



TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Association of Equipment Manufacturers

DATE: November 30, 2016

SUBJECT: Analysis of National Water Resources Development Act Poll

SUMMARY

In October 2016, the Association of Equipment Manufacturers commissioned Morning Consult to conduct an online national poll of nearly 2,000 registered voters to gauge perceptions and attitudes about U.S. water infrastructure broadly and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016 specifically.

The poll found that a majority (54 percent) of Americans rate the nation's water infrastructure as in fair or poor condition, and nearly seven in 10 (67 percent) registered voters believe that the federal government should spend somewhat or much more on water pipelines and waterways.

There are no notable differences across political affiliation, with Democrats, Independents and Republicans all strongly in favor of WRDA and all supporting increased federal funding for U.S. water infrastructure.

KEY FINDINGS

- A majority (54 percent) of registered voters say that U.S. water infrastructure is in fair or poor condition.
- Nearly seven out of 10 (67 percent) of the surveyed population believe that the federal government should spend somewhat more or much more on water pipelines and waterways.
- More than seven out of every 10 (74 percent) Americans either support or strongly support Congress passing WRDA this year.
- A clear majority (73 percent) of registered voters are either somewhat or much more likely to support WRDA when they learn that it might prevent drinking water crises such as the one in Flint, MI.

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DETAILED FINDINGS

The Water Resources Development Act of 2016

While half (49 percent) of registered voters are not familiar with the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, more than seven out of 10 (74 percent) Americans support WRDA once they learn what the legislation entails. Support for the legislation remains equally strong when registered voters are told that WRDA could authorize \$10 billion in federal funding for the country's water infrastructure system (71 percent), might prevent drinking water crises such as the one in Flint, MI (73 percent), and might help rehabilitate dams in hazardous condition (74 percent).

Strong bipartisan support to maintain and update water infrastructure

Upgrades to drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, updates to U.S. waterways and ports, and assistance to states to address water resource needs enjoy strong support among both Democrats (76 percent), Independents (72 percent) and Republicans (75 percent). The same holds true when it comes to support for increased federal and state funding, with Democrats (72 percent), Independents (70 percent) and Republicans (71 percent) in favor of the bill after they learn that it could authorize up to \$220 million in funding to address drinking water contamination in U.S. communities.

Flint weighs heavily on the minds of voters

Seven out of 10 (73 percent) registered voters said that they are more likely to support WRDA once they learn that it might prevent drinking water crises such as the one in Flint, MI. This is true across party lines, with Democrats (73 percent), Independents (72 percent) and Republicans (74 percent), indicating that repairs and updates to U.S. water and wastewater pipeline infrastructure are a key consideration in their support for WRDA.

ABOUT THE POLL

The poll was conducted from October 21-24, 2016, among a national sample of 1,983 registered voters. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of registered voters based on age, race/ethnicity, gender, educational attainment, region, annual household income, home ownership status, and marital status. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

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