100% Campaign: Climate Change Opinion Polling Round-Up

**Purpose & Overview**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this memorandum is to assemble and share recent polling regarding climate change and its solutions in Minnesota and the U.S. in order for advocates and policymakers to able to better understand public opinion trends on climate change.

**Overview:** This round up excerpts forty opinion polls, including ten conducted in Minnesota. Thirty-three are from 2018-2020. Each are available via the embedded links included throughout. The findings of twenty-three weekly issue tracking from March 1 to August 3, 2020 are also summarized.

**Executive Summary**

Overall, public opinion in favor of acting on climate has grown dramatically, deepened in intensity, and become somewhat more polarized since 2013. These changes are true across party, gender, and race, including amongst those who lean Republican. These findings have been replicated dozens of times both nationally and in Minnesota and have shown to be durable over that time.

A strong majority of Minnesotans and Americans (typically around 70% or more) believe that climate change is happening and is primarily human-caused. However, belief in human-causation is more polarizing for Republicans. A slim majority of Republicans believe climate change is primarily human-caused. Typically, more than 50% of moderate Republicans accept human-causation and around 25% of conservative Republicans don’t. For example, an eight-state 2019 poll found that 53% of rural Obama-Trump voters believed in human causation.

A strong majority, usually 70% or more, of Minnesotans and Americans believe climate change is a somewhat or strongly a cause for concern and is an important focus of public policy. Solid majorities of around 60% identify climate as already impacting themselves or the place they live. When asked to identify if they are experiencing extreme weather, affirmative responses typically go up to around 80% to 90%.

Around two-thirds of Americans say acting on climate should be a priority for our government. A majority believe that every level of government, local, state, and federal, should be doing more. (See the Yale & George Mason University’s April 2019 report: Politics & Global Warming.) During 2019 and 2020, climate change has been the number two priority for Democrats, following only health care. (This has remained true during the COVID-19 pandemic and after George Floyd’s murder. See the The Economist / YouGov tracking poll summary.).

Acceptance of climate science and concerns about climate impacts are more widely held by Black and Latinx Americans. Women are more likely to share these concerns than men. (Asian American Pacific Islander, African immigrant, and Indigenous communities are not frequently polled on these questions.). If 70% is measured as the total percentage of Americans who see climate as a concern, women will typically test about 5% above that average and men about 5% below. Black and Latinx Americans will typically test 10% to 15% more concerned than whites, with Latinx respondents testing the highest of all.

Clean energy solutions, including 100% clean, renewable energy proposals, enjoy the strong support of a majority of Americans in both major parties and among independents. Renewable energy proposals frequently meet with an 85% or higher favorability overall and a solid 55% or better favorability with conservatives. Pluralities and small majorities support acting on these solutions even if they raise consumers’ costs. Solid majorities of around 60% support acting on the solutions, if the trade-offs are less personalized, if they ‘cost jobs’ or ‘hurt the economy’.
During the COVID-19 pandemic and after the murder of George Floyd, these findings have proven durable.

Weekly tracking polls by The Economist / YouGov between March 1, 2020 and July 7, 2020 show a 3% increase in the average percentage of Americans that identify climate change as very or somewhat important. (Though there is a 2% average decrease of those who say it is very important.) The increase appears to be driven by an 8% increase on average in the number of Republicans and an 7% increase amongst Independents who identify climate change as very or somewhat important.

During that time, climate change remained the third-most-frequently-named most important issue for Americans and second-most-frequently named for Democrats. Over that time, on average, the top two issues ‘Health care’ (27%) and ‘Jobs and the economy’ (20%) were more frequently rated as most important and climate change (11%) was less frequently named as most important.

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Economist / YouGov Weekly Tracking Polls - 2020


Opinion Research on 100%


This messaging guide was based in a survey of 600 voters per state across six Midwestern states, including Minnesota with regional oversamples of “AAPI voters (N=403), Latinx voters (N=186), African American voters (N=215), and union member respondents (N=797), as well as a national survey of Spanish speaking adults (N=401).” The survey was done between January 31 and February 25, 2020.

The survey tested a range of progressive policies to find those that had the strongest base agreement and persuadable agreement.

Among the seven options tested ‘Transition to 100% renewable energy across the state’ had the highest Base Agreement (92%). 39% felt strongly about it.

1. 100% Renewable Energy (92% Overall / 39% Strongly)
2. Fully Funded Public Schools (89% Overall / 55% Strongly)
3. Paid Time Off (89% Overall / 50% Strongly)
4. MinnesotaCare Buy-In (88% Overall / 57% Strongly)
5. Automatic Voter Registration (84% Overall / 43% Strongly)
6. AVR + Restore the Vote (78% Overall / 36% Strongly)
7. Drivers Licenses (78% Overall / 35% Strongly)

It was fourth highest among persuadables.

1. Paid Time Off (72% Overall / 26% Strongly)
2. MinnesotaCare Buy-In (71% Overall / 26% Strongly)
3. Fully Funded Public Schools (71% Overall / 34% Strongly)
4. 100% Renewable Energy (67% Overall / 22% Strongly)
5. Automatic Voter Registration (57% Overall / 16% Strongly)
6. AVR + Restore the Vote (50% Overall / 14% Strongly)
7. Drivers Licenses (47% Overall / 14% Strongly)
2) March 2, 2020: Climate Nexus, the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, and George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication – Voters in Upcoming Primary States Support Climate Action, Climate Nexus Polling

This poll surveyed 1,934 voters in twenty-six states with Democratic primaries and caucuses between February 22 and March 17, 2020. The poll was conducted between February 6-9, 2020.

They polled Americans on their beliefs about the impacts of climate change. They found that of those surveyed:
- 70% of surveyed voters say climate change is impacting U.S. agriculture and extreme weather events in the U.S.
- 60% believe climate change is impacting Americans’ health.
- 59% believe it is impacting the U.S. economy.
- 49% say climate change has an effect on their family’s health.

