

Poll Findings About Black Americans & Climate/Environment

Poll Findings About Black Americans & Climate/Environment	1
Attitudes About Climate and Environmental Issues	2
Black voters overwhelmingly support climate action.	2
Most Black Americans recognize pollution as a day-to-day problem in their communities.	2
Pollution tends to resonate with Black voters even more than climate change, though both of these issues are clearly important.	2
Pollution of drinking water in particular is a high-priority concern for Black Americans.	2
Attitudes About Environmental Justice	3
Black Americans recognize the disproportionate impacts of climate change on communities of color.	3
More than other groups, Black Americans see a clear role for the government in addressing unequal environmental and climate impacts across communities.	3
As with other groups, there is a large gap between Black Americans' support for climate justice goals and their familiarity with "environmental justice" or "climate justice" as terms.	3
Black Americans overwhelmingly support specific justice-related policies.	4
Climate and the Environment in the 2024 Election	4
Black Americans overwhelmingly support the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) when they learn about it, but few are hearing about it.	4
The Biden administration's actions on infrastructure, clean water, air pollution, and lead are particularly important to Black voters, as is the administration's commitment to justice.	4
Contrast messaging about climate change and the environment extends Biden's advantage with Black voters in battleground states.	5
Charts	6
Additional Resources	8

Attitudes About Climate and Environmental Issues

Black voters overwhelmingly support climate action.

- Four in five Black voters (82%) agree that “the U.S. government should take strong action to combat climate change,” compared to two-thirds of voters overall (67%). [[Global Strategy Group](#), Apr. 2023]

Most Black Americans recognize pollution as a day-to-day problem in their communities.

- Compared to the national average, Black Americans are much more likely to say that each of the following are “big” or “moderate” problems in their local community: [[Pew](#), June 2023]
 - Air pollution (68%, compared to 51% of all U.S. adults)
 - Pollution of lakes, rivers and streams (64%, compared to 54% of all U.S. adults)
 - Safety of drinking water (62%, compared to 42% of all U.S. adults)

Pollution tends to resonate with Black voters even more than climate change, though both of these issues are clearly important.

- Black voters are more likely to name “air and water pollution” than any other problem when asked to choose the most important issue related to climate change, energy, and the environment. [[Climate Power + Data for Progress](#), Mar. 2024]
- More than three-quarters of Black voters say that they are concerned about both air and water pollution (78%) and climate change (78%) in their communities. [[Data for Progress](#), Jan. 2024]
 - Half of Black voters (50%) further say that they are “very” concerned about air and water pollution, while 45% say that they are “very” concerned about climate change.

Pollution of drinking water in particular is a high-priority concern for Black Americans.

- Three-quarters of Black Americans (76%) said that they worried “a great deal” about pollution of drinking water in Gallup surveys conducted between 2019 and 2023, compared to 56% of all U.S. adults. [[Gallup](#), May 2023]

Attitudes About Environmental Justice

Black Americans recognize the disproportionate impacts of climate change on communities of color.

- Roughly three-quarters of Black Americans (74%, compared to 56% of all Americans) agree that communities of color “are often disproportionately impacted by climate disasters, experiencing higher rates of pollution and negative health outcomes.” [[We Make the Future](#), Aug. 2023]

More than other groups, Black Americans see a clear role for the government in addressing unequal environmental and climate impacts across communities.

- The majority of Black Americans (63%, compared to 46% of all U.S. adults) say that the federal government should have a “major role” in addressing differences across communities in their health risks from pollution and other environmental problems. [[Pew](#), June 2023]
- Most Black Americans (60%, compared to 41% of all U.S. adults) agree more with a statement that “we should prioritize communities of color, which are most often affected by climate disasters” over a competing statement that “we should not allow preferential treatment for any community.” [[We Make the Future](#), Aug. 2023]

As with other groups, there is a large gap between Black Americans’ support for climate justice goals and their familiarity with “environmental justice” or “climate justice” as terms.

