

Women and Water Executive Summary

Statewide Survey of Attitudes on Women's Health and Water Quality of West Virginians



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WE GET YOU ... RESULTS



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Methodology

WVFREE, a nonprofit organization which focuses on reproductive justice and women's health issues, commissioned Rainmaker Inc. to conduct a statewide survey of West Virginia voters – primarily focusing on environmental justice and reproductive justice issues in the state. Rainmaker, the state's leading political consulting and public affairs firm, has conducted over 100 statewide surveys for various businesses, trade associations, nonprofits and politicians in West Virginia.

The primary goal of the study was to measure the impact of January 9, 2014 MCHM chemical spill into the Elk River of West Virginia which left nine counties in the region without use of the public water utilities for several days. The research also measured public attitudes of water quality in the state. In order to establish important issues relative to environmental justice, WVFree and Rainmaker facilitated a stakeholders meeting of activists in the state's environmental community to ascertain contemporary topics to be included in the construction of the polling instrument used for the survey.

Interviews were conducted by a nationally-reputable data harvesting firm. These interviews were conducted by telephone July 13-17, 2014. The sample was prepared by Rainmaker utilizing the Democratic National Committee (DNC) NGP VAN statewide voter file of West Virginia. In order to be eligible for the random sample, voters had to have voted in at least two of the last three Presidential Elections. Those randomly survey mirrored the population of likely voters in the state. There were 387 likely voters surveyed creating a margin of error of approximately five (+/- 4.98%) percent. The following table represents a county-by-county breakdown of the sample:



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Barbour	7	1.8%	Mineral	2	0.5%
Berkeley	15	3.9%	Mingo	8	2.1%
Boone	6	1.6%	Monongalia	15	3.9%
Braxton	1	0.3%	Monroe	4	1.0%
Brooke	2	0.5%	Morgan	6	1.6%
Cabell	14	3.6%	Nicholas	9	2.3%
Calhoun	2	0.5%	Ohio	9	2.3%
Clay	3	0.8%	Pendleton	2	0.5%
Doddridge	2	0.5%	Pleasants	2	0.5%
Fayette	12	3.1%	Pocahontas	1	0.3%
Gilmer	2	0.5%	Preston	5	1.3%
Grant	1	0.3%	Putnam	12	3.1%
Greenbrier	12	3.1%	Raleigh	16	4.1%
Hampshire	8	2.1%	Randolph	8	2.1%
Hancock	3	0.8%	Ritchie	4	1.0%
Hardy	2	0.5%	Roane	7	1.8%
Harrison	17	4.4%	Summers	3	0.8%
Jackson	9	2.3%	Taylor	4	1.0%
Jefferson	5	1.3%	Tucker	2	0.5%
Kanawha	49	12.7%	Tyler	3	0.8%
Lewis	4	1.0%	Upshur	4	1.0%
Lincoln	3	0.8%	Wayne	6	1.6%
Logan	8	2.1%	Webster	4	1.0%
Marion	12	3.1%	Wetzel	3	0.8%
Marshall	6	1.6%	Wirt	1	0.3%
Mason	4	1.0%	Wood	15	3.9%
McDowell	6	1.6%	Wyoming	7	1.8%
Mercer	10	2.6%	TOTAL	387	100%

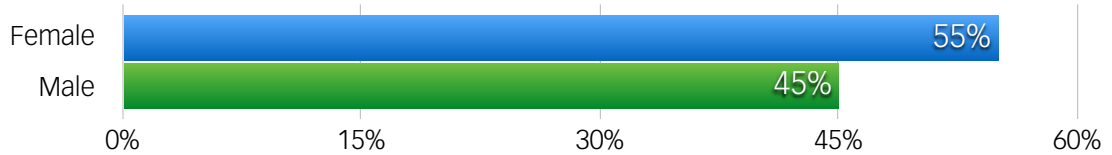
Other important demographic breakdowns of the sample include: Democrats, 50%; Republicans, 34%, Independents 13% and those registered as something else represented 3% of the sample. The survey included 55% women and 45% men.



