

Ontario poll on climate policy and carbon pricing

March 2021

Background on the poll

- Conducted by Leger Marketing in February 2021 on behalf of Clean Prosperity
- Ontario-wide poll of 1505 respondents
 - Oversampling in the 905 area, other regions polled include SW Ontario (SW), 416, East, Central and North (in order of sample size)
- Voters classified into three groups:
 - PC voters = voted for PC in 2018 provincial election
 - Accessible PC voters = indicated based on several polling Qs that they are open to voting PC
 - Non-PC voters = respondents who would not consider voting PC



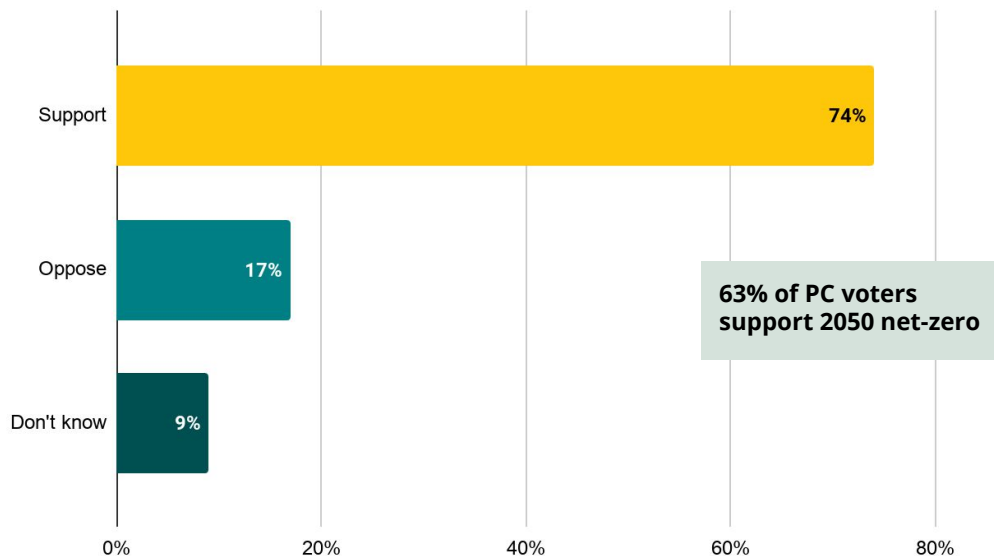
Summary

- **Ontarians want climate action:** 75% support a goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 while a majority say they can't vote for a party without a credible climate plan.
- **A carbon tax is part of a credible climate plan:** 69% of voters said that a carbon tax is a priority for a credible climate plan, including 64% of PC voters.
- **PC voters prefer the Premier adopt his own carbon tax than accept the federal one:** if the Premier loses the Supreme Court case, 66% of PC voters say he should adopt his own carbon tax system versus just 18% who think he should keep the federal system.
- **A Conservative version of carbon pricing could be a vote winner:** 57% of voters - and 64% of PC voters - support the Premier adopting a carbon tax that cuts income taxes. Such a policy would be a net vote winner for the Premier, including among PC voters. The same is true for a policy that uses carbon tax revenue to reduce costs of driving (e.g. vehicle fees).



3/4 of all voters and 2/3 of PC voters support net-zero

Do you support or oppose the goal of Canada achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050?
All (n=1505)



