
CONSERVATION IN THE WEST

THE 2026 SURVEY OF THE ATTITUDES OF VOTERS IN EIGHT WESTERN STATES

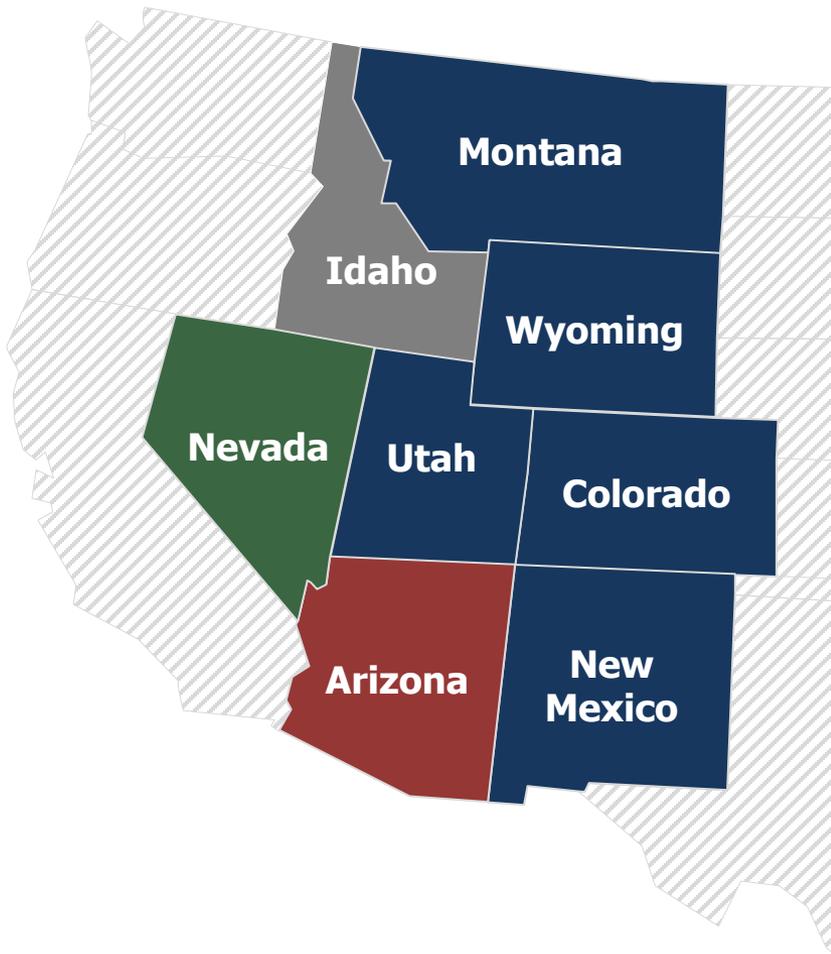


JANUARY 2026

**CONDUCTED BY: LORI WEIGEL & KATHRYN HAHNE/ NEW BRIDGE STRATEGY
MIRANDA EVERITT / FAIRBANK, MASLIN, MAULLIN, METZ & ASSOCIATES**

Methodology

- ❖ 3,419 telephone and online interviews with registered voters in eight states: Arizona (N=479), Colorado (N=422), Idaho (N=410), Montana (N=408), Nevada (N=442), New Mexico (N=443), Utah (N=409), and Wyoming (N=406).
- ❖ Two oversamples were also conducted to have greater ability to report distinctions among racial/ethnic sub-groups. We conducted additional interviews to reach a total of N=239 Black voters and a total of N=247 Native American voters, which were then weighted back to reflect their true proportions within the electorate in this region.
- ❖ Interviews were conducted January 2-18, 2026, in Spanish and English.
- ❖ The effective margin of error is $\pm 2.4\%$ at the 95% confidence interval for the total sample; and at most $\pm 4.9\%$ for each state.
- ❖ The total numbers have been statistically weighted to reflect the true geographic distribution of voters throughout the region. Interviews within each state were distributed proportionally by region.
- ❖ Comparisons are made to similarly conducted surveys each year from 2011 to 2025.
- ❖ Bi-partisan research team of New Bridge Strategy (R) and Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (D).



Over the past decade, the number of states included in this survey has increased.

In order to provide accurate comparisons over time, we compare data based on only the states interviewed in that year as follows:

2011 5 States: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

2012-2015 6 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

2016-2017 7 States: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

2018-2026 8 States: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

Key Demographics

Gender



Male
Female

48%
52%

Age



18-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65+

23%
21%
14%
18%
24%

Geography



Big City
Suburb
Small Town
Rural

24%
42%
17%
17%

Education



High School or Less
Some College
College Grad
Post Grad

21%
30%
34%
15%

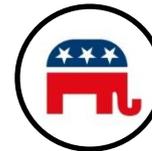
Ethnicity



White
Voters of color

72%
28%

Party



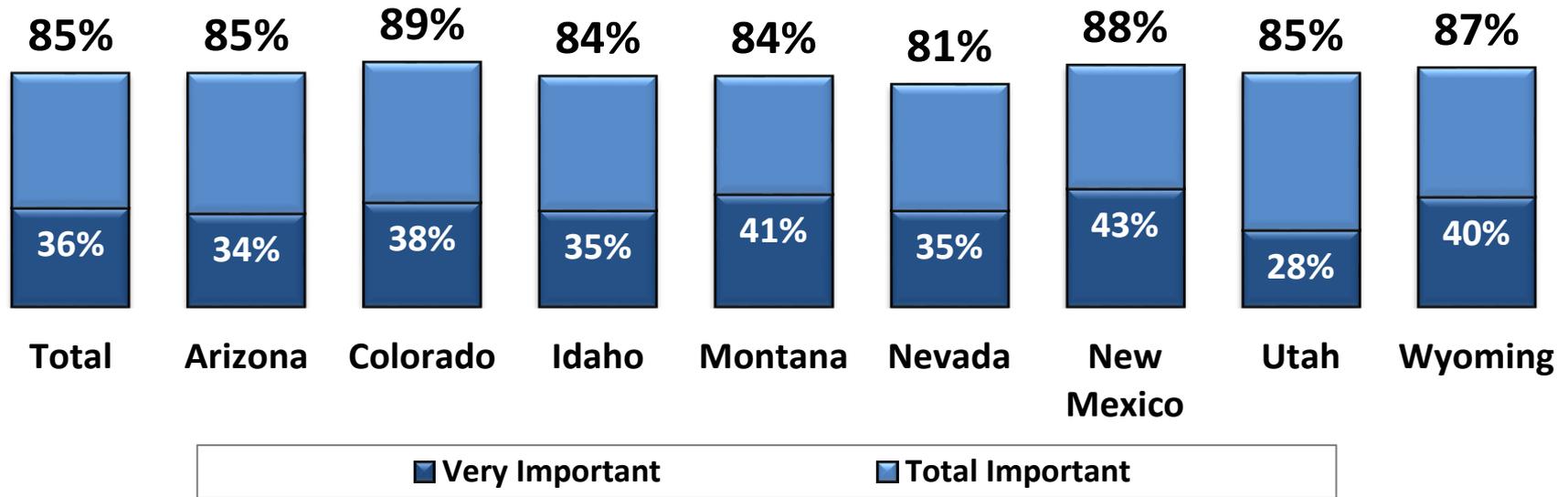
Republican
Independent
Democrat
MAGA Supporters

36%
36%
28%
35%



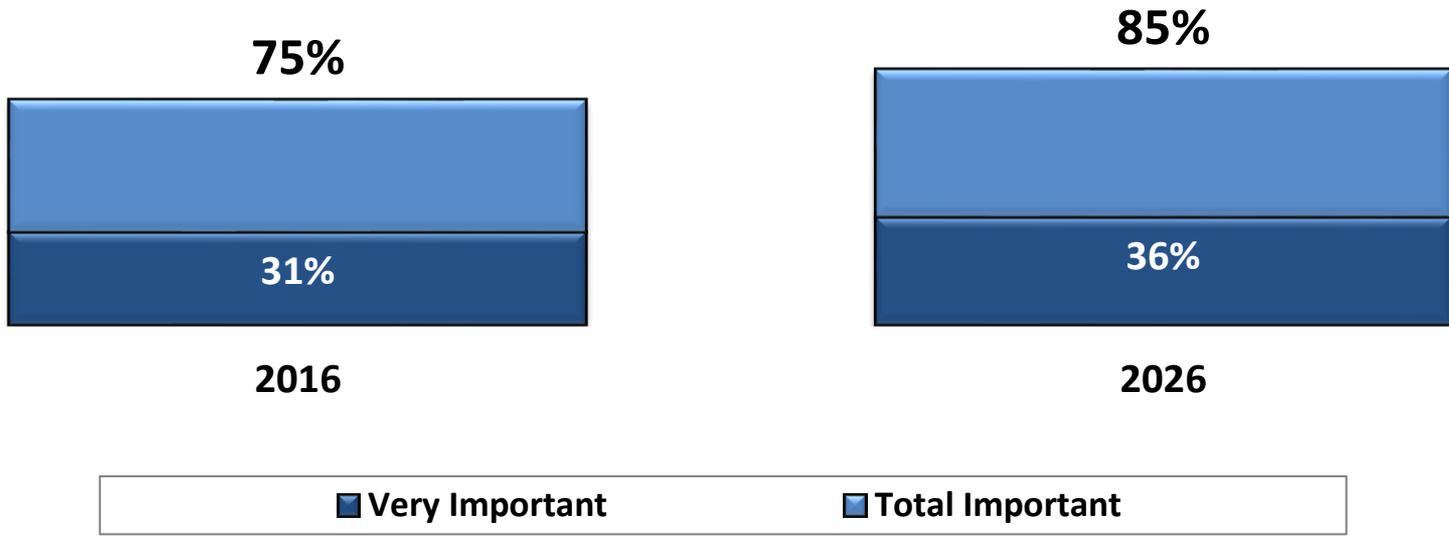
Conservation in 2026

More than four-in-five voters across all eight states say conservation issues are important in deciding whether to support an elected official.



Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving public lands, waters, and wildlife for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official? Are they...

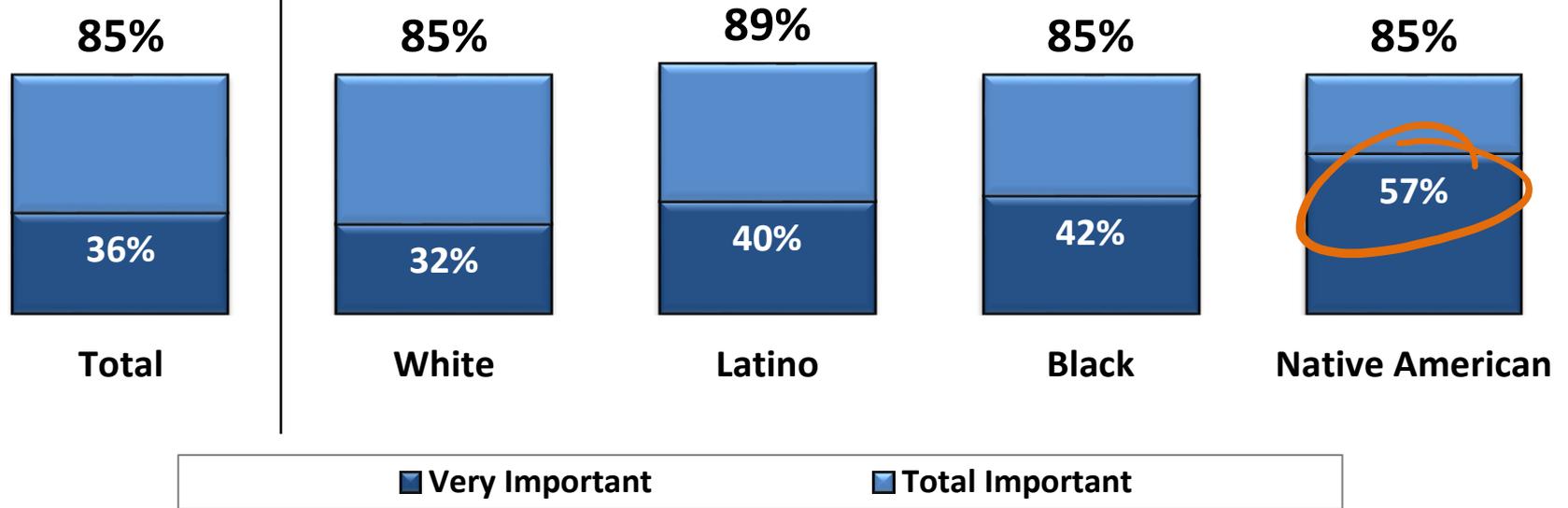
The importance of issues involving public lands, waters and wildlife is considerably higher than a decade ago.



Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving public lands, waters, and wildlife for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official? Are they...

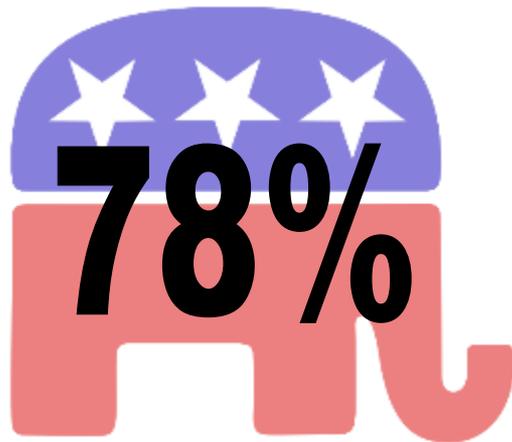
Showing 2020-2026 data by just 2016 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

Nearly three-in-five Native American voters say these issues involving public lands, waters, and wildlife are very important compared to other issues.



Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving public lands, waters, and wildlife for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official? Are they...

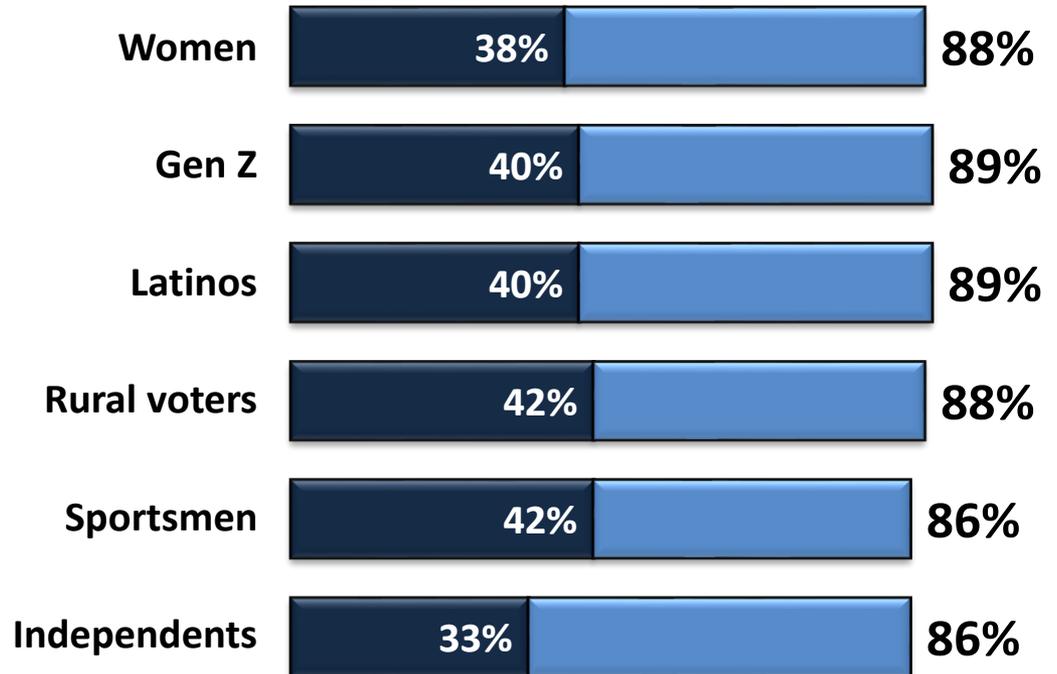
Solid majorities of voters across party lines say these issues are important in deciding whether to support an elected official.



Showing % Total Important

Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, wildlife and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official?

A number of key voter groups say conservation issues are important in how they view elected officials.

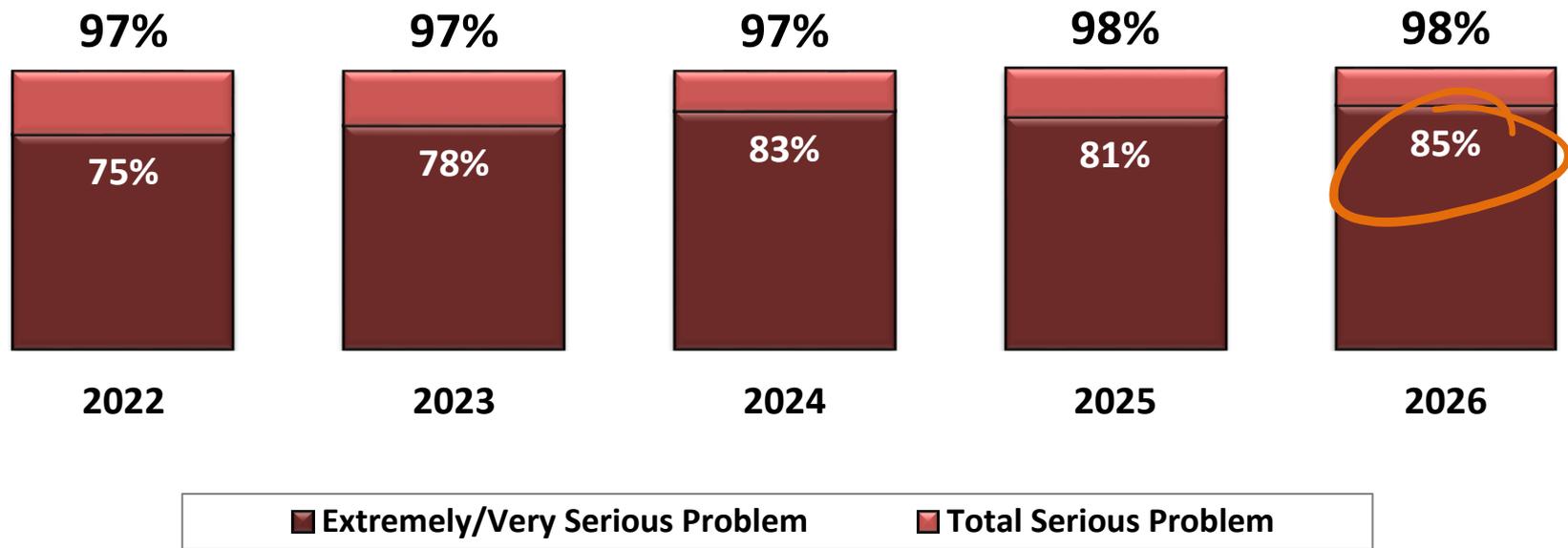


■ Very Important ■ Total Important

Compared to other issues like the economy, health care and education, how important are issues involving clean water, clean air, wildlife and public lands for you in deciding whether to support an elected public official?

The fact that conservation is viewed as important compared to other issues is even more significant given that affordability continues to be a major concern.

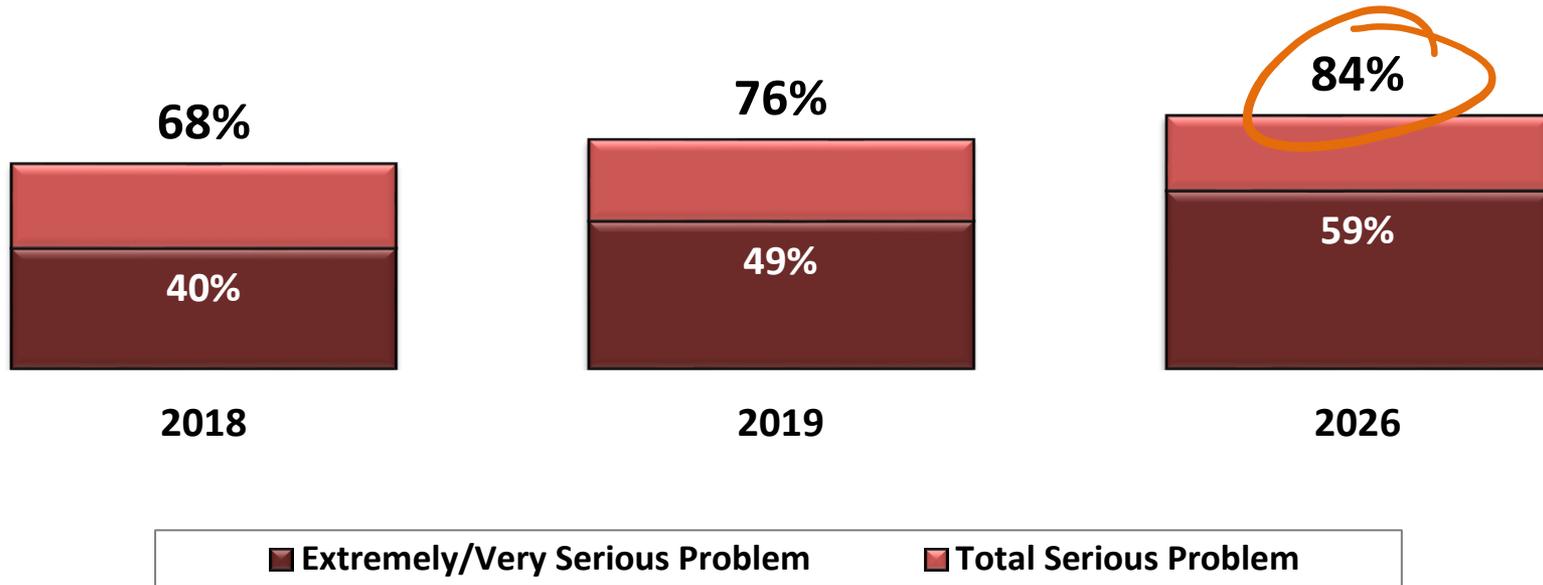
The rising cost of living



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **The rising cost of living** (Asked of N=1726)

Nearly three-in-five voters say the rollbacks of laws that protect our land, water, and wildlife are an extremely or very serious problem – a significant increase from 2019.

