

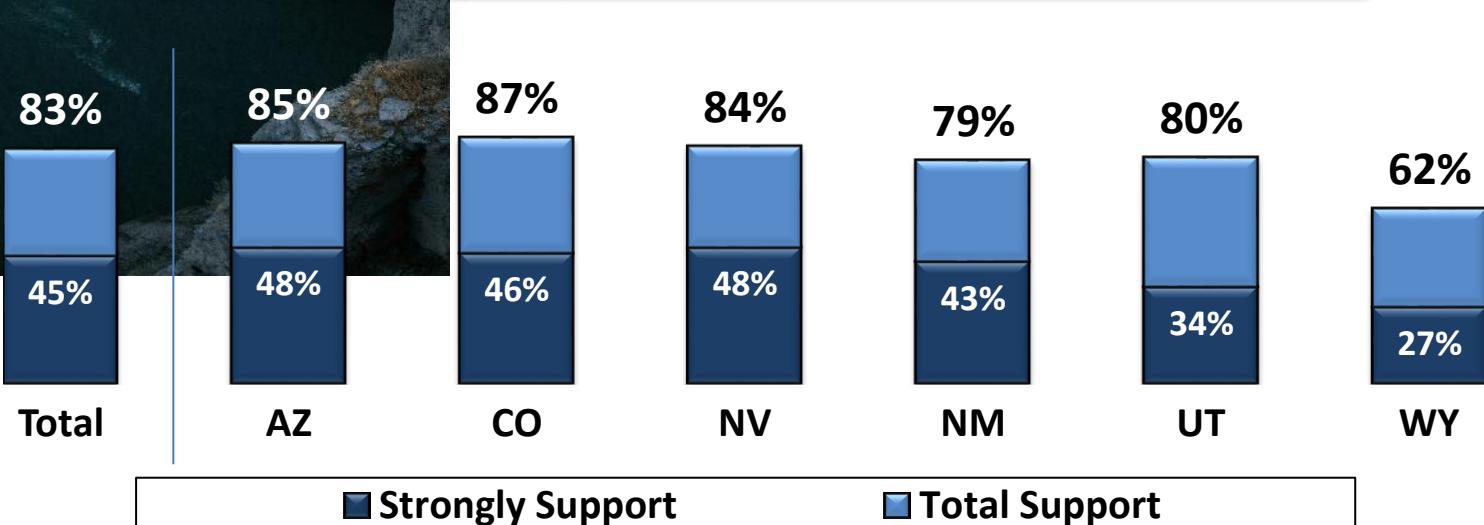
Water in the West



Water continues to be a widely shared concern across the Western United States. Voters express deep worry about the adequacy of water supplies, pollution of rivers and streams, and contaminants in drinking water. In Colorado River Basin states, voters strongly support cooperative efforts to reduce water use. The findings also demonstrate broad recognition of multiple potential threats to water resources in the West.

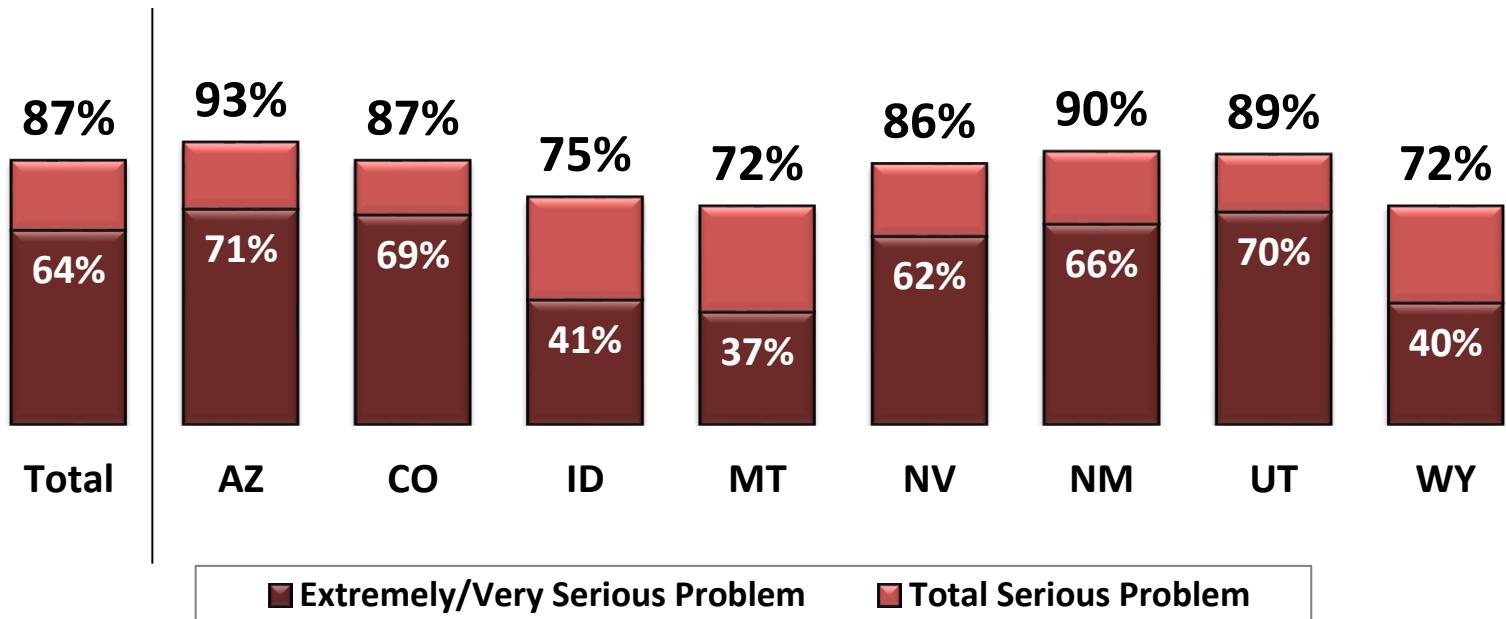
Voters in Colorado River Basin states overwhelmingly support a regional agreement to reduce water use in order to protect the river's long-term health. More than four-in-five voters in these six states (83 percent) support an agreement requiring all states in the region to reduce their water usage, including nearly half (45 percent) who say they would strongly support such an agreement. Support is particularly strong among Native American voters, a majority of whom (53 percent) say they strongly support this approach.

