



**COUNTY OF NEVADA - VOTER SURVEY  
TOPLINES**

Field Dates: Friday, June 10 through Thursday, June 17, 2021  
 Universe: Among all voters, County of Nevada, CA  
 Language: English, Spanish  
 N = 500  
 Margin of Error = +/-4.4%

Hello, may I speak with \_\_\_\_\_? [IF NOT AVAILABLE—SCHEDULE CALLBACK] This is \_\_\_\_\_ with the Great West Policy Research Center, a regional opinion research organization. We are conducting a survey about issues in your community. Your opinion is important, and your responses will be kept entirely confidential. No one will try to sell you anything. This call is purely for research purposes and your participation is appreciated.

1. In your own words, what do you feel is the most important issue facing your community today?

<b>Economy/jobs</b>	<b>11.4%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>11.4%</b>
<b>Wildfires</b>	<b>11.2%</b>
<b>Homelessness</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
<b>Affordable housing</b>	<b>9.4%</b>
<b>Public safety</b>	<b>8.8%</b>
<b>Coronavirus/COVID-19</b>	<b>7.8%</b>
<b>Water/drought</b>	<b>4.0%</b>
<b>Education/schools/higher education</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
<b>Environmental issues</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
Other (each less than 2% individually)	12.4%
Nothing/no issues	1.0%
Unsure/refused	6.2%

2. I am going to read a list of several issues that may be facing your community. Please listen to each and then tell me which THREE issues should be the top priorities for Nevada County’s elected leaders? Choose three. [ROTATE]

<b>Keeping our community safe from wildfire</b>	<b>40.6%</b>
<b>Fixing homelessness</b>	<b>33.0%</b>
<b>Helping to ensure housing remains affordable for locals</b>	<b>28.8%</b>
<b>Improving local schools, education, job training and after-school programs</b>	<b>24.0%</b>
<b>Protecting the community from crime, gangs, drugs, graffiti</b>	<b>22.8%</b>
<b>Reducing local unemployment and creating better, local jobs</b>	<b>17.4%</b>



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Ensuring a reliable supply of clean drinking water	14.4%
Improving local infrastructure like roads and bridges	14.0%
Protecting and preserving our forests and natural outdoor space	11.8%
Addressing the local impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic	11.6%
Improving air quality and a clean local environment	9.4%
Creating more opportunities for youth in the community	9.4%
Ensuring a healthy County budget and finances	9.2%
Reducing traffic congestion	9.0%
Creating more opportunities for seniors in the community	6.2%
Improving and adding new parks, greenways and open space	4.6%
Something else [DO NOT READ]	2.6%
Unsure/refused [DO NOT READ]	1.2%

3. Would you be willing to consider supporting a new mining operation in Nevada County if it provided [NAME THE THREE SERVICES RESPONDENT IDENTIFIES IN Q3] to your community?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>54.3%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>34.4%</b>
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	11.3%

4. Have you heard of the proposal to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>66.4%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>32.4%</b>
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	1.2%

5. Rise Grass Valley is a company that is proposing to re-open the long-closed Idaho-Maryland Gold Mine on the Brunswick Industrial Site in Grass Valley, at the former Bohemia sawmill location. The re-opened Idaho-Maryland Mine will use new, "Green Gold" technologies that have been proven to produce 90% less environmental emissions, 94% less mine waste and consume 90% less water than traditional mining operations. All operations will be conducted deep underground, shielding the community from noise and other potential impacts. The mine will employ over three hundred local people at the mine, providing workers with valuable job training and nearly 130,000 dollars in total compensation per worker with salaries more than twice Nevada County's average. The project would create an estimated fifty million dollars per year in new local spending, supporting Nevada County businesses and creating an additional 300 local jobs. It will generate millions of dollars per year in new revenues from taxes and fees for the County of Nevada to support much needed services, including critical fire safety measures, public safety, libraries, parks and recreation, roads and more for the surrounding community. Do you



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support or oppose re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine? [IF SUPPORT/ OPPOSE>>>] And would you say you strongly (support/oppose) or somewhat (support/oppose)?

<b>Support (NET)</b>	<b>56.2%</b>
Strongly	31.6%
Somewhat	24.6%
<b>Oppose (NET)</b>	<b>34.0%</b>
Strongly	24.4%
Somewhat	9.6%
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	9.8%

Now I am going to read some background information about the proposal to re-open the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Please listen to each item and then tell me if it makes you more likely or less likely to support the project. If it makes no difference to you, just say so.

