

ENVIRONMENTAL
POLLING CONSORTIUM

**Post-Election Recap:
Climate Change & Environmental
Issues in the 2022 Midterms**

December 2022

Executive Summary

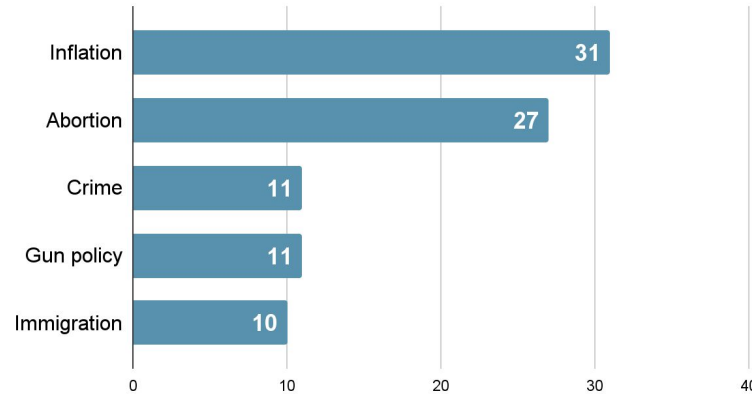
Executive Summary

- **Climate/environment was as big of a factor in the midterms as any other issue area aside from abortion and the economy/inflation.**
 - As expected, the economy/inflation and abortion were the two issue areas that midterm voters were most focused on
 - Voters were equally or more likely to name climate/environment as their single top issue than anything else after abortion and the economy/inflation
- **Climate voters were critical to keeping the election competitive for Democrats.**
 - Roughly one in ten voters said that climate/environment was their top issue
 - Democrats won climate voters by a wider margin than they won any other issue constituency.
- **The IRA was a political winner.**
 - The midterm electorate – much like the country on the whole – was overwhelmingly supportive of the IRA

Issue Priorities

As expected, inflation and abortion were the dominant issues in the midterms

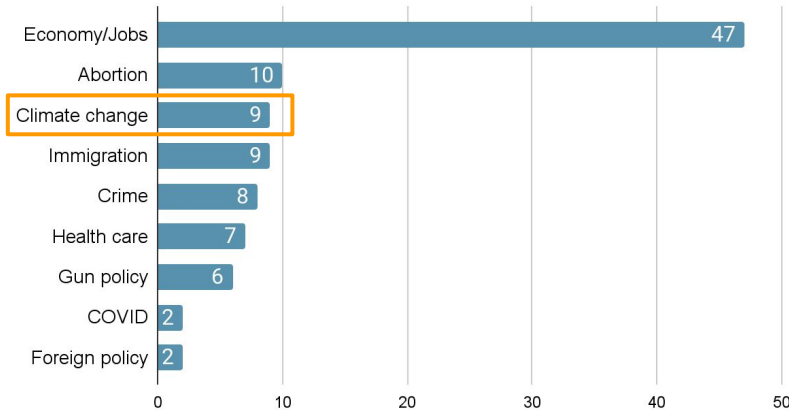
Most Important Issue (Network Exit Poll)



[Source: Network Exit Poll via CNN.com, Nov. 2022](#)

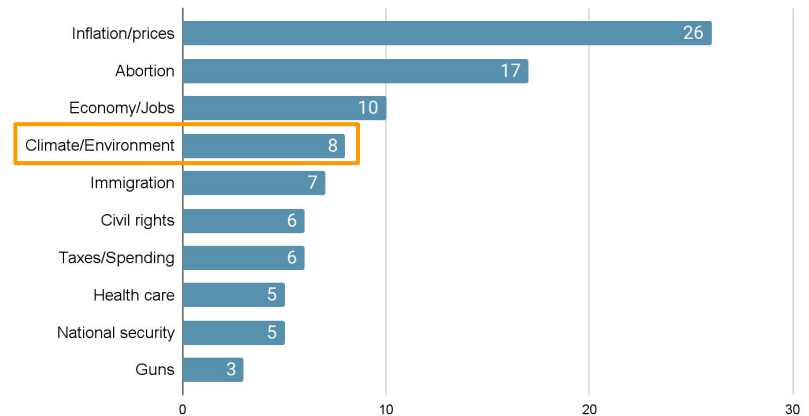
In polls that included climate/environment, only inflation, the economy, and abortion consistently ranked as more important

