

Arizona Statewide Water Survey Polling Memo



DATE: Wednesday, April 29, 2026
TO: National Audubon Society
FROM: Chris Lane; Senior Partner & Pollster, Cygnal
RE: AZ Water Concern Poll

Executive Summary

Water is the top legislative priority for voters in Arizona. Voters rank it above inflation, immigration, and taxes, and an overwhelming majority say the legislature should make it a budget priority now. Water concern in Arizona runs deep and connects directly to the economy, food supply, energy, and the daily needs of families across the state. Support for a Colorado River Protection Fund is broad, very strong, and it holds firm even after voters hear the strongest opposition argument.

Water is the Top Legislative Priority

When asked to name their top three priorities for the Arizona state legislature, more voters selected water supply and Colorado River protection than any other issue, including inflation (47%), immigration (30%), and taxes and government spending (29%). It is the #1 issue for Democrats and NPAs, and the #2 issue for Republicans. ***A bipartisan ceiling at that level is rare. Most issues that lead among one party trail among another. Water does not follow that pattern.***

On environmental priorities specifically, 68% of voters named water and water supply as the most important environmental issue. Democrats: 68%. Republicans: 68%. The second-place finisher, land conservation, came in at 14%. That gap is not a close race within the environmental frame, and ***this kind of ideological agreement is very rare.***

When asked to choose between making water security an immediate priority versus focusing on other pressing issues first, voters choose water security 69-21, better than 3:1. 94% believe the Arizona state legislature should make water security and addressing water scarcity in the Colorado River a priority in the upcoming state budget, with 74% saying definitely yes.

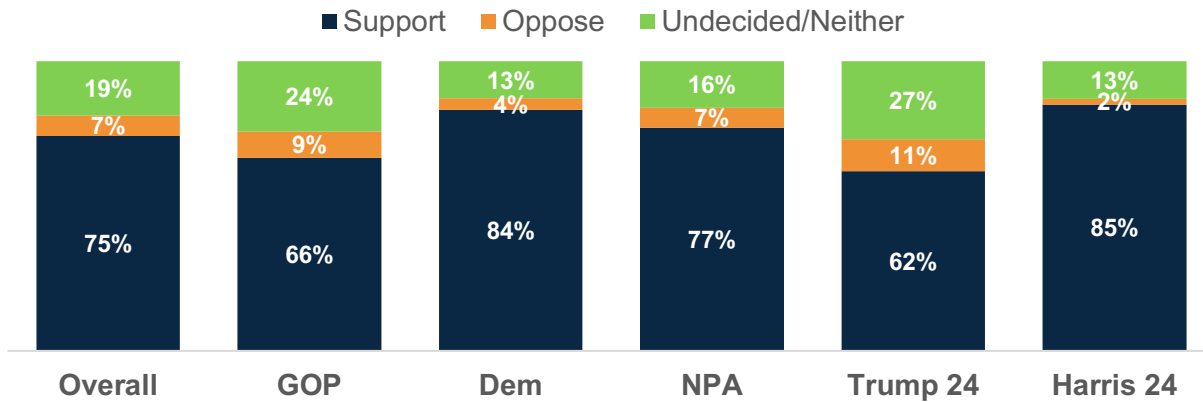
Among Republicans, 59% say act now. The support is consistent across party, ideology, geography, and income. ***The cross-partisan consistency in the table below reflects how broadly that sentiment runs, and the intensity behind these numbers is as notable as the totals.***

	Overall	GOP	Dem	NPA
Water budget priority (Yes)	94%	93%	96%	94%
Water (top environmental priority)	68%	65%	71%	69%
Immediate investment needed	69%	65%	74%	68%

Public Support for the Colorado River Protection Fund

75% of Arizona voters back the Colorado River Protection Fund initially. Republicans, the least supportive partisan subgroup, come in at 66-9. A floor of 66% with opposition in single digits across every group is a strong starting position. Opposition sits at 7% overall and never breaks double digits in any partisan group. ***This is not a partisan issue; it cuts across every corner of Arizona's electorate.***

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Constituent Expectations for Lawmakers

Voters have clear expectations for their legislators on this issue, and the data shows that acting on water carries far more political reward than risk. Nine in ten voters say it is important that their legislator prioritize water security this session. Two thirds say they would view their legislator more favorably for voting to create the fund. Fewer than one in ten say the opposite.

	Overall	GOP	Dem	NPA
Important that legislator acts (Q18)	90%	88%	93%	89%
Would view legislator more favorably (Q19)	67%	63%	73%	66%
Would view legislator unfavorably (Q19)	9%	11%	6%	8%

Political Implications

Water is not a partisan issue in Arizona. Support for a budget priority, concern about long-term supply, and support for the Colorado River Protection Fund all hold across Republicans, Democrats, and No Party Affiliation voters by similar margins. ***In a polarized environment, that kind of consistency across party lines is rare.***

90% of voters say it is important that their legislator act on water this session. 67% say they would view their legislator more favorably for voting to create the fund. Fewer than 9% say they would view their legislator unfavorably. Voters across party lines are aligned on this issue, and they are watching to see if their legislators are too.

Across every partisan group, region, and demographic in this survey, the numbers move the same way. ***Arizona voters want action on water, and they expect their legislators to deliver it.***

About Cygnal

Cygnal is the nation's leading public opinion and predictive analytics firm, recognized for uncovering how people actually think, feel, and make decisions. Our work is defined by precision, methodological innovation, and an award-winning ability to translate human emotions into strategy. As the #1 most accurate private pollster in America across multiple cycles, we have a proven track record of delivering intelligence that reshapes narratives, informs high-stakes decisions, and cuts through controversy to deliver clarity. That track record spans nearly 5,000 projects for campaigns and organizations across all 50 states and 21 countries.

Methodology: This probabilistic survey was conducted April 23 - 25, 2026, with 600 likely general election voters. It has a margin of error of $\pm 4.00\%$. Likely general election voters were interviewed via online panel and SMS. This survey was weighted to a likely general election voters audience.