Voters’ views on climate change, wildlife conservation, and animal welfare

Overview

Environmental challenges are a key issue heading into the US election season. As we grapple with the urgent threats of climate change and environmental degradation, we see a strong desire for political leaders who prioritize conservation.

Who we asked

This survey was conducted by Lincoln Park Strategies and Beekeeper Group among a national sample of 2,000 individuals, ages 18+, from various political parties. Data was collected in June 2023.

What they said

- 71% prefer a candidate who supports protecting threatened and endangered species
- 65% are very concerned about the environment
- 89% think it’s important to protect endangered species
- 64% say it’s a good idea to factor the value of nature into government decisions

Endangered Species Act

85% support measures to implement the Endangered Species Act. The Endangered Species Act was passed in the early ’70s to safeguard our planet’s wildlife. Nearly every species listed under the ESA is still surviving, and many of them, including the American alligator and bald eagle, have made full recoveries.

Funding wildlife programs

80% support the US funding wildlife conservation in other countries at or above current levels. Regular appropriations are key to the success of conservation programs. Not only are Americans concerned about conserving wildlife, but they also support strong federal investments to mitigate threats to wildlife, including in other countries.

Climate change

69% believe preventing harm to animals is an important reason to combat climate change. As climate catastrophes and severe weather cause habitat loss and changes in ecosystems, many species are struggling. Voters are concerned not only about climate change’s effects on people but also on animals.

Recommendations

- Politicians should include wildlife conservation and animal welfare in their platforms.
- Appropriators should fully fund international biodiversity conservation programs and domestic implementation of wildlife laws, including the Endangered Species Act.
- Legislators and regulators should support efforts to value nature and ensure it’s incorporated into cost-benefit analyses for government decisions.

Survey respondents were asked to rank their concern about particular issues on a scale of 0 (not at all concerned) to 10 (extremely concerned).

Among these concerns, the environment ranks just below the economy, health care, and taxes. Voters are more concerned about the environment and conserving wildlife species than government regulations, illegal immigration, and the cost of higher education.

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