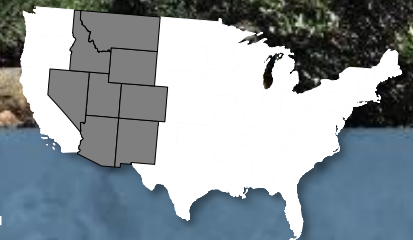




KEY FINDINGS

THE 2024 SURVEY OF THE ATTITUDES OF VOTERS IN EIGHT WESTERN STATES

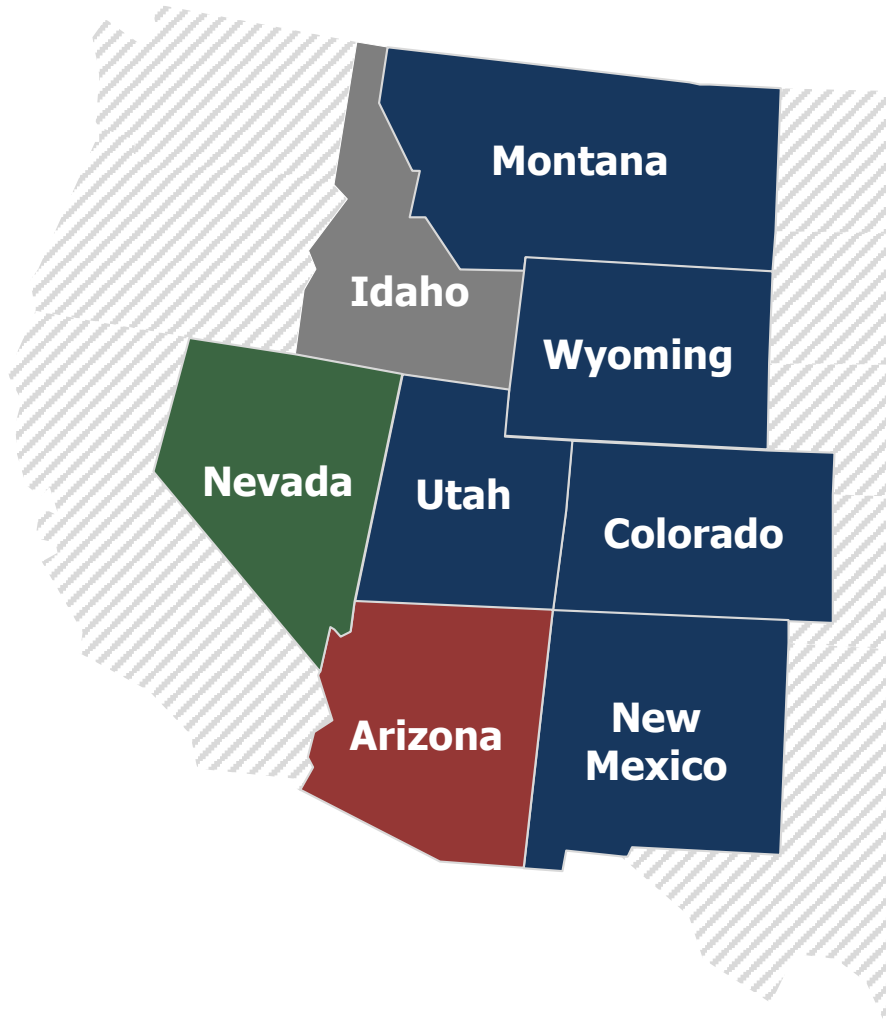


JANUARY 2024

**CONDUCTED BY: LORI WEIGEL & KATHRYN HAHNE / NEW BRIDGE STRATEGY
DAVE METZ / FAIRBANK, MASLIN, MAULLIN, METZ & ASSOCIATES**

Methodology

- ❖ 3,376 telephone and online interviews with registered voters in eight states: Arizona (N=458), Colorado (N=436), Idaho (N=402), Montana (N=429), Nevada (N=428), New Mexico (N=416), Utah (N=405), and Wyoming (N=402).
- ❖ Two oversamples were also conducted to have greater ability to report distinctions among racial/ethnic sub-groups. We conducted additional interviews to reach a total of N=210 Black voters and a total of N=206 Native American voters, which were then weighted back to reflect their true proportions within the electorate in this region.
- ❖ Interviews were conducted January 4-21, 2024, in Spanish and English.
- ❖ The effective margin of error is $\pm 2.4\%$ at the 95% confidence interval for the total sample; and at most $\pm 4.9\%$ for each state.
- ❖ The total numbers have been statistically weighted to reflect the true geographic distribution of voters throughout the region. Interviews within each state were distributed proportionally by region.
- ❖ Comparisons are made to similarly conducted surveys each year from 2011 to 2023.
- ❖ Bi-partisan research team of New Bridge Strategy (R) and Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D).



Over the past decade, the number of states included in this survey has increased.

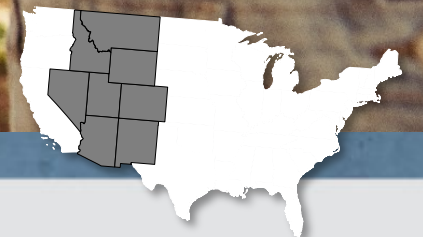
In order to provide accurate comparisons over time, we compare data based on only the states interviewed in that year as follows:

2011 5 States: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

2012-2015 6 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

2016-2017 7 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

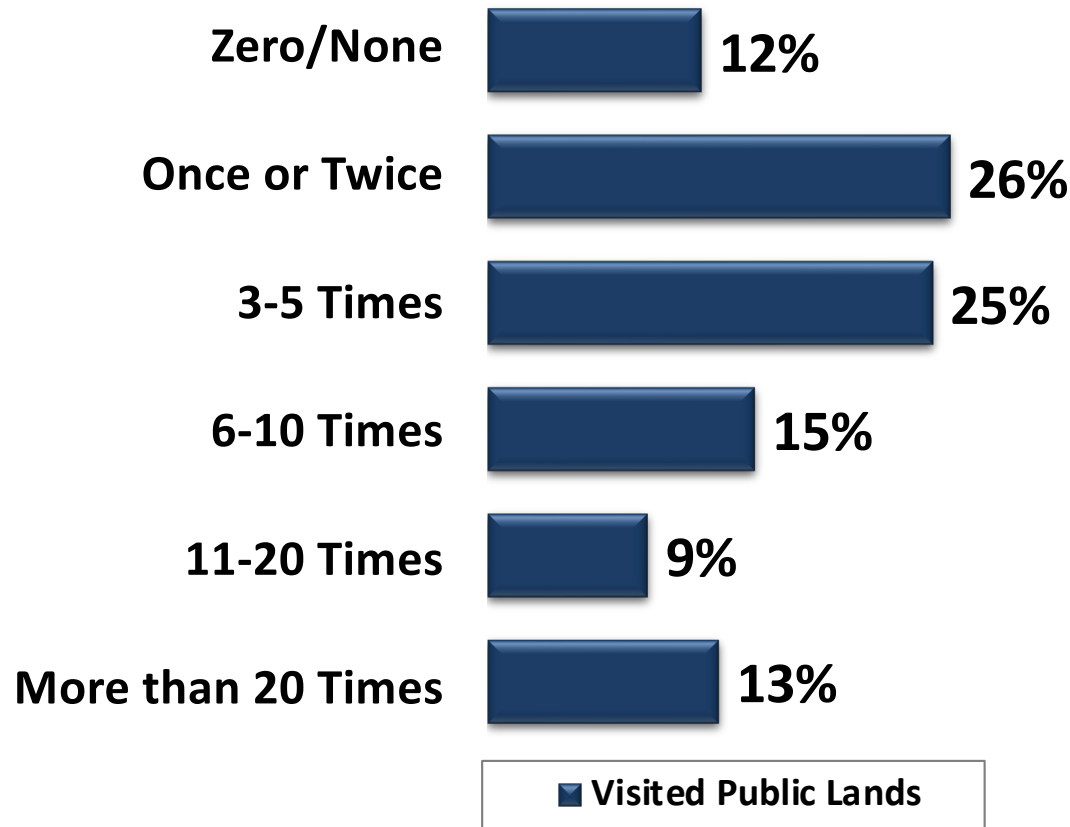
2018-2024 8 States: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY



A Love for the Outdoors



88% of Westerners have visited national public lands in the past year, with nearly one-quarter going more than 10 times.



Over the past year, how many times do you think you have visited national public lands such as national parks, national forests, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, or other national public lands?

Hiking and camping are by far the most common outdoor activities in which Westerners engage.



