MAINE

Offshore wind public opinion brief · March 2026

TURN FORWARD
THE TARRANCE GROUP

71%

of Maine voters favor offshore wind construction off their state's coast — a 15-point gain over 14 months, 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 Maine voters most want as part of the state's electricity solution.

82%

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

69%

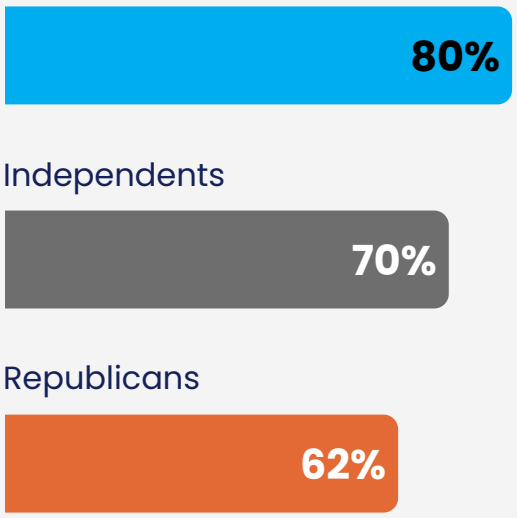
are not very confident that the Maine grid can meet demand over the next 10 years

62%

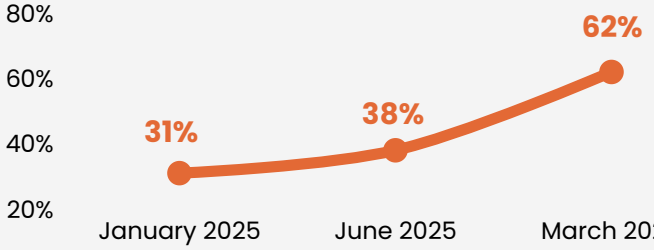
say it's very important the Federal government **honor previously permitted offshore wind projects**

MAINE VOTER SUPPORT FOR OFFSHORE WIND CONSTRUCTION BY AFFILIATION

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

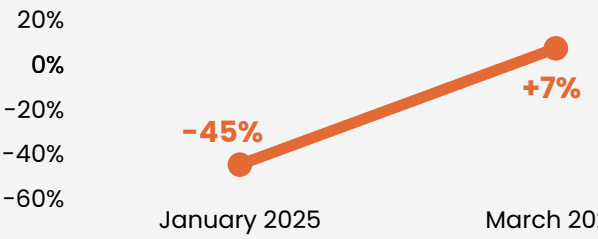


ME GOP VOTER SUPPORT FOR OSW CONSTRUCTION



Maine Republican voter support has increased substantially since Jan 2025.

MAINE GOP VOTER CANDIDATE NET SUPPORT SWING



Since January 2025, Maine Republican voters have become significantly **more likely** to vote for a candidate that is pro offshore wind.

Source: Tarrance Group for Turn Forward. Wave 1 (Jan 2025 and June 2025, n=400 registered voters); Wave 3 (March 2026, n=412 registered voters).

MAINE WORKERS BUILDING OFFSHORE WIND

The University of Maine's quarter-scale floating offshore wind turbine moored off Castine is the most advanced floating wind prototype ever tested in U.S. waters. Credit: University of Maine

In spring 2025, Maine contractors built and launched a 375-ton concrete floating wind turbine platform, VolturnUS: the next generation of the technology that UMaine has been developing and patenting for nearly two decades. Maine ironworkers, fabricators, and construction crews put it together, then towed it through Penobscot Bay to a test site off Castine, where it is now moored and collecting data from more than 200 sensors. The platform is a ¼-scale prototype of what a commercial floating turbine would look like in the Gulf of Maine, and UMaine's Advanced Structures and Composites Center, home to one of the leading floating offshore wind engineering team in the country, holds over 40 patents on the underlying technology.

Floating offshore wind is the next frontier of American energy, and Maine is where the technology is being developed. Unlike fixed-bottom turbines that must be driven into shallow seafloors, floating platforms can be built onshore, towed out to sea, and anchored in deep water, opening up wind resources that fixed turbines can't reach. The Gulf of Maine sees enough wind to power the entire state many times over.

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 MAINE VOTERS BELIEVE

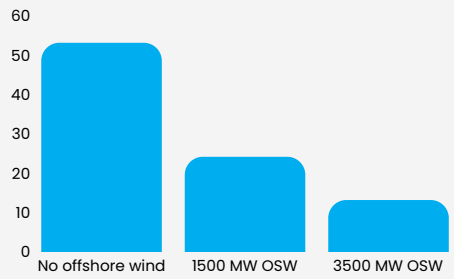
68% **reject the claim** that offshore wind drives up energy prices for consumers

67% **reject the claim** that offshore wind affects military radar systems

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

OSW COULD HALVE ME BLACKOUT RISK

During the winter of 2024–25, New England faced elevated blackout risk on 53 of 90 winter days. Scientists modeled what would have happened with offshore wind online. A modest 1,500 MW fleet would have eliminated risk on 29 of those 53 days: a 55% reduction. **A 3,500 MW fleet would have cut risk by 75%**, leaving just 13 at-risk days.



Source: Union of Concerned Scientists, Feb 2026

Source: Supply chain data: Oceantic Network, Offshore Energy at Work, 2025. Blackouts: Muller, Susan. "New England's Offshore Wind Solution." Union of Concerned Scientists, February 4, 2026. Polling: Tarrance Group for Turn Forward.