

>> VOTERS POLLED ON AIR QUALITY

Majority of Pennsylvania Voters Oppose Additional Air Quality Regulations



This survey of the Pennsylvania 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 single digits.

In addition, while Pennsylvanians 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.

- **Nearly two-in-three Pennsylvanians (65%)** rate their local air quality as “excellent” or “good,” while majorities in every region of the state rate their local air quality positively.
- **By a three-to-one margin**, Pennsylvanians think that a bigger problem for their local area is “less economic growth and job opportunities caused by regulations” (68%) rather than “lower air quality caused by pollution” (23%).
- When asked about the effects 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 (76%)** think that stricter federal air quality regulations on their local area would increase taxes.
 - **Two-in-three (67%)** think it would make it harder for local businesses to start new operations or grow existing ones.
 - **Three-quarters (75%)** think stricter regulations would increase the price they pay for everyday goods and services.

LOCAL AIR QUALITY SURVEY | AUGUST 9–16, 2015

PENNSYLVANIA 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 68%

LOWER AIR QUALITY CAUSED BY POLLUTION 23%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 9%

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 17%

HARDER 67%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 16%

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

EXCELLENT/GOOD 65%

FAIR/POOR 35%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 1%

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 29%

NO 66%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 6%

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 76%

DECREASE 9%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 15%

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 68%

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 29%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 3%

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 75%

DECREASE 9%

DON'T KNOW/REFUSED 16%