

VOTER POLL GENERAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2026



COVER LETTER FOR GENERAL VOTER POLL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thank you for taking time to read the 2026 Clean Elections Arizona Voter Poll. Before you dive into the numbers, we want to share why this information exists and how it serves you.

Good work begins with listening. As Arizona's voter education agency, we make it a practice to understand what matters to Arizona voters. Their priorities help shape our work.

This is why we commissioned this poll. It is our second wave of research in 2026. Our goal was to uncover exactly what priorities drive Arizona voters as they participate in elections in 2026. We surveyed voters statewide to create useful insights for anyone interested in our state's elections. The poll provides a reliable, accurate picture of voter priorities.

However, this survey is about more than numbers. It reminds us of a simple fact: voters decide elections. Understanding what matters to them is the foundation of our work.

Sincerely,

Tom Collins, Executive Director
Clean Elections

Gina Roberts, Voter Education Director
Clean Elections

INTRODUCTION

WHAT ARIZONA VOTERS CARE ABOUT MOST, AND WHY

The Citizens Clean Elections Commission's charter is to provide nonpartisan information to voters since its inception in 1998. It publishes Arizona candidate statements in the Voter Education Guide, which is mailed to every Arizona voter household prior to each primary and general election, and [Azcleanelections.gov](https://azcleaselections.gov) houses this candidate information and more, serving as an information hub for both voters and Arizonans interested in running for office.

With each election, Clean Elections also hosts a series of candidate debates, which are broadcast and streamed statewide. These wide-ranging conversations give Arizonans a chance to ask candidates questions and hear directly from them in an unscripted, candid format.

To ensure the debates are truly voter-informed, Clean Elections surveys voters regularly to ask them directly what is most important to them, how they're feeling and why. The voters are also asked which of more than 45 specific issues matter most to them when

evaluating candidates for Arizona state office. Voter input informs which questions are asked of candidates during the debates.



METHODOLOGY

Clean Elections conducted this statewide, nonpartisan survey from August 12-21, 2026, prior to the November 2026 general election:

A total of **1,539** Arizonans were surveyed
(Self-identified as registered voters in screening questions)

THE MARGIN OF ERROR FOR THIS SAMPLE IS $\pm 2.5\%$.

The survey was also conducted prior to the July 2026 primary election, when:

A total of **1,632** Arizonans were surveyed in March 2026

MANY QUESTIONS WERE IDENTICAL IN BOTH WAVES, ENABLING CLEAN ELECTIONS TO IDENTIFY NOTABLE SHIFTS OVER TIME.



KEY FINDINGS

ARIZONA VOTER POLL

This poll was commissioned by Clean Elections and conducted by Riester as an online survey of Arizona registered voters statewide. Participants opted in through an online panel, and it was fielded from August 12-21, 2026 to illuminate voter wants and opinions leading into the November 2026 general election.

Clean Elections conducted two statewide, nonpartisan survey waves: one prior to the primary election debates in March 2026 and a second one prior to the general election debates in August 2026.

A total of 1,632 Arizonans were surveyed in March 2026

A total of 1,539 Arizonans were surveyed in August 2026

The majority of the questions were identical in both waves, enabling Clean Elections to identify notable shifts over time.

