



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
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Increasing Partisan Divide on Energy Policies

Little Change in Opinions about Global Warming

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Increasing Partisan Divide on Energy Policies

Little Change in Opinions about Global Warming

Views about the existence and causes of global warming have changed little over the past year. A new Pew Research Center poll finds that 59% of adults say there is solid evidence that the earth's average temperature has been getting warmer over the past few decades. In October 2009, 57% said this.

Roughly a third (34%) say that global warming is occurring mostly because of human activity, such as the burning of fossil fuels, which also is little changed from last year (36%).

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Oct. 13-18 among 2,251 adults reached on landlines and cell phones, finds that 32% say global warming is a very serious problem while 31% think it is somewhat serious. A year ago, 35% described global warming as a very serious problem and 30% said it was somewhat serious.

Opinions About Global Warming: 2006-2010

| | July 2006 | Jan 2007 | April 2008 | Oct 2009 | Oct 2010 |
|---|-----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|
| Is there solid evidence the earth is warming? | | | | | |
| Yes | 79 | 77 | 71 | 57 | 59 |
| Because of human activity | 50 | 47 | 47 | 36 | 34 |
| Because of natural patterns | 23 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 18 |
| Don't know | 6 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| No | 17 | 16 | 21 | 33 | 32 |
| Mixed/Don't know | 4 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| How serious a problem? | | | | | |
| Very serious | 43 | 45 | 44 | 35 | 32 |
| Somewhat serious | 36 | 32 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Not too serious | 11 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 16 |
| Not a problem | 9 | 8 | 11 | 17 | 18 |
| Don't know | 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Is it a problem requiring immediate government action?* | | | | | |
| Yes | 61 | 55 | -- | -- | 46 |
| No | 26 | 31 | -- | -- | 29 |
| Don't know | 3 | 3 | -- | -- | 3 |
| <i>Not a problem/DK</i> | 10 | 11 | -- | -- | 21 |
| | 100 | 100 | | | 100 |
| Do scientists agree the earth is getting warmer because of human activity? | | | | | |
| Yes | 59 | -- | -- | -- | 44 |
| No | 29 | -- | -- | -- | 44 |
| Don't know | 12 | -- | -- | -- | 12 |
| | 100 | -- | -- | -- | 100 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 13-18, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

* Asked of those who say global warming is a very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious a problem; figures based on total.

In 2006, far more Americans said there was solid evidence that the average temperature has been rising over the past few decades. In July of that year, 79% believed there was evidence of global warming, and half (50%) said it was mostly caused by human activity. Much of the change in attitudes about global warming occurred between April 2008 and last fall, with the decline coming mostly, though not entirely, among Republicans and independents. (See "[*Fewer Americans See Solid Evidence of Global Warming*](#)," Oct. 22, 2009).

Two other indicators of opinion on the issue were not included in the October 2009 survey, and both show significant changes from earlier polls. Currently, 46% of the public says global warming is a problem that requires immediate government action. In July 2006, 61% said the issue needed immediate action. This decline is mostly a consequence of the fact that fewer now say global warming is a problem.

The public is divided on the question of whether scientists themselves agree that the earth is warming because of human activity: 44% say scientists agree, and 44% say they do not. In July 2006, when a much higher percentage of the public said there was solid evidence of global warming, 59% said that scientists agree that global warming is caused by humans, while just 29% said scientists do not agree.

The new survey finds continuing support for a range of policies to address the nation's energy supply, including requiring improved vehicle fuel efficiency and increasing federal funding for research on wind, solar and hydrogen technology. Support for allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling – which declined during the Gulf of Mexico oil leak – has rebounded modestly. Currently, 51% favor allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling, up from 44% in June.

Continuing Partisan Divide over Global Warming

Views about climate change continue to be sharply divided along party lines. A substantial majority of Democrats (79%) say there is solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been increasing over the past few decades, and 53% think the earth is warming mostly because of human activity. Among Republicans, only 38% agree the earth is warming and just 16% say warming is caused by humans. Roughly half of Republicans (53%) say there is no solid evidence of warming. These patterns are little changed from a year ago.

More than half of independents (56%) say there is solid evidence of warming, but just 32% think it can mostly be attributed to human actions. Opinions among independents who lean toward the Republican Party or Democratic Party are similar to those of partisans.