- Seven in ten Black Americans (70%, compared to 53% of all U.S. adults) say that they support the *goals* of the climate justice movement after learning about it, but few Black Americans (12%) or U.S. adults overall (18%) say that they have heard “some” or more about “climate justice.” [[Yale + GMU](#), Apr. 2023]
- Only 13% of Black voters say that they have heard “a lot” about environmental justice, while roughly two in five Black voters (41%), and nearly half of voters overall (46%) say that they have heard “nothing at all” about it. [[Data for Progress](#), Jan. 2024]

Black Americans overwhelmingly support specific justice-related policies.

- Specific justice-related policies tend to attract broad support, and are particularly popular among Black Americans. For example, roughly nine in ten Black Americans support each the following policies: [[Yale + GMU](#), Apr. 2023]
 - Creating more parks and green spaces in low-income communities and communities of color (94% support among Black Americans, compared to 82% among all U.S. adults)
 - Increasing federal funding to low-income communities and communities of color who are disproportionately harmed by air and water pollution (92%, compared to 72% of all U.S. adults)
 - Developing a national program to train people from low-income communities and communities of color for new jobs in the renewable energy industry, such as wind and solar (89%, compared to 76% of all U.S. adults)
 - Providing federal funding to make residential buildings in low-income communities more energy efficient (89%, compared to 76% of all U.S. adults)
 - Strengthening enforcement of industrial pollution limits in low-income communities and communities of color that are disproportionately impacted by air and water pollution (87%, compared to 77% of all U.S. adults)

Climate and the Environment in the 2024 Election

Black Americans overwhelmingly support the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) when they learn about it, but few are hearing about it.

- An analysis by Yale and George Mason based on data collected in December 2022 found that Black Americans ranked among the *most* likely groups to support the IRA after learning about it (78% support) but among the *least* likely to have heard about it (27%). [[Yale + GMU](#), Dec. 2022]

The Biden administration's actions on infrastructure, clean water, air pollution, and lead are particularly important to Black voters, as is the administration's commitment to justice.

