

IOWA VOTERS SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION



As Democratic presidential primary candidates barnstorm the annual Iowa State Fair, a new survey finds Iowa voters are concerned about the impacts of climate change and support policies to reduce fossil fuel emissions and expand renewable energy generation in the state. Climate Nexus, in partnership with the Yale University Program on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication, conducted a representative survey of 519 registered voters in Iowa from July 17-22, 2019. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 4.6% at the 95% percent confidence level.

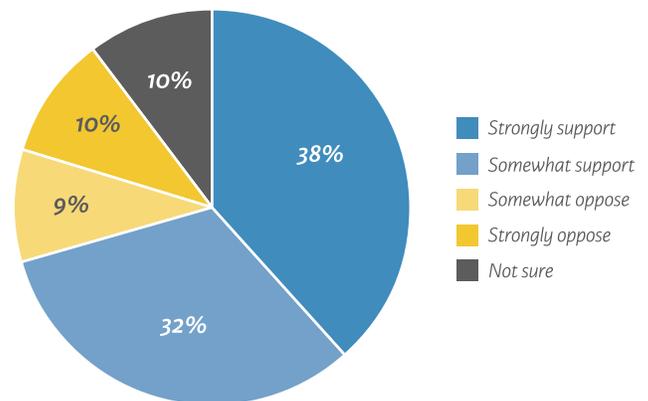
IOWA VOTERS WANT ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, RENEWABLE ENERGY, INFRASTRUCTURE

Seven in 10 (70%) Iowa voters support government action to address climate change, including nearly four in 10 (38%) who strongly support such action. Iowa voters specifically want the federal government (73%), Iowa's state government (70%), and their member of Congress (68%) to do more on the issue of climate change.

Iowa voters are also more likely to support candidates for political office who favor climate policies. More than three-quarters (77%) of Iowa voters would be more likely to support a candidate who favors extending government funding for renewable energy such as solar and wind power. More than seven in 10 would be more likely to support a candidate who supports requiring a 100% renewable portfolio standard (RPS) – requiring that all of the state's energy be generated from renewables – by 2050 (73%) and setting stronger fuel efficiency standards (72%). Roughly two-thirds

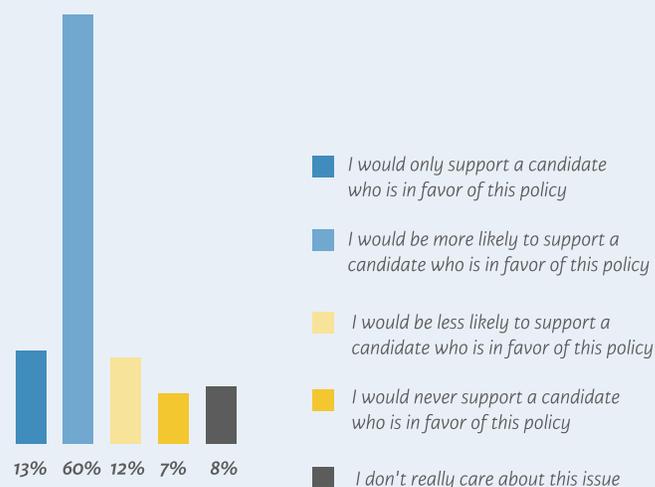
(66%) would be more likely to support a candidate who favors requiring fossil fuel companies to pay a tax on their carbon pollution, while fewer than one in five (19%) would be less likely to support such a candidate.

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%

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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A large majority of Iowa voters support policies requiring a 100% RPS by 2050. By nearly a 6-to-1 margin, Iowa voters support a state RPS, with more than three-quarters strongly (39%) or somewhat (37%) in support, and only 13% in opposition. Similarly, by roughly a 6-to-1 margin, Iowa voters strongly (43%) or somewhat (37%) support extending government funding for renewables, such as wind and solar, rather than oppose it (13%).

Iowans believe a 100% RPS would have a positive impact on Iowa's environment (79%), its cities and towns (73%), its economy (70%), and its rural and farming communities (61%), while also lowering electricity costs (64%). At least half of Iowa voters also say generating 100% of the state's energy from renewable sources like wind and solar energy would improve wages for Iowa's workers (52%) and bring down Iowa's unemployment rate (50%). Despite a recent unfounded claim by President Trump, Iowa voters do not believe noise from wind turbines causes cancer: More than eight in 10 (84%) say that it does not, while just 1% say that it does, and 15% say they aren't sure.

Iowa voters say focusing on renewables is more likely to increase the number of good jobs in the state than focusing on fossil fuels. Two-thirds (67%) of Iowa voters say increasing domestic production of renewable energy such as wind and solar is more likely to produce a greater number of good jobs for Iowans, nearly five times the number (14%) who say the same about increasing domestic production of fossil fuels such as oil and gas.

