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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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Policy Update

AMERICANS FAVOR CARBON CAP, GAYS IN THE MILITARY AND RENEWING U.S.-CUBA TIES

Washington’s policy agenda has been dominated by the economy and financial crisis during President Obama’s first two months in office. Yet a number of other policy proposals are currently being considered or may emerge in the future. The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 9-12 among 1,308 adults, included public attitudes toward setting limits on carbon emissions, allowing gays to serve openly in the military, and re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Support for Carbon Cap

A majority of the public (59%) favors setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if that may mean higher energy prices. A third (33%) opposes capping carbon emissions under these conditions.

Seven-in-ten Democrats (70%) favor limiting carbon emissions even if it may ultimately result in higher energy prices, compared with 60% of independents and 42% of Republicans.

While Republicans and Democrats differ widely in opinions about setting limits on emissions of carbon dioxide, there also are substantial ideological and class divisions within both parties.

By about seven-to-one (83% to 12%), liberal Democrats favor setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay

	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK</u> %	<u>N</u>
Total	59	33	8=100	1,308
Republican	42	50	8=100	359
Conserv Rep	37	56	7=100	243
Mod/Lib Rep	54	38	8=100	112
Democrat	70	23	7=100	444
Cons/Mod Dem	64	30	6=100	265
Liberal Dem	83	12	5=100	161
Independent	60	32	8=100	432

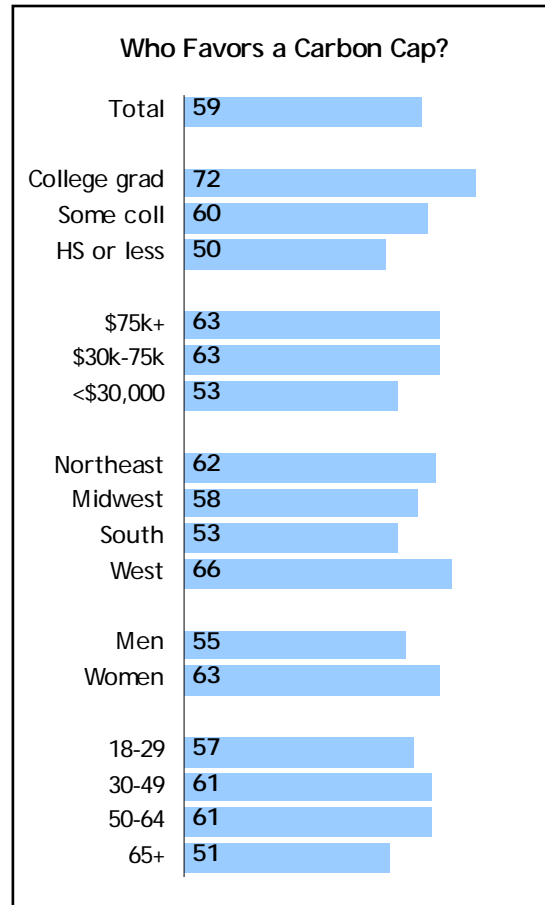
Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose...setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices?

for their emissions, even if it means higher energy prices. Nearly half of liberal Democrats (46%) *strongly* favor this idea. A smaller majority of conservative and moderate Democrats (64%) favor imposing limits on carbon dioxide emissions, and just 19% strongly favor the proposal.

Republicans also are split: by 56% to 37%, conservative Republicans oppose setting limits on carbon emissions. By roughly the same margin (54% to 38%), moderate and liberal Republicans favor this approach.

Overall, 72% of college graduates support this proposal, compared with 60% of those with some college and 50% of those with no more than a high school education. Within both parties, well-educated people are more likely to support setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions than are those with less education. Among Republicans, 50% of college graduates favor setting emissions limits for carbon dioxide compared with 37% of those who have not completed college. The educational differences are even larger among Democrats (91% of college graduates vs. 62% of non-college graduates).

More women (63%) than men (55%) support placing a limit on carbon dioxide emissions. There are regional differences in opinions on this issue: Two-thirds (66%) of those living in the West support capping carbon emissions compared with 58% in the Midwest and 53% in the South. The difference is larger when regions are combined; 64% of those living in the Northeast or the West support limiting carbon emissions, compared with 56% of people living in the Midwest or the South.



Most Favor Gays Serving Openly

Most Americans continue to favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military. Currently, 59% favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the armed forces, while 32% are opposed. Public attitudes on this issue have been stable since 2005.

<i>Allow gays/lesbians to serve openly</i>	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
March 2009	59	32	9=100
March 2006	60	32	8=100
July 2005	58	32	10=100
July 1994	52	45	3=100

In 1994, after the Clinton administration approved the current “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy – which mandated the discharge of service members who engage in homosexual conduct – there was less support for lifting the ban on openly gay service members. At that time, 52% favored and 45% opposed permitting gays and lesbians to serve openly in the armed forces.

Republicans are divided over this proposal: a majority of conservative Republicans (57%) oppose allowing gays and lesbians to openly serve in the military compared with 37% who favor letting them serve. By about two-to-one (62% to 30%), moderate and liberal Republicans favor permitting gays and lesbians to serve in the armed forces.

