

To: Interested Parties

From: Climate Power En Acción and Data for Progress

Date: September 5, 2024

Re: POLLING MEMO: Latinos Want a President Who Tackles Costs of Extreme Weather and Climate Change

Summary

In 2024, the U.S. has already experienced 19 [billion-dollar extreme weather](#) events. With an intense hurricane season still [predicted](#), no corner of the country is likely to be spared from the impacts of extreme weather and climate change. Latino voters, in particular, [report facing](#) the economic impacts of climate change in their daily lives and believe it will continue to affect their immediate future.

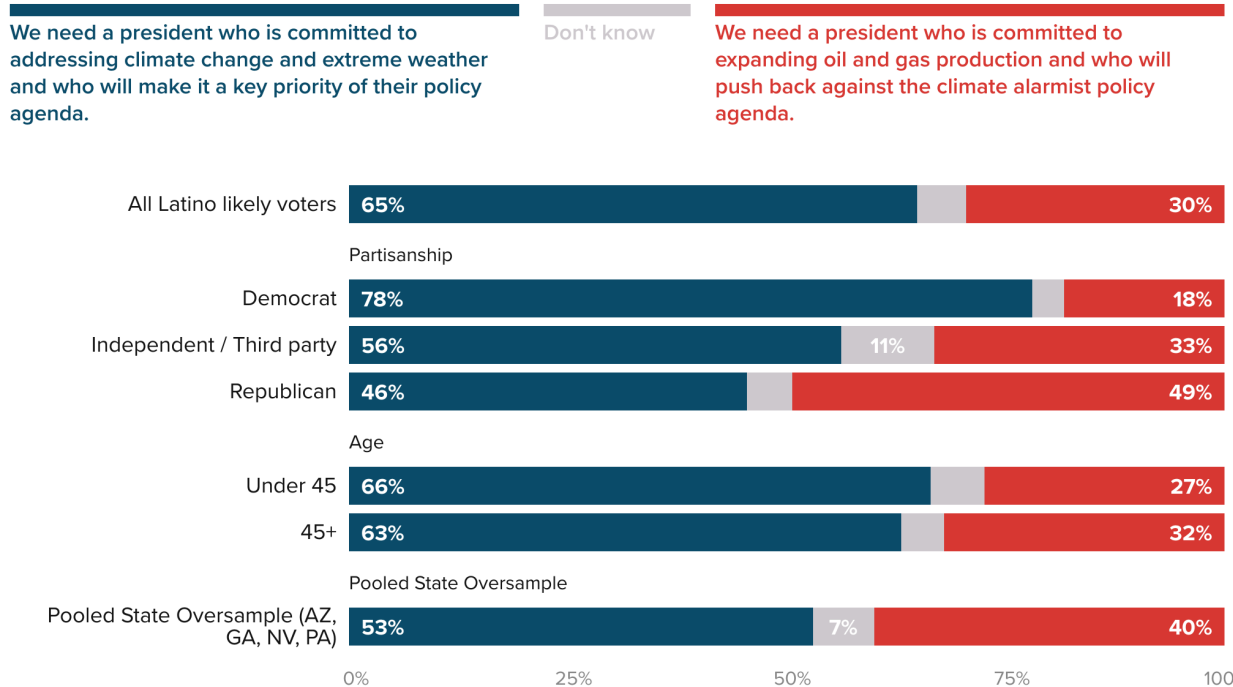
Data for Progress and Climate Power En Acción conducted a [survey](#) of 833 Latino voters from August 16-21, including a pooled oversample of respondents in the key battleground states of Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania, to understand how this constituency is experiencing the impacts of extreme weather events, and to assess whom Latino voters trust to address climate change and extreme weather more broadly. Below are the key findings from this research:

Latino Voters Are Motivated to Elect a President Who Will Take Extreme Weather and Climate Change Seriously and Hold Big Oil Polluters Accountable

Latino voters prioritize addressing climate change and extreme weather, with 65% of respondents agreeing with a statement saying the U.S. needs a president committed to addressing both issues and making them a key priority of their policy agenda, including 53% of Latino voters in battleground states, 56% of Latino Independents, and two-thirds of Latino voters under age 45. In contrast, just 30% of respondents overall agree with a statement saying that we need a president who is committed to expanding oil and gas production and pushing back against a climate alarmist policy agenda.