Half (50%) of Democrats say global warming is a very serious problem and 32% say it is somewhat serious. Two-thirds (68%) of Democrats say it requires immediate government action. Just 14% of Republicans say global warming is a very serious problem and 27% view it as a somewhat serious problem; only about a quarter (24%) think it requires immediate action by the government. Three-in-ten (30%) independents say global warming is a serious problem and 32% say it is somewhat serious; 44% say it is a problem that requires immediate government action.

Wide Partisan Differences in Views About Global Warming

| | Rep | Dem | Ind |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| | % | % | % |
| Is the solid evidence the earth is warming? | | | |
| Yes | 38 | 79 | 56 |
| Because of human activity | 16 | 53 | 32 |
| Because of natural patterns | 18 | 18 | 17 |
| Don't know (Vol.) | 3 | 8 | 7 |
| No | 53 | 14 | 31 |
| Mixed/Don't know (Vol.) | 9 | 6 | 12 |
| How serious a problem? | | | |
| Very serious | 14 | 50 | 30 |
| Somewhat serious | 27 | 32 | 32 |
| Not too serious | 23 | 8 | 17 |
| Not a problem | 34 | 7 | 18 |
| Is it a problem requiring immediate government action?* | | | |
| Yes | 24 | 68 | 44 |
| No | 39 | 19 | 31 |
| Do scientists agree the earth is getting warmer because of human activity? | | | |
| Yes | 30 | 59 | 41 |
| No | 58 | 32 | 45 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 13-18, 2010. Q60-Q64.

* Asked of those who say global warming is a very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious a problem.

Democrats also are more likely to perceive a scientific consensus on the issue; 59% say most scientists agree that the earth is warming mostly due to human activity, while 32% think scientists do not agree. The reverse is true of Republicans; only 30% see scientific agreement while 58% think most scientists do not agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity. Independents are divided in their view (41% think scientists agree, 45% say they do not).

The Tea Party and Global Warming

Republicans who agree with the Tea Party movement are much more likely than other Republicans to say that there is no solid evidence that the earth's temperature has been rising.

Among Republican registered voters who agree with the Tea Party, fully 70% do not think there is solid evidence that the average temperature on earth is warming. By comparison, only 38% of Republican voters who disagree with the Tea Party or who have never heard of the movement express this view. Half (50%) of Tea Party Republican voters also say global warming is not a problem at all; 24% say it is not too serious, and just 8% think it is a problem that requires immediate government action.

Tea Party Republican voters also overwhelmingly believe that there is no scientific consensus on global warming. Just 19% say that scientists agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity, while 71% say that scientists do not agree.

Few Tea Party Republicans See Solid Evidence of Global Warming

| | <i>Among Reps</i> | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| | Agree w/ Tea Party | Disagree/ Never heard of |
| | % | % |
| Is there solid evidence the earth is warming? | | |
| Yes | 23 | 49 |
| Because of human activity | 8 | 21 |
| Because of natural patterns | 14 | 23 |
| Don't know (Vol.) | 1 | 5 |
| No | 70 | 38 |
| Mixed/Don't know (Vol.) | 6 | 12 |
| How serious a problem? | | |
| Very serious | 5 | 18 |
| Somewhat serious | 18 | 37 |
| Not too serious | 24 | 23 |
| Not a problem | 50 | 18 |
| Is it a problem requiring immediate government action?* | | |
| Yes | 8 | 35 |
| No | 39 | 42 |
| Do scientists agree the earth is getting warmer because of human activity? | | |
| Yes | 19 | 37 |
| No | 71 | 50 |
| N | 317 | 232 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 13-18, 2010. Q60-Q64. Based on Republican registered voters.

*Asked of those who say global warming is a very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious a problem.

Support for More Offshore Drilling Rebounds

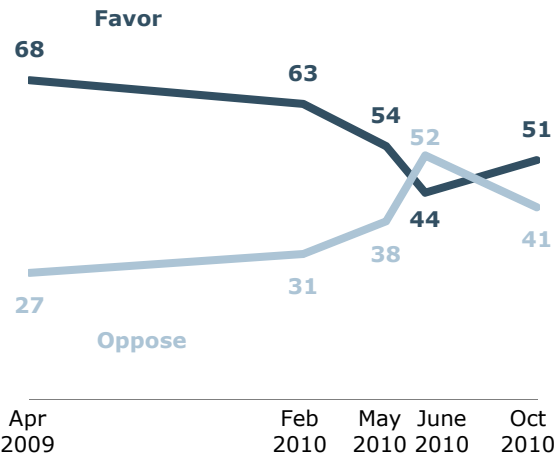
Currently, 51% of Americans favor allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters while 41% are opposed. In June, during the Gulf of Mexico oil leak, there was more opposition (52%) than support (44%) for increased offshore drilling.

