

# Energy and Climate Change in the 2016 Election

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research  
Funded by The Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)

*Interviews: 8/11-14/2016*

*1,096 adults*

*Margin of error: +/- 3.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults*

*NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.*

**Q16. Do you think climate change is happening, do you think climate change is not happening, or aren't you sure?**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Climate change is happening	77
Climate change is not happening	10
Not sure if climate change is happening	13
SKIP/REFUSED	-

N=

1,096

*If says climate change is happening or not sure in Q16*

**Q16A. Do you believe climate change is a problem that the United States government should take steps to address, or don't you think the government should be involved?**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Climate change is a problem the United States government should address	79
The United States government should not be involved in addressing climate change	20
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

993

**Q16/Q16A Combined**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
<b>Climate change is happening</b>	<b>77</b>
Climate change is a problem the United States government should address	65
The United States government should not be involved in addressing climate change	12
DON'T KNOW/SKIP/REFUSED	1
<b>Not sure if climate change is happening</b>	<b>13</b>
Climate change is a problem the United States government should address	6
The United States government should not be involved in addressing climate change	6
DON'T KNOW/SKIP/REFUSED	1
<b>Climate change is not happening</b>	<b>10</b>
SKIP/REFUSED	-

N=

1,096

**Q16B. Suppose a proposal was on the ballot next year to add a monthly fee to consumers' monthly electricity bill to combat climate change. If this proposal passes, it would cost your household \$[COST INCREASE] every month. Would you vote in favor of this monthly fee to combat change, or would you vote against this monthly fee?**

**[SAMPLE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO \$1, \$10, \$20, \$30, \$40, OR \$50 COST INCREASE]**

**\$1 Cost Increase**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	57
Vote against this monthly fee	42
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	178

**\$10 Cost Increase**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	39
Vote against this monthly fee	61
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	201

**\$20 Cost Increase**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	29
Vote against this monthly fee	68
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	2
<i>N=</i>	193

**\$30 Cost Increase**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	24
Vote against this monthly fee	75
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>177</i>

**\$40 Cost Increase**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	17
Vote against this monthly fee	81
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>181</i>

**\$50 Cost Increase**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	20
Vote against this monthly fee	80
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>166</i>

**Q17. Do you intend to vote in the 2016 Presidential Election, or won't you be voting this year?**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Intend to vote in the 2016 Presidential Election	81
Won't be voting in the 2016 Presidential Election	18
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,096</i>

*If intends to vote in the 2016 Presidential election in Q17*

**Q17A. Thinking about your vote for president, how important are the following issues to you personally?**

**[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016	Not at all/slightly important NET	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately Important	Very/ extremely important NET	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKIP/ REF
The economy and jobs	<b>3</b>	*	3	<b>8</b>	<b>89</b>	42	47	-	*
Social issues like gay marriage and abortion	<b>31</b>	17	14	<b>22</b>	<b>46</b>	27	20	*	*
National security and terrorism	<b>4</b>	1	3	<b>9</b>	<b>86</b>	33	53	*	-
Immigration	<b>13</b>	3	10	<b>23</b>	<b>64</b>	32	32	*	*
Energy policy	<b>15</b>	2	13	<b>28</b>	<b>55</b>	37	18	*	*
Climate change	<b>28</b>	14	14	<b>26</b>	<b>45</b>	29	17	*	*

N=905

**Q18. Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the use of hydraulic fracturing, sometimes called "fracking," in the United States?**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
<b>Strongly/moderately favor NET</b>	<b>19</b>
Strongly favor	7
Moderately favor	13
<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Moderately/strongly oppose NET</b>	<b>38</b>
Moderately oppose	18
Strongly oppose	20
DON'T KNOW	4
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,096

**Q19. What share of the U.S. natural gas supply do you think comes from gas produced using hydraulic fracturing? If you don't know for sure, your best guess is fine.**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
About one-quarter	39
About one-half	27
About two-thirds [correct response]	21
About three-quarters	6
DON'T KNOW	5
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,096

**Q20. As you may know, 190 countries recently signed an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Based on what you've seen, heard or read about the agreement, how confident are you that each of the following countries will meet its obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?**

