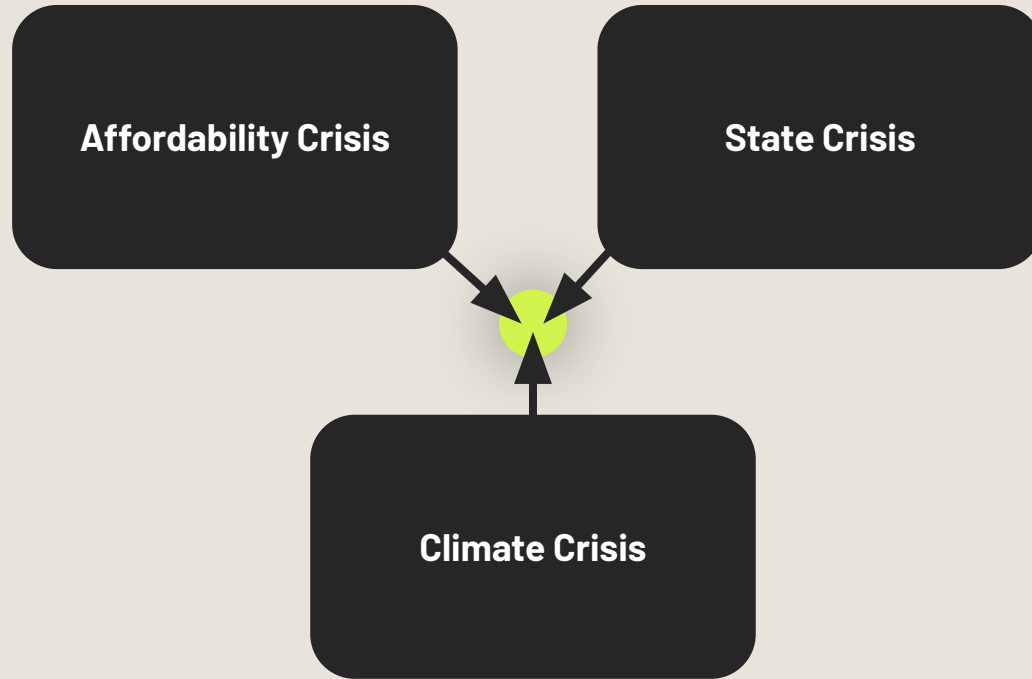


Stop Greed Build Green

A Working Class Climate Agenda

This Political Moment

We are encountering multiple, intersecting crises.



The time is right for a new approach

- Wars abroad are driving fuel prices ever higher
- State capacity is decimated and doesn't serve working people
- New technologies and unprecedented inequality are supercharging imbalanced power dynamics
- IRA was ambitious, but didn't reorient our economy to meet people's material needs *and* tackle the climate crisis



A Fresh Approach

The Climate-Cost Nexus

where environmental instability directly inflates costs for working people

**Energy
and Utilities**

**Food
and Health**

**Housing
and Insurance**

**Transportation
and Fuel**

Green Economic Populism (GEP)

An intellectual framework and political strategy for a new era of climate and economic urgency.

GEP recognizes that **the affordability crisis is not a temporary setback but a structural challenge that will be intensified by the climate crisis.**

Main message: We can reduce costs across the economy for working people if we stop depending on volatile fossil fuels.

Green Economic Populism (GEP)

GEP connects climate politics to economic issues that affect working people and builds a strong public sector. Policy interventions should be:

- **Green:** Improve working class lives through tangible climate policy that cuts carbon pollution and increases resilience;
- **Economic:** Grow working class agency by rapidly lowering costs, breaking up the oligarchy, investing in high-quality public goods, and creating good jobs; and
- **Populist:** Build working class power against the elites driving climate and economic crises.



A Working Class Climate Agenda must Deliver Fast

- Working families need to see immediate improvements in their lives.
- Policymakers should deliver tangible material benefits to build majority support for clean energy and green investments.



A Working Class Climate Agenda must Fight Greed

- Rein in the fossil fuel executives, tech barons, and corporate landlords who exploit and endanger working people.
- Hold private interests accountable to restructure the economy towards public protection and benefit.



