



January 2016

# Waukegan Energy Survey Findings

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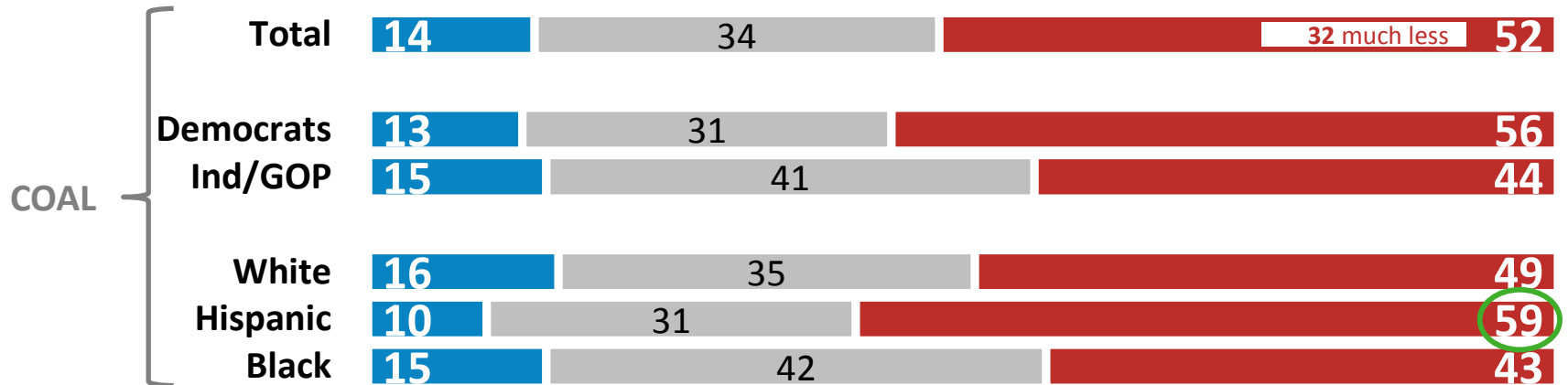
# Methodology

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Global Strategy Group conducted a 300-interview survey of registered voters in Waukegan between December 11th and December 20th, 2015. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 5.7 percentage points. Care has been taken to ensure that the partisan, geographic, and demographic divisions of the citywide electorate are properly represented by the survey's respondents.

# Waukegan voters strongly prefer an expansion of solar power and a reduction in the use of coal across the board

Should your part of Illinois produce more, less, or the same amount of its electricity from this source?



