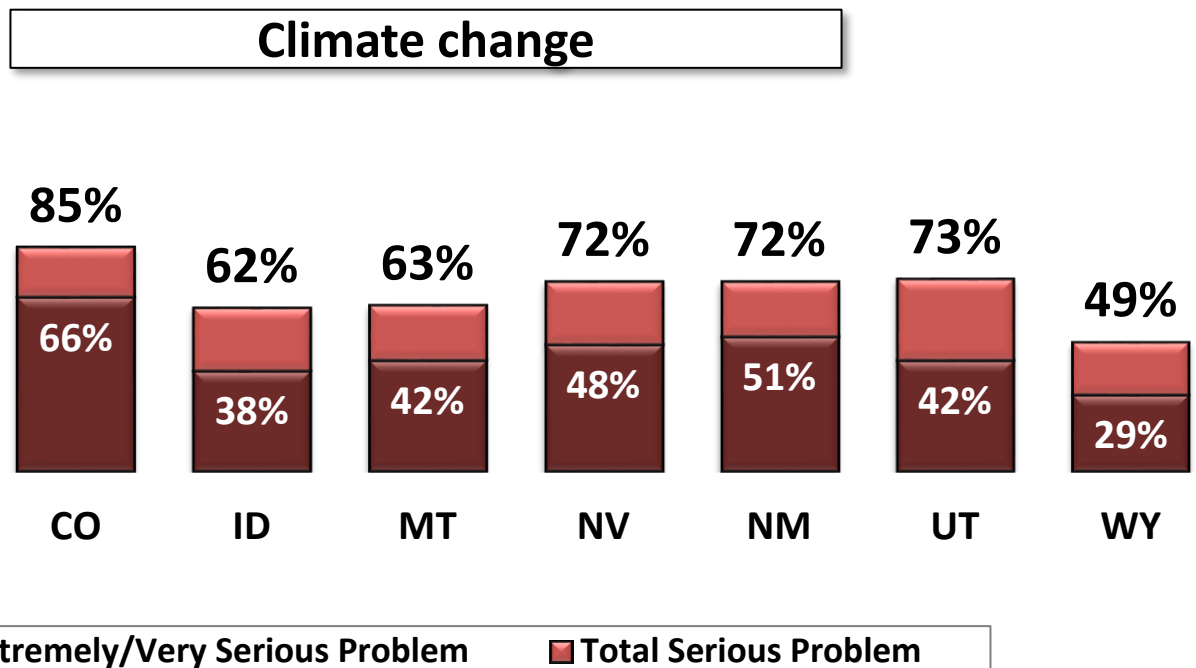


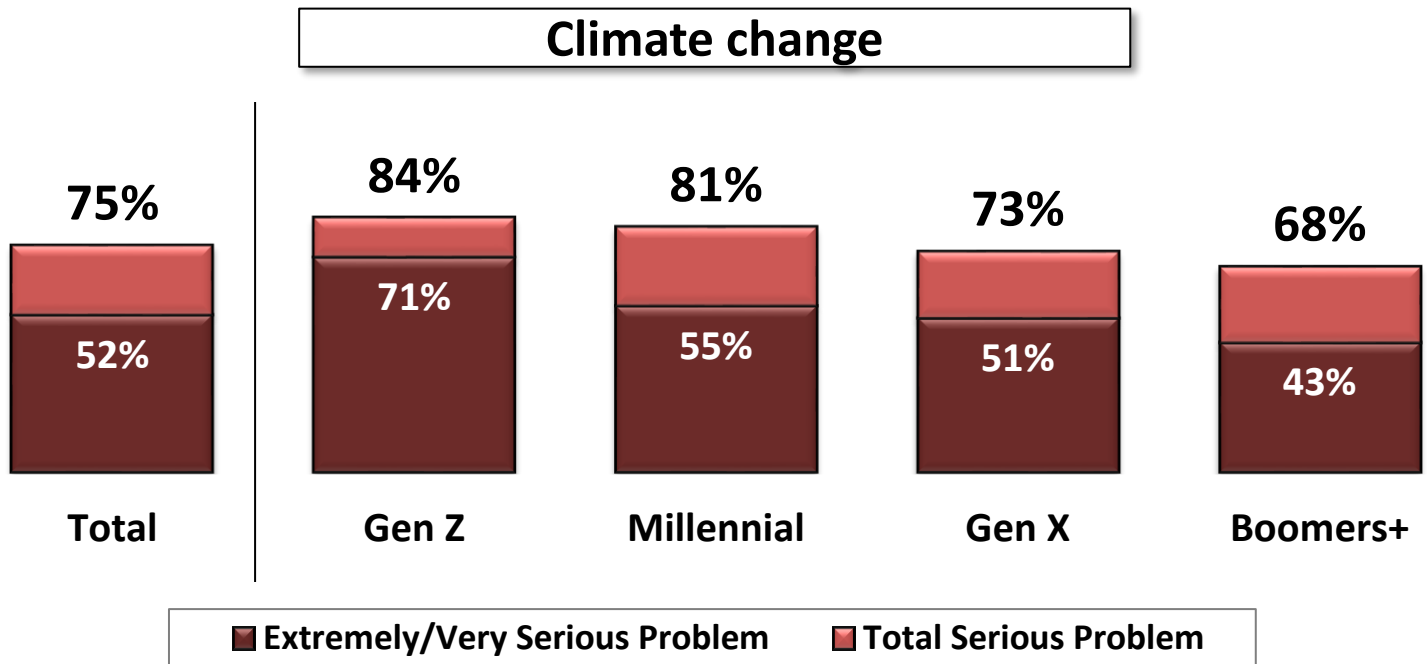
Climate Change in the West

Climate change is widely viewed as a serious problem across the Western United States, with concern highest among younger generations. Voters across the region recognize the effects of climate change with majorities expressing concern about wildfires

