

# Bellwether Research & Consulting

Results from a survey of 300 rural voters<sup>1</sup>  
 in Tennessee's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
 conducted on behalf of Earthjustice  
 Field Dates: December 17-19, 2007  
 Margin of Error  $\pm$  5.6%

## Survey Results

1. Gender
  - 50% Male
  - 50% Female
  
2. Are you currently registered to vote in Tennessee?
  - 100% Yes
  
2. Just for statistical purposes, what is your age please?
 

17%	18-44	22%	55-64
14%	45-54	46%	65+

I am going to read you a list of concerns that some people have. For each, please tell me how concerned you are...

		<u>Total Concerned</u>					
		Very	Smwt		Not too	Not at all	Don't Know
4.	Protecting wetlands	33%	43%	(76%)	12%	8%	4%
5.	Pollution of lakes, rivers, and streams	62%	30%	(92%)	5%	1%	2%
6.	Pollution of drinking water	69%	21%	(90%)	7%	3%	1%
7.	Do you have any concerns about drinking water straight from your tap?						
	39%	Yes					
	60%	No					
12.	With which of the following statements do you most agree?						
	26%	The government has <b>gone too far</b> with laws regulating environmental protection which has hurt businesses and landowners.					
	55%	The government <b>has not gone far enough</b> with laws to protect the environment and to keep our water free from pollution.					
	20%	Don't Know					

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<sup>1</sup> Rural voters in Tennessee's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District were randomly selected from a universe of households defined as "rural" based on the Census Tract of that address. Census Tracts with a plurality of households defined as rural (as opposed to suburban or urban) were included in the sample universe. According to the 2008 Almanac of American Politics, 68% of the population in Tennessee's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District is rural.

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13. The Clean Water Act is the primary federal law to limit water pollution.

61% (Some/other) people say that the original intent of the Clean Water Act was to protect all bodies of water from pollution, not just those defined as navigable, and that all streams, wetlands, waterways, and bodies of water should be protected from pollution that could contaminate drinking water, foul waters and wildlife habitat, and make rivers, lakes and streams unusable for fishing or swimming.

24% (Other/some) people say that the Clean Water Act should not be expanded to apply to all bodies of water, such as isolated wetlands or other waterways not defined as “navigable” because it would amount to over-regulation by the federal government on private property owners, businesses or developers.

Which is closer to your opinion?

15% Don't Know

14. Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate who voted to have the Clean Water Act protect all bodies of water from pollution?

46%	Much more likely	
27%	Somewhat more likely	<b>73% Total More Likely</b>
7%	Somewhat less likely	
3%	Much less likely	
17%	Don't Know	

Now, I have just a few more questions for statistical purposes...

15. Do you currently own, operate, or work on a farm?

22%	Yes
77%	No
1%	Refused

17. Do you fish in local waters? (if yes, ask) Do you consume the fish you catch?

40%	Yes, consume fish
13%	Yes, do not consume fish
47%	No

18. In politics today, do you generally think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat or independent?

28%	Republican
31%	Democrat
31%	Independent
10%	Refused/don't know