



CENTER FOR INFORMATION & RESEARCH
ON CIVIC LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

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Concern for Climate Change Directly Informs Youth Civic Engagement

DECEMBER 2023

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Introduction

In December 2023, nations from around the world gathered at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). The climate issue has been a central concern of young activists and voters in recent years, and [ranked among the top 5 issues for youth in the months leading up to COP28](#).

Youth concern about climate presents an important opportunity to engage a diverse group of youth and support their leadership. However, we need to better understand the relationships different youth have to the issue and how their distinct attitudes and experiences, as well as differences in their backgrounds and access to resources, shape what it takes to involve them in meaningful action.

This report, based on new data from CIRCLE's nationally representative survey of young people (ages 18-34) ahead of the 2024 election, examined patterns in young people's relationship to climate change in order to inform how organizations communicate with and reach youth with an understanding of how different youth approach this critical global issue. **Our analysis identified four groups of youth whose connection—or lack thereof—to the climate issue can influence future efforts to engage them.**

Highlights

- **Untapped potential among the 4 in 10 youth who believe in their ability to have influence on the climate issue:** The largest group of youth identified in our analysis (40%) do not currently report being directly affected by climate change, but believe they have the ability to have influence on this issue. However, they are participating in civic actions (both on climate and other issues) at lower rates than other youth. These youth are more likely to be Black, from lower income households, and younger.
- **A majority of youth (56%) do not identify as strongly Republican or strongly Democratic, and many are still undecided who they will vote for:** Party affiliation and vote choice for two of the groups align with each of the two major parties. However, many unaffiliated youth were found across all groups, and in the two remaining groups that are not strongly Republican nor strongly Democratic, many youth are still undecided who they will vote for in the 2024 presidential election.
- **Youth who feel most threatened by climate change are satisfied with government action on the issue when they know about it; other youth, despite that knowledge, were not likely to be satisfied with it:** Most youth who have a lot of information about the actions and policies of the U.S. federal government on climate were likely to be dissatisfied. However, among youth who feel most threatened by climate change, satisfaction was higher if they had more knowledge about government action.

- **Access to civic information and civic organizations matter:** Multiple groups of youth feel threatened by climate change. Those who, despite being threatened, feel “they have the power to change things” had the highest rates of access to civic information from organizations and institutions (not just from people they know), and the highest rates of membership in civic organizations like local groups and social and political movements.
- **Potential to pull more youth into climate action and broader civic engagement:** Not all young people who are affected by or concerned about climate change are taking action on the climate issue. But all groups of youth report wanting to engage in civic actions (on any issue) at greater rates than they are currently participating.

Four Groups of Youth with Distinct Relationships to Climate Change

IN SUMMARY

- ❖ The largest group—**Not directly affected but believe in their influence**— includes 40% of youth. They believe they have the ability to have influence on this issue, are more likely to be Black, from lower income households, and younger
- ❖ 29% of youth are **Threatened and want government action**. They feel exposed to climate change, think it’s a threat, and strongly believe that government has an important role in addressing climate change. These youth tend to be highly educated, urban, and LGBTQ+
- ❖ About 1 in 6 youth are **Exposed but feeling powerless**. They report exposure to extreme weather events, but they feel a lack of power about making a difference on climate change
- ❖ 1 in 7 youth can be characterized as **Disengaged from the climate issue**: they do not feel threatened by climate change and strongly disagree the government should be taking action on climate change—these youth tend to be White youth, rural youth, men, and straight/heterosexual youth
- ❖ Youth who do not identify with either major party could be found in all groups, and made up the majority of those who are **exposed but feeling powerless** and **not directly affected but believe in their influence**
- ❖ Save for the youth who did not identify with either major party, almost all youth who are **disengaged from the climate issue** identified as Republicans, and almost all youth who are **threatened and want government action** identified as Democrats.

As we learned through [our previous work with Action for the Climate Emergency \(ACE\)](#), among youth who are already concerned about climate, multiple factors influence whether youth can and do take action. Crucially, these elements include whether youth feel like they have the skills required to take action, whether they are confident that they can shape decision-making, and whether they feel motivated to act. Therefore, building on the important work of [Global Warming’s Six Americas](#), which

looks at patterns of concern and motivation among all adults, this report focuses on the dimensions that are shaping whether young U.S. citizens (ages 18 to 34) are taking action related to climate change.

We collaborated with two national organizations focused on climate to develop rigorous nonpartisan questions for the survey. More information on the nonpartisan work of Action for the Climate Emergency and Climate Power can be found at the end of this report. The following analyses are based on overall data from CIRCLE's Pre-2024 Election Youth Poll and advanced statistical methodology (i.e., a latent profile analysis) that looked for patterns in how youth think about and relate to climate.

The CIRCLE Pre-2024 Election Youth Survey was developed by CIRCLE at Tufts University, and the polling firm Ipsos collected the data from their nationally representative panel of respondents between October 25 and November 2, 2023. The study surveyed a total of 2,017 self-reported U.S. citizens ages 18 to 34 in the United States; unless otherwise mentioned, data are for all 18- to 34-year-olds in our sample.