Most Important Issue (AP VoteCast)



Source: AP VoteCast via WashingtonPost.com, Nov. 2022

Most Important Issue (Economist/YouGov)

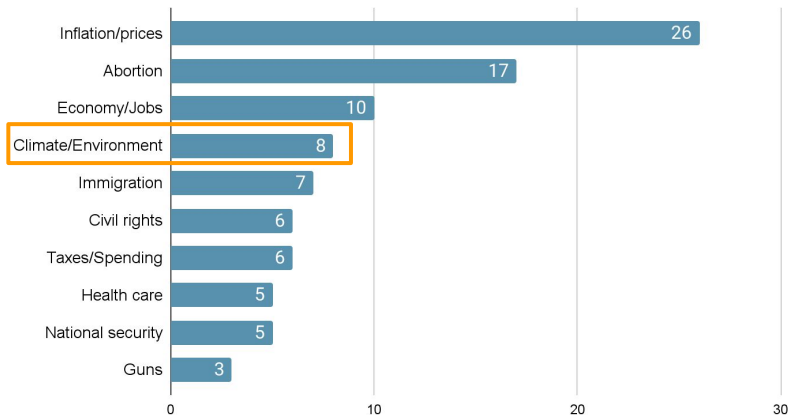


Source: The Economist/YouGov, Nov. 2022

Note: Chart excludes issues that <3% chose as their most important

For Democrats, climate/environment was equally or more important than any issue aside from abortion

Most Important Issue (Economist/YouGov)



Source: [The Economist/YouGov, Nov. 2022](#)

Note: Chart excludes issues that <3% chose as their most important

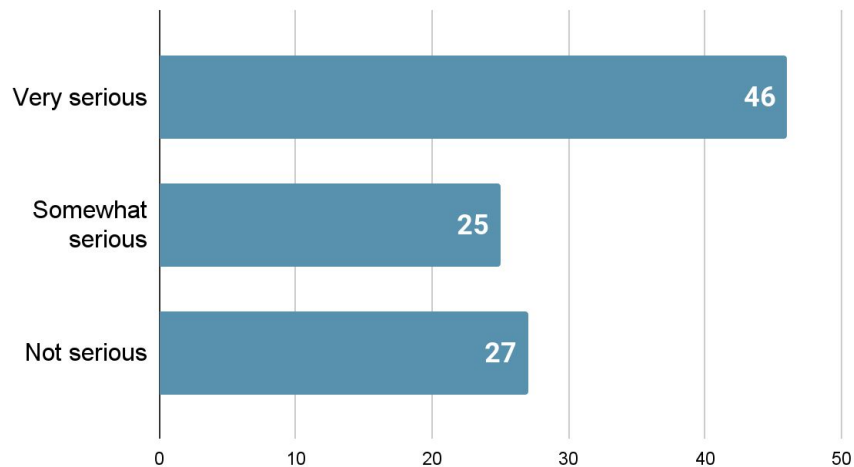
Most important issues by self-identified party

Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Abortion (28%)	Inflation/Prices (26%)	Inflation/Prices (41%)
Civil rights (10%)	Abortion (17%)	Immigration (14%)
Climate/Envir. (10%)	Taxes/Spending (10%)	Jobs/Economy (13%)
Health care (10%)	Climate/Envir. (9%)	Taxes/Spending (6%)
Inflation/prices (10%)	Civil rights (8%)	Abortion (5%)
Jobs/Economy (9%)	Jobs/Economy (8%)	Climate/Envir. (5%)

Climate Change & The Inflation Reduction Act

The midterm electorate took climate change seriously as an issue affecting the country

How serious a problem is climate change? (Network Exit Poll)

