

Environmental Defense Fund

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Overview



- This poll was conducted with a representative sample of the national electorate with 600 interviews.
- The fieldwork took place on the evening of November 4th, 2008.
- Our goal was to test support for global warming and climate change legislation amid a time of economic recession, and in anticipation of a new President and Congress.

Executive Summary



- There is a clear consensus from our poll that government should address the problems of global warming and climate change by investing in clean energy as a means of creating jobs and stimulating the economy.
- Over three-quarters say that it is important to address the problems of global warming, and half of the sample says that the issues of oil addiction and economic problems need to be addressed together.
- Almost two in five believe that building clean energy products are a top priority for government over reducing spending, cutting taxes or investing in infrastructure.

Executive Summary



- There was limited support for increasing taxes or borrowing more money to stimulate the economy. The answer that received the most support was to use revenue generated from companies that pay for the pollution they create.
- 40% said creating jobs by investing in renewable energy should be the top priority of the president's agenda.
 - 25% said the top priority should be creating new regulations for the financial services industry.
 - 19% said it should be reviewing our national security strategy.

Executive Summary



- Similarly, we found that a plurality (35%) felt that the highest priority for Congress was to pass a new plan to stimulate the economy by investing in renewable energy products.
 - 26% felt that the highest priority was to develop a plan to expand health insurance.
 - 23% felt that the highest priority was to regulate the financial services industry.

Executive Summary



- Over six in ten said it was more important to implement new rules to make sure that companies produce clean, renewable energy to promote environmental standards.
 - Only a quarter of the sample said it was more important to limit the amount of regulation placed on businesses.
- Finally, over three-quarters of the sample supported legislation that would cut foreign oil imports and reduce environmental pollution.

Executive Summary



- A similar number said that they would support this legislation, even if it raised their home energy bill by \$5 a month.
- If the respondents' energy bills went up by \$10 a month, 58% would still support this legislation.
- Only when we asked if they would support the legislation if their energy bill was raised \$15 a month did the numbers flip. 42% favored it and 46% did not.

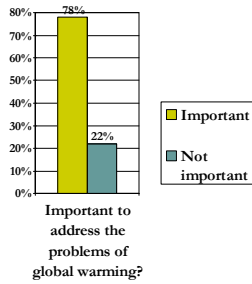
Addressing the Problems of Global Warming and Climate Change



- A majority of the electorate believes that now is the time to address the problems of global warming and climate change.

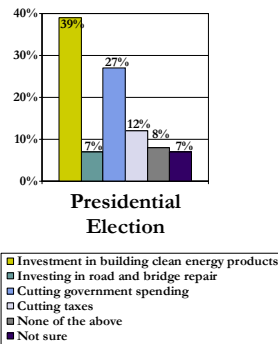
Given our economic situation, which comes closer to your view?	
Investments in new, clean energy could create millions of new jobs, so now is the time to address the problems of global warming and climate change.	58%
It is less important to address the problems of global warming and climate change, given the high energy prices and economic downturn in our country.	30%
Not sure	11%

The Problems of Global Warming and Climate Change



- Over three-quarters of voters think it is very or somewhat important to address the problems of global warming and climate change, while 22% do not.

The Best Way to Create Jobs



- A plurality of voters believe that the best way to create jobs and stimulate the economy is to invest in building clean energy products, thus promoting energy independence and creating manufacturing jobs.

Should We Address Our Energy Problems or Economic Problems?



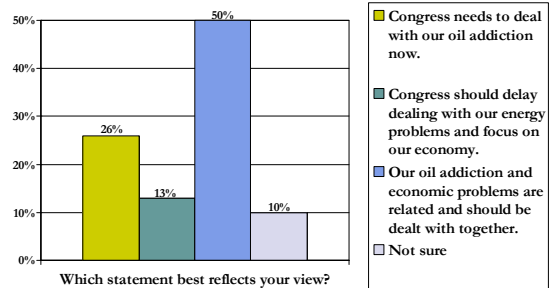
- Next we asked voters which statement best reflected their view:

- Congress needs to deal with the problem of America's addiction to oil because it undermines our long-term economic future and causes pollution.
- Dealing with our energy problems will have to be delayed while Congress focuses on economic issues.
- Our oil addiction and long-term economic problems are related and Congress should deal with them together.

