



Center for Western Priorities: Winning the West: Public Attitudes on Public Lands, Recreation & Energy

July 2022

Methodology

- ✓ Benenson Strategy Group conducted 2,011 interviews with 2022 likely voters in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada from May 19 – 27, 2022. Interviews were conducted online. The sample was weighted to ensure it was proportionately representative of voters in each state.
 - The margin of error for the entire sample is $\pm 2.19\%$. It is higher among subgroups.
 - Due to rounding, displayed answer choices may not always add up to 100%.

- ✓ This deck refers to several groups throughout:
 - The West: Likely 2022 voters across all 4 states who voted in 2018, or voted in both 2016 and 2020, or are new registrants who say they will vote in 2022.
 - Outdoor Voters (OV): Likely 2022 voters living in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada who say conservation issues are important to how they plan to vote in November 2022, who participate in outdoor activities, visit public lands/the outdoors frequently, and are ticket splitters.

Key Findings: On Western Voters, Conservation, and the 2022 Midterms

- **Conservation issues are of enormous importance to Western Voters** – 8 in 10 say these matters will play a decisive role in how they choose to vote in the upcoming midterms – and they are looking for candidates from both parties to deliver on pro-outdoor, pro-renewable, and pro-conservation policies.
- **Western Voters feel that leaders in D.C. overlook key environmental issues** that put the Western way of life at risk. On the environment, they want the government to lean in (not get out): 6 in 10 say the government isn't doing enough to protect the country's natural resources and 68% support the President using executive authority to designate national monuments.
- As gas prices rise, **a strong majority see this moment as the inflection point to invest in renewable energies** to break dependence on oil and gas, which they see as leaving communities vulnerable to economic fluctuations and environmental degradation.

Key Findings: On Western Voters, Conservation, and the 2022 Midterms

- **Candidates looking to connect with Western Voters on conservation issues have important work to do between now and November (and beyond) to solidify their credentials.** For example, few voters have meaningful awareness or understanding about President Biden's conservation agenda and accomplishments. Yet, roughly 7 in 10 said they'd become more favorable to the administration if it did more on conservation.
- **Proactive conservation efforts such as the America the Beautiful initiative have *broad and bipartisan* support.** A majority (*including 58% of Republicans*) support President Biden's America the Beautiful initiative. Around 8 in 10 support recent investments in infrastructure in national parks and public lands and 7 in 10 support ongoing renewable energy programs.
- **Leaders must provide clear and concrete solutions to address the causes and consequences of climate change.** Having faced the effects of climate disasters in their own communities, nearly half of all Western Voters are "*extremely*" concerned about the effects of climate change, including severe droughts and wildfires on public lands.

Snapshot of the Western Voters in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada

Gender



47%

52%

Men

Women

Education



57%

43%

No college degree

College degree

Party Registration



37%

33%

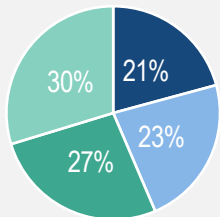
30%

Democrat

Independent / Other

Republican

Age



18-34

35-49

50-64

65+

Race (Multiple responses allowed)



White 77%

Latino/a 19%

Black 8%

AAPL 3%

Native American 3%

Other 1%

News Habits



Network News like NBC, ABC, or CBS 43%

CNN 28%

FOX News 22%

MSNBC 16%

Do not watch news on TV 24%

Kids



43%

27%

38%

No

<18 years

18+ years

Outdoor Activities



59%

39%

28%

15%

13%

13%

12%

11%

9%

9%

Hiking or nature walking

Camping

Fishing or angling

Off-roading

Mountain biking

Boating

Hunting

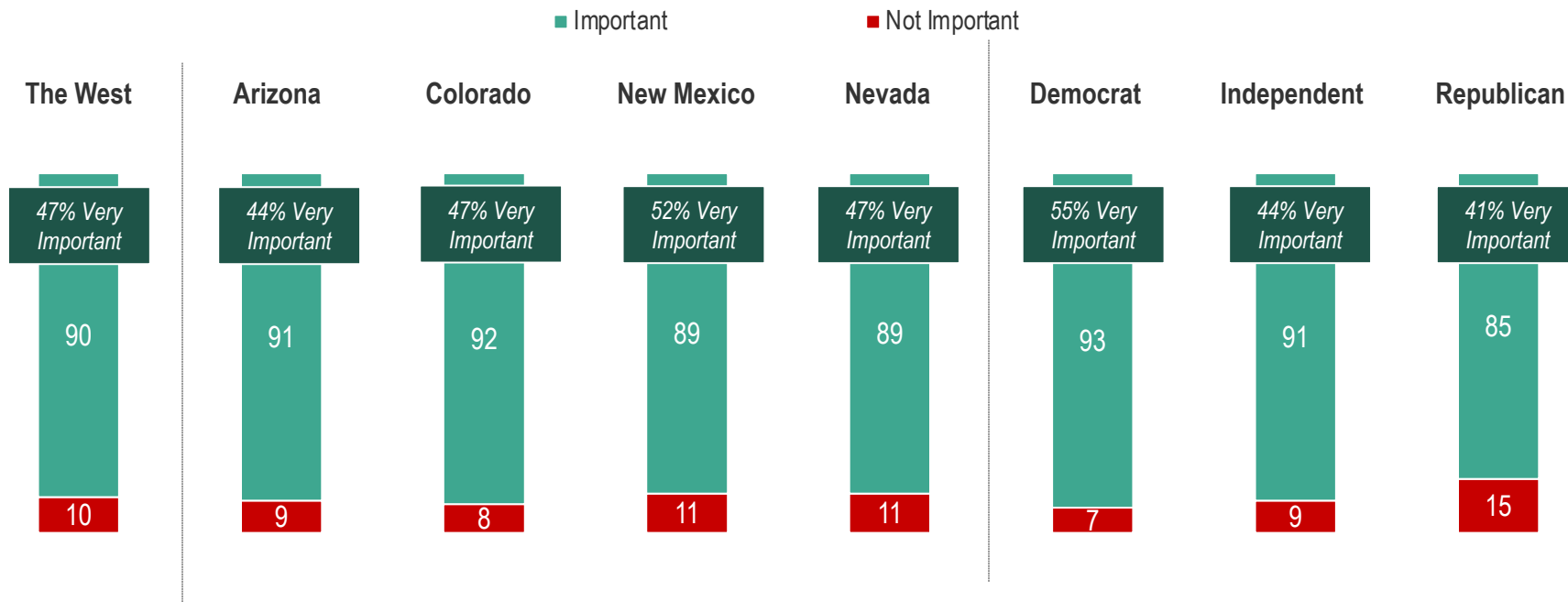
Rock climbing

Road biking

Skiing

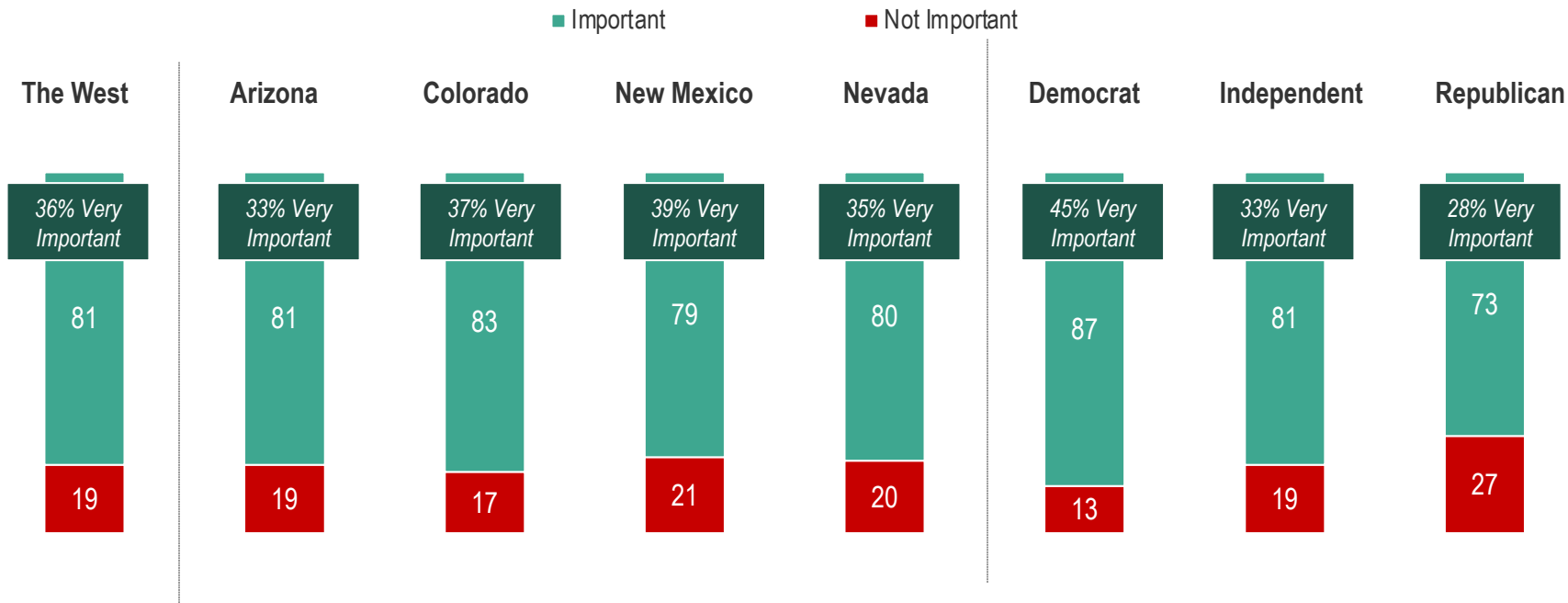
Conservation issues are overwhelmingly important to Western Voters across the spectrum...

Public lands, parks, and wildlife issues importance



...And will play a hugely influential role in how they choose to cast their ballots this November

Public lands, parks, and wildlife issues importance to midterm vote choice



Spotlight: Things to know about Outdoor Voters

***Outdoor Voters (OV):** Likely 2022 voters living in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada who say conservation issues are important to how they plan to vote in November 2022, who participate in outdoor activities, visit public lands/the outdoors frequently, and vote for both Republicans and Democrats (ticket splitters)*

- 1 Outdoor Voters are disproportionately **Independent, a little more male, and skew slightly younger**, but are otherwise fairly similar in demographic profile to Western Voters at large.
- 2 Generally speaking, they are **more favorable to Democrats and President Biden than Western Voters overall**, but on matters specific to the administration's environment and climate agenda they are less favorable and want more to be done.
- 3 In some ways, their **dissatisfaction with the Biden administration's environmental and climate agenda isn't a problem of substance but rather one of awareness**: fewer than 1 in 10 Outdoor Voters have heard "a lot" about the President's efforts to protect and conserve land.
- 4 A **top imperative is to win their trust**. As it stands, 4 in 10 are inclined to say both parties are equally trustworthy when it comes to protecting and conserving public lands.
- 5 **Outdoor Voters are up for grabs for those candidates ready to fight on behalf of the fundamental environmental issues of today**. This means protecting a Western way of life that looks to preserve and protect the outdoors, strictly limiting development and resource exploitation on public lands, and making bold investments in renewable and clean energy sources.

Snapshot of the Outdoor Voter

Gender



52%

47%

Men

Women

Education



56%

44%

No college degree

College degree

Party Registration



29%

46%

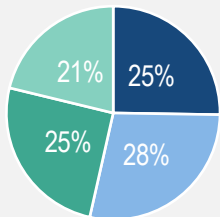
24%

Democrat

Independent / Other

Republican

Age



18-34

35-49

50-64

65+

Race (Multiple responses allowed)



White 77%

Latino/a 23%

Black 9%

AAPL 3%

Native American 3%

Other 1%

News Habits



Network News like NBC, ABC, or CBS 49%

CNN 25%

FOX News 24%

MSNBC 16%

Do not watch news on TV 25%

Kids



40%

35%

36%

No

<18 years

18+ years

Outdoor Activities



75%

Hiking or nature walking

56%

Camping

41%

Fishing or angling

24%

Off-roading

19%

Mountain biking

19%

Boating

18%

Hunting

15%

Rock climbing

15%

Road biking

12%

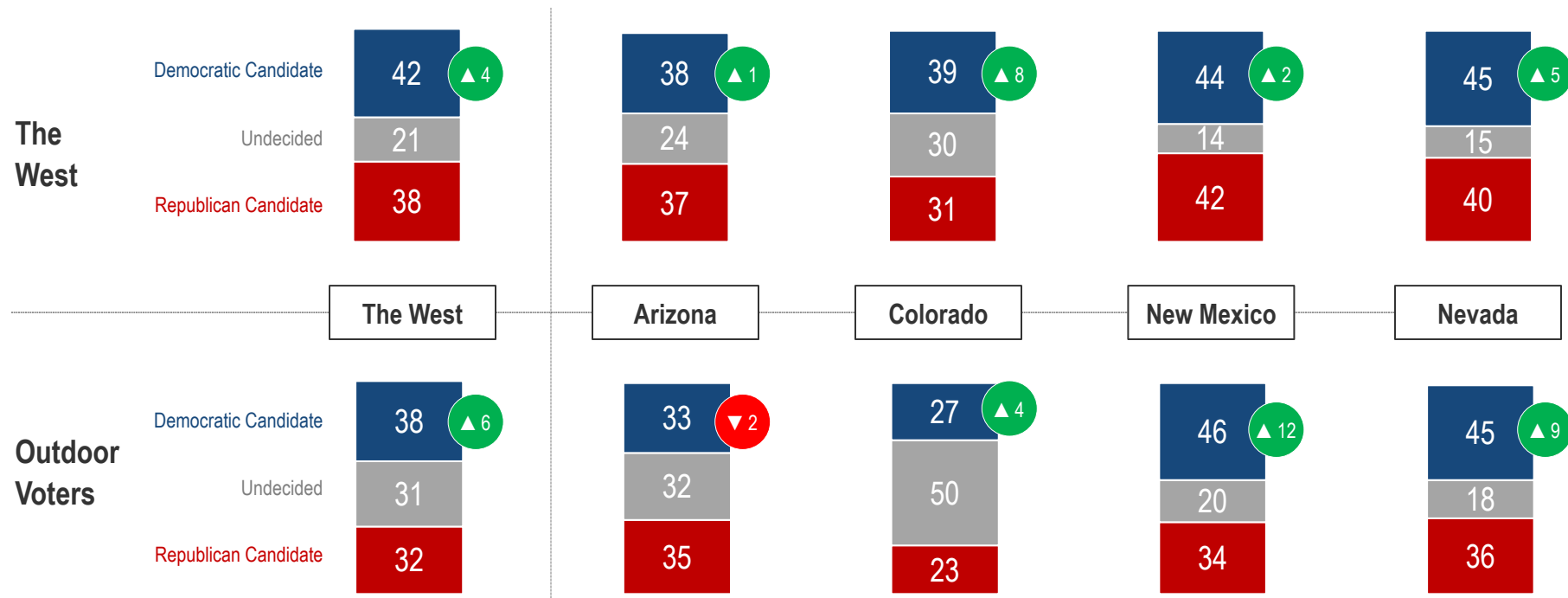
Skiing



Political and Issues Landscape

Dems have a slight lead on generic ballots across the West, but with 1 in 3 Outdoor Voters up-for-grabs, candidates have substantial room to grow support

