

Support in New Jersey for Offshore Wind Farms Drops, Hughes Center Poll Finds

For immediate release

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Galloway, N.J. — Support in New Jersey for building wind turbines off the coast has plummeted over the past four years, especially in shore towns, according to a Stockton University Poll released today.

More state residents support the wind farms than oppose them, with 50% in favor of New Jersey plans to build wind turbines at sea to generate electricity and 33% opposed. Sixteen percent were unsure. The results reflect a drop of 30 percentage points from the findings of a September 2019 Stockton Poll that asked an identical question. In 2019, 80% of adult New Jersey residents supported offshore wind farms.

Four years ago, 77% of residents living in areas that border the ocean or a bay supported offshore wind turbines. Only 33% of coastal area respondents favor such construction in the poll released today by the [William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy](#) at Stockton University. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percentage points.

The main reasons for opposition to offshore turbines: potential harm to sea life and obstructed ocean views.

In July, the U.S. Interior Department approved the construction and operation of 98 wind turbines and up to three offshore substations in the Ocean Wind 1 project off the New Jersey coast.

“When the concept of wind farms moved from abstract policy considerations to preparing for actual construction, many residents said, ‘Not in my backyard, or at least not off my beach,’” said John Froomjian, director of the Hughes Center.

Audio podcast on wind energy available

To provide additional context on the issue of wind energy, the Hughes Center is releasing an audio interview conducted by Research Associate Maurice with Dr. Patrick Hossay, a longtime Stockton Environmental Studies professor and an expert in alternative energy sources.

In the [31-minute podcast](#), Hossay explains how wind turbines work, their potential impact on marine life and the economy and their safety record internationally. Listen to the audio interview [here](#).

Find full poll results [here](#).

NOTE TO MEDIA: The table and audio provided in this release may be used. Please credit the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy, Stockton University.

Methodology

The poll of New Jersey adult residents was conducted by the Stockton Polling Institute of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy from September 16-26, 2023. Stockton University students texted cell phones with invitations to take the survey online and Opinion Services supplemented the dialing portion of the fieldwork, which consisted of cell and landline telephone calls. Overall, 92% of interviews were conducted on cell phones and 8% on landline phones. In terms of mode, 83% were reached via dialing and 17% were reached via text-to-web. A total of 592 New Jersey adult residents were interviewed. Both cell and landline samples consisted of random digit dialing (RDD) sample from MSG. Data are weighted based on U.S. Census Bureau ACS 2021 data for New Jersey on variables of age, race, education level, and sex. The poll's margin of error is +/- 4.0 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. MOE is higher for subsets.

About the Hughes Center

The [William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy](#) at Stockton University serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey, and promotes the civic life of New Jersey through engagement, education and research. The center is named for the late William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of

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