

# Virginia National Parks

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SURVEY RESULTS  
April 2023

TargetPoint 

# KEY FINDINGS

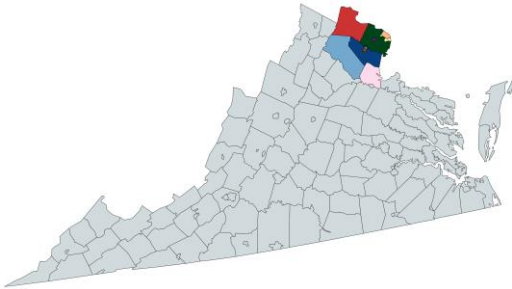
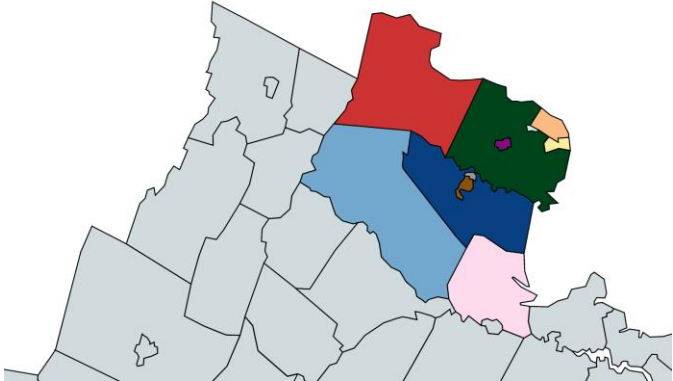
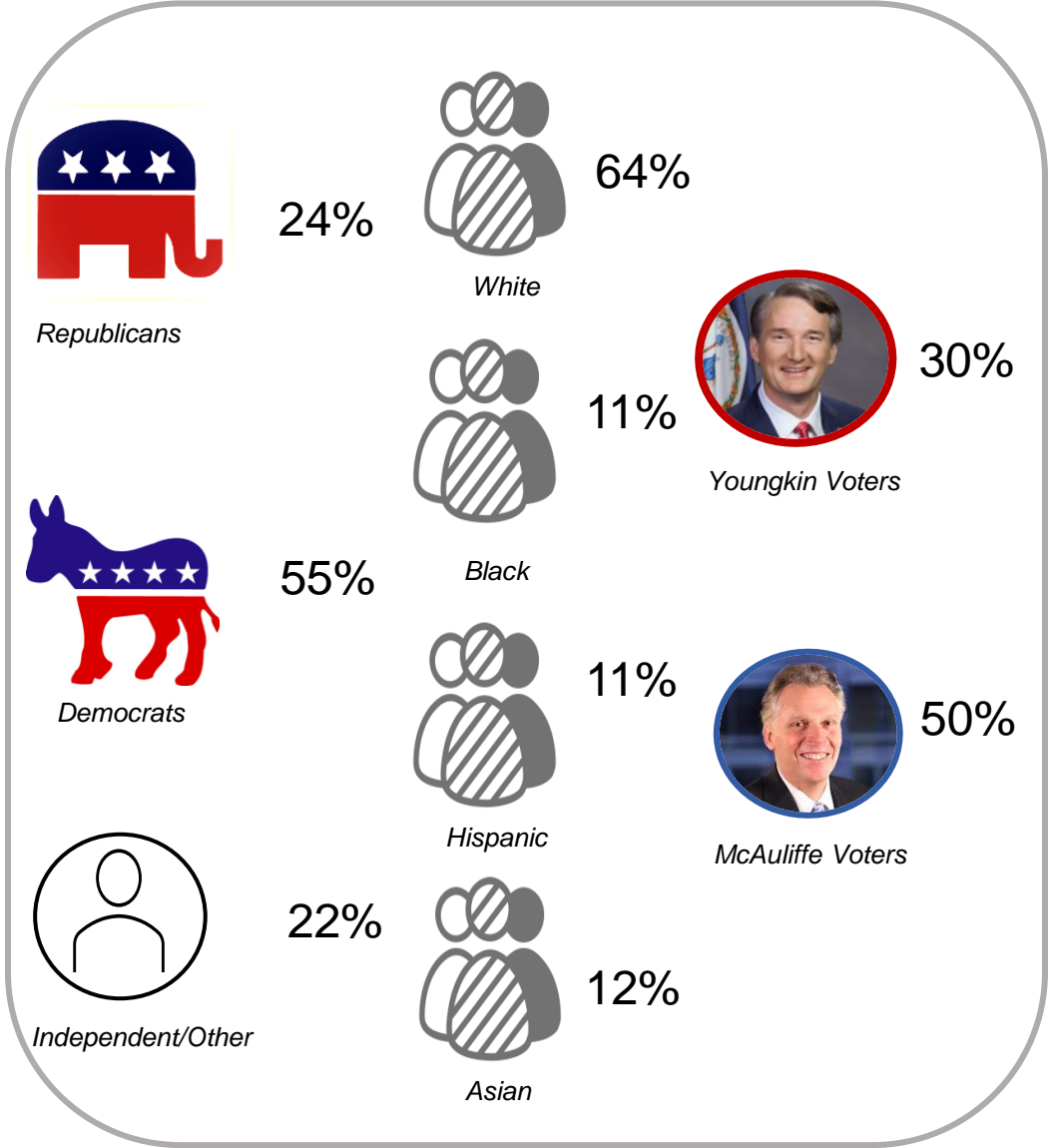
- Voters are overwhelmingly supportive of national parks – 66% have visited one in the last three years and 71% believe that they help the economy, only 2% believe they hurt the economy.
- 96% of voters would support their elected representative taking a strong stand to protect national parks from data centers.
- 77% of Northern Virginians support keeping local zoning laws in place to protect national parks.
- 86% of Northern Virginians support, prohibiting data centers with one mile of national parks, 57% strongly support this legislation.

