

TO: Interested Parties  
FR: Mark Riddle, Future Majority President  
RE: Voter Opinions on the Norfolk Southern Train Derailment  
DT: March 17, 2023

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Future Majority recently conducted a statewide voter survey in the critical state of Ohio to examine a wide range of issues, including voter opinions toward the Norfolk Southern train derailment in East Palestine. The survey was conducted by Change Research from February 24 - February 28, 2023 (n=1,834).

**Headline:**

*Voters overwhelmingly agree that environmental standards should be raised to prevent future disasters. While voters are generally disappointed with nearly all parties involved in the disaster response, about 8 in 10 voters disapprove of Norfolk Southern, the train company, and its handling of the crisis.*

**Key Findings:**

- Following the crisis, Ohio voters overwhelmingly agree that environmental standards should be raised to prevent hazardous materials to prevent future disasters. Additionally, voters support increasing regulations dedicated to response efforts and preventing disasters likewise to East Palestine, Ohio.
  - **91% of voters support additional federal regulations and resources dedicated to response efforts and preventing future disasters like the train derailment in East Palestine.**
  - **92% voters support raising environmental standards for transporting hazardous materials across the U.S. to prevent future disasters like the train derailment in East Palestine?"**
- 79% of voters disapprove of Norfolk Southern's response to the incident. Just 11% approve of the company's response.
  - This includes 81% of Democrats, 84% of Independents, and 75% of Republicans.
- Most voters disapprove of the federal government response to the crisis, but more blame placed on Executive Branch than Legislative Branch:
  - 54% disapprove of President Biden's response. 35% approve.
  - 52% disapprove of Transportation Sec. Pete Buttigieg's response. 35% approve.
  - 48% disapprove of Environmental Protection Agency's response. 41% approve.
  - 37% disapprove of Senator J.D. Vance's response. 39% approve.
  - 32% disapprove of Senator Sherrod Brown's response. 40% approve.
  - 28% disapprove of their Member of Congress's response. 35% approve.
- Most voters disapprove of the state government response to the crisis:
  - 53% disapprove of Governor Mike DeWine's response.
  - 42% disapprove of the Ohio's Department of Health's response.

**Voter Opinions – Toplines**

*Do you support or oppose additional federal regulations and resources dedicated to response efforts and preventing future disasters like the train derailment in East Palestine?*



*Do you support or oppose raising environmental standards for transporting hazardous materials across the U.S. to prevent future disasters like the train derailment in East Palestine?*



*For each of the following, please rate your approval of their response to the train derailment in East Palestine, OH:*

*President Joe Biden*



*Former President Donald Trump*



*Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg*



*The Environmental Protection Agency*



*Senator Sherrod Brown**Senator JD Vance**Ohio Governor Mike DeWine**The Ohio Department of Health*