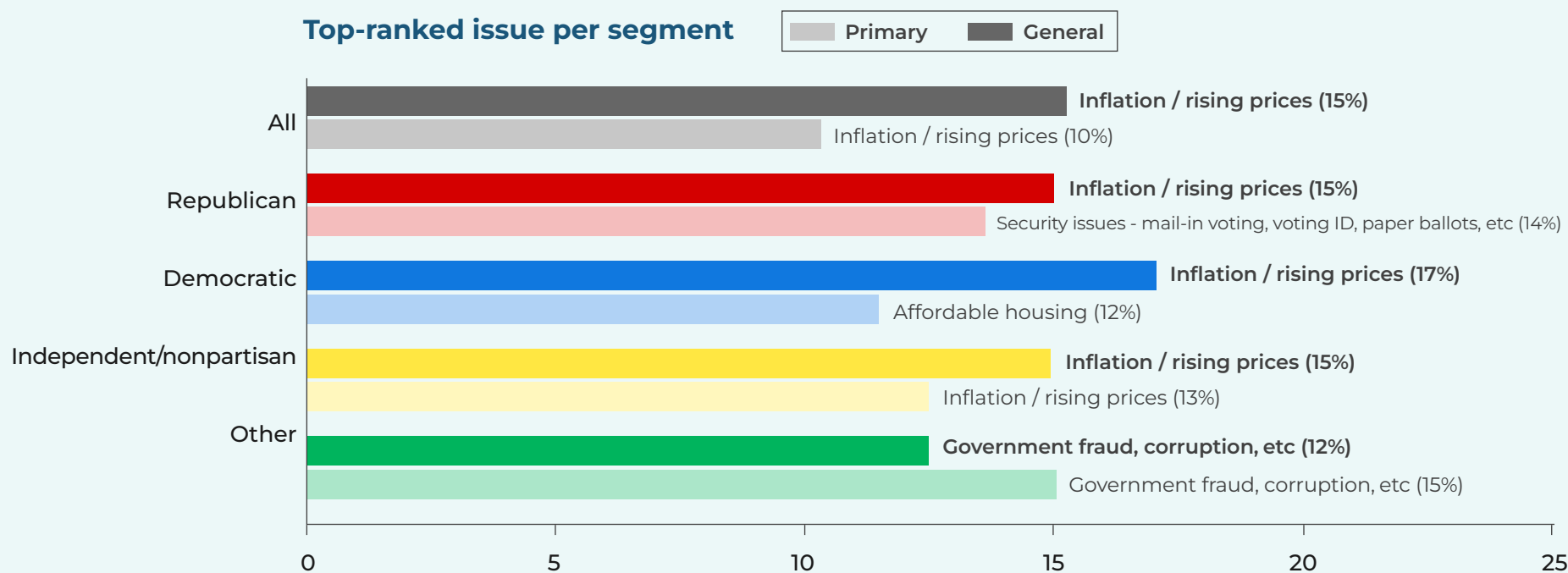
TOP 3 ISSUES *(Top 5 answers shown)*

Q. Which are the three most important issues for you to know a candidate's position when you are deciding how you will vote?

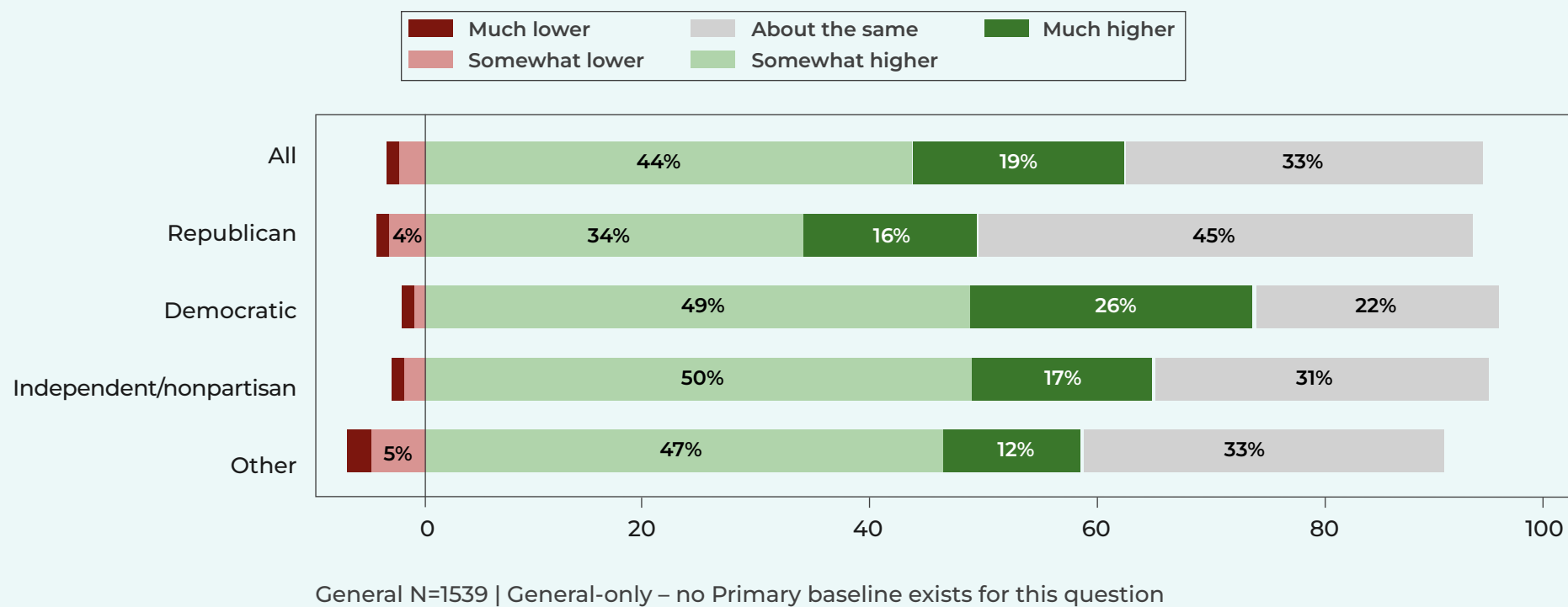
Issue	Aug 2026	March 2026
Inflation / rising prices	26%	20%
Affordable housing	25%	22%
Government fraud, corruption, etc.	18%	18%
Security issues - mail-in voting, voter I.D., paper ballots, etc.	16%	21%
Whether the candidate has a plan to avoid water shortages	16%	12%

