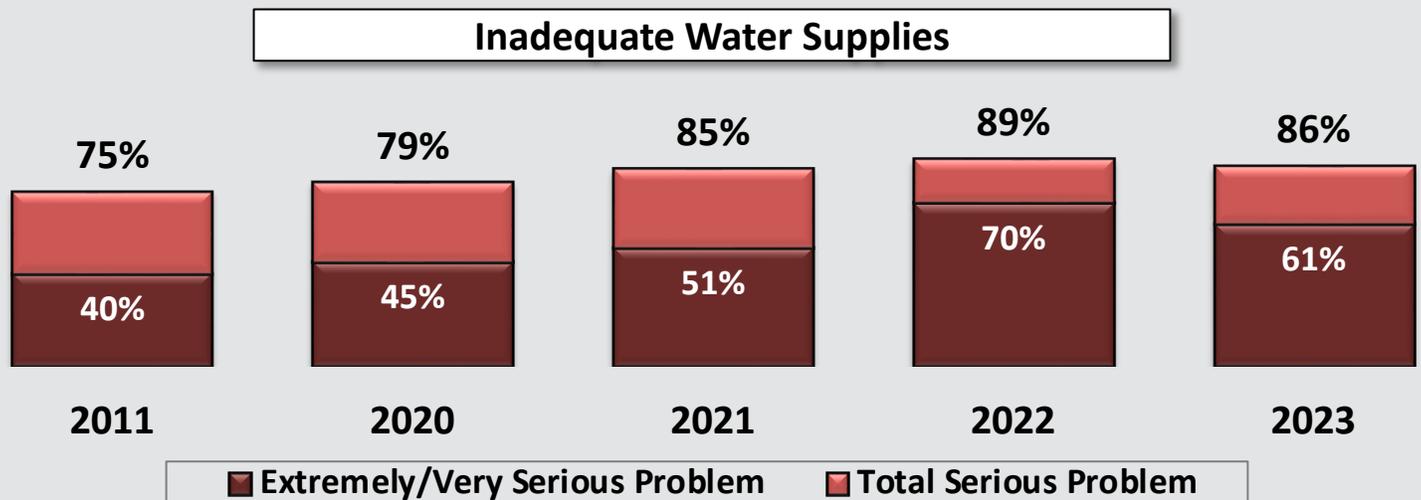


Water in the West

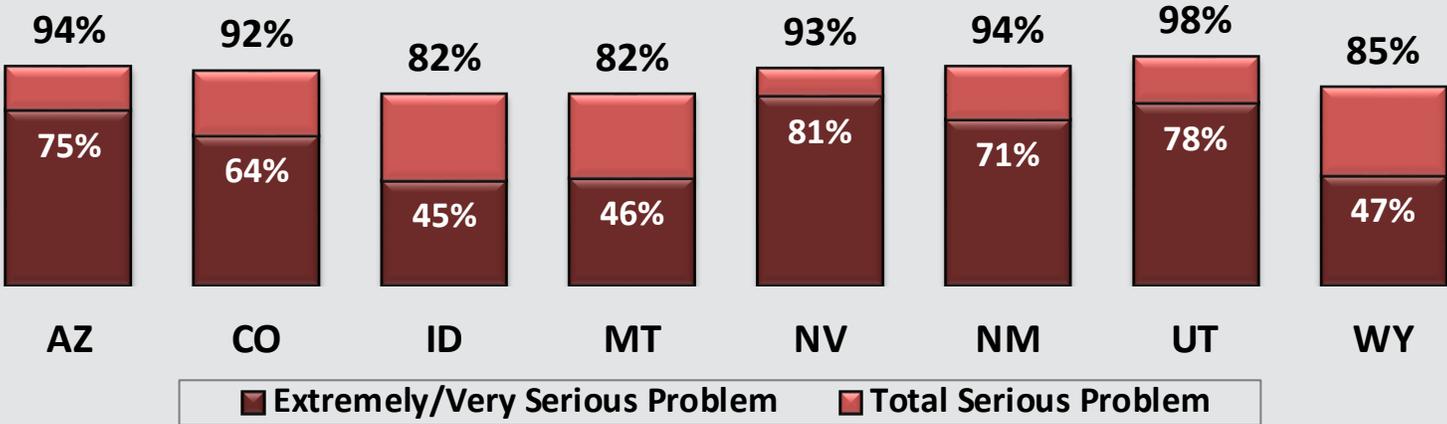
Even during one of the wettest winters in several years, Westerners remain overwhelmingly concerned about water levels in rivers, water supplies and drought. Various proposals intended to address water shortages receive solid majority support.