73%

Hiking/Running/
Walking



49%

Camping

Picnicking	43%
Bird Watching/ Viewing Wildlife	38%
Boating/Rafting/Kayaking	28%
Skiing/Snowshoeing	21%
Off-Road/Snowmobile	20%
Mountain/Trail Biking	19%
Hunting/Fishing	15%
Sports	12%

Which of the following types of outdoor recreation, if any, do you participate in regularly?

Westerners also engage with nature in a whole host of other ways beyond outdoor recreation.

57%

Sought out news on nature, wildlife or recreation



39%



Donated money or volunteered to help nature or wildlife

38%



Have a recreation, hiking, or nature app

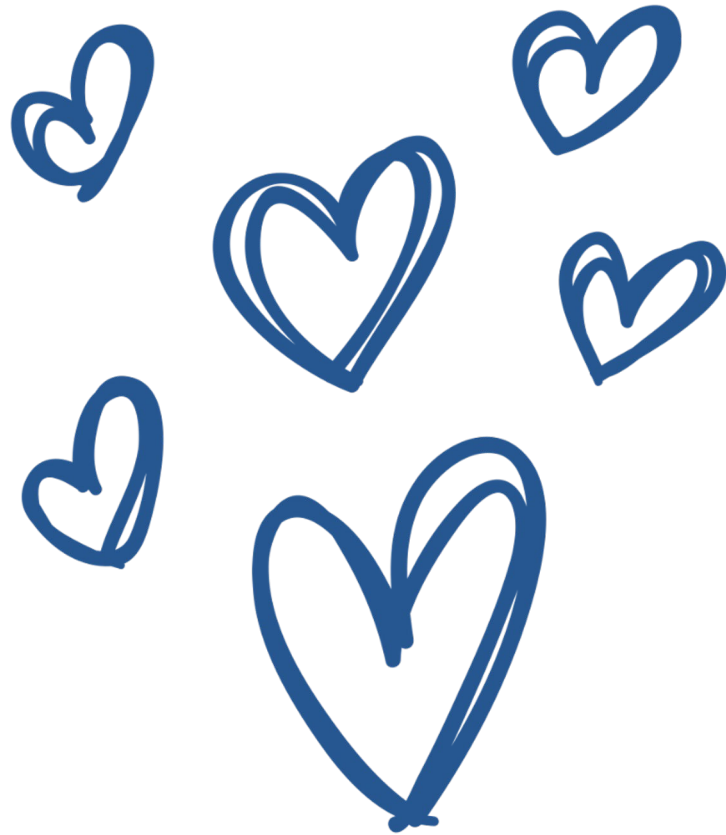
34%



Listened to a podcast or follow someone online who focuses on nature or the environment

There are a number of different activities or actions that some people have told us they have taken in the last year. For each one, please indicate if you regularly do that particular action or activity, yes or no.

National parks dominate the most frequently mentioned natural areas that Western voters say that they have visited in the past and loved.

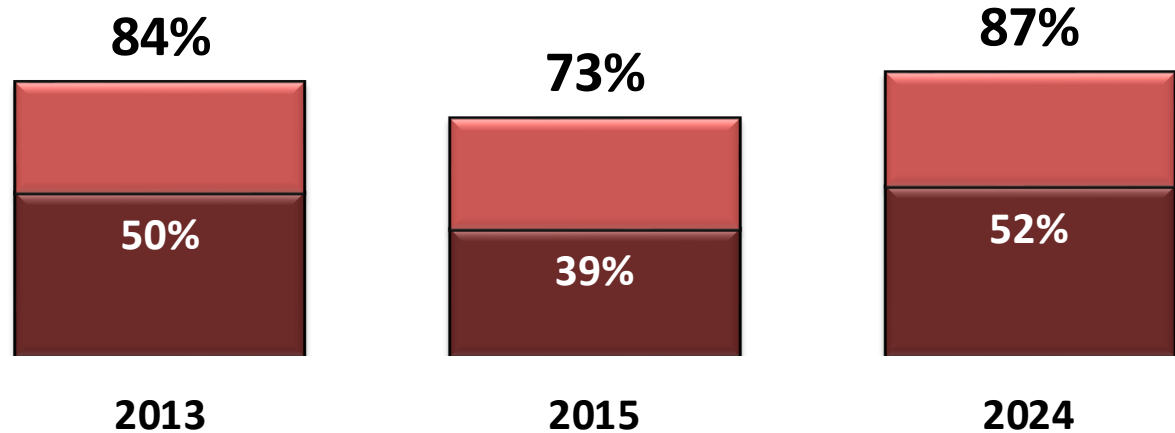


<i>Have visited and loved</i>	Mentions
Yellowstone National Park	179
The Grand Canyon	78
Glacier National Park	55
Zion National Park	46
Rocky Mountains	39
Grand Teton National Park	29
Yosemite National Park	28
Arches National Park	16
Bryce Canyon National Park	16
Redwood forests in California	13

And, is there a national park, national forest or some other type of natural area in the United States that you have visited that you would say you loved?

Concern about children not spending enough time in the outdoors stands at an all-time high.

Children not spending enough time in the outdoors



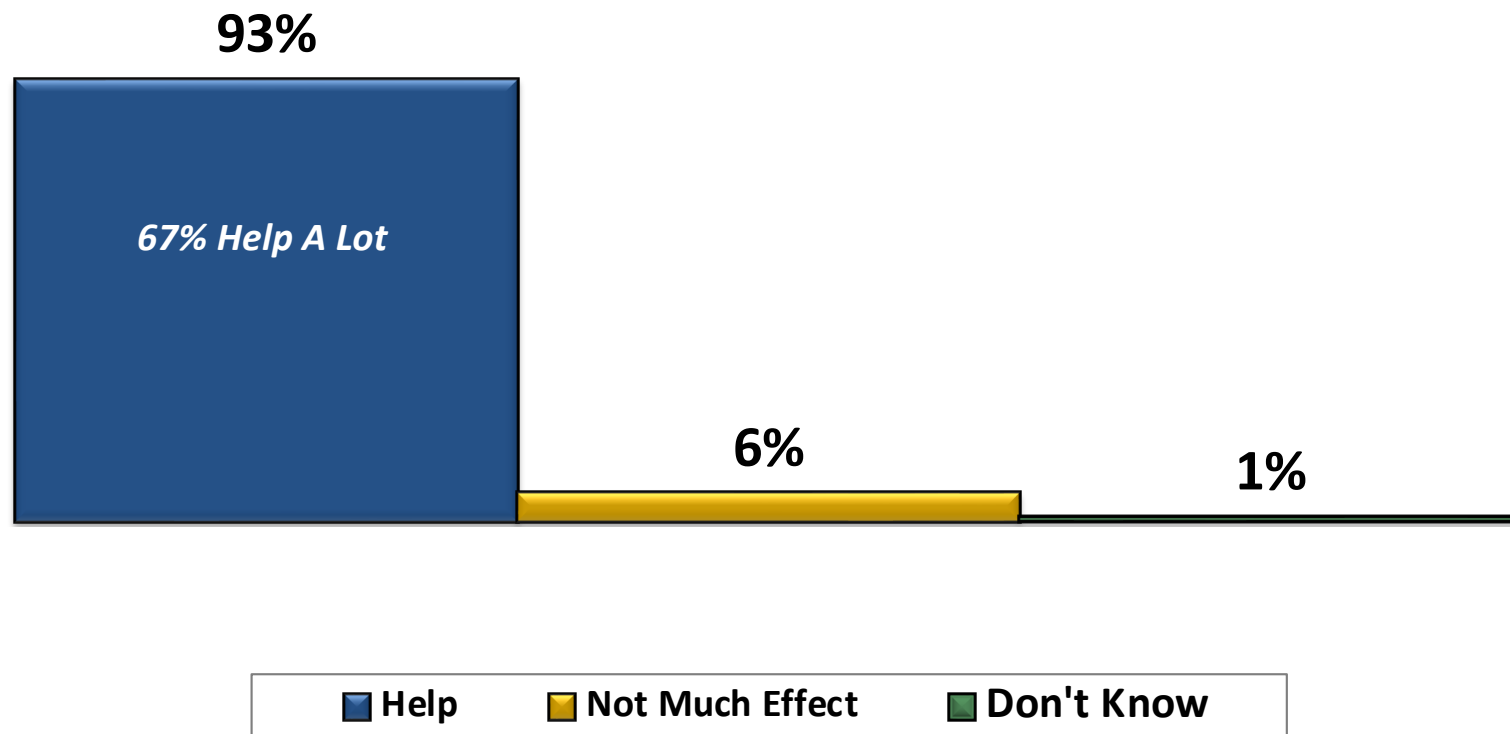
■ Extremely/Very Serious Problem
■ Total Serious Problem

