



TO American Lung Association
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 RE POLL RESULTS: Overwhelming Majority Opposes Congressional Efforts to Overturn Smog Standards

By wide margins, American voters believe Congress should keep the Environmental Protection Agency’s recently-updated limits on the amount of smog released by power plants, oil refineries, and other industrial facilities in place. This support extends across demographic and party lines, with overwhelming support from independents and even a solid plurality of Republicans supporting keeping the limits in place. Perhaps even more important, support for the limits holds steady at 61 percent after voters hear a simulated debate on the issue using opponents’ actual arguments against the standards.

Key findings from Global Strategy Group’s recent poll of 1,003 adults nationwide (including 858 registered voters) conducted for the American Lung Association are as follows:

KEY FINDINGS

A solid majority of voters want to keep the EPA’s smog pollution standards in place.

More than six in ten voters (61%) believe Congress should leave the EPA’s updated smog standards in place, outnumbering those who believe Congress should roll back the standards (27%) by more than two-to-one. This broad support extends across demographic groups, partisan leanings, and regions of the country, with even a solid plurality of Republicans (49%) supporting keeping the standards in place.

Full question text (initial vote): As you may know, the Environmental Protection Agency recently updated air pollution standards to place stricter limits on the amount of smog that power plants, oil refineries and other industrial facilities can release. Now, some in Congress want to roll back these stricter limits on smog. How about you, do you believe Congress should roll back the EPA’s stricter limits on smog, or should Congress leave these stricter limits in place?

Should Congress roll back the EPA’s stricter limits on smog?		
No Leave in place	Yes Roll back	
61%	27%	TOTAL
55	34	Men
67	21	Women
60	24	18-34
65	23	35-44
58	31	45-54
61	28	55-64
64	28	65+
49	40	Republican
63	26	Independent
75	15	Democrat
59	28	HS grad or less
62	27	Some college
64	25	College grad
65	26	Northeast
61	24	Midwest
63	26	South
54	32	West

Support for leaving the EPA’s smog standards in place holds, even after a balanced simulated debate including the strong, economically-focused counterargument being used by opponents of the standards. Even after voters hear a balanced debate on the issue, including the oppositions’ argument that these are “the most expensive regulations ever,” support for keeping the smog limits holds solid at still better than two-to-one, with an unchanged 61% of voters saying Congress should leave the limits in place.

Vote for EPA Restrictions (Initial and Informed)



Some people say that, according to scientists, **these updated standards will prevent hundreds of premature deaths and hundreds of thousands of additional asthma attacks every year by holding polluters accountable for their actions.** If Congress were to roll back these standards, they would be keeping parents in the dark about the true impact of air pollution on their children.

Other people say these new regulations will not improve air quality any faster, but they will hurt the economy by imposing unrealistic requirements on virtually every part of the nation. **These will be the most expensive regulations ever, costing billions of dollars a year, raising electricity bills, and placing millions of American jobs at risk.**



METHODOLOGY

Global Strategy Group partnered with ORC International to include these questions on a nationwide survey conducted from January 12th to 15th, 2017 among 1,003 adults, including 858 registered voters. The margin of error for the sample of registered voters is +/- 3.4% at the 95% confidence level. Smaller subgroups will have larger error margins. Care has been taken to ensure that the partisan, geographic, and demographic divisions of the nationwide electorate are properly represented by the survey’s respondents.