ENERGY PERMITTING REFORM

Faster clean energy, a stronger grid, and data centers paying their share: voters back BAAJA

A new Lake Research Partners survey of 2026 midterm voters finds support for the **Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act (BAAJA)**, which would speed up approvals for all types of energy projects, such as power lines and solar farms, outpaces opposition more than four to one: 56% to 12%.

2026 midterm Democratic voters are on board with BAAJA

63%

of voters who backed Democrats for Congress this year support BAAJA. Just 6% oppose, and 30% don't know enough yet to say.



Across all voters, a third don't know enough yet to say, and the two provisions below are BAAJA's most persuasive.

Data centers paying their share wins in both parties

76% more likely to support BAAJA when they hear large data centers will cover grid costs of serving them (10% less likely)

The most persuasive provision tested (53% much more likely). Democrats 74% to 13%, Republicans 79% to 8%.

Voters want timely decisions on energy projects

67% more likely to support BAAJA when they hear it sets faster deadlines for federal reviews (12% less likely)

The second most persuasive provision tested. Democrats 65% to 12%, Republicans 73% to 13%.

Voters are pragmatic about climate tradeoffs

When judging an energy bill's climate impact, what matters more: the overall result, or each project?



In between, left to right: both, it depends, neither, unsure

Voters favor the overall result over each project 31% to 17%, backing a bill that cuts pollution overall even if some projects add pollution at first. Democrats agree, 35% to 19%.

Respondents heard independent analysts expect BAAJA to lower pollution overall, and two models agree: Resources for the Future finds power-sector emissions 6% lower by 2041, and Rhodium Group finds U.S. emissions lower in every scenario, by up to 4% in 2040.

What this means for offices weighing BAAJA

- → **Supporting BAAJA is in step with voters.** 2026 midterm Democratic voters back it 63% to 6%, strong Democrats included.
- → **Faster reviews are a strength.** If concerns come up, be specific: Tribes get a say on harm to historic sites, and communities get federal help weighing data centers' water and rate impacts.
- → **Keeping data center costs off family bills makes the strongest case.** Rhodium projects the bill cuts household electricity bills $50–78 a year by 2040.
- → **The intensity is on BAAJA's side.** Strong supporters outnumber strong opponents 37% to 8%, and 44% to 3% among 2026 midterm Democratic voters.

Source: Lake Research Partners national survey of 1,200 registered voters who voted or planned to vote in the 2026 midterms, conducted October 31–November 3, 2026 (margin of error ±2.8 points). Provision questions were asked of half the sample (600 each). Unweighted subgroup sizes: Democratic congressional voters 796; Democrats 701 and Republicans 324 (party identification); strong Democrats 392; Latino voters 160; Black voters 127; voters under 30 127. Modeling: Resources for the Future (Oct. 29, 2026); Rhodium Group (Nov. 2, 2026).