

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).**

80% of voters are opposed to the federal government selling public lands* across the country to private interests, with majorities opposed across party lines (76% GOP, 86% Independents, 82% Democrats).

**National public lands were defined as areas of land and water owned by the American people and managed by government agencies such as the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management.*



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



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



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



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



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



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



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