

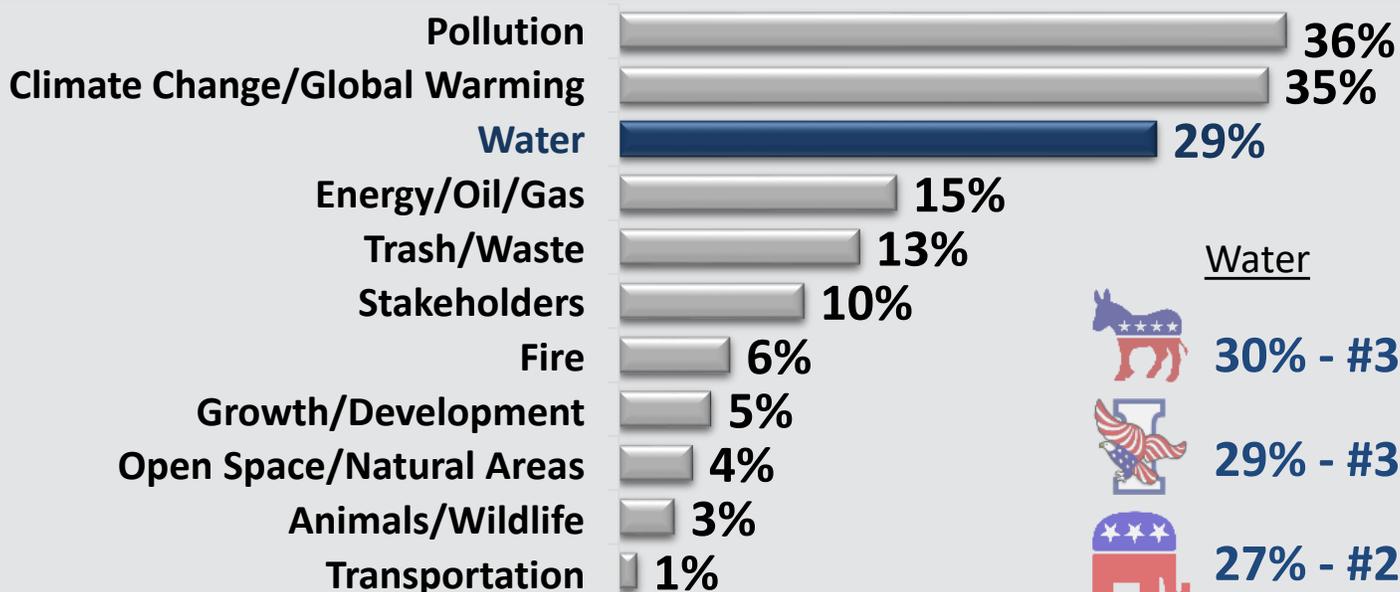
Water in the West

Water is a top environmental concern, with voters expressing anxiety about both water supply and pollution.



Water is volunteered as one of the most important environmental problems, with Republicans, Independents, and Democrats largely in agreement on its importance.

Most Important Environmental Problem



There is broad agreement that water supply is unpredictable, with more than two-thirds viewing supplies as increasingly variable in the West.

The majority of Western voters say that water supplies are becoming more **unpredictable every year**, with a majority of Republicans (53%), Independents (70%), and Democrats (87%) agreeing on these issues.