A Working Class Climate Agenda must Build Public Sector Capacity

- The affordability crisis and the climate crisis share causes: an economy organized around extracting short-term returns from essentials at the expense of working people.
- Policymakers should push to build public institutions with the mandate, tools, and authority to improve people's lives and bring down emissions.



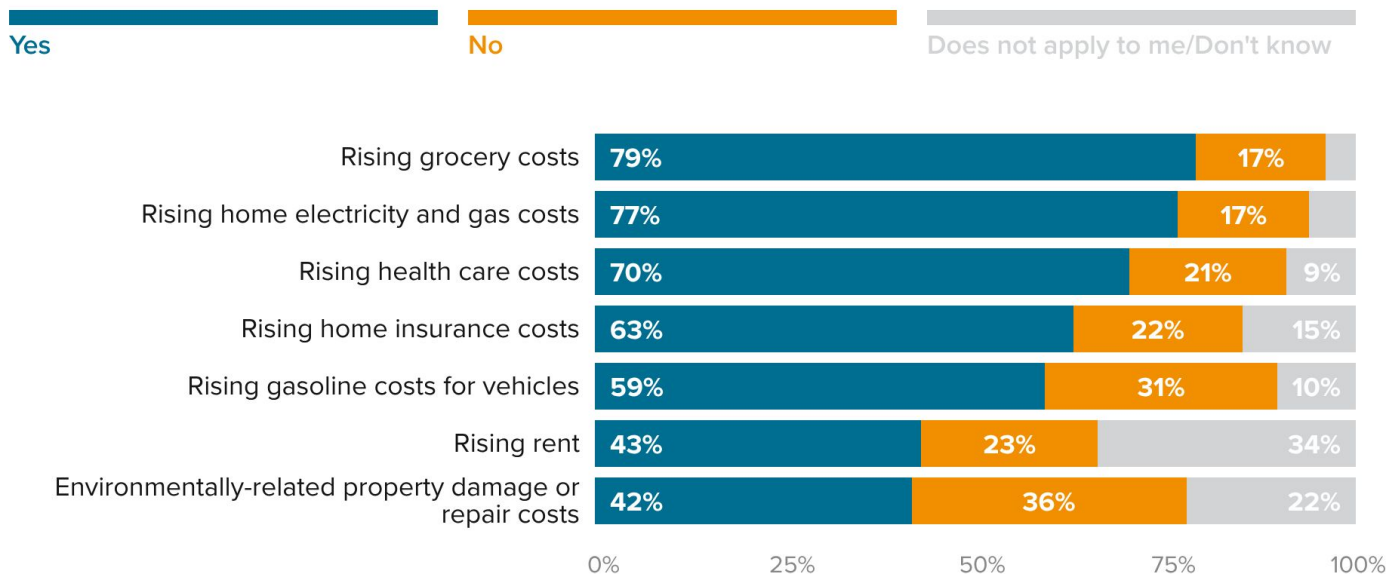
A Working Class Climate Agenda must Mobilize Investment at Scale

- The private sector is spending trillions on private returns, not public needs.
- Policymakers should seize the opportunity to shape where capital goes as the climate crisis increases in magnitude.



At Least 7 in 10 Voters Expect to Pay More for Groceries, Home Electricity and Gas, and Health Care in the Next Year

Do you expect you will experience any of the following costs rising over the **next year**?



Voters already report experiencing higher costs across many parts of their budget in the last year...

...and majorities expect to see higher prices for those same costs in the year ahead.

