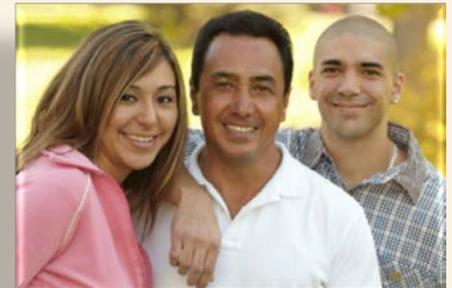


# Latino Voters

*More likely to say that every single environmental problem is a serious problem, this critical sub-group of the electorate is also swayed by a candidates' position on a number of conservation issues.*

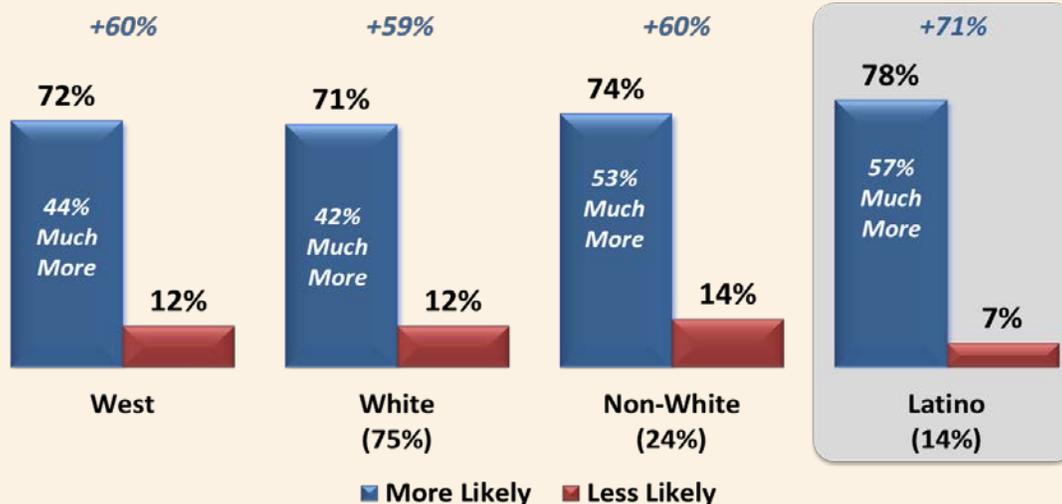
## At the Ballot Box

One of the fastest growing segments of the electorate in the Western United States, Latino voters demonstrate that a Congressional candidates' views on conservation have the power to sway their vote. Latino voters are far more likely than their Anglo counterparts to...



- Support a candidate who wants to promote greater use of renewable energy (57% much more likely, 15 points greater than among non-Hispanic Whites);
- Back a candidate who votes to increased funding for agencies like the U.S. Forest Service (33% much more likely, compared to 20% of non-Hispanic whites – a 13 point margin); and
- Vote for a candidate who supports enhancing protections for some public lands (38% much more likely, compared to 34% of non-Hispanic Whites).

### Support for Candidate Who Will Promote Greater Use of Renewable Energy By Ethnicity



Moreover, they are also more likely to hold a candidate accountable for taking certain position, including:

- A majority (52%) of Latino voters are *much less likely* to vote for a candidate who supports selling public lands to reduce the budget deficit, which makes that position a political non-starter among this significant sub-group; and
- A candidate who votes to reduce funding for agencies like the U.S. Forest Service would also risk drawing significant ire from Latino voters. Forty-four percent (44%) of Latinos in these Western states say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who took that positions – seven points higher than the 37% overall who would be much less likely.

## Views on Public Lands

Latinos are just as likely to identify as a hunter or an angler as the rest of the electorate, and visit public lands nearly as frequently (50% of them visit public lands more than five times a year, with 22% visiting more than 10 times per year. Just 5% never visit – the same proportion as the general electorate. Latinos still have ill feelings as a result of the federal government shutdown last fall which resulted in the closing of public lands such as national parks and forests. When asked what word best described how they felt, 31% said they were concerned, 21% were annoyed, 19% were angry, and 16% were upset. Only 10% said they were indifferent.

Forty three percent (43%) of Latinos consider themselves either an angler (14%) a hunter (6%) or both (23%). More than one half (54%) of Latino men are sportsmen.



A significant majority (61%) of Latinos say that funding for national parks, national forests, and other public lands should NOT be cut, because it provides a big return for a small investment.

## On Conservation Policies

Seventy-seven percent (77%) of Latino voters are OPPOSED to the selling off of public lands as a way to help reduce the federal budget deficit, on par with the views of Anglos (73%). A majority also say they are strongly opposed.

Latinos are nearly as likely to support the use of the new tool at the Bureau of Land Management, a Master Leasing Plan (MLP). Sixty percent (60%) say they would support MLPs being used in their state, with one quarter (25%) saying they strongly support MLPs being used (compared to 65% support, 25% strongly among Anglos).

Support among this important audience rises as voters hear more. Seventy-one percent (71%) of Latinos say the supporting statement comes closest to their own point of view, while just 18% align more with the statement from the opposition. Among white voters, 62% side with the supporting statement, with a quarter (25%) choosing the opposition statement.

### Master Leasing Plans Views By Ethnicity

Those who support master leasing plans say that some places are appropriate for drilling, but on some public lands drilling could negatively affect our rivers, wildlife, or opportunities for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. These plans will resolve conflicts in advance so that wildlife habitat, air quality and water quality are protected, and leasing can move forward in appropriate areas with fewer delays.

Those who oppose master leasing plans say that the government already takes years planning for whether or not oil and gas drilling can occur in specific sites. Master leasing plans are yet another layer of red tape that will slow down responsible energy production on public lands, making it take even longer for oil and gas companies to develop our country's energy resources.