# Who Did We Talk To – A Representative Sample of 300 Northern Virginians

Cities/Counties

- Alexandria – 6%
- Fairfax City – 1%
- Falls Church – 1%
- Manassas – 1%
- Arlington – 9%
- Fairfax – 43%
- Fauquier – 3%
- Loudoun – 15%
- Prince William – 15%
- Stafford – 6%

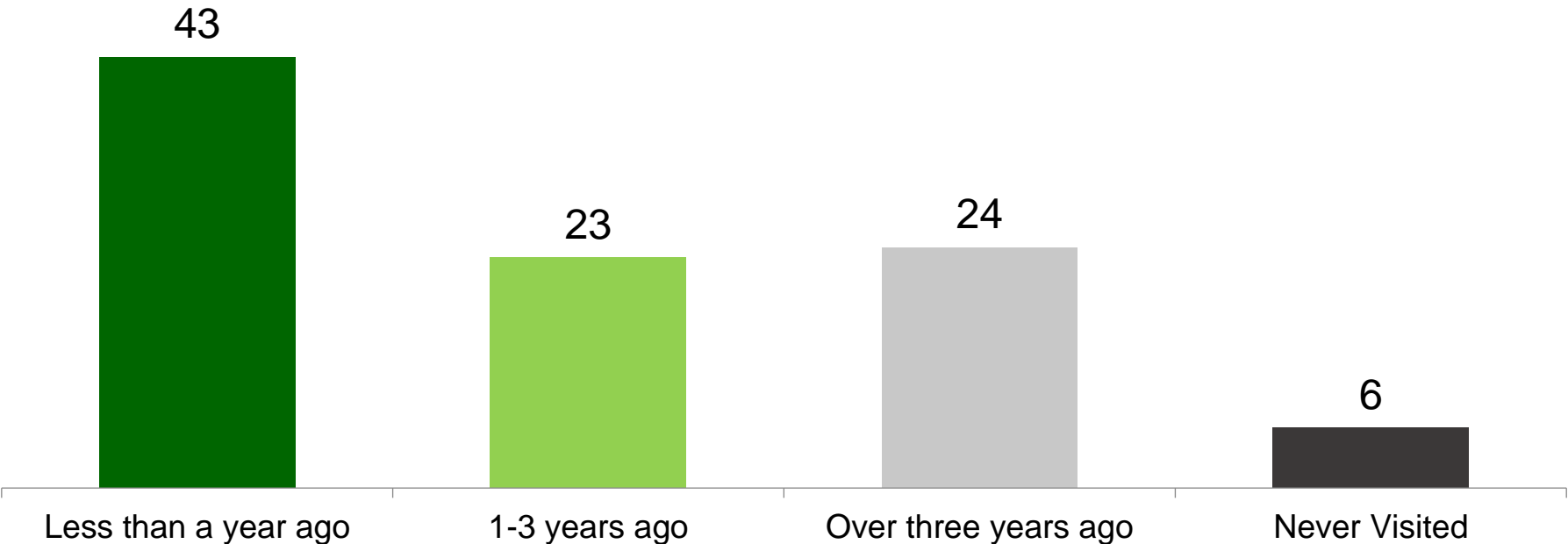
## Key demographics of interviewed voters



