

# WEST VIRGINIA VOTERS SUPPORT THEIR NATIONAL PARKS

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An in-depth report proves supporting national parks  
is a top priority for West Virginia Voters



**NATIONAL  
PARKS  
CONSERVATION  
ASSOCIATION**

NPCA is a national, nonpartisan nonprofit organization with 1.6 million members and supporters across the country, including over 7,800 here in West Virginia. For decades we've worked at the community level in West Virginia to protect and enhance the state's incredible national parks—from Harpers Ferry National Historical Park to America's newest national parks, New River Gorge National Park & Preserve.

# POLLING HIGHLIGHTS

The National Parks Conservation Association commissioned polling opinion research among West Virginia Voters to gauge their attitudes about national parks and policies that could further enhance and preserve them.

**“More visitors are traveling to West Virginia than ever before...”**

More visitors are traveling to West Virginia than ever before and visiting the state’s national park sites, including America’s newest national park, New River Gorge National Park and Preserve. There is broad support for ensuring parks have the resources they need to provide an exceptional visitor experience, protect natural and historic resources, and that outdoor recreation is safe and accessible to all West Virginians for generations to come.

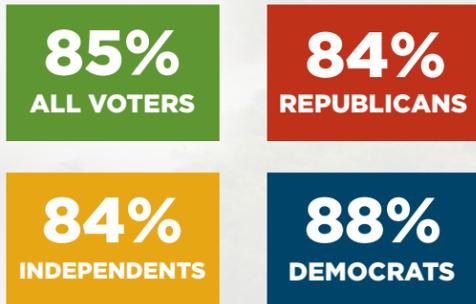
**“Nearly 75% of West Virginia voters support federal legislation that would increase funding for national parks.”**

West Virginians unanimously support their representatives in Congress taking a strong stand in supporting policies to protect and strengthen national parks. Nearly 75% of West Virginia voters support federal legislation that would increase funding for national parks.

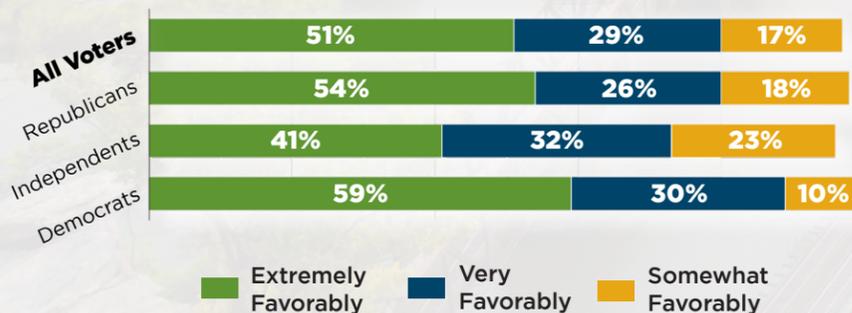
## TOP BENEFITS FROM WEST VIRGINIA NATIONAL PARKS

- Increases state tourism
- Provides outdoor recreation
- Preserves our rich history and heritage

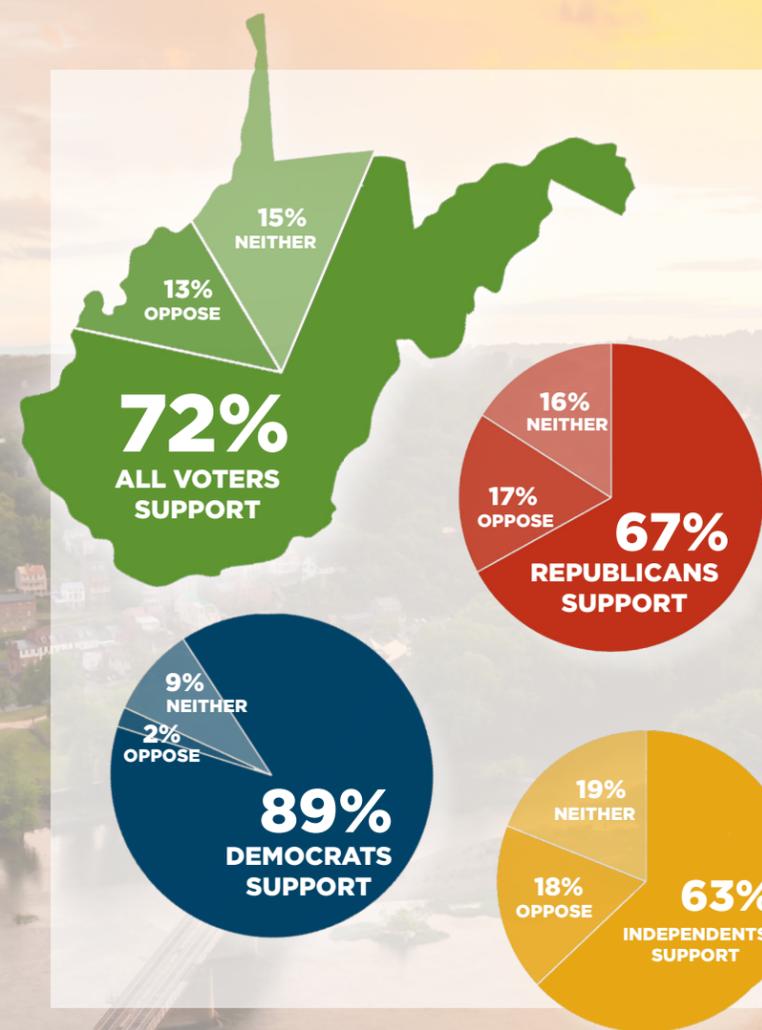
Across party lines, a strong majority of voters think West Virginia national parks are helping our economy.



