CR survey: A majority of Virginia drivers are interested in buying an electric vehicle (EV) in the future

Nearly 7 in 10 Virginia adults with drivers licenses have at least some interest in buying or leasing an EV at some point in the future; including 29% who plan to or would consider getting an EV for their next lease or purchase.

We asked adult Virginia drivers if they agree with, disagree with, or are unsure about the following statement: Widespread EV use will help reduce air or climate pollution.

- Agree: 74%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 14%
- Disagree: 8%
- Unsure: 3%

*Agree means 'agree' + 'strongly agree' and disagree means 'disagree' + 'strongly disagree.'

In this survey, drivers repeatedly cite vehicle charging and price as the biggest barriers to purchasing an EV. The majority of drivers support government policy actions to help consumers overcome those challenges.

**OVERCOMING BARRIERS**

**MORE TYPES OF EVS**
- 73% of adult Virginia drivers agree or strongly agree that automakers should make a variety of vehicle types available as plug-in EVs, including pickup trucks and SUVs; only 3% disagree/strongly disagree.

**CONSUMER-FRIENDLY EV CHARGING RATES**
- 71% of adult Virginia drivers agree or strongly agree that electric utility providers should offer discounts to charge EVs at times when electricity demand is low; 5% disagree/strongly disagree.

**EV PURCHASING REBATES**
- 66% of adult Virginia drivers agree or strongly agree that incentives and tax rebates for plug-in EVs should be available to all consumers, including high income; only 7% disagree/strongly disagree.
- 58% agree/strongly agree that these benefits should be available to only "low and moderate income consumers;" 8% said they disagree or strongly disagree with this policy action.

**INVESTMENT IN EV INFRASTRUCTURE**
- 55% of adult Virginia drivers agree or strongly agree that "my state should invest money to increase the availability of EV charging stations;" 14% disagree/strongly disagree.

Survey administered by phone and Internet from July 29 through August 12, 2020, to 425 adults residing in Virginia, fielded by NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, with additional sample recruited through Dynata's nonprobability opt-in panel. Data weighted to be representative of all Virginians.