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Contact: Natural Gas Association of Georgia

Stephen Loftin · (404) 643-4704 · stephen@loftinpublicaffairs.com

New Poll: Georgia Governor's, PSC Races a Dead Heat

Affordability Tops Energy Policy Issues with Voters Strongly Supporting Expanding Natural Gas and Preserving Consumer Choice

ATLANTA, GA — A new statewide survey released today shows Georgia's 2026 race for governor locked in a virtual tie, with Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms leading Republican Rick Jackson 46.4% to 44.9%, a margin well inside the poll's margin of error, with 7.7% of voters still undecided. The two Public Service Commission races on the ballot are equally competitive, with Democrat Peter Hubbard edging Republican Fitz Johnson 39.4% to 38.4% in District 3, and Democrat Shelia Edwards leading Republican Josh Tolbert 40.2% to 38.1% in District 5. Roughly one in five voters remain undecided in the PSC contests.

The poll, conducted by Quantus Insights on behalf of the Natural Gas Association of Georgia, surveyed 815 likely Georgia general-election voters July 29 through August 1, 2026, and carries a design-adjusted margin of error of ± 3.6 percentage points.

But beyond the horse-race numbers, the survey's most striking findings center on how Georgia voters feel about energy policy, and natural gas in particular, as the state heads into a pivotal election year.

Voters' Top Concerns and Where Energy Fits

Asked to name their single most important issue as a Georgia voter, respondents put inflation and the cost of living at the top of the list at 34.5%, followed by the economy and jobs at 25.4% and education at 11.9%. Energy costs and reliability registered as a top-of-mind issue for just 2.5% of voters, behind healthcare (5.3%), election integrity (3.8%), and crime and public safety (3.2%).

The same pattern holds when voters are asked which single household expense worries them most: groceries (31.4%), healthcare (21.2%), and housing (19.1%) lead the list, with electricity cited by 9.9% and natural gas by just 1.0%.

Taken together, the findings show that while energy itself is not the issue driving Georgia voters to the polls this fall, affordability is the lens through which they view it. When the question turns specifically to energy policy, keeping bills affordable jumps to the top of voters' priority list by a wide margin, suggesting that "energy" as a category doesn't yet compete with inflation or groceries for voters' attention, but the cost of energy is very much wrapped up in the broader affordability anxiety driving this election.

Affordability Is the Top Energy Concern

A majority of Georgia voters, 53.5%, say keeping household energy bills affordable should be state leaders' single highest priority when setting energy policy — far outpacing concerns about reliability (15.0%), economic growth (14.1%), emissions reduction (8.7%), or consumer choice (5.2%) as a standalone issue. Voters gave state utility regulators the same marching orders: 53.4% say the Georgia Public Service Commission's top priority should be keeping utility rates affordable.

Strong, Bipartisan Support for Natural Gas Choice

When asked directly about natural gas, Georgia voters send a clear signal:

- **74.1%** support protecting the ability of homeowners and businesses to choose natural gas when it's available, including majorities of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike.
- **75.3%** support expanding and modernizing natural-gas infrastructure in areas of the state where additional capacity is needed.
- **73.4%** support encouraging more renewable natural-gas projects in Georgia.
- **56.7%** say the state should continue relying on an “all of the above” diverse energy mix — including natural gas, nuclear, solar, hydropower, and battery storage — as electricity demand grows, compared with 24.4% who favor moving more quickly toward solar and battery storage alone.

The poll also found a significant awareness gap: 71% of Georgia voters did not know that U.S. households using natural gas typically save an average of \$1,030 a year on their energy bills, and 75.8% were unaware that natural gas delivered directly to a home is roughly 92% efficient, compared with about 38% efficiency when natural gas is first converted into electricity.

About the Survey

The survey of 815 likely Georgia general-election voters was conducted July 29–August 1, 2026, using a mixed-mode methodology combining an online panel (n=300) and SMS-to-mobile interviews (n=515). Results were weighted using iterative proportional fitting to align with benchmarks for Georgia's likely electorate on age, sex, race, education, metro type, media market, and general-election voting frequency. The statewide sample carries a design-adjusted margin of error of ± 3.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, based on a design effect of 1.110 and an effective sample size of 734.

The poll including crosstabs can be found [here](#).

About the Natural Gas Association of Georgia

The Natural Gas Association of Georgia was formed in 2015 and is made up of natural gas providers, pipeline companies, municipal-owned gas companies, natural gas marketers and appliance manufacturers operating throughout the state. Its mission is to promote the safe, direct use of natural gas by educating state leaders and industrial, commercial, and residential customers on its efficiency, affordability, and environmental benefits, and by advocating for energy policies that build on natural gas' role as a foundational fuel for Georgia's continued economic growth. Learn more at <https://ngaofgeorgia.org/>.