Below we describe the dimensions of youth experiences and attitudes that were used in the analysis. The specific survey items used for each dimension are available in the appendix.

- **Exposure to extreme weather:** Self-reported experience of one or more extreme weather events such as droughts and floods
- **Threatened by climate change:** The extent to which youth worry about climate change and how much they view it as a threat to the health and safety of themselves and their loved ones
- **How much influence they can have:** Rating of their ability to effect change on this issue through influential relationships and through the ability to impact elected officials
- **Powerless on climate change:** Whether they have feelings of powerlessness related to effecting change on this issue
- **Belief that the government has responsibility to take action:** Youth were asked about the responsibility government has to take action on climate change and whether their actions impact who/what they would vote for
- **Perceived impact of political actions:** Assessment of whether influencing elected officials to address climate change is possible

Characteristics and Demographics of the Four Groups

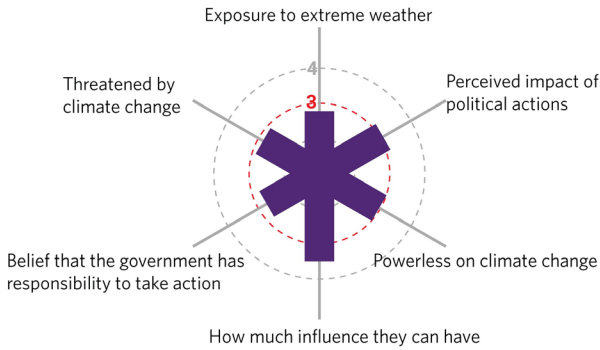
There were four groups that captured distinct patterns in how young people think about and relate to climate change. Each group represents a different proportion of youth in the population.

- The first group, **Not directly affected but believe in their influence**, represents about 40% of young people. On most dimensions, youth in this group are closest to the national average, with the exception of a much stronger belief in their potential influence on the issue.
- The **Threatened and want government action** group represents 29% of young people and reported above-average levels of exposure to extreme weather events and above-average levels of feeling that climate is a threat. This group of youth were much more likely than youth overall to believe that the government has a responsibility to address climate change.
- 16% of young people are **Exposed but feeling powerless**. This group reported experiencing the effects of climate change and believe it is a threat at a similar rate to all youth.
- The smallest group (15% of youth) are **Disengaged from the climate issue**. They report little experience with the effects of climate change and are much less likely than youth overall to believe that it is a threat. They also report a below-average belief in the government's responsibility to address climate change.

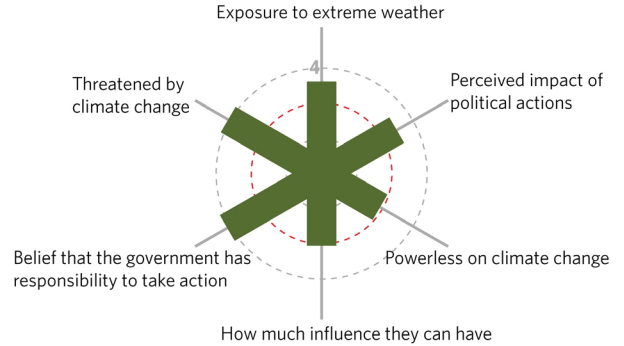
The charts on the next page show the average levels the youth in the four groups have on each of the dimensions capturing youth experiences with and attitudes about climate change. The red dotted middle ring in each chart represents the average among all youth in the survey (i.e., the national average). Therefore, where the bars for a dimension go beyond that red line, it means youth in that group are above the national average for that dimension. Where it falls short of the line, it is below the national average. It is worth noting that the national average for all youth is experiencing some level of personal exposure to, and feeling threatened by, climate change—so even when a group is below that average, it does not necessarily mean youth in that group are unexposed or unthreatened.

Four groups of youth identified using dimensions capturing youth experiences and attitudes related to climate change

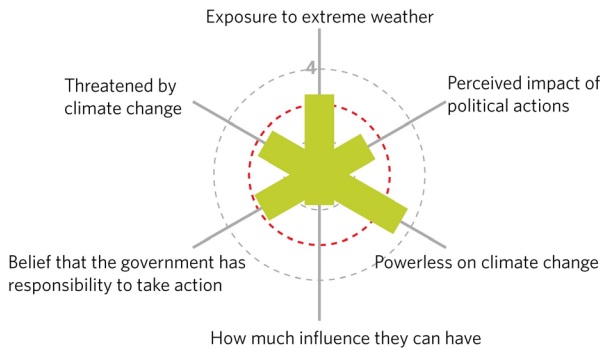
Not directly affected but believe in their influence (40%)



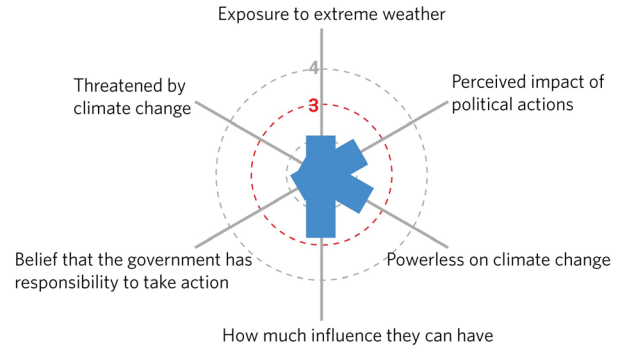
Threatened and want government action (29%)