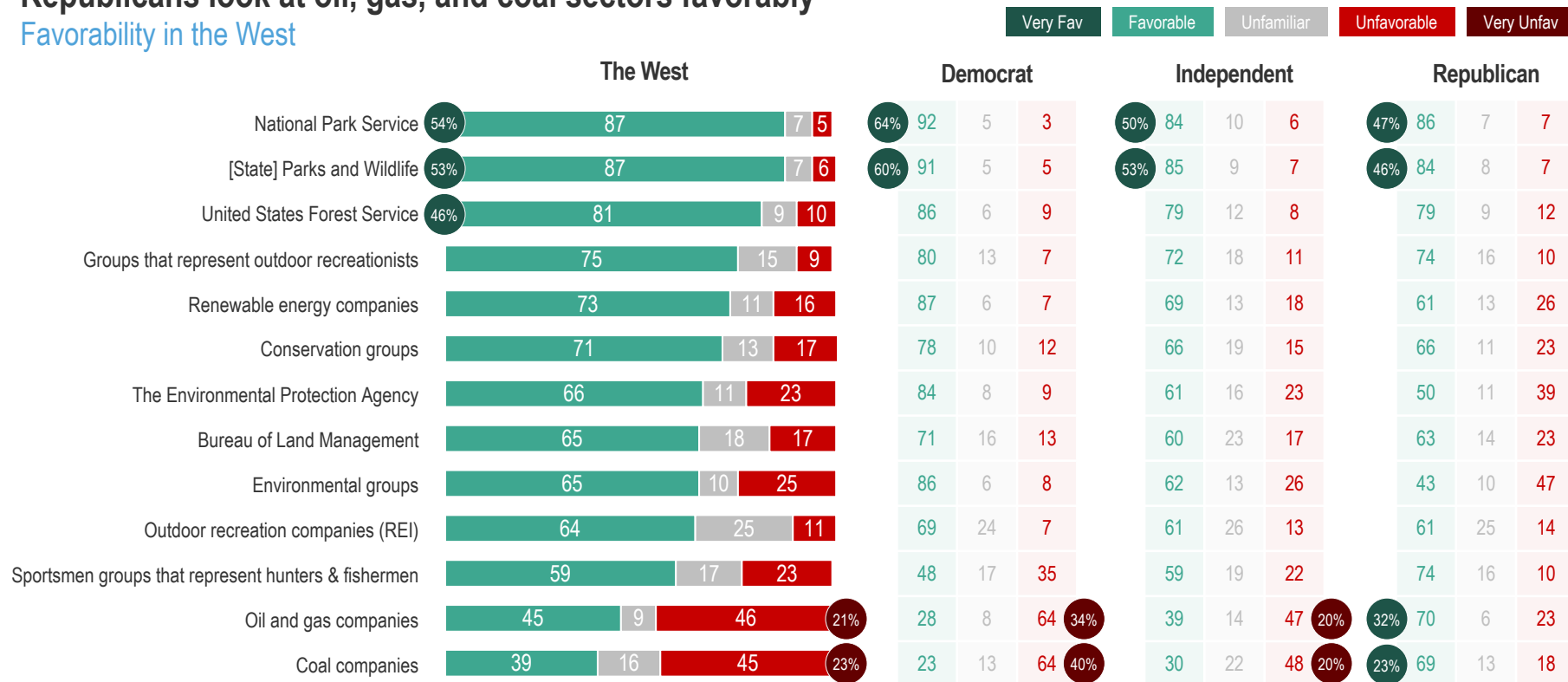
Generic Congressional



Q1. As you may or may not know, in November 2022 there will be an election for U.S. Congress in your district. If the election for Congress were held tomorrow, which of the following would you vote for?

Parks, wildlife organizations, and even renewable energy have very broad and bipartisan appeal, while only Republicans look at oil, gas, and coal sectors favorably

Favorability in the West



Q3. Now you will read the names of a few organizations or groups. For each, please indicate if you are favorable or unfavorable to them.

Western Voters don't think DC is focused enough on key environmental issues affecting their communities and way of life

Issues that impact the West



The issues that impact Western states that politicians in DC don't understand or don't pay enough attention to...

Global warming

Gun control

Reducing gun violence

Climate change

Poverty and homelessness

Preserving open spaces and parks

Affordable and accessible healthcare

Wildfires

Fire mitigation

High cost of gas and electricity

Water shortages

Drought

Inflation

Cost of living

Land use, land management

Forestry services, forestry management

Production of gas and oil

Economy

Gas and oil independence

Energy and fuel issues



Immigration and border security

- Mentioned by Democrats
- Mentioned by Democrats and Independents
- Mentioned by Democrats, Independents, and Republicans
- Mentioned by Republicans and Independents
- Mentioned by Republicans

**Note: Size of words corresponds to frequency of times mentioned*



Western Voters' Environmental Priorities and Pain Points

Conservation efforts matter as a means to protect public lands for wildlife and outdoor activities today, and pass them down for future generations

Importance of outdoors and conservation in Western States



The reason the outdoors and conservation are important to my state of Arizona, is that **being able to participate in outdoor activities surrounded by the natural beauty of the Arizona landscapes improves the quality of life of locals and encourages us to pursue a healthier lifestyle** through our outdoor recreations.

– Arizona, Rep

The state of Colorado has a great deal of land entrusted to the state and federal governments. **I expect those entities to protect the wildlife and other natural resources, so they are available to future generations.** Wildfires and forest fires are a risk in this part of the country. We rely on our government to protect our community from those dangers.

– Colorado, Dem

New Mexico has vast undeveloped wild lands. **It is important to pass on the unspoiled land to future generations and vital to help reverse climate change.**

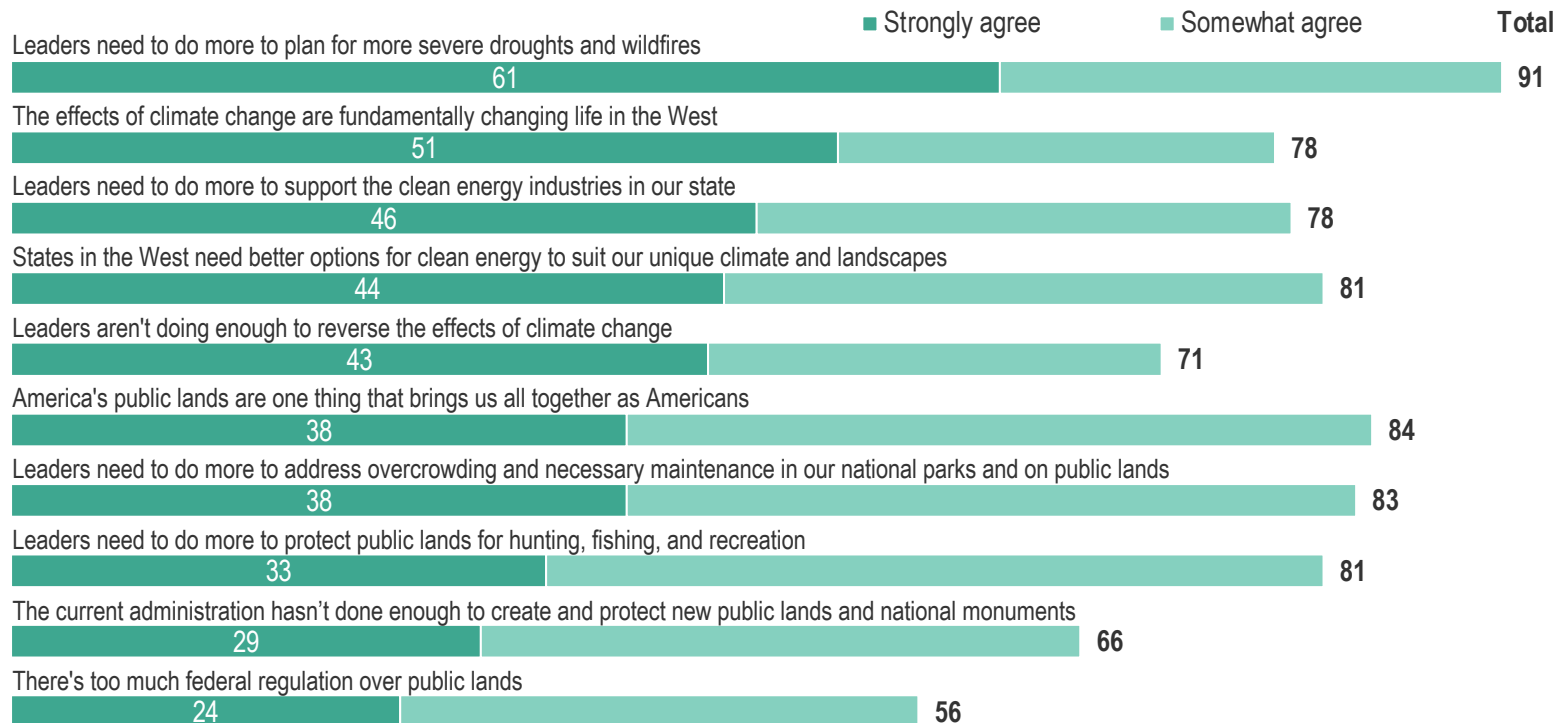
– New Mexico, Dem, Outdoor Voter

In **Nevada the outdoors is a very important part of our state.** We have a range of activities to do outside including hiking, biking, running and swimming in the lake. **Because we live in such a big city it's nice to get away in nature, escape the noise at times to recharge.**

– Nevada, Dem

Western Voters are asking leaders to take bold actions to meet their environmental priorities and concerns

Conservation and environmental statement agreement



There's even some bipartisan agreement on conservation priorities, providing guidance of how to reach across the aisle particularly on addressing droughts and wildfires

Conservation and environmental statement agreement

% Strongly Agree / Total Agree	% Strongly Agree / Total Agree		
	Dem	Ind	Rep
Leaders need to do more to plan for more severe droughts and wildfires	72/96	56/89	52/88
The effects of climate change are fundamentally changing life in the West	73/94	48/81	26/54
Leaders need to do more to support the clean energy industries in our state	67/94	42/76	24/61
States in the West need better options for clean energy to suit our unique climate and landscapes	60/93	40/82	28/67
Leaders aren't doing enough to reverse the effects of climate change	62/89	38/70	24/49
America's public lands are one thing that brings us all together as Americans	42/86	35/83	35/81
Leaders need to do more to address overcrowding and necessary maintenance in our national parks and on public lands	45/88	35/82	32/78
Leaders need to do more to protect public lands for hunting, fishing, and recreation	32/79	29/81	40/83
The current administration hasn't done enough to create and protect new public lands and national monuments	23/59	28/67	38/74
There's too much federal regulation over public lands	16/41	20/57	39/74

Officials need to address the effects of climate change on our public lands and check the corporations who make profits off the land but aren't paying for the damages they cause

Conservation Concerns



Q13. Now you are going to see a list of issues relating to conservation and the outdoors. For each one, indicate how much it makes you feel concerned on a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means it doesn't concern you at all, and 7 means it concerns you a great deal.

And these concerns are key across the board

Top Five Conservation Concerns by Key Audiences

Showing 7/7 – Extremely concerned

	The West	Outdoor Voter	Arizona	Colorado	New Mexico	Nevada	Dem	Ind	Rep
The effects of climate change, like severe droughts and wildfires, on our public lands	45	49	41	44	47	45	66	41	23
Oil and mining companies, huge foreign-owned corporations, and developers making record profits off America's land, but not paying their fair share for the damage they do to it	44	46	41	47	46	44	61	40	28
The government isn't doing enough to explore domestic energy sources, leaving us dependent on oil from other countries	43	45	46	39	48	39	39	39	52
Oil and mining companies, huge foreign-owned corporations, and developers making record profits off America's land, while gouging customers with record prices	42	47	41	37	50	40	55	42	26
Pollution is threatening our rivers, lakes, and streams	40	43	40	38	44	38	57	36	24

Q13. Now you are going to see a list of issues relating to conservation and the outdoors. For each one, indicate how much it makes you feel concerned on a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 means it doesn't concern you at all, and 7 means it concerns you a great deal.