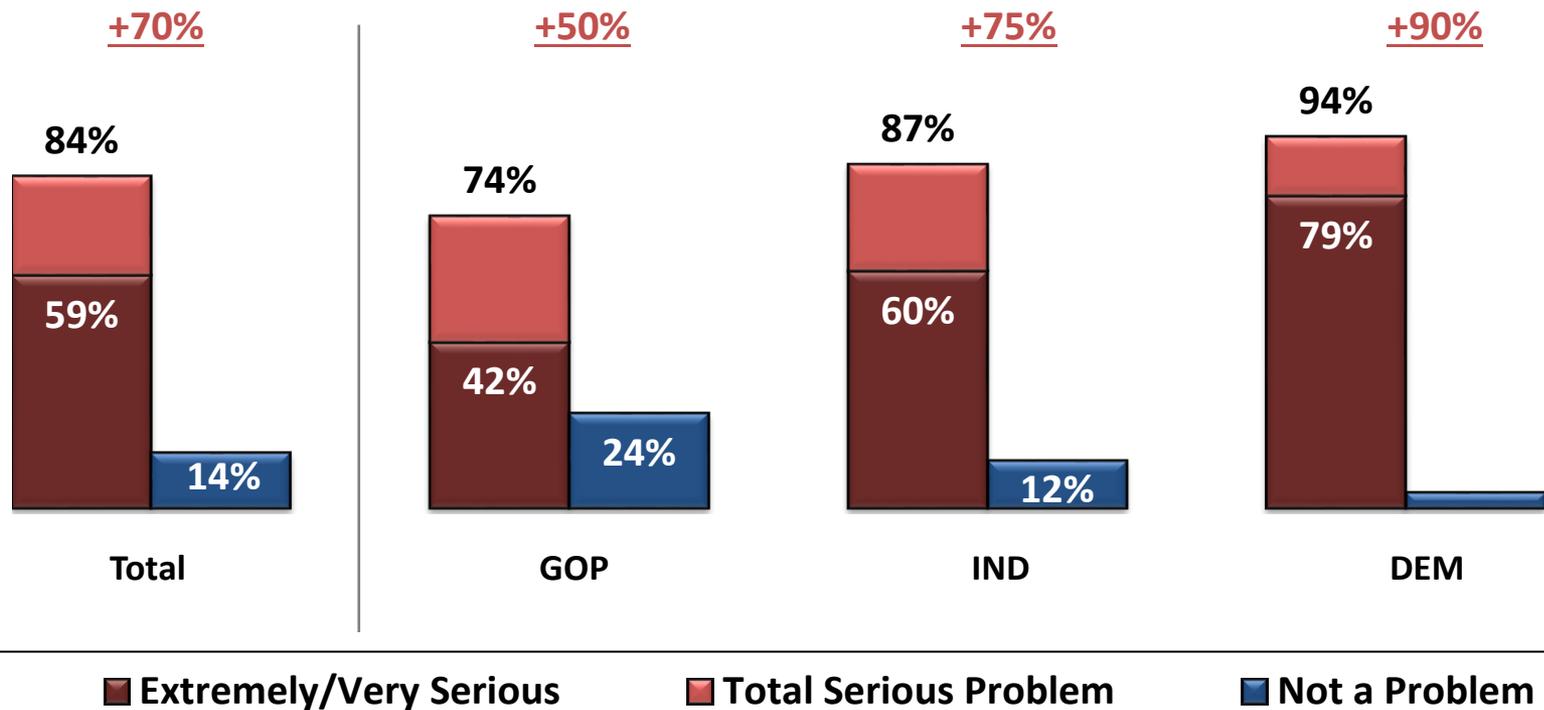
Rollbacks of laws that protect our land, water, and wildlife



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Rollbacks of laws that protect our land, water, and wildlife** (Asked N=1726)

Vast majorities across party lines say the rollback of environmental laws is a serious problem.

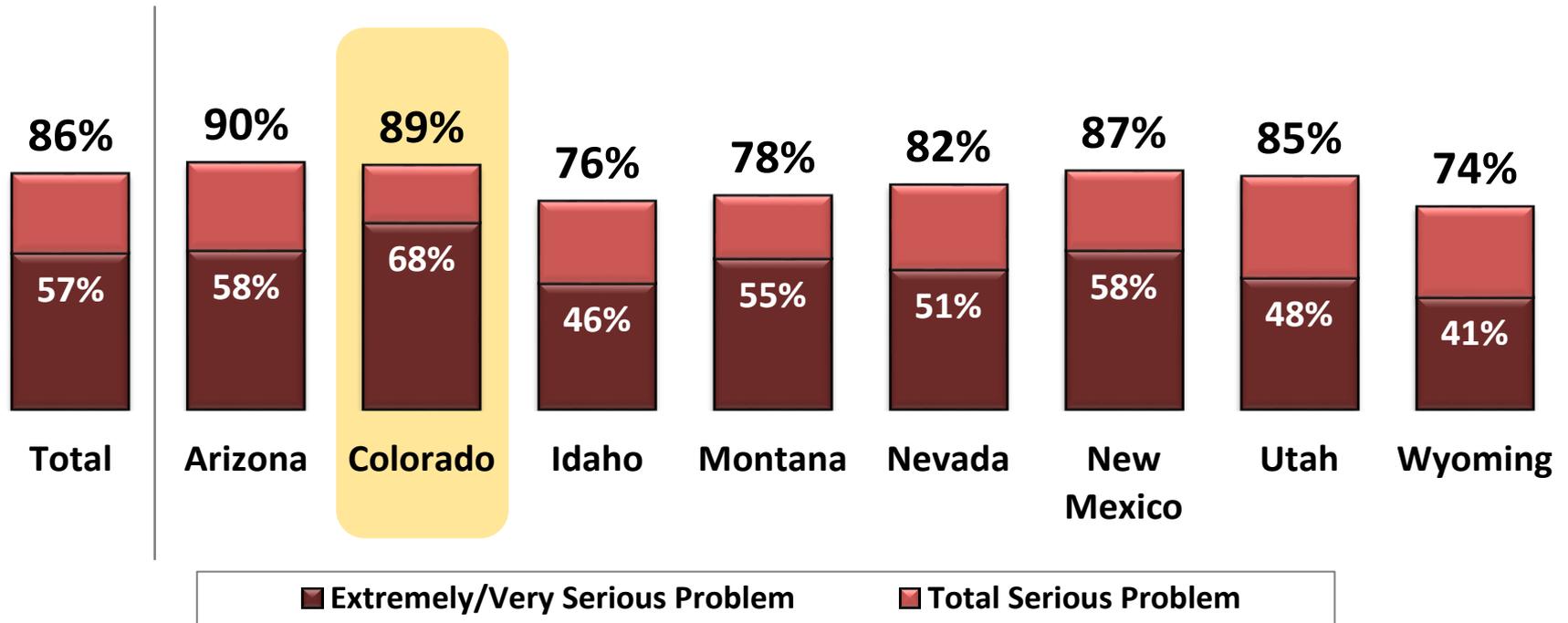
Rollbacks of laws that protect our land, water, and wildlife



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Rollbacks of laws that protect our land, water, and wildlife** (Asked N=1726)

Funding cuts to public lands are also deemed a serious problem by about three-fourths in every state; Colorado stands out.

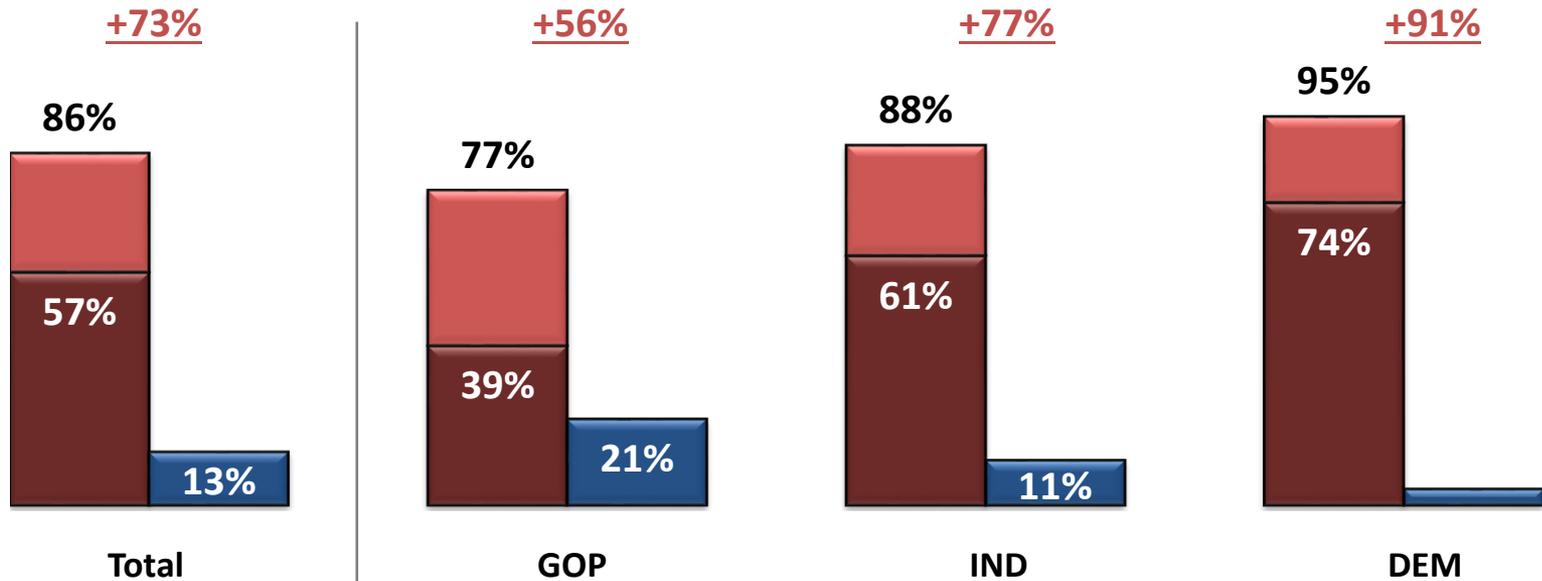
Funding cuts to management of national parks, forests and other public lands



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Funding cuts to management of national parks, forests and other public lands** (Asked N=1693)

Again, majorities across party lines say funding cuts to management of public lands are a serious problem.

Funding cuts to management of national parks, forests and other public lands

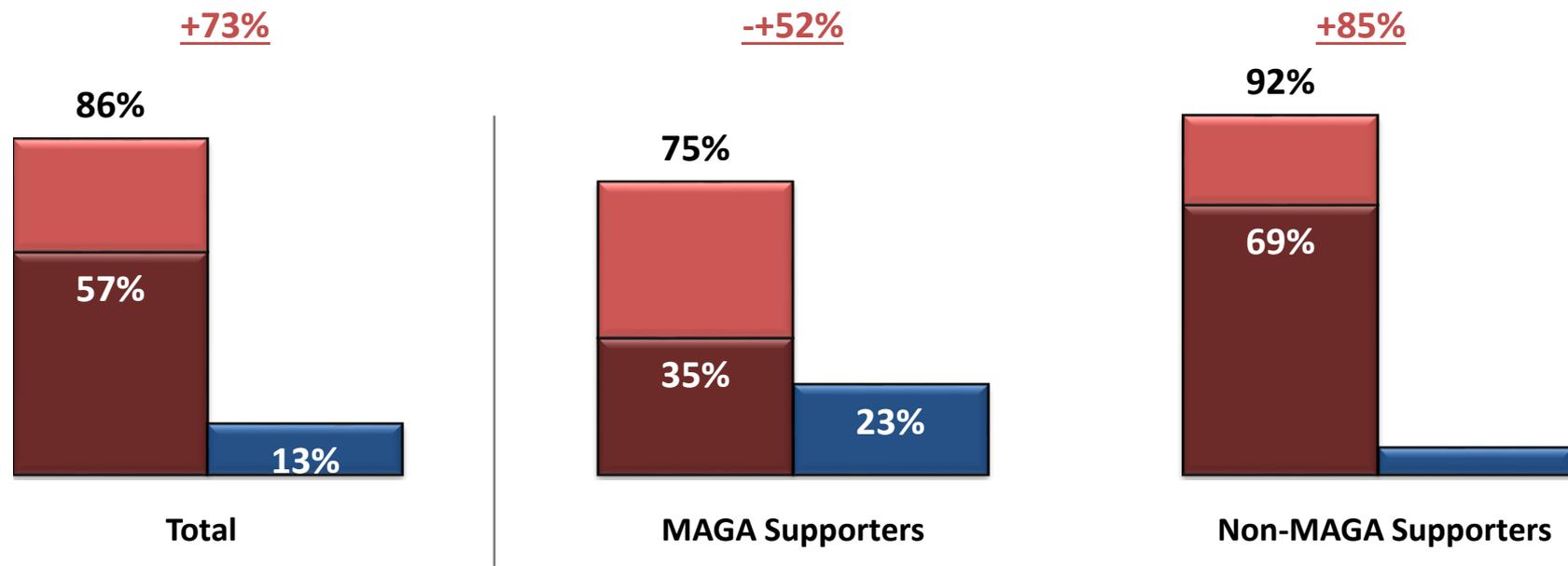


■ Extremely/Very Serious ■ Total Serious Problem ■ Not a Problem

For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). Funding cuts to management of national parks, forests and other public lands (Asked N=1693)

Even three-quarters of MAGA supporters say funding cuts are a problem, although with less intensity than the rest of the electorate.

Funding cuts to management of national parks, forests and other public lands

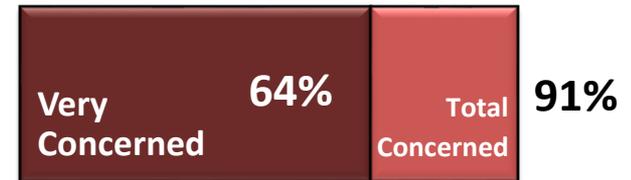


Extremely/Very Serious
 Total Serious Problem
 Not a Problem

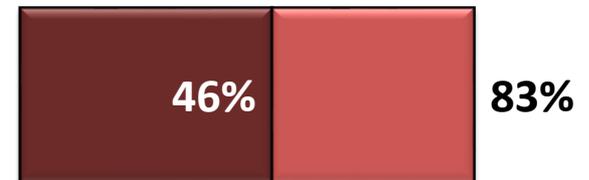
For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). Funding cuts to management of national parks, forests and other public lands (Asked N=1693)

More than four-in-five Western voters are concerned about having fewer firefighters, park rangers and biologists working in government agencies.

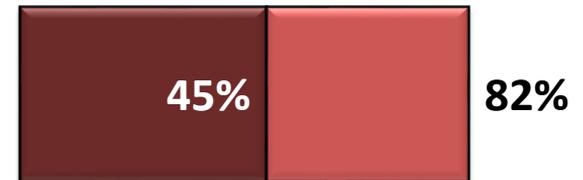
Fewer wildland firefighters and support staff are reducing the risk of and fighting fires that threaten national public lands and nearby communities



Fewer park rangers and other employees are providing visitor services and maintaining national public lands^



Fewer scientists and wildlife biologists are monitoring and caring for fish and wildlife on national public lands*

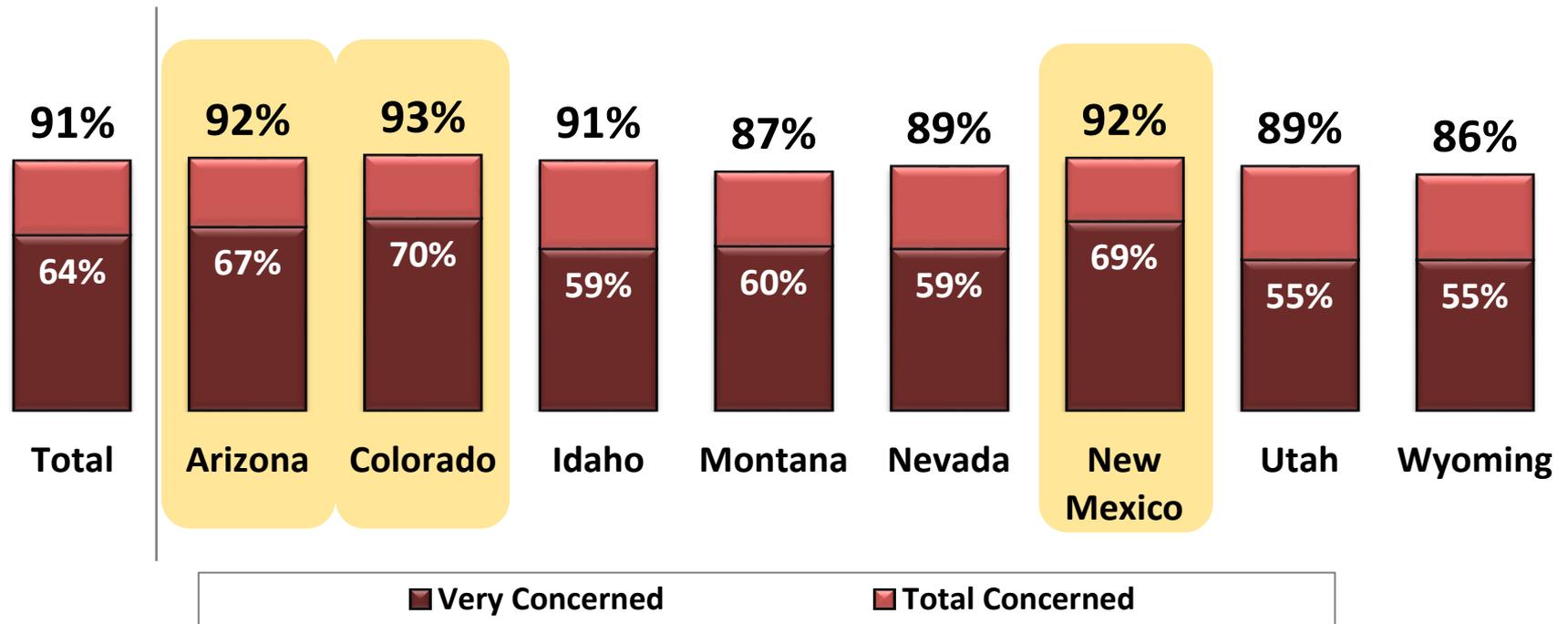


As you may know, government agencies which manage national public lands have experienced budget cuts and employee layoffs. How concerned are you about each of the following – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, not at all concerned?

(*Asked of N=1726 ^Asked of N=1693)

Majorities of voters across the region say they are concerned about fewer wildland firefighters. Concern is most intense among voters in Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico.

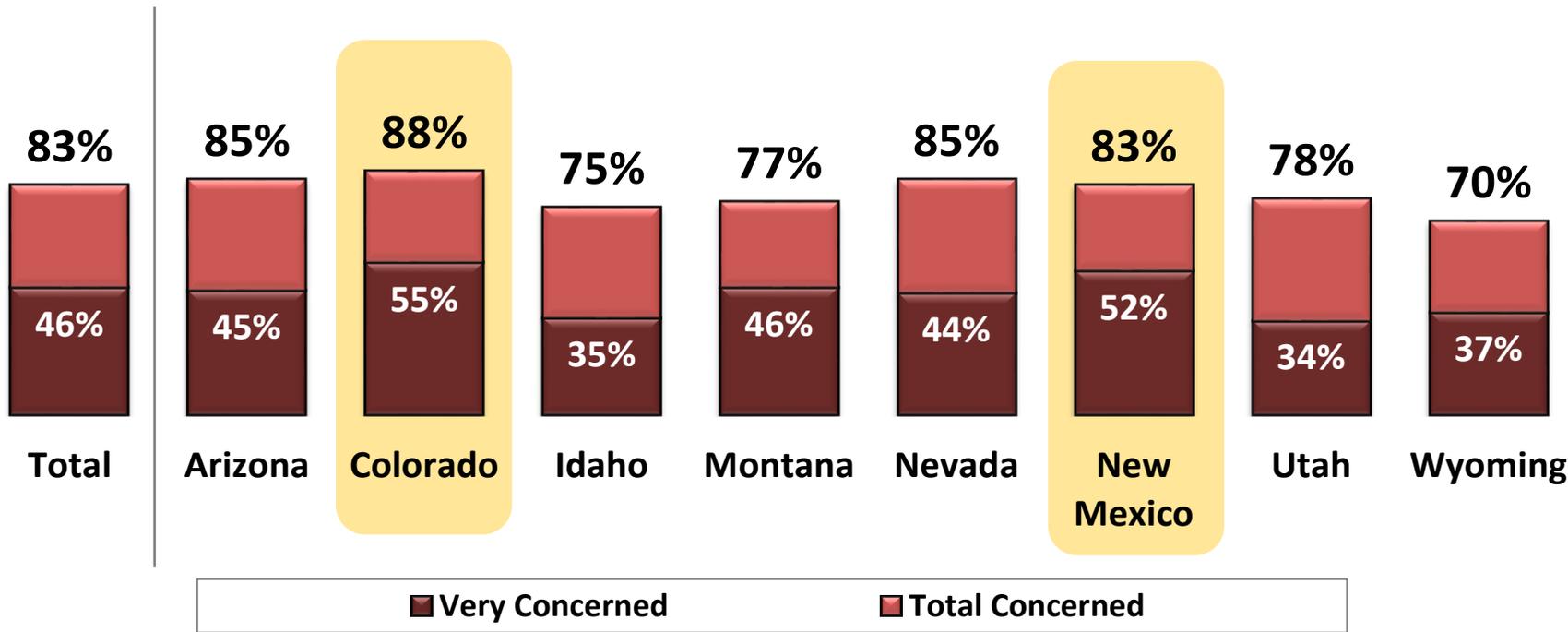
Fewer wildland firefighters and support staff are reducing the risk of and fighting fires that threaten national public lands and nearby communities



As you may know, government agencies which manage national public lands have experienced budget cuts and employee layoffs. How concerned are you about each of the following – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, not at all concerned?

Most voters across all eight states are concerned about fewer park rangers. More than half of voters in Colorado and New Mexico are very concerned.

