



Sample: 800 likely Nov. 2026 voters statewide in Colorado, including an oversample to achieve 446 Democratic primary voters
Field: December 1 - 7, 2025

Colorado Water Poll — December 2025

Hello, I'm calling from **XXX**. I'm not selling anything. We're doing a survey here in Colorado on some topics that I'm sure you will find interesting.

1. Are you registered to vote in Colorado?

	2026 GE Voter	DP Voter
Yes	100%	100%
No	--	--

Ask Q2 of Unaffiliated Voters Only.

2. In June 2026 there will be a primary election for governor, attorney general, secretary of state, and state treasurer. As an Unaffiliated voter, you will receive a ballot for both the Democratic primary and the Republican primary, but you can only complete and return one ballot.

Do you plan to vote the [**Rotate:** Democratic or Republican] primary ballot, or will you not vote in the primary election?

Democratic Primary.....	37%	100%
Republican Primary	26%	--
Will not vote in the Primary election	5%	--
Don't know / not sure	31%	--

Ask Q3 if {Registered Democrats or {Registered Unaffiliated and Vote in Democratic Primary in Q2}.

3. [**Intro for Registered Democrats Only:** In June 2026 there will be a primary election for governor, attorney general, secretary of state, and state treasurer.] Generally speaking, how likely are you to vote in the **Democratic Primary Election** – will you definitely vote, probably vote or will you probably not vote?

Definitely vote	82%	87%
Probably vote.....	13%	13%
Probably not vote	3%	--
Don't know / not sure Don't read	2%	--

4. Based on what you have seen, read or heard, would you say that Colorado does or does NOT have an adequate supply of water to meet future needs, say ten years from now?

	2026 GE Voter	DP Voter
Does have an adequate supply of water.....	18%	13%
Does NOT have an adequate supply of water.....	59%	61%
Don't know / not sure	23%	25%

5. Generally speaking, do you think the State of Colorado is doing [Rotate order of list and answers: too little, enough, or too much] to conserve and protect Colorado's water?

Doing too little.....	57%	59%
Doing enough	17%	16%
Doing too much	3%	-
Don't know / not sure	23%	25%

6. Thinking about water issues in Colorado, which one of the following is your single biggest concern? Randomize the order of the responses.

Population growth and development	30%	25%
Drought / lack of water	17%	26%
Reducing water use / more efficient water use	11%	17%
Drinking water quality	10%	7%
Farming and ranching.....	9%	4%
Rivers and streams	5%	5%
Forests and wildlife	4%	5%
The cost of water.....	3%	3%
Other.....	6%	5%
Don't know / not sure	4%	3%

7. Which one of the following statements comes closer to your view? Randomize the order of the statements and read. Phone only: If respondent is undecided ask: Even though you are undecided which one do you agree with more?

	2026 GE Voter	DP Voter
Colorado should prioritize water conservation on farms, ranches and in communities, so our rivers and streams have healthy water flow	57%	80%

OR,

Colorado should prioritize water for farmers, ranchers and in communities, even though it means our rivers and streams have less water	22%	7%
Don't know / not sure	21%	13%

Phone: Now I'd like to read you some reasons to protect and conserve Colorado's water. After I read each statement, please tell me how convincing it is as a reason to protect and conserve Colorado's water – is it very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or not at all convincing. The first / next one reads ...

Online: Now please read some reasons to protect and conserve Colorado's water. After you read each statement, please indicate how convincing it is as a reason to protect and conserve Colorado's water – is it very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or not at all convincing.

Randomize the order of the statements.

Statements Ranked by Persuasiveness.

	Total <u>Convincing</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not Very</u>	<u>Not at All</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
11. Clean, Safe Drinking Water: Healthy rivers and streams are essential to maintaining our water quality. Colorado's water sources must be protected to ensure that Colorado's families, cities, towns, farms and ranches have access to clean, safe drinking water when they turn on their taps.						
2026 GE Voter	78%	41%	37%	12%	7%	4%
Democratic Primary Voters	87%	53%	34%	9%	3%	1%
14A. Prioritize Water for Families, Cities, Towns, Farms and Ranches – Make Sure Rivers and Streams Remain Healthy. Water is critical for Colorado's economy and way of life. With prolonged drought, our state's water supply is shrinking. We must prioritize the water needs of families, cities, towns, farms and ranches to keep our state healthy and our economy strong, while making sure that our rivers and streams remain healthy. Ask on Split A only.						
2026 GE Voter	74%	45%	29%	14%	4%	8%
Democratic Primary Voters	87%	58%	28%	8%	4%	2%
10. Future Generations: We must protect Colorado's water now and into the future by increasing conservation of our rivers and streams to ensure that Colorado's families, cities, towns, farms and ranches have the water they need for generations to come.						
2026 GE Voter	76%	38%	38%	14%	6%	4%
Democratic Primary Voters	88%	46%	42%	9%	2%	1%