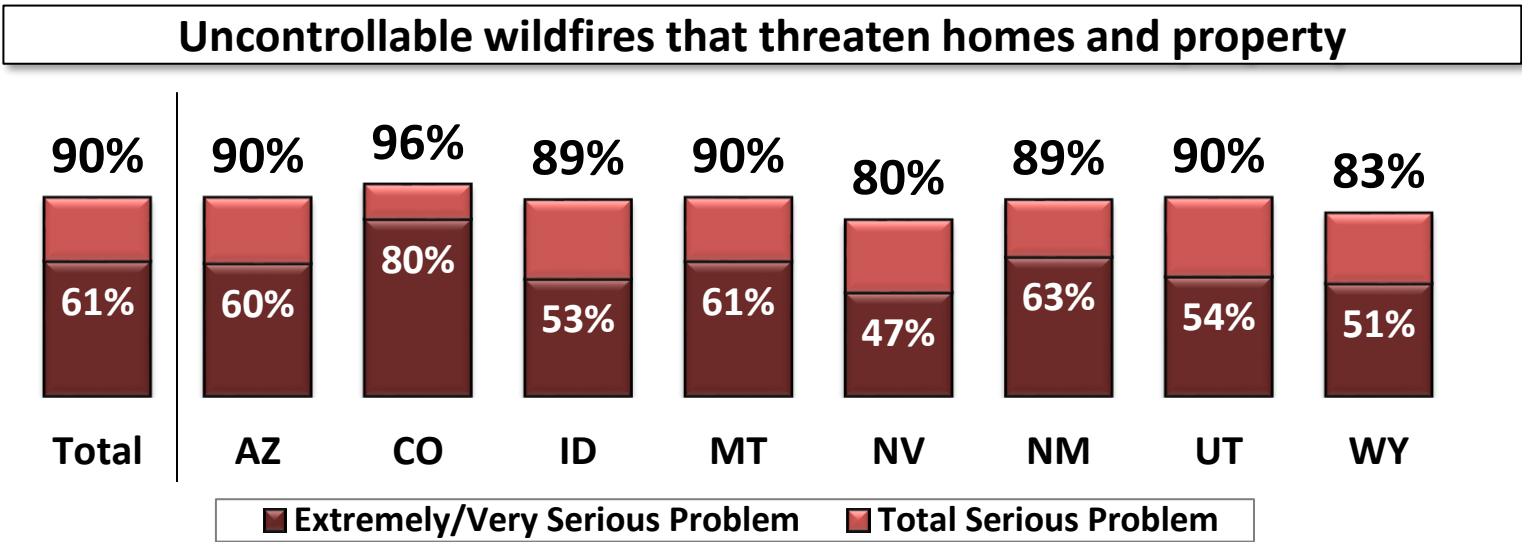
Most Westerners say climate change is a serious problem. Three-quarters (75 percent) of voters express concern about climate change, including more than half (52 percent) who describe it is an “extremely” or “very” serious problem. Concerns have grown substantially over time in the five states where the State of the Rockies survey was first conducted. In 2011, just 27 percent of voters characterized climate change as an extremely or very serious problem; today, that share has doubled to 54 percent across those five states.



While levels of concern vary somewhat by state, majorities across all major demographics (i.e., gender, education, party, race, and ethnicity) agree that climate change is a serious problem. Younger voters remain the most worried, with 82 percent of voters under age 45 saying climate change is a serious problem, compared to 70 percent of voters age 45 and older.



Wildfires, one of the most widely recognized climate-related challenges in the West, continue to be a major source of concern. Nine-in-ten Westerners (90 percent) say “uncontrollable wildfires that threaten homes and property” are a serious problem in their own state, with 61 percent characterizing it as an “extremely” or “very” serious problem. This level of concern is within margin of error with the all-time high of 63 percent in 2022. Concern about wildfires is evident in every single state in this region, and is particularly acute in Colorado and New Mexico, as illustrated in the following chart.



- Solid majorities of all key subgroups say uncontrollable and destructive wildfires are a serious problem, including ...
- 88 percent of men and 91 percent of women;
 - 93 percent of Gen Z, 88 percent of Millennials, 88 percent of Gen X, and 91 percent of Boomers;
 - 87 percent of Republicans, 90 percent of independents, and 92 percent of Democrats;
 - 92 percent of White voters, 84 percent of Latino voters, 85 percent of Black voters, and 93 percent of Native American voters; and
 - 88 percent of big city voters, 90 of suburban voters, 90 percent of small town voters, and 92 percent of rural voters.