

# THE PIPA/KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS POLL

## THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

### PIPA-Knowledge Networks Poll: Americans on Climate Change

#### Questionnaire

Dates of Survey: June 8–14, 2004  
Sample Size: 753

Margin of Error: +/- 3.6% [full sample]

Q1a. As you may know there is some discussion these days about the problem of global warming or climate change due to the buildup of greenhouse gasses. How much have you heard about global warming or climate change?

A great deal .....	15%
Some .....	48
Not very much .....	28
Nothing at all .....	10
(No answer).....	0

Q1b. There is a controversy over what the countries of the world, including the US, should do about the problem of global warming. I'm going to read you three statements. Please tell me which statement comes closest to your own point of view. [ARO]

a. Until we are sure that global warming, is really a problem we should not take any steps that would have economic costs .....	<b>6/04</b> 23%	<b>10/98</b> 15%
b. The problem of global warming should be addressed, but its effects will be gradual, so we can deal with the problem gradually by taking steps that are low in cost .....	45	42
c. Global warming is a serious and pressing problem. We should begin taking steps now even if this involves significant costs .....	31	41
(No answer).....	1	2

Q1. Should President Bush develop a plan to reduce the emission of gases that may contribute to global warming or shouldn't he do so?

	<b>Time/CNN/Harris</b>	
	<b>6/04</b>	<b>3/01</b>
Should .....	79%	67
Should not .....	19	26
(No answer).....	2	7

Q2. Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion?

	<b>Cambridge Reports</b>	
	<b>6/04</b>	<b>9/94</b>
a. There is a consensus among the great majority of scientists that global warming exists and could do significant damage .....	43%	28
b. There is a consensus among the great majority of scientists that global warming does not exist and therefore poses no significant threat .....	4	8
c. Scientists are divided on the existence of global warming and its impact.....	50	58
(No answer).....	4	6

Q3. Based on what you know, would you want your Congressional representative to vote for or against the US participating in the Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming?

	<b>06/04</b>	<b>11/02</b>
Vote for US participation.....	64%	64
Vote against US participation .....	20	21
(No answer).....	16	15

STATEMENT: Next are a series of questions that ask for your impression of some things that you may or may not know. Please just indicate your impression, whether or not you are very confident that it is correct.

Q4. Just based on your impressions, do you think your Congressional representative WOULD vote for or against the US participating in the Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming?

	<b>06/04</b>	<b>11/02</b>
Vote for US participation.....	58%	56%
Vote against US participation.....	32	29
(No answer).....	11	14

Q5: Just based on your impressions, do you think a majority in Congress would vote for or against the U.S. participating in the Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming?

Vote for US participation.....	46%	52%
Vote against US participation.....	46	36
(No answer).....	8	12

Q6. Just based on your impressions, do you think President Bush favors or opposes the U.S. participating in the Kyoto agreement to reduce global warming?

Favors US participating .....	42%	48%
Opposes US participating .....	48	42
(No answer).....	11	11

Q7. Which comes closer to your opinion?

	<b>6/04</b>	<b>CBS/NYT 11/97</b>
a. Efforts in the United States to reduce the release of greenhouse gases will cost too much money and hurt the US economy .....	29%	20
b. The US economy will become more competitive because these efforts will result in more efficient energy use, saving money in the long run.....	67	67
(No answer).....	5	11

Q8. Another controversy is whether the less-developed countries should also be expected to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Please tell me which of the following positions comes closest to yours. [RANDOMLY REVERSE ORDER OF THE STATEMENTS A AND B, BUT NOT C].

	<b>6/04</b>	<b>10/98</b>
a. The more-developed countries produce far more greenhouse gas emissions and have not begun to make meaningful reductions. So the less-developed countries should NOT be required to limit their emissions UNTIL the more-developed countries reduce theirs.....	22%	19
b. The less-developed countries produce a substantial and growing amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore they should be required to CUT their emissions.....	30	31
c. Because the less-developed countries are poorer and produce far lower emissions, they should not be required to cut back. But they should be required to MINIMIZE the increase of their emissions through greater energy efficiency.....	42	45
None of these (volunteered).....	*	2
(No answer).....	7	3

Q9. Here is a list of possible approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions that may contribute to climate change. For each one please say whether you favor or oppose it:

[ARO Q5A-Q5C ON SAME SCREEN]

9a. Provide tax incentives to utility companies to encourage them to sell environmentally clean energy, such as solar and wind power, to consumers.