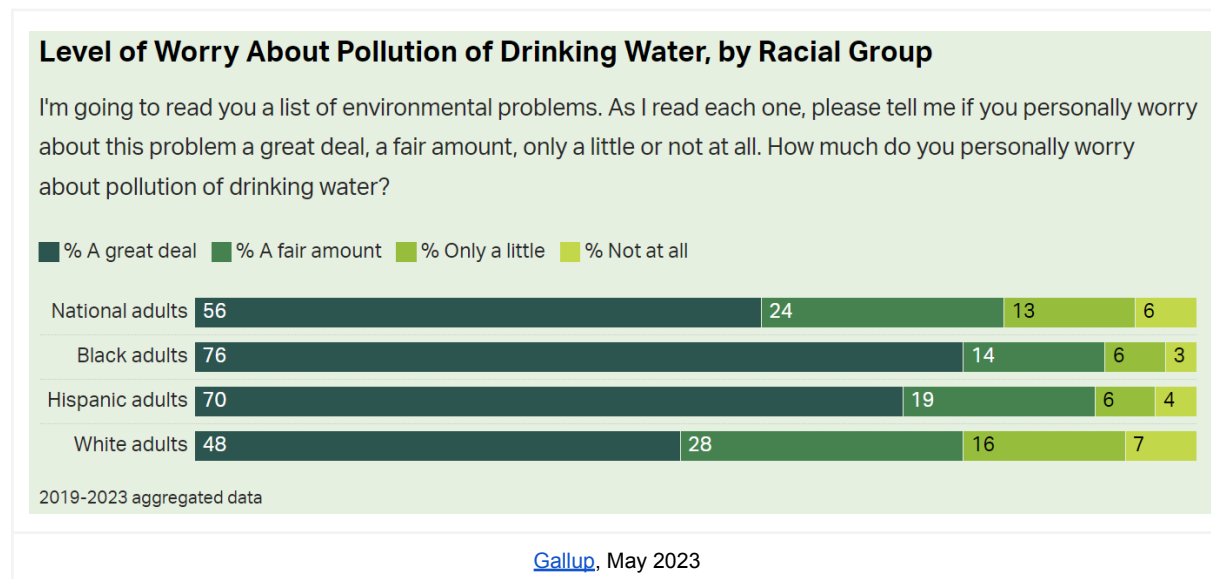
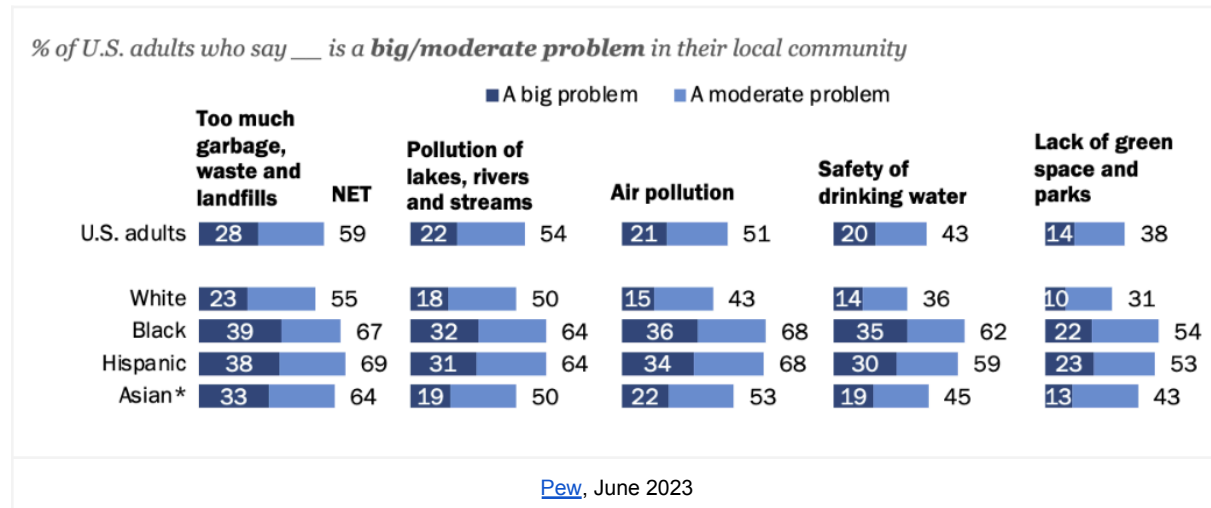
- Black voters tend to support major Biden administration actions on the environment and climate change after hearing about them, with the following earning particularly intense support among Black voters: [[Climate Power + Data for Progress](#), Mar. 2024]

- o Investing in upgrades to our nation’s infrastructure system, such as electrical grids, to make it more resilient to extreme weather and natural disasters (82% support, including 55% who “strongly” support this)
- o Prioritizing the distribution of benefits from federal climate and clean energy programs within communities of color and lower-income communities (80% support, 55% “strongly”)
- o Enacting stricter penalties against oil and gas companies that have excessively polluted our air and water (81% support, 53% “strongly”)
- o Setting a national drinking water standard to limit the amount of forever chemicals, like PFAS, in the drinking water supply (79% support, 52% “strongly”)
- o Strengthening existing pollution standards to significantly reduce emissions of toxic and other harmful air pollution from chemical plants (81% support, 51% “strongly”)
- o Strengthening existing regulations to accelerate the removal of lead service lines and address lead-based paint hazards (79% support, 50% “strongly”)

Contrast messaging about climate change and the environment extends Biden’s advantage with Black voters in battleground states.

