



**Alaska
Venture Fund**

Energy Issues & Transition

Alaska Public Opinion Survey Results & Tracking

survey conducted by:



Methodology

- **Field Dates**

- September 4-7, 2024

- **Sample**

- N=406, Statewide Alaskan residents, age 18 or older
- Interview quotas by location, age and gender

- **Interview Method**

- 51% live interviewer phone surveys & 49% text message invites to online version of questionnaire

- **Margin of Error**

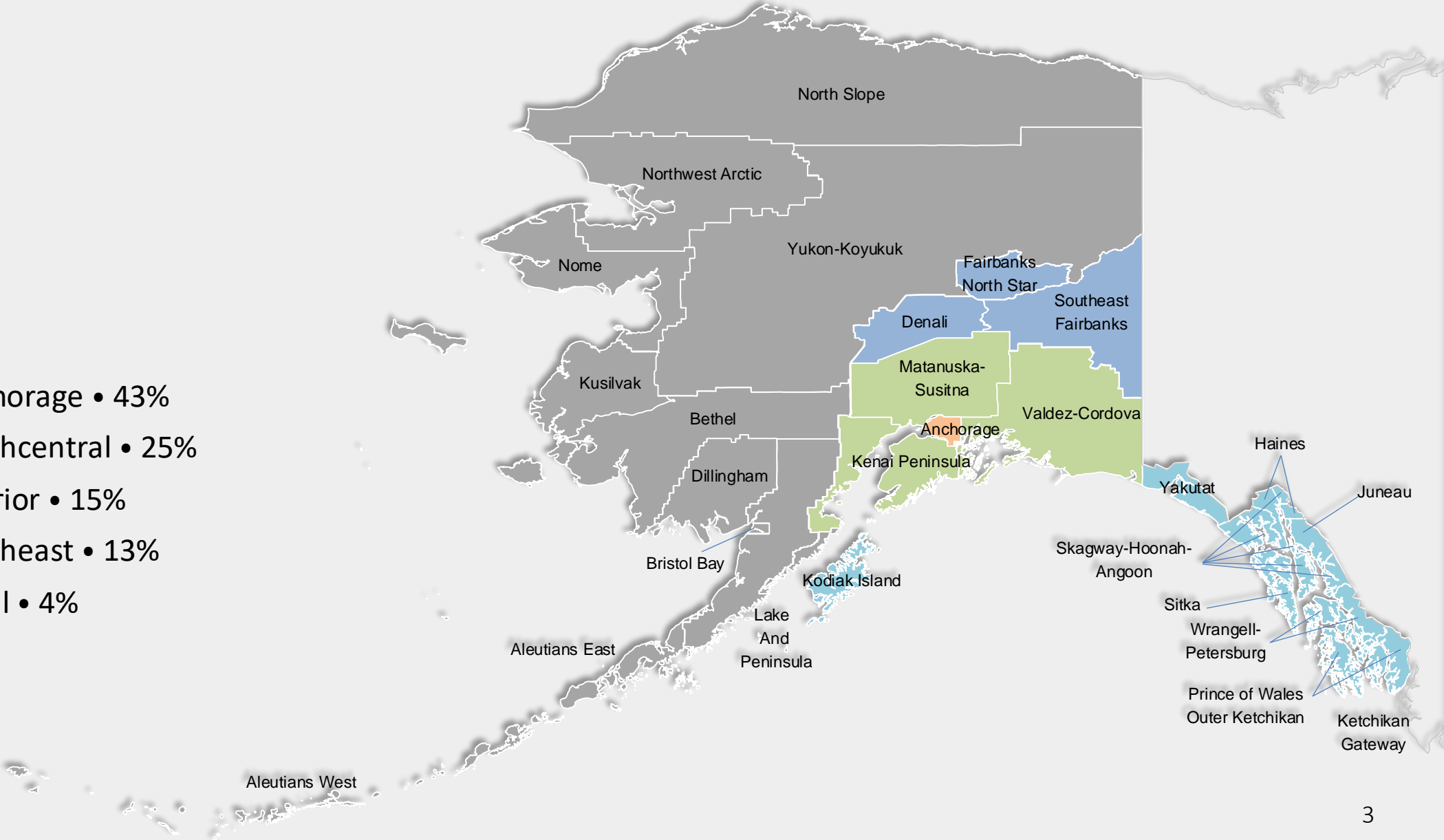
- $\pm 4.9\%$ at 95% confidence interval for total sample

- **Tracking**

- Tracking provided where applicable from April 28 – May 3, 2023 statewide survey, live interviewers, n=405, margin of error= $\pm 4.9\%$

Geographic Representation

- Anchorage • 43%
- Southcentral • 25%
- Interior • 15%
- Southeast • 13%
- Rural • 4%

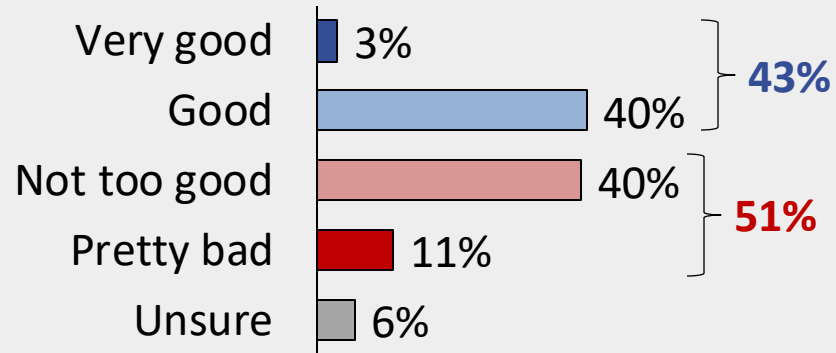


Economy

Alaska Public Opinion Survey Results

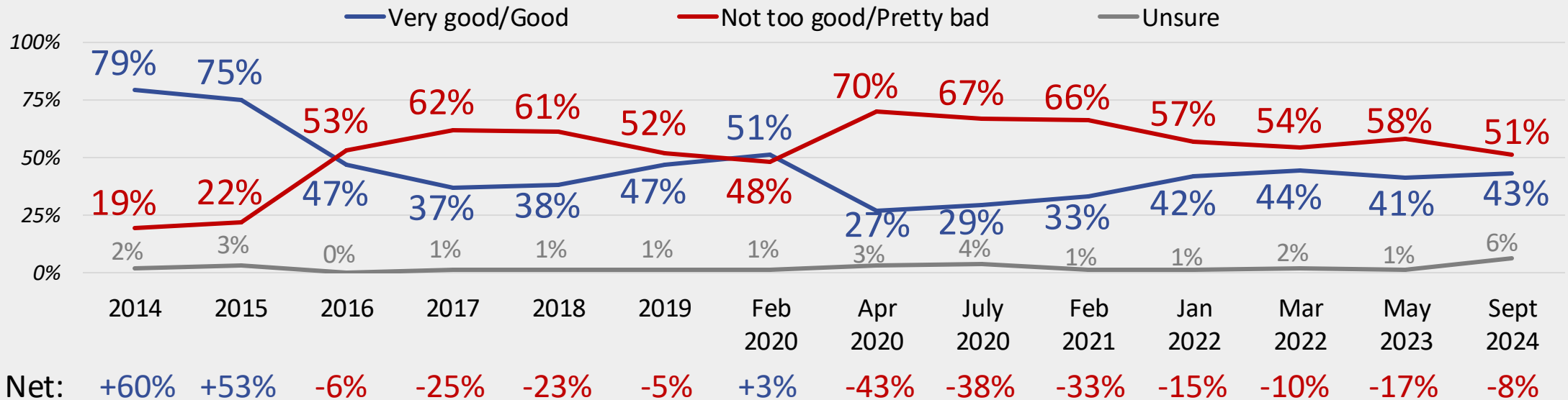
Alaska's current economy

Generally speaking, how would you rate Alaska's current economy?