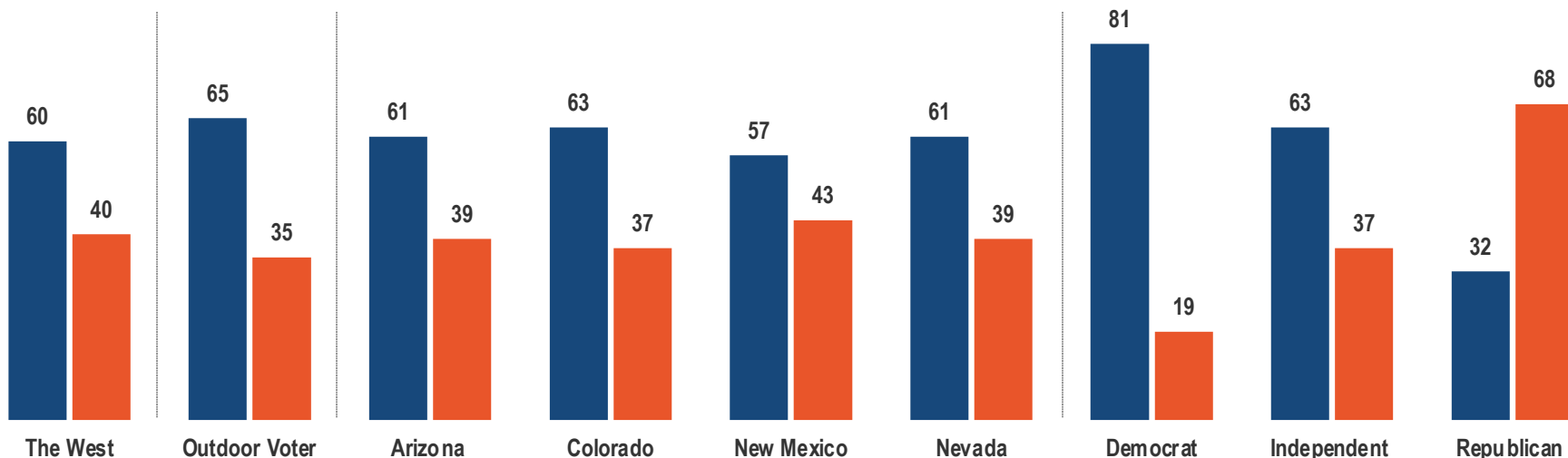
Voters, including Democrats, Independents, and even 1 in 3 Republicans, are much more concerned that the government won't do enough to protect natural resources than it will go too far

Environmental protections vs. Government overreach

When it comes to conservation efforts in this country, which of the following concerns you more:

The government won't do enough to protect America's natural resources against overdevelopment and environmental disasters

The government will go too far with regulations and restrictions on land use that hurt our economy and destroy local jobs



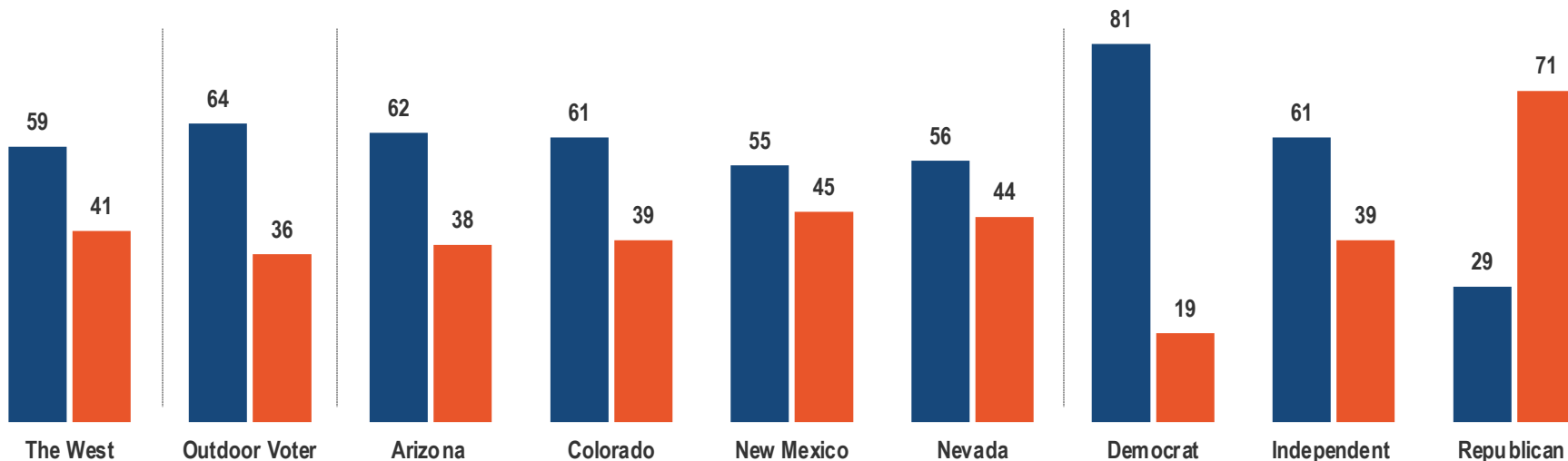
And most support meeting our needs while protecting our lands – not drilling wherever, whenever

Boom and Bust vs. Gas price relief

Which do you agree with more:

If the current times have taught us anything, it's that we need to prioritize renewable resources — like wind and solar power — so we can meet our energy needs without dangerous, boom-and-bust sources, while still protecting our public lands, forests, mountains, and deserts.

With the cost of oil skyrocketing, we need to use all available options to give us some relief on energy prices, including increasing oil and gas drilling wherever oil is available, including on public lands.



Oil companies garner most of the blame for rising costs of gas and energy

Responsible for rising cost of gas and energy

% A great deal + some	Oil Companies	Vladimir Putin and the war in Ukraine	Politicians blocking policies to support clean energy	Saudi Arabia	China	Democratic policies	President Joe Biden	Republican Policies
The West	78	76	75	71	67	65	64	57
Outdoor Voter	83	80	82	76	70	71	68	65
Arizona	79	72	75	70	63	65	63	60
Colorado	83	82	80	74	71	64	63	60
New Mexico	71	73	71	71	66	68	66	51
Nevada	76	76	74	70	69	64	66	57
Democrats	89	83	82	79	67	40	39	77
Independents	82	78	74	69	65	71	70	61
Republicans	59	65	66	64	71	89	89	28

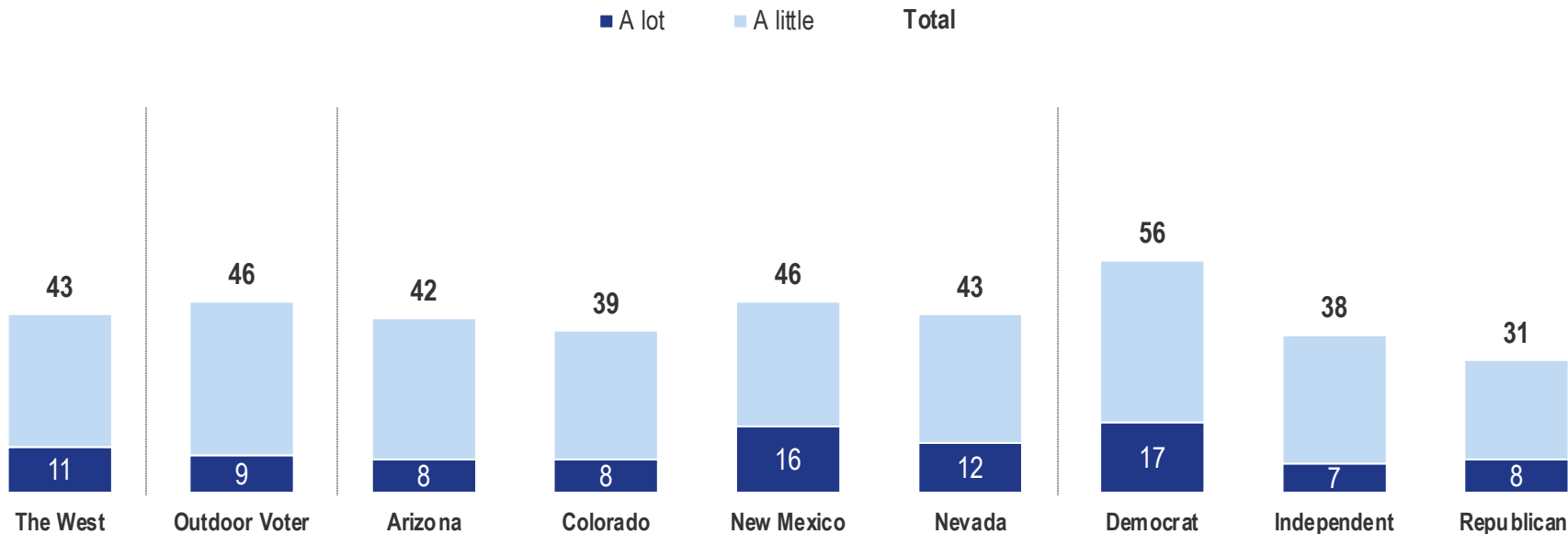
Q15. Now you're going to see a list of people, groups, or causes that people say might be responsible for the rising costs of gas and energy. How responsible, if at all, do you think each of the following are for the rising costs? | Highlighted data represents the oil-related actors most blamed for rising gas and energy prices

A blue arrow graphic pointing to the right, composed of several overlapping translucent blue shapes, located on the left side of the slide.

The Biden Administration and the Environment

Fewer than half have heard much about the President's conservation agenda, including environmentally tapped-in and invested Outdoor Voters

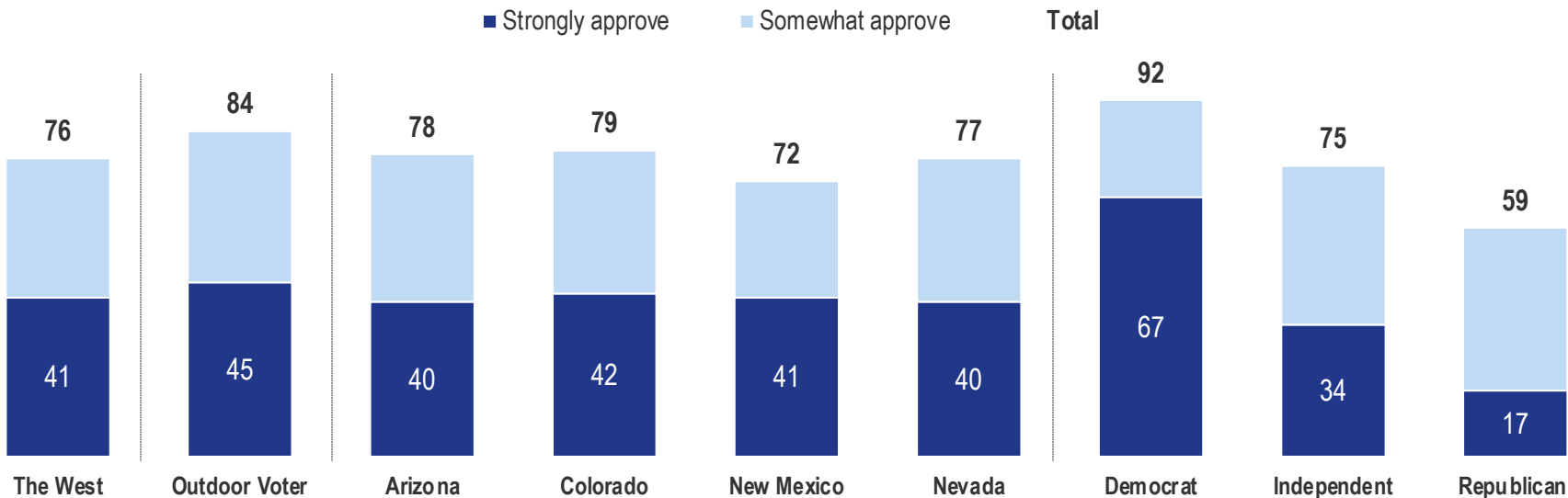
How much would you say you've heard about President Biden and his administration's efforts to protect and conserve public lands, parks, and wildlife since he took office?



A majority of voters, including Republicans, approve of President Biden's America the Beautiful initiative, across all Western states and across the political spectrum

America the Beautiful Approval

Last year, President Biden signed an executive order calling for a plan to meet the 30x30 goal that became known as the America the Beautiful initiative. This initiative is working to conserve at least 30 percent of lands and waters across the United States. Right now, only 12% of land and 25% of freshwater and oceans are under permanently protected status.



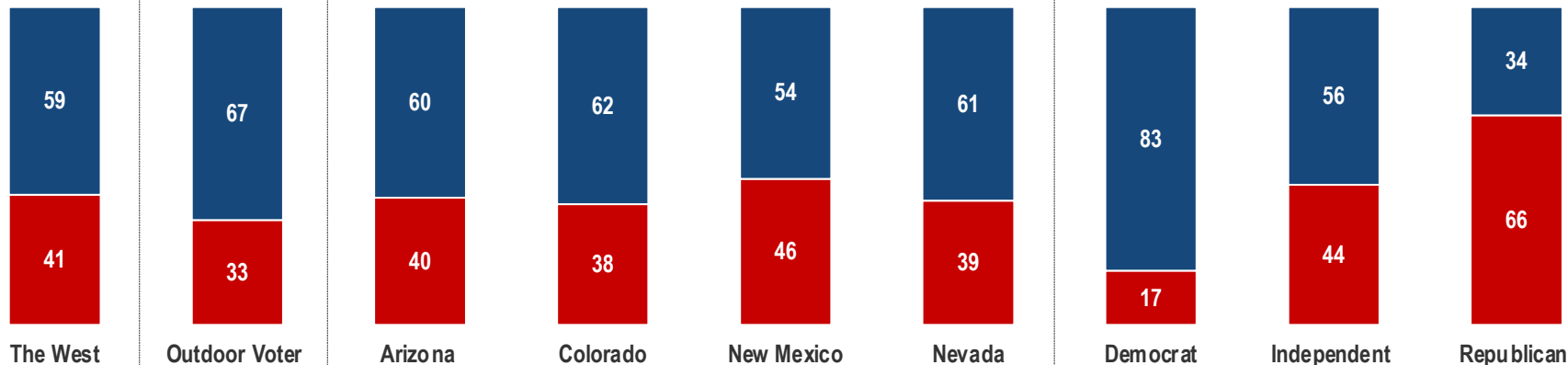
Even after opposition messaging, America the Beautiful retains strong support

More likely to support

Supporters of the America the Beautiful initiative say we are in the middle of a nature and climate crisis, and we need to take bold action to protect our precious outdoors and public lands, including by actively supporting locally driven conservation efforts to protect natural areas and wildlife for today and for future generations.

More likely to oppose

Opponents of the America the Beautiful initiative say the federal government needs to stop coming into our states and trying to take our lands. This order is nothing more than a federal government land-grab that will hurt our hard-working farmers and ranchers by restricting the land they are able to work on and how they are able to work.