	Total <u>Convincing</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Some</u>	Not <u>Very</u>	Not at <u>All</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
9B. Run Out of Water – Farms and Ranches: To protect Colorado's water, we need proactive solutions. We need to invest in water conservation and protect our rivers and streams now to make sure Colorado's farms and ranches don't run out of water. Ask on Split B only.						
2026 GE Voter	74%	35%	39%	14%	9%	3%
Democratic Primary Voters	80%	46%	33%	14%	6%	1%
12. Population Increase: Colorado's population is expected to increase by 1.5 million people by 2050. Colorado's water supply will not keep up. We must conserve and protect our rivers and streams to ensure that there is enough water for everyone.						
2026 GE Voter	71%	38%	33%	19%	6%	4%
Democratic Primary Voters	88%	52%	35%	8%	3%	1%
8. Water Is a Priority: Water is a priority for Colorado's future. With prolonged drought, our state's water supply is at risk. We must act now to protect and conserve Colorado's rivers and streams to preserve our water resources.						
2026 GE Voter	69%	39%	30%	15%	9%	7%
Democratic Primary Voters	90%	52%	38%	7%	2%	1%
13. Support Healthy Rivers: We need to protect and conserve Colorado's water, so rivers and streams have enough water to support healthy river systems, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation.						
2026 GE Voter	71%	35%	37%	16%	7%	5%
Democratic Primary Voters	83%	43%	40%	12%	3%	1%

	Total <u>Convincing</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Some</u>	Not <u>Very</u>	Not at <u>All</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
9A. Run Out of Water – Cities and Towns: To protect Colorado's water, we need proactive solutions. We need to invest in water conservation and protect our rivers and streams now to make sure Colorado's cities and towns don't run out of water. Ask on Split A only.						
2026 GE Voter	63%	32%	31%	21%	7%	9%
Democratic Primary Voters	82%	45%	37%	15%	1%	2%
14B. Prioritize Water for Families, Cities, Towns, Farms and Ranches - Rivers and Streams Get Less Water. Water is critical for Colorado's economy and way of life. With prolonged drought, our state's water supply is shrinking. We must prioritize the water needs of families, cities, towns, farms and ranches to keep our state healthy and our economy strong, even if it means our rivers and streams will get less water. Ask on Split B only.						
2026 GE Voter	44%	21%	23%	30%	23%	3%
Democratic Primary Voters	58%	28%	30%	24%	17%	2%

15. Due to prolonged drought and the shrinking amount of water in the Colorado river, the seven states in the Colorado River basin which include Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming are negotiating how to manage the water in the Colorado River. Which one of the following statements comes closer to your view?

Randomize the order of the statements and read. Phone only: If respondent is undecided ask:
Even though you are undecided which one do you agree with more?

2026 GE Voter DP Voter

Colorado doesn't need to conserve more water. The reason there is a crisis with the Colorado River is because California and Arizona are taking too much water. They need to use less.....

24% 10%

OR,

Colorado should stand firm in negotiations and be a leader in water conservation in cities, towns, farms and ranches and require other states to do more to conserve water in the face of drought.....

67% 81%

Don't know / not sure 9% 9%

16. When it comes to the future of the Colorado River, which approach do you believe is more likely to lead to a stable and secure water supply for Colorado in the long term? **Randomize the order of the statements and read. Phone only: If respondent is undecided ask:** Even though you are undecided which one do you agree with more?

Negotiate an agreement where each state makes concessions and all states have a fair share of the water..... 78% 88%

Don't negotiate. Have the Federal Government divide up the water and then fight it out in court. 7% 2%

Don't know / not sure 15% 10%

Phone: Next, I'm going to read you some statements about the negotiations of the agreement that manages the water in the Colorado River. After I read each statement, please tell me how convincing it is – is it very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or not at all convincing. The first / next one reads ...

Online: Now please read some statements about the negotiations of the agreement that manages the water in the Colorado River. After you read each statement, please indicate how convincing it is – is it very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing, or not at all convincing. The first / next one reads ...

Randomize the order of the statements.

Statements Ranked by Persuasiveness.

