

ARIZONANS' ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES



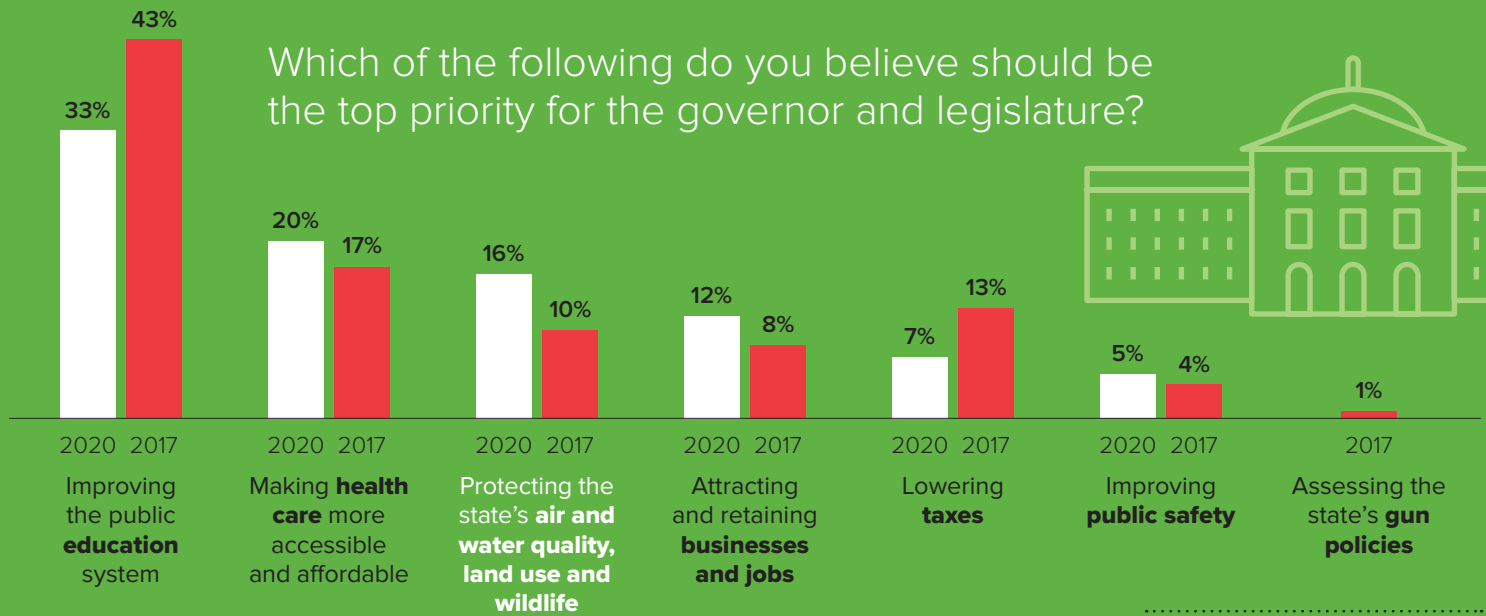
In March 2017 and in January 2020, the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust enlisted the independent Morrison Institute for Public Policy at ASU to survey a representative sample of registered Arizona voters to gauge attitudes toward and beliefs about the environment and environmental protection.

TOP POLICY PRIORITIES

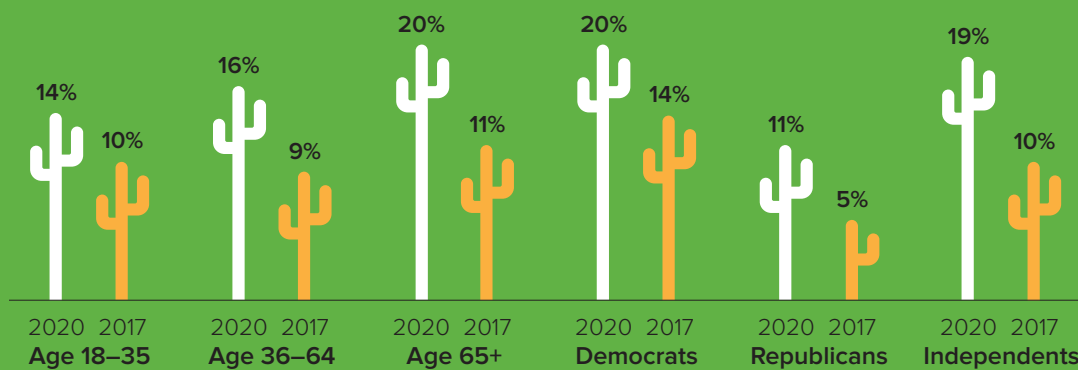
Arizonans rank the environment among their top three priorities for the governor and legislature to address.



