

>> VOTERS POLLED ON AIR QUALITY

Majority of Virginia Voters Oppose Additional Air Quality Regulations



This survey of the Virginia voting public demonstrates few concerns about local air quality: an overwhelming majority think their local area is in compliance with federal standards; small fractions say that their local air quality necessitates restrictions on outdoor activity; and the percentage who think their local air quality is poor is in the low single digits.

In addition, while Virginians mostly oppose any additional environmental regulations on businesses—believing these would have negative impacts on the economy through higher taxes, higher prices and an unfriendly business environment—few believe that stricter regulations would have a meaningful impact on air quality.

- **More than three-in-four Virginians (78%)** rate their local air quality as “excellent” or “good,” while majorities in every region of the state rate their local air quality positively, including 76% of residents who live near the nation’s capital.
- **By a nearly three-to-one margin**, Virginians think that a bigger problem for their local area is “less economic growth and job opportunities caused by regulations” (64%) rather than “lower air quality caused by pollution” (23%).
- When asked about the impact of implementing stricter federal air quality regulations on their local area, the majority are concerned about the negative economic effects:
 - **More than three-in-four (78%)** think that stricter federal air quality regulations on their local area would increase taxes.
 - **Almost two-thirds (63%)** think it would make it harder for local businesses to start new operations or grow existing ones.
 - **Nearly three-quarters (74%)** think stricter regulations would increase the price they pay for everyday goods and services.

LOCAL AIR QUALITY SURVEY | AUGUST 24–29, 2015

VIRGINIA SAMPLE OF N=600 REGISTERED VOTERS (300 ON LANDLINES AND 300 ON CELL PHONES)

What do you see as the bigger problem for your local area?
LESS ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES CAUSED BY REGULATIONS 64%

LOWER AIR QUALITY CAUSED BY POLLUTION 23%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 13%

Do you think that implementing stricter federal air quality regulations on your local area would make it easier or harder for local businesses to start new operations or grow existing ones in your area?

EASIER 18%

HARDER 63%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 19%

How would you rate the air quality in your local area?

EXCELLENT OR GOOD 78%

FAIR/POOR 18%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 3%

Would you be willing to accept less economic growth and job opportunities in your local area to comply with stricter federal air quality regulations?

YES 30%

NO 65%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 5%

Do you think that implementing stricter federal air quality regulations on your local area would increase or decrease the amount you pay in taxes?

INCREASE 78%

DECREASE 9%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 13%

Who do you think should have more of a say when it comes to air quality regulations in your local area?

YOUR STATE- AND LOCAL-ELECTED OFFICIALS 71%

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 25%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 4%

Do you think that implementing stricter federal air quality regulations on your local area would increase or decrease the price you pay for everyday goods and services?

INCREASE 74%

DECREASE 9%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 17%

