

**TO:** Environmental Defense Action Fund  
**FR:** Morning Consult  
**DT:** October 2021  
**RE:** Results: Voter Support for Strengthening Methane Emission Rules



Bipartisan, racially and geographically diverse majorities of voters support the U.S. strengthening its rules to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas industry, and express importance that these rules comprehensively cover all types of oil and gas wells, including lower-producing wells. Stronger rules on methane emissions are seen as positives for the environment, U.S. public health, and reducing climate pollution, among other tested options. Voters also say that the prospect of increased jobs in the methane mitigation industry would make them more likely to support the U.S. strengthening its rules on methane emissions.

### Support for Strengthening Methane Rules

**BIPARTISAN MAJORITIES OF VOTERS, AS WELL AS MAJORITIES OF VOTERS ACROSS COMMUNITY TYPES AND RACE/ETHNICITY GROUPS SUPPORT THE U.S. STRENGTHENING ITS RULES TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY.**

Percentage of Voters Who Support the U.S. Strengthening its Rules to Reduce Methane Emissions from the Oil and Gas Industry	
Demographics	% Total Support (strongly + somewhat support)
Registered Voters	71%
Democratic Voters	88%
Independent Voters	73%
Republican Voters	50%
Urban Voters	81%
Suburban Voters	70%
Rural Voters	61%
White Voters	68%
Hispanic Voters	72%
Black Voters	83%
Asian/other Voters	75%

Methodology: This poll was conducted between October 11-October 13, 2021 among a sample of 2001 Registered Voters. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Registered Voters based on gender by age, educational attainment, race, marital status, homeownership, race, by educational attainment, 2016 presidential vote, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

## Comprehensive Well Type Coverage

**A MAJORITY OF VOTERS ALSO BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT STRENGTHENED METHANE RULES COMPREHENSIVELY COVER ALL TYPES OF OIL AND GAS WELLS, INCLUDING LOWER-PRODUCING WELLS.**

- Seventy percent of voters view comprehensive coverage of all types of oil and gas wells as important, including one third (34%) who view it as *very important*. Perceptions of importance span:
  - **Political party identification:** Democratic voters: 87%, independent voters: 69%, Republican voters: 52%.
  - **Political Ideology:** Liberal voters: 93%, moderate voters: 77%, conservative voters: 49%.
  - **Community type:** Urban voters: 81%, suburban voters: 68%, rural voters: 62%.
  - **Race/ethnicity:** White voters: 67%, Hispanic voters: 76%, Black voters: 82%, Asian/other voters: 80%.

**WHEN TOLD THAT SOME IN THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY ARGUE THAT LOWER-PRODUCING OIL AND GAS WELLS ARE TOO COSTLY TO INSPECT FOR METHANE LEAKS, HALF OF VOTERS (50%) SAY THIS INFORMATION MAKES THEM MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE RULES TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM ALL KINDS OF WELLS.**

- Around half of blue collar (47%) and white collar (53%) voters say they're more likely to support comprehensive methane emission rules to cover all kinds of wells even though inspections at lower-producing wells will potentially be more costly for oil and gas companies to conduct.

## Impact of Strengthened Methane Emission Rules – Methane Mitigation Jobs

**IF REDUCING METHANE EMISSIONS COULD LEAD TO MORE JOBS IN THE METHANE MITIGATION INDUSTRY, NEARLY TWO THIRDS OF VOTERS (64%) SAY THEY WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO SUPPORT THE U.S. STRENGTHENING ITS RULES TO REDUCE METHANE EMISSIONS FROM THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY.**

- Voters across community types, race/ethnicity groups, and blue and white collar workers alike say they would be more likely to support strengthened rules if it could lead to more methane mitigation jobs.

**Percentage of Voters Who Say Increased Jobs in Methane Mitigation Industry Would Make them More Likely to Support the U.S. Strengthening its Rules to Reduce Methane Emissions**

Demographics	% More Likely to Support (much + somewhat more likely)
Registered Voters	64%
Blue Collar Voters	62%
White Collar Voters	68%
Urban Voters	72%
Suburban Voters	62%
Rural Voters	59%
White Voters	62%
Hispanic Voters	69%
Black Voters	75%
Asian/other Voters	65%