



TO: Interested Parties
 FROM: Andrew Baumann and Andrew Batcheller, Global Strategy Group
 DATE: December 11, 2023
 RE: **NEW POLL:** Arizona voters increasingly see climate change and air pollution as major problems and support investments in clean energy, policies to encourage a transition zero-emission vehicles

New survey data from Global Strategy Group finds that Arizona voters increasingly see climate change and air pollution as significant problems and increasingly believe that climate change is already having an impact on the Southwest. As a result, voters believe that state policymakers need to do more to combat climate change and want to see Arizona increase investments in clean energy sources like solar and wind – in part because they believe using more clean energy will save families money and boost the state’s economy. Moreover, a strong majority of voters say the state should encourage a transition to zero-emission vehicles, which voters believe will have a positive impact on health, air quality, and the state’s economy. As a result, voters strongly support several policies to encourage more ZEV use, including investing in more charging stations, consumer incentives, transitioning school buses and the state fleet to zero-emission vehicles, and setting stronger limits on tailpipe emissions.

The following memo contains key findings from the survey conducted for the American Lung Association between November 27 and December 3, 2023, among 802 registered voters in Arizona.

KEY FINDINGS

Arizona voters increasingly see climate change and air pollution as significant problems. Over eight in ten voters believe that both climate change and air pollution are serious problems, with those percentages up four and three points respectively from a year ago. The overwhelming majorities include nearly all Democrats, over eight in 10 independents, and strong majorities of Republicans.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND AIR POLLUTION							
	Registered Voters	% Total Serious Problem					
		Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	White Non-college	White College
Climate Change	80	98	85	62	87	76	81
Air pollution in Arizona	83	94	89	70	86	80	83

Arizonans recognize the negative impact of climate change in the Southwest and want to see lawmakers take action. Seven in ten (71%) agree that climate change is already having a serious impact on the southwest region, up six points from last year and now at the highest point in the four years we have been asking this question. This includes strong majorities of Democrats and independents and a plurality of Republicans. Voters strongly agree that science and experts should guide our response to climate change and this argument is particularly effective with Republican voters. As a result, voters across partisan and ethnic groups agree that Arizona policymakers need to do more to combat climate change, with 70% of all voters agreeing with that statement, up 8 points from last year.

CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENTS

	Registered Voters			Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	White Non-col.	White College
	% Agree	% Disagree	NET Agree						
Climate change is already having a serious impact on this part of the country.	71	24	+47	+88	+59	+3	+59	+33	+51
Arizona policymakers need to do more to combat climate change.	70	23	+47	+93	+55	+2	+62	+37	+45
We should let science and experts guide our response to climate change.	70	23	+47	+84	+44	+12	+56	+34	+56

Wind and solar are popular and Arizona voters want to see the state use more clean energy, not less. Wind and solar companies have broad popularity (70% favorable/16% unfavorable) and are significantly better liked than fossil fuels like oil, gas, and coal (46%-42%). Consistent with our research from previous years, voters on both sides of the aisle want to see the state use more solar power (by a 70-point margin overall) and wind (by a 53-point margin) and use less oil and coal.

ENERGY SOURCE USAGE

	Registered Voters				Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	White	
	% More	% Less	% About the same	NET More					Non-college	White College
Solar	74	4	16	+70	+86	+71	+57	+61	+72	+74
Wind	61	8	21	+53	+74	+60	+29	+46	+50	+58
Oil	12	43	35	-31	-59	-33	-2	-30	-25	-39
Coal	10	48	27	-38	-59	-29	-22	-27	-34	-53

Arizonans are growing more confident that investing in clean energy will create jobs, bring down energy costs, and boost Arizona's economy. Over seven in ten voters agree that using more clean energy will save families money and create quality jobs and strengthen Arizona's economy. Three out of four voters see investing in clean energy as a way to boost America's economic recovery. What's more, voters have become more confident that clean energy will save money (a 16-point shift on the margin since 2022) and will help rebuild the country's economy (a 9-point shift on the margin).

CLEAN ENERGY STATEMENTS

	Registered Voters			NET '22	Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	White Non-col.	White College
	% Agree	% Disagree	NET Agree							
Using more clean energy like wind and solar would save Arizona families money.	76	17	+59	+43	+92	+66	+24	+68	+54	+51
America should make significant investments in clean energy as part of our efforts to rebuild the economy.	75	18	+57	+48	+90	+66	+21	+68	+47	+53
Using more clean energy like wind and solar would create quality jobs and strengthen Arizona's economy.	72	15	+57	+53	+87	+60	+26	+65	+47	+59

Zero-emission vehicles are popular because Arizona voters believe they will have a positive impact on air quality, health, and the state economy. A majority of voters are favorable to zero-emission vehicles (59% favorable/20% unfavorable), including a majority of Democrats (75%-5%) and independents (57%-13%) and a plurality of Republicans (45%-38%). By a 26-point margin, voters believe Arizona should implement policies that encourage a transition to zero-emission vehicles (57% agree/31% disagree) and, because of that, they'd be more

favorable to a state policymaker who supports policies to encourage a transition to zero-emission vehicles (51% more favorable/22% less favorable). Both Democrats and independents are strongly positive on both metrics while Republicans who are not very conservative are split and only the 10% of the electorate who consider themselves very conservative Republicans are in true opposition.

INITIAL AGREEMENT

Arizona should implement policies that encourage a transition to zero-emission vehicles.

Registered Voters			Dem.	Ind.	Non-Very Cons. GOP	Very Cons. GOP	Latino	White Non-college	White College
% Agree	% Disagree	NET Agree							
57	31	+26	+74	+24	-6	-55	+38	+11	+34

IMPACT ON FAVORABILITY

Would you feel more or less favorable toward your state legislator if they supported policies that encourage a transition to zero-emission vehicles?