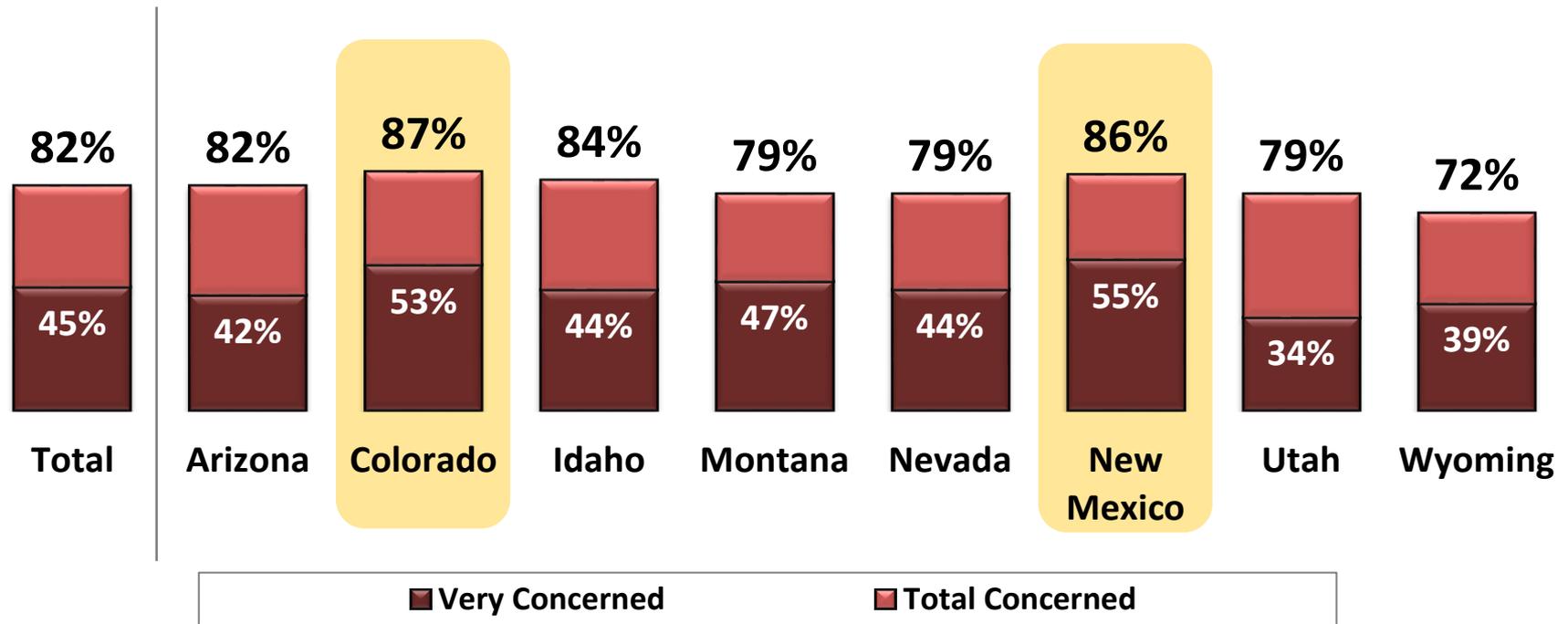
Fewer park rangers and other employees are providing visitor services and maintaining national public lands



As you may know, government agencies which manage national public lands have experienced budget cuts and employee layoffs. How concerned are you about each of the following – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, not at all concerned? (Asked of N=1693)

Similarly, voters in Colorado and New Mexico are the most intensely concerned about fewer scientists and wildlife biologists working on national public lands.

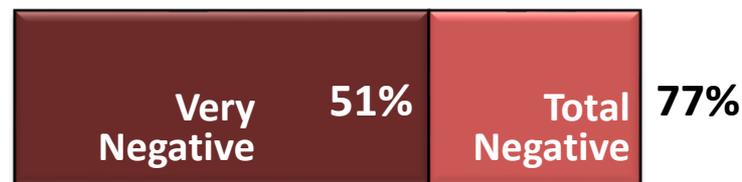
Fewer scientists and wildlife biologists are monitoring and caring for fish and wildlife on national public lands



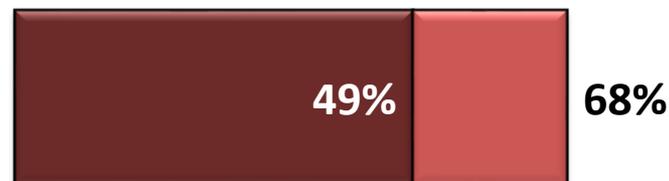
As you may know, government agencies which manage national public lands have experienced budget cuts and employee layoffs. How concerned are you about each of the following – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, not at all concerned? (Asked of N=1726)

More than two-thirds of voters believe these changes in laws and rules affecting natural areas will have a negative impact on the West.

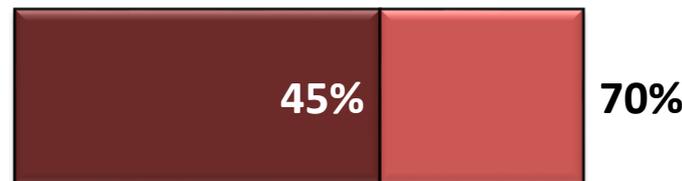
Removing Clean Water Act protections from smaller streams and seasonal wetlands



Removing the requirement that oil and gas companies use updated equipment and technology to prevent leaks of methane gas and other pollution into the air*



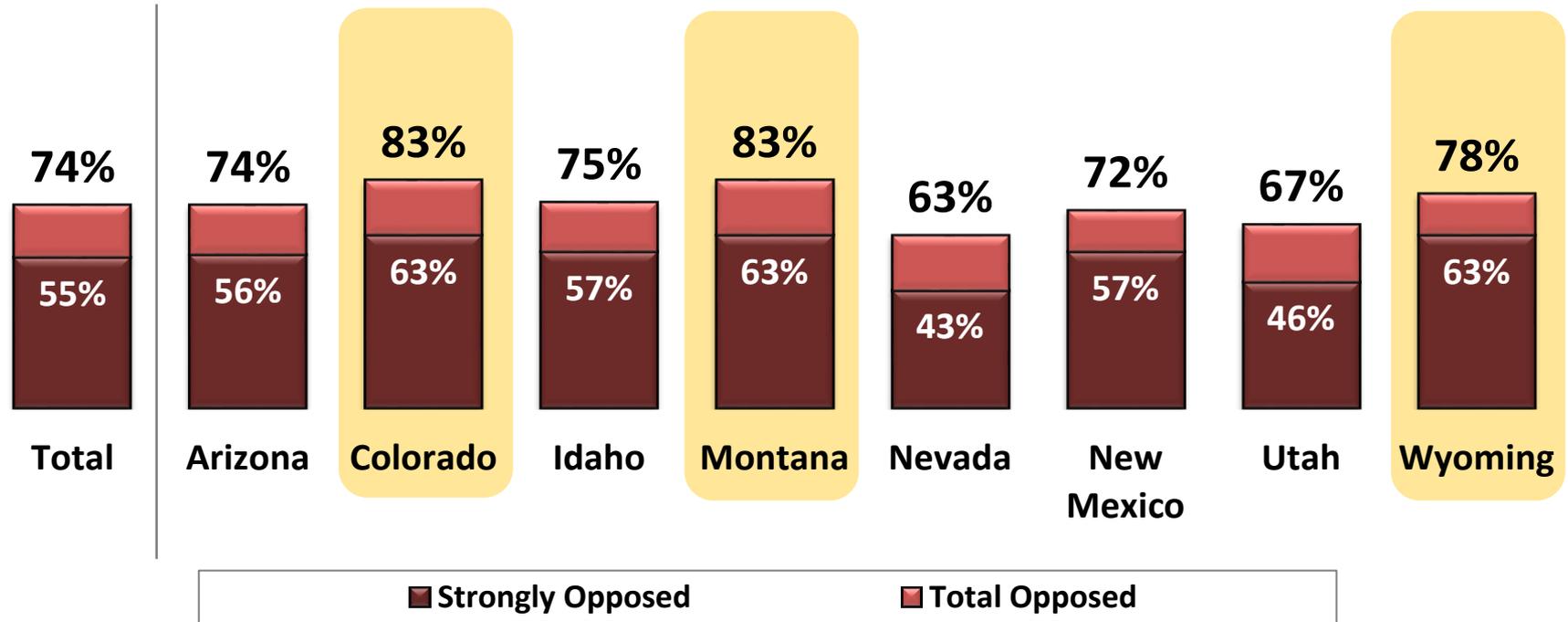
Rolling back protections for some plants and wildlife at danger of becoming extinct that are currently protected under the Endangered Species Act^



*There have been some changes in the rules and standards affecting natural areas, water and wildlife recently. For each of the following, please indicate whether you think that change will have a very positive impact, somewhat positive, somewhat negative or very negative impact on the West. (*Asked of N=1726, ^Asked of N=1693)*

Westerners across all eight states are opposed to selling national public lands for oil and gas development.

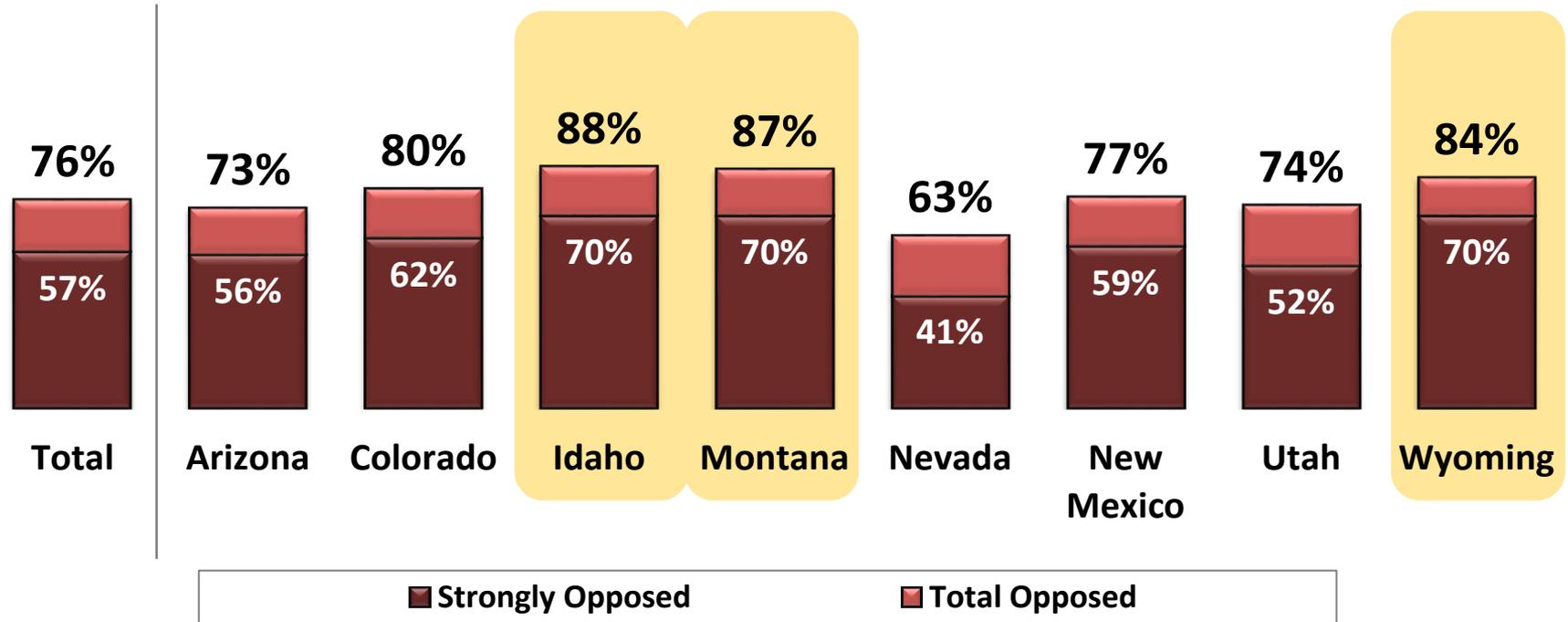
Selling some national public lands to private companies for oil, gas and mining development



Please indicate if you would support or oppose each one. **Selling some national public lands to private companies for housing development.** (Asked of N=1693)

Voters across the west are also opposed to selling national public lands for housing, with strong opposition in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

Selling some national public lands to private companies for housing development



Please indicate if you would support or oppose each one. **Selling some national public lands to private companies for housing development.** (Asked of N=1726)



Conservation & Public Lands

When given the opportunity to send a message to their Member of Congress Westerners say to protect public lands and keep them in public hands.

Showing top mentions from open-ended responses

Preserve/protect public lands for future generations	19%
Keep public lands public	13%
Protect wildlife and their habitats	13%
Maintain/increase funding for national parks and public lands	9%
Stop/limit development and building on public lands	5%
Protect water resources and water quality	4%
Take action on climate change/environmental protection	4%
Stop drilling/mining/resource extraction on public lands	4%

If you could send a message to your Member of Congress regarding the future of our national public lands and what is most important to you when you think about those lands, what would your message be? (Asked of N=1732)

Only showing summary categories 4% and above

Open-ended question responses from voters:

"Once they are gone, they are gone for good. We need to preserve them for future generations to enjoy, just as our ancestors did for us."
Male, Age 65+, DEM, MT

"Public lands need to remain in public hands. They belong to we the people and should not be sold to private interests."
Female, Age 35-44, GOP, WY

"What is done to public land should be up to the people."
Male, Age 45-54, DEM, NM

"Conservation of land and protection of the environment are the most important."
Male, Age 35-44, GOP, ID

"Keep the funding in place to keep them safe."
Male, Age 65+, GOP, MT

"Do not ever allow their sale. If Mike Lee ever tries to do it again, rebuke him."
Male, Age 25-34, GOP, WY

"We only borrow from our children. Let's make sure they have a beautiful future."
Female, Age 25-34, DEM, CO

"I would tell them to take climate change seriously. They may not be alive to see the effects but our future will."
Male, Age 35-44, GOP, NV

"It's important to balance protecting natural lands and animals as well as needs to sustain human life."
Female, Age 55-64. GOP, UT

"I live in Idaho because of the vast amount of nature. It's beautiful here and I would hate to see it disappear. Hunting is a way of life for my family."
Female, Age 25-34, IND, ID

"We need to keep the beauty of New Mexico lands. The Native Lands are a key to our history. These tribes deserve water to properly grow and keep the younger natives in their lands to carry on traditions."
Male, Age 35-44, IND, NM

"We need our public lands to preserve our heritage and have safe places for recreation."
Female, Age 65+, DEM, AZ

If you could send a message to your Member of Congress regarding the future of our national public lands and what is most important to you when you think about those lands, what would your message be? (Asked of N=1732)

The share of voters saying issues involving public lands are partisan has increased in the last ten years, however nearly two-in-three still say they are issues where people have more in common.

2016

2026

Issues where people have more in common and we should be able to find common ground in order to get things done

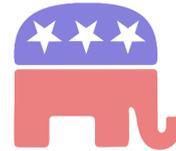
85% 64%

Issues where there are more partisan or other differences that will make it very hard to get things done

10% 34%

*When you think about these issues involving public lands, waters, and wildlife in your state – do you think those are more –
Showing 2026 data by 2016 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY*

Sentiment is consistent across party lines.



Issues where people have more in common and we should be able to find common ground in order to get things done

65% 65% 63%

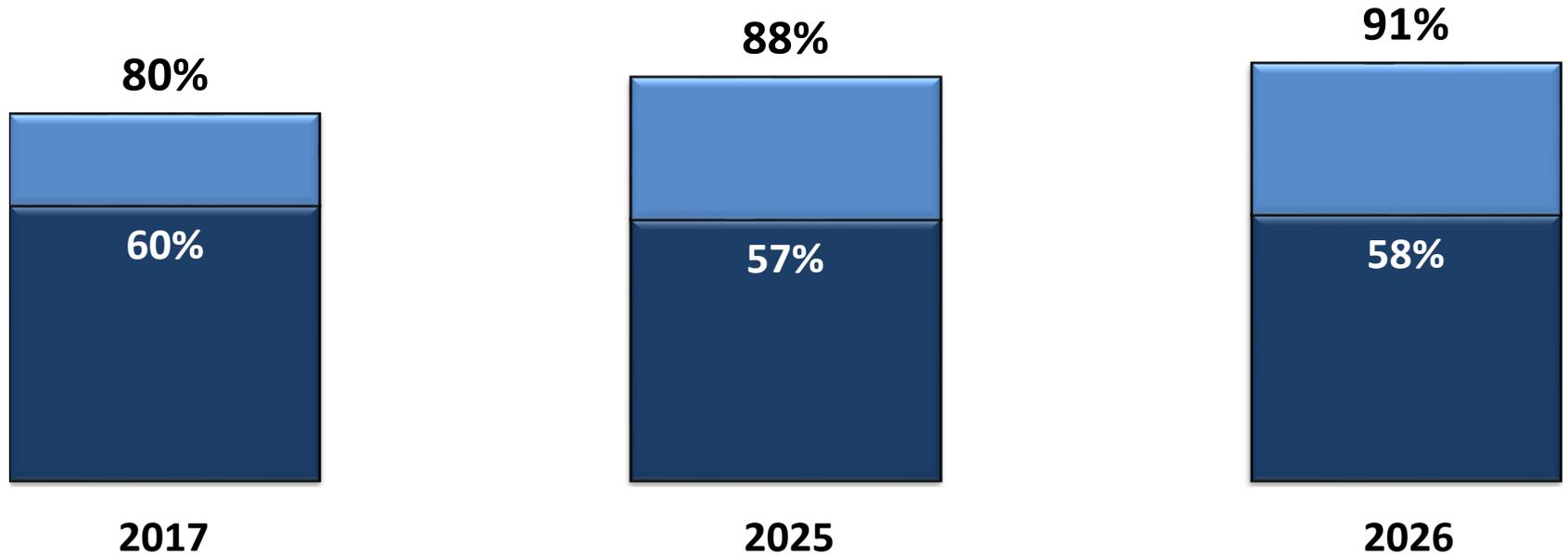
Issues where there are more partisan or other differences that will make it very hard to get things done

33% 33% 36%

When you think about these issues involving public lands, waters, and wildlife in your state – do you think those are more –

More western voters say existing national monument designations should be kept in place than in the past.

Keep Existing National Monument Designations



■ Definitely Keep In Place

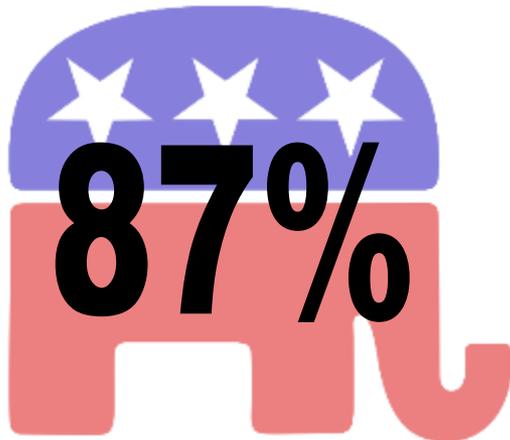
■ Total Keep In Place

And, do you think that existing national monument designations for some public lands protected over the last decade should be kept in place OR should they be removed?

Showing 2025-2026 data by just 2017 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

The support for keeping national monument designations is evident across party lines.

Keep existing national monument designations

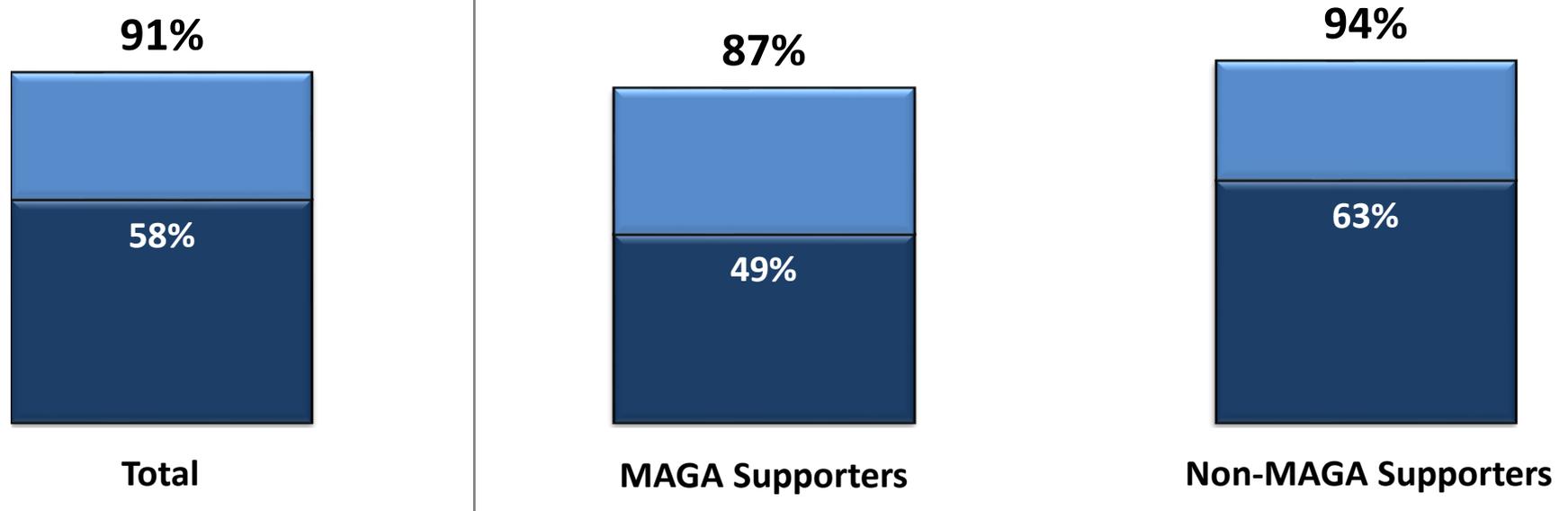


% Total Keep In Place

And, do you think that existing national monument designations for some public lands protected over the last decade should be kept in place OR should they be removed?

Support for keeping existing national monument designations is strong among MAGA and non-MAGA supporters.

Keep existing national monument designations



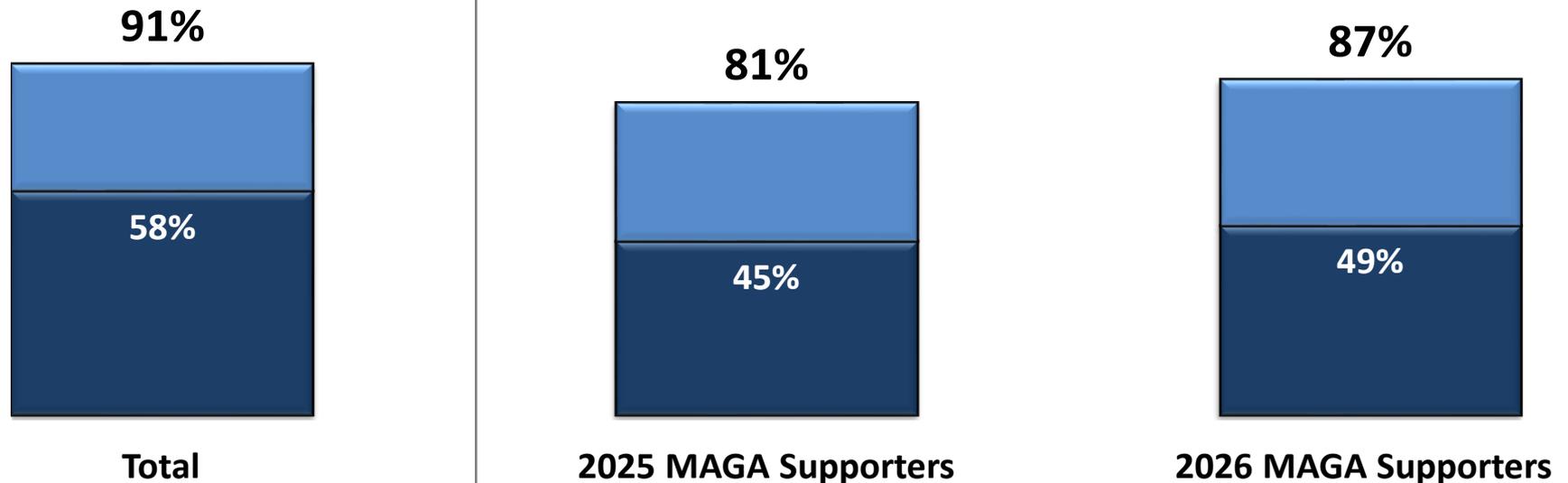
■ Definitely Keep In Place

■ Total Keep In Place

And, do you think that existing national monument designations for some public lands protected over the last decade should be kept in place or should they be removed?