Despite being slammed by wet weather this winter, Westerners are more concerned than ever about inadequate water supplies. Almost nine-in-ten Westerners (86 percent) say inadequate water supply is a serious problem in their state. Not surprisingly, inadequate water supply is of most concern in some of the down-stream Colorado River Compact states, such as Utah (94 percent), Nevada (93 percent), and Arizona (90 percent).



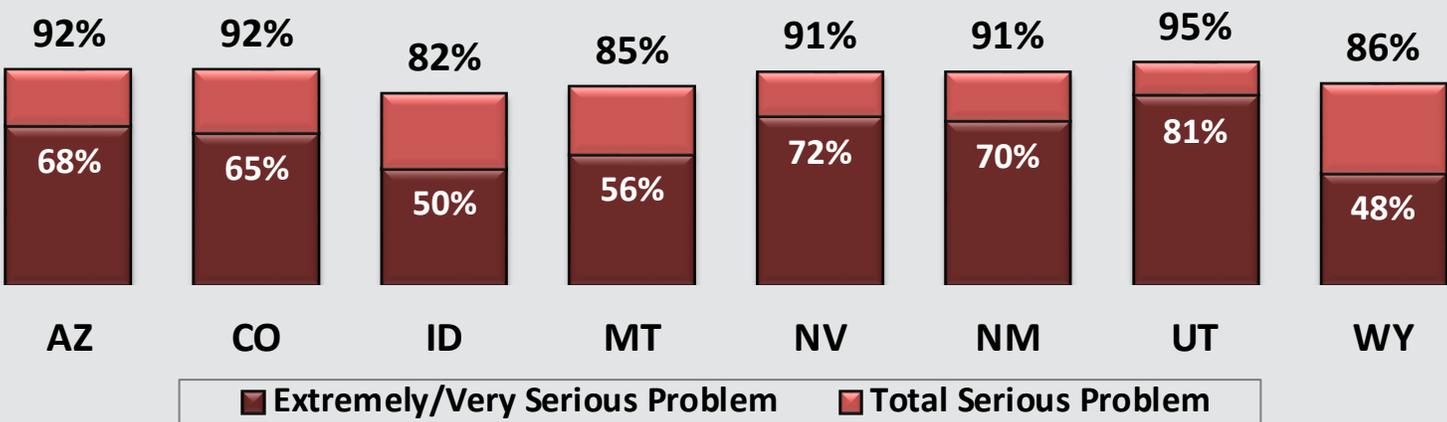
Similarly, the low level of water in rivers continues to be a grave concern. Virtually all Westerners (93 percent) say low river levels are a serious problem, consistent with last year (95 percent), and higher than expressed in previous years (88 percent in 2021, 81 percent in 2020, 87 percent in 2013). Again, concern is more intense the farther South one moves in this region.

Low Level of Water in Rivers



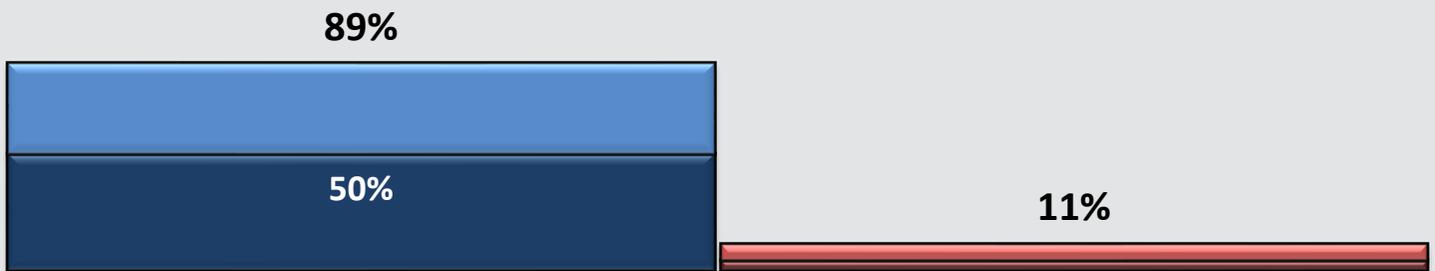
Concern about drought increased last year and remains high even with the recent deluge of rain and snow. More than nine-in-ten (92 percent) voters say drought is a serious problem, consistent with 95 percent who said the same last year, and much higher than the 83 percent who said it was a serious problem in 2016. Though drought concerns are higher in some of the more Southern states, it is clearly viewed as a serious problem across the entire Western region.

