

# AMERICAN VIEWPOINT

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## HUNTERS AND ANGLERS WANT ACTION ON CLEAN ENERGY AND GLOBAL WARMING Issue That Could Play a Role This Fall

***The findings of a recently completed national survey of 1,000 self-identified hunters and anglers show this group of voters could play a pivotal role in the 2008 election. They tend to be conservative, Republican or Independent, they vote, and nearly half have not yet made a firm decision on who they will vote in the presidential election.***

- 37% of those interviewed indicated they were Republican, 37% indicated they were Independent with 23% indicating they considered themselves Democrats.
- 51% consider themselves conservative, including 26% who consider themselves very conservative.
- 53% vote in every election with an additional 22% indicating they vote in almost all elections.
- Nearly half of these voters have not made a firm decision on who they will vote for in the presidential election including 27% have not decided who they will vote for and 20% leaning toward one candidate.

***Hunters and anglers believe the United States is off on the wrong track in terms of meeting our current and future energy needs and they agree the United States needs to set a bold new vision on energy policy. And, they blame Congress and oil companies for the country's high energy costs.***

- 70% of these voters believe the country is off on the wrong track when it comes to meeting our current and future energy needs, including 72% of those undecided in the presidential contest and 69% of those leaning toward one candidate.
  - 69% of Independents believe the country is off on the wrong track as do 64% of Republicans and 80% of Democrats.
- 81% agree with the statement "The United States needs to set a bold new vision on energy policy, and set a goal to achieve 100% of its electricity from clean renewable sources of power within 10 years".
  - 86% of undecided presidential voters agree with this statement as do 82% of those leaning toward one candidate. And, 76% of Independents agree as do 78% of Republicans and 93% of Democrats.
- 91% of these voters believe Congress deserves a great deal or some of the blame for the country's high energy costs, while 85% believes oil companies deserve a great deal or some of the blame.
  - 92% of those undecided in the presidential contest believe Congress deserves a great deal or some of the blame as do 90% of those leaning toward one candidate. No partisan difference exists with 91% of Republicans and Independents and 92% of Democrats believing that Congress deserves a great deal or some of the blame.
  - 90% of those undecided in the presidential contest believe oil companies deserve a great deal or some of the blame as do 86% of those leaning toward one candidate. 97% of Democrats believe oil companies deserve blame as do 82% of Independents and 80% of Republicans.

**Hunters and anglers support the development of renewable energy sources to strengthen our economy.**

- 85% agree with the statement “We can improve the environment and strengthen the economy by investing in renewable energy technologies that create jobs while reducing global warming”.
  - 89% of those undecided on the presidential ballot agree with the above statement as do 88% of those leaning toward one candidate.
  - 86% of Independents agree with this statement as do 95% of Democrats and 79% of Republicans and 87% of somewhat conservative voters agree with this statement as do 74% of very conservative voters and 88% of moderates.
- 55% believe additional development of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and biofuels will do more to stimulate and help the United States economy over 34% who believe additional development of oil and gas sources such as drilling off our coast and in our wildlife refuges will do more to stimulate the economy.
  - 64% of those undecided in the presidential contest believe development of renewable energy sources will do more to stimulate the economy as do 58% of those leaning toward one candidate.

**These hunters and anglers believe global warming is occurring, want action taken now by both the next Congress and the next President and believe we have a moral responsibility to confront the issue to protect our children’s future.**

- 66% agree that global warming is occurring including 73% of those undecided in the presidential contest and 75% of those leaning toward one candidate and 63% of Independents believe global warming is occurring as do 90% of Democrats and 52% of Republicans.
- 62% want the next Congress to take action on global warming now including 72% of those undecided in the presidential contest and 66% of those leaning toward one candidate. And, 58% of Independents want the next Congress to take action now as do 86% of Democrats. Republicans are split on taking action now versus waiting.
- 57% want the next President to take action on global warming now including 64% of those undecided in the presidential contest and 66% of those leaning toward one candidate. And, 55% of Independents and 79% of Democrats want the next President to take action now. Republicans are split.
- 73% agree with the statement “We have a moral responsibility to confront global warming to protect our children’s future”.
  - 80% of presidential ballot undecided voters agree with this statement as do 76% of those leaning toward one candidate, 66% of Independents, 60% of Republicans and 90% of Democrats.

**Despite the strong presence of hunters (67% either hunt or hunt and fish) 47% of these respondents believe the statement “Gun rights are important, but conservation is just as important” describes their feelings (36% believe gun rights are the most important issue facing sportsmen).**

- 47% of anglers, 40% of hunters and 47% of those who do both activities hold this point of view as do 52% of those undecided on the presidential contest as do 51% of those leaning toward one candidate, 45% of Independents, 50% of Democrats and 45% of Republicans.

## Conclusions

- Hunters and anglers are concerned about our energy future and global warming.
- Nearly half of these voters have not yet made a firm decision on their presidential vote and remain available to the candidate who addresses their concerns about these issues.
- They believe the next Congress and the next President should take action now on global warming.

## Demographic summary

East	13%	Urban/Suburban	33%
Midwest	33%	Medium/Small town	33%
South	41%	Rural	32%
West	13%		
		Hunter	14%
Men	63%	Angler	33%
Women	37%	Both	53%
18 to 29	10%	Evangelical	47%
30 to 44	16%	Not evangelical	44%
45 to 54	18%		
55 to 64	22%	White	88%
65+	32%	Other	8%
High School or less	31%	Under \$40,000 a year	21%
V-Tech/Some College	31%	\$40-75,000 a year	29%
College Graduate	24%	Over \$75,000 a year	34%
Post Graduate	11%		

*This national public opinion poll conducted among 1,000 self-identified hunters and anglers was conducted by American Viewpoint from July 27 through July 31, 2008 for the National Wildlife Federation Action Fund. The sample for this survey was randomly drawn from a list of self-identified hunters and anglers. To qualify, a respondent must have indicated they were a hunter, an angler or both as well as a registered voter. All interviews were conducted by telephone. The margin of error for this study is plus or minus 3.2% at the 95% confidence level.*