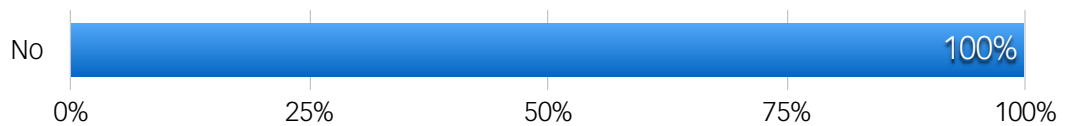
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Topline Results

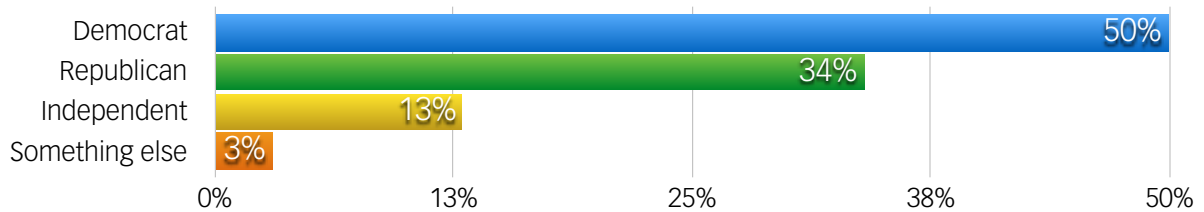
Gender



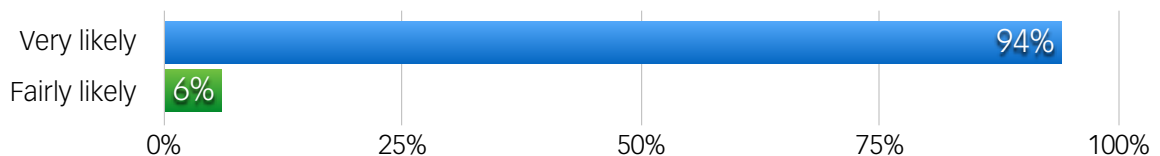
Q1A) First, does anyone in this household work for a radio station, a television station, a newspaper, an advertising agency, a market research firm, or as an active political campaign worker?



Q1B) Are you registered to vote as a Democrat, a Republican, Independent or as something else?

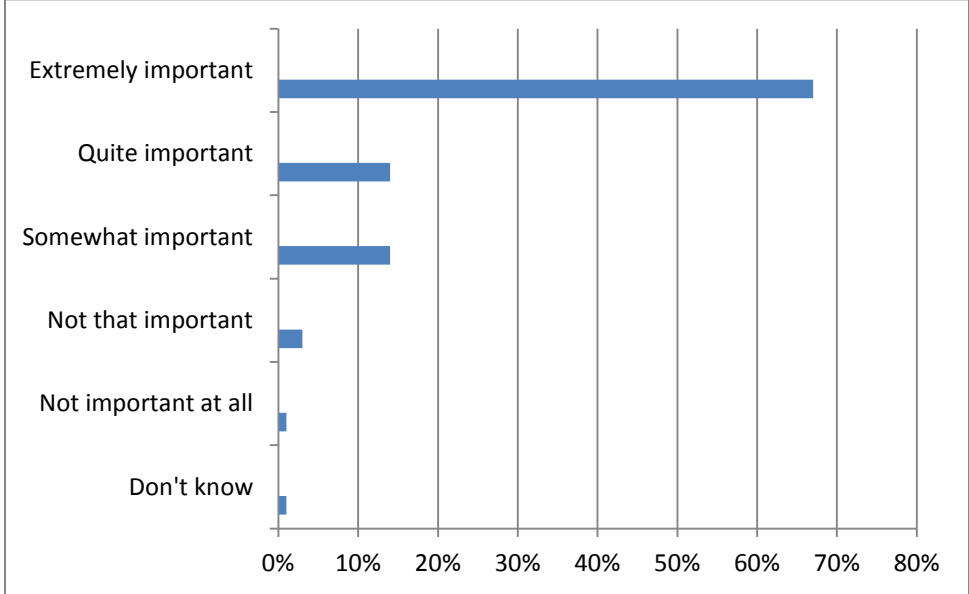


Q2) How likely are you to vote in the 2014 general election --very likely, fairly likely, just somewhat likely, or not that likely?