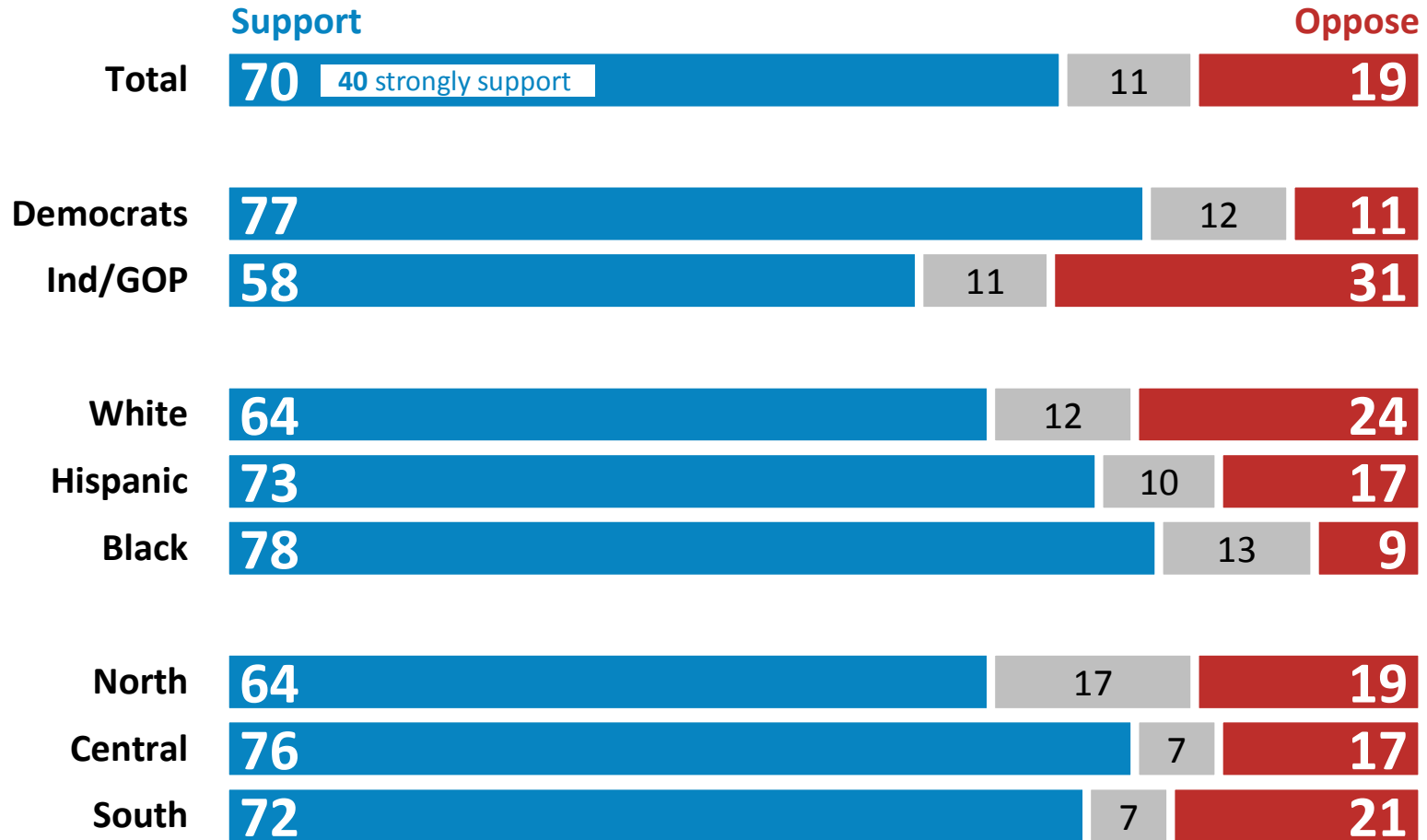
# Voters heard the following description of the proposed transition plan for the Waukegan coal power plant

As you may know, some people in Waukegan have proposed that the city develop a transition plan for retiring the Waukegan coal power plant on the lakefront. The transition plan would:

- Commit to a date within the next several years to retire the Waukegan coal-burning power plant and consider clean energy alternatives.
- Create a process to transition the plant's workers to retirement or new jobs.
- Create a committee of local citizens and leaders to come up with a plan for redeveloping polluted sites along the lakefront.

# Voters across all demographics overwhelmingly support the transition plan

Do you support or oppose the transition plan to retire the Waukegan coal power plant?



\*Regional definitions are as follows:

- **North:** Wards 5, 7, 8
- **Central:** Wards 3, 4, 6
- **South:** Wards 1, 2, 9



