



MEMORANDUM

TO: DENVER MERRILL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CITIZENS FOR SOUND CONSERVATION

FROM: TYLER HARBER

SUBJECT: STATEWIDE SURVEY FINDINGS

DATE: MARCH 2, 2009

Wilson Research Strategies was commissioned by Citizen for Sound Conservation to survey n=300 likely voters statewide. The poll was conducted February 18 - 19, 2009 via live interviewer telephone contact to a sample that was stratified to be geographically and demographically representative of the state's likely voting population. The survey has a margin of error of $\pm 5.66\%$ in 95 out of 100 cases.

The following are key findings of the survey:

- **South Carolinians overwhelmingly support off-shore drilling.**
 - More than seven in ten (72%) likely voters endorse off-shore drilling after being read both sides of the debate (full text below), as the opposing point-of-view only solicits 20% support:
 - (Some/other) people say that offshore drilling is critical to reduce gas prices and help reduce American independence on foreign oil. They say that new methods of offshore oil exploration are safe for the environment and that we should make full use of our own natural resources to help with America's energy crisis. (72% support)
 - (Some/other) people say that offshore drilling could harm the environment, and that there is a risk of an oil spill. They say that it would be years before Americans saw any reduction in prices because of offshore drilling. (20% support)

--continued

- **A majority of all major demographic groups support off-shore drilling**
 - Support for off-shore drilling is present among every gender/age group, indicating widespread support:
 - Men 18-44: 77% pro – 23% anti
 - Men 45-64: 69% pro – 16% anti
 - Men 65+: 68% pro – 19% anti
 - Women 18-44: 79% pro – 13% anti
 - Women 45-64: 67% pro – 22% anti
 - Women 65+: 71% pro – 27% anti
 - A majority of White (76%), African-American (66%), and Hispanic (60%) voters support off-shore drilling.
 - Support for off-shore drilling is constant among all income groups:
 - Under \$40,000/year: 74% pro – 21% anti
 - \$40-80,000/year: 67% pro – 21% anti
 - \$80-100,000/year: 72% pro – 22% anti
 - \$100,000+/year: 65% pro – 30% anti
- **South Carolinians view delays as stalling tactics.**
 - When asked if they believe that Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's recent decision (full text below) to delay the process of exploration of the nation's off-shore oil and gas reserves by at least six months and possibly longer, for more study and comment, a solid majority (57%) believe that the delay is "just a stalling tactic by opponents of off-shore drilling," while only 32% agree that the delay gives "more time to examine the best ways to use our natural resources without harming the environment."
 - Recently, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar delayed the process of exploration of the nation's off-shore oil and gas reserves by at least six months and possibly longer, for more study and comment. The delay pushes back the time when Americans can utilize domestic sources of energy by some indefinite period of time. Which of the following statements best describes your views on this issue...
 - This delay is important to give us more time to examine the best ways to use our natural resources without harming the environment. (32%)
 - This delay is just a stall tactic by opponents of offshore drilling. (57%)