

To: Interested Parties

From: Global Strategy Group

Date: April 15th, 2024

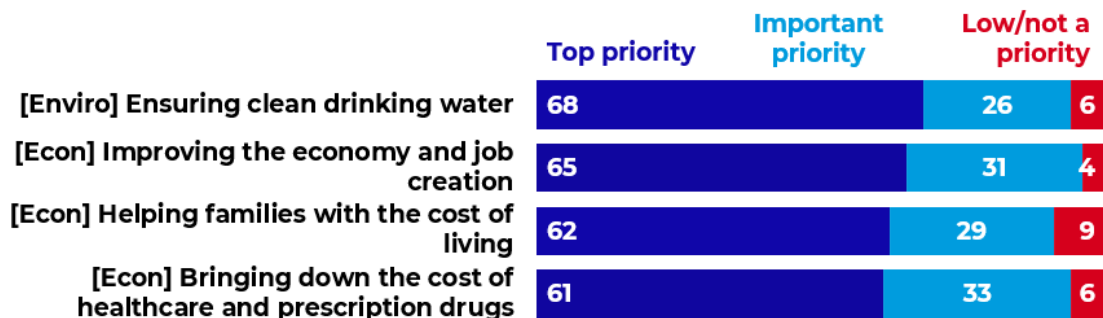
Re: POLL RESULTS: U.S. Public Gravely Concerned about Plastics; Overwhelmingly Supportive of Measures to Reduce Plastic Production

A new nationwide survey conducted by Global Strategy Group (GSG) for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) has found that the U.S. public near-universally supports measures to reduce the production of plastics. A decisive majority of the public wants to see the government take action on plastic production, both domestically and internationally. A stark majority of the public sees plastic pollution as both a domestic and global crisis, buoying support among the public for the U.S. joining a treaty on plastic pollution. Moreover, a majority of the public want to see the U.S. be an international leader in addressing plastic pollution.

KEY FINDINGS:

The public is very concerned about the impacts of plastic on people’s health, the climate, air, and water pollution. A decisive majority of the public see plastic pollution as a crisis or major problem, both domestically and globally. Almost nine out of ten (89%) are concerned about plastic and its impact on air and water pollution (44% are *extremely* concerned). About eight in ten (79%) respondents believe plastic filling up landfills, polluting waterways, and getting burned in incinerators, leading to air pollution, to be a crisis or major problem. Although economic priorities are top of mind for the public, 94% of the public believes ensuring clean drinking water should be *the top priority* for the U.S. government. 83% are concerned about plastic pollution and its impact on their/their family’s health. Plastic pollution harming people’s health, especially the risk of long-term health problems for children, is a top driver among the public to support measures to reduce the production of plastics.

How important of a priority do you think each should be?



The public nearly universally supports measures to reduce plastic production, and a decisive majority want to see their national and state lawmakers take action to address plastic pollution. Action to reduce the harms of plastics has strong cross-partisan support, and almost nine-in-ten voters (87%) want to see their national and state lawmakers take action to address plastic pollution. The public especially wants to see action to eliminate the most toxic forms of plastic and to prevent microplastics from entering our food and water supplies. Moreover, the public is more likely to view lawmakers who support measures to reduce the production of plastics favorably, and perhaps more importantly, are not poised to penalize lawmakers who support these measures. Support for measures to reduce plastic production remains robust even after the public is confronted with opposition messaging intended to decrease support (90% support).

Do you support or oppose measures to reduce the production of plastics?

