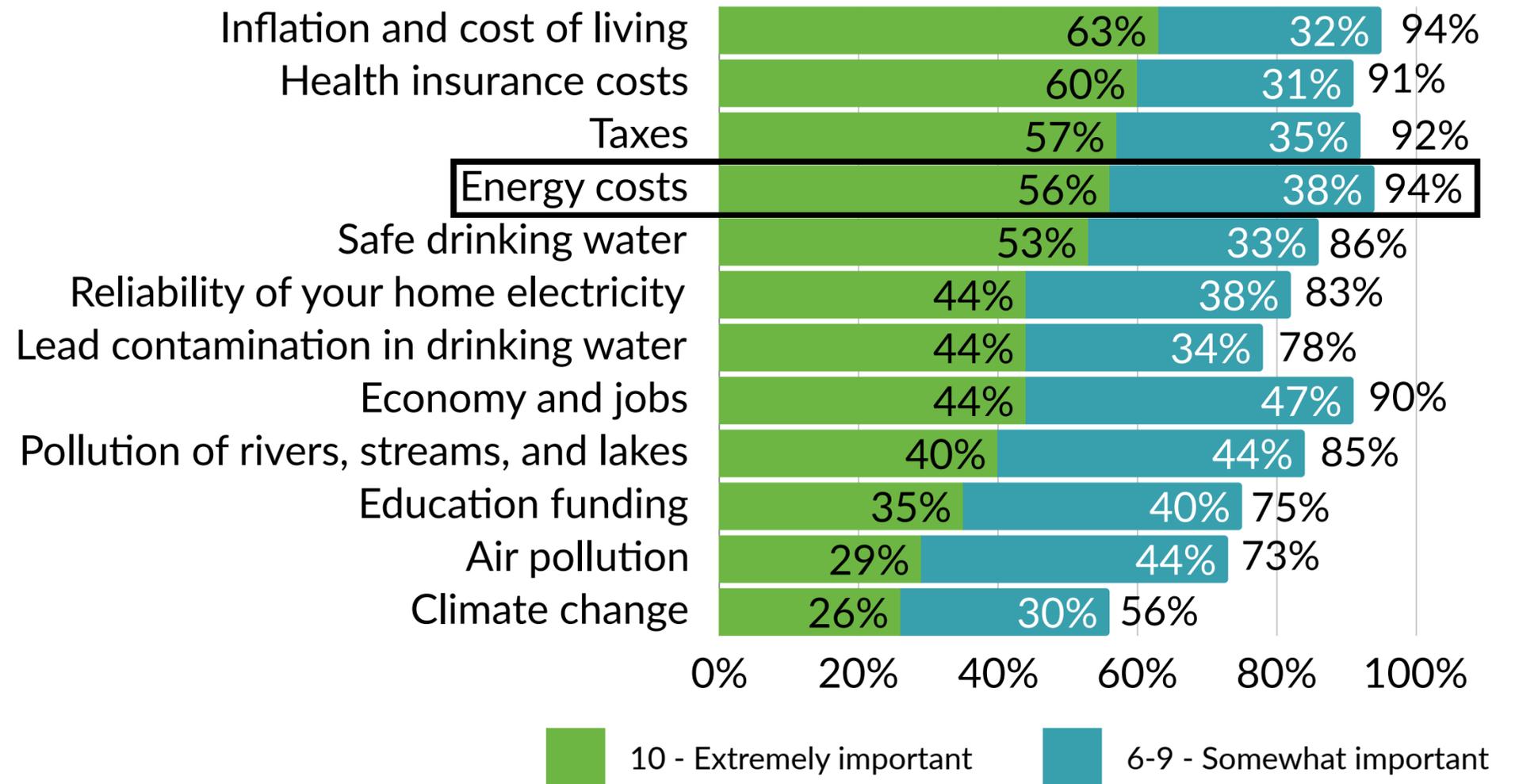
94% of Ohio voters

rate energy costs as important



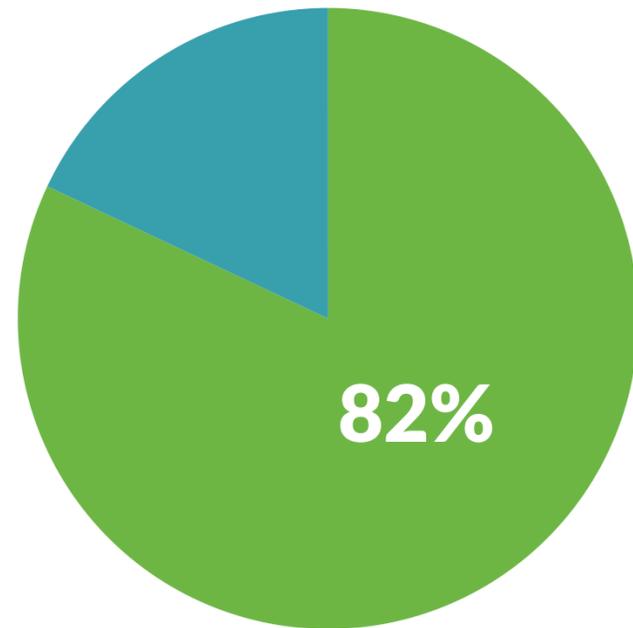
Nearly **three-in-five voters** rate energy costs as extremely important

Issue Importance

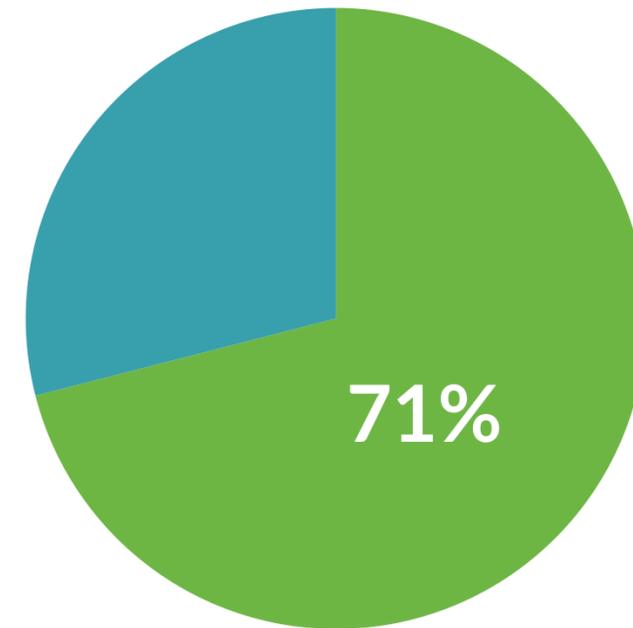


*Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

Voters blame A.I. and data centers for increasing energy costs

