



TO Interested Parties

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FM3 Research

RE: California Voter Views of Key Climate Issues and Policies

DATE April 21, 2021

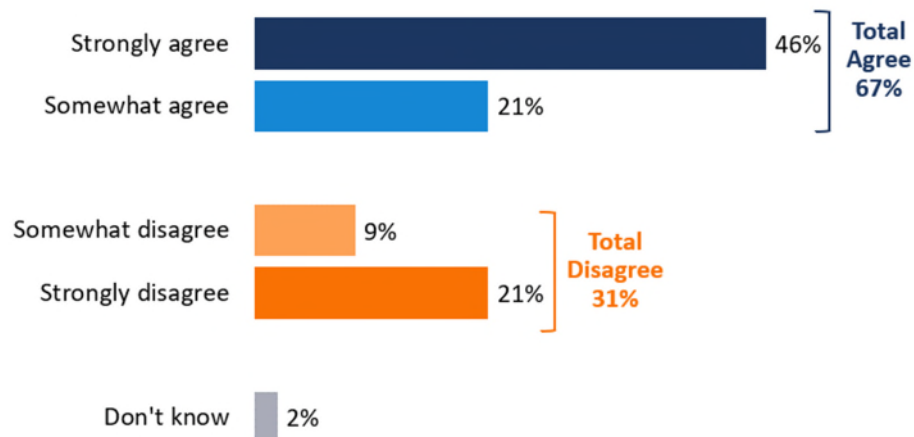
Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) recently completed a survey of California voters' views on climate change, renewable energy, infrastructure, and transportation.ⁱ The study found that a majority of Californians believe the state should act more quickly to address climate change, see economic promise in renewable energy; and support a range of policies to move away from fossil fuels.

More specific findings are as follows:

- **Two in three believe that the State should act quicker to address climate change.** As shown in **Figure 1**, two-thirds of California voters agree that the state should be moving more quickly to address climate change, and nearly half (46%) “strongly agree” with this assertion.

Figure 1: Pace of Addressing Climate Change

Now I would like to read you some statements about energy and the environment in California. After I read one, please tell me if you agree or disagree: California should be acting more quickly to address climate change.



This view is held especially broadly in key segments of the electorate, including:

- 83% of African American voters, 83% of Asian and Pacific Islander voters, 75% of Latinx voters, and 64% of white voters;
 - Nearly nine in ten Democrats (88%) and seven in ten independent voters (69%);
 - 72% of women and 63% of men;
 - 77% of voters under 50 and 63% of voters 50 and older;
 - Women and men under 50 (82% and 71%, respectively); and
 - 75% of urban residents, 70% of suburban residents, 59% of small-town residents, and 54% of rural residents.
- **Three in four view climate change as a serious problem for the state.** Seventy-five percent said they believed climate change is an "extremely," "very," or "somewhat serious" problem facing California and 38% categorize it an "extremely serious problem". Californians' perception of the gravity of climate change has been steadily increasing since 2012, when only 20% categorized climate change as "extremely serious."
 - **Californians believe that renewable energy could provide the same or greater number and quality of jobs than the oil and gas industry.** As shown in **Figure 2** below, two thirds (66%) of voters agree that the renewable energy sector's potential for the number of jobs is equal to, or greater than, that of the fossil fuel industry's. A similar share believe that renewable can provide the same or better job quality (65%).

Figure 2: Job Potential of Renewable Energy Sector

*Now I would like to read you some statements about energy and the environment in California.
After I read one, please tell me if you agree or disagree.*

Statement	Total Agree	Total Disagree
Renewable energy has the potential to provide the same or a <u>greater</u> number of jobs for Californians as in oil and gas industries do today.	66%	28%
Renewable energy has the potential to provide the same or <u>better</u> quality of jobs for Californians as in oil and gas industries do today.	65%	27%

Voters across most segments broadly believe that renewables can provide jobs of the same or higher quantity and quality, including:

- African American voters (83% and 65%, respectively), Latinx voters (75% and 77%), Asian American voters (74% and 73%), and white voters (63% and 61%);
- Women (69% in both cases) and men (63% and 62%);
- Voters under 50 (74% and 76%) and voters above 50 (60% and 57%);
- Women under 50 (81% and 80%) and men under 50 (68% and 72%);

- Democrats (85% in both cases) and independent voters (69% and 65%); and
 - Urban voters (74% and 78%), suburban voters (71% and 63%), and small-town voters (61% in both cases).
- **Majorities support a range of policies to move away from fossil fuels.** As shown in **Figure 3** below, support is most broad for providing energy upgrades to schools, libraries, and community centers. Voters also show a widespread willingness to fund clean transit infrastructure, wildlife protection, and water resilience through the issuing of bonds; as well as support for policies which bring clean energy to homes.

Figure 3: Clean Infrastructure Policies

Now I am going to read you a list of other potential policy proposals for California. After I read each one, please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

Policy	Total Support	Total Oppose
Upgrading public buildings like schools, libraries, and community centers to be more energy efficient	83%	14%
Upgrading public buildings like schools, libraries, and community centers to use renewable energy	80%	18%
Issuing bonds to fund clean transportation infrastructure, wildfire prevention, and water resilience	74%	22%
Creating policies that prioritize getting clean energy to low-income households	72%	23%
Changing zoning codes to encourage construction of new homes and businesses entirely powered by emission-free electric appliances	62%	32%

- **Eighty-six percent also believe that providing rebates and incentives to help Californians upgrade energy efficiency is an important funding priority.** Sixty percent say that providing rebates and incentives is "extremely" or "very important."
- **A majority of Californians are concerned about vehicle pollution.** Seventy-nine percent believe pollution from cars is a serious problem, and half (50%) classify car pollution as an "extremely" or "very serious" problem.
- **Californians support a variety of zero-emission transportation policies.** As shown in **Figure 4** on the next page, broad majorities of voters back policies that would cut pollution near ports and warehouses, using

renewable energy sources at ports, and they specifically support transitioning to a zero-emissions truck and bus fleet within the next 15 years.

Figure 4: Zero-Emission Transportation Policies

Now I am going to read you a list of other potential policy proposals for California. After I read each one, please tell me whether it sounds like something you would support or oppose.

Policy	Total Support	Total Oppose
Requiring large corporations to shift to zero-emission technologies to cut pollution in neighborhoods near ports and warehouses	70%	25%
Transitioning to a zero-emissions truck and bus fleet by 2035	69%	26%
Transitioning to renewable energy at ports, including plugging ships into a renewable grid and using only zero-emissions trucks	65%	29%

- **By an 11-point margin, voters see more harms from fossil fuel infrastructure than benefits.** Nearly half (48%) of voters believe that the harms caused by fossil fuel plants and infrastructure outweigh the benefits compared to over a third (37%) who believed the benefits are greater.

Figure 5: Costs and Benefits of Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

Like many things, fossil fuel plants and infrastructure have harms and benefits. For example, they are a source of local jobs and of pollution and public health harms. I am going to read you a pair of statements and I'd like you to tell me which one comes closer to your opinion.

Statement	% Chosen
Overall, the harms caused by fossil fuel plants and infrastructure outweigh the benefits	48%
Overall, the benefits from fossil fuel plants and infrastructure outweigh the harms	37%
Both/Neither/Don't know	15%

- **By a 39-point margin, voters say that they are less likely to vote for a state legislator who accepts campaign contributions from fossil fuel companies.** Half of California voters (50%) say that they would be less likely to vote for their state legislator if that official took campaign funds from fossil fuel companies, compared to the 11% who said they are more likely vote for such a candidate.

Taken together, the findings of the survey show that California voters widely view climate change as a severe threat in need of rapid response, and support clean energy, infrastructure, and transportation policies which help to limit carbon emissions.

ⁱ **Methodology:** From February 3-10, 2021, FM3 completed 820 interviews with California voters online. The margin of sampling error for the study is +/-3.7% at the 95% confidence level; margins of error for population subgroups within the sample will be higher. Due to rounding, not all totals will sum to 100%.