- 73% of all voters, across party lines, said they would be more likely to support a candidate who favored increasing government funding for renewable energy.

They did extensive testing on the perception of the idea of a national 100% renewable portfolio standard (RPS). They found that of those surveyed:
- 71% support establishing a national renewable portfolio standard (RPS) requiring 100% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2050.
- 75% say a 100% RPS will have a positive impact on their state’s environment.
- 69% believe a 100% RPS will improve the health of residents of their state.
- 61% believe it will improve their state’s economy.
- 59% believe it will lower electricity costs.
- 58% believe it will help rural and farming communities.
- 49% believe a 100% RPS will lower their state’s unemployment rate and improve wages.
- 43% believe it will benefit communities of color.


This was poll of 1000 African American adults between February 13-February 21, 2020. It found:

- 79% of African Americans adults believe that human activity is causing climate change more than natural causes (47%) that human activities and natural activities are equally causing climate change (32%).

- 57% of African Americans adults believe changes to our climate are getting worse.

- 50% of African Americans adults say they have been personally affected by extreme weather, increased heat waves, or strong storms that have been made worse by changes to our climate.

- 77% support strongly (54%) or somewhat support (23%) setting a goal of a 100% clean economy—meaning increasing clean energy production and reducing climate pollution—over the next decade (i.e. by 2030).
This was a poll of 604 registered voters in Minnesota conducted between January 9-22, 2019.

- 79% of Minnesota voters believe that the world’s climate is undergoing a change that is causing more extreme weather patterns and a rise in sea levels.

- 79% believe that climate change is a serious problem, with 48% rating it as very serious. This includes:
  - Democrats = 98%
  - Independents = 80%
  - Republicans = 57%

- 88% of Minnesotans nearly support limiting carbon emissions from power plants.

- 85% of Minnesotans support the federal and/or state government doing more to reduce the kinds of pollution that causes climate change.

- 78% of Minnesotans support moving Minnesota to 100% renewable energy sources for electric utilities by 2045. On this questions majorities in all parties agree:
  - Democrats = 95%
  - Independents = 74%
  - Republicans = 59%

- 70% of Minnesota voters prefer moving towards clean energy when asked to choose between “policies that encourage the US to move away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy” or “encourage more production of energy from American coal, oil and natural gas”. Broken down by party, race, and age the support is:
  - Democrats = 87%
  - Independents = 70%
  - Republicans = 49%
  - 18 to 44-year-olds = 78%
  - Latinx and African Americans = 81%

- 62% of Minnesotans would “view an official who supports a transition to 100% more favorably, versus 15% who would view them less favorably”. This is true across political parties, race, and age:
  - Democrats: More favorably = 88% / Less favorably = 1%
  - Independent: More favorably = 88% / Less favorably = 1%
  - Republicans: More favorably = 37% / Less favorably = 31%
  - White: More favorably = 61% / Less favorably = 16%
  - Latinx / African American: More favorably = 76% / Less favorably = 5%
  - 18 to 44-year-olds: More favorably = 70% / Less favorably = 7%

5) April 19, 2019: PV Magazine - 2/3 of U.S. voters say 100% renewable electricity by 2030 is important, Christian Roselund

This article shares the results of a Morning Consult & Politico National Tracking Poll done on April 12-14, 2019.
“Next to a rather vague proposal regarding committing to “clean energy innovation”, which took the top spot, committing to 100% renewable energy “over a 10-year period” came in #2, with roughly 2/3 of respondents declaring that this is “important” or “very important” to addressing climate change.”

6) October 18, 2018: Vox Media - Utilities have a problem: the public wants 100% renewable energy, and quick, David Roberts

This story features polling by Maslansky was commissioned by the Edison Electric Institute, an electric utility trade group. It was based on national polling, opinion leader interviews, in part, on focus groups in Minneapolis. It found:

- 70% of those surveyed agree that “In the near future, we should produce 100% of our electricity from renewable energy sources such as solar and wind”.
- 51% believe that “100 percent renewables is a good idea even if it raises their energy bills by 30 percent.”

They further find that: “An anti-renewables message, even a message that implies anti-renewables, is simply untenable...” because “…can’t-do arguments get a company branded as anti-renewables, and that means Bad Guy. After that, customers aren’t listening.”

7) March 4, 2020: Associated Press - AP VoteCast: Health care top issue in Minnesota, Juliet Lindeman and Hannah Fingerhut

This exit poll surveyed 1,337 primary voters in Minnesota on March 3, 2020. It was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago. It found that:

Climate was the second-most important issue for Democratic primary voters:
- Health care = 39%
- Climate change = 28%
- The economy + jobs = 10%
- Foreign policy = 6%
- Immigration = 4%
- Gun policy = 4%
- Race relations = 4%
- Taxes = 3%


This exit poll showed that climate as the second most important issues for Democratic primary voters in Minnesota regardless of which candidate they supported. (Health case was first overall, though not for Warren voters who slightly prioritized Race relations.). Amongst those who chose climate as their most important issue, 43% voted for Joe Biden.
This was a poll of 500 Minnesotans between the ages of 18 and 34 conducted between February 17-19, 2020. It found that:

- 60% of surveyed Minnesotans said climate change “poses a significant threat to their community.” By party, the support was as follows:
  - Democrats = 71%
  - Independents = 56%
  - Republicans = 44%

This poll was conducted in five states including Minnesota, surveying 3,000 voters between November 20-24, 2019. The survey found that:

- 93% of Minnesota voters agreed that “extreme weather is a significant threat to farmers and communities in their area.”

- 65% of Minnesotans agreed that climate change is “affecting local agriculture”.

- 90% of those polled in Minnesota “support government programs that help farmers try practices that build living soil” and “that policies and programs that help farmers build healthy, living soil will help everyone, even city dwellers, by keeping water clean, saving taxpayers money on disaster relief, revitalizing local economies, and ensuring a reliable, healthy food supply.”

