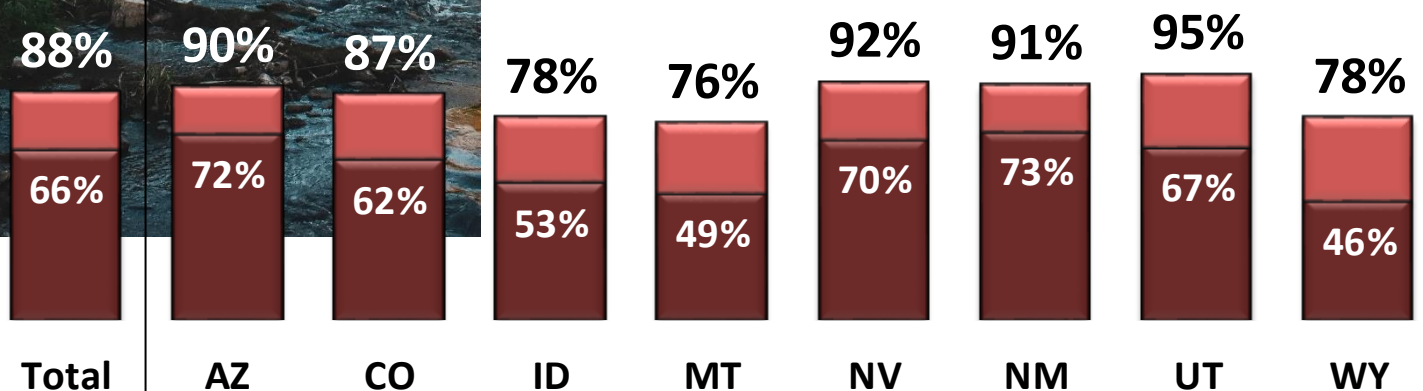


Water in the West

Water continues to be an issue of great concern to Westerners. Virtually all voters say river levels and water supply are serious problems, with voters in the Southwest expressing the most concern. The vast majority of Western voters also consider the pollution of rivers and streams to be a serious problem in their state. Voters voice strong support for promoting nature-based solutions to improve water quality, with majorities of every major demographic subgroup expressing support.

Westerners continue to be highly concerned about inadequate water supplies. Almost nine-in-ten voters (88 percent) say inadequate water supply is a serious problem in their state, with two-thirds (66 percent) saying it an “extremely” or “very” serious problem. Not surprisingly, inadequate water supply is of most concern in some of the down-stream Colorado River Compact states, such as Utah (95 percent), Nevada (92 percent), New Mexico (91 percent) and Arizona (90 percent).

