



Release: Voters Support Having a Publicly Owned Utility

A recent poll conducted by Data for Progress indicates that 68% of likely voters across the nation advocate for the establishment of publicly owned utilities as their local service providers. This sentiment transcends party affiliations, with Democrats (71%), Independents (66%), and Republicans (67%) all expressing substantial support.

In just over a week, Mainers [will head](#) to the polls to decide whether to replace the state's two private utilities — Central Maine Power and Versant Power — with a consumer-owned utility, [Pine Tree Power](#). Advocates of PTP contend that such an entity would be directly accountable to the people of Maine, empowering them with local control over utility rates, financing, and energy sources. Combined with recent independent polling of Maine which [showed the race in a dead heat](#), these separate polls suggest that things are coming right down to the wire. The election, called the "[definitive fight of 2023](#)" for climate,

is on Nov. 7th.

Advocates of non-profit utilities highlight a range of potential benefits including savings, improved reliability, and a just transition to a clean economy. 45% of voters expressed a strong preference for having a say in the rates they pay for electricity, underscoring the high priority placed on holding utilities accountable. 60% of voters polled reported an uptick in their utility bills over the past year. When polled on their primary concerns for utility companies, 39% of voters emphasized the need for these companies to prioritize lowering prices for consumers. Other key priorities included ensuring reliable service (21%), upgrading aging grid infrastructure (17%), and making the transition to renewable energy (15%).

To see the polling, check out the release from [Data for Progress here.](#)

The polling is significant as Maine goes to the polls to decide the future of the state's utilities. With 68% of voters nationwide believing public utilities are good for their communities and the race in Maine looking tied up, it's clear that public power is having a moment. Next Tuesday's election is just the beginning for this nationwide movement.

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.