Drought



Given these concerns about water, it is unsurprising that voters describe the current shortage of water supplies as a crisis or problem. Fully, 89 percent say the water shortage is a “serious crisis” (50 percent) or “a significant problem, but not a crisis” (39 percent). Perceptions of a serious crisis are particularly high in Nevada (64 percent), Arizona (53 percent), and Utah (51 percent).

Shortage of Water Supplies



■ Serious Crisis ■ Total Problem ■ Not Really A Problem ■ Total Not A Problem

When asked who uses the most water in their state, voters are somewhat divided.

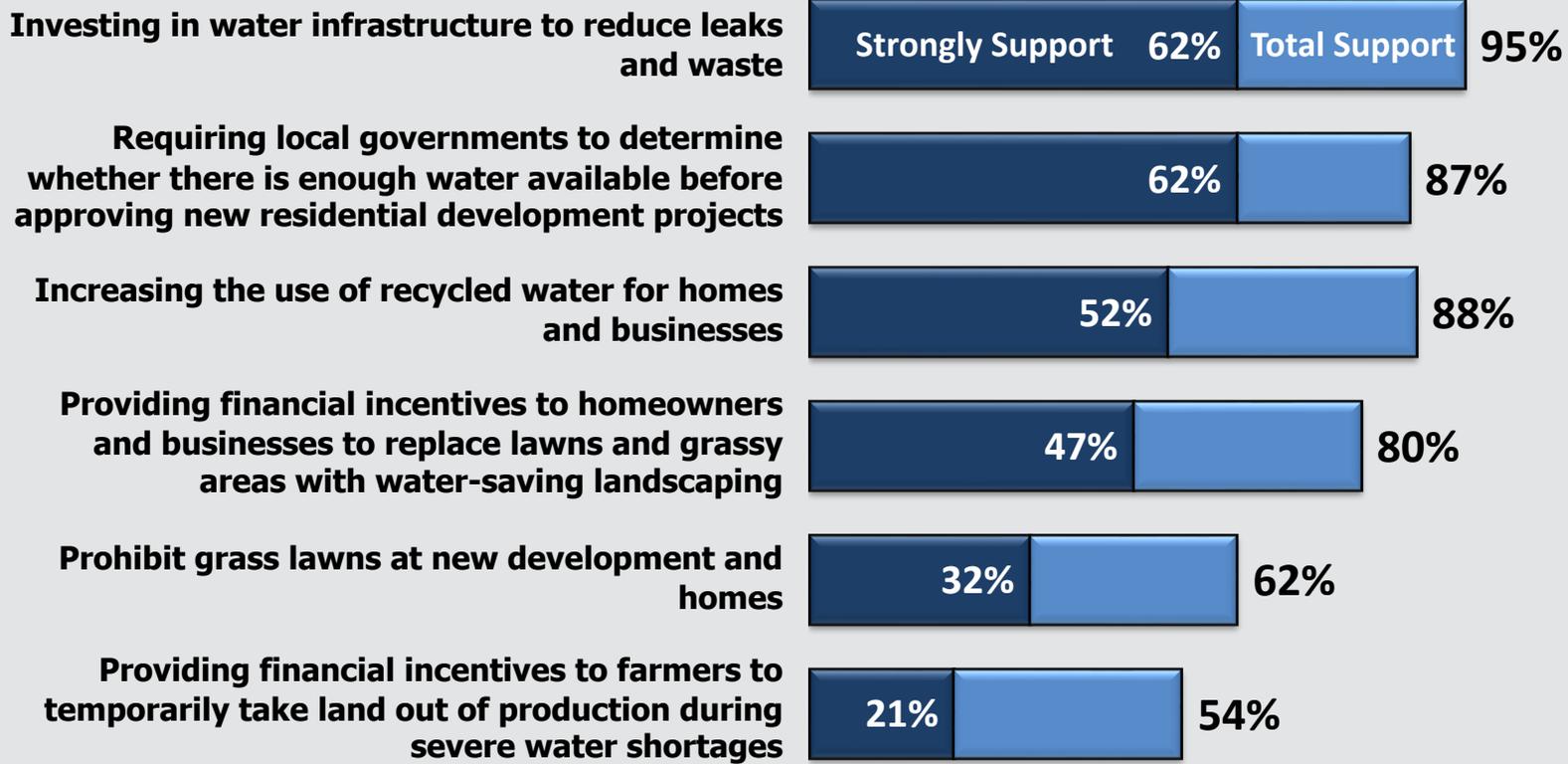
Roughly, one-third (34 percent) say it is farmers and ranchers, one-quarter (25 percent) say it is people using water in their homes, and 38% say industry and businesses. Perceptions vary across states,



