

## Voters Overwhelmingly Oppose Oil Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The non-partisan League of Conservation Voters (LCV) recently hired a team of pollsters -- Republican (The Terrance Group) and Democratic (Greenberg Quinlan Research, Inc.) -- to perform an unbiased assessment of voters' views on a number of important environmental issues. Their telephone poll, conducted after the election, found that 48 percent of those responding said they had voted for George W. Bush and an equal number had voted for Al Gore. Yet, those responding -- by a margin of more than two-to-one -- said our nation should declare the Arctic Refuge a national monument and prevent oil drilling.

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Specifically, question 29 of the poll asked:

“Now let me read you two statements about a proposal to declare the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska a national monument, which would prevent oil exploration and drilling in that area. Please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, if neither is exactly right.

--- *“The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a national treasure and it is America’s last unspoiled wilderness. The Arctic Refuge is home to rare wildlife, including polar bears, and it would only provide enough oil for 180 days of U.S. consumption. We should declare the Arctic Refuge a national monument and prevent oil drilling.*

--- *“The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge contains some of the world’s most important oil reserves. These oil reserves can help the U.S. become less dependent on foreign oil, and it will reduce the high price of gas for consumers. Drilling will only affect two thousand of its nineteen million acres. We should open the Refuge up for oil and gas exploration.”*

Responses to that question were:

National treasure (much)		38
National treasure (somewhat)	28	
Oil (somewhat)		16
Oil (much)		9
(Both)		3
(Neither)		0
(Don’t know/refused)		5
Total: national treasure		66
Total: drill for oil		25