

# Kentucky Consumers for Energy Competition

## Legislative Survey Results

*Survey mailed August 29, 2008. Results based on responses from 44 Kentucky General Assembly members and candidates.*

### Competition

1. In general, competition between vendors for the provision of goods and services tends to lead to a decrease in prices and an increase in quality. Do you support competition in the marketplace?

**Yes 100%**

No 0%

No answer/Undecided 0%

2. Do you believe that the policies of the Commonwealth of Kentucky should promote free and competitive markets?

**Yes 100%**

No 0%

No answer/Undecided 0%

### Energy Prices

1. The rise and volatility of energy prices has many Kentucky families feeling the pinch. A NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll conducted in July 2008 showed that the cost of energy is ranked near the top of issues that are most important to voters, second only to the economy.<sup>1</sup> Do you agree that the cost of energy is an important issue that should be addressed by the General Assembly?

**Yes 98%**

No 0%

No answer/Undecided 2%

2. Consumers are eager to take advantage of opportunities to save money on energy costs – at the gas pump and in their homes. Should the General Assembly consider legislation that would ease the financial burden on Kentucky families by addressing their concerns about volatile energy markets and surging prices?

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<sup>1</sup>

**NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll** conducted by the polling organizations of Peter Hart (D) and Neil Newhouse (R). July 18-21, 2008. N=1,003 registered voters nationwide. MoE ± 3.1.

**Yes 91%**

No 2%

No answer/Undecided 7%

### **Natural Gas Choice**

1. One way to provide Kentuckians with the opportunity for savings is through natural gas choice. Natural gas choice programs provide more flexibility and promote competition by allowing consumers to choose to purchase gas from an alternative supplier, or from their utility. Consumers can compare the various options available from approved natural gas marketers, whose rates are often more competitive than those offered by utilities.

Do you support programs that would allow Kentucky families to take advantage of competitive natural gas rates?

**Yes 98%**

No 0%

No answer/Undecided 2%

2. Natural gas utilities charge consumers a market-based rate that fluctuates from month-to-month. Alternatively, choice programs allow natural gas consumers to choose between various options, including guaranteed savings and/or fixed rates, which provide greater budget stability.

Do you support programs that allow natural gas consumers to take advantage of guaranteed savings and/or fixed rates?

**Yes 91%**

No 0%

No answer/Undecided 9%

3. Since 2000, some retail consumers in Kentucky have experienced competitive natural gas markets through a pilot program offered by Columbia Gas to customers in their service area. According to the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC), more than 30,000 customers have enrolled in the program, resulting in significant savings. The rest of Kentucky remains closed to competition.

Should the General Assembly enact legislation that would empower the PSC to oversee the existing choice program and open ALL of Kentucky to natural gas competition?

**Yes 93%**

No 0%

No answer/Undecided 7%