



State of the Midwest Heading into 2020

New Rust Belt Rising Polling from Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin:
Health Care Concerns, Economic Uncertainty, and Presidential Dead Heat

Summary:

Rust Belt Rising's new poll finds two electorally key Midwestern states to be in virtual ties between whether voters will support Trump or a Democrat.

- Likely voters in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are essentially even on supporting Trump or a Democrat.
- Democrats have a slight lead in Michigan and Trump ahead in Ohio.
- Health care costs continue to be voters' biggest concern.
- Midwesterners see economic improvement, but do not feel it as much in their own lives and worry growth will not continue.

Our new poll examines voters' issue priorities, struggles, views of this economy, and voting intentions for next year, which we are using in our programs for Democratic candidates. **Please contact info@RustBeltRising.com to become a Rising candidate and to review full results of the poll by state and specific subsets.**

- At every opportunity in this survey, our voters made clear how health care and prescription drugs are their biggest worry—these bills are overwhelming them and they want to reduce these costs and protect Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.
- Our voters realize there are jobs, but not good jobs that support raising a family, especially with the increased costs of health care and prescription drugs and the rising cost of living generally. They would support investments in infrastructure.
- Our voters see the economy working for the wealthy and well-connected, not for them. They see this as a great obstacle to their economic success. They would raise taxes on the rich and cut them on the middle class. They want money out of politics.
- Our Midwestern voters strongly feel that the economy is rigged against them in favor of corporations and wealthiest and should be fairer.

People are struggling in this economy because they see the benefits going only to the rich who can make Washington work for them, while the cost of living, and especially the cost of health care, keeps increasing.

Midwesterners think that the economy has improved, but that it has not meaningfully benefited them. They have little in the bank (2/3rds cannot handle a \$5,000 emergency expense). No wonder health care costs remain their biggest worry.

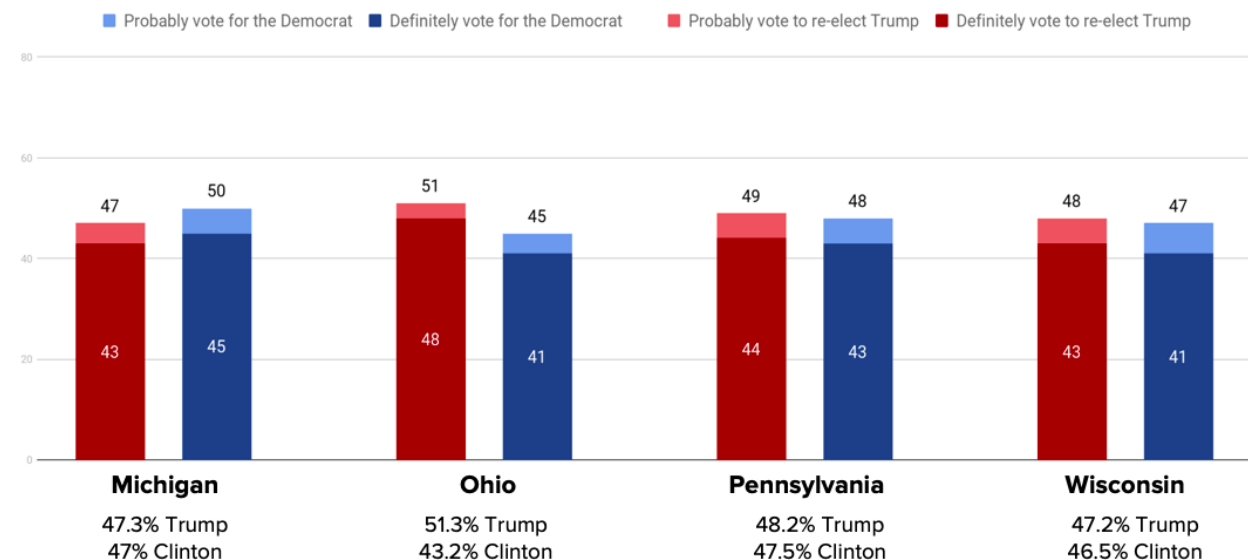
Our voters overwhelmingly believe clean energy will create more jobs than fossil fuels. They do want renegotiated trade deals, but they do not believe Trump has handled this issue well through tariffs.