For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). Children not spending enough time in the outdoors
Showing 2015 & 2024 data by just 2013 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

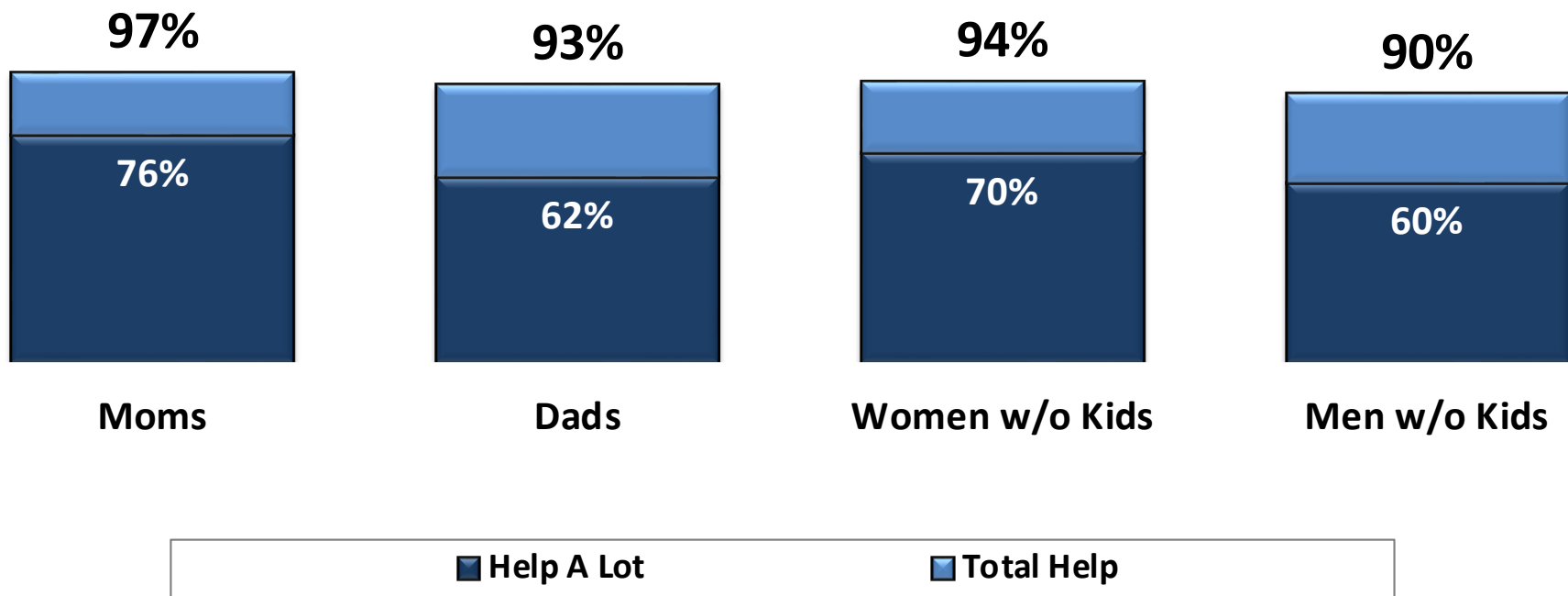
Westerners are nearly unanimous in seeing nature as a way to address the mental health crisis in young people.

As you may know, the rates of anxiety, depression and mental health problems in children and young people have risen dramatically in the last few years.

Do you think that spending more time in the outdoors in nature would ...



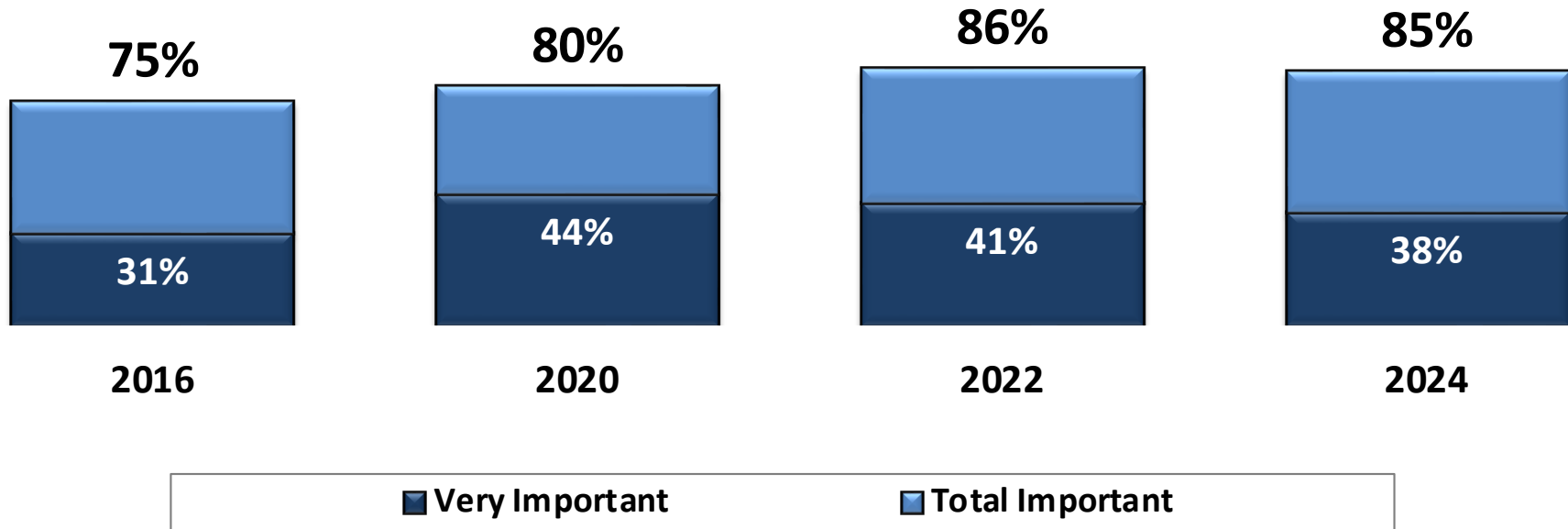
Moms are especially focused on nature as a way to address mental health concerns in children.



As you may know, the rates of anxiety, depression and mental health problems in children and young people have risen dramatically in the last few years. Do you think that spending more time in the outdoors in nature would help or not have much effect on this problem?

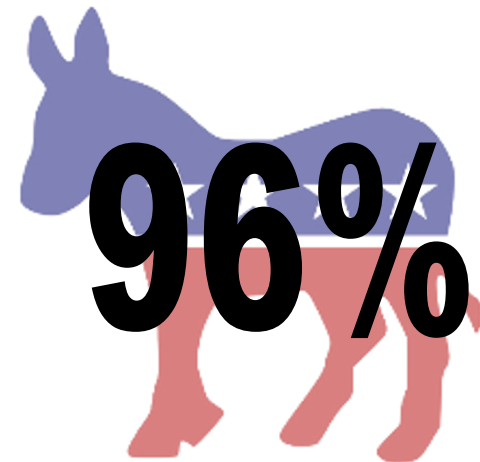
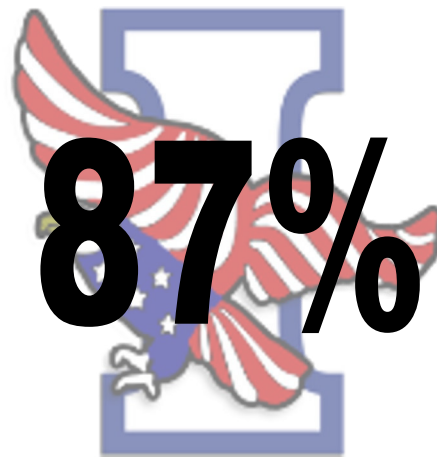
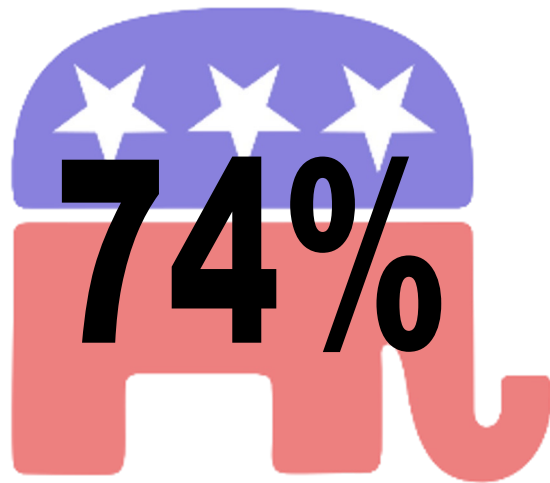


The shared appreciation for nature continues to be seen in Western voters' priorities this election year, even when compared to issues like the economy, health care and education.