- 70% of Minnesota poll respondents said, “they would be more likely to back a 2020 presidential candidate who proposes ways to help farmers and communities cope by building healthy, living soil.”

This was a survey of 958 registered voters in Minnesota conducted between September 23 and October 15, 2019. It found that:

“Overall, Minnesota voters say that a number of issues will be the most important in deciding their vote for president in 2020, with health care, the economy, and climate change are emerging as the top issues. About one in five Minnesota voters say health care (20%), climate change (17%), and the economy (16%), are the most important issues to their vote.”

This was a poll 1,600 voters in rural counties in eight states, including Minnesota. 200 Minnesota votes were surveyed.
Overall, a majority of rural voters nationally believe climate change is real. A plurality of rural voters and a majority of rural Obama-Trump voters agree that “global warming is mostly caused by human activity such as burning fossil fuels”.

- Rural Voters: 48%
- Rural Obama-Trump Voters: 53%
- 34% of both Rural Voters and Rural Obama-Trump Voters believe ‘global warming is caused mostly by natural patterns in the earth’s environment’.

- Majorities of rural voters say climate change is having a serious impact now.
  - Rural Voters: 54%
  - Rural Obama-Trump Voters: 59%

- 71% say that rural voices have an indispensable perspective on climate change — which is agreed upon across party lines.

- 58% believe that farmers and ranchers have an important role to play in addressing climate change.

- 66% of rural voters strongly or somewhat support a proposal to “set a deadline of 2050 for adjusting carbon emissions and policy so that we are at net zero emissions: removing as much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as we are emitting”.

13) April 22, 2019: Star Tribune: Climate change becomes key voter concern in Minnesota, across U.S., Torey Van Oot

“Perennial campaign issues like the economy, health care and immigration have long driven voters to the polls. But, in the face of growing international concern about the planet’s future, climate change and the environment are emerging as key concerns among voters....”

“The share of Americans who feel the same way — and rank the environment as a top issue — has grown in recent years.”

“It’s a ‘from-the-gut’ issue,” said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll. “It affects everything about your life. It’s not just taxes. The environment is the future of the world.”

“Eighty percent of caucusgoers surveyed in a recent Iowa Poll conducted by the Des Moines Register said they want a candidate who talks “a lot” about climate.”


This was a poll of 500 Republican and Independent likely voters in Minnesota’s 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Congressional Districts between March 21-24, 2018. The poll found:

- 78% of these GOP and independent voters agree that the growth of clean energy will allow American innovation and entrepreneurs to drive economic growth and job creation. 39% of them strongly agree with this.
73% of these respondents believed Minnesota “should pursue an ‘all-of-the-above’ energy strategy, which means lowering our heavy dependence on fossil fuels over time and allowing an increase in electricity generation from renewable energy sources as well as more energy efficiency, and I support taking action to accelerate the development and use of clean energy in Minnesota”. By gender and age, the results were:
- Men = 71%
- Women = 74%
- Voters aged 18-34 = 91%

National Opinion Research


This national opinion poll surveyed 10,957 U.S. adults between April 12 and May 5, 2020. It found that:

- **81% of Americans believe that human activity contributes** a great deal (49%) or some (32%) to climate change. A majority of both parties believe this too:
  - GOP / Lean GOP: Great Deal = 22% / Some = 43%
  - Conservative GOP: Great Deal = 14% / Some = 41%
  - Moderate / Liberal GOP: Great Deal = 36% / Some = 46%
  - Moderate / Conservative DEM: Great Deal = 62% / Some = 29%
  - Liberal DEM: Great Deal = 85% / Some = 12%
  - DEM / Lean DEM: Great Deal = 72% / Some = 22%

- **65% of Americans say the federal government is doing too little to reduce the effects of climate change.**

- **63% say** that climate change is affecting their local community a great deal or some. Fewer, 37%, say climate change is impacting their own community not too much or not at all.

- **79% of Americans say the priority** for the country’s energy supply should be developing alternative sources of energy, such as wind and solar; far fewer (20%) give priority to expanding the production of oil, coal and natural gas.

- **90% of U.S. adults support expanding solar panel farms, including:**
  - 80% of Conservative GOP voters support expanding solar panel farms.
  - 97% of Liberal DEM voters support expanding solar panel farms.

- **83% of U.S. adults support expanding wind turbine farms, including:**
  - 69% of Conservative GOP voters support expanding wind turbine farms.
  - 93% of Liberal DEM voters support expanding wind turbine farms.

- To shift consumption patterns toward renewables, **a majority of the public (58%) says government regulations will be necessary** to encourage businesses and individuals to rely more on renewable energy; fewer (39%) think the private marketplace will ensure this change in habits.

- **Majorities of Democratic and Republican voters support the following policy proposals:**
  - Tougher restrictions on power plant carbon emissions
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(GOP = 64% / GOP Women = 74% / DEM = 93% / U.S. Adults = 80%)
- Taxing corporations based on the carbon emissions
  (GOP = 55% / GOP Women = 63% / DEM = 89% / U.S. Adults = 73%)
- Tougher fuel efficiency standards for cars
  (GOP = 52% / GOP Women = 59% / DEM = 86% / U.S. Adults = 71%)

16) April 16, 2020: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication - Which racial/ethnic groups care most about climate change?, Matthew Ballew, et al.

