**CAC Message Guidance: Presidential Debates**

**The American people have made it clear they want bold solutions to address the climate change crisis, and** [**support for climate action is growing**](https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/politics-global-warming-april-2019/2/) **across all age groups, all religions, and all political persuasions**. **The upcoming presidential debates should include a robust discussion of climate change and the transition to clean energy and how each candidate plans to address this most pressing issue of our time.**

**The Climate Crisis is Real and We Need Solutions Now**

* Early primary states like Nevada, Iowa, South Carolina, and New Hampshire, just like the rest of the country, are feeling the devastating effects of climate change now.
  + As the presidential debate season kicks off, Iowa is suffering under severe flooding that is damaging crops, hurting farmers and threatening our food security.
  + On the East Coast, the last two hurricane seasons have seen record storms that have destroyed homes and businesses and taken lives.
  + In the Southwest, record wildfires have devastated communities and taken lives while causing billions in damage.
* Our leaders need to offer concrete solutions that will spur clean energy development, cut the carbon pollution that contributes to climate change, protect our health, and create more of the clean energy jobs that drive our economy.

**The American People Support Climate Action**

* Climate change has emerged as one of the top areas of concern among voters.
  + A March poll from Navigator Research revealed that [seven-in-ten Americans](https://navigatorresearch.org/confronting-climate-change-and-disarming-charges-of-socialism/) think climate change is either a dangerous problem for people today or one that needs to be addressed today in order to prevent it from becoming dangerous in the future.
  + [Eight-in-ten Americans](https://www.langerresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/1198a1Global-Warming.pdf) say the federal government should try to achieve the same deep cuts in carbon pollution as called for in the Paris Climate Agreement, this according to a poll from ABC News and Stanford University.
  + [56%](https://climateindex.org/climate-change-index/) of Americans think climate change affects their family.
  + [65%](https://climateindex.org/climate-change-index/) of Americans think that climate change is affecting weather in the U.S.

**America’s Businesses, Cities and States Continue to Take Action on Climate Change.**

* States, cities, and local businesses continue to move forward with their own solutions, in the absence of meaningful government policies.
* These local leaders are counting on strong climate plans that advance clean energy, curb carbon pollution, protect our health and economy, and prepare the country for the impacts of climate change.

**Climate Change Is a National Security Emergency**

* The Department of Defense has identified climate change as a “threat multiplier” and has identified [79 military installations](https://media.defense.gov/2019/Jan/29/2002084200/-1/-1/1/CLIMATE-CHANGE-REPORT-2019.PDF) across the United States that are threatened by climate impacts including flooding and storm surges, drought and water quality, and other risks.
* [The National Climate Assessment](https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/), a scientific report created by scientists from 13 federal agencies, says we have an urgent need to address climate change. To do so we need to speed the transition to cleaner, safer sources of energy and a 100% clean energy economy.
* We can’t afford additional delays in the transition to a clean energy economy. Leaders across the country need to step up to offer solutions and protect American communities.

**SOCIAL GUIDANCE**

**TWITTER:**

* 📣📣📣 #MakeNoiseForClimate with @RethinkEnergyFL, @LCVoters, @UnderwaterHOA, @miaclimate, @ourclimateus, @AlianzaProgress, and @NextGenAmerica in Miami on 6/27. More details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2163017833995573/>
* The climate crisis demands to be taken seriously. Join us in Miami on 6/27 to call on our leaders to #MakeNoiseforClimate. #ActOnClimate More info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2163017833995573/>
* It’s time to #MakeNoiseForClimate. If you’re in #FL and want our leaders to commit to #ActOnClimate and address the crisis at hand, join us on 6/27: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2163017833995573/>
* This is a climate crisis. Add your voice to calls from people across the country asking our leaders to #ActOnClimate: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2163017833995573/> #MakeNoiseForClimate

**FACEBOOK:**

* The climate crisis demands to be taken seriously. Join [TAG] ReThinkEnergyFL [TAG] LCVoters, [TAG] underwaterHOA, [TAG] MiamiClimateAlliance, [TAG] ourclimateusa, [TAG] AlianzaForProgress, and [TAG] NextGenFL in Miami on 6/27 to call on our leaders to #MakeNoiseforClimate. #ActOnClimate More info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2163017833995573/>
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