Support for keeping national monument designations in place has increased significantly among MAGA supporters in the last year.

Keep existing national monument designations



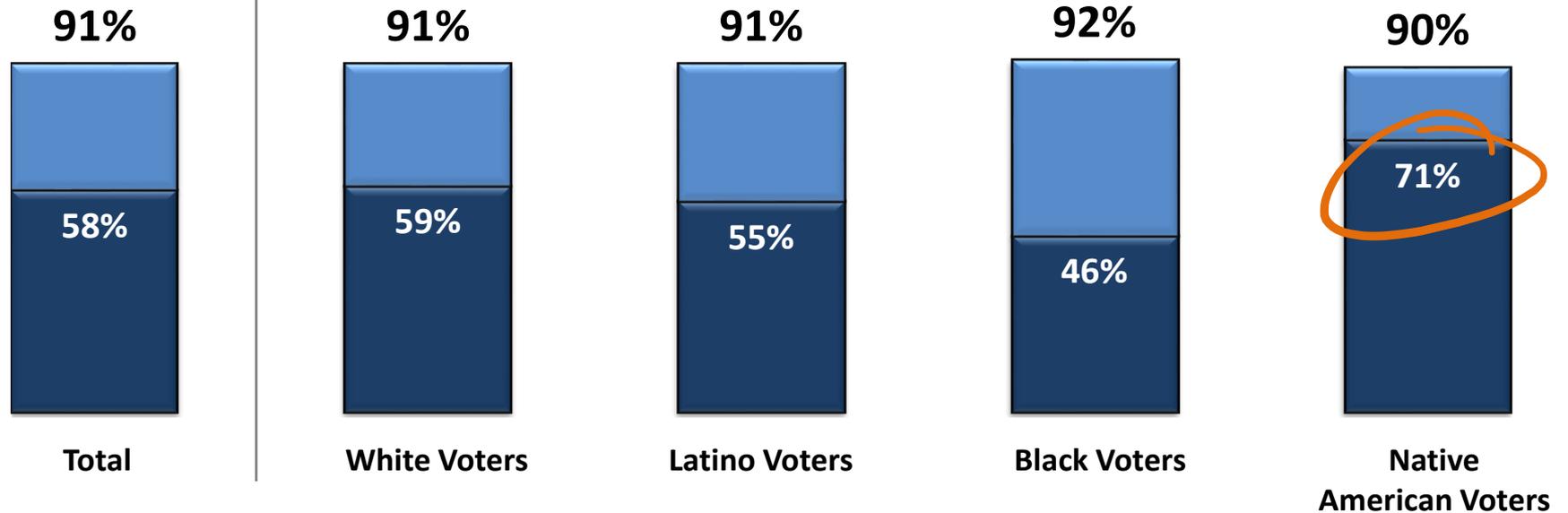
■ Definitely Keep In Place

■ Total Keep In Place

And, do you think that existing national monument designations for some public lands protected over the last decade should be kept in place or should they be removed?

Nearly three-in-four Native American voters say we should *definitely* keep existing national monument designations in place.

Keep existing national monument designations



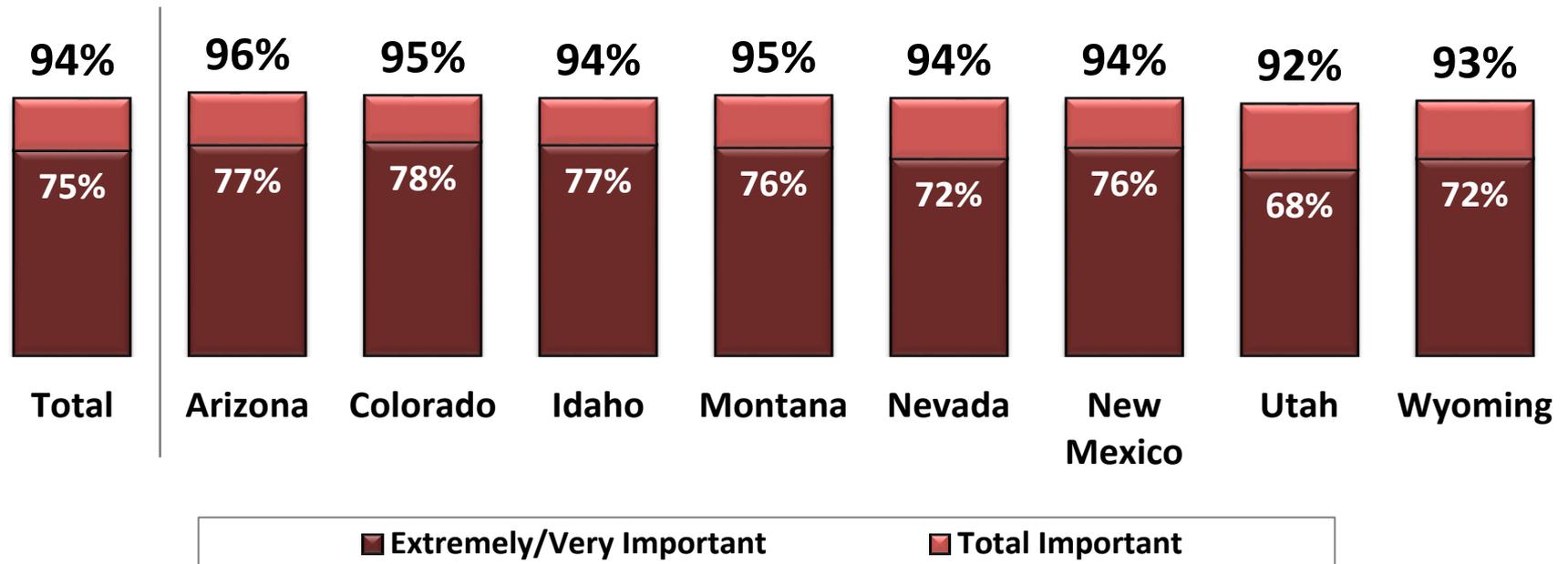
■ Definitely Keep In Place

■ Total Keep In Place

And, do you think that existing national monument designations for some public lands protected over the last decade should be kept in place or should they be removed?

More than nine-in-ten Westerners across all eight states say it is important to dedicate LWCF funds to adding inholdings to national public lands.

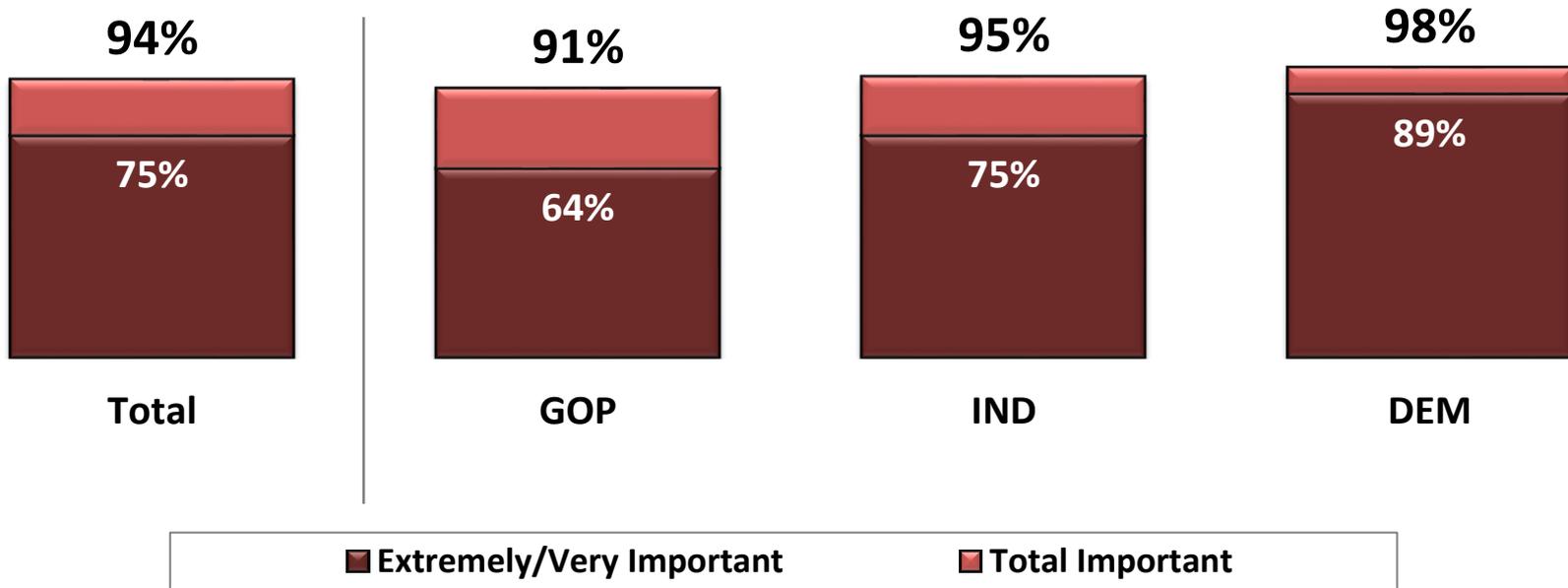
Thousands of acres of private lands within existing national parks and other public lands are up for sale. Right now, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has dedicated money to purchase these areas and ensure they are incorporated into our public lands.



How important is it to continue to dedicate funds to protecting these places inside the boundaries of our parks and public lands. Is it...

Across party lines, voters say continuing to dedicate LWCF funds to purchasing inholdings is extremely or very important.

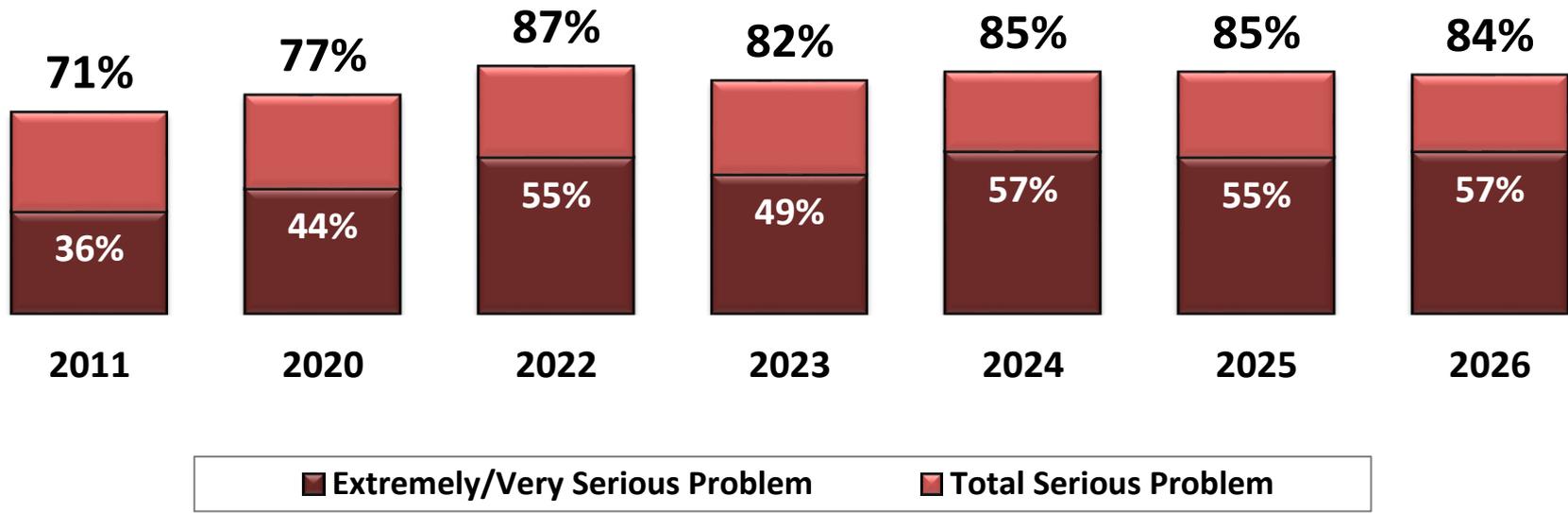
Thousands of acres of private lands within existing national parks and other public lands are up for sale. Right now, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has dedicated money to purchase these areas and ensure they are incorporated into our public lands.



How important is it to continue to dedicate funds to protecting these places inside the boundaries of our parks and public lands. Is it...

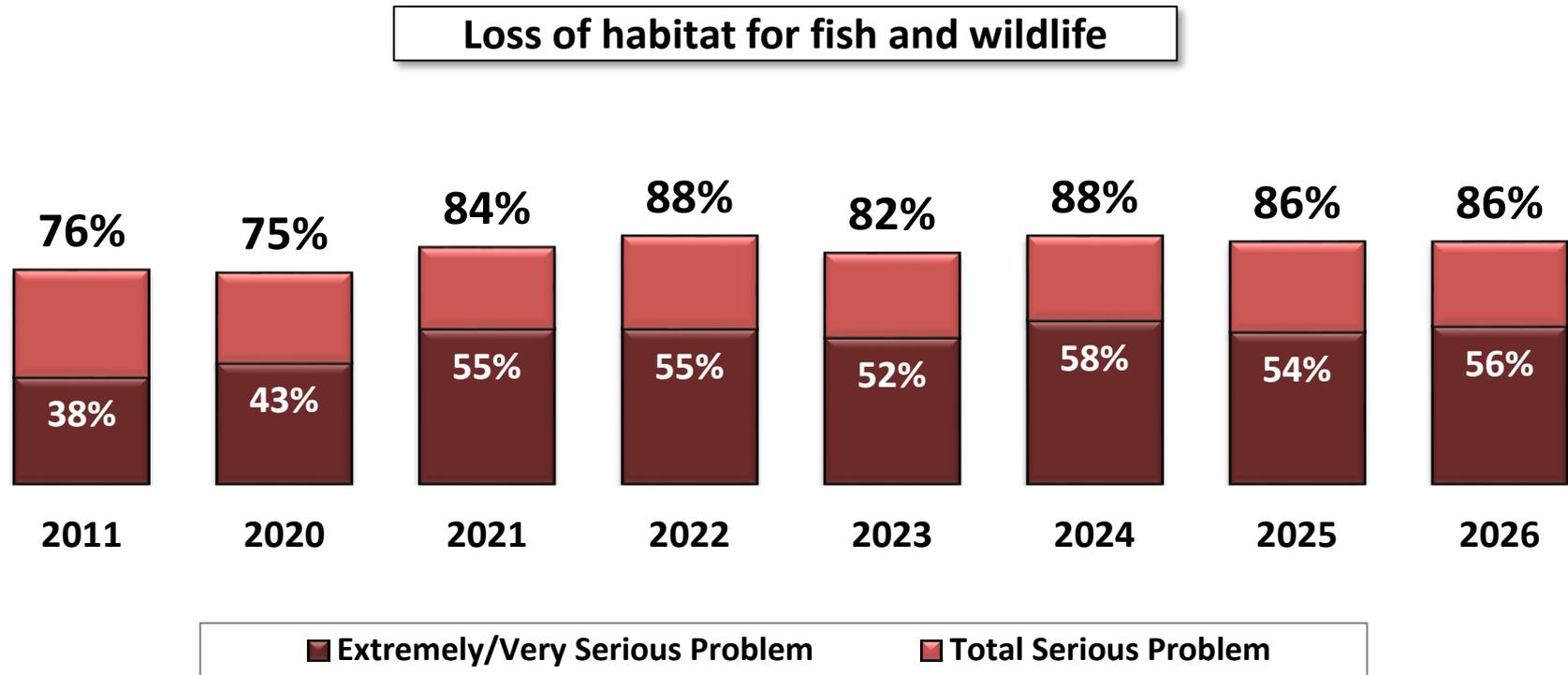
The desire to continue to fund and conserve public lands may be partly rooted in the view that loss of natural areas is an extremely or very serious problem.

Loss of natural areas



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Loss of natural areas** (Asked N=1693)
 Showing 2020-2026 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

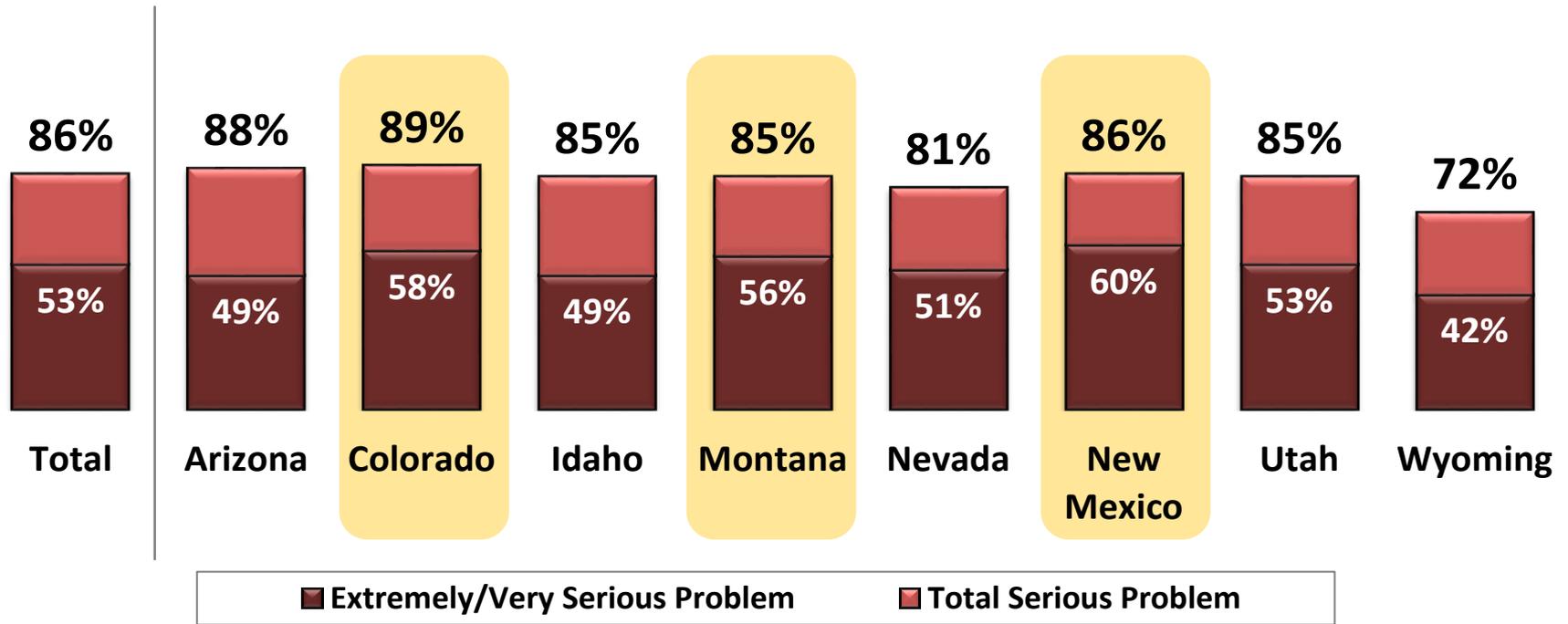
Similarly, more than four-in-five Western voters say the loss of habitat is a serious problem.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife** (Asked N=1726)
Showing 2020-2026 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

Strong majorities across all eight Western states consider the loss of habitat for fish and wildlife a serious problem.

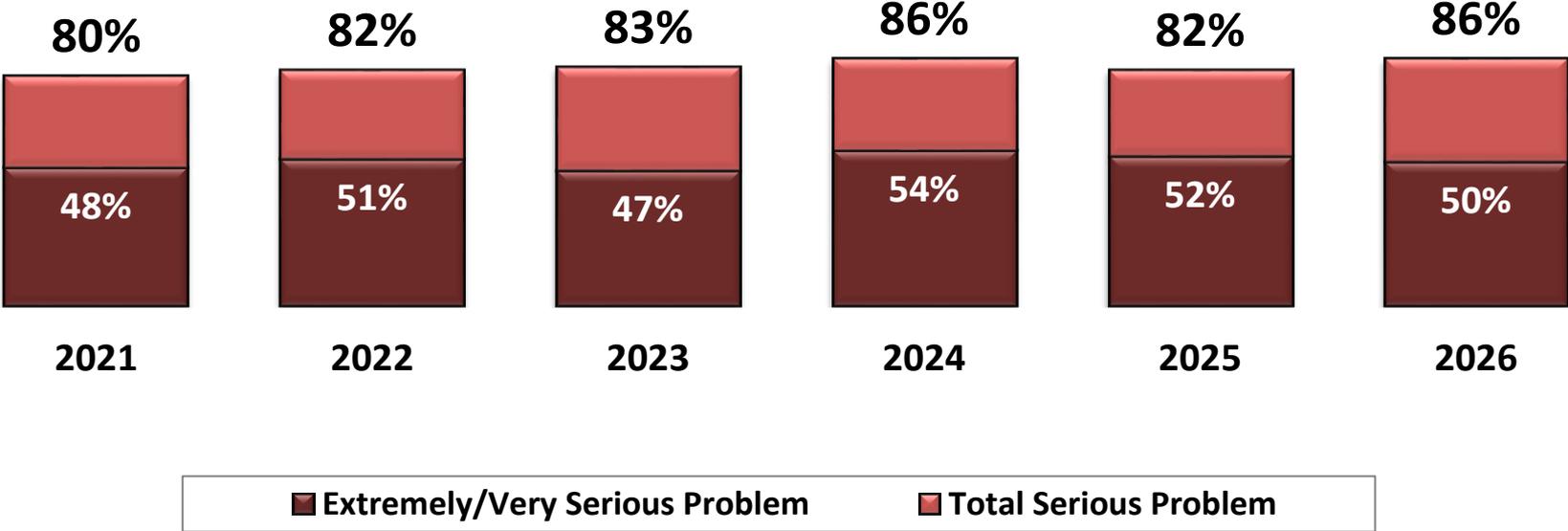
Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Loss of habitat for fish and wildlife** (Asked N=1726)

More than four-in-five Westerners also continue to view population declines of fish and wildlife as a serious problem.