The poll was conducted with a projected electorate for November, including weighting for college degree attainment—a key factor in accurately accessing the strength of Trump support in the Midwest. This survey was conducted by Change Research on December 3-5 2019, offering the chance to see movement from our first poll on May 7-9.

In our Rust Belt Rising electoral must-win states that could not be closer, we believe that every conversation matters. Join Rust Belt Rising programs to work together on authentically and effectively communicating with voters about why voting for Democrats will benefit their families.

Election:

If the 2020 election for President were held today, would you:

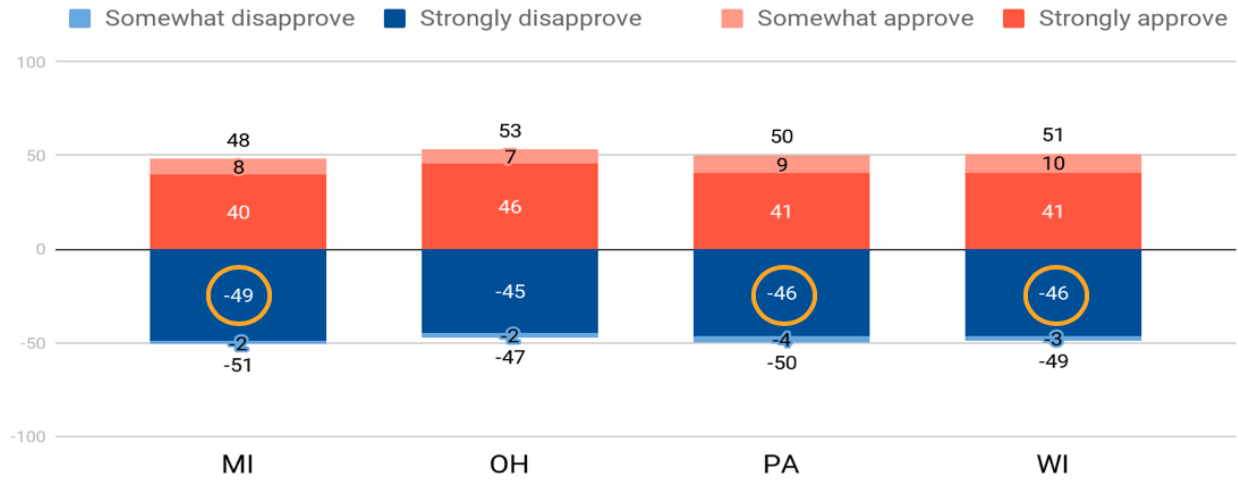


Voters in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin are divided on Trump, but those who oppose him have greater intensity:



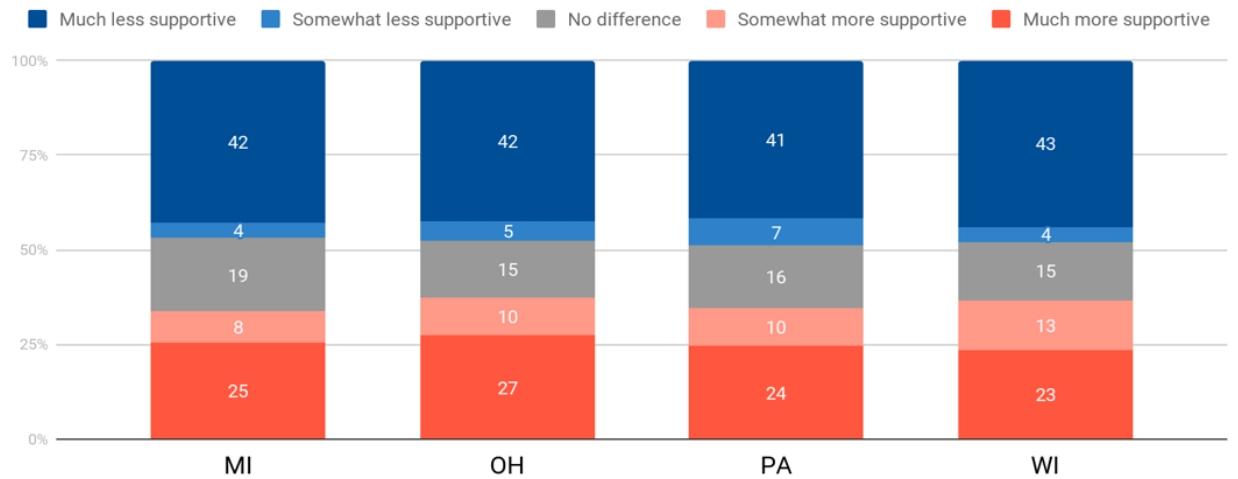
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Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing as President?



