

**To:** The Nature Conservancy

**From:** Brian Tringali  
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**Re:** Key findings from a statewide survey of Ohio voters

The Tarrance Group is pleased to present these key findings from a statewide survey of Ohio voters. This survey was conducted June 22-24 and 26-27, 2021 among N=800 registered voters in Ohio, including N=600 registered voters statewide and an oversample of N=200 voters in coal producing counties. The margin of error for the statewide sample is  $\pm 4.1\%$ .

**This data shows that Ohio voters support the bipartisan infrastructure package as it provides benefits that a majority of Ohio voters want like safe roads, a reliable electrical grid, affordable and reliable broadband, targeted workforce development programs, needed research and development along with support for clean energy programs. After being informed of the substance of the bill, there is strong majority support among all voters statewide (64%).**

As seen below, there is broad consensus among Ohio voters on key themes like

| <b>Message</b>   | <b>More Likely</b> |
|--|--------------------|
| The United States must have a strong infrastructure including safe roads, reliable, cleaner sources of energy, and a well trained workforce in order to compete economically with other countries.                           | 74%                |
| The production and transmission of safe and reliable electricity is a national security issue. If the whole nation suffered power outages like the ones seen in Texas last year, we would all be in danger from our enemies. | 70%                |
| With so much of our lives online now, everyone should have access to reliable and affordable broadband internet service, especially in rural areas.  | 76%                |
| Workforce retraining programs are an important way to make certain that workers do not get left behind as technology changes our world.  | 71%                |
| Continued support for research and development programs will help us remain a world leader in new and improved products and services.  | 70%                |
| Promoting clean energy will allow us to continue to get all the energy we need while also improving the environment.   | 69%                |

In addition, there is broad agreement among Ohio voters overall and among Republican voters as well as among coal county voters on the value of some of the key items in the bipartisan infrastructure bill like land conservation efforts, public transportation, modernization of the electric grid, expanded access to broadband, clean of brown field sites, and needed preparations for natural disasters. These voter sentiments are summarized in the chart below.

| <b>Proposal</b>   | <b>Favor<br/>(All voters)</b> | <b>Favor<br/>(GOP)</b> | <b>Favor<br/>(Coal Counties)</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Investments to promote efforts to conserve and protect public lands and public waterways.   | 85%                           | 78%                    | 83%                              |
| Investments to modernize and improve public transportation systems across the country.  | 77%                           | 67%                    | 73%                              |
| Improve power line and power transmission systems nationwide, including in the Appalachian region.                                      | 83%                           | 80%                    | 83%                              |
| Build high speed broadband lines to ensure all parts of the country have access to reasonably priced broadband internet.                | 80%                           | 70%                    | 82%                              |
| Investments to clean up former industrial sites and provide job training to former workers at these sites.                              | 82%                           | 75%                    | 80%                              |
| Investments to safely close, restore, and reclaim oil wells, gas wells, and mines that are no longer in use.                            | 73%                           | 64%                    | 74%                              |
| Invest in programs to help rural communities be more prepared for natural disasters like wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, and droughts. | 80%                           | 71%                    | 78%                              |

In sum, Ohio voters, including Ohio Republicans and coal county voters, recognize the value and the need for improved infrastructure programs. This awareness leads to broad support for programs that meet these needs.