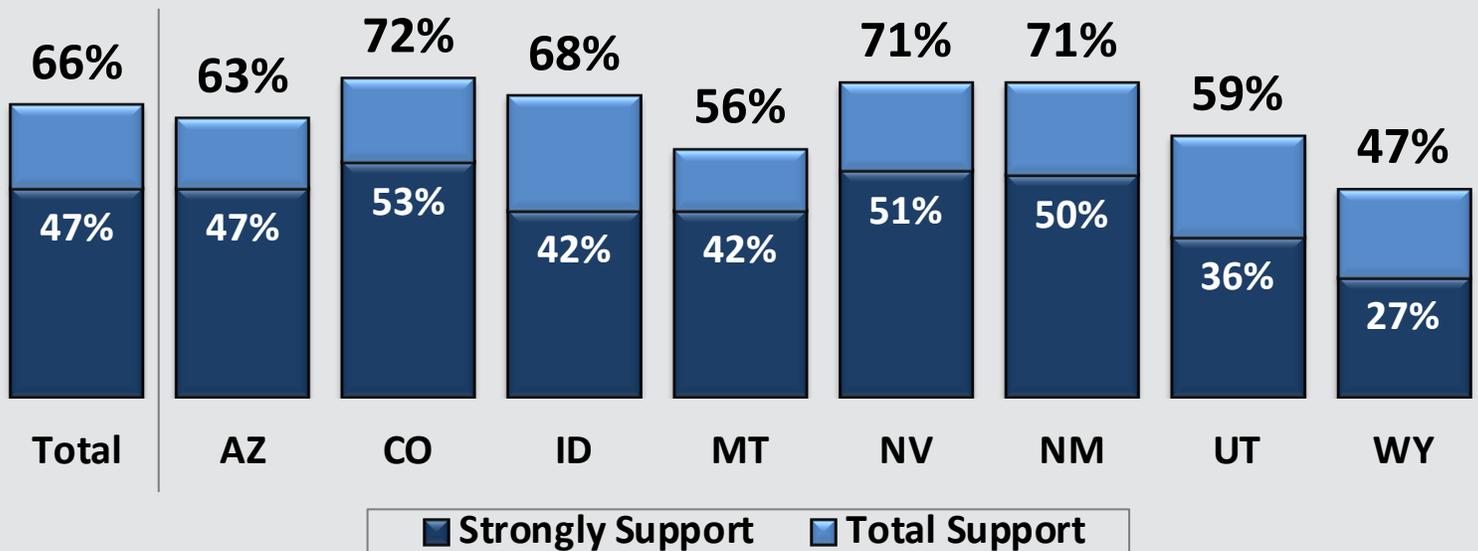


# Energy in the West

*Two-thirds of Western voters advocate for transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy in their state, seeing solar and wind as beneficial for their state's economy. They push for tighter standards on oil and gas production, with nearly two-thirds saying the environmental impact of drilling is a serious problem.*

Two-third of Western voters support gradually transitioning their state to 100 percent of the energy being produced from renewable sources over the next ten to fifteen years. A majority in every state support this transition, except for Wyoming where voters are more divided (47 percent support, but 51 percent oppose).

## Gradually Transitioning to 100% Renewable Energy



Support for this transition to all renewables is particularly strong among key voter sub-groups such as young voters under age 35 (81 percent support), Latinos (83 percent support), moderates (74 percent support), and those who are newer to their state (69 percent support).

