

GEORGIA VOTERS SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION

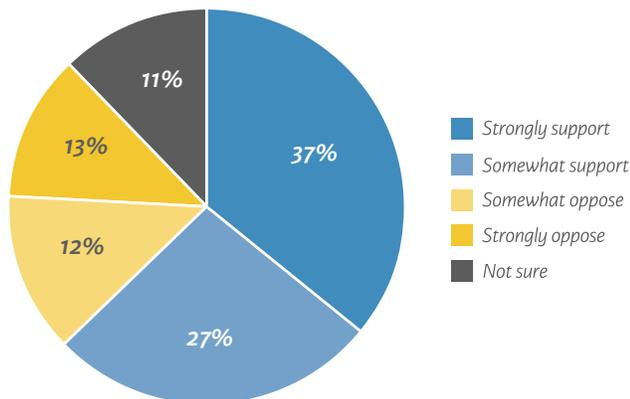


Ahead of the fifth Democratic primary debate in Georgia, a new survey finds Georgia voters broadly support policies to address climate impacts and expand renewable energy in the state, and they want their elected officials to support those policies as well. Climate Nexus, in partnership with the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication, conducted a representative survey of 789 registered voters in Georgia from November 4-10, 2019. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 3.6% at the 95% confidence level.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS POLITICALLY SALIENT IN GEORGIA

Close to two-thirds (64%) of Georgia voters support government action to address climate change, including nearly four in 10 (37%) who strongly support such action. Roughly seven in 10 Georgia voters also believe the federal government (70%), the Georgia state government (70%), and their member of Congress (68%) should be doing more on climate change.

Q: *Do you support or oppose government action to address climate change?*



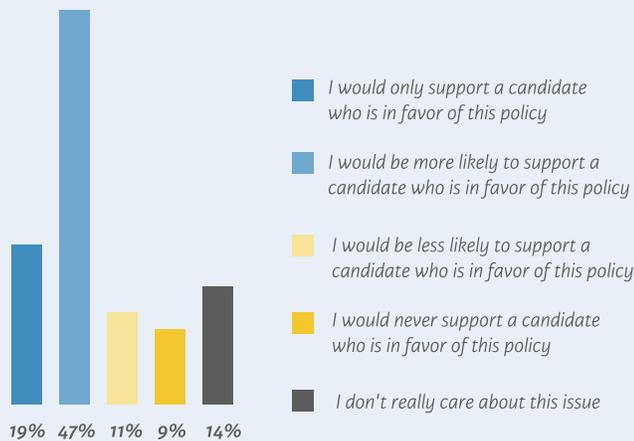
Due to weighting and rounding, percentages may not always add up to 100%

Georgia voters are also more likely to back candidates for public office who support specific climate policies. At least seven in 10 Georgia voters say they would be more likely to support a candidate for political office who favors increasing government funding for renewable energy (71%) or setting stronger fuel efficiency standards (70%). Roughly two-thirds would be more likely to support candidates who favor requiring fossil fuel companies to pay a tax on their carbon pollution (67%) or requiring electric utility companies to achieve a national renewable portfolio standard (RPS) of 100% renewable energy by 2050 (66%).

GEORGIA VOTERS SUPPORT SPECIFIC CLIMATE AND CLEAN ENERGY POLICIES

Georgia voters say the state should move away from fossil fuels and toward more renewable energy, which many voters believe will benefit Georgians across the state. Nearly two-thirds (64%) think developing more renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, should be the top priority for addressing Georgia's energy needs, significantly more than those who say building more natural gas (9%) or nuclear (9%) power plants should be the most important priority. More than half (55%) of Georgia voters also believe

Q: Please indicate how likely you would be to support a candidate for political office who is in favor of requiring electric utility companies in the United States to generate 100% of their electricity from renewable sources, like wind and solar, by the year 2050. If you don't care about this policy, just say so.



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increasing domestic production of renewable energy is more likely to create good jobs for Georgians, compared to roughly one in five (21%) who say the same of fossil fuels like oil and gas.

