Climate Change in the American Mind: Public Support for Climate & Energy Policies in November 2011

Interview dates: October 20, 2011 – November 16, 2011. Interviews: 1,000 Adults (18+)
Margin of error: +/- 3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.
NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled. Totals may occasionally sum to more than 100 percent due to rounding.

This study was conducted by the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication, and was funded by the Surdna Foundation, the 11th Hour Project, and the Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment.

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Q154[1]. Do you think global warming should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the president and Congress?

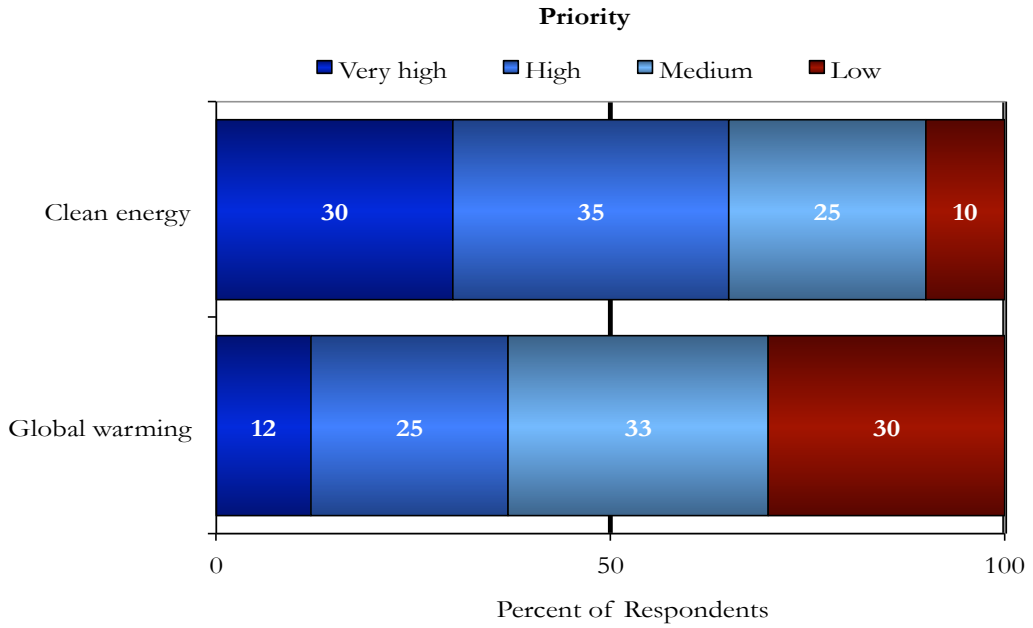
	Nov 2011*	May 2011*	June 2010*	Jan 2010*	Nov 2008+
Very high	12	13	17	13	21
High	25	27	27	25	33
Medium	33	31	33	31	30
Low	30	30	23	31	17

* 2010 & 2011 Question wording = Do you think global warming should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the president and Congress?

+ 2008 Question wording = Here are some issues now being discussed in Washington, D.C. Do you think each of these issues should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the next president and Congress?

Q155. Do you think that developing sources of clean energy should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the president and Congress?

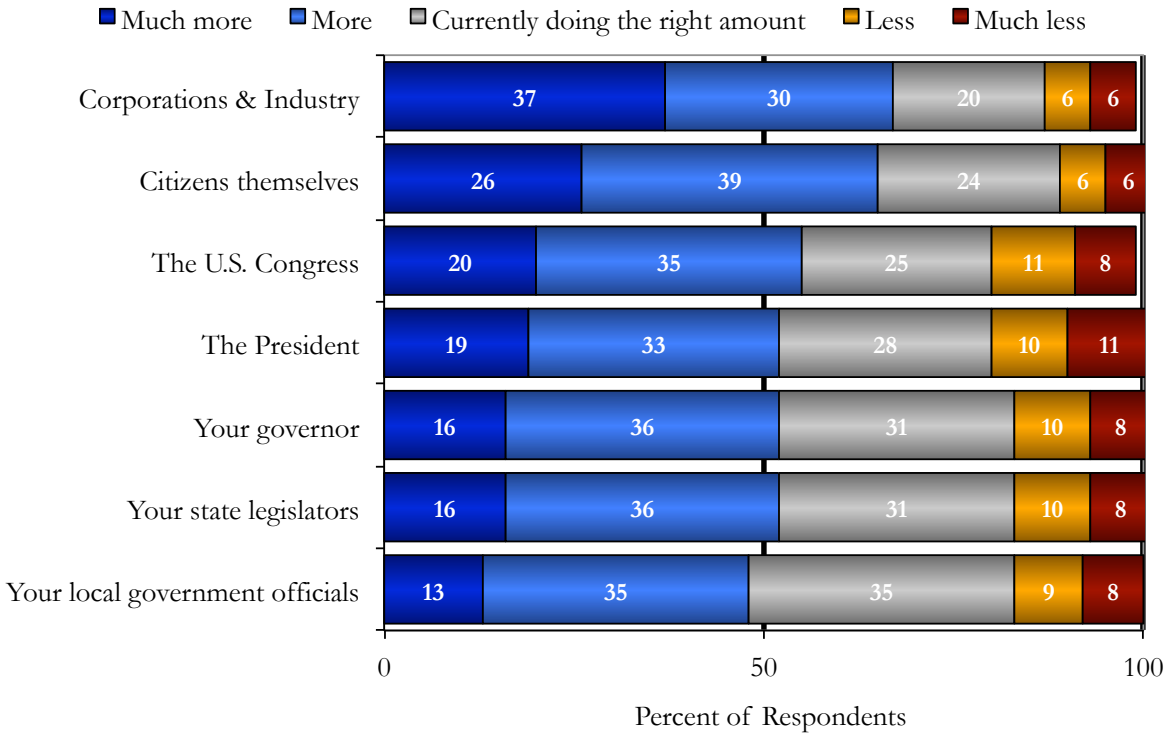
	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Very high	30	31	34	24	-
High	35	35	37	36	-
Medium	25	25	23	29	-
Low	10	9	6	11	-



[1] Items are listed in the order they were asked despite occasional non-sequential item numbers. Items not shown in this report are being released separately.

Q162-168. Do you think each of the following should be doing more or less to address global warming?