Voters are not going to reward President Trump for his trade war:

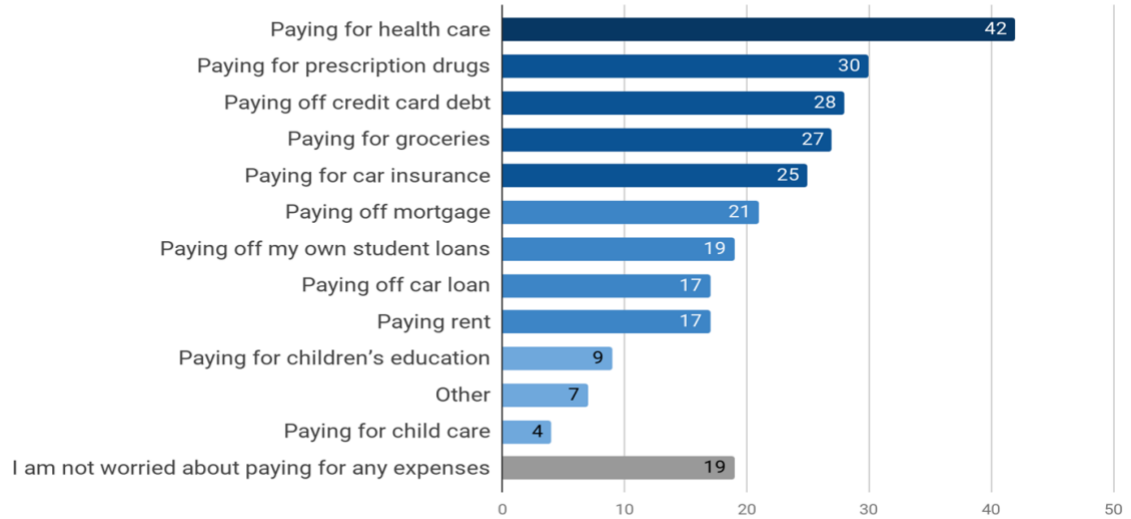
Do President Trump's tariffs on U.S. trading partners and their effects on farmers and the economy make you more or less supportive of him?



Voters' Concerns:

Health care is the monthly expense causing most anxiety, as it was this past May.

Which of the following monthly expenses are you worried about paying for? Please select all that apply.



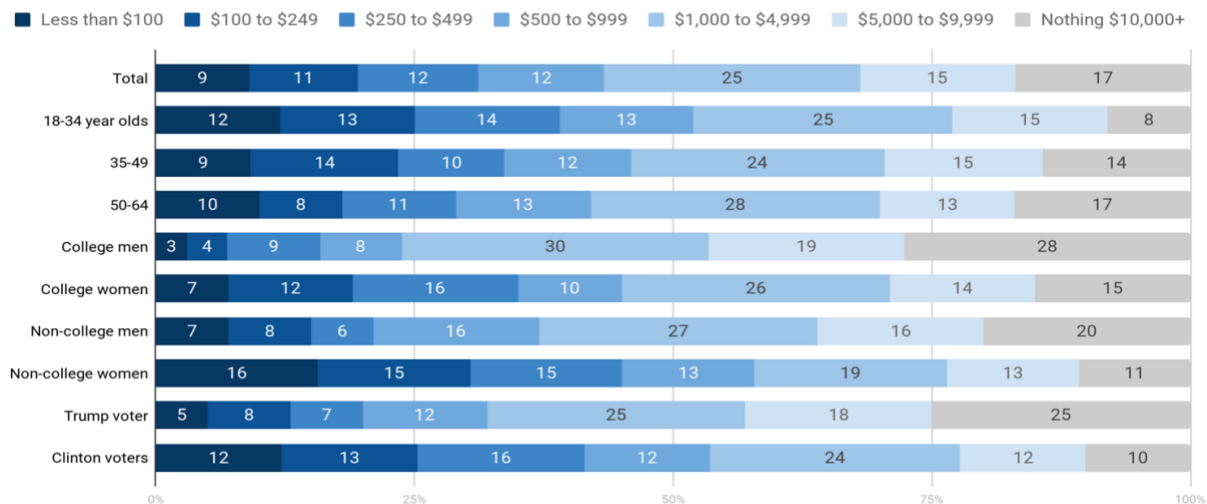
Immediate concerns like the costs that come from getting sick weigh on people far more than the stock market, which they may not even have the savings to invest in based on the costs they face.

