TOPLINES

Department of Energy Policy Survey

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Rainey Center



Online sample of 1,853 respondents fielded over web panels from May 10-12, 2025 and weighted to education, age, gender, race, and 2024 election results. The margin of error is +/- 2.8.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the Department of Energy?

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Very Favorable	9	14	6	8
Somewhat Favorable	27	28	27	26
Somewhat Unfavorable	19	16	19	21
Very Unfavorable	9	8	8	12
Not Sure	36	34	40	34
Favorable	36	41	33	34
Unfavorable	28	24	27	33
Net Support	8	17	6	1

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Chris Wright is doing as Secretary of Energy?

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Approve	5	2	5	9
Somewhat Approve	14	9	12	20
Somewhat Disapprove	10	11	10	8
Strongly Disapprove	12	23	11	3
Not Sure	59	55	62	60
Approve	19	11	17	29
Disapprove	22	34	21	10
Net Support	-3	-23	-4	19

Below are some reforms that have been proposed to the Department of Energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the reform.
Make staff retention and promotion decisions based on merit, rather than time served at the Department of Energy.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	27	21	27	34
Somewhat Support	30	30	30	29
Somewhat Oppose	8	12	5	5
Strongly Oppose	5	7	4	3
Not Sure	30	29	34	28
Support	57	51	57	63
Oppose	13	20	9	8
Net Support	44	31	47	55

Below are some reforms that have been proposed to the Department of Energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the reform.
Recruit more staff from the private sector rather than academia.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	14	9	13	20
Somewhat Support	26	20	23	34
Somewhat Oppose	12	17	12	9
Strongly Oppose	9	17	8	3
Not Sure	38	38	44	34
Support	40	28	36	54
Oppose	22	34	20	11
Net Support	18	-6	16	43

Below are some reforms that have been proposed to the Department of Energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the reform.
Integrate more closely with the private sector.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	14	10	12	20
Somewhat Support	31	26	30	36
Somewhat Oppose	10	14	8	6
Strongly Oppose	7	12	8	3
Not Sure	38	38	43	35
Support	45	36	42	56
Oppose	17	26	16	9
Net Support	28	11	26	47

Below are some reforms that have been proposed to the Department of Energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the reform.
Allow Department of Energy employees to use artificial intelligence in their day to day work.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	7	7	7	8
Somewhat Support	23	22	22	25
Somewhat Oppose	18	21	13	20
Strongly Oppose	16	16	18	14
Not Sure	35	34	40	33
Support	30	28	29	33
Oppose	34	37	31	34
Net Support	-4	-9	-2	-1

Below are some reforms that have been proposed to the Department of Energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the reform.
Standardize applications for funding across the entire Department of Energy.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	17	15	17	20
Somewhat Support	34	32	34	37
Somewhat Oppose	7	9	4	6
Strongly Oppose	4	5	4	4
Not Sure	38	39	41	34
Support	52	47	51	57
Oppose	11	14	8	10
Net Support	41	33	43	47

Below are some reforms that have been proposed to the Department of Energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the reform.
Simplify agreements for when companies license Department of Energy intellectual property.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	13	10	13	16
Somewhat Support	30	28	31	32
Somewhat Oppose	8	12	4	8
Strongly Oppose	4	7	4	2
Not Sure	44	43	48	42
Support	43	38	44	48
Oppose	13	19	8	10
Net Support	31	19	36	38

Below are some reforms that have been proposed to the Department of Energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the reform.
Guarantee all companies an up or down grant approval within one year.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	12	12	9	14
Somewhat Support	28	28	28	28
Somewhat Oppose	9	9	7	10
Strongly Oppose	6	6	6	5
Not Sure	45	44	50	42
Support	40	40	36	42
Oppose	15	16	13	15
Net Support	25	25	23	27

Below are some reforms that have been proposed to the Department of Energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the reform.
Work with private banks to put more risk in private hands, rather than on taxpayers.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	18	12	17	24
Somewhat Support	28	23	29	32
Somewhat Oppose	8	12	6	6
Strongly Oppose	9	14	7	5
Not Sure	38	39	41	34
Support	46	35	46	56
Oppose	17	26	13	11
Net Support	29	10	33	45

Below are some ways that the Department of Energy spends money. For each say whether you support or oppose it.
Funding long range science, also called basic science.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	12	12	9	14
Somewhat Support	28	28	28	28
Somewhat Oppose	9	9	7	10
Strongly Oppose	6	6	6	5
Not Sure	45	44	50	42
Support	40	40	36	42
Oppose	15	16	13	14
Net Support	25	25	23	27

Below are some ways that the Department of Energy spends money. For each say whether you support or oppose it.
Directly researching energy and physics.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	30	38	29	22
Somewhat Support	31	27	32	34
Somewhat Oppose	7	6	6	10
Strongly Oppose	5	6	4	6
Not Sure	27	23	30	28
Support	61	65	61	56
Oppose	13	12	9	16
Net Support	48	53	51	41

Below are some ways that the Department of Energy spends money. For each say whether you support or oppose it.
Helping businesses adopt and use new technology.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	28	34	27	23
Somewhat Support	34	33	33	36
Somewhat Oppose	8	6	10	9
Strongly Oppose	6	6	5	6
Not Sure	23	20	25	25
Support	63	68	60	60
Oppose	14	12	15	16
Net Support	48	55	45	44

