

Florida Voters Support Governor's Proposals for Renewable Energy and Clean Cars

Conservation groups released the results of a poll of Florida voters today that found a large majority of support for Governor Crist's renewable energy and clean car rules. The poll also found that a large majority of voters agree that humans are causing climate change and Florida is at risk. Further, Florida voters support new state laws to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

The poll was conducted to compare voters' attitudes about climate and energy with those of legislators. Legislators were asked to answer the same questions as the public, and a website, www.climateflorida.org, has been created to post the public poll alongside Legislator's responses.

Governor Charlie Crist, who has made climate change a hallmark of his tenure, is in tune with Florida voters on this important issue. Two years ago, the Governor called for state adoption of the California Vehicle Emissions Standards and for a Renewable Portfolio Standard to require utilities to supply 20% of Florida's electricity using renewable energy by 2020. In December, The Florida Environmental Commission approved and sent clean car rules to the Legislature and the Florida Public Service Commission developed and sent a renewable energy rule to the Legislature.

Specifically, the survey found that 65% of voters agree that Florida will be impacted by the effects of climate change, and only 16% strongly disagree. The remainder either somewhat disagree or were unsure (6% of voters.) When asked if "the state of Florida should regulate greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, in the same way they do other air pollutants" 70% of voters agreed. Only 15% of voters strongly disagreed and the remainder either somewhat disagreed or were unsure (5%).

The full results are:

- Global climate change is occurring and emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are contributing to it: **63% of Florida voters agree.**
- Florida will be impacted by the effects of climate change: **65% of Florida voters agree.**
- Florida should regulate greenhouse gases the same way they do other pollutants: **70% of Florida voters agree.**
- Florida should require electric utilities to provide a certain percentage of electricity from renewable sources: **83% of Florida voters agree.**
- Florida should require electric utilities to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases: **78% of Florida voters agree.**
- Florida should require auto manufacturers to sell cars and trucks that emit fewer greenhouse gases: **71% of Florida voters agree.**
- The price of electricity and gas will increase in the future due to rising oil prices: **79% of Florida voters agree.**

The survey of Florida voters' views on climate change was conducted in February 2009 by the Kitchens Group on behalf of Audubon of Florida, working with the Florida Wildlife Federation and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE). The random-sample survey of 500 Republicans and Democrats has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percent, with a 95 percent confidence level.

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