Which of the following economic situations worries you the most:

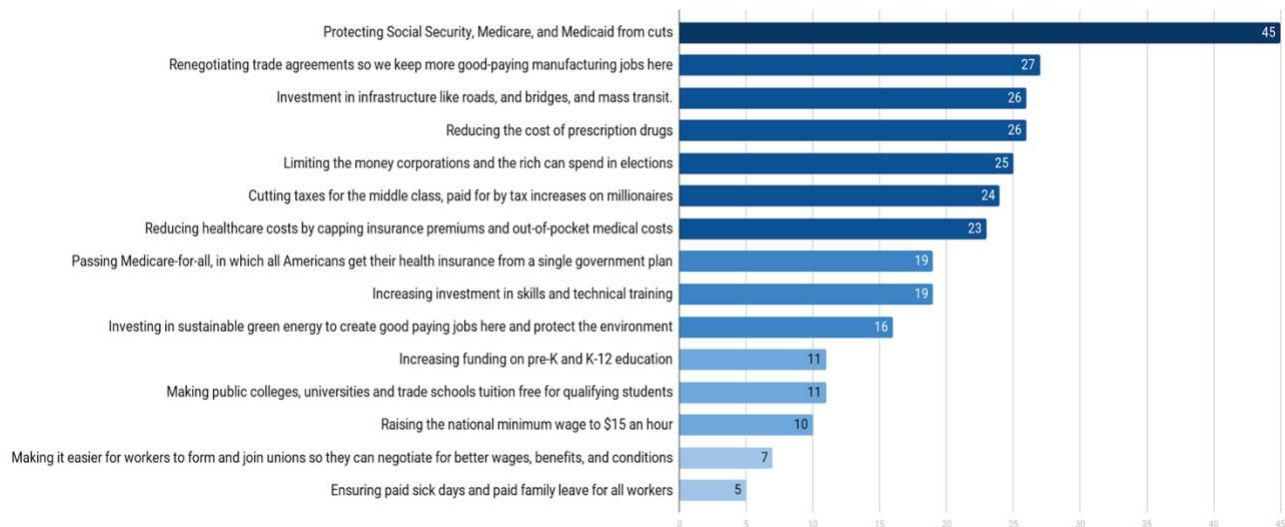


People cannot handle emergency expenses, which our current health care system frequently gives us, along with other costs that come with raising a family today.

How big of an emergency expense would you have trouble paying?



