

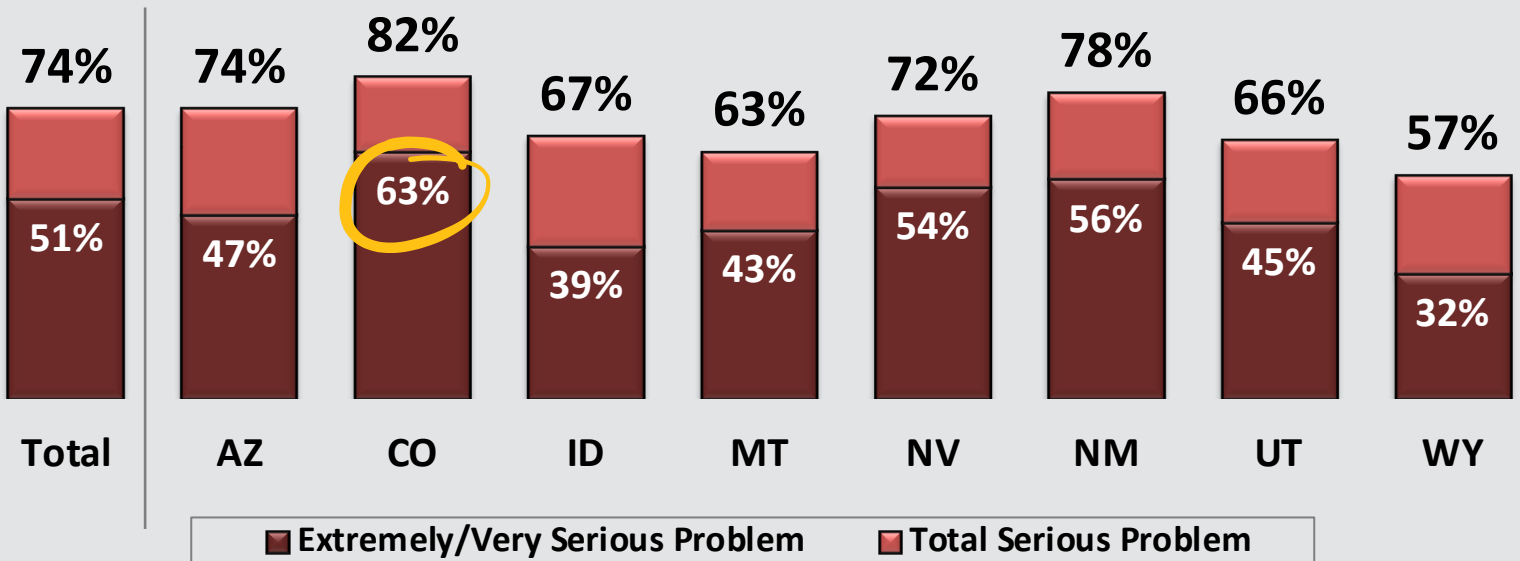
Climate Change in the West

Nearly three-quarters of Western voters say climate change is a serious problem, although they are more divided over who will be most affected by the impacts of a changing climate.



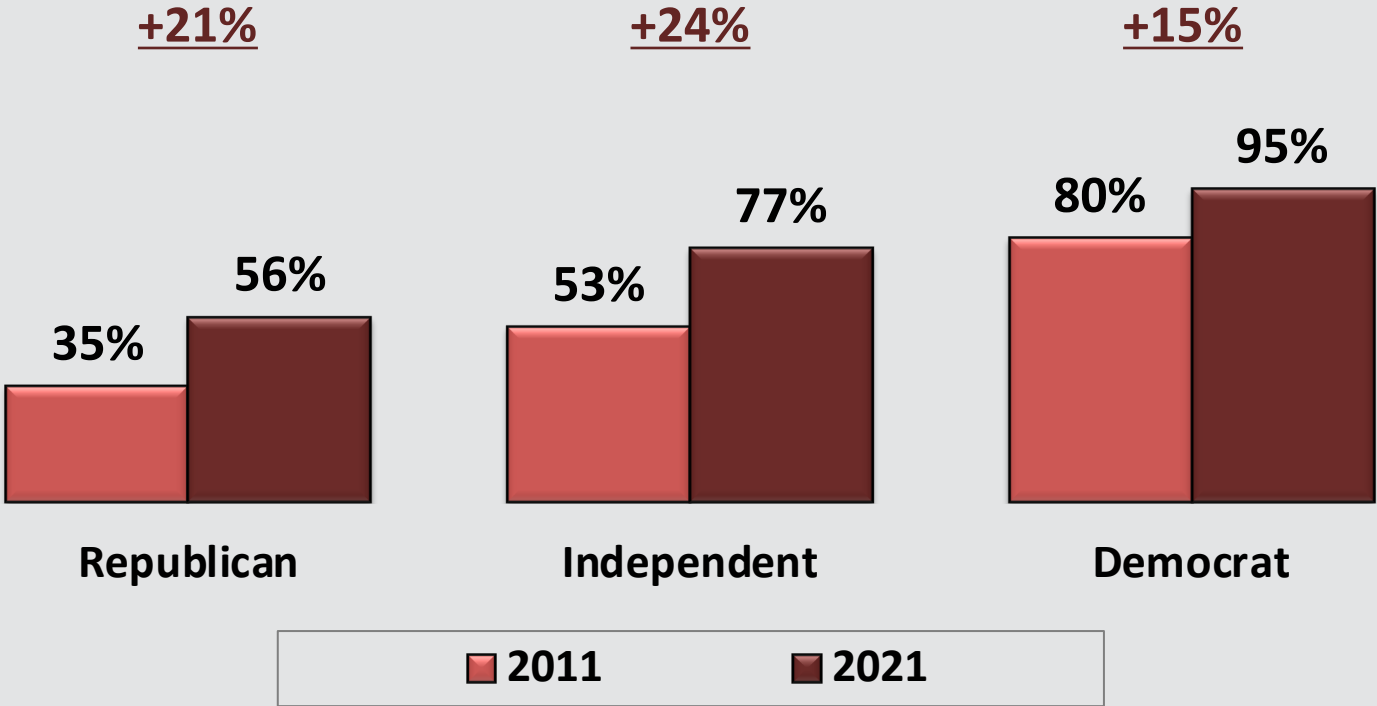
Overall, 74 percent of Western voters say climate change is a serious problem, with a majority classifying it as an “extremely” or “very” serious problem. A majority in every single state now says that climate change is at least a somewhat serious problem, including Wyoming (up from 46 percent last year). Coloradans, New Mexicans and Nevadans are most likely to view climate change as very serious.