Exposed but feeling powerless (16%)



Disengaged from the climate issue (15%)



Note: The dotted red line at 3 represents the national average on that dimension.
Source: CIRCLE Pre-2024 Election Youth Survey

Demographics of Youth Across Groups and Party Affiliation

Young people from various racial, gender, sexuality, educational, and economic backgrounds, from different geographic areas, and at various ages can be found in all four of the groups. However, the underrepresentation or overrepresentation of some demographic subgroups of youth may reflect both the unequal impacts of climate change as well as inequities in the resources dedicated to involving youth from different backgrounds in taking action on climate change.

White youth, rural youth, young men, and heterosexual/straight youth are overrepresented in the **disengaged from the climate issue** group, while Black youth and youth from lower income

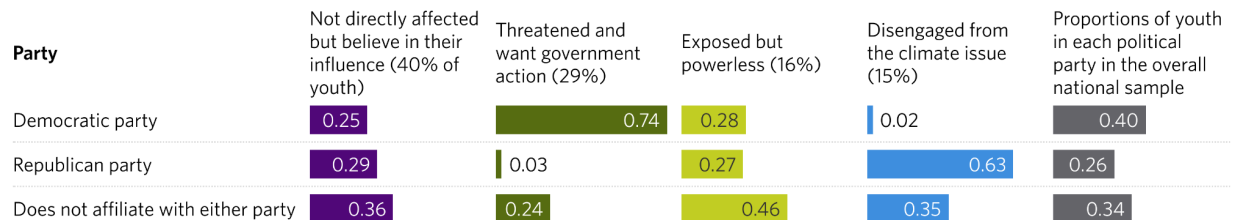
households are overrepresented among those who are **not directly affected but believe in their influence**. We also see an overrepresentation of urban youth, youth who are highly educated, and LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and sexualities other than heterosexual/straight) youth in the **threatened and want government action** group. Youth who are **exposed but feeling powerless** are older on average than youth in other groups, while youth who are **not directly affected but believe in their influence** trend younger.

In terms of party affiliation, although youth who do not identify with either major party are found across all groups, there were almost no youth identifying as Democrats in the **disengaged from the climate issue** group and almost no youth identifying as Republicans in the **threatened and want government action** group. Meanwhile, young people who do not affiliate with one of the two major political parties made up a plurality of those who are **exposed but feeling powerless** and those who are **not directly affected but believe in their influence**.

While, as we'd expect, youth who are disengaged from the issue are much more likely to be Republicans, and youth who want government action are much more likely to be Democrats, the other two groups have nearly equal shares of youth from both parties. That highlights the potential to engage youth across the political spectrum who are exposed to climate change but are feeling powerless, as well as those who aren't exposed but already believe they can have an influence on the issue.

Party affiliation of youth in different groups

Within each group, bars represent the probability that a young person belonging to that group selected each option.



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE
Source: CIRCLE Pre-2024 Pre-Election Youth Poll

There's potential to engage youth across the political spectrum who are exposed to climate change but feeling powerless, and those who aren't exposed but already believe they can have an influence on the issue.

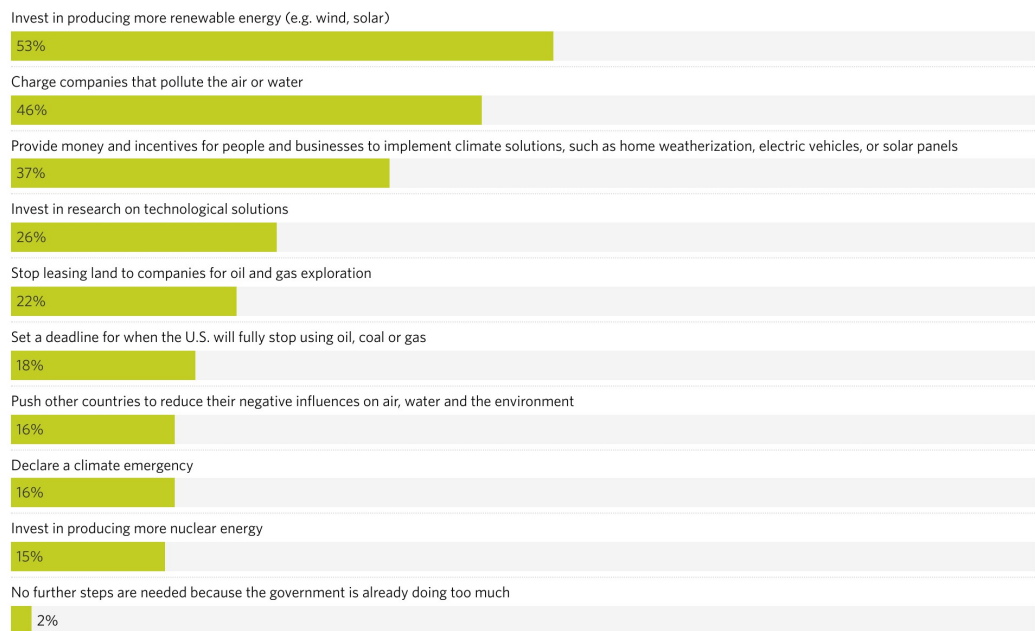
Youth Threatened by Climate Change Support a Range of Government Actions

In addition (and separate) to the analyses presented in the rest of this report, below we present data from the segment of youth in the CIRCLE Pre-2024 Pre-Election Youth Poll who reported that they “agree” or “strongly agree” that “climate change is a threat to the health and safety of myself and my loved ones.” These youth were asked to select up to three government actions on climate change that they would support.

