



TO American Lung Association  
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 RE POLL RESULTS: Voters Overwhelmingly Support Stricter Limits on Smog

Last month, the American Lung Association [released a memo](#) indicating voters’ wide opposition to any efforts to weaken the stronger fuel efficiency standards put in place by the previous administration. As noted in the previous memo, our research also indicated that voters overwhelmingly support the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enforcing stricter limits on air pollution.

When asked specifically about their support for enforcing the EPA’s 2015 updated standards which placed stricter limits on the amount of smog that power plants, oil refineries, and other industrial facilities release, voters across party and demographic lines overwhelmingly support enforcing the 2015 standards. This support also holds up against scrutiny: when voters hear a balanced simulated debate, including strong arguments attacking the proposed new smog standards that reflect the language being used by their opponents, two thirds of voters continue to support enforcing these standards.

Key findings from Global Strategy Group’s recent nationwide poll of registered voters are as follows:

## KEY FINDINGS

**Voters’ overwhelmingly support clean air laws and clean air enforcement agencies.** Voters nationwide are broadly favorable towards the Clean Air Act (65% favorable/10% unfavorable) and the EPA (59% favorable/26% unfavorable). Voters also support the EPA’s efforts to enforce stricter limits on air pollution more broadly by a margin of almost four to one (74% support/19% oppose, including 48% who strongly support).

**In keeping with voters’ strong support for clean air policies, voters also intensely support the Environmental Protection Agency enforcing stricter limits on smog.** A broad majority of voters (75%) support the idea of the Environmental Protection Agency enforcing its updated stricter limits on smog. Notably, a majority (56%) of voters *strongly* support the enforcement of the EPA’s stricter limits on smog. Less than a fifth of voters (18%) oppose the stricter limits.

**Support for stricter limits on smog outweighs opposition among Democrats, Republicans, and independent voters alike.** Nearly all Democrats support enforcing the stricter limits (94% support/4% oppose), independent voters support enforcing the limits by more than five-to-one (77% support/15% oppose), and more

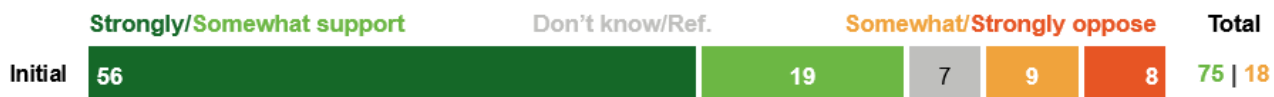
Support for the EPA Enforcing Stricter Limits on Smog		
Support	Oppose	
75%	18%	TOTAL
68	25	Men
81	12	Women
82	11	18-44
71	22	45-64
68	23	65+
72	20	White
85	12	Non-white
49	39	Republican
77	15	Independent
94	4	Democrat
76	20	Non-college
75	16	College
72	17	Northeast
72	21	Midwest
75	18	South
82	16	West
66	22	Parents

Republicans support (49%) than oppose (39%) enforcing the limits. Support for enforcing the 2015 limits is wide across the board and transcends the various demographic and regional groupings in the survey, including gender, age, education, and race.

**Support remains high even after voters hear arguments from both sides, including an argument from opponents of stricter smog standards that stresses the potentially negative economic and workforce-related ramifications of enforcing stronger smog standards.** Support for the EPA enforcing stricter smog limits starts out extremely high (75% support) and remains very robust following statements from both sides (66% support). After the debate, not only do two-thirds of voters express support, nearly half of voters express strong support for enforcing these stricter standards.

### Support for Enforcing EPA’s Stricter Limits on Smog

As you may know, in 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency 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, the EPA is considering if it will enforce these stricter limits on smog. Do you support or oppose the Environmental Protection Agency enforcing these stricter limits on smog?



Some people say that, according to scientists, enforcing these updated standards **will prevent hundreds of premature deaths and hundreds of thousands of additional asthma attacks among children** every year by holding polluters accountable for their actions. If the EPA fails to enforce these standards, they would be giving power plants a free pass to pollute and threaten the health of our children.

Other people say that, according to economists, enforcing 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 in American history, costing billions of dollars a year, raising electricity bills on families by hundreds of dollars, and placing millions of American jobs at risk



## METHODOLOGY

Global Strategy Group conducted a telephone survey from March 13th to 15th, 2018 among 800 registered voters nationwide. The margin of error is +/- 3.5% at the 95% confidence level and the margin of error for subgroups is greater.