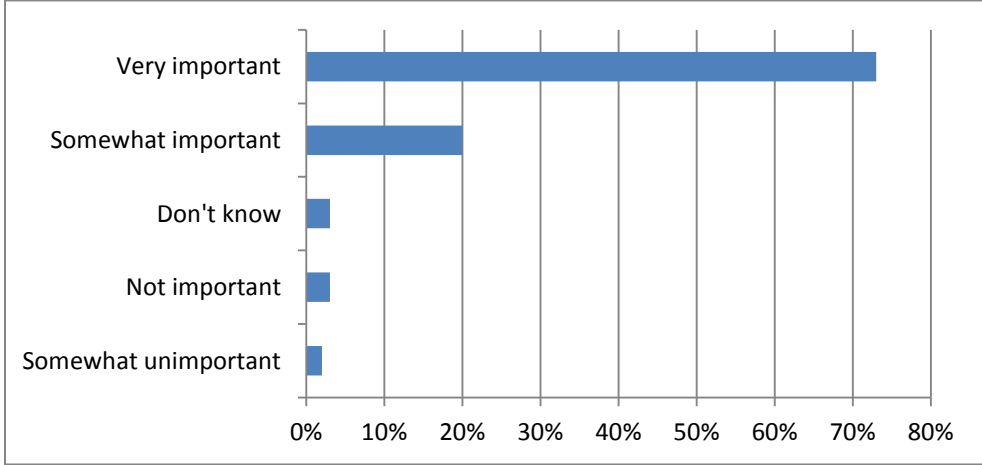


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Question) When deciding to vote for a particular candidate for office, like governor or a member of the West Virginia Legislature, how important is that candidate’s position on the issue of water quality?

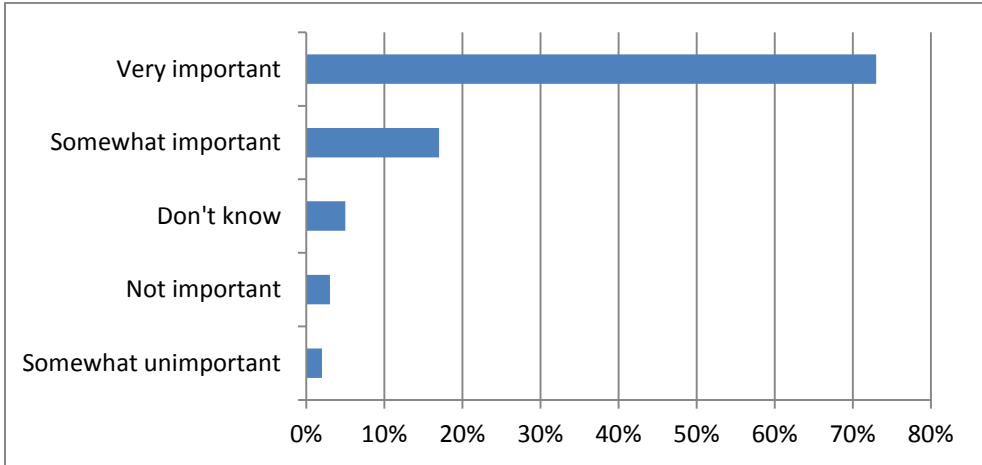


Question) West Virginia does not require water quality and toxin monitors. These monitors could test water every five minutes to ensure constant monitoring and quick warning if a contamination occurs. How important is creating a solution to this problem to you?

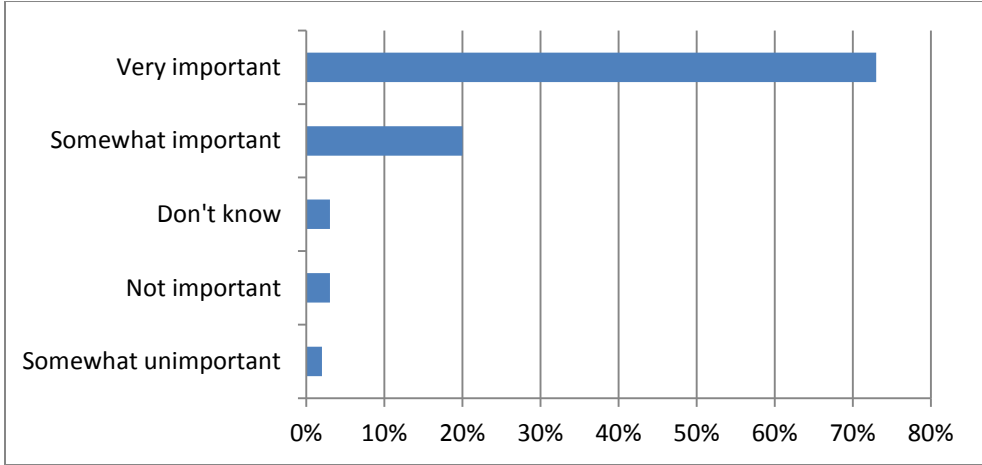


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Question) West Virginia’s regulatory agencies do not have enough scientifically –trained inspectors to properly monitor water quality. As a result, government regulators rely on industry experts for information and advice. In fact, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection has stated they do not have enough staff to meet federal and state monitoring requirements. How important is creating a solution to this problem to you?