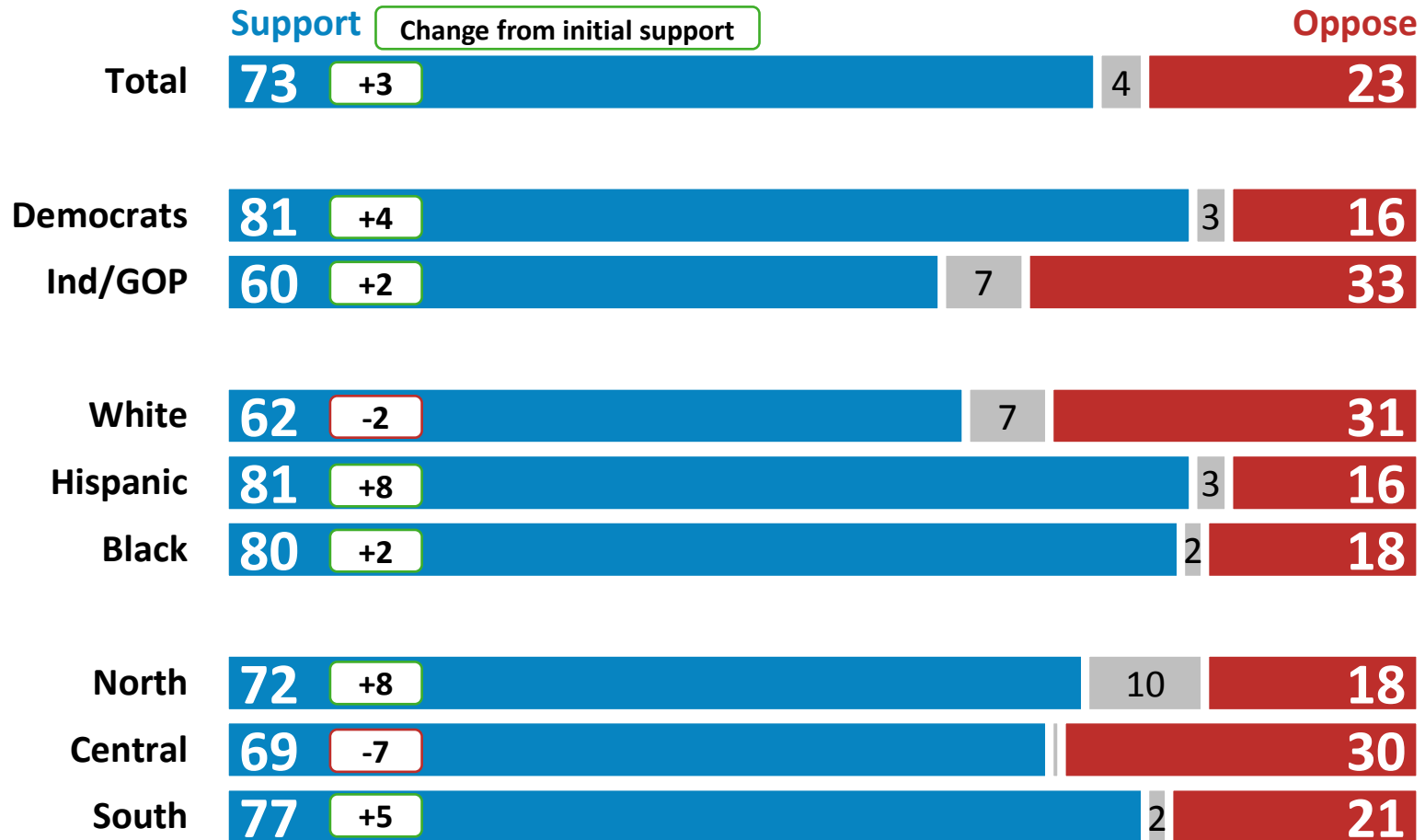
# Voters heard the following balanced arguments, in random order, in favor of and against the transition plan

**Supporters** say that more than one in three children in our area have asthma - largely because the 50-year old Waukegan coal plant is a major source of toxic pollution. Scientists estimate that retiring the plant would prevent 330 asthma attacks and 31 heart attacks in our community every year. Even more, it would mean we can develop a long-term strategy to replace the plant with new solar installations that will create good-paying jobs and finally revitalize the lakefront to attract more visitors, residents, businesses and tax revenue.

**Opponents** say that the Waukegan plant was recently upgraded with new technology that vastly reduces pollution. Not only does it supply affordable and reliable electricity to our community, but it also provides jobs for one hundred fifty local workers as well a reliable source of tax revenue to the city. NRG, which owns the plant, is also very supportive of our local community, partnering with the city and encouraging its employees to engage in community service. Prematurely shuttering the plant could end all of these benefits.