Results showed that only 2% of youth who feel threatened think that the government is already doing too much to address climate change or that no further steps by the government are necessary. Most youth want more action and indicated support for multiple alternatives.

Investing in renewable energy (53%), charging companies that pollute (46%), and providing incentives for people and businesses to implement climate solutions like home weatherization or solar panels (37%) were young people’s highest priorities. Some alternatives, like pushing other countries or investing in more nuclear energy, are selected by far fewer youth (15%), whether because they don’t consider it a high priority or because they don’t support it at all.

Young People Want More Renewable Energy, Want Polluters to Pay, and Want Climate-Friendly Financial Incentives



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College - CIRCLE
 Source: CIRCLE Pre-2024 Election Youth Survey

Youth Who are Threatened and Want Government Action are the most likely to vote—and vote for a Democrat in 2024

IN SUMMARY

- Young people who belong to the **threatened and want government action** group are the most likely to report they will vote in 2024, followed by those in the **disengaged from the climate issue** group
- Among youth who are most likely to vote in 2024, the vast majority of those **disengaged from the climate issue** would choose the Republican candidate for president, and the vast majority of youth who are **threatened and want government action** would choose the Democrat

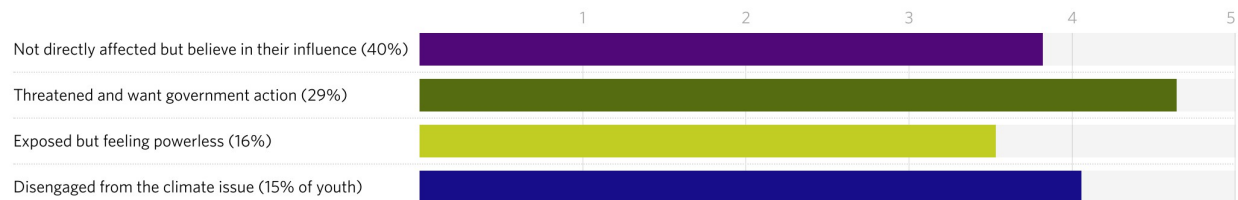
Most Climate-Focused Youth Are Likely to Vote

Young people who are focused on climate have the potential to make an outsized impact in the 2024 presidential election, but reaching youth from the other groups will be important to ensuring that all youth who are concerned about the climate issue have a chance to make their voice heard.

In the CIRCLE Pre-2024 Election Youth Survey, the roughly 29% of young people who feel **threatened and want government action** reported the highest likelihood that they will vote in the presidential election, followed by those in the **disengaged from the climate issue** group. These youth, who report that they are likely to vote but are disengaged from the climate issue, may be highly focused on and motivated by other issues.

Youth who are *Threatened and want government action* on climate change are most likely to say they'll vote in 2024

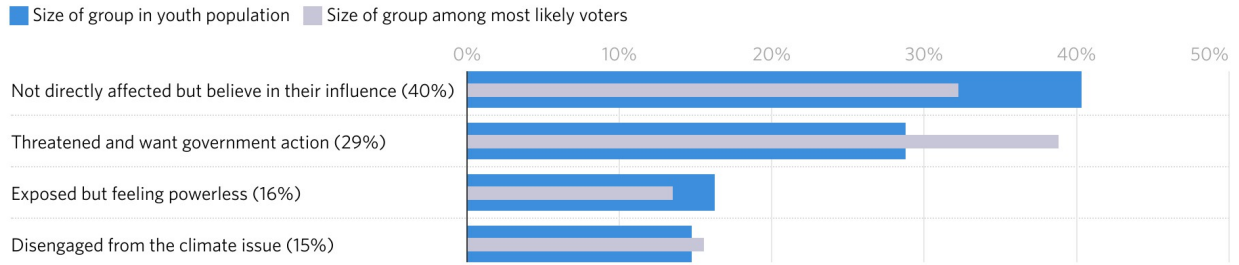
1 = extremely unlikely; 5 = extremely likely



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE
Source: CIRCLE Pre-2024 Election Youth Survey

Among young people who reported being extremely likely voters, youth from the **threatened and want government action** group are overrepresented, while youth who are either in **exposed but feeling powerless** or **not directly affected but believe in their influence** are underrepresented.