Latino Voters, Including Those in Battleground States and Under Age 45, Want to Elect a President Who Will Make Climate Change and Extreme Weather a Key Priority

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



August 16-21, 2024 survey of 833 U.S. Latino likely voters

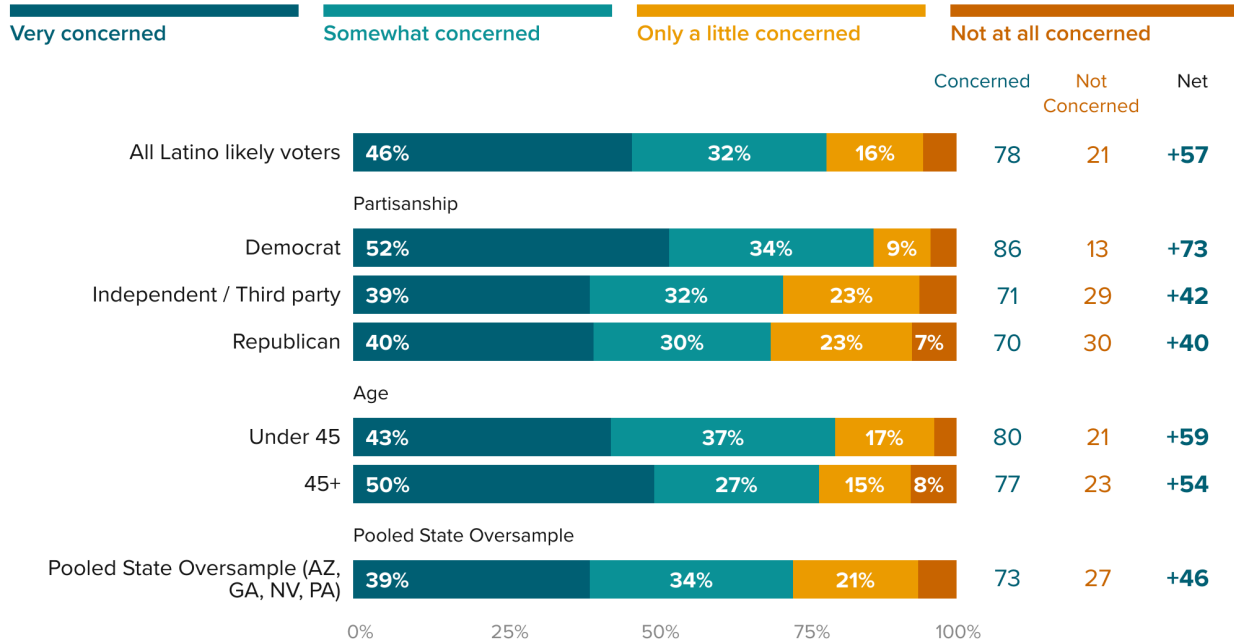
Furthermore, 71% of Latino voters, including 64% of those in major swing states and nearly three-quarters (73%) of those under age 45, agree that the president should take action to make industries they view as most responsible for climate change and worsening extreme weather – the fossil fuel industry and big companies more generally – pay for damages they’ve caused to communities across the country.

Latino Voters Worry About the Impacts of Extreme Weather and the Financial Toll It Takes on Their Communities

Over three-quarters of Latino voters (78%) are at least somewhat concerned about themselves or someone in their family being affected by an extreme weather event, like a heat wave or flood. This includes majorities of Latino voters in key swing states (73%), as well as Latino voters who identify as Democrats (86%), Independents (71%), and Republicans (70%).

A Majority of Latino Voters Are Concerned About Extreme Weather

How concerned are you, if at all, that you or someone in your family might be affected by an **extreme weather event**, such as a heat wave, hurricane, wildfire, or flood, now or in the future?



