

TO American Lung Association
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 RE POLL RESULTS: Voters Overwhelmingly Support Strong Fuel Efficiency Standards

By wide margins, American voters oppose any efforts to weaken the stronger fuel efficiency standards put in place by the previous administration. When voters hear a balanced simulated debate – including strong arguments attacking the standards that reflect the language being used by opponents of these standards– support for keeping the standards in place only solidifies in intensity. Voters nationwide also support the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enforcing stricter limits on air pollution and are overwhelmingly favorable to clean air advocates and policies.

Key findings from Global Strategy Group’s recent nationwide poll of registered voters are as follows:

KEY FINDINGS

Voters’ widely support clean air laws and clean air enforcement agencies. Voters nationwide are broadly favorable towards the Clean Air Act (65% favorable/10% unfavorable) and the EPA (59% favorable/26% unfavorable). Voters also support the EPA’s efforts to enforce stricter limits on air pollution more broadly by a margin of almost four to one (74% support/19% oppose, including 48% who strongly support).

In keeping with voters’ strong support for clean air policies, voters also overwhelmingly support keeping the previous Administration’s stronger fuel efficiency standards in place. A broad majority (65%) of voters support the previous Administration’s fuel efficiency standards, including a near-majority (48%) who strongly support keeping them. Just a quarter of voters (26%) oppose keeping stronger fuel efficiency standards in place.

Support for strong fuel efficiency standards crosses partisan lines, with Democrats, Republicans, and independent voters all supporting keeping the fuel efficiency standards.

Democrats support the standards at a rate of more than five-to-one (79% support/14% oppose), independent voters by more than two-to-one (64% support/26% oppose), and more Republicans support (48%) than oppose (43%) keeping the standards in place. This support also transcends the various demographic and regional groupings in the survey, including gender, age, education, and race.

Support for Keeping Stronger Fuel Efficiency Standards		
Support	Oppose	
65%	26%	TOTAL
65	31	Men
65	21	Women
68	24	18-44
67	26	45-64
58	30	65+
63	30	White
73	10	Non-White
48	43	Republican
64	26	Independent
79	14	Democrat
58	34	HS grad or less
75	16	College grad
66	26	Northeast
64	29	Midwest
67	23	South
63	27	West
63	28	Parents

This intense support holds even after voters hear arguments from both sides, including an argument from opponents of the standards that stresses potentially negative cost and safety ramifications of keeping these standards in place. After voters hear these arguments, support for keeping the smog limits holds steady (and even increases from 65% to 67% overall) at more than two-to-one. The intensity behind voters' support for the standards also increases after a balanced debate, from 48% to 51% who strongly support keeping the standards in place.

Support for Keeping Stronger Fuel Efficiency Standards

As you may know, the previous administration updated standards that require automakers to make steady improvements to the fuel efficiency of cars, trucks, and SUVs through the year 2025. Now, the current administration is considering weakening these stronger fuel efficiency standards. From what you know, do you support or oppose KEEPING these stronger fuel efficiency standards?



Some people say that its critical we leave cleaner air and a healthy environment for our children and grandchildren, and making cars more fuel efficient reduces harmful pollution. Keeping these ambitious but achievable standards will fight climate change and lead to fewer bad air days, and healthier children.

Other people say that forcing automakers to meet these unrealistic requirements will not only add thousands of dollars to the price of new cars and trucks, but will also force automakers to produce much lighter vehicles, which are less safe for drivers and their passengers, putting our families at greater risk of injury or death in the case of an accident



METHODOLOGY

Global Strategy Group conducted a telephone survey from March 13th to 15th, 2018 among 800 registered voters nationwide. The margin of error is +/- 3.5% at the 95% confidence level and the margin of error for subgroups is greater.