Public Desire for Action by Decision-Makers



Your local government officials

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	13	13	14	12	13
More	35	39	36	34	45
Currently doing the right amount	35	28	36	35	29
Less	9	9	8	8	7
Much less	8	10	7	10	6

Your state legislators

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	16	15	15	14	16
More	36	39	36	36	47
Currently doing the right amount	31	26	33	30	25
Less	10	10	8	10	6
Much less	8	10	8	10	6

Your governor

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	16	16	16	15	16
More	36	38	35	34	46
Currently doing the right amount	31	27	33	30	26
Less	10	9	9	10	6
Much less	8	10	8	11	6

The U.S. Congress

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	20	19	19	19	26
More	35	38	35	35	41
Currently doing the right amount	25	20	26	23	20
Less	11	11	10	10	6
Much less	8	12	9	15	7

The President

	Nov 2011*	May 2011*	June 2010*	Jan 2010*	Nov 2008+
Much more	19	19	20	17	28
More	33	35	32	33	38
Currently doing the right amount	28	22	30	26	21
Less	10	10	9	9	6
Much less	11	14	10	15	7

*President Barack Obama
+President George W. Bush

Corporations and industry

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	37	34	38	33	41
More	30	31	28	31	32
Currently doing the right amount	20	18	22	21	17
Less	6	8	7	7	5
Much less	6	9	6	9	6

Citizens themselves

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Much more	26	28	31	27	30
More	39	35	33	36	42
Currently doing the right amount	24	21	24	23	20
Less	6	9	7	7	5
Much less	6	7	5	8	5

Q169. People disagree whether the United States should reduce greenhouse gas emissions on its own, or make reductions only if other countries do too. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view? The United States should reduce its greenhouse gas emissions…

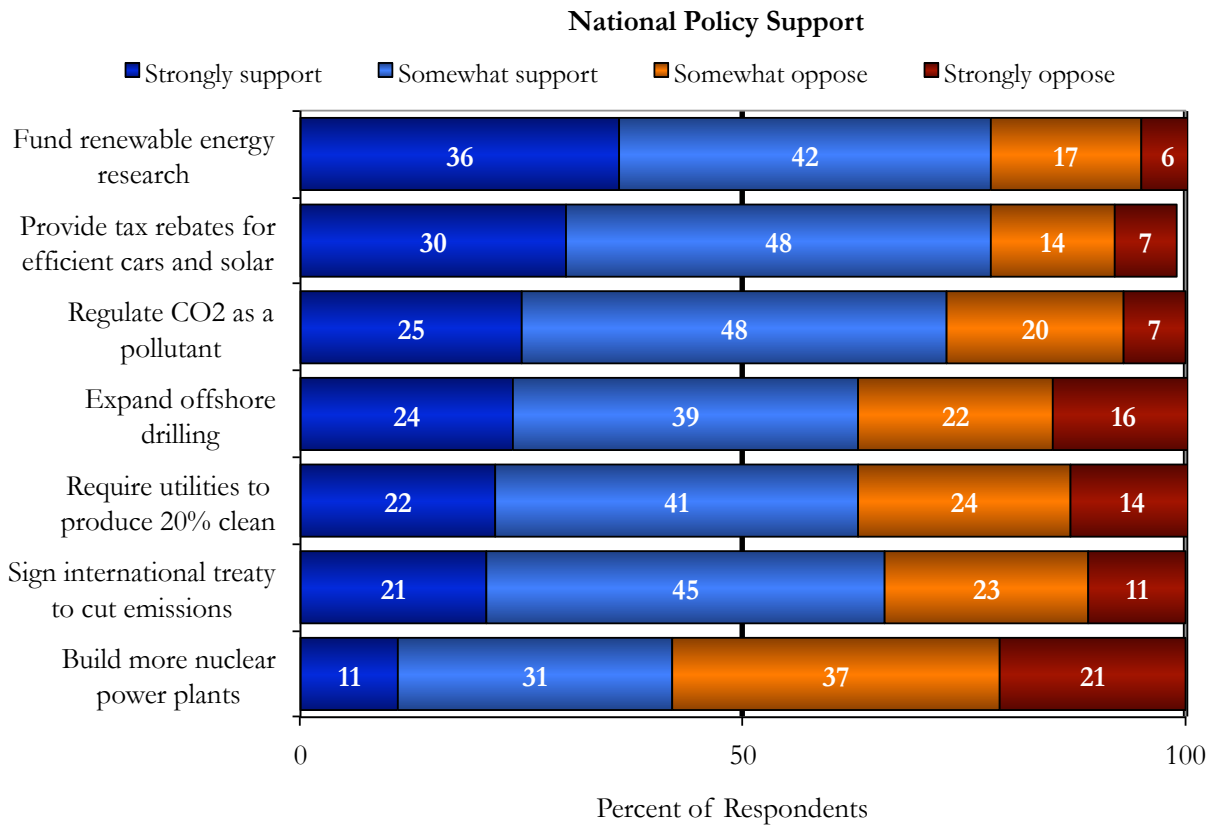
	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Regardless of what other countries do	60	61	65	57	67
Only if other industrialized countries (such as England, Germany and Japan) reduce their emissions	3	3	3	3	2
Only if other industrialized countries and developing countries (such as China, India and Brazil) reduce their emissions	7	8	8	7	7
The US should not reduce its emissions	5	6	5	7	4
Don't know	25	23	19	25	20

Q170. How big of an effort should the United States make to reduce global warming?

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
A large-scale effort, even if it has large economic costs	26	29	28	26	34
A medium-scale effort, even if it has moderate economic costs	40	38	41	36	40
A small-scale effort, even if it has small economic costs	23	19	18	21	17
No effort	12	14	13	18	9

National Policies

For specific question text, see the tables below this chart.



Q173. How much do you support or oppose requiring electric utilities to produce at least 20% of their electricity from wind, solar, or other renewable energy sources, even if it cost the average household an extra $100 a year?

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	22	23	22	18	31
Somewhat support	41	43	39	40	41
Somewhat oppose	24	18	22	21	17
Strongly oppose	14	16	18	21	11

Q174. How much do you support or oppose signing an international treaty that requires the United States to cut its emissions of carbon dioxide 90% by the year 2050?

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	21	23	21	17	25
Somewhat support	45	43	44	44	44
Somewhat oppose	23	17	19	20	19
Strongly oppose	11	17	16	19	13

Q177. How much do you support or oppose expanding offshore drilling for oil and natural gas off the U.S. coast?

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	24	28	23	21	37
Somewhat support	39	38	39	46	38
Somewhat oppose	22	20	21	21	14
Strongly oppose	16	14	17	12	11

Q178. How much do you support or oppose building more nuclear power plants?