depending on primary industries and land use. A majority of voters in Wyoming (52 percent), Idaho (51 percent) and Montana (50%) say farmers and ranchers use the most water. By contrast, 56 percent of Nevadans and a plurality of New Mexicans (44 percent) and Arizonans (40 percent) say industry and businesses use the most water.

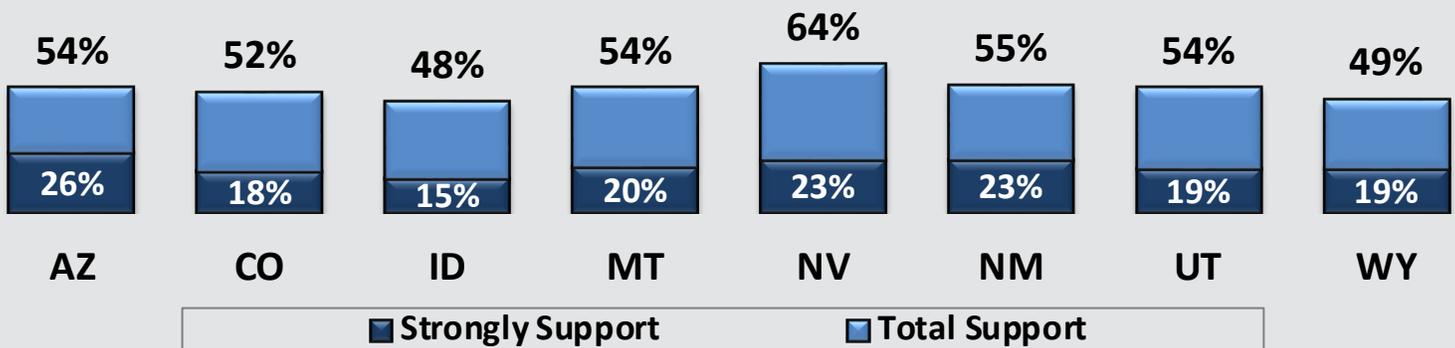
Uses Most Water	Total	AZ	CO	ID	MT	NV	NM	UT	WY
Industry and businesses	38%	40%	35%	27%	25%	56%	44%	28%	28%
Farmers and ranchers	34%	31%	34%	51%	50%	17%	33%	43%	52%
People using water in their homes	25%	26%	29%	20%	21%	25%	20%	25%	15%

Six proposals to address inadequate water supplies receive majority support from Westerners.