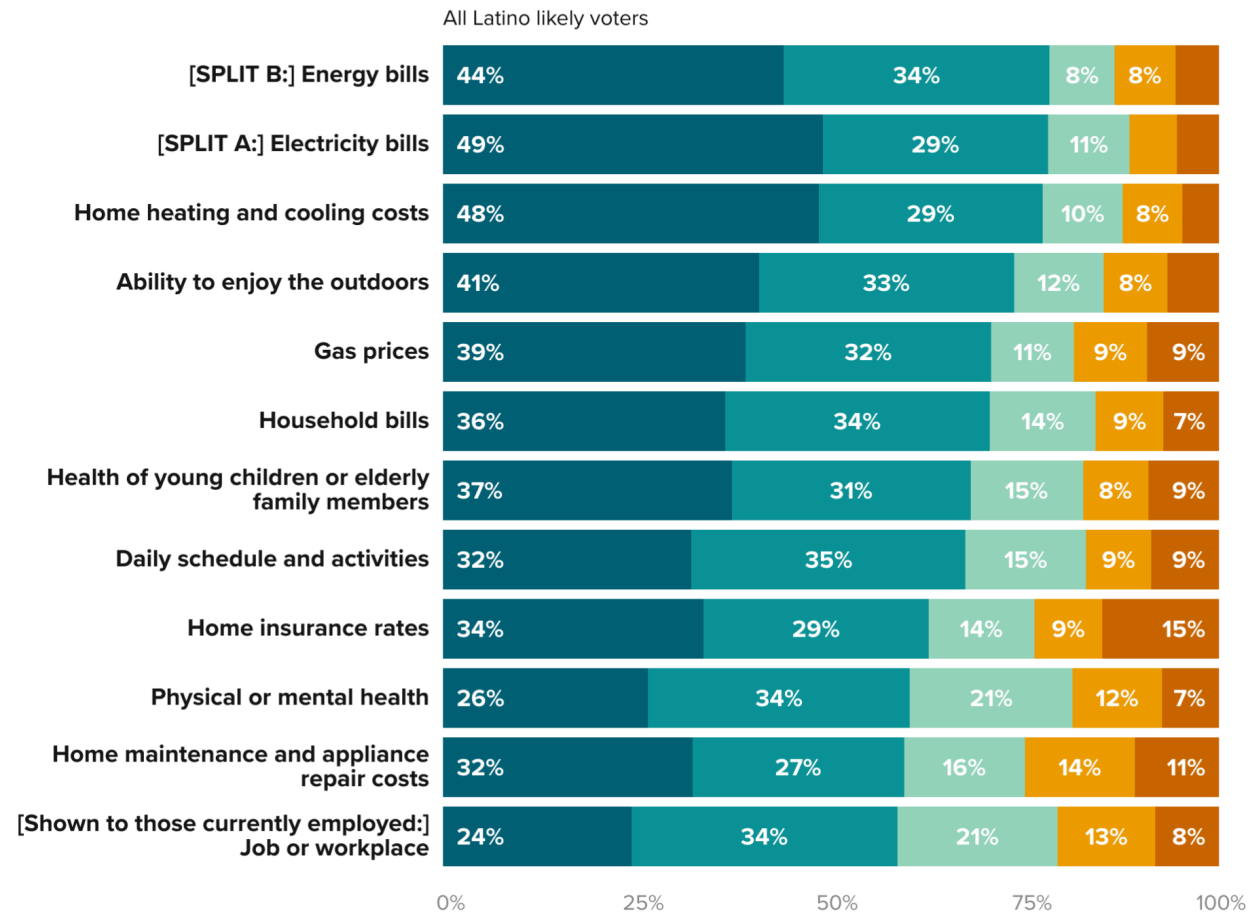
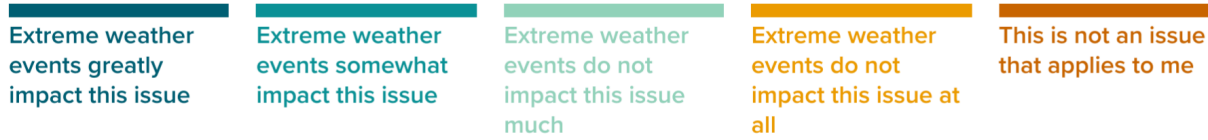
August 16-21, 2024 survey of 833 U.S. Latino likely voters

A majority of Latino voters surveyed also report that extreme weather events are impacting them now. Over three-quarters of Latino voters report that extreme weather events impact their energy bills (78%) and electricity bills (78%), highlighting that Latino voters think extreme weather causes similar levels of impact, regardless of which term is used.