Support for expanded offshore drilling is still lower than it was in February, before the Gulf oil leak, when the public backed more offshore drilling in U.S. waters by a two-to-one margin (63% favor, 31% oppose). From the fall of 2008 to early this year, opinion about offshore drilling had been fairly stable.

There continues to be a wide partisan gap in views about drilling in U.S. waters, and the gap has grown larger since February of this year. About three-quarters (74%) of Republicans favor expanded offshore oil and gas drilling, identical to the proportion who expressed support early this year. By contrast, only 38% of Democrats now favor expanding offshore drilling, down from 54% in February. Currently, a majority of Democrats (56%) oppose expanding offshore drilling.

Independents are now mostly divided in their opinion (48% favor, 41% oppose). In February, they favored increased offshore drilling by a 63% to 30% margin.

Changing Views About Expanding Offshore Drilling



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 13-18, 2010. Q48a.

Democrats Opposed to Increased Offshore Drilling

| | Feb 2010 | May 2010 | June 2010 | Oct 2010 |
|--------------------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Republican | % | % | % | % |
| Favor | 74 | 76 | 63 | 74 |
| Oppose | 22 | 19 | 34 | 22 |
| Democrat | | | | |
| Favor | 54 | 41 | 27 | 38 |
| Oppose | 41 | 50 | 69 | 56 |
| Independent | | | | |
| Favor | 63 | 52 | 44 | 48 |
| Oppose | 30 | 39 | 49 | 41 |
| R-D gap | +20 | +35 | +36 | +36 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 13-18, 2010. Q48a.

There is broad public support for a variety of other proposals to address the nation's energy situation. About eight-in-ten (79%) favor requiring better fuel efficiency for cars, trucks and SUVs, and 74% support increasing federal funding for research on wind, solar and hydrogen technology.

Majorities Support Alternative Energy Policies

| | Favor | Oppose | DK |
|---|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| <i>% who favor</i> | % | % | % |
| Requiring better fuel efficiency for vehicles | 79 | 17 | 4=100 |
| More funding for alternative energy | 74 | 21 | 6=100 |
| Spending more on mass transit | 63 | 29 | 8=100 |
| Providing tax incentives for buying hybrid or electric vehicles | 60 | 34 | 7=100 |
| Allowing more oil & gas drilling in U.S. waters | 51 | 41 | 7=100 |
| Promoting more nuclear power use | 45 | 44 | 11=100 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 13-18, 2010. Q48. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Majorities also favor spending more on subway, rail and bus systems (63%) and providing tax incentives for buying hybrid or electric cars, trucks and SUVs (60%). By contrast, the public continues to be divided about promoting the increased use of nuclear power (45% favor, 44% oppose).

Increasing Partisan Differences over Energy Policies

There has been a modest decline since 2008 in support for requiring better fuel efficiency for vehicles, increasing federal funding for research on alternative energy and spending more on mass transit.

A majority of Republicans continue to support these policies, but fewer do so now than in 2008 or 2006. In the current survey, 73% of Republicans favor requiring better fuel efficiency for cars, trucks and SUVs, down from 86% two years ago and 85% in February 2006. Similarly, 64% of Republicans favor increasing federal funding for research on wind, solar and hydrogen technology, down 21 points from two years ago. Republican support for spending more on subway, rail and bus systems has also declined -- from 65% in 2008 to 55% now.

Opinion among independents also has shifted. About three-fourths (76%) of independents favor higher fuel efficiency standards, down from 87% in 2008 and 2006. Similarly, 72% of independents support increased funding for alternative energy, down 13 points since 2006. And somewhat fewer favor spending more on mass transit (61% now, 74% in 2008).

By contrast, support among Democrats for increased spending on alternative energy and mass transit and better fuel efficiency requirements has remained steady or increased slightly over the past few years. In 2006 and even 2008, the partisan differences in opinion about these policies were quite small, but now the gaps between Republicans and Democrats are 16 points or more.

