

AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

**Sportsmen United for Sensible Mining
and Earthworks**

**Montana Statewide
September 18-21, 2008**

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Methodology

- American Viewpoint was commissioned to conduct a statewide survey of registered voters in Montana. Telephone interviews were conducted with 600 registered voters in Montana. Interviewing was conducted from September 18-21, 2008.
- Respondents were randomly selected from a sample of registered voters. The sample was weighted by region, age, sex, race, and party to represent the Montana voter population. All surveys contain error that results from interviewing a sample of persons rather than the entire population. The margin of error for a random sample of N=600 interviews is ± 4.1 percentage points at 95% confidence.

After hearing a description of the 1872 Mining Law, Montana voters are supportive of updates to the law including public royalties, increased authority for land managers and increased environmental protection.

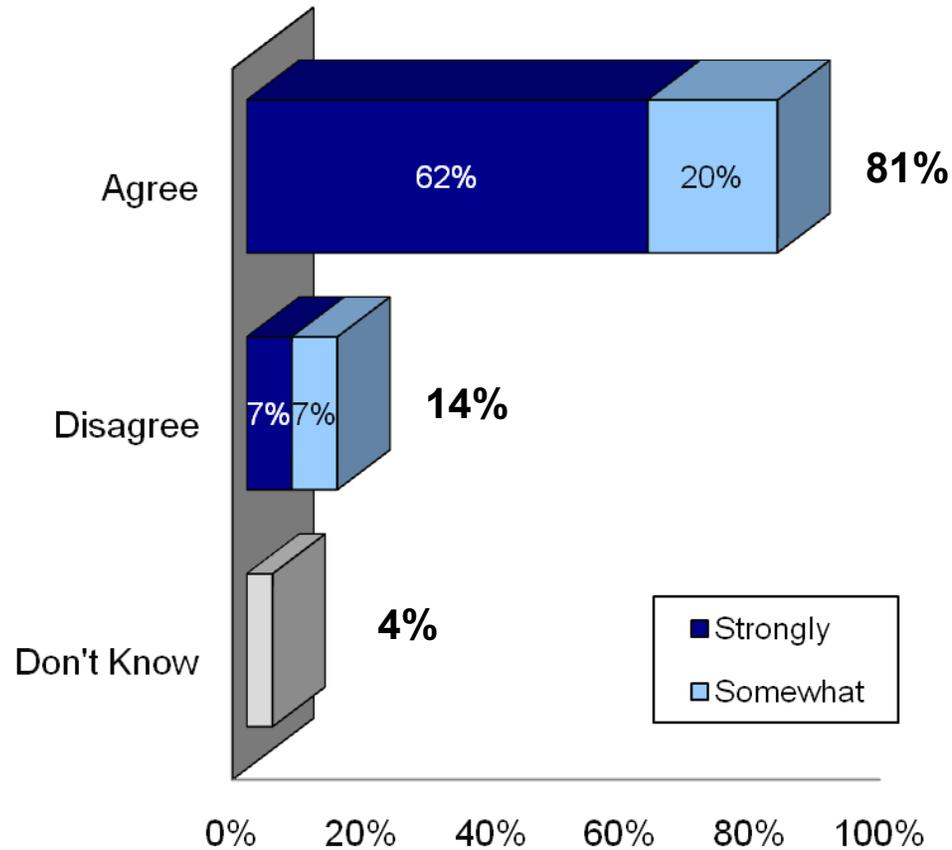
As you may know, the 1872 Mining Law is the federal law that governs the mining of metals like copper, gold and silver on federal public lands. Unlike the oil, gas, and coal industries, the mining companies are not required to pay royalties to the American taxpayer for metals mined on public lands. In addition, the law still allows public land to be purchased at the 1872 price of \$5 per acre, and prioritizes mining over all other land uses. It contains no pollution or clean-up regulations and today there are thousands of abandoned mines and polluted sites in Montana.

