



To: Interested Parties

From: Virginia League of Conservation Voters and Global Strategy Group

Date: August 5, 2026

Re: NEW POLL RESULTS: Virginians concerned that Dominion-NextEra merger will increase electricity costs and expect lawmakers to protect their interests

A new survey of likely 2027 Virginia voters, including oversamples in State Senate Districts 24 and 31, finds that Virginians expect state lawmakers to protect their interests in the proposed Dominion-NextEra merger. Voters overwhelmingly believe the merger will increase electricity costs and want elected officials to ensure Virginia families aren't left footing the bill.

The memo below details the key findings from this research.

Key Findings

Voters instinctively oppose the merger because they expect it to increase their electric bills. Even before hearing additional information, three in four voters (76%) organically assume the merger will raise electricity costs. As a result, voters oppose the merger 33% to 9% (-24 net support), in part, because of broader skepticism and distrust of utility companies and the rapid growth of data centers:

- Dominion Energy is underwater statewide (34% favorable / 47% unfavorable), as is the lesser-known NextEra Energy (11% favorable / 18% unfavorable).
- Data centers (66% unfavorable, including 42% very unfavorable) and data center developers (65% unfavorable, including 41% very unfavorable) are viewed even more negatively.
- Meanwhile, a majority of voters (51%) name large energy users, like data centers, using more electricity and driving up demand as the biggest reason energy costs are rising.

Educating voters about NextEra's record further deepens opposition by reinforcing the distrust many voters already have toward utility companies. After exposure to negative messaging about the merger, opposition rises to 82% (-66 net support). Among the messages tested, the one focused on NextEra's record—including that the company has paid hundreds of millions of dollars to settle lawsuits over its business practices and political misconduct—is the single most concerning (77% extremely concerning; 86% total concerning). Notably, these concerns transcend party lines: 87% of Democrats, 74% of independents, and 67% of Republicans say NextEra's record is extremely concerning. Concerns are just as high in State Senate Districts 24 (74% extremely concerning) and 31 (77% extremely concerning).

NextEra Record Message	
	% Extremely concerning
Statewide	77
Democrats	87
Independents	74
Republicans	67
SD-24	74
SD-31	77

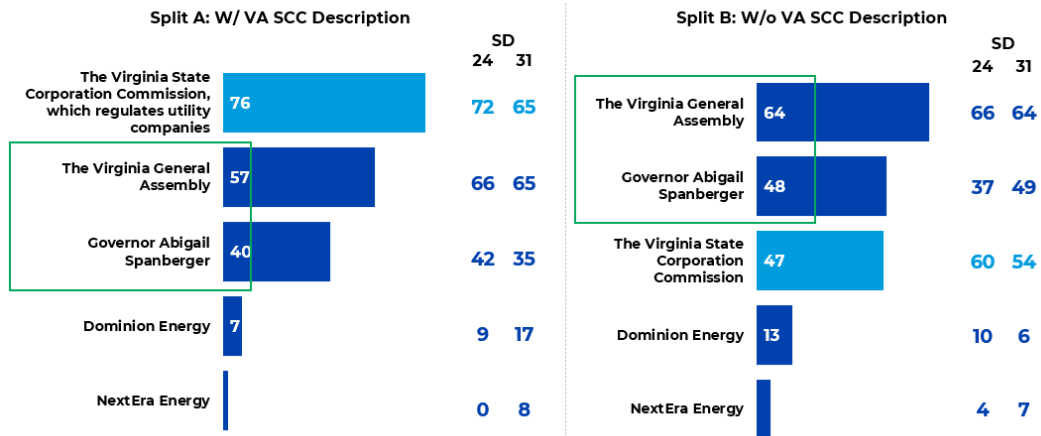
Voters want lawmakers to take action to protect families, hold utility companies accountable, and provide oversight on the Dominion-NextEra merger. Voters overwhelmingly support requiring new data centers to pay the full cost of the energy they are using, including any new power plants and grid upgrades, enabling regulators to require Dominion and NextEra to *prove* the merger will reduce electricity costs for Virginians in both the short and long term before it can be approved, and calling the General Assembly back to Richmond to review the merger and ensure consumers are protected before it moves forward. These regulations not only have clear cross-party appeal but are also popular in contested state legislature districts like State Senate Districts 24 and 31.

	% Strongly Support					
	VA	Dem	Ind	GOP	SD-24	SD-31
Require new data centers to provide or pay the full cost of the energy they use, and the new power plants and electric grid upgrades they need, so Virginia families and small businesses are not stuck paying higher electric bills	81	85	70	80	73	82
Enable regulators to require Dominion and NextEra to prove the merger will lower electricity costs for Virginians in both the short and long term before approval	71	78	71	64	61	73
Call Virginia lawmakers back to Richmond to review the merger, ask tough questions, and protect consumers before it moves forward	70	76	65	65	67	83

Voters expect state lawmakers to protect their interests in the merger. Most voters are unfamiliar with the Virginia State Corporation Commission and its role overseeing utilities. Nearly two-thirds of voters (64%) say the Virginia General Assembly bears the greatest responsibility for protecting Virginians' interests in the merger. Meanwhile, roughly half (48%) say the same about Governor Spanberger.

Even when voters are provided with information about the Virginia State Corporation Commission's role in regulating utilities, they still place responsibility for protecting their interests on the shoulders of their state government. A majority (57%) still say the General Assembly is responsible for protecting Virginia families' interests, and a plurality (40%) continue to hold the Governor responsible.

Who do you think has the biggest responsibility to protect Virginia families' interests in the merger between Dominion Energy and NextEra Energy? (% TOP TWO)



Taking action on the merger offers political upside to state lawmakers. At least two thirds of voters (68%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for General Assembly who opposes the Dominion-NextEra merger. This data is consistent across partisanship: 75% of Democrats, 76% of independents, and 59% of Republicans would be more likely to vote for a candidate who opposes the merger. In contrast, just 10% say they'd be less likely.

ABOUT THE POLL

Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 600 likely 2027 voters in Virginia, with oversamples of 200 likely voters each in State Senate District 24 and State Senate District 31, between July 16 and July 20, 2026. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.0% for the statewide sample. Of the 1,000 total interviews, 660 were conducted by telephone and 340 via text invitation to web-based survey. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic, political, and demographic divisions of the population of likely voters are properly represented