

Climate Change in the American Mind: Politics & Policy, Fall 2025

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Executive Summary

Drawing on a representative sample of the U.S. adult population ($n = 1,146$; including the 990 registered voters whose data are used in this report), these findings describe how registered voters view a variety of domestic climate and energy policies. The survey was fielded from November 6–14, 2025.

This executive summary presents the results for all registered voters, while the main text of the report also breaks the results down by political party and ideology.

Global Warming as a Voting Issue

- 59% of registered voters would prefer to vote for a candidate for public office who supports action on global warming.
- 41% say they would like to hear from political candidates about efforts to reduce global warming more often.
- 28% say they will *only* vote for a congressional candidate who supports *increasing* the use of renewable energy and 26% say they will *only* vote for a candidate who supports *decreasing* the use of fossil fuels.
- 35% say global warming will be a “very important” issue to them in deciding who they will vote for in the 2026 congressional election.
- When asked to choose their *most important* voting issue, 1% of registered voters chose global warming, making it the 17th highest ranked *most important issue* out of 25.

Global Warming and Clean Energy as Government Priorities

- 49% of registered voters think global warming should be a high or very high priority for the president and Congress.
- 61% of registered voters think developing sources of clean energy should be a high or very high priority for the president and Congress.

Policies to Reduce the Pollution that Causes Global Warming

Majorities of registered voters support a range of policies to reduce carbon pollution and promote clean energy. These include:

- 87% support federal funding to help farmers improve practices to protect and restore the soil so it absorbs and stores more carbon.
- 77% support funding more research into renewable energy sources.
- 74% support regulating carbon dioxide as a pollutant.
- 66% support transitioning the U.S. economy from fossil fuels to 100% clean energy by 2050.

Energy Production

- 75% of registered voters support generating renewable energy on public land in the U.S.
- 49% support expanding offshore drilling for oil and natural gas off the U.S. coast.
- 45% support drilling and mining fossil fuels on public land in the U.S.
- 33% support drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Clean Energy Infrastructure

Many registered voters support building clean energy infrastructure in their local area. These include:

- Solar farms (57%)
- Wind farms (53%)
- Electric vehicle charging stations (49%)
- High-voltage power lines to distribute clean energy (48%)
- Nuclear power plants (36%)

Protecting People from Environmental Harms

- 92% of registered voters support requiring companies to protect workers from dangerous levels of heat.
- 80% support strengthening enforcement of industrial pollution limits in low-income communities and communities of color that are disproportionately impacted by air and water pollution.

Eliminating Programs Related to Global Warming

- 79% of registered voters *oppose* eliminating the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- 77% oppose ordering all federal agencies to stop providing information about global warming to the public.
- 77% oppose ordering all federal agencies to stop doing research on global warming.
- 65% oppose prohibiting construction of new offshore wind farms.

The Foreign Pollution Fee Act

The Foreign Pollution Fee Act, proposed by Republican members of the U.S. Senate, would put a fee on products imported into the United States based on the amount of carbon pollution emitted when they were made. The Act would affect major polluters like China and help U.S. companies (which have higher environmental standards) compete.

- Few registered voters have heard of this proposed bill: Only 2% of registered voters have heard either “a lot” or “a moderate amount” about it.
- After reading a short description of the Foreign Pollution Fee Act, 78% of registered voters said they support the proposal.

The Paris Climate Agreement

- 77% of registered voters support U.S. participation in the Paris Climate Agreement.
- 64% *oppose* President Trump’s decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Energy Production and Global Warming as Economic Issues

- 49% of registered voters think policies that promote clean energy will improve economic growth and provide new jobs, while 27% think such policies will reduce economic growth and cost jobs.
- 65% think global warming is affecting the cost of living in the United States.

Transitioning from Fossil Fuels to Clean Energy

- 66% of registered voters say the U.S. should use *more renewable energy* than it does today, and 55% say the U.S. should use *less fossil fuels* than it does today.

Who Should Act?

- Half or more registered voters say the following should do more to address global warming: Corporations and industry (67%), the Republican Party (60%), the U.S. Congress (60%), President Trump (60%), citizens themselves (58%), local government officials (54%), the Democratic Party (53%), their governor (52%), and the media (51%). Forty-five percent say they should do more themselves.

Political Advocacy

- 2% of registered voters say they are currently participating in a campaign to convince elected officials to take action to reduce global warming. Additionally, 11% say they would “definitely” join such a campaign, and 21% would “probably” join one.
- 54% say they would sign a petition about global warming if asked by a person they like and respect. Additionally, 33% would attend a local government meeting related to global warming, 32% would donate money to an organization working on global warming, 30% would contact government officials about global warming, 29% would volunteer their time to an organization working on global warming, and 27% would meet with an elected official or their staff about global warming if asked.
- 29% say they would support an organization engaging in non-violent civil disobedience against corporate or government activities that make global warming worse, 18% say they would *personally* engage in non-violent civil disobedience, and 6% say they would be willing to get arrested as part of such an action.
- 19% say they have signed a petition about global warming in the past year, 13% say they have donated money to an organization working on global warming, 7% have attended a local government meeting related to global warming, and 7% have volunteered their time to such an organization.
- 10% have contacted government officials in the past year to urge them to take action to reduce global warming.

Collective Efficacy

- 44% of registered voters are at least “moderately confident” that people like them, working together, can affect what the federal government does about global warming, and 44% are confident they can affect what corporations do about global warming.

Educating Students About Global Warming

- 73% of registered voters say schools should teach children about global warming’s causes, consequences, and potential solutions.

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