[ROTATE Q6-12]

**GREEN GOLD/ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE**

6. The project uses state-of-the art "Green Gold" technologies – the underground mine is entirely powered by electricity - that have been proven to produce 90% less environmental emissions, 94% less mine waste and consume 90% less water than traditional mining operations. Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine? [RECORD] [IF MORE LIKELY OR LESS LIKELY>>>] And would you say that you are much [more likely/less likely] or somewhat [more likely/less likely]?

<b>More likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>55.0%</b>
Much more likely	31.0%
Somewhat more likely	24.0%
Makes no difference [DO NOT READ]	20.2%
<b>Less likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>16.8%</b>
Much less likely	9.8%
Somewhat less likely	7.0%
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	8.0%

**TRANSFORMING A BLIGHTED, DANGEROUS SITE INTO A COMMUNITY BENEFIT**

7. The Centennial site has been long-abandoned and blighted with numerous homeless encampments. Many fires caused by homeless activities have already flared up on this and nearby sites which pose an ongoing threat to Grass Valley. This project's "Green Gold" processes generate 94% less "mine waste" – composed of rock and sand - than the industry average. Re-opening the Idaho-Maryland mine will including using those materials to



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transform the Centennial Industrial Site into desperately needed, industrial zoned land that could be home to new businesses, creating many new additional jobs and services for local residents as well new tax revenues. Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine? [RECORD] [IF MORE LIKELY OR LESS LIKELY>>>] And would you say that you are much [more likely/less likely] or somewhat [more likely/less likely]?

<b>More likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>58.4%</b>
Much more likely	32.0%
Somewhat more likely	26.4%
Makes no difference [DO NOT READ]	17.2%
<b>Less likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
Much less likely	12.2%
Somewhat less likely	6.0%
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	6.2%

**PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY FROM NOISE AND VIBRATION**

8. All of the Idaho-Maryland Mine’s operations will be conducted deep underground, shielding the community from noise and vibration. Structures on the surface will be fully sound-insulated, while the natural terrain, trees and distance from Grass Valley residents means the project will be virtually undetectable. Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine? [RECORD] [IF MORE LIKELY OR LESS LIKELY>>>] And would you say that you are much [more likely/less likely] or somewhat [more likely/less likely]?

<b>More likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>57.6%</b>
Much more likely	31.6%
Somewhat more likely	26.0%
Makes no difference [DO NOT READ]	15.6%
<b>Less likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>21.0%</b>
Much less likely	13.0%
Somewhat less likely	8.0%
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	5.8%

**NEW JOBS**

9. The Idaho-Maryland Mine will create over six hundred new, local jobs. Over 300 mine employees – at least 200 will be recruited locally – will receive valuable job training and an average of 94,000 dollars per year per worker in wages, with 130,000 dollars in total compensation including benefits such as medical, dental and vision coverage, paid vacation and retirement packages. This is well over twice the average in Nevada County. Modern mining is a safe industry with statistics similar to retail trade on surface and residential construction underground. The Mine



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will also generate an estimated fifty million dollars per year in new spending in Nevada County, supporting our local businesses. Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine? [RECORD] [IF MORE LIKELY OR LESS LIKELY>>>] And would you say that you are much [more likely/less likely] or somewhat [more likely/less likely]?

<b>More likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>60.8%</b>
Much more likely	35.6%
Somewhat more likely	25.2%
Makes no difference [DO NOT READ]	17.0%
<b>Less likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>16.2%</b>
Much less likely	10.8%
Somewhat less likely	5.4%
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	6.0%

**REVENUE FOR SERVICES**

10. The Idaho-Maryland Mine will generate millions of dollars per year in new revenues for the County of Nevada to support much needed services, including critical fire safety measures, public safety, libraries, parks and recreation, roads and more for the surrounding community. Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine? [RECORD] [IF MORE LIKELY OR LESS LIKELY>>>] And would you say that you are much [more likely/less likely] or somewhat [more likely/less likely]?

<b>More likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>58.8%</b>
Much more likely	33.6%
Somewhat more likely	25.2%
Makes no difference [DO NOT READ]	18.0%
<b>Less likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>17.6%</b>
Much less likely	11.2%
Somewhat less likely	6.4%
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	5.6%

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY RESOURCES**

11. The Idaho-Maryland Mine will have an on-site, fully trained and equipped mine-rescue team. These professionals will be available to respond to emergency situations at the mine and will add to local firefighter resources if needed. Additionally, Rise Grass Valley's property will be available to use as a fire staging area for the local fire department. Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine? [RECORD] [IF MORE LIKELY OR LESS LIKELY>>>] And would you say that you are much [more likely/less likely] or somewhat [more likely/less likely]?