Most Alaskans continue to report Alaska's economy as not too good or pretty bad, although by the narrowest margin in over 4 years.

Best ideas for AK	Total Good	Total Not good
	Republicans	31%
Democrats	59%	38%
Neither	43%	46%

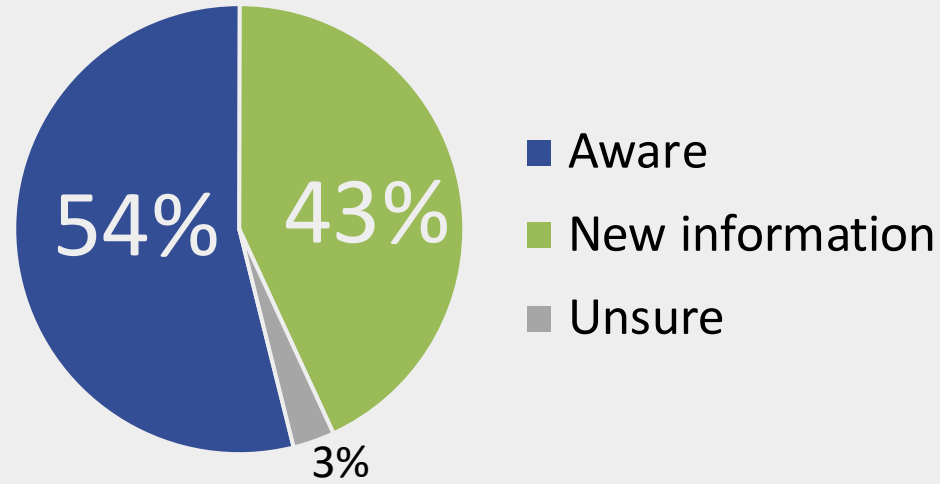


Gas Shortage

Alaska Public Opinion Survey Results

Awareness of impending natural gas shortage

Are you aware of the impending natural gas shortage in Southcentral Alaska, or is this new information?



Statewide, over half of Alaskans (54%) are aware of the impending natural gas shortage in Southcentral.

Awareness is considerably higher in Southcentral (65%), and tracks close to the baseline in Anchorage (56%).

In other locations, awareness is still relatively high with around two-out-of-five residents aware (37-43%).

<u>Location</u>	<u>Aware</u>	<u>New info</u>
Anchorage	56%	40%
Southcentral	65%	32%
Interior	37%	62%
Southeast	43%	54%

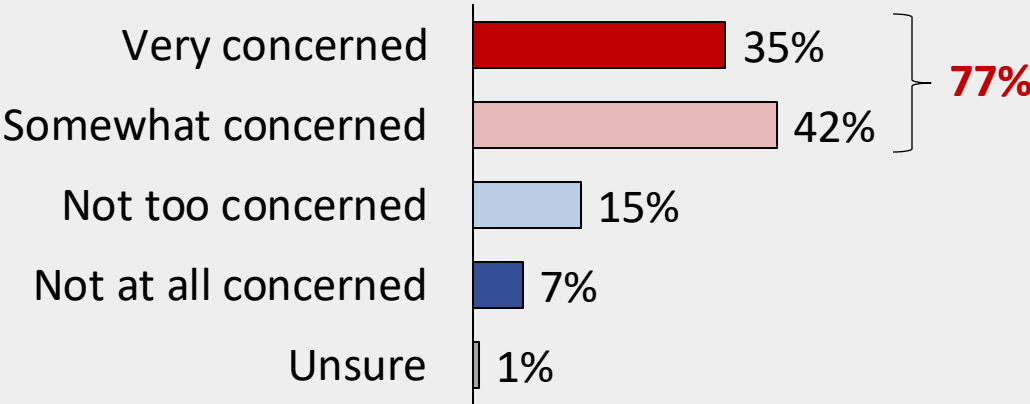
<u>Household income</u>	<u>Aware</u>	<u>New info</u>
<\$60K	36%	61%
\$60-99K	57%	39%
\$100K+	61%	37%

Concern regarding impending natural gas shortage

Alaska uses a variety of sources to generate electricity, such as oil, hydroelectric, coal, wind and natural gas. The majority of Alaska’s electricity is produced using natural gas from the Cook Inlet in Southcentral Alaska. Southcentral’s natural gas company, ENSTAR, projects that as early as 2025, the supply of natural gas in Cook Inlet will not be sufficient for in-state energy needs. How concerned are you about the natural gas shortage?

Over three-quarters of Alaskans (77%) are at least somewhat concerned with the impending natural gas shortage.

Total concern and those “very concerned” is greater in the Southcentral region and Anchorage.



Location	Total Concern	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned
Anchorage	84%	34%	50%
Southcentral	85%	51%	34%
Interior	69%	19%	50%
Southeast	56%	27%	29%

