

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:

The Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan is a significant step forward in meeting the urgent threat of climate change. It sets a smart federal standard that gives states the flexibility to choose how to reduce carbon pollution most effectively. And it drives investments in clean energy and energy efficiency, reduces asthma attacks and premature deaths, and promotes a healthier environment and a stronger economy. It's a good plan, and as President, I'd defend it.

– [Hillary Clinton](#) on the Clean Power Plan

Speed Read: “This is a very big reason why elections matter” – [GOP Candidates Range from Hopeless to Hapless on Climate Change](#) (The Washington Post's Eugene Robinson)

A roundup of this week's most important stories:

Climate Change, Clean Energy Get Short Shrift at GOP Debate

Despite the fact that broad majorities of Americans want to see climate action, the Fox News moderators didn't ask the 2016 candidates a single climate question at last night's primetime debate.

“We are disappointed in the candidates tonight and urge them to accept the settled science of climate change and start offering their plans to address one of the biggest challenges of our time,” said LCV Vice President of Campaigns Dan Weiss.

New Poll: Majorities of GOP primary voters want candidates to develop a clean energy plan.

A new [Republican poll](#) by American Viewpoint this week shows that large majorities of Republican primary voters want Republican presidential candidates to have a clean energy plan.

Among its most significant findings:

- The Republican primary electorate in both states is fairly conservative, yet they still show support for pro-environment policies
- Republican primary voters prefer more renewable energy, such as wind and solar, over traditional energy sources
- There are several clean energy policies that have broad appeal to Republican primary voters
- Majorities of Republican primary voters believe in climate change
- There is significant support among Republican primary voters for policies to address carbon pollution

Read American Viewpoint Research Director David Kanevsky's [polling memo](#) to get the full results.

Candidates' Reactions to Clean Power Plan Demonstrate How They Would or Would Not Tackle Climate Change as President

On Monday, President Obama announced the Administration's final Clean Power Plan, [which sets the first national limits on](#) the amount of carbon pollution power plants can ~~emit into the atmosphere~~ [spew into our air. This is the single biggest step our country has ever taken to tackle climate change and this flexible plan empowers Governors to craft the solutions that work best for their state.](#) Check out EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy's Medium post, [6 Things Every American Should Know about the Clean Power Plan](#), to get more details ~~on the plan~~.

The 2016 candidates' reactions were telling.

While Hillary Clinton called the [Clean Power Plan](#) "a significant step forward in meeting the urgent threat of climate change"—adding that she would defend the plan as President—the Republican candidates were quick to voice their opposition.

Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, and Marco Rubio all claimed the ~~se clean air environmental~~ protections would harm our economy, with Rubio explicitly saying the plan would raise consumers' electricity prices.

That's just plain wrong.

~~In addition to~~ [By cutting the harmful carbon pollution driving climate change that dirties our air, endangers public health, and drives climate change, by 2030](#) the Clean Power Plan would create \$24 to \$54 billion ~~of in net economic~~ [public health and climate-related](#) benefits each year and *cut* the average American's monthly electricity bill by 7 percent.

Not only that—by 2030, the Clean Power Plan would help our country avoid up to 3,600 fewer premature deaths a year; 90,000 fewer asthma attacks in children; 1,700 fewer hospital admissions; and 300,000 missed days of school and work.

“Enron used to do their books the same way” – Ted Cruz on Climate Science

Ted Cruz was at it again at last weekend's Freedom Partners Summit, accusing scientists of manipulating data to fit with their desired conclusions on the impact of climate change.

Cruz [told POLITICO'S Mike Allen](#), that climate scientists have been cooking the books—making climate change the “perfect theory” for “power-greedy politicians.”

A look at next week:

August 13-22: 2015 Iowa State Fair Soapbox, Des Moines, IA

So far, more than a dozen Presidential candidates have confirmed they will speak at the annual Des Moines Register Soapbox at the Iowa State Fair. Speeches from the soapbox generally last around 20 minutes and provide an opportunity for audience engagement. Check out the [schedule](#).

