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Survey: Majority Of Idahoans Support Texting Ban

By Associated Press

POSTED: 12:05 pm MST January 16, 2012

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UPDATED: 1:19 pm MST January 16, 2012

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BOISE, Idaho -- Eighty-seven percent of Idahoans support banning texting while driving, according to AAA Idaho survey results released Monday.

AAA Idaho supports legislation to specifically ban the act of sending and receiving text messages for drivers.

The report shows 59 percent support legislative action prohibiting cell phones for any purpose while driving.

According to a news release, the AAA Idaho-sponsored survey also indicates that 79 percent of Idahoans support legislative action to use enhanced penalties to deal with distracted drivers who use a cell phone or electronic device while driving.

AAA Idaho Survey Details

[More numbers, including what respondents thought of local option tax for transportation funding](#)
[How respondents viewed transportation fees and taxes](#)

The survey also shows that Idahoans are reluctant to support higher use fees or gas taxes, regardless of whether they are used for roads, bridges or public transportation.

This comes a year after Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's Task Force on Modernizing Transportation Funding made its recommendations, which showed that Idaho faces more than a \$500 million annual deficiency to pay for its transportation needs. Thirty-eight percent are in support of high use fees or gas taxes.

Voters are more likely to support higher taxes and registration fees (52 percent) if all user groups are required to pay their fair share, AAA Idaho said.

The survey was conducted in late November by Riley Research Associates of Portland, with 400 interviews being conducted among a representative sample of Idaho voters from 41 of Idaho's 44 counties.

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kspot42

Lets just go back to horse and buggies we will be out of the reign of the oil tycoons, we won't have to pay near as much to fix the roads, accidents will be fewer and less devastating and life will slowdown and people will begin to enjoy life again.

[12 hours ago](#) [1 Like](#)

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Jay

All powerful nanny state, please save us.

[13 hours ago](#) [1 Like](#)[Like](#) [Reply](#)

RMG, Humor is the affectionate communication of insight.

The problem is the people who won't take the responsibility to not text while driving. When one of them kills someone you love, we'll see what tune you will be singing then.

[11 hours ago](#) [in reply to Jay](#) [5 Likes](#)[Like](#) [Reply](#)

Jay

You immediately assume I am for people texting. It's just as careless as drunk driving etc. The point is we already have laws on the books against reckless driving and the issue is punishments are too weak and not strictly enforced. One more law is only going to suck more money out of an already bankrupt system from the lawmakers who spend time on it all the way down to training law enforcement. So let's stop making our law enforcement glorified meter maids and let them catch the real bad guys.

Increasing penalties will either defer the crime completely or ultimately strip away the ability to commit them. Another law isn't going to change anything.

[11 hours ago](#) [in reply to RMG](#) [2 Likes](#)[Like](#) [Reply](#)

RMG, Humor is the affectionate communication of insight.

The law is not enforced until damage is done and that is the problem. The way the law is written, someone could argue they were not carelessly driving if they didn't break a law while texting or talking on the phone. Until they have done something reckless, which usually ends badly, it's too late. Personally I think cars should be equipped to not allow people to drive when drunk or allow the driver to use the phone at all while in the car. Of course someone will complain that infringes on their rights somehow and the expenses of making cars with those features. Life would be much simpler if everybody just took responsibility for their actions but that isn't going to happen. Simple doesn't work in this world, everything has to be complicated.

[10 hours ago](#) [in reply to Jay](#) [3 Likes](#)[Like](#) [Reply](#)

Jay

"The law is not enforced until damage is done and that is the problem."

Personally I'm not a fan of guilty until proven innocent.

[7 hours ago](#) [in reply to RMG](#)[Like](#) [Reply](#)

RMG, Humor is the affectionate communication of insight.

Texting and driving has been proven to cause, and I wish I could highlight cause, inattentive driving. So yeah, the way the

law is written, you are not guilty until it causes you to hurt or kill someone else, or break the law like crossing the line or running a stop light.

