

## Poll Findings About Transmission

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### Attitudes About Transmission Infrastructure

#### Upgrading the electric grid and building new power lines are non-controversial, non-partisan priorities.

- Roughly four in five voters (81%) support “developing new energy transmission projects, such as power lines, to expand America’s power grid” when it is framed as a way to “strengthen America’s energy security.” [[Climate Power + Earthjustice + Data for Progress](#), Apr. 2023]
  - There is no difference in support for this proposal between Democrats (82%) and Republicans (82%).
- Three-quarters of voters (75%) support building “new high-voltage power lines” in the United States when it is framed as a way to “increase the availability of low-cost electricity to more Americans.” [[Data for Progress](#), Jan. 2023]
  - This idea attracts overwhelming support from both Democrats (75%) and Republicans (80%).

## Americans continue to support new power lines if they were to be built in their own communities.

- More than seven in ten voters support the idea of “building new high-voltage power lines” to “increase the availability of low-cost electricity to more Americans” whether they are told that these power lines would be built in the United States (75%), in their state (74%), or in their community (72%). [[Data for Progress](#), Jan. 2023]

## The idea of expediting the permitting process for power lines strikes voters as a common-sense solution.

- Nearly three-quarters of voters (74%) support expediting the permitting process for power lines after learning the following context: *“To successfully deliver clean energy from solar and wind farms to buildings and homes, we’ll need to build new, reliable electricity transmission projects, or power lines, to carry clean electricity across the country. Transmission projects have often been held up by the federal permitting process.”* [[Data for Progress](#), Sep. 2022]
  - Roughly four in five Democrats (79%) and nearly seven in ten Republicans (69%) support expediting the permitting process for power lines after learning this information.
- Roughly seven in ten voters (71%) support the Streamlining Interstate Transmission of Electricity (SITE) Act after reading that the bill would “reduce the amount of time it takes to approve new energy transmission projects, such as power lines, that go across state lines.” [[Data for Progress](#), Sep. 2022]
  - The SITE Act attracts support from large majorities of Democrats (79%) and Republicans (65%) based on this description.

## Attitudes About Clean Energy Transmission

### Proposals to build new power lines specifically to transport clean or renewable energy are popular, though Democrats are more likely to support them than Republicans.

- The majority of voters support building “high-voltage power lines to distribute clean energy” (58% support / 8% oppose), while an additional one-third (33%) say that they neither support nor oppose the idea. [[Yale + GMU](#), Dec. 2022]
  - Democrats (68% support / 6% oppose) are more likely to support building new high-voltage power lines for clean energy than Republicans (50% support / 11% oppose).
- Most Americans also support new power lines for clean energy when they are described as “significant public investments to build new, high-voltage power lines to carry renewable energy from areas where it is plentiful to areas where

demand is high” (56% support / 12% oppose). An additional 31% of Americans neither support nor oppose the idea. [[AP + NORC/EPIC](#), Jan. 2023]

- Just under half of Americans (48% support / 33% neither / 18% oppose) support building these new high-voltage power lines for renewable energy in their own neighborhoods, though they are still much more likely to support than oppose the idea.
- Democrats are more likely than Republicans to support new power lines for renewable energy both generally (73% of Democrats vs. 43% of Republicans) and in their own neighborhoods (61% of Democrats vs. 39% of Republicans).

### **There are some broad concerns about the electric grid’s capacity to handle the expansion of clean energy.**

- The majority of voters (62%) say that they are at least “somewhat” concerned about America’s electricity grid being able to handle the influx of renewable energy from new wind and solar energy farms. [[Data for Progress](#), Sep. 2022]
  - This concern is shared by majorities of Democrats (61%) and Republicans (66%).
- Concerns about grid capacity in the clean energy transition have also emerged in qualitative research. LCV and Climate Power reported the following finding from qualitative research about the clean energy transition that was conducted in December 2022: *“Upgrading the grid is an essential communications point: many voters—including clean energy enthusiasts—are highly skeptical the current grid can handle a widescale shift to electrification.”* [[LCV + Climate Power](#), Jan. 2023]