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	11	16	16	17	23
Somewhat support	31	31	37	32	38
Somewhat oppose	37	30	30	31	24
Strongly oppose	21	23	17	20	15

Q179. How much do you support or oppose funding more research into renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power?

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	36	47	42	41	53
Somewhat support	42	37	45	44	39
Somewhat oppose	17	11	10	11	6
Strongly oppose	6	6	3	4	2

Q180. How much do you support or oppose providing tax rebates for people who purchase energy-efficient vehicles or solar panels?

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	30	41	41	32	38
Somewhat support	48	41	42	50	47
Somewhat oppose	14	10	12	10	11
Strongly oppose	7	9	5	7	4

N148. How much do you support or oppose regulating carbon dioxide (the primary greenhouse gas) as a pollutant?

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Strongly support	25	-	26	24	30
Somewhat support	48	-	51	47	50
Somewhat oppose	20	-	13	14	13
Strongly oppose	7	-	11	15	7

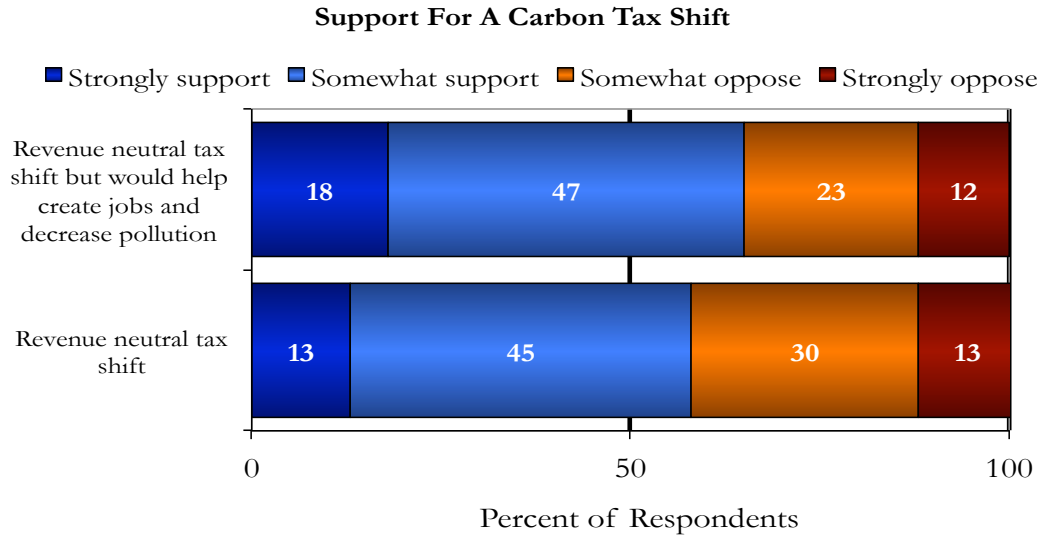
Questions N149 & N149a are a split-half experiment. Half of the sample was asked N149 & half were asked N149a.

N149. How much do you support or oppose a shift in taxes that *reduces* the federal income tax that Americans pay each year, but *increases* taxes on coal, oil, and natural gas by an equal amount? This shift would be "revenue neutral" (meaning the total amount of taxes collected by the government would stay the same).

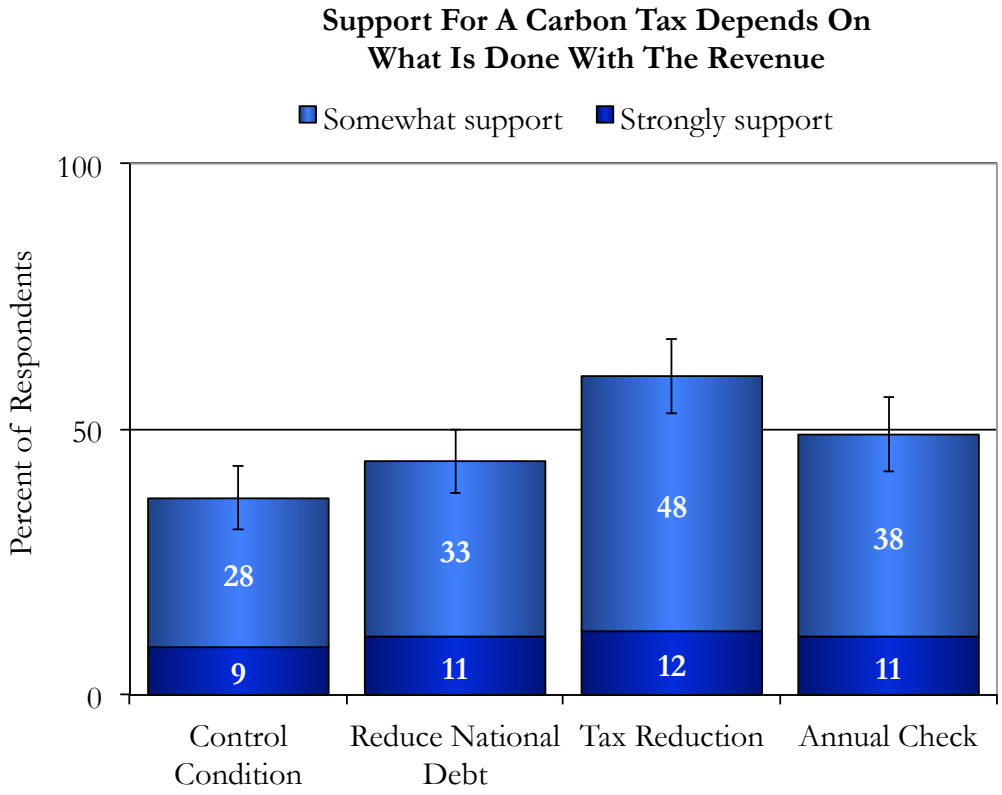
	Nov 2011
Strongly support	13
Somewhat support	45
Somewhat oppose	30
Strongly oppose	13
N	*499*

N149a. How much do you support or oppose a shift in taxes that *reduces* the federal income tax that Americans pay each year, but *increases* taxes on coal, oil, and natural gas by an equal amount? This shift would be "revenue neutral" (meaning the total amount of taxes collected by the government would stay the same), but would help create jobs and decrease pollution.

