



TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Groundwork Collaborative and Southern Economic Advancement Project

DATE: November 10, 2021

RE: Support for Climate Action among Southern Voters

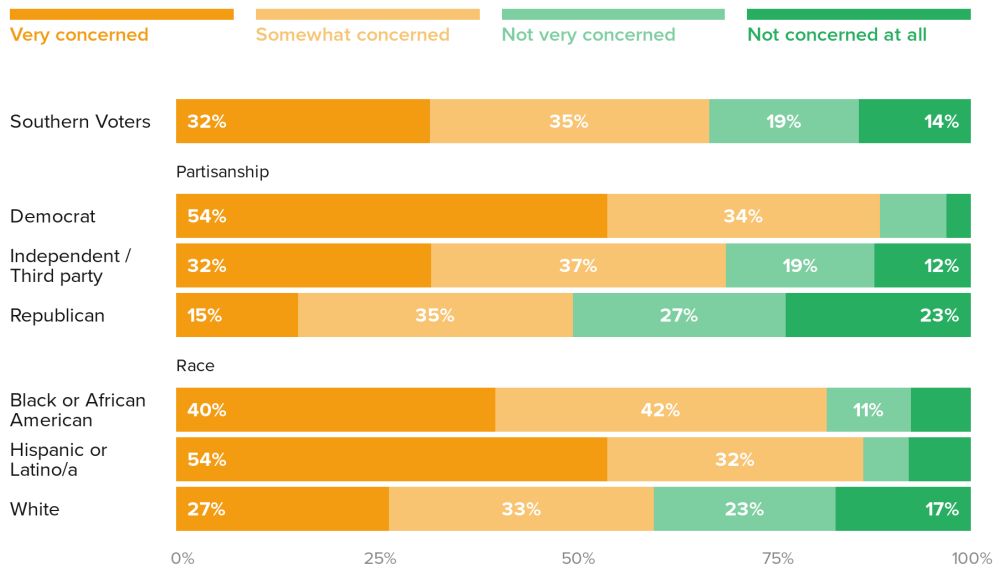
Southern Voters Concerned About Climate Change & Extreme Weather Events; Support Climate Action

As lawmakers in Congress debate key climate provisions in the Build Back Better Agenda, the Southern Economic Advancement Project ([SEAP](#)) and [Groundwork Collaborative](#) commissioned a survey of 2,222 registered voters in the Southern states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. In collaboration with Data for Progress, the poll finds that voters across the U.S. South strongly support climate action.

We find that more than two-thirds of voters in the South are concerned about climate change. This includes 88 percent of Democrats and 69 percent of Independents. Republicans, meanwhile, are split down the middle on the issue – 50 percent are concerned about climate change. We also see a difference in the level of concern among races. Compared to 60 percent of white voters, 86 percent of Hispanic voters, and 82 percent of Black voters say they are concerned about climate change.

A Majority of Southern Voters Are Concerned About Climate Change

How concerned are you about climate change?



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By a +45-point margin, voters said they agree that extreme weather events have worsened in the last five years (68 agree, 23 disagree). Across party identification, Democrats agreed with the statement by a +75-point margin, and Independents and Republicans said the same by margins of +41 and +24 points. Meanwhile, Black and Hispanic respondents agreed that extreme weather events have become more severe by margins of +61 points and +68 points, respectively, while white respondents agreed by a +37-point margin.

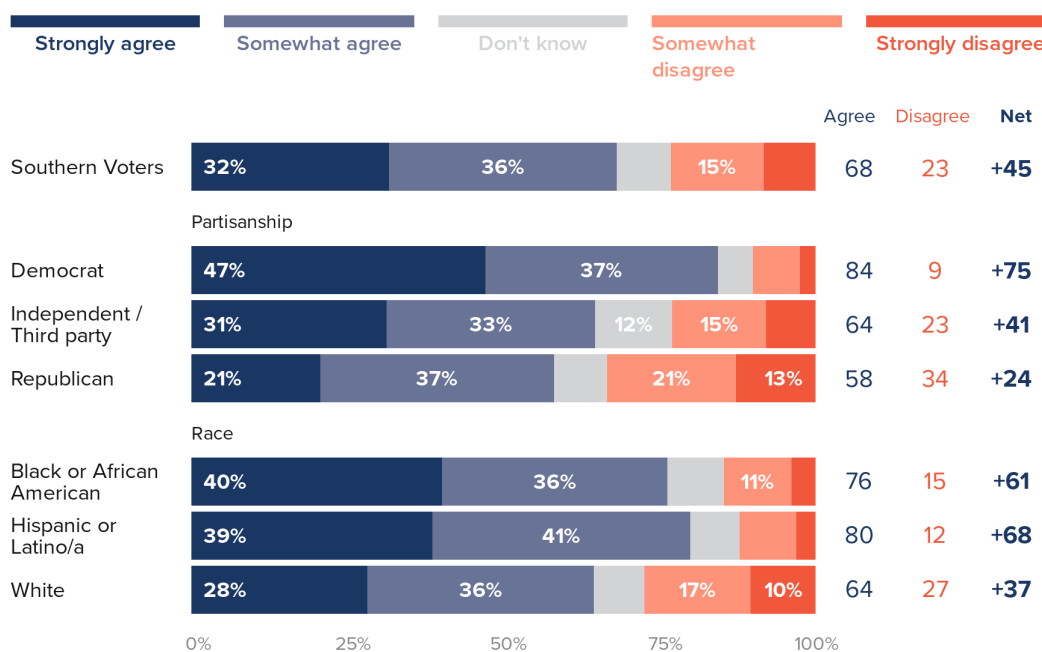
When asked whether lawmakers nationally were doing enough on climate change, a plurality of Southern voters said “No.” For each action listed, the greatest response was “not enough” action has been taken:

- Transitioning to clean energy sources like wind and solar;
- Investing in infrastructure that would help withstand the impacts of extreme weather events (e.g., heat waves, hurricanes, tornadoes);
- Creating good-paying jobs to modernize America’s energy sector; and
- Reducing carbon pollution or greenhouse gas emissions.

Additional poll results are available [here](#).

A Majority of Southern Voters Say Extreme Weather Events Have Become More Frequent or Extreme

Do you agree or disagree that extreme weather events have become more frequent or more severe in your community over the last five years?



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