

# NORTH CAROLINA

Offshore wind public opinion brief · March 2026

# 73%

**of North Carolina voters favor offshore wind construction off their state's coast** — a 9-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 North Carolina voters most want as part of the state's electricity solution.

# 87%

support **adding more renewables** to North Carolina's energy mix

# 67%

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

# 65%

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

## NC VOTER SUPPORT FOR OFFSHORE WIND CONSTRUCTION BY AFFILIATION

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

Democrats

85%

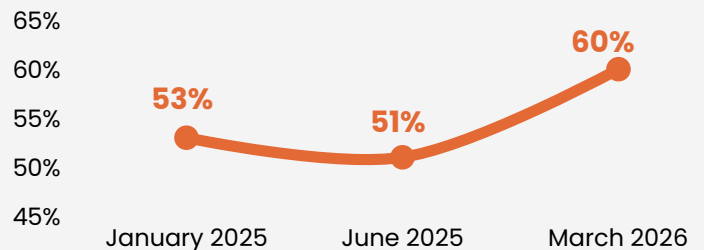
Independents

75%

Republicans

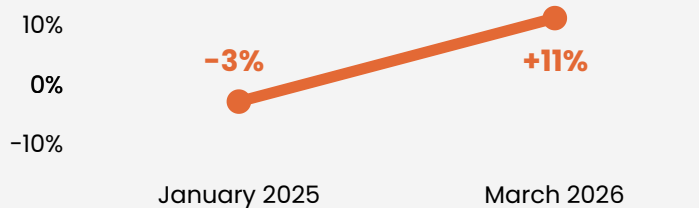
60%

## NC GOP VOTER SUPPORT FOR OSW CONSTRUCTION



North Carolina Republican voter support has increased substantially since Jan 2025.

## NC GOP VOTER CANDIDATE NET SUPPORT SWING



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

# NORTH CAROLINIANS WORKING IN OFFSHORE WIND



An NV5 GEODynamics crew member prepares survey equipment off the North Carolina coast. Credit: NC Dept of Commerce

Before a single turbine goes into the water, someone has to map the seafloor to determine where turbines can safely be anchored: checking for shipwrecks, sensitive habitats, and soil conditions. In North Carolina, that work is being done by Geodynamics, an NV5 company with operations along the North Carolina coast.

Geodynamics has been contracted to survey the lease areas off the NC coast and invested in a purpose-built research vessel, the R/V Shackleford, named after Shackleford Banks and homeported in Beaufort, North Carolina. The vessel was specifically customized to serve the offshore wind sector on the U.S. East Coast, providing hydrographic and geophysical surveys from shoreline to shelf. The work is technical and largely invisible, but it's the foundation every project is built on, and it's being done by a North Carolina-based team, on North Carolina waters.

## 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 NC VOTERS BELIEVE

**67%**

**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 parts of North Carolina 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.