	Nov 2011
Strongly support	18
Somewhat support	47
Somewhat oppose	23
Strongly oppose	12
N	*442*



N157. How much do you support or oppose the following policy?[2]



Control Condition. Placing a $10 per ton tax on fuels that produce carbon dioxide (coal, oil, natural gas) to accelerate the transition to clean energy. This tax would slightly increase the cost of many things you buy, including food, clothing, and electricity. For example gasoline prices would rise by approximately 10 cents per gallon.

Reduce National Debt. Placing a $10 per ton tax on fuels that produce carbon dioxide (coal, oil, natural gas) to accelerate the transition to clean energy. All the revenues would be used to pay down the national debt. This tax would slightly increase the cost of many things you buy, including food, clothing, and electricity. For example gasoline prices would rise by approximately 10 cents per gallon.

Tax Reduction. Placing a $10 per ton tax on fuels that produce carbon dioxide (coal, oil, natural gas) to accelerate the transition to clean energy. All the revenues would be returned to taxpayers by reducing their federal income taxes. This tax would slightly increase the cost of many things you buy, including food, clothing, and electricity. For example gasoline prices would rise by approximately 10 cents per gallon, but you would get the money back in the form of lower annual taxes.

[2] Respondents were randomly assigned to one of four conditions: Control Condition, National Debt, Tax Reduction, and Annual Check. The margin of error is indicated by the error bars on the above chart and are approximately +/- 6 percentage points for the Control & National Debt conditions and +/- 7 percentage points for the Tax Reduction and Annual Check conditions.

Annual Check. Placing a $10 per ton tax on fuels that produce carbon dioxide (coal, oil, natural gas) to accelerate the transition to clean energy. All the revenues would be returned to the public. Each American family would receive an equal share of the revenues with an annual check. This tax would slightly increase the cost of many things you buy, including food, clothing, and electricity. For example gasoline prices would rise by approximately 10 cents per gallon, but you would get the money back each year.

	Control Condition	Reduce National Debt	Tax Reduction	Annual Check
Strongly support	9	11	12	11
Somewhat support	28	33	48	38
Somewhat oppose	37	35	24	26
Strongly oppose	27	21	16	25
N	*240*	*269*	*223*	*218*

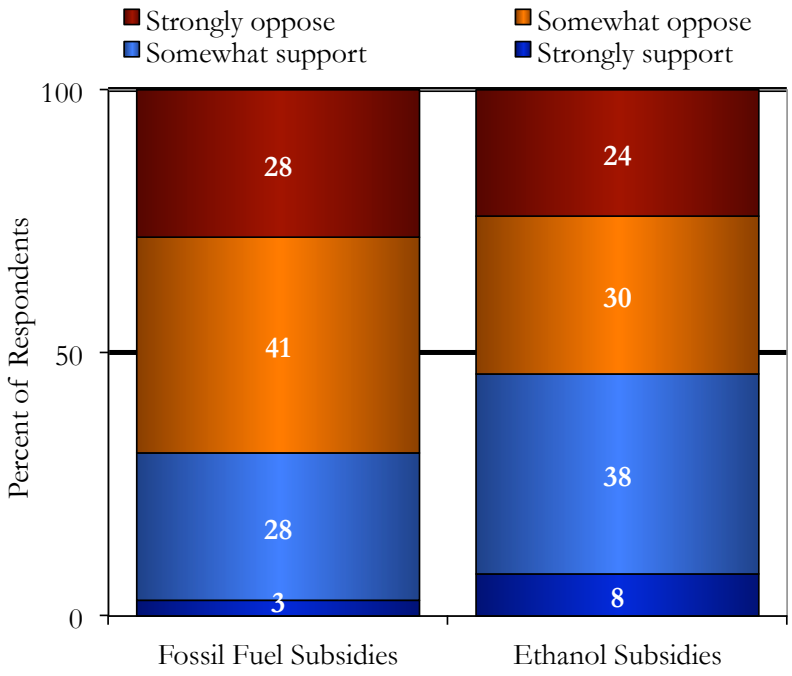
N158. The United States government provides approximately $10 billion a year in subsidies to the fossil fuel industry (coal, oil, and natural gas companies). How much do you support or oppose these subsidies?

	Nov 2011
Strongly support	3
Somewhat support	28
Somewhat oppose	41
Strongly oppose	28

N159. The United States government provides approximately $2.5 billion a year in subsidies to the ethanol industry to make fuel from corn. How much do you support or oppose these subsidies?

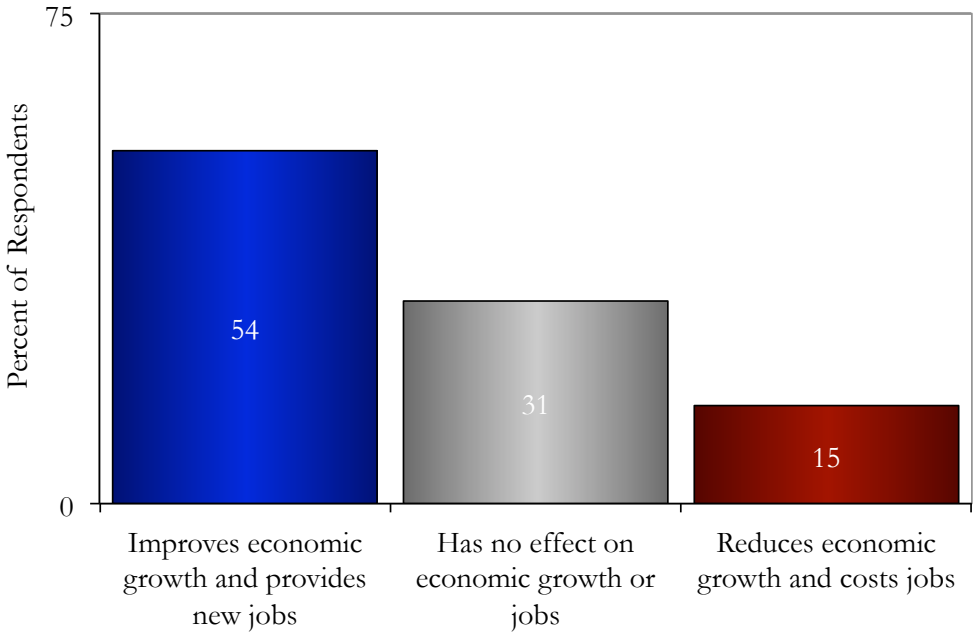
	Nov 2011
Strongly support	8
Somewhat support	38
Somewhat oppose	30
Strongly oppose	24

Support for Fossil Fuel And Ethanol Subsidies



Q243. Overall, do you think that protecting the environment…

Impact of Environmental Protection on Economic Growth



	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Improves economic growth and provides new jobs	54	54	56	-	-
Has no effect on economic growth or jobs	31	29	25	-	-
Reduces economic growth and costs jobs	15	18	18	-	-

Q244. When there is a conflict between environmental protection and economic growth, which do you think is more important?

