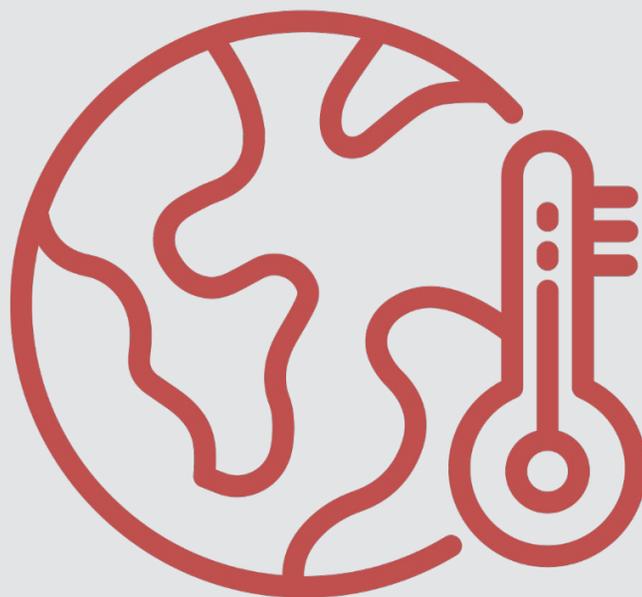


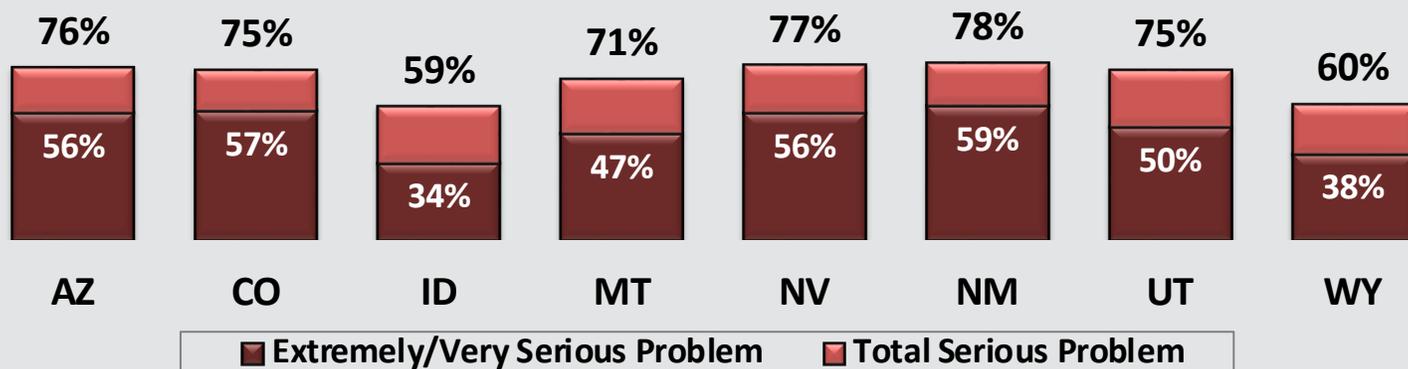
Climate Change in the West

Most Westerners consider climate change to be a serious problem that has impacted their state significantly over the last decade, with climate concern highest among younger voters. One of the more widely recognized effects of climate change – wildfire – continues to be a concern. Voters are also more worried than hopeful about the future of nature.

Most Westerners say climate change is a **serious problem**. Consistent with prior years, roughly three-quarters (74 percent) of voters express concern about climate change, with more than half (53 percent) saying it is an “extremely” or “very” serious problem. Though concern is greater in the Southwest portion of the region as illustrated here, a majority across all major sub-groups (i.e., gender, education, party, race, and ethnicity) perceive climate change to be a serious problem. Still, climate change is certainly viewed as more of a serious problem among voters under 45 (81 percent) compared to voters age 45+ (69 percent).