February 20–24, 2026 survey of 1,122 U.S. likely voters

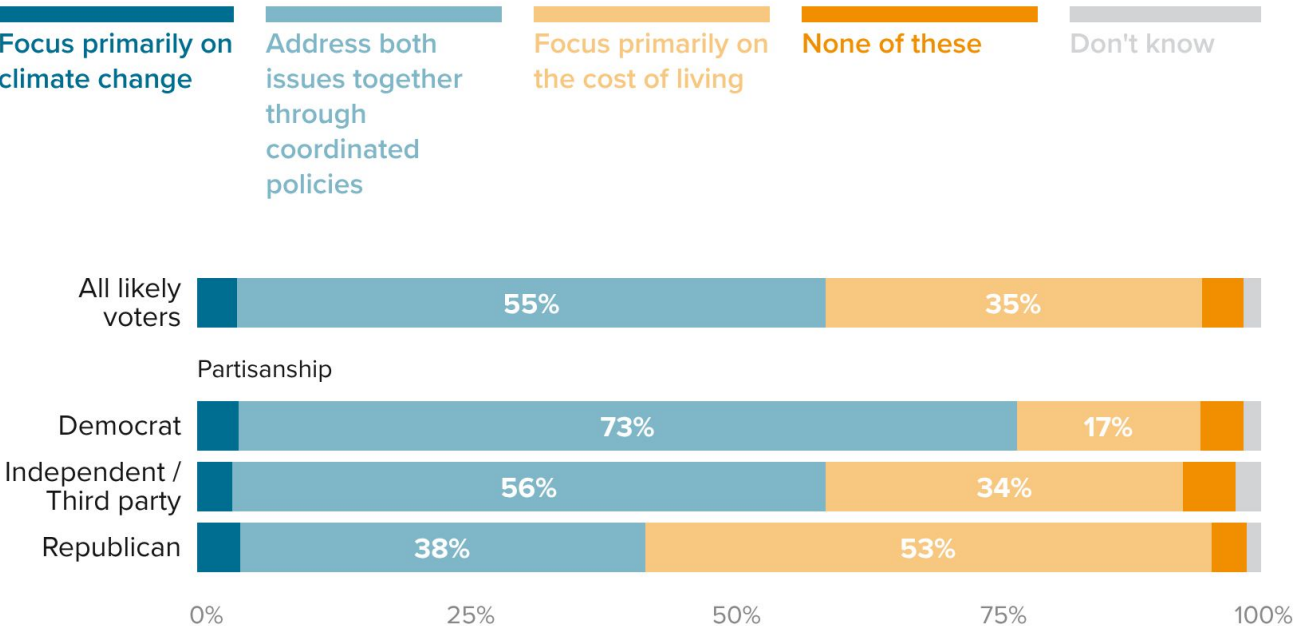
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Voters Want Elected Officials to Address the Rising Cost of Living and Climate Change Together via Coordinated Policies

When it comes to the rising cost of living and climate change, which approach would you prefer elected officials to take?

