



Independent Polling Finds Maine Voters Want Change: Pine Tree Power tied With CMP and Versant

[Recent independent polling](#) indicates a tight race in the upcoming referendum election between Pine Tree Power and foreign-owned Maine utilities. The pivotal decision on Question 3, which proposes the establishment of Pine Tree Power, a locally owned non-profit power company, is generating significant support in hopes of putting Maine power into the hands of locals.

Key findings from the polls include:

- 37% of voters plan to cast a 'yes' vote on Question 3, while an equal percentage intend to vote 'no'; the remainder remain undecided.
- 55% of voters believe that utilities should be owned and operated locally.

- 94% of voters experienced power outages in the past year, with 60% enduring outages in the last three months—during a season when reliable power is crucial.
- 88% of voters express concerns over current and future energy costs.
- 27% of voters reported being misbilled by their current utilities within the last 12 months.
- 66% of voters advocate for utilities to be non-profit entities, prioritizing affordable rates and superior customer service.

CMP and Versant face widespread dissatisfaction. For 4 years, CMP has been rated as having the worst customer service across the nation. Maine's energy rates have surged, experiencing nearly a 50% increase in the current year alone. Meanwhile, Maine leads the nation in power outages. Both companies have poured millions into their campaign, yet conspicuously avoid direct participation in any debates, preferring to communicate through political front groups to save face.

The Climate and Community Project, the group behind the poll, states "***Our polling, conducted by YouGov, shows 55 percent of Mainers believed that utilities should be nonprofits. 37 percent are in favor of the transfer to consumer ownership and 25 percent are still undecided. Of Mainers that believe they have been misbilled, that number increases to 43 percent who plan to vote yes with 27 percent additional unsure. Furthermore, 60 percent of those surveyed had experienced an electricity outage in the past 3 months.***"

In reaction to the poll, the Campaign Manager for Yes on Question 3 says: "***Mainers are dealing with unprecedented outages and misbilling errors***"

from CMP and Versant. The majority of voters want a utility that is locally owned and operated. A yes vote on Question 3 to create Pine Tree Power is the path towards a power company we can trust.”

For information, questions, or interview requests, visit pinetreepower.org or email Pine Tree Power's Campaign Manager Al Cleveland at al@ourpowermaine.org

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Pine Tree Power is a grassroots coalition with members all the way from the coasts to the County. We are fighting for a utility that is owned and run by Mainers, for Mainers. By voting out CMP and Versant, we will bring back local control, save money, and reduce outages. It's time to build power we can trust.