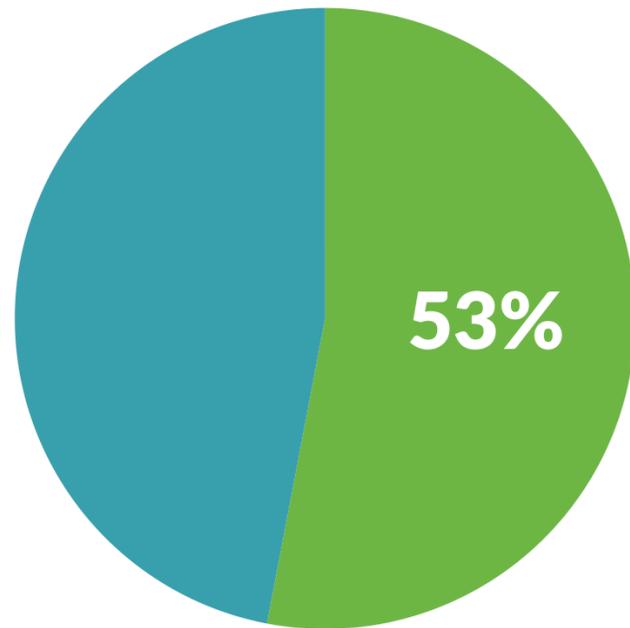


82% of Ohio voters believe “A.I. computing and data centers are driving up the costs of energy for everyday households.”

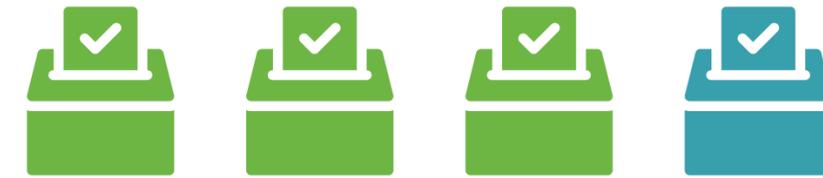


71% of Ohio voters believe that increasing energy supply will reduce costs for consumers

Voters are concerned about clean water



53% of Ohio voters rate safe drinking water as an “extremely important” issue.