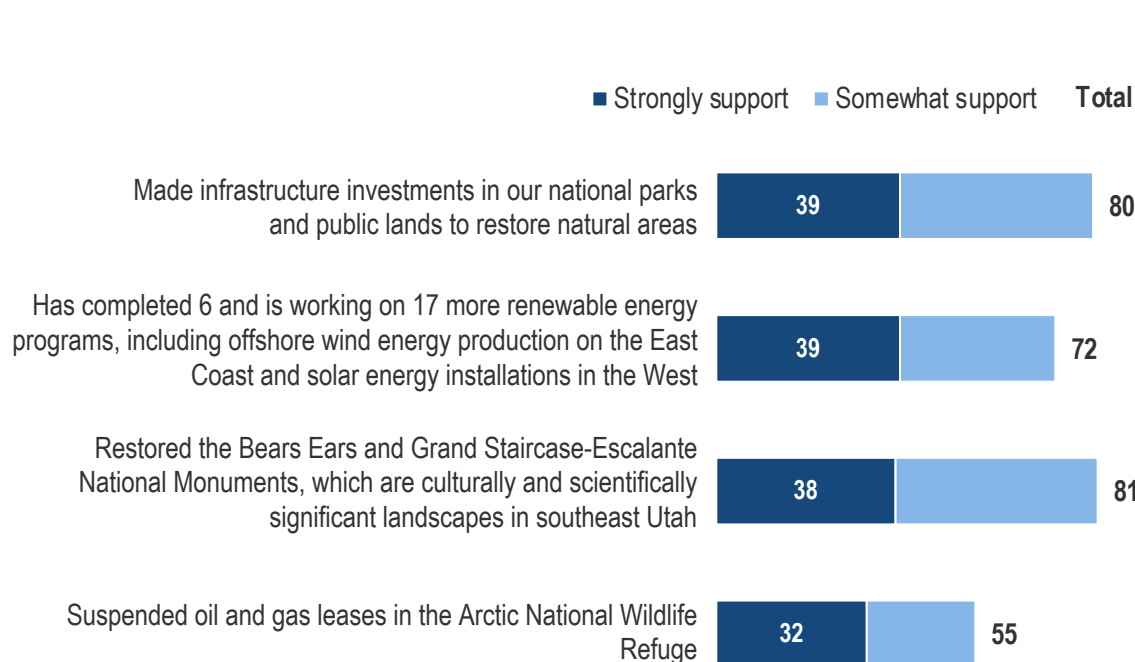
Support is strong for each of the components, particularly those efforts designed to conserve and protect more lands and waters for wildlife and recreation

% Strongly Support / Total Support America the Beautiful initiative components	% Strongly Support / Total Support				
	The West	Outdoor Voter	Dem	Ind	Rep
Expanding collaborative conservation of fish and wildlife habitats and corridors.	44/87	50/90	63/94	39/86	26/79
Increasing access for outdoor recreation.	41/86	46/87	50/91	36/82	34/83
Encouraging those working in farming, ranching, fisheries, and forestry to introduce sustainable practices.	45/84	51/88	66/94	39/84	24/72
Creating more parks and safe outdoor opportunities in nature-deprived communities.	43/84	47/86	59/93	40/82	27/75
Supporting Tribally-led conservation and restoration priorities.	41/81	43/85	61/93	34/77	23/70
Creating green jobs by investing in projects and initiatives, including the Civilian Climate Corps.	41/71	45/79	65/91	35/71	18/46

Q26. Below are a few different specific aims of the America the Beautiful initiative, also known as 30x30. Please indicate how much you support or oppose each one. Do you...? | Highlighted data represents the components of the America the Beautiful initiative with the strongest support

Many of the Biden administration's environmental accomplishments are also widely supported

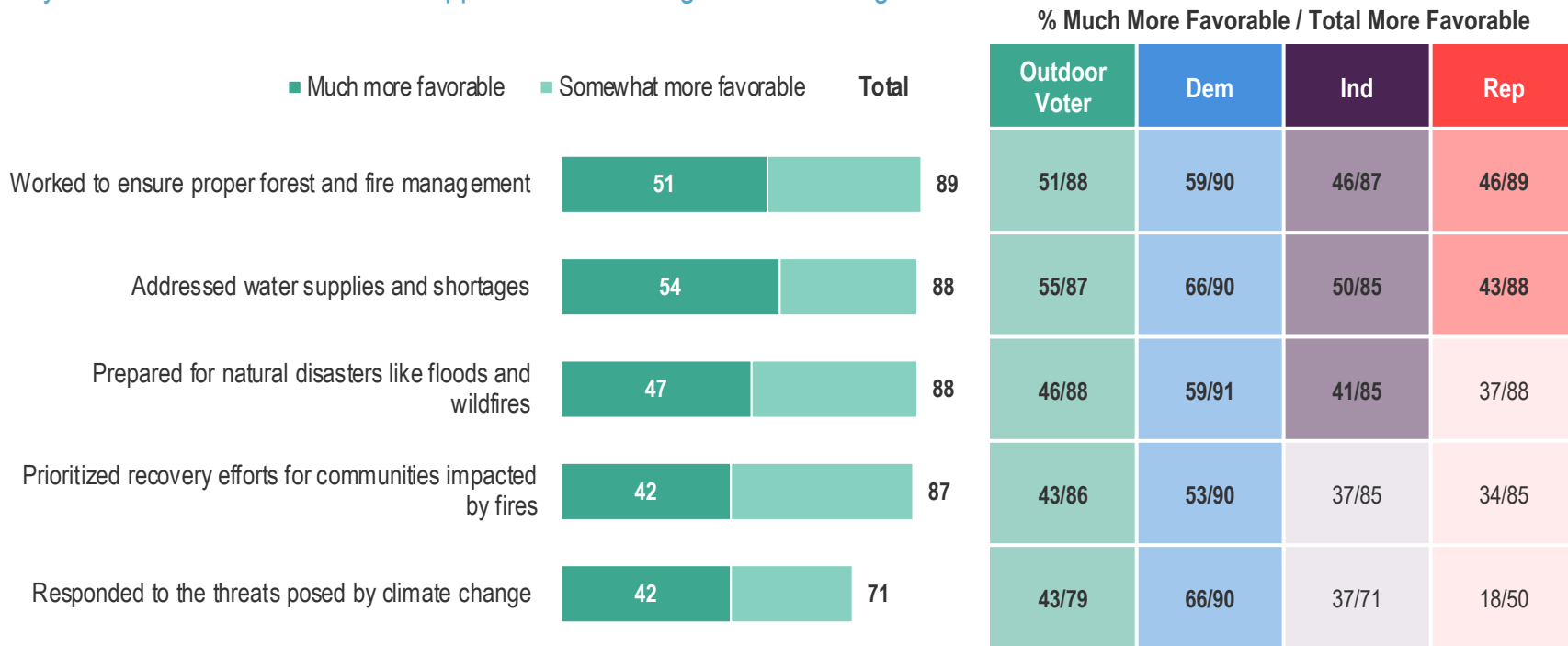
Support for Biden Environmental Accomplishments



% Strongly Support / Total Support			
Outdoor Voter	Dem	Ind	Rep
43/84	64/91	31/78	18/69
40/80	67/90	30/70	15/52
40/86	60/91	32/79	17/70
33/60	54/81	28/54	10/25

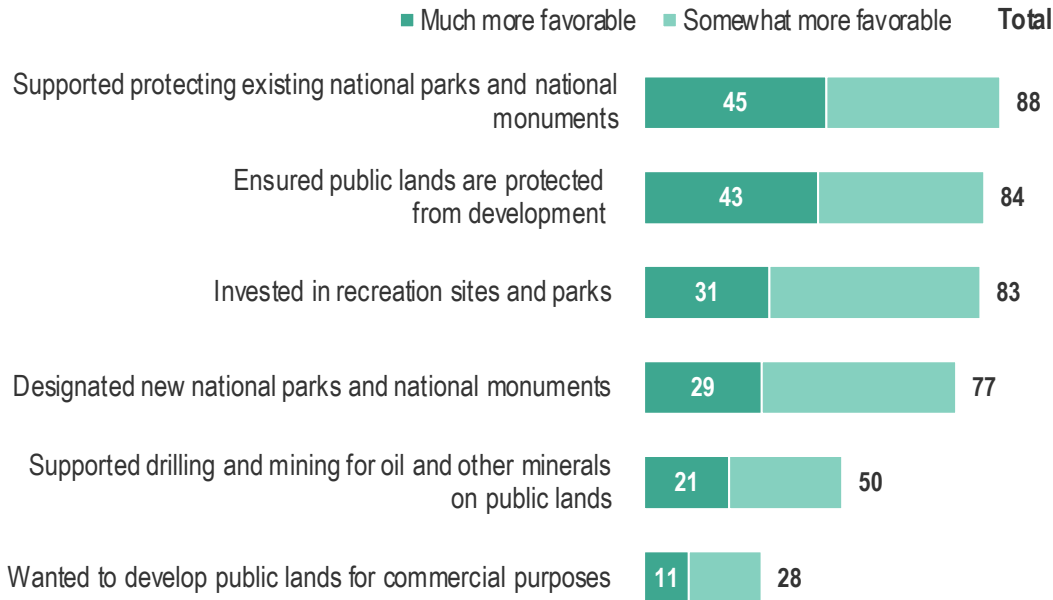
Elected officials can build favorability by drawing attention to the impacts of climate change on natural resources

Favorability towards elected leader who supported: Addressing Climate Change



Showing a commitment to expanding and protecting national parks and monuments, and public lands can also help make in-roads with voters

Favorability towards elected leader who supported: Parks and Public Lands

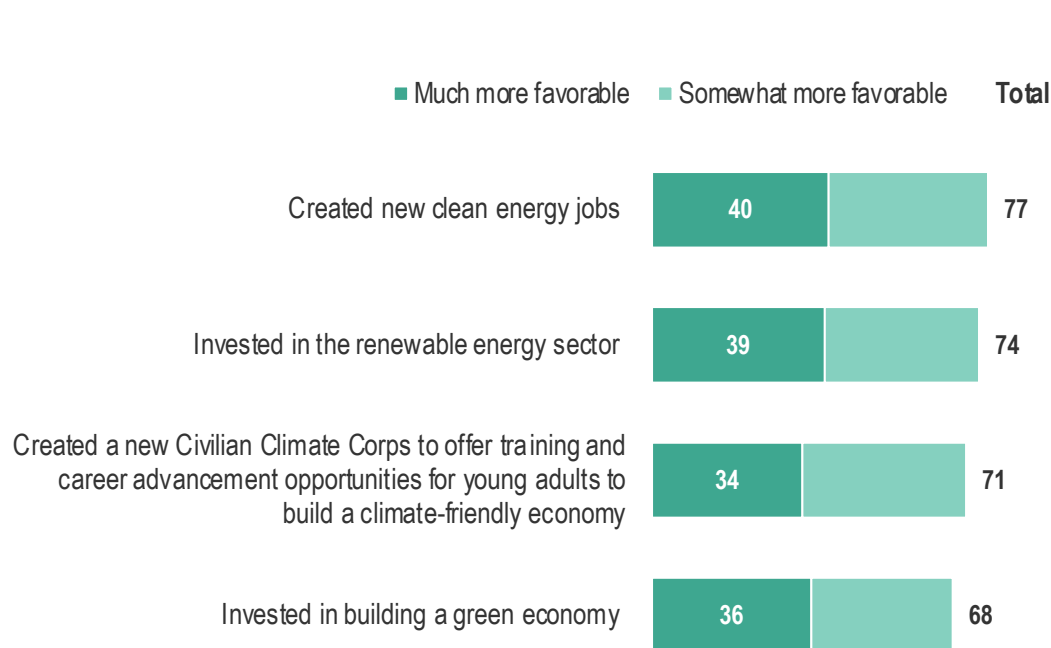


% Much More Favorable / Total More Favorable

Outdoor Voter	Dem	Ind	Rep
47/88	53/90	39/88	41/86
45/88	56/89	39/83	31/78
34/85	39/87	30/81	24/80
31/81	34/81	28/77	25/71
17/46	12/30	17/46	37/77
11/26	13/26	8/26	11/34

There's an appetite for leaders to take on building a clean economy; Republicans, though soft, are favorable

Favorability towards elected leader who supported: Clean Energy and Economy

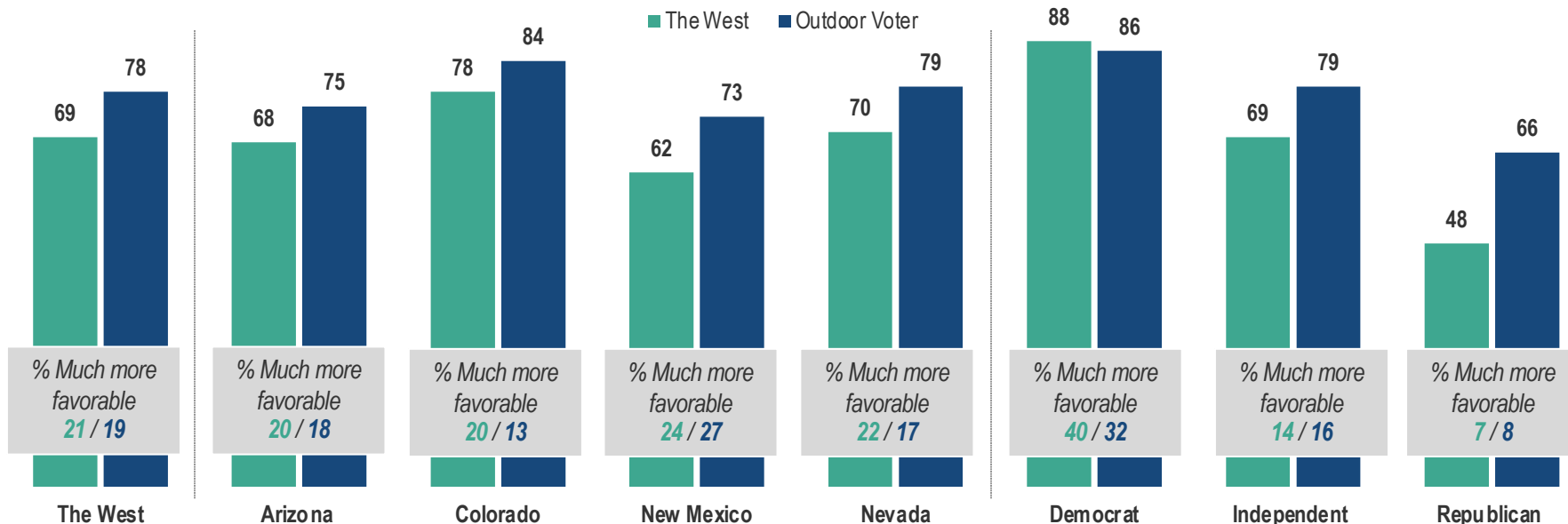


% Much More Favorable / Total More Favorable			
Outdoor Voter	Dem	Ind	Rep
42/82	62/91	34/77	20/60
40/80	59/89	33/74	21/57
37/80	53/89	27/70	17/49
40/75	56/87	33/70	15/43

The administration should focus more on – and communicate its efforts – to protect public lands: 7 in 10 voters would be more favorable

Biden Conservation Efforts Impact on Favorability: % More Favorable

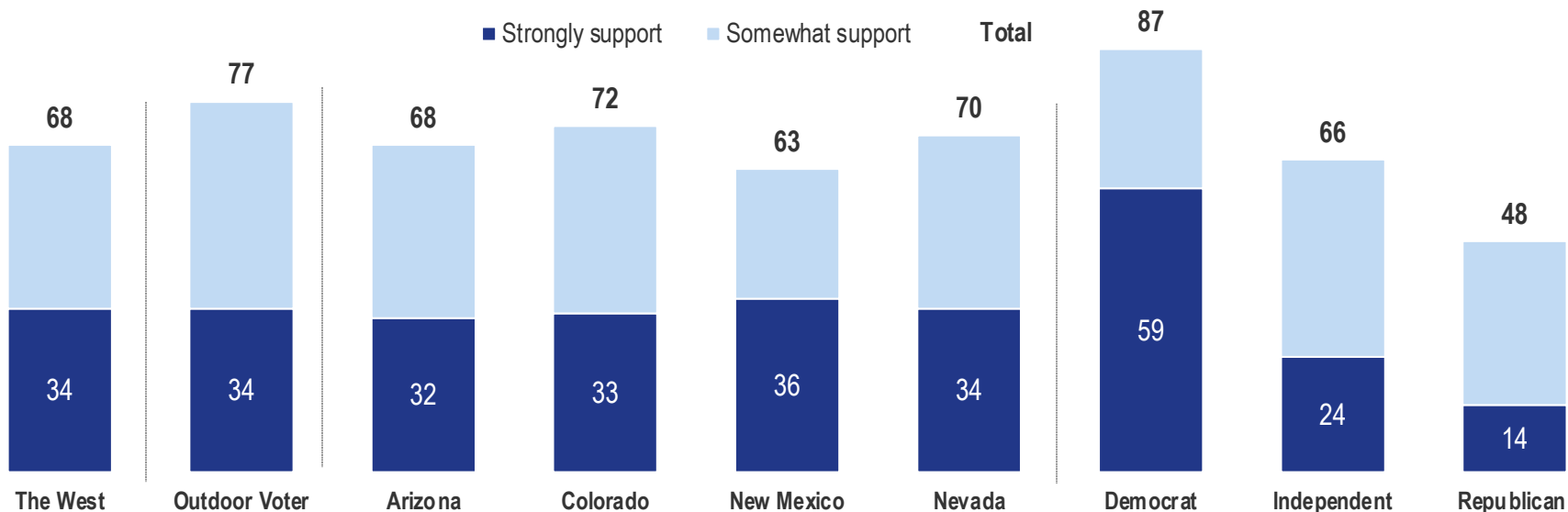
If President Biden and his administration did more to focus efforts to protect and conserve public lands, parks, and wildlife would that make you more or less favorable to them?