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE

Q. Finally, which is the most important issue for you to know a candidate's position when you are deciding how you will vote?



Q. One month from now, do you expect grocery prices in Arizona to be higher, lower, or about the same?



KEY FINDINGS

VOTERS FEEL PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE ECONOMY

A plurality across party lines say their personal economic situation, the state economy and the national economy are getting worse.

Q: 1. With regards to the national economy, would you say the economic/financial situation is getting better, worse, or staying the same?

Q: 2. With regards to the state economy, would you say the economic/financial situation is getting better, worse, or staying the same?

Q: 3. With regards to your local community economy, would you say the economic/financial situation is getting better, worse, or staying the same?

Q: 4. With regards to your own financial situation, would you say the economic/financial situation is getting better, worse, or staying the same?



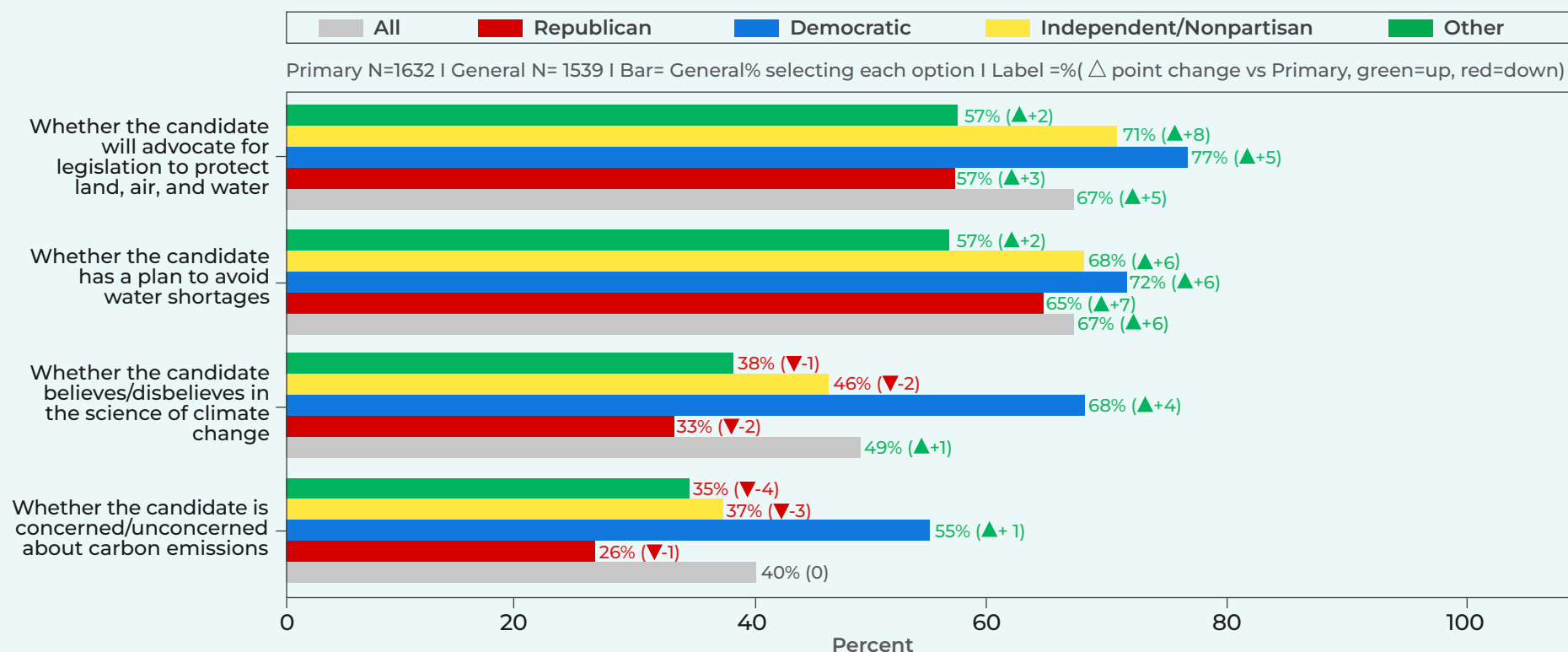
Economic Level	All			Republican			Democrat			Independent			Other		
	Getting Better	Staying Same	Getting Worse	Getting Better	Staying Same	Getting Worse	Getting Better	Staying Same	Getting Worse	Getting Better	Staying Same	Getting Worse	Getting Better	Staying Same	Getting Worse
National Economy (1)	18% (-2)	19% (+1)	63% (+1)	33% (-4)	26% (+4)	41% (+1)	9% (+2)	12% (+3)	79% (-4)	13% (-2)	20% (-3)	67% (+4)	11% (+1)	18% (-6)	71% (+5)
State Economy (2)	16% (0)	29% (+1)	55% (-2)	24% (0)	32% (+5)	45% (-4)	12% (+2)	27% (+2)	61% (-4)	15% (+3)	30% (-1)	56% (-2)	10% (0)	22% (-14)	68% (+14)
Local Community Economy (3)	16% (-2)	35% (+4)	49% (-2)	22% (-3)	40% (+6)	38% (-3)	12% (+1)	33% (+5)	55% (-6)	13% (-3)	36% (+4)	51% (-1)	13% (0)	28% (-2)	59% (+3)
Personal Financial Situation (4)	17% (-2)	32% (-2)	51% (+4)	25% (0)	35% (-3)	39% (+2)	12% (0)	38% (-3)	60% (+4)	15% (-5)	36% (+3)	49% (+1)	11% (-6)	26% (-3)	62% (+8)

Δ shows change from Primary (March 2026) to General (August 2026).

WATER AND CONSERVATION HAVE GROWN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO VOTERS

Across party lines, a majority of voters rate *Whether the candidate will advocate for legislation to protect land, air and water* and *Whether the candidate has a plan to avoid water shortages* “Extremely Important” – and those percentages have increased across party lines since spring 2026.