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016	Extremely/ Very confident NET	Extremely confident	Very confident	Moderately confident	Only a little/not confident at all NET	Only a little confident	Not confident at all	DK	SKIP/ REF
The United States	<b>26</b>	7	20	<b>40</b>	<b>31</b>	20	11	1	1
China	<b>7</b>	2	5	<b>22</b>	<b>69</b>	25	44	1	1
India	<b>6</b>	1	5	<b>24</b>	<b>67</b>	31	36	2	1

N=1,096

**Q21. In the event that other countries do not meet their obligations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, do you think the United States should...?**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Continue making progress to meet its obligations	82
Reduce its efforts to meet its obligations	8
Stop making progress to meet its obligations	8
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,096

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED Q22VA. OTHER HALF ASKED Q22VB]

**Q22VA. Coal use in the electricity sector has historically been among the largest contributors to U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants like mercury. New federal rules to decrease those pollutants have played a leading role in cutting U.S. coal consumption by one-third, but have also eliminated thousands of jobs.**

**Do you favor or oppose these federal rules to decrease coal use despite the loss of jobs?**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
<b>Strongly/moderately favor NET</b>	<b>45</b>
Strongly favor	24
Moderately favor	21
<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Moderately/strongly oppose NET</b>	<b>29</b>
Moderately oppose	15
Strongly oppose	14
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	2
N=	559

**Q22VB. Coal use in the electricity sector has historically been among the largest contributors to U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants like mercury. New federal rules to decrease those pollutants have played a leading role in cutting U.S. coal consumption by one-third.**

**Do you favor or oppose these federal rules to decrease coal use?**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
<b>Strongly/moderately favor NET</b>	<b>54</b>
Strongly favor	29
Moderately favor	25
<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Moderately/strongly oppose NET</b>	<b>16</b>
Moderately oppose	9
Strongly oppose	7
DON'T KNOW	2
SKIP/REFUSED	1
N=	537

**PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Democrat	35
Republican	22
Independent	24
None of these	19
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N= 1,096

*If Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/Skip/Refused in PID1*

**PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Lean Democrat	29
Lean Republican	24
Don't lean	44
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	2

N= 456

*If Democrat in PID1*

**PIDa. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Strong Democrat	37
Moderate Democrat	63
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N= 407

*If Republican in PID1*

**PIDb. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Strong Republican	33
Moderate Republican	67
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N= 233



**POLITICS. Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDa, and PIDb.**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Unknown	1
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>48</b>
Strong Democrat	13
Moderate Democrat	22
Lean Democrat	13
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>32</b>
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	14
Strong Republican	7
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,096</i>

**AGE**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
18-24	12
25-34	17
35-44	16
45-54	19
55-64	16
65-74	13
75+	6
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,096</i>

**GENDER**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Male	48
Female	52
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,096</i>

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
White	64
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,096</i>

**MARITAL STATUS**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Married	48
Widowed	6
Divorced	11
Separated	2
Never married	23
Living with partner	9
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,096</i>

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Employed	55
Not employed	45
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,096</i>

**EDUCATION**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Less than a high school diploma	12
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	24
College graduate or above	36
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,096</i>

**INCOME**

	AP-NORC 8/11-14/2016
Under \$10,000	6
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	12
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	11
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	18
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	15
\$150,000 or more	6

N=

1,096

## **Study Methodology**

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from The Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC). Data were collected using AmeriSpeak®, which is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face).

Interviews for this survey were conducted between August 11 and 14, 2016, with adults age 18 and over from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak®, and 1,096 completed the survey—832 via the web and 264 via telephone. The final stage completion rate is 30.8 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 21.3 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 94.0 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 6.2 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.6 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study-specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and household phone status. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over, were used for all analyses.

## **About the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC)**

The Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago (EPIC) is confronting the global energy challenge by working to ensure that energy markets provide access to reliable, affordable energy, while limiting environmental and social damages. We do this using a unique interdisciplinary approach that translates robust, data-driven research into real-world impacts through strategic outreach and training for the next generation of global energy leaders. [epic.uchicago.edu](http://epic.uchicago.edu) @UChiEnergy

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- The Associated Press (AP) is the world's essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

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