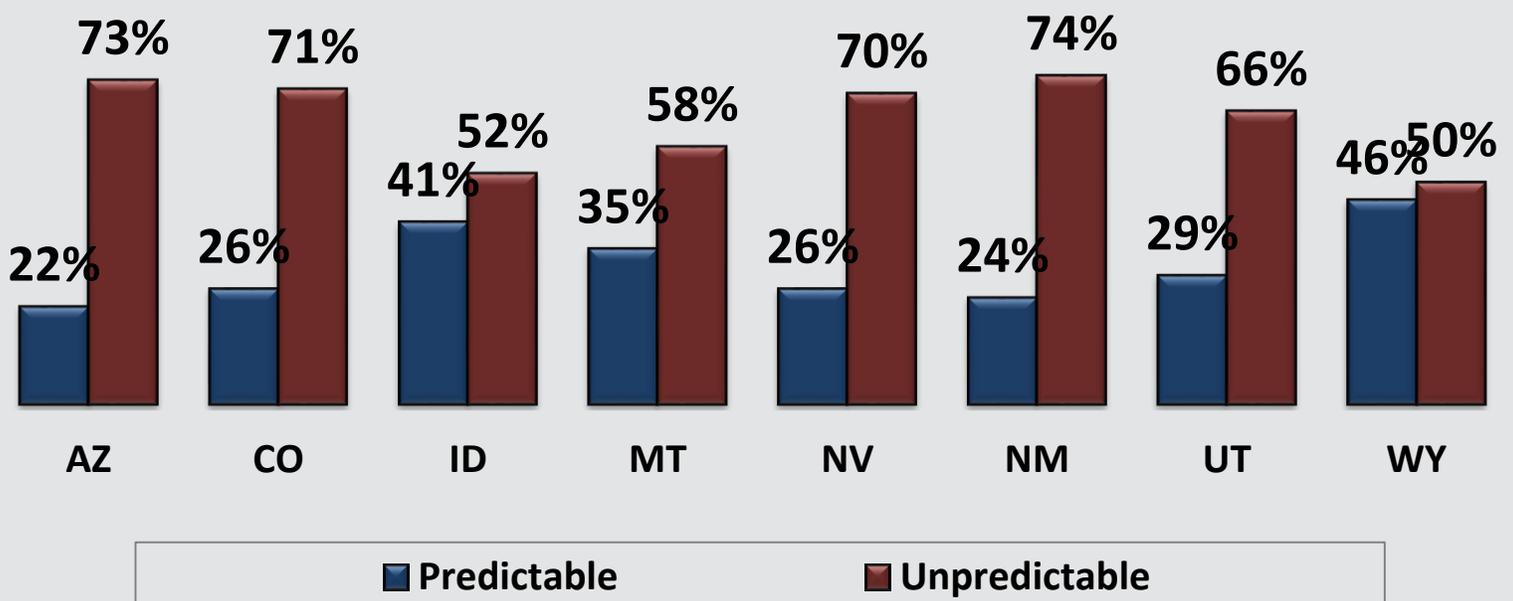
The amount of rain and snow in the West is pretty predictable over time.

27%

Water supplies in the West are becoming more unpredictable every year.