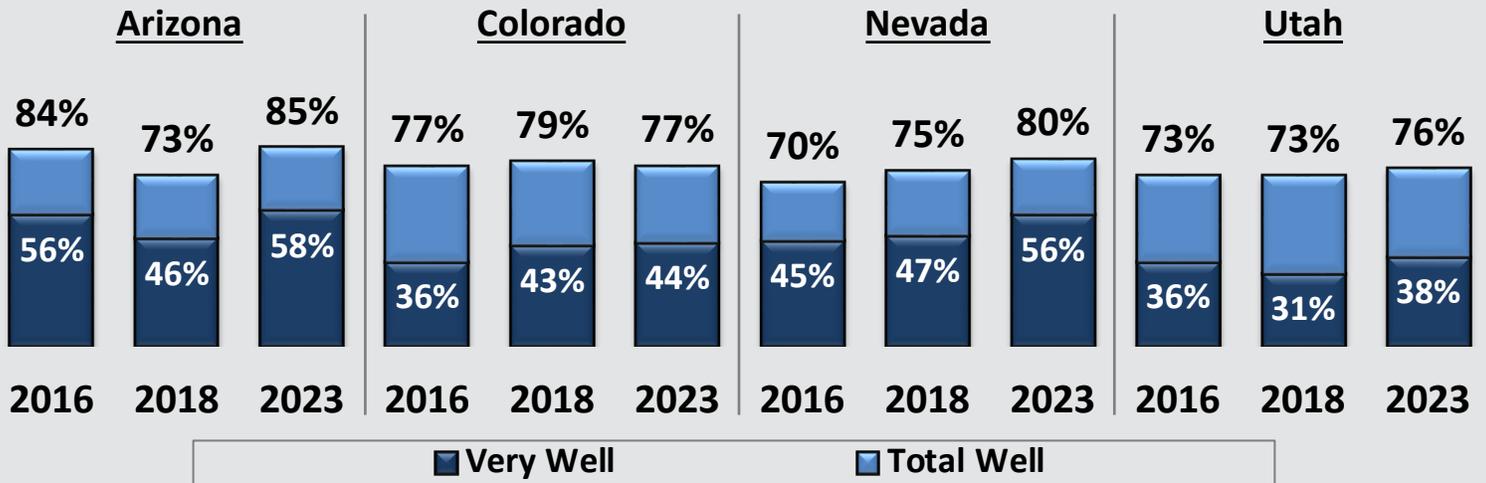
Though the proposal incentivizing farmers to temporarily take land out of production during severe water shortages fares least well, it is perhaps surprising this initiative garners majority support at all given the rising cost of food and recent food shortages. Even in states where farming is more prevalent, like Idaho and Wyoming, where voters are more divided on this proposal, there is still support for it among almost half the state.

Providing Financial Incentives to Farmers to Take Land Out of Production



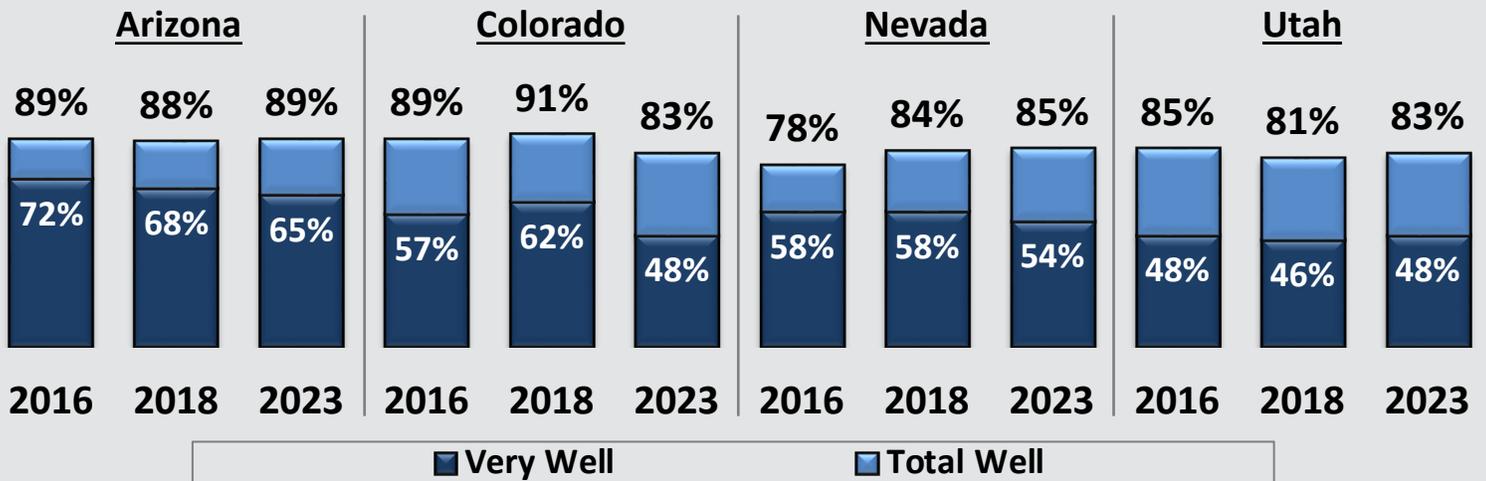
In the four states the Colorado River passes through, three are more likely than ever before to describe the river as “at risk.” Across Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah, more than three-quarters of voters say the Colorado River is at risk.