Registered Voters			Dem.	Ind.	Non-Very Cons. GOP	Very Cons. GOP	Latino	White Non-college	White College
% More favorable	% Less favorable	NET More							
51	22	+29	+74	+28	-3	-48	+41	+16	+33

Voters are supportive because they believe that encouraging a transition to zero-emission vehicles will have a positive impact on air quality and public health, their families, Arizona's economy, and, critically, their own family. And while voters are a bit less sanguine about the impacts such policies will have on their own finances, a plurality believe that they will have a positive impact and a clear majority (56%) reject the idea that they would have a negative impact.

ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE IMPACTS

	% Positive impact	% Negative impact	% No impact	NET Positive Impact
Air quality in Arizona	77	12	11	+65
Future generations of Arizonans	72	19	9	+53
Climate change	70	13	17	+57
The health of families like yours	67	17	16	+50
Arizona seniors and children	60	26	14	+34
The economy and jobs in Arizona	59	28	13	+31
Your family	55	28	17	+27
The finances of families like yours	44	40	16	+4

Policies that encourage the transition to zero-emission vehicles have broad appeal across the electorate. Voters strongly support policies that would encourage more consumer use of zero emission vehicles, like building more charging infrastructure or providing incentives to encourage Arizonans to buy electric vehicles. Actions the state can take, like transitioning school buses and the state fleet to zero-emission vehicles or setting stronger standards on tailpipe emissions, are also popular with voters, including big majorities of Democrats and independents and sizeable shares of Republicans.

ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE POLICIES

	Registered Voters			Dem.	Ind.	GOP	Latino	White Non-col.	White College
	% Support	% Oppose	NET Support						
Making investments to transition all school buses from diesel-powered vehicles to zero-emission buses by 2040	67	23	+44	+82	+54	+4	+64	+30	+42
Investing in publicly available infrastructure for charging electric vehicles along major highways and roads	65	22	+43	+78	+39	+11	+49	+32	+40
Providing consumer incentives to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles	62	27	+35	+77	+31	-3	+46	+22	+41
Setting stronger standards on tailpipe emissions from passenger cars and trucks, with the amount of emissions allowed declining over time	61	22	+39	+75	+43	+3	+53	+30	+38
Requiring the state to transition all public vehicle fleets to zero-emission vehicles by 2035	60	30	+30	+73	+44	-17	+54	+12	+30
Requiring all new freight trucks, delivery vans, and other medium- or heavy-duty vehicles sold in Arizona to have zero tailpipe emissions by 2040	59	28	+31	+71	+32	-6	+40	+18	+37

After a full debate, voters continue to support policies that will encourage a transition to ZEVs. After hearing a simulated debate that includes strong attacks from opponents claiming these policies would supposedly kill millions of jobs and drive prices higher (see Appendix for full language), a robust 57% majority of Arizona voters continue to agree that “Arizona should implement policies that encourage a transition to zero-emission vehicles.” Moreover, after the simulated debate, support for all of the policies tested either remains at 59% or above.

ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE POLICIES

	Initial			Final		
	% Support	% Oppose	NET Support	% Support	% Oppose	NET Support
Making investments to transition all school buses from diesel-powered vehicles to zero-emission buses by 2040	67	23	+44	67	26	+41
Investing in publicly available infrastructure for charging electric vehicles along major highways and roads	65	22	+43	65	25	+40
Providing consumer incentives to encourage the purchase of electric vehicles	62	27	+35	64	28	+36
Setting stronger standards on tailpipe emissions from passenger cars and trucks, with the amount of emissions allowed declining over time	61	22	+39	62	26	+36
Requiring the state to transition all public vehicle fleets to zero-emission vehicles by 2035	60	30	+30	59	35	+24
Requiring all new freight trucks, delivery vans, and other medium- or heavy-duty vehicles sold in Arizona to have zero tailpipe emissions by 2040	59	28	+31	62	29	+33

ABOUT THIS RESEARCH

Global Strategy Group conducted an online survey of 802 Arizona registered voters from November 27 to December 3, 2023. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level for registered voters is +/- 3.5%. Care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of the sample matched Arizona's registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables including race, gender, age, education, and region.

APPENDIX

**SIMULATED DEBATE ON IMPLEMENTING POLICIES THAT ENCOURAGE A
TRANSITION TO ZEVS****Supporters say:**

We have a basic responsibility to leave a better world for our children and we can't do that unless we reduce pollution. Vehicles are the largest source of carbon pollution that causes climate change and one of the top sources of smog, nitrogen oxides, and other toxic air pollution. Scientists and doctors say that encouraging a transition to pollution-free vehicles is one of the most important steps we can take to combat climate change and reduce asthma attacks, respiratory diseases, and cancer. And by encouraging innovation, investing in pollution-free vehicles will boost the American economy, make it easier for Arizonans to afford these vehicles if they want them, and save the average American nearly a thousand dollars a year at the pump.

Opponents say:

With the cost of living out of control, the last thing we need is a liberal, big-government effort to eliminate the internal combustion engine, which would take away affordable and reliable vehicle options and wipe out millions of American jobs in the auto industry and supply chain. Forcing Americans to buy more electric vehicles will cause everyone to pay higher taxes and electricity bills in order to subsidize the wealthy few who can afford to buy expensive electric cars like Teslas. And the electricity used to charge electric cars still comes from mostly coal-and gas-fired power plants, which emit massive amounts of carbon, sulfur, and arsenic pollution into the air. So, forcing electric cars on Americans won't even help the environment.