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Hawkeye Poll: While a majority of Americans have some degree of concern about climate change, it is split along partisan lines.

Climate change is one of the most talked about issues in the world today. U.S citizens tend to have split views about how much we should focus on it. A national online survey administered by the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll uncovered a division of opinion among the public influenced by party identification. This online poll, designed by University of Iowa faculty and students as a research project, surveyed 1,123 voting-age Americans between March 24 and April 5, 2023.

When asked how respondents felt about climate change, 59% say they are concerned or very concerned about the current state of climate change. Additionally, 38% are either neutral or not very concerned.

On average, Democrats are more concerned about climate change than Republicans. Eighty-four percent of Democratic respondents say they're either concerned or very concerned. Conversely, 62% of Republicans are either neutral on climate change or not very concerned.

Asked about the belief that individuals have a personal responsibility to mitigate climate change, 63% say they either strongly agree or agree with this statement. On the other hand, 12% either disagree or strongly disagree. A little over 1% of respondents declined to answer and 7% say they don't know.

Although 6 in 10 surveyed Republicans say they do not feel concerned about climate change, nearly half (49%) agree or strongly agree that they have a personal responsibility to mitigate climate change. In comparison, that same sentiment is shared by nearly 4 in 5 Democrats.

Respondents were also asked a battery of questions regarding actions government could take to mitigate climate change. While 41% of respondents support incentive programs, responses are split along party lines. Fifty-two percent of Democrats polled support government incentive

programs, a figure that drops to 28% among Republicans (this was the most popular option among Republicans).

Forty percent of respondents support governmental regulation of business as a step to mitigate climate change. Once again, there was a partisan split, with 56% of Democrats supporting this option, compared with 21% of Republicans. This option had the highest difference in support among the parties.

Nineteen percent of respondents support governmental regulation of individuals as an action to mitigate climate change, with 26% of Democrats supporting this option, while only 9% of Republicans did. This was the smallest partisan divide and the lowest support by Republicans out of all policy options provided.

Governmental investment in infrastructure to mitigate climate change was chosen by 35% of all respondents. Again, 48% of Democrats and only 21% of Republicans supported this policy option.

A final option was “no action” on the part of government. This option was favored by only 3% of Democrats but 27% of Republicans. This option had the lowest support by Democrats.

Respondent identification:

The Iowa Social Science Research Center (ISRC) contracted with a respected web panel vendor to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of 1,123 respondents.

Respondents invited to complete the web survey were U.S. adults, ages 18 to 120, recruited for participation via web panel. To obtain a census-representative sample, quotas were set on the following demographics: sex, age, and census region.

Sample:

1,123 voting-age residents in the United States, margin of error +/-2.9%.

Date of Survey:

The Hawkeye Poll was fielded between March 24 and April 5, 2023.

Weighting:

Reported results are weighted by age, sex, and census region.

About the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll:

The poll was designed by the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll, composed of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. The poll is a teaching and research project and is one of many of the experiential learning undergraduate courses offered in the Department of Political Science. The poll was implemented in collaboration with the Iowa Social Science Research Center.