



TO: Interested Parties
 FROM: Andrew Baumann and Nicole Jaconetty, Global Strategy Group
 DATE: June 8, 2020
 RE: **NEW POLL: Colorado Voters Overwhelmingly Support Strong AQCC Rules to Combat Climate Change**

New survey data from Global Strategy Group shows that voters support taking strong government action on climate change, including overwhelming support for the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission implementing strong and timely rules that will “guarantee” that Colorado hits its carbon emission targets. Key findings from the survey conducted between May 7 and May 11, 2020 among 800 registered voters in Colorado, as well as from a survey among 600 registered voters in Colorado between December 13 and December 17, 2019, are as follows:

KEY FINDINGS:

- **There is strong support for climate action generally across the state of Colorado.** By an overwhelming 61%-22% margin, Colorado voters support the state’s leaders taking strong action to combat climate change. This includes a massive 64%-17% margin among unaffiliated voters and an equally impressive margin of 64%-16% in the swing suburbs of Jefferson, Arapahoe, and Adams Counties.
- **Taking a stand on strong climate action significantly boosts Democratic candidates for state legislature statewide.** When a generic Democrat is positioned against a generic Republican for state legislature, voters choose a Democrat, 48% to 40% -- a +8 advantage. But when asked who voters would choose when presented with a Democratic candidate who supports “taking strong government action to combat climate change” and a Republican candidate who opposes doing so, voters choose the Democrat 56% to 35% -- improving the Democratic margin by 13 points, to a +21 advantage. A Democrat’s margin improves most with center-right voters – but the gains are broad based, with gains among both older and younger voters and both college and non-college voters.

LEGISLATIVE VOTE WITH CLIMATE ACTION									
	Overall	Dem.	Unaf.	GOP	People of Color	White 18-54	White 55+	White Non-College	White College
Democrat who supports	56	93	57	14	60	62	46	50	62
Republican who opposes	35	5	28	78	33	28	45	38	31
<i>NET support</i>	<i>+21</i>	<i>+88</i>	<i>+29</i>	<i>-64</i>	<i>+27</i>	<i>+34</i>	<i>+1</i>	<i>+12</i>	<i>+31</i>
<i>NET Generic Democrat</i>	<i>+8</i>	<i>+86</i>	<i>+14</i>	<i>-85</i>	<i>+15</i>	<i>+20</i>	<i>-15</i>	<i>-2</i>	<i>+17</i>
<i>Total Lift</i>	<i>+13</i>	<i>+2</i>	<i>+15</i>	<i>+21</i>	<i>+12</i>	<i>+14</i>	<i>+16</i>	<i>+14</i>	<i>+14</i>

- **Voters, including Republicans, approve of the law creating emissions reductions targets.** Nearly three-quarters of voters (73%) approve of the state enacting targets to reduce carbon emissions, including over half of Republicans (52%) and 72% of unaffiliated voters.

- **Voters overwhelmingly agree that the AQCC should act quickly to implement strong rules to guarantee Colorado hits its carbon emissions targets.** Voters read the following background about the Air Quality Control Commission:

As you may know, last year the Colorado legislature passed, and Governor Polis signed into law, legislation that created statewide targets to reduce carbon emissions in Colorado – including emissions from power plants, factories, and vehicles – by at least 50% by 2030 and by at least 90% by 2050. This law set these targets, but it did not specify how the state would meet them. Instead, it directed the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission (the air quality commission) to develop rules to achieve these targets.

And then, they were asked if they agreed with the following statement:

The air quality commission should act within the next year to create rules that guarantee that the state will meet its targets to reduce carbon emissions by at least 50% by 2030 and by at least 90% by 2050.

Seven in 10 voters agree (71%), including 92% of Democrats, 72% of unaffiliateds, and 62% of less-conservative Republicans. The only group in opposition are the 12% of Colorado voters who are very conservative Republicans. We also oversampled Latinx voters in our December survey and found that 76% agreed with this statement.

- **Voters believe creating these rules will have strongly positive impacts in Colorado.** They see the clear benefit the rules will have on air quality, public health, and water and public lands, as well as their families and climate change overall – and a plurality agrees that these rules will have a positive impact on the economy – and a 60% majority reject the notion that these rules would have a negative economic impact.

AQCC IMPACTS				
	Positive impact	Negative impact	No impact	NET Positive impact
Air quality in Colorado	78	9	13	+69
Public health in Colorado	74	10	16	+64
Water and public lands in Colorado	74	12	14	+62
Climate change	70	9	21	+61
Future generations of your family	70	16	14	+54
The economy and jobs in Colorado	47	40	13	+7

ABOUT THIS RESEARCH

Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 600 registered voters in Colorado between December 13 and December 17, 2019, plus an oversample of 122 Latinx registered voters (for a total of 184 Latinx voters) and a second survey of 800 registered voters in Colorado between May 7 and May 11, 2020. The surveys were conducted online via a combination of text-to-web methodology, with voters chosen at random from the voter file, and with respondents who were recruited from multiple opt-in online panel vendors. All respondents were verified against a voter file, and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of Colorado's registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables including party registration, race, gender, age, education, region, and population density.