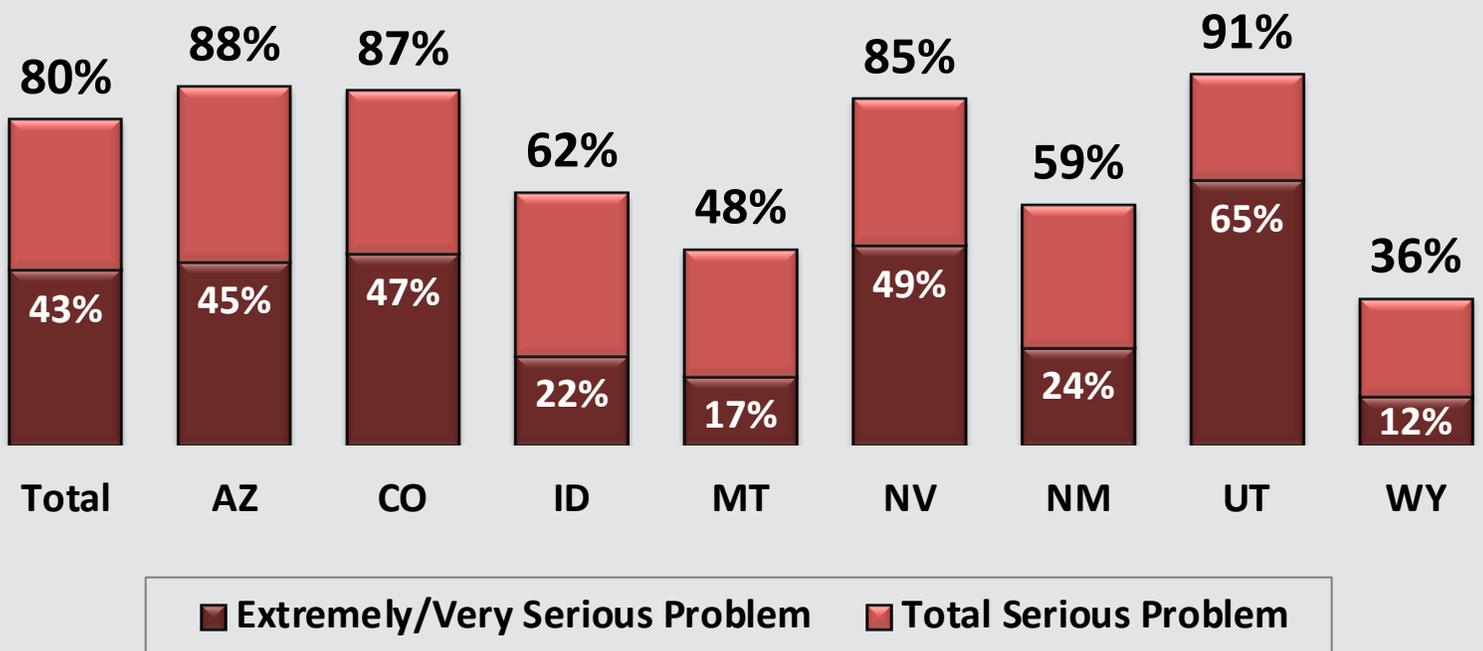
**Voters back solar and wind power as the top sources of energy that should be encouraged in their state.** Voters also assert that these sources of energy will help their state’s economy more than other energy options and efforts. In both questions, oil and coal are far behind in preference and perception of how it would help the state economy, as seen in the accompanying table.

	Encourage	Economy
<b>Solar Power</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Wind Power</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Natural Gas</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Energy Efficiency Efforts</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Nuclear</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Oil</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Coal</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>



