

Subject: **New Poll: New Yorkers Want Action to Cut Utility Bills and Support Easing Barriers for Rooftop Solar**

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New Poll: New Yorkers Want Action to Cut Utility Bills and Support Easing Barriers for Rooftop Solar

A new survey of 600 New York voters finds that lowering electricity bills is a top priority for voters and that they broadly support easing the approval process for rooftop solar in order to address high energy costs. These results were consistent across party lines and geography.

Commissioned by [Permit Power](#), The Parkside Group conducted a survey in November 2025 about views on how to improve energy affordability in the state; about the local permitting process; and about proposals to make the rooftop solar permitting process easier and faster.

Important findings of this survey include:

- **Respondents believe Governor Hochul should prioritize lowering electricity bills for New Yorkers.** Lowering electricity bills is a clear priority for voters: 59% ranked it a 9 or 10 out of 10 in importance for the Governor to prioritize.
- **Respondents believe the Governor should support rooftop solar for homes and businesses to lower energy costs.** 66% of surveyed homeowners believe the Governor should support rooftop solar for homes and businesses to lower energy costs, a nearly +50 point margin and the strongest result of any approach tested.
- **Respondents believe permits need to be easier to obtain by a margin of more than 2:1.** 2 in 5 interviewed homeowners had tried to obtain a renovation or construction permit for projects, and 59% of those say New York should take action to make the process easier, with just 23% opposed.
- **Support for specific reforms is even stronger: 70% of respondents back online rapid permits.** The proposal for New York to provide an online tool that allows families to rapidly

obtain permits to install rooftop solar had wide support amongst homeowners (70% Support / 19% Oppose).

- **Respondents say neighbors or neighborhood boards should not have to approve solar installations.** 83% of homeowners think they should not have to get approval from their neighbors or a neighborhood board before installing solar panels on their homes.

Legislation sponsored by Sen. Pete Harckham and Assm. Brian Cunningham –**A/S. 5781-A. 6270**– would require most communities to deliver permits for code-compliant home solar systems online, instantly. Fixing the permitting process in NY, [which is among the worst in the country](#), is a virtually zero-cost way to make it cheaper and easier for more people to go solar and save money on their electricity bills.

The federal tax credit that is worth over \$10,000 to the average New York family deploying home solar will disappear by the end of 2027. Speeding up this process would also help families take advantage of these 30% federal tax credits for rooftop solar before they expire.

“These results should sound alarms. New Yorkers deserve real energy solutions to lower bills, especially common sense, low cost reforms like fixing the local approval process for rooftop solar.” said **Nick Josefowitz, CEO and Founder of Permit Power**. “Too many New Yorkers are unable to use home solar and batteries to lower their utility bills. It doesn’t have to be this way. Policy-makers have an opportunity here to make a real impact on the affordability crisis facing families.”

The poll was conducted in English via landline, cellphone, and SMS text message in November 2025 with active voters and representative samples for region, party, age, race, and gender. At the 95% confidence level, the overall margin of error in the survey is 5%. The margin of error is higher among sub-groups.

Find the polling results: [LINK](#)

About The Parkside Group

The Parkside Group has been providing electoral, corporate, and advocacy clients with public relations, public affairs, government relations, campaign management, quantitative research and advertising services for more than 20 years. The Parkside Group has played a key role in the election of more than 100 public officials and provides survey research services to corporations, trade associations, advocacy groups, party committees, and candidates.

About Permit Power

Permit Power has a vision for how to make it cheap and easy for American families to save money by powering their lives with clean energy. Permit Power provides an aerial view of the red tape that increases costs for rooftop solar and home battery installations and the policies that can slash through it.

Through its involvement in state legislative campaigns and partnership with state advocacy organizations, Permit Power is a subject matter expert on cutting the cost of rooftop solar and home batteries across the United States and the role that can play in reducing electricity bills and supercharging clean energy deployment. Permit Power can provide both policy recommendations and research insights.