Which of the following do you believe should be the top priority for the governor and legislature?



The percentage of voters who said the environment should be **Arizona's top priority** increased in all categories from 2017 to 2020:



STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE BETWEEN 2017 AND 2020

64%

of Arizonans say, "Protecting the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of slowing economic growth."

75%

of Arizonans say Arizona's parks, preserves, forests and open spaces are very important to them.



ARIZONANS' TOP ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Arizona voters are **very or somewhat** concerned about the following environmental issues:



91%

Pollution in rivers, lakes and reservoirs
61% very concerned
30% somewhat concerned



89%

Air quality in the state's cities and large towns
49% very concerned
40% somewhat concerned



86%

Protection of the state's wildlife
51% very concerned
35% somewhat concerned



84%

Vehicle emissions
45% very concerned
39% somewhat concerned



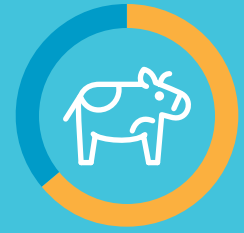
75%

Land-use policies
32% very concerned
43% somewhat concerned



73%

Greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants
45% very concerned
28% somewhat concerned



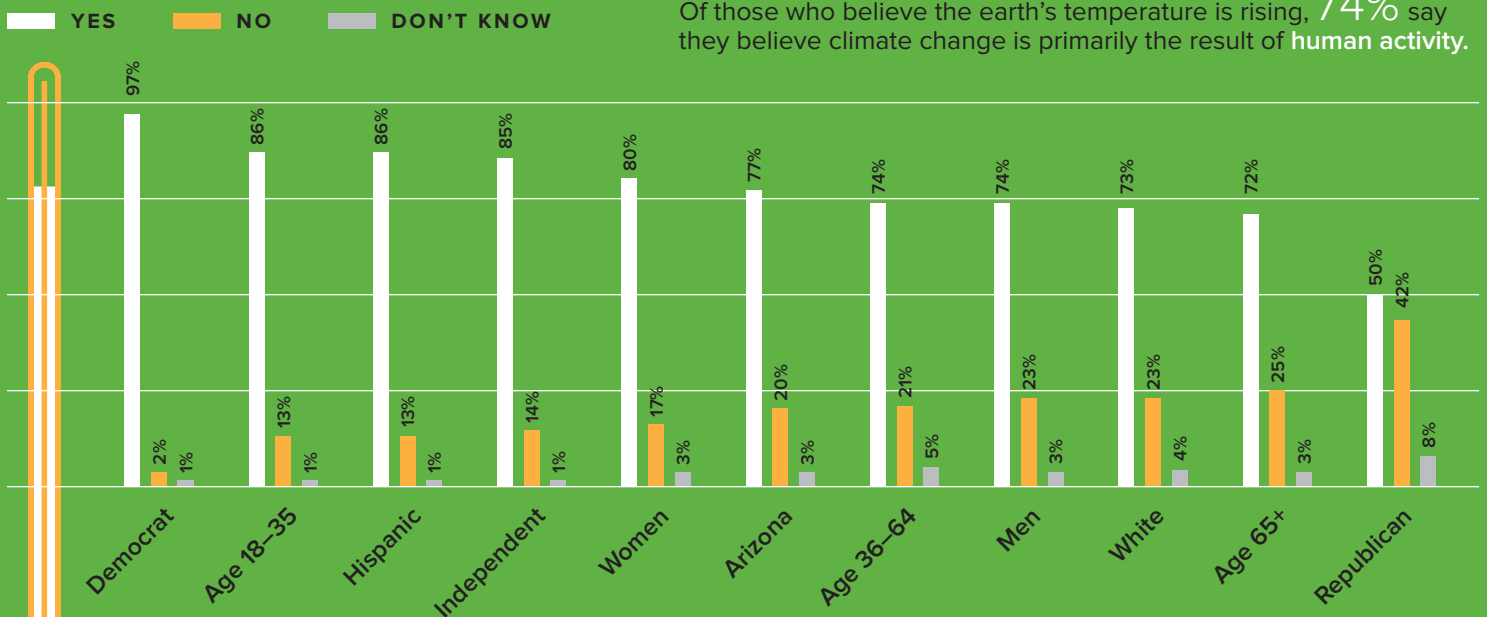
64%

Pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations
27% very concerned
37% somewhat concerned

PERCEPTIONS SURROUNDING CLIMATE CHANGE

77% of Arizonans believe the earth's average temperature is rising.

Of those who believe the earth's temperature is rising, 74% say they believe climate change is primarily the result of human activity.