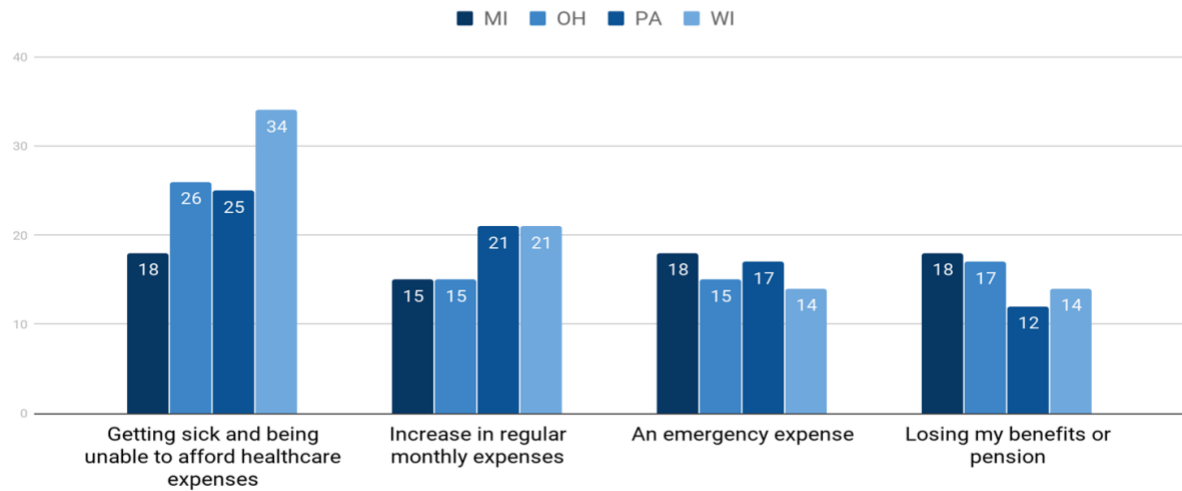
This is a list of proposals people have made to improve the economy. Please select the THREE that you think are the most important.



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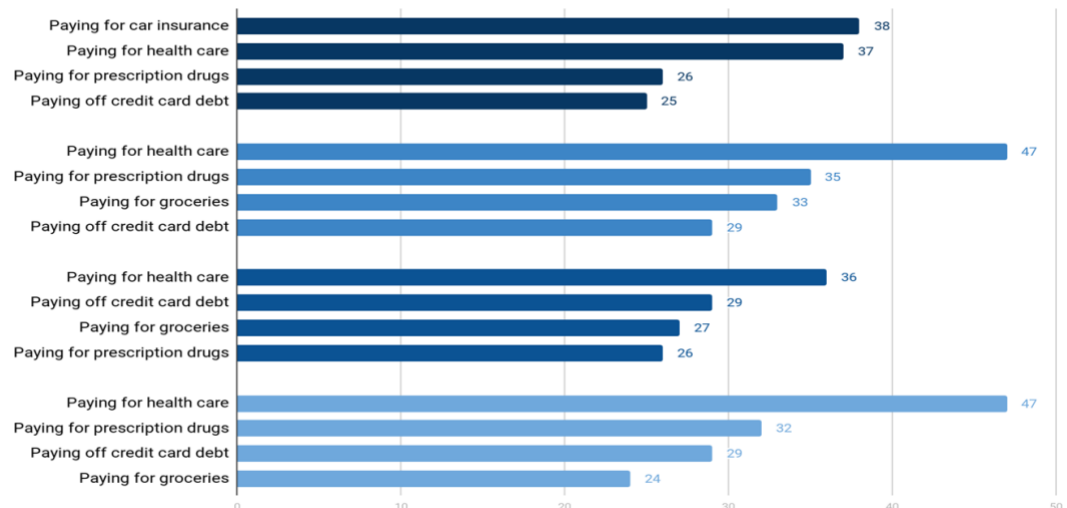
Going broke because you got sick is especially concerning in non-Medicaid expansion state, Wisconsin:

Which of the following economic situations worries you the most:



Car insurance rises to top in Michigan:

Which of the following monthly expenses are you worried about paying for? Please select all that apply.