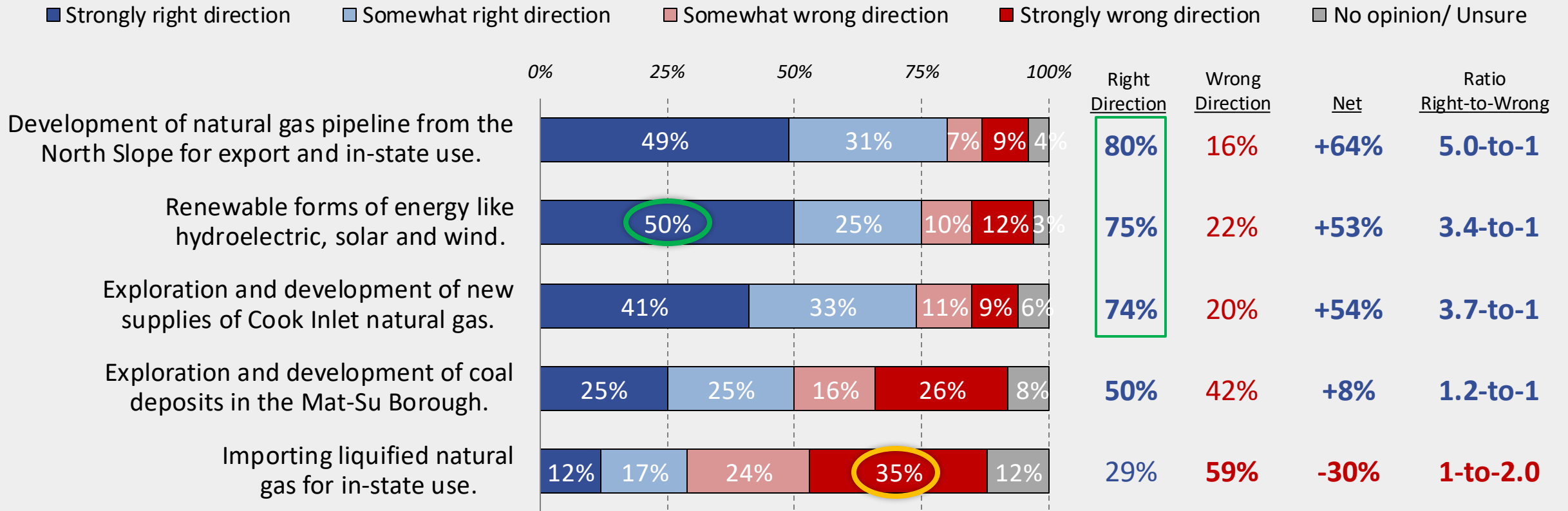
Meeting Energy Needs

Alaska Public Opinion Survey Results

Meeting future energy needs

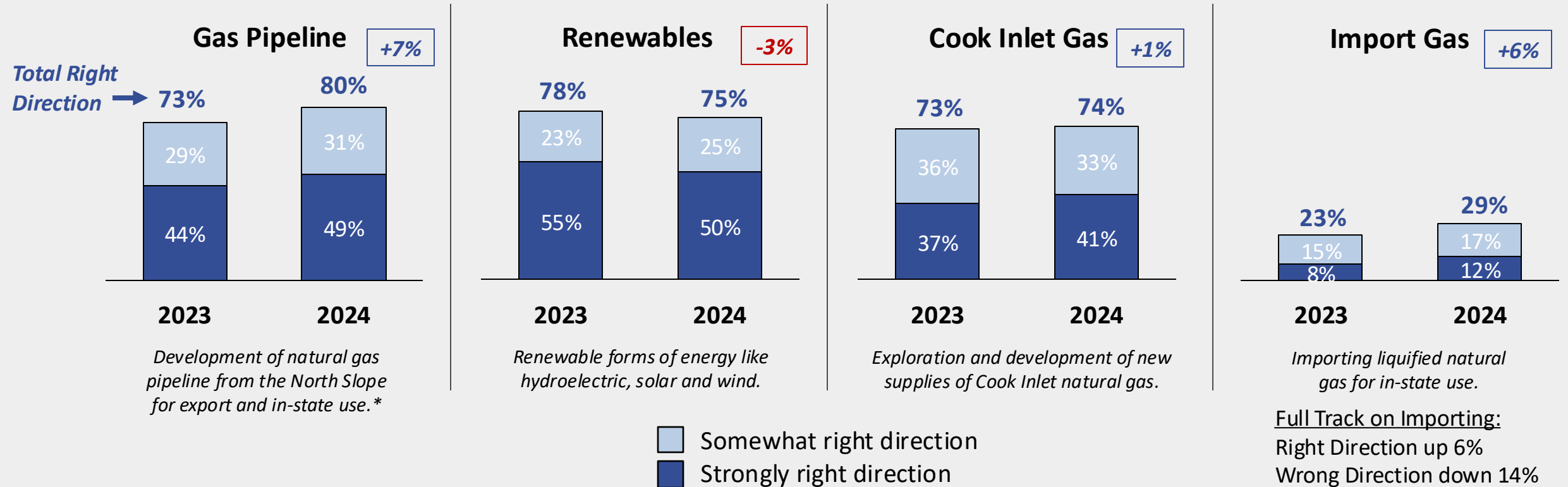
Now I'm going to read several areas where the State of Alaska could spend tax dollars to help meet Alaska's future energy needs. For each, please tell me whether you think it would be the right or wrong direction for Alaska?

Should the state pursue a gasline from the North Slope, renewables, or new supplies of Cook Inlet gas, the vast majority of Alaskans (74-80%) would likely support it. Coal is viewed positively by a small margin. Importing LNG is viewed as the wrong direction for Alaska by a margin of 2-to-1.



Meeting future energy needs – Tracking

The view that renewable forms of energy are the right direction for Alaska has decreased slightly (-3%) since May 2023. Views on all other proposals improved slightly.

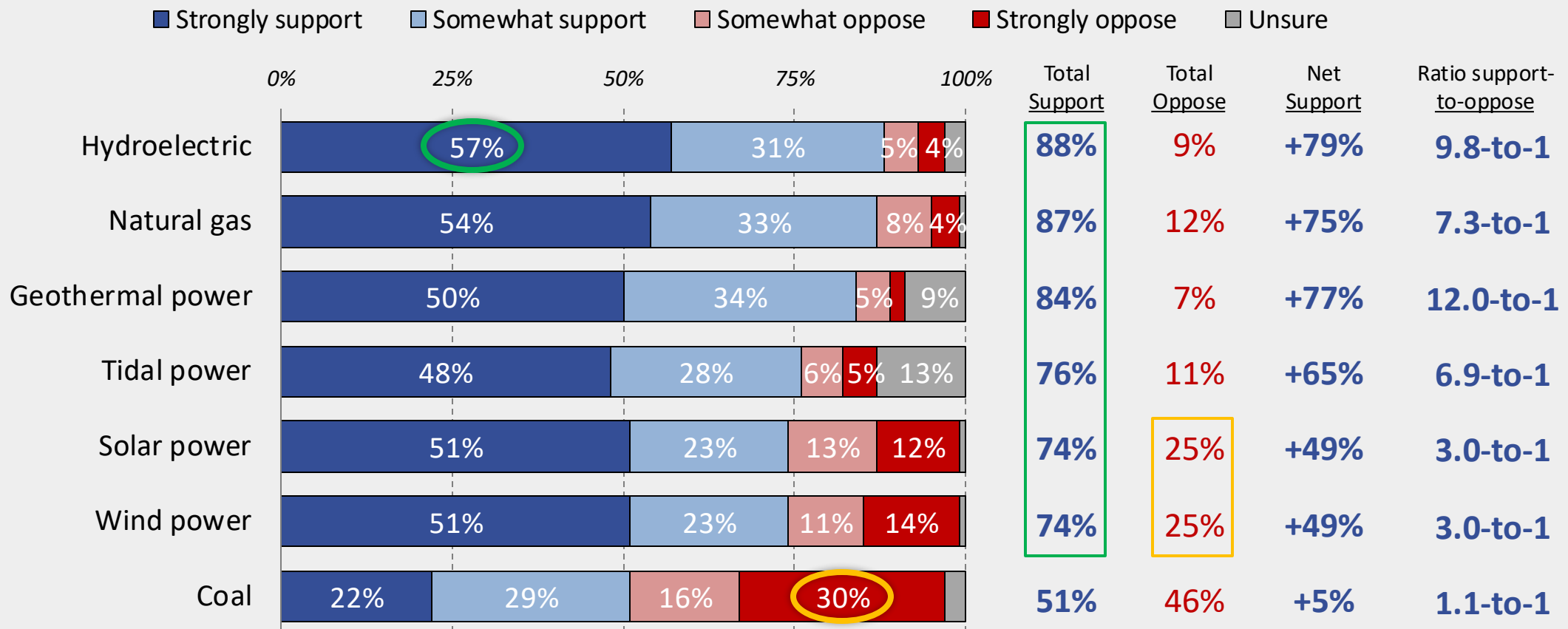


Full Track on Importing:
 Right Direction up 6%
 Wrong Direction down 14%
 Unsure up 8%

Sources of energy to prioritize in Alaska

I'm going to read a list of energy sources. For each one, please tell me if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose prioritizing the development and use of it as a source of energy in Alaska.