Youth who are *Not directly affected but believe in their influence* are underrepresented among likely voters



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE
Source: CIRCLE Pre-2024 Election Youth Survey

Vote Choice among Youth Who Are Likely to Vote

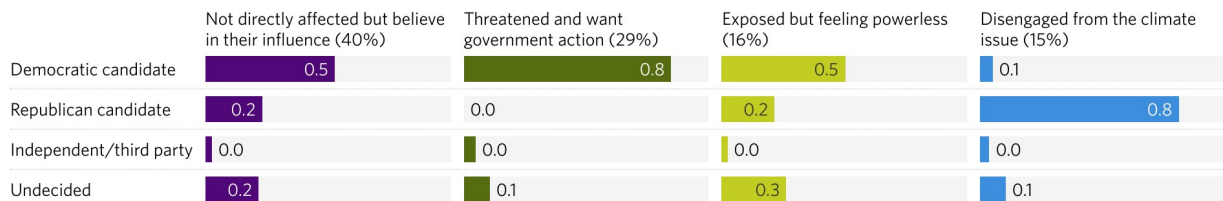
Among youth who are **threatened and want government action**, and who said they’re extremely likely to vote, the vast majority said they’d vote for a Democratic candidate in 2024, and the rest reported that they would vote Independent/third party or were undecided.

Youth who are **disengaged from the climate issue** were also highly likely to report that they will vote, and the most-likely-to-vote youth in this group were very likely to select a Republican candidate. This is the only group to prefer a Republican candidate, and it makes up 1 in 6 youth who are extremely likely to vote.

Among youth in the other groups who are extremely likely to vote, they are twice as likely to say they will support a Democratic presidential candidate than a Republican candidate, with roughly a quarter of youth in each group undecided on which party’s candidate to support in 2024.

Vote choice among youth most likely to vote

Within each group, bars represent the probability that a young person belonging to that group reported that they would vote for each party/candidate.



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE
Source: CIRCLE Pre-2024 Election Youth Survey

Most Youth are Dissatisfied with Government Action on Climate; Youth Who are Threatened and Want Government Action Are More Satisfied if they Are Informed

IN SUMMARY

- Youth in the **threatened and want government action** group who lack information about government actions are somewhat dissatisfied, but among this group, those who are well-informed are more satisfied
- Youth in three of the groups, except for those who are **threatened and want government action**, are more likely to be dissatisfied with steps taken by the federal government on climate when they are informed about those steps; these same youth tend to report their satisfaction with government actions as “unsure” even when they are informed

Climate change has been a major topic in recent political campaigns and elections, often as a result of community organizations, young activists, and young voters pushing the issue forward. For example, after the 2020 Democratic presidential primaries, [youth groups pressured the newly minted Democratic candidate](#) to prioritize climate change. Our data show that youth’s levels of satisfaction with actions that the U.S. federal government has taken depend both on the group they belong to and the amount of information they have about the actions the government has taken.

Young people in the **Not directly affected but believe in their influence**, **Exposed but feeling powerless**, and **Disengaged from the climate issue** groups were all less likely to be satisfied with government action the more they learned about them. This pattern was particularly pronounced for youth who are **Disengaged from the climate issue**, who were “not sure” about their satisfaction with government action if they were less informed, but dissatisfied if they knew a lot about government actions.

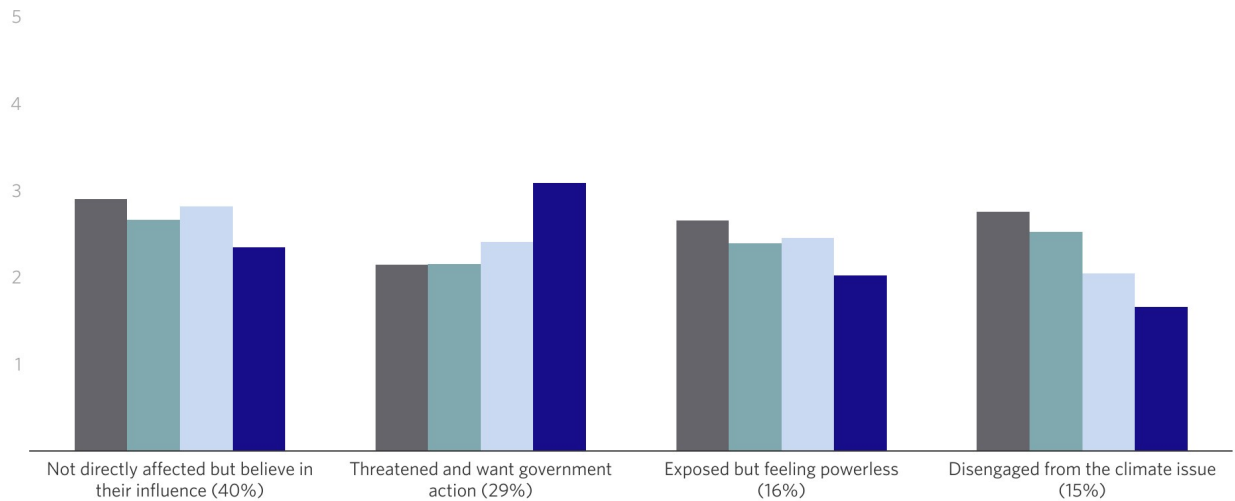
However, for youth who feel **threatened and want government action**, knowing a lot about the actions and policies of the U.S. federal government over the past two years meant they were a lot more satisfied than if they knew little to nothing at all.