In addition to a general increase in energy costs, Latino voters report home heating and cooling costs (77%) and their ability to enjoy the outdoors (74%) are also somewhat or greatly impacted by extreme weather. Notably, a majority of all Latino voters report that extreme weather either greatly or somewhat impacts all issues tested.

Extreme Weather Impacts Latino Voters' Bills, Household Costs, and Health

Please say to what extent, if any, **extreme weather events**, such as heat waves, hurricanes, wildfires, and floods, impact each of the following issues in your life:

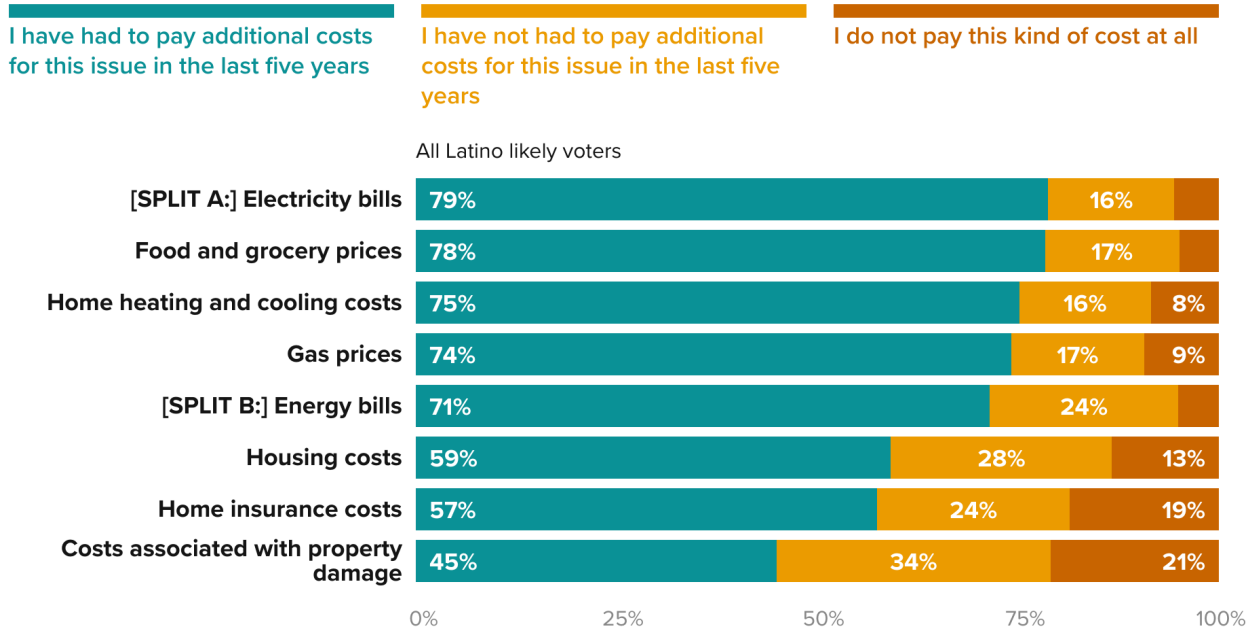


August 16-21, 2024 survey of 833 U.S. Latino likely voters

Latino voters have already faced additional costs due to extreme weather events in the last five years, with a strong majority reporting they've paid more for electricity bills (79%), food and grocery prices (78%), home heating and cooling costs (75%), gas prices (74%), and energy bills (71%).