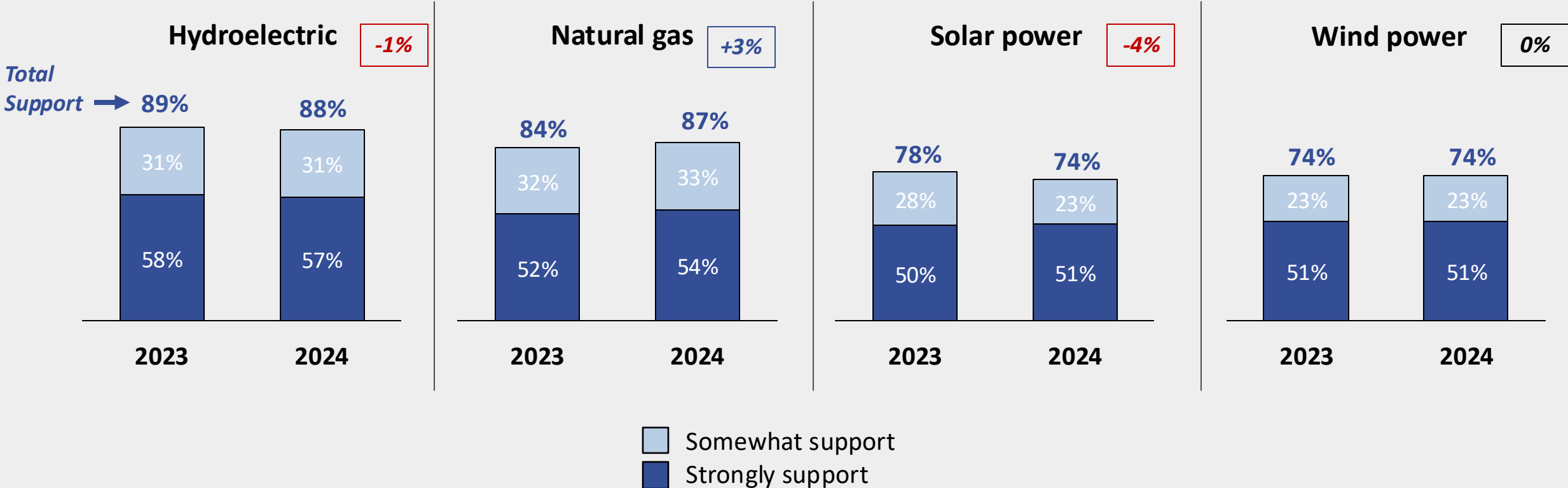
All tested types of renewable energy are supported by wide margins. Hydroelectric is most supported among renewables and overall. Wind and solar are viewed very similarly overall and have higher negatives than natural gas and the other forms of renewable energy.



Sources of energy to prioritize in Alaska – Tracking

I'm going to read a list of energy sources. For each one, please tell me if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose prioritizing the development and use of it as a source of energy in Alaska.

Total support the difference energy sources has changed very little since May 2023.



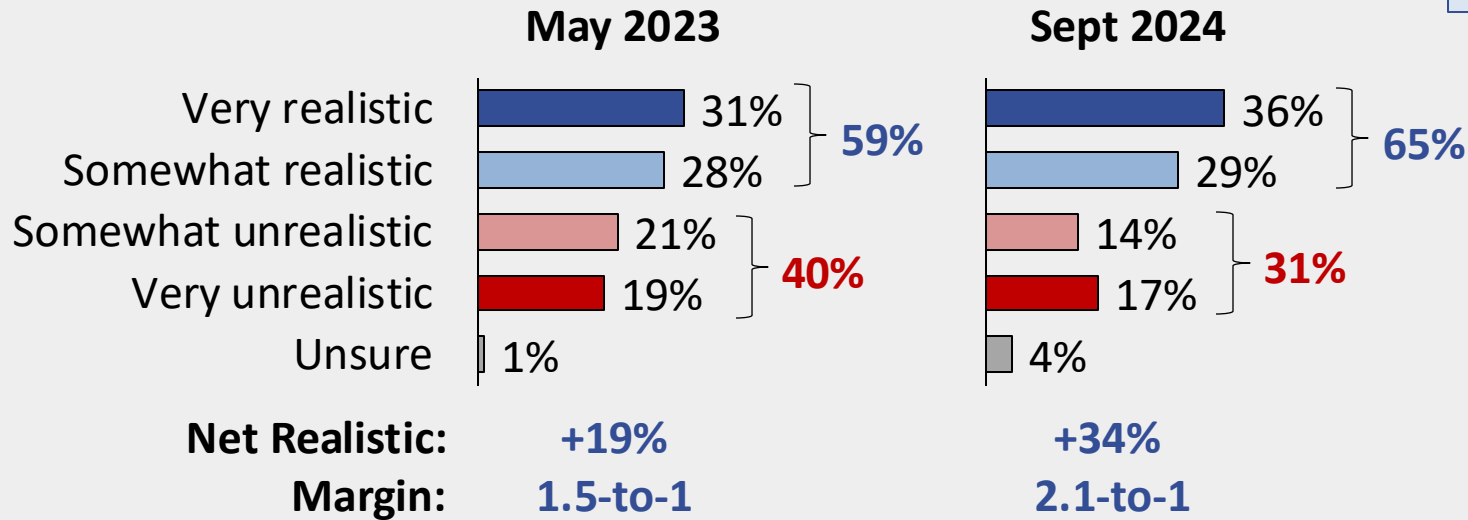
Renewables Transition

Alaska Public Opinion Survey Results

Is moving Alaska to primarily renewables realistic?

Do you think it's realistic that Alaska could use primarily renewable sources of energy?

Change in Realistic: +6%



The view that using primarily renewable source of energy is realistic in Alaska has increased to approximately two-thirds.

This view has increased across most subgroups.