# Simulated debate only strengthens support for transition plan

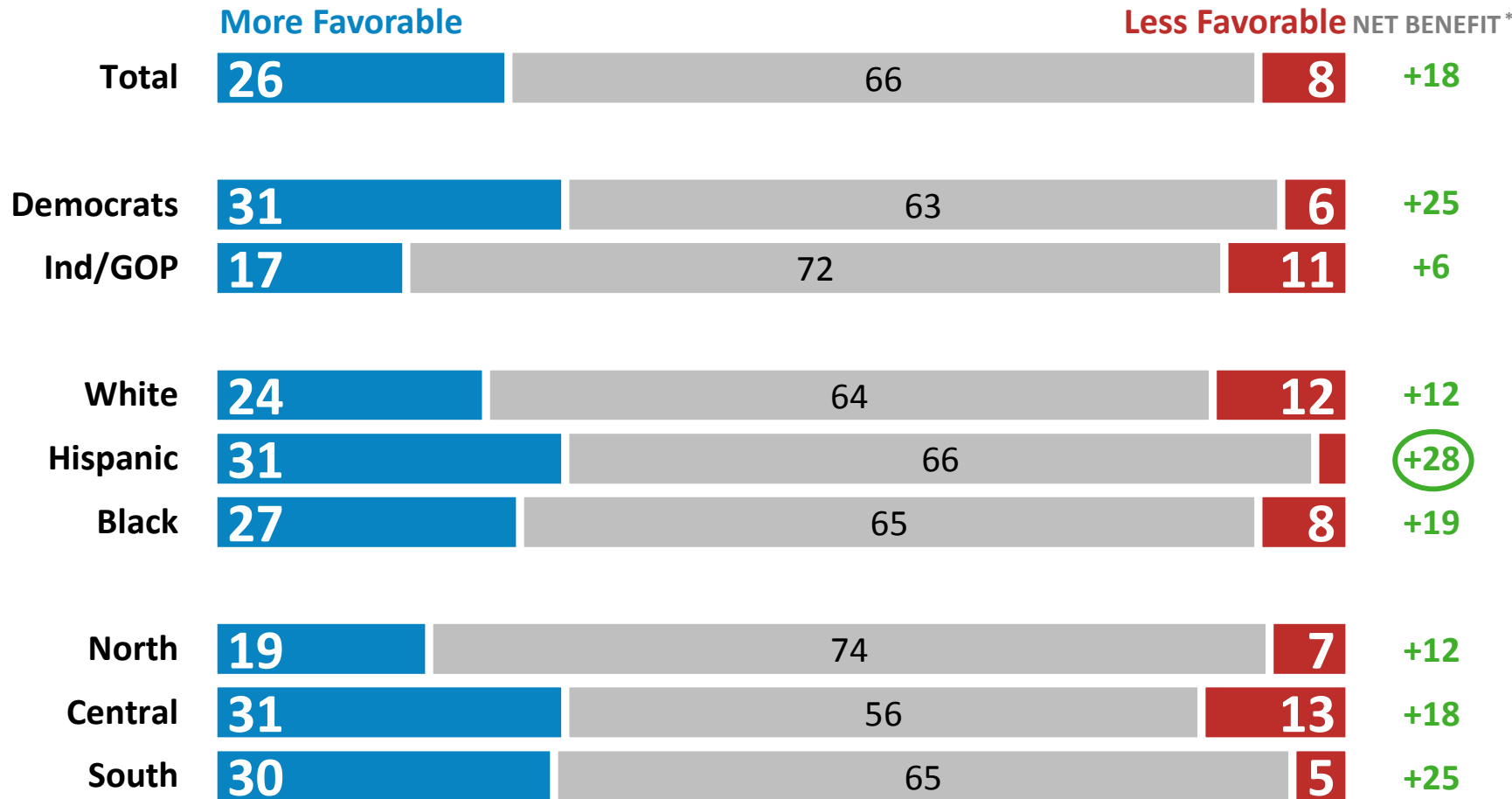
Do you support or oppose the transition plan to retire the Waukegan coal power plant?



Support also grew in intensity, with those “strongly supporting” the transition plan moving from 40% of voters to 46%.

# Supporting the coal plant transition plan can only benefit Mayor Wayne Motley, particularly with Latino voters

If Mayor Motley were to support the transition plan, would that make you more or less favorable to him?



\*Net benefit is calculated as the percentage more favorable minus the percentage less favorable