

DELAWARE

Offshore wind public opinion brief · March 2026

73%

of Delaware voters favor offshore wind construction off their state's coast — during a period in which the industry faced significant attacks from the executive branch. Offshore wind ranks second only to solar as the energy resource Delaware voters most want as part of the state's electricity solution.

81%

support **adding more renewables** to Delaware's energy mix

64%

are not very confident that the DE grid can meet demand over the next 10 years

68%

say it's very important the Federal government **honor previously permitted offshore wind projects**

DELAWARE VOTER SUPPORT FOR OFFSHORE WIND CONSTRUCTION BY AFFILIATION

Across political affiliations, a **majority of voters** support offshore wind development.

Democrats

82%

Independents

67%

Republicans

66%

DELAWARE VOTERS ON BENEFITS OF OFFSHORE WIND

50%

cite **lower energy prices** as a biggest benefit of offshore wind. The second most cited benefit at 46% is cleaner air and fewer health impacts from pollution.

DELAWARE GOP VOTER CANDIDATE SUPPORT SWING

More likely

52%

Less likely

30%

Delaware Republican voters are net +22 points **more likely** to vote for a candidate that is pro offshore wind.

DELAWARE AND OFFSHORE WIND

Offshore wind turbines off the Delmarva coast would come ashore through Delaware, and the state has spent years clearing the way. In 2024, the legislature authorized the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) to design and implement an offshore wind procurement program, and DNREC's 2025 Climate Action Plan underscored offshore wind's economic and reliability benefits for the state and region. That same year, Delaware signed a \$128 million agreement with US Wind covering renewable energy credits, workforce training, coastal dredging, and grid access through Delaware Seashore State Park.

When Sussex County blocked a required electrical substation, the legislature passed Senate Bill 159 as part of a bipartisan budget compromise. The Delaware Court of Chancery upheld the law in March 2026, with state leaders citing rising electricity costs and the need for statewide energy reliability.

Once operational, US Wind would deliver up to 1,710 MW, enough to power roughly 600,000 homes, with electricity coming ashore at the site of a former coal plant in Sussex County.



The former Indian River Power Plant in Sussex County, Delaware, where offshore wind energy from US Wind would come ashore and connect to the regional grid. Credit: Delaware Business Times

NATIONAL SUPPLY CHAIN FOOTPRINT

Across the nation:

- **2,135+** supplier contracts generated across **40** states, supporting a national supply chain
- **\$25+ billion** in total investment driven by the U.S. offshore wind industry
- **51%** of supply chain investment is flowing to Republican congressional districts, from Gulf Coast shipyards to Midwestern steel mills
- **\$1.8 billion** invested in shipyards, across 26 facilities in 15 states

WHAT DELAWARE VOTERS BELIEVE

63%

reject the claim that offshore wind drives up energy prices for consumers

63%

reject the claim that offshore wind affects military radar systems

*Opposition claims are broadly encountered but **not deeply held**, creating room for education.*

PJM FILED TO PROTECT OFFSHORE WIND

The PJM grid that includes Delaware is facing a

6,517 MW

power shortfall.

Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind, currently under construction, would supply

2,489 MW

Even that, the largest offshore wind project planned in the US, will fill only part of the gap. PJM warned the court that **multiple offshore wind projects are needed to keep the grid reliable**, which is why it stepped in to defend them.