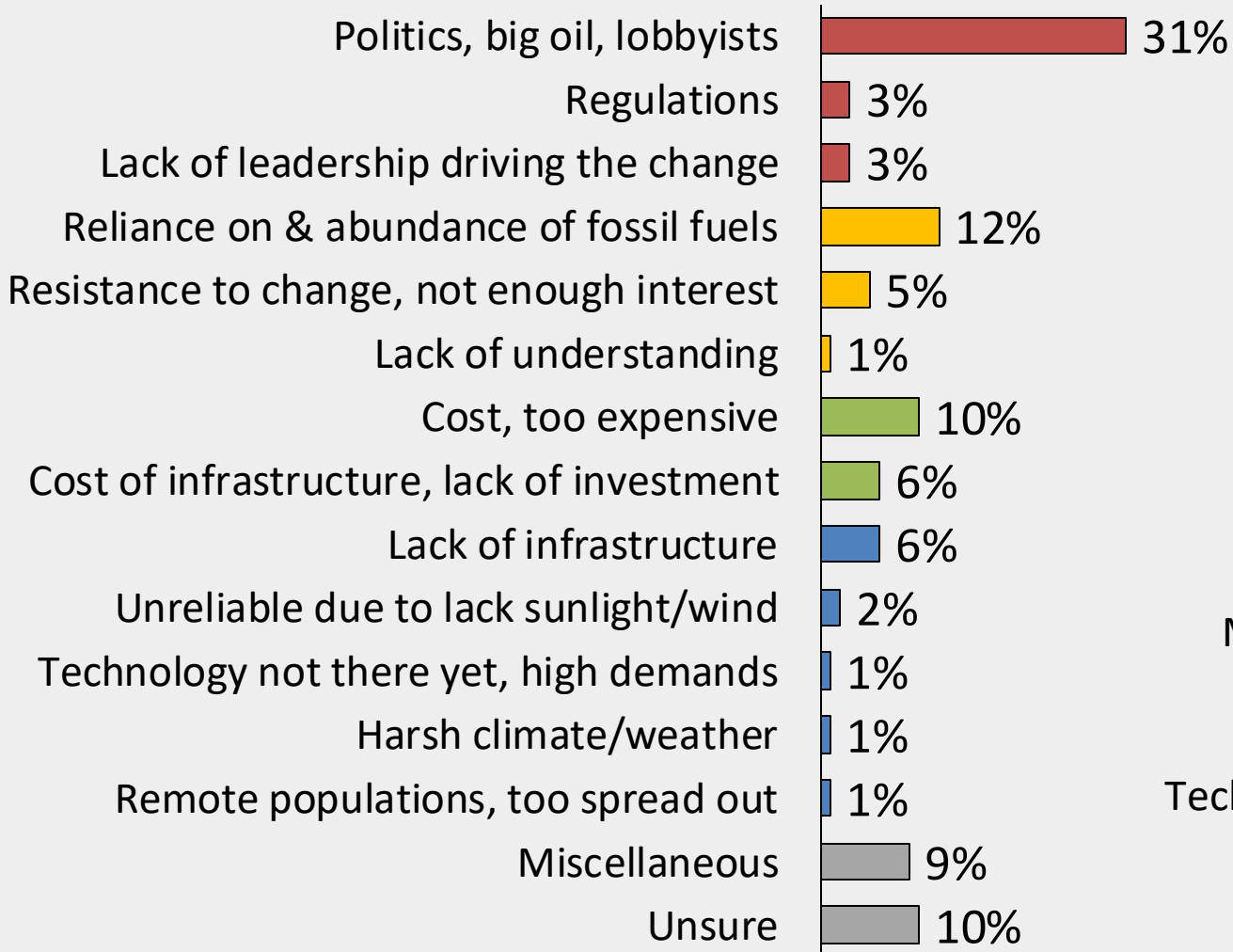
Location	Total Realistic	Total Not Realistic	Net Realistic	Δ in Realistic since '23
Anchorage	65%	30%	+35%	+3%
Southcentral	56%	40%	+16%	+12%
Interior	60%	39%	+21%	+7%
Southeast	84%	14%	+70%	+14%

Education	Total Realistic	Total Not Realistic	Net Realistic	Δ in Realistic since '23
HS/GED or less	80%	15%	+65%	+9%
Some college/tech	72%	23%	+49%	+18%
College graduate	59%	38%	+21%	+3%
Graduate school	61%	36%	+25%	+3%

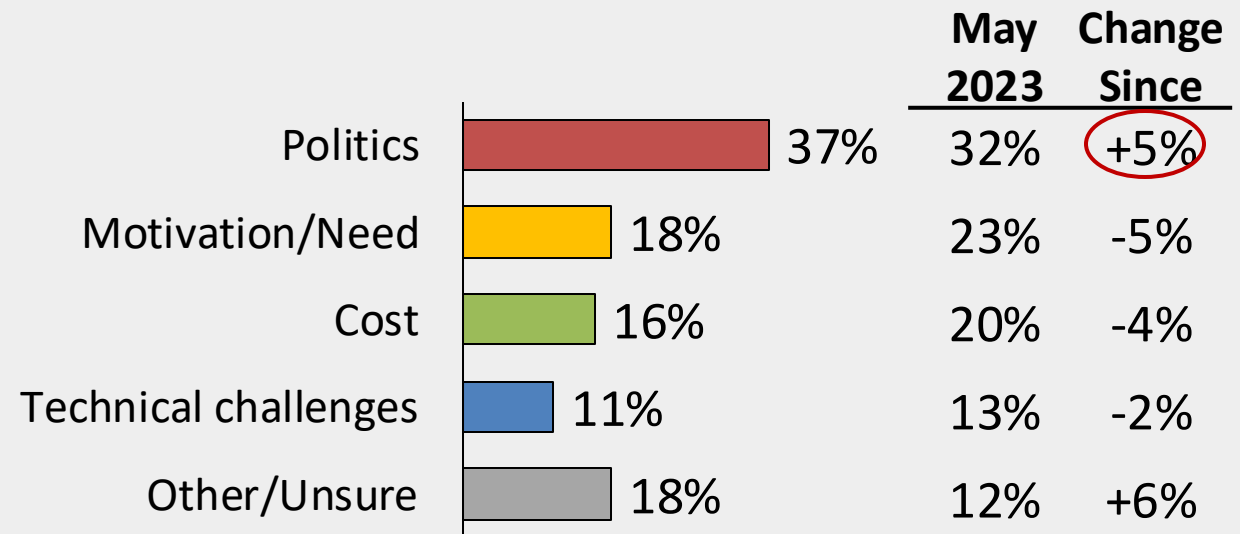
Why is Alaska not already using more renewables?

And why do you think Alaska is not currently using more renewable sources of energy?

Coded verbatim comments among 65% who think moving to primarily renewables is **realistic**



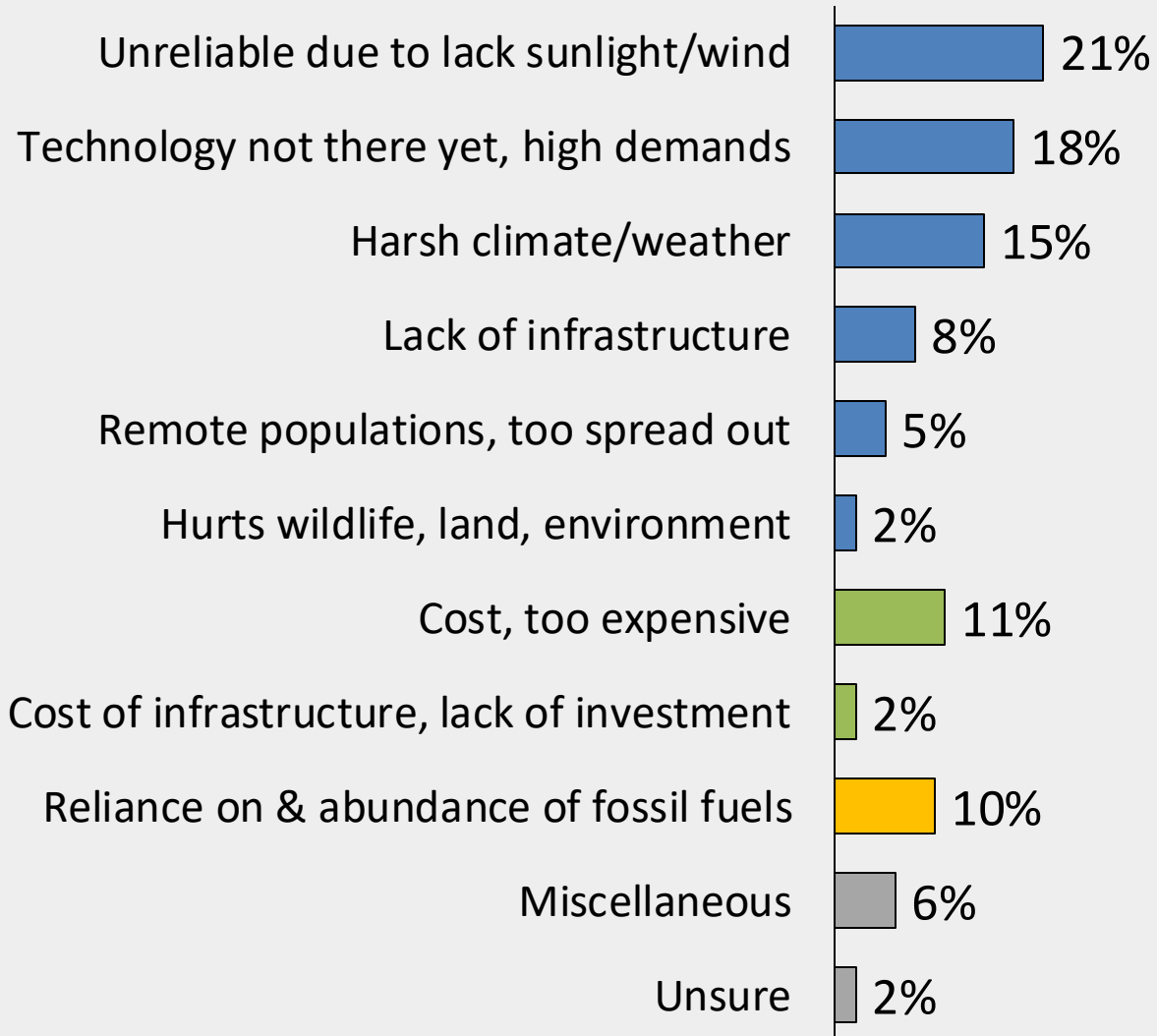
“Politics” continues to be the most common reason given for why moving to renewables isn’t realistic, and the percentage reporting political reasons has increased.