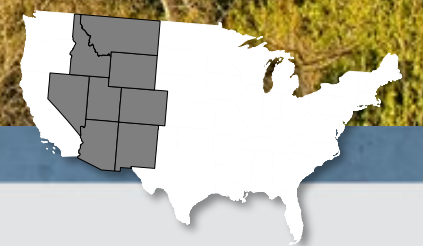


*Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, wildlife and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official? Are they...
Showing 2020-2024 data by just 2016 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY*

Voters from across the political spectrum say a public official's position on conservation issues will be an important factor in determining their support.



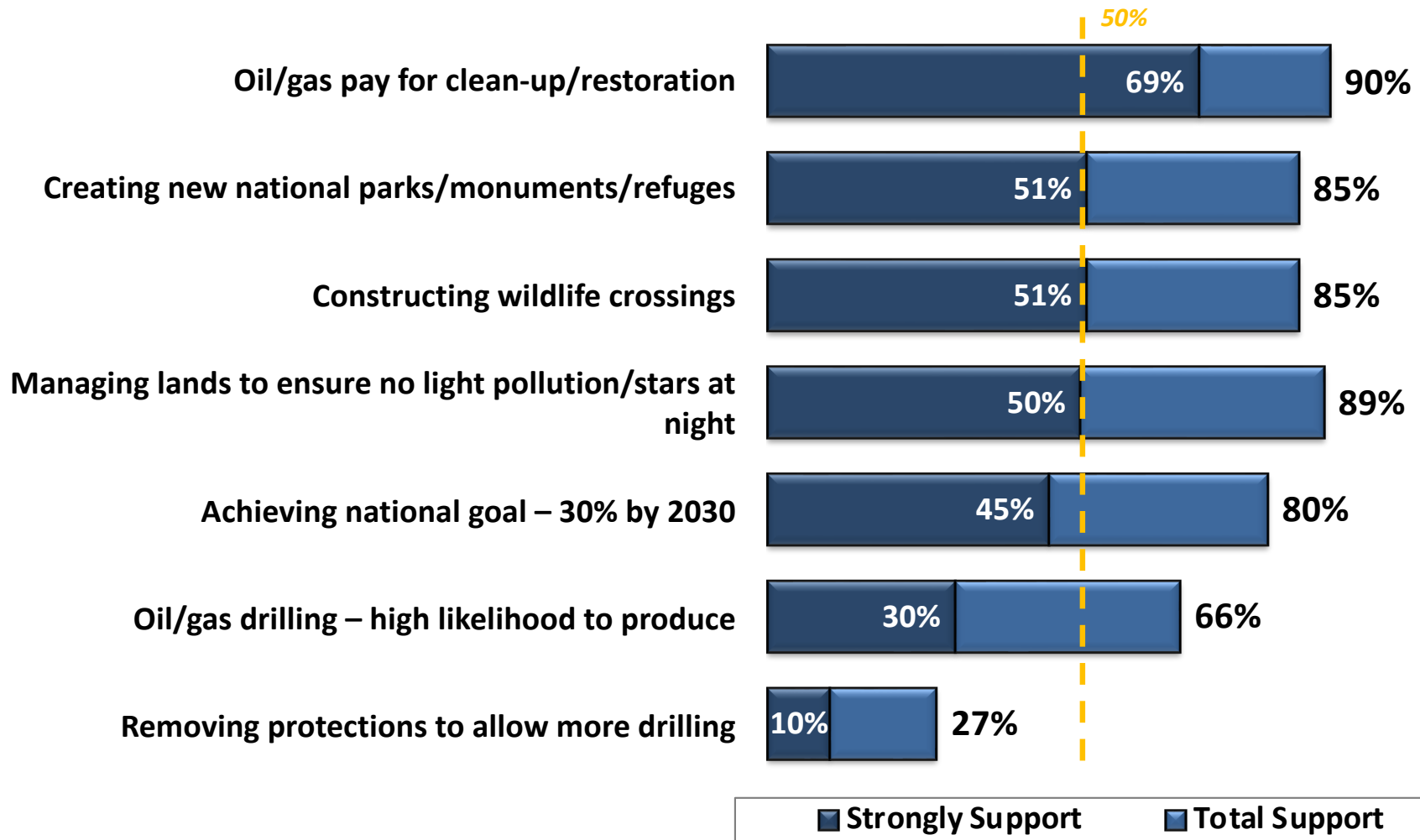
Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, wildlife and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official?



Conservation & Public Lands



Two-thirds of Westerners support every pro-conservation and public lands policy tested this year.



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state...

By the largest margin in the last six years, Western voters want their Member of Congress to protect natural resources on public lands, rather than stress energy production there.

2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024

Ensuring we protect sources of clean water, our air quality and wildlife habitat while providing opportunities to visit and recreate on our national public lands.

65% 67% 69% 67% 68% 70%

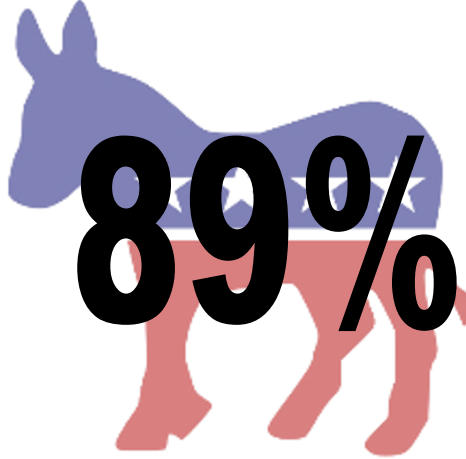
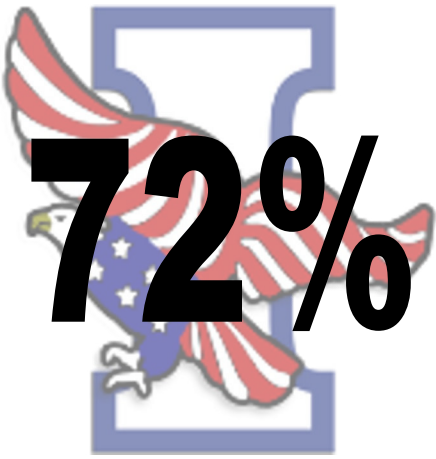
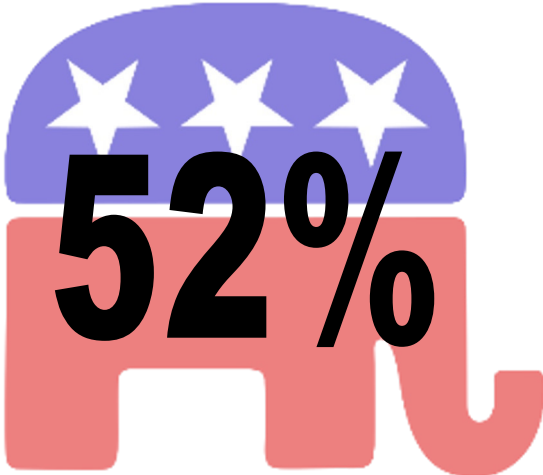
Ensuring we produce more domestic energy by maximizing the amount of national public lands available for responsible oil and gas drilling and mining.

24% 25% 27% 28% 26% 26%

Which one would you prefer your Member of Congress place more emphasis on in upcoming decisions regarding national public lands?

For the first time, prioritizing conservation over energy production receives majority support across the political spectrum.

% Protect Natural Resources



Which one would you prefer your Member of Congress place more emphasis on in upcoming decisions regarding national public lands?

Over three-quarters of Western voters say more emphasis should be placed on conserving wildlife migration routes than on economic uses of lands in these areas.

More emphasis should be placed on conserving wildlife migration routes, providing crossings over or under highways and limiting new development in those areas.

