

Californians' Views on Climate Change JANUARY 2017

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- **A majority of Californians say the effects of global warming are already occurring.**

Nearly two-thirds of Californians (64%) say global warming's effects have already begun, and a quarter (25%) say the effects will happen in the future. Only 8% say the effects will never occur. Since 2005, when PPIC first began asking Californians this question, majorities have said the effects have already begun. Today, majorities across regions and age, education, and income groups hold this view. Californians (64%) are about as likely as adults nationwide (59%, March 2016 Gallup Poll) to say the effects of global warming have begun.
- **Four in five Californians say global warming is a serious threat to the state's future.**

An overwhelming majority of Californians (81%) view global warming as a very serious (54%) or somewhat serious (27%) threat to the state's future economy and quality of life. Concern about global warming has been high for more than a decade: Since PPIC first began asking this question in 2005, more than seven in ten Californians have said global warming poses a very or somewhat serious threat. Today, at least half across age and education groups see global warming as a very serious threat. Those with annual incomes below \$40,000 (59%) are more likely than those with higher incomes (49%) to hold this view.
- **Democrats and Latinos tend to express higher levels of concern about global warming.**

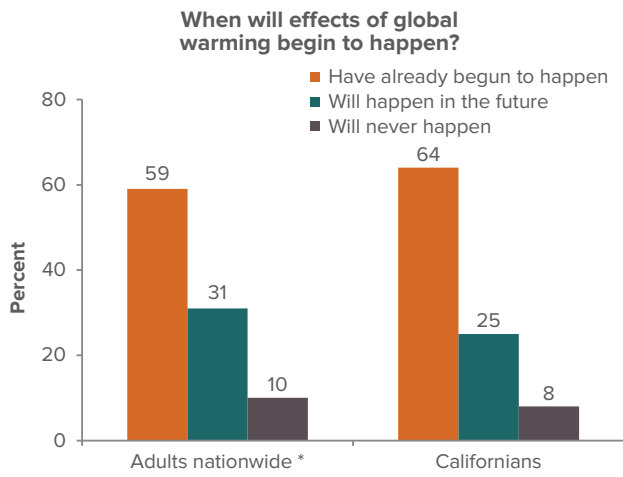
While three in four Democrats (77%) say the effects of global warming have already begun, only 43% of Republicans say so. Indeed, one in four Republicans (24%) say the effects will never happen. Also, Democrats (71%) are about three times as likely as Republicans (24%) to say global warming is a very serious threat to California's economy and quality of life. Half of independents (51%) hold this view. Across racial/ethnic groups, Latinos (72%) are the most likely to say the effects of global warming have already begun. Latinos (62%) are also the most likely to see global warming as a very serious threat; about half of African Americans (52%), Asian Americans (52%), and whites (49%) agree.
- **Most Californians support independent state efforts to address global warming.**

In PPIC surveys since 2006, strong majorities of Californians have favored the state's landmark law limiting greenhouse gas emissions (Assembly Bill 32). Last July, 68% said they favored the more ambitious goals set by Senate Bill 32. In general, two in three Californians (67%) favor state efforts, independent of the federal government, to address global warming, while 26% are opposed. Majorities have supported independent state action since we first asked this question in July 2005. Again, partisan differences emerge, with Democrats (78%) far more likely than independents (55%) or Republicans (49%) to support state efforts. Since 2006, the share of Republicans who favor state action has fallen from 62% to 49%. Today, solid majorities across age groups favor state efforts, including 76% of Californians age 18–34.
- **Majorities support action on climate change even if it brings increased costs.**

Most Californians (56%), including majorities across age and income groups, say they would be willing to pay more for electricity generated by renewable sources to reduce global warming. When asked how state action to reduce global warming might affect gas prices, most Californians (59%) say they expect prices would increase. Majorities across parties and regions hold this view, with Latinos (68%) more likely than members of other racial/ethnic groups to have this expectation. After hearing that gas prices increased an estimated 11 cents following inclusion of transportation fuels in the state's cap-and-trade system, just over half (52%) say they are in favor of this aspect of the system. Majorities across income groups are in favor.
- **Few Californians believe state action on climate change will lead to a loss of jobs.**

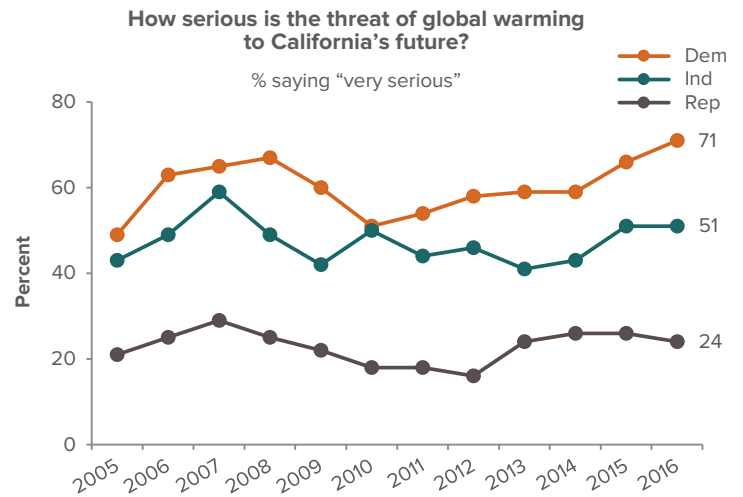
Only 20% of Californians believe that state policies to combat global warming would mean fewer jobs. Indeed, when asked about the effect on jobs, the most common response is that state action would result in more jobs (40%); 29% think there would be no effect. Across parties, half of Democrats (49%) expect more jobs, and 40% of Republicans expect fewer jobs.





*Gallup Poll, March 2016

Source: PPIC Statewide Survey, July 2016. Margin of error for all adults is +/-3.5%.



Source: PPIC Statewide Survey series. The margin of error for all adults in July 2016 is +/-3.5%. The margins of error for subgroups are larger

Demographic breakdown of views on climate change

		Favor California making its own policy	Willing to pay more for electricity if it were generated by renewable sources	Say state efforts to reduce global warming will lead to higher gasoline prices	Say state efforts to reduce global warming will lead to more jobs
All adults		67%	56%	59%	40%
Party registration	Democratic	78	68	51	49
	Republican	49	38	64	21
	Independent	55	51	59	33
Race/Ethnicity	African Americans	58	47	49	53
	Asian Americans	71	59	47	36
	Latinos	72	55	68	45
	Whites	65	58	58	37
Region	Central Valley	65	52	66	39
	San Francisco Bay Area	75	62	54	43
	Los Angeles	69	56	54	38
	Orange/San Diego	62	58	65	37
	Inland Empire	61	39	70	41
Gender	Men	63	55	58	35
	Women	71	57	61	45
Age	18 to 34	76	67	60	49
	35 to 54	66	51	57	39
	55 and older	61	51	60	33
Income	Under \$40,000	66	55	60	43
	\$40,000 to under \$80,000	71	59	64	38
	\$80,000 or more	68	60	53	37
California making its own policy?	Favor	-	67	56	47
	Oppose	-	34	71	22

Sources: PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and the Environment, July 2016, and PPIC Statewide Survey series. The margin of error for all adults in July 2016 is +/-3.5%. The margins of error for subgroups are larger.

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