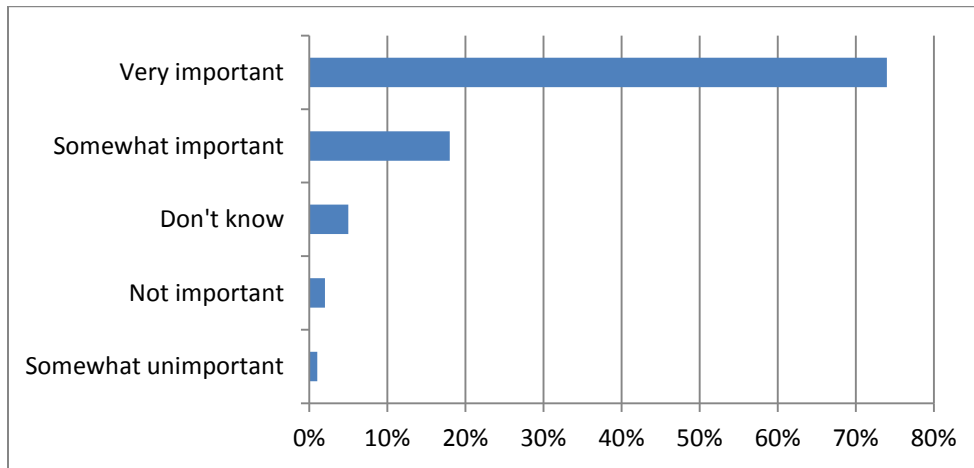


Question) West Virginia has no laws in place forcing water utility companies to have a secondary or alternative water intake system in place in case of chemical or other contamination. How important is creating a solution to this problem to you?



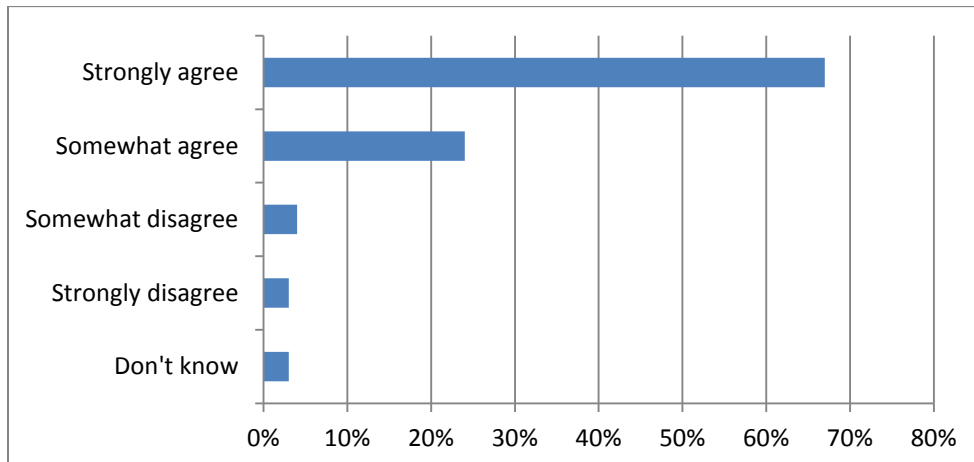
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Question) Over two-thirds of West Virginia streams are currently not meeting minimum water quality standards. How important is creating a solution to this problem to you?



Question) Now I'm going to read you a statement about people's perceptions about water quality in West Virginia. I would like you to tell me how you feel about these statements. Do you STRONGLY AGREE, SOMEWHAT AGREE, SOMEWHAT DISAGREE, STRONGLY DISAGREE?

Water is our most important resource and should be protected above the needs of corporations.



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Question) How would you rate the importance of access to clean, public drinking water sources on a scale of 1 to 4 with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important?

