



TO: Interested Parties  
FR: Paragon Insights  
DT: October 21, 2014  
RE: Georgia Survey Results On Voter Opinions Of EPA Carbon Emissions

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On behalf of the Partnership for a Better Energy Future, Paragon Insights conducted a statewide survey of 953 likely voters in Georgia October 3-9, 2014. The interviews were conducted using both telephone and online methodologies. The data were weighted to approximate a target sample of likely voters based on age, race/ethnicity, gender, political party affiliation and cellular/landline telephone status. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 3.0 percentage points.

#### **BOTTOM LINE:**

- ✓ A majority of Georgia voters believe the United States cannot afford new costs and potential job losses resulting from the EPA regulations — 58% of voters agree
- ✓ A plurality of voters oppose the regulations, including 30% who say they strongly oppose them (versus 17% who strongly support them).
- ✓ A majority of voters say they are not willing to pay \$1 more for energy under the EPA regulations.
- ✓ Supporting the regulations is politically risky – 40% of Georgia voters say they are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the EPA regulations, versus just 22% who say they are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations.
- ✓ A majority of Georgia voters are aware of the EPA regulations to reduce carbon emissions - but awareness is soft, as just 21% say they have heard “a lot” about the regulations.

#### **KEY DATA**

***A majority of Georgia voters are aware of the EPA regulations, but that awareness is soft—*** 58% of voters say they have heard about the regulations, although just 21% indicate they have heard a lot, suggesting opinions on this issue are still malleable – and as the data indicates, voters are quicker to oppose the regulations than support them. Men, millennials and Republicans are more familiar with the EPA regulations than their counterparts.

***Upon learning of the possibility of energy rationing and the squeeze on the middle class, a majority of voters are less likely to support the regulations—*** 59% of voters say they are less likely to support the EPA regulations after learning they could lead to energy rationing during extreme weather events, including 43% who say they are much less likely. Further, 56% of Georgia

voters say they are less likely to support the EPA regulations upon hearing that these regulations could further squeeze middle class Americans, including 38% who say they are much less likely to support the regulations.

***A plurality of Georgia voters are opposed to the EPA regulations***— 47% of voters are against the EPA regulations, with 30% strongly opposed, while 42% support the regulations with just 17% strongly supporting them. Men, seniors, and middle class voters are the most strongly opposed to the regulations.

***A strong majority of Georgia voters believe the government should weigh all costs and benefits when creating new environmental regulations*** — 73% of voters say the government should weigh all costs/benefits when creating new environmental regulations, while just 17% say the government should improve the environment at any cost.

***A majority of Georgia voters say they are not willing to pay a single dollar more in their energy bill to accommodate the new EPA regulations***— 47% of Georgia voters say they are not willing to pay any more on their monthly energy bill and 55% of voters say they are not willing to pay any more on their total energy bill.

***A majority of Georgia voters believe the United States cannot afford new costs and potential job losses resulting from the EPA regulations*** — 58% of voters agree that the U.S. cannot afford these new costs while just 27% say the U.S. must be a leader in addressing global climate change regardless of cost or impact to the economy.

***Georgia voters are divided on whether the U.S. should address lead the charge on climate change or only address it in conjunction with other countries/not address it at all***— 42% of voters believe the U.S. should address climate change only with other nations or not at all, while 42% believe the U.S. should address climate change regardless of what other nations are doing.

***Georgia voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the EPA regulations***— 40% of voters are less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations while 22% are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the regulations.

***A plurality of Georgia voters believe that Georgia/local officials are better equipped to make decisions on carbon emissions instead of the federal government***—44% of voters believe that Georgia and local officials are best equipped to make decisions on regulations to reduce carbon emissions, compared to 16% who say the Obama administration is best equipped and 17% who say Congress is best equipped.

***A strong majority of Georgia voters believe President Obama should work with Congress to create a climate change agreement***—Fully 64% of voters believe President Obama should work with Congress to create a climate change agreement, while just 17% believe the President should take executive action to create an agreement.