Using their two 2019 surveys and a categorization of Americans into “six distinct groups based on their beliefs, attitudes, and actions related to global warming,” the Yale authors analyzed beliefs about climate amongst respondents by race. They find:

- Hispanic / Latino and Black Americans are more likely to be Alarmed or Concerned about global warming, as follows:
  - Hispanics/Latinos = 69%
  - African Americans = 57%
  - Whites = 49%

- Whites are more likely to be Doubtful or Dismissive about global warming, as follows:
  - Whites = 27%
  - African Americans = 12%
  - Hispanics/Latinos = 11%

- Hispanics/Latinos and African Americans are more likely to say they “definitely” or “probably” would join a campaign to convince elected officials to take action to reduce global warming.
  - Hispanics/Latinos = 37%
  - African Americans = 36%
  - Whites = 22%

- When asked how important 29 policy issues will be in determining their vote in the 2020 Presidential Election, Hispanics/Latinos and African Americans are more likely to say global warming will be “very important” to their vote. The support was as follows:
  - Hispanics/Latinos = 57%
  - African Americans = 53%
  - Whites = 35%


This was a survey of 1000 U.S. adults between March 3-29, 2020. The survey found that:

- 87% of Americans see climate change as a either a major (60%) or minor international threat (27%). Only 12% identified it as no a threat.

- The percentage of Americans who identify climate change as a major threat has increase by 50% from 2013, when 40% of respondents identified it that way.
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- Those identifying climate change as a major threat as increased in both major political parties, though more dramatically among Democrats:

  Democrats:
  - 2013 = 58%
  - 2020 = 88%

  Republicans:
  - 2013 = 22%
  - 2020 = 31%

- Among the eleven global threats polled on, views on climate change were by far the most polarized by party.

  Global climate change:
  - Dem/Lean Dem: 88%
  - Rep/Lean Rep: 31%

  Russia’s power and influence:
  - Dem/Lean Dem: 68%
  - Rep/Lean Rep: 46%

  Global poverty:
  - Dem/Lean Dem: 57%
  - Rep/Lean Rep: 38%

  The condition of the global economy:
  - Dem/Lean Dem: 63%
  - Rep/Lean Rep: 46%

  Long-standing conflicts between countries or ethnic groups:
  - Dem/Lean Dem: 43%
  - Rep/Lean Rep: 35%

  The spread of infectious diseases:
  - Dem/Lean Dem: 82%
  - Rep/Lean Rep: 77%

  The spread of nuclear weapons:
  - Dem/Lean Dem: 72%
  - Rep/Lean Rep: 72%

  Cyberattacks from other countries:
  - Dem/Lean Dem: 72%
  - Rep/Lean Rep: 73%

  China’s power and influence:
  - Dem/Lean Dem: 62%
  - Rep/Lean Rep: 68%
Terrorism:
- Dem/Lean Dem: 69%
- Rep/Lean Rep: 77%

Large numbers of people moving from one country to another:
- Dem/Lean Dem: 29%
- Rep/Lean Rep: 58%


Washington Post exit surveys across Super Tuesday states found that Joe Biden led the field in winning climate voters, taking 33% of those voters who identified climate as their top issue.

19) March 3, 2020: NBC News: Super Tuesday Exit Polls: Nearly 3 in 10 voters decided in the last few days, Ben Kamisar

The NBC News exit polls found that climate as the #2 issue for Democratic primary voters:

“Health care remains the top issue for Democrats voting in the 12 states. Forty percent of Democratic Super Tuesday voters said health care was the most important issue to their vote, with climate change and income inequality at 22 percent and 21 percent, respectively, and race relations the top issue for 10 percent of the electorate.”

20) February, 13, 2020: Pew Research Center - As Economic Concerns Recede, Environmental Protection Rises on the Public’s Policy Agenda

This poll of 1,504 U.S. adults was conducted between January 8-13, 2020. It found:

“For the first time in Pew Research Center surveys dating back nearly two decades, nearly as many Americans say protecting the environment should be a top policy priority (64%) as say this about strengthening the economy (67%).

In addition, while a smaller share (52%) rates dealing with global climate change as a top priority, this is 14 percentage points higher than just three years ago. Today, similar shares rate climate change and improving the job situation (49%) as top policy priorities for President Donald Trump and Congress. Three years ago, 68% said jobs were a top priority, compared with just 38% who named climate change.

Democrats and Republicans have long been far apart in their views of the importance of climate change. But the differences are now wider than ever: 78% of Democrats say addressing this issue is a top priority, up from 67% who said this last year. By contrast, the relatively small share of Republicans who say addressing climate change is a top priority (21%) is unchanged from a year ago.

Over the past several years, climate change has increased markedly as a policy priority among Democrats. In 2015, 46% of Democrats said it was a top priority, ranking it among the lower half of Democrats’ priorities for the president and Congress. Since then, the share of Democrats rating it as a major priority has increased more than 30 points; today it is in the top tier of Democrats’ policy concerns, along with environmental protection, health care costs and education.”

This was a poll of 2,017 U.S. adults between December 12-16, 2019. It found that:

- 56% of U.S. adults “say climate change is the most important issue facing society today”.
- 60% say they “have changed a behavior to reduce their contribution to climate change”.
- 72% say they “are very or somewhat motivated to make changes”.
- 7 in 10 say “they wish there were more they could do to combat climate change”.
- 68% say that they “have at least a little ‘eco-anxiety,’ defined as any anxiety or worry about climate change and its effects.”
- 47% of those aged between 18-34 “say the stress they feel about climate change affects their daily lives”.


This was a poll of 2,293 U.S. adults and 629 teenagers conducted between July 9 – August 5, 2019. It found that:

- 79% say human activity is causing changes to the world's climate. By party:
  - Democrats = 90%
  - Independents = 82%
  - Republicans = 60%

The share of the public that identifies climate change as a crisis, or a major problem but not a crisis, has increased since 2014.

