

Public Opinion on Energy Policy under the Trump Administration

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

Interviews: 8/17-21/2017

1,038 adults

Margin of error: +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

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

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Q31. How important are the following issues to you personally?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 3/23-27/2017	Not at all/slightly important NET	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very/ extremely important NET	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	2	*	2	10	87	44	43	*	*
Immigration	15	6	9	25	60	32	28	-	*
Health care	3	1	2	10	86	36	50	*	*

N=1,110

AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	Not at all/slightly important NET	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very/ extremely important NET	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	4	1	4	14	81	42	39	*	1
Immigration	21	6	15	32	47	27	19	*	1
Health care	3	1	2	14	82	34	48	-	1
Climate change	25	11	14	21	53	27	26	1	1
Terrorism	8	2	7	14	77	31	46	*	1

N=1,068

AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017	Not at all/slightly important NET	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very/ extremely important NET	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy (n=992)	5	1	4	18	77	45	32	-	*
Immigration (n=1,038)	17	5	12	32	50	29	21	*	1
Health care (n=992)	5	1	4	11	84	40	44	-	*
Climate change (n=1,038)	25	10	15	26	48	26	22	-	1
Terrorism (n=992)	10	4	7	22	68	34	34	-	*
Energy policy (n=1,038)	16	3	13	29	54	35	18	*	1

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Q32. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

If don't know, skipped, or refused in Q32

Q32A. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

If approve in Q32

Q32B. Would you say you approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president strongly or do you approve just somewhat?

If disapprove in Q32

Q32C. Would you say you disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president strongly or do you disapprove just somewhat?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 3/23-27/2017	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Strongly/somewhat/leans toward approve NET	42	35	36
Strongly approve	20	16	17
Somewhat approve	22	18	19
Lean toward approving	*	*	1
Do not lean either way	*	1	*
Leans toward/somewhat/strongly disapprove NET	58	64	63
Lean toward disapproving	*	*	*
Somewhat disapprove	14	17	14
Strongly disapprove	43	47	49
DON'T KNOW	-	*	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1	*
N=	1,110	1,068	1,038

Q33. Do you think climate change is happening, do you think climate change is not happening, or aren't you sure?

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/11-14/2016	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Climate change is happening	77	65	72
Climate change is not happening	10	12	9
Not sure if climate change is happening ¹	13	23	19
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-	1	1
N=	1,096	1,068	1,038

¹ This option was a volunteered option for telephone respondents in 2016.

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If climate change is happening in Q33

Q34. Do you think climate change is caused entirely by human activities, caused mostly by human activities, caused about equally by human activities and natural changes in the environment, caused mostly by natural changes in the environment, or caused entirely by natural changes in the environment?

	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Caused entirely/mostly by human activities NET	57	55
Caused entirely by human activities	13	15
Caused mostly by human activities	44	40
Caused equally by human activities and natural changes in the environment	32	32
Caused mostly/entirely by natural changes in the environment NET	10	12
Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment	9	11
Caused entirely by natural changes in the environment	1	2
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>751</i>	<i>774</i>

If climate change is happening in Q33

Q35. 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/EPIC 8/11-14/2016	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Climate change is a problem the United States government should address	84	91	85
The United States government should not be involved in addressing climate change	15	9	14
DON'T KNOW	1	*	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	*	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>855</i>	<i>751</i>	<i>774</i>

Q36. 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 IN 2016; SAMPLE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO \$1, \$10, \$20, \$40, \$75, OR \$100 COST INCREASE IN 2017]

\$1 Cost Increase

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/11-14/2016	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	57	51
Vote against this monthly fee	42	48
DON'T KNOW	1	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1
<i>N=</i>	178	153

\$10 Cost Increase

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/11-14/2016	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	39	39
Vote against this monthly fee	61	60
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-	*
<i>N=</i>	201	174

\$20 Cost Increase

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/11-14/2016	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	29	27
Vote against this monthly fee	68	71
DON'T KNOW	*	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2	1
<i>N=</i>	193	203

\$40 Cost Increase

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/11-14/2016	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	17	31
Vote against this monthly fee	81	67
DON'T KNOW	1	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	1
<i>N=</i>	181	174

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\$75 Cost Increase

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	12
Vote against this monthly fee	88
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	168

\$100 Cost Increase

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Vote in favor of this monthly fee	18
Vote against this monthly fee	82
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	166

Q37. In general, do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the direction of U.S. energy policy?