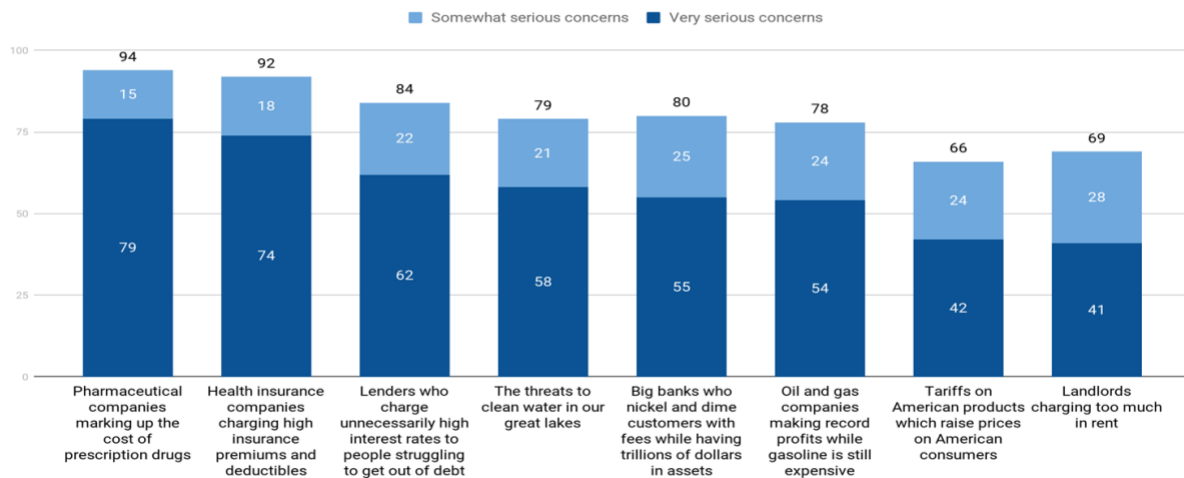
Voters' biggest obstacle for economic success is cost of living and the economy working only for the rich.

What do you feel is the single greatest obstacle to your becoming more economically successful?



Pharmaceutical and health care corporations outrage people the most.

How concerned are you by the following industries, policies, and groups of people?



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Economic Outlook:

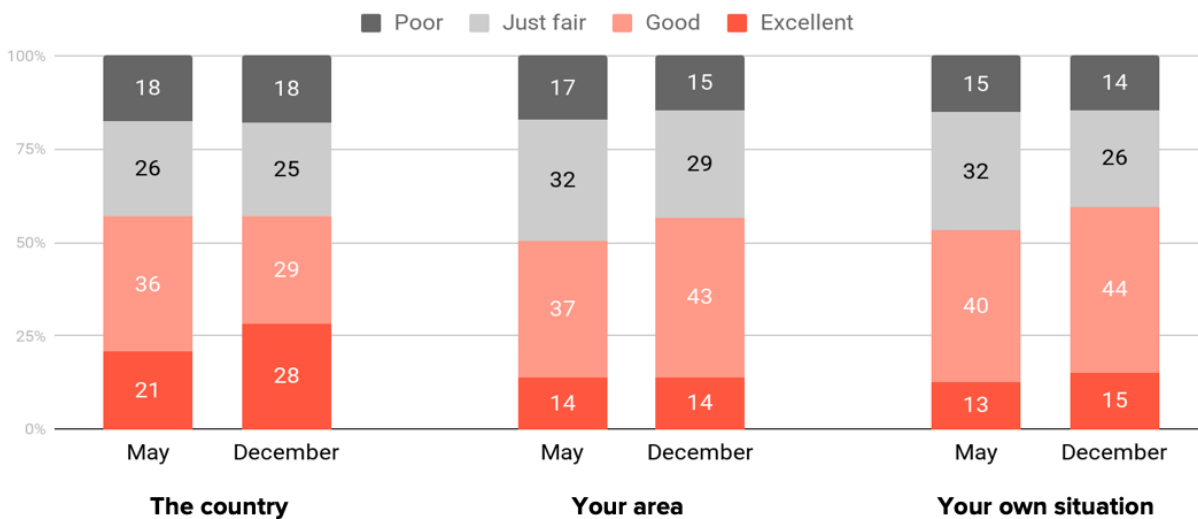
People see that the national economy has improved over the last half decade, but are less optimistic about how it will be in a year:

