

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERVIEWS: Curtis Labban 336-906-0429

Gas tax holiday, offshore drilling prove to be popular among N.C. voters

Raleigh, N.C. – Gas prices are on the rise and a large portion of the public seems to be hoping for a summer break in the gas tax, according to the latest survey by Public Policy Polling.

The most recent poll found that 58% of North Carolina voters would support a break in the gas tax during the summer, opposed to only 29% who would be opposed.

This is somewhat surprising, considering that when voters were asked whether or not they thought offshore drilling would alleviate gas prices, the results were split with 41% saying yes and 41% saying no.

Among those who thought offshore drilling would alleviate gas prices, 50% were men and 33% were women. The contrast is even higher when looking at the gender difference between those who support drilling off the coast of North Carolina, in which the percentage of men was 18% higher than women.

“With rising energy costs having such a direct and negative impact on voters, it’s not surprising that so many people want a break from the gas tax. The real question, though, is whether voters understand the economics behind this energy crisis enough to make a well-informed decision,” says Curtis Labban, a summer fellow at PPP.

In the midst of this energy crisis voters are placing large importance on the energy and economic policies of both presidential candidates, with 70% and 82% of voters saying that these policies will have a strong impact on their vote, respectively.

Another effect the energy crisis has had is the increase in conservation habits among voters. 70% of voters say that the increase in gas prices has had a strong impact on their attempts to conserve energy. This coupled with the fact that 57% of voters would like to see a future increase in renewable energy could mean that the energy crisis has sparked a permanent change in the habits of voters as they relate to energy consumption.

PPP surveyed 648 likely voters on June 30th and July 1st. The survey’s margin of error is +/- 3.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

For an interview about this release please contact Curtis Labban of PPP at 336-906-0429.



Energy Crisis Survey

Q1 Do you believe that allowing oil companies to drill off of US shorelines would have an immediate effect in alleviating gas prices? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

Yes41% Not Sure.....17%
No41%

Q2 Do you support allowing drilling off the coast of North Carolina? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

Yes.....54% Not Sure.....20%
No26%

Q3 Would you support a plan during the summer to temporarily suspend the North Carolina gas tax? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

Yes58% Not Sure.....14%
No29%

Q4 With regards to your daily commute, have you begun to use, or placed more of an effort to use public transportation? If you have begun to use public transportation in your daily commute as a result of increasing gas prices, press 1. If you already used public transportation but are using it more as a result of increasing gas prices, press 2. If you could use public transportation but do not, press 3. If public transportation is not available where you live, press 4.

Begun to use..... 8% Do not use..... 31%
Increased use..... 13% Not Available..... 48%

Q5 Do you use any form of carpooling as a way to save money on gas? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

Yes34% No66%

Q6 If you drive a vehicle, have you considered selling or trading it in for one with better gas mileage? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2.

Yes42% No58%

Q7 How much of an impact has the rise in gas prices had on your attempts to conserve energy in your daily life? If it has had a strong impact, press 1. If it has had a weak impact, press 2. If it has had no impact at all, press 3.

Strong Impact70% No Impact 5%
Weak Impact.....25%

Q8 With rising concern for the negative impact fossil fuels have had on the environment, would you support a larger shift toward nuclear energy as the primary source of power supply or would you be more likely to support forms of energy production with renewable resources, like wind-powered energy production? If you would be more likely to support a larger shift toward nuclear energy, press 1. If you would be more likely to support forms of energy productions with renewable resources, press 2. If you believe a combination of the two should be used, press 3. If you believe our current energy sources are fine, press 4.

Support Nuclear Energy..... 30%
Support Renewable Resources 57%
Supports Combination of Both..... 13%
Status quo..... 1%





Q9 How much of an impact will energy policy have on your presidential vote in November? If it will have a strong impact, press 1. If a weak impact, press 2. If no impact at all, press 3.

Strong Impact 70%

Weak Impact..... 17%

No Impact 13%

Q10 How much of an impact will economic policy have on your presidential vote in November? If it will have a strong impact, press 1. If a weak impact, press 2. If no impact at all, press 3.

