



From: Anniken Williams, Public Policy Polling

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Large Majority Consider Air Pollution a Serious Problem; Regional Transportation Modernization Plan Attracts Bipartisan Support in Rhode Island

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A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that a large majority of voters in Rhode Island consider air pollution to be a serious problem, and regional action to reduce pollution from the transportation sector attracts bipartisan support. Air pollution is a concern for 73% of those polled in Rhode Island, with 33% considering air pollution a very serious problem and 40% considering it a somewhat serious problem. Only 3% of respondents do not consider it a problem at all. 85% think that cars and trucks contribute either a great deal (40%) or somewhat (45%) to air pollution, and there is significant bipartisan support for state and regional plans to address transportation-related air pollution.

- Nearly eight-in-ten Rhode Island voters (79%) support a regional plan for modernizing our transportation system and limiting air pollution by investing in electric vehicles, public transportation, and safer communities for walking and biking. This proposal attracts overwhelming support; 87% of Democrats, 76% of Republicans, and 73% of Independents support the regional plan.
- 77% of voters support the Rhode Island state government acting to reduce air pollution from cars and trucks by investing in the state transportation system and relying more on fuel-efficient, electric cars and trucks, mass transit, and other public transportation options. There is strong bipartisan backing for action; 88% of Democrats, 62% of Republicans, and 71% of Independents support the state taking such steps to reduce air pollution from cars and trucks.

Other key findings from the survey include:

- A large majority (71%) of voters consider climate change to be a very serious (47%) or somewhat serious (24%) problem.
- A plurality of voters (39%) think the state government is doing too little to address air pollution from cars and trucks. Just 12% think the state is doing too much.
- 80% strongly (55%) or somewhat (25%) favor requiring the auto industry to continue to meet increased fuel efficiency standards.
- Rhode Island voters believe a regional transportation modernization plan will have a positive effect in the region. 50% say they think it would have a positive effect on jobs and 58% think it will have a positive effect on people's health.

PPP surveyed 446 Rhode Island voters from May 31-June 1, 2018. The margin of error is +/- 4.6%. 60% of interviews for the poll were conducted over the phone with 40% interviewed over the internet to reach respondents who don't have landline telephones.