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Total Agree	Total Disagree	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The mining industry should help pay for the clean-up of abandoned mines and the water pollution caused by their operations.	95%	3%	84%	10%	1%	2%
The 1872 Mining Law should be updated to require increased water quality protections.	93%	5%	76%	17%	2%	3%
The 1872 Mining Law should be updated to give the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management the authority to balance mining with other important public land uses such as clean water, hunting, fishing, wildlife habitat, grazing and timber harvest.	87%	11%	66%	21%	4%	7%
The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management should have the authority to protect the public from new metal mines if science shows that the mines will pollute clean water with acids and harmful metals for hundreds of years.	83%	13%	62%	21%	6%	6%
The mining industry should pay royalties to the American people for the metals mined from public lands.	81%	14%	62%	20%	7%	7%
A portion of the royalties recovered from mining on public lands should be used for fish and wildlife habitat restoration associated with past mining operations.	84%	13%	57%	27%	7%	6%

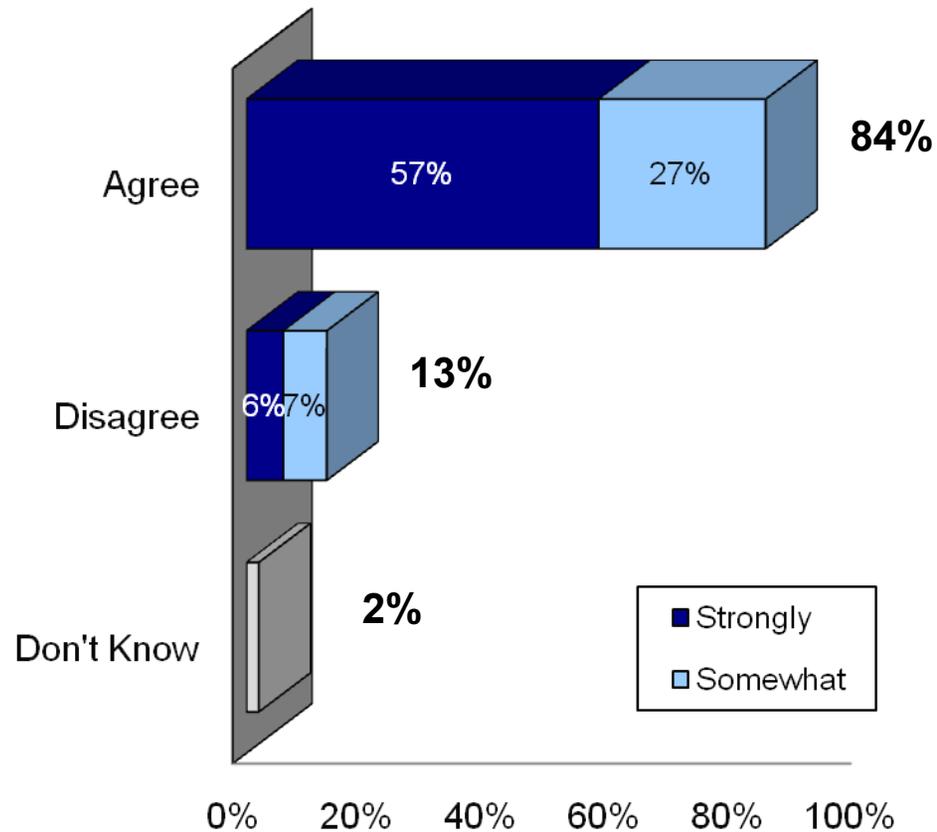
Most Montanans (81%) agree, and 62% strongly agree that the mining industry should pay royalties for the metals mined from public lands.