78%

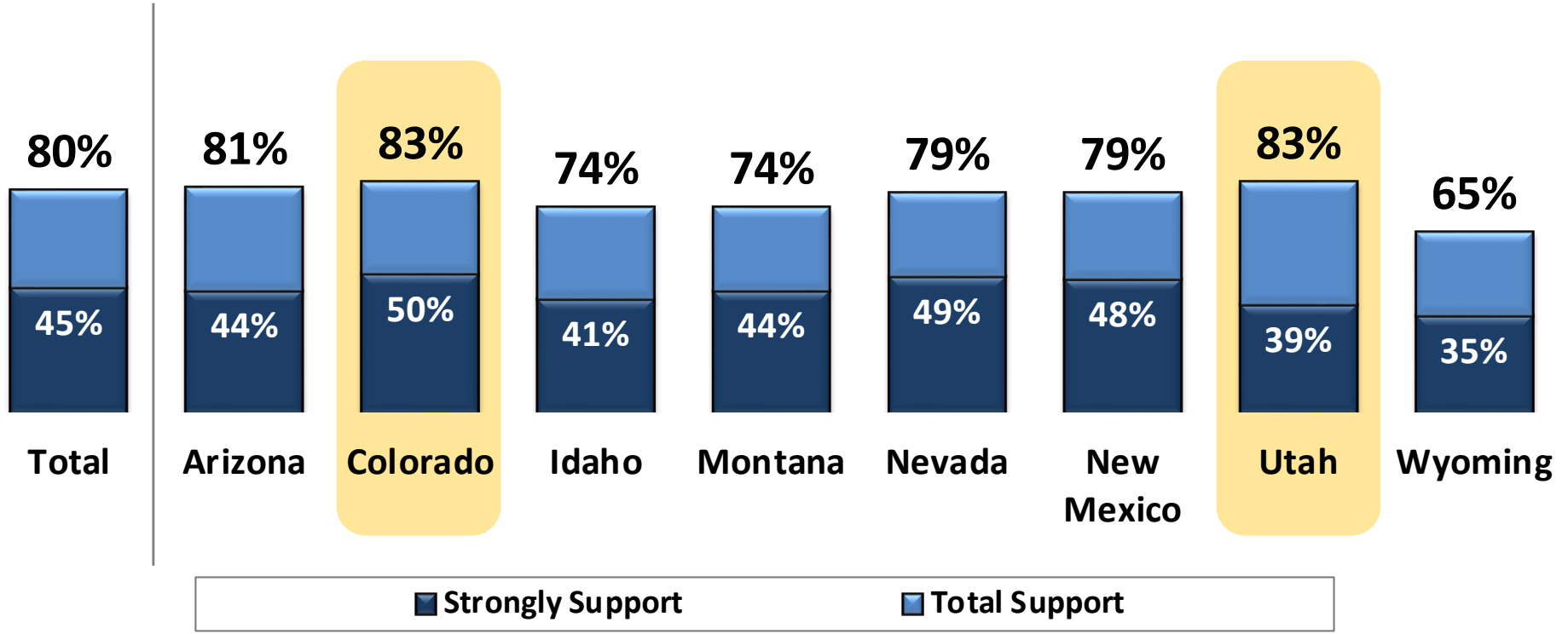
More emphasis should be placed on economically productive uses of these lands such as new development, roads, ranching, or oil and gas production.

20%

As you know, many types of wildlife such as pronghorn antelope, mule deer and elk migrate between summer and winter habitat and feeding grounds in the West. When it comes to decisions about lands that include wildlife migration routes, which one comes closer to your view, even if neither one perfectly fits what you think. (Asked N=2,762 Respondents)

Overwhelming majorities of voters in every state support achieving 30x30 conservation goals, with half saying they strongly support them.

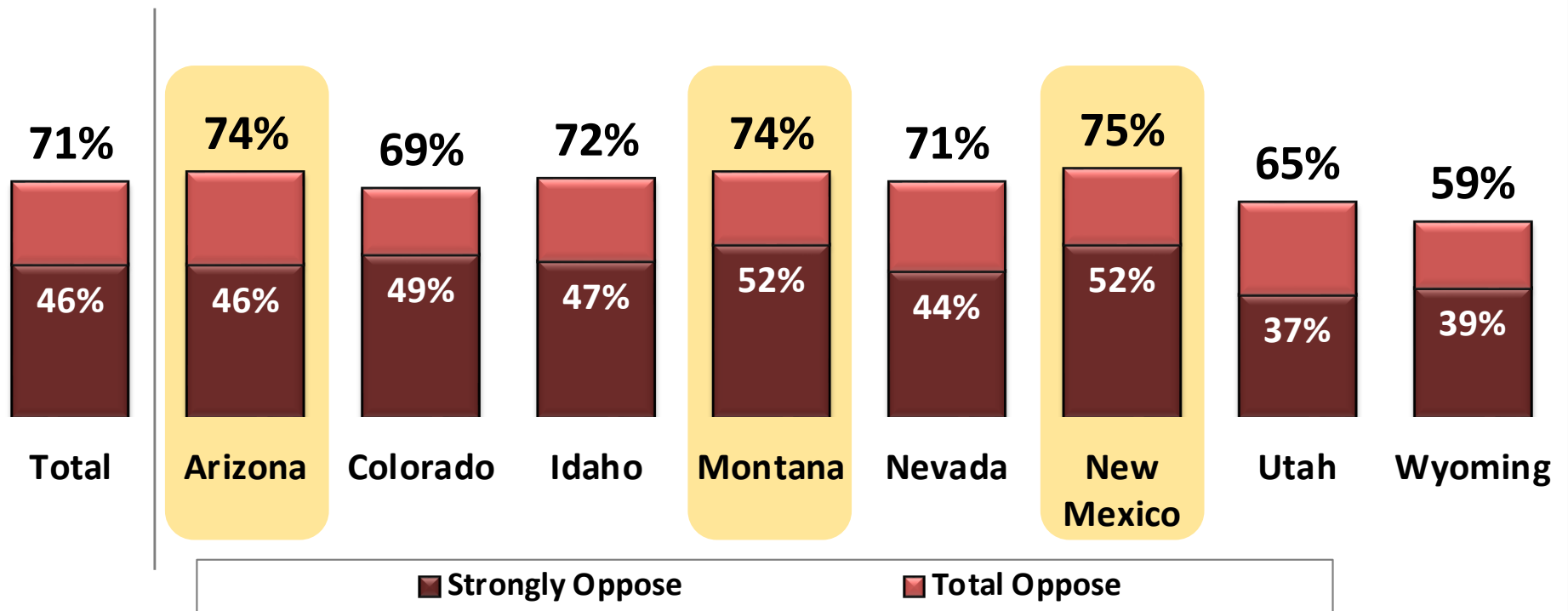
30x30 Conservation Goals



For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. **Achieving a national goal of conserving thirty percent of land and inland waters in America, and thirty percent of its ocean areas by the year 2030.** (Asked N=1,705 Respondents)

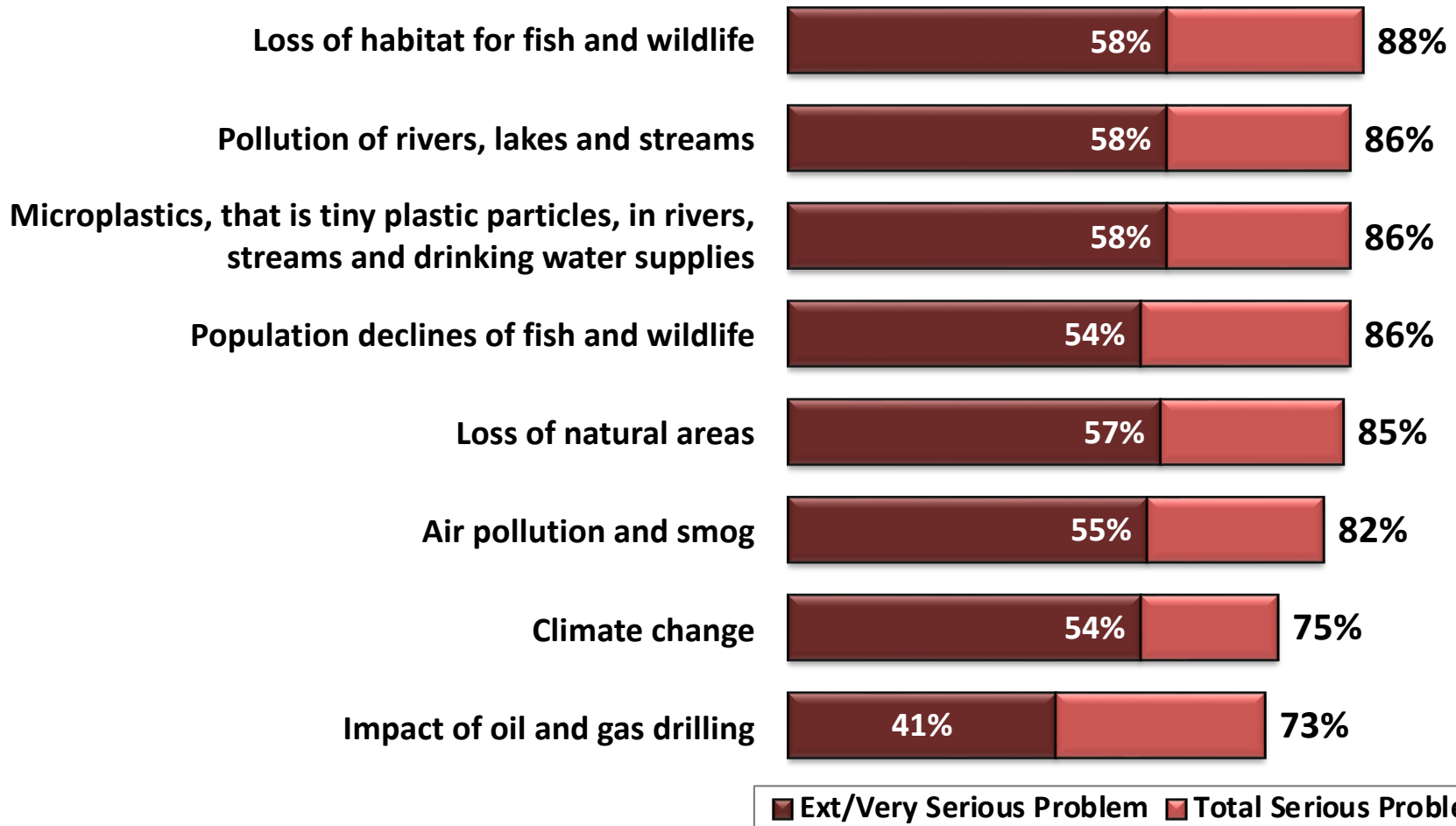
A majority in every state oppose the removal of protections on some areas of existing national public lands.