Fewer Republicans Support Alternative Energy Policies

| <i>% who favor...</i> | Feb 2006 | Sept 2008 | Oct 2010 |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Requiring better fuel efficiency for cars, trucks & SUVs | 86 | 87 | 79 |
| Republican | 85 | 86 | 73 |
| Democrat | 86 | 89 | 89 |
| Independent | 87 | 87 | 76 |
| R-D gap | -1 | -3 | -16 |
| Increasing federal funding for research on wind, solar & hydrogen technology | 82 | 82 | 74 |
| Republican | 82 | 85 | 64 |
| Democrat | 77 | 87 | 84 |
| Independent | 85 | 77 | 72 |
| R-D gap | +5 | -2 | -20 |
| Spending more on subway, rail & bus systems* | 68 | 72 | 63 |
| Republican | 66 | 65 | 55 |
| Democrat | 67 | 73 | 73 |
| Independent | 70 | 74 | 61 |
| R-D gap | -1 | -8 | -18 |
| Promoting the increased use of nuclear power | 44 | 50 | 45 |
| Republican | 56 | 68 | 57 |
| Democrat | 39 | 38 | 36 |
| Independent | 37 | 49 | 45 |
| R-D gap | +17 | +30 | +21 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 13-18, 2010. Q48b-eF2.
* 2008 figures from February.

There has been little change in views about nuclear power over this time; 45% favor promoting the increased use of nuclear power now, virtually unchanged from 2006 when 44% supported this. Far more Republicans (57%) than Democrats (36%) or independents (45%) support the increased use of nuclear power.

About the Survey

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted October 13-18, 2010 among a national sample of 2,251 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (1,487 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 764 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 311 who had no landline telephone). Interviewing was conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. 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 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is 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 2009 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 combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. 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 | 2,251 | 2.5 percentage points |
| Form 1 | 1,110 | 3.5 percentage points |
| Form 2 | 1,141 | 3.5 percentage points |
| Republican | 616 | 5.0 percentage points |
| Democrat | 728 | 4.5 percentage points |
| Independent | 752 | 4.5 percentage points |

* Throughout the survey independents include all respondents who do not identify as Republicans or Democrats.

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 Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

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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GLOBAL WARMING TABLES

BASED ON TOTAL

Q.60/Q.61: From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?/ Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, or mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment?

| | Mostly because of... | | | | | | N |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------|
| | Earth is <u>warming</u> | <i>Human</i> <u>activity</u> | <i>Natural</i> <u>patterns</u> | <i>(VOL.)</i> <u>DK/Ref</u> | Not <u>warming</u> | Mixed <u>DK/Ref</u> | |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | |
| TOTAL | 59 | 34 | 18 | 6 | 32 | 10 | 2251 |
| SEX | | | | | | | |
| Men | 55 | 31 | 17 | 7 | 36 | 9 | 1017 |
| Women | 62 | 37 | 19 | 6 | 27 | 11 | 1234 |
| AGE | | | | | | | |
| 18-49 | 61 | 38 | 17 | 6 | 29 | 10 | 939 |
| 50+ | 56 | 30 | 19 | 7 | 34 | 10 | 1284 |
| DETAILED AGE | | | | | | | |
| 18-29 | 66 | 43 | 17 | 6 | 25 | 10 | 325 |
| 30-49 | 58 | 36 | 17 | 6 | 33 | 9 | 614 |
| 50-64 | 57 | 33 | 18 | 6 | 35 | 8 | 737 |
| 65+ | 55 | 25 | 20 | 9 | 33 | 12 | 547 |
| SEX BY AGE | | | | | | | |
| Men 18-49 | 58 | 35 | 17 | 6 | 34 | 8 | 471 |
| Men 50+ | 51 | 27 | 17 | 8 | 39 | 10 | 534 |
| Women 18-49 | 64 | 42 | 17 | 5 | 25 | 11 | 468 |
| Women 50+ | 60 | 32 | 21 | 7 | 30 | 9 | 750 |
| RACE | | | | | | | |
| White, non-Hispanic | 55 | 33 | 17 | 6 | 35 | 10 | 1679 |
| Black, non-Hispanic | 73 | 39 | 26 | 9 | 17 | 10 | 235 |
| EDUCATION | | | | | | | |
| College grad+ | 60 | 40 | 16 | 4 | 31 | 9 | 865 |
| Some college | 53 | 33 | 14 | 6 | 37 | 9 | 558 |
| HS or less | 61 | 31 | 21 | 8 | 29 | 10 | 814 |
| INCOME | | | | | | | |
| \$75,000+ | 56 | 36 | 15 | 5 | 36 | 8 | 617 |
| \$30,000-\$74,999 | 57 | 34 | 18 | 5 | 35 | 8 | 724 |
| <\$30,000 | 65 | 37 | 20 | 8 | 23 | 12 | 565 |
| REGION | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 67 | 45 | 16 | 5 | 26 | 7 | 418 |
| Midwest | 57 | 35 | 17 | 5 | 33 | 10 | 502 |
| South | 57 | 27 | 22 | 8 | 32 | 10 | 837 |
| West | 55 | 36 | 13 | 6 | 34 | 11 | 494 |