	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
Protecting the environment, even if it reduces economic growth	63	64	65	63	-
Economic growth, even if it leads to environmental problems	37	36	35	37	-

Q144. How important will a candidate's views on global warming be in determining your vote for President next year? Will it be the single most important issue, one of several important issues, or not important in determining your vote?

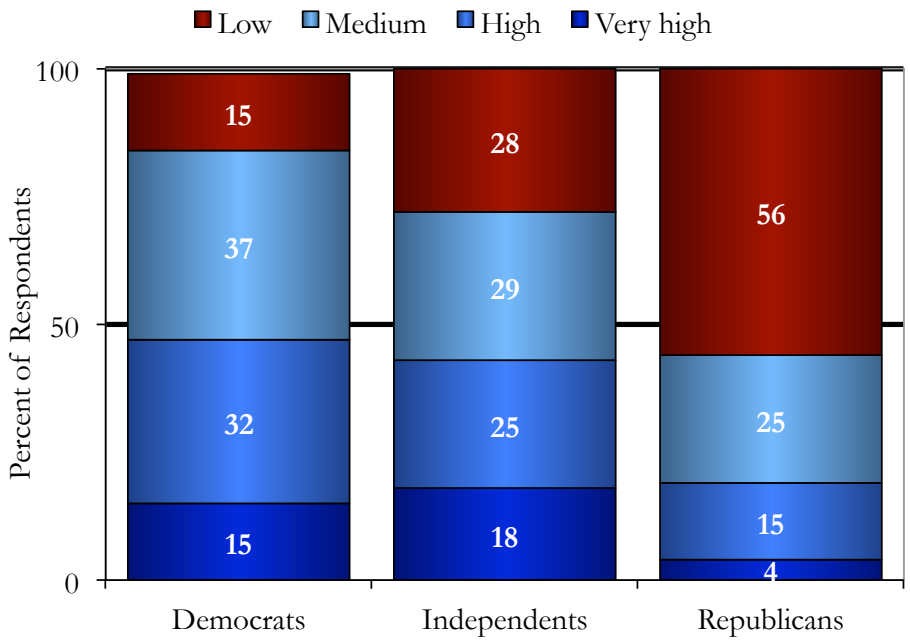
	Nov 2011	May 2011	June 2010	Jan 2010	Nov 2008
The single most important issue	2	-	-	-	2
One of several important issues	52	-	-	-	60
Not an important issue	46	-	-	-	38

Policy Preferences by Political Party

Registered Voters: National Policy Preferences

Q154. Do you think global warming should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the president and Congress?

National Priority of Global Warming by Political Party

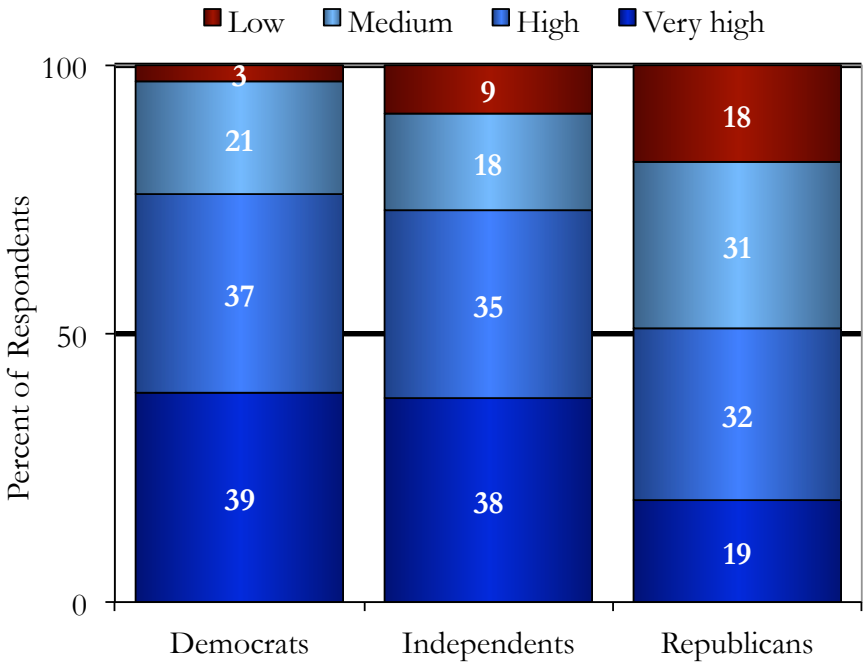


	Nat'l Avg[3]	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Very High	**13**	15	18	4	14
High	**25**	32	25	15	19
Medium	**31**	37	29	25	39
Low	**31**	15	28	56	29

[3] National average of registered voters. N/P refers to respondents with No Party preference.

Q155. Do you think that developing sources of clean energy should be a low, medium, high, or very high priority for the president and Congress?

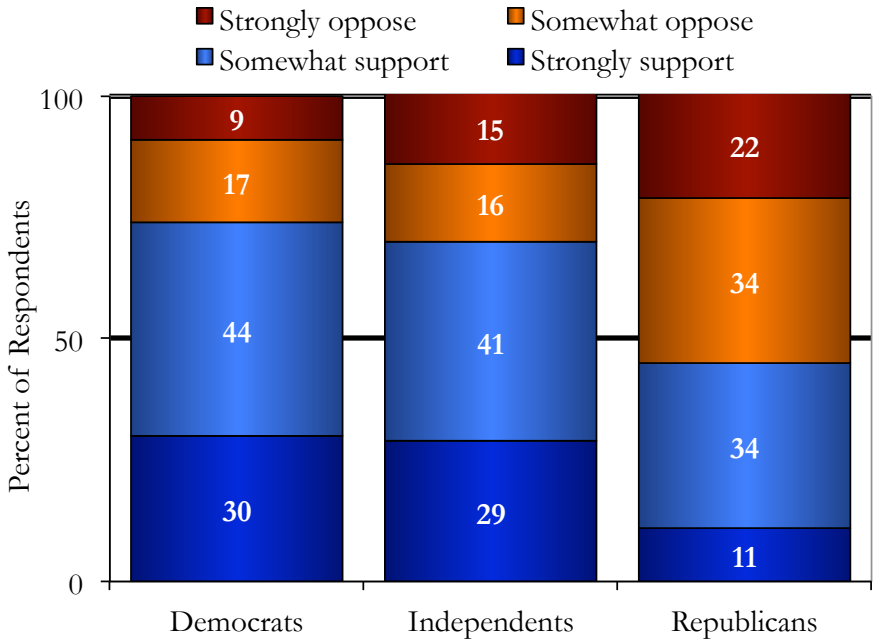
National Priority of Clean Energy by Political Party



