



To: All Interested Parties

Re: **Poll Highlights: Pennsylvanians Place a Premium on Protection/Preservation of State Parks/Forests; Support Efforts to Protect State Parks and Forests from Data Center Development and New Energy Infrastructure**

## OVERVIEW & SURVEY METHODOLOGY

APRIL 21, 2026

Susquehanna Polling and Research, Inc., **rated the #1 most accurate polling firm in the USA** by Real Clear Politics for its 2020 presidential polling in numerous battleground states, and more recently **rated #2 for a composite ranking of national polls from 2014-2022**<sup>1</sup>, released its latest Pennsylvania Statewide Voter Attitude Survey on behalf of the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation, testing attitudes and opinions towards protection and preservation of state parks and forests and the extent to which parks and forests should be protected from data center development and new energy infrastructure. The poll is a random sample of 705 likely Pennsylvania voters - weighted to state Census data and balanced by geographic region, age, political party affiliation and other factors. Conducted March 9-17 using live telephone agents, the poll has a margin of error of +/-3.7% at the 95% confidence level.

## CONCLUSION #1: PA VOTERS PLACE A PREMIUM ON STATE PARKS/FORESTS; WANT CONTINUED STATE FUNDING TO BE A PRIORITY OF STATE GOVERNMENT

A combined **ninety-four (94) percent** of Pennsylvania likely voters believe state parks and forests are either “very” or “somewhat” important to quality of life and the overall state of Pennsylvania – including 85% “**very**” important. This strong affirmation exists regardless of whether or not respondents are regular visitors to state parks and forests.

A combined **eighty-six (86) percent** of Pennsylvania likely voters believe state funding for state parks and forests should be a priority of state government – including 50% who “**strongly**” agree. Agreement that state funding should be a priority is broad-based and bipartisan and includes majorities of voters in key demographic groups, such as:

- Strong support across **all political parties**, including 87% of **Republicans**, 85% of **Democrats** and 86% of **independent** voters, and
- Strong support among 87% of **male** and 85% of **female** voters, and
- Strong support across **all lines of ethnicity**, including 79% of **black** voters, 87% of **Latino** voters and 86% of **white** voters, and
- Strong support across **all geographic regions** of the state, including 72% in the Northwest/Erie media market, 88% in the Southwest/Pittsburgh market, 94% in the conservative Central “T”, 87% in the Northeast/Wilkes-Barre/Scranton media market, 84% in the South Central/Harrisburg media market, 85% in the Southeast collar counties, 80% in Allegheny County and 88% in Philadelphia.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.realclearpolitics.com/rcp-pollster-scorecard/>

## CONCLUSION #2: PA VOTERS SUPPORT EFFORTS TO PROTECT STATE PARKS AND FORESTS FROM DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT AND NEW ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

By an overwhelming 79:11 margin, strong majorities of likely voters support the requirement to create a buffer or “setback” for the construction of data centers near state parks or forests to protect the natural and recreational value of these lands (such as water resources, wildlife, sound quality and dark skies) – even if it means the new buffers would increase the costs of data centers. Support for these buffers is broad based and bipartisan, such as:

- Strong support across **all political parties**, including 79% of **Republicans**, 82% of **Democrats** and 70% of **independent** voters, and
- Strong support among 79% of both **male** and **female** voters, and
- Strong support across **all lines of ethnicity**, including 85% of **black** voters, 99% of **Latino** voters and 77% of **white** voters, and
- Strong support across **all geographic regions** of the state, including 72% in the Northwest/Erie media market, 71% in the Southwest/Pittsburgh market, 81% in the conservative Central “T”, 82% in the Northeast/Wilkes-Barre/Scranton media market, 82% in the South Central/Harrisburg media market, 78% in the Southeast collar counties, 74% in Allegheny County and 89% in Philadelphia.

In a related question, 78% of Pennsylvania likely voters agree [that] new energy and/or other utility infrastructure such as towers, transmission lines and pipelines) should avoid protected lands such as state parks and forests. Only 10% disagree. Agreement is broad based and bipartisan and includes strong majorities of voters in key demographic groups.

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