



OPINION  
RESEARCH  
& STRATEGY

**TO** Interested Parties

**FROM** Miranda Everitt and Denny Han  
FM3 Research

**RE:** Arizona Voter Views of the Resolution Copper Mine Proposal

**DATE** February 5, 2026

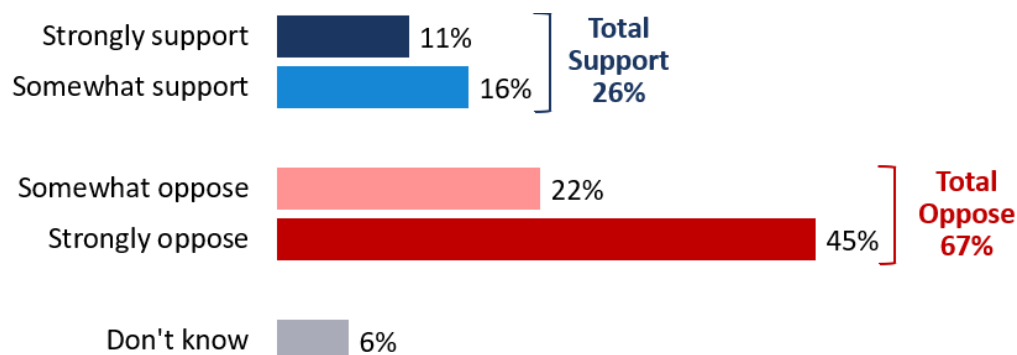
FM3 Research recently completed a survey of Arizonans to determine their views of a copper mine proposed for Central Arizona.<sup>1</sup> **The survey results show that Arizona voters overwhelmingly oppose the Resolution Copper Mine at Oak Flat.** This opposition cuts across major demographic groups, and majorities remain opposed even after an exchange of messaging for and against the project.

Key specific findings of the survey include:

- **Two-thirds of Arizona voters oppose the Resolution Copper Mine proposal given a brief explanation.** As shown in Figure 1 below, 67% oppose the mine, and nearly half (45%) "strongly oppose" it. Just one quarter (26%) are at all supportive of the idea.

**Figure 1: Voter Views of the Resolution Copper Proposal**

*Resolution Copper, a subsidiary of multinational mining company Rio Tinto, is seeking to develop a copper mine in Central Arizona east of Phoenix on more than 16,000 acres of Tonto National Forest and other public land. Resolution Copper estimates that the mine could produce as much as 40 billion pounds of copper over 40 years. The area, also known as Oak Flat, is a sacred site to the Apache. The company would use a mining method that would leave a crater two miles wide and a thousand feet deep, impacting water supplies and wildlife habitat. The proposal is being reviewed by state and federal agencies and Congress. Having heard this, do you support or oppose the Resolution Copper Mine at Oak Flat?*

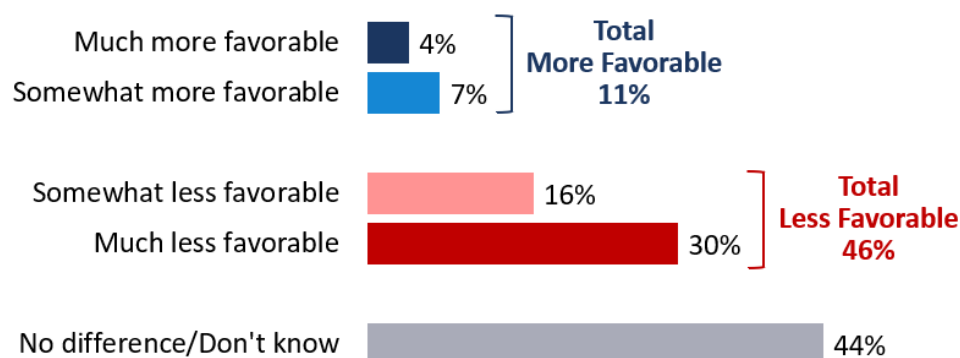


This opposition holds across major demographic groups, including:

- 87% of Democrats, 69% of independents and 51% of Republicans;
  - 78% of women and 56% of men;
  - 67% of voters under 50 and 68% of voters ages 50 and older;
  - 68% white voters and 61% Latino voters, and
  - 67% of urban voters, 70% of suburban voters, 66% of small-town voters and 61% of rural voters.
- **Nearly half of voters say they would view an elected official less favorably for supporting the mine.** Figure 2 below shows that by a 31-point margin, voters would view an elected official who supported the mine less favorably rather than more favorably. Two-thirds of Democrats (66%) would view such a figure less favorably, as would 42% of independents and 33% of Republicans.

**Figure 2: Impact of Support for Resolution Copper on Vote for Elected Official**

*If an elected official supported the Resolution Copper mine at Oak Flat, would you have a more favorable view of them, a less favorable view of them, or would it make no difference?*



- **Voters believe the mine will have negative impacts on wildlife, Native cultural sites, and scenic landscapes.** As shown in Figure 3 on the next page, more than seven in ten voters believe the mine will have a negative impact on key aspects of life in Arizona. They also broadly see negative impacts on water costs, quality, and supply, as well as air quality and outdoor recreation.

**Figure 3: Resolution Mine’s Perceived Impact on Aspects of Life in Arizona**

*Next, here is a list of specific aspects of life in Arizona. After I read each one, please tell me whether you think the Resolution Copper mine would have a positive impact, no impact, or a negative impact on that aspect of life in Arizona.*

Aspect of Life in Arizona	Total Negative	Total Positive
Wildlife habitat	75%	14%
Sacred and cultural sites for Native people	72%	13%
Scenic landscapes	71%	14%
Cost of water	65%	7%
Drinking water quality and supply	65%	11%
Air quality	63%	11%
Opportunities for outdoor recreation	62%	16%

- **Majorities remain opposed even after voters hear an even exchange of pros and cons.** The table below shows the impact of an exchange of messaging from supporters and opponents of the Resolution Copper Mine. Opposition remains steady with more than three in five voters against the proposal for Oak Flat (63%) – a 36-point margin in opposition.

**Figure 4: Progression of Support After Pros and Cons**

Opinion	Total Support	Total Oppose	Undecided
Initial Opinion	26%	67%	6%
After Positive and Negative Messaging	27%	63%	9%

In sum, **Arizona voters across all major demographic groups overwhelmingly oppose the Resolution Copper mine proposed for Oak Flat.** Underlying this opposition is the fact that they see largely negative impacts the mine could have for wildlife habitat, Native cultural sites, and scenic landscapes. This opposition holds even after voters hear messaging for and against the proposal.

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<sup>i</sup> **Methodology:** From Jan. 23-30, 2026, FM3 completed 601 interviews on landlines, cellphones and online with likely November 2026 voters in Arizona. The margin of sampling error for the study is +/-4.0% at the 95% confidence level. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.