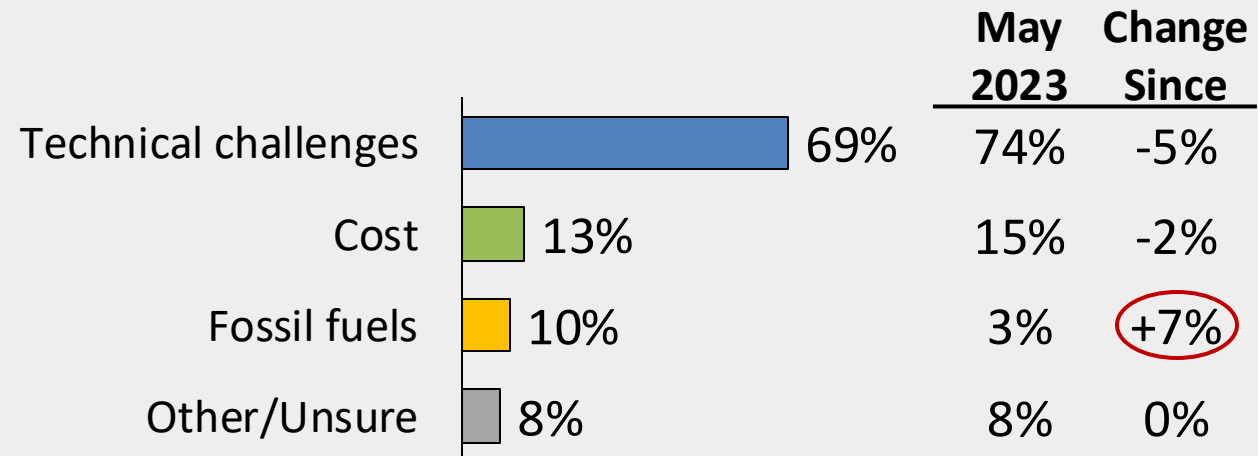
Why is using primarily renewable unrealistic?

And what's the main reason you think it's unrealistic?

Coded verbatim comments among 31% who think moving to primarily renewables is **not realistic**



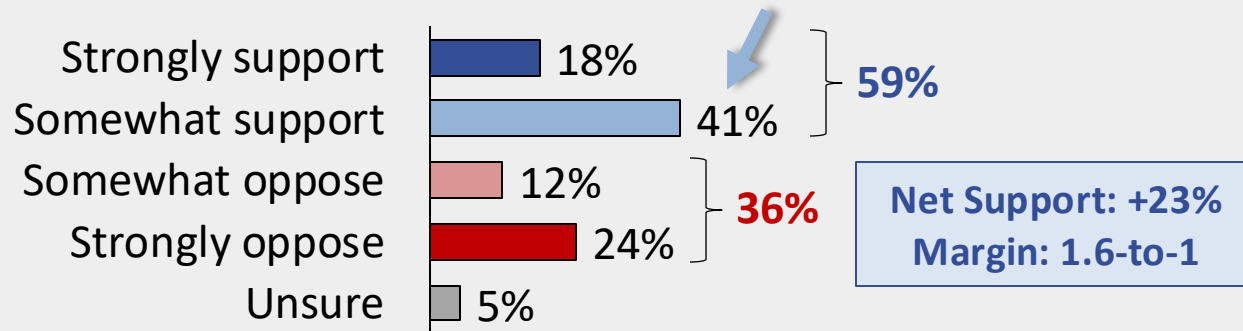
“Technical challenges” by far remain the top reason people think moving to renewables is unrealistic. There has been a slight shift toward “reliance on & abundance of fossil fuels”.



Importing natural gas while building renewables

In the event that Cook Inlet natural gas supplies are not enough in the near term to meet Southcentral's energy needs. Would you support or oppose importing natural gas from outside of Alaska as a temporary solution while renewable energy sources are built to meet long-term demand?

Approximately three-fifths (59%) support importing gas as a temporary solution while renewables are built. This represents a 30% increase over baseline views on importing gas (29% viewed as right direction).



Location	Total Support	Total Opposed	Net Support
Anchorage	64%	31%	+33%
Southcentral	53%	42%	+11%
Interior	52%	40%	+12%
Southeast	57%	33%	+24%

Best ideas for AK	Total Support	Total Opposed	Net Support
Republicans	35%	60%	-25%
Neither	73%	21%	+52%
Democrats	68%	27%	+41%

