



# CRESFORUM

## GREEN NEW DEAL SURVEY

**A Majority of Voters Agree Republicans in Congress Should Lead on Solutions to Reduce Carbon Emissions**

### Introduction

The following key findings are based on results from a study conducted on behalf of CRES Forum from February 15-18, 2019. This survey was fielded among n=1,041 likely voters nationwide and has a margin of error of +/- 3.1%. Interviews were collected through online research via a random sample of likely voters. The sample was stratified based on gender, age, ethnicity and geography.

The following memorandum reports an overview of findings from a new national study conducted on behalf of CRES Forum among likely voters, with insights ranging on awareness and opinion of the Green New Deal, to climate change, clean energy, and whether Republicans should offer their own set of policy solutions for climate and clean energy related issues.

As this survey data evidences, there is not only an opening – but political value – for Republicans to prepare a conservative based, reasonable, and realistic set of policy solutions that address increased concern about climate amidst a growing embracement of clean energy. As voters agree that clean and renewable energy sources will have a positive economic impact on our job market, while supporting at majority levels market driven solutions versus government mandates, this survey data further bolsters an opportunity for Republicans to communicate with conservative, moderate, and independent voters on an issue set that is both growing in awareness and concern.

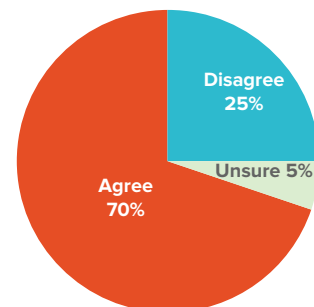
### Key Findings

#### ***A majority agree Republicans in Congress should present solutions to reduce carbon emissions***

Seven in ten likely voters (70%) agree Republicans in Congress should present their own set of solutions to reduce carbon emissions.

- Indeed, majorities of voters across key demographic breaks and political partisanship agree Republicans should offer their own policy agenda on this issue set.
- At equal levels, Republicans (68%), Independents (69%) and Democrats (73%) are in agreement that GOP members of Congress should present their own plan. This is further bolstered by Republican women (72%) and Independent women (70%).

**Do you agree or disagree that Republicans in Congress should present their own set of solutions to reduce carbon emissions?**



#### ***National awareness of the Green New Deal is soft, but favorable among those with an opinion***

Two in five likely voters (41%) have seen, read or heard a lot (17%) or just some (24%) about the Green New Deal. In contrast, a majority of nearly six out of ten (57%) have not heard much (26%) or have heard nothing at all (31%) about the Democrats proposed plan to address climate change.

- There is no split by partisan breaks among those who do have a soft awareness of the Green New Deal (GOP: 42%, Independents: 43%, Democrats: 40%). Nor is there any break among either Trump (46%) or Clinton voters (46%) from 2016.

Among voters who have heard either a lot or just some about the Green New Deal, more than half currently have a favorable impression of it (54%). In contrast, 43% have an unfavorable opinion. Just 2% are unsure.

- Notably, the majority of voters who have a favorable impression of the Green New Deal are driven by voters from the middle and left of the partisan spectrum, including more women than men and voters with higher levels of education. Those leading the favorable score for the Green New Deal are women (68%), women ages 18-54 (70%) and women ages 55+ (65%), Independents (54%), Democrats (89%), those who identify as moderate (55%) or liberal (91%), college graduates (57%), voters with a post graduate degree (65%), Independent women (65%) and Democrat women (93%).
- As expected, those with an unfavorable impression of the Green New Deal are right-leaning voters, and more men than women. Those leading the unfavorable score for the Green New Deal policy agenda are driven by men (54%), men ages 55+ (59%), Republicans (77%) and conservatives (81%).

### **Green New Deal impacting the perceived importance of climate change**

Nearly equal numbers of voters think the Green New Deal has made climate change more important (42%) or has had no difference in their view of the issue (39%). These figures outpace by a two to one margin those who say the Green New Deal has made climate change less important (18%).

- Voters who say the Green New Deal has made climate change more important of an issue that our nation must address are led by the following key demographics: women (50%), younger voters ages 18-34 (56%), women ages 18-54 (49%), women ages 55+ (51%), Democrats (74%), voters who self-identify as moderate (44%) and voters with a high school education or less (50%).

### **Views on climate evolving, strong majorities believe human impact has an effect**

Voters are split on whether their views on climate change have adjusted over the past few years. Half (48%) say their personal views have evolved a lot (25%) or just some (23%). Another half (52%) report no change (25%) or not too much change (26%) in their views.

- The following table reports changes in personal opinion on climate change by partisan breaks:

	A Lot / Just Some	Not Too Much / Not at All
Republicans	37%	62%
Independents	48%	52%
Democrats	58%	42%

Nearly eight out of ten voters (78%) think human impact causes climate change. Twenty percent (20%) do not think human impact has an effect, and just 2% are unsure.

- The following table reports opinions by partisan breaks as to whether human impact causes climate change. Of note, a majority of Republicans (62%) think human impact has an effect along with nearly eight out of ten Independents (79%).

	Yes	No
Republicans	62%	37%
Independents	79%	17%
Democrats	93%	7%

### **Voters support government action on emissions, prefer a free-market approach and embrace economic benefits for the use of clean energy**

Nearly three quarters of all voters (73%) support the federal government passing legislation that would reduce the emissions of gases such as carbon dioxide and methane that impact global climate change. This is a consistent trend as evidenced through several CRES and CRES Forum related surveys measuring public opinion on government action and reducing emissions.

- Support for government action is at majority levels across partisan breaks (GOP: 53%, Independent: 76%, Democrat: 89%).
- There is also majority support among both men (69%) and women (77%).

Seven in ten (67%) prefer government legislation that incentivizes the market to accelerate clean energy versus a comprehensive program that is run by the government (17%). Another 16% are unsure.

- There are equal levels of support for incentivizing the market to accelerate clean energy by voters among political party (GOP: 67%, Independent: 70%, Democrat: 66%).
- Support for free-market solutions are also at equal levels among men (66%) and women (68%).

Another seven out of ten (70%) agree that increasing our use of clean and renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, will create jobs and encourage economic development.

- Majority levels of voters among Republicans (49%). Independents (73%) and Democrats (85%) think increasing the use of clean and renewables will improve our nation's job market and economy.
- Similarly, a majority of men (67%) and women (73%) think the use of more clean energy will grow our national economy.

## Methodology

The above key findings are based on results from a study conducted on behalf of CRES Forum from February 15-18, 2019. This survey was fielded among n=1,041 likely voters nationwide and has a margin of error of +/- 3.1%. Interviews were collected through online research via a random sample of likely voters. The sample was stratified based on gender, age, ethnicity and geography.



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