

ARIZONA

Grand Canyon state voters have a great appreciation for public lands; believe they contribute to the state's economy and quality of life.

On Public Lands:

- Arizona voters have a great appreciation for the state's public lands, with 82% saying public lands in the state support the economy, provide recreation opportunities and enhance quality of life, rather than being a fiscal burden and preventing creation of jobs in traditional industries.
- Residents clearly value the impact public lands have on their economy – 88% say they are an essential part of Arizona's economy and 69% agree that the state's public lands help attract high quality employers and good jobs.
- There is scant support for selling off federal public lands as a way to reduce the nation's budget deficit. Just 28% of voters support selling some land as a means of deficit reduction, while 67% oppose it. A majority of 50% are strongly opposed.

Arizonans' Connection to Conservation:

- A solid majority (58%) of Arizona voters say they are conservationists. This view crosses party lines, with majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats considering themselves conservationist.
- Arizona voters like being outside. A majority (56%) hike regularly, and 44% are regular campers. One third (33%) of voters are hunters or anglers.
- Sixty-five percent (65%) of voters in the state plan to visit a national park this year.
- Voters in Arizona are worried that children do not spend enough time in the outdoors. An overwhelming majority (86%) say this is a problem, with more than half (52%) saying it is an extremely serious or very serious problem.



On Energy Development:

- There is overwhelming support for more solar power being used in Arizona. Sixty-two percent (62%) of voters say that it is the first source of energy they would encourage the state to use more of. No other power source was the first choice of more than 40% in any of the other Western states we surveyed.
- When thinking about energy development on public lands in the West, 57% of Arizona voters say environmentally sensitive places on public lands should be permanently protected from drilling, and a similar 59% side with a statement advocating stronger standards for drilling/setting aside some areas over a statement advocating for opening more lands to energy development.

On Water:

- Arizona voters are concerned about the state's water supply, with 77% saying that inadequate water supplies are a serious problem.
- Relatedly, Arizona voters also say that the low levels of water in the state's rivers are a problem. Fully 87% of voters say it is a serious problem, and a majority (59%) view it as an extremely serious or very serious problem.
- Well more than half (59%) of voters in Arizona agree that climate change is at least one reason for the increasing number of extreme weather events, such as wildfires, droughts, and hurricanes.



On the Politics of Conservation:

- Conservation and protecting public lands is a political positive in Arizona. More than half (52%) of voters would view a Republican elected official more favorably if they spoke out in favor of protecting public lands. Speaking out in support of public lands is also helpful to Democratic elected official, especially with Latino voters. 53% of Latinos say they would view a Democratic elected official more favorably if they voiced their support for public lands.
- A majority of Arizona voters acknowledge they are not paying attention to their Member of Congress' position on protecting land air and water – 58% say they are not sure what position their Member has taken on these issues.