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<b>More likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>59.0%</b>
Much more likely	32.0%
Somewhat more likely	27.0%
Makes no difference [DO NOT READ]	19.0%
<b>Less likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>16.8%</b>
Much less likely	10.8%
Somewhat less likely	6.0%
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	5.2%

**CLEAN WATER STEWARDSHIP**

12. The Idaho-Maryland Mine consumes 90% less water than the average mine, and recycles 93% of water used during mineral processing. The mine produces a surplus of ground water which will be cleaned equal to or better standards than drinking water, and used to replenish a nearby stream, benefiting downstream users and protecting fish and other local wildlife. Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine? [RECORD] [IF MORE LIKELY OR LESS LIKELY>>>] And would you say that you are much [more likely/less likely] or somewhat [more likely/less likely]?

<b>More likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>60.4%</b>
Much more likely	32.0%
Somewhat more likely	28.4%
Makes no difference [DO NOT READ]	14.8%
<b>Less likely to support [NET]</b>	<b>18.2%</b>
Much less likely	12.0%
Somewhat less likely	6.2%
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	6.6%

13. Knowing what you do now, do you support or oppose re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine? [IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE>>>] And would you say you strongly (support/oppose) or somewhat (support/oppose)?

<b>Support [NET]</b>	<b>61.0%</b>
Strongly	32.8%
Somewhat	28.2%
<b>Oppose [NET]</b>	<b>31.6%</b>
Strongly	22.8%
Somewhat	8.8%
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	7.4%



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Now I am going to read to you some statements of local residents. Please listen to each statement and tell me with whom you agree more.

[ROTATE Q14-20]

**RISKS OUR HEALTH VS. RESPONSIBLE GREEN GOLD MINING**

14. WILSON says: "I oppose re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Hardrock mining is the single largest source of toxic waste in the United States. Rise Gold wants to put a heavy industrial mining plant into the middle of our peaceful residential community. Twenty-four hours a day. Seven days a week. For up to eighty years. This project is bad for our community."

LEWIS says: "I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. This isn't your grandfather's gold mine...not the kind of mining operation that took place a hundred years ago or even decades ago. The project uses new, "Green Gold" technologies that have been proven to produce 90% less environmental emissions, 94% less mine waste and consume 90% less water than traditional mining operations, while being subject to strict local and state regulations and oversight. This project is good for our community and our environment."

With whom do you agree more, WILSON or LEWIS?  
[ROTATE WITH QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS]

<b>WILSON who says he opposes re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>40.6%</b>
<b>LEWIS who says supports re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>50.4%</b>
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	9.0%

**TRUCKS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT IMPACTS VS. RESPONSIBLE, MINIMAL IMPACTS**

15. SMITH says: "I oppose re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. It will wreck our neighborhoods with one-hundred truck trips every day passing through our neighborhoods. The peace and quiet that brought homeowners to this beautiful area will be shattered forever. Constant truck traffic, vibration, and noise from heavy equipment operations will become the new normal."

JONES says: "I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The project would use trucks only on existing designated truck routes, with about one truck traveling every twenty minutes on Brunswick Road. All mining operations will be conducted deep underground, and any structures on the surface will be fully sound-insulated, completely shielding our community from noise or vibration."

With whom do you agree more, SMITH or JONES?  
[ROTATE WITH QUESTION AND ANSWERS]



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<b>SMITH who says he opposes re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>41.4%</b>
<b>JONES who says supports re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>49.0%</b>
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	9.6%

**CAN'T TRUST RISE GOLD VS. RESPONSIBLE TRACK RECORD**

16. **BROWN** says: "I oppose re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine because we just can't trust Rise Gold, the parent company of Rise Grass Valley. Their CEO's last venture polluted tribal waters, went bankrupt, and left Canadians with a mess to clean up."

**JOHNSON** says: "I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The CEO has been open about the past, noting that not only was that a completely different company that has nothing to do with Rise Grass Valley, and that past violations did not result in any environmental damage. The lessons learned in the past helped to guide the industry-leading "Green Gold" processes at Rise Grass Valley that ensure full environmental protection for the project."

With whom do you agree more, **BROWN** or **JOHNSON**?  
[ROTATE WITH QUESTION AND ANSWERS]

<b>BROWN who says he opposes re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>37.6%</b>
<b>JOHNSON who says supports re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>48.6%</b>
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	13.8%

**POLLUTES OUR AIR VS. NEAR-ZERO EMISSIONS**

17. **MORGAN** says: "I oppose re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Grass Valley's air quality already receives an "F" rating. The mine will make it even worse with escaped dust from continuous rock crushing, loading, hauling, unloading, spreading, and compacting. With chronic lung disease deaths already at twice the state average, we just can't afford any more."

