

**ELPC  
OHIO WATER POLL**

Study #2197  
500 registered voters in selected NW Ohio counties  
Margin of error: ± 4.4 percentage points

SELZER & COMPANY  
August 22-September 1, 2019  
Weighted by age and county

**Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.**

1. I'm going to mention some issues facing Ohio. For each, please tell me how important it is to you personally that government action be taken—very important, fairly important, just somewhat important, or not important. **(Rotate list.)**

	Very/Fairly Important	Smwt/Not Important	Very Important	Fairly Important	Just Somewhat Important	Not Important	Not Sure
A. Climate change	65	34	55	10	19	15	2
B. Immigration	63	35	51	11	23	12	2
C. Health care	83	16	74	9	11	5	1
D. International trade	60	38	41	19	31	7	2
E. The national debt	73	25	61	12	20	6	2
F. Manufacturing jobs	69	30	54	15	24	6	1
G. Safe clean water	92	8	88	4	8	1	-
H. Gun control	63	36	56	7	18	18	1

2. I'm going to mention some elected officials and institutions. For each, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way each is handling the job. **(Rotate list.)**

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure
A. Mike DeWine as governor	47	36	17
B. Sherrod Brown as U.S. senator	55	27	18
C. Rob Portman as U.S. senator	40	31	29
D. Marcy Kaptur as U.S. representative for the 9 <sup>th</sup> congressional district	63	23	13
E. Jim Jordon as U.S. representative for the 4 <sup>th</sup> congressional district	30	26	45
F. The Ohio Farm Bureau	45	13	42
G. Donald Trump as president of the United States	34	59	6

3. I'm going to mention some legislative topics that have been discussed in the past few years in Ohio. Some of these proposals have become law and some have not. For each, please tell me if this is something you strongly favor, mostly favor, mostly oppose, or strongly oppose. **(Rotate list.)**

	Favor	Oppose	Strongly Favor	Mostly Favor	Mostly Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
A. Putting a freeze on new construction of CAFOs, meaning concentrated animal feeding operations in northwest Ohio, containing thousands of hogs and chickens	44	33	23	21	20	13	23
B. Spending more than a billion dollars to protect Lake Erie and other state waterways from pollution	89	8	59	30	4	4	3
C. Raising the legal smoking age to 21 from 18	67	27	45	21	12	15	6
D. Eliminating state income taxes on low-income households and instituting a flat 4% income tax cut for all other households	61	28	29	32	16	13	11
E. Creating after-school support programs for at-risk public-school students	91	6	61	30	4	2	3
F. Authorizing medical marijuana	68	29	38	29	10	19	3
G. Instituting new restrictions on gun sales and gun ownership	69	29	51	18	9	20	2

4. I'm going to mention some specific issues related to water quality in northwest Ohio. For each, please tell me how familiar you are with the issue as it relates to water quality—very familiar, fairly familiar, just somewhat familiar, or not familiar. **(Rotate list, but A must always be first.)**

		Very/Fairly Familiar	Smwt/Not Familiar	Very Familiar	Fairly Familiar	Just somewhat Familiar	Not Familiar	Not Sure
A.	The use of fertilizer on large corn and soy crop fields	46	53	26	19	29	24	2
B.	Manure runoff pollution into the Lake Erie watershed from hog and poultry feeding operations	42	56	25	16	29	27	2
C.	Algae blooms in Lake Erie	69	29	53	16	23	6	2
D.	Voluntary programs to limit the amount of agricultural runoff of manure and fertilizer that flows into Lake Erie	34	63	21	14	28	35	3
E.	State rules and regulations for the management of manure spreading on crops and fields	26	69	13	13	24	45	5
F.	The sport fishing industry in Lake Erie	40	57	26	14	26	31	2

5. CAFOs are large facilities where thousands of hogs, chickens, and other animals are confined year-round. Construction has been on the rise over the last decade. On the positive side, CAFOs can be profitable for their owners and efficient for the beef, pork, egg, chicken and dairy industries to supply products to a worldwide market. On the negative side, these CAFOs produce a huge amount of manure that is spread on fields. The excess manure can run off and get into rivers, streams, and eventually Lake Erie and can cause algae blooms, which can result in contaminated drinking water supplies and the closure of rivers and lakes as recreation areas.

Do you happen to know if these CAFOs are or are not regulated by the state in terms of the number or size of these operations that can be built in Ohio?

- 13 Yes, they are regulated
- 9 No, they are not regulated
- 68 Do not know if they are regulated
- 11 Not sure

6. Currently, the number of these CAFOs that can be built is not limited by the state of Ohio or by the Environmental Protection Agency. Given what you know at this point, do you strongly favor, mostly favor, mostly oppose, or strongly oppose a freeze on building new CAFOs?