GLOBAL WARMING TABLES

BASED ON TOTAL

Q.60/Q.61: From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?/ Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, or mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment?

| | Mostly because of... | | | | | | N |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------|--------|------|
| | Earth is | <i>Human</i> | | | Not | Mixed | |
| | warming | <i>activity</i> | <i>Natural</i> | <i>(VOL.)</i> | warming | DK/Ref | |
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | |
| REGISTERED VOTERS | 57 | 33 | 19 | 6 | 34 | 9 | 1797 |
| PARTY ID | | | | | | | |
| Republican | 38 | 16 | 18 | 3 | 53 | 9 | 616 |
| Democrat | 79 | 53 | 18 | 8 | 14 | 6 | 728 |
| Independent | 56 | 32 | 17 | 7 | 31 | 13 | 907 |
| PARTY WITH LEANERS | | | | | | | |
| Rep/Lean Rep | 40 | 18 | 19 | 3 | 52 | 8 | 971 |
| Dem/Lean Dem | 77 | 52 | 17 | 8 | 16 | 7 | 995 |
| PARTY AND IDEOLOGY | | | | | | | |
| Conservative Republican | 33 | 13 | 18 | 3 | 60 | 7 | 442 |
| Mod/Lib Republican | 48 | 26 | 20 | 2 | 42 | 10 | 161 |
| Mod/Cons Democrat | 74 | 43 | 23 | 8 | 19 | 7 | 440 |
| Liberal Democrat | 89 | 72 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 263 |
| AMONG REPUBLICANS | | | | | | | |
| Men | 35 | 14 | 18 | 3 | 56 | 9 | 265 |
| Women | 39 | 18 | 18 | 3 | 51 | 9 | 351 |
| 18-49 | 42 | 20 | 21 | 1 | 50 | 8 | 228 |
| 50+ | 32 | 13 | 15 | 4 | 58 | 10 | 384 |
| College grad+ | 31 | 13 | 18 | 1 | 61 | 8 | 243 |
| Some college or less | 41 | 18 | 19 | 4 | 50 | 9 | 370 |
| AMONG DEMOCRATS | | | | | | | |
| Men | 76 | 51 | 16 | 9 | 20 | 4 | 267 |
| Women | 81 | 54 | 20 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 461 |
| 18-49 | 81 | 58 | 15 | 8 | 15 | 4 | 274 |
| 50+ | 77 | 47 | 21 | 9 | 14 | 8 | 448 |
| College grad+ | 85 | 68 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 296 |
| Some college or less | 76 | 45 | 22 | 10 | 17 | 7 | 430 |
| AMONG INDEPENDENTS | | | | | | | |
| Men | 53 | 29 | 17 | 8 | 35 | 11 | 485 |
| Women | 60 | 35 | 18 | 7 | 26 | 14 | 422 |
| 18-49 | 58 | 36 | 16 | 7 | 28 | 13 | 437 |
| 50+ | 54 | 25 | 20 | 9 | 35 | 11 | 452 |
| College grad+ | 59 | 35 | 18 | 6 | 29 | 13 | 326 |
| Some college or less | 56 | 31 | 17 | 8 | 32 | 12 | 572 |
| Lean Republican | 43 | 20 | 19 | 5 | 49 | 7 | 355 |
| Lean Democrat | 72 | 50 | 15 | 7 | 20 | 9 | 267 |
| No leaning | 55 | 28 | 17 | 10 | 23 | 21 | 285 |
| TEA PARTY MOVEMENT (RV) | | | | | | | |
| Agree | 30 | 12 | 15 | 3 | 62 | 8 | 571 |
| Disagree | 81 | 60 | 14 | 7 | 13 | 6 | 479 |
| No opinion/Not heard/DK | 62 | 31 | 23 | 8 | 27 | 11 | 747 |