Below are some ways that the Department of Energy spends money. For each say whether you support or oppose it.
Scaling tested technologies across sectors.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	18	22	17	15
Somewhat Support	26	26	26	28
Somewhat Oppose	7	8	5	8
Strongly Oppose	6	6	5	6
Not Sure	42	38	47	44
Support	45	48	43	43
Oppose	13	14	10	13
Net Support	32	33	33	30

Below are some sources of energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the Department of Energy supporting the energy source with research and loans. Solar

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	40	52	40	26
Somewhat Support	27	24	24	32
Somewhat Oppose	8	3	10	11
Strongly Oppose	6	2	5	10
Not Sure	20	18	21	20
Support	66	76	64	58
Oppose	14	6	15	22
Net Support	52	70	49	37

Below are some sources of energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the Department of Energy supporting the energy source with research and loans. Wind

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	34	48	33	21
Somewhat Support	25	24	23	28
Somewhat Oppose	10	5	13	14
Strongly Oppose	9	3	9	16
Not Sure	21	20	22	21
Support	59	72	56	49
Oppose	20	8	22	30
Net Support	39	64	34	19

Below are some sources of energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the Department of Energy supporting the energy source with research and loans. Geothermal

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	24	28	24	20
Somewhat Support	25	24	25	27
Somewhat Oppose	5	5	7	5
Strongly Oppose	5	4	4	6
Not Sure	41	39	41	43
Support	49	52	48	46
Oppose	10	9	11	11
Net Support	39	43	38	36

Below are some sources of energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the Department of Energy supporting the energy source with research and loans. Nuclear

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	22	16	21	29
Somewhat Support	22	23	21	21
Somewhat Oppose	13	15	15	9
Strongly Oppose	15	16	14	14
Not Sure	29	31	30	28
Support	44	39	42	50
Oppose	27	30	28	23
Net Support	17	9	14	27

Below are some sources of energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the Department of Energy supporting the energy source with research and loans. Battery Storage

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	25	33	23	19
Somewhat Support	28	30	27	27
Somewhat Oppose	7	4	8	8
Strongly Oppose	8	6	5	11
Not Sure	32	27	36	35
Support	53	63	50	46
Oppose	14	10	13	19
Net Support	39	53	37	27

Below are some sources of energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the Department of Energy supporting the energy source with research and loans. Natural Gas

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	29	20	26	41
Somewhat Support	32	35	31	31
Somewhat Oppose	9	14	11	3
Strongly Oppose	7	8	7	5
Not Sure	22	23	25	19
Support	62	55	57	73
Oppose	16	22	18	8
Net Support	46	33	39	64

Below are some sources of energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the Department of Energy supporting the energy source with research and loans. Oil

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	23	13	18	38
Somewhat Support	26	23	26	30
Somewhat Oppose	12	16	14	7
Strongly Oppose	14	22	16	4
Not Sure	24	26	26	21
Support	49	36	43	67
Oppose	26	39	31	11
Net Support	23	-3	13	56

Below are some sources of energy. For each, say whether you support or oppose the Department of Energy supporting the energy source with research and loans. Coal

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	6	5	4	9
Somewhat Support	9	7	10	11
Somewhat Oppose	8	8	9	6
Strongly Oppose	10	14	10	6
Not Sure	66	66	67	66
Support	16	13	14	21
Oppose	18	22	19	13
Net Support	-2	-9	-5	8

Do you support or oppose the Department of Energy's Loan Program Office? This provides loans and loan guarantees to help deploy new energy technology including geothermal and nuclear energy.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	17	20	16	15
Somewhat Support	29	30	27	31
Somewhat Oppose	10	8	10	11
Strongly Oppose	7	7	7	6
Not Sure	37	35	41	36
Support	47	50	42	47
Oppose	17	15	16	18
Net Support	30	34	26	29

Some people have proposed cutting funding for the Department of Energy's Loan Program Office, which provides loans and loan guarantees to help deploy new energy technology including geothermal and nuclear energy. Do you believe the Loan Program Office budget should be cut, kept the same or increased?

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Cut	11	6	11	15
Kept the Same	35	37	33	35
Increased	16	25	13	9
Not Sure	38	32	43	41

Do you support or oppose Congress and the White House reducing the bureaucracy of paperwork and red tape to make it easier for the private sector to engage with the national labs and the Department of Energy?

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	17	9	18	24
Somewhat Support	32	30	30	34
Somewhat Oppose	14	18	11	11
Strongly Oppose	9	14	10	5
Not Sure	29	29	32	26
Support	48	39	48	58
Oppose	23	32	20	16
Net Support	25	8	28	41

Do you support or oppose making it easier for the private sector to engage with the federal government to turn basic and applied research and development into commercial opportunities?

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	15	11	16	19
Somewhat Support	36	32	36	41
Somewhat Oppose	12	16	13	9
Strongly Oppose	8	11	5	6
Not Sure	28	30	30	25
Support	52	43	52	60
Oppose	20	26	18	15
Net Support	32	17	34	45



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