



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### RESULTS OF THE JCTA LBI WIND FARM SURVEY CONDUCTED FEBRUARY 16-19, 2023

*This survey and report of the results represent copyrighted material belonging to the Joint Council of Taxpayers Associations of LBI (JCTA) and its member associations and may not be used in any way by any other organization or individual without the express written permission of the JCTA President.*

- **1,545 total responses which yielded 1,343 completed surveys** and represent opinions based on a single point in time. Changing developments may affect attitudes.
- **The survey is neither a referendum** nor representative of LBI in its entirety. The survey was only sent to members of nine taxpayer associations who chose to participate (out of a total of eleven on the island). Other non-member stakeholders, residents and business owners were not included.
- **Most respondents are older** and have a long relationship with LBI: 95% are 50+ years old and 84% have been coming to LBI for 25+ years.
- **Overall, attitudes towards the wind farms are negative** and generally consistent geographically and demographically across LBI.

53% of respondents do not support wind energy here and anywhere else. 37% of the respondents support wind energy, but a portion of that group are not in favor of the current LBI plan. If we only focus on attitudes about the current plan, however, we see that 77% take a position against the current LBI plan. That number *includes* respondents who do not support wind energy in general *AND* those who are in favor of wind energy in general, but are not in favor of the wind farm off LBI.

The bar graph on the next page shows the breakdown.

- **Newer homeowners tend to be more negative**, particularly when compared to the average of responses from homeowners who rent their homes and homeowners who have an ocean view. Homeowners in the latter category, however, tend to be no more negative than the overall sample.
- **Negative ratings of the project's impact outweighed positive ratings** for each of the supplied statements about the proposed wind farm.

Highest-rated negative impacts: wildlife (75.1%); daytime visibility of turbines (74.4%); commercial fishing (71.5%); construction of Wind Farm (71.5%).

Highest-rated positive impacts: source of renewable energy (27.2%); reduction of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions (25.2%); economic impact in NJ (13.5%).

- **Taxpayers associations are the most frequently cited source of information** about the wind farm, followed by traditional media and Save LBI, whose outreach appears to be having an effect on attitudes.
- **Project owners Atlantic Shores and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) have been less effective** in reaching our members.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

- **A significant number of people would like to have more information**, even though they report well-above-average knowledge of the proposed wind farm (average rating was 5 on a low/high scale of 1 – 7). Based on the high % of people who have not attended a presentation in person (60%), it is difficult to tell how much people are forming fact-based opinions as word-of-mouth and social media may be driving attitudes.
- **There is an opportunity for the taxpayer associations to do more to educate** their members as more respondents cite them as a source of information about this topic.

**53% do not support wind energy off LBI or anywhere else, while 37% claim support for wind but not necessarily for the current plan**

Answered: 1343

