

WHAT ARIZONA VOTERS THINK ABOUT WATER IN THE STATE (AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT)

In a new statewide survey, likely Arizona voters expressed serious concern over water issues facing the state, saying it is a top three issue (behind immigration and border issues and education). More than 74% of survey respondents believe the state is in a drought, defined as a period of low rainfall leading to a shortage of water. **And overall, more than two-thirds (67%) of likely Arizona voters said that they do not believe there will be enough water to meet the needs of residents, agriculture, industry, and other businesses for the next 100 years.**

And Arizona voters are not just concerned—they are also willing to do something about it. When asked what they thought of a proposal that would allow local communities to opt-in to plans to manage and protect local groundwater supplies, there was overwhelming support (71%) for such common-sense action (including majority support across all partisan, regional, and age demographics).

Voters support efforts by the Arizona Legislature to take action to protect rural groundwater supplies and help Arizona adapt to drought.

Other results from the survey found:

- 76% of likely voters believe the drought is continuing to worsen, and we need to do something to protect our water future and secure out long-term water supplies.
- 74% of likely voters agree that something must be done to protect wells from drying up.
- 73% of likely voters believe some regulation with state financial support will protect small property owners and prevent threatened rural basins from going completely dry.
- 68% of likely voters believe that rural groundwater should be protected in a similar fashion to the Active Management Areas, where most people live and where groundwater is already protected and managed.
- 60% of likely voters believe we have no idea how long the water will last in many parts of the state without a way for counties to protect their groundwater supplies.

Voters are concerned about water security and want their lawmakers to act. These results demonstrate that voters support action that protects existing water supplies and helps Arizona adapt to the water reality we face. Currently in front of the Arizona Legislature is an opportunity to provide *all* Arizona communities with the tools it needs to manage and protect its groundwater, as well as adequately fund projects that would boost groundwater reliability. **Voters agree that something must be done, and now is the time to act.**

Methods: The results are based on a statewide public opinion survey of 500 likely Arizona voters conducted by HighGround Public Affairs. The survey of likely Arizona voters is balanced across age, party, and regional demographics to reflect 2022 turnout. The survey was conducted between January 17–22, 2022 by professional live interviewers calling on landlines and cell phones. The 500 sample has a margin of error of $\pm 4.36\%$ with a 95% confidence interval. Voters were asked their opinion on a variety of topics affecting the State of Arizona, with a focus on water, drought, and actions that might improve the state's outlook. These methods can provide a snapshot of where the electorate is at and what likely Arizona voters are concerned about.