Georgia voters also support specific policies to increase the amount and availability of renewable energy in the state. Three-quarters (75%) of Georgia voters support increasing government funding for renewable energy, including close to half (45%) who strongly support such a policy, and more than eight in 10 (81%) support measures to expand community solar projects in their local areas. Additionally, nearly two-thirds (66%) of Georgia voters support establishing a 100% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) in the state. More than three-quarters (77%) say a 100% RPS in Georgia would have a positive impact on the state's environment, and seven in 10 (70%) believe the policy will improve Georgians' health. At least six in 10 Georgia voters say a 100% RPS will lower electricity costs (65%), improve the state's economy (64%), and benefit Georgia's rural

and farming communities (61%). Majorities say the policy will improve wages for Georgia workers (53%) and lower the state's unemployment rate (51%), and nearly half of Georgia voters say a 100% RPS will benefit white communities (48%) and communities of color (46%) in the state.

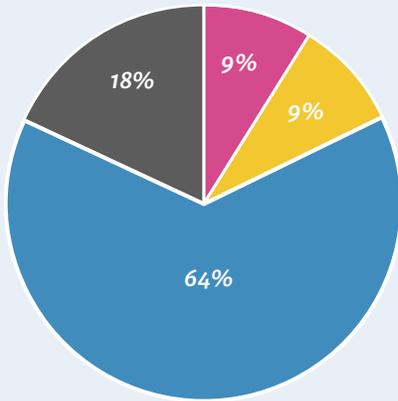
Georgia voters support expanding access to electric vehicles (EVs) and more fuel efficient vehicles. More than seven in 10 (72%) Georgia voters support setting stronger fuel efficiency standards, and nearly the same number (68%) say the federal tax credit for EVs should extend beyond each manufacturer's first 200,000 vehicles. More than a quarter (26%) say owners of electric vehicles should not have to pay annual electric vehicle fees, and more than six in 10 say EV owners should pay annual fees less than (25%) or equivalent to (38%) what owners of gas-powered vehicles pay in gas taxes. Only 10% say EV owners should pay an annual fee higher than what an owner of a gas-powered vehicle pays in gas taxes each year.

Georgia voters also favor a variety of other policies to address and reduce impacts from climate change. Eight in 10 (80%) support setting stronger pollution standards for business and industry, and close to three-quarters support requiring new infrastructure projects in the state to be built to withstand extreme weather (74%) and requiring fossil fuel companies to pay a tax on their carbon pollution (72%).

GEORGIA VOTERS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE IMPACTS

Many Georgians report personally experiencing impacts from extreme weather and climate change. Nearly four in 10 (39%) Georgia voters say they or someone in their family has experienced more severe seasonal allergies in the last year. Roughly a quarter say they or someone in their family has had to take a break from work or a day off because of extreme weather (27%), experienced anxiety due to extreme weather events (26%), or experienced heat stress (21%) in the last year, and 17% say they or someone in their family has experienced economic hardships or property damage as a result of extreme weather.

Q: Right now, which of the following do you think should be the most important priority for addressing Georgia's energy needs?



- Developing more renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar
- Building more natural gas power plants
- Building more nuclear power plants
- Not sure

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Georgians are also worried about the quality of their local environment. More than three-quarters say pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams (78%) and quality of infrastructure (76%) are serious problems in their local area. Roughly two-thirds of Georgia voters say air pollution (68%) and smaller crop yields (65%) are serious problems, and close to six in 10 (57%) say extreme weather such as heavy rainfall, flooding, and heat waves is a serious problem.

Georgia voters also say climate change is affecting the state. Close to two-thirds (65%) say climate change is having a large or some impact on the state's agriculture, and roughly six in 10 say climate change is impacting extreme weather events in Georgia (62%) and the health of the state's residents (58%). Majorities of Georgia voters also say climate change is impacting the state's economy (54%) and their family's health (51%).

While close to half (48%) of Georgia voters believe the state's environment will be about the same for the next generation as it is now, nearly four in 10 (38%) say the quality of the environment will be worse for future generations. Only 14% say Georgia's environment will be better for the next generation than it is now.

When extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, floods, or heat waves, occur, most Georgia voters say the media should discuss how climate change impacts those events as they unfold or immediately after. A majority (51%) say the media should talk about how climate change impacts extreme weather events while those events are occurring, and another 11% say the media should discuss climate change in the first couple of days after extreme weather events. Only one in 10 say the media should wait a week (6%), a month (2%), or longer than a month (2%) to discuss how climate change affects extreme weather.

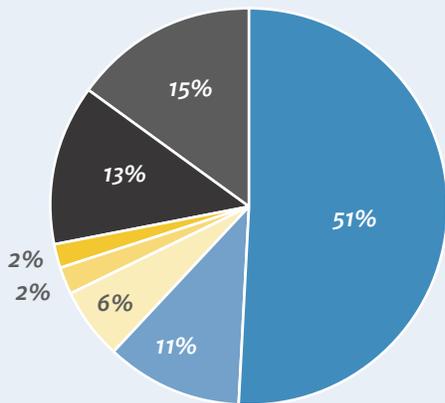
AHEAD OF FIFTH DEMOCRATIC DEBATE, BIDEN LEADS IN GEORGIA

Voters in Georgia still want to hear from Democratic presidential candidates about critical issues, ranging from the economy and health care to climate change and women's issues. At least nine in 10 Georgia voters say it is very or somewhat important for the candidates to talk about the economy (92%) and health care (90%) at the upcoming debate, and more than eight in 10 say it's important for the candidates to talk about immigration (85%), foreign policy (85%), and gun policy (82%). More than seven in 10 want to hear more about women's issues (76%), the Supreme Court (75%), climate change (71%), and racial inequality (71%), and a majority (55%) say it is important for Democratic presidential candidates talk about impeachment.

Ahead of the fifth Democratic presidential primary debate, more than three in 10 (31%) Georgia voters who are likely to vote in the Democratic primary, which will take place on March 24, 2020, select Joe Biden as their top choice, and 14% each pick Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. Four percent each

Q: *When extreme weather events (such as hurricanes, floods, or heat waves) occur, when do you think is the proper time for the news media to talk about how climate change impacts these events?*

- Talk about climate change as the event is occurring
- Wait about a day or two after the event
- Wait about a week after the event
- Wait about a month after the event
- Wait longer than a month after the event
- Never talk about climate change and its role in weather-related disasters and extreme weather events
- Not sure



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pick Kamala Harris and Pete Buttigieg, with all other candidates receiving no more than 2%. Nearly one in five (19%) say they prefer another candidate or are unsure who they would like to see as the Democratic presidential nominee.

When asked how they would vote if the election for president were held today, Joe Biden (48% to Trump's 47%), Elizabeth Warren (47% to Trump's 47%), and Bernie Sanders (46% to Trump's 48%) come within the margin of error to Trump, while Kamala Harris (44% to Trump's 49%) and Pete Buttigieg (42% to Trump's 49%) trail the incumbent.

Georgia voters are concerned about voter suppression and other election issues in the state. Nearly six in 10 (58%) say voter suppression is a serious problem in the state. Close to half (47%) of Georgia voters say eligible voters being denied the right to vote is a bigger problem with the U.S. elections, compared to roughly four in 10 (41%) who say people who are not eligible casting votes is the bigger problem. More than six in 10 (63%) Georgia voters do have a lot or some trust that elections in their state are administered fairly, while more than a third (36%) have little or no trust at all in this.

More than seven in 10 (71%) Georgia voters have been paying attention to recent news about members of the Trump administration's dealings in Ukraine. A majority (52%) approve of the House of Representatives opening a formal impeachment inquiry, including close to four in 10 (38%) who strongly approve. When it comes to impeachment proceedings, more than four in 10 (42%) believe Congress should impeach President Trump and remove him from office, while one in 10 (10%) say he should be impeached but not removed from office, and nearly half (48%) believe Congress should not impeach President Trump.

Climate Nexus Polling, Leiserowitz, A., Maibach, E., Kotcher, J., & Rosenthal, S. (2019). Georgia Voters Support Climate Action. Climate Nexus Polling, Yale University, and George Mason University. Washington, DC: Climate Nexus Polling