Strong Impact 82%

Weak Impact..... 9%

No Impact 9%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 50%

Man..... 50%

Q12 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

Democrat 47%

Republican..... 36%

Other..... 17%

Q13 If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

White 77%

African-American 20%

Other..... 3%

Q14 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29..... 11%

30 to 45..... 29%

46 to 65..... 37%

Older than 65..... 23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Immediate effect on gas			
Yes	41%	33%	50%
No	41%	48%	34%
Not Sure	17%	19%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Offshore Drilling			
Yes	54%	45%	63%
No	26%	32%	20%
Not Sure	20%	23%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Suspend gas tax			
Yes	58%	60%	55%
No	29%	23%	34%
Not Sure	14%	16%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Public Transportation			
Begun to use	8%	6%	10%
Increased use	13%	12%	14%
Do not use	31%	31%	31%
Not Available	48%	52%	45%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Carpooling			
Yes	34%	39%	29%
No	66%	61%	71%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Vehicle Change			
Yes	42%	41%	44%
No	58%	59%	56%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Energy Conservation			
Strong Impact	70%	73%	66%
Weak Impact	25%	22%	28%
No Impact	5%	5%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Energy Preferences			
Support Nuclear Energy	30%	19%	41%
Support Renewable Resources	57%	67%	46%
Supports Combination of Both	13%	14%	12%
Status quo	1%	1%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Energy Policy			
Strong Impact	70%	70%	70%
Weak Impact	17%	16%	17%
No Impact	13%	14%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Economic Policy			
Strong Impact	82%	82%	81%
Weak Impact	9%	10%	9%
No Impact	9%	8%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Immediate effect on gas				
Yes	41%	32%	58%	32%
No	41%	46%	29%	52%
Not Sure	17%	21%	13%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Offshore Drilling				
Yes	54%	42%	73%	47%
No	26%	34%	13%	30%
Not Sure	20%	23%	14%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Suspend gas tax				
Yes	58%	55%	67%	46%
No	29%	27%	23%	46%
Not Sure	14%	18%	11%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Public Transportation				
Begun to use	8%	9%	7%	5%
Increased use	13%	13%	13%	13%
Do not use	31%	32%	27%	38%
Not Available	48%	47%	53%	44%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Carpooling				
Yes	34%	35%	30%	42%
No	66%	65%	70%	58%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Vehicle Change				
Yes	42%	43%	42%	41%
No	58%	57%	58%	59%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Energy Conservation				
Strong Impact	70%	73%	68%	64%
Weak Impact	25%	20%	28%	32%
No Impact	5%	6%	4%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Energy Preferences				
Support Nuclear Energy	30%	21%	39%	32%
Support Renewable Resources	57%	65%	46%	56%
Supports Combination of Both	13%	12%	14%	12%
Status quo	1%	1%	1%	-

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Energy Policy				
Strong Impact	70%	70%	69%	72%
Weak Impact	17%	16%	15%	22%
No Impact	13%	14%	16%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Economic Policy				
Strong Impact	82%	84%	78%	83%
Weak Impact	9%	8%	12%	9%
No Impact	9%	8%	11%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Immediate effect on gas				
Yes	41%	42%	39%	45%
No	41%	44%	30%	47%
Not Sure	17%	14%	32%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Offshore Drilling				
Yes	54%	57%	41%	59%
No	26%	28%	20%	26%
Not Sure	20%	15%	39%	15%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Suspend gas tax				
Yes	58%	59%	52%	54%
No	29%	30%	23%	36%
Not Sure	14%	11%	25%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Public Transportation				
Begun to use	8%	6%	14%	13%
Increased use	13%	13%	11%	21%
Do not use	31%	29%	39%	36%
Not Available	48%	52%	36%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Carpooling				
Yes	34%	34%	35%	27%
No	66%	66%	65%	73%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Vehicle Change				
Yes	42%	43%	41%	35%
No	58%	57%	59%	65%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Energy Conservation				
Strong Impact	70%	67%	82%	59%
Weak Impact	25%	29%	11%	31%
No Impact	5%	4%	7%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Energy Preferences				
Support Nuclear Energy	30%	34%	14%	31%
Support Renewable Resources	57%	53%	73%	46%
Supports Combination of Both	13%	12%	14%	23%
Status quo	1%	1%	-	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Energy Policy				
Strong Impact	70%	70%	68%	74%
Weak Impact	17%	17%	16%	15%
No Impact	13%	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Economic Policy				
Strong Impact	82%	80%	86%	79%
Weak Impact	9%	10%	5%	15%
No Impact	9%	9%	9%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Immediate effect on gas					
Yes	41%	39%	40%	49%	33%
No	41%	41%	49%	35%	42%
Not Sure	17%	20%	12%	16%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Offshore Drilling					
Yes	54%	47%	55%	55%	55%
No	26%	25%	32%	24%	24%
Not Sure	20%	28%	13%	22%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Suspend gas tax					
Yes	58%	55%	59%	65%	46%
No	29%	24%	34%	24%	33%
Not Sure	14%	21%	7%	12%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Public Transportation					
Begun to use	8%	13%	8%	7%	6%
Increased use	13%	15%	17%	10%	11%
Do not use	31%	40%	28%	26%	38%
Not Available	48%	31%	46%	57%	45%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Carpooling					
Yes	34%	44%	33%	32%	35%
No	66%	56%	67%	68%	65%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Vehicle Change					
Yes	42%	56%	51%	39%	30%
No	58%	44%	49%	61%	70%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Energy Conservation					
Strong Impact	70%	72%	72%	71%	65%
Weak Impact	25%	19%	23%	25%	31%
No Impact	5%	9%	5%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Energy Preferences					
Support Nuclear Energy	30%	27%	24%	30%	37%
Support Renewable Resources	57%	59%	67%	56%	45%
Supports Combination of Both	13%	13%	8%	14%	16%
Status quo	1%	-	1%	-	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Energy Policy					
Strong Impact	70%	82%	72%	69%	63%
Weak Impact	17%	10%	20%	18%	14%
No Impact	13%	7%	8%	13%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Economic Policy					
Strong Impact	82%	88%	84%	83%	73%
Weak Impact	9%	4%	10%	9%	12%
No Impact	9%	7%	6%	8%	15%