And there's strong support from voters – including nearly half of all Republicans – for the President to use his executive authority to designate national monuments

Executive Authority and Conservation

Would you support or oppose the President using executive authority to protect land because of its cultural and historical significance or unique, natural value by designating a national monument, with the input and/or recommendation of the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management, and state and local input and public support?



Making environmental issues front and center this election season can also help to drive turnout among Western Voters

Issue Motivation on Likelihood to Vote

% Much More Likely / Total more likely to vote in November if issue was being debated in your area...	% Much More Likely / Total More Likely				
	The West	Outdoor Voter	Dem	Ind	Rep
Innovative solutions to address droughts, wildfires and other extreme weather the West faces	55/90	58/90	67/92	52/90	43/87
Wildfire mitigation and preparedness	50/89	54/91	57/92	48/87	43/86
An effort to create parks and protected public lands for the next generation	45/87	52/91	54/91	43/85	37/83
How climate change is impacting the West	48/80	53/86	63/92	48/82	30/63
An effort to get rid of public lands, encourage more development, and make more private property available	40/65	44/67	44/66	44/70	31/60

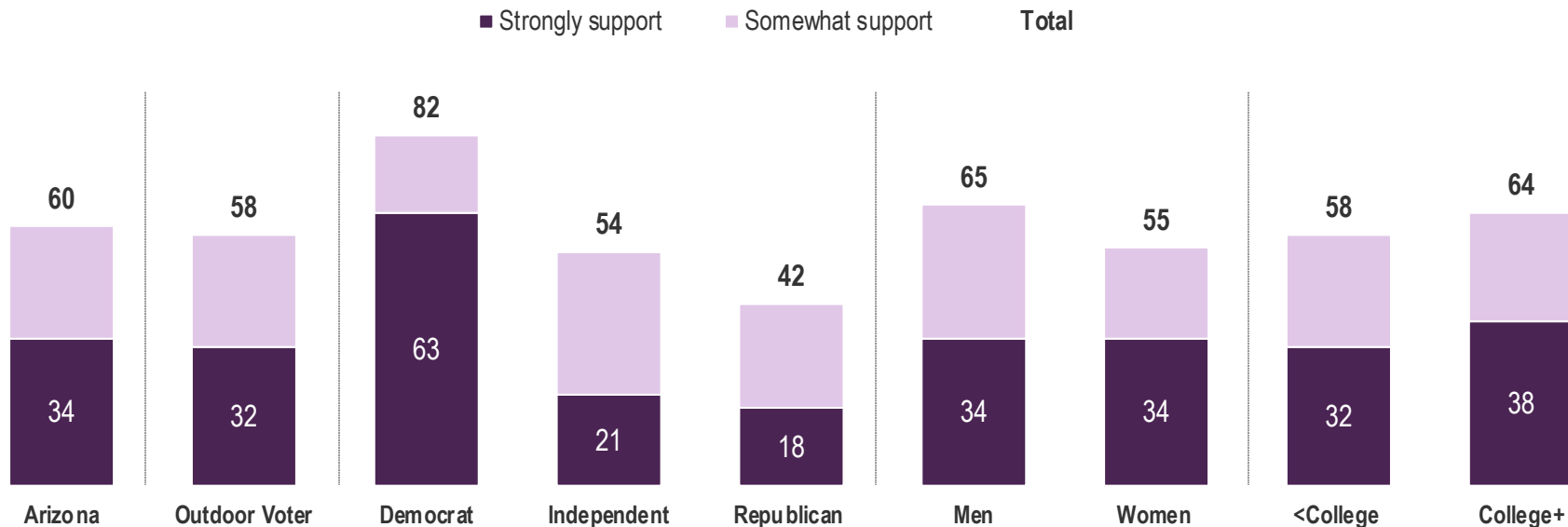
A blue arrow graphic pointing to the right, composed of several overlapping translucent blue shapes, located on the left side of the slide.

Key Western State Debates

In Arizona, there's strong support to permanently ban new uranium and mining on public lands

Arizona Voters and Conservation

Do you support or oppose *leaders in your state enacting legislation / an executive order* that would make permanent the current ban on new uranium and other mining on existing public lands, roughly one million acres, surrounding the Grand Canyon?

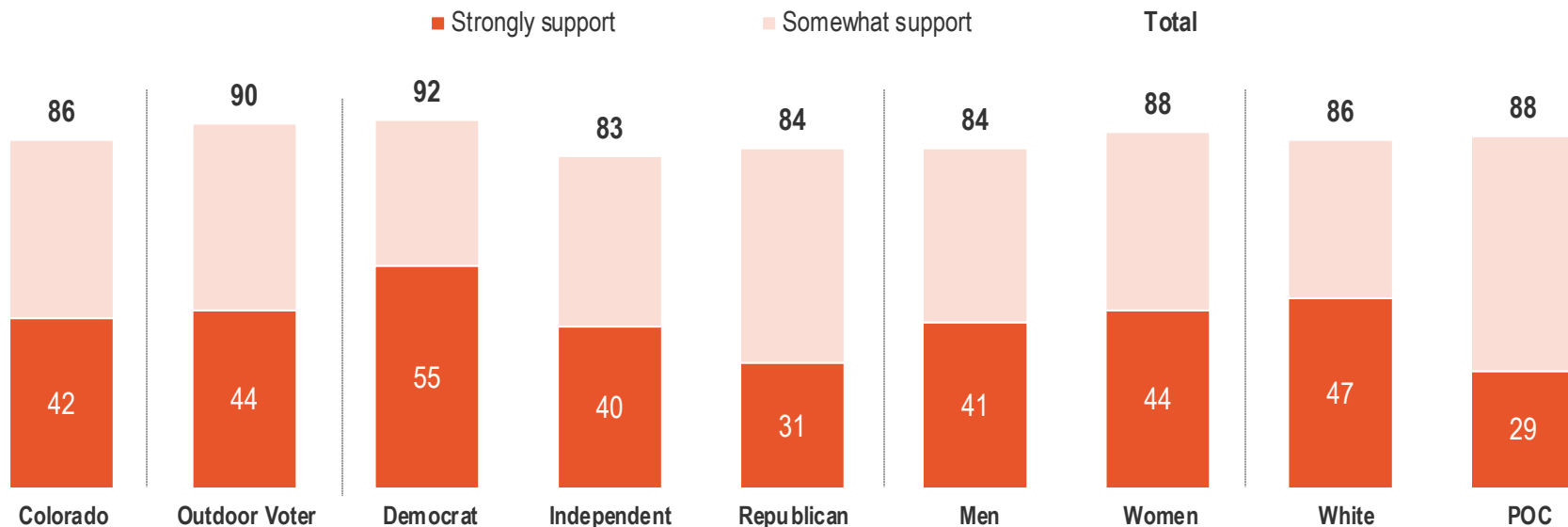


Q28A. Do you support or oppose leaders in your state enacting legislation that would make permanent the current ban on new uranium and other mining on existing public lands, roughly one million acres, surrounding the Grand Canyon? | Q28B. Do you support or oppose an executive order that would make permanent the current ban on new uranium and other mining on existing public lands, roughly one million acres, surrounding the Grand Canyon? Data shown is combined data for Q28A and Q28B

More than 8 in 10 Coloradans support national monument protections for CORE Act areas

Colorado Voters and Conservation

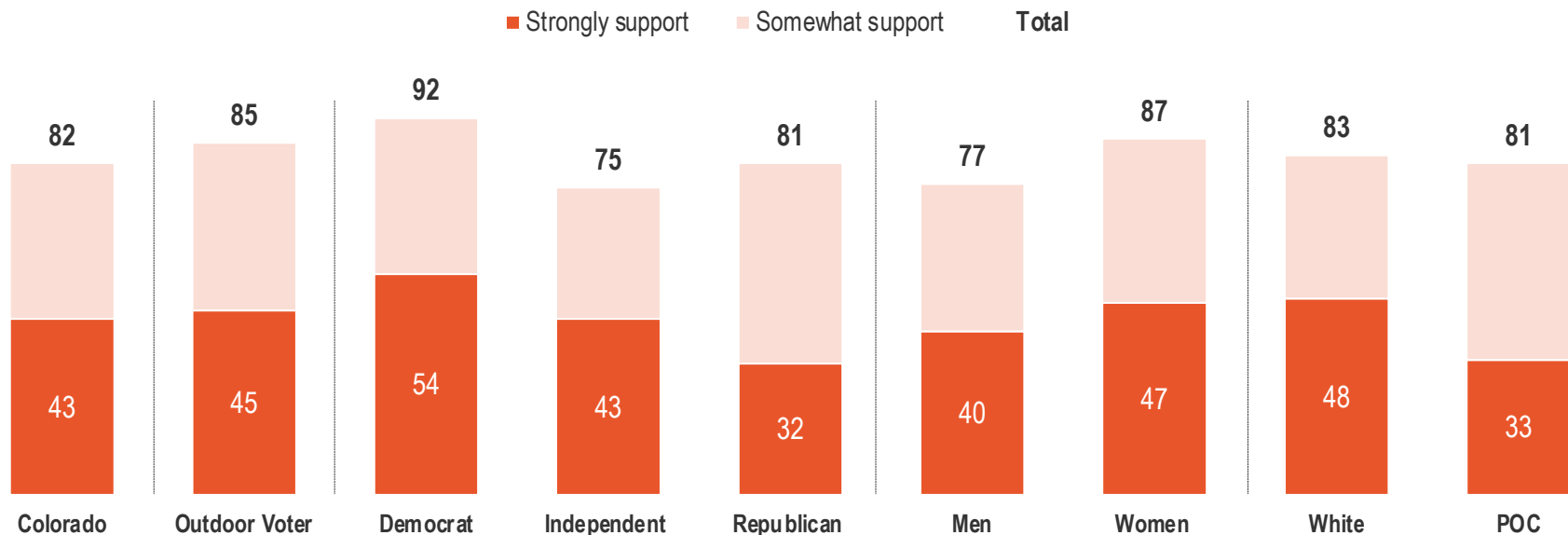
The Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy, or CORE Act, would protect over 400,000 acres of land in the state through new wilderness, recreation, and conservation areas in the Thompson Divide, the Continental Divide, the San Juan Mountains, and the Curecanti National Recreation Area. It would also establish new protections for historic Camp Hale, where the storied Tenth Mountain Division trained during World War Two.



In Colorado, the proposal to protect public lands surrounding the Dolores River Canyon has strong bipartisan support

Colorado Voters and Conservation

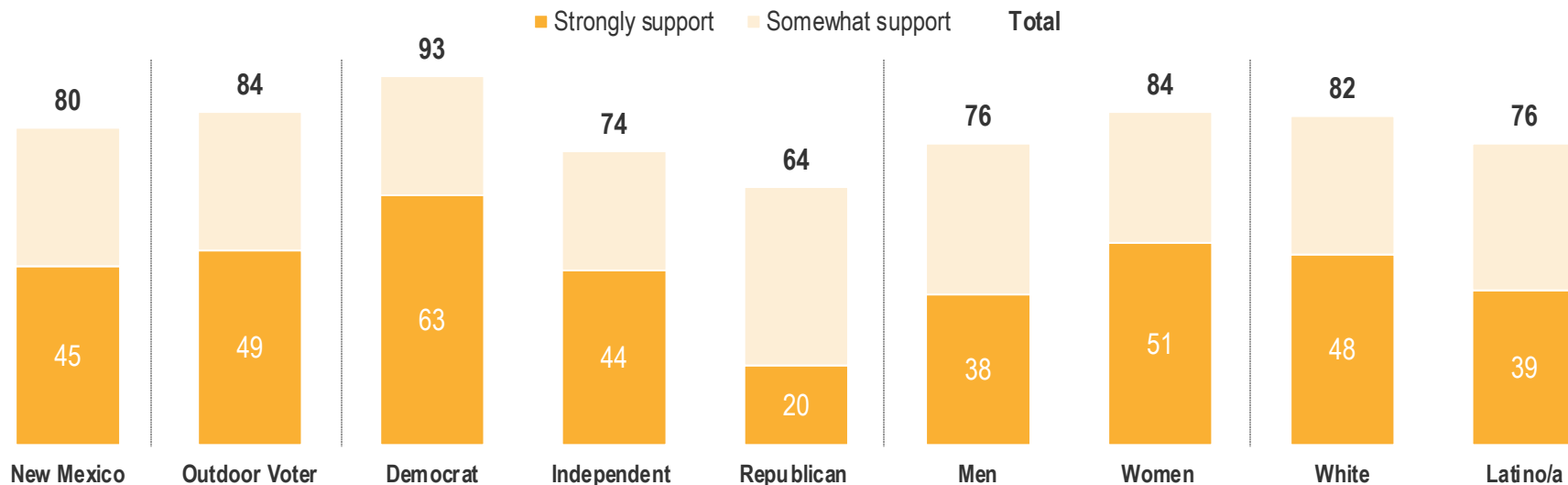
There is currently a proposal to protect existing public lands surrounding the Dolores River Canyon in western Colorado to conserve important wildlife habitats, safeguard the area's scenic beauty, and support outdoor recreation.