	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Very High	**32**	39	38	19	24
High	**35**	37	35	32	43
Medium	**23**	21	18	31	22
Low	**10**	3	9	18	12

Q173. How much do you support or oppose requiring electric utilities to produce at least 20% of their electricity from wind, solar, or other renewable energy sources, even if it cost the average household an extra $100 a year?

Require Utilities to Produce 20% Renewable Energy by Political Party



	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**23**	30	29	11	18
Somewhat support	**40**	44	41	34	39
Somewhat oppose	**23**	17	16	34	37
Strongly oppose	**14**	9	15	22	6

Q174. How much do you support or oppose signing an international treaty that requires the United States to cut its emissions of carbon dioxide 90% by the year 2050?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**21**	31	20	11	15
Somewhat support	**44**	50	41	38	47
Somewhat oppose	**23**	14	20	34	34
Strongly oppose	**12**	5	19	17	4

Q177. How much do you support or oppose expanding offshore drilling for oil and natural gas off the U.S. coast?

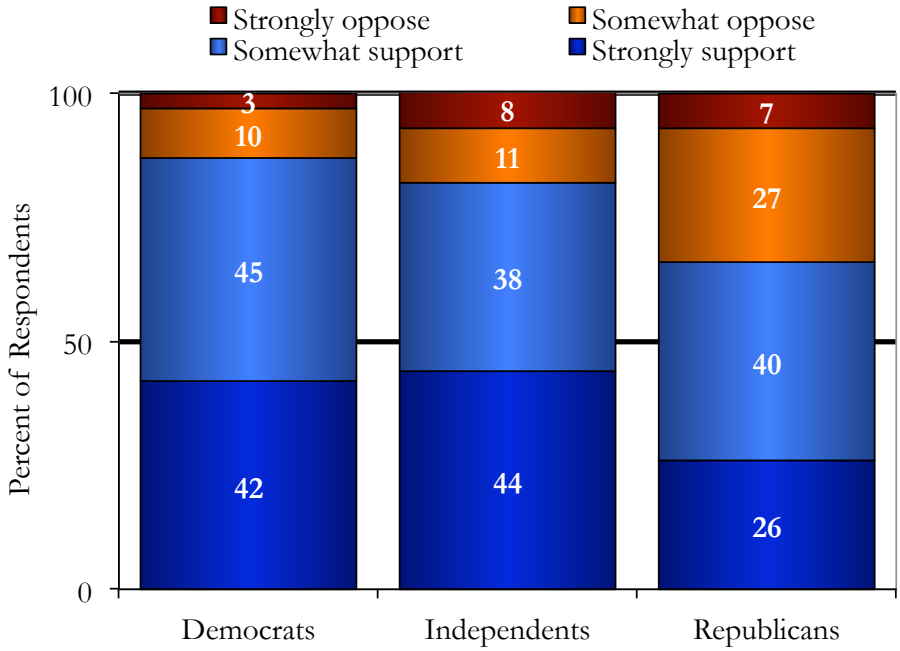
	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**26**	18	26	40	4
Somewhat support	**38**	38	36	40	41
Somewhat oppose	**20**	25	17	11	41
Strongly oppose	**17**	20	21	10	14

Q178. How much do you support or oppose building more nuclear power plants?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**13**	9	15	17	6
Somewhat support	**32**	32	36	34	18
Somewhat oppose	**35**	39	25	35	48
Strongly oppose	**20**	21	24	14	28

Q179. How much do you support or oppose funding more research into renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power?

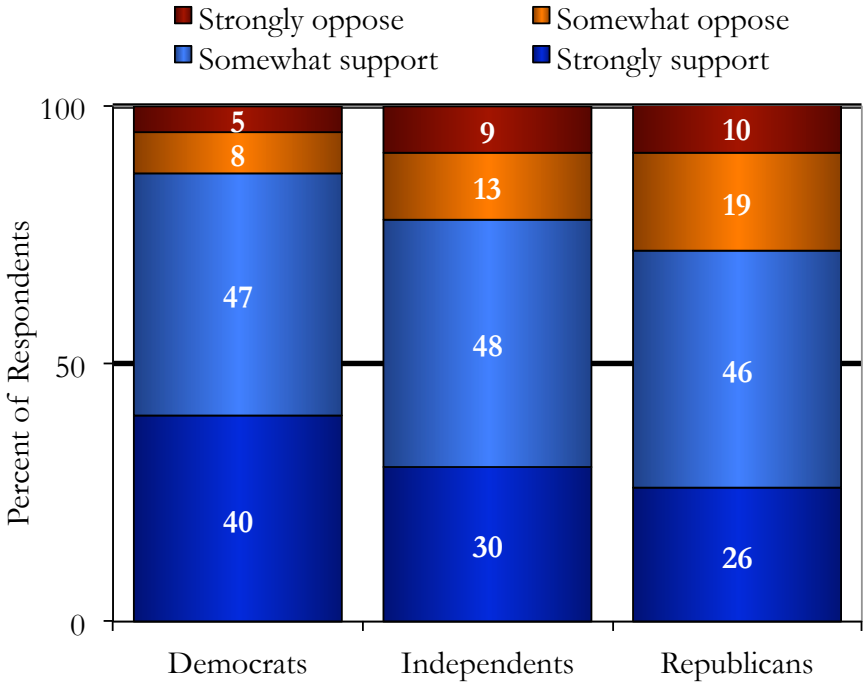
Renewable Energy Research by Political Party



	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**37**	42	44	26	20
Somewhat support	**41**	45	38	40	45
Somewhat oppose	**16**	10	11	27	29
Strongly oppose	**6**	3	8	7	6

Q180. How much do you support or oppose providing tax rebates for people who purchase energy-efficient vehicles or solar panels?