Youth satisfaction with government action on climate change over the past two years depends on how much information they have about it

1 = Very dissatisfied; 2 = Somewhat dissatisfied; 3 = Not sure, 4 = Somewhat satisfied; 5 = Very satisfied

How much youth have read, seen, or heard about the U.S. federal government’s actions and policies in the past two years regarding climate and the environment:

■ Nothing at all ■ Not much ■ Some ■ A lot



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE
Source: CIRCLE Pre-2024 Election Youth Survey

Youth’s Relationship to Climate Issue May be Shaped by Civic Information and Organizations

IN SUMMARY

- Although youth across all groups get civic information from people they know, youth who are **threatened and want government action** were most likely to be getting information from local and national news media, political parties, and community organizations
- Youth in that **threatened and want government action** group were also most likely to belong to social or political movements and local groups in their community, and were also most likely to agree that they have the power to change things in this country
- Youth who are **disengaged from the climate issue** are most likely to be part of a religious congregation or church, which may reflect the demographic background or community context of youth in this group

Access to Information

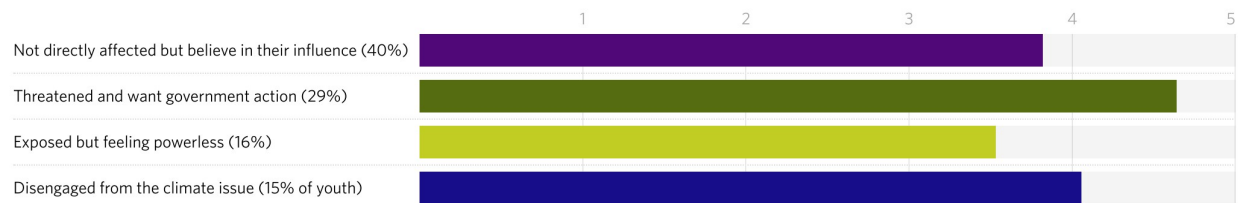
Young people’s [access to civic information and political homes](#) is critical for their overall civic engagement. Differences between groups in access to civic information and in civic organization membership suggest that young people’s relationship to taking action on climate change are also shaped by these factors.

The majority of youth, across all four groups, reported that they had seen or heard useful information about social, political, and economic issues in their local community from people they know like their peers and family members. However, in the case of civic information from other sources, the extent to which youth reported seeing and hearing information varied by group.

Youth who are **threatened and want government action** were most likely to get civic information from local and national news media, as well as from political parties, campaigns, and political candidates. These youth were also most likely to get information about civic and political issues from community organizations, clubs, and organized youth groups. The other three groups are also seeing or hearing information from other sources—especially local and national news media—but to a lesser extent.

Youth who are *Threatened and want government action* on climate change are most likely to say they'll vote in 2024

1 = extremely unlikely; 5 = extremely likely



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE
Source: CIRCLE Pre-2024 Election Youth Survey

In addition, youth who are threatened and want government action are most likely to report that there are “people, organizations, or resources in my community that can help me make sense of and act on the information I find about social and political issues.” [Previous CIRCLE research](#) has shown that youth access to civic organizations can create a pathway between civic information and civic action. Youth who are threatened and want government action may be taking part more heavily in climate actions due to their access to both civic information and resources that help them to translate that information into a plan for action.

Access to Civic Organizations

Belonging to and having access to civic and religious organizations, movement spaces and community organizations like youth groups can also support youth civic engagement. These spaces can act as “political homes” where youth can be empowered to act on the issues that they care about.

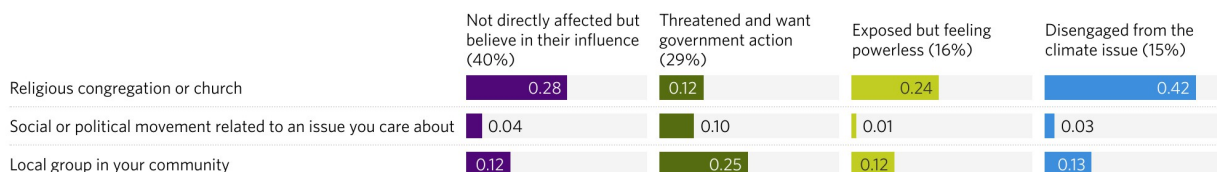
We found that youth who are **disengaged from the climate issue** were most likely to be a part of a religious congregation or church. Youth membership in religious organizations can, in some cases, provide a place for civic learning and action. However, for this particular group of youth we see that belonging to religious civic spaces at high rates is not related to engagement in climate as an important social and civic issue.

Low percentages of youth reported they belong to a social or political movement, but youth who are **threatened and want government action** are most likely to belong to this type of civic space. Additionally, this group of youth is the most likely to be a member of a local group in their community. The outsized access to movement spaces and local groups among youth in this group may be translating to a sense of power, as they had the highest scores on the survey item: “As a group, young people have the power to change things in this country.” For youth who are **exposed but feeling powerless** and currently have very poor access to social or political movement spaces, addressing this gap in civic belonging may help these youth to feel empowered.