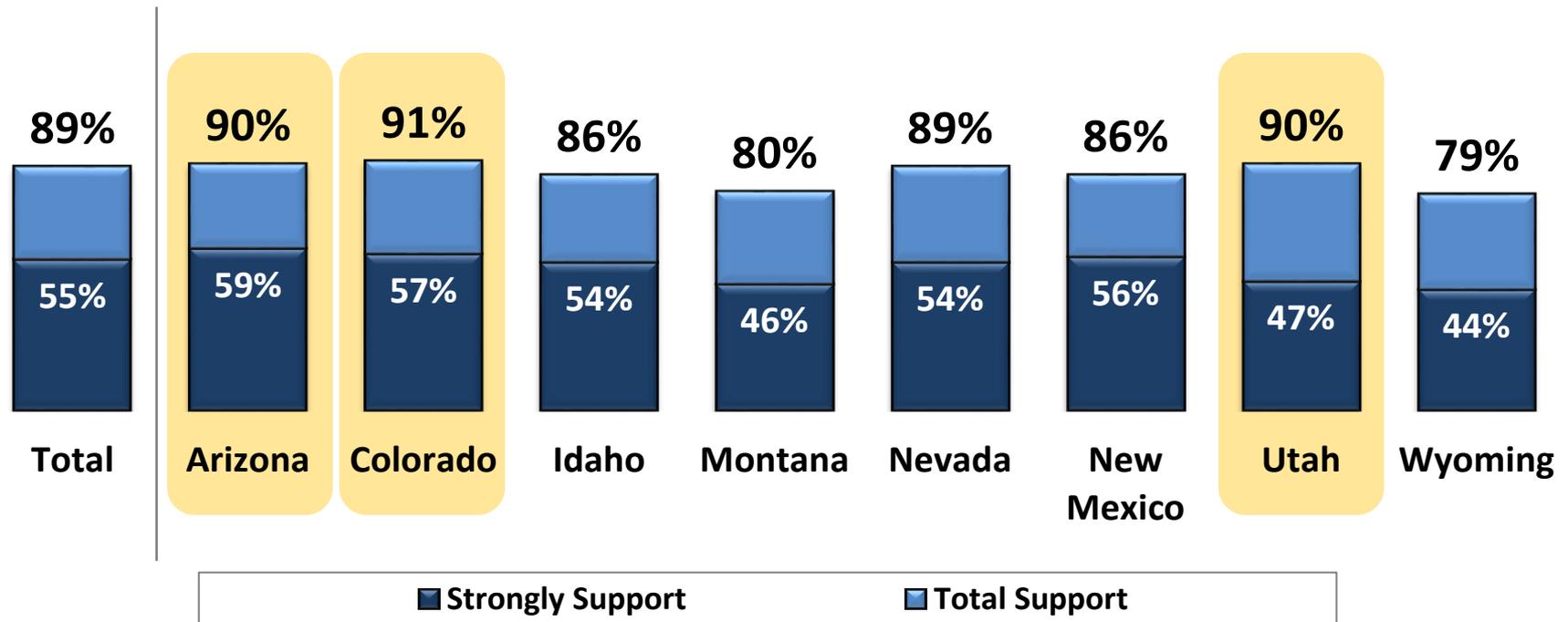
Population declines of fish and wildlife



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Population declines of fish and wildlife** (Asked N=1726)

Nine-in-ten voters in Arizona, Colorado and Utah support dark sky management of public lands.

Managing public lands to ensure there are more outdoor places free of light pollution to see the stars at night.



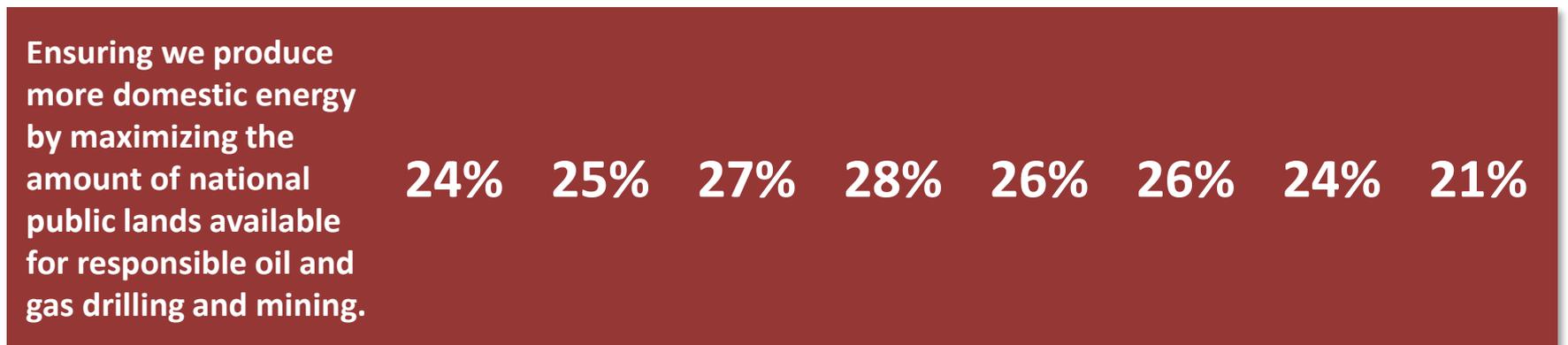
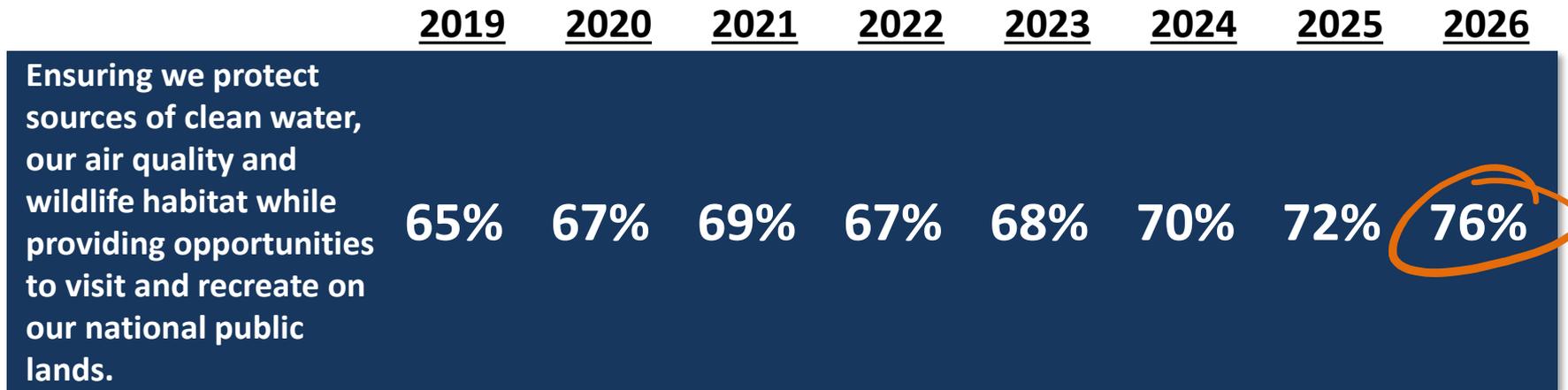
For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose a similar proposal in your state. **Managing public lands to ensure there are more outdoor places free of light pollution to see the stars at night.** (Asked N=1693)



Energy & Public Lands



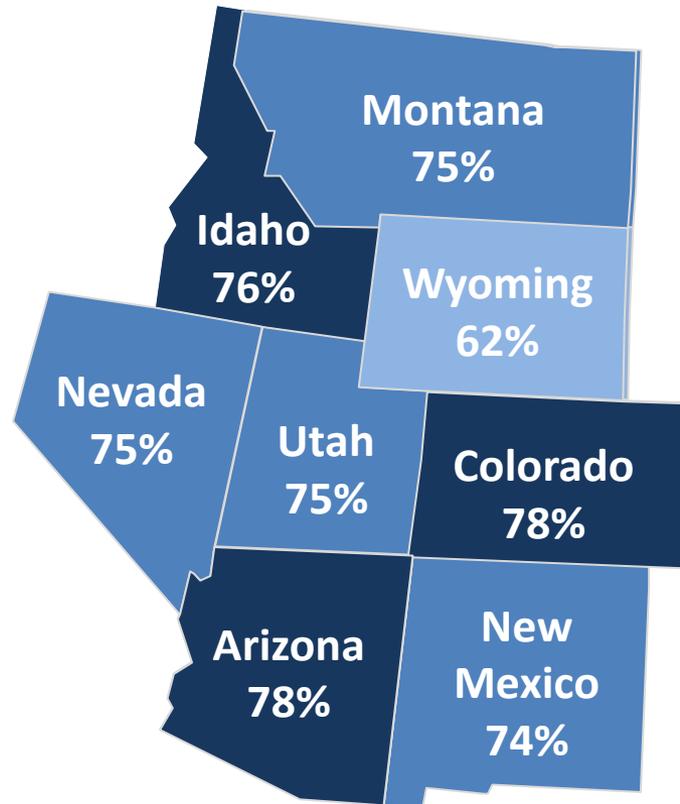
More Western voters than ever before say they would prefer their Member of Congress place more emphasis on protecting resources on national public lands over maximizing energy production.



Which one would you prefer your Member of Congress place more emphasis on in upcoming decisions regarding national public lands?

The strong emphasis on conservation as a priority for public lands is true in every single Western state, including Wyoming.

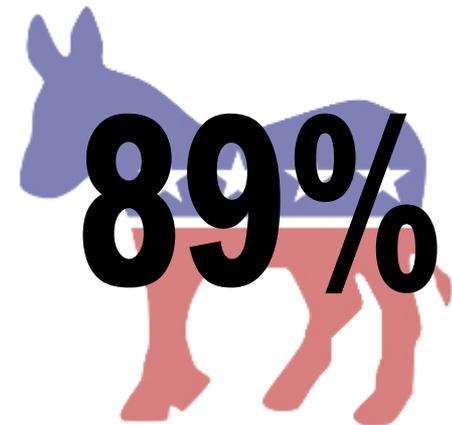
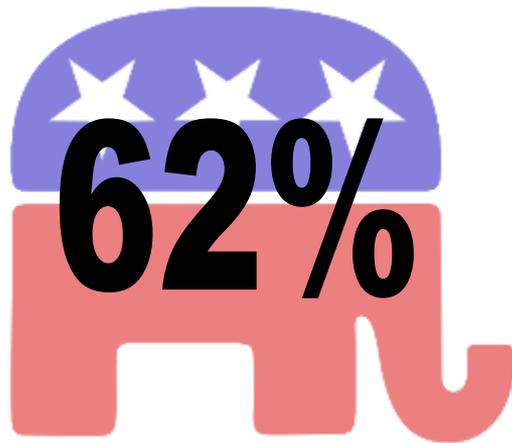
% Protect Natural Resources



Which one would you prefer your Member of Congress place more emphasis on in upcoming decisions regarding national public lands?

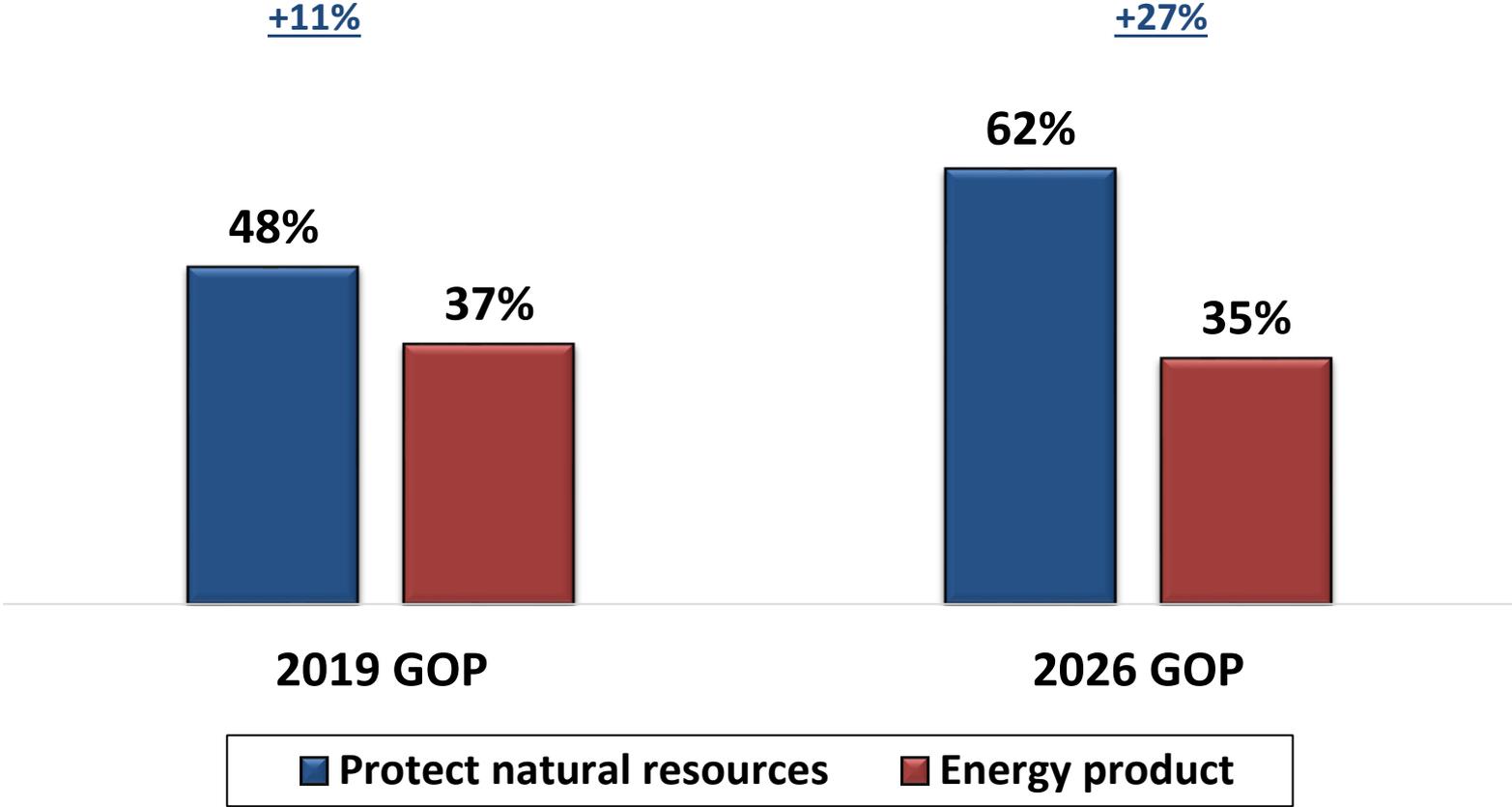
A solid majority of Republicans and more than four-in-five independents and Democrats want their Member of Congress to prioritize conservation over energy on public lands.

% Protect Natural Resources



Which one would you prefer your Member of Congress place more emphasis on in upcoming decisions regarding national public lands?

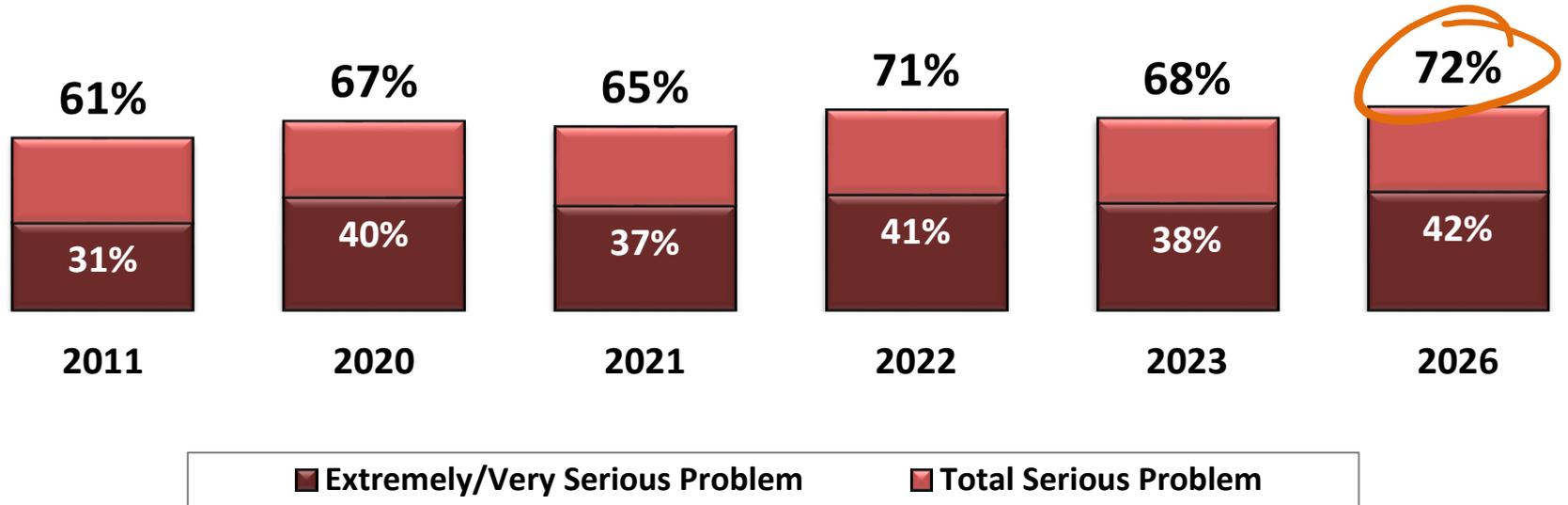
There has been a significant increase among Republicans in the last few years.



Which one would you prefer your Member of Congress place more emphasis on in upcoming decisions regarding national public lands?

Concern over the impact of oil and gas drilling on nature has increased significantly since 2011.

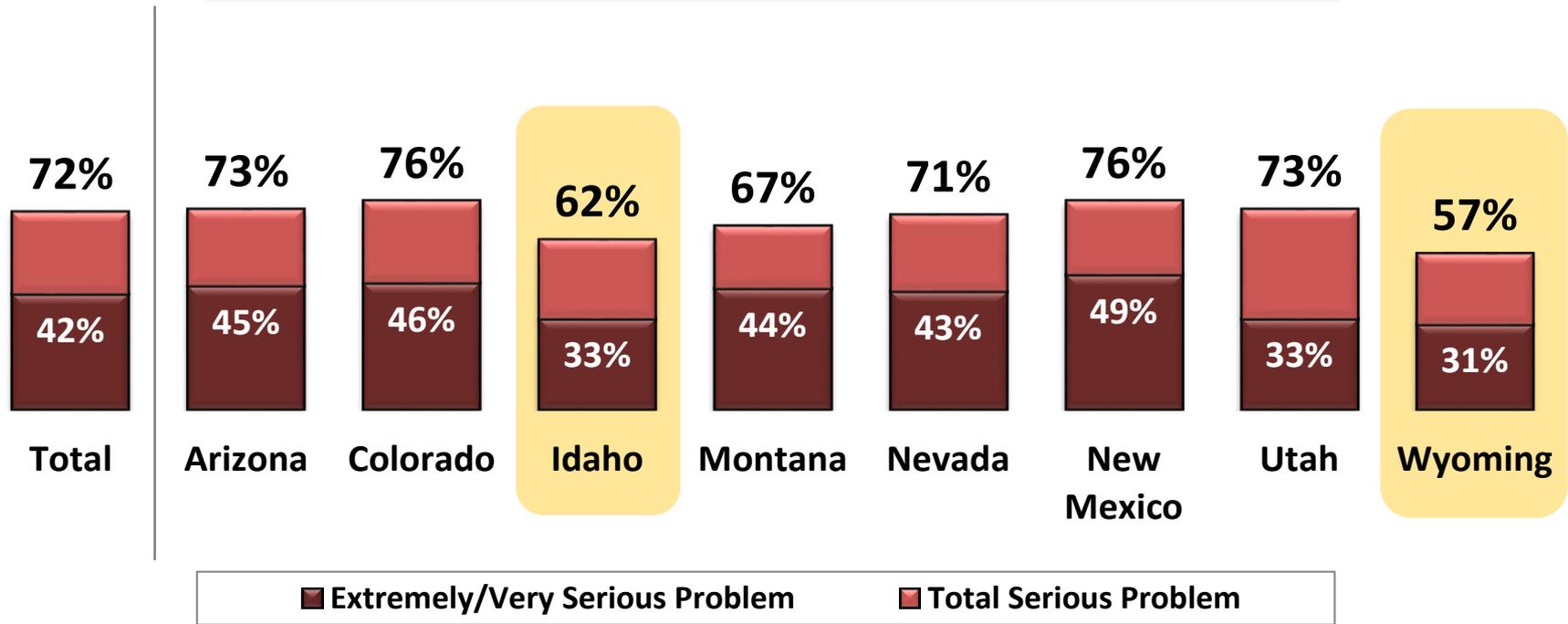
The impact of oil and gas drilling on our land, air and water



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **The impact of oil and gas drilling on our land, air and water** (Asked N=1726)
Showing 2020-2026 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

There are significant differences across the West, but even majorities in Wyoming and Idaho view oil and gas' impact on nature as a serious problem.

