# ELECTIONS DA ANSWERS-NWG 2024

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### 2AC FRONTLINE

#### Non Unique: Trump is winning now

**Liesman, CNBC Reporter, 8-8**-24

(Steve, “Trump holds 2-point lead over Harris with a big advantage on economy, CNBC survey shows,” accessed 8-8-24, <https://www.cnbc.com/2024/08/08/trump-holds-2-point-lead-over-harris-with-a-big-advantage-on-economy-cnbc-survey-shows.html>) JFN

**The CNBC All-America Economic Survey finds** former President Donald **Trump** holding a commanding lead among voters on key economic issues, but **ahead of** Vice President Kamala **Harris by** just **a 2-point advantage** in the head-to-head race for the White House. After the replacement of President Joe Biden with Harris, an assassination attempt on Trump and the Republican convention, Trump’s 48%-46% lead is within the CNBC survey’s margin of error and unchanged from the 45%-43% lead Trump held against Biden in the NBC News July Survey. While the head-to-head competition remains the same, there have been dramatic but offsetting changes beneath the surface for both sides that have kept the race even.

#### Turn: Majority of Americans support expanding renewables and reducing carbon emissions

**EPIC,** 6-4-**24**

(Energy Policy Institute @ the Univ. of Chicago, “Public Opinion on Energy & Climate,” accessed 6-12-24, <https://epic.uchicago.edu/area-of-focus/public-opinion-on-energy-climate-change/#:~:text=Americans'%20Views%20on%20Climate%20and%20Energy%20Policy&text=Most%20are%20unwilling%20to%20pay,responsibility%20to%20address%20climate%20change>.) JFN

**Most Americans say climate actions are extremely or very important for the next president to address**. **These actions include** protecting conservation lands and wildlife (62%), enforcing strict clean air and water regulations (56%), **expanding the U.S. clean energy industry (53%), and reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (50%)**. But there is a sharp divide along party lines, with three-quarters of Democrats supporting these policy actions. **Few Americans** (34%) **find it important for the next president to protect and expand U.S fossil fuel development,** while about **6 in 10 say they would support the building of wind turbines and solar farms in their communities**. Republicans under 45 are closer to Democrats than they are to their older Republican counterparts on the issue of fossil fuel development, with only 35% of younger Republicans supporting it compared to 53% of older Republicans and 28% of Democrats.

#### Electricity prices don’t influence how people vote

**Dabbs and Tomich, Reporters for Energy & Environment News**, 7-17-**24**

(Brian and Jeffrey, “Electricity prices get political in Trump’s world,” accessed 8-7-24, <https://www.eenews.net/articles/electricity-prices-get-political-in-trumps-world/>) JFN

Economists and **political experts are also skeptical that electricity prices — which are typically buried in dense utility bills or automatically paid by consumers — will influence Americans’ votes despite the spikes. “People feel prices have gone up for everything, but the only things they remember are eggs and gasoline,”** said Mark **Wolfe, executive director of the National Energy Assistance Directors’ Association**, who recently published a paper on energy burdens for low-income households.

#### Turn: Plan solidifies the youth vote for Harris and ensures victory for her

**Adcox, Senior Climate Strategist at Data for Progress**, 8-5-**24**

(Grace, “Harris Has Significant Edge Over Trump on Climate and Energy Issues,” accessed 8-7-24, <https://www.dataforprogress.org/blog/2024/8/5/harris-has-significant-edge-over-trump-on-climate-and-energy-issues>) JFN

With Vice President Kamala Harris now the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, and fewer than 100 days until the election, this moment offers a unique opportunity to remind voters of the sharp contrast on climate and clean energy between Harris and former President Donald Trump. Previous Climate Power and Data for Progress polling has found that **climate issues are particularly salient with young voters, who could prove determinative this November**. To determine voters’ views as they relate to Harris’ approach to climate and energy issues, Climate Power and Data for Progress conducted two surveys of national likely voters, fielded July 24-26 and July 26-30. Notably, **a strong majority of voters prefer Harris’ approach to climate policy overall, want to hold oil and gas companies accountable, and see a strong mandate for Harris to continue building on the progress the Biden-Harris administration has made on clean energy and climate action.**

Voters Want a President Who Champions Clean Energy Manufacturing and Climate Action **Nearly 7 of 10 voters say the next president of the United States should continue investing in clean energy manufacturing** (68%), **including half of Republicans, two-thirds of Independents, and 71% of young voters between 18 and 34.** In a question asked on the subsequent survey, which explicitly names Harris as the presumptive Democratic nominee, **62% of voters say that she should continue investing in clean energy manufacturing to deliver cleaner, cheaper energy options and strengthen the climate actions taken under the Biden-Harris administration**, while only 25% disagree – a +37-point margin.