See the Colorado River as “At Risk”



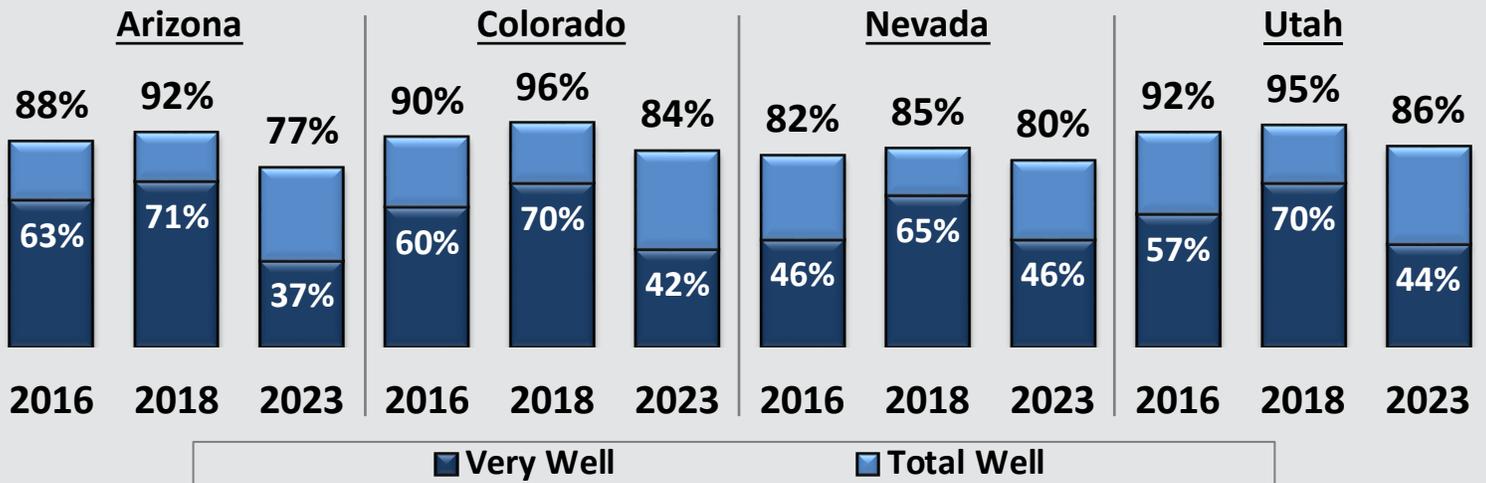
Additionally, more than eight-in-ten voters in these four states say the Colorado River is critical to their state’s economy.

See the Colorado River as “Critical to STATE’s Economy”



This year, voters are less likely to say the Colorado River is an attraction for tourism and recreation. These results may be due to the impact of drought. Despite the drop compared to 2016 and 2018, more than three-quarters across each state still perceive the river as a tourist and recreation attraction.

See the Colorado River as “An Attraction for Tourism & Recreation”



Overwhelmingly, voters in Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah say the Colorado River is “in need of urgent action.” Support for urgent action is particularly high in Arizona, the furthest down-stream state.

See the Colorado River as “In Need of Urgent Action”