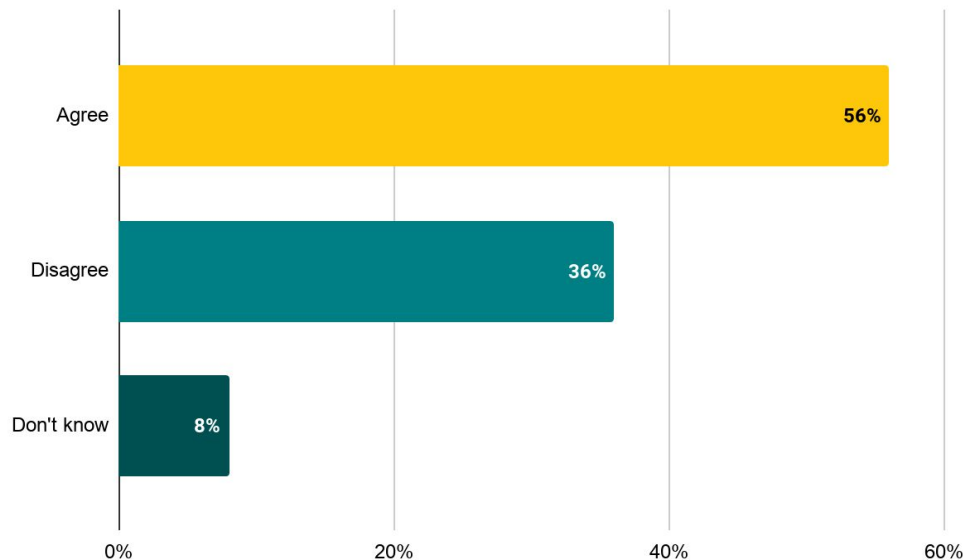
Full question: Some scientists have suggested that to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, countries around the world need to adopt a goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. Net-zero emissions means that Canada has to reduce its greenhouse gases substantially, and any remaining greenhouse gases that still go into the atmosphere would have to be offset by removing the same amount from the air. This will mean significant action for Canada. Do you support or oppose the goal of Canada achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050?



More than half of Ontarians can't vote for a party without a strong climate plan

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I cannot vote for a provincial political party unless they have a strong plan for addressing climate change.

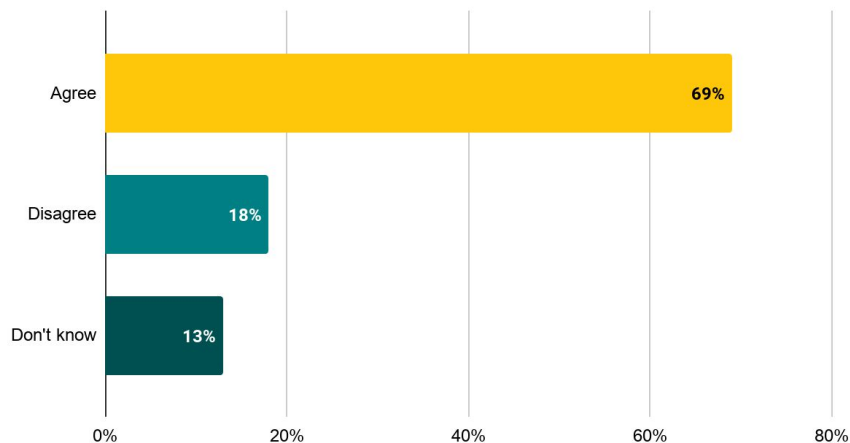
All (n=1505)



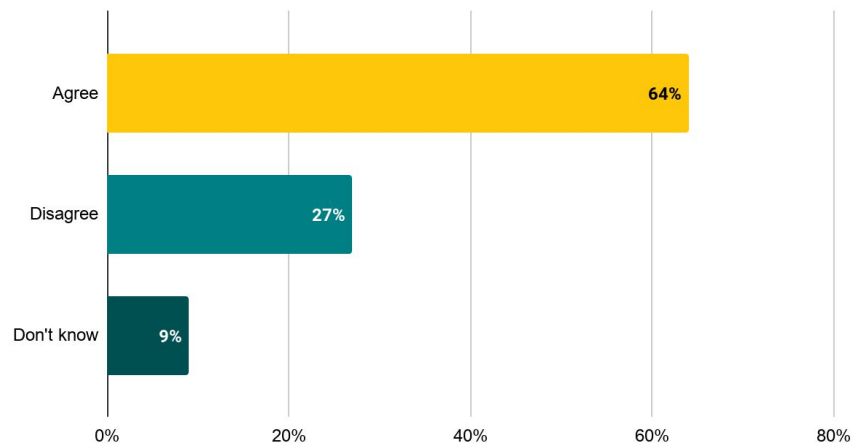
Carbon pricing is a key part of a climate plan for most Ontarians

Should a carbon tax and rebate be a priority in a climate plan?