Nearly nine in 10 (87%) Iowans underestimate the amount of their state's energy generated from renewable sources. Only 8% correctly estimate between 40% and 49% of Iowa's energy is generated by renewables, while just 5% overestimate the percentage of the state's energy that comes from renewables as over 50%.

More than three-quarters of Iowa voters (77%) say new infrastructure projects should be built to withstand extreme weather – even if it comes at a higher cost to taxpayers. Iowans also say it is important to repair old roads and bridges (96%), fix public school buildings (86%), build new roads and highways (77%), and expand public transit

(69%), and they also say infrastructure should be built to withstand the effects of climate change (81%). Additionally, more than eight in 10 say it is important to expand the use of renewable energy such as wind and solar (85%) and build new power lines to accommodate increased renewable energy (83%). Building new oil and gas pipelines (50%) was the lowest priority of the infrastructure investments polled.

Although a slight majority (51%) of Iowa voters say infrastructure legislation should prioritize repairs to existing infrastructure, nearly four in 10 (38%) believe infrastructure legislation should prioritize transitioning the United States to a clean energy economy and reduce the risks the country already faces from climate change.

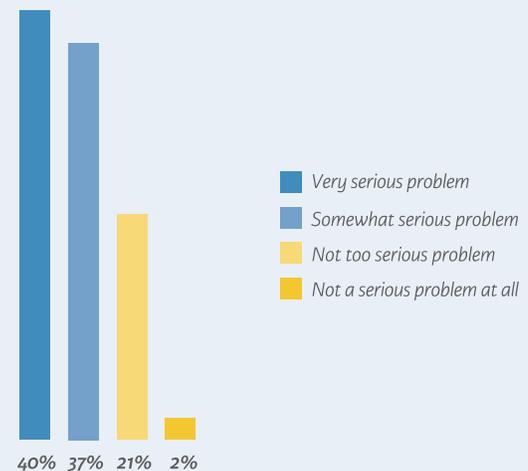
Iowa voters also support policies that would encourage sales of electric vehicles (EVs) and reduce pollution. Seven in 10 (70%) agree the federal tax credit for EV sales should extend beyond the first 200,000 vehicles sold for each manufacturer, while nearly eight in 10 (78%) support setting stronger fuel efficiency standards for cars, trucks, and SUVs. More than eight in 10 (82%) support stronger pollution standards for business and industry.

IOWANS ARE FEELING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Iowa voters recognize the impact climate change is having on their state. Nearly three-quarters (74%) say climate change is having an effect on Iowa's agriculture, including four in 10 (40%) who say it is having a large effect. More than seven in 10 (71%) also say climate change is impacting extreme weather in Iowa. Nearly six in 10 say climate change has affected the economy (59%) and Iowans' health (58%).

About four in 10 Iowa voters say in the past year, they or someone in their family has experienced more severe seasonal allergies (40%) or anxiety about extreme weather (39%). Roughly a quarter say they or someone in their family has experienced property damage or other economic hardships as a

Q: Please indicate whether you think extreme weather such as heavy rainfall and flooding is a very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a serious problem at all for your local area.



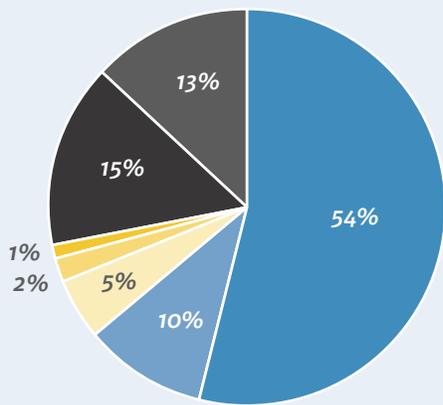
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result of flooding or severe storm damage (27%) or heat stress or heat-related illness (26%) in the past 12 months.

Iowa voters are concerned about the quality of infrastructure, pollution of waterways, and extreme weather facing the state. Nearly nine in 10 (87%) say the quality of infrastructure, like roads and bridges, is a serious problem in their local area. More than three-quarters say the pollution of rivers, lakes, and streams (79%) and extreme weather such as heavy rainfall and flooding (77%) are serious problems where they live, and nearly two-thirds (66%) are worried about severe floods exposing and damaging oil and gas pipelines and polluting rivers and other bodies of water in the state. More than seven in 10 (71%) Iowa voters say smaller crop yields pose a serious problem for their local area.

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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IOWA VOTERS WANT THE MEDIA TO TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER

When extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, floods, and heat waves occur, nearly two-thirds of Iowa voters prefer the media to discuss how climate change impacts extreme weather events as they unfold or immediately after. More than half (54%) say the media should talk about how climate change impacts extreme weather events while the event is occurring, and another 10% say the media should discuss climate change in the first couple of days after an extreme weather event. Fewer than one in 10 say the media should wait a week (5%), a month (2%), or longer than a month (1%) to discuss how climate change affects extreme weather.