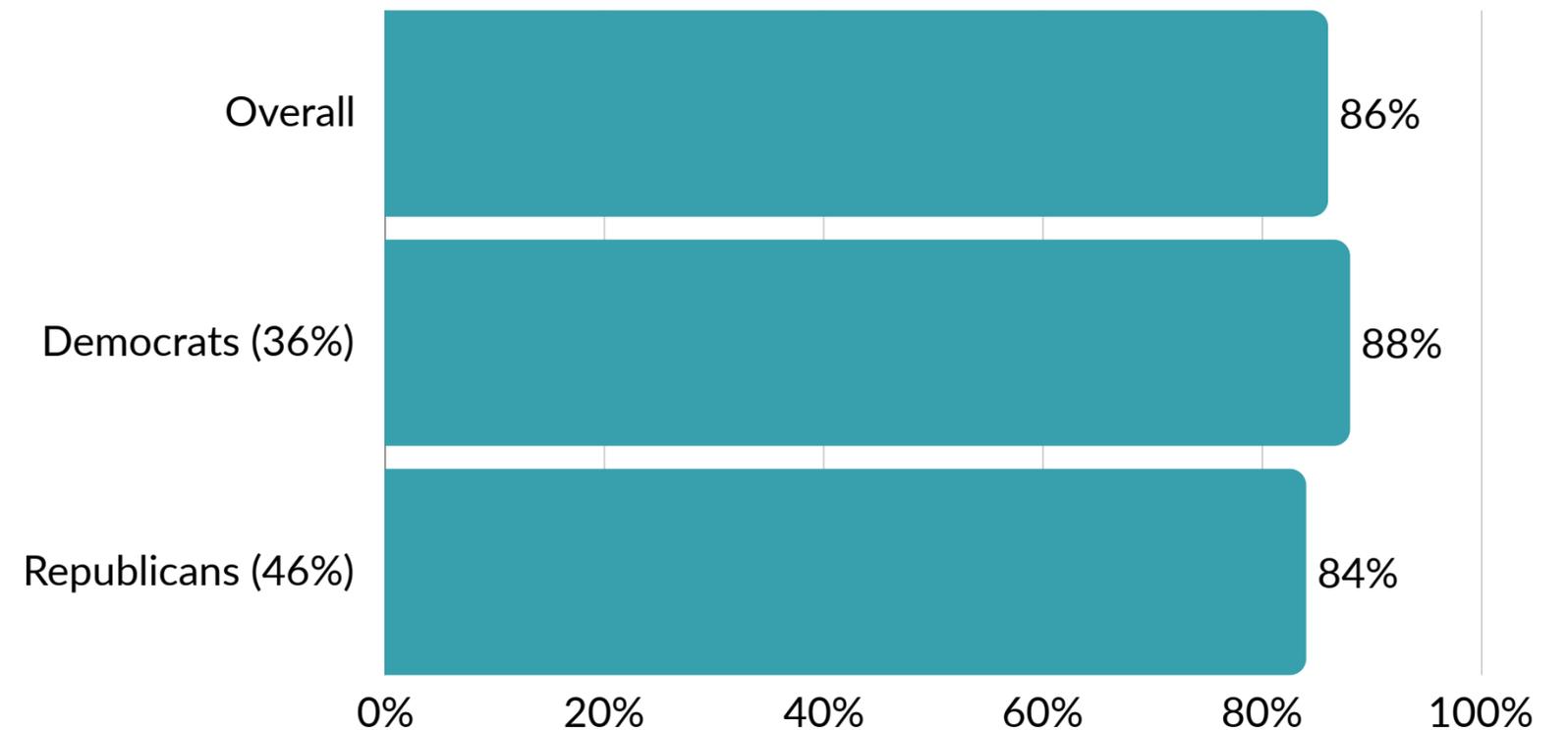
Three-in-four voters rate pollution of rivers, streams, and lakes, and lead contamination in drinking water as important issues.