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Strongly/somewhat favor NET	17
Strongly favor	4
Somewhat favor	13
Neither favor nor oppose	45
Somewhat/strongly oppose NET	35
Somewhat oppose	22
Strongly oppose	13
DON'T KNOW	3
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	1,038

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Q38. Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose each of the following?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017	Strongly/ somewhat favor NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Somewhat/ strongly oppose NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
Building the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines	30	13	17	32	36	15	22	1	1
Repealing the Clean Power Plan	20	8	11	37	40	15	25	3	1

N=1,038

Q39. Given what you have seen, heard, or read about energy policy, would you say:

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
The coal industry currently employs more people than the solar industry	44
The solar industry currently employs more people than the coal industry	48
DON'T KNOW	6
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2

N=

1,038

Q40. As you may know, nearly 200 countries recently signed an international agreement in Paris to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose the United States withdrawing from this international agreement?

	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Strongly/somewhat support NET	29	28
Strongly support	18	16
Somewhat support	11	12
Neither support nor oppose	23	28
Somewhat/strongly oppose NET	46	42
Somewhat oppose	9	12
Strongly oppose	37	30
DON'T KNOW	1	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1

N=

1,068

1,038

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If "strongly support" or "somewhat support" in Q40

Q40A. There are many reasons why someone might support 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 support U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	DON'T KNOW	SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED
You don't believe climate change is a serious threat	34	34	32	-	*
You believe the Paris Agreement will be too costly for the U.S.	52	31	17	-	*
You don't believe other countries will stick to the agreement	44	35	21	1	*

N=279

If "strongly oppose" or "somewhat oppose" in Q40

Q40B. 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.

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	DON'T KNOW	SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED
You believe climate change is a serious threat	80	14	5	*	*
You believe the U.S. should follow through on its commitments	76	17	5	*	1
You believe the U.S. should play a leadership role on climate change	74	20	6	-	*

N=491

Q41. Given the United States’ withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, do you think other countries are more likely, less likely, or equally likely to meet their obligations under the agreement?

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Much/somewhat more likely NET	21
Much more likely	9
Somewhat more likely	12
Equally likely	38
Somewhat/much less likely NET	37
Somewhat less likely	27
Much less likely	10
DON’T KNOW	3
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,038

Q42. Since the United States announced its withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, some U.S. mayors and governors have pledged to honor the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals set by the agreement. Do you support, oppose, or neither support nor oppose local governments taking action to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions?

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Strongly/somewhat support NET	57
Strongly support	38
Somewhat support	19
Neither support nor oppose	32
Somewhat/strongly oppose NET	10
Somewhat oppose	6
Strongly oppose	4
DON’T KNOW	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,038

Q43. Based on what you've seen, heard or read, do you think your local and state government should be doing less, doing more, or doing the same as they currently are to address climate change?

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Much/somewhat less NET	10
Much less	4
Somewhat less	6
Same as they currently are	33
Somewhat/much more NET	55
Somewhat more	30
Much more	25
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,038

Q44. Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the use of hydraulic fracturing, sometimes called "fracking," in the United States?

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/11-14/2016 ²	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Strongly/somewhat favor NET	19	17
Strongly favor	7	6
Somewhat favor	13	11
Neither favor nor oppose	38	37
Somewhat/strongly oppose NET	38	41
Somewhat oppose	18	18
Strongly oppose	20	23
DON'T KNOW	4	3
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	1

N=

1,096

1,038

² In 2016, "moderately favor" and "moderately oppose" were used in place of the "somewhat favor" and "somewhat oppose" response options.