How would you rate the economic situation in the country



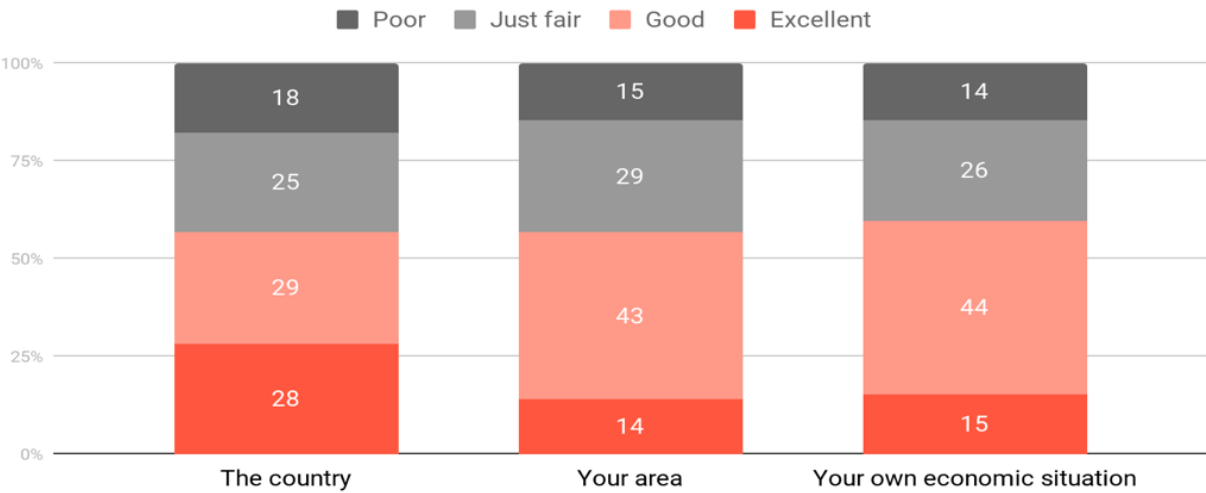
Voters have grown more positive on the economy than they were in our May poll.

How would you rate the economic situation in:



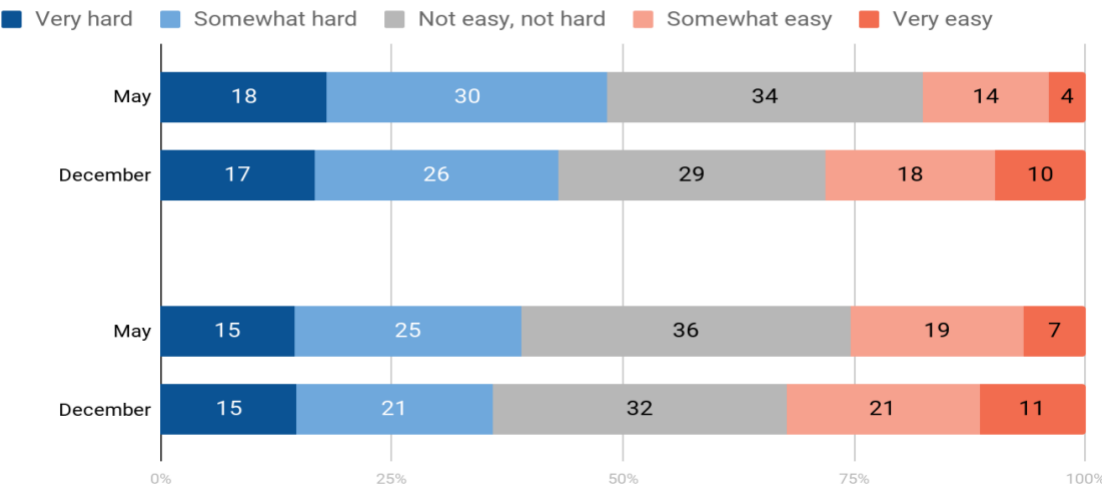
Voters see their local and personal economic circumstances as less favorable than the country's situation.