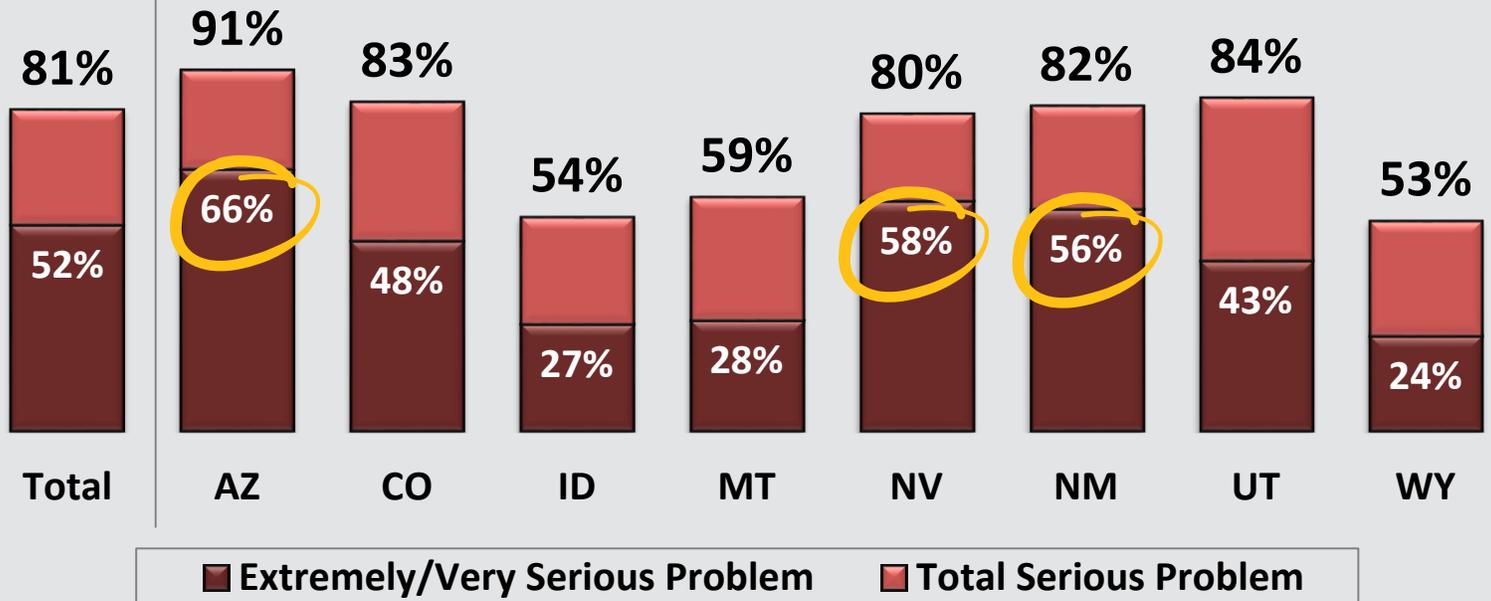
69%

Water Supply Predictability

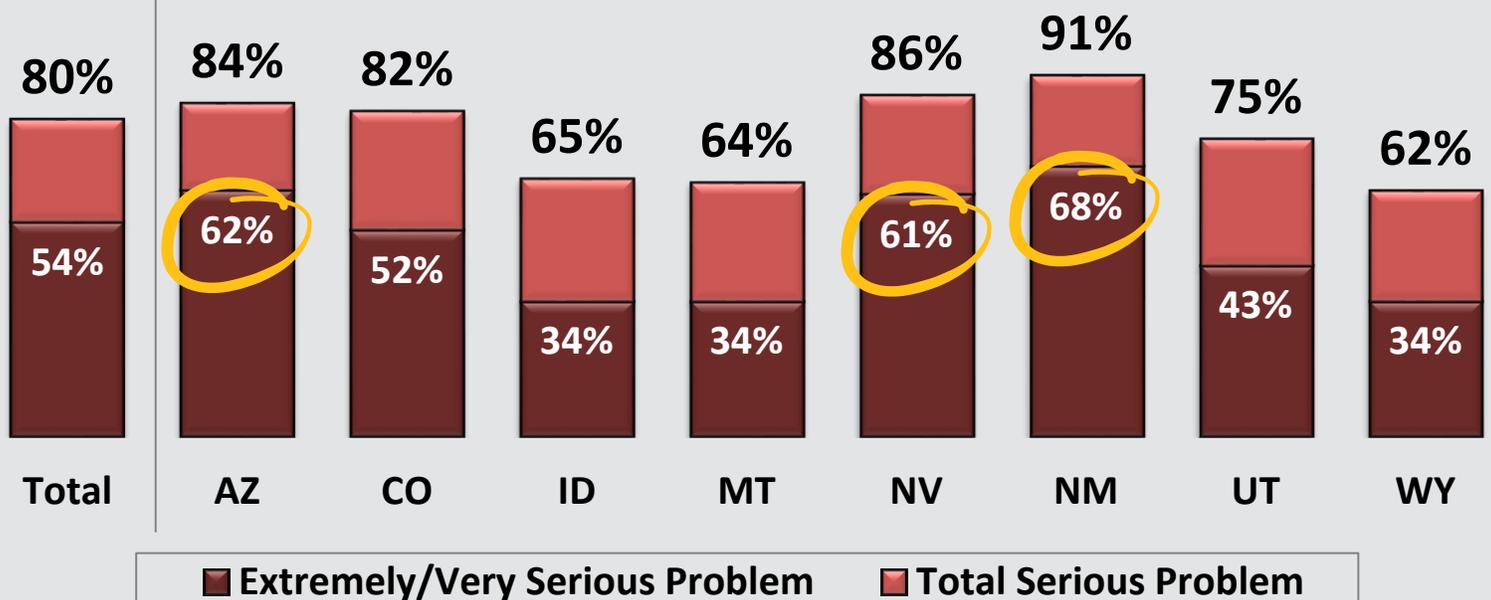


Water supply and river levels are perceived as serious problems by the majority of voters across all Western states interviewed. Not surprisingly, inadequate water supplies and low level of water in rivers are of most intense concern in the desert states of Arizona, Nevada, and New Mexico.