Tax Rebates for EE Vehicles and Solar Panels by Political Party



	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**33**	40	30	26	15
Somewhat support	**48**	47	48	46	63
Somewhat oppose	**12**	8	13	19	17
Strongly oppose	**8**	5	9	10	4

N148. How much do you support or oppose regulating carbon dioxide (the primary greenhouse gas) as a pollutant?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**26**	34	30	16	8
Somewhat support	**48**	49	45	50	51
Somewhat oppose	**18**	12	16	26	29
Strongly oppose	**7**	5	9	8	12

N149. How much do you support or oppose a shift in taxes that *reduces* the federal income tax that Americans pay each year, but *increases* taxes on coal, oil, and natural gas by an equal amount? This shift would be "revenue neutral" (meaning the total amount of taxes collected by the government would stay the same).

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**14**	17	16	5	11
Somewhat support	**44**	56	38	39	41
Somewhat oppose	**29**	20	29	38	48
Strongly oppose	**13**	7	17	18	0

N149a. How much do you support or oppose a shift in taxes that *reduces* the federal income tax that Americans pay each year, but *increases* taxes on coal, oil, and natural gas by an equal amount? This shift would be "revenue neutral" (meaning the total amount of taxes collected by the government would stay the same), but would help create jobs and decrease pollution.

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**20**	26	23	8	24
Somewhat support	**47**	51	46	43	48
Somewhat oppose	**20**	13	16	35	19
Strongly oppose	**13**	11	15	14	10

N157. How much do you support or oppose the following policy?[4]

Control Condition. Placing a $10 per ton tax on fuels that produce carbon dioxide (coal, oil, natural gas) to accelerate the transition to clean energy. This tax would slightly increase the cost of many things you buy, including food, clothing, and electricity. For example gasoline prices would rise by approximately 10 cents per gallon.

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**10**	14	5	0	8
Somewhat support	**28**	40	21	20	17
Somewhat oppose	**35**	36	34	32	67
Strongly oppose	**28**	10	40	48	8
N	***188***	*78*	*38*	*54*	*12*

Reduce National Debt. Placing a $10 per ton tax on fuels that produce carbon dioxide (coal, oil, natural gas) to accelerate the transition to clean energy. All the revenues would be used to pay down the national debt. This tax would slightly increase the cost of many things you buy, including food, clothing, and electricity. For example gasoline prices would rise by approximately 10 cents per gallon.

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**12**	21	14	0	0
Somewhat support	**31**	32	40	28	11
Somewhat oppose	**35**	34	30	39	42
Strongly oppose	**23**	13	16	33	47
N	***213***	*85*	*50*	*57*	*19*

Tax Reduction. Placing a $10 per ton tax on fuels that produce carbon dioxide (coal, oil, natural gas) to accelerate the transition to clean energy. All the revenues would be returned to taxpayers by reducing their federal income taxes. This tax would slightly increase the cost of many things you buy, including food, clothing, and electricity. For example gasoline prices would rise by approximately 10 cents per gallon, but you would get the money back in the form of lower annual taxes.

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**13**	12	17	9	0
Somewhat support	**46**	62	33	39	43
Somewhat oppose	**24**	23	25	25	14
Strongly oppose	**18**	3	25	27	43
N	***187***	*61*	*48*	*59*	*7*

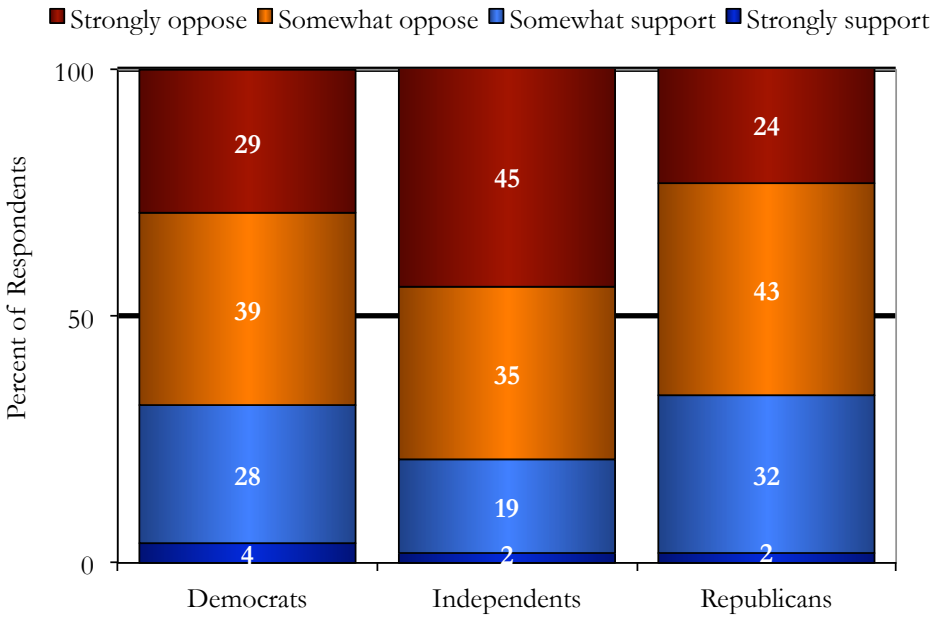
[4] Caution should be used when interpreting these results as cell sizes are small.

Annual Check. Placing a $10 per ton tax on fuels that produce carbon dioxide (coal, oil, natural gas) to accelerate the transition to clean energy. All the revenues would be returned to the public. Each American family would receive an equal share of the revenues with an annual check. This tax would slightly increase the cost of many things you buy, including food, clothing, and electricity. For example gasoline prices would rise by approximately 10 cents per gallon, but you would get the money back each year.