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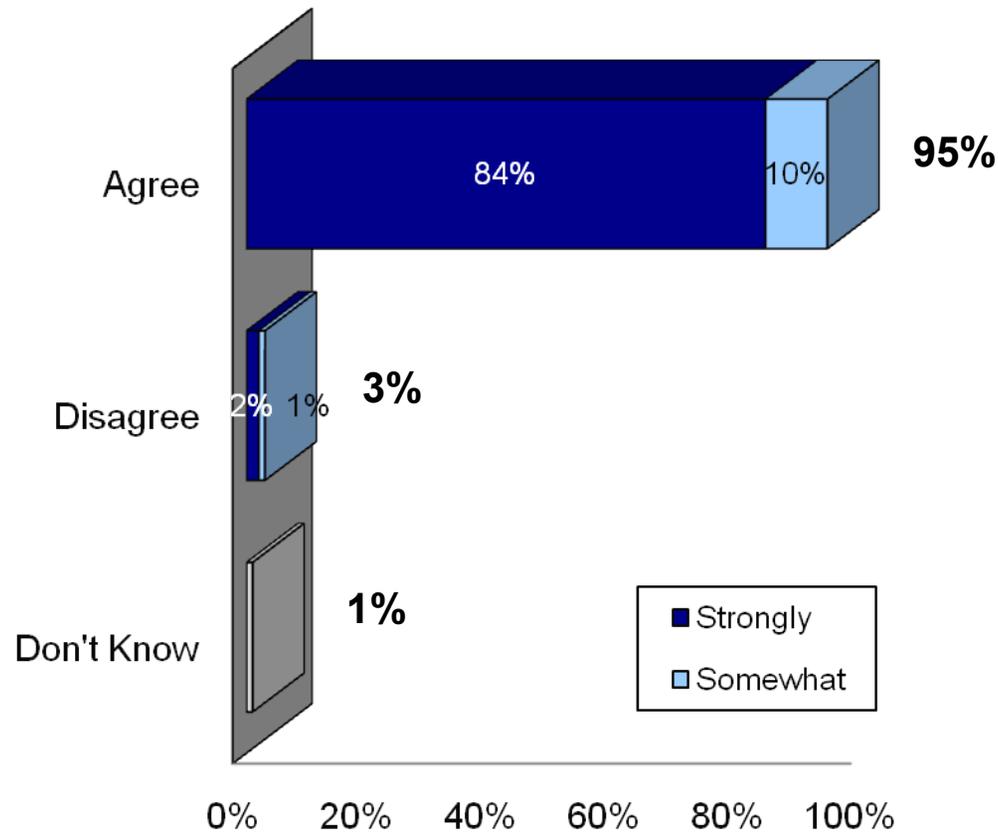
Voters also agree that a portion of the royalties should be used for related habitat restoration.