# Majority of Northern Virginians Have Visited a National Park in the Last Three Years

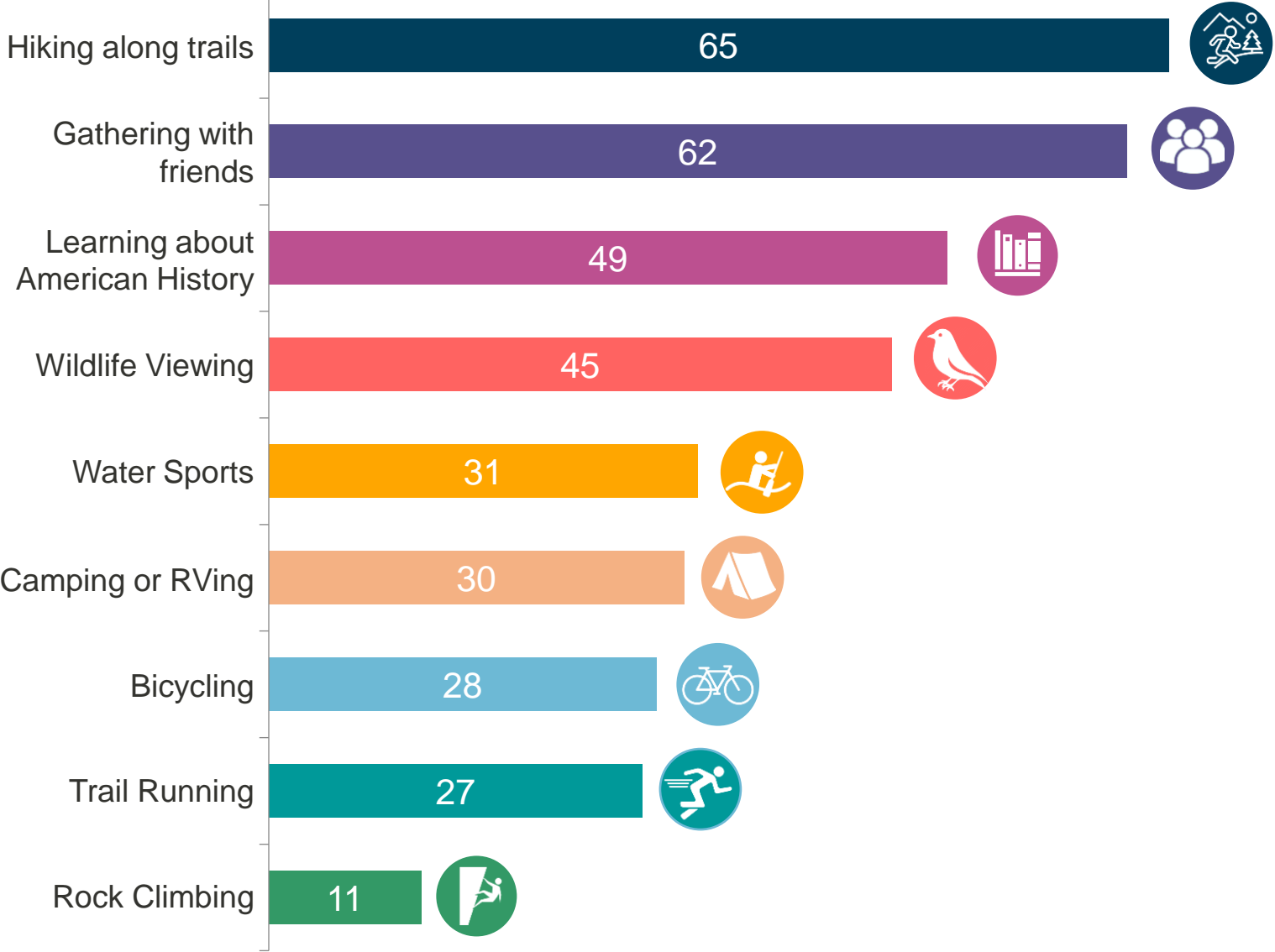
Have you ever visited a site in the National Park system? If so, when was the last time you visited a park, battlefield, monument, or other area?