8 in 10 New Mexico voters support proposals to preserve Caja del Rio

New Mexico Voters and Conservation

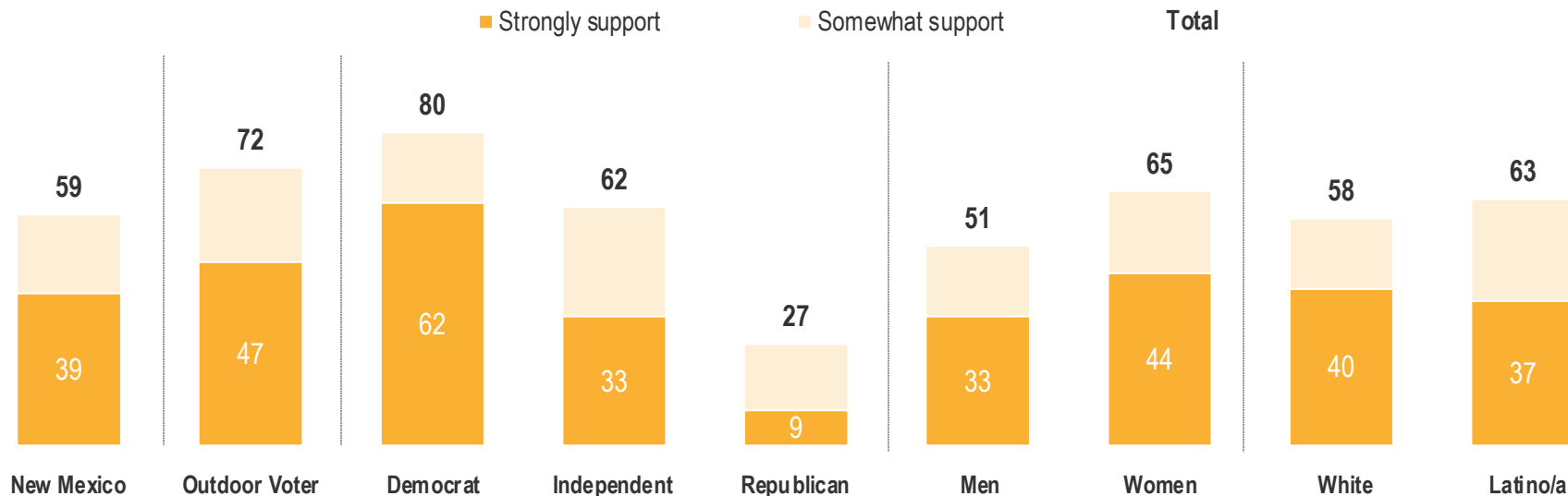
There is currently a proposal to permanently preserve Caja del Rio between the Rio Grande and Santa Fe rivers, which would help preserve culturally significant sites, petroglyphs, geologic features, and an important wildlife corridor.



Voters in New Mexico support proposals to ban oil and gas extraction around Chaco Cultural National Historical Park – though Republican support is softer

New Mexico Voters and Conservation

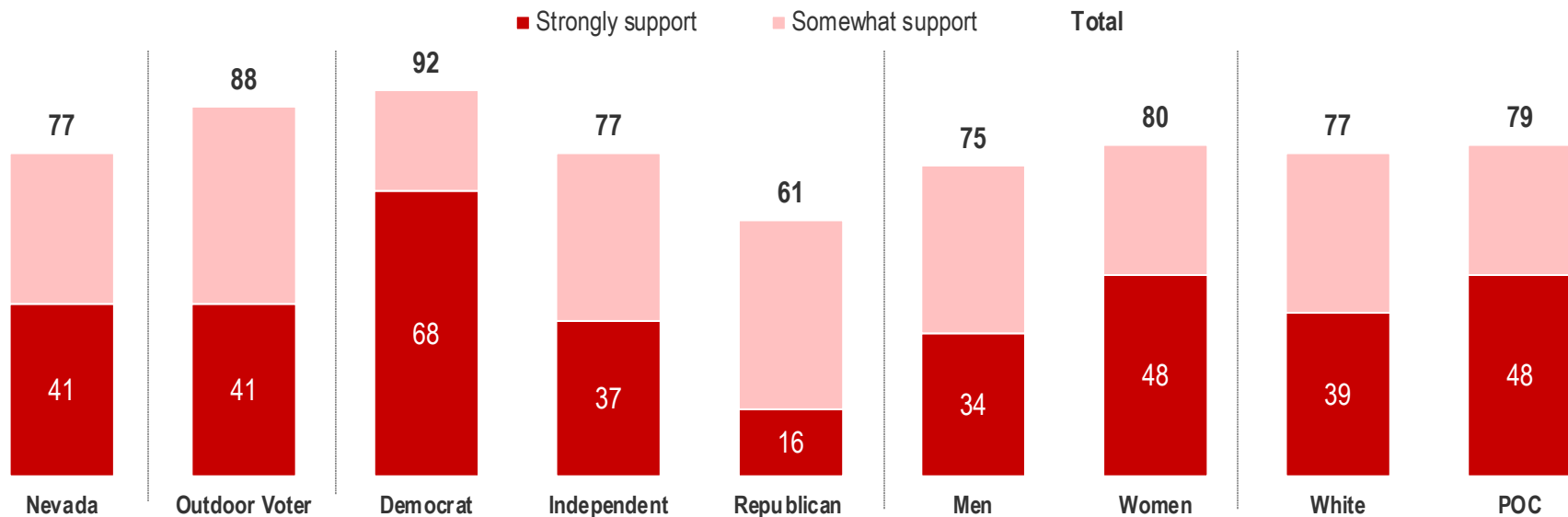
The Biden administration recently proposed a 20-year ban on oil and gas leasing within a 10-mile radius around New Mexico's Chaco Culture National Historical Park, a UNESCO world heritage site. The landscape is the sacred ancestral homeland to many Indigenous communities and has significant oil deposits.



In Nevada, nearly 8 in 10 voters support a proposal to designate Spirit Mountain as a national monument

Nevada Voters and Conservation

There is currently a proposal to designate existing public lands just east of the Mojave National Preserve in southern Nevada as the Spirit Mountain National Monument, which would ensure outdoor recreation and help preserve sacred Native sites while not allowing energy development or mining on these lands.





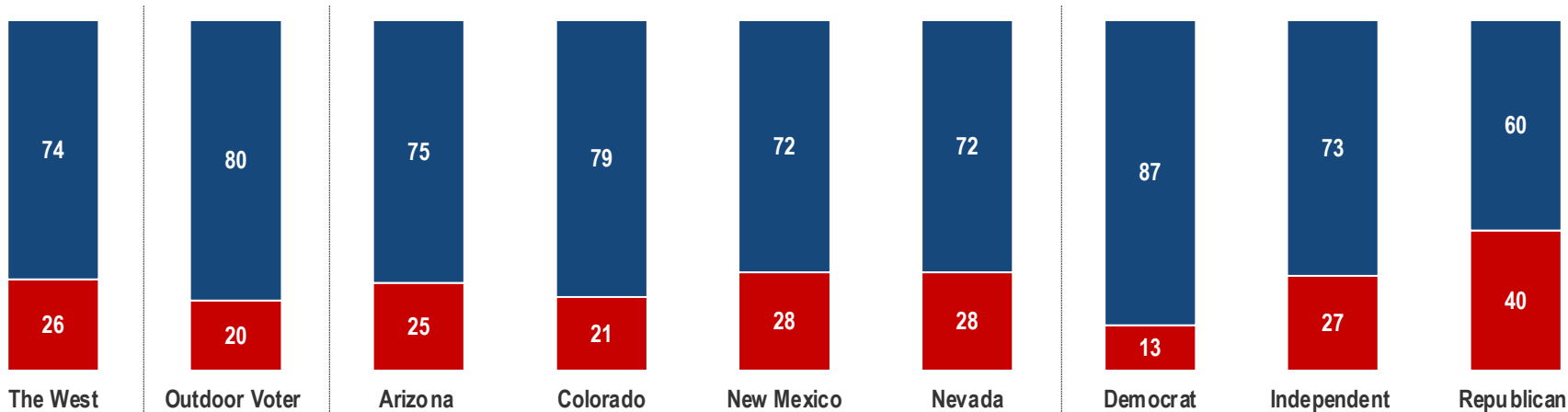
Environmental Argumentations

Western Voters agree: The Western way of life should be about protecting, not profiting off public lands

Which of the following do you agree with most:

The Western way of life should be about protecting public lands, water, and wildlife, making the outdoors available and accessible for all to respectfully share for hunting, fishing and recreation, and pass down to future generations.

The Western way of life should be about using our public lands to profit and drive economic growth by opening them up for energy exploration, investment, and development.

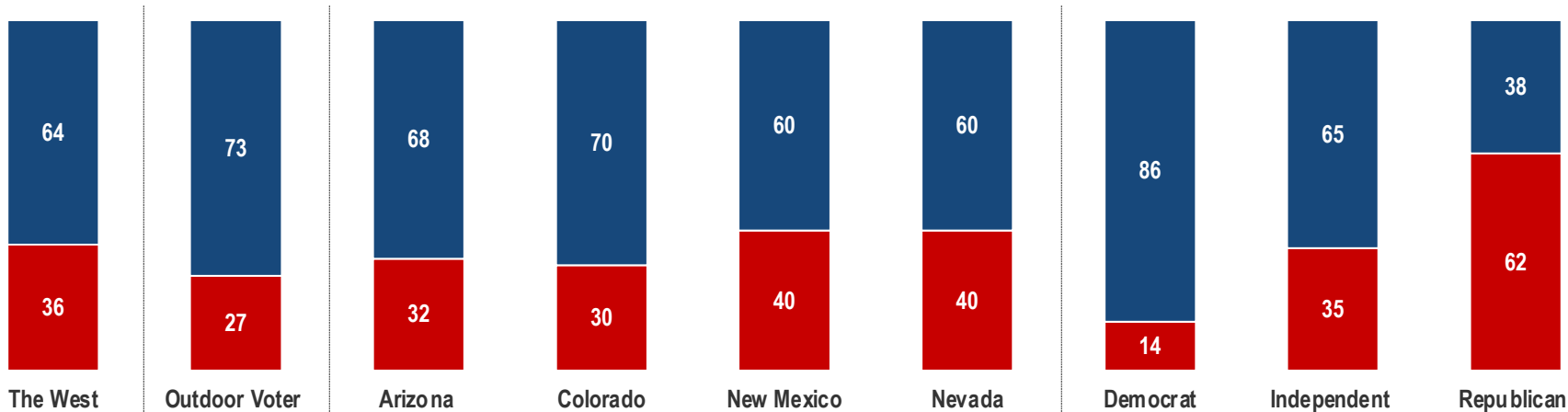


Western Voters agree: There's strong agreement we need to protect lands and have strong limits and regulation before drilling

Which of the following do you agree with most:

Oil and gas development on public land should be only allowed with strict limitations and regulations to ensure that our land, wildlife, water, and public safety are protected first and foremost.

Oil and gas development should be significantly expanded on public land to help the U.S. maintain energy independence.

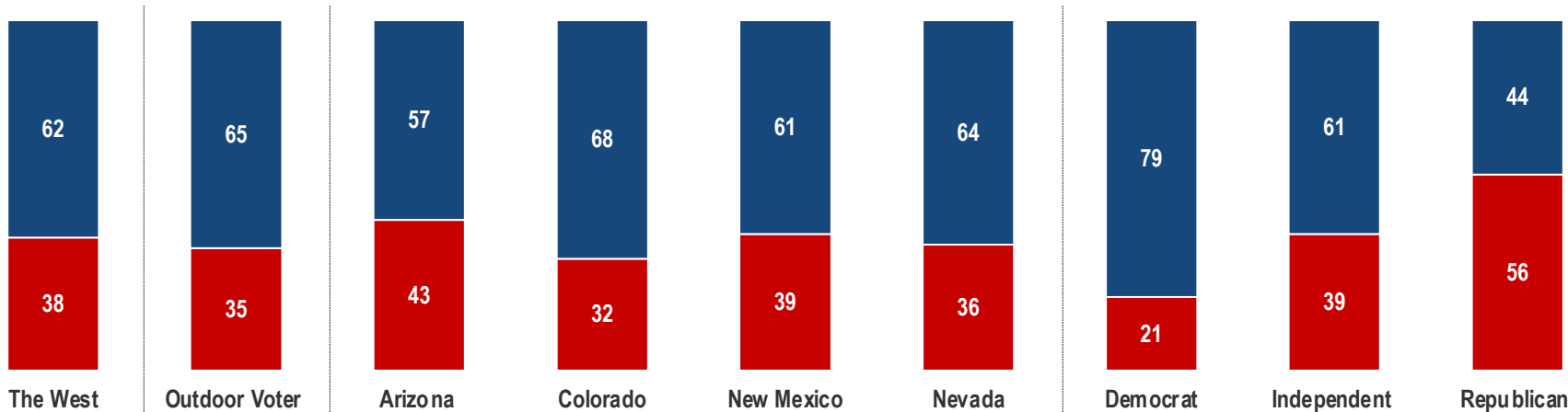


Western Voters agree: Leaders must strike a balance between conservation and development that puts the responsibility of protections for the environment first

Which of the following do you agree with most:

Our leaders have a responsibility to ensure that oil and gas growth doesn't outpace protections for our water, outdoors, and communities by striking the balance between conservation and development, and between negative drilling impacts and benefits.

Our leaders have a responsibility to grow our economy and help our communities by promoting investment in oil and gas and encouraging the economic development that will ensure prosperity for all.

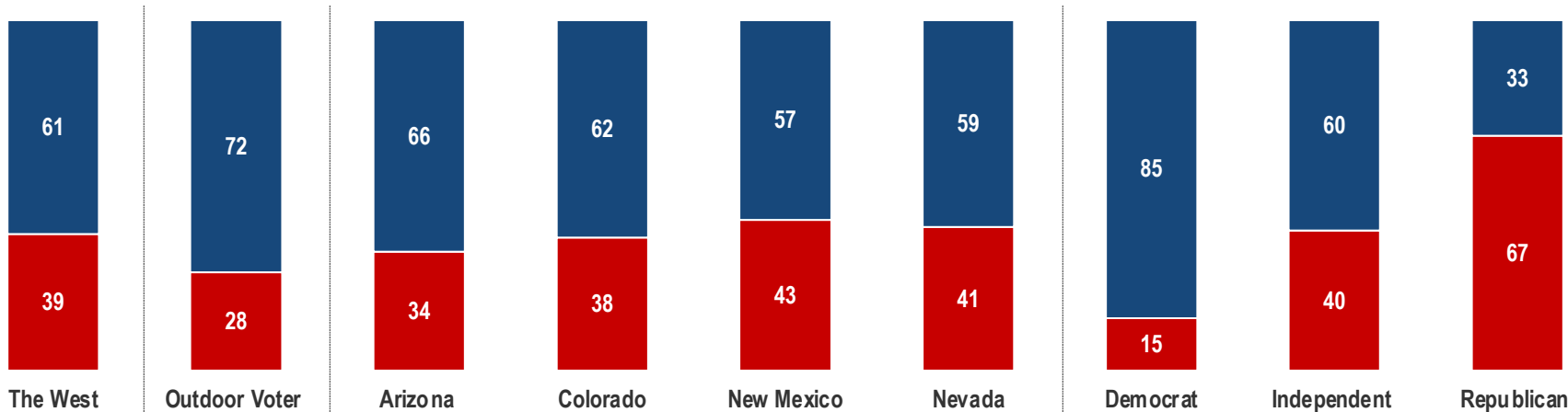


Western Voters agree: Investing in a renewable, clean economy will provide sustainable economic growth, while reliance on oil and gas will leave them vulnerable to environmental disasters

Which of the following do you agree with most:

Our leaders should grow the economy through renewable and clean energy sources, as well as outdoor recreation, so that we are balanced and not dependent on harmful sources of energy that exacerbate environmental disasters like wildfires and droughts.

