PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

ENERGY POLICY: GREEN BANKKS
- QUESTIONNAIRE -
October 2020

Sample Provided by: Nielsen Scarborough
Sample Size: Full Sample: 4,828 Registered Voters
Sample A: 2,415; Sample B : 2,413

Field Dates: Sept. 17 – Oct. 1, 2020
Margin of Error: +/- 1.4% (Full Sample)
+/- 2.0% (½ Sample A,B)

Q.1-35 previously released.

Let's turn now to some policy proposals. There is a debate about whether the government should provide assistance to individuals and companies to help them adopt new technologies to produce clean energy and increase energy efficiency. There are two ways this can be done:

- Providing funds to **"**green banks"
- Providing tax incentives *(Released previously)*

Let's first look at what are called "green banks" which help fund clean energy projects.

[Green Banks—Low Interest Loans]
As you may know, individuals and companies adopting clean energy or energy-saving technologies face a certain financial "hump." This hump is the initial cost of the technology, which can be substantial. Many individuals and companies do not have the funds to cover this initial cost.

Therefore, they need to go to banks or investors for investment money. But most banks and investors do not normally get involved in these types of projects because they are too small and not worth their time. Banks often don't have enough knowledge about clean energy to know whether these projects are a good investment.

Currently, there are a number of green banks that have been created with funds from state, county, or city governments. Green banks help fund clean energy projects in two ways:

- They provide low-interest, long-term loans that are usually not offered by ordinary banks.
- They thoroughly assess projects and then provide information to other banks and investors, encouraging them to invest as well.

Besides having environmental benefits, green banks are meant to create local jobs and stimulate US domestic manufacturing. After the funds have been provided, green banks have been self-sustaining, as the loans they make are repaid, making it possible to reinvest those funds.

We will now consider a proposal for the Federal government to provide $35 billion to create a national green bank that would provide funds to help local and state green banks fund more projects, help create new green banks, and invest directly in clean energy projects.

Here is an argument in favor of this proposal:

Q36. Green banks are a great way to kick-start investment in clean energy. A government study showed that every dollar invested by a green bank in clean energy attracts three to six dollars of private investment. All of the green banks have been successful and have continued to reinvest as their loans have been repaid. But there are many more clean-energy projects that could be funded. A national green bank will boost the whole green bank effort to a new level that is needed to meet the demand for clean energy. It is a small investment that will keep growing over time, producing clean energy, and creating good jobs.

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / DK
National	36.0%	36.4%	**72.4%**	14.9%	11.8%	**26.7%**	0.9%
Republicans	17.1%	30.8%	**47.9%**	25.3%	25.5%	**50.8%**	1.3%
Democrats	54.4%	38.3%	**92.7%**	6.0%	0.8%	**6.8%**	0.6%
Independents	29.6%	43.5%	**73.1%**	15.4%	10.5%	**25.9%**	1.0%
Cook's PVI (D-R)							
Very red	28.0%	39.5%	**67.5%**	14.7%	17.3%	**32.0%**	0.5%
Somewhat red	33.8%	34.8%	**68.6%**	14.0%	16.5%	**30.5%**	0.8%
Lean red	33.9%	35.0%	**68.9%**	18.0%	11.2%	**29.2%**	1.9%
Lean blue	34.7%	40.5%	**75.2%**	15.3%	8.9%	**24.2%**	0.6%
Somewhat blue	40.4%	35.5%	**75.9%**	13.9%	9.5%	**23.4%**	0.8%
Very blue	45.4%	34.3%	**79.7%**	13.3%	6.1%	**19.4%**	0.8%

Here is an argument against this proposal:

Q37. Taking taxpayer's money and investing it in potentially risky and complex projects is not the kind of thing that governments should do. Loaning out money should be left to the private market. If the private market won't make loans for these green projects, well maybe they're not a good idea. It may also take investment money away from better possible investments that will help grow the economy even more. If there are really viable business prospects, the private market will figure it out without having to put taxpayer's money at risk.

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total unconvincing	Refused / DK
National	22.1%	24.5%	**46.6%**	25.8%	26.6%	**52.4%**	1.0%
Republicans	40.6%	31.0%	**71.6%**	17.6%	9.5%	**27.1%**	1.2%
Democrats	7.5%	17.5%	**25.0%**	31.0%	43.2%	**74.2%**	0.8%
Independents	20.0%	28.3%	**48.3%**	29.7%	20.9%	**50.6%**	1.1%
Cook's PVI (D-R)							
Very red	27.0%	23.9%	**50.9%**	25.1%	23.1%	**48.2%**	0.8%
Somewhat red	25.5%	30.4%	**55.9%**	22.8%	21.1%	**43.9%**	0.2%
Lean red	22.5%	22.0%	**44.5%**	26.4%	26.7%	**53.1%**	2.4%
Lean blue	18.1%	29.3%	**47.4%**	25.0%	27.2%	**52.2%**	0.4%
Somewhat blue	20.1%	19.7%	**39.8%**	30.2%	29.0%	**59.2%**	1.0%
Very blue	18.4%	21.9%	**40.3%**	25.7%	33.0%	**58.7%**	1.0%

Q38. Now, here again is the proposal:

The Federal government would provide $35 billion to create a national green bank that would provide funds to help local and state green banks fund more projects, help create new green banks, and invest directly in clean energy projects.

How acceptable do you find this proposal?

	Median	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref./DK
National	6.2	26.6%	9.8%	63.4%	0.2%
Republicans	3.9	53.2%	12.0%	34.7%	0.1%
Democrats	8.2	4.9%	7.0%	87.7%	0.4%
Independents	6.1	24.9%	12.6%	62.5%	0.0%
Cook's PVI (D-R)					
Very red	5.4	34.7%	11.9%	53.4%	0.0%
Somewhat red	5.8	27.7%	11.3%	60.3%	0.7%
Lean red	6.2	30.8%	6.1%	62.8%	0.3%
Lean blue	6.3	24.8%	10.3%	64.8%	0.0%
Somewhat blue	6.7	20.9%	8.6%	70.1%	0.3%
Very blue	6.9	18.7%	10.8%	70.4%	0.0%

Q39. So, in conclusion, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
National	66.8%	32.6%	0.6%
Republicans	35.8%	64.2%	0.0%
Democrats	92.4%	6.2%	1.4%
Independents	68.1%	31.9%	0.0%
Cook's PVI (D-R)			
Very red	57.6%	41.1%	1.3%
Somewhat red	62.9%	37.1%	0.0%
Lean red	64.4%	34.8%	0.8%
Lean blue	68.1%	31.8%	0.1%
Somewhat blue	72.5%	26.8%	0.7%
Very blue	77.0%	22.2%	0.7%

(Q.40-48 released previously)