

# NORTH CAROLINA VOTERS SUPPORT CLIMATE ACTION



## CLIMATE CHANGE RANKS AS A TOP ISSUE FOR NORTH CAROLINA VOTERS

Fifteen percent of North Carolina voters say climate change is one of the two most important issues to their vote for president this year. And more than six in 10 (61%) North Carolina voters say they are more likely to support a political candidate who backs the Green New Deal, defined as “a plan to significantly reduce carbon pollution and create jobs by spending billions of government dollars on infrastructure, wind and solar energy, and more efficient buildings and transportation systems.” Roughly seven in 10 also support ensuring protection of low-income and minority communities that are most vulnerable to climate change, pollution, and other environmental harm (70%) and providing federal assistance to help people relocate from areas made uninhabitable due to climate change impacts (68%).

## NORTH CAROLINA VOTERS CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND EXTREME WEATHER

More than seven in 10 (71%) say climate change is impacting extreme weather events in the U.S., including nearly half (46%) who say climate change has a large impact on extreme weather events, and fully seven in 10 (70%) say extreme weather events are a serious problem for their local area. In the last year, almost four in 10 (39%) say they or someone in their family has experienced anxiety about extreme weather events, and about three in 10 have had to

take time off from work (31%) or have experienced property damage or other economic hardships (26%) because of extreme weather. Three-quarters (75%) of North Carolina voters also support requiring new infrastructure projects in the U.S. to be built to withstand extreme weather events, even if it costs taxpayers more

## NORTH CAROLINIANS SUPPORT EXPANDING RENEWABLE ENERGY

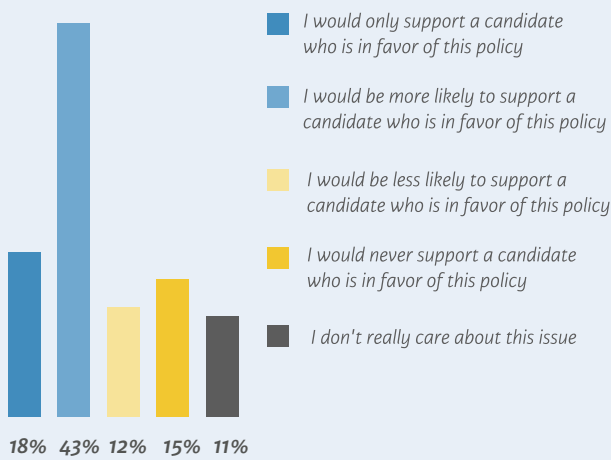
At least seven in 10 say developing more renewable energy should be the most important priority to address North Carolina’s (70%) and the country’s (72%) energy needs, as opposed to natural gas (8% and 7%, respectively) or nuclear energy (7% or 8%, respectively). Three-quarters (75%) of North Carolina voters support establishing a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) in their state requiring 100% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2050, and 76% support increasing government funding for renewable energy.

## CLOSE RACES FOR SENATE AND PRESIDENT

When asked who they would vote for if the election for U.S. Senate were held today, 46% of North Carolina voters say they would vote for the Democrat, while 43% say they would vote for the Republican, and 11% say they would vote for neither or a different candidate. The presidential race is similarly tight: Michael Bloomberg is at 47% to Trump's 41%, Bernie Sanders is at 47% to Trump's 43%, Joe Biden is at 46% to Trump's 44%, Pete Buttigieg is at 42% to Trump's 43%, Elizabeth Warren is at 43% to Trump's 45%, and Amy Klobuchar is at 40% to Trump's 43%.

*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 from February 11-15, 2020, of 675 registered voters in North Carolina. The margin of error for this survey is 3.9% at the 95% confidence level.*

**Q:** *Please indicate how likely you would be to support a candidate for political office who is in favor of The Green New Deal, a proposal to significantly reduce carbon pollution and create jobs by spending billions of government dollars on infrastructure, wind and solar energy, and more efficient buildings and transportation systems. If you don't care about this policy, just say so.*



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