Favor	Oppose	Strongly Favor	Mostly Favor	Mostly Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
57	31	32	25	17	14	12

**I'm going to read you some reasons for and against putting a freeze on the number of concentrated animal feeding operations—known as CAFOs—so you can hear both sides. First,**

**(Alternate Q.7 and Q.8 every other interview.)**

7. I'm going to read you some reasons to favor putting a freeze on the number of CAFOs in northwest Ohio. For each, please tell me if you think this is an excellent reason, a good reason, or not a good reason to halt new construction of CAFOs. **(Read list. Rotate.)**

	<b>Excellent Reason</b>	<b>Good Reason</b>	<b>Not a Good Reason</b>	<b>Not Sure</b>
A. The situation is dangerous. Manure runoff from many thousands of hogs, chickens, or other animals in CAFOs can end up in Lake Erie, creating toxic algae blooms which contaminate drinking water and are poisonous to humans and animals.	40	40	12	8
B. The way we're trying to fix the problem isn't working. The state of Ohio has spent billions of dollars since 2011 to encourage voluntary adoption of practices that reduce polluted runoff. Virtually no progress has been made in reducing the overall amount of excess manure and fertilizer running into rivers and then into Lake Erie where it can cause toxic algae blooms.	32	42	16	10
C. CAFO owners should be accountable for their manure pollution. They should be financially responsible to take actions to reduce their pollution instead of forcing the public to endure algae outbreaks in Lake Erie.	46	39	9	6
D. We don't know how big the problem is. There are now many more CAFOs in northwest Ohio than in 2005. Ohio does not require public reporting on how much manure is produced, and only the largest CAFOs need a permit. We should hold off adding more CAFOs until we can figure out the existing problem.	40	38	15	7
E. It costs too much NOT to limit manure and fertilizer runoff pollution from CAFOs that contaminates Lake Erie, which is the main source of drinking water for many Ohioans. Toledo, Oregon and other cities along Lake Erie have raised their water rates, thereby forcing consumers to cover costs for cleaning the polluted water.	31	36	26	7
F. The problem hurts our economy. Lake Erie provides one-third of tourism and travel revenues for the state including walleye and sport fishing. The lake creates over 100,000 jobs and brings in billions of dollars in revenue, so the state needs to protect Lake Erie from toxic algae blooms.	50	36	8	6

[For the second set of questions asked, precede the question with the word, “Now, . . .]

8. I’m going to read you some reasons to oppose a freeze on new CAFO construction. For each, please tell me if you think this is an excellent reason, a good reason, or not a good reason to allow CAFO construction to continue at the current pace. **(Read list. Rotate.)**

	Excellent Reason	Good Reason	Not a Good Reason	Not Sure
A. There are a lot of other problems impacting water quality in Lake Erie besides CAFOs, such as lawn fertilizer, soil erosion, and leaking septic tanks. It is wrong to single out one potential problem to take all the blame.	17	35	40	9
B. Instead of putting a freeze on new CAFO construction, it’s better to invest in research and technology to fix these problems even if that takes longer.	19	38	34	10
C. The hog and poultry industries are a major job creator in northwest Ohio. If there is a freeze on CAFO construction, that could slow down job growth. We can’t risk that.	11	29	51	9
D. We need to trust CAFO owners. They know what’s best for their soil, they want to be good stewards of the land, and many have volunteered to help fix the problem. There might be a few bad actors, but the problem with rules and regulation is they punish some people who are not doing anything wrong.	11	31	49	10
E. Unlike chemical fertilizer, manure is a natural fertilizer and is good for the soil. We should focus on how best to use and work with it, not on limiting its production by putting a freeze on new CAFO construction.	15	39	34	11
F. There has only been one major shutdown of drinking water coming from Lake Erie in the past few years, so putting a freeze on new CAFO construction for a rare event is overkill.	10	24	55	10
G. The government should not restrict people’s use of their own land to make money, and that’s just what putting a freeze on new CAFO construction does.	10	27	52	11

9. Do you strongly favor, mostly favor, mostly oppose, or strongly oppose putting a freeze on new construction of CAFOs, meaning concentrated animal feeding operations in northwest Ohio, containing thousands of hogs and chickens?

Favor	Oppose	Strongly Favor	Mostly Favor	Mostly Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
59	29	36	23	16	13	12

10. Currently, only the largest CAFOs are required to get permits, so most CAFOs do not. As an example, a CAFO with 2,499 hogs is expected to produce almost 9 million pounds of manure each year. But that is not large enough for it to need a permit and a manure plan filed with the Ohio department of agriculture. Would you strongly favor, mostly favor, mostly oppose, or strongly oppose including more CAFOs in the permitting process?