[SAMPLE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED TO Q44A, Q44B, Q44C, OR Q44D. ROUGHLY ONE-QUARTER OF RESPONDENTS WERE SHOWN EACH QUESTION.]

Q44A. One recent study found that the communities where hydraulic fracturing takes place see economic benefits equal to roughly \$1,900 per year for the average household. Would you say you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the use of hydraulic fracturing in the United States?

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Strongly/somewhat favor NET	25
Strongly favor	7
Somewhat favor	18
Neither favor nor oppose	42
Somewhat/strongly oppose NET	33
Somewhat oppose	17
Strongly oppose	16
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N=

224

Q44B. One recent study found babies in the womb experience negative health effects from close exposure to a hydraulic fracturing site. The effects were strongest within a half mile of the site, with babies 25% more likely to have a low birth weight. Birth weights were not different for pregnant mothers living more than 2 miles from the site. Would you say you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the use of hydraulic fracturing in the United States?

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Strongly/Somewhat favor NET	17
Strongly favor	8
Somewhat favor	9
Neither favor nor oppose	31
Somewhat/strongly oppose NET	51
Somewhat oppose	23
Strongly oppose	28
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2

N=

264

Q44C. One recent study found that hydraulic fracturing has saved the typical U.S. household nearly \$250 per year on their natural gas bill. Would you say you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the use of hydraulic fracturing in the United States?

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Strongly/somewhat favor NET	41
Strongly favor	15
Somewhat favor	26
Neither favor nor oppose	29
Somewhat/strongly oppose NET	25
Somewhat oppose	11
Strongly oppose	14
DON'T KNOW	4
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2

N=

281

Q44D. One recent study found that hydraulic fracturing triggered earthquakes in Oklahoma. The study found that the injection of wastewater, part of the hydraulic fracturing process, triggered the earthquakes. Would you say you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the use of hydraulic fracturing in the United States?

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Strongly/somewhat favor NET	15
Strongly favor	8
Somewhat favor	7
Neither favor nor oppose	25
Somewhat/strongly oppose NET	58
Somewhat oppose	21
Strongly oppose	37
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

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

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Democrat	36
Republican	23
Independent	21
None of these	18
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,038

If Democrat in PID1

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

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Strong Democrat	38
Moderate Democrat	62
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N=

402

If Republican in PID1

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

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Strong Republican	33
Moderate Republican	67
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N=

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If Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED in PID1
PIDi. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Lean Democrat	24
Lean Republican	27
Don't lean	44
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	3
<i>N=</i>	<i>410</i>

POLITICS. Combines PID1, PIDa, PIDb, and PIDi.

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Democrat NET	46
Strong Democrat	14
Moderate Democrat	22
Lean Democrat	10
Independent/None – Don't lean	18
Republican NET	34
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	16
Strong Republican	8
Unknown	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,038</i>

AGE

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
18-24	12
25-34	19
35-44	15
45-54	15
55-64	19
65-74	14
75+	6
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,038</i>

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GENDER

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Male	48
Female	52
<i>N=</i>	1,038

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
White	64
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8
<i>N=</i>	1,038

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Married	46
Widowed	6
Divorced	13
Separated	3
Never married	24
Living with partner	8
<i>N=</i>	1,038

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	33
College graduate or above	27
<i>N=</i>	1,038

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INCOME

	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017
Under \$10,000	9
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	14
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	11
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	16
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	14
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	12
\$150,000 or more	6

N=

1,038

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 the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC's 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). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between August 17 and 21, 2017, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,038 completed the survey—861 via the web and 177 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in English. The final stage completion rate is 26.9 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 33.5 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 89.2 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 8.0 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.1 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 education. 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 [@UChiEnergy](https://twitter.com/UChiEnergy)

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- 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.

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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.

The founding principles of The AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.