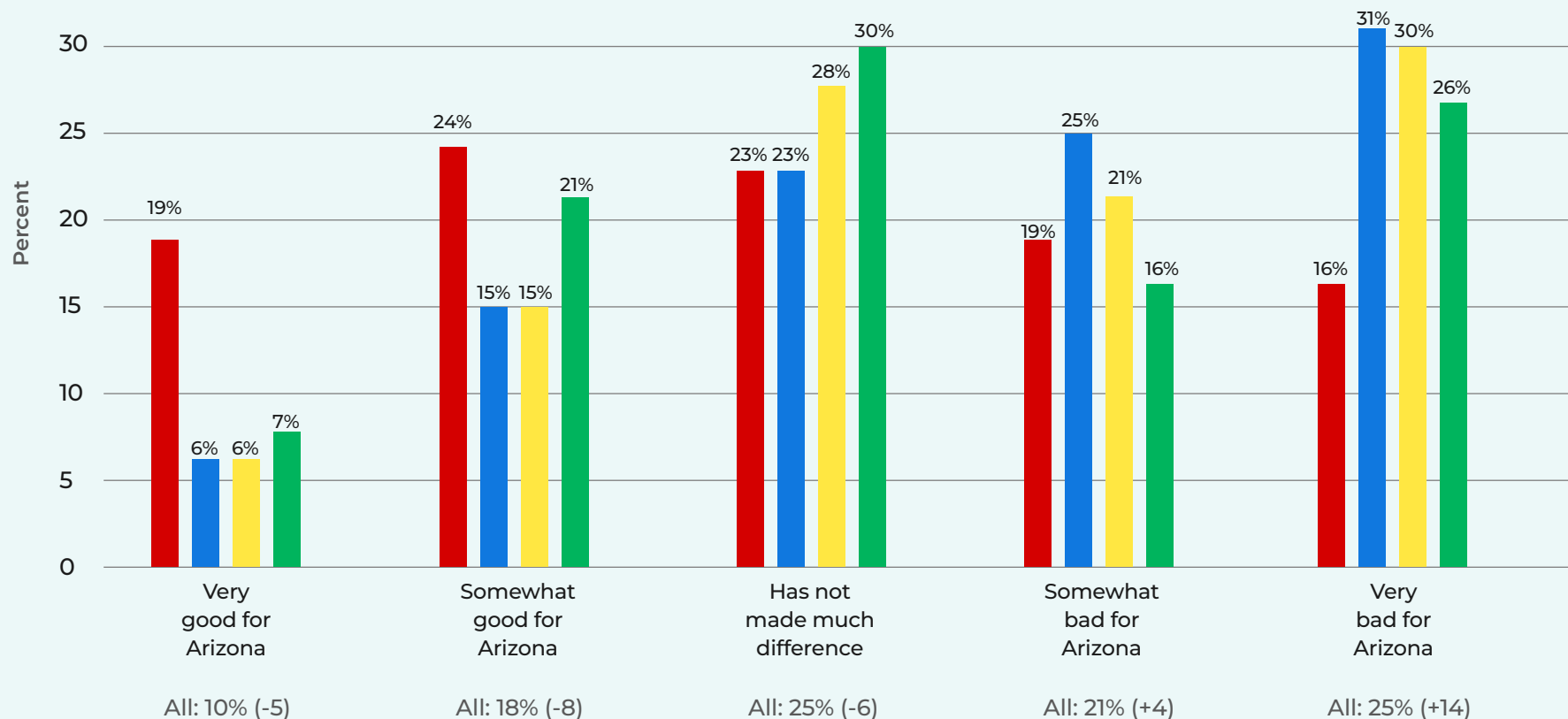
Q. Which of the following are important for you to know a candidate’s position on when voting in an Arizona state office election? Select all that apply.



VOTERS ARE SKEPTICAL OF ARIZONA'S DATA CENTER BOOM AND FAVOR TIGHTER CONTROLS

Only 28% say recent data center growth has been good for Arizona, versus 46% saying it has been bad. The percentage believing it has been “very bad” has more than doubled since spring 2026.

Q. Overall, do you think the recent growth of data centers in Arizona has been good or bad for the state?



OPPOSITION TO THE IRAN WAR HAS INTENSIFIED

The war in Iran had just started when voters were surveyed in the spring of 2026. Since then, the percentage of strong opposition has increased across party lines.

Q. PRIMARY: Thinking about the recent joint U.S. and Israeli military attack on Iran, how would you describe your reaction to this action?

Q. GENERAL: Do you believe the United States should be involved in its current war with Iran? How much do you support or oppose this war?

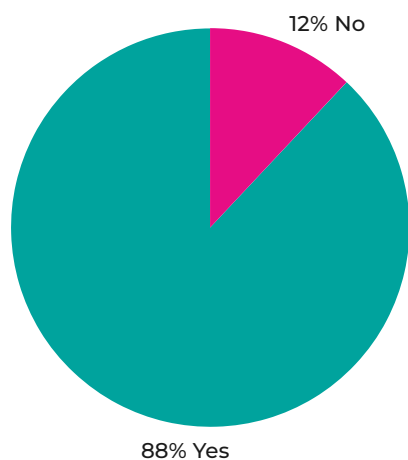
	All	Republican	Democrat	Independent	Other
Strongly oppose	39% (+7)	12% (+4)	61% (+4)	42% (+7)	38% (+2)
Somewhat oppose	15% (+2)	13% (+3)	15% (0)	18% (+4)	18% (+8)
Neither support nor oppose	17% (-2)	20% (-3)	12% (-4)	18% (-4)	23% (-10)
Somewhat support	15% (0)	26% (-1)	7% (0)	13% (0)	13% (+1)
Strongly support	14% (-7)	30% (-10)	5% (0)	8% (-7)	8% (-2)

INDEPENDENT VOTERS ARE AWARE THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN PRIMARIES BUT THAT DOESN'T TRANSLATE INTO WIDESPREAD PARTICIPATION

Eighty-eight percent of Independents know they can choose a Republican or Democratic primary ballot, yet only **48%** say they voted in the July primary (compared to 75% of non-Independents).