Should We Address Our Energy Problems or Economic Problems?



Half of the electorate said that Congress should deal with our oil addiction and economic problems together, as the two problems are related.

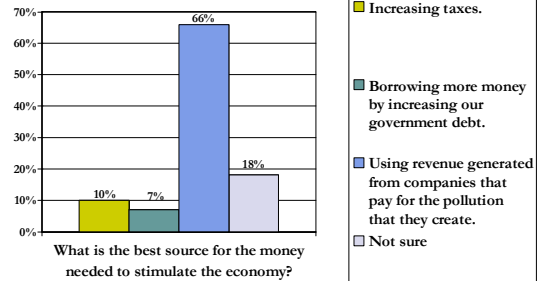


How Should We Pay for the Money Needed to Stimulate Our Economy?

- Next we asked the following question:
- If Congress decides there is a need to invest more money to stimulate the economy to create jobs, what would you say is the best way to pay for it – by increasing taxes, borrowing more money by increasing government debt, or using revenue generated by making large companies pay for the global warming pollution they produce?

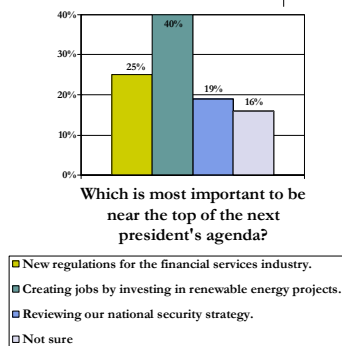
How Should We Pay for the Money Needed to Stimulate Our Economy?

Two-thirds of voters said that Congress should use revenue generated from large companies that pay for the pollution they create, which leads to global warming.



The Next President's Agenda

- 40% of respondents said creating jobs by investing in renewable energy projects should be near the top of the next president's agenda.



It is More Important to...

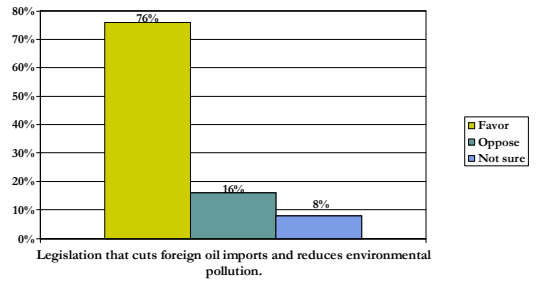
- A majority of the electorate believes it is more important to implement new rules that make sure companies produce clean, renewable energy than to limit regulation placed on business.

It is more important to...	Percentage
Implement new rules that make sure companies produce clean, renewable energy to promote environmental standards and energy independence.	61%
Limit the amount of regulation that is placed on businesses.	25%
Not sure	15%

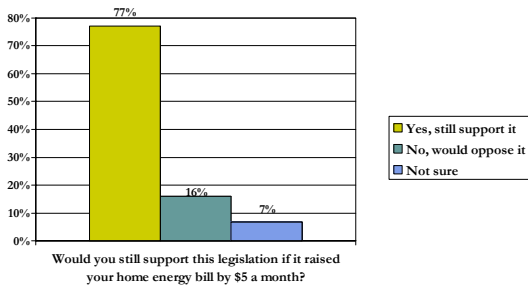
Energy Independence Legislation

- Finally, we asked voters if they would favor legislation that cuts foreign oil imports and reduces environmental pollution.
- We asked those who said they would favor this legislation if they would still support it if it raised their home energy bill by \$5, \$10 and then \$15 a month.
- Three-quarters of voters favored the initial legislation. Of those voters, a majority would continued to support the legislation until their energy bill increased by \$15 a month.

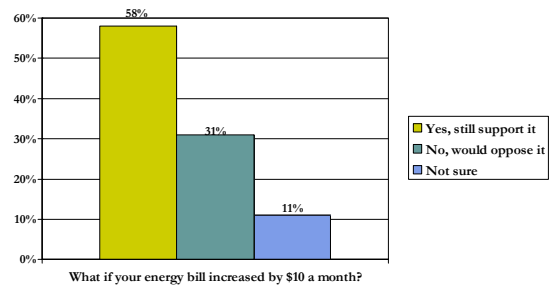
Energy Independence Legislation



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