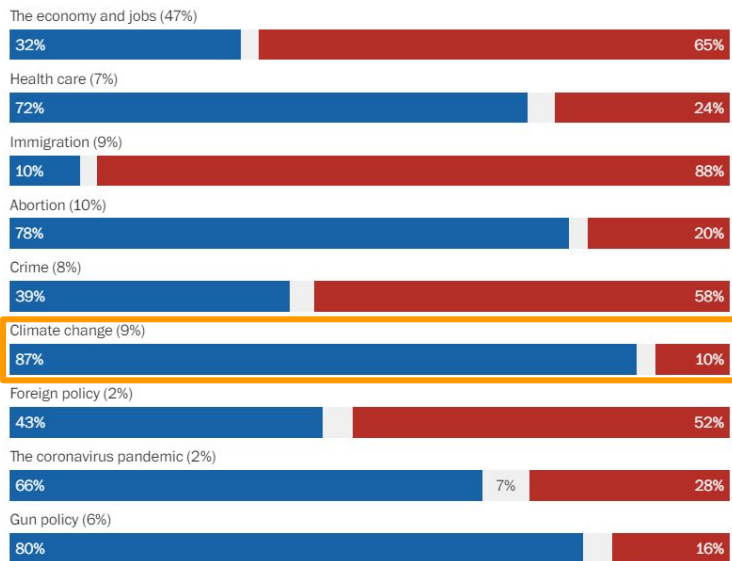


[Source: Network Exit Poll via CNN.com, Nov. 2022](#)

Climate voters swung decisively for Democratic candidates

Most important issue facing the country

AP VoteCast

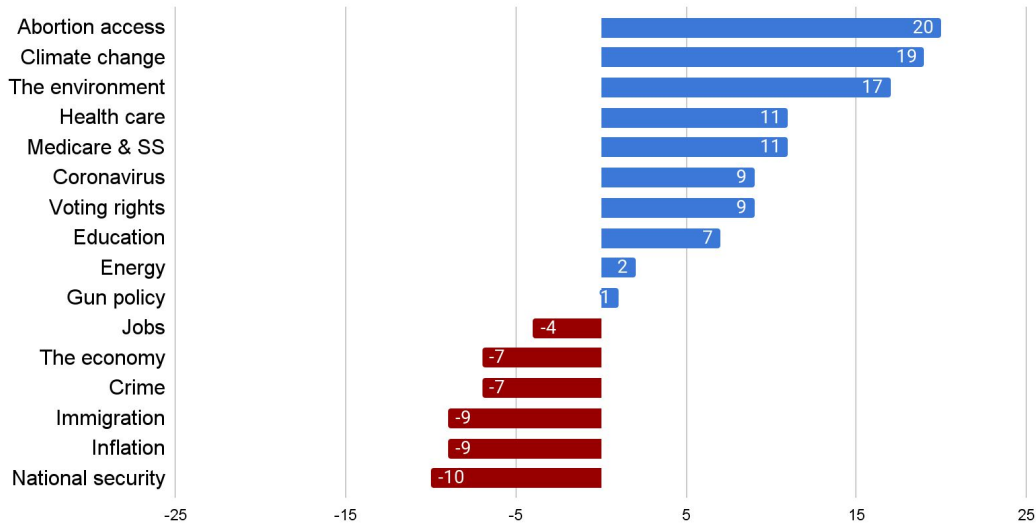


Source: AP VoteCast via WashingtonPost.com, Nov. 2022

Voting Block (% of Electorate)	How They Voted
Economy/Jobs Voters (47%)	GOP +33
Abortion Voters (10%)	DEM +58
Climate Voters (9%)	DEM +77
Immigration Voters (9%)	GOP +78
Crime Voters (8%)	GOP +19
Health Care Voters (7%)	DEM +48
Gun Policy Voters (6%)	DEM +64
COVID Voters (2%)	DEM +38
Foreign Policy Voters (2%)	GOP +9

Pre-election polling correctly predicted that climate and abortion would be key Democratic strengths

