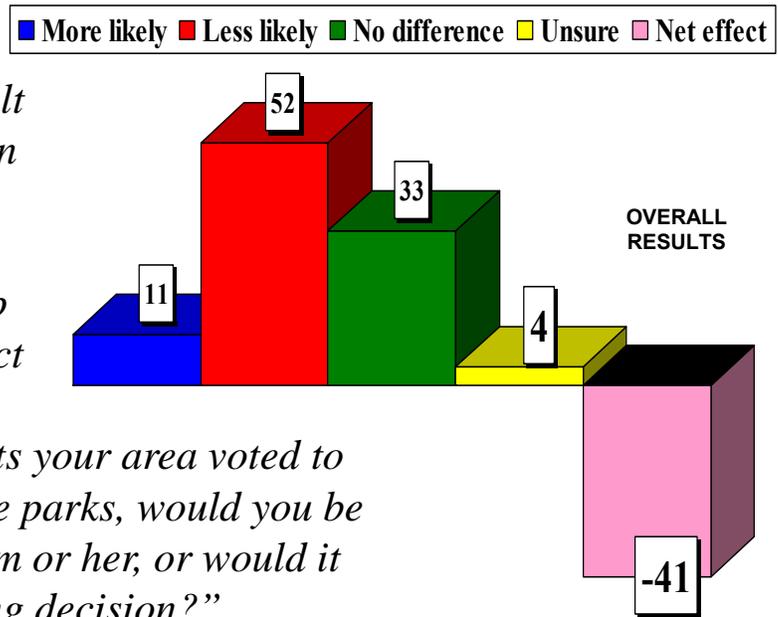


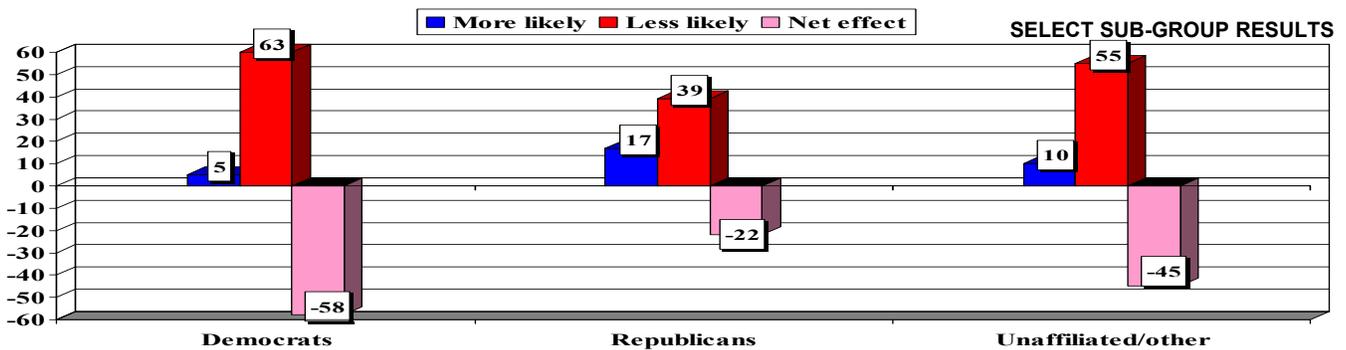
Ohio Voter Survey Results: Voting in favor of fracking on state park land could be politically-costly for state legislators seeking re-election

QUESTION WORDING:

“As you may or may not know, a state policy change could result in allowing fracking to resume in Ohio’s parks. Fracking is a process of using compressed chemicals and water to break up shale deposits, in order to extract natural gas and oil. Supposing that the legislator who represents your area voted to allow fracking to resume in state parks, would you be more or less likely to re-elect him or her, or would it make no difference in your voting decision?”



Although it is unlikely that fracking on state park land would be decided by the legislature, there appears to be good reason to keep it off the statehouse’s legislative voting agenda. The topic may be radioactive enough to cost legislators their seats if they were to have to account for such votes to voters in their districts. Although there are substantial differences in reactions among voters of different partisan groups, even Republican voters who – compared to Democrats and independents – were somewhat less fazed, seem to take a dim view of the idea. The topic could be potent enough to upend the electoral prospects of incumbents, especially those facing Democrat primary challenges.



METHODS: This survey research data was gathered through telephone interviews that specially-trained interviewers conducted with 800 randomly-selected registered voters in the State of Ohio with histories of voting in recent November general elections, who had valid residential, VOIP or cellular telephone numbers. The interviews were performed during the period of May 9, 2017 through May 13, 2017. The overall estimated margin of sampling error is +/- 3.46%, based on a confidence level of 95%, although it varies for each individual question. This means that if this survey were repeated, 95 times out of 100 the results would be within plus or minus 3.46% of those provided herein. Adjustments were made to weight the results toward demographic and geographic characteristics of the state’s electorate, in order to account for under- and over-sampling that normally occurs as a result of the random selection process, and to ensure that all major sub-groups are represented in proportion to their actual percentages. Like all polls, this survey research is subject to other possible sources of error, such as unintentional bias in the wording of questions, data-entry error and nonresponse bias. **Please note that this survey question was not funded or commissioned by any organization or committee. Permission is granted for distribution to share this information with any interested parties.**