Latino Voters Have Already Begun Paying Additional Costs as a Result of Extreme Weather

Thinking about the following issues related to the cost of living and extreme weather events, like floods and heat waves, **in the last five years**, have you **already** had to pay additional costs for each of these

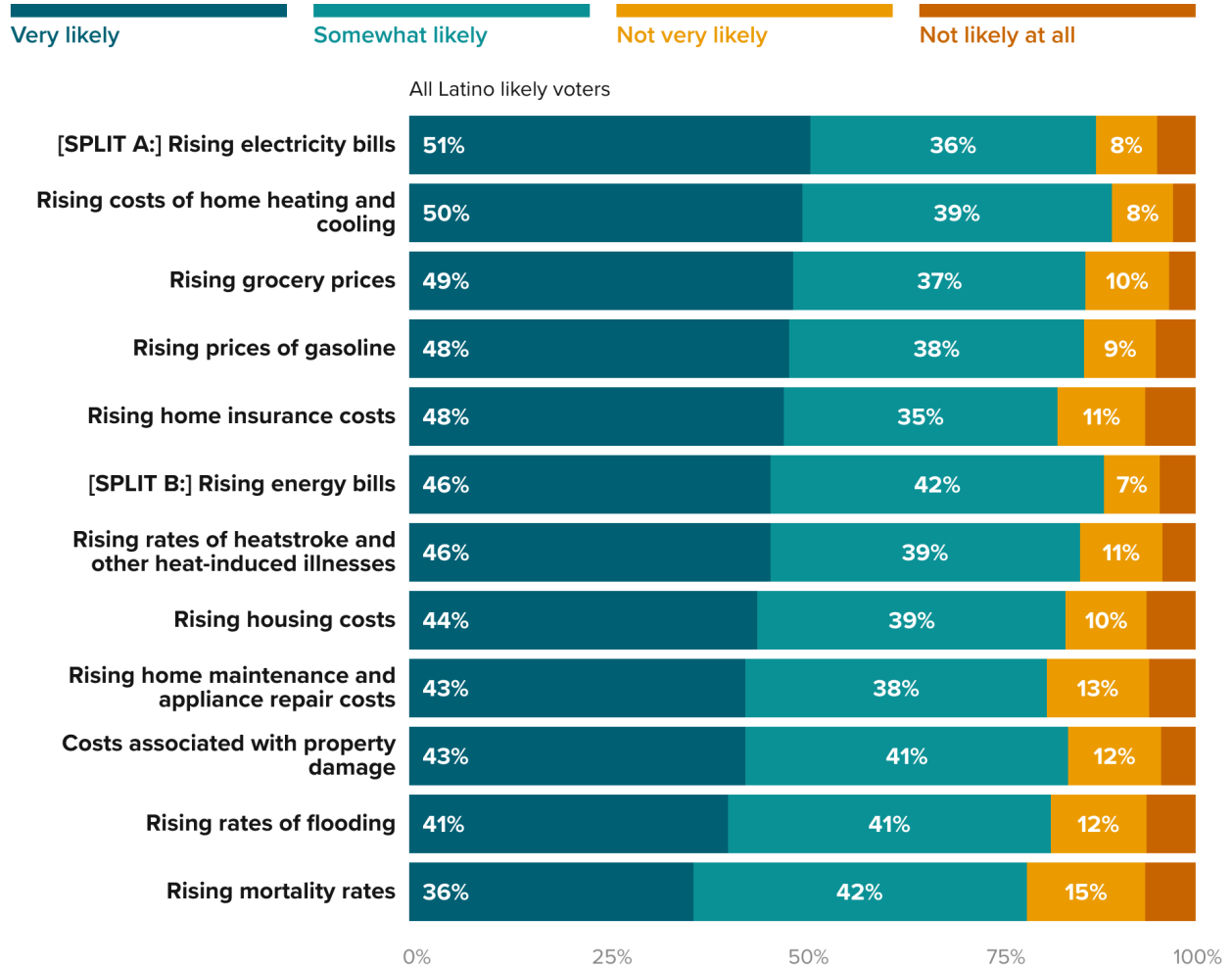


August 16-21, 2024 survey of 833 U.S. Latino likely voters

Latino voters expect costly impacts from extreme weather events over the next five years. Strong majorities of Latino voters say they expect extreme weather events to lead to rising costs of home heating and cooling (89%), and rising energy (88%) and electricity bills (87%), in addition to rising costs of groceries and gas (both at 86%). Across the board, Latino voters believe that extreme weather events will lead to rising costs across many aspects of their lives, from the basic costs of maintaining their homes to health care costs driven by exposure to extreme weather, like respiratory problems driven by wildfire smoke or heatstroke induced by laboring under extreme conditions.