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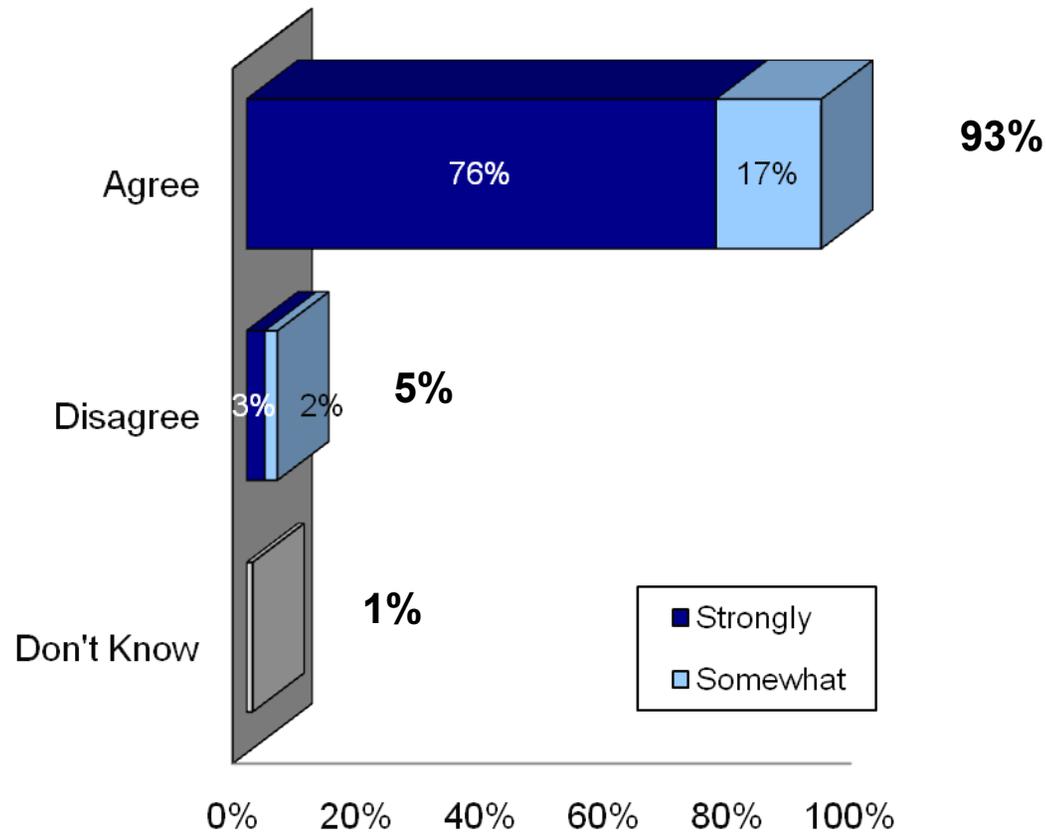
Nearly all Montanans agree that the mining industry should help pay for the clean-up of abandoned mines and associated water pollution.