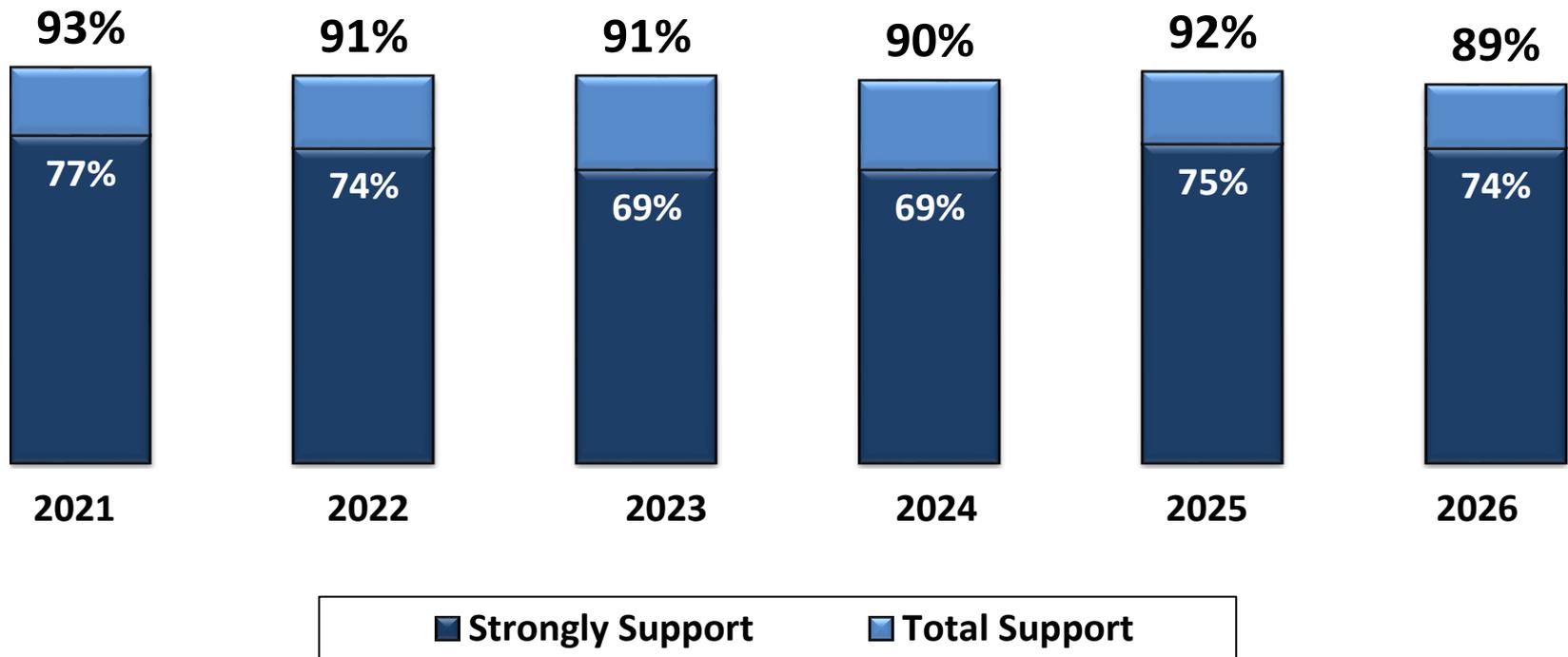
The impact of oil and gas drilling on our land, air and water



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **The impact of oil and gas drilling on our land, air and water** (Asked N=1726)

Support for keeping the requirement that oil and gas companies pay for clean-up/restoration remains strong.

Keeping the Requirement that Oil & Gas Companies Pay for Clean-up/Land restoration

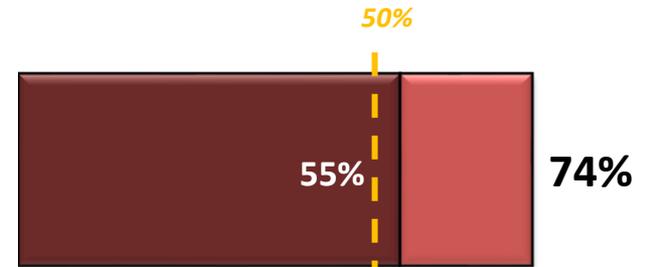


For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose each one. **Keeping the requirement that oil and gas companies, rather than taxpayers, pay for all of the clean-up and land restoration costs after drilling is finished.** (Asked N=1726)

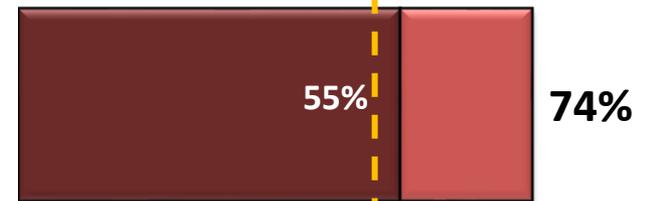
*2021-2024 language read: "Requiring oil and gas companies, rather than federal and state government, to pay for all of the clean-up and land restoration costs after drilling is finished."

Nearly three-in-four Westerners oppose policies that would open up more public lands to resource extraction.

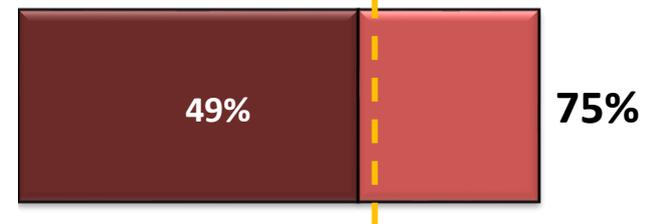
Selling some national public lands to private companies for oil, gas and mining development[^]



Requiring government agencies to allow oil and gas companies access to lands they can develop even if local communities raise concerns about impacts on wildlife, water or communities[^]



Allowing Congress to override local resource management plans developed with community input, in order to increase mining and oil and gas development on national public lands^{*}

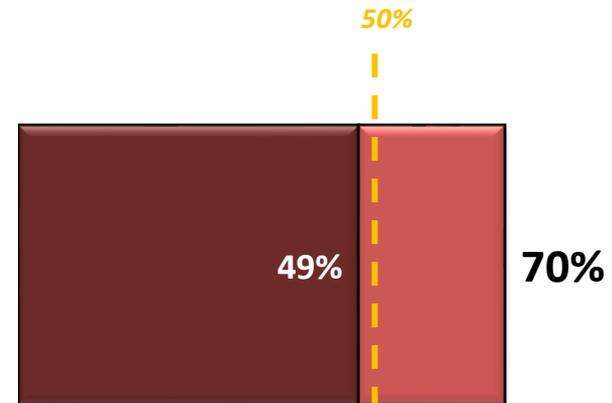


■ Strongly Oppose ■ Total Oppose

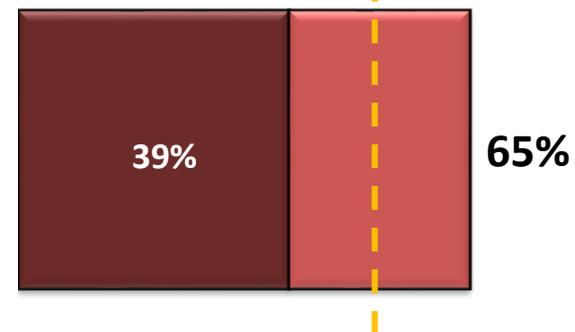
Please indicate if you would support or oppose each one. (*Asked of N=1726, ^Asked of N=1693)

Majorities also oppose reducing NEPA requirements and changes to roadless rules.

Fast-tracking oil, gas and mining projects on national public lands by reducing environmental reviews and local public input[^]



Building industrial roads in undeveloped areas of national public lands for new mines, oil and gas development, or timber harvests*



■ Strongly Oppose ■ Total Oppose

Please indicate if you would support or oppose each one. (*Asked of N=1726, ^Asked of N=1693)

A majority in every single state oppose these actions to expand resource extraction on public lands.

Showing % Total Oppose	AZ	CO	ID	MT	NV	NM	UT	WY
Selling public lands for oil/gas/mining [^]	74%	83%	75%	83%	63%	72%	67%	78%
Allow oil/gas access to lands even if local concerns [^]	74%	76%	74%	79%	70%	71%	74%	65%
Override local plans to increase mining and oil/gas [*]	74%	75%	80%	74%	70%	77%	76%	83%
Fast-tracking oil/mining projects [^]	69%	74%	72%	67%	60%	72%	73%	60%
Industrial roads in public lands for oil/gas/mining [*]	63%	70%	68%	69%	60%	71%	64%	54%

Please indicate if you would support or oppose each one. (*Asked of N=1726, ^Asked of N=1693)

Opposition is also evident across party lines.

Showing % Total Oppose



Selling pub lands for oil/gas/mining [^]	63%	76%	87%
Allow oil/gas access to lands even if local concerns [^]	59%	77%	88%
Override local plans to increase mining and oil/gas*	63%	77%	86%
Fast-tracking oil/mining projects [^]	57%	70%	86%
Industrial roads in pub lands for oil/gas/mining*	45%	71%	83%

Please indicate if you would support or oppose each one. (*Asked of N=1726, ^Asked of N=1693)

Majorities of sportsmen oppose these actions as well.

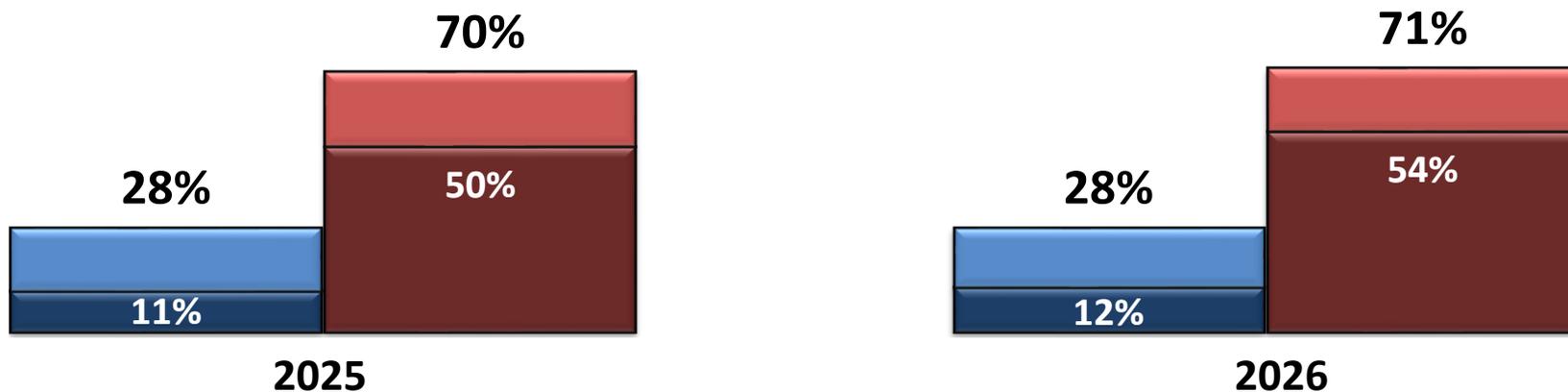
Showing % Total Oppose

	Hunters	Anglers
Selling pub lands for oil/gas/mining [^]	69%	72%
Allow oil/gas access to lands even if local concerns [^]	66%	69%
Override local plans to increase mining and oil/gas [*]	66%	69%
Fast-tracking oil/mining projects [^]	60%	65%
Industrial roads in pub lands for oil/gas/mining [*]	58%	61%

*Please indicate if you would support or oppose each one. (*Asked of N=1726, ^Asked of N=1693)*

A majority of New Mexico voters are strongly opposed to removing current protections to allow new oil and gas drilling on public lands around Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

Removing current protections to allow new oil and gas drilling on public lands around the Chaco Culture National Historical Park in northern New Mexico



■ Strongly Support ■ Total Support ■ Strongly Oppose ■ Total Oppose

Please indicate if you would support or oppose each one. (Asked only in New Mexico of N=443)

Voters prioritize renewables significantly more than in prior years – preferring them to oil and gas by a nearly 3-to-1 margin.

2012

2023

2026

Reducing our need for more coal, oil and gas by expanding our use of clean, renewable energy that can be generated in the US

65%

65%

73%

Drilling and mining for more coal, oil and gas wherever we can find it in the US

30%

31%

26%

Which of the following do you think should be the highest priority for meeting America's energy needs:

Showing 2023 & 2026 data by just 2012 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

There are significant partisan differences, though majorities across party lines prefer renewables.



Reducing our need for more coal, oil and gas by expanding our use of clean, renewable energy that can be generated in the US

51%

78%

93%

Drilling and mining for more coal, oil and gas wherever we can find it in the US

47%

21%

6%

Which of the following do you think should be the highest priority for meeting America's energy needs:

Wyoming is the one state where voters prefer prioritizing fossil fuels over renewables.

AZ CO ID MT NV NM UT WY

Reducing our need for more coal, oil and gas by expanding our use of clean, renewable energy that can be generated in the US

74% 76% 67% 65% 74% 73% 72% 41%

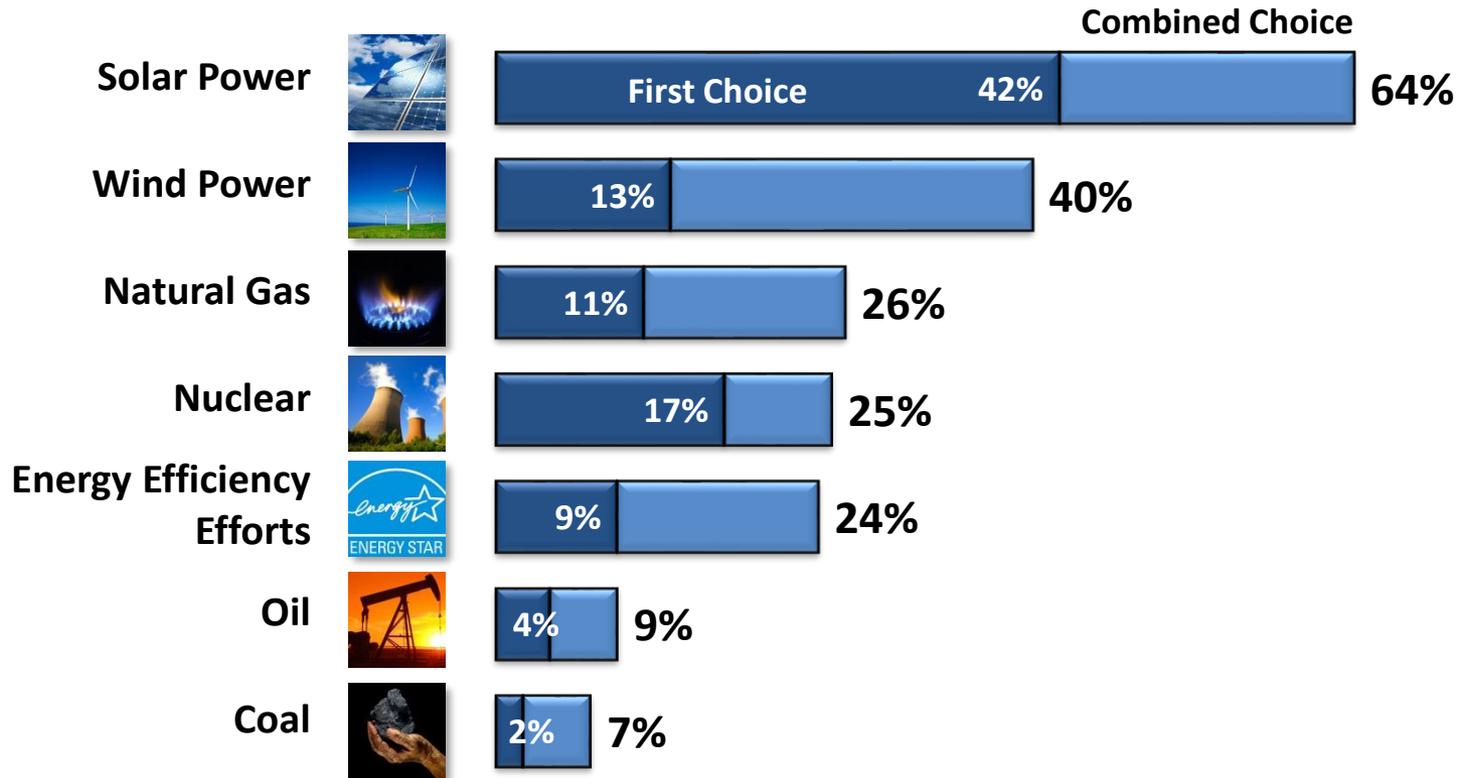
Drilling and mining for more coal, oil and gas wherever we can find it in the US

25% 22% 32% 34% 25% 27% 25% 57%

Which of the following do you think should be the highest priority for meeting America's energy needs:

Voters in the West prioritize solar as the most preferred energy source and put coal last.

Energy Sources Want to Encourage – Top 2

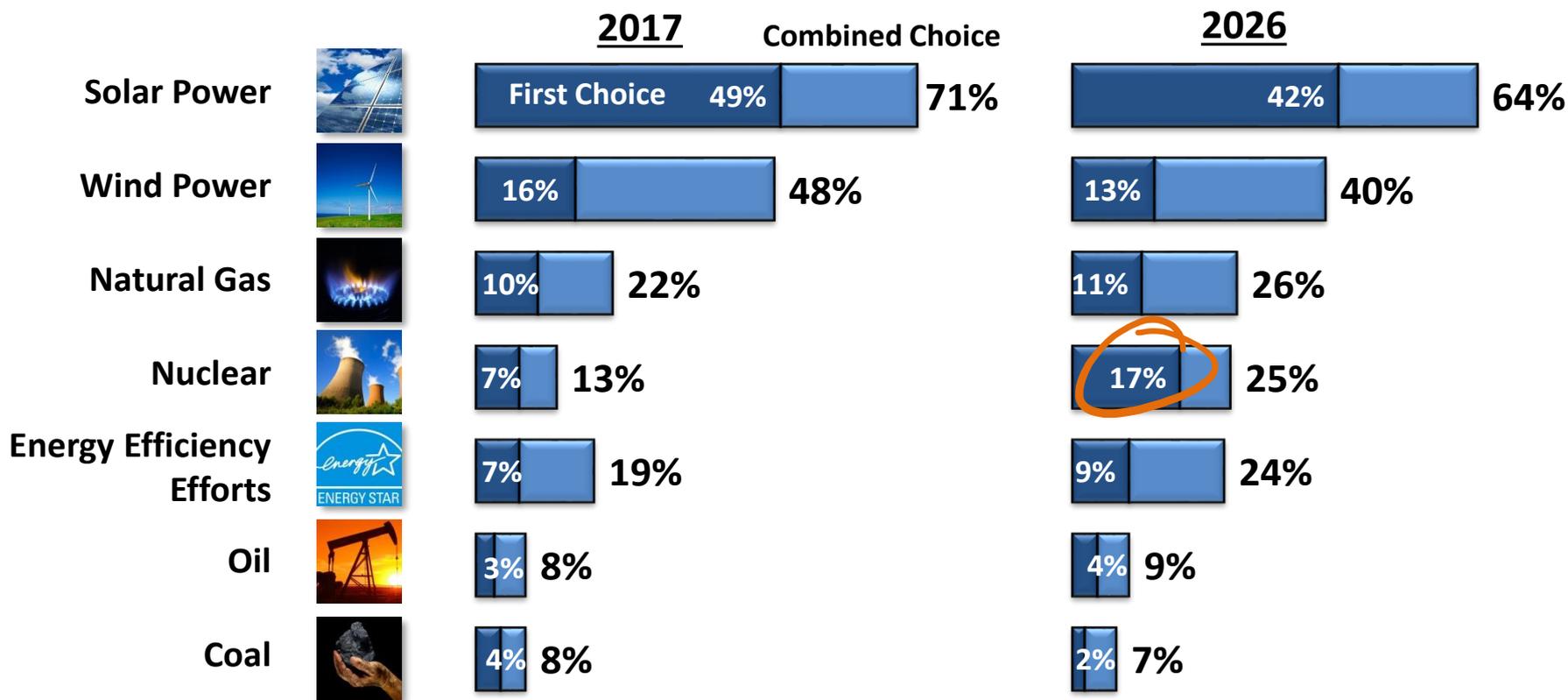


Which two of the following sources of energy would you want to encourage the use of here in (STATE)?

Showing 2026 data by 2017 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

Solar is still preferred but nuclear energy has seen a significant increase in those saying it should be encouraged from 2017.

Energy Sources Want to Encourage – Top 2



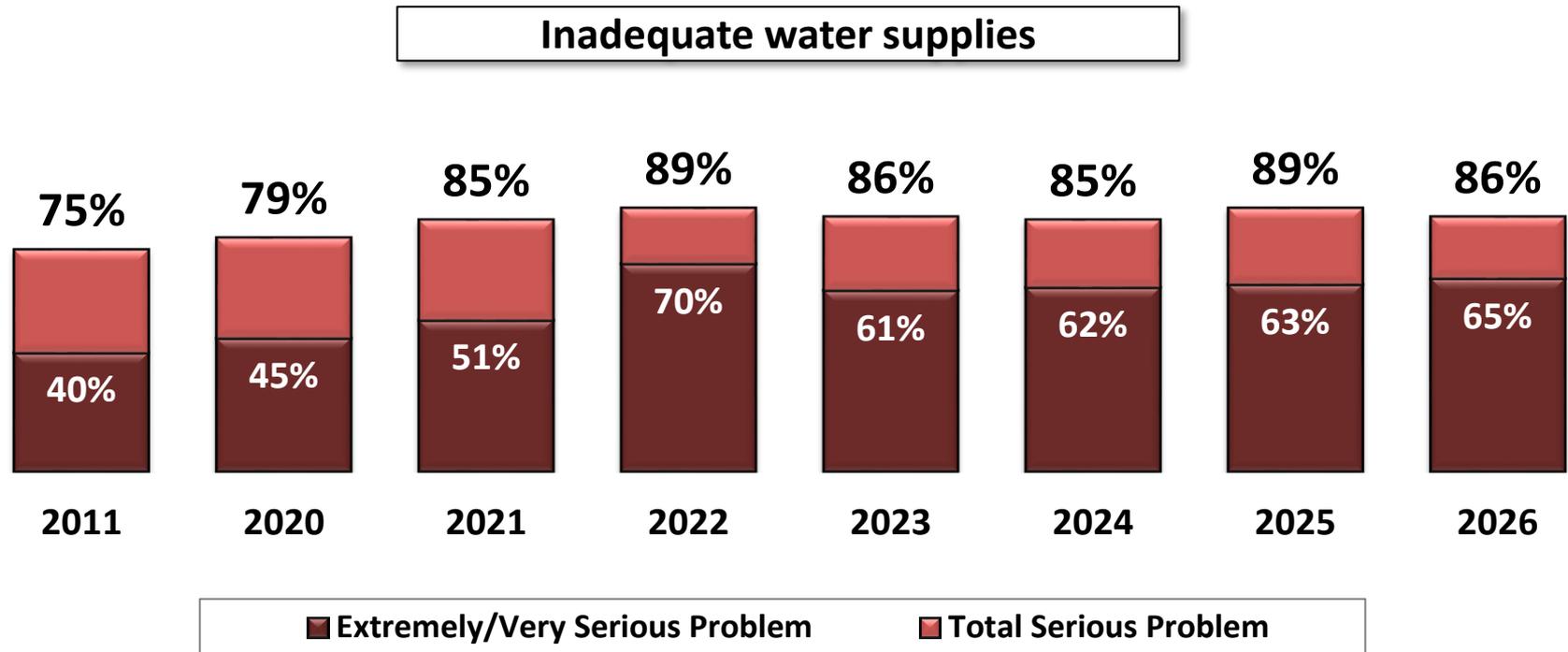
Which two of the following sources of energy would you want to encourage the use of here in (STATE)?