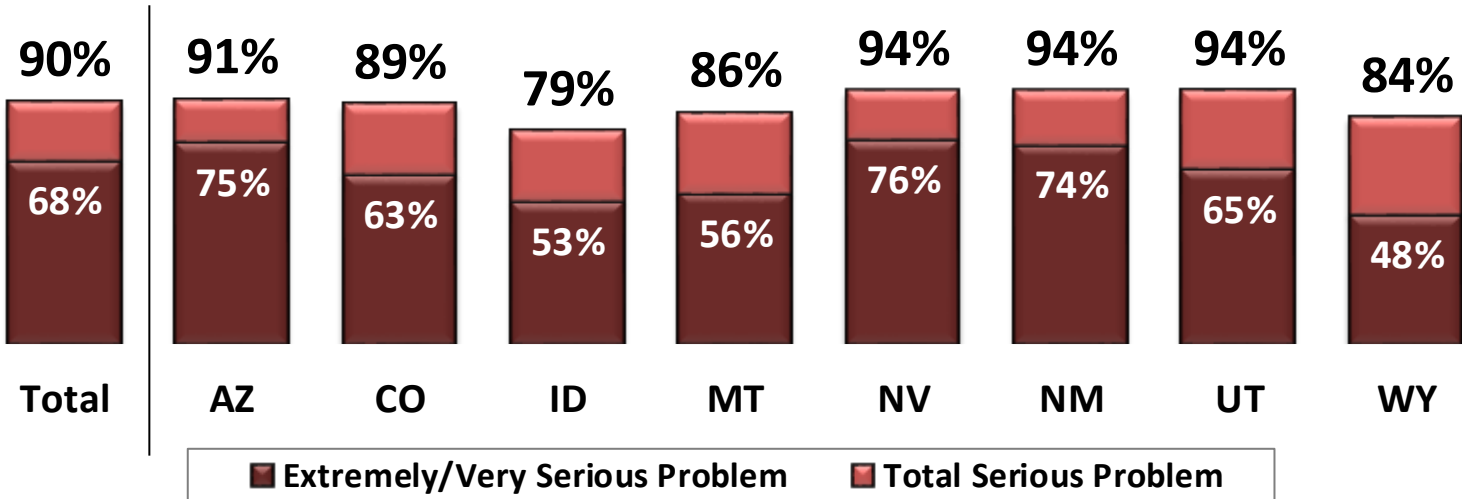
Inadequate Water Supplies



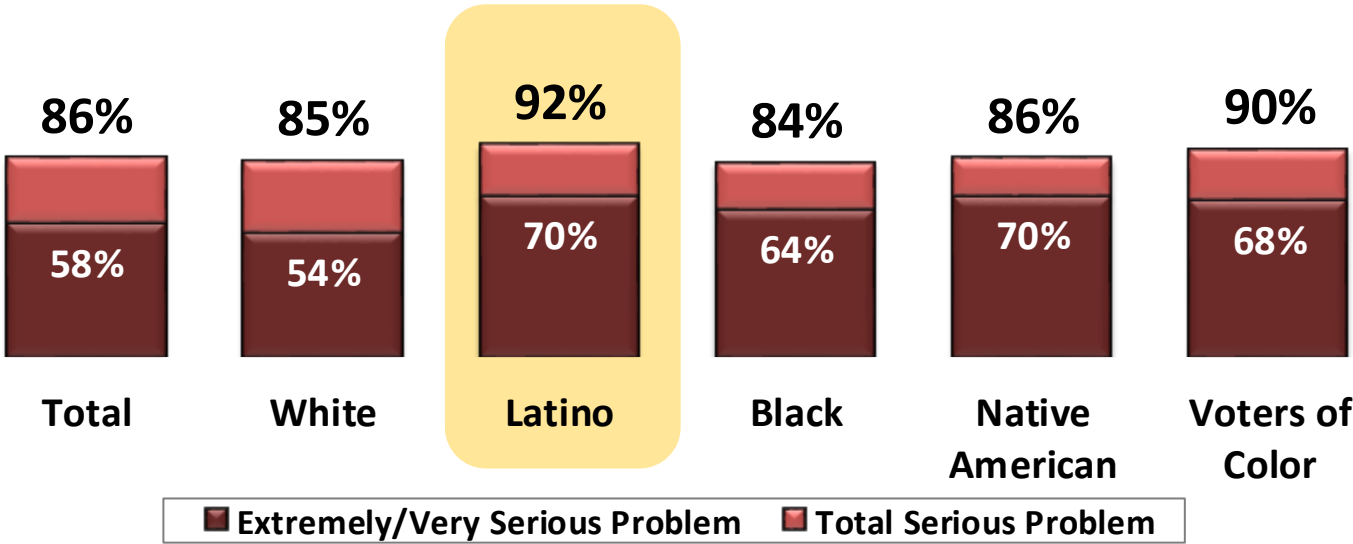
■ Extremely/Very Serious Problem ■ Total Serious Problem

Similarly, the low level of water in rivers continues to be a grave concern. Virtually all Westerners (91 percent) say low river levels are a serious problem, consistent with prior years (94 percent in 2024 and 93 percent in 2023). 68 percent say it is an “extremely” or “very” serious problem. Again, concern is more intense the farther South one moves in this region.

Low level of water in rivers



In addition to water supply, pollution is also a big concern. The vast majority (86 percent) say **pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams** is a serious problem with almost six-in-ten voters (58 percent) characterizing it as an “extremely” or “very” serious problem. Concern over pollution is particularly high among Latino voters (92 percent serious, 70 percent “extremely” or “very” serious) and Gen Z (95 percent serious, 72 percent “extremely” or “very” serious).





Western voters are incredibly supportive of promoting nature-based solutions to improve water quality. More than nine-in-ten Western voters (92 percent) support “promoting nature-based solutions to improve water quality, such as conserving forests and lands along rivers, lakes and streams, rather than solely relying on man-made infrastructure.” Support is strong in all eight Western states and across all major demographic subgroups. Voters across the political spectrum, including 89 percent of Republicans, 92 percent of independents and 96 percent of Democrats express support.

Promoting nature-based solutions to improve water quality