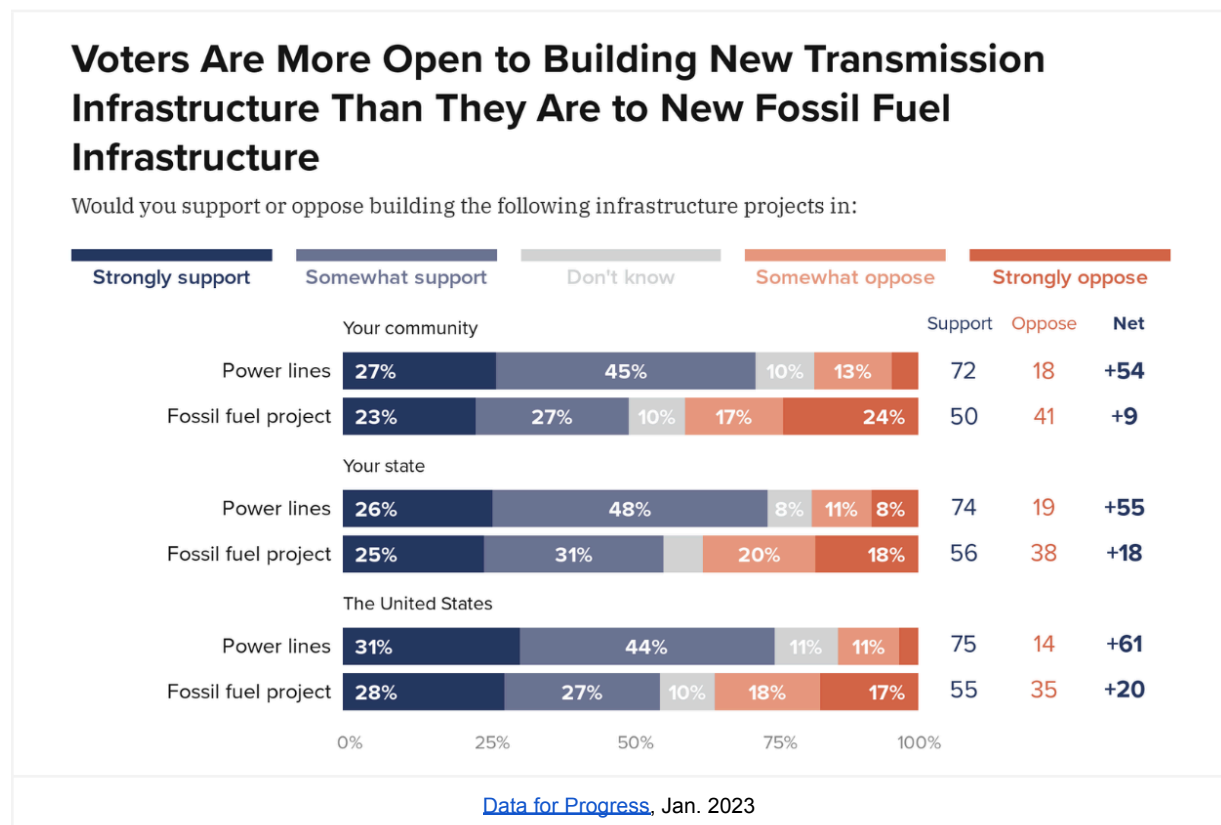
### **Americans are divided over the impact of clean energy expansion on grid reliability, as Democrats and Republicans tend to take opposing views.**

- Americans are slightly more likely to say that transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy will make the reliability of the electrical grid worse (38%) than to say that it will make the reliability of the electrical grid better (32%). An additional 29% of Americans say that the transition won’t have much of an effect on grid reliability either way. [[Pew](#), June 2023]
  - Democrats are more inclined to believe that the clean energy transition will have a positive impact on grid reliability (46% make better / 18% make worse), while the majority of Republicans say that it will make grid reliability worse (17% make better / 59% make worse).

**Upgrades to the electric grid rank among the most popular aspects of President Biden’s clean energy plan.**

- Roughly three-quarters of voters (76%) feel favorably about “upgrading the U.S. electric grid so it is able to handle much greater use, able to deliver more electricity from clean energy sources, and is more reliable during extreme weather” as a component of the clean energy plan that was passed by President Biden and Congress. [[LCV + Climate Power](#), Jan. 2023]
  - Nearly half of voters (47%) feel *very* favorably about this provision of the clean energy plan.
- Roughly seven in ten voters (72%) say that they would feel more positively about the expanded use of clean energy if it leads to major commitments to upgrade the electricity grid in their state, including two in five (41%) who say that this would make them feel *much* more positively about the expansion of clean energy. [[LCV + Climate Power](#), Jan. 2023]

**Charts**

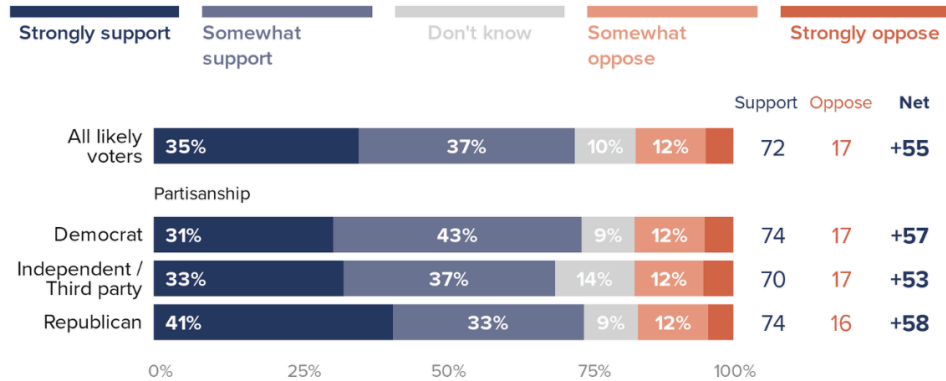


## Voters Widely Back Reducing Permitting Time for Interstate Power Lines

To reliably deliver electricity from where it's generated to buildings and homes, experts say we need to build new, high voltage power lines that cross state lines.