Additionally, there appears to be strong potential to “activate” youth who are **not directly affected but believe in their influence**. Many young people in this group are Black youth, younger, have a lower household income, and are spread across the partisan spectrum. Providing the kind of access to civic information and civic organizations that are available to youth in the group that wants government action may support youth in this group wield the influence that they already believe they possess.

Youth Disengaged from the climate issue are more likely to be members of a religious congregation; Youth in the Threatened and want government action group more likely to be member of social movements and local groups

Within each group, bars represent the probability that a young person belonging to that group reported that they are currently a member of each type of civic organization.



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College - CIRCLE
 Source: CIRCLE Pre-2024-Election Youth Survey

There appears to be strong potential to “activate” youth who are not directly affected but believe in their influence. Many young people in this group are Black youth, younger, have a lower household income, and are spread across the partisan spectrum.

Different Groups of Youth Take Distinct Actions on Climate Change; All Youth Want to Take More Civic Action Overall

IN SUMMARY

- Youth who are part of the **threatened and want government action** group were the most likely to have engaged in the following civic actions to express their opinion on climate change: fundraising, petitions/boycotts, demonstrations/protests, and contacting elected officials
- Youth who are **threatened and want government action** have also participated at the highest rates in civic actions more generally over the past year
- Youth who are **disengaged from the climate issue** have volunteered to express their opinion on climate change at community events or for a community organization at high rates
- Youth across all groups would engage in civic actions at higher rates if they had the opportunity to do so, and some of these civic actions may be undertaken to express their opinion on climate change

It's clear from our data that a wide range of young people believe climate is a threat and worry about it regularly. This represents massive potential for future youth impact on this issue. An important factor that may be shaping whether youth engage, and a potential lever to spur future engagement, is how different kinds of actions are connected to young people's views about their own power, about the role of government, and about what is most likely to have an impact.

Young people who feel **threatened and want government action** are more likely to donate money for a campaign and to contact an elected official about climate change. But they're also more likely to take civic actions on climate that center their own power, like attend a protest, and sign a petition/join a boycott, which suggests they understand their role in effecting change beyond governmental action.

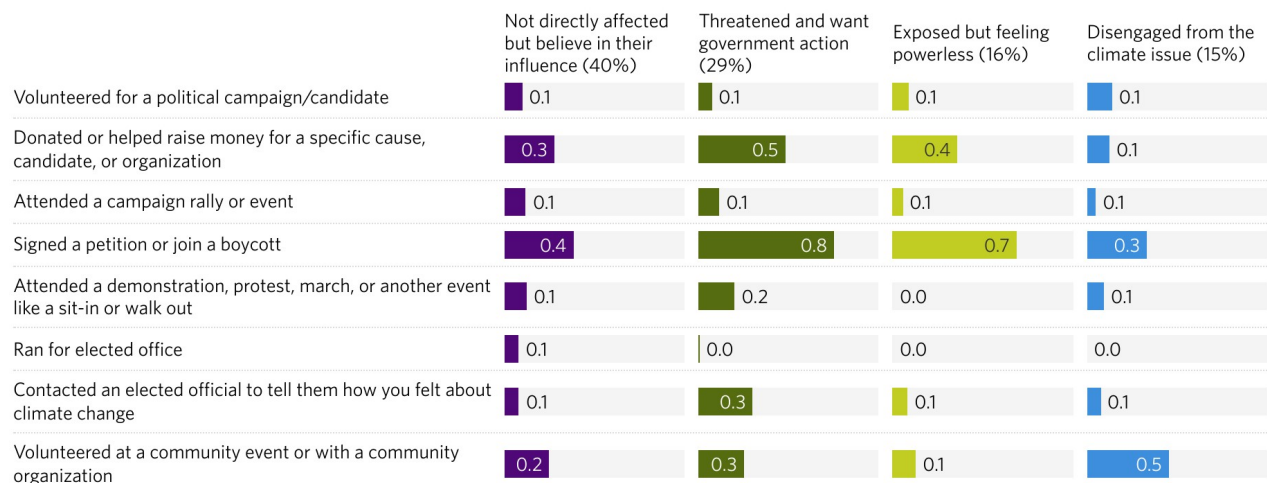
Different types of actions may be a better "fit" for different groups of youth; understanding these differences may help promote their participation. Young people who are **exposed but feeling powerless** were almost as likely as those who are **threatened and want government action** to have signed a petition or joined a boycott and donated to a cause/candidate/organization related to climate or the environment. This is likely directly related to the types of opportunities they view as accessible to them and for which they have support—i.e., the ways in which they felt they could exercise their power.

The many young people who are **not directly affected but believe in their influence** are more likely than those in the **exposed but feeling powerless** group to say they have volunteered at a community event or with a community organization related to climate. This suggests that a local connection may be particularly useful to tap into where this group sees itself as having power, which was one of the findings from CIRCLE’s [previous work with ACE](#) related to those interested in the issue who hadn’t yet taken action.

