

2008 AAA Rhode Island Public Affairs topline results

(Based on 304 respondents with an error of +/- 5.6 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence)

National Issues

1) Of the following, what are your top three safety concerns as a motorist? (Check *three*) n=297

- 80% Drunk drivers
- 72% Distracted drivers
- 59% Aggressive drivers
- 27% Poor road quality
- 16% Unlicensed drivers
- 14% Sharing the road with large trucks
- 13% Teen drivers
- 6% Senior drivers
- 6% Drowsy drivers

2) Please rank the following issues in the order they concern you, from most concern (1) to least concern (6): n=252-262

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 2.0 Economy | 3.6 Education |
| 2.4 Health care | 4.7 Global warming |
| 3.1 National security | 5.1 Transportation |

3) How much do you oppose or support the following options in order to increase transportation investment?

	Strongly oppose	Somewhat oppose	Neutral	Somewhat support	Strongly support
Increase other taxes (income, property) n=294	74%	10%	8%	6%	2%
Charge drivers a fee based on the number of miles driven n=296	70%	7%	11%	8%	3%
Impose tolls to drive on main roads during peak travel times n=298	65%	11%	14%	7%	3%
Increase sales taxes n=294	63%	12%	12%	9%	4%
Increase gasoline taxes n=292	55%	14%	12%	14%	5%
Begin charging tolls on existing roads and bridges n=294	46%	18%	16%	16%	3%
Impose tolls on newly constructed bridges and highways n=297	35%	18%	17%	22%	8%

4) Please rank the following types of transportation projects in their order of importance to you, from most important (1) to least important (6): n=254-258

- 1.9 Routine road and bridge maintenance
- 3.2 Construction projects that enhance motorist safety (eliminating dangerous curves, improving intersections, etc)
- 3.3 Constructing new public transit facilities (bus, subway, commuter rail)
- 3.6 Building new roads and bridges to help reduce congestion
- 4.0 Expanding national rail corridors (high-speed, interstate passenger rail connecting cities)
- 5.0 Building bicycle and pedestrian pathways

5) Which of the following do you believe the next Administration should focus on to decrease the nation's dependence on foreign oil? (Check all that apply) n=298

- 81% Increased investment in developing alternative fuel sources and making them more available to consumers
- 71% Require auto manufacturers to produce more alternative fuel vehicles for personal use
- 58% Increased exploration and drilling of domestic oil
- 48% Allow more offshore drilling
- 44% Emphasize more conservation methods/programs
- 36% Offer the public tax incentives for specific consumer conservation changes related to driving

6) Which of the following personal lifestyle adjustments would you make to reduce your fuel consumption? (Check all that apply) n=302

- 73% Keep vehicle properly maintained
- 55% Drive less
- 54% Buy smaller, more fuel efficient car
- 48% Buy hybrid or alternative fuel vehicle
- 27% Use public transit more often
- 26% Walk/bike
- 19% Carpool/Vanpool
- 8% Unable to make any change
- 2% Not interested in making any changes

7) Some safety advocates call for the return to a national maximum speed limit of 55 mph, citing potential for fewer traffic deaths and injuries. Opponents say that newer, safer vehicles can safely handle higher speeds on many highways. Do you think the national maximum speed limit should be reinstated? (Check one) n=297

- 37% No
- 35% Yes, but at 55 mph
- 28% Yes, but at a speed higher than 55 mph

8) Should states pass laws that make it illegal for drivers to send a text message from a cellular phone or other wireless communications device while operating a moving vehicle? n=299

- 97% Yes
- 3% No

9) Some states are considering an increase in the minimum age to 17 for a teen driver. What do you think should be the minimum age for a person to get a driver's license? n=300

- 36% 17
- 32% 18
- 24% 16
- 7% 19 or older
- <1% 15
- 0% 14 or younger

10) What road safety investments do you think would save the most lives over the next 10 years? (Check all that apply) n=303

- 89% Safer drivers
- 59% Safer roads
- 48% Safer cars

11) Which of the following statements regarding large trucks on our highways do you agree with? (Check all that apply) n=303

- 73% Large trucks should have their own lanes where possible
- 48% The size of trucks should be limited
- 46% The weight of trucks should be limited
- 17% The number of trucks should be reduced
- 10% The current size and weight of large trucks is right
- 9% I don't have an opinion on this subject

Rhode Island Issues

- 12) Should the parents or guardians of children who are learning to drive be required to attend a two-hour parent course as part of the driver education process, in order to give them a better understanding of the novice driver process and their role in teaching a new driver? n=299
 70% Yes 30% No
- 13) Do you favor or oppose passage of a Rhode Island primary safety belt enforcement law, which would allow law enforcement officers to stop a vehicle solely because occupants are not wearing safety belts and to issue a ticket to the driver? n=303
 58% Favor
 42% Oppose
- 14) Would you favor or oppose increasing the maximum age from 7 to 8 at which a child in Rhode Island would have to travel in an approved booster seat when riding in a motor vehicle? n=290
 42% Favor
 58% Oppose
- 15) Should education be provided to the adult children of older drivers to help them better discuss the impact of the aging process on older drivers and steps that can be taken to address concerns? n=296
 57% Yes 43% No
- 16) Currently, junior operators/intermediate license holders are prohibited from driving unsupervised between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. in Rhode Island. Do you favor or oppose expanding this nighttime restriction to between midnight and 5 a.m.? n=299
 80% Favor
 20% Oppose
- 17) Do you favor or oppose more frequent vision and behind-the-wheel testing for drivers over the age of 70? n=294
 71% Favor
 29% Oppose
- 18) Which of the following do you believe would be most effective at reducing distracted driving due to cellular phone use and message texting? (Choose **one**) n=292
 84% Ban both cellular phone use and texting for all drivers
 13% Ban texting for drivers under 18
 3% Ban cellular phone use for all drivers
- 19) Red light cameras are photographic devices mounted at intersections and capable of photographing a vehicle and its license plate. Such cameras can detect if a motorist has run a red light, resulting in a traffic citation sent to the vehicle owner's address. Do you favor or oppose the use of red-light cameras as a means of law enforcement in Rhode Island? n=299
 61% Favor
 39% Oppose

20) Please rate the following:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
RI State Police n=290	38%	51%	9%	1%
Local City/Town Police n=290	19%	58%	20%	3%
State Emissions/Inspection Program n=291	10%	59%	25%	6%
RI Registry of Motor Vehicles n=286	3%	31%	41%	25%
Condition of RI highways n=292	1%	23%	46%	30%
RI General Assembly n=271	<1%	25%	34%	40%
RI Dept. of Transportation n=285	<1%	28%	51%	20%

Demographics (Answers are for statistical purposes only.)

- 21) In what year were you born? _____
 n=295 (1946=median)
- 22) Do you have any children under 18 living in your household? n=299
 15% Yes 85% No ⇒ **Go to Question 24**
- 23) Do you have any teenage drivers under the age of 18 living in your household? n=45
 38% Yes 62% No
- 24) Which of the following categories best describes your total annual household income before taxes? n=248
 16% Under \$25,000 23% \$50,000-\$74,999
 24% \$25,000-\$49,999 38% \$75,000 and above
- 25) What is your home ZIP code? _____
- 26) How many years have you been a AAA member? ___ yrs
 n=266 (19 yrs = mean)
- 27) Please indicate your gender: n=301
 56% Female 44% Male