Removing protections on some areas of existing national public lands, particularly national monuments, to allow more drilling, mining and other development.



*For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state...
 Removing protections on some areas of existing national public lands, particularly national monuments, to allow more drilling, mining and other development. (Asked N=2,736 Respondents)*

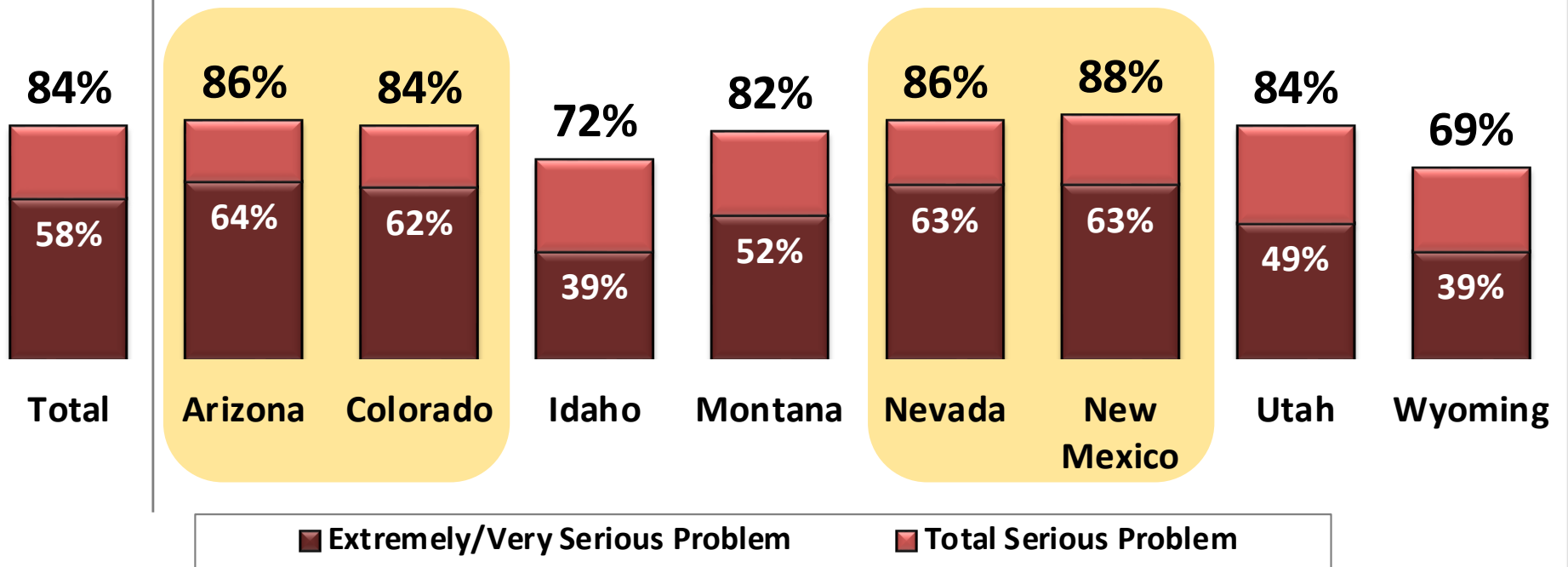
Support for these proposals may lie in the fact that concern about a range of problems is at its highest level in 14 years.



*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE).
Showing 2024 data by just states interviewed in 2011: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY*

This year, we also asked about poor drinking water quality in some lower income communities. This is particularly concerning to Southwestern voters.

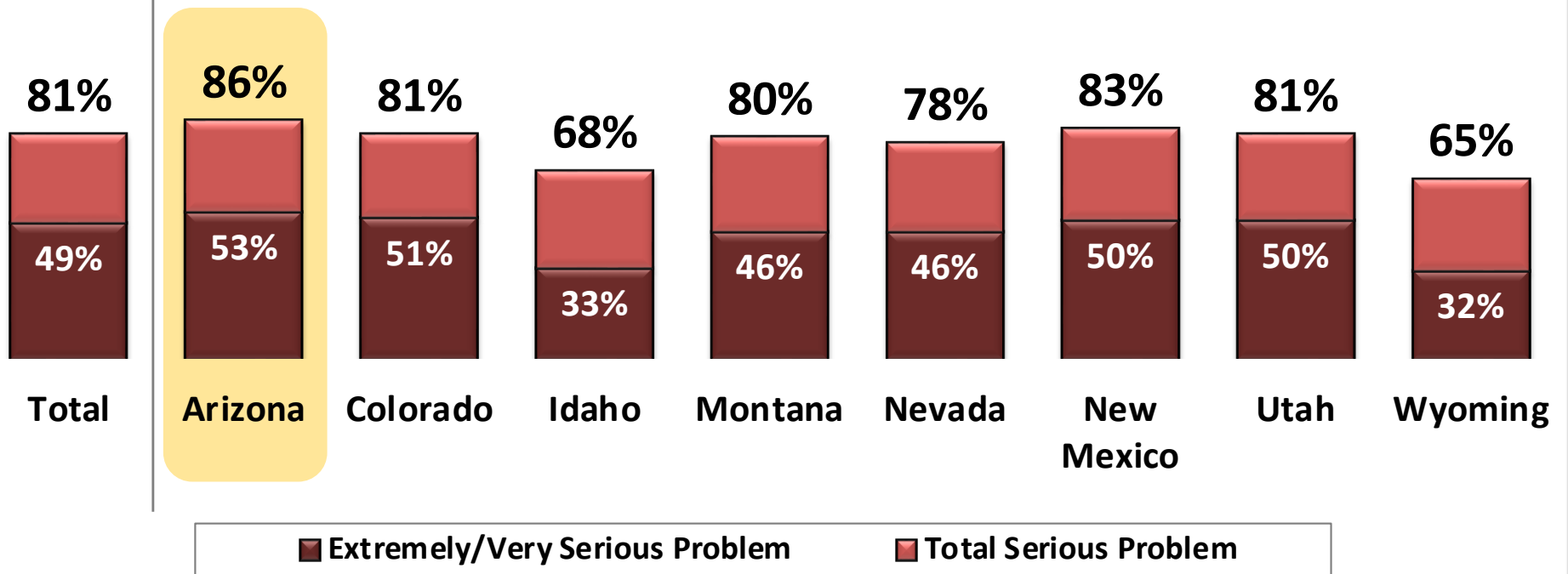
Poor drinking water quality in some lower income communities due to lead pipes, aging infrastructure or pollutants leaking into well water



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). Poor drinking water quality in some lower income communities due to lead pipes, aging infrastructure or pollutants leaking into well water (Asked N=1,712 Respondents)

A majority of Arizona voters also say hazardous facilities that release pollution in their community are a serious problem.