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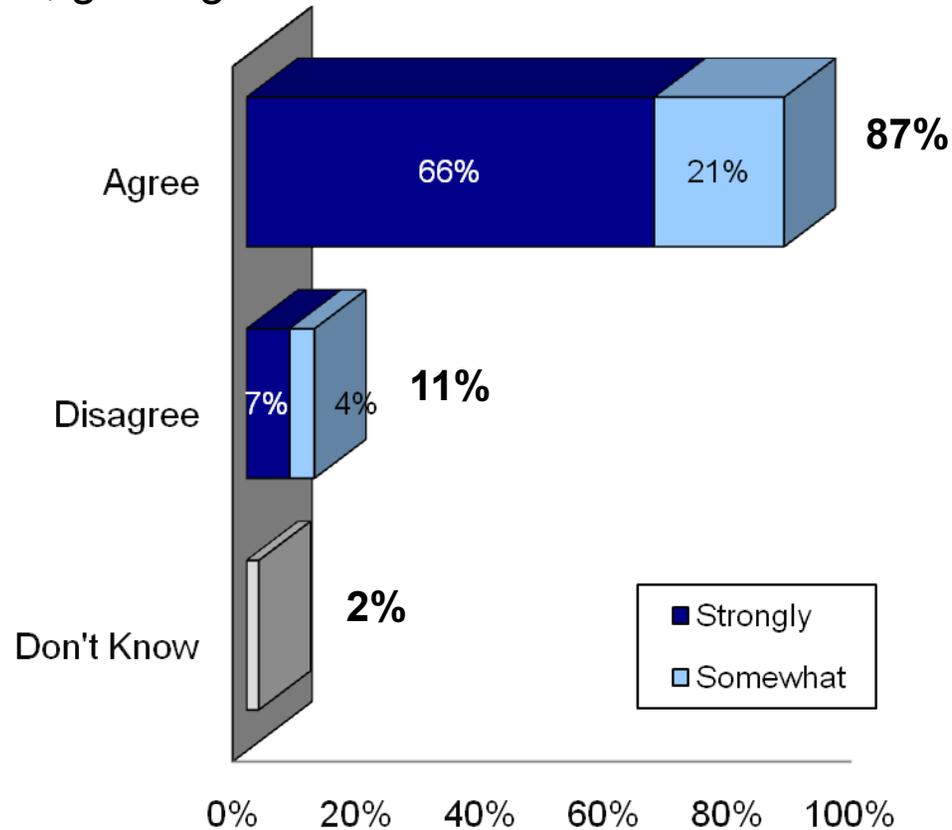
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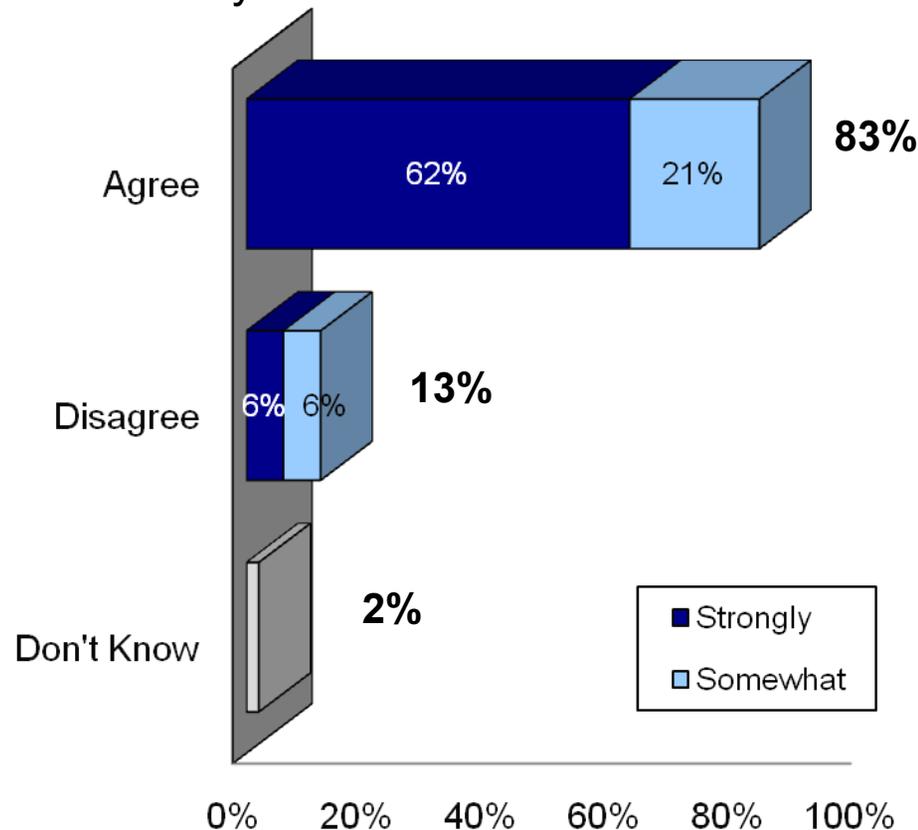
A majority strongly agrees that the 1872 law should be updated to give federal land managers the authority to balance mining with other public land uses.

The 1872 Mining Law should be updated to give the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management the authority to balance mining with other important public land uses such as clean water, hunting, fishing, wildlife habitat, grazing and timber harvest.



There is strong agreement that federal land managers should have the authority to protect the public from new metal mines if there is scientific evidence of long-term water pollution from mining.