Despite being **disengaged from the climate issue**, youth in this group did participate in some actions to express their opinion about climate change. In fact, they were more likely than other groups to say they have volunteered at a community event or with a community organization related to climate change. These young people may perceive community-based activities like cleanups as related to the environment even if they don’t make broader connections to climate change as a political issue. Others may be involved in activities to promote or support action on non-renewable energy (e.g., pro-fracking). Understanding more about how and why these young people engage civically despite their relative disengagement on the issue may be an important step for spurring additional civic participation.

Youth engagement in civic action related to climate change differs by group

Within each group, bars represent the probability that a young person belonging to that group had engaged in each type of civic action for climate change.



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College · CIRCLE
 Source: CIRCLE Pre-2024 Election Youth Survey

Our data also show that young people’s sense of civic responsibility connected to climate change may translate to civic action on other issues as well. Youth who are **threatened and want government action** were most likely to have participated in civic actions overall—whether or not they were related to climate change. This may be in part because young people are increasingly aware of how climate change connects to a range of other issues (e.g., racial justice, the economy, healthcare access).

Tapping into youth’s ability to make connections between issues can drive action on both climate change, as well as other important issues.

Although youth in the other groups generally participated in civic actions at lower rates than youth in the **threatened and want government action** group, they were more likely to express they would engage in some civic actions if presented with the opportunity. That is evidence of vast untapped potential to engage youth across multiple groups. Engaging these youth on climate and other issues by providing civic information, supporting access to civic organizations, and providing concrete and varied opportunities to take civic action will be key to unleashing their potential.

Youth in the *Threatened and want government action* group are most likely to be taking part in civic actions, regardless of issue: Youth across all groups would engage more if given the opportunity



CIRCLE Tufts University Tisch College - CIRCLE
 Source: CIRCLE Pre-2024 Election Youth Survey

Suggested Citation

Kiesa, Abby, Suzuki, Sara, & Medina, Alberto. “Concern for climate change directly informs youth civic engagement.” Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), December 2023. https://circle.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/2023-12/concern_climate_informs_youth_engagement_2024.pdf

About CIRCLE

The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) is a non-partisan, independent research organization focused on youth civic engagement in the United States. We conduct extensive research on youth participation, and we leverage that research to improve opportunities for all young people to acquire and use the skills and knowledge they need to meaningfully participate in civic life. In all of our work, we are especially concerned with understanding, addressing, and ultimately eliminating the systemic barriers that keep some young

people marginalized from and underrepresented in civic life. CIRCLE is part of the Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University.

About Action for the Climate Emergency (ACE)

Action for the Climate Emergency (ACE) is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works at the nexus of youth, climate, media, and civic engagement to accelerate our pathway to a decarbonized world. ACE engaged more than 30 million young voters in its nonpartisan voter education and civic engagement programs during the 2022 midterm elections. ACE utilizes leading-edge media strategies to combat dangerous disinformation, drive action-taking, and increase diverse participation in the democratic process.

About Climate Power

Climate Power is an independent strategic communications and paid media operation focused on educating Americans about climate action. Climate Power integrates hard-hitting research, polling, state and national earned media, digital and paid media to elevate the urgency of the climate crisis and inform the public about the bold action taken to combat climate change.

Appendix

Dimension	Survey items
Exposure to extreme weather	<p><i>In the past 12 months, have you or your local community experienced any of the following?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Droughts or water shortages ● Unusually hot weather ● Weather events, like hurricanes, floods or intense storms ● Poor air quality ● Unusually cold or harsh winters
Threatened by climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How much do you agree with the following statement? I think climate change is a threat to the health and safety of myself and my loved ones. ● How often do you worry about climate change?
How much influence they can have	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I, or a group that I am a member of, have the right relationships to influence the people who make decisions that affect climate and the environment ● Elected officials will care what I think about climate or the environment

<p>Powerless on climate change</p>	<p><i>Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I don't feel comfortable talking to neighbors or community members about climate or the environment ● Climate or environmental issues are so big that I don't know what I could do ● No one cares what I think about climate or the environment ● I'm intimidated to speak about climate and the environment in front of people who I don't know
<p>Belief that government has a responsibility to take action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I pay attention to and assess a political candidate's position on addressing climate change when determining whether or not I will vote for that candidate. ● State and federal laws should hold companies accountable for the pollution that they put into the environment. ● The government has a responsibility to mitigate the impacts of climate change. ● If it were on my ballot, I would vote to ensure my state's constitution includes citizens' rights to clean water, clean air, and a safe and stable climate.
<p>Perceived impact of political actions</p>	<p><i>How influential do you think each of the following actions would be in persuading or pressing elected officials to address climate change</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Email the elected official ● Call the elected official ● Share your thoughts directly with an elected official at an event ● Attend and speak at official events where public feedback is requested (such as town halls) ● Protest outside an elected official's office ● Send petitions to the elected official ● Post on social media and tag elected official ● Convincing other people to also contact the elected officials ● Vote

The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) is a non-partisan, independent research organization focused on youth civic engagement in the United States. We conduct extensive research on youth participation, and we leverage that research to improve opportunities for all young people to acquire and use the skills and knowledge they need to meaningfully participate in civic life. CIRCLE is part of the Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University.

Learn more at circle.tufts.edu

