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North America
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Yucca Mountain

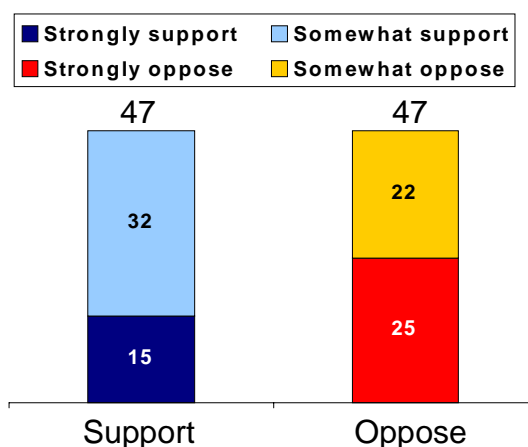
American Public Evenly Divided Over Yucca Mountain Waste Repository

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In a survey of 1000 US adults conducted from March 14 to March 17, Ipsos Public Affairs found that the public is evenly divided over a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain Nevada with 47% in favor and 47% opposed. This survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.1%.

Reflecting the fact that the issues surrounding a nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain are under the radar screen for most Americans, initially over half of Americans (53%) say they do not know enough about the issue to give an opinion. Among those giving an opinion, 23% favor the repository and 24% oppose the repository at Yucca Mountain. After hearing three statements in favor of the proposal and three statements against, the public divides evenly with 47% in favor and 47% opposed. The opposition is somewhat stronger with 25% strongly opposed as compared to just 15% strongly in favor of the repository.

Public Evenly Split



The uninformed electorate splits nearly evenly after hearing the statements for and against the Yucca Mountain repository (listed below). Respondents who did not know enough to give an opinion before the statements for and against the repository split evenly, 42% in favor and 46% opposed. Among those who express an initial opinion, 92% of supporters

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and 84% of opponents maintain their original opinion after hearing the statements about the repository.

The Yucca Mountain repository has the potential to become a highly divisive issue. There is an enormous gender gap on this issue with 58% of men supporting the Yucca Mountain repository and 56% of women opposing the Yucca Mountain repository. Race is also a major factor with 50% of whites compared to just 35% of minorities supporting the plan. Republicans (65% support, 29% oppose) are much more likely to support the Yucca Mountain repository than Democrats (36% support, 59% oppose) or Independents (29% support, 59% oppose).

Ground water contamination is a major concern for most Americans, but the government's assurances of safety balance this concern. In the end, both sides of the debate have strong arguments which appeal to their key constituencies.

	Much More Likely To Support	Somewhat More Likely To Support	Somewhat More Likely To Oppose	Much More Likely To Oppose	Total Support	Total Oppose
Statements Against the Repository						
Storage of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain could lead to groundwater contamination.....	5	9	25	54	14	69
Nuclear waste would be transported to Yucca Mountain from storage sites all over the United States, which could mean that nuclear waste would be transported through your state.....	10	21	29	32	31	61
The Yucca Mountain is located just 90 miles from Las Vegas	9	19	24	32	28	56
Statements For the Repository						
Scientists say that Yucca Mountain's very dry climate, less than 6 inches of rainfall a year, and its extremely deep water table make Yucca Mountain a good choice for a national storage facility.....	22	41	16	14	63	30
Scientists say the rock will keep the waste sufficiently isolated for thousands of years so that the radioactive material will pose about the same risk or less risk of health effects to the public as that of unmined uranium ore.....	22	40	19	10	62	29
Some people say that it is better to have one central storage facility for nuclear waste rather than storing it in numerous facilities as is currently the case	26	33	18	14	59	32

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The survey was conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs, the Washington, D.C.-based division of Ipsos-Reid, which is part of the world's fourth largest polling and market research organization, the Ipsos group, based in Paris. Ipsos Public Affairs conducts non partisan, objective strategic research initiatives for a diverse number of U.S. and international organizations. Ipsos Public Affairs has offices in Washington D.C., San Francisco, and Minneapolis.

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