

To: Interested Parties

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Recent Polling Finds Orange County Voters Support Policies to Combat Climate Change and Protect California's Natural Environment

Tulchin Research recently conducted a poll of likely voters in Orange County, California on behalf of the California Environmental Voters Education Fund. The poll found that voters in this region strongly support a number of policy proposals aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting and strengthening California's natural environment, including transitioning away from fossil fuel production in favor of clean and renewable energy and ending offshore drilling. We present findings from the poll below.

Voters Express Deep Concerns about Major Environmental Issues and Support Several Policy Proposals to Address Them

Our poll found that voters in Orange County are deeply concerned about a number of pressing environmental issues facing the region and California more broadly. Overall, voters are most concerned about the threat of water scarcity (8.17/10 Mean, 45% "10" extremely concerned) droughts (7.90/10, 42% "10") and wildfires (7.90/10, 40% "10")

Top Environmental Concerns

Here are some environmental concerns facing California. On a scale from 1 to 10, please indicate how concerned you are about each one with a TEN being EXTREMELY concerned and a ONE being NOT AT ALL concerned. You can choose any number between 1 and 10.

	Mean Score	% 10 "Extremely Concerned"
<i>Water Scarcity</i>	8.17/10	45%
<i>Droughts</i>	7.90/10	42%
<i>Wildfires</i>	7.90/10	40%

As a result, strong majorities of voters in Orange County expressed support for a number of policy proposals to help alleviate their concerns, especially proposals that focus on increasing funding and resources to protect communities from wildfires (86% total support, including 52% "strongly" support) and conserving water and strengthening safe drinking laws (85% total support, including 57% "strongly" support).

Support for Environmental Protection Proposals

<i>Here is a list of some policies that have been proposed to protect California’s environment. Please indicate whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose allowing police to do each one.</i>		
	Total Support	Total Oppose
<i>Increase funding for wildfire mitigation and prevention programs, ecosystem restoration and land-use planning that protect communities from the threat of wildfires</i>	86%	11%
<i>Invest in new surface and groundwater conservation technologies to conserve water and strengthen laws that protect access to safe drinking water for all Californians</i>	85%	12%

Voters are Keenly Aware of the Impacts of Climate Change on Their Communities and Want Urgent Action to be Taken to Solve Them

Additionally, the poll shows that voters in Orange County are extremely conscious of the impact climate change is having on the region. We asked voters whether they agreed that the effects of climate change, including extreme heat, wildfires and droughts, are an issue Californians are increasingly feeling the impact of and need to be addressed. The results found that 7-in-10 Orange County voters (70%) said they agreed with this statement, including a 51% majority who said they “strongly” agreed.

Views on the Impact of Climate Change

Please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statement:	
<i>”The effects of climate change including extreme heat, wildfires and droughts are becoming more visible and are an issue Californians are increasingly feeling the impact of, and they need to be addressed”</i>	
Total Agree	70%
Total Disagree	29%
Agree – Disagree	+42

The poll also found that voters in this region have overwhelmingly positive opinions of clean, alternative energy resources and tools to help reduce our carbon footprint, with strong majorities holding favorable views of “solar power” (79% favorable), “renewable energy” (73% favorable), “electric vehicles” (73% favorable) and “wind power” (67% favorable).

Views of Clean Energy Sources & Tools

Please indicate if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each of the following.				
	Solar Power	Renewable Energy	Electric Vehicles	Wind Power
Total Favorable	79%	73%	73%	67%
Total Unfavorable	14%	19%	22%	23%
Favorable – Unfavorable	+65	+54	+51	+44

In contrast, voters in Orange County have turned sharply against the big oil industry, with the poll showing that nearly 6-in-10 (59%) have an “unfavorable” opinion of oil companies.

Views of Oil Industries

Please indicate if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of Oil Companies.	
Total Favorable	32%
Total Unfavorable	59%
Favorable – Unfavorable	-27

Voters Support Limiting Land-Based Oil Drilling and a Ban on Offshore Drilling

Our poll also shows that Orange County voters favor placing strict new limits on land-based drilling in California. Indeed, more than 6-in-10 voters (64%) said they support ending oil drilling on land close to homes and schools to prevent harm to public health, including close to half (46%) who said they “strongly support” such a policy. Furthermore, a 57% majority of voters also said they support ending all offshore drilling in California to prevent further damage to the state’s coastlines and regional economies, including 37% who said they “strongly support” this.

Support For Ending Land-Based & Offshore Drilling

<i>End oil drilling on land close to homes and schools to prevent harm to our health</i>		<i>End oil drilling in the ocean to prevent harm to our beaches and local economy</i>	
Total Support	64%	Total Support	57%
Total Oppose	32%	Total Oppose	37%
Support – Oppose	+32	Support – Oppose	+20

Despite Rising Energy Prices, Voters Support Transition Away from Fossil Fuels

In line with solid majority support in the poll for ending drilling in California and turning away from fossil fuels, our poll also found that even with rising energy prices causing some policy makers to call for an increase in oil production, a majority of Orange County voters (55%) still support transitioning away from polluting fossil fuels to cleaner renewable energy compared to just 41% of voters who support allowing for more oil drilling and production to increase supply.

Preferred Policy to Address High Gas Prices

<i>Here is a pair of statements about rising gas prices. Please indicate which one you prefer:</i>	
	Total
<i>We should focus on transitioning away from polluting fossil fuels to cleaner renewable energy that is becoming cheaper in price and more dependable every year.</i>	55%
OR	
<i>We should allow for more oil drilling and production to increase supply and lower costs.</i>	41%
<i>Don't Know</i>	4%

ⁱ Survey Methodology: From March 28th – 31st, 2022, Tulchin Research conducted a multi-modal survey among 600 likely November 2022 voters in Orange County. The survey was conducted using live phone interviews conducted by professional callers in English and Spanish dialing both landlines and cell phones as well as interviewing a portion of respondents online through e-mails and text messages from the voter file. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 4.0 percentage points.