Agreement that would require all states in the region to reduce their water usage to preserve the health of the Colorado River



Concern about inadequate water supplies remains high across the entire West. More than four in five Western voters (87 percent) say inadequate water supply is a serious problem in their state, including nearly two-thirds (64 percent) who describe it as an “extremely” or “very” serious problem. Concern is particularly pronounced in downstream Colorado River Compact states, such as Utah (89 percent), New Mexico (90 percent), and Arizona (93 percent).

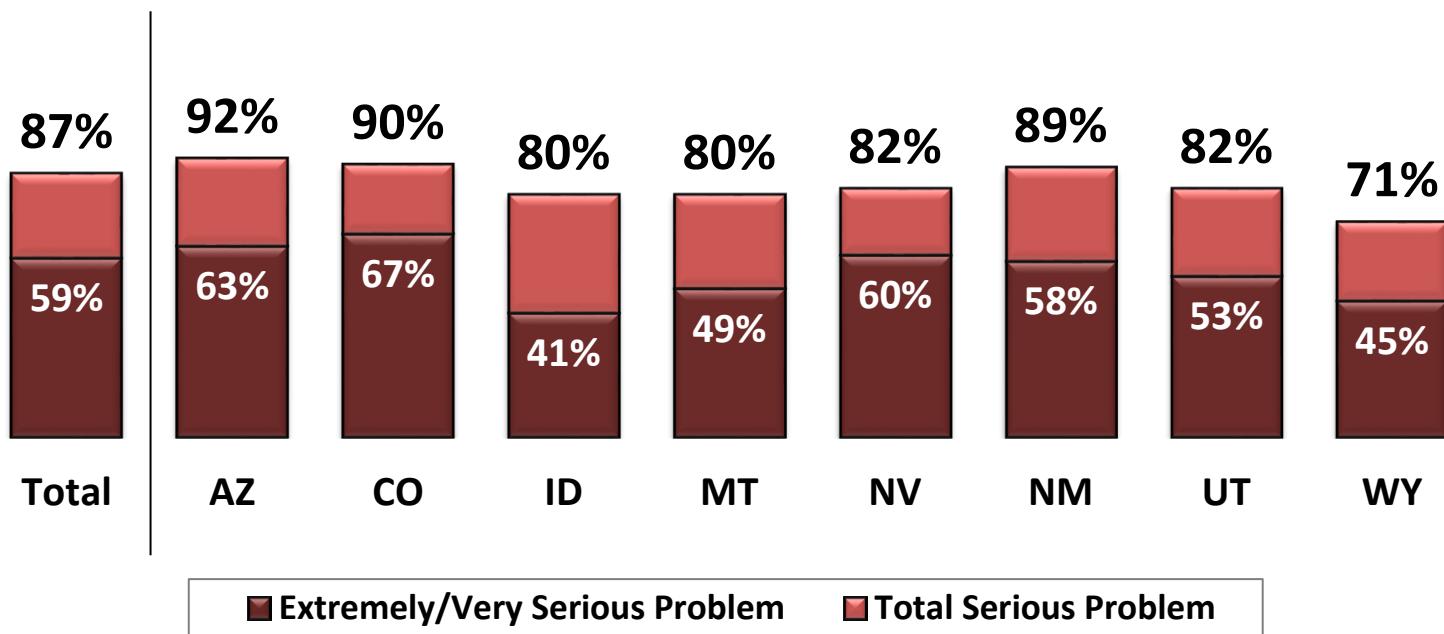
Inadequate water supplies



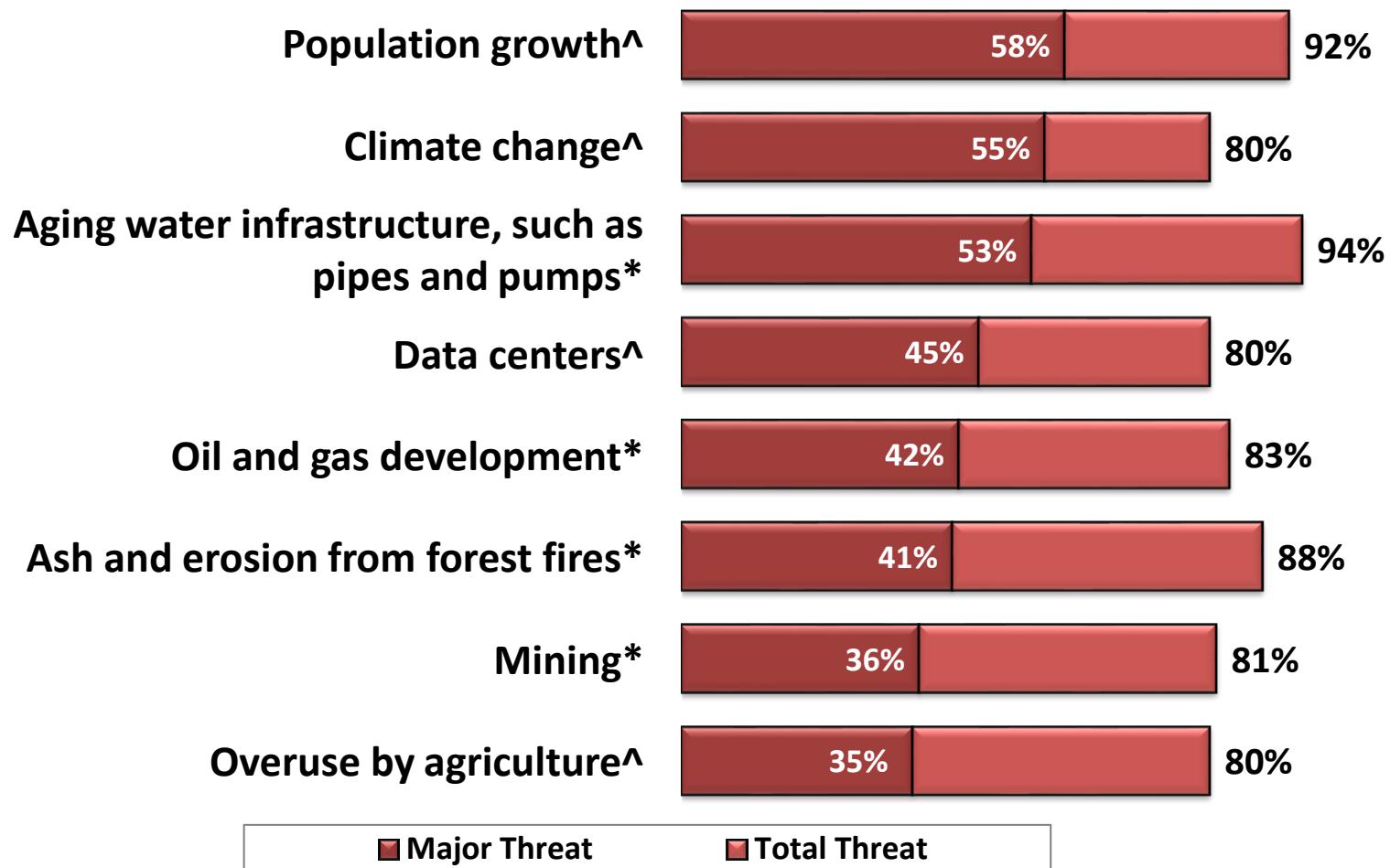
In addition to water supply, pollution is also a major concern for Western voters. The vast majority (87 percent) say pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams is a serious problem with almost six-in-ten voters (57 percent) characterizing it as extremely or very serious. Levels of concern are especially high among women 18-34 (94 percent total serious problem; 75 percent extremely/very serious), suburban women (95 percent total serious problem; 66 percent extremely/very serious), and Latino voters (92 percent total serious problem; 63 percent extremely/very serious).

More specifically, nearly nine-in-ten Westerners (87 percent) consider PFAS, or “forever chemicals,” in rivers, streams and drinking water to be a serious problem, and nearly three-in-five (59 percent) rate it as an extremely or very serious concern.

PFAS also known as forever chemicals in rivers, streams and drinking water supplies



Growth, climate change and aging infrastructure are deemed to be the gravest threats to water quality and supply by voters in the West. As the following chart illustrates, four-in-five or more Western voters view every single item tested to be a major or minor threat to their state’s water quality and supply, with more than one-in-three saying each one is a major threat.



Data centers are a mid-tier concern in every state, particularly popping up in Arizona where a majority (55 percent) characterize data centers as a “major” threat to the state’s water supply, ranking fourth in the state. It also is seen as a major threat by Wyoming voters, second only to aging infrastructure (46 percent and 39 percent, respectively). The view that data centers are a threat to water tends to increase with the education level of the voter -- nearly half of college graduates say it is a major threat (49 percent).