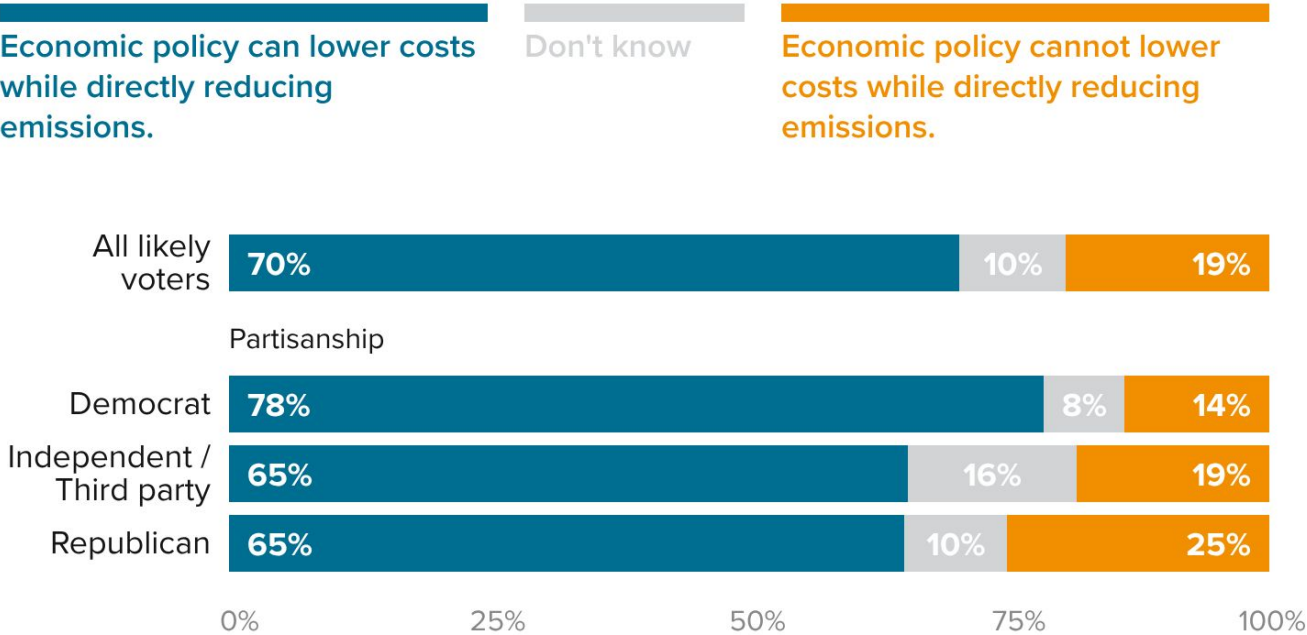


Fifty-five percent of voters want elected officials to address the rising cost of living and climate change together via coordinated policies.

This includes a majority of Democrats (73%) and Independents (56%).

7 in 10 Voters Think Economic Policy Can Both Lower Costs and Reduce Emissions

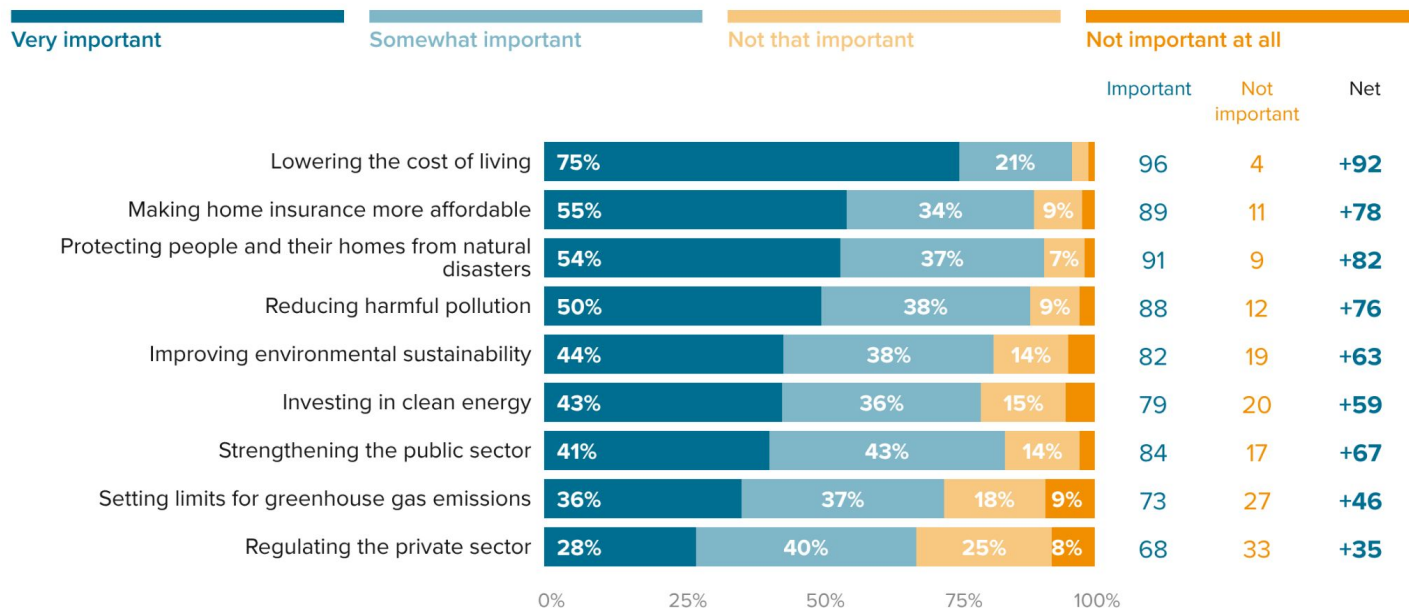
Which approach comes closer to your view?



A strong bipartisan majority of voters (70%) – including 78% of Democrats, 65% of Independents, and 65% of Republicans – think that economic policy can lower costs *while* directly reducing emissions.