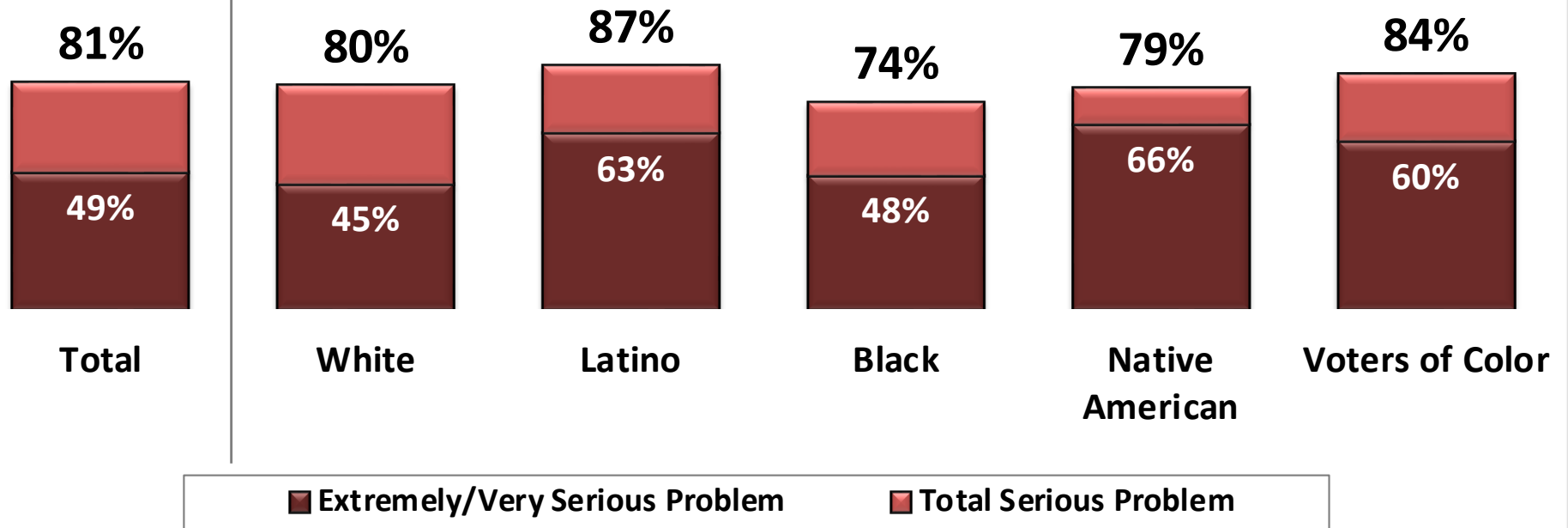
Hazardous facilities such as landfills, waste sites or industries that release water or air pollution in my community



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Hazardous facilities such as landfills, waste sites or industries that release water or air pollution in my community**

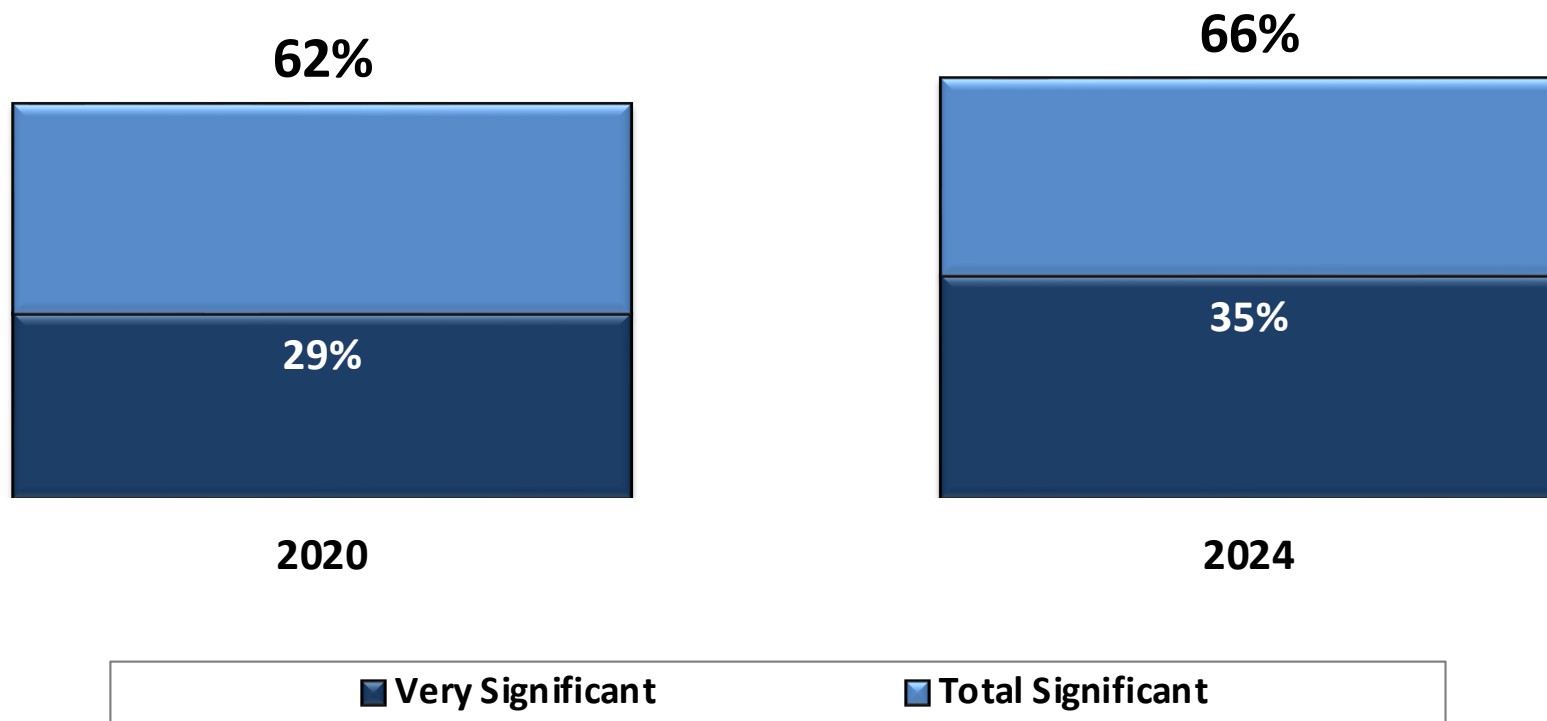
Latino and Native American voters are the most likely to say hazardous facilities in their community are a serious problem.

Hazardous facilities such as landfills, waste sites or industries that release water or air pollution in my community



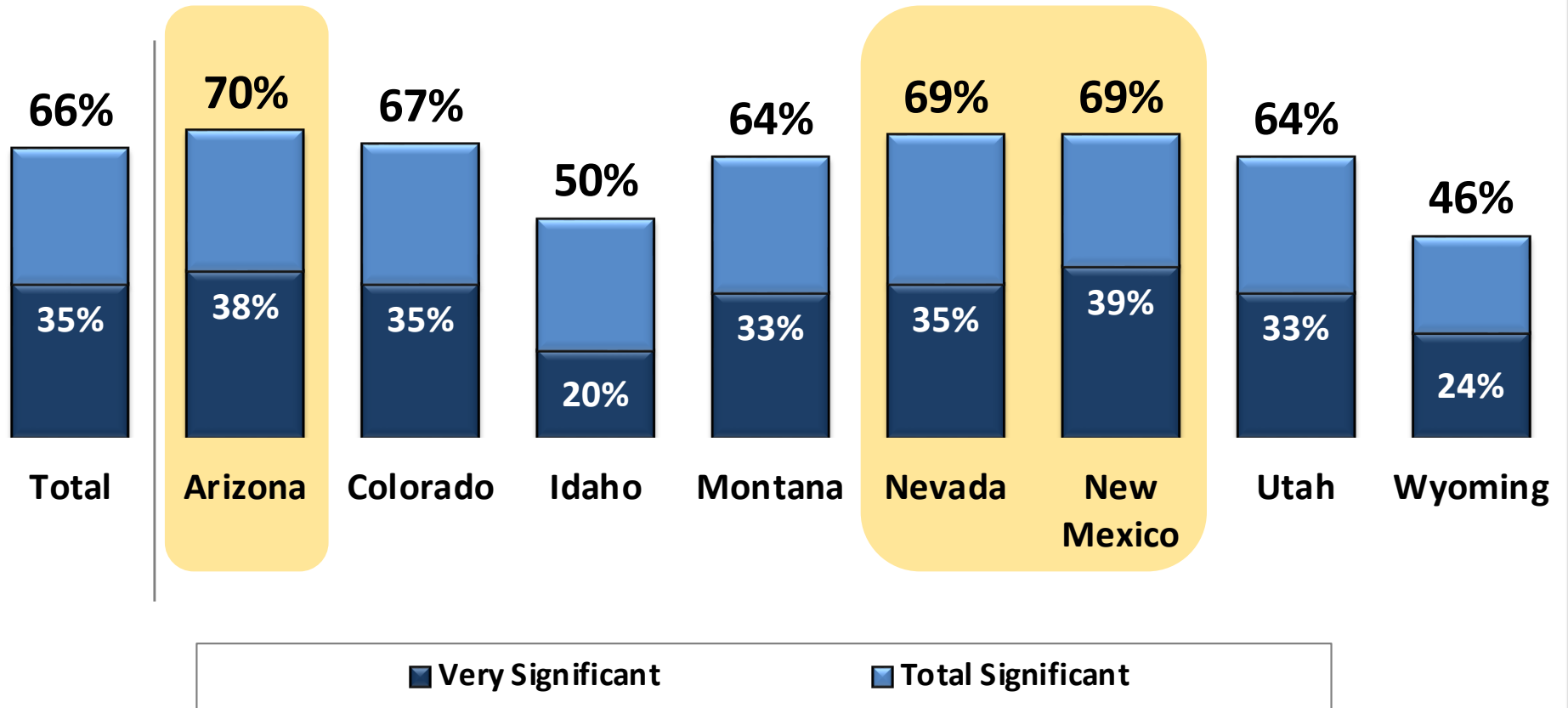
For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Hazardous facilities such as landfills, waste sites or industries that release water or air pollution in my community**

Compared to 2020, more Western voters say the effects of climate change in their state have been significant.