Latino Voters Believe Extreme Weather Events Will Lead to Higher Costs in the Next Five Years

How likely, if at all, do you think it is that **extreme weather events**, such as heat waves, hurricanes, wildfires, and floods, would lead to the following impacts in the **next five years**



August 16-21, 2024 survey of 833 U.S. Latino likely voters

Latino Voters Blame Oil and Gas Companies and Big Companies Generally for Contributing to Climate Change and Increasingly Severe Extreme Weather

Two-thirds of Latino voters believe extreme weather events are increasing in frequency, and a strong majority of Latino voters (72%) think these extreme weather events are happening because of climate change, compared with 21% who say these events are unrelated to climate change.

Respondents who attributed extreme weather events to climate change were then asked which two groups they hold most responsible for contributing to climate change. Latino voters hold oil and gas companies (53%) **most** responsible, and this finding holds across nearly all demographic subgroups, including partisanship, age, gender, and education.

A Majority of Latino Voters Blame Oil and Gas Companies for Climate Change

You indicated that you think extreme weather events, such as heat waves, hurricanes, wildfires, and floods, are happening because of climate change.

From the following list, which **two groups** do you think are **most responsible** for contributing to climate change, if any

Survey respondents who selected: Yes

	All Latino likely voters	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican	Pooled State Oversample (AZ, GA, NV, PA)
Oil and gas companies specifically	53%	59%	47%	41%	49%
Big companies generally	41%	40%	40%	43%	44%
CEOs and executives of big companies	21%	24%	17%	15%	22%
The federal government	25%	21%	29%	35%	30%
State and local governments	15%	14%	13%	20%	10%
Individual consumers	21%	19%	28%	22%	13%
None of these	3%	3%	6%	3%	6%

August 16-21, 2024 survey of 598 U.S. Latino likely voters

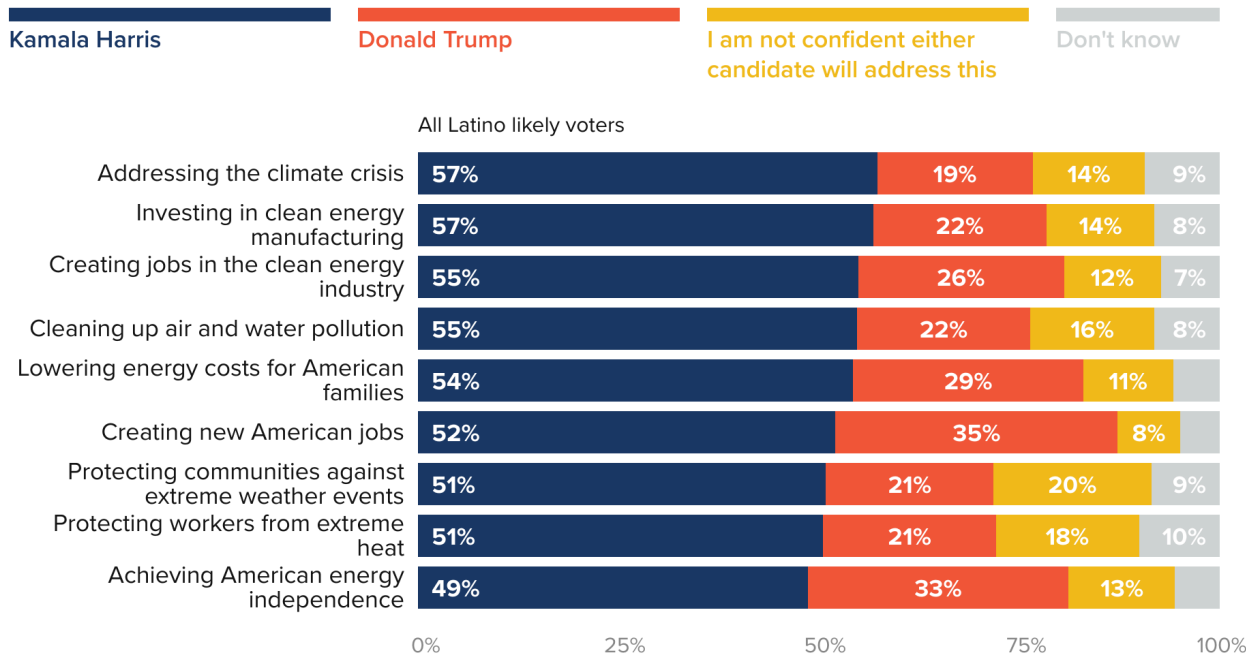
Latino Voters Trust Kamala Harris Over Donald Trump to Address Extreme Weather and Climate Change

