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Contact:

Jenny Park, jenny@resource-media.org, 415-867-1166

Polls Show Southern California Voters Want Congressional Representatives to Block Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling

Twice as many voters oppose offshore drilling as those who support; almost nine out of 10 agree oceans and beaches are important to California's economy and quality of life

Newport Beach, CA – When it comes to offshore oil and gas drilling, there is significant disparity between what voters in key congressional districts in Southern California want and what their members of Congress are doing. According to [a series of new polls](#), the majority of voters in San Diego, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Orange County oppose offshore drilling and want their member of Congress to take action to keep oil and gas drilling off the California coast.

“Our research indicates there is widespread and strong opposition to offshore drilling in these Southern California districts, and voters want their elected representatives to take action to protect the Pacific coast,” said Adam Probolsky, President of Probolsky Research, who conducted the polls in April 2018. “Across the three California districts we polled, we found that voters who oppose offshore drilling vastly outnumber those who are in support, in some cases by more than two to one.”

“These polls affirm what the business community in California has known all along. Healthy oceans and clean beaches are enormously important to California’s economy, and are a big part of why we choose to live and work here,” said Mark Christy, owner of Orange County-based Hobie Sports and co-owner of Tuvalu home furnishings, a member of the [Business Alliance for Protecting the Pacific Coast](#). The alliance represents more than 1,100 businesses in technology, tourism, seafood, real estate, and other sectors, who recognize the economic impact of the Pacific Ocean. In California, it accounts for 400,000 jobs and generates almost \$20 billion a year in the fishing, tourism, and recreation industry.

Below is a summary of key findings from each congressional district:

- [CA-39 \(Rep. Ed Royce\)](#)
 - 55.5% of voters oppose more oil and gas drilling off the California coast (39.5% strongly oppose) vs. 23% support (11% strongly support)
 - 56% want Rep. Royce to vote to oppose more oil and gas drilling vs. 22.3% that want him to support it
- [CA-45 \(Rep. Mimi Walters\)](#)
 - 54% of voters oppose more oil and gas drilling off the California coast (46.8% strongly oppose) vs. 32% that support (21.3% strongly support)
 - 57.8% want Rep. Walters to vote to oppose more oil and gas drilling vs. 31.8%
- [CA-50 \(Rep. Duncan Hunter\)](#)
 - 55.3% of voters oppose more oil and gas drilling off the California coast (43.8% strongly oppose) vs. 26.8% (16.3% strongly support)
 - 57% want Rep. Hunter to vote to oppose more oil and gas drilling vs. 29.3%

PROTECT THE PACIFIC

The research also found overwhelming support across all three districts for keeping California's four marine sanctuaries in place, in part to prohibit offshore oil and gas drilling. Almost nine out of 10 voters believe that ocean and beach conditions are important to the economy, as well as the quality of life in California.

Previous research in other Southern California congressional districts also shows strong concern about offshore drilling in Pacific waters. According to a February 2018 poll conducted by FM3 Research, 68 percent of voters in Rep. Darrell Issa's district (CA-49) are opposed to opening up the California coastline to oil drilling. Another FM3 poll in Rep. Steve Knight's district (CA-25), conducted in January 2018, found that 72 percent of voters expressed doubts about Rep. Knight's support for massive new oil drilling off the California coast.

The findings echo [research from the Public Policy Institute of California](#), which shows opposition to offshore drilling across the state is at an all-time high, even among coastal Republicans.

"If Representatives Ed Royce, Duncan Hunter, and Mimi Walters are looking for a mandate on offshore drilling, they don't need to look any further than this," said Probolsky. "Voters in their districts value California's beaches and coasts, and they want their elected officials to take action and make sure the Pacific remains protected from more oil and gas drilling."

About the research:

From April 21-29, 2018, Probolsky Research conducted a live-interviewer telephone and online survey among voters in California's 39th, 45th, and 50th Congressional Districts. A total of 400 voters were surveyed in each district, yielding a margin of error of +/-5.8%. Interviews were conducted with respondents on both landline and mobile phones and were offered in English and Spanish languages. Online respondents were able to use their computer, tablet, or smartphone to participate. Researchers applied a stratified random sampling methodology to ensure that the demographic proportions of survey respondents match the demographic makeup of voters in each district. A summary of key findings from the research is available [online](#).

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