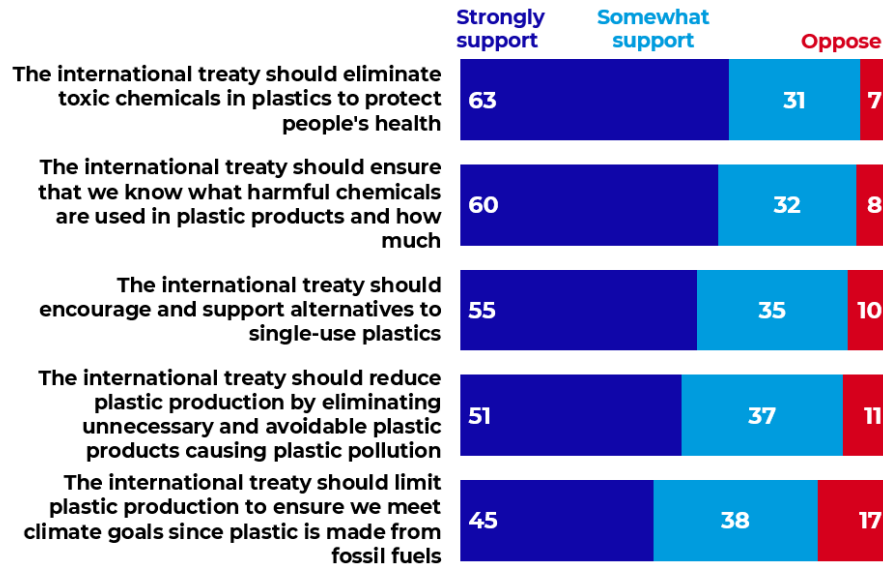


The U.S. public isn't just concerned with plastic production and pollution domestically; the public also sees plastic pollution as a global issue and supports U.S. action on the world stage to tackle it. Across the political spectrum and demographics such as gender, age, education level, and race, support for the U.S. joining an international treaty on plastic pollution is sky-high. 87% of the public supports the United States joining an international treaty on plastic pollution. Moreover, the public doesn't just want the U.S. to join an international treaty on plastic pollution: 84% want to see the U.S. go further and be an international leader in addressing plastic pollution. Chief among the priorities for an international treaty on plastic pollution—according to the public—is the elimination of toxic chemicals in plastics to protect people's health and increased transparency regarding what harmful chemicals are used in plastic products and how much. The public also strongly supports the U.S. taking action to move away from single-use plastic (86% support) and believes an international treaty should encourage and support alternatives to single-use plastics (90% support). Support for the U.S. joining an international treaty on plastic pollution remains robust even after balanced debate (88% support).

Do you support or oppose the U.S. joining an international treaty on plastic pollution?



For each potential measure that an international treaty could include, please indicate whether you would support or oppose such a measure.



Pennsylvanians are similarly highly supportive of measures to reduce plastic production and of the United States joining an international treaty on plastic pollution. Almost nine in ten Pennsylvanians (85%) support measures to reduce the production of plastics, while a similar share (83%) supports the U.S. joining an international treaty on plastic pollution. An overwhelming majority of Pennsylvanians (81%) agree that the U.S. should limit plastic pollution to protect people’s health, even if it might result in fewer jobs. Pennsylvanians, like the public, want to see national and state lawmakers take action on plastic pollution, and a majority (57%) would be more favorable to a lawmaker who supports measures to reduce plastic production. A minute percentage (5%) of Pennsylvanians would be unfavorable to a lawmaker who supports measures to reduce plastic production, suggesting that action on plastic pollution is popular among Pennsylvanians with minimal potential for backlash.

A decisive majority of Ohioans support measures to reduce plastic production and the U.S. joining an international treaty on plastic pollution. Ohioans support reducing plastic production and the U.S. joining an international treaty on plastic pollution at similar rates (86%). Again, like those in Pennsylvania and the general public, Ohioans want to see their lawmakers take action on plastic pollution (83%), and a majority would be more favorable to a lawmaker that supports measures to reduce plastic production (59% favorable). Respondents in Ohio are gravely concerned about the impacts of plastic pollution on people’s health (84% concerned). Almost eight in ten Ohioans agree that the U.S. should limit plastic pollution to protect people’s health, even if it results in fewer jobs. Almost half of Ohioans (44%) are *extremely* concerned about microplastics, specifically, and their impact on people’s health. A staggering 93% of Ohioans believe the U.S. should take action to prevent microplastics from entering our food and water supplies.

ABOUT THE POLL

Global Strategy Group conducted a survey with 1,608 registered voters nationwide between March 20 and 26, 2024. The survey also included two additional oversamples of 348 registered voters in Pennsylvania and 339 registered voters in Ohio. The margin of error for the nationwide sample at the 95% confidence level was +/- 3.1%. The margin of error on subgroups is greater.