Favor	Oppose	Strongly Favor	Mostly Favor	Mostly Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Not Sure
59	26	42	17	11	16	14

11. Some candidates running for elected office might favor both a freeze on new construction of CAFOs until there are fewer toxic algae bloom problems in Lake Erie, as well as a requirement that more existing operations file publicly-available manure management plans with the state. Other candidates might oppose such changes and favor continuing current practices of paying for voluntary programs to reduce the runoff of manure into waterways that lead to Lake Erie. Which candidate are you more likely to support—the one who favors a freeze on new construction and more oversight of CAFOs, or the one who favors current practice and voluntary programs?
- 59 Freeze/oversight
  - 22 Oppose regulation/Favor current practice/voluntary programs
  - 2 Neither (VOL)
  - 17 Not sure
12. In your own decision-making as the next general election approaches, do you think this will be a major issue, a minor issue, or not much of an issue as you consider candidates you will support?
- 40 Major issue
  - 36 Minor issue
  - 11 Not much of an issue
  - 13 Not sure
13. Throughout this survey, we've mentioned CAFOs often, but less often mentioned the ownership of these operations. For each of the following, please tell me if the phrase fits your vision of CAFO ownership in northwest Ohio—just answer yes or no. **(Rotate list. Mark all that apply. Multiple answers accepted, so total may exceed 100%.)**
- 61 Large agricultural corporations
  - 33 Wall Street investment firms
  - 57 Northwest Ohio families
  - 47 Organic farmers
  - 29 Foreign investors
  - 1 None of these (VOL)
  - 16 Not sure

These final questions are asked just to see what cross-section of northwest Ohio residents we are interviewing.

100a. **(Record for all.)** Record age from sample

\_\_\_\_\_

b. **(CODE PROPER CATEGORY :)**

- 6 Under 25
- 20 25 to 34
- 16 35 to 44
- 15 45 to 54
- 18 55 to 64
- 25 65 and over
- 1 Refused/not sure

101. In politics as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

- 19 Republican
- 27 Democrat
- 35 Independent
- 1 Other (VOL)
- 18 Refused/not sure

102. What is the last grade of school you completed?
- 24 High school graduate or less
  - 19 Some college
  - 12 Associate's (two-year) degree
  - 21 Bachelor's (four-year) degree
  - 10 Postgraduate work or degree
  - 15 Refused/not sure
103. Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?
- 24 Yes
  - 61 No
  - 15 Refused/not sure
104. With what racial or ethnic group do you identify most—White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, or some other group?
- 68 White
  - 8 Black
  - 2 Hispanic
  - 1 Asian
  - 1 Other
  - 20 Refused/not sure
105. Is your total annual household income before taxes above or below \$70,000 per year?
- Above **ASK b**
  - Below **ASK c**
- b. Is it above or below \$100,000 per year?
    - 17 Above (\$100,000+)
    - 15 Below (\$70,000-\$99,999)
  - c. Is it above or below \$50,000 per year?
    - 13 Above (\$50,000-\$69,999)
    - 30 Below (<\$50,000)
    - 25 Refused/not sure
106. Phone type
- 47 Cell phone only
  - 53 Landline/other/refused
107. **(Record for all.)** Record sex from sample
- 48 Male
  - 52 Female
108. **(Record for all.)** Record from sample in which election(s) respondent voted. (Multi)
- 74 Nov 2018 general (midterms)
  - 29 2018 primary
  - 84 Nov 2016 general (presidential)
  - 55 2016 primary
  - 54 Nov 2014 general (midterms)
  - 18 2014 primary
  - 76 Nov 2012 general (presidential)
  - 33 2012 primary

109. **(Record for all.)** Record county

14	Erie
71	Lucas
7	Ottawa
8	Sandusky

#### **ABOUT THE STUDY**

The survey, conducted the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August through the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 2019, for Environmental Law & Policy Center (ELPC) by Selzer & Company of West Des Moines, Iowa, is based on telephone interviews with 500 Ohio registered voters living in the following four counties in northwestern Ohio: Erie, Lucas, Ottawa, and Sandusky. The sample was drawn from the Ohio voter registration list by TargetSmart and was enhanced with telephone numbers from their look-up service.

Interviewers with Quantel Research contacted respondents using randomized landline and cell phone numbers from the sample. Interviews were administered in English and lasted approximately 20 minutes.

Percentages based on the full probability sample of 500 northwest Ohio registered voters may have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points. This means that if this survey were repeated using the same questions and the same methodology, 19 times out of 20, the finding would not vary from the true population value by more than plus or minus 4.4 percentage points. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error.

The sample was weighted by age and county to reflect the proportions found in the Ohio registered voter list for the four-county area.