

Tennesseans Support Investing in Conservation & Public Lands

Research demonstrates overwhelming voter support across demographics, regions, and political parties.

Compared to issues like the economy, health care and education, **more than three-in-four** voters say issues involving natural areas, forests, waters and wildlife are important in deciding whether to support an elected public official.

Tennessee voters **unanimously agree that national and state parks are an essential part of Tennessee's economy** (95% of respondents agreed) and quality of life (96% of respondents agreed).

More than nine-in-ten Tennessee voters say we **need to do more** to protect land, water and wildlife habitat and say they **support the State Legislature dedicating additional funding for conservation** for water quality, parks, wildlife, working farms and forests. This is up from 80% when this question was polled a decade ago and **support is consistent at 94% across party lines**, including for GOP voters.



85% of voters support dedicating additional funds to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. This is consistent across party lines (83% GOP, 84% independents, 88% democrats)



94% of voters agree that outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, hiking or boating in our mountains, forests, rivers and lakes is important to Tennessee's economy.



More than 4-in-5

voters say they would have a more favorable impression of their state legislator or governor if they supported dedicating additional funding for conservation.

91% of respondents said even when the state budget is tight, we should still find the money to invest in protecting our land, water and wildlife.



95% of voters say it is either extremely or very important to protect sources of drinking water



75% of voters say it is extremely or very important to protect fish and wildlife habitat



84% of voters say it is extremely or very important to protect working farmland



83% of voters say it is extremely or very important to protect natural areas threatened by development



New Bridge Strategy surveyed 600 registered Tennessee voters throughout the state on January 24 - 29, 2026. Interviews were distributed proportionally throughout the state. Quotas were set for key demographic sub-groups, such as gender and age.

For additional information contact Lindsay Hanna at lindsay.hanna@tnc.org