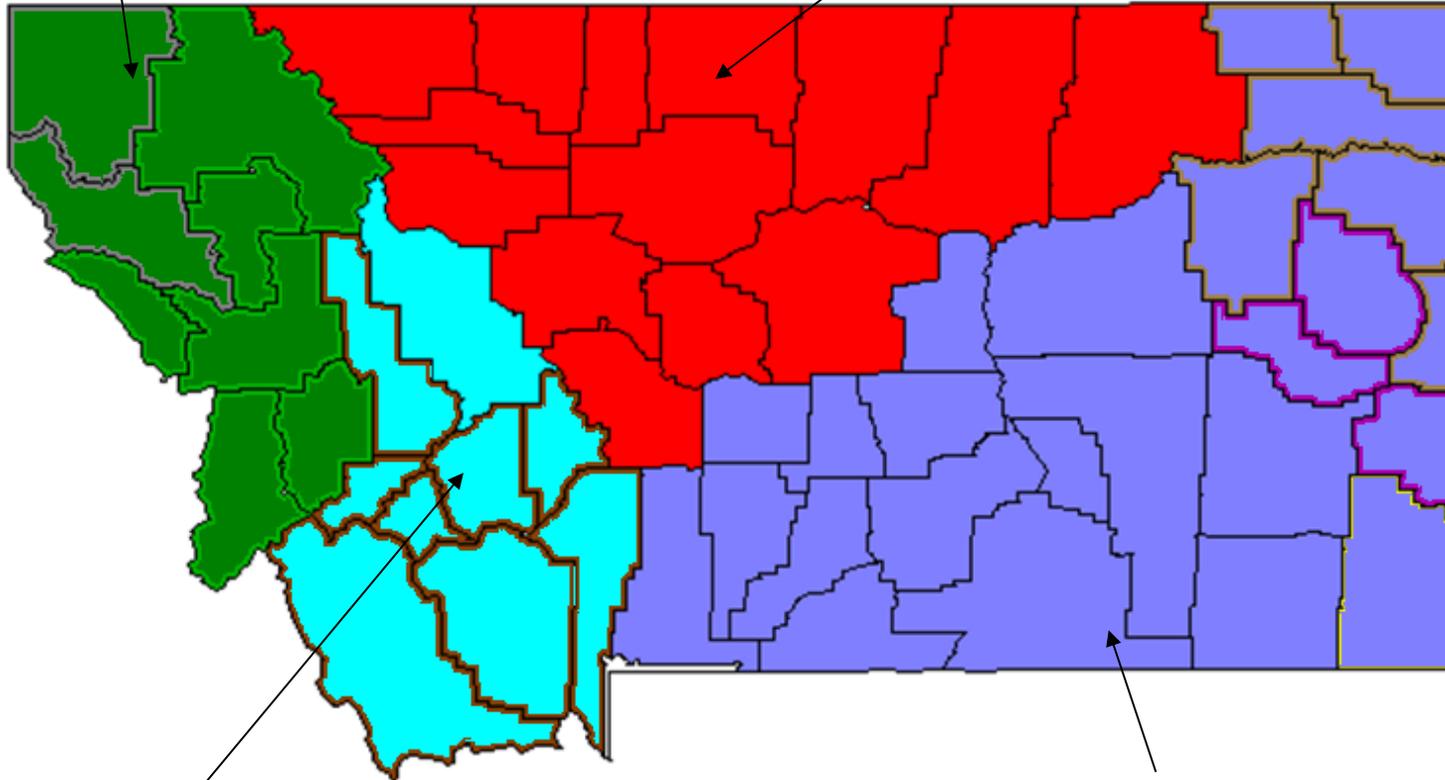
The U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management should have the authority to protect the public from new metal mines if science shows that the mines will pollute clean water with acids and harmful metals for hundreds of years.



Montana Media Markets

Spokane/Missoula (n=181/30%)

Great Falls (n=110/18%)



Billings/East (n=149/25%)

Helena/Butte-Bozeman (n=161/27%)

Selected Demographics

	%
Spokane/Missoula	30%
Helena/Bozeman	27%
Great Falls	18%
Billings/East	25%
Western	60%
Central	30%
Eastern	10%
Men	49%
Women	51%
18-29	15%
30-44	25%
45-54	19%
55-64	18%
65+	20%
Republican	30%
Democrat	29%
Independent	37%
H.S. or less	29%
V-Tech/College	31%
College Grad	31%
Post Grad	7%
Less than 10	20%
Over 10	40%
Native	39%