

Energy Affordability Will Be On New Jersey's Ballot This November

As New Jersey heads into the 2025 elections, few issues will hit closer to home than the cost of keeping the lights on. Energy affordability has quietly become one of the most defining — and divisive — issues in the state, shaping both household budgets and political priorities.

Democrats are pushing for clean energy expansion, emphasizing investments in solar, wind, and energy efficiency as long-term solutions to lower costs and fight climate change. Republicans, meanwhile, are advocating for an “all-of-the-above” approach, prioritizing natural gas as a more immediate way to keep prices stable. The debate is creating a clear split: how to deliver affordable energy today while preparing for the energy system of tomorrow.

Voters, however, aren't caught up in partisan talking points — they're focused on survival. People want to know whether their elected leaders will make sure the work gets done, the bills can be paid, and their quality of life won't worsen. For many, energy affordability isn't a policy debate; it's a daily calculation of what to sacrifice next.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, natural gas and nuclear energy together fueled more than 90% of New Jersey's electricity generation in 2023 — with natural gas accounting for 49% and nuclear for 42%. Nearly half of the state's power still comes from fossil fuels, making the transition to cleaner sources complex. Retiring older gas plants without driving up costs is a delicate balancing act.

Yet, the emergence of cheaper, faster-deploying options like solar power offers a potential path forward — one that could reduce costs for ratepayers while advancing climate goals. The question is whether policymakers will invest in that transition quickly and equitably enough to make a real difference at the kitchen table.

Energy prices have become a measure of political credibility. In 2025, voters across New Jersey will be asking which candidates understand that energy isn't just about infrastructure — it's about dignity, stability, and the ability to build a life without fear of the next bill.