



Relevance of Global Warming as a Voting Issue is Undeniable

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Editorial

In democratic societies, voting for candidates who support climate policy solutions is arguably the most important action citizens can take. Therefore, understanding the dynamics of global warming as a voting issue is crucial for building public and political will for climate solutions. Using data from two nationally representative surveys conducted this exploratory study investigated the influences of cognitive, experiential, socio cultural, and sociodemographic factors on two measures of perceived importance of global warming as a voting issue absolute importance. As expected, in both surveys, Democrats were more likely than Republicans to perceive global warming as an important voting issue [1]. The perceived importance of global warming as a voting issue was also positively associated with certainty in belief that global warming is happening, perceived risk, worry, positive social norms, and discussing global warming with family and friends, it was also negatively associated with exposure to conservative media [2]. In both surveys, discussing global warming with family and friends was positively associated with considering global warming to be the most important voting issue, whereas perceived personal experience and worry were significant predictors in only one survey.

These results suggest that global warming's importance as a voting issue is influenced by a range of individual, social, and media influences, and that the predictors of the issue's absolute importance to voters overlap only partially with the predictors of its relative importance. Protecting society from the risks of climate change requires systemic policy changes to fully address its current and looming impacts [3]. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that unmitigated climate change will have severe impacts on societies and ecosystems. According to the Fourth National Climate Assessment, climate change has already begun to transform. The present and future impacts of climate change are clear indicators that large-scale, transformative actions are necessary to preserve human and ecosystem health and wellbeing. In a democratic society, elected officials are expected to act on the preferences of their constituents. Thus, the importance that citizens place on certain issues in the voting booth can have important downstream consequences for policy agendas by

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