How would you rate the economic situation today in:



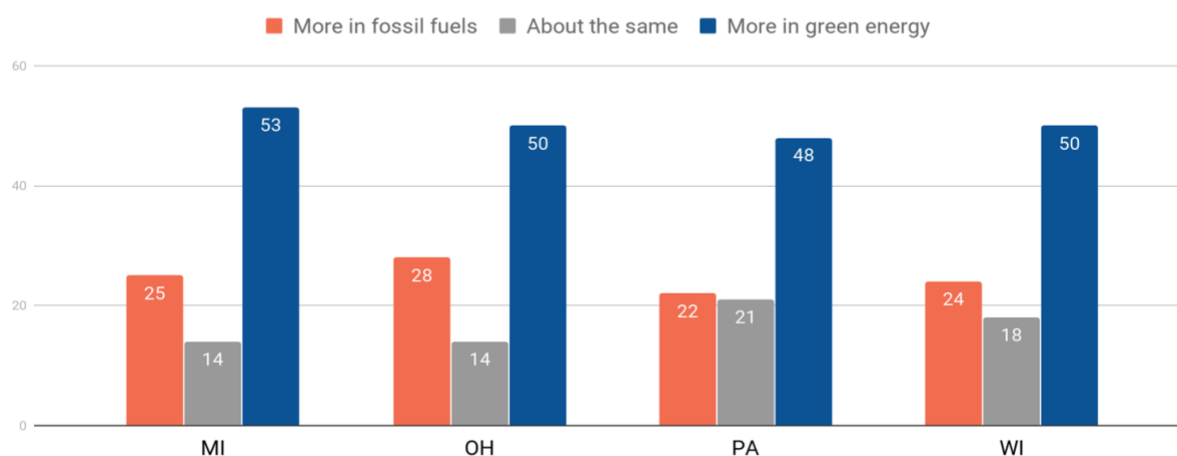
People are more positive about opportunity compared to May.

How easy do you feel it is for _____ to be economically successful?



Voters across Rust Belt think green energy will be a greater job creator

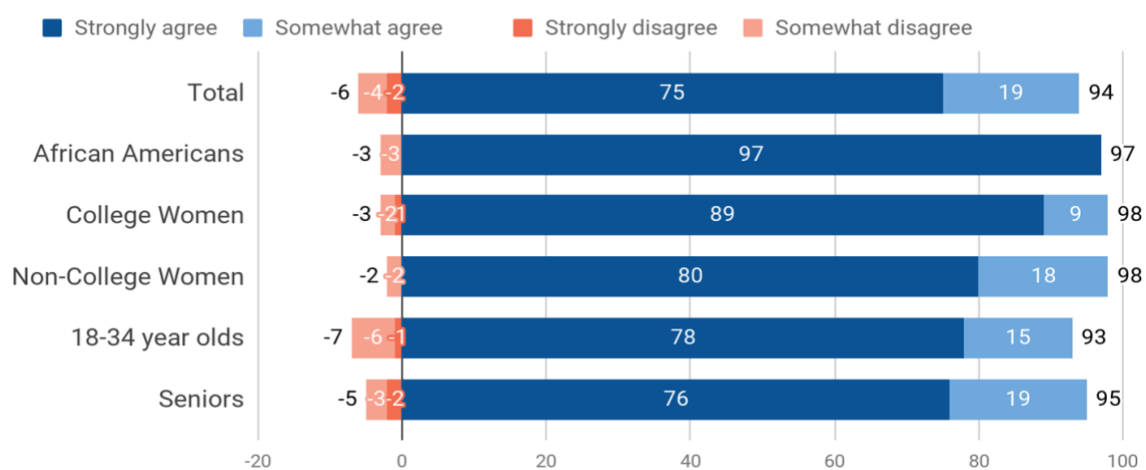
In the next 15 years, which do you think will create more new jobs - the fossil fuel industry or the green energy industry?



Messages:

Voters overwhelmingly support a clear statement of what Democrats are for in how they will help families:

We need to ensure healthcare is affordable and create jobs you can raise a family on.



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Likely voter poll information with post-stratification to approximate the 2020 electorate in four Midwestern states:

Michigan

- 80.5% white
- 61% non-college educated
- 43% under 50 years old

Pennsylvania

- 80% white
- 59.5% non-college educated
- 44% under 50 years old

Ohio

- 82% white
- 61% non-college educated
- 44% under 50 years old

Wisconsin

- 90% white
- 60% non-college educated
- 41.5% under 50 years old

For more survey questions and state-specific information, email info@rustbeltrising.com.

Polling by Change Research.



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