**All Voters**
- 2019: Crisis = 38% / Major Problem = 38% / Total = 76%
- 2014: Crisis = 23% / Major Problem = 36% / Total = 59%

**Democrats**
- 2019: Crisis = 56% / Major Problem = 36% / Total = 92%
- 2014: Crisis = 34% / Major Problem = 43% / Total = 77%

**Independents**
- 2019: Crisis = 38% / Major Problem = 41% / Total = 79%
- 2014: Crisis = 21% / Major Problem = 40% / Total = 61%

**Republicans**
- 2019: Crisis = 12% / Major Problem = 40% / Total = 52%
- 2014: Crisis = 12% / Major Problem = 24% / Total = 36%
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- 68% support raising taxes on wealthy households as a way to pay for policies aimed at reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, as a way to pay for policies aimed at reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

- 60% support raising taxes on companies that burn fossil fuels, even if it may lead to increased electricity and transportation prices, as a way to pay for policies aimed at reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

- 49% support a $2 monthly tax on U.S. residential electric bills, as a way to pay for policies aimed at reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

- 27% support a $10 monthly tax on U.S. residential electric bills, as a way to pay for policies aimed at reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

- The public trusts Democrats over Republicans to handle climate change, but many don’t trust either party:
  - 38% of the public say they trust Democrats to handle climate change.
  - 17% of the public say they trust Republicans to handle climate change.
  - 35% of the public say they trust neither party.

- 86% of U.S. teens say human activity is causing changes to the world’s climate.

- 55% of teens who believe in human-caused climate change say they feel that there are things they can do personally to make a difference when it comes to reducing the effects of climate change.

- 41% of teens say they have taken action to reduce their own carbon footprint. In addition, 24% of teens report engaging in some type of political action in the past 3 years to express their views on climate change
  - 15% who say they’ve participated in a school walk-out
  - 13% who have participated in a protest or rally
  - 12% who have contacted a government official.

- Black & Hispanic teens are more likely to than others report engaging in political action around climate change
  - Black = 33%
  - Hispanic = 30%
  - Teens ages 16-17 = 31%
  - Teens who identify as Democrats or lean Democratic = 30%
  - Teens ages 13-15 = 19%
  - Teens who identify as Republican or lean Republican = 19%
  - White = 18%


This was a poll of 800 likely voters nationwide conducted between November 2-9, 2019.

- 81% of voters agree that “we should accelerate the growth of clean energy so that our state can be a national leader in the competition for economic development and good-paying jobs”.
100% Campaign: Climate Change Opinion Polling Round-Up

- **81% of voters that approve of President Trump agree** that “we should accelerate the growth of clean energy so that our state can be a national leader in the competition for economic development and good-paying jobs”.

- 80% of voters overall support “the government taking action to accelerate the development and use of clean energy in the United States”.

- **62% of Trump approvers support** “the government taking action to accelerate the development and use of clean energy in the United States”.

- 59% of Republicans say they would vote for “elected officials or candidates who support clean energy development like wind and solar”.

- 79% of Independents say they would vote for “elected officials or candidates who support clean energy development like wind and solar”.

24) **September 17, 2019:** Yale Program on Climate Change Communication – Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2019, Jennifer Marlon, et al.

The Yale Climate Opinion Maps present county-level polling data on beliefs, risk perceptions, policy support, and behaviors of those polled in of Minnesota’s each county 87 counties. They found that:

- **66% of Minnesotans believe that global warming is happening.**

- 58% are worried about global warming.

- 71% believe global warming will harm future generations.

- 84% support funding research into renewable energy sources.

- **71% believe environmental protection is more important than economic growth.**

- 64% believe citizens should do more to address global warming.

25) **September 16, 2019:** CBS News – Climate change will be an issue for most voters in 2020 – CBS News poll, Fred Backus

This was a poll of 2,134 U.S. adults interviewed between September 6-10, 2019. It found that:

- Respondents were asked if climate has very important to them personally. By party, they replied that:
  - 72% of Democrats call climate change very important to them personally, second only to health care (82%).
  - 39% of Independents call climate change very important to them personally.
  - 20% of Republicans call climate change very important to them personally.

- Respondents were asked if they would consider when selecting a candidate. They replied that:
  - 22% of voters said candidate must share their own views on the issue in order to earn their vote.
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- 47% said climate change would be among many factors they consider in a candidate
- 31% said they wouldn’t consider climate change when considering a candidate
  - Dem = Must = 27% / One of Many = 60% / Won’t Consider = 13%
  - Ind = Must = 19% / One of Many = 46% / Won’t Consider = 35%
  - Rep = Must = 17% / One of Many = 36% / Won’t Consider = 47%

- When asked which political party will do a better job on the environment, respondents replied:
  - Democratic Party = 58%
  - Republican Party = 42%


This memorandum shares the findings of two surveys: a poll of 1,000 likely Democratic primary voters fielded from June 1-6, 2019 and 1,201 registered voters in 14 2020 battleground states, including Minnesota, during June 3-10, 2019. The surveys focus on voters’ preferences between and trust of the major political parties on climate change. The surveys found that:

“A majority (55%) of general election voters says that it is a crisis or a very serious problem, including 57% of Independent voters and 30% of Republicans. Moreover, climate change is a problem to large majorities of Latinx voters (68%) and African American voters (63%). When President Trump and other Republican officials deny the seriousness of climate change as a problem, it puts them at odds with 3 in 5 college-educated whites and half of all non-college educated whites.”

“Climate change is an area of competitive advantage for Democrats among general election voters in battleground states. They trust Democrats more, compared to President Donald Trump and Republicans, on a range of issues including climate change, clean energy, clean water and air and public lands. Against Donald Trump in particular, Democrats have a 30-point advantage on addressing climate change and a 26-point advantage on moving to a clean energy economy.”

“When it comes to addressing climate change, 55% of voters trust the Democrats more, compared to only 25% who trust Trump more. Democrats have a 38-point advantage on climate among Independents (54% trust Democrats more, 16% trust Trump more). Even among Republicans, just half (51%) trust Trump more on this. The story is similar on moving the country to clean energy sources, where 51% of voters trust the Democrats more, compared to 27% who trust Trump (among Independents, 52% trust the Democrats and 17% trust Trump); here too, only 57% of Republicans say they trust Trump more than the Democrats.”

“Three in five voters are highly concerned about Trump’s record, including his record on doing the bidding of his oil and gas donors, siding with polluters, and denying climate science.

