

# NEW POLL SHOWS THAT NEW MEXICANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE STATE'S WATER RESOURCES.

A majority of voters throughout New Mexico and across political parties are concerned about current and future water supply issues. They agree that immediate action is needed to ensure future generations have an adequate water supply.

New Mexicans want to see solutions that address water reliability, quality, and affordability, and that protect rivers, fish, and wildlife.

Moreover, residents want state leaders to make policy changes and provide the funds needed to make these solutions happen.

## URGENCY

**75%** 

of voters agree we need to act now to ensure that future generations have an adequate water supply.

**63%** 

agree that drought and lack of water supplies threaten our way of life in New Mexico.

In late 2021, Research and Polling, Inc., conducted 706 phone interviews of registered voters from a representative cross-section of rural, suburban, and urban parts of the state.

## SUSTAINABILITY

**82%** 

believe expanding water recycling programs is important.

**74%** 

support increasing funding for water infrastructure projects to ensure water supplies for future generations.

**60%** 

support more closely monitoring and regulating groundwater pumping to make sure supplies are not depleted.

**67%** 

agree New Mexico needs to modernize and dedicate more funding to the management of water quality and water supply.

## WATER DATA

**84%**



support requiring state agencies to share all water data information with other agencies and the public.

**64%**



support increasing funding to modernize the state's water data management systems.

## SECURE DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES

83%



feel keeping water rates affordable is important.

68%



support offering funding and technical support to small rural water systems that seek to form regional water systems, while maintaining local control.

## PROTECTING RIVER HEALTH

84%



feel it is important to protect the health of rivers and streams.

82%



feel it is important to protect fish, and wildlife.

69%



support increasing funding to help improve the health of rivers and streams.

## FARMING & RANCHING

84%



feel it is important to ensure a reliable supply of water for farms.

61%



support using public funds to help improve water efficiency on New Mexico farms and ranches.

It's clear that voters support action now. They want the state government to make changes in water policy and to fund these changes. Ensuring a sustainable future for New Mexico's farms and ranches, while maintaining secure and affordable supplies for New Mexico's communities and for the environment, requires investment and a newer, modern system of management and regulation.

The poll was conducted by Research and Polling, Inc., and commissioned by the Water Foundation and the Thornburg Foundation.

For further information, contact:

Nina Carranco, Program Officer, Water Foundation, [ncarranco@waterfdn.org](mailto:ncarranco@waterfdn.org)

Patrick McCarthy, Water Policy Officer, Thornburg Foundation, [patrick@thornburgfoundation.org](mailto:patrick@thornburgfoundation.org)