	<b>6/04</b>	<b>WWF 8/97</b>
Favor .....	75%	81
Oppose .....	21	15
(No answer).....	3	5

9b. Give cash incentives like tax credits and rebates to individual households that upgrade to more energy efficient appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners.

	<b>6/04</b>	<b>WWF 8/97</b>
Favor .....	80%	85

Oppose .....	17	12
(No answer).....	4	3

Q10. Would you approve or disapprove of the government requiring car manufacturers to meet higher fuel efficiency standards than they do now?

	<b>6/04</b>	<b>CBS/NYT 9/03</b>
Approve.....	82%	76
Disapprove .....	17	18
(No answer).....	2	6

Q11. What if that meant it would cost more to own or lease a car, then would you approve or disapprove of the government requiring car manufacturers to meet higher fuel efficiency standards than they do now?

	<b>6/04</b>	<b>CBS/NYT* 9/03</b>
Approve.....	63%	59
Disapprove .....	36	32
(No answer).....	2	10

Q12. Would you favor or oppose requiring that by 2010, half of all new cars produced are hybrid-electric or some other type that is very fuel efficient?

Favor .....	71%
Oppose .....	28
(No answer).....	1

Q13: Do you favor or oppose continuing the tax credit for purchasing a hybrid-electric car?

Favor .....	78%
Oppose .....	20
(No answer).....	2

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\* In the CBS/NYT poll, only those respondents that said “approve” in question 10, received question 11 as a follow-up question.

Q14: Do you favor or oppose continuing to give large SUVs and Hummers a bigger tax credit than for ordinary cars used for business purposes?

Favor ..... 15%  
 Oppose .....83  
 (No answer).....2

STATEMENT: As you may know, a bill to address the problem of climate change has been introduced in Congress by a Democratic and a Republican Senator. This bill would set specific limits on the amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that large companies can emit. This bill has gone through several drafts. The following questions talk about a draft that would require that by the year 2010, the US would reduce its emissions to what they were in the year 2000, and by 2020 to what they were in 1990.

Q15. Just based on what you know, do you favor or oppose having such limits on how much greenhouse gases large companies can emit?

Favor ..... 81%  
 Oppose .....16  
 (No answer).....3

Q16. According to an estimate done by MIT, cutting greenhouse gas emissions as much as this draft of the new bill would require will increase various costs to the average American household by about \$15 a month. Do you tend to feel that this estimate is

On the high side ..... 29%  
 On the low side .....31  
 Approximately correct .....34  
 (No answer).....6

Q17a. If in fact it appears that it would likely cost \$15 a month for an average household, would you favor or oppose enacting such a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Favor ..... 67%  
 Oppose .....30  
 (No answer).....4

[If “OPPOSE OR NO ANSWER” IN Q17A]

Q17b. If further research concluded that it would likely cost \$10 a month for an average household, would you favor or oppose enacting such a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Favor .....	8%*
Oppose .....	23
(No answer).....	2

[If “FAVOR” IN Q17A]

Q17c. If further research concluded that it would likely cost \$25 a month for an average household, would you favor or oppose enacting such a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Favor .....	40%*
Oppose .....	27
(No answer).....	1

STATEMENT: If this bill were to pass, each large company would be allowed to emit a limited amount of greenhouse gasses. A controversial aspect of the bill is that it allows companies to buy and sell their allowances to each other. The idea is that it will cost some companies much more than other companies to change business practices to lower their emissions. If companies with low costs could reduce their emissions further, they could sell their emission allowances to other companies who would save money by buying those allowances. Here are some arguments on these issues. Please select whether you find them convincing or not.

[Q18-Q19 ARE PRO ARGUMENTS AND Q20-Q21 ARE CON ARGUMENTS. ARO WHETHER THEY GET A PRO OR CON FIRST, THEN RANDOMLY ALTERNATE BETWEEN PRO AND CON FOR REMAINDER OF Q15-Q18]

Q18. If we do not let companies buy and sell emission allowances, this would be unfair to companies for whom it is more expensive to lower their emissions, and overall would make it more costly to reduce emissions.

