Insights from the UT Austin Energy Poll

February 18, 2016

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Director of The Energy Poll
Impartial and authoritative source of public perspectives on energy to inform and guide discussion, business planning and policy development
General Topics

- Energy prices and availability
- Energy concerns
- Satisfaction
- Consumer behaviors and voting preferences

“Hot Topics”
Spring 2012: Hydraulic Fracturing
Fall 2012: Energy, Voting Behavior, and the 2012 Election
Spring 2013: Consumer Attitudes on Energy
Fall 2013: The Energy-Water Nexus
Spring 2014: Energy Efficiency
Fall 2014: Energy, Voting Behavior, and the 2014 Election
Spring 2015: KeystoneXL and Gas Prices
Fall 2015: ”Best of” the UT Energy Poll
Background

• First questionnaire developed in 2010 (Inaugural launch Oct. 2011)
• Collaborative effort with representatives from academic institutions, polling companies, non-governmental organizations, energy producers and energy consumers

Spring 2016 – Tenth Release

• Online survey conducted January 15-23, 2016
• 2,043 respondents, weighted to reflect U.S. Census demographics
A Look At All Respondents: Spring 2016

**Party affiliation**
- Democrat: 40%
- Republican: 32%
- Independent: 15%
- Libertarian: 4%
- Other/No answer: 9%

**Age**
- 18-24: 13%
- 25-34: 18%
- 35-44: 18%
- 45-54: 19%
- 55-64: 15%
- 65+: 17%
- 65+: 17%
A Look At All Respondents: Spring 2016

**Gender**
- Female: 51%
- Male: 49%

**Race**
- White: 67%
- Hispanic: 15%
- African American: 12%
- Other: 6%

**Total family income**
- <$50K: 49%
- $50+: 47%
- No answer: 4%
U.S. Energy Security

- Concerned: 55%
- Not concerned: 12%
- No opinion: 33%
U.S. Energy Security

Concerned: 55%
No opinion: 33%
Not concerned: 12%
U.S. Energy Security

- Total: 55%
- Republican: 51%
- Democrat: 65%
- Independent: 45%
- Libertarian: 67%
U.S. Energy Security

- Total: 55%
- Hispanic: 67%
- African American: 60%
- White: 52%
- Other: 51%
U.S. Energy Security – Top Concerns

- Terrorist targets: 56%
- Dependency on the Middle East for our oil and gas: 47%
- Electric grid vulnerabilities: 43%
- Nuclear waste storage: 36%
- Running out of oil/gas: 30%
- Aging infrastructure: 30%
- Blackouts from storms or other weather events: 23%
- Pipeline vulnerabilities: 22%
- Railway accidents: 7%
- Other: 2%
- Not Sure: 2%
U.S. Energy Security – Top Concerns

- Terrorist targets: 56%
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- Railway accidents: 7%
- Other: 2%
- Not Sure: 2%
U.S. Energy Security – Top Concerns – Terrorist targets

- Total: 56%
- Republicans: 65%
- Democrats: 50%
Best way to approach U.S. energy security and independence…

- Government and industry should work together: 58%
- Market forces should dictate movement: 14%
- Government should take the lead: 14%
- Not sure/No opinion: 14%
- The federal government should take the lead: 14%
Best way to approach U.S. energy security and independence…

- Government and industry should work together: 58%
- Not sure/No opinion: 14%
- The federal government should take the lead: 14%
- Market forces should dictate movement: 14%
"Government and industry should work together"
Familiar with the term “hydraulic fracturing” or “fracking”
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Familiar with the term “hydraulic fracturing” or “fracking”

- Total: 47%
- Republicans: 53%
- Democrats: 46%
Among “Familiar,” Americans who support hydraulic fracturing
“The U.S. should permit the export of natural gas to other countries”

Agree

Disagree

Spring 2013  Fall 2013  Spring 2014  Fall 2014  Spring 2015  Fall 2015  Spring 2016

Spring 2013: 28%
Fall 2013: 34%
Spring 2014: 37%
Fall 2014: 34%
Spring 2015: 37%
Fall 2015: 38%
Spring 2016: 41%
“Municipalities should have the authority to ban hydraulic fracturing within their borders, even if state law otherwise permits it.”
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Americans that think climate change is occurring
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![Graph showing percentage of Americans who think climate change is occurring over time]

- Total
- Democrat
- Republican
Americans that think climate change is occurring:

- Total: 73%
- Hispanic: 87%
- African American: 77%
- White: 68%
- Other: 86%
Americans that think climate change is occurring

- Total: 73%
- <35: 82%
- 36-54: 72%
- 55-64: 69%
- 65+: 65%
Factors Americans think contribute to climate change

- Deforestation: 73%
- Oil: 66%
- Coal: 58%
- Natural forces (not manmade): 50%
- Natural gas: 47%
- Agriculture (including livestock): 43%
- Other: 7%
Concerned about “significant increase in temperature of the planet”

- Concerned: 71%
- Not concerned: 8%
- No opinion: 21%
Concerned about “significant increase in temperature of the planet”

- Concerned: 71%
- Not concerned: 8%
- No opinion: 21%
Concerned about “significant increase in temperature of the planet”

- **Total:** 71%
- **Republicans:** 60%
- **Democrats:** 81%
U.S. headed in the right direction on dealing with energy issues...
Americans describing gas prices as “high”

- Fall 2011: 95%
- Spring 2012: 98%
- Fall 2012: 96%
- Spring 2013: 96%
- Fall 2013: 95%
- Spring 2014: 93%
- Fall 2014: 92%
- Spring 2015: 66%
- Fall 2015: 58%
- Spring 2016: 35%
Satisfied with the job each is doing to address energy issues…
For more information:

www.utenergypoll.com

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