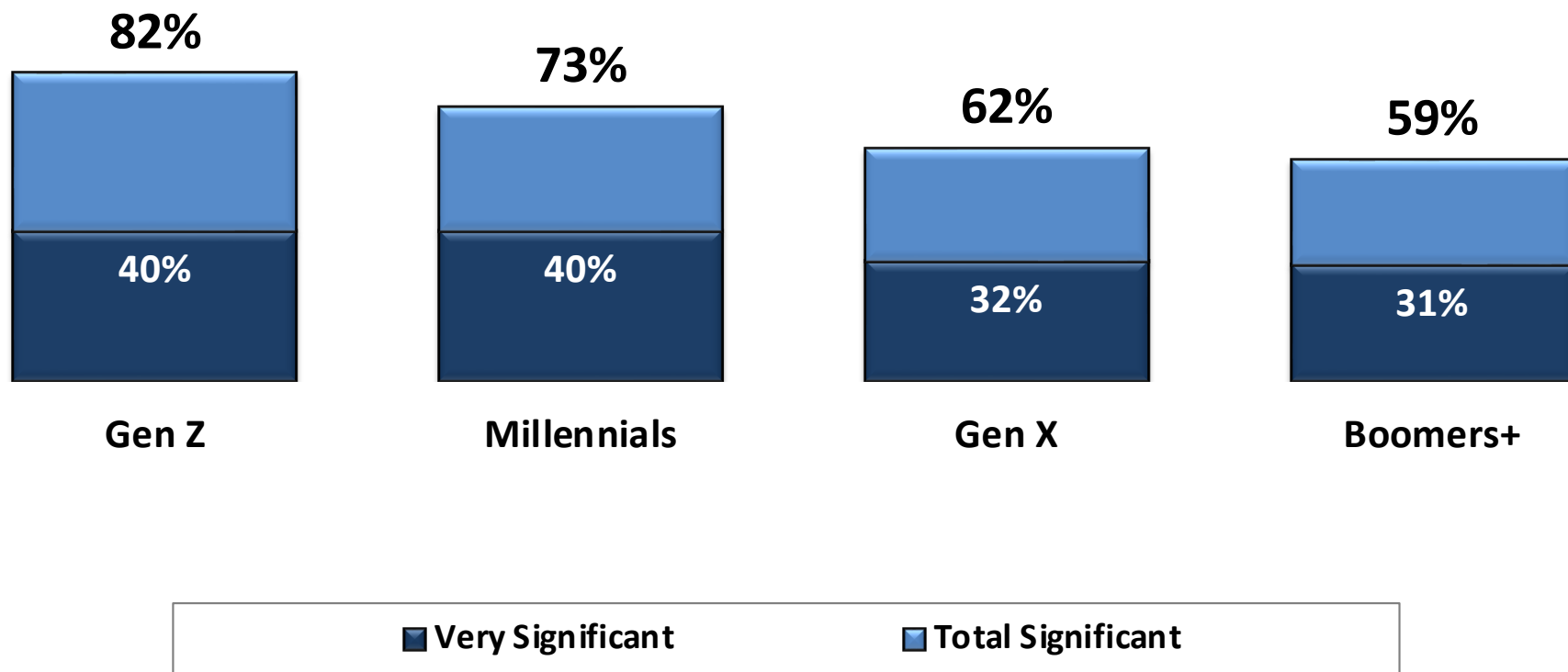
Looking back over the last ten years, how significant do you think the effects of climate change have been in your state?

Voters in the Southwest are more likely to say the effects of climate change have been significant.



Looking back over the last ten years, how significant do you think the effects of climate change have been in your state?

There is a generational gap among Western voters on how significant they say the effects of climate change have been.



Looking back over the last ten years, how significant do you think the effects of climate change have been in your state?

Notably, clean energy is seen as compatible with preserving natural areas, wildlife habitat and community character.

We can both increase the production of clean energy while also preserving natural areas, wildlife habitat and the character of our communities.

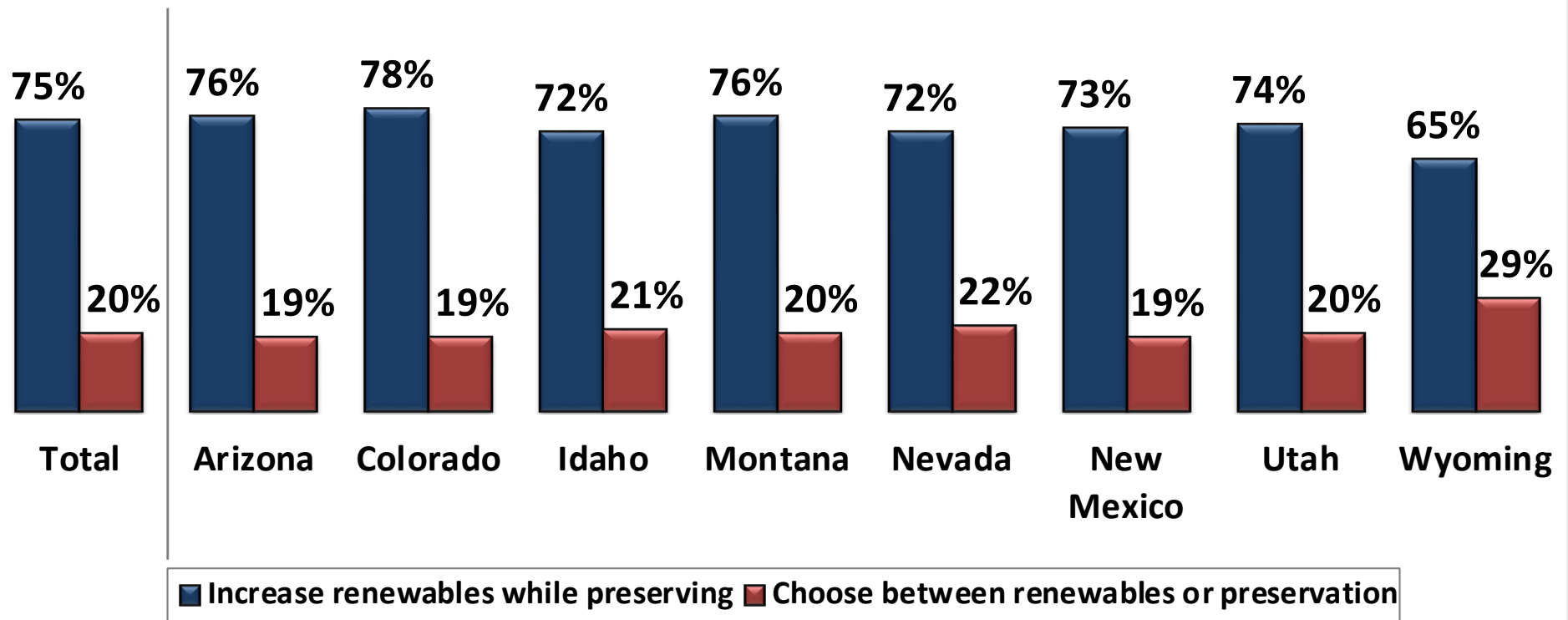
75%

We need to choose between increasing the production of clean energy and preserving natural areas, wildlife habitat and the character of our communities.

20%

Which comes closer to what you think?

Across each state, most Western voters say that we can both increase clean energy production, while also preserving natural areas and the character of our communities.



Which comes closer to what you think?



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