#### Unpredictable, outside events will be the determining factor in the 2024 election, not what the candidates say or do

**Alter, Bennett, and Elliott**, 3-21-**24**

(Charlotte, Brian, and Philip, “Biden’s Campaign Is In Trouble. Will the Turnaround Plan Work?,” accessed 3-26-24, <https://time.com/6958784/biden-campaign-strategy-problems-2024/>) JFN

For all their meticulous planning, Biden’s team knows **the race could hinge on factors outside their control**. Four years ago this March**, the sudden spread of COVID-19 in the U.S**. shut down the economy and paralyzed the presidential campaigns. **Without the pandemic, Trump could well have won**. **Any number of unpredictable events—the state of the war in the Middle East**, foreign election interference, **gas prices, persuasive AI-enabled deepfakes,** the uncertain schedule of **Trump’s trials—could shape the outcome to a greater degree than what the candidates do between now and November.**

### TURN: RENEWABLES ARE POPULAR: EXTENSIONS

#### Vast majority of Americans favor prioritizing renewables over fossil fuels

**PEW Research Center**, 6-28-**23**

(“1. What Americans think about an energy transition from fossil fuels to renewables,” accessed 6-1-24, <https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2023/06/28/what-americans-think-about-an-energy-transition-from-fossil-fuels-to-renewables/#:~:text=In%20the%20new%20survey%2C%2067,oil%2C%20coal%20and%20natural%20gas>.) JFN

**In the** new **survey, 67% of Americans say the U.S. should prioritize developing alternative energy sources, such as wind, solar** and hydrogen technology, **while 32% say the priority should be expanding the exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas.**

#### Public supports significant reductions in fossil fuel emissions

**Nilsen and Edwards-Levy, CNN Reporters**, 12-8-**23**

(Ella and Ariel, “CNN poll: Large majority of US adults and half of Republicans agree with Biden’s goal to slash climate pollution,” accessed 8-1-24, <https://www.cnn.com/2023/12/08/politics/cnn-poll-climate-change/index.html>) JFN

**Nearly two-thirds of US adults say they are worried about the threat of climate change in their communities**, according to a new CNN poll conducted by SSRS. More than half are worried about the impact of extreme weather, as the climate crisis touches every region in the form of extreme heat, devastating storms and drought. Even more want the federal government to do something about it. **A broad majority of US adults – 73% – say the federal government should develop its climate policies with the goal of cutting the country’s planet-warming pollution in half by the end of the decade.** That has been the goal of President Joe Biden, who has made tackling the climate crisis a greater priority than any other president, including through billions of dollars in tax subsidies to create more renewable energy infrastructure and help consumers buy discounted electric vehicles, solar panels and energy-efficient appliances. The Biden administration is also crafting and implementing several federal regulations designed to cut pollution from the oil and gas industry, power plants, and gas-powered vehicles. The polling comes as nations debate the future of fossil fuels at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Vice President Kamala Harris announced at the summit last week that the US would commit another $3 billion to the global climate action fund, and the Biden administration announced new rules to slash emissions of methane – a powerful planet-warming gas – by 80% from the US oil and gas industry. **Cutting US climate pollution is a bipartisan aspiration**, the CNN poll finds. **Nearly all Democrats say the US should slash its greenhouse gas emissions by half by 2030, and 76% of independents and half of Republicans agree.**

#### Public supports policies that promote clean energy and protect the environment

**Adcox, Senior Climate Strategist at Data for Progress**, 8-5-**24**

(Grace, “Harris Has Significant Edge Over Trump on Climate and Energy Issues,” accessed 8-7-24, <https://www.dataforprogress.org/blog/2024/8/5/harris-has-significant-edge-over-trump-on-climate-and-energy-issues>) JFN

**Harris Holds a Significant Edge Over Trump on Her Approach to Climate, Energy**, and Protecting Clean Air and Water **When asked to compare Harris’ and Trump’s energy and climate policies, voters say they prefer Harris’ approach by a +12-point margin. Harris' approach would focus on expanding clean energy to lower costs for families and boost American manufacturing while protecting communities’ access to clean air and water** from corporate polluters. **Harris’ advantage is even larger among Independents** (+17 points) **and young voters between 18 and 34** (+22 points).