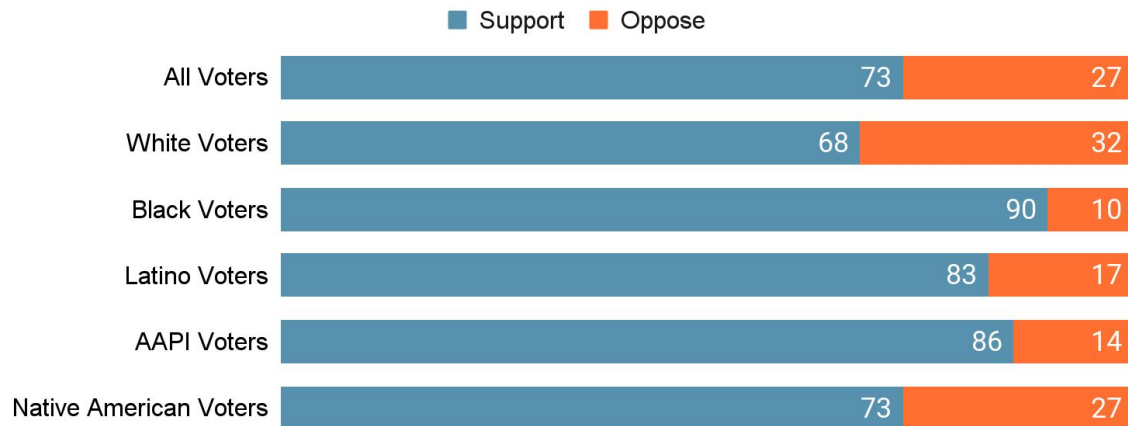
Which party in Congress do you trust more to handle each of the following issues?
(Showing Net Margin for Democrats in Congress)



Source: POLITICO + Morning Consult, Oct. 2022

The IRA ended up being a clear political winner in the midterms, with voters supporting it overwhelmingly

How much do you support or oppose the Inflation Reduction Act, which makes the largest investment ever in clean energy in an effort to reduce toxic air and carbon pollution?

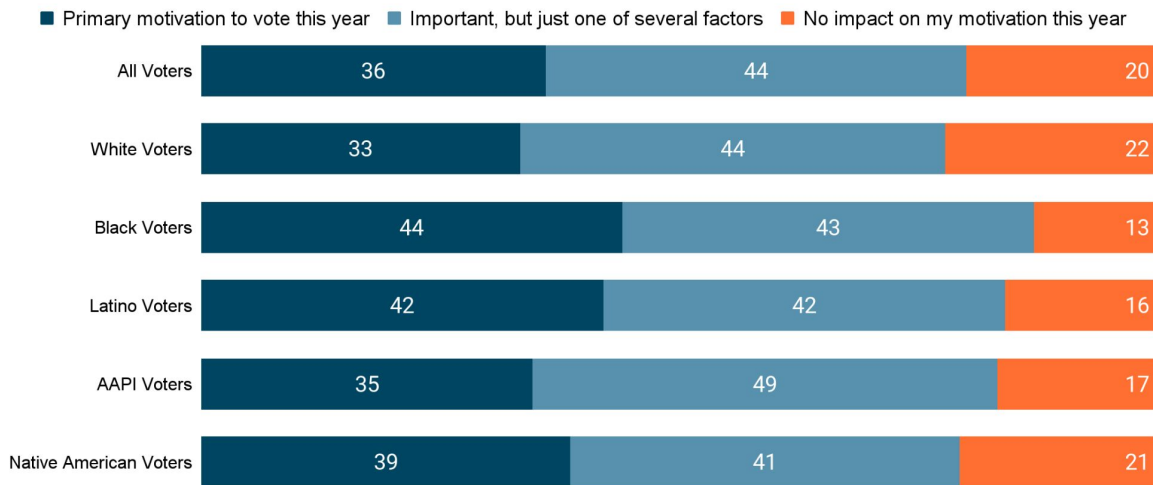


[Source: Midterm Election Voter Poll, Nov. 2022](#)

The IRA may have also boosted turnout by voters of color

Congress passed and President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act which will lower health care and energy costs, increase production of clean energy, reduce climate pollution, create millions of good-paying jobs, and cut the deficit by making corporations pay their fair share in taxes and does not raise taxes on Americans making less than \$400,000.