Northern Virginians Visiting  
in Past 3 Years: 66%



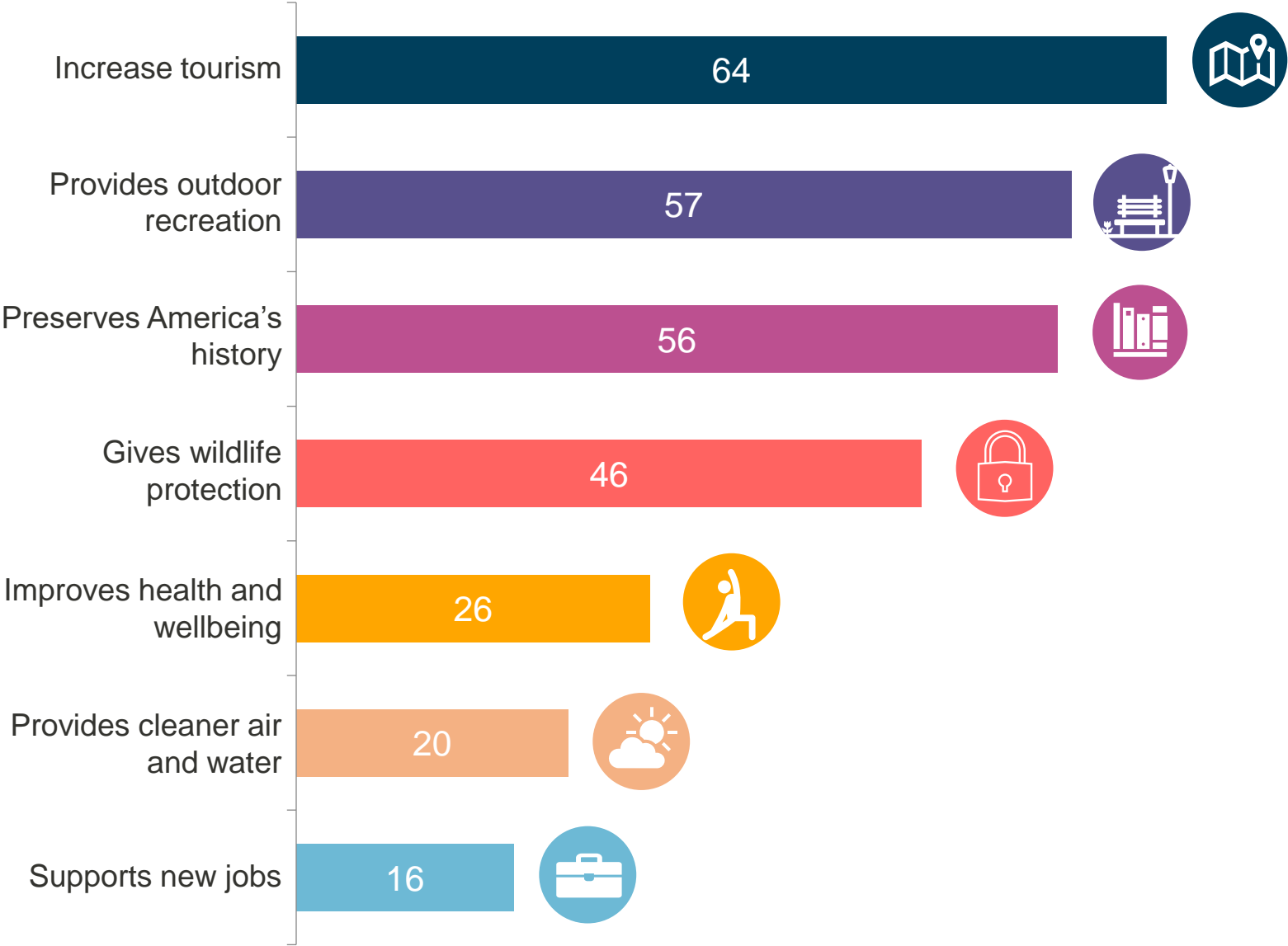
# Northern Virginians Use the National Parks For Many Reasons

These are many reasons people visit and recreate in national parks, public lands, and outdoor spaces in Virginia. Which of the following are activities that you enjoy?



# Northern Virginians Voters See Value in National Parks

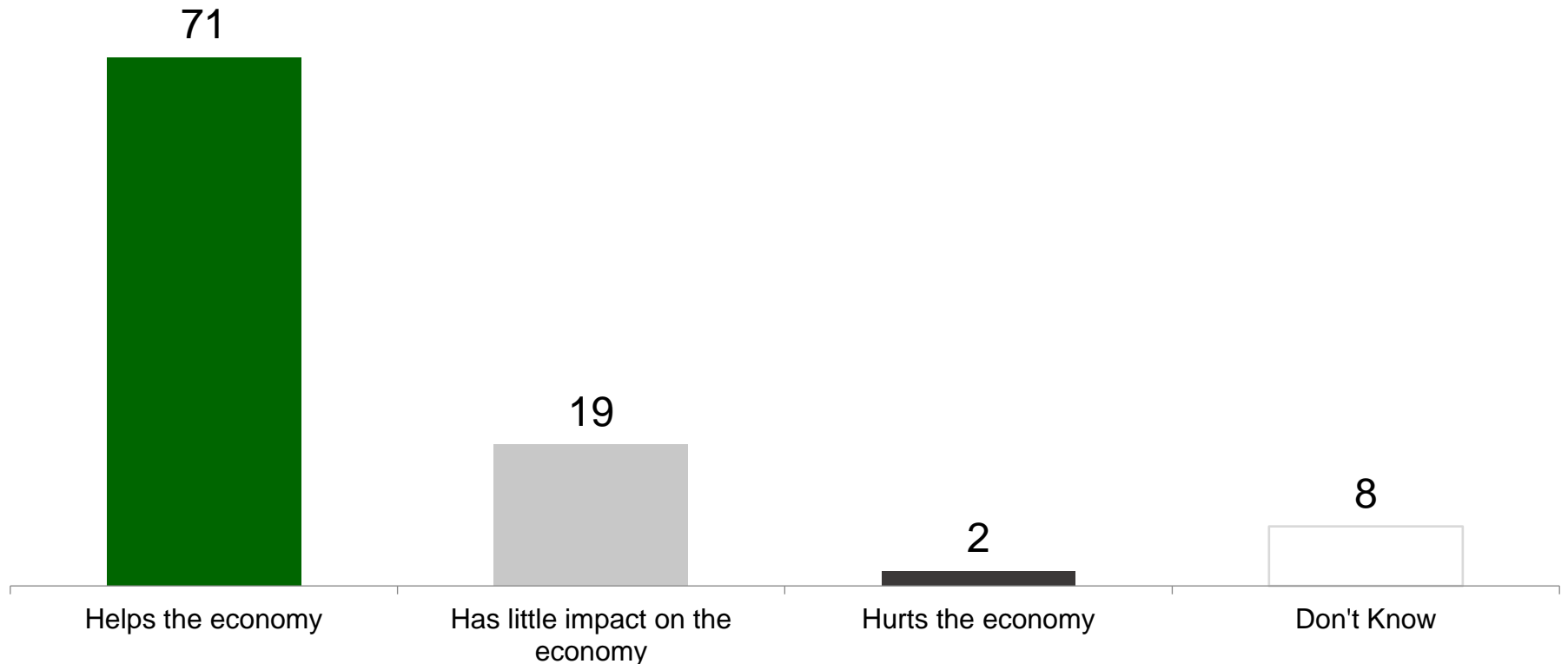
In your opinion, what are the top three ways Virginia benefits from having national parks?



