The Paris Agreement

FINDINGS FROM AN AUGUST 2017 SURVEY OF ADULTS AGE 18 AND OLDER

More Americans oppose withdrawal from the Paris Agreement than support it, but 3 in 10 don’t have an opinion.

- Twenty-eight percent say they support withdrawal, 42% oppose it, and 28% neither support nor oppose withdrawal.
- Opinion remains unchanged since June 2017.

Half of those who support withdrawal say the agreement was too costly for the U.S.

- Among those who support withdrawal, 52% say a major reason why is because the agreement was too costly for the U.S.
- Not believing other countries would stick to the agreement is a major reason why 44% support withdrawal.
- Seven in 10 under age 45 are concerned that other countries won’t stick to the agreement, compared with 84% of adults age 45 and older.
- Fewer support withdrawal because they believe climate change is not a serious threat.

Support for U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement has more to do with economics than attitudes toward climate change.

% who say a major or minor reason why they support withdrawal is because they...

- believe the Paris Agreement will be too costly for the U.S. 83%
- don’t believe other countries will stick to the agreement. 79%
- don’t believe climate change is a serious threat. 68%

Those who oppose withdrawal feel strongly that climate change is a serious threat, the U.S. should meet its commitments, and the U.S. should be a leader on climate change.

- Eight in 10 who oppose U.S. withdrawal say a major reason why is that they believe climate change is a serious threat.
- More than 7 in 10 say major reasons for their opposition are that the U.S. should make good on its commitments and that the U.S. should be a global leader on climate change.

Opposition to U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement is motivated by several concerns.

% who say a major or minor reason why they oppose withdrawal is because they...

- believe climate change is a serious threat. 95%
- believe the U.S. should follow through on its commitments. 94%
- believe the U.S. should play a leadership role on climate change. 94%

Questions: There are many reasons why someone might oppose U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. For each of the following, please indicate if it is a major reason, minor reason, or not a reason at all that you oppose U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

Four in 10 Americans believe U.S. withdrawal will have a demotivating effect on other countries in the agreement.

- Thirty-seven percent say U.S. withdrawal from the agreement will make other countries less likely to meet their obligations.
- Twenty-one percent think U.S. withdrawal from the agreement will make other countries more likely to meet their obligations, while 38% don’t think it will make a difference.
- Older adults are more likely than younger adults to say other countries will be less likely to meet their obligations (44% of adults age 45 and older vs. 29% of adults age 18 to 44).