Very Convincing.....	11%
Somewhat Convincing.....	42
Somewhat Unconvincing .....	30
Very Unconvincing.....	14
(No answer).....	4

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\* Percentage of full sample

Q19. If companies are not allowed to buy and sell their emission allowances, the costs of lowering emissions will be substantially higher than presently estimated for the average American household.

Very Convincing.....	14%
Somewhat Convincing.....	41
Somewhat Unconvincing.....	30
Very Unconvincing .....	11
(No answer).....	4

Q20. It is just not right for companies to buy the right to emit greenhouse gases. All companies should have to reduce their emissions.

Very Convincing.....	45%
Somewhat Convincing.....	32
Somewhat Unconvincing .....	11
Very Unconvincing .....	9
(No answer).....	4

Q21. Requiring all companies to lower their emission levels the same amount will force them to adopt new technologies that may be expensive in the short run but will be economically beneficial in the long run.

Very Convincing .....	22%
Somewhat Convincing.....	55
Somewhat Unconvincing.....	14
Very Unconvincing.....	6
(No answer).....	4

Q22. Now, having considered these arguments, do you favor or oppose permitting companies to buy and sell their allowances to emit greenhouse gases?

Favor .....	34%
Oppose .....	62
(No answer).....	4



Q23. Overall, compared to the average American, would say you are more supportive or less supportive of taking steps to reduce global warming?

	<b>6/04</b>	<b>10/98</b>
More supportive .....	66%	68
Less supportive .....	30	22
About the same (volunteered).....*		5
(No answer).....	4	6

Q24. If a candidate for political office were to favor a law requiring large companies to gradually reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate? Please answer on a scale of +5 to -5, with +5 meaning that it will greatly increase the likelihood you will vote for the candidate, -5 meaning that it will greatly decrease the likelihood you will vote for the candidate, and 0 meaning that it will have no effect either way.

5.....	8%
4.....	8
3.....	16
2.....	12
1.....	8
0.....	32
-1 .....	3
-2 .....	3
-3 .....	2
-4 .....	1
-5 .....	5
(No answer).....	3
Increase likelihood (1 to 5) .....	52
No effect either way (0) .....	32
Decrease likelihood (-5 to -1) .....	14
(No answer).....	3
Mean .....	1.12

Q25. If the upcoming election for president were held today for whom would you vote:

George W. Bush.....	45%
John F. Kerry .....	43
Ralph Nader .....	6
(No answer).....	7

[ONLY TO THOSE RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWER THE ABOVE QUESTION]

Q25a. How sure are you that you will vote this way?

Very sure Bush.....	36%
Somewhat sure Bush.....	10
Not very sure Bush.....	2
Very sure Kerry.....	29%
Somewhat sure Kerry.....	11
Not very sure Kerry .....	5
Very sure Nader .....	2%
Somewhat sure Nader .....	2
Not very sure Nader .....	3
(No answer).....	7

[TO NADER VOTERS ONLY]

Q25b. If Nader does not run or is not on the ballot would you:

Vote for Bush .....	1%
Vote for Kerry .....	2
Write in Nader .....	3
(No answer).....	0

Q26. Have you seen the movie *The Day After Tomorrow*?

Yes .....	10%
No.....	90
(No answer).....	0

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:

D1. In politics today, do you think of yourself as:

Strongly Republican .....	14%
Leaning toward Republican .....	16
Independent.....	22
Leaning toward Democrat .....	19
Strongly Democrat.....	19
Other .....	8

D2. How would you characterize where you live? Would you characterize it as

An urban area or part of a city .....	33%
A suburban area or bedroom community just outside of a city .....	29
A small town or rural area .....	37

D3. Did you vote for a candidate for the House of Representatives or the Senate in the election in November 2002?

Yes .....	58%
No.....	39
(No Answer).....	3

D4. Education level (categorical)

Less than High School .....	16%
High School Graduate.....	32
Some College .....	28
College Graduate .....	24

D7. Gender

Male .....	48%
Female.....	52

D8. Region

Northeast.....	19%
Midwest.....	23
South .....	36
West .....	22