69% of Arizonans believe climate change is one of the most serious problems facing the world today, up from 65% in 2017.



ARIZONANS' INTENSITY OF CONCERN ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT IS INCREASING

87%

of voters in 2020 believe **environmental issues facing Arizona**, such as water and air quality, land and water use, and wildlife protection are **serious or very serious** and need to be addressed immediately. **Up from 81% in 2017.**



WATER SUPPLY AND WATERWAY HEALTH



64% of Arizonans don't believe the state has enough water for the next 50 years.

Does Arizona have enough water to cover all its needs for the next 50 years?



While **71%** of voters believe Arizona is currently in a long- or short-term drought, 1 in 5 do not believe Arizona is experiencing a drought at all.

54% believe Arizona's drought is the result of climate change.

Water priorities in 2020

When asked to **assume water supply for home use is the first priority**, Arizonans said water for **agriculture** is second priority (42%) and **sustaining flows for rivers and wildlife** is third (40%).



1
home use



2
agriculture



3
sustaining flows for rivers and wildlife

Other choices were water for:

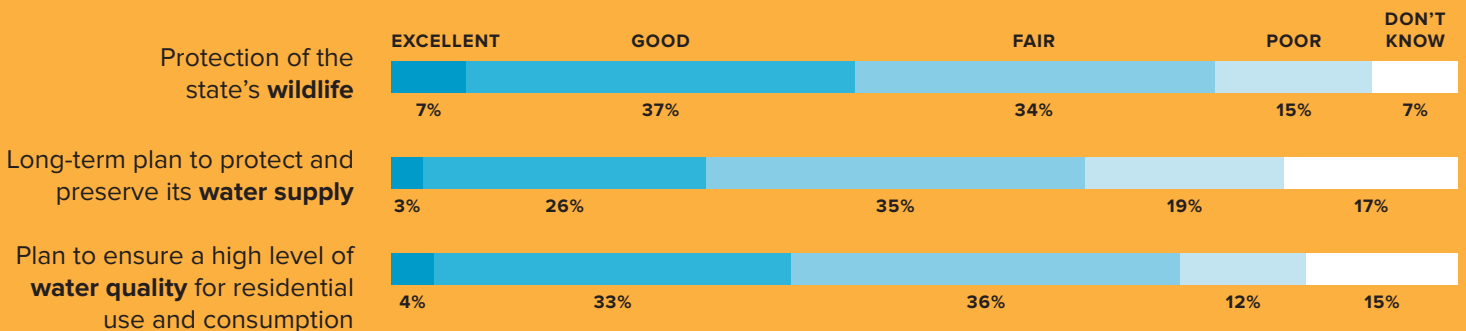
More development and new homes (9%)

New industries in the state (5%)

Landscaping, swimming pools and non-essential home uses (4%)

VOTERS' VIEWS ABOUT GOVERNMENT AND POLICIES

How Arizonans rate the state government's:



Nearly 7 in 10

Arizona registered voters believe the **governor and legislature** should require more regulation to **reduce greenhouse gases**.