Seriousness of Inadequate Water Supplies



Seriousness of Low Level of Water in Rivers



Western voters perceive water pollution to be a serious problem.

A majority of Western voters say different types of water pollution are serious problems in their state. Majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats say microplastics in drinking water and pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams are serious problems. More than three-in-five also view oil and gas impact on land, air and water as a serious problem, although this tends to vary more by party (86% of Democrats, 70% of independents and 40% of Republicans view it as a serious problem).

Seriousness of Specific Water Pollution Issues



**Pollution of rivers,
lakes and streams**

84%



**Microplastics, that is
tiny plastic particles, in
rivers, streams and
drinking water supplies**

79%



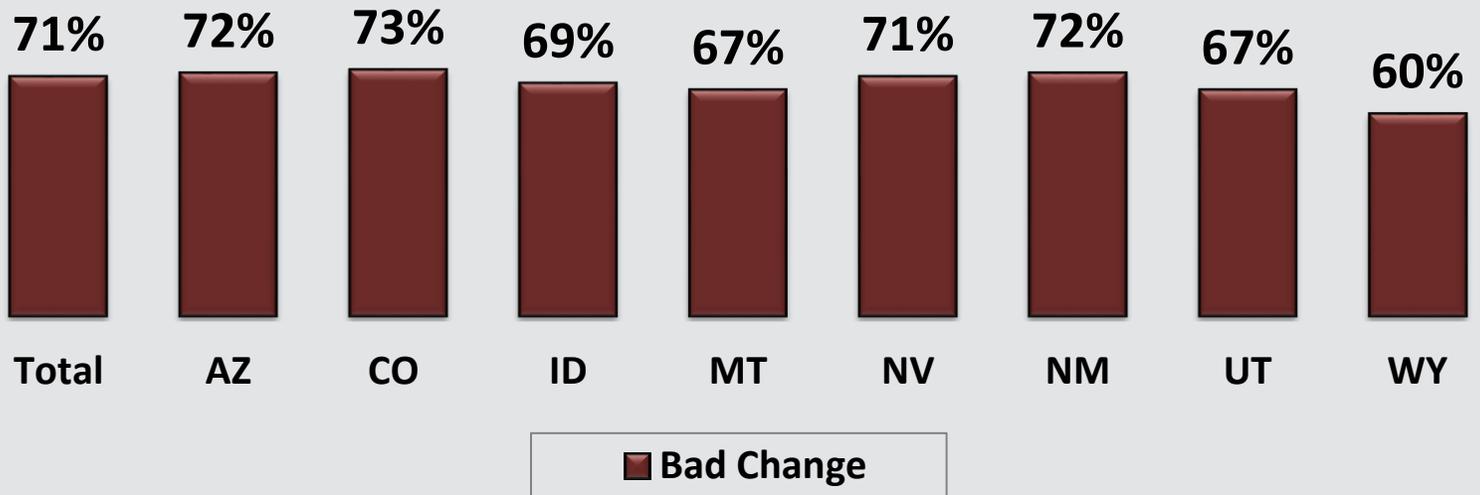
**The impact of oil and
gas drilling on our
land, air and water**

63%



Across all eight states interviewed, a majority of voters say that removing Clean Water Act protections from smaller streams and seasonal wetlands is a bad change. Regardless of where they live, voters are more likely to say it is a bad idea – whether in a city (77% bad change), suburb (70%), small town (68%), or rural area (66%).

Removing Clean Water Act Protections from Smaller Streams and Seasonal Wetlands Considered “Bad Change”



87% 

74% 

54% 