- After oil, gas, and coal companies poured millions of dollars into Trump’s campaign, Donald Trump let former lobbyists for the fossil fuel industry take over key positions in the Trump administration that oversee corporate polluters. Now these former oil and coal lobbyists are rewriting laws to weaken environmental protections and have opened up the nation’s public lands and coastal areas to drilling and mining (60% high concern)

- Donald Trump promised to look out for everyday people and hold special interests accountable. But as president, Trump has repeatedly sided with big oil companies and other corporate polluters, giving them billions in new tax cuts. While oil companies have gotten richer, everyone
else is left with dirtier air and more health risks like asthma and polluted water (60% high concern)
  o Donald Trump continues to deny the overwhelming scientific evidence of climate change—he calls it a hoax—while putting interests of polluters ahead of the environment and public health. While scientists say that unless we take action to address carbon emissions, the worst consequences of climate change will be unavoidable, Trump named a climate change denier to head the climate scientist committee (59% high concern).

27) April 2019: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication – Climate Change in the American Mind, Anthony Leiserowitz, et al.

This poll was conducted by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication surveying 1,291 U.S. adults between March 29-April 8, 2019. The poll found that among U.S. adults:

- 69% think global warming is happening.
- 55% understand that global warming is mostly human-caused.
- 64% say the issue of global warming is either “extremely,” “very,” or “somewhat” important to them personally.
- 60% think global warming is affecting weather in the United States.
- A majority of Americans are worried about harm from extreme events in their local area including extreme heat (69%), droughts (64%), flooding (60%), and/or water shortages (59%).
- 38% say they have personally experienced the effects of global warming.
- 38% think people in the United States are being harmed by global warming “right now.”
- 62% say they are at least “somewhat worried” about global warming.
- 23% are “very worried” about it.

28) April 2019: Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication – Politics & Global Warming, Anthony Leiserowitz, et al.

This poll was conducted by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication surveying 1,291 U.S. adults between March 29-April 8, 2019; 1,097 were registered voters. The poll found that among U.S. adults:

- 70% of registered voters think global warming is happening. By party, this includes:
  o 95% of liberal Democrats
  o 87% of moderate/conservative Democrats
  o 63% of liberal/moderate Republicans
  o 38% of conservative Republicans
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- 55% of registered voters think global warming is caused mostly by human activities. By party, this includes:
  - 86% of liberal Democrats
  - 71% of moderate/conservative Democrats
  - 46% of liberal/moderate Republicans
  - 21% of conservative Republicans

- 61% of registered voters are worried about global warming. By party, this includes:
  - 93% of liberal Democrats
  - 81% of moderate/conservative Democrats
  - 54% of liberal/moderate Republicans
  - 21% of conservative Republicans

- 86% of registered voters support funding more research into renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. A majority of those in the major parties believe this, including:
  - 96% of Democrats
  - 75% of Independents
  - 77% of Republicans

- 72% of registered voters say corporations and industry should do more to address global warming. A majority of those in the major parties believe this, including:
  - 89% of Democrats
  - 77% of Independents
  - 53% of Republicans

- The majority of America’s registered voters believe a wide-range of American institutions “should do more to address global warming”. The support for each institution is:
  - U.S. Congress = 63%
  - Republican Party = 62%
  - Democratic Party = 57%
  - President Trump = 62%
  - Their own member of Congress = 61%
  - Their governor = 58%
  - Local government officials = 58%
  - The media = 53%

29) January 22, 2019: Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago & The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research - New Poll: Nearly Half Of Americans Are More Convinced Than They Were Five Years Ago That Climate Change Is Happening, With Extreme Weather Driving Their Views

This was a poll of 1,202 U.S. adults conducted between November 14-19, 2018. It found that:

- 71% say climate change is happening. By party:
  - Democrats = 86%
  - Independents = 70%
  - Republicans = 52%

- 60% of those who say climate change is happening, think it is primarily caused by human activities. Just 12 percent say climate change is mostly or entirely caused by natural environmental changes.
100% Campaign: Climate Change Opinion Polling Round-Up

- 81% of Democrats and 57% of Republicans who are more convinced now of climate change than five years ago cite recent weather changes as having a large influence on these views.

- 80% of those who believe climate change is happening say the federal government should take steps to address climate change. 80% say the state government should take steps to fight climate change. 76% say the same about their local government or community.


This was a national poll of 1,728 U.S. adults including 1,067 registered voters run during March 7-24, 2018.

- **73% of registered voters think global warming is happening.** By party, this includes:
  - 95% of liberal Democrats
  - 88% of moderate/conservative Democrats
  - 68% of liberal/moderate Republicans
  - 40% of conservative Republicans

- **59% of registered voters think global warming is caused mostly by human activities.** By party, this includes:
  - 84% of liberal Democrats
  - 70% of moderate/conservative Democrats
  - 55% of liberal/moderate Republicans
  - 26% of conservative Republicans

- **63% of registered voters are worried about global warming.** By party, this includes:
  - 88% of liberal Democrats
  - 76% of moderate/conservative Democrats
  - 58% of liberal/moderate Republicans
  - 30% of conservative Republicans

- **87% of registered voters support funding more research into renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.** A majority of those in the major parties believe this, including:
  - 94% of Democrats
  - 83% of Independents
  - 79% of Republicans

- **73% of registered voters support setting strict carbon dioxide emission limits on existing coal-fired power plants** to reduce global warming and improve public health, even if the cost of electricity to consumers and companies would likely increase. A majority of those in the major parties believe this, including:
  - 87% of Democrats
  - 70% of Independents
  - 56% of Republicans

- **71% of registered voters believe that ‘when there is a conflict between environmental protection and economic growth, environmental protection is more important.’** A majority of those in the major parties believe this, including:
100% Campaign: Climate Change Opinion Polling Round-Up

- 85% of Democrats
- 75% of Independents
- 52% of Republicans

- 70% of registered voters say corporations and industry should do more to address global warming. A majority of those in the major parties believe this, including:
  - 84% of Democrats
  - 70% of Independents
  - 55% of Republicans

31) March 28, 2018: Gallup - Global Warming Concern Steady Despite Some Partisan Shifts, Megan Brenan and Lydia Saad

This was a poll of 1,041 U.S. adults sampled between March 1-8, 2018. Responses indicated that, of adult Americans:

- 66% say “most scientists think global warming is occurring”.
- 64% say climate change is “caused by human activities”.
- 60% believe the effects of climate change have already begun.
- 45% think global warming will pose a serious threat in their lifetime, is the highest percentage recorded for this measure since Gallup first asked the question in 1997.
- 43% of Americans say they worry a great deal about global warming or climate change... up significantly from 32% in 2015.