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**12**	9	27	5	27
Somewhat support	**40**	51	40	28	27
Somewhat oppose	**24**	26	13	25	27
Strongly oppose	**25**	14	20	42	18
N	***178***	*78*	*30*	*57*	*11*

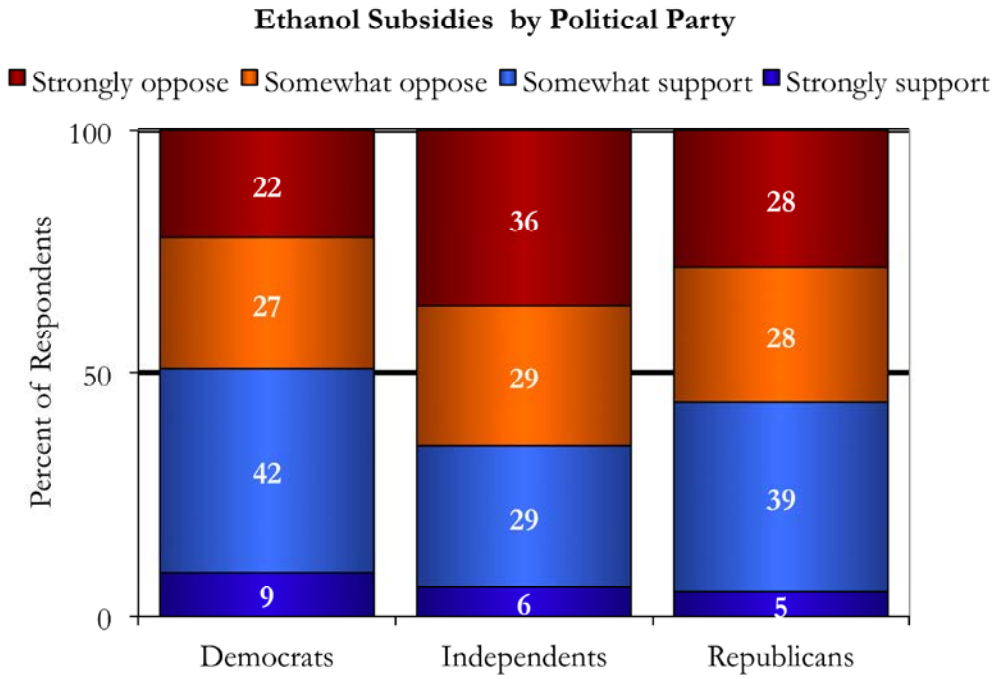
N158. The United States government provides approximately $10 billion a year in subsidies to the fossil fuel industry (coal, oil, and natural gas companies). How much do you support or oppose these subsidies?

Fossil Fuel Subsidies by Political Party



	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**3**	4	2	2	6
Somewhat support	**27**	28	19	32	24
Somewhat oppose	**39**	39	35	43	50
Strongly oppose	**31**	29	45	24	20

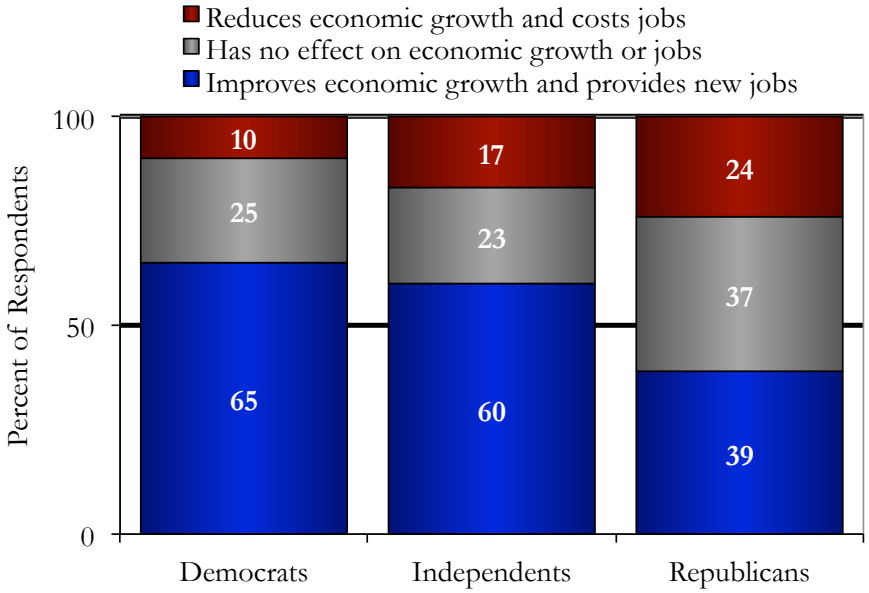
N159. The United States government provides approximately $2.5 billion a year in subsidies to the ethanol industry to make fuel from corn. How much do you support or oppose these subsidies?



	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Strongly support	**7**	9	6	5	6
Somewhat support	**37**	42	29	39	34
Somewhat oppose	**29**	27	29	28	47
Strongly oppose	**27**	22	36	28	13

Q243. Overall, do you think that protecting the environment:

Impact of Environmental Protection on Economic Growth by Political Party



	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Improves economic growth and provides new jobs	**56**	65	60	39	50
Has no effect on economic growth or jobs	**29**	25	23	37	40
Reduces economic growth and costs jobs	**16**	10	17	24	10

Q244. When there is a conflict between environmental protection and economic growth, which do you think is more important?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
Protecting the environment, even if it reduces economic growth	**62**	71	64	48	63
Economic growth, even if it leads to environmental problems	**38**	29	36	52	38

Q144. How important will a candidate's views on global warming be in determining your vote for President next year? Will it be the single most important issue, one of several important issues, or not important in determining your vote?

	Nat'l Avg	Dem	Ind	Rep	N/P
The single most important issue	**2**	3	1	1	4
One of several important issues	**53**	62	54	38	46
Not an important issue	**45**	35	46	61	50

Registered Voters: Political Party

Q254. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a…

	Percent	Sample size
Democrat	40	309
Independent	22	170
Republican	30	231
Other[5]	3	22
No party/not interested in politics[6]	7	51
Total	100	783

Methodology

These results come from nationally representative surveys of American adults, aged 18 and older. The samples were weighted to correspond with US Census Bureau parameters for the United States. The surveys were designed by Anthony Leiserowitz of Yale University and Edward Maibach and Connie Roser-Renouf of George Mason University and conducted by Knowledge Networks, using an online research panel of American adults.

- November 2011: Fielded October 20 through November 16 with 1,000 American adults. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percent, with 95 percent confidence.
- May 2011: Fielded April 23 through May 12 with 1,010 American adults. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percent, with 95 percent confidence.
- June 2010: Fielded May 14 through June 1 with 1,024 American adults. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percent, with 95 percent confidence.
- January 2010: Fielded December 24, 2009 through January 3, 2010 with 1,001 American adults. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percent, with 95 percent confidence.
- November 2008: Fielded October 7 through November 12 with 2,164 American adults. Data was collected in two waves: wave 1 from October 7 through October 20 and wave 2 from October 24 through November 12. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2 percent, with 95 percent confidence.

[5] "Other" responses are not reported below due to their small sample size.

[6] Labeled "N/P" above.