GLOBAL WARMING TABLES

BASED ON TOTAL

Q.60/Q.61: From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?/ Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, or mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment?

| | Earth is <u>warming</u> % | Mostly because of... | | | Not <u>warming</u> % | Mixed <u>DK/Ref</u> % | <u>N</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| | | <i>Human</i> <u>activity</u> % | <i>Natural</i> <u>patterns</u> % | (VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> % | | | |
| MARITAL STATUS | | | | | | | |
| Married | 53 | 30 | 17 | 6 | 38 | 9 | 1255 |
| Not married | 66 | 40 | 19 | 8 | 24 | 10 | 982 |
| MARITAL STATUS BY SEX | | | | | | | |
| Married men | 48 | 26 | 16 | 6 | 42 | 10 | 608 |
| Married women | 57 | 34 | 18 | 5 | 34 | 8 | 647 |
| Unmarried men | 64 | 38 | 18 | 8 | 29 | 7 | 402 |
| Unmarried women | 67 | 41 | 20 | 7 | 20 | 13 | 580 |
| PARENT | | | | | | | |
| Parent | 57 | 35 | 16 | 6 | 33 | 10 | 603 |
| Not a parent | 59 | 34 | 19 | 7 | 31 | 10 | 1642 |
| LABOR UNION | | | | | | | |
| Member in HH | 63 | 40 | 16 | 7 | 31 | 6 | 272 |
| Not a member | 58 | 34 | 18 | 6 | 32 | 10 | 1952 |
| RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE | | | | | | | |
| Total White NH Prot. | 49 | 26 | 17 | 6 | 40 | 11 | 898 |
| White NH evang. Prot. | 45 | 21 | 18 | 6 | 45 | 10 | 469 |
| White NH mainline Prot. | 53 | 31 | 16 | 6 | 34 | 13 | 429 |
| Total Catholic | 57 | 36 | 17 | 4 | 36 | 7 | 456 |
| White NH Cath. | 55 | 34 | 18 | 3 | 38 | 7 | 346 |
| Unaffiliated | 69 | 43 | 16 | 10 | 21 | 11 | 377 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
OCTOBER 2010 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
October 13-18, 2010
N=2251

THOUGHT THROUGH Q.47 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Q.48 As I read some possible government policies to address America's energy supply, tell me whether you would favor or oppose each. First, would you favor or oppose the government **[INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**? Would you favor or oppose the government **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**?

| | | | | (VOL.) |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
| a. | Allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters | | | |
| | Oct 13-18, 2010 | 51 | 41 | 7 |
| | Jun 16-20, 2010 | 44 | 52 | 4 |
| | May 6-9, 2010 | 54 | 38 | 8 |
| | Feb 3-9, 2010 | 63 | 31 | 6 |
| | Apr 14-21, 2009 | 68 | 27 | 5 |
| | September, 2008 | 67 | 28 | 5 |
| b. | Promoting the increased use of nuclear power | | | |
| | Oct 13-18, 2010 | 45 | 44 | 11 |
| | Jun 16-20, 2010 | 47 | 47 | 6 |
| | May 6-9, 2010 | 45 | 44 | 11 |
| | Feb 3-9, 2010 | 52 | 41 | 7 |
| | Apr 14-21, 2009 | 45 | 48 | 7 |
| | September, 2008 | 50 | 43 | 7 |
| | Late-February, 2008 | 44 | 48 | 8 |
| | February, 2006 | 44 | 49 | 7 |
| | Mid-September, 2005 | 39 | 53 | 8 |
| ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1110]: | | | | |
| c.F1 | Increasing federal funding for research on wind, solar and hydrogen technology | | | |
| | Oct 13-18, 2010 | 74 | 21 | 6 |
| | Jun 16-20, 2010 | 75 | 21 | 3 |
| | May 6-9, 2010 | 73 | 22 | 5 |
| | Feb 3-9, 2010 | 78 | 17 | 5 |
| | Apr 14-21, 2009 | 82 | 15 | 3 |
| | September, 2008 | 82 | 14 | 4 |
| | Late-February, 2008 | 81 | 14 | 5 |
| | February, 2006 | 82 | 14 | 4 |
| d.F1 | Requiring better fuel efficiency for cars, trucks and SUVs | | | |
| | Oct 13-18, 2010 | 79 | 17 | 4 |
| | September, 2008 | 88 | 10 | 2 |
| | February, 2008 | 90 | 8 | 2 |
| | February, 2006 | 86 | 12 | 2 |
| | Mid-September, 2005 | 86 | 12 | 2 |