Climate change



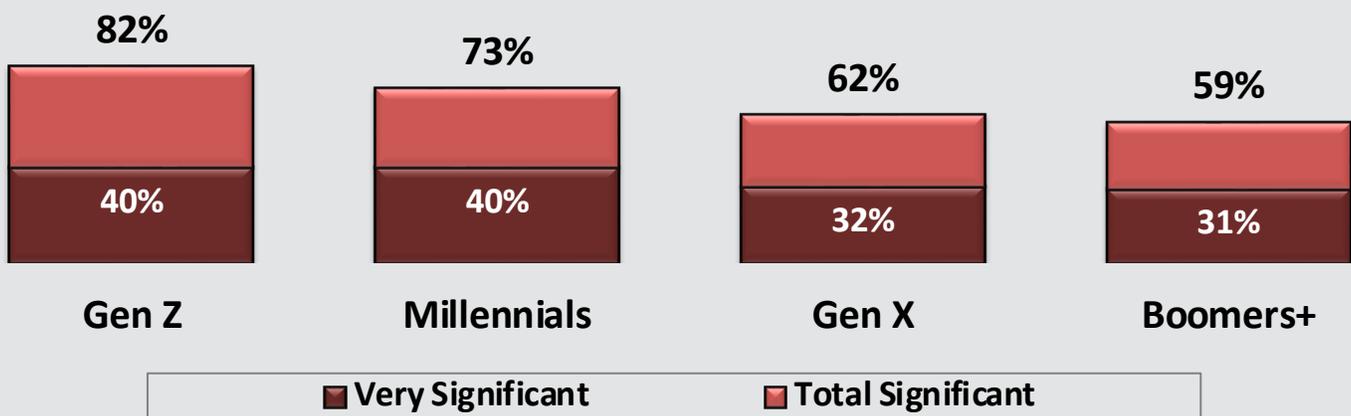


An increasing proportion of Westerners say the effects of climate change have been significant in their state over the last 10 years, with the increase driven by young voters. Two-thirds (66 percent) of voters say the impact

of climate change has been significant over the last decade, up four points from 2020 (62 percent significant). Moreover, 35 percent say the impact has been “very” significant, up six points from four years ago.

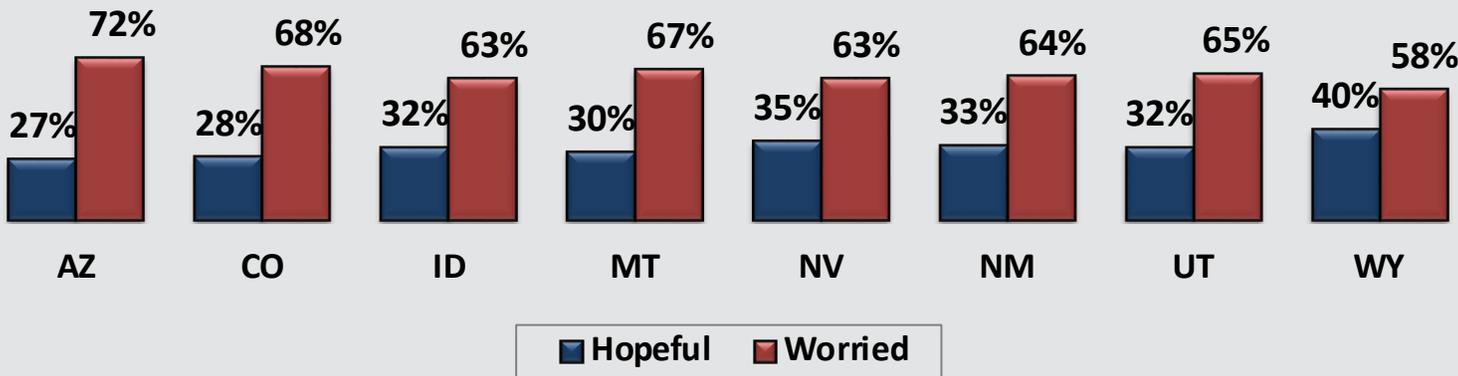
There is a significant gap between different generations’ perceptions of the impact of climate change on their state, as illustrated below. That gap is widening. There has been a 14-point increase since 2020 among voters under the age of 45 saying that climate change effects in their state are significant (75 percent today), compared to a slight two-point decline among their older counterparts (60 percent).

Significance of Effects of Climate Change in State Over Last 10 Years



Less than one-third of Western voters are hopeful about the future of nature. When asked to “think about the future of nature, meaning our land, water, air, and wildlife,” 30 percent of voters say they are hopeful, while two-thirds (67 percent) say they are worried. This is comparable to past years.

Feelings About Future of Nature



Those who are more worried include key swing voter sub-groups such as...

- Younger voters under 45 (72 percent);
- Moms (75 percent);
- Suburban women (72 percent);
- Moderates (70 percent);
- Independents (71 percent); and
- Latinos (69 percent).

Notably, voters who say climate change has had a significant impact in their state over the last 10 years are one of the most pessimistic sub-groups about the future of nature (78 percent). That is not a surprise. In 2021 when we asked voters to tell us the reasons they were more worried about the future of nature, climate change was one of the top-tier rationales for their negative response.





One of the more widely recognized effects of climate change in the West – wildfire - remains a concern for the vast majority of Western voters, despite a relatively calm fire season last year. Almost nine-in-ten (88 percent) Westerners say “uncontrollable wildfires that threaten homes and property” are a serious problem, with 56 percent saying they are an “extremely” or “very” serious problem. There is broad consensus about the problem of uncontrollable wildfires, with solid majorities of all key sub-groups (i.e., gender, age, education, party, race, and ethnicity) expressing concern.

Uncontrollable wildfires that threaten homes and property