I am not a fan of the current law.

[6 hours ago](#) [in reply to Jay](#) [2 Likes](#)

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Jay

You could say that about anything. People having guns might result in someone getting shot so lets do micro stamping. Some people might not pay their taxes next year so we need control their checking accounts. Your child might get into the draino so lets require ID to buy it. It is a very slippery slope argument and there isn't any substantial evidence that a law like that will reduce texting related accidents since its been implemented in tons of states.

Look at speeding, the law has been around for ever yet you can get multiple tickets and still drive around doing the same thing. You can even get a detector which would be no different than texting on your phone in your lap instead of higher. How are they going to prove you weren't looking at your odometer or radio?

I don't want people texting and driving any more than you do but don't fool yourself into thinking a ticket is going to change that. It hasn't changed speeding, loud radios, or talking on cell phones. All we got were radar detectors, quick mute remotes, and hand free devices.

[5 hours ago](#) [in reply to RMG](#)

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



RMG, Humor is the affectionate communicatio...

That was the point I made to you in my very first sentence. The people breaking the laws are going to continue to do it because they think the unthinkable will never happen to them.

The point strangecoffee drink made about drunk drivers is true. The laws do not stop them. You two are arguing over the penalties. The real point is no law or as you stated, stiffer penalties is going to stop a person who wants

to drink and drive or text and drive. They are going to continue to do it and try to hide it making them even more dangerous drivers. The law and penalties are a bandage to the problem.

I already stated there is no simple solutions. I think everybody should be grown up enough to do the right thing and shouldn't need the state to play nanny to them, but we all know that is never going to happen. Even equipping the cars to stop them, in time, they will figure a way around it.

I get what you are saying about control of everything we do. I don't like it. My point is, if we took control of what we do, there wouldn't ever be an excuse to come down to being controlled. Why is a simple answer so complicated? Because there is someone who always will make it so. They believe they are an exception to the rule. Not everybody is a responsible person.

At least changing the law would give an officer a chance to stop someone he suspects is texting. As far as proving it, all he would have to do is check your phone to see if you were or not. Maybe knowing you could get stopped would make people think about it, maybe even stop some from doing it. Will it fix the problem? No, I doubt it, but it would decrease the chances of someone I care about getting hurt.

[4 hours ago](#) [in reply to Jay](#) [Like](#) [Reply](#)
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Jay

Like I first said, it either deters them OR it completely revokes the privilege to driving. A lot of people that cause the problems are repeat offenders. My point is stop it early on, not another meaningless law that is exactly like others that have done nothing.

As far as a cop checking your phone...4th amendment. There are much bigger consequences to giving them that unconstitutional authority.

[3 hours ago](#)
[in reply to RMG](#)

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StrangeCoffeeDrink

DUI laws in Idaho are strict, and yet people still drive drunk. The point you are trying to make is invalid.

[10 hours ago](#) [in reply to Jay](#) [2 Likes](#)

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Jay

Strict is a matter of perspective. The minimum sentence is:

1-misdemeanor

2-misdemeanor, 10 days jail, 1 year suspension (felon if higher than .20% bac)

3-felony, 30 days jail, 1 year suspension

What was so strict about them?

[7 hours ago](#) [in reply to StrangeCoffeeDrink](#)

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StrangeCoffeeDrink

I'm going to have to correct you, once again.

1st offense- Jail up to 6 months

2nd offense- Jail up to 1 year

2rd offense- Jail up to 5 years

I'd say that is enough incentive to not drink and drive.

[7 hours ago](#) [in reply to Jay](#)

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Jay

You didn't correct anything. I quoted the minimum and you quoted the maximum. So the issue is some people will have their 3rd DUI and still get a slap on the wrist.

Once again, you stand corrected.

[7 hours ago](#)
[in reply to StrangeCoffeeDrink](#)

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