# Voters Believe National Parks Are an Economic Driver

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Do you think that having national parks in Virginia, such as Manassas National Battlefield Park and Shenandoah National Park, helps the economy of Northern Virginia, hurts the economy, or has little impact on Northern Virginia's economy?

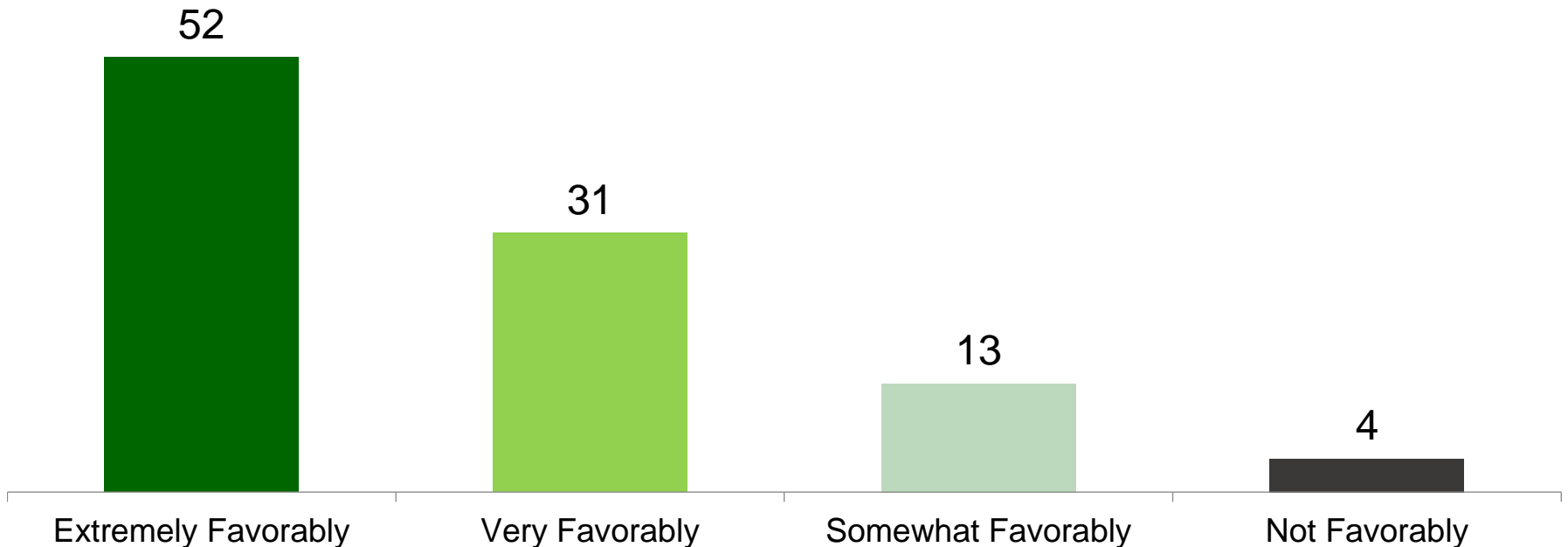


# Voters Want Representatives To Take Strong Stand To Protect National Parks

How would you react if your elected representative took a strong stand in support of protecting Virginia's national parks from the impacts of data centers?

**Total Favorable: 96% | Total Not Favorable: 4%**

	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Non-White	Male	Female	GOP	Democrat	Indep/Other	Youngkin Voter	McAuliffe Voter
<b>Total Favorable</b>	96%	96%	96%	98%	93%	96%	96%	96%	98%	94%	96%	98%





# Strong Support for Keeping Local Zoning Laws That Protect National Parks

Recently proposals have been made to rezone land originally set aside as potential parkland around Prince William Forest and Manassas National Battlefield to instead be used to build data centers - large industrial complexes that house acres of computer systems for storing virtual information. Data centers emit loud noises and consume as much energy as 25,000 households per year and millions of gallons of water a day.