All (n=1505)



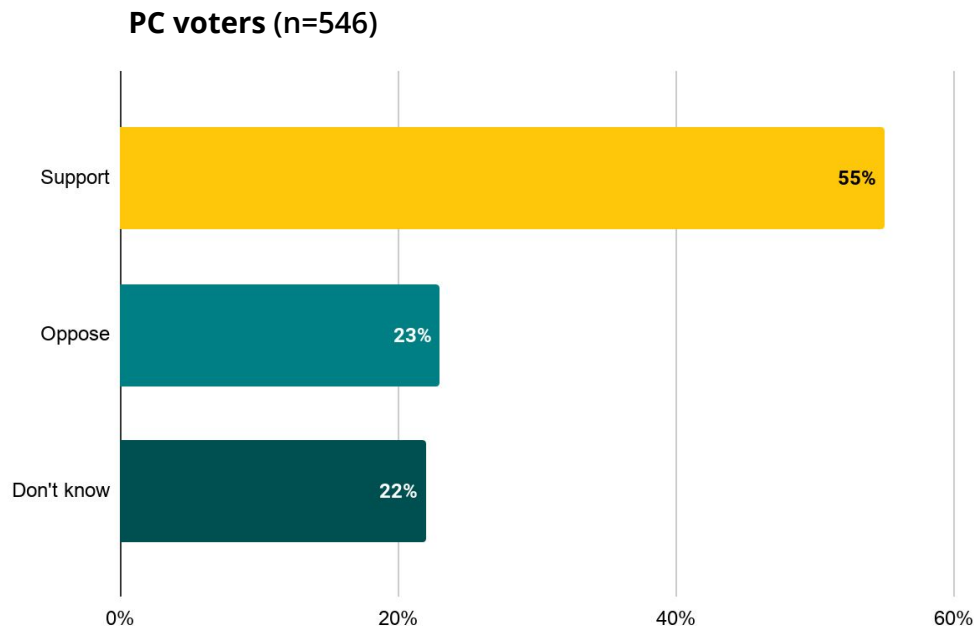
PC voters (n=546)



Full question: A carbon tax and rebate that makes it more expensive to pollute, and then sends the proceeds back to Canadians as cheques - please tell me whether you agree or disagree these actions should be priorities to include in a climate change plan.



55% of PC voters would support government's decision to implement a carbon tax and rebate



- High support for this policy amongst all 905 respondents (51%), and all SW respondents (48%).
- Support for policy increases strongly amongst PC voters if Ontario adopts a carbon tax following Supreme Court ruling.

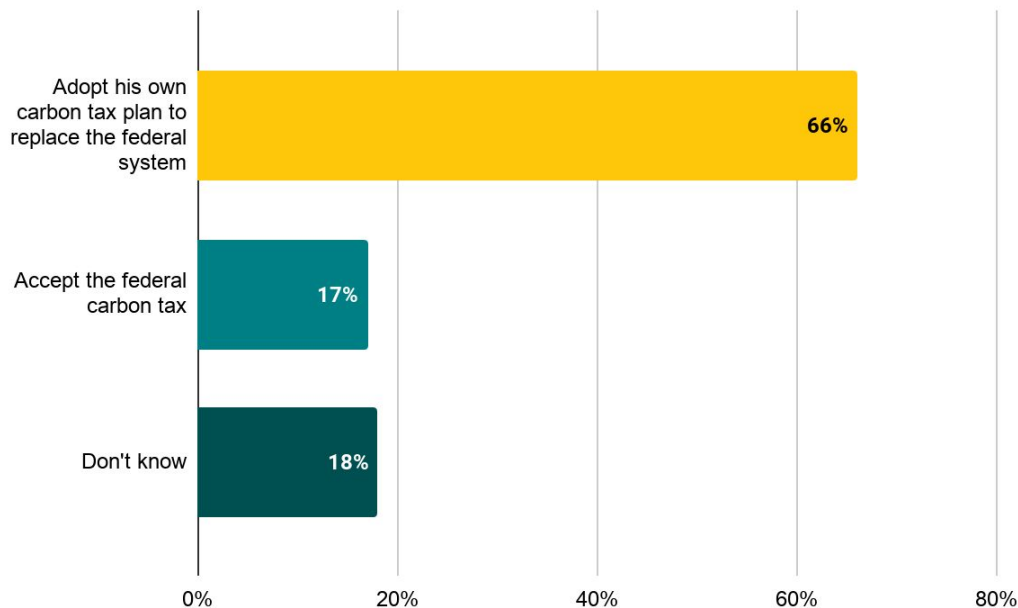
Full question: Premier Ford has negotiated an agreement with the federal government to use a Made-in-Ontario carbon pricing system for large industrial polluters in Ontario. If Premier Ford were to decide that the best way to fight climate change was to also adopt a carbon price on gasoline and home heating, and he sent all the money back to Ontarians, would you support or oppose this policy?