	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	59	32	9=100
Men	52	41	7=100
Women	66	24	10=100
White	60	31	8=100
Black	54	35	11=100
18-29	69	27	4=100
30-49	59	33	8=100
50-64	57	35	8=100
65+	49	37	14=100
Republican	45	48	7=100
Conserv Rep	37	57	6=100
Mod/Lib Rep	62	30	8=100
Democrat	66	25	9=100
Cons/Mod Dem	60	29	11=100
Liberal Dem	79	18	3=100
Independent	62	30	8=100
Total Protestant	51	40	9=100
White evangelical	38	55	7=100
White mainline	62	26	12=100
Total Catholic	62	31	7=100
White non-Hisp	65	30	5=100
Unaffiliated	77	15	8=100

Eight-in-ten liberal Democrats (79%) support allowing gays to serve in the military while just 18% oppose the proposal. A smaller majority of conservative and moderate Democrats (60%) favors permitting gays to serve openly while 29% are opposed.

More women than men favor letting gays and lesbians serve in the military (66% vs. 52%). There also are large differences among religious groups in views on this issue. By about five-to-one (77% to 15%), the religiously unaffiliated favor allowing gays to serve; smaller majorities of white Catholics (65%) and white mainline Protestants (62%) express this view. By comparison, 38% of white evangelical Protestants support allowing gays to serve openly in the armed forces while 55% are opposed.

Renew U.S.-Cuba Ties

A narrow majority of Americans (52%) believe that the United States should re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba, which were cut off nearly half a century ago following the revolution that propelled Fidel Castro's regime into power. A third (33%) oppose re-establishing ties with Cuba. Gallup surveys in recent years showed somewhat more support for renewing diplomatic relations with Cuba (61% in 2008, 67% in 2006).

College graduates favor re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba by a wide margin (63% to 24%); those with some college education have similar views about this proposal (61% favor, 25% oppose). By contrast, those with no more than a high school education are evenly divided – 41% say the United States should renew ties with Cuba while 42% oppose this step.

About twice many liberal Democrats as conservative Republicans favor re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba (73% vs. 36%). About half of conservative and moderate Democrats (54%), independents (53%) and moderate and liberal Republicans (50%) say the United States should restore ties with Cuba.

	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	52	33	15=100
College grad+	63	24	13=100
Some college	61	25	14=100
HS or less	41	42	17=100
Republican	40	46	14=100
Conserv Rep	36	53	11=100
Mod/Lib Rep	50	32	18=100
Democrat	59	26	15=100
Cons/Mod Dem	54	30	16=100
Liberal Dem	73	17	10=100
Independent	53	33	14=100

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,308 adults, 18 years of age or older, from March 9-12, 2009 (982 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 326 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 104 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2007 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2007 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the sample.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,308	3.0 percentage points
Republicans	359	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	444	5.5 percentage points
Independents	432	5.5 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 2009 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
 March 9-12, 2009
 N=1308

QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 31 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 32 AND 33
QUESTION 34A PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Q.34 Now, I'd like to get your views on some issues that are being discussed in this country today. All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose [NEXT ITEM]?

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			(VOL.)
	Strongly		Strongly	Strongly		Oppose	DK/Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
b. Allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military							
March, 2009	59	19	40	32	13	19	9=100
March, 2006	60	20	40	32	13	19	8=100
July, 2005	58	15	43	32	15	17	10=100
July, 1994	52	16	36	45	26	19	3=100
c. Re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba							
March, 2009	52	13	39	33	9	24	15=100
February, 2008	<i>Gallup</i>			29			10=100
December, 2006	<i>Gallup</i>			27			6=100
March, 2004	<i>Gallup</i>			38			7=100
May, 2002	<i>Gallup</i>			37			8=100
October, 2000 ¹	<i>Gallup</i>			35			9=100
May, 2000	<i>Gallup</i>			36			7=100
May, 1999	<i>Gallup</i>			25			4=100
March, 1999	<i>Gallup</i>			27			6=100
April, 1996	<i>Gallup</i>			49			11=100
March, 1977	<i>Gallup</i>			32			15=100
October, 1974	<i>Gallup</i>			37			0=100
d. Setting limits on carbon dioxide emissions and making companies pay for their emissions, even if it may mean higher energy prices							
March, 2009	59	20	39	33	11	22	8=100

QUESTIONS 35 THROUGH 37 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 38 THROUGH 42
QUESTIONS 43 THROUGH 49 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
QUESTION 50 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

¹ In Oct. 2000, May 2000, May 1999 and April 1996 question was worded: "Suppose that on election day this year you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me whether you would vote for or against each one of the following propositions. Would you vote – for or against re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba?" In March 1977, question was worded: "Do you think diplomatic relations with Cuba should or should not be re-established?" In October 1974 question was worded: "Suppose that on election day, Nov. 5, you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me how you would vote on each of these 14 propositions. Diplomatic relations with Cuba should or should not be re-established?"