

# ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE 2016 ELECTION

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE IMPORTANCE FOR VOTERS, THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE, THE U.S. ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, AND ATTITUDES TOWARD FRACKING

- ✓ **Survey from the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research**
- ✓ **Data collected August 11-14, 2016, using the AmeriSpeak® Omnibus with a nationally representative sample of 1,096 adults age 18 and over online and using landlines and cell phones**
- ✓ **Results have a margin of sampling error of +/- 3.6 percentage points.**
- ✓ **Key findings from the survey include:**
  - Sixty-five percent of Americans say climate change is a problem the U.S. government should address. Another 12 percent say climate change is happening, but the government should not be involved in fixing it; 1 in 10 Americans say climate change is not happening; and 13 percent of Americans remain unsure if climate change is happening or not.
  - When asked whether they would support a monthly fee on their electric bill to combat climate change, 42 percent of respondents are unwilling to pay even \$1. Twenty-nine percent would pay \$20, an amount roughly equivalent to what the federal government estimates the damages from climate change would be on each household. And, 20 percent indicate they are willing to pay \$50 per month. Party affiliation is the main determinant of how much people are willing to pay, not education, income, or geographic location. Democrats are consistently willing to pay more than Republicans.
  - Energy issues and climate change are important issues for about half of likely voters as they cast their ballot.
  - A majority of Americans underestimate how much of the country's natural gas supply comes from fracking, and many don't hold strong attitudes about the practice. Among those who do have an opinion, twice as many oppose its use than support it.
  - Only a quarter of Americans are confident that the U.S. will fulfill its obligations under the Paris Agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Americans have even less confidence in China and India meeting their obligations. But even if these countries don't, 8 in 10 Americans say the U.S. should continue making progress to meet its own obligations.
- ✓ **A full topline that includes complete question wording and data is available at [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org).**