Rural Arizona Now

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State of Our State
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About the Arizonans Speak Poll

• Fielded June 25 – July 9, 2019
• 975 Arizonans (registered and not registered to vote)
• Hispanic and rural residents were oversampled to achieve 200+ for each
• Web-based poll
• 12-minute average completion time
• Fielding and analysis from Hootology
Where Arizonans feel they live ...

- Urban: 35%
- Suburban: 47%
- Rural: 18%

... Where USDA / U.S. Census Bureau states they live.

- 1 Urban: 80%
- 2: 8%
- 3: 7%
- 4: 1%

Morrison Institute for Public Policy
Arizona State University
Greatest differences between rural and non-rural Arizonans

Rural residents are more likely to agree that …

• Most rural residents use water efficiently.
• They are worse off financially than the prior year.

Rural residents feel less strongly that …

• Trade with Mexico is an important policy issue for Arizona.
• We should make it easier for immigrants to come to Arizona.
• Population growth is a threat to Arizona’s water supply.
What matters most to rural Arizonans?

- Health insurance: 79%
- Water quality: 79%
- Public education: 77%
- Economy: 76%
- Child welfare: 76%
- Public safety: 75%
- Affordable housing: 72%
- Senior Care: 71%
- Air quality: 71%
- Mental health care: 71%

“Please rate how important you consider the following policy issues for Arizona today.”
(Showing the percentage of rural Arizonans who rated these policy issues as an eight, nine or 10 on a 10-point scale of importance.)
“To what extent do you agree with the following statements about Arizonans’ water usage?”
(Percentage “agree” and “strongly agree” reported.)
Rural Arizonans: Threats to Arizona’s water supply

“Please rate each of the following based on whether or not you believe they are a threat to Arizona’s water supply.”
(Showing the percentage of rural Arizonans who rated these policy issues as an eight, nine or 10 on a 10-point scale of importance.)
Rural Arizonans: Importance of education topics

- Increased school safety: 69%
- Pay increases for teachers: 64%
- Smaller classes: 58%
- More counselors for students: 51%
- Building and infrastructure improvements: 47%
- More hours of instruction: 32%
- More charter school options: 29%
- More state dollars to support private school tuition: 29%

“Please rate how important each of the following areas are to improving Arizona’s K-12 education system.”
(Showing the percentage of rural Arizonans who rated these policy issues as an eight, nine or 10 on a 10-point scale of importance.)
Rural Arizonans: Agreement on immigration topics

Support deporting all undocumented immigrants currently in the United States 42%
Most migrants have a credible fear of persecution in home country 39%
I feel less safe because of undocumented immigrants 35%
Undocumented immigrants bolster Arizona's workforce 34%
We should make it easier for immigrants to come to Arizona 29%

“To what extent do you agree with the following statements about immigration in Arizona?”
(Percentage “agree” and “strongly agree” reported.)
Rural Arizonans: Agreement on housing topics

- Government funding for affordable housing should be expanded: 60%
- I am willing to have low/moderate income housing in my neighborhood: 48%
- I believe there is enough affordable housing in my area: 26%

“To what extent do you agree with the following statements about housing in Arizona?” (Percentage “agree” and “strongly agree” reported.)
Rural Arizonans and state government

“How much confidence do you have in Arizona state government when it comes to handling Arizona’s problems?”

- A great deal: 4%
- A fair amount: 43%
- Not very much: 38%
- None at all: 15%

“Do you think the state of Arizona brings in enough money each year to adequately meet the state’s needs?”

- Brings in more than it needs: 15%
- Has enough: 17%
- Unsure: 22%
- Needs to increase revenue: 46%
Rural Arizonans and the economy

“Compared with one year ago, are you better off financially, about the same, or worse off?”

- Better off: 21%
- About the same: 47%
- Worse off: 31%

Only 17% of rural Arizonans believe the Legislature has the right priorities.