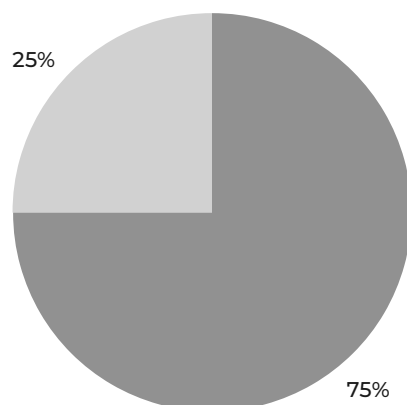
Q. [INDEPENDENTS ONLY, n=321]

Are you aware that Independent voters in Arizona (voters who are not members of a political party) can choose to vote in the Democratic or Republican Party's political primaries?



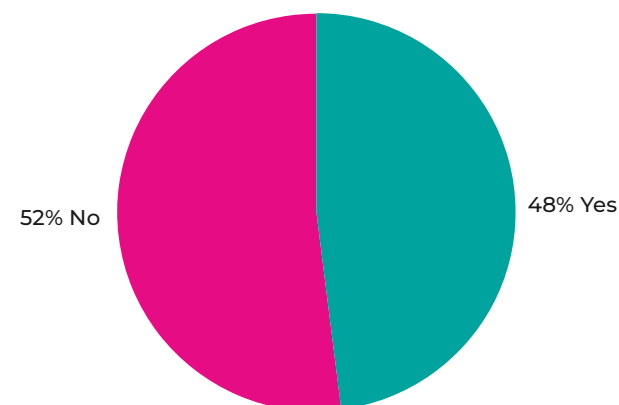
Q. [EXCLUDING INDEPENDENTS, n=1,218]

Did you vote in this year's primary election in July 2026?



Q. [INDEPENDENTS ONLY, n=321]

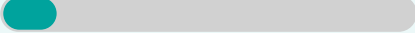
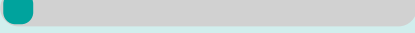
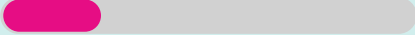
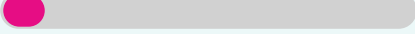
Did you vote in either the Democratic Party or Republican Party's Primary Election this past July 2026?



HISPANIC VOTER ENTHUSIASM APPEARS SOMEWHAT SUBDUED

Fifty-nine percent of Hispanic respondents said they're "very likely" to vote in the midterm, compared with seventy-six percent of non-Hispanics.

Q. As you may know, on November 3rd, 2026, there will be midterm elections. How likely are you to vote in the midterm election?

Segment	Value	Percent	% of Total	Responses
Hispanic	Very likely		59%	13% 195
	Somewhat likely		25%	5% 84
	Neither likely nor unlikely		9%	2% 30
	Somewhat unlikely		4%	1% 14
	Very unlikely		2%	0% 7
Total Responses				21% 330
Non-Hispanic	Very likely		76%	59% 913
	Somewhat likely		15%	12% 187
	Neither likely nor unlikely		5%	4% 56
	Somewhat unlikely		2%	1% 23
	Very unlikely		2%	2% 30
Total Responses				78% 1,209

REGIONALLY, DISAFFECTION IS MOST ACUTE AMONG TUCSON VOTERS

Three quarters believe the national financial situation is getting worse, while six in ten say their personal financial situation is getting worse.

Q. In each of the following areas, would you say the economic/financial situation is getting better, getting worse, or staying the same?

