

New Mexico

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

Like their fellow Westerners, New Mexico voters overwhelmingly identify as conservationists (67%) – a label that bridges partisan and ethnic lines as well as many other factors in the state.

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

On Jobs:

- 80% say that we can protect land and water and have a strong economy at the same time.

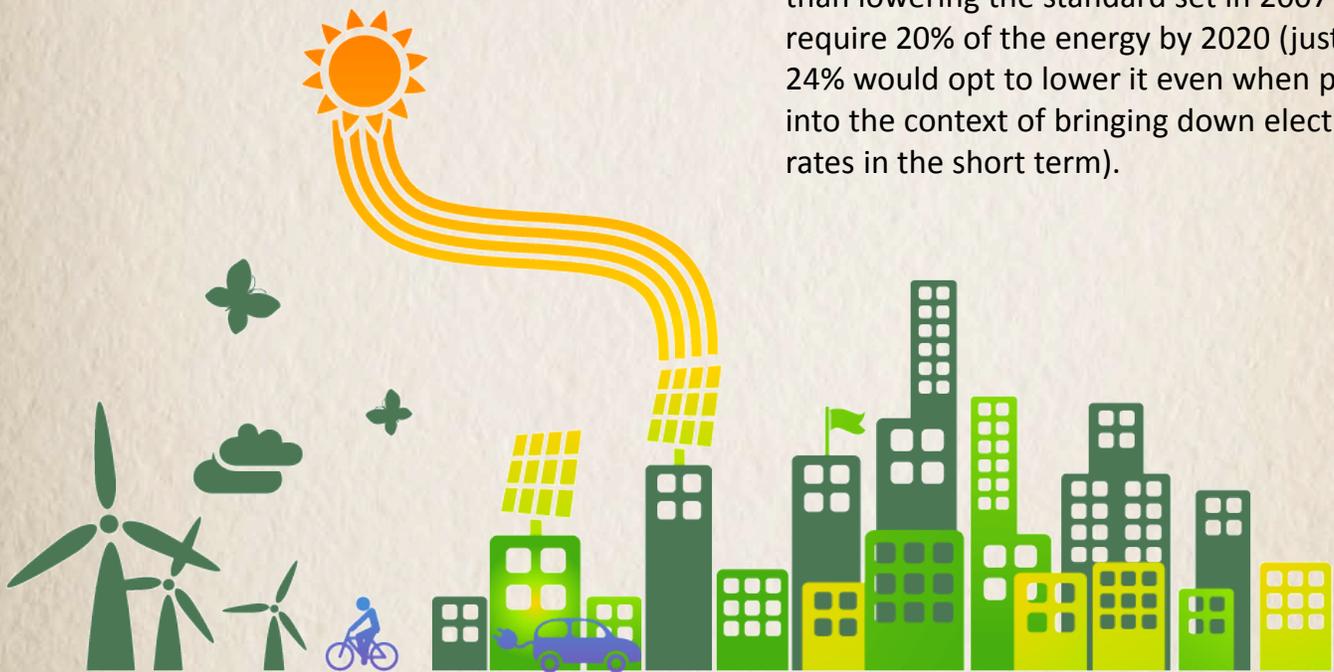
Sub-group	Identify as Conservationist
Latino	65%
White/Anglo	69%
City	77%
Suburban	70%
Rural	63%
Tea Party Supporter	73%
Occupy Wall St.	77%
GOP	70%
Independent	63%
Democrat	66%
Hunter	72%
Angler	70%
Not Sportsmen	64%



- 85% agree that “Our national parks, forests, monuments, and wildlife areas are an essential part of New Mexico’s economy.”
- When asked whether environmental regulations have a positive or negative impact on jobs in their state, New Mexico voters are more likely to say they have a positive impact (46%) rather than a negative impact (32%).

On Energy:

- 70% say increasing the use of renewable energy will create jobs in New Mexico.
- State voters are more apt to say they would encourage the use of solar power (66%) and wind power (52%) than other sources of energy (responses are top two mentions combined).
- 71% say they would keep the existing clean energy standards in New Mexico rather than lowering the standard set in 2007 to require 20% of the energy by 2020 (just 24% would opt to lower it even when put into the context of bringing down electricity rates in the short term).



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On Regulation:

- 73% say that New Mexico 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.
- 61% of Land of Enchantment 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%).
- Only 42% agree that “One of the best ways to create jobs is to cut back environmental regulations that are weighing down New Mexico’s businesses.” A majority of 54% disagree.
- 68% 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 (52%) strongly in support.

On Prioritizing Conservation:

- 84% say that “Even with state budget problems, we should still find money to protect and maintain New Mexico’s land, water and wildlife;” 87% say the same about state parks.
- 50% say that more should be done to protect air, water, natural areas and wildlife by state government in New Mexico, while a mere 7% think less should be done.
- 63% say that “inadequate water supplies” are an extremely or very serious problem in their state – the highest of any of the six states to recognize this issue.

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

To contact the Survey Firms: Lori Weigel/Public Opinion Strategies:: lori@pos.org
Dave Metz/Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Assoc.: dave@fm3research.com

For information about The State of the Rockies Project and Colorado College contact: Leslie.Weddell@ColoradoCollege.edu