Showing 2026 data by 2017 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY



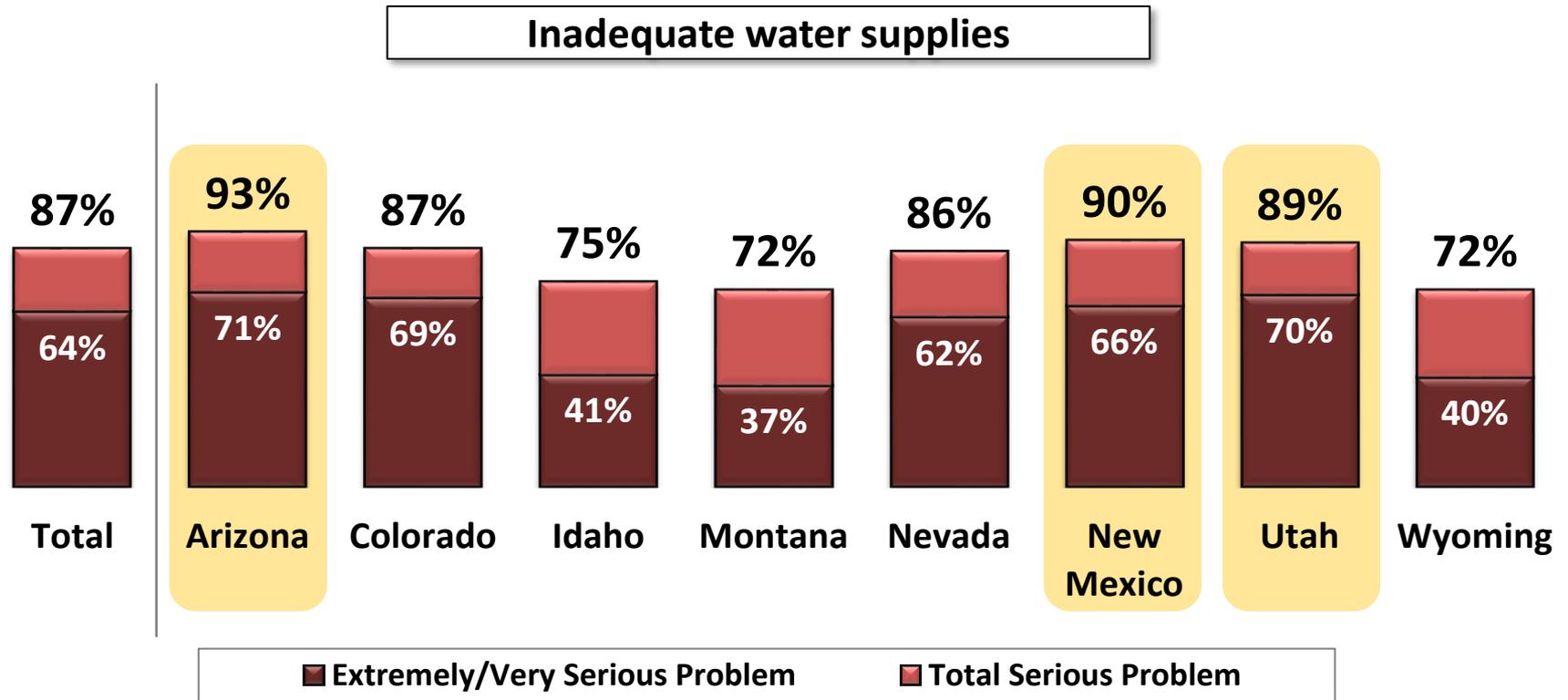
Water

Nearly two-in-three Westerners consider inadequate water supplies to be an extremely or very serious problem.



*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Inadequate water supplies** (Asked N=1693)
 Showing 2020-2026 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY*

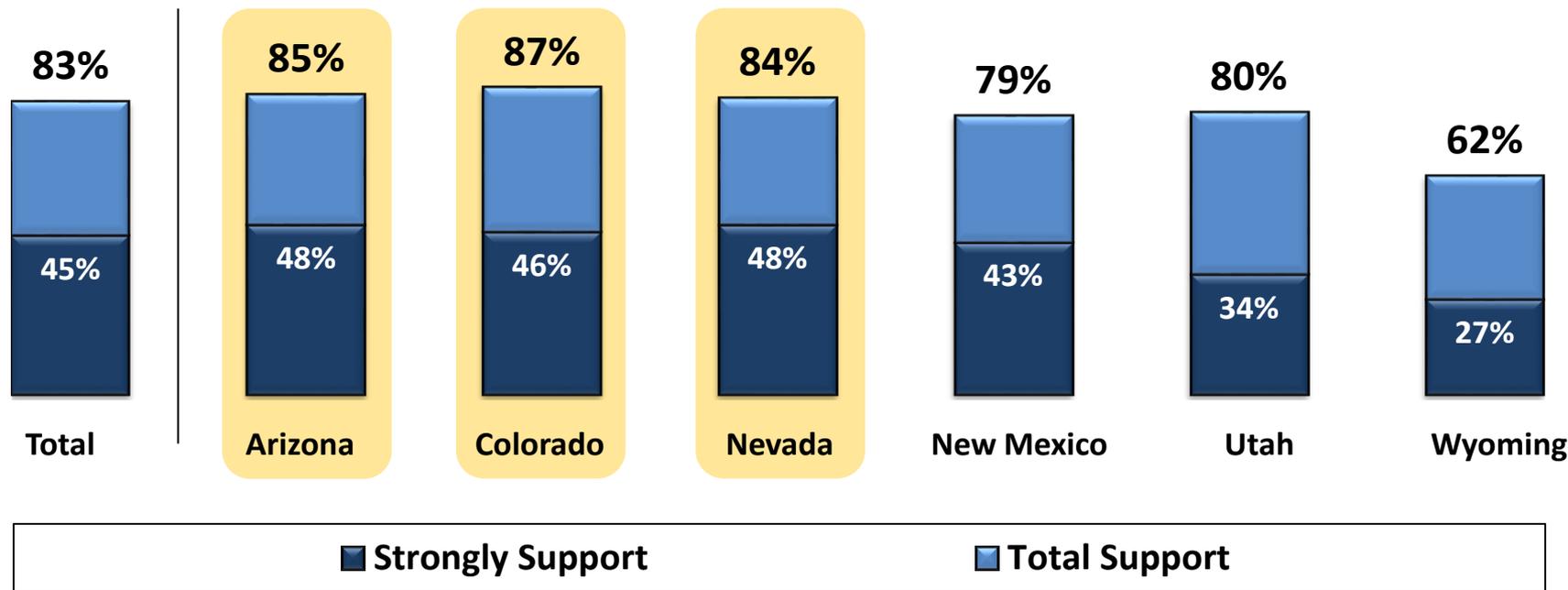
There are significant regional differences – voters in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah are most concerned about inadequate water supplies.



*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Inadequate water supplies** (Asked N=1693)*

Majorities of Western states along the Colorado River support an agreement requiring states in the region to reduce their water usage. Support is strongest in Arizona, Colorado and Nevada.

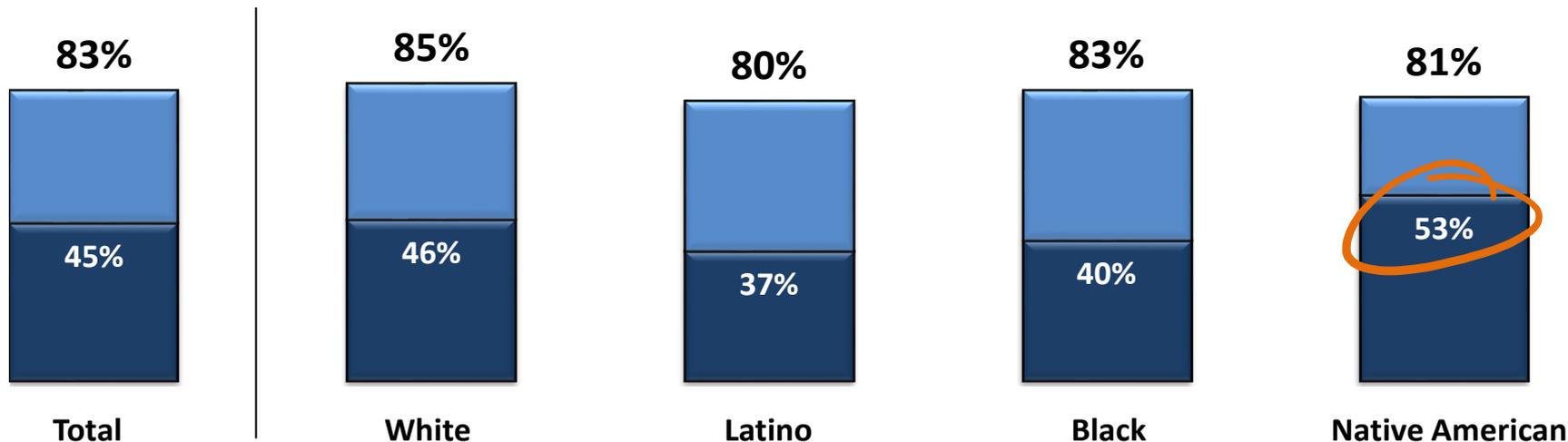
Agreement that would require all states in the region to reduce their water usage to preserve the health of the Colorado River *(asked in 6 affected states)*



As you may know, the states which rely on the Colorado River and the rivers that flow into it for water supplies are negotiating a new agreement on how best to manage water supplies from the River. Do you think (STATE) should support or oppose an agreement that would require all states in the region to reduce their water usage to preserve the health of the Colorado River? (Asked N=3015)

More than half of Native Americans say they strongly support this agreement.

Agreement that would require all states in the region to reduce their water usage to preserve the health of the Colorado River *(asked in 6 affected states)*



■ Strongly Support

■ Total Support

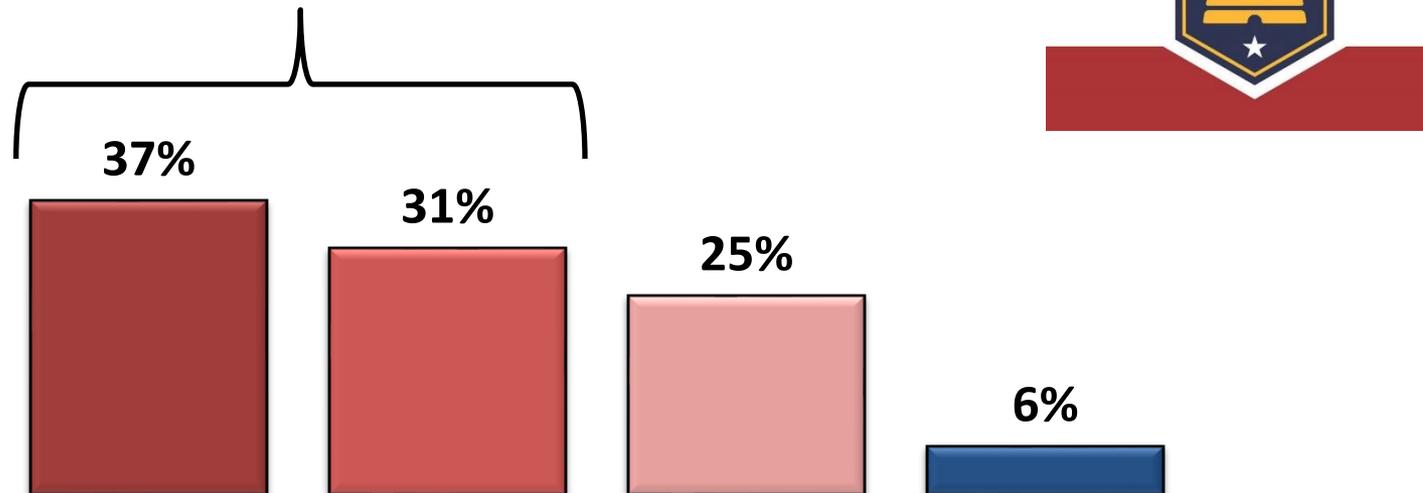
As you may know, the states which rely on the Colorado River and the rivers that flow into it for water supplies are negotiating a new agreement on how best to manage water supplies from the River. Do you think (STATE) should support or oppose an agreement that would require all states in the region to reduce their water usage to preserve the health of the Colorado River? (Asked N=3015)

More than two-in-three Utah voters consider the condition of the Great Salt Lake an extremely or very serious problem.

The condition of the Great Salt Lake

68%

Extremely/Very Serious

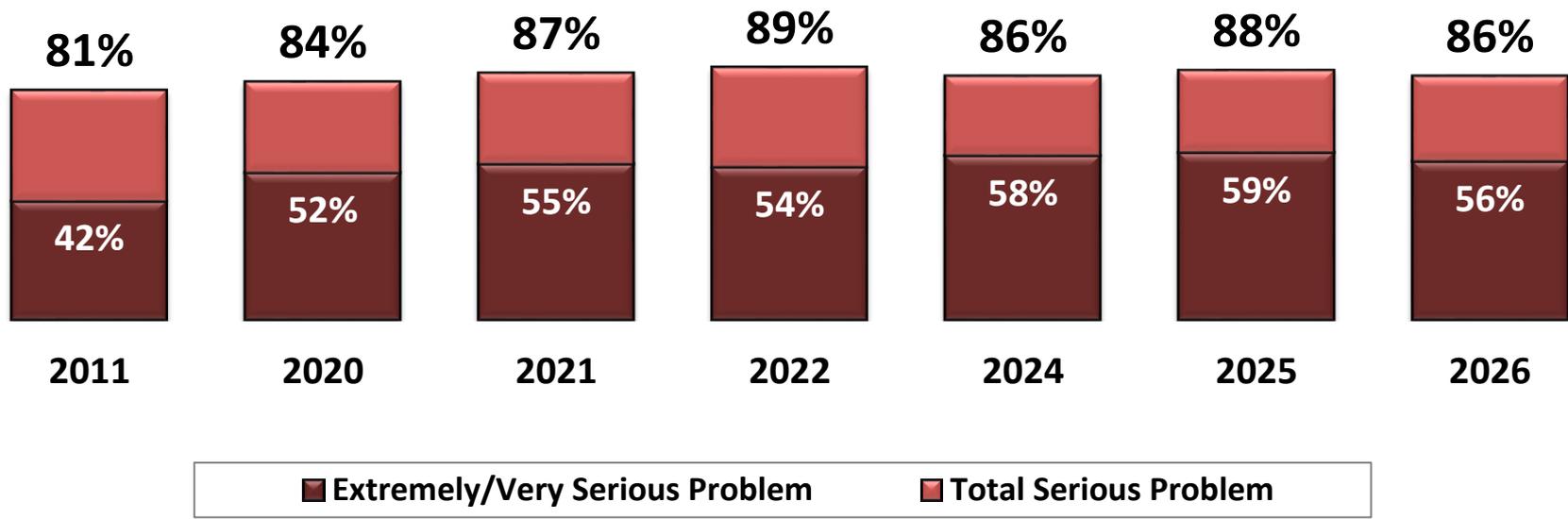


■ Extremely Serious ■ Very Serious ■ Somewhat Serious ■ Not a Problem

For each one, please indicate if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in Utah. **The condition of the Great Salt Lake.** (Asked only in Utah & of Sample A, N=208)

Water pollution concerns have been relatively stable over time dating back to 2011.

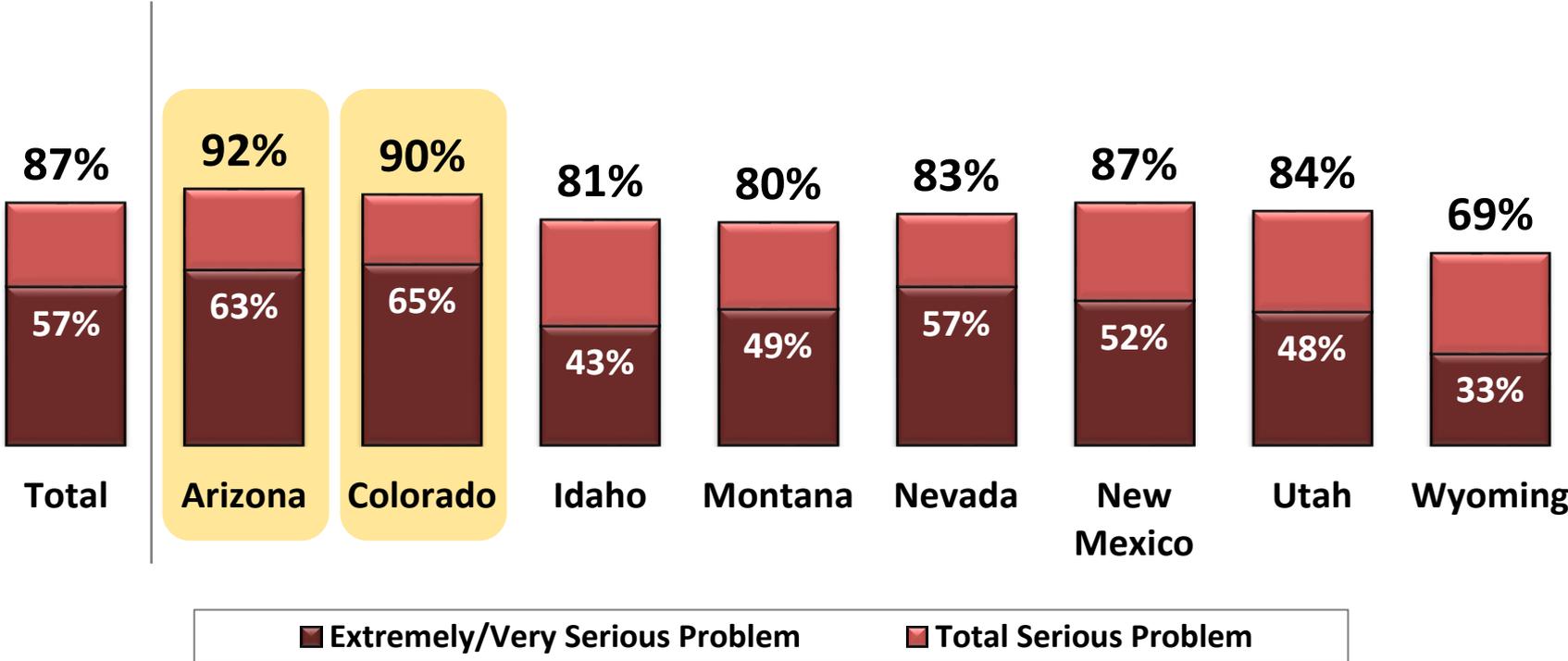
Pollution of rivers, lakes and streams



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Pollution of rivers, lakes and streams** (Asked N=1693)
Showing 2020-2026 data by just 2011 states: CO, MT, NM, UT & WY

Nine-in-ten voters in Arizona and Colorado consider the pollution of rivers, lakes and streams a serious problem.

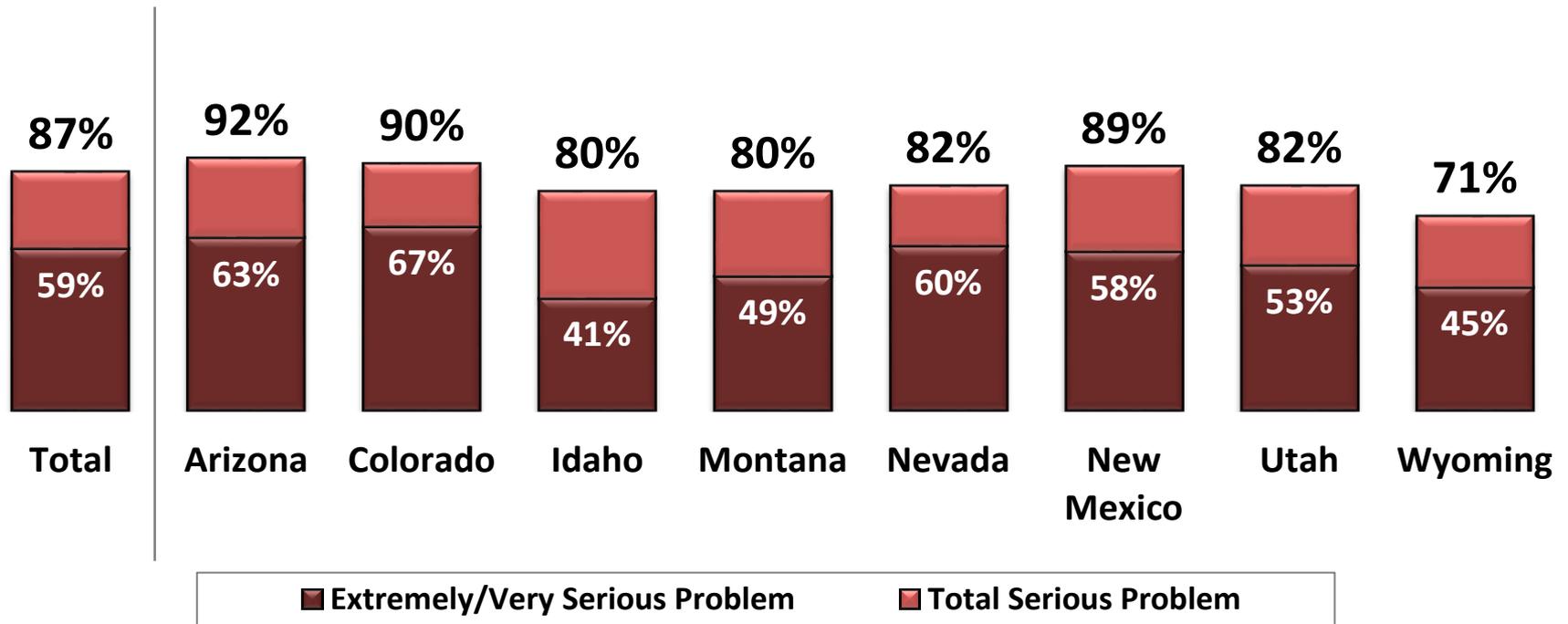
Pollution of rivers, lakes and streams



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Pollution of rivers, lakes and streams** (Asked N=1693)

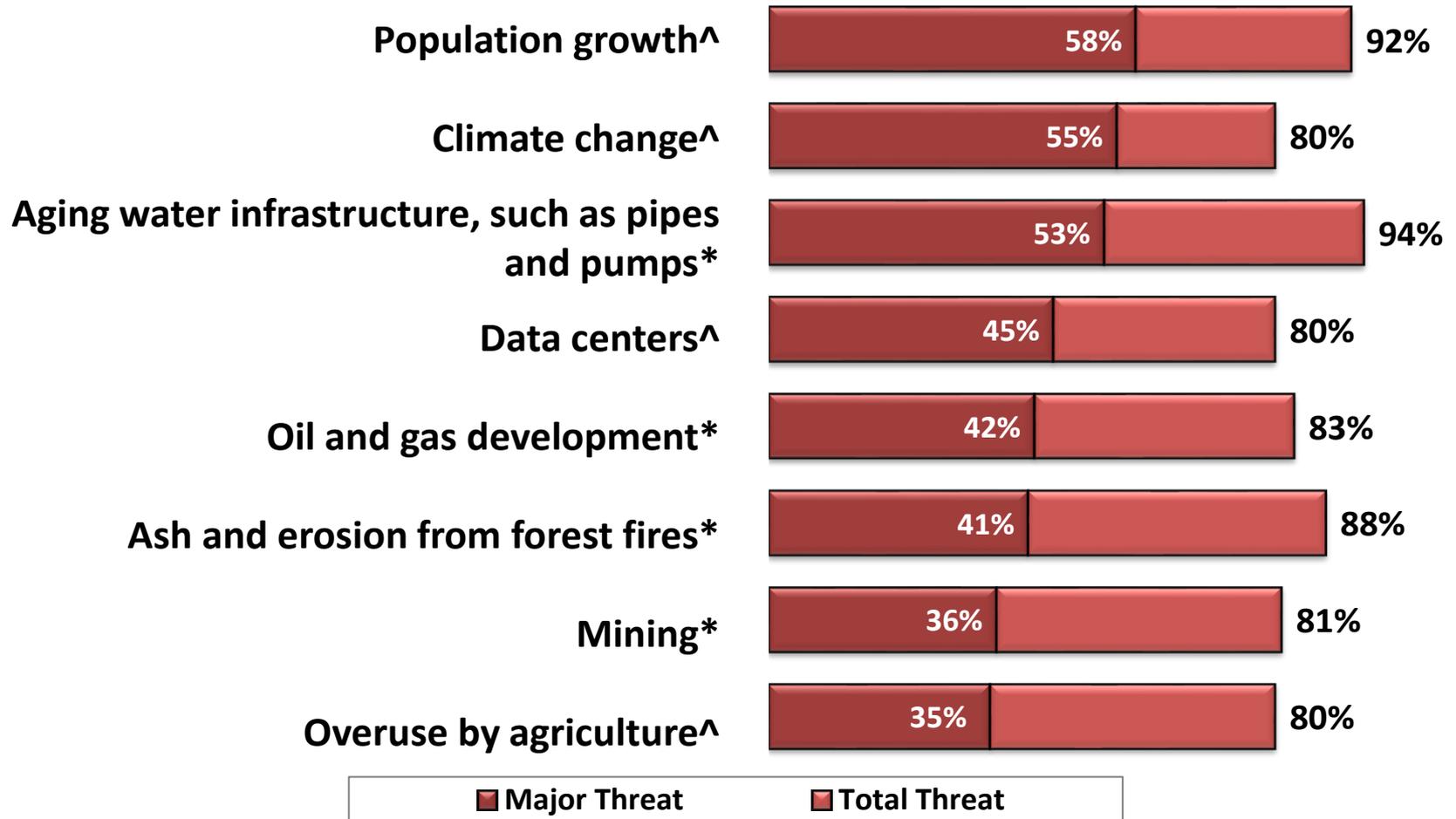
Voters across the West consider PFAS in water supplies a serious problem.