The National Economy	Getting Better	Getting Worse	Staying the Same
N. Phx & Scottsdale	15% (-6)	67% (+6)	18% (0)
Central Phx	24% (+1)	60% (+2)	16% (-2)
S. Phx & Tempe	10% (-7)	59% (-5)	31% (+12)
East Valley	18% (-1)	64% (+2)	18% (-1)
West Valley	25% (0)	58% (+4)	18% (-4)
Tucson	12% (-3)	74% (+4)	14% (-2)
Rural Arizona	16% (-9)	60% (+10)	24% (-1)

Your Personal Financial Situation**Getting Better****Getting Worse****Staying the Same**

N. Phx & Scottsdale

13% (-8)

52% (+7)

35% (+1)

Central Phx

29% (+6)

45% (-5)

26% (-1)

S. Phx & Tempe

22% (+3)

48% (+6)

29% (-9)

East Valley

16% (-4)

48% (+6)

37% (-2)

West Valley

23% (+1)

47% (+4)

30% (-5)

Tucson

8% (-8)

60% (+6)

32% (+1)

Rural Arizona

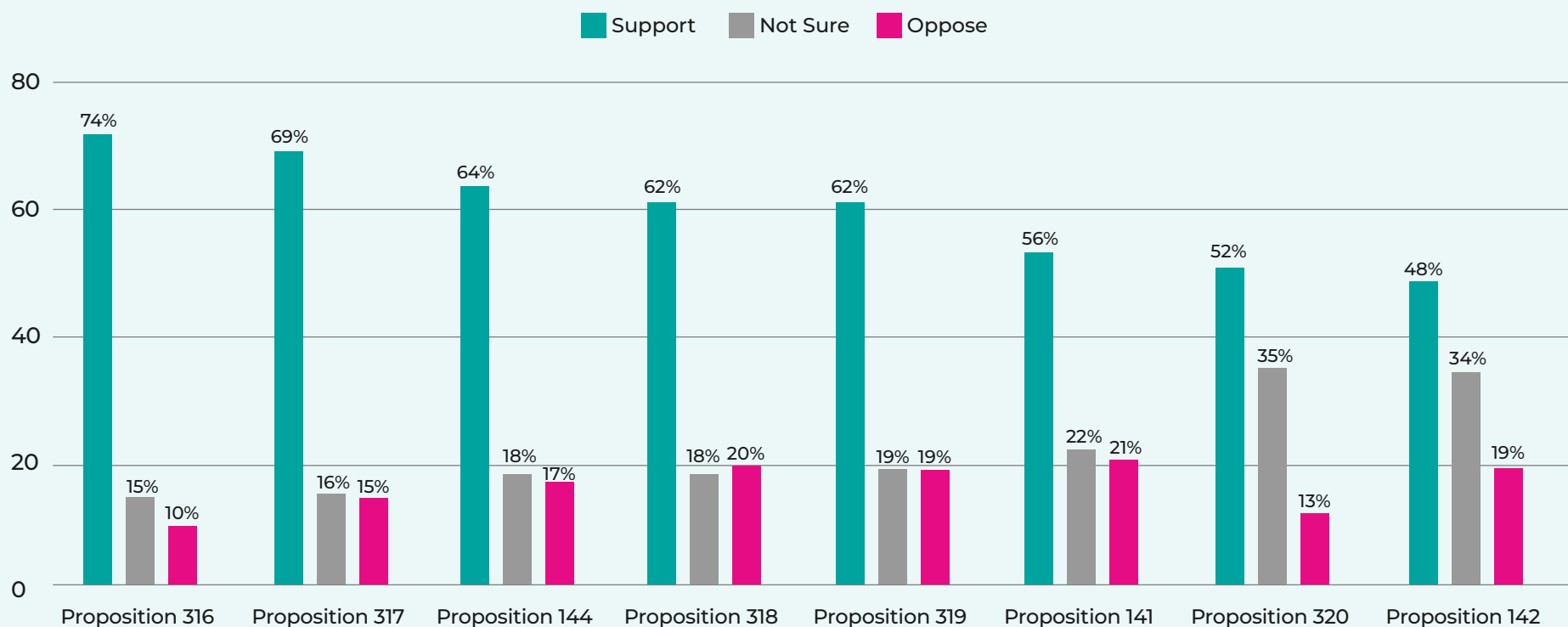
15% (+3)

52% (+14)

33% (-17)

PROPOSITIONS

*Propositions were presented to respondents in ascending order, starting with Proposition 141 and ending with Proposition 320. This chart depicts their ratings, ordered from most to least support.