**Do you think we should change zoning laws so these data centers can be built next to national parks or should we keep the current zoning laws in place that protect these areas?**

	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Non-White	GOP	Democrat	Ind / Other	Youngkin Voter	McAuliffe Voter
<b>Change</b>	18%	15%	6%	8%	22%	15%	16%	8%	15%	10%
<b>Keep Current</b>	68%	76%	84%	84%	64%	79%	77%	76%	77%	85%

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Change the zoning laws

Keep the current zoning laws in place

Don't Know

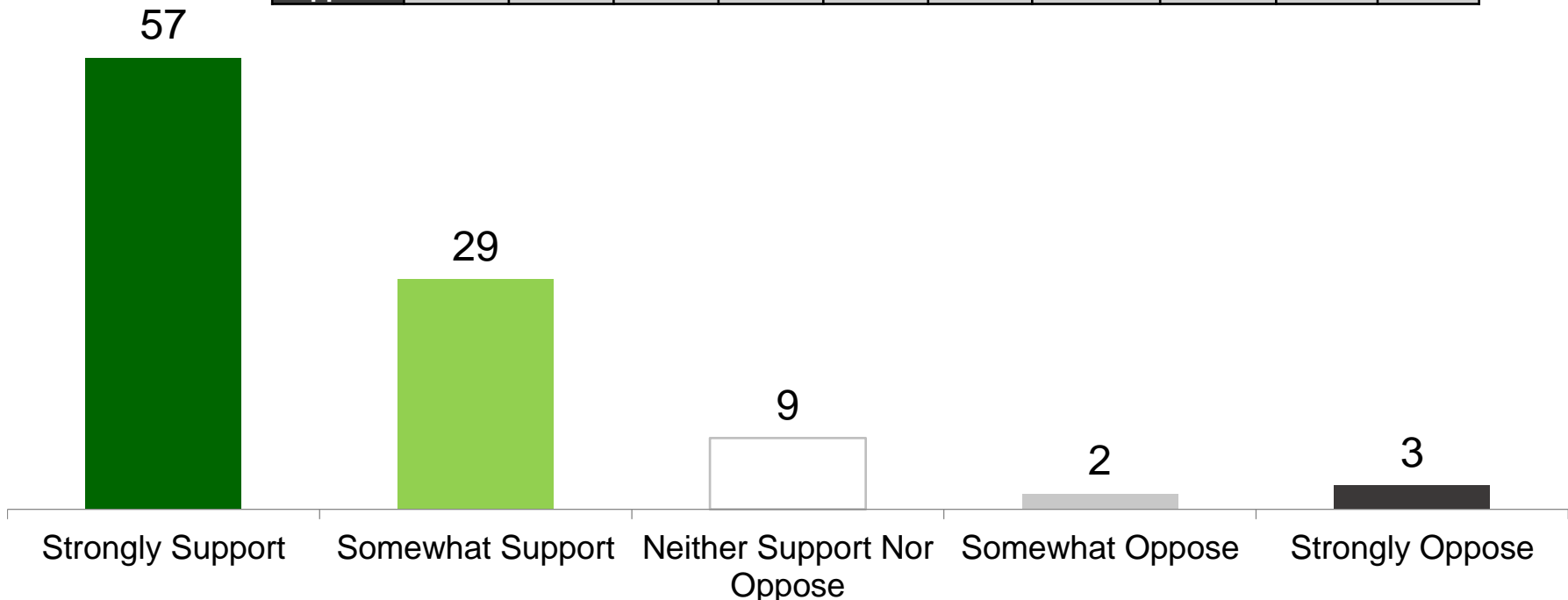
# 9 in 10 Republicans and Democrats Support Prohibiting Data Centers Within 1 Mile of Parks

State lawmakers are considering legislation that would prohibit large industrial data centers from being built within 1-mile of national park, state park, or other historically significant site.

After reading this information, do you support or oppose this bill?