**CLARK** says: "I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The project uses proven technologies to minimize emissions and protect air quality. The 100% electrification of the underground mine results in negligible emissions, which are 99% less than the industry average. The project will be continuously monitoring and reporting on air quality. Health assessments mandated by Californian's Environmental Quality Act give the project a clean bill of health, while mine shaft access and strict, proven dust control measures ensure employee and community health safety."

With whom do you agree more, **MORGAN** or **CLARK**?





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[ROTATE WITH QUESTION AND ANSWERS]

<b>MORGAN who says he opposes re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>39.0%</b>
<b>CLARK who says supports re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>51.6%</b>
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	9.4%

**DRAINS GROUNDWATER AND RISKS WELLS VS. PRESERVES AND PROTECTS WATER**

18. **BAKER** says: "I oppose re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine . Water is one of the most precious resources we have, but Rise Gold plans to pump out nearly four million gallons every day for six months and another one-point-two million gallons per day for up to eighty years - flooding creeks, destroying habitat, and putting over three hundred private wells at risk."

**NELSON** says: "I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The project consumes 90% less water than the average mine, and recycles 93% of water used during mineral processing. In fact, the Mine will produce new, clean water that is released into the nearby creak, benefiting users downstream, without causing erosion, while protecting fish and other local wildlife. Experts have stated that the project will have virtually no impact on groundwater wells. In the unlikely event that a well would ever be affected, the company will replace that water source at no cost to the resident."

With whom do you agree more, **BAKER** or **NELSON**?

[ROTATE WITH QUESTION AND ANSWERS]

<b>BAKER who says he opposes re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>40.4%</b>
<b>NELSON who says supports re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>49.2%</b>
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	10.4%

**HURTS BUSINESSES/HOMEOWNERS VS. HELPS THE COMMUNITY**

19. **THOMAS** says: "I oppose re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. While Rise Gold shareholders profit, the local community gets little. The few jobs gained are offset by big risks for tourism, high tech businesses, wells, and tens of millions of dollars lost in property values. The Idaho-Maryland Mine is a bad deal for our community."

**TAYLOR** says: "I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. The community needs a solid base of highly paid jobs and the project will create over six-hundred new jobs that pay more than twice the average. Tens of millions of dollars in local, state, and federal tax revenues would be paid from the gold produced. The regulations and project designs are highly protective of the community so there is no danger to property values, and new local spending will benefit other local businesses and Nevada County residents. The Idaho-Maryland Mine is a good deal for our community."



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With whom do you agree more, THOMAS or TAYLOR?  
[ROTATE WITH QUESTION AND ANSWERS]

<b>THOMAS who says he opposes re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>35.6%</b>
<b>TAYLOR who says supports re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>54.8%</b>
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	9.6%

**MINING IS ANCIENT AND DANGEROUS HISTORY VS. MINING IS GOOD FOR GRASS VALLEY**

20. JACKSON says: "I oppose re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Gold mining should remain part of Nevada County's history...not our future. Any other company or industry would provide the same or more jobs without the toxic dangers from gold mining. I would rather have almost any other business than re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine."

ALLEN says: "I support re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine. Gold mining is part of our heritage in Grass Valley. This area was founded on gold mining. Our community is in desperate need of good jobs - we can't rely entirely on retirees and tourists to fuel our local economy. The Idaho-Maryland Mine is a good deal for our community."

With whom do you agree more, JACKSON or ALLEN?  
[ROTATE WITH QUESTION AND ANSWERS]

<b>JACKSON who says he opposes re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>34.8%</b>
<b>ALLEN who says supports re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine</b>	<b>56.0%</b>
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	9.2%

21. Knowing what you do now, do you support or oppose re-opening the Idaho-Maryland Mine? [IF SUPPORT/OPPOSE>>>] And would you say you strongly (support/oppose) or somewhat (support/oppose)?

<b>Support (NET)</b>	<b>59.0%</b>
Strongly	33.6%
Somewhat	25.4%
<b>Oppose (NET)</b>	<b>34.0%</b>
Strongly	24.8%
Somewhat	9.2%
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	7.0%



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22. Should the Nevada County Board of Supervisors approve the Idaho-Maryland Project if it meets all environmental and regulatory requirements, AND the independent environmental impact report shows that the project causes minimal or no significant impacts?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>58.4%</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>33.8%</b>
Unsure/Refused [DO NOT READ]	7.8%

23. And finally, for demographic purposes only, which of the following best describes your ethnic background?

<b>Latino/Hispanic</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
<b>White/Caucasian</b>	<b>85.2%</b>
<b>Black/African American</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>Asian</b>	<b>0.8%</b>
<b>Middle Eastern</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
Other	5.6%
Refused [DO NOT READ]	3.0%

Thank you for your time. Have a great (day/evening).