

TO: EDF Action

FR: Morning Consult

DT: September 16, 2020

RE: Results: Voter Perceptions on Recent Wildfires

Morning Consult conducted a survey, on behalf of EDF Action, between September 11th – September 14th, 2020 among a national sample of 400 Arizona Registered Voters. The interviews were conducted online. Results from the survey have a margin error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

The survey sought to measure concern over and perceptions of harm from recent wildfires and extreme weather, as well as connections between these events and climate change more broadly.

KEY FINDINGS

Four in five Arizona voters (80%) say they're concerned about the wildfires and heat waves affecting large parts of the U.S.

Specifically, 90% of independent (swing) voters and 80% of Republican voters in Arizona say they're concerned (somewhat + very concerned) about wildfires. In addition, 81% of independent (swing) voters and 68% of Republican voters in Arizona say they're concerned about heat waves.

Three quarters of Arizona voters (76%) say recent weather events like wildfires have made them more concerned about the impacts of climate change.

Concern about the impacts of climate change among Arizona voters span party, with majorities of Democrats (90%) independents (78%) and Republicans (56%) in the state all saying they're more concerned (somewhat + much more concerned) about the impacts of climate change.

Concern About Impacts of Climate Change	
% Total More Concerned (much + somewhat)	Impacts of climate change
Arizona Voters	76%
Arizona Democrats	90%
Arizona Independents (swing)	78%
Arizona Republicans	56%
Swing Trump Job Approval	75%
Arizona Trump 2016 Voters	60%
Arizona Voters ages 18-34	82%
Arizona Baby Boomers	74%

Three in five Trump 2016 voters in Arizona (60%) say they're more concerned about the impacts of climate change, as do 75% of Arizona Trump job approval swing voters. Concern also spans generations, with 82% of AZ voters ages 18-34 and 74% of AZ Baby Boomers saying events like wildfires have made them *more concerned* about the impacts of climate change.

A majority of Arizona voters say both wildfires (86%) and heat waves (75%) have become more frequent in the past 3-5 years.

Frequency of Wildfires and Heat Waves		
% Total more frequent (somewhat + much more)	Wildfires	Heat Waves
Arizona Voters	86%	75%
Arizona Democrats	90%	89%
Arizona Independents (swing)	86%	82%
Arizona Republicans	81%	56%
Arizona Trump 2016 Voters	82%	61%
Arizona Swing Trump Job Approval	84%	66%
Arizona Voters Ages 18-34	90%	65%
Arizona Baby Boomers	86%	79%

Swing voters also take note of the frequency of these weather events, with 86% of Arizona independent voters saying wildfires have become more frequent, and 82% saying heat waves have become more frequent in the past 3-5 years. Additionally, Arizona Trump job approval swing voters (somewhat approve + somewhat disapprove) say wildfires (84%) and heat waves (66%) have become more frequent.

A majority of Arizona voters also say that both wildfires (84%) and heat waves (76%) have become more extreme in the past 3-5 years.

Extremity of Wildfires and Heat Waves		
% Total more extreme (somewhat + much more)	Wildfires	Heat Waves
Arizona Voters	84%	76%
Arizona Democrats	88%	88%
Arizona Independents (swing)	88%	78%
Arizona Republicans	79%	62%
Arizona Trump 2016 Voters	81%	68%
Arizona Swing Trump Job Approval	84%	66%
Arizona Voters Ages 18-34	91%	69%
Arizona Baby Boomers	85%	83%

Swing voters in Arizona, including 88% of independent (swing) voters and 84% of Trump job approval swing voters (somewhat approve + somewhat disapprove) say wildfires have become more extreme in recent years. Additionally, 78% of independent (swing) voters and 68% of Trump 2016 voters in Arizona say heat waves have become more extreme.