Was this a...

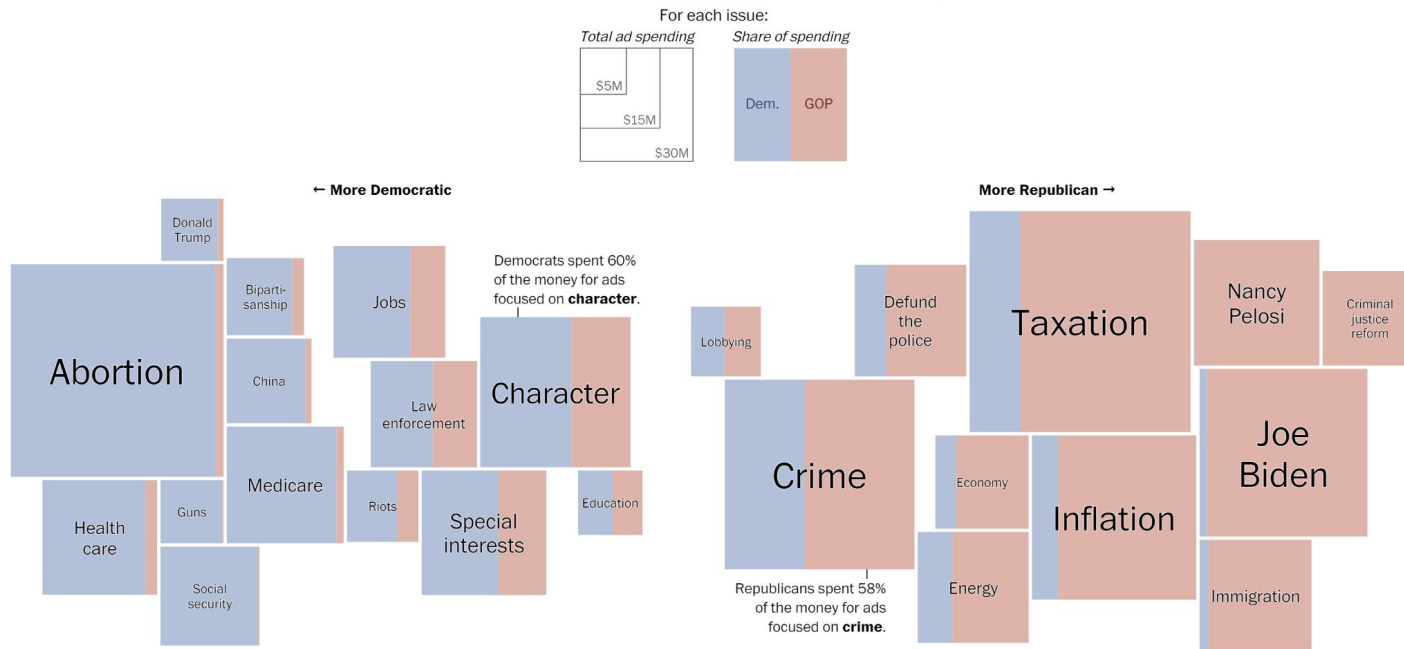


Black and Latino voters were equally or more likely to say that the IRA was a "primary motivation" for them to vote this year as the Supreme Court abortion decision

[Source: Midterm Election Voter Poll, Nov. 2022](#)

Climate was not a focus of GOP attack ads

The issues dominating midterms ads since Labor Day



Source: [WashingtonPost.com, Oct. 2022](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2022/10/12/midterm-ads-focus-on-character-crime-not-climate/)

The fact that the IRA was not considered a political vulnerability reflects how climate politics have evolved

2010



2022

npr

Candidates Take Aim At Climate Bill To Win Votes

POLITICO

GOP candidates knock global warming

Los Angeles Times

GOP plans attacks on the EPA and climate scientists

E&E
NEWS

Missing from GOP attack ads? Dems' big climate bill.

Thank you!