PC voters strongly support a made-in-Ontario carbon tax if the province loses SCC case

Premier Ford is currently challenging the consumer portion of the federal carbon tax at the Supreme Court. If the Court rules against Premier Ford, he will have to choose between accepting the federal carbon tax or implementing his own Made-in-Ontario carbon tax policy. Which of the following options do you think Premier Ford should choose?

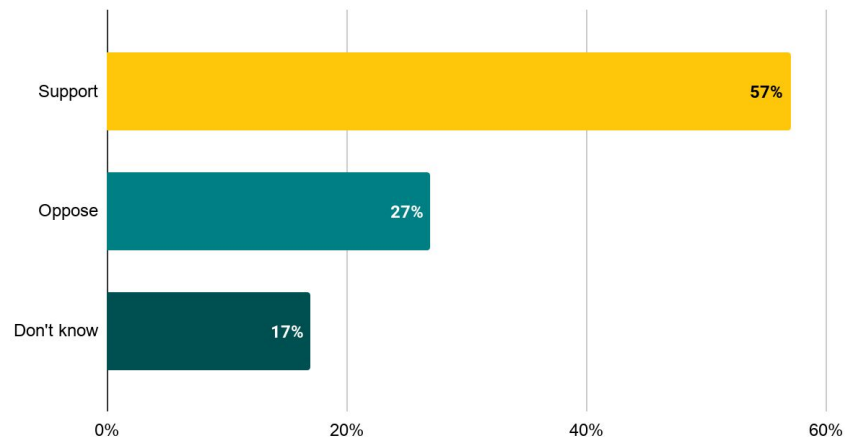
PC voters (n=546)



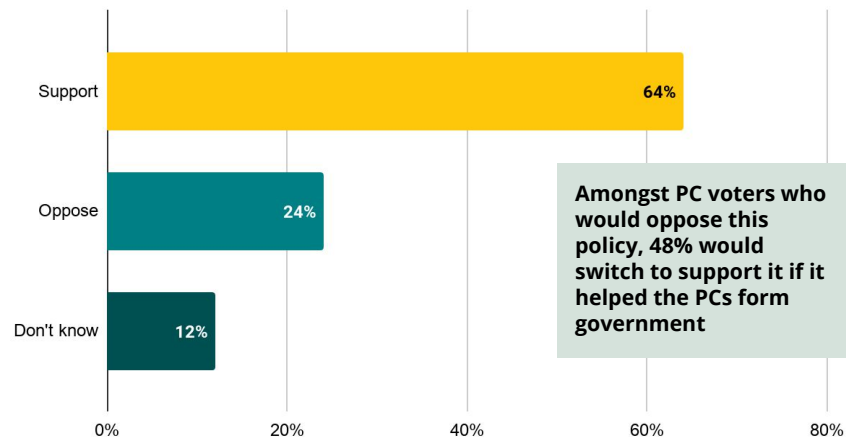
Cutting income taxes with carbon revenues is popular amongst Ontarians...

Support for cutting personal income taxes with carbon revenues

All (n=1505)



PC voters (n=546)



Amongst PC voters who would oppose this policy, 48% would switch to support it if it helped the PCs form government

Full question: Instead of a system where the rebate is directly provided to Ontarian households, the proceeds are instead used to reduce personal income taxes, including an increase in the personal tax exemption threshold. Do you support or oppose a policy where the proceeds from charging for carbon pollution are used to cut personal income tax rates?

