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To: Interested Parties

Subject: Majority of Mainers Think State's Electric Power Companies Should Remain Privately Owned

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A Public Policy Polling survey finds that a majority (58%) of Maine residents think their state's electric power companies should remain privately owned companies regulated by Maine's Public Utilities Commission. Just 19% prefer the proposal that up to \$13 billion should be borrowed to take control of Maine's electric power companies and transfer management of electricity to a new government-controlled agency that is run by a board of elected politicians. Just under a quarter (23%) of voters, meanwhile, are unsure.

Those who prefer to keep Maine's electric power companies privately owned include:

- A majority of Republicans (80%) and independents (57%), and a plurality of Democrats (43%). Just over a quarter of Democrats (26%) think the state of Maine should take control of the state's power companies, while 21% of independents and just 8% of Republicans agree.
- A majority of voters over the age of 65 (71%) and between the ages of 46 and 65 (64%), and a plurality of voters between the ages of 18 and 45 (43%).

Public Policy Polling surveyed 865 Maine voters from October 16-17, 2020. The margin of error is +/- 3.3%. 50% of interviews for the survey were conducted by telephone and 50% by text message.