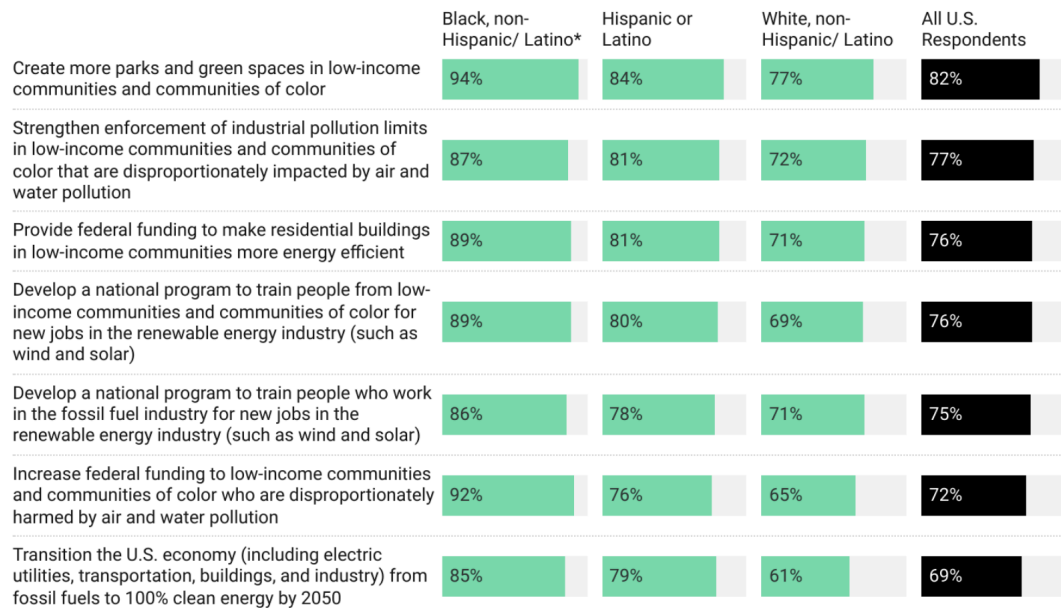
- Polling by Climate Power in January 2024 found that 74% of Black voters in battleground states are planning to vote for Biden in the general election. This percentage increased by seven points (to 81%) after voters saw messaging contrasting Biden and Trumps’ stances and records on climate change and the environment. [[Climate Power](#), Jan. 2024]

Charts



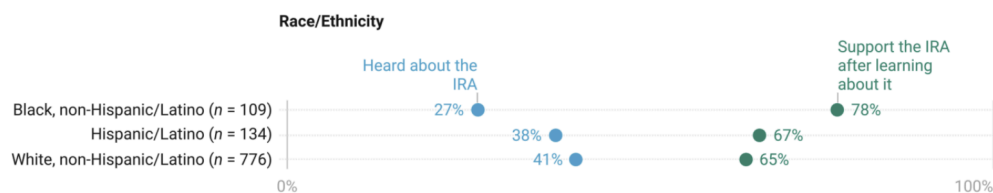
Majorities of Americans across racial and ethnic groups support climate justice policies

% "Strongly support" or "Somewhat support"



[Yale + GMU](#), Apr. 2023

Many demographic groups that have heard the least about the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) are among the most supportive after learning about it



[Yale + GMU](#), Dec. 2022

Additional Resources

[*MEMO: The Climate Contrast Young Voters Need to Hear*](#)
Climate Power + Data for Progress, Mar. 2024

[*Five Years After Its Introduction, the Green New Deal Is Still Incredibly Popular*](#)
Data for Progress, Feb. 2024

[*The Climate and Clean Energy Case Against Trump*](#)
Climate Power, Jan. 2024

[*Who Supports Climate Justice in the U.S.?*](#)
Yale + GMU, Nov. 2023

[*Research Slides: Mobilizing Toward Climate Justice*](#)
We Make the Future, Aug. 2023

[*Majorities of Americans Prioritize Renewable Energy, Back Steps to Address Climate Change*](#)
Pew, June 2023

[*Race, Ethnicity, and American Views of Climate Change*](#)
Chicago Council on Global Affairs, May 2023

[*Most Black, Hispanic Adults Very Worried About Tainted Water*](#)
Gallup, May 2023

[*Public Opinion on Climate: The State of Play in 2023*](#)
Global Strategy Group, Apr. 2023

[*Who is Most Supportive of the Inflation Reduction Act?*](#)
Yale + GMU, Mar. 2023

[*Nationwide Voters of Color Polling Results on Climate Change*](#)
Green 2.0, Oct. 2022