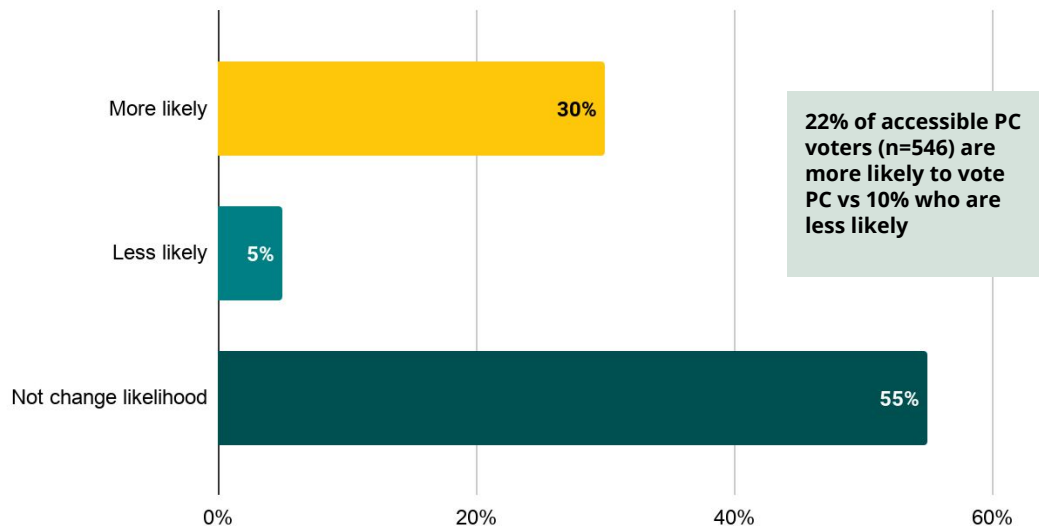


...and adopting this policy would make previous PC voters more likely to vote for the party again

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for the PC party if it were to adopt this policy?

PC voters (n=546)

Full question: If Premier Ford and the Progressive Conservative government were to adopt this policy, would it make you more likely to vote for him in an election, less likely or not change your likelihood of voting for the PCs?

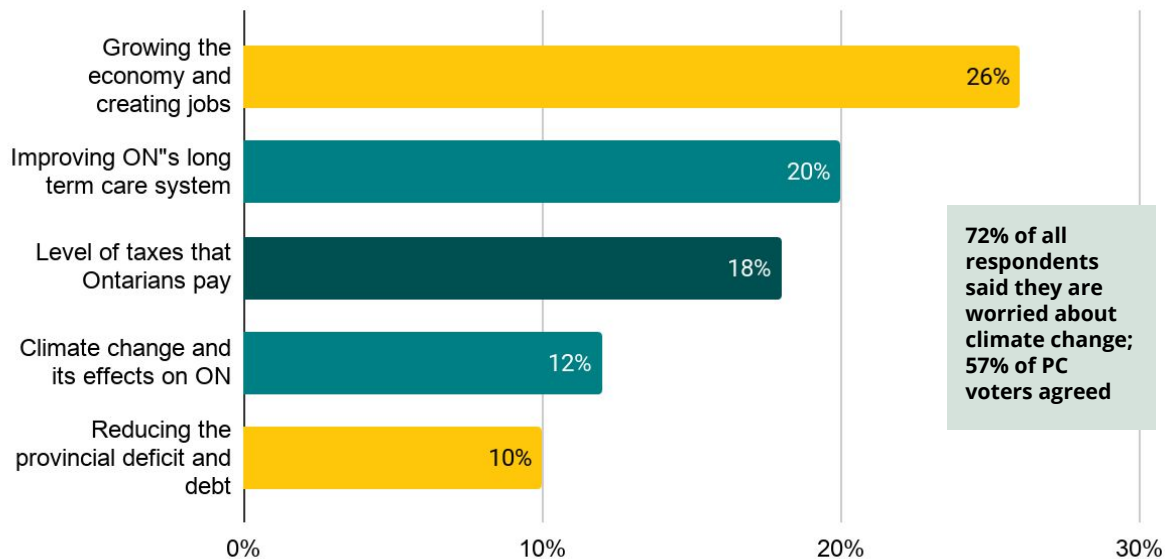


Appendix

Climate change stays top five priority for Ontarians

Once the COVID-19 situation is under control and vaccine is well distributed, what is the other issue that you think the provincial government prioritize for Ontario?
All (n=1505)

Priorities for Ontario government once pandemic is under control



2/3 of all voters support a tax with rebates to families & businesses

Would you support or oppose a carbon tax if you knew that all the money from the tax was being rebated back to Ontario families and businesses?

All (n=1505)