Majorities of Latino voters say that they are more confident that Kamala Harris, and not Donald Trump, will address the climate crisis (+38-point margin over Trump), invest in clean energy manufacturing (+35), clean up air and water pollution (+33), protect communities against extreme weather events (+30), create jobs in the clean energy industry (+29), and lower energy costs for American families (+25), among other issues.

Kamala Harris Is More Trusted Than Donald Trump on Climate and Energy Issues

As you may now know, Vice President Kamala Harris is the presidential nominee of the Democratic Party, and she will be facing former President Donald Trump, who is the presidential nominee of the Republican Party for the 2024 election.

Who are you **more confident** will address each of the following?



August 16-21, 2024 survey of 833 U.S. Latino likely voters

Respondents were also shown a list of concerns raised about Trump’s record and positions on the environment, including split-sample tests. From a list of statements shown to respondents, Latino voters are most concerned about Trump seeking out Big Oil donations for his campaign, given his record and proposed plans to offer billions in tax handouts, which will ultimately place the burden of increased pollution and worsening extreme weather on working families. Trump’s demonstrated willingness to put fossil fuel lobbyists in charge of essential clean air and water standards at the Environmental Protection Agency is also of particular concern to Latino voters when thinking about a potential second Trump administration.

Latino voters are also considering how a second Trump administration could impact their communities directly. A strong majority are concerned that Trump and the Project 2025 agenda would greatly limit the ability of the government to follow scientific climate research and respond to extreme weather events, especially by cutting support for the National Weather Service. With

increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather, Latino voters also worry their communities will pay the price with their health as Trump continues to help Big Oil by keeping America dependent on polluting fossil fuels.

Conclusion

With just over two months remaining before the general election, Latino voters express that they want a president who will take seriously the impacts of climate change and extreme weather — especially those related to costs. Moreover, Data for Progress also finds 41% of Latino voters [say](#) climate change is playing a **more important factor in their vote in 2024, relative to the 2020 election**.

Harris is the candidate whom Latino voters trust to take action on extreme weather and listen to the concerns of middle- and working-class families who've already faced its cost and health impacts. Harris' existing trust advantage among Latino voters, including those in pivotal swing states, shows that a bold agenda focused on addressing costs related to climate change and extreme weather, holding the industries most responsible for those costs accountable, protecting access to clean air and water, and delivering clean energy and good jobs, enjoys enduring support among this key constituency heading into November.

Survey Methodology

From August 16 to 21, 2024, Data for Progress and Climate Power conducted a [survey](#) of 833 Latino likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. This sample is also weighted to account for an oversample of Latino likely voters in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania, with an unweighted N of 306, to ensure proportional representation of likely voters. The sample was weighted to be representative by age, gender, education, geography, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish. The margin of error is ± 3 percentage points. Results for subgroups of the sample are subject to increased margins of error, with the exception of the oversample. Partisanship reflected in tabulations is based on self-identified party affiliation, not partisan registration. For more information please visit dataforprogress.org/our-methodology.