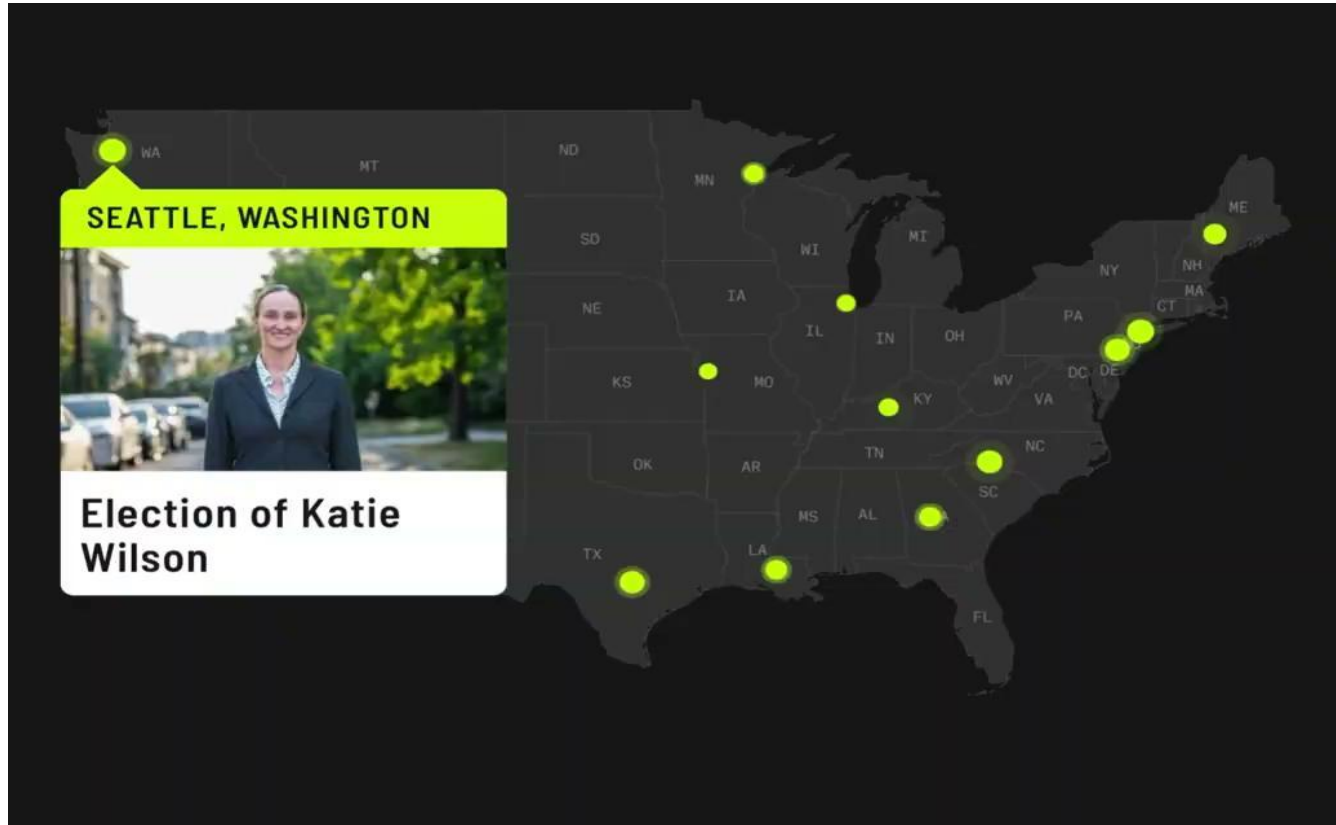
Voters Overwhelmingly Want Elected Officials to Take Action to Address the Rising Cost of Living

For each of the following priorities, please say how important it is to you that elected officials take action on this priority, if at all:



Overwhelming majorities of voters say it's important for elected officials to make home insurance more affordable (89%), protect people and homes from natural disasters (91%), and reduce harmful pollution (88%).