However, power lines that cross multiple states are often held up by a permitting process that takes about 10 years on average.

Knowing this, do you support or oppose reducing the amount of time it takes to approve new interstate power lines?

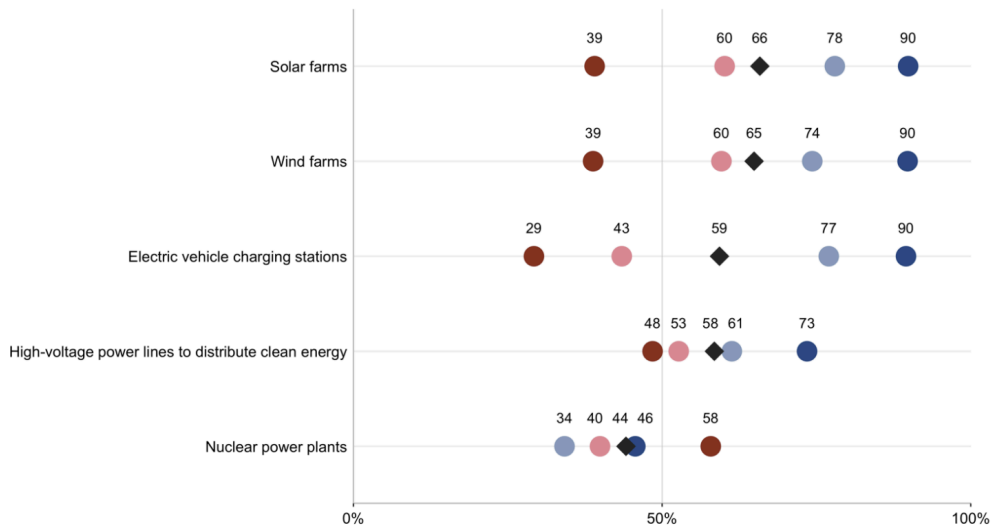


[Data for Progress](#), Jan. 2023

## A majority of registered voters support building climate-friendly energy production and distribution infrastructure in the U.S.

- % "strongly" or "somewhat" support -

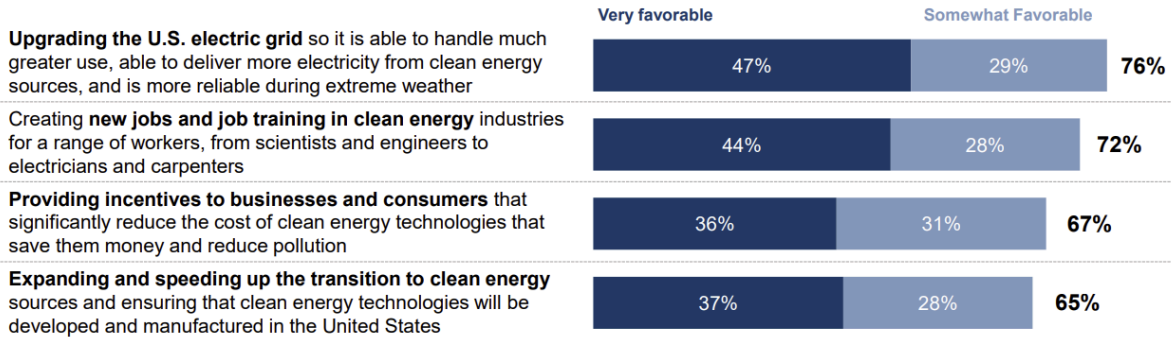
● Con R ● Lib/Mod R ● Mod/Con D ● Lib D ◆ All Reg Voters



[Yale + GMU](#), Dec. 2022

## Voters like each of the four main elements of the Clean Energy Plan, especially grid upgrades and clean energy jobs.

% view as favorable



[LCV + Climate Power](#), Jan. 2023

## Additional Resources

[Majorities of Americans Prioritize Renewable Energy, Back Steps to Address Climate Change \(Pew, June 2023\)](#)

[Memo: New Polling on Clean Energy and Permitting Reform \(Climate Power + Earthjustice + Data for Progress, May 2023\)](#)

[Americans' Views on Climate, Energy Policy, and Electric Vehicles \(AP + NORC/EPIC, Apr. 2023\)](#)

[Voters Support Building Electric Power Transmission Infrastructure \(Data for Progress, Mar. 2023\)](#)

[Voters' Attitudes About Clean Energy Policy, Development, and Expansion \(LCV + Climate Power, Feb. 2023\)](#)

[Climate Change in the American Mind: Politics & Policy \(Yale + GMU, Dec. 2022\)](#)

[To Unlock the Full Potential of the IRA, We Need to Make it Easier to Build Electricity Transmission Lines \(Senator Sheldon Whitehouse + Data for Progress, Oct. 2022\)](#)