LATINOS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

EDWARD D. VARGAS, PHD, MPH
SENIOR ANALYST - LATINO DECISIONS

March 2020
Climate Change in Battleground States

- Exit polling has increasingly come under fire for not providing an accurate and representative sample of all voters in a state or district.

- Since 2016 we have been working with the Environmental Defense Action Fund and other partners to provide more accurate data on how Latino/a communities and environmental issues...
Background: Latinos and the Environment

- Long-standing assumptions regarding disinterest in environmental issues among working class and communities of color;
- More recent research suggests just the opposite, that Latinos care deeply about the environment and specifically about experiencing climate change;
- In this study, we explore the depth of these concerns and support for policy action in battleground states.
Data and Methodology

- Arizona (n=500, margin of error +/-4.5), Florida (n=560), margin of error +/-4.3
- Completed interviews by landline, cell and on-line with Latino registered voters in English and Spanish at respondent’s discretion; March 2020
- Respondents are extreme-high-propensity voters screened on vote history, or newly registered, and queried self-report of intention to vote (or having voted).
- Randomly drawn from representative statewide sample, and then weighted to match census demographics
Take-Aways from Arizona

- In Arizona, 73% of respondents said it was very or extremely important that the next President and new Congress take steps to pass legislation to aggressively combat the climate crisis, with 54% of likely voters saying this is extremely important.

- 61% of Latino voters in Arizona said they have experienced the impacts of climate change in the past 5 years.

- 81% of respondents said they are more likely to support a candidate who wants to invest in clean energy compared to a candidate who wants to expand drilling.
Take-Aways from Florida

- In Florida, 73% of respondents said it was very or extremely important that the next President and new Congress take steps to pass legislation to aggressively combat global warming or climate change.

- 63% of Latino voters in Florida said they have experienced the impacts of climate change in the past 5 years.

- 81% of respondents said they are much more or somewhat more likely to support a candidate who wants to invest in clean energy compared to a candidate who wants to expand drilling.
Arizona
Climate change is often associated with extreme weather patterns such as deadly heat waves in some areas and frequent or more intense storms and flooding in other areas. Have you experienced the effects of climate change in your state?

Nov 1-5, 2018, margin of error +/-5.65 percentage points; n=300;
March 2020, margin of error +/-4.5 percentage points; n=500
Comparing 2016 vs 2018 vs 2020, AZ

How important do you think it is that the new Congress take steps to pass legislation to aggressively combat global warming or climate change?

- Extremely important: 49% (2016), 50% (2018), 41% (2020)
- Very important: 34% (2016), 33% (2018), 23% (2020)
- Somewhat important: 15% (2016), 12% (2018), 19% (2020)
- Not really important: 4% (2016), 4% (2018), 4% (2020)
- Not at all important: 3% (2016), 2% (2018), 3% (2020)
- Don’t know: 3% (2016), 1% (2018), 1% (2020)

Nov 4-7, 2016, margin of error +/-4.9 percentage points; N=400;
Nov 1-5, 2018, margin of error +/-5.65 percentage points; n=300;
March 2020, margin of error +/-4.5 percentage points; n=500
Comparing 2016 vs 2018 vs 2020, AZ

How important do you think it is that the new Congress take steps to reduce smog and air pollution?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance Level</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely important</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not really important</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all important</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nov 4-7, 2016, margin of error +/-4.9 percentage points; N=400; Nov 1-5, 2018, margin of error +/-5.65 percentage points; n=300; March 2020, margin of error +/-4.5 percentage points; n=500
Thinking about elections for the U.S. Congress, are you more likely to support: A candidate who wants to reduce carbon pollution and invest money in clean energy sources, OR A candidate who wants to expand oil drilling, shale fracking and coal mining?

- Don’t know: 2% (2020), 8% (2018), 12% (2016)
- Same / Neither / No difference: 2% (2020), 6% (2018), 12% (2016)
- Much more likely expand drilling, fracking, and mining candidate: 2% (2020), 5% (2018), 7% (2016)
- Somewhat more support expand drilling, fracking, and mining candidate: 3% (2020), 7% (2018), 5% (2016)
- Somewhat more support reduce pollution and invest in clean energy candidate: 23% (2020), 24% (2018), 22% (2016)
- Much more support reduce pollution and invest in clean energy candidate: 58% (2020), 57% (2018), 57% (2016)

Nov 4-7, 2016, margin of error +/-4.9 percentage points; N=400;
Nov 1-5, 2018, margin of error +/-5.65 percentage points; n=300;
March 2020, margin of error +/-4.5 percentage points; n=500
Florida
### Personal Experiences with Climate Change, FL

Climate change is often associated with extreme weather patterns such as deadly heat waves in some areas and frequent or more intense storms and flooding in other areas. Have you experienced the effects of climate change in your state?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, within the last year</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, within the last 2-5 years</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, over 5 years ago</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, have not experienced any</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nov 1-5, 2018, margin of error +/-5.65 percentage points; n=300; March 2020, margin of error +/-4.3 percentage points; n=560
Comparing 2016 vs 2018 vs 2020, FL

How important do you think it is that the new Congress take steps to pass legislation to aggressively combat global warming or climate change?

![Bar chart showing percentage of responses for 2016, 2018, and 2020.

- Extremely important: 47% (2016), 47% (2018), 42% (2020)
- Very important: 38% (2016), 28% (2018), 26% (2020)
- Somewhat important: 17% (2016), 15% (2018), 15% (2020)
- Not really important: 6% (2016), 3% (2018), 3% (2020)
- Not at all important: 8% (2016), 3% (2018), 3% (2020)
- Don’t know: 1% (2016), 1% (2018), 1% (2020)

Nov 4-7, 2016, margin of error +/-4.9 percentage points; N=400;
Nov 1-5, 2018, margin of error +/-5.65 percentage points; n=300;
March 2020, margin of error +/-4.3 percentage points; n=560

Latino Decisions
Comparing 2016 vs 2018 vs 2020, FL

How important do you think it is that the new Congress take steps to reduce smog and air pollution?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance Level</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely important</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not really important</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all important</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nov 4-7, 2016, margin of error +/-4.9 percentage points; N=400;
Nov 1-5, 2018, margin of error +/-5.65 percentage points; n=300;
March 2020, margin of error +/-4.3 percentage points; n=560
Thinking about elections for the U.S. Congress, are you more likely to support: A candidate who wants to reduce carbon pollution and invest money in clean energy sources, OR A candidate who wants to expand oil drilling, shale fracking and coal mining?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Same / Neither / No difference</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much more likely expand drilling, fracking, and mining candidate</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat more support expand drilling, fracking, and mining candidate.</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat more support reduce pollution and invest in clean energy candidate</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Much more support reduce pollution and invest in clean energy candidate.</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nov 4-7, 2016, margin of error +/-4.9 percentage points; N=400;
Nov 1-5, 2018, margin of error +/-5.65 percentage points; n=300;
March 2020, margin of error +/-4.3 percentage points; n=560
Final Take-Aways

- Arizona and Florida are critical states with large Latino populations. These voters care about climate change, and are demanding that their elected officials take bold action.