



REMINGTON RESEARCH GROUP

CITY OF PITTSBURG, KS

Public Opinion

Survey conducted September 9 through September 10, 2019. 381 Pittsburg, KS residents participated in the survey. Survey weighted to match demographics for Pittsburg, KS. Margin of Error is +/-4.9%. Totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding.



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Q1: What is your opinion of Westar?

Very favorable: 53%

Somewhat favorable: 24%

Somewhat unfavorable: 4%

Very unfavorable: 9%

No opinion: 10%

Q2A: Westar provides electricity to the residents and businesses of Pittsburg. On a scale of 1-10, (1 being very dissatisfied and 10 being very satisfied) how would you rate the overall performance of Westar as your electric provider?

10: 28%

9-7: 30%

5-6: 11%

2-4: 7%

1: 24%

Q2B: On a scale of 1-10, (1 being very dissatisfied and 10 being very satisfied) how would you rate Westar's ability to provide reliable electric service?

10: 48%

9-7: 30%

5-6: 10%

2-4: 3%

1: 9%

Q2C: On a scale of 1-10, (1 being very dissatisfied and 10 being very satisfied) how would you rate Westar's price of electricity?

10: 20%

9-7: 34%

5-6: 20%

2-4: 12%

1: 15%



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Q2D: On a scale of 1-10, (1 being very dissatisfied and 10 being very satisfied) how would you rate Westar's involvement in the community?

10: 28%
9-7: 29%
5-6: 20%
2-4: 11%
1: 13%

Q2E: On a scale of 1-10, (1 being very dissatisfied and 10 being very satisfied) how would you rate Westar's efforts to restore power to Pittsburg and the surrounding region after the thunderstorm and tornado that struck Pittsburg in May?

10: 37%
9-7: 32%
5-6: 8%
2-4: 8%
1: 15%

Q3: More than 50% of the electricity Westar delivers to customers in Pittsburg is carbon free. Knowing this, what is your opinion of Westar?

Very favorable: 59%
Somewhat favorable: 23%
Somewhat unfavorable: 2%
Very unfavorable: 5%
No opinion: 11%

Q4: What is your opinion about how effective the City of Pittsburg is at economic development, working to attract and retain businesses in Pittsburg?

Very effective: 20%
Somewhat effective: 33%
Somewhat ineffective: 19%
Very ineffective: 19%
No opinion: 10%



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Q5: What is your opinion of the service provided by the City of Pittsburg Street Division, which includes sidewalk and street repairs?

Very favorable: 9%
Somewhat favorable: 31%
Somewhat unfavorable: 28%
Very unfavorable: 29%
No opinion: 3%

Q6: What is your opinion of the City of Pittsburg Water & Wastewater service?

Very favorable: 23%
Somewhat favorable: 44%
Somewhat unfavorable: 14%
Very unfavorable: 13%
No opinion: 6%

Q7: What is your opinion of how effective the City Manager of Pittsburg is at his job?

Very effective: 12%
Somewhat effective: 27%
Somewhat ineffective: 14%
Very ineffective: 32%
No opinion: 15%

Q8: What is your opinion of how effective the Pittsburg City Commission is at their job?

Very effective: 12%
Somewhat effective: 28%
Somewhat ineffective: 25%
Very ineffective: 20%
No opinion: 15%



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I will now read you a few statements you may hear about the City of Pittsburg considering ending its relationship with Westar and starting its own electric utility. Please indicate after hearing each statement if you would be more likely or less likely to support the City of Pittsburg starting its own electric utility.

Q9: The City of Pittsburg is considering ending its relationship with Westar and starting its own municipal electric utility. Under this plan, residents and businesses of Pittsburg would no longer be served by Westar and would instead buy their electricity from the City of Pittsburg. Knowing this, would you be more likely or less likely to support the City of Pittsburg creating a municipal electric utility?

Much more likely: 12%
Somewhat more likely: 12%
Somewhat less likely: 17%
Much less likely: 54%
No difference: 5%

Q10: If you knew that it will cost the City of Pittsburg between \$130 to \$150 million to create a municipal electric utility, would you be more likely to support or less likely to support the City of Pittsburg creating its own electric utility?

Much more likely: 7%
Somewhat more likely: 10%
Somewhat less likely: 13%
Much less likely: 66%
No difference: 4%

Q11: Since 2006, most attempts to create a municipal electric utility have failed, costing taxpayers millions of dollars in expense. During that time, only 13 cities have successfully created a municipal electric utility and most of those were in cities with a population of less than 10,000 people. Knowing these facts, would you be more likely or less likely to support the City of Pittsburg attempting to create its own electric utility?