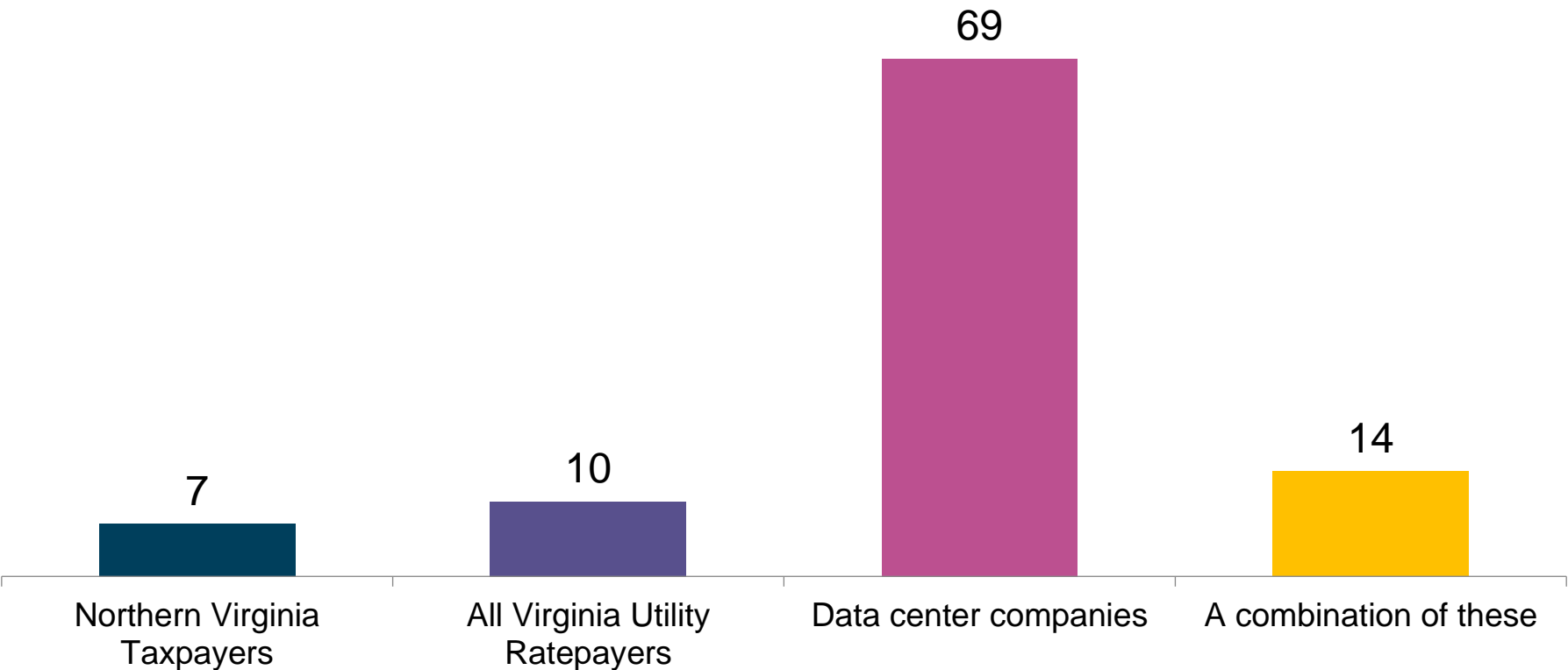
Total Support: 86% | Total Oppose: 5%

	18-34	35-54	55+	White	Non-White	GOP	Democrat	Ind / Other	Youngkin Voter	McAuliffe Voter
Total Support	78%	90%	86%	88%	81%	91%	91%	78%	87%	93%
Total Oppose	6%	3%	7%	4%	7%	5%	3%	7%	6%	2%



# Most Think the Data Center Companies Should Cover New Infrastructure Costs

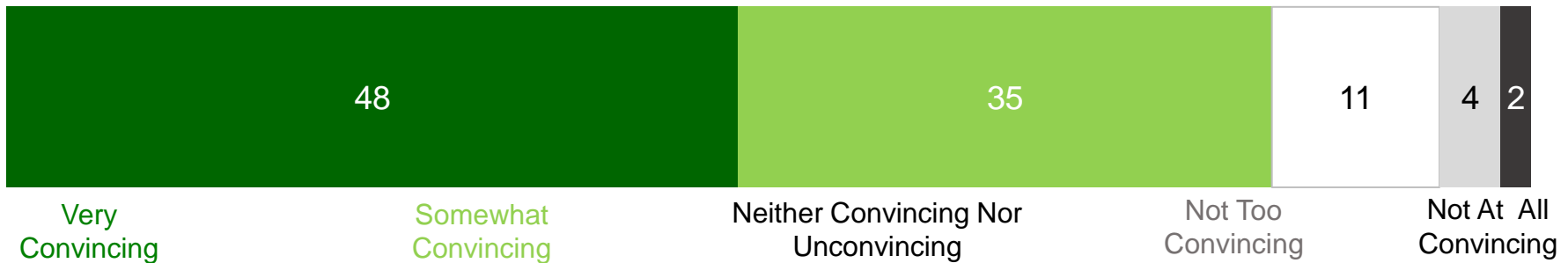
Data centers use massive amounts of energy that require new or upgraded electrical infrastructure, such as power lines. Who do you think should cover the costs associated with new infrastructure required by new data centers?



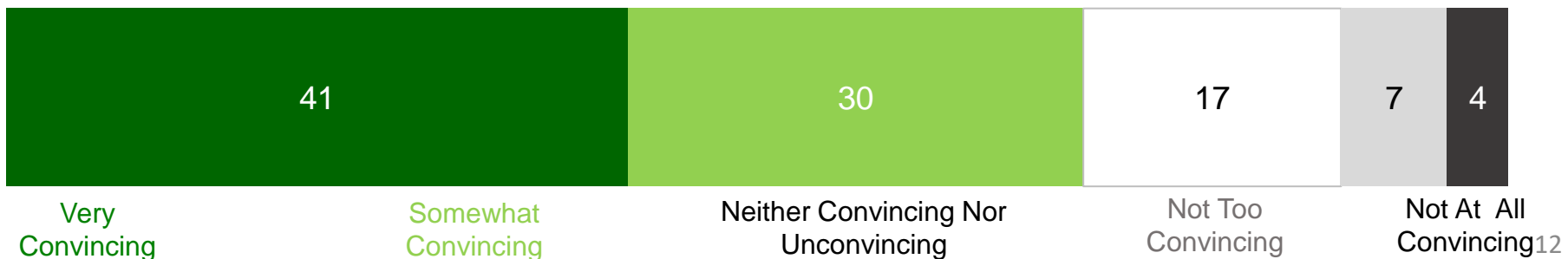
# Voters Want To Preserve the Lands and History of National Parks From Data Centers

There are several arguments for protecting and preserving national parks in Virginia. For each of these arguments, please tell me if you find them convincing or not convincing.