PFAS also known as forever chemicals in rivers, streams and drinking water supplies



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **PFAS also known as forever chemicals in rivers, streams and drinking water supplies.** (Asked N=1693)

Growth, climate change and infrastructure are deemed the gravest threats to water quality and supply in the West.



For each one, please indicate whether you think it poses a major threat, a minor threat, or does not pose a threat to our state's water quality and supply. (*Asked N=1726, ^Asked N=1693)

Growth and infrastructure are shared concerns in each state.

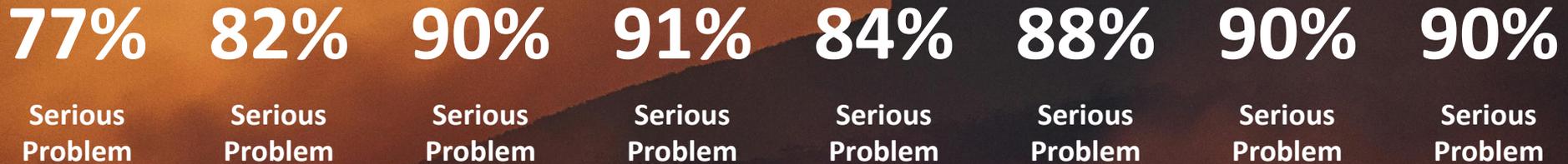
Showing top 3 major threats

AZ	CO	ID	MT	NV	NM	UT	WY
Population growth 67%	Climate change 67%	Population growth 54%	Aging water infrastructure 44%	Aging water infrastructure 57%	Aging water infrastructure 61%	Population growth 67%	Aging water infrastructure 46%
Climate change 57%	Population growth 57%	Aging water infrastructure 53%	Mining 43%	Climate change 57%	Ash and erosion from forest fires 55%	Climate change 48%	Data centers 39%
Aging water infrastructure 57%	Aging water infrastructure 50%	Climate change 40%	Population growth 41%	Population growth 56%	Climate change 55%	Aging water infrastructure 44%	Population growth 31%

For each one, please indicate whether you think it poses a major threat, a minor threat, or does not pose a threat to our state's water quality and supply. (*Asked N=1726, ^Asked N=1693)

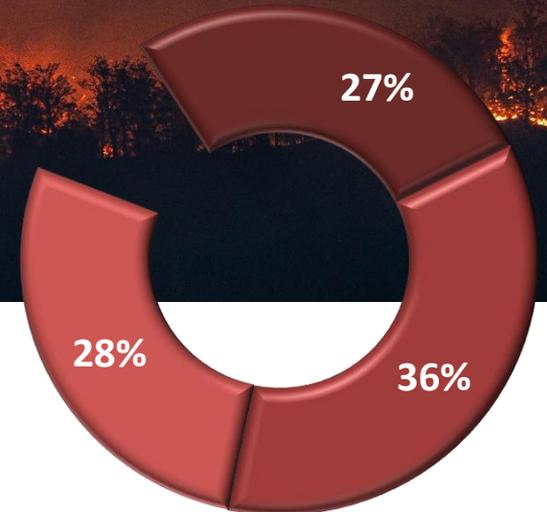
More than nine-in-ten Westerners continue to say uncontrollable wildfires are a serious problem in their states.

2016 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026



Uncontrollable Wildfires

■ Extremely Serious ■ Very Serious ■ Somewhat Serious

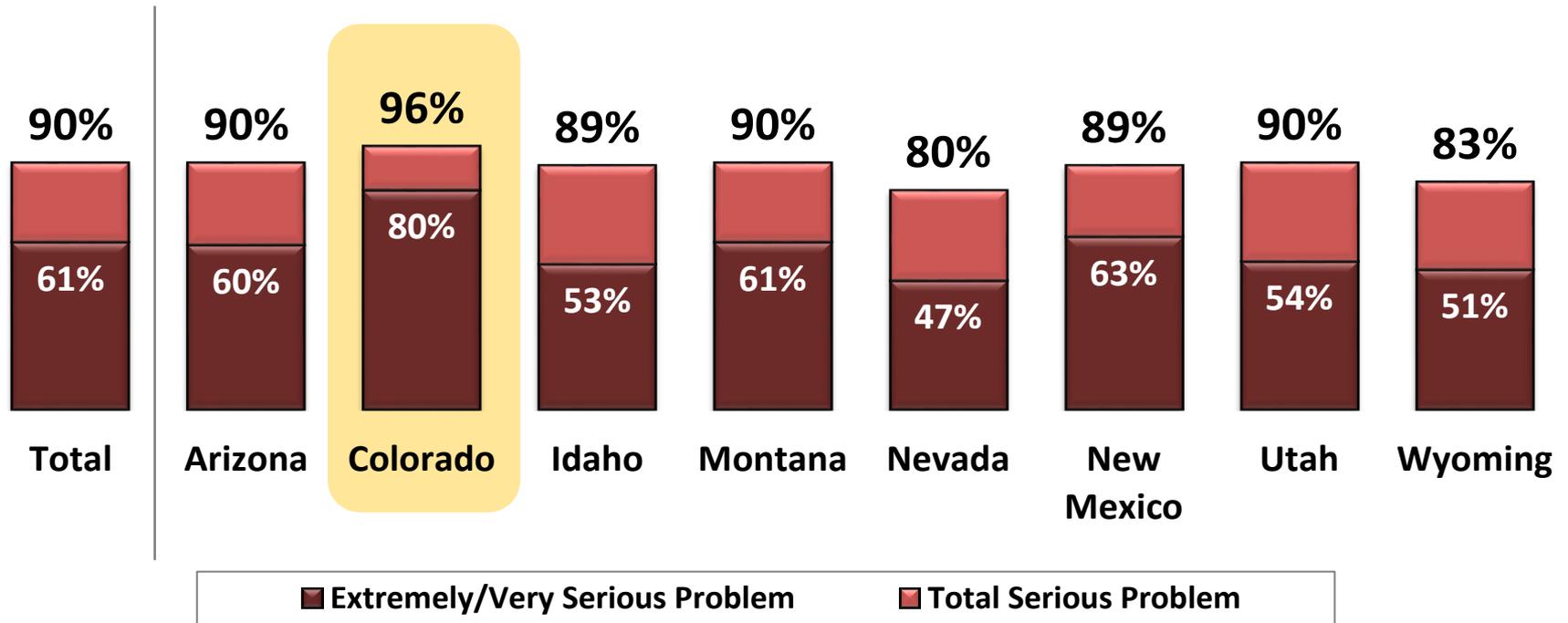


*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Uncontrollable wildfires that threaten homes and property** (Asked N=1726)*

Showing 2020-2026 data by just 2016 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

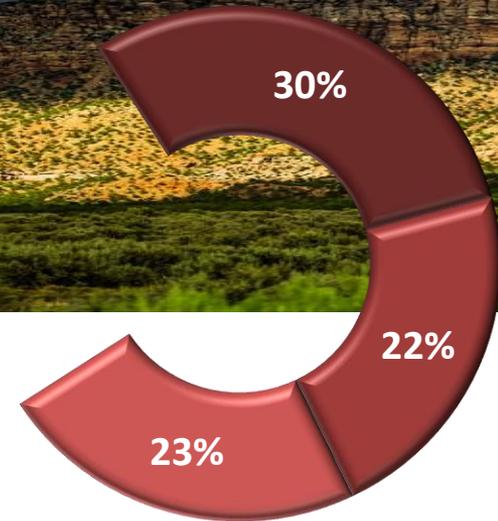
Concern about wildfires is apparent across the region, but significantly higher in Colorado with four-in-five voters categorizing it as an extremely or very serious problem.

Uncontrollable wildfires that threaten homes and property



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Uncontrollable wildfires that threaten homes and property** (Asked N=1726)

Concern about climate change is up significantly from a decade ago and held steady over the last five years.



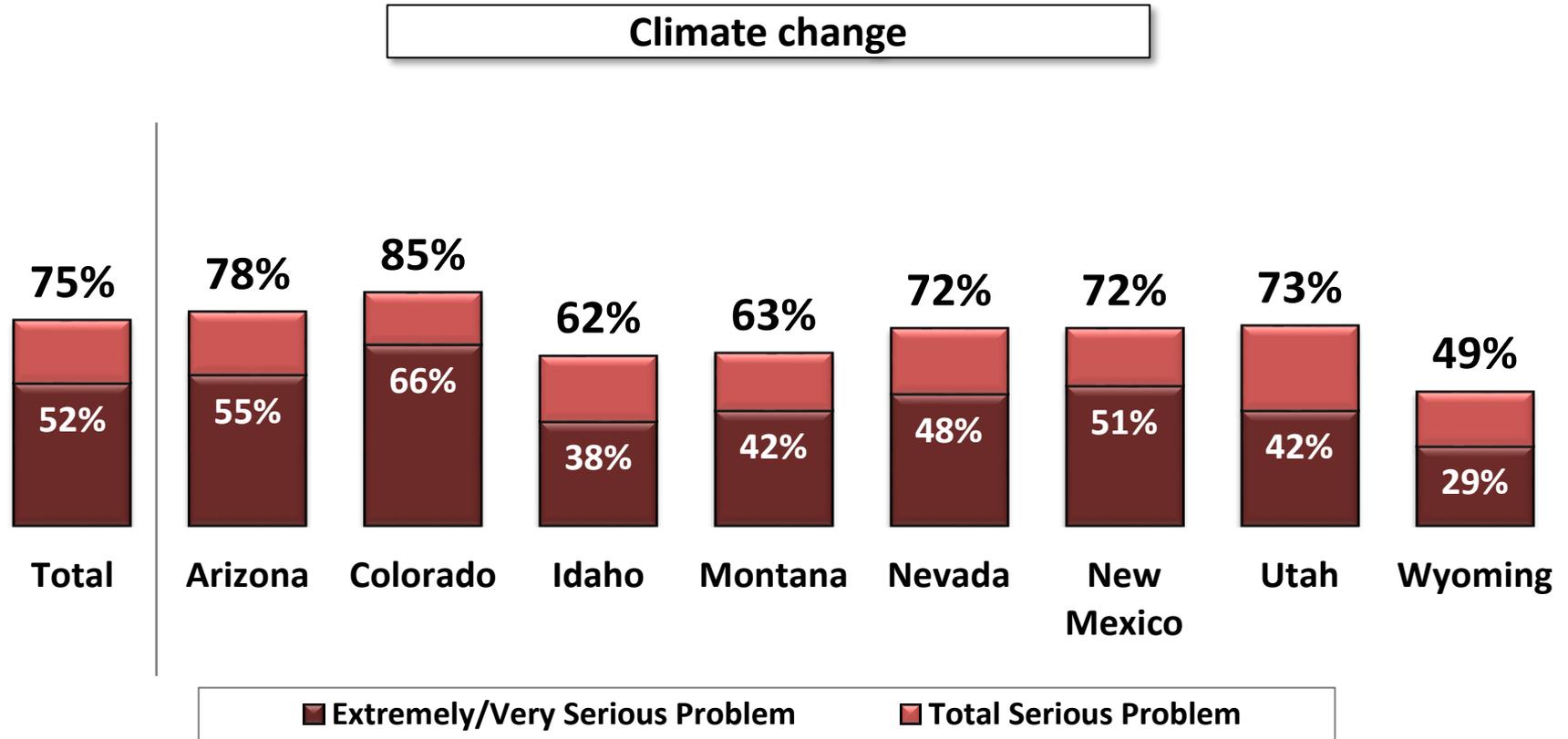
Climate Change

■ Extremely Serious
 ■ Very Serious
 ■ Somewhat Serious

For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Climate change** (Asked N=1693)

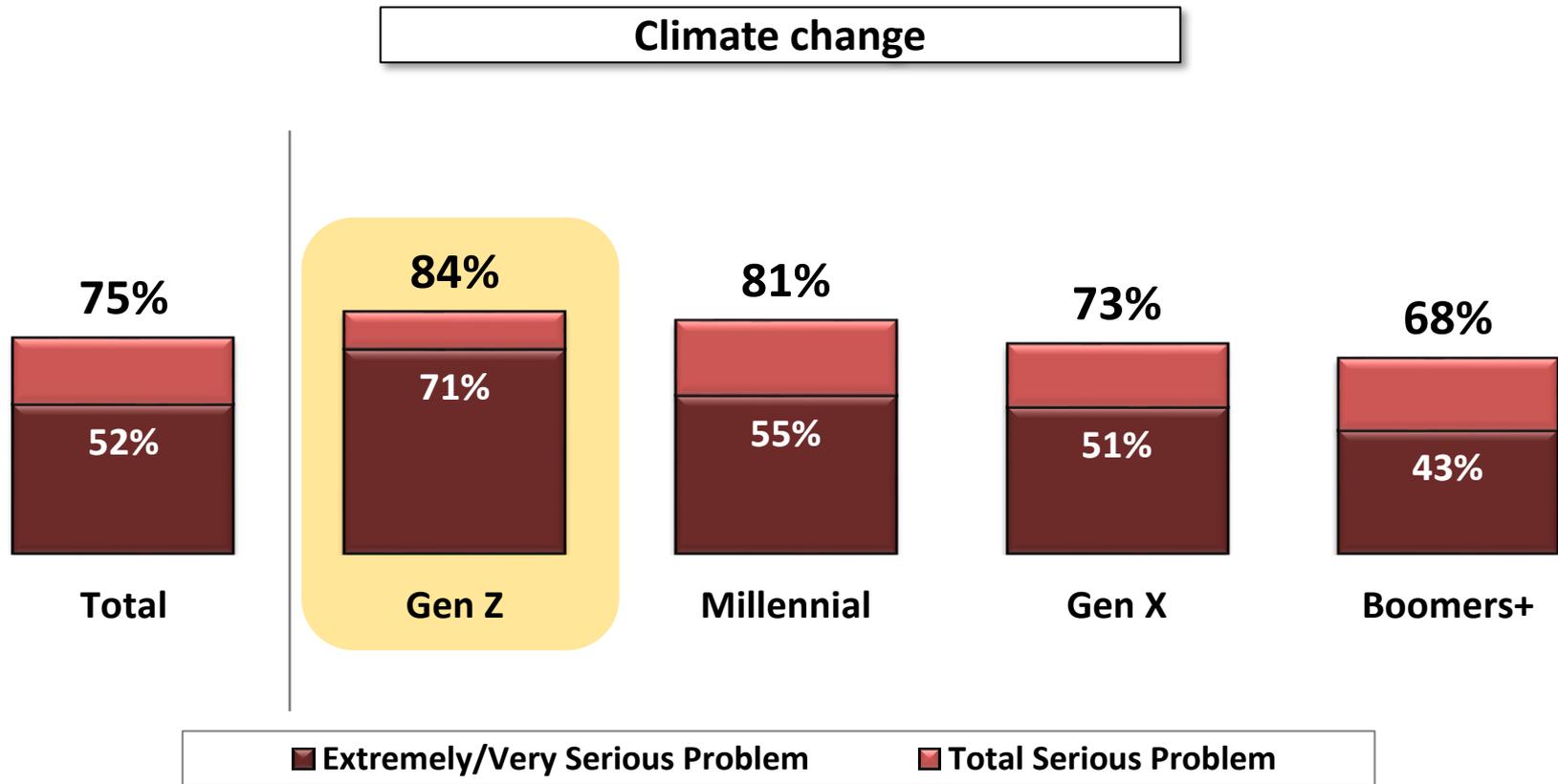
Showing 2020-2026 data by just 2016 states: AZ, CO, MT, NM, NV, UT & WY

There is significant variation across the region.



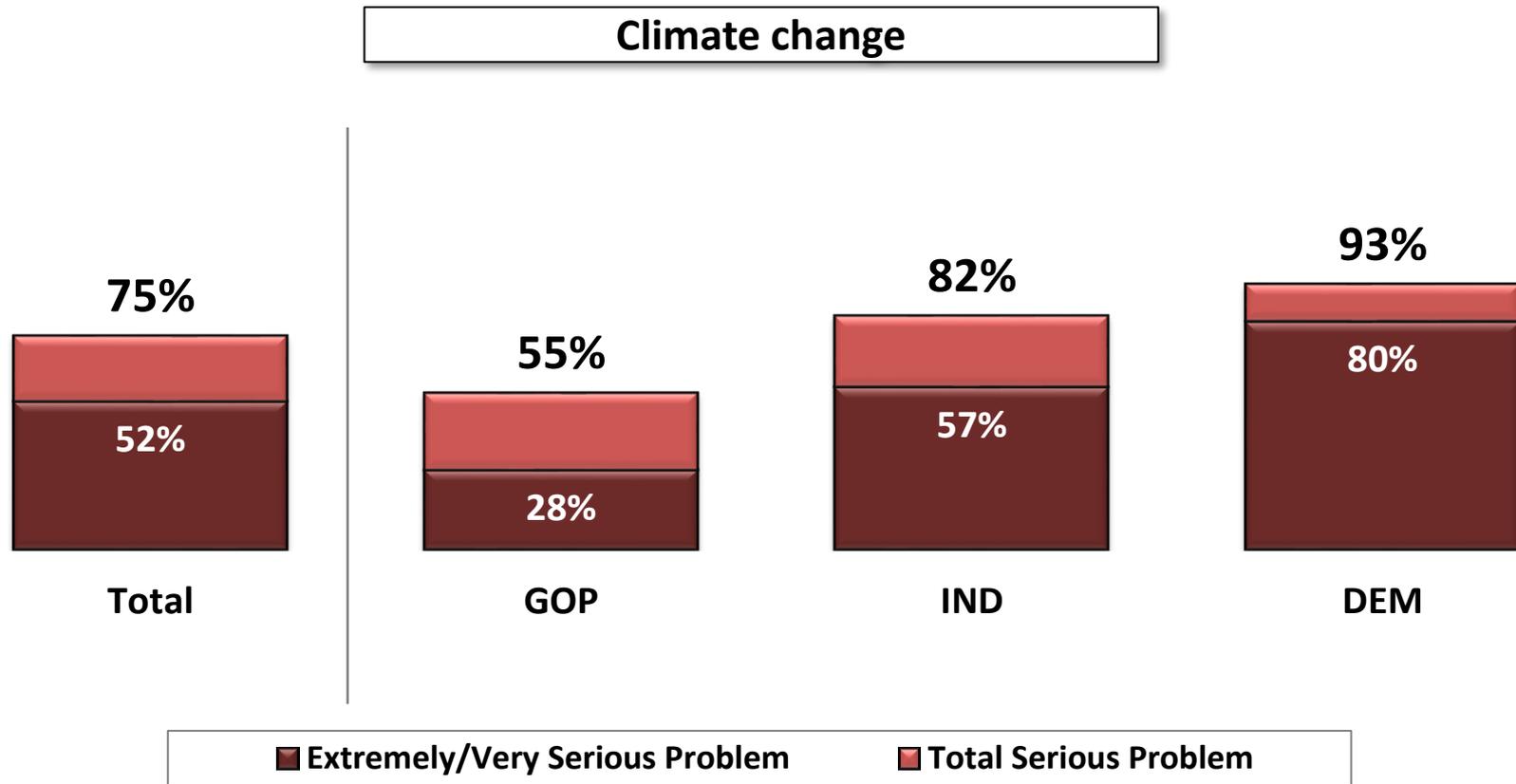
*For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Climate change** (Asked N=1693)*

Younger generations of voters are most concerned about climate change.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Climate change** (Asked N=1693)

There is a strong partisan divide as well, though majorities across party lines consider it a serious problem.



For each one, please tell me if you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not a problem in (STATE). **Climate change** (Asked N=1693)



Lori Weigel & Kathryn Hahne
Lori@newbridgestrategy.com
Kathryn@newbridgestrategy.com



FAIRBANK, MASLIN,
MAULLIN, METZ
& ASSOCIATES

Miranda Everitt
Miranda@FM3Research.com



COLORADO COLLEGE
State of the
Rockies

Ian Johnson
ijohnson@coloradocollege.edu