Seriousness of Climate Change



The number of Westerners who see climate change as an extremely or very serious problem affecting their state has doubled in the past decade. A comparison of the five states that were interviewed in both 2011 and 2021 (CO, MT, NM, UT, & WY), reveals that twice as many voters see climate change as an extremely or very serious problem today (54 percent) than did in 2011 (27 percent). There has been a 20-point increase in those seeing it as at least a somewhat serious problem in that time (75 percent today, up from 55 percent in 2011 in these states). For the first time, Republican voters view climate change as a serious problem (56 percent).

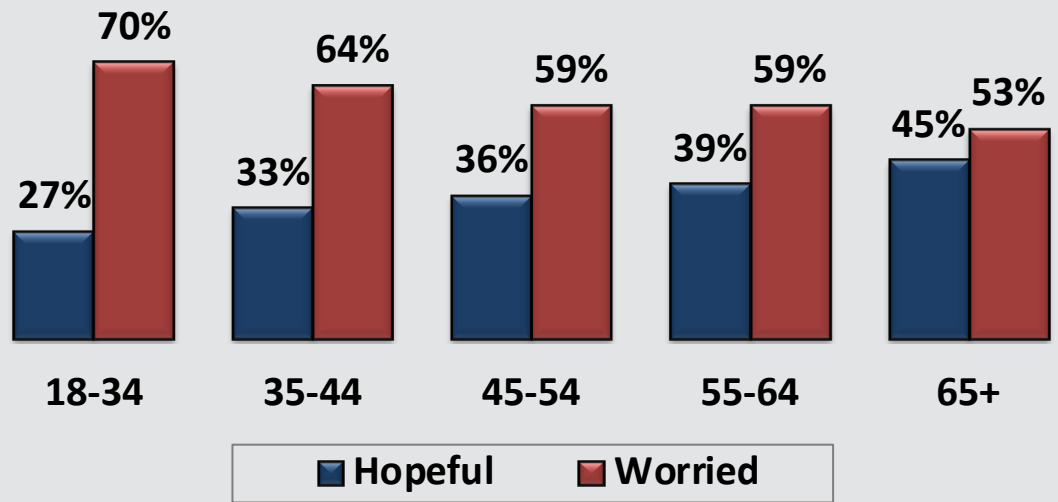
Seriousness of Climate Change - % Total Serious



Concern about climate change also bears a strong relationship to general concerns about the future of nature. Westerners are nearly twice as likely to say they are more “worried” (61 percent) about “the future of nature, meaning our land, water, air and wildlife” than say they are hopeful (36 percent). Those who say climate change is an extremely or very serious problem are far more pessimistic about the future of nature (24 percent hopeful; 74 percent worried) than the approximately one-in-four Westerners who do not believe climate change is a problem (56 percent hopeful; 40 percent worried).

Younger Westerners – who tend to be the subgroup most apt to say climate change is a serious problem facing their state (84 percent) – also tend to be more pessimistic about the future of nature.