This poll was conducted between February 10-14, 2018, administered to 400 18 to 24-year-old likely voters across the U.S.

- 58% of conservatives polled said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who opposes the development and use of clean energy.
- 79% of respondents believed that candidates who support renewable energy care more about their families and communities than those that oppose it.

33) January 25, 2018: Pew Research Center - Economic Issues Decline Among Public’s Policy Priorities

This was a survey of 1,503 U.S. adults conducted between January 10-15, 2018. It found that:

“The shares of Democrats saying that dealing with global climate change and protecting the environment have increased substantially in recent years. By contrast, attitudes among Republicans have largely held steady.”
Today, **68% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say addressing climate change should be a top priority for Trump and Congress.** Only 18% of Republicans and Republican leaners say it is a top priority, while 30% say it should be an “important but lower priority.”

Nearly half of Republicans (48%) say dealing with climate change either is “not too important” or “should not be done” — by comparison, no more than three-in-ten in either party rate any of the other 18 issues as not too important or say they should not be done.

More than twice as many Democrats (81%) than Republicans (37%) say protecting the environment should be a top priority for the president and Congress. The share of Democrats saying this is higher than at any point in the last decade and has increased nine points in the past year alone and 19 points since January 2016. Republicans’ views have shown less change over the last several years.”

34) **September 27, 2017:** Yale Program on Climate Change Communication – *Climate Change in the Latino Mind*, Anthony Leiserowitz, et al.

This was a survey of 2,054 Latino adults in the U.S. taken between May 18-June 8, 2017. For this survey, Latinos were defined as individuals living in the United States who self-identify as a member of one of the following groups: Mexican, Mexican-American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Cuban American, or “some other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino group.” Respondents chose to take the survey in either English or Spanish. It found that:

- **84% of Latinos think global warming is happening,** including nearly nine in ten Spanish-language Latinos (88%). Six in ten Latinos (63%) are “very” or “extremely” sure global warming is happening, including seven in ten Spanish-language Latinos (70%).

- **70% of Latinos understand global warming is mostly human caused,** including three-quarters of Spanish-language Latinos (76%). By contrast, only about two in ten Latinos (21%) think it is caused mostly by natural changes in the environment.

- **78% of Latinos are worried about global warming;** one in three (35%) are “very worried”, including 43% of Spanish-language Latinos, who are “very worried”.

- **50% of Latinos think people in the U.S. are being harmed by global warming “right now,”** including nearly two in three Spanish-language Latinos (63%).

- A majority of Latinos think global warming will cause “a great deal” of harm to plant and animal species (68%), future generations of people (64%), the world’s poor (61%), people in developing countries (55%), or their grandchildren (54%).

- **53% of Latinos say they have personally experienced the effects of global warming.**

- **Three in four Latinos want corporations and industry (77%), citizens themselves (74%), President Trump (74%), and the U.S. Congress (73%) to do more to address global warming.**

- **Many Latinos are willing to take political action on global warming, including a majority who would vote for a candidate for public office because of their position on global warming (60%).** A majority are also willing to join a campaign to convince elected officials to take action to reduce global warming (51%), including 61% of Spanish-language Latinos.
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This was a poll of 1,018 U.S. adults conducted between March 1-7, 2017.

- 71% of those surveyed said the U.S. should emphasize the “development of alternative energy such as wind and solar” over the “production of more oil, gas and coal supplies”, which had 23% support.
- 72% supported spending more government money on solar and wind power.


This was a national survey of 1,000 U.S. voters conducted November 10-13, 2016. It found that:

- 76% say the U.S. should put more emphasis on solar power.
- 70% say the U.S. should put more emphasis on wind.
- 61% say the U.S. should put more emphasis on hydropower.
- 51% say the U.S. should put less emphasis on coal.
- 86% strongly support (59%) or somewhat support (27%) accelerating the development and use of clean energy in the U.S.

- **Majorities of 2016 Trump voters** want to see more emphasis on
  - Solar Power = 61%
  - Wind = 52%
  - Hydropower = 56%

- **75% of Trump voters strongly support** (37%) or somewhat support (38%) accelerating the development and use of clean energy in the U.S.

- **Strong majorities support states having “a renewable portfolio standard,” requiring a minimum amount of the electricity generated by a utility to come from renewable sources like wind, solar, hydro, and biomass**, including soft GOP voters.
  - Base DEM = 91%
  - Soft DEM = 89%
  - Independents = 60%
  - Soft GOP = 56%
  - Base GOP = 43%

- 64% of those surveyed supported clean energy even if “consumers would have to pay a little bit more for energy but in the long term would have more stable, cleaner, and cheaper energy”. Amongst parties this included soft GOP voters:
  - Base DEM = 82%
  - Soft DEM = 78%
  - Independents = 55%
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- Soft GOP = 54%
- Base GOP = 42%

Voters are less likely to support candidates that oppose clean energy. The figures below are the difference between ‘those more likely to support a candidate that opposes clean energy’ minus ‘those less likely to support’. It’s a measure of how unpopular opposing clean energy is.

- Base DEM = -64%
- Soft DEM = -67%
- Independents = -43%
- Soft GOP = -29%
- Base GOP = -10%

37) August 2016: Environment and Energy Study Institute – Polling the Public on Climate Change, Alison Alford.

