

To: Tom Pyle, American Energy Alliance / Steve Moore, Committee to Unleash Prosperity
From: Michael McKenna, MWR Strategies
Date: January 2023
Re: December 2023 Survey results

We recently completed a survey of 1600 likely voters equally divided among eight States (Georgia, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Arizona, Nevada, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio). The total sample margin of error is 2.45%. We have attached the topline and want to offer a very few thoughts about the results.

The survey results indicate that those who oppose a carbon dioxide import tax start off with a significant, but not dispositive advantage. When voters are informed of the specifics of the tax, they oppose it by a nearly 2 to 1 margin (51-28). That margin is even greater among Republicans, who oppose such a tax by almost 40 points (63-24).

With that said, it is important to note that one in five voters are uncertain about the appropriate path forward with respect to this issue. A consistent 15-20% of respondents (even among Republicans) indicated that they didn't know or could not respond to elemental questions about whether they would favor or oppose such a tax. That indicates that we need to amplify our efforts to educate people with respect to this issue.

There was also some lack of clarity about who might pay these taxes, as almost one-third of respondents (31%) indicated that businesses would pay and 15% indicated that they didn't know who might pay.

Contextually, the case against a carbon dioxide tax -- of any type -- remains strong. Few voters (and almost no Republicans) identified climate change as a pressing issue. There was broad and deep agreement that the federal government should not make energy more expensive, should avoid actions that would increase inflation, and should not raise taxes on energy to address climate change.

Additionally, by a margin of more than 2 to 1 (58-26) voters identified carbon dioxide as necessary for life, rather than as a pollutant.

Most pointedly, with respect to willingness to pay for taxes on imported goods to address climate change, the median response was \$10 a year, and 35% of all respondents (including 53% of Republicans and 17% of Democrats) indicated that they are willing to pay nothing to address climate change.

As a reminder, the median response when we asked in a nationwide survey last May was \$20, and 35% of all respondents (including 15% of Democrats) indicated that they were willing to pay nothing to address climate change.

In short, voter sentiment and attitudes on energy and climate change remain characterized by stasis; despite what you may have read in the media, there has been little change in voter sentiments and attitudes with respect to energy and climate change. Many of the responses in the survey are either consistent with or more emphatic than what we have found previously.

There remains, however, a powerful tide of voter sentiment against free trade, and those who are advocating for an import tax are obviously relying on this tide. When originally asked without context about the proposed import tax on energy, initial responses were more positive than anticipated, with a slight margin (41-36) of respondents favoring a carbon dioxide tax on imported goods.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any thoughts, comments, or questions.