	Total <u>Convincing</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Some</u>	Not <u>Very</u>	Not at <u>All</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
20. Colorado Led Solution: By leading negotiations, we control our own destiny and get a seat at the head of the table to craft a Colorado-led solution that protects our water rights and secures our water for the long term.						
2026 GE Voter	84%	42%	42%	8%	3%	5%
Democratic Primary Voters	87%	45%	42%	10%	1%	2%
19. Prevent a Catastrophic Outcome: Negotiation with the other states is essential to prevent a catastrophic outcome and maintain a stable water supply for Colorado. If it goes to court or politicians in Washington decide how much water Colorado gets to keep, then we will lose.						
2026 GE Voter	76%	44%	32%	13%	4%	7%
Democratic Primary Voters	86%	50%	37%	9%	1%	3%
17. Risk: Working together with other Western states to find a solution is the only way to get certainty and avoid the risk of losing our water. Going to court is an unpredictable gamble we could lose. A single judge could permanently cut Colorado's water creating chaos for Colorado's families, cities, towns, farms and ranches.						
2026 GE Voter	74%	42%	32%	14%	5%	7%
Democratic Primary Voters	85%	56%	29%	10%	1%	3%

	Total <u>Convincing</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Some</u>	Not <u>Very</u>	Not at <u>All</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
18. Lead on Water Conservation: Colorado needs to lead by example to conserve water on farms, ranches and in communities to show the other states that we can find a solution where we all have the water we need and the Colorado River remains healthy and resilient.						
2026 GE Voter	70%	37%	33%	13%	11%	6%
Democratic Primary Voters	85%	47%	38%	8%	4%	3%
21. Fight for Every Drop: Colorado should fight to protect every drop of our water. Downstream states like California and Arizona created their own problems by overusing their share, and Colorado shouldn't have to pay the price for their irresponsibility. Colorado should not negotiate away its water.						
2026 GE Voter	61%	36%	25%	22%	10%	8%
Democratic Primary Voters	55%	24%	31%	27%	14%	3%
22. Now, based on everything you've heard, when it comes to the future of the Colorado River, which approach do you believe is more likely to lead to a stable and secure water supply for Colorado in the long term? Randomize the order of the statements and read. Phone only: If respondent is undecided ask: Even though you are undecided which one do you agree with more?						

2026 GE Voter DP Voter

Negotiate an agreement where each state makes concessions and all states have a fair share of the water.....	80%	95%
Don't negotiate. Have the Federal Government divide up the water and then fight it out in court.	7%	1%
Don't know / not sure	13%	4%

D23. How would you describe your gender?

	2026 GE Voter	DP Voter
Male.....	48%	42%
Female	52%	58%
Prefer to self-describe	-	-

D24. What is the last grade or level of school you have completed?

Less than high school degree	*%	*%
High school degree	6%	5%
Some college but no degree	18%	14%
2 year degree / Associates degree	11%	7%
College graduate / Bachelor's or BA/BS degree.....	35%	40%
Postgraduate degree (Master's, PhD, MD)	27%	33%
Don't know / refused.....	1%	1%

D25. How important are outdoor recreational activities in Colorado to you personally (**Read if necessary:** Like hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, rafting, or skiing.)

Very important	64%	63%
Somewhat important	27%	29%
Not very important.....	7%	5%
Not at all important.....	1%	2%
Don't know / not sure	1%	1%

D26. Could you please tell me if your family's total income is?

Under \$50,000.....	13%	11%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	12%	16%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	16%	17%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	21%	21%
\$150,000 or more.....	26%	28%
Don't know / refused.....	12%	7%

D27. Thinking about your approach to political issues, would you describe yourself as liberal, moderate, or conservative? **Rotate the order of liberal and conservative.**

Liberal	33%	64%
Moderate.....	33%	33%
Conservative	30%	1%
Don't know / not sure	4%	2%

D28. How would you describe your ethnicity? **Multiple response question.**

	2026 GE Voter	DP Voter
Hispanic / Latino/a.....	11%	11%
African American / Black	3%	3%
White	77%	84%
American Indian / Native American	1%	1%
Asian	1%	1%
Other.....	2%	1%
Prefer not to say Don't read.....	9%	3%

Party Registration from Voter File.

Democrat.....	29%	58%
Unaffiliated / No Party / Independent	45%	42%
Republican	25%	-
Other Party	1%	-

Age from Voter File

18-24.....	6%	4%
25-29.....	8%	5%
30-34.....	8%	9%
35-39.....	7%	10%
40-44.....	10%	8%
45-49.....	11%	8%
50-54.....	8%	8%
55-59.....	8%	8%
60-64.....	9%	7%
65-69.....	9%	12%
70+	16%	21%

Survey Method:

The **Colorado Water Poll — December 2025** results are based on a hybrid poll of 800 likely 2026 voters statewide in Colorado, including an oversample to achieve 446 likely Democratic Primary Voters. The sample is distributed to accurately represent likely voters based on party registration, gender, age, education, region, and ethnicity. The adjusted worst-case margin of error at the 95% level for this sample of 800 respondents is $\pm 3.8\%$ and for the oversample of 446 Democratic Primary voters is $\pm 4.6\%$. The poll was conducted from December 1 – 7, 2025, by Keating Research, Inc.