2020: **66%**
2017: **60%**

52% of voters feel Arizona should do more to **develop alternative energy sources**, such as solar and wind power.



51% strongly agree that the **federal government** needs to do more to combat climate change, **up from 38% in 2017.**



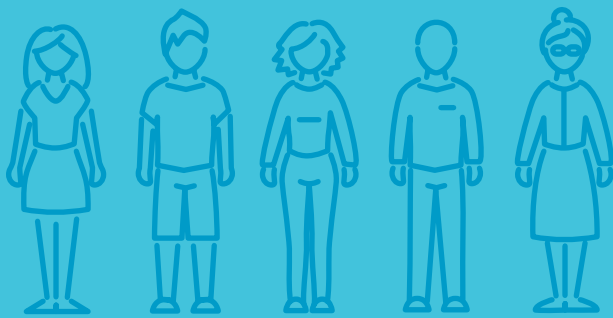
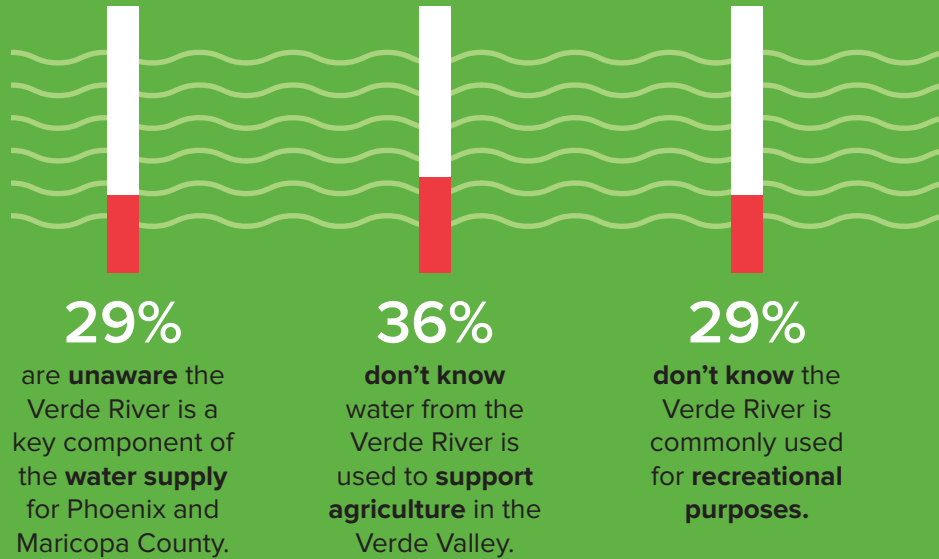
45% strongly agree that the **state government** needs to do more to combat climate change, **up from 33% in 2017.**

THE VERDE RIVER

What do voters in Arizona's largest metropolitan area know about their state's water resources?

The Verde River supplies drinking water to 14 rural communities along its banks and nearly 3 million people in Maricopa County. The river is a major source of central Arizona's sustainability, including agriculture, economy, health and recreation, and supports hundreds of wildlife species.

Survey questions directed to only Maricopa County residents revealed knowledge gaps related to this major Arizona water source.



SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND REPORT

For both the 2017 and 2020 surveys, a representative sample of 800 registered voters were polled. The sample was designed to match the political and demographic characteristics of Arizona according to the most recent voter data. The surveys were conducted by phone and were presented in English and Spanish. Each poll has a +/- 3 percentage point margin of error and the results were analyzed at a confidence level of 95%, meaning it is unlikely that the attitudes and opinions of Arizonans fall outside the polls' margins of error.

To read the full survey reports, and for a digital version of this document, visit ninapulliamtrust.org/environmental-polls.



NINA MASON PULLIAM CHARITABLE TRUST

The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust seeks to help people in need, especially women, children and families; to protect animals and nature; and to enrich community life, primarily in metropolitan Phoenix and Indianapolis.

The Trust focuses its environmental efforts on protecting, restoring and maintaining critical waterways, open spaces and wildlife habitat, and increasing awareness of environmental issues in Arizona and Indiana, the states where we invest. In Arizona, the Trust focuses its waterway support on the Verde River.



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