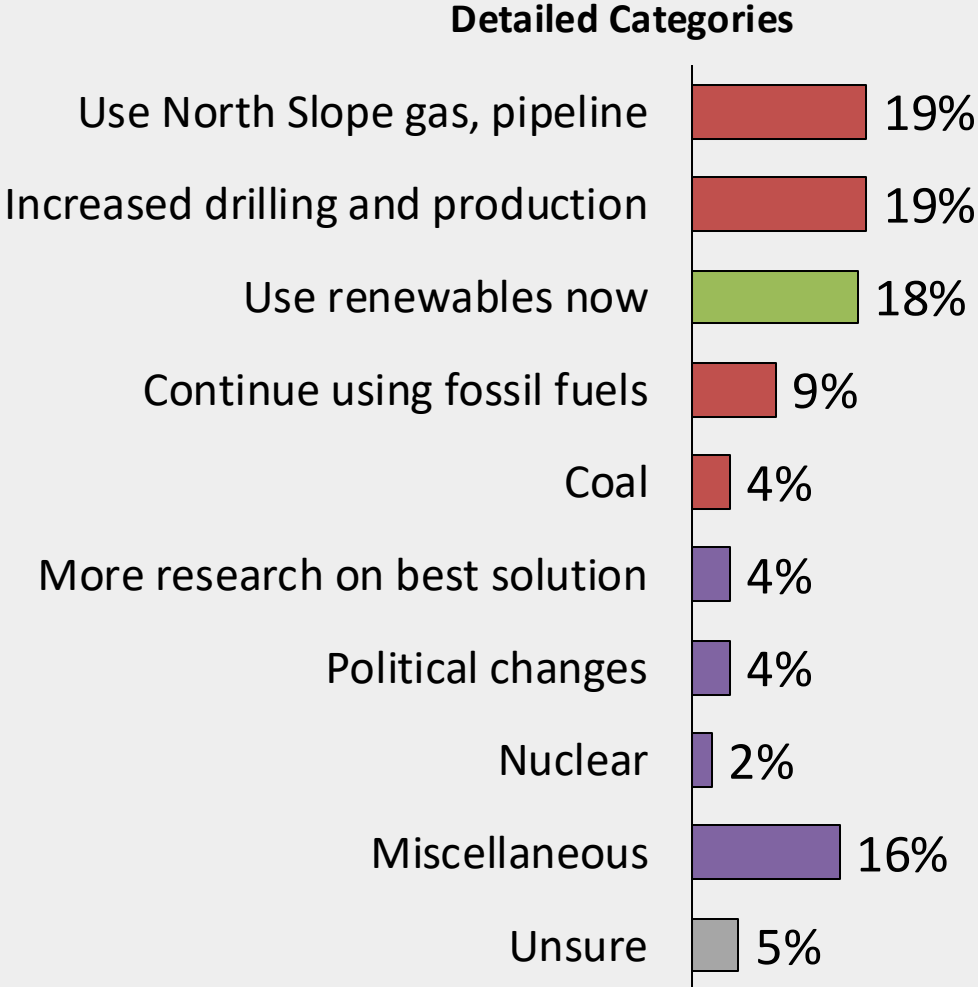
Ideology	Total Support	Total Opposed	Net Support
Very conservative	30%	64%	-34%
Smwht conservative	50%	48%	+2%
Moderate	71%	24%	+47%
Somewhat liberal	72%	25%	+47%
Very liberal	58%	32%	+26%

Importing LNG Baseline	Total Support	Total Opposed	Net Support
Right direction	84%	16%	+68%
Wrong direction	46%	50%	-4%
Unsure	59%	16%	+43%

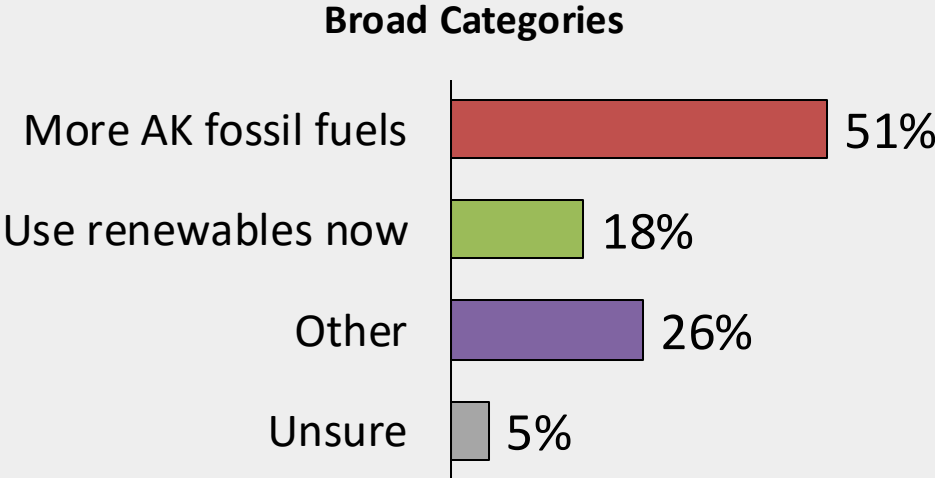
Solution to near term energy needs

What would you propose as a potential solution to meeting near term energy needs?

Coded verbatim comments among 36% who oppose imported gas while building renewables

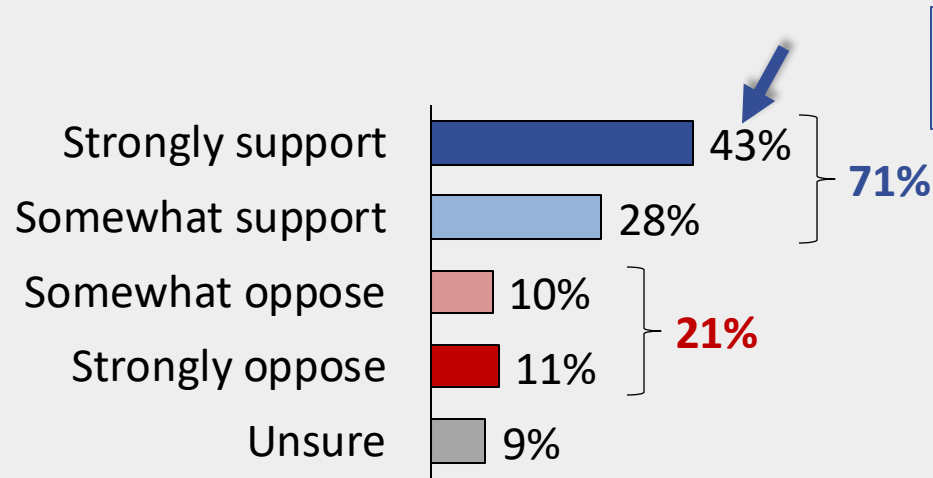


Among the 36% who oppose the idea of using imported gas while building renewables (a conservative leaning population), just over half (51%) say that using more of Alaska’s fossil fuels is the best way to meet short term energy needs.



\$500 million for energy grid modernization, renewables projects

Do you support or oppose the State of Alaska issuing a \$500 million bond to upgrade and modernize its energy grid system and to construct renewable energy projects across the state?



Net Support: +51%
Margin: 3.4-to-1

There is considerable support (71%) for a large bond to progress renewable energy projects in Alaska – and a plurality (43%) are in “strong support”.

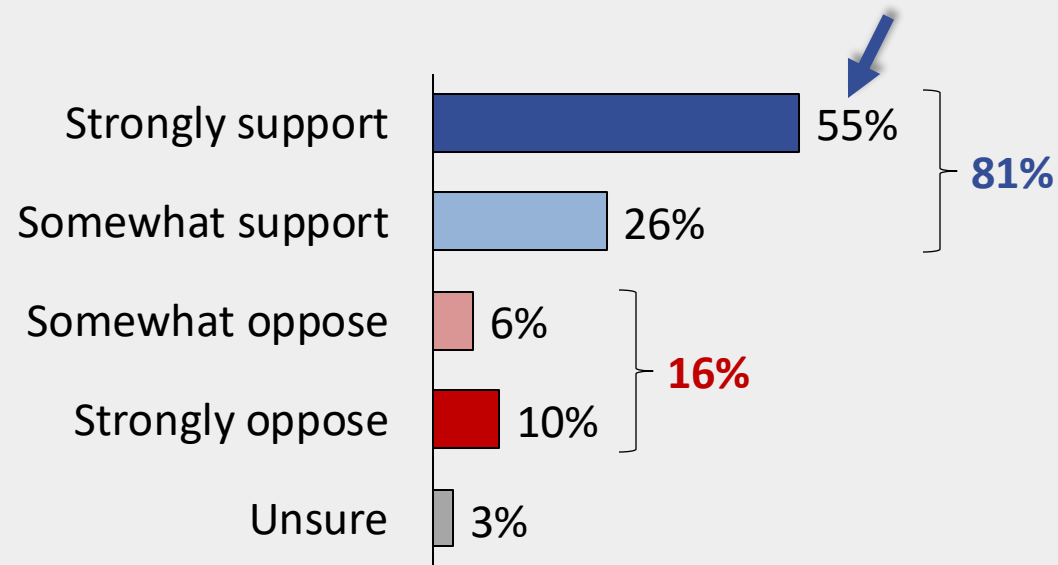
Location	Strongly Support	Total Support	Total Oppose	Net Support
Anchorage	44%	71%	19%	+52%
Southcentral	39%	69%	23%	+46%
Interior	34%	64%	31%	+33%
Southeast	59%	86%	10%	+76%

Grant use to fund renewables

Most of the renewable energy projects active in Alaska today were partly funded through state and federal grants. Do you support or oppose the use of grant funding to help develop renewable energy projects in Alaska?