Our leaders have a responsibility to grow our economy and help our communities by promoting investment in oil and gas and encouraging the economic development that will ensure prosperity for all.

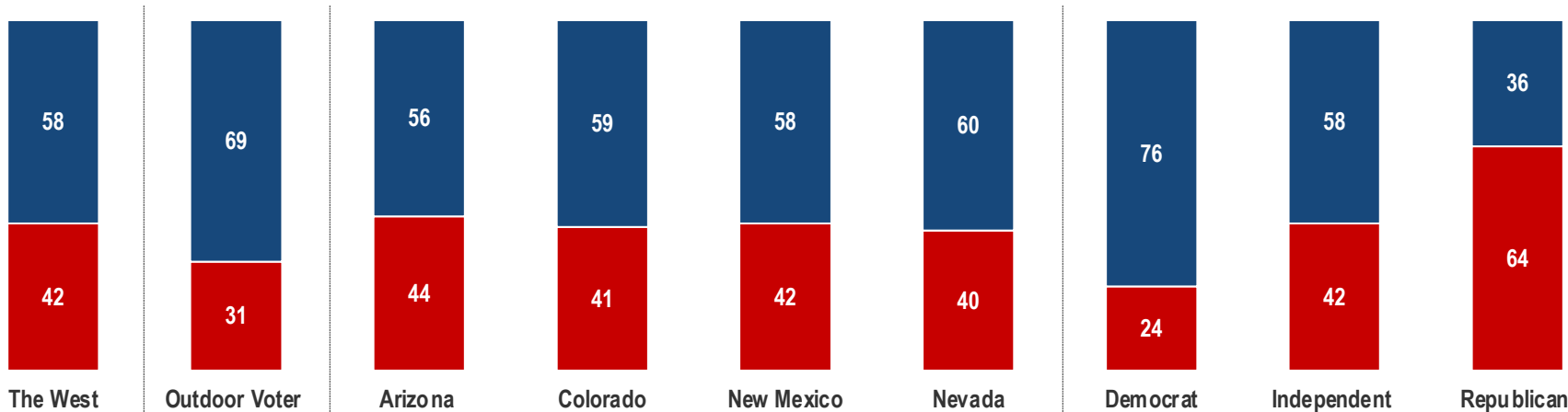


Western Voters agree: Voters' concern about unfettered corporate access outweighs concerns for oil and gas jobs and growth

Which of the following do you agree with most:

We can't keep giving multibillion dollar corporations unfettered access at rock-bottom prices to our precious public lands to do with as they please. Our leaders have a responsibility to ensure that oil and gas growth doesn't harm our water, outdoor spaces, and the health and safety of our communities.

We should encourage economic development and invest in oil and gas to create jobs and drive growth. We have public lands for a reason -- so the public can benefit from them. With sky-high gas prices, now isn't the time to cut back on oil production.

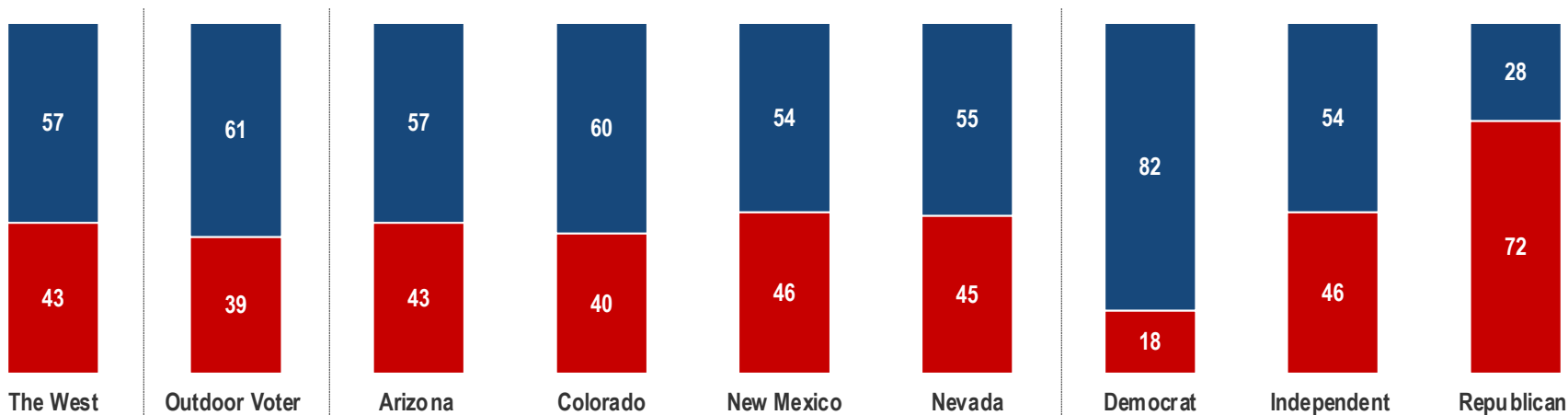


Western Voters agree: Rising gas prices raise the stakes for investing in renewable energies to free communities from the boom-bust nature of oil and gas dependence

Which of the following do you agree with most:

Now is exactly the time we need to invest in renewable energy like wind and solar, so we're not completely dependent on the whims of oil and gas CEOs and harmful sources of energy that only exacerbate environmental disasters like wildfires and droughts.

We should encourage economic development and invest in oil and gas to create jobs and drive growth. We have public lands for a reason -- so the public can benefit from them. With sky-high gas prices, now isn't the time to cut back on oil production.





**Benenson
Strategy
Group**

LINDSAY VERMEYEN

Senior Vice President

lvermeyer@bsgco.com

JACQUELINE SCOTT-DOUGLAS

Director

HANNAH BORENSTEIN

Senior Analyst



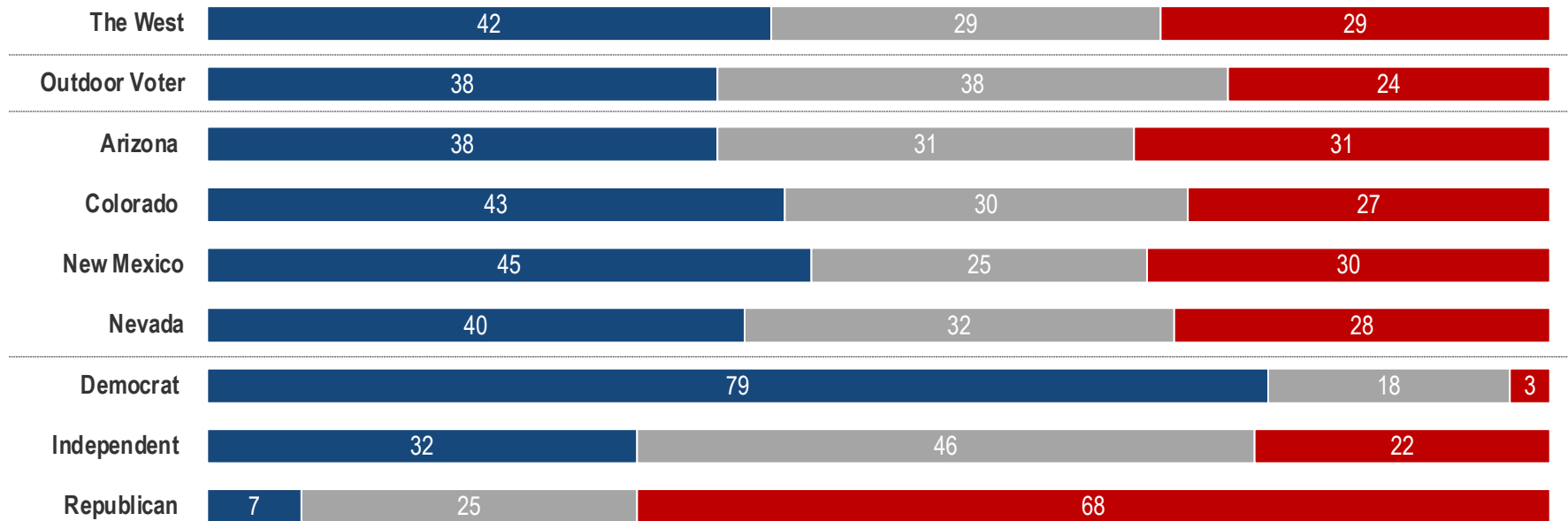
A blue arrow graphic pointing to the right, composed of several overlapping semi-transparent blue shapes, located on the left side of the slide.

Appendix

Nearly half of all Independents equally trust Democrats and Republican's handling of public lands protections

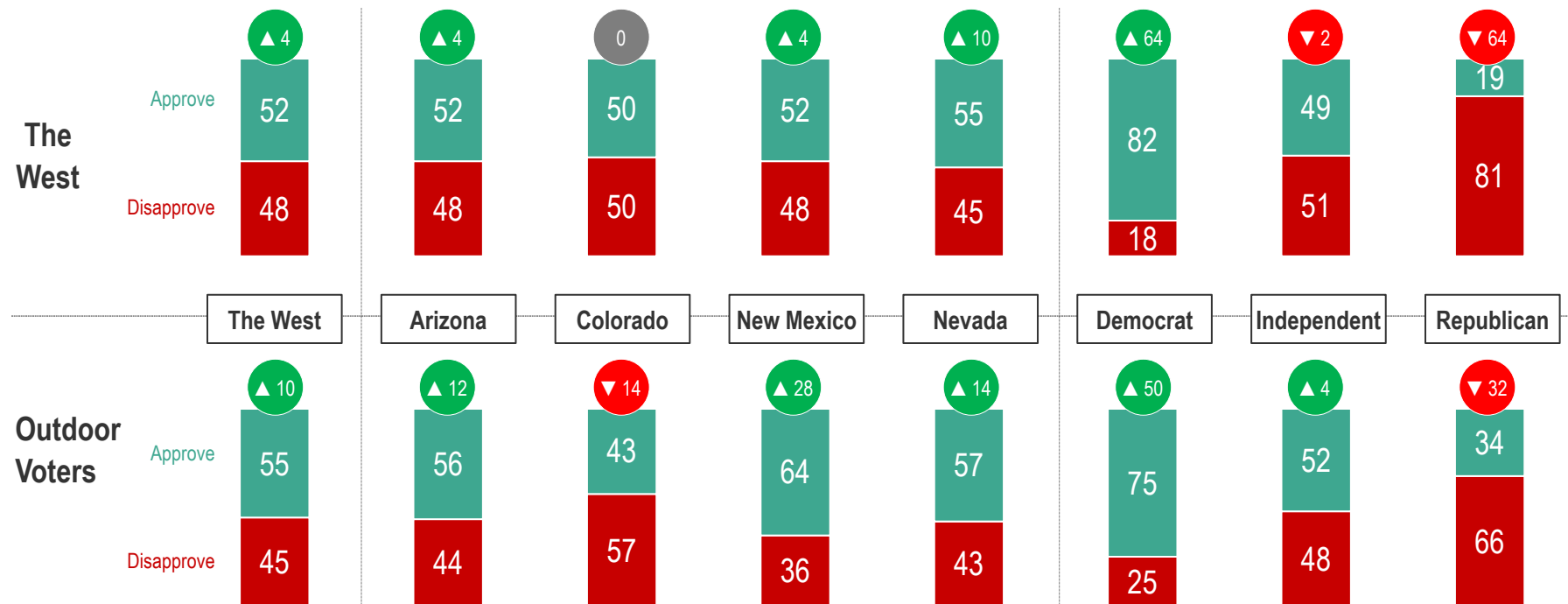
Which party do you trust more to protect and conserve public lands, parks, and wildlife in your state?

■ Democrats more ■ Both the same ■ Republicans more



Just over half of Western Voters approve of the President's conservation efforts, with support falling largely along party lines, and room (and need) to move the needle among Independents

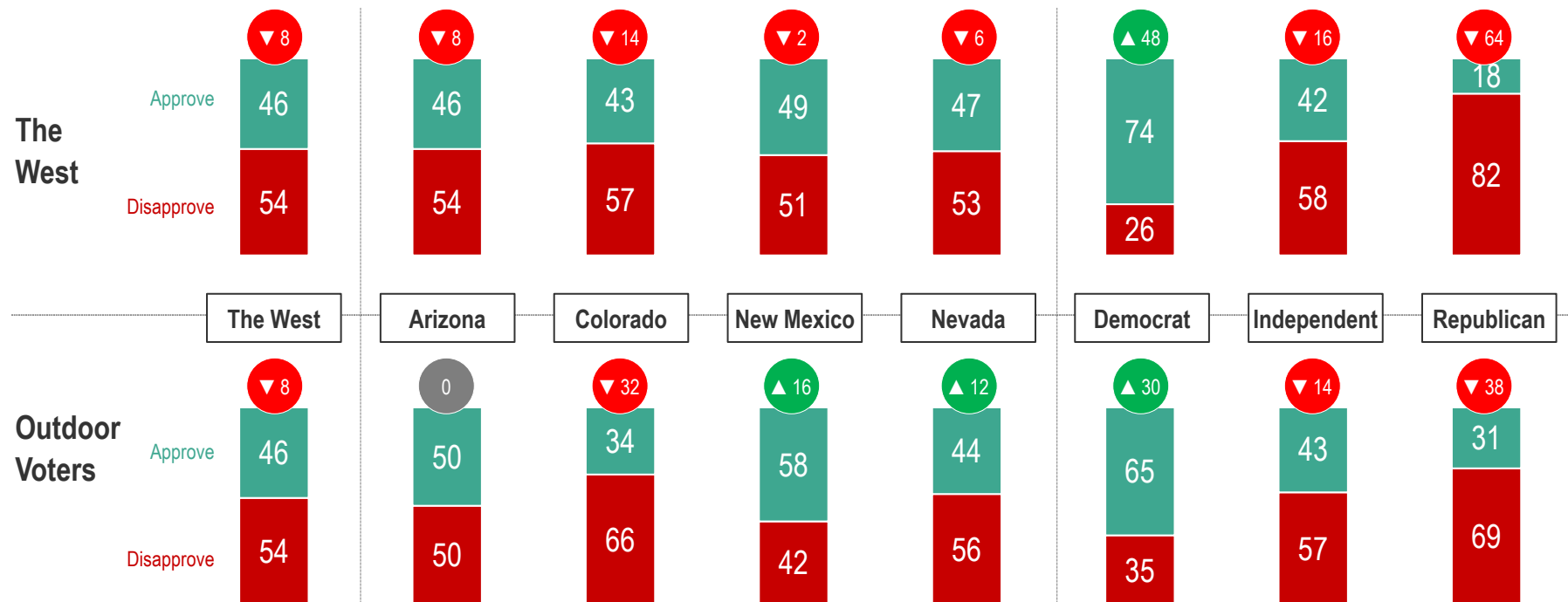
Biden Conservation Approval



Q4. Thinking about how President Biden has handled conservation efforts in our country, meaning the preservation of public lands, parks, and wildlife, would you say you approve or disapprove of the job he's doing?

