



Date: September 18, 2012

To: Interested Parties

From: Mark Mehringer, Peak Campaigns

Christine Matthews, Bellwether Research & Consulting

Re: Results from a poll of 405 Garfield County Voters

According to our recent bipartisan poll in Garfield County, many voters disagree with recent actions taken by the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners, even as most (53%) voters generally approve of the Board's overall job performance. None of the board members individually, though, receive majority job approval ratings. The Board's recent decisions appear to be dividing the community.

- **After hearing both sides of the issue, most voters (51%) disagree with the Board's decision to hire a consulting firm from Texas** to influence the federal government's approach in addressing development impacts to land and water resources critical for the greater sage grouse. Only 27% of voters agree with this decision.
 - Most Democrats (62% disagree, 19% agree) and unaffiliated voters (51%, 26%) disagree with this action by the Board, as does a plurality of Republicans (44%, 36%).
- **More voters also disagree (43%) than agree (31%) with the Board's decision to fire the county's oil and gas industry liaison**, again after hearing both sides of the issue.
 - Most Democrats (57%) disagree with the decision, as do pluralities of unaffiliated voters (45% disagree, 29% agree) and Republican women (38% disagree, 33% agree). Most Republican men agree with the Board's decision to fire the oil and gas industry liaison (52% agree, only 25% disagree).
- **Garfield County voters are divided on the board's decision to hold a meeting in Utah closed to the public.** Slightly more voters overall disagree (46%) with the decision than agree (42%) with it.
 - Twice as many Democrats disagree (65%) as agree (29%). A plurality of unaffiliated voters disagrees (48%), but 41% agree. Again, this issue appears to divide voters along partisan lines. Most Republicans (56%) agree with the Board's decision, though many disagree (31%).

- **Even in a county where the oil and gas industry is a major economic factor, a significant number of residents (all but Republicans) think the industry has too much influence with the county commissioners.** Overall, 45% of voters agree more with those who say the industry has too much influence, and 46% agree more with those who say the industry is important and the Board has shown independence.
 - Democrats (61%) and unaffiliated voters (50%) side more with those saying the oil and gas industry has too much influence. Most Republicans (64%), however, agree more with those who say the industry does not have too much influence.

Democratic polling firm Peak Campaigns and Republican polling firm Bellwether Research & Consulting conducted a bipartisan public opinion poll of 405 registered voters in Garfield County Colorado. Maximum margin of error for a random sample of 405 voters is +/- 4.9%.