PROPOSITIONS

Do you support **Proposition 141**, which would amend the Arizona Constitution to stop state and local governments from charging a tax or fee based on how many miles a vehicle travels. It would also restrict government monitoring or limits on vehicle mileage without the owner's consent, with exceptions for certain commercial and government vehicles.

Do you support **Proposition 142**, which would add more specific rules to the Arizona Constitution's current ban on government discrimination or preferential treatment based on race or ethnicity. It would restrict certain diversity statements, publicly funded education positions, and disciplinary practices that treat people differently based on race or ethnicity. Some exceptions would remain.

Do you support **Proposition 144**, which would add the following election rules to the Arizona Constitution: It would say that only U.S. citizens may register and vote in Arizona elections. It would require every voter to show valid government ID before voting, including people who vote by mail or early, as later laws explain. It would ban foreign nationals from giving money or anything of value to influence an Arizona election. On Election Day, voters would have the choice to have their ballot counted at their voting place. The new rules would start with elections held on or after January 1, 2028.

Do you support **Proposition 316**, which would limit city and local taxes on groceries. A local government would need voter approval before starting or raising a grocery tax. In most cases, the tax could not go above 2%. A place that already has a grocery tax above 2% could keep it, but could not raise it. The measure would not cover restaurant meals or hot food meant to be eaten right away.

PROPOSITIONS

Do you support **Proposition 317**, which would label drug cartels as terrorist organizations under Arizona law. It would also tell the Arizona Department of Homeland Security to use its current legal powers to respond to threats from drug cartels. The measure would not give Arizona new federal powers.

Do you support **Proposition 318**, which would set school rules based on a person's sex listed on the person's original birth Certificate. School sports teams would be listed as male, female, or coed. A person listed as male under the measure could not play on a female team. Restrooms, locker rooms, showers, and other private spaces tied to sports would also be used based on that definition. More people could sue a school or group over a claimed violation.

Do you support **Proposition 319**, which would mostly stop the state and local governments from starting new photo traffic camera programs. Photo cameras may be used to catch speeding or drivers who run red lights. A city or town with an older system could keep it for a short time. Local voters would have to approve the system at the next general election. If voters say no, the cameras would have to stop within 90 days. If voters say yes, the system could continue for 10 years before another vote.

Do you support **Proposition 320**, which would apply to certain large school districts. These districts would have to spend at least 60% of their operating money on direct teaching costs. The Arizona Auditor General would decide which costs count as direct teaching. Districts below 60% would have to raise their share each year. A district that does not follow the rule could lose some classroom funding. Money taken from districts that do not meet the rule could go to districts that do.

HOW THIS DATA CAN BE USED

This research is intended to provide a timely snapshot of the information needs of Arizona voters in an ever-changing environment. It is used by moderators to guide debates. It is a resource for candidates and campaign teams seeking insight into what their voters want addressed in outreach and policy solutions. Community groups can use the data to guide their strategic initiatives. And it helps guide voter education and community outreach efforts at Clean Elections.

About Citizens Clean Elections Commission

The Citizens Clean Elections Act, passed by voters in 1998, is administered by a five member, non-partisan Commission. The Act established a system for voter education, clean funding for candidate campaigns and campaign finance enforcement. The purpose of the Act is to restore citizen participation and confidence in our political system, improve the integrity of Arizona State government and promote freedom of speech under the U.S. and Arizona Constitutions.

Clean Elections Programs

Voter Education | The Commission has a robust voter education plan, developed annually in consultation with election officials and stakeholders. It focuses on educating voters about the logistics of voting as well as voting informed.

Public Financing | The Commission provides an optional public financing program to qualified statewide and legislative candidates. They must meet certain requirements, among them collecting a certain number of \$5 qualifying contributions and agreeing not to accept contributions from PACs and corporations.

Campaign Finance Enforcement | The Commission enforces the Clean Elections Act, including the public financing program, and has the authority to assess civil penalties on both participating and non-participating candidates.

Clean Elections Fund | The voters of Arizona established the Citizens Clean Elections Fund, which is comprised from the following: 10% surcharge on all civil penalties and criminal fines; civil penalties paid by candidates; \$5 qualifying contributions collected from participating candidates.