Voters feel data centers should pay their fair share

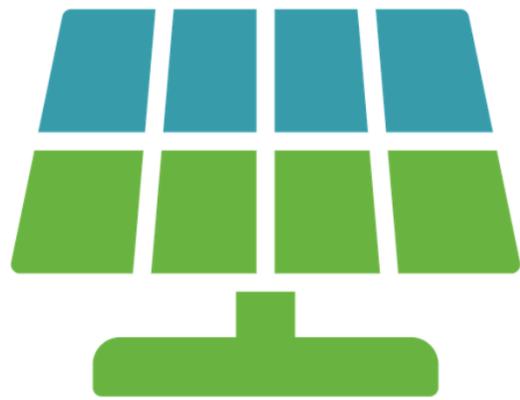


More than four-in-five voters overall, including similar share of Democrats and Republicans, support requiring data centers to pay additional fees to cover their energy and water impacts.

Policy Support by Party



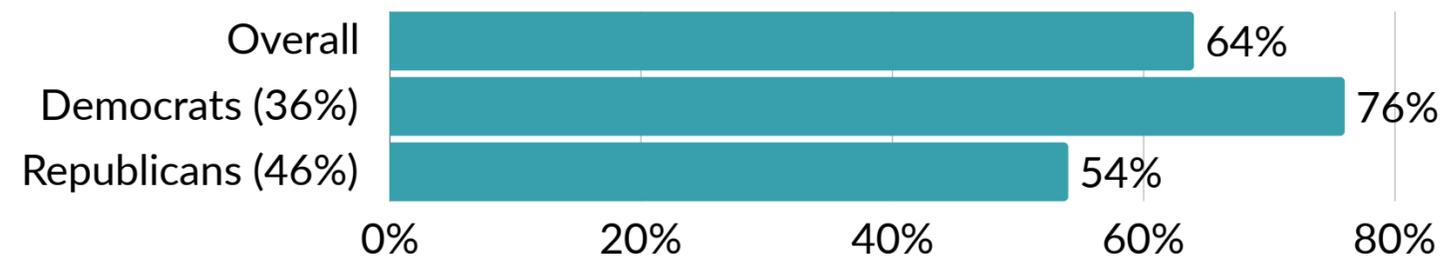
Voters across party lines support increasing solar energy generation



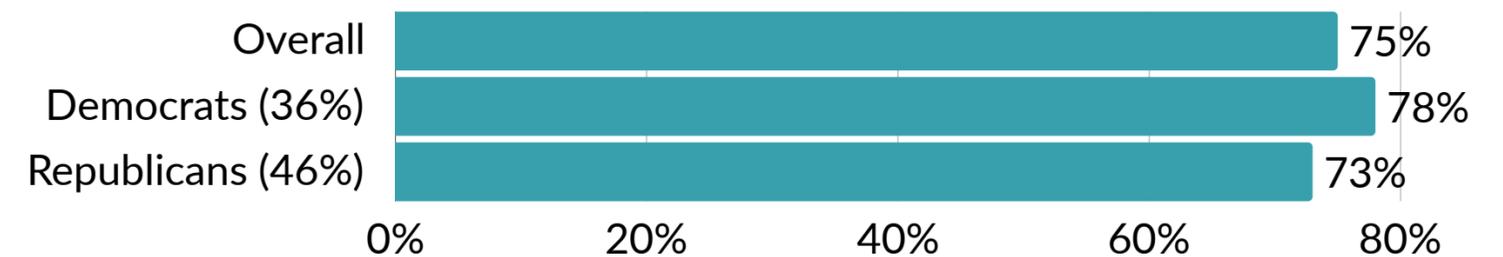
More than two-thirds of voters, including majorities of both parties, support allowing homeowners and businesses who install solar panels to sell extra energy back to the grid, and allowing community solar projects to reduce bills.

Policy Support by Party

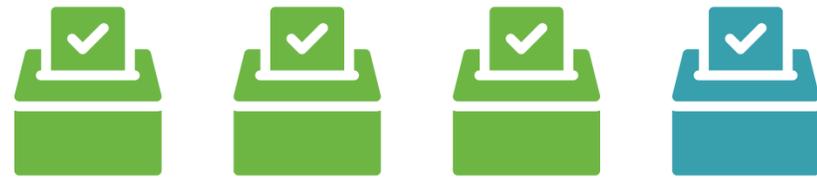
Allowing groups of neighbors, businesses, or small communities to join together and build small solar energy projects to reduce their energy bills