**Data centers are necessary for powering many tech companies and the internet; however, it is not appropriate to build them adjacent to our national parks.** Lawmakers should oppose approving plans that would destroy historic views, raze wildlife habitat, and threaten water quality when other, more appropriate lands, are available for development.



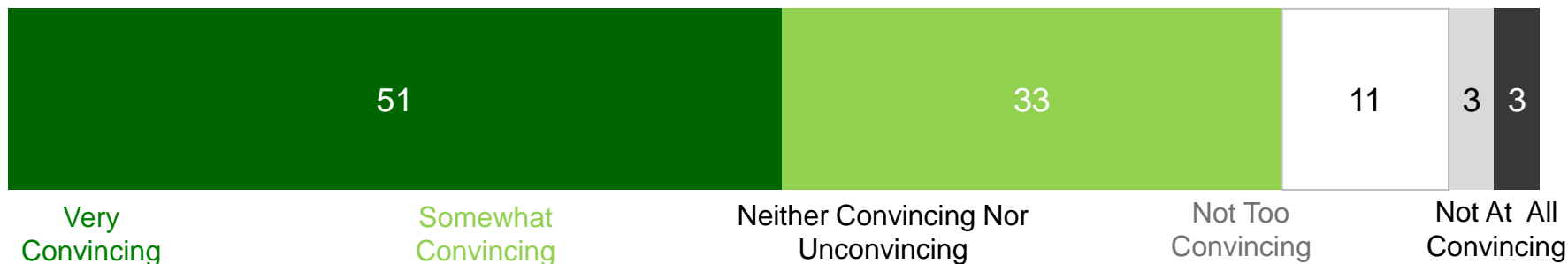
Big-tech companies are racing to build huge warehouse-style data centers on battlefield land. **These places deserve to be preserved and protected so that future generations can learn about those who fought and died for our country and freedom,** not overrun by modern technology.



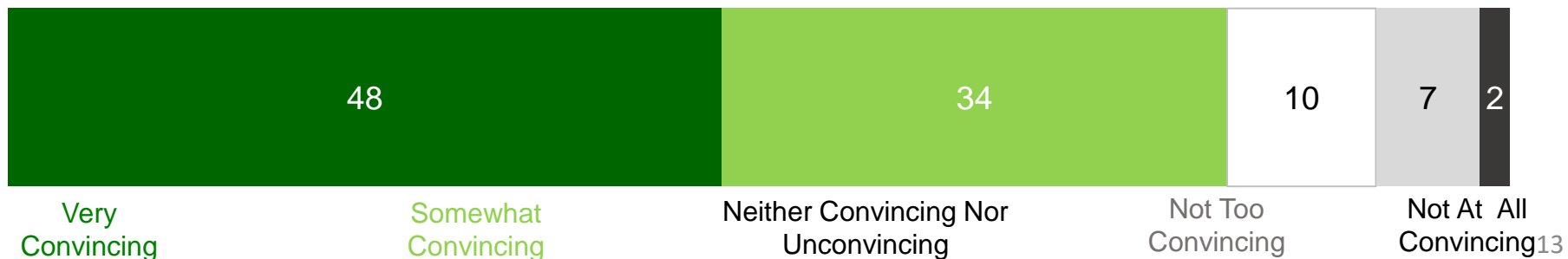
# Voters Recognize Threats To Everyday Virginians

There are several arguments for protecting and preserving national parks in Virginia. For each of these arguments, please tell me if you find them convincing or not convincing.

Virginia has given millions of dollars in tax incentives to big tech companies, and **it is everyday Virginians who are paying the price.** These new data centers would disrupt miles of Virginia Scenic Byways, home to numerous tourist attractions, family farms and breweries that attract almost a million tourists every year and provide a living for many. Lawmakers should work to protect everyday Virginians not to appease wealthy tech companies.

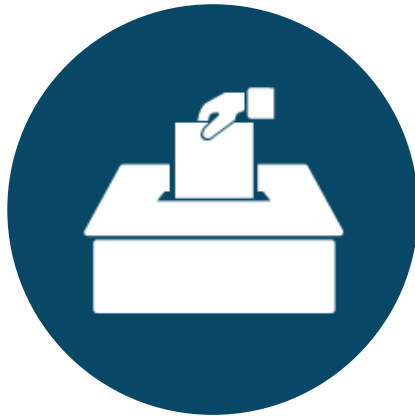


**Air and water pollution from massive warehouse-style data centers threaten the health of our drinking water, wildlife, and outdoor recreation.** National parks and public lands in Virginia help protect the water Virginians drink and the health of the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. Building data centers and warehouses in environmentally sensitive areas is wrong.



# Methodology

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300 interviews were conducted among registered voters in Northern Virginia with a margin of error of +/- 5.7%.



All interviews were conducted online.



April 13-17, 2023

# TargetPoint



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