The Maryland Climate Coalition commissioned a representative statewide voter poll to measure perceptions of fossil fuels and the level of support for a proposal to double Maryland’s clean energy requirement to 40% by 2025. A total of 800 Maryland voters were interviewed by telephone October 4-8, 2014.

Overwhelmingly, Maryland voters (70%) believe fossil fuels are harmful to people’s health. One-quarter (25%) see fossil fuels as “very harmful,” and 45% see them as “somewhat harmful” to health.

“When it comes to fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, how harmful do you believe they are to our health? Very harmful, somewhat harmful, not that harmful, or not harmful at all?”

OpinionWorks, LLC of Annapolis, Maryland conducted this public opinion survey for the Maryland Climate Coalition. A total of 800 randomly-selected likely voters were interviewed by telephone October 4-8, 2014 statewide. Both landlines and cell phones were included in the survey sample. The margin of sampling error is ±3.5% at the 95% confidence level.

OpinionWorks conducts frequent opinion studies in Maryland and the surrounding states. We have been the polling organization for The Baltimore Sun since 2007, and have polled for numerous other media throughout the region. We work for state and local agencies throughout the Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, and Mountain West, and for a variety of non-profit and for-profit entities within the region and nationally.
FACT SHEET
MARYLAND VOTER POLL ON CLIMATE ISSUES

A strong majority – more than two-thirds of voters (69%) – said they are likely to support a proposal to double Maryland’s clean energy requirement at a cost approaching $2 per month for the average home electricity bill. Forty-three percent (43%) said they are very likely to support that proposal.

“Maryland today gets most of its electricity from fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas. Current state law requires that more of our electricity each year come from clean sources like wind and solar, leading to 20% clean electricity statewide by 2022. There is a proposal to go further, doubling that requirement so that 40% of our electricity comes from clean sources like wind and solar by 2025, adding less than $2 per month to the average home electricity bill. Would you be very likely, somewhat likely, not that likely or not at all likely to support this proposal?”

(Numbers may not always appear to add correctly due to rounding.)

By two-to-one, voters are more likely to support an elected official during the next election who votes to double Maryland’s clean energy requirement.

“If your elected officials voted for this proposal to double Maryland’s clean electricity requirement over the next decade, would that make you much more likely to support them the next time they are up for re-election, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely or much less likely?”