

Arizona

A survey of Arizona voters regarding conservation demonstrates a strong conservation ethic and support for continuing to fund conservation and maintain protections.



Like their fellow Westerners, Arizona voters overwhelmingly identify as conservationists (60%) – a label that bridges partisan and ethnic lines as well as many other factors in the state.

Sub-group	Identify as Conservationist
Latino	51%
White/Anglo	61%
City	63%
Suburban	56%
Rural	65%
Tea Party Supporter	61%
Occupy Wall St.	71%
GOP	57%
Independent	54%
Democrat	68%
Hunter	57%
Angler	60%
Not Sportsmen	60%

Arizona voters prioritize conservation goals throughout the survey, in regard to energy, regulation, and public lands. Among the select findings from the survey:

On Jobs:

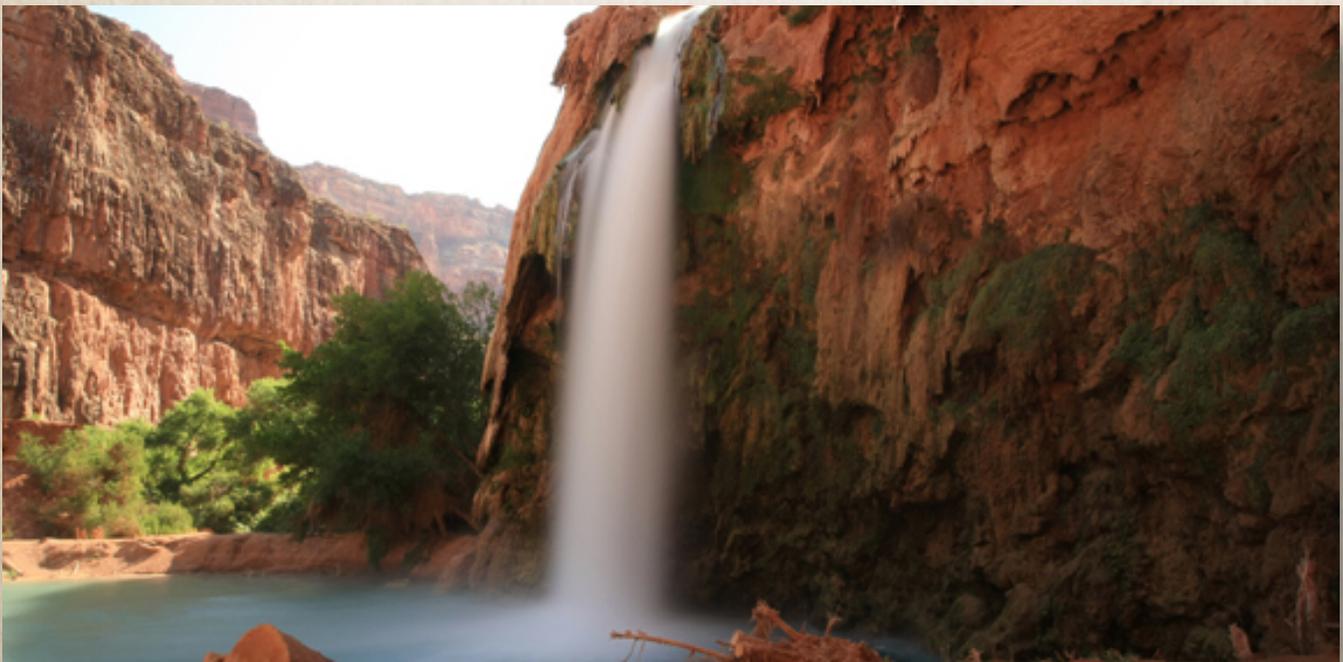
- 78% say that we can protect land and water and have a strong economy at the same time.
- 90% agree that “Our national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas are an essential part of Arizona’s economy.”
- When asked whether environmental regulations have a positive or negative impact on jobs in their state, Arizona voters are more likely to say they have a positive impact (47%) rather than a negative impact (31%).

On Energy:

- 72% say increasing the use of renewable energy will create jobs in Arizona.
- State voters are more apt to say they would encourage the use of solar power (74%) and wind power (44%) than other sources of energy (responses are top two mentions combined).
- A plurality of 40% say that increasing the use of renewable energy would not have an impact on the reliability of the electricity system in the state.

On Regulation:

- 61% of Grand Canyon state voters are more likely to view environmental laws more as “important safeguards to protect private property owners, public health and taxpayers from toxic pollution and costly clean-ups” than to view them as “burdensome regulations that tie up industry in red tape, hurt them too much financially, and cost jobs” (31%).
- 74% say that Arizona should maintain protections for land, air and water in the state rather than reduce them in an effort to create jobs as quickly as possible.
- Only 35% agree that “One of the best ways to create jobs is to cut back environmental regulations that are weighing down Arizona’s businesses.”



- Voters in this border state reject the idea that the illegal immigration situation warrants suspending environmental laws along the border. Nearly three-quarters (73%) say that it is not necessary to suspend environmental protections “within one hundred miles of the US-Mexico and US-Canadian border, including in National Parks and other protected public lands,” in order to reduce illegal immigration. Just 22% of Arizona voters think this is a necessary step in efforts against illegal immigration.
- 72% support the EPA “continuing to implement the Clean Air Act by updating the standards for air quality, including for smog, dust, and emissions from power plants, factories and cars,” with a majority (55%) strongly in support. Support tends to be higher among Latinos (84%), voters under age 35 (82%) and women voters (80%).

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On Prioritizing Conservation:

- 89% say that “Even with state budget problems, we should still find money to protect and maintain Arizona’s land, water and wildlife;” 87% say the same about state parks.
- More broadly, 50% say that more should be done to protect water, air, natural areas, and wildlife in the state, while only 7% want less done in this area. Latinos (61% more should be done) and voters in Northern Arizona (60%) are particularly strong in this view.



For the complete 2012 Conservation in the West Poll findings and more information visit: www.stateoftherockies.com.

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