

POLL: MOST NORTHEAST AND MID-ATLANTIC VOTERS WOULD PAY MORE TO HELP OTHERS WITH ENERGY BILLS

Huge numbers of people in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic struggle and sacrifice to afford energy bills—a fact most residents in the region understand and would even pay more to help rectify, a new poll commissioned by Energy Efficiency for All shows.*

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS LIVING IN THE NORTHEAST AND MID-ATLANTIC MAKE SACRIFICES SUCH AS FORGOING OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE SO THEY CAN PAY FOR ENERGY. IN PARTICULAR, THOSE WITH LOW INCOMES AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR REPORT MORE DIFFICULTY PAYING UTILITY BILLS AT HIGHER RATES.

The poll asked: *Would you say that you or your family must make sacrifices in terms of your monthly budget to afford your utility bills?*



7x as many people with incomes below \$40K report making serious sacrifices than people making \$80K or more.

2x

as many **BLACK COMMUNITIES** report making serious sacrifices to afford their utility bills compared to white communities.



Angela Gilltrap, a board member for a Harlem, New York low-income co-op, remembers a brutal winter when the building's boiler went out for five days during a blizzard. The co-op struggled to find the funds to replace the out-dated boiler and relied on a weatherization program for a replacement.

"You can never underestimate the joy of hot water until you have none"



NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC VOTERS WANT TO SEE PEOPLE TREATED FAIRLY AND EQUITABLY. KEEPING RENTERS ON AN EVEN FOOTING IS VERY POPULAR.



Make sure low-income renters are getting the same benefits as everyone else when it comes to energy-efficiency programs.

88%



FAVOR

10%



OPPOSE

*These findings and recommendations are based on a poll of N=1,600 registered voters, including N=400 in the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic (New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia) conducted from June 26 through July 1, 2018 via landline and cellphone. The margin of error for each region is +/- 4.9%.

FORTUNATELY, MOST AMERICANS FAVOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS AND UTILITY COMPANIES' EFFORTS TO OFFER THEM.

Out of 400 people questioned, the following proposals received majority support across demographic, generational, racial and regional lines:



Require utility companies to provide financial incentives to help customers with limited incomes cover the cost of energy-saving improvements to their homes.

75%  FAVOR

21%  OPPOSE



Require all low-income rental homes to meet a minimum standard of energy and water efficiency.

79%  FAVOR

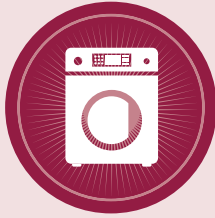
19%  OPPOSE



Provide technological tools for landlords to monitor their buildings' energy usage, letting landlords know how they can better manage energy use.

80%  FAVOR

17%  OPPOSE



Create financial incentives for landlords of low-income-homes to make energy efficiency improvements like better insulation and more energy-efficient appliances.

79%  FAVOR

16%  OPPOSE

EVEN WHEN ASKED TO PAY, A MAJORITY OF VOTERS IN THE NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC SUPPORT THE PROPOSALS.

Most voters are willing to pay for energy efficiency improvements for households of limited income.



59%

OF VOTERS SUPPORT

Helping low-income and working-class households make their homes more energy efficient, by adding **FIFTY CENTS** to every customer's monthly electric bill.



47%

OF VOTERS SUPPORT

Helping low-income and working-class households make their homes more energy efficient, by adding **ONE DOLLAR** to every customer's monthly electric bill.