A Working Class Climate Agenda Wins



A Working Class Climate Agenda wins elections

- **New York City** and **Seattle**: Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Mayor Katie Wilson soared to historic victories by centering the intersection of climate action and everyday concerns, from fast and free buses to [renovating public schools](#) for decarbonization to [green social housing](#).
- **New Jersey**: Governor Mikie Sherrill ran on price controls for electricity against an opponent who was trying to block new clean energy projects and [declared](#) a state of emergency to freeze utility costs for families.
- **Georgia**: Two new public service commissioners [trounced the Republican incumbents](#) after campaigning on lowering utility bills, increasing clean energy, and enforcing more accountability on the state's utility.
- **North Carolina** and **Washington**: Voters approved new taxes to [fund](#) bike, sidewalk, and [public transportation](#) infrastructure.
- **Minnesota**: Voters approved a policy to make it easier for tenants to [repair](#) homes in the face of negligent landlords, which will pave the way for energy-efficiency upgrades.

Working class movements are building new political coalitions

- **Chicago:** the Chicago Teachers Union ratified a contract that includes [repairs and decarbonization investments](#), including upgrading HVAC equipment and installing heat pumps.
- **Missouri:** tenants with a local chapter of Kansas City Tenants went on an eight-month rent strike and [won](#) new in-unit electric HVAC systems to replace their gas boiler, utility reductions, and a rent increase cap.
- **Kentucky:** battery workers at the forefront of green innovation voted to [unionize](#) with the UAW, ensuring that workers have a powerful voice in the new green economy.
- **Maine:** mobile home park tenants are [organizing](#) for rent stabilization and working to get energy-efficiency improvements to their parks that would slash utility costs.

Green Economic Populism: Narrative Frameworks

Climate-Cost Nexus: Climate instability comes from depending on fossil fuels, which has and will continue to make everything—from electricity bills to home insurance—more expensive for everyone, especially working people.

- Define the narrative: Stating how things like extreme heat or disasters are going to raise bills and put the burden on working people.
- Identify the villains: Naming the private industries responsible for raising costs and/or profiting off of climate instability.
- Propose solutions: Identifies real models to bring the specific economic sector under public control in order to reduce costs, mobilize investment to offset costs on working people, and empower working people.

Green Economic Populism: Narrative Frameworks

Climate and “Affordability”: Affordability has quickly become the watchword of the midterms. Coverage of CCI’s GEP agenda has largely touched on the idea that climate action will be expensive for working people.

- Defining the narrative: The affordability crisis is a structural challenge that will be intensified by the climate crisis. Any attempt to solve or even to alleviate the affordability crisis must also address the climate crisis.
- Identify the villains: The Trump administration’s “Green New Scam” references, slashing regulations and public sector capacity, and keeping us dependent on fossil fuels will only make everyday life more expensive and dangerous in the short and long term.
- Propose solutions: There do not have to be tradeoffs between affordability and climate action in the medium and long term. Policies delivering immediate relief and instituting corporate regulations, paired with public sector buildout and massive investment, means that things can get less expensive and we can build what we need for abundant clean energy.

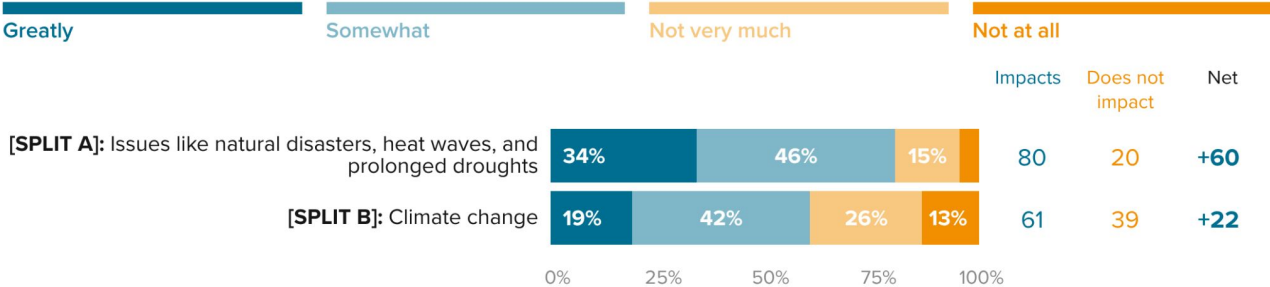
Green Economic Populism: Narrative Frameworks

Climate Populism: Key polling with Data for Progress revealed the majority of US voters have an interest in policies that alleviate both the cost of living crisis *and* climate crisis together. This, paired with extreme economic inequality, presents an opportunity point to embed climate policy in economic approaches.