Q.48 CONTINUED ...

| | | (VOL.) | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> |
| ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1141]: | | | | |
| e.F2 | Spending more on subway, rail and bus systems | | | |
| | Oct 13-18, 2010 | 63 | 29 | 8 |
| | Jun 16-20, 2010 | 64 | 31 | 5 |
| | May 6-9, 2010 | 65 | 28 | 7 |
| | Feb 3-9, 2010 | 70 | 25 | 4 |
| | Apr 14-21, 2009 | 70 | 25 | 5 |
| | Late-February, 2008 | 72 | 23 | 5 |
| | February, 2006 | 68 | 26 | 6 |
| | Mid-September, 2005 | 68 | 27 | 5 |
| f.F2 | Providing tax incentives for those who buy hybrid or electric cars, trucks and SUVs | | | |
| | Oct 13-18, 2010 | 60 | 34 | 7 |

NO QUESTION 49**QUESTIONS 50 THROUGH 53 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 54-59****ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.60 From what you've read and heard, is there solid evidence that the average temperature on earth has been getting warmer over the past few decades, or not?

ASK IF EARTH IS GETTING WARMER (Q.60=1):

Q.61 Do you believe that the earth is getting warmer [**READ AND RANDOMIZE**]?

BASED ON TOTAL:

| Oct 13-18 <u>2010</u> | | Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u> | April <u>2008</u> | Jan <u>2007</u> | Aug <u>2006</u> | July <u>2006</u> | June <u>2006</u> |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 59 | Yes | 57 | 71 | 77 | 77 | 79 | 70 |
| 34 | Mostly because of human activity such as burning fossil fuels, [OR] | 36 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 50 | 41 |
| 18 | Mostly because of natural patterns in the earth's environment | 16 | 18 | 20 | 20 | 23 | 21 |
| 6 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 6 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 6 | 8 |
| 32 | No | 33 | 21 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 20 |
| 1 | Mixed/some evidence (VOL.) | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 8 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 8 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 |

ASK ALL:

Q.62 In your view, is global warming a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem?

| Oct 13-18 <u>2010</u> | | Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u> | April <u>2008</u> | Jan <u>2007</u> | July <u>2006</u> | June <u>2006</u> | <i>Trend for Comparison</i> Apr 28-May 12 ¹ <u>2009</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| 32 | Very serious | 35 | 44 | 45 | 43 | 41 | 47 |
| 31 | Somewhat serious | 30 | 29 | 32 | 36 | 33 | 26 |
| 16 | Not too serious | 15 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 13 | 11 |
| 18 | Not a problem | 17 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 13 |
| 3 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

¹ In April 28-May 12, 2009 the question was asked in a different context and is presented here as a trend for comparison.

ASK IF VIEW GLOBAL WARMING AS PROBLEM (Q.62=1,2,3):

Q.63 Do you think global warming is a problem that requires immediate government action, or don't you think it requires immediate government action?

BASED ON TOTAL:

| Oct 13-18 <u>2010</u> | | Jan <u>2007</u> | July <u>2006</u> |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| 46 | Yes, it is a problem that requires immediate government action | 55 | 61 |
| 29 | No, don't think it requires immediate government action | 31 | 26 |
| 3 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 3 | 3 |
| 21 | <i>Global warming not a problem/Don't know</i> | 11 | 10 |

ASK ALL:

Q.64 From what you've heard or read, do scientists generally agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity, or do they not generally agree about this?

| Oct 13-18 <u>2010</u> | | July <u>2006</u> ² | <i>Trend for Comparison</i> Apr 28- May 12 <u>2009</u> ³ |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| 44 | Yes, scientists generally agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity | 59 | 56 |
| 44 | No, scientists do not generally agree that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity | 29 | 35 |
| 12 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 12 | 9 |

