



To: Interested Parties
From: Data for Progress and Climate Power
Date: July 26, 2023
Re: MEMO: Voters Consider Extreme Weather A Kitchen Table Issue

Summary

This summer, extreme heat waves have impacted millions across the country, as temperatures in the United States reached [record highs](#). The heat, which disproportionately impacts elderly, low-income, and unhoused Americans, has already caused dozens of deaths this year, and researchers have determined that this extreme heat would have been “[virtually impossible](#)” without climate change.

Climate change has contributed to increasingly common extreme weather events, including heat waves, floods, wildfires, and droughts. New [polling](#) from Climate Power and Data for Progress finds that these events are having a significant impact on voters and their communities, affecting their finances, health, housing, and more.

Key Takeaways

- Two-thirds of voters (67%) **consider climate change and extreme weather to be kitchen table issues** for their households that they think about and discuss “sometimes” (41%) or “often” (26%)
- Voters report that **extreme weather events have impacted both their states (39%) and local communities (32%)**, along with the people who live there
- Around one-third of voters (34%) say their **finances and cost of living** have been impacted by extreme weather events, followed by 27% who report impacts on their **physical or mental health**

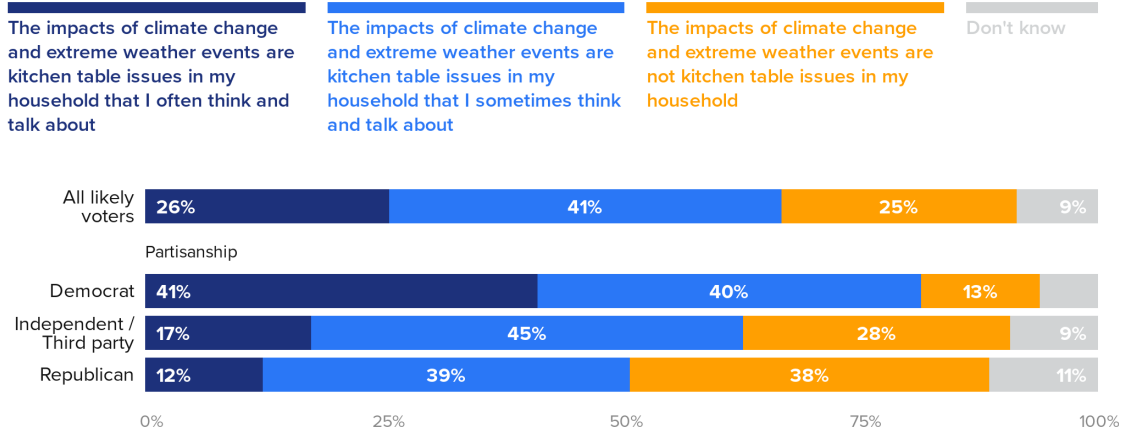
Findings

The survey asked respondents about the impact of climate change and extreme weather on their household conversations. We find that 67% of voters agree that the impacts of climate change and extreme weather are “kitchen table issues” for their households, including 41% who “sometimes” discuss the impacts of climate change and extreme weather and over a quarter (26%) who “often” think or talk about these impacts as a kitchen table issue. Majorities of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans consider climate change and extreme weather to be kitchen table issues in their households, reflecting the growing salience of these issues across the electorate.



Majorities Across Partisanship Consider Climate Change and Extreme Weather A Kitchen Table Issue

How would you best describe your interactions with the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, such as wildfire smoke, flight delays, or extreme heat waves?



July 21–23, 2023 survey of 1,284 likely voters

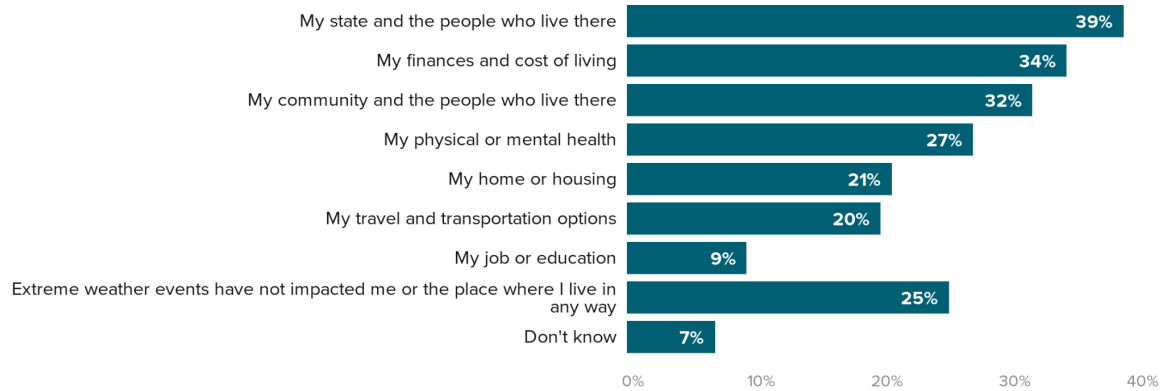
The survey also asked voters whether or not extreme weather events have impacted themselves or their communities. We find that 39% of voters say that extreme weather has already impacted their state, while 32% say that their community has been affected.

When thinking about their personal circumstances, 34% of voters say that extreme weather has impacted their finances and cost of living. Twenty-seven percent of voters say that extreme weather has affected their health, while 21% say that their housing has been impacted. An additional 20% of voters report that extreme weather has impacted their travel or transportation.



Voters Identify Extreme Weather Impacts on Their Communities and Finances Above Other Issues

Thinking about your experience with extreme weather events like heat waves, floods, wildfire smoke, and droughts, have these extreme weather events impacted any of the following? Please select **all** that apply.



July 21–23, 2023 survey of 1,284 likely voters



Ahead of President Biden’s expected remarks on extreme heat this week, it is imperative to continue to advance and defend the president’s bold climate agenda while protecting those who are most vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather and climate change.

Survey Methodology

From July 21 to 23, 2023, Data for Progress and Climate Power conducted a [survey](#) of 1,284 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, geography, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ± 3 percentage points.

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