

PA Climate Change

## Climate Change: A Winning Topic for Democrats

A survey conducted by the Global Strategy Group among 801 registered voters in Pennsylvania between August 13-19, 2020 shows voters strongly favor Democrats who speak up on climate issues.<sup>1</sup>

- **“Pennsylvania voters are strongly pro-climate.** An overwhelming majority of voters in the state think climate change is a serious problem. They do not look kindly upon elected officials who deny that climate change is a threat or who oppose climate action...”
- “Voters have a **favorable view of natural gas, but not of fracking.** They strongly support environmental regulations, including stronger regulations on fracking...phasing out fracking by 2050 and phasing out new fracking permits on public lands and waters...”
- “All of this translates to **gains for both Biden and a generic Democrat when they engage on climate and fracking.**”

Some detailed findings from the survey:

### PA Voter Favorability Ratings Related to Climate Change

Percentage of People Supporting

	Favorable	Don't Know	Unfavorable	Net Favorable
Clean Energy Jobs	83%	9%	8%	+75 points
Regulations to reduce carbon emissions	71%	13%	16%	+55 points
Lawmakers who oppose strong action to combat climate change	25%	17%	58%	-33 points
Lawmakers who deny that climate change is a threat	21%	9%	70%	-49 points

Respondents showed a strong preference for a generic Democratic congressional candidate supporting “strong” or “bold” climate actions over a Republican opposing such steps:

### Preferences Among All PA Voters

Percentage of People Agreeing

	Dem	Don't Know	Rep	Net Dem
“If the election for Congress were held today between a Democratic candidate who supports <b><u>stronger regulations on oil and gas fracking</u></b> and a Republican candidate who opposes stronger regulations on oil and gas fracking, for whom would you vote?”	55%	8%	37%	+18 pts
“If the election for Congress were held today between a Democratic candidate who supports taking <b><u>bold government action to combat climate change</u></b> and a Republican candidate who opposes taking bold government action to combat climate change, for whom would you vote?”	57%	5%	38%	+19 pts

**Support for climate action exists throughout Pennsylvania.** A major collaboration between Yale University and George Mason University has created a detailed portrait of public opinion down to the county level. It confirms that a majority of people across Pennsylvania believe climate change is real and want government policies to fight it. Pennsylvania residents’ attitudes mirror opinions nationwide on the reality of climate change and the steps needed to address it:

### Attitudes Regarding Global Warming and Related Policies<sup>2</sup>

Percentage of People agreeing with Statement or Policy Initiative

	US	PA
Global warming is happening	67%	65%
Global warming will harm future generations	67%	66%
Fund research into renewable energy sources	83%	82%
Require fossil fuel companies to pay a carbon tax	66%	67%
Provide tax rebates for energy-efficient vehicles or solar panels	81%	81%
Environmental protection is more important than economic growth	70%	70%

**Covid 19 Has Not Reduced Public Interest in Climate Action.** The Global Strategy Group survey among Pennsylvania voters showed that even six months into the Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting economic turmoil, voter interest in climate action is extremely high. An additional study from April of this year confirms this on a national level:<sup>3</sup>

“In a national survey on American Responses to COVID-19... we found that most American adults were quite worried about COVID-19 in April... [However] what is clear is that public engagement in the issue of climate change remains at or near historic high levels.”

**The complete survey results for your county or counties are attached.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.climatepower2020.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/23/2020/08/Climate-Power-2020-Pennsylvania-Stakeholder-Briefing-F08.31.20.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/ycom-us/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.climatechangecommunication.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/politics-global-warming-april-2020c.pdf>