NO QUESTIONS 65-69**Q.70F1 THROUGH PVOTE08B PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

| | Republican | Democrat | Independent | (VOL.) No preference | (VOL.) Other party | (VOL.) DK/Ref | Lean Rep | Lean Dem |
|----------------------|------------|----------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Oct 13-18, 2010 | 25 | 31 | 36 | 4 | * | 3 | 16 | 13 |
| Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 | 24 | 32 | 39 | 2 | * | 2 | 15 | 17 |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 26 | 33 | 34 | 4 | * | 3 | 14 | 14 |
| Jun 16-20, 2010 | 27 | 34 | 34 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 15 |
| Apr 21-26, 2010 | 26 | 33 | 36 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 13 |
| Mar 11-21, 2010 | 28 | 34 | 32 | 3 | * | 3 | 13 | 12 |
| Mar 10-14, 2010 | 22 | 33 | 37 | 6 | * | 3 | 14 | 13 |
| Feb 3-9, 2010 | 26 | 31 | 37 | 3 | * | 3 | 14 | 17 |
| Jan 6-10, 2010 | 22 | 33 | 42 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 16 |
| Yearly Totals | | | | | | | | |
| 2009 | 23.9 | 34.4 | 35.1 | 3.4 | .4 | 2.8 | 13.1 | 15.7 |
| 2008 | 25.3 | 35.8 | 31.7 | 3.8 | .3 | 3.1 | 10.5 | 15.4 |
| 2007 | 25.4 | 32.9 | 33.7 | 4.6 | .4 | 3.1 | 10.7 | 16.7 |
| 2006 | 27.6 | 32.8 | 30.3 | 5.0 | .4 | 3.9 | 10.2 | 14.5 |
| 2005 | 29.2 | 32.8 | 30.3 | 4.5 | .3 | 2.8 | 10.2 | 14.9 |
| 2004 | 29.7 | 33.4 | 29.8 | 3.9 | .4 | 2.9 | 11.7 | 13.4 |
| 2003 | 29.8 | 31.4 | 31.2 | 4.7 | .5 | 2.5 | 12.1 | 13.0 |
| 2002 | 30.3 | 31.2 | 30.1 | 5.1 | .7 | 2.7 | 12.6 | 11.6 |

² Question was worded "From what you've heard or read, is there general agreement among scientists that the earth is getting warmer because of human activity, or not."

³ In April 28-May 12, 2009 the question was asked in a different context and is presented here as a trend for comparison.

PARTY/PARYLN CONTINUED ...

| | | | | (VOL.) | (VOL.) | (VOL.) | Lean | Lean |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|--------|---------------|------------|------------|
| | <u>Republican</u> | <u>Democrat</u> | <u>Independent</u> | No | Other | <u>DK/Ref</u> | <u>Rep</u> | <u>Dem</u> |
| | | | | preference | party | | | |
| 2001 | 29.2 | 33.6 | 28.9 | 5.1 | .5 | 2.7 | 11.7 | 11.4 |
| 2001 Post-Sept 11 | 30.9 | 31.8 | 27.9 | 5.2 | .6 | 3.6 | 11.7 | 9.4 |
| 2001 Pre-Sept 11 | 28.2 | 34.6 | 29.5 | 5.0 | .5 | 2.1 | 11.7 | 12.5 |
| 2000 | 27.5 | 32.5 | 29.5 | 5.9 | .5 | 4.0 | 11.6 | 11.6 |
| 1999 | 26.6 | 33.5 | 33.7 | 3.9 | .5 | 1.9 | 13.0 | 14.5 |
| 1998 | 27.5 | 33.2 | 31.9 | 4.6 | .4 | 2.4 | 11.8 | 13.5 |
| 1997 | 28.2 | 33.3 | 31.9 | 4.0 | .4 | 2.3 | 12.3 | 13.8 |
| 1996 | 29.2 | 32.7 | 33.0 | 5.2 | -- | -- | 12.7 | 15.6 |
| 1995 | 31.4 | 29.7 | 33.4 | 5.4 | -- | -- | 14.4 | 12.9 |
| 1994 | 29.8 | 31.8 | 33.8 | 4.6 | -- | -- | 14.3 | 12.6 |
| 1993 | 27.4 | 33.8 | 34.0 | 4.8 | -- | -- | 11.8 | 14.7 |
| 1992 | 27.7 | 32.7 | 35.7 | 3.9 | -- | -- | 13.8 | 15.8 |
| 1991 | 30.9 | 31.4 | 33.2 | 4.5 | -- | -- | 14.6 | 10.8 |
| 1990 | 31.0 | 33.1 | 29.1 | 6.8 | -- | -- | 12.4 | 11.3 |
| 1989 | 33 | 33 | 34 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 1987 | 26 | 35 | 39 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |