

## **This Week in Climate (In)Action**

Check out the League of Conservation Voters' 2016 primers to stay up to date on what all of the presidential candidates are saying about [climate change](#), the [Clean Power Plan](#), and [renewable energy](#) – and be sure to follow LCV on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **Quote of the Week:**

*“As president, I will immediately approve the Keystone XL Pipeline and work to reform the permitting process for cross-border pipeline to prevent similar delays in the future.” – Senator Marco Rubio’s [Energy Plan](#)*

**Speed Read:** [Bringing Republicans to the Climate Change Table](#) – The New York Times

### **A roundup of this week’s most important stories:**

#### **Exposing Gulf with GOP, Democrats Put Climate Change on Center Stage at First Debate**

The Democratic candidates came out strong on environmental issues at this week’s [debate](#), driving home their message on an issue that resonates well across the party – America must act on climate change.

From the start, candidates made unprompted mentions of the threat and opportunity posed by climate change, reassuring voters that regardless of the eventual nominee climate change is set to be a central, rather than peripheral issue for the party in the general election.

LCV Senior Vice President of Campaigns Daniel J. Weiss [praised](#) their focus, reminding voters “it’s essential that the conversation be about action rather than inaction.”

It was encouraging that in the face of this threat, rather than shirking their responsibility, “the candidates exhibited an optimistic, can-do spirit that we can address this challenge,” said Weiss in his statement.

#### **“To My Friends On The Right Who Deny The Science, Tell Me Why?” - Lindsey Graham**

Lindsey Graham drew an immediate contrast between himself and the rest of the GOP field this past week, calling out climate change deniers within the Republican Party. Asking them why they deny the 97 percent of scientists who believe human activity is the primary cause of climate change, Graham touted his personal experience from visits to the Antarctic, Greenland and Alaska. “I’ve heard from people who live in these regions how the climate is changing,” he [said](#).

#### **Moderate Tone Cannot Mask Kasich’s “Carbon Doomsday Machine” Energy Policy**

John Kasich cast environmental and energy regulations as a block to economic growth when announcing his energy plan Thursday. Kasich's [proposal](#) focused mainly on the oil industry, with the Ohio Governor pledging to repeal regulations blocking oil and natural gas production and off-shore drilling, allow oil-exports and approve the Keystone XL pipeline.

"His plan is a big polluters wish list," stated Daniel J. Weiss, LCV Senior Vice President of Campaigns, who was quick to point out that as with Jeb Bush, the Kasich Energy Plan failed to acknowledge the need for action on climate change. Overall he [said](#), "Kasich's cookie cutter agenda doubles-down on fossil fuels, ignoring the devastating impacts of climate change like extreme weather, worse smog, and more sea level rise."

### **Democratic Governors See Clean Energy Message As a Vote Winner For Eventual Nominee**

In advance of Tuesday night's debate, Washington Governor Jay Inslee acknowledged that it's not solely Democrats who support America's transition towards a clean energy future. "Republican voters today," Inslee [said](#), "accept the need to deal with this threat of carbon pollution," a statement in line with the results of an August [poll](#) carried out by the LCV, which found a broad majority of Americans are in favour of the Clean Power Plan.

Both Inslee and Gov. Jack Markell of Delaware spoke of the need for Democratic candidates to tackle climate change using a broad economic development approach. Inslee reminded reporters "we need to find economic messages, incentives and a levelling of the playing field between fossil fuels and new energy technologies."

### **A look at next week:**

#### **October 18 – North Texas Presidential Forum – Plano, TX**

A number of Republican candidates, including Jeb Bush, Ted Cruz and John Kasich will speak at the North Texas Forum hosted by the Faith and Freedom Coalition and Prestonwood Baptist Church. You can view full information on this event [here](#).

#### **October 21 – Jeb Bush Attends A LIBRE Initiative Public Policy Forum – Las Vegas, NV**

Governor Bush will attend this forum in Las Vegas, hosted by the Koch Brothers backed LIBRE Initiative. Further details can be viewed [here](#).