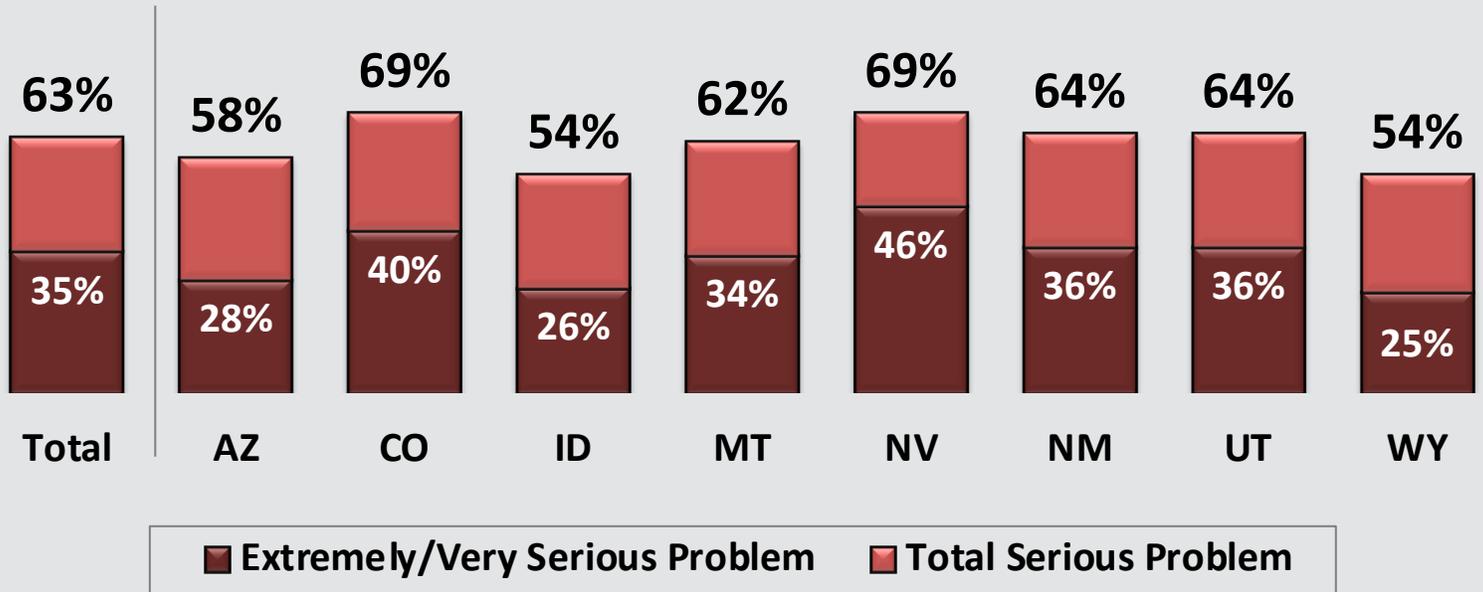
This preference for renewable energy may be grounded in the fact that many Western voters continue to say air pollution and smog is a serious problem in their state. Utah respondents express the greatest concern about this issue, with 91 percent categorizing it as a serious problem in their state – down from 95 percent in 2011. Predictably, voters living in cities (88 percent serious) and suburbs (86 percent) are more likely to say this is a serious issue compared with small town (70 percent serious) and rural voters (66 percent).

### Seriousness of Air Pollution and Smog



**Most Western voters say the impact of oil and gas drilling on our land, air, and water is a serious issue.** Although Republicans are less concerned (43% serious) than Independents (67%), and Democrats (84%).

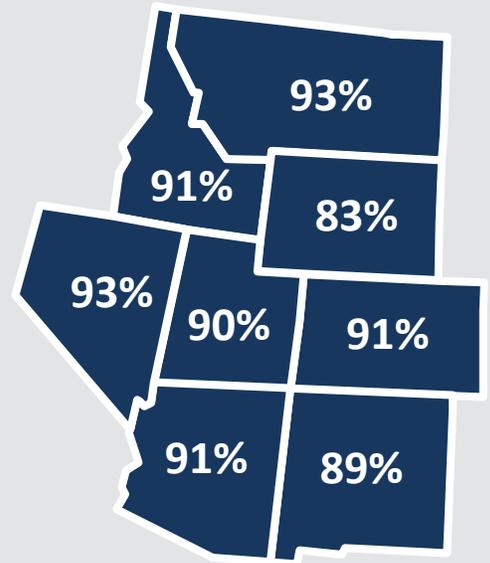
**Impact of Oil and Gas Drilling on Our Land, Air And Water**



There is broad and deep support for a proposal that would require oil and gas companies to use updated equipment and technology to prevent leaks of methane gas and other pollution into the air. In addition to substantial support in all the states interviewed, this proposal is also favored by 88 percent of Republicans, 91 percent of Independents, and 97 percent of Democrats.

**Requiring Oil and Gas Companies to Use Updated Equipment and Technology**

**91%** Support Proposal



Western voters are in almost unanimous agreement that oil and gas companies should be required to pay for all of the clean-up and land restoration costs after drilling is finishing. Support for this proposal is frankly staggering. Over nine-in-ten in each state are in support. Overwhelming support for this proposal transcends gender, age, party lines, community type, and ethnic background.

**Requiring Oil and Gas Companies to Clean-Up and Restore Land After Drilling**

**93%** Support Proposal