#### Americans net support a shift to renewables over fossil fuels even considering potential drawbacks

**PEW Research Center**, 6-28-**23**

(“1. What Americans think about an energy transition from fossil fuels to renewables,” accessed 6-1-24, <https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2023/06/28/what-americans-think-about-an-energy-transition-from-fossil-fuels-to-renewables/#:~:text=In%20the%20new%20survey%2C%2067,oil%2C%20coal%20and%20natural%20gas>.) JFN

**Americans think a major shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources in the U.S. would come with** some **difficulties for the country**. But **they also see potential benefits, such as improved air and water quality and a more positive than negative impact on jobs** in the energy sector. Still, **many worry that an energy transition would push consumer prices higher**. As with views on energy sources generally, Republicans and Democrats have quite different expectations for what a renewable energy transition would bring for the U.S. Overall, **34% say the country would be very likely to encounter unexpected problems if the U.S. greatly reduces energy production from fossil fuels while increasing production from renewable sources; another 38% say unexpected problems would be somewhat likely.** Among Republicans, a majority (57%) think an energy transition to renewables would very likely lead to unexpected problems and 31% say this would make unexpected problems somewhat likely. A majority of Democrats also think unexpected problems from an energy transition would be at least somewhat likely (60%), but just 14% consider this very likely.

### TURN: PLAN KEY TO YOUTH TURNOUT: EXTENSIONS

#### Pro-climate policies are key to propelling Harris to victory

**Dziaba, American Prospect Writer, 7-30**-24

(Rachael, “How Kamala Harris Can Win Over Gen Z,” accessed 7-30-24, <https://prospect.org/politics/2024-07-30-how-kamala-harris-can-win-over-gen-z/>) JFN

**The highest youth turnout in decades helped carry Biden to victory in 2020.** But the campaign was struggling with young voters who felt disillusioned by his age, his support for Israel’s war on Gaza, and their current economic woes—until now. The switch to Harris has already sparked a palpable sense of excitement. But whether the Harris campaign can capitalize on her viral moments to get young voters to actually vote remains to be seen. In the immediate term, political operators agree the effects of the Harris switch have been enormous. “It’s night and day,” explained Brian Rolling, founder of MurMur Impact, a group that helps young people use digital media to spread progressive messages. “What we’ve been hearing from Gen Z swing voters—and even some of the national voters—is that they didn’t want a rematch of the 2020 election. Now we don’t have that rematch, and I think the energy is through the roof.” In some ways, this isn’t surprising. Gen Z’s almost entire political experience so far has revolved around Biden and Trump —the oldest and second-oldest major-party nominees in American history, for two elections in a row. Even the oldest Gen Z members weren’t able to vote for president until 2016, when Hillary Clinton was 69 years old. Harris is their first time having a candidate younger than 60 (at least until her birthday in October). That’s why many people online are calling this Gen Z’s “Obama moment.” Harris has the potential to make history as the first Black and Asian American female president, similar to Barack Obama’s achievement in 2008. “As a young Black woman myself,” explained Claudia Nachega, the deputy executive director of the Young Feminist Party, “that makes me incredibly hopeful.” However, while the buzz around Harris has dominated discourse on social media, there is no guarantee that momentum will last until the election—or that young people’s love of coconut memes will translate into votes. Baybars Charkas, president of the Penn State College Democrats, said he feels enthusiastic yet skeptical. After all, it’s only been about two weeks since the assassination attempt on former President Trump, and “it feels like that happened four months ago,” he said. Young people may be excited now, but they also have notoriously short attention spans, and viral attention is famously fickle. “What ultimately gets a candidate across the finish line is a campaign that prioritizes voter contact,” explained Winnie Wong, the co-founder of People for Bernie 2016 and an organizer behind Occupy Wall Street. For young people, that often requires peer-to-peer conversations, according to MurMur Impact’s research. As institutional trust reaches record lows, young people may feel suspicious of official campaigning. Hearing from other people their age, whether on social media or in person, can get the message across. That’s why the content organically cropping up about Harris is encouraging for the campaign. The Biden team struggled to get young influencers on board, with criticism from both the left and right, not to mention his age, making him widely unpopular online—despite campaigning on issues broadly supported by Gen Z. Even when young people were willing to speak positively about the president, Biden himself wasn’t as publicly available, a damage control strategy to prevent further poor performances. Over the last week, the change has been dramatic. “At no other point in the last two months, even with the other unprecedented political events, have we seen such a drastic overnight shift in political share of voice and sentiment,” explained Ben Darr, founder of CredoIQ, a social media intelligence platform for political organizations. According to the organization’s data, the influx of progressive content and views has skyrocketed. Young activists, content creators, and organizations that were critical of Biden’s policies on Palestine, such as Gen-Z for Change and College Democrats of America, have thrown their support behind Harris. “Before, when Biden was running, we were in a pretty tough spot organizing college students,” explained Hasan Pyarali, the chair of the CDA Muslim Caucus. But, after Sunday, there’s been a “rush of energy” in college chapters across almost every swing state. The organization is planning a mass mobilization effort and canvassing to reach young people this fall. Harris must take advantage of these networks to mobilize and persuade young voters, organizers say. Grassroots actions, like the Zoom meeting that grew to 40,000 Black women and raised over $1 million in a few hours, should be attended by organizing staff who can guide participants on how to continue to support the campaign. “They have to create campaign organizing infrastructure to capture the crescendo of grassroots energy and then continuously create momentum until election day,” explained Wong. She suggested an app or built-out website with information on Harris’s policies, guides to getting involved, and reminders about the campaign and voting that will keep young people excited and engaged, even after the coconut tree trend fades. The Harris campaign has already started to do this by organizing a “young voters for Harris” call last week—which nearly 3,000 people attended—and creating a Linktree with sign-ups for a weekly youth newsletter and phone banks. Charkas, the student at Penn State, emphasized that the campaign must work with young organizations and activists to “get Kamala Harris in front of as many young people as possible.” By being authentic and accessible, Harris has an advantage over both Trump and Biden: her youth and likability. The campaign already seems to be playing into this, renaming the HQ account “Kamala,” rather than a more formal “Harris.” But **there’s more to politics on social media than savvy influencer techniques**, according to James Nord, the CEO of a social media marketing company that worked with the Biden campaign in 2020. **Harris must** be both entertaining but also able to float above the jokes, and **actually convince voters she has concrete policy plans**. “The memes will get you far. But **what will get young people to actually show up and vote are issues**,” said Pyarali. **The people I spoke to highlighted** housing, health care, reproductive rights, affordable education, **climate change**, and a cease-fire in Gaza **as their top priorities this fall.** **This is critically important for Harris in particular because** as the Prospect has reported, **she has little national record of her own**. Her Senate career was entirely under the Trump presidency, and Joe Biden obviously set priorities in his administration. **Nachega of the Young Feminist Party pointed to Harris’s record of sponsoring the Green New Deal** and pledging to pass the Equal Rights Amendment **as a “good sign that she speaks the language that young people want to hear.”** Harris has also previously voiced support for Medicare for All (though she backtracked later) and been more understanding than Biden towards pro-Palestine college protesters.

#### Pro-climate policies are vital to energizing the youth vote and propelling Harris to victory

**Joselow, Washington Post Reporter, 7-30**-24

(Maxine, “Climate leaders say Harris has ‘lit an electric spark’ with young voters,” WP, accessed 7-31-24, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2024/07/30/kamala-harris-climate-leaders/>) JFN

**More than 350 prominent climate advocates** on Tuesday **endorsed** Vice President **Harris for president, a sign that environmental leaders believe her campaign will energize like-minded voters in a way that President Biden could not.** In a letter shared first with The Washington Post, big names in the environmental movement — including former U.S. climate envoy John F. Kerry, former secretary of state Hillary Clinton and Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D) — wrote that Harris has long prioritized climate action and would continue to do so as president. “We know that protecting our planet for ourselves and future generations requires the kind of bold leadership that Kamala Harris has demonstrated her whole life,” they wrote. “We are proud to support her and be in the fight against climate change with her.” **Inslee**, whose ambitious climate proposals during his 2020 presidential campaign influenced Biden’s climate policies, **said Harris could help mobilize young voters, a crucial Democratic constituency. Polls show that climate change is a top concern for young people**, who are more likely than older generations to face raging wildfires, rising seas and stronger storms in their lifetimes. “**Her candidacy instantly lit an electric spark under young people across the country**,” **Inslee said. “That’s going to bode well for our fortunes**.”

Without directly criticizing Biden, Inslee added: “Now politics is fun again because people have hope and a dynamic leader.” Saad Amer, a 29-year-old climate activist, U.N. consultant and founder of the consultancy Justice Environment, said **Harris “offers so much energy and excitement and potential, which I think young people are hungry for.”**