Regardless of party, voters overwhelmingly think favorably of a member of Congress that supports protecting and strengthening on our national parks.



TargetPoint Consulting conducted a survey among 300 registered voters proportionally across the state of West Virginia. Interviews were conducted using an online survey from February 5-9, 2022.



## A POTENTIAL MAJOR CLIMATE AND FUNDING BILL RECEIVES STRONG SUPPORT

Congress would provide vital funding to national parks and communities across the country, including in West Virginia, for climate change. The bill would **create a historic number of new jobs** in national parks, including park rangers and scientists, as well as a Civilian Climate Corps to **employ young people and unemployed individuals** and help prepare our national parks, historic sites and public lands for any impacts from climate change and extreme weather events. It also **extends tax credits** to invest in clean energy, electric vehicles, and efficient buildings.

## TOP 3 NOTICABLE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- Less winter snow or shorter freezing periods
- Severe weather and intense storms
- Flooding

West Virginians that think climate change is currently affecting their local community:



are experiencing the impacts of climate change.

# SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION POLICIES

Voters across West Virginia believe that federal lawmakers should do more to protect and preserve national parks for future generations.



## 2 OUT OF 3

West Virginia voters say federal lawmakers are not doing enough to protect the water quality of lakes, rivers, and streams.

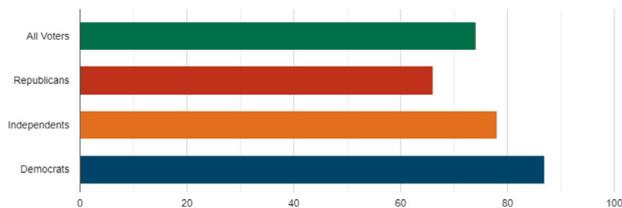


## MORE THAN HALF

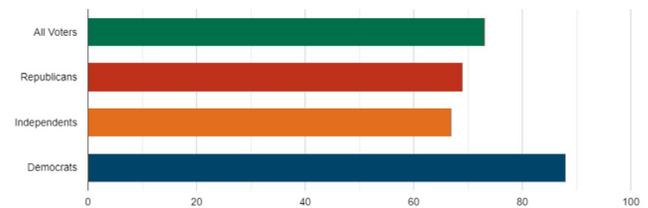
of West Virginians say federal lawmakers are not doing enough to protect animals and their habitats.

There is widespread support for Congress and federal lawmakers to prioritize conservation policies, both big and small, that address vital issues facing national parks.

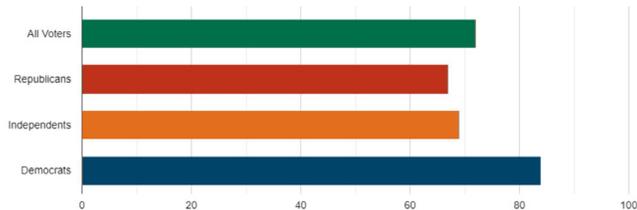
Increasing federal or state funding to extend running water and sanitation services to rural areas on septic that currently lack access.



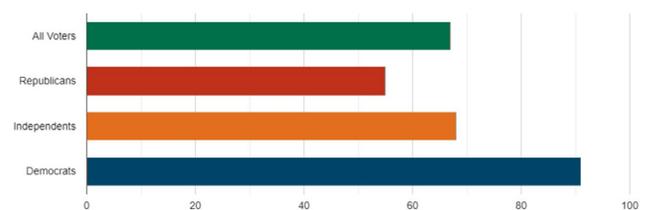
Creating new national parks and national monuments to protect historic sites and natural areas for outdoor recreation.



Implementing strategies that would result in fewer wildlife-vehicle collisions, including deer.



Strengthening laws to reduce smog, haze, and air pollution.



**Michael Meyers** is President and partner at TargetPoint Consulting. His two decades of experience bring a deep understanding of the views held by the national electorate. His past clients include the presidential campaigns of President Bush, Senator McCain, and Governor Romney. Numerous clients have benefitted from his insights as a public opinion researcher, including the Michigan legislature, local ballot initiatives, and presidential campaigns.

As Research Director at TargetPoint, **Meredith King** manages research and project development conducted at TargetPoint. Meredith received her Master of Public Policy from the University of Utah and her Bachelor's in political science from Brigham Young University.



ABOUT THE POLLSTER

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Preserving Our Past. Protecting Our Future.

QUESTIONS?