

Utah

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

Sub-group	Identify as Conservationist
City	63%
Suburban	60%
Rural	59%
Tea Party Supporter	64%
Occupy Wall St.	71%
GOP	54%
Independent	68%
Democrat	62%
Hunter	68%
Angler	72%
Not Sportsmen	54%

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

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



On Jobs:

- 76% say that we can protect land and water and have a strong economy at the same time.
- 95% agree that “Our national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas are an essential part of Utah’s economy.”

- When asked whether environmental regulations have a positive or negative impact on jobs in their state, Utah voters are more likely to say they have a positive impact (53%) rather than a negative impact (28%).

On Energy:

- 64% say increasing the use of renewable energy will create jobs in Utah.
- State voters are more apt to say they would encourage the use of wind power (55%) and solar power (51%) than other sources of energy (responses are top two mentions combined).
- By a two-to-one margin, Utah voters say they prefer to reduce the need for coal, oil and gas by expanding the use of renewable energy like wind and solar (62%), rather than dig or drill for coal, oil and gas wherever we can find it domestically (29%).
- 76% of the state's voters say they would "require developers to meet updated standards to reduce energy waste and reduce home owners' utility bills, even if it increases the price of brand new homes by somewhere between one and eight thousand dollars," rather than allowing developers to build new homes under current standards (18%). A majority of voters in every geographic region, urban voters, suburban voters and rural voters, as well as majorities across the political spectrum would choose to require updated standards for new homes, even knowing the cost implications.



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On Regulation:

- 69% of Beehive 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” (23%).
- 80% say that Utah 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.
- 69% 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 plurality (42%) strongly in support.

On Prioritizing Conservation:

- 84% say that “Even with state budget problems, we should still find money to protect and maintain Utah’s land, water and wildlife;” 90% say the same about state parks.
- 62% view “air pollution and smog” as extremely or very serious problems facing their state – the highest of any state in the region by far.



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

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