This fact sheet is a round up on national climate change surveys during 2015-16. It finds consistently that majorities of Americans believe climate change is happening, is caused mostly by human activities, and is very or somewhat worrying.


This was a national poll of 800 African Americans conducted between September 20-27, 2015. It found that:

- 67% of African Americans say that action should be taken to reduce the threat of global warming. Only 3% of African Americans say concern about global warming is unwarranted, compared to 13% of all Americans.

Strong majorities of African Americans support a range of climate solutions, including:

- 87% support using more solar power
- 83% support more wind energy.
- 82% back states developing clean energy plans that help cut carbon pollution, improve energy efficiency and boosting renewable energy.
- 66% of African Americans say using more renewable energy will translate into new jobs, while only 11 percent expect job losses.
- 57% believe that shifting to cleaner energy will reduce their energy costs, and only 18% believe it will increase those electricity bills.

39) 2014: Green For All – Climate Change & Communities of Color – Key Poll Findings and Top Lines, Brilliant Corners

This was a survey of 800 likely minority, “including a base sample of African American and Latino voters and an oversample of 100 Asian voters in battleground states”. The survey was conducted from June 30 – July 15, 2014.

- 75% of minority voters say they are following new information about climate change more closely now.
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- 68% of minority voters feel climate change is an issue we need to be worried about right now, not something we can put off into the future.
- 62% of minority voters say not enough attention and resources are devoted toward climate change.
- 70% of minority voters said that they were more likely to support candidates willing to expand resources to tackle the issue and grow new industries over those arguing that addressing climate change will cost jobs and hurt our economy.
- 75% agree that new carbon emission standards will spur research and innovations that will not only keep costs down but, more importantly, create new industries with good-paying jobs.


This was a survey of 805 U.S. Latino registered voters between November 25 – December 4, 2013. It found that:

- 87% or more of Latinos somewhat to strongly supported these five climate change solutions:
  - Build energy efficient homes / buildings = 94%
  - Better gas mileage for automobiles = 92%
  - Use of renewable energy = 92%
  - Preparing communities for future weather events like storms, floods, and hurricanes = 91%
  - Limit power plant carbon pollution = 87%
- 80% of Latino voters somewhat to strongly supported Presidential action to fight carbon pollution that causes climate change
- 78% of Latino votes would be more supportive if their Member of Congress if the representative issued a statement expressing favor for limiting pollution that causes climate change

41) March 1-3 to August 2-4, 2020: Summary and Appendix on Economist / YouGov Weekly Tracking Polls

The Economist and YouGov partner on a weekly tracking that builds off of a regular battery of issue and demographic questions that includes ratings on issue importance and the most important issue to each respondent. 1500 U.S. adults are surveyed weekly from Sunday till Tuesday. Climate is one of the issues they test, placing it among nine issues respondents are asked to rank.

To compare the period from, roughly, Super Tuesday till August 4th, we averaged the responses from each week comparing them back to those collected in one week: March 1-3. The change in average then, reflects whether the average of all 23 weeks is higher or lower than what was measured in the first week of March. This analysis shows that:

- Issue prioritization was mostly unchanged.
  - For everyone surveyed, climate change starts and ends in third place among most important issues, moving from 14% to 11% feeling it is the most important issue.
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- For Democrats, climate change starts and ends in second place among most important issues, moving from 23% to 18%.
- For Independents, climate change starts and ends in third place among most important issues, moving from 13% to 12%.
- For Republicans, climate change starts in ninth place and ends tied for eight (with crime and criminal justice reform), moving from 1% to 2%.

- For those of all partisan identities ‘Jobs and the economy’ and ‘Health care’ increased in the rankings.

  Everyone
  - Jobs and the economy = +5%
  - Health care = +3%

  Democrats
  - Jobs and the economy = +5%
  - Health care = +4%

  Independents
  - Jobs and the economy = +3%
  - Health care = +3%

  Republicans
  - Jobs and the economy = +6%
  - Health care = +6%

- In spite of its lower comparative prioritization, those who named in climate as either somewhat or very important increased 3% overall, while becoming more widely, but less intensely felt. In this shift, climate was less frequently labeled as Very Important (-2%), more frequently as Somewhat Important (+5%) and less frequently considered Unimportant (-3%). The increase in the importance of climate during this period appears to result from changes in the attitudes of Independents and Republicans.

  Everyone
  - Very Important = -2%
  - Somewhat Important = +5%
  - Not Very Important = 0%
  - Unimportant = -3%

  Democrats
  - Very Important = -6%
  - Somewhat Important = +4%
  - Not Very Important = +1%
  - Unimportant = 0%

  Independents
  - Very Important = +2%
  - Somewhat Important = +5%
  - Not Very Important = -1%
  - Unimportant = -6%
Republicans
- Very Important = +5%
- Somewhat Important = +3%
- Not Very Important = -2%
- Unimportant = -4%

Similar trends are seen by gender:

Male
- Very Important = -1%
- Somewhat Important = +4%
- Not Very Important = +1%
- Unimportant = -3%

Female
- Very Important = -2%
- Somewhat Important = +5%
- Not Very Important = -1%
- Unimportant = -2%

- The intensity of the support of Black Americans dropped meaningfully during this period.  White Americans’ support increases somewhat.  Hispanics stay about the same.  Those of other races increase their support significantly.

White
- Very Important = -1%
- Somewhat Important = +5%
- Not Very Important = -1%
- Unimportant = -3%

Black
- Very Important = -7%
- Somewhat Important = +7%
- Not Very Important = 2%
- Unimportant = -2%

Hispanic
- Very Important = -1%
- Somewhat Important = 0%
- Not Very Important = +4%
- Unimportant = -3%

Other
- Very Important = +5%
- Somewhat Important = +1%
- Not Very Important = -1%
- Unimportant = -5%