Future of Nature by Age



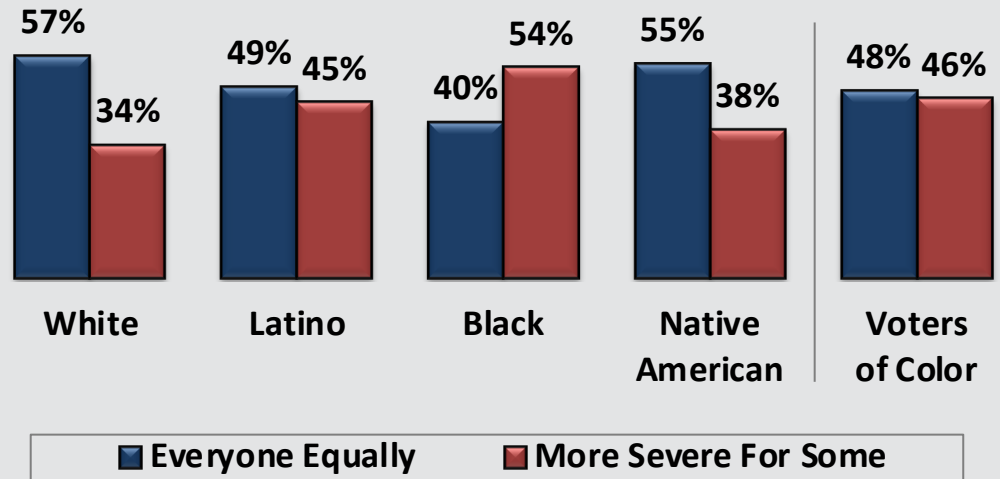
While there is growing agreement that climate change is a problem, Western voters are more divided in their perception of how the impacts of climate change will affect people. Respondents were asked to consider which statement came closer to their view in thinking about “the potential impacts of climate change, such as drought or wildfire.” A majority in every state say that these impacts will be more widespread.

Climate Change Impact by State

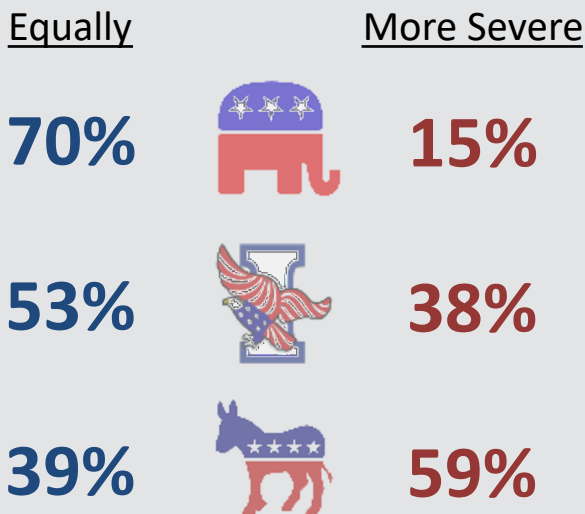
	Total	AZ	CO	ID	MT	NV	NM	UT	WY
The impacts will affect everyone equally	55%	53%	51%	58%	59%	55%	56%	60%	60%
The impacts will be more severe for lower-income people and communities of color	36%	36%	41%	31%	29%	37%	35%	35%	28%
Will not affect anyone	7%	9%	6%	8%	10%	7%	6%	4%	8%

Climate Change Impact by Ethnicity

There are some clear distinctions in views of this issue based on race and ethnic background. As the adjacent chart depicts, a majority of Black voters foresee the impacts of climate change being more severe for lower-income and communities of color, while Latino voters are evenly divided.



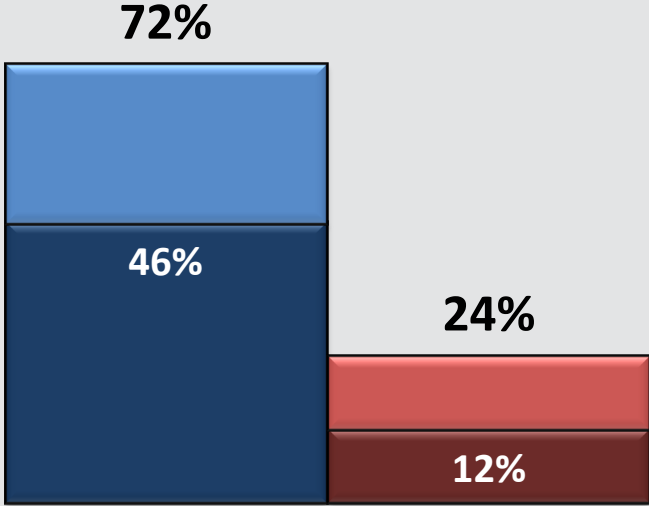
Climate Change Impact by Party



There is also a dramatic partisan distinction, with a majority of Democrats more likely to predict that the impacts of climate change will be more severe for some communities. Conversely, Western Republicans squarely believe the effects will be felt equally, if at all, while Independent voters lean towards the effects being felt by everyone.

More than seven-in-ten Western voters support a policy to ensure that national public lands are a net-zero source of carbon pollution. Fully 72 percent overall and a majority of voters in every state support “making public lands a net-zero source of carbon pollution, meaning that the positive impacts of forests and lands to create clean air are greater than the carbon pollution caused by oil and gas development or mining.” The net-zero policy has broad-based support, even registering majority support among conservatives and Trump voters (51 percent of each are in support). Support is particularly high among such “swing” voter sub-groups as Latinos (81 percent support), younger voters under age 45 (79 percent), suburban voters (74 percent), and middle-class women (81 percent).

Public Lands Net-Zero Carbon Pollution



- Strongly Support ■ Total Support
- Strongly Oppose ■ Total Oppose