- Define the narrative: Lift up the popularity of climate policy to show that climate can be a central part of an economic populist message.
- Identify the villains: People want solutions to their deep economic pain. Climate can—and has been—a part of that. Point to the actors and institutions raising prices, making people unhealthy, and hurting communities.
- Propose solutions: We can “earn” climate by connecting things like rising electricity prices around hyperscaler data centers to Big Tech’s corporate takeover of the electrical grid.

In a Split Test, Voters Say Extreme Weather and Climate Change Are Impacting the Rising Cost of Living

To what extent, if any, do you think [SPLIT A]/[SPLIT B] impacts the rising cost of living?

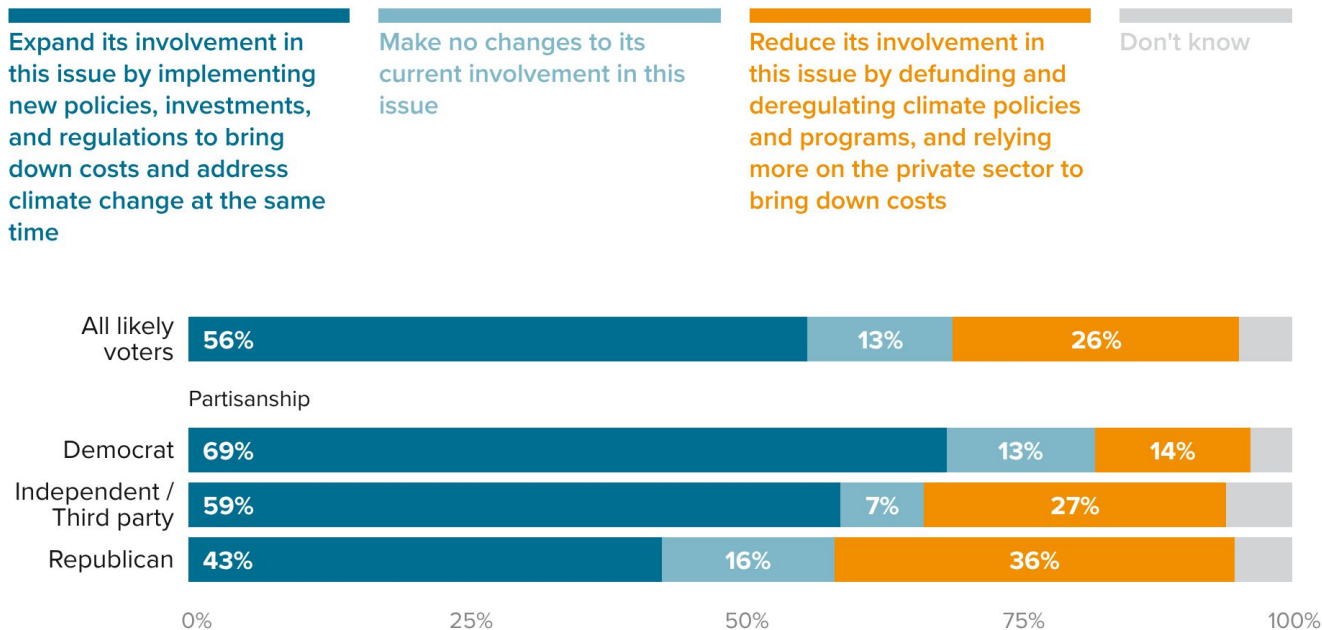


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In a split sample test, which randomized whether respondents saw the phrase “extreme weather” or “climate change,” 80% of respondents say extreme weather has had somewhat of an impact or has greatly impacted the rising cost of living, compared with only 61% who say the same about climate change.

A Majority of Voters Think the Government Should Do More on Climate Change and the Rising Cost of Living

When it comes to the rising cost of living and climate change, do you think the government should:



Fifty-six percent of voters want the government to expand its involvement on the issues of the rising cost of living and climate change via new policies, investments, and regulations.

This includes a majority of Democrats (69%) and Independents (59%).

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