And the President has even more work to do on larger environmental and climate change efforts, especially with Outdoor Voters in CO, NM and NV

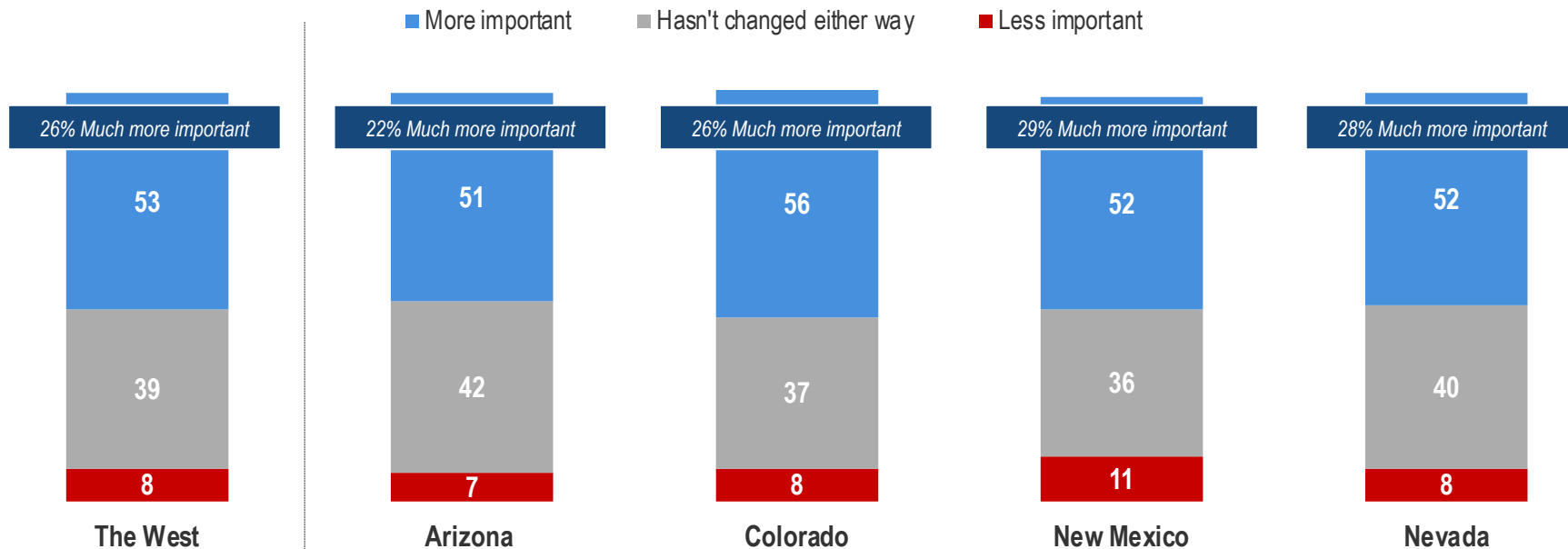
Biden Environment and Climate Change Approval



Western Voters are saying conservation issues have become more important to them over the last two years

Changing importance of conservation issues

Over the last two years, have public lands, parks, and wildlife issues become more or less important for you?



Environmental issues are a huge concern and priority among Western Voters – most of all protecting air and water from pollution

Environmental Priorities

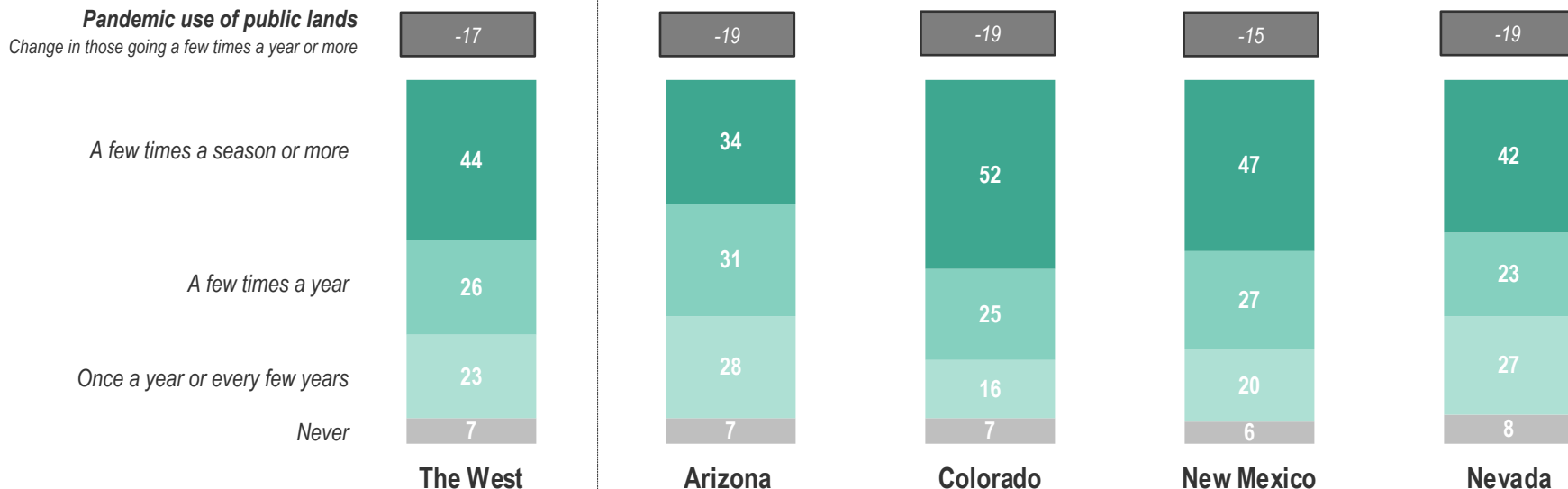
% An Important Priority	The West	Outdoor Voters	Arizona	Colorado	New Mexico	Nevada	Dem	Ind	Rep
Protecting the air and water from pollution	58	62	58	57	58	59	66	57	49
Protecting open spaces and recreational areas from development	44	44	45	52	36	41	33	49	50
Preserving unique and beautiful landscapes	41	36	42	43	34	44	28	46	50
Investing in renewable energy sources and infrastructure	39	40	42	32	39	42	52	37	24
Addressing the consequences of climate change	38	40	40	36	40	37	60	33	16
Maintaining areas for hunting, fishing, and recreation	29	29	26	31	33	27	16	26	49
Investing in environmental disaster relief resources to address things like wildfires and floods	28	28	26	26	37	25	28	27	30
Making outdoor spaces like parks and monuments more easily accessible	23	22	22	23	23	25	16	23	32

Q11. From the list below, which three of the following are most important to you personally? | Highlighted data represents environmental priorities with the highest prioritization, shading represents intensity of prioritization

While COVID has interrupted the use of public lands, 7 in 10 were visiting a few times a year or more pre-pandemic

Frequency of visiting public lands before and after COVID

Thinking of your life before the COVID-19 pandemic, how often did you visit public lands such as national recreation areas, parks, national forests, national monuments, national wildlife refuges, or other public land in the West?



Specific environmental impacts are of more concern to Western Voters than the topic of conservation in general, though inflation, gas prices, and healthcare are their top issues

Top Mid-term Issues

<i>Top 5 Issues Deciding Mid-term Vote</i>	The West	Outdoor Voter	Arizona	Colorado	New Mexico	Nevada	Dem	Ind	Rep
Inflation and rising costs	76	74	78	78	69	79	65	79	85
Gas prices	64	58	67	59	60	69	51	60	83
Healthcare costs and access	62	61	65	67	54	61	68	65	51
Rising taxes	52	50	53	53	49	51	36	55	68
Crime rates	49	45	43	43	56	52	36	46	67
Wildfires, droughts, and other impacts of climate change	45	51	43	48	48	42	57	46	30
Quality of education	45	50	47	37	49	49	48	40	48
Abortion access	41	42	40	43	44	38	57	43	21
Voting rights	39	36	39	37	45	33	50	37	26
Conservation of public lands and natural resources	28	34	26	33	27	25	32	30	21

Q7. Next you are going to see some different issues that a voter like you might consider to be important when deciding how to vote this November. Please rank each issue from MOST to LEAST important on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 is the MOST IMPORTANT and 10 is the LEAST IMPORTANT factor you will consider when deciding how to vote this November.

Snapshot of the Arizona Voter

Gender



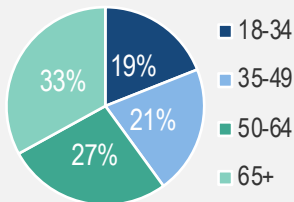
48%

51%

Men

Women

Age



Kids



48%

23%

36%

No

<18 years

18+ years

Education



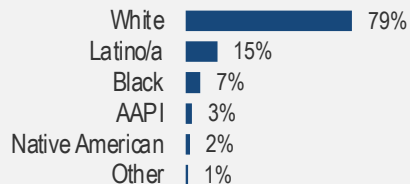
64%

36%

No college degree

College degree

Race (Multiple responses allowed)



Party Registration



28%

Republican

39%

Independent / Other

33%

Democrat

News Habits



Outdoor Activities



55%

Hiking

33%

Camping

22%

Fishing

12%

Off-roading

11%

Road biking

9%

Mountain biking

9%

Boating

9%

Hunting

Organization Members



31%



15%

Arizona State Parks Pass

9%



9%



53%

None

Snapshot of the Colorado Voter

Gender



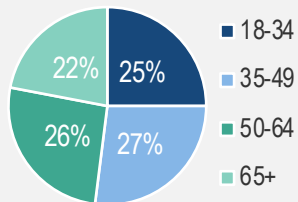
48%

51%

Men

Women

Age



Kids



45%

33%

34%

No

<18 years

18+ years

Education



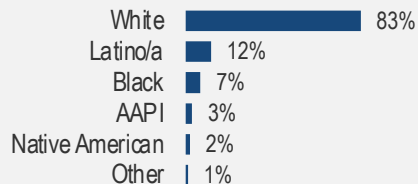
49%

51%

No college degree

College degree

Race *(Multiple responses allowed)*



Party Registration



26%

Republican

45%

Independent / Other

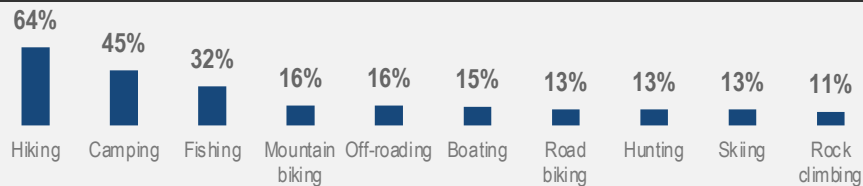
29%

Democrat

News Habits



Outdoor Activities



Organization Members



32%

Colorado State
Parks Pass

21%



14%



12%



50%

None

Snapshot of the New Mexico Voter

Gender



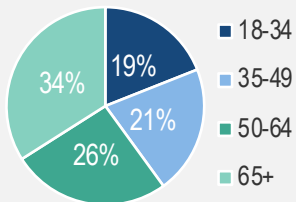
45%

54%

Men

Women

Age



Kids



37%

25%

46%

No

<18 years

18+ years

Education



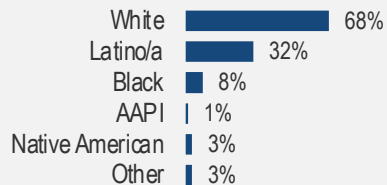
55%

45%

No college degree

College degree

Race *(Multiple responses allowed)*



Party Registration



32%

Republican

21%

Independent / Other

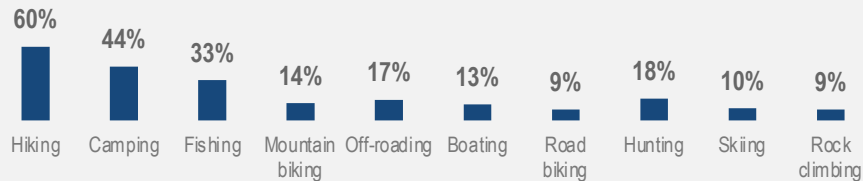
47%

Democrat

News Habits



Outdoor Activities



Organization Members



Snapshot of the Nevada Voter

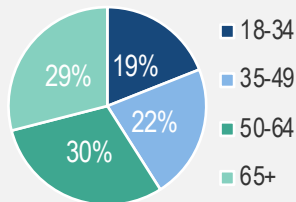
Gender



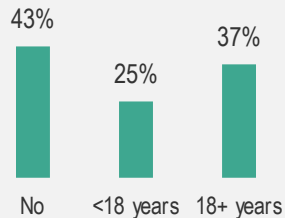
49% 51%

Men Women

Age



Kids



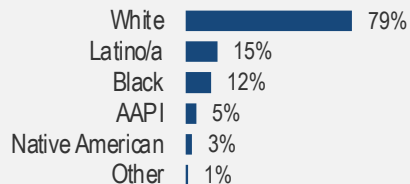
Education



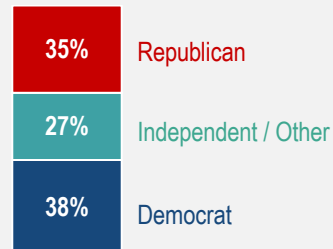
61% 39%

No college degree College degree

Race (Multiple responses allowed)



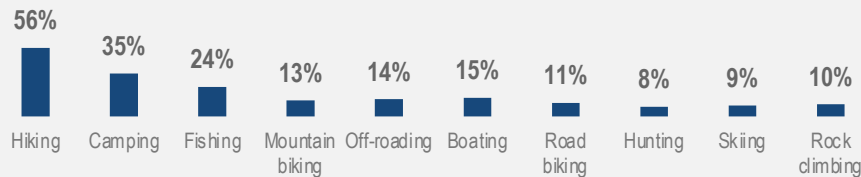
Party Registration



News Habits



Outdoor Activities



Organization Members