Approximately four-out-of-five Alaskans (81%) support the use of state and federal grant funding as a means to develop renewable energy projects in Alaska. More than half (55%) strongly support it.

Large majorities across all key subgroups support the use of grants to fund renewable energy projects.

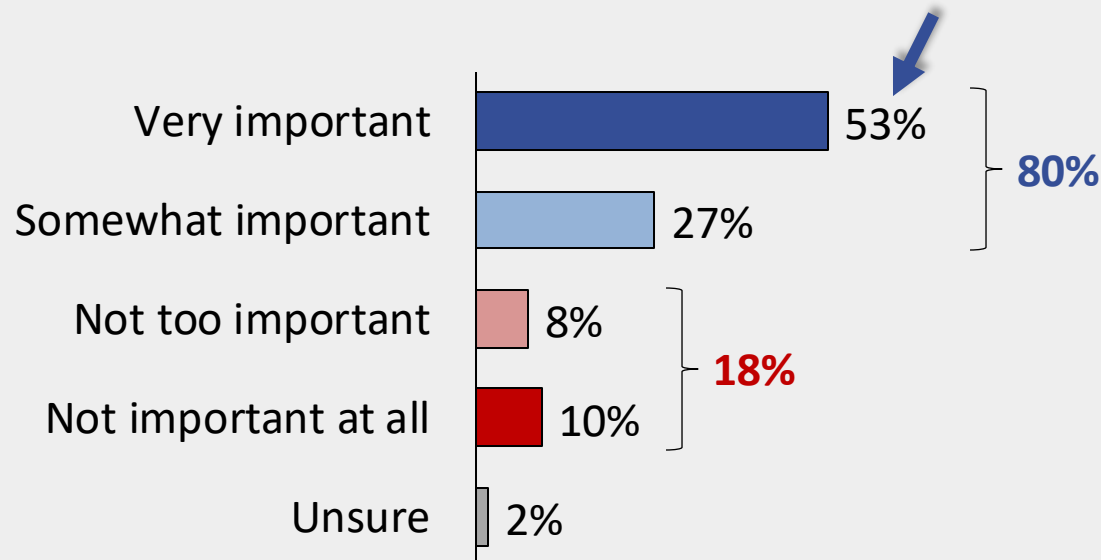


Utility companies using renewable sources of energy

How important is it to you that your utility company incorporates more renewable sources into their energy supply?

Four-out-of-five Alaskans (80%) think it's important that their utility company incorporate more renewables – over half (53%) think it's “very important”.

Large majorities across all key subgroups think this is important.



Location	Very Important	Total Important	Total not important
Anchorage	51%	85%	14%
Southcentral	51%	70%	27%
Interior	46%	78%	20%
Southeast	67%	84%	14%

MESSAGING

Alaska Public Opinion Survey Results

Messaging reasons to transition to renewables

For each, please tell me if you find that statement very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not at all convincing as a reason to transition to renewable energy sources in Alaska.

Demographic

Performance

Notes:

Top message across subgroups

Among the top messages across subgroups

Broadly effective across subgroups

Among the least effective with most subgroups

Ineffective with most subgroups

	Very Convincing	Total Convincing	Message
	52%	83%	100% Renewable (Kodiak): Renewable energy systems can integrate with other sources to ensure reliable power year-round. For example, Kodiak Island generates nearly 100% of its energy from hydroelectric and wind.
	45%	76%	Renewable Jobs (Houston): Renewable Jobs (Houston) are booming nationwide. The Houston Solar Farm in Mat-Su was built with 100% Alaska labor. These good-paying jobs can help keep our young people in Alaska.
	45%	73%	Cold Climate Examples: Countries with similar climates to Alaska, such as Denmark, Sweden and Canada, rely on renewable sources, including wind, solar and hydroelectric for the majority of their power.
	43%	74%	Federal Grants: The federal government has approved massive funding for clean energy projects. Federal grants offer Alaska a window of opportunity to develop reliable and renewable power at a lower cost to the state.
	42%	79%	Abundant Renewable Resources: Alaska has some of the most abundant renewable energy resources in the world, including solar, hydroelectric, wind, and geothermal. These proven resources are a powerful potential economic engine.
	40%	75%	Air Quality (Eva Creek): The Eva Creek Wind Project near Healy is Alaska's largest wind farm. It produces enough energy to 7,500 Fairbanks area homes, reducing reliance on coal and oil and improving air quality in the region.
	40%	71%	Lower Cost Solar (Houston): The price of solar power has dropped by 70% over the last decade. Alaska's first large-scale solar project is in Houston Alaska, and produces enough energy to power 1,400 homes in the Mat-Su at a lower cost than natural gas generation.
	39%	74%	Proven in Winter (Fire Island): Modern renewables can stand up to Alaska's harsh climate. The Fire Island Wind Project has been producing reliable energy for Anchorage since 2012 and generates the most power in winter when demand is highest.
	38%	70%	Reduce Gas Need (Homer Solar): A large planned solar project near Homer will double the amount of renewable power Homer Electric produces and reduce the need to rely on future natural gas imports. The solar project can be built within 3 years and offer lower prices than natural gas.
	36%	72%	Energy Independence: Using local renewable energy means energy independence for Alaska, with more stable prices and reliable supply. Oil and gas prices often depend on factors outside of Alaskans' control, like global production and demand.
	35%	69%	Reliability & Battery Storage: Technological advances in wind and solar energy have increased their reliability, and improved battery storage systems have enabled renewables to provide consistent power regardless of weather.
	30%	67%	Railbelt Cost Stabilization: On the Railbelt electric grid running from Homer to Fairbanks, renewables offer the best opportunity to stabilize long-term costs. Federal energy experts found that a 76% renewable system is the cheapest way to power the Railbelt.

Messaging: 2023 vs. 2024

Expanding off the top message themes from 2023 with specific examples of successful renewable energy projects resulted in considerably better performance.

2023	
Very Convincing	Message Summary
38%	Jobs for existing energy labor
35%	Renewables proven in parts of AK
34%	Potential to secure energy independence
29%	Cook Inlet not enough, will need to import
28%	Cost declining, less than new fossil fuel projects
24%	Renewable potential in AK, export revenue
20%	Gasline promised, never happens
19%	Destination for businesses

2024	
Very Convincing	Message Summary
52%	100% Renewable (Kodiak)
45%	Renewable Jobs (Houston)
45%	Cold Climate Examples
43%	Federal Grants
42%	Abundant Renewable Resources
40%	Air Quality (Eva Creek)
40%	Lower Cost Solar (Houston)
39%	Proven in Winter (Fire Island)
38%	Reduce Gas Need (Homer Solar)
36%	Energy Independence
35%	Reliability & Battery Storage
30%	Railbelt Cost Stabilization