Allowing homeowners and business owners who install solar panels to sell extra energy back to the grid

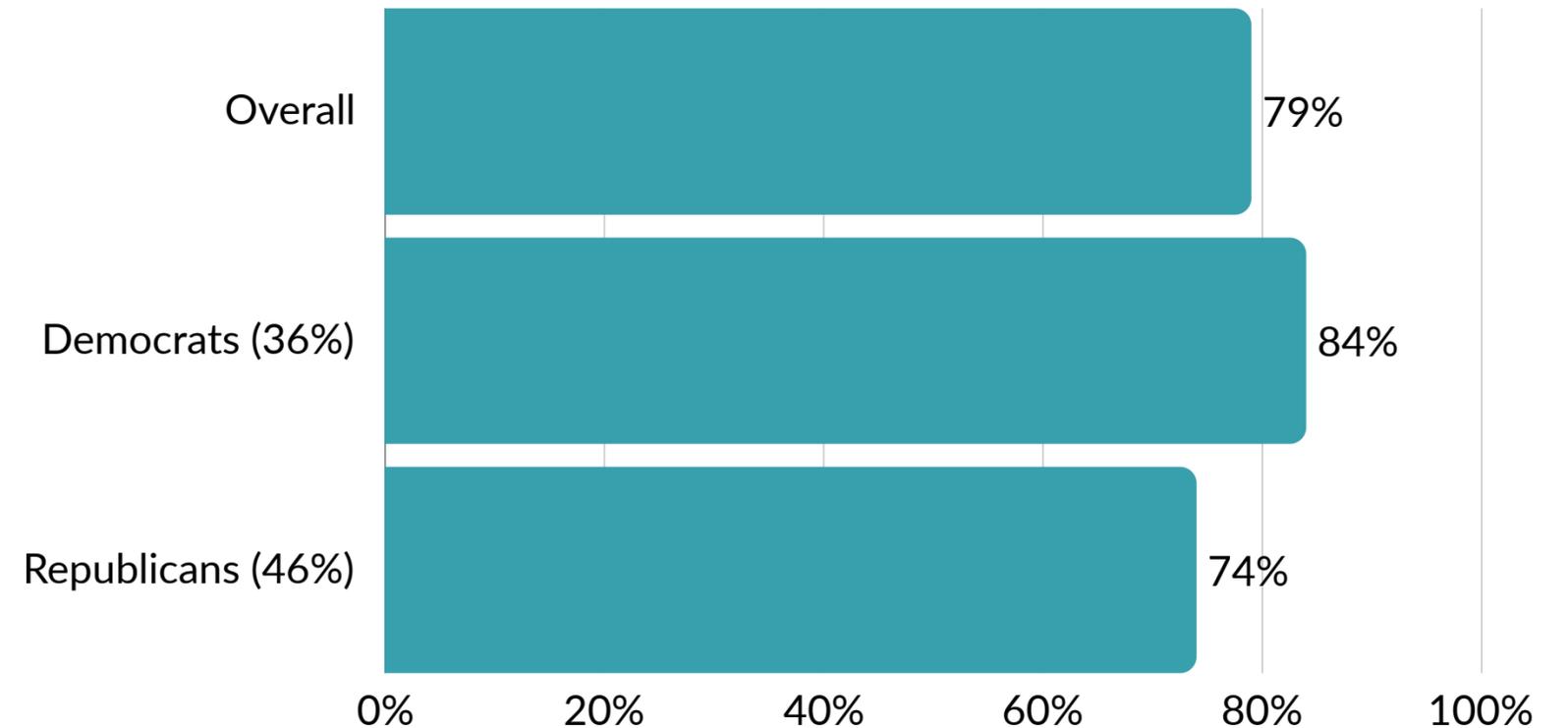


Voters show bipartisan support for farmer-led decision-making about solar on their land.



More than three-in-four voters overall, including three-in-four Republicans, support allowing farmers to make their own decisions about installing solar energy projects on their own land.

Policy Support by Party



Methodology

EMC Research conducted an online survey among a random sample of 2,000 registered voters in Ohio, including 1,343 likely November 2026 voters, from February 10th to 22nd, 2026.

Results among likely November 2026 voters have a margin of error of ± 2.7 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence.

Contact

For more information, download EMC Research's full polling memo or read more on [the OEC Website](#).



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