Much more likely: 8%
Somewhat more likely: 12%
Somewhat less likely: 10%
Much less likely: 61%
No difference: 9%



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Q12: Westar has some of the most reliable electric service in this region, while Pittsburg has no experience in running an electric utility. Knowing this, would you be more likely or less likely to support the City of Pittsburg creating its own electric utility?

Much more likely: 7%
Somewhat more likely: 9%
Somewhat less likely: 12%
Much less likely: 64%
No difference: 8%

Q13: Westar has more than 1,500 men and women currently on staff who can be deployed to Pittsburg when storms hit and cause electrical outages. Pittsburg will not have the same amount of internal resources to restore power in large outage situations. Knowing this, would you be more likely or less likely to support the City of Pittsburg creating its own electric utility?

Much more likely: 7%
Somewhat more likely: 7%
Somewhat less likely: 11%
Much less likely: 67%
No difference: 9%

Q14: If Pittsburg created a municipal electric utility, it could potentially double the size of the Pittsburg City government. Knowing this, would you be more likely or less likely to support the City of Pittsburg creating its own electric utility?

Much more likely: 7%
Somewhat more likely: 11%
Somewhat less likely: 9%
Much less likely: 64%
No opinion: 8%

Q15: If you knew the process of creating a municipal electric utility could take Pittsburg around three to four years to complete, would that make you more likely or less likely to support the City of Pittsburg creating its own electric utility?

Much more likely: 6%
Somewhat more likely: 7%
Somewhat less likely: 14%
Much less likely: 63%
No opinion: 10%



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Q16: If the City of Pittsburg decided to leave Westar to create a municipal electric utility, causing local schools to lose \$142 thousand in tax funding from Westar, the community to lose around \$120 thousand in community/charitable support and the City to lose approximately \$1.5 million in franchise tax revenue, would this make you more likely or less likely to support the City of Pittsburg leaving Westar and creating a municipal electric utility?

Much more likely: 8%
Somewhat more likely: 6%
Somewhat less likely: 6%
Much less likely: 73%
No opinion: 7%

Q17: If Pittsburg created a municipal electric utility, how do you think that would impact the cost of electricity for Pittsburg residents?

Raise the cost of electricity: 69%
Lower the cost of electricity: 13%
Cost would stay about the same: 4%
Not sure: 15%

Q17A: If you knew that creating a municipal electric utility would raise electric rates for Pittsburg residents, would that make you more likely or less likely to support the City of Pittsburg creating its own electric utility?

Much more likely: 8%
Somewhat more likely: 6%
Somewhat less likely: 9%
Much less likely: 71%
No opinion: 6%

Q18: Now that you have heard more about Pittsburg creating a municipal electric utility, do you support or oppose the City of Pittsburg creating a municipal electric utility?

Support: 11%
Oppose: 74%
Not sure: 15%



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Q19: The City of Pittsburg has the authority to create a municipal utility by a vote of the City Commission. Would you be more likely or less likely to support a city commissioner for reelection if he or she voted to create a municipal electric utility?

Much more likely: 8%
Somewhat more likely: 8%
Somewhat less likely: 10%
Much less likely: 63%
No opinion: 11%

Q20: The City of Pittsburg could ask citizens of Pittsburg to vote on whether or not to create a municipal electric utility. Which do you prefer?

Vote of City Commission: 6%
Vote of citizens of Pittsburg: 80%
Not sure: 14%

Q21: How much have you seen, read or heard about Westar and KCP&L merging into a company called Evergy?

A lot: 29%
Just some: 51%
Nothing at all: 20%

Q22: What is your initial opinion of the new company, Evergy?

Very favorable: 20%
Somewhat favorable: 27%
Somewhat unfavorable: 5%
Very unfavorable: 13%
No opinion: 36%

Q23: Knowing that Westar and KCP&L have merged into a company called Evergy, how does this impact your feelings about Pittsburg creating a municipal electric utility?

Makes you feel more favorable about a municipal electric utility: 15%
Makes you feel less favorable about a municipal electric utility: 56%
No difference: 29%



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Q24: When getting information about the City of Pittsburg's efforts to create a municipal electric utility, what is the most reliable and trustworthy source of information: **[ROTATE]**

The City Commission of Pittsburg: 5%

Westar: 22%

The City Manager of Pittsburg: 2%

The Kansas Corporation Commission (the state agency that regulates utility companies): 27%

The Morning Sun: 8%

Not sure: 35%