



Public Opinion Survey

National Survey

June 17 – June 22, 2010

Conducted by Mark Blankenship Enterprises  
for  
The Institute for Energy Research

#### **Methodology**

- A national RDD sample was pulled, in proportion to population density throughout the United States. From this sample, 1,005 interviews were conducted among adults 18+ who self-identified as registered voters.
- Each interview was conducted by a live interviewer with the assistance of CATI software. 1,005 interviews yields a margin of error or +/- 3.1% at a 95% level of confidence.
- Voters were asked to self-identify as to which political party they belong and relate.
- The survey was conducted to better understand the attitudes and opinion of national voters on a host of important issues. The survey was conducted by MBE and sponsored by the Institute for Energy Research.
- Like all polling firms, MBE applies some weighting to the data to better represent the target audience and demographic targets are established during data collection to maximize representation.
- The exact language and order of questioning can be found in the accompanying questionnaire with results.

Public Opinion Survey  
National Survey  
Job # THG1013  
June 2010  
Project Contact – Mark Blankenship



## Questionnaire Final

### • 1005 completed interviews among registered U.S. voters

INTRO: INTRO: Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ with MBE Research, a national public opinion research firm. We are conducting a research study and we would really appreciate the chance to get your opinions on a few questions. This study is being conducted for research purposes only. No one will contact you or try to sell you anything as a result of your participation, and we promise that your individual responses will be kept completely confidential. Your number was selected at random.

Since this is a scientific survey, we need a balance of men and women. May I speak to the youngest man, over age 18, who is at home right now? (IF NO MALE) Okay, may I speak to the youngest woman, over age 18, who is at home right now?

### (RECORD FIPS CODE)

1. Record Gender by observation.

(52%) Female  
(48%) Male

2. First I have few questions to make sure our survey is representative. Into which of the following categories does your age happen to fall?

(6%) 18 – 24  
(14%) 25 – 34  
(16%) 35 – 44  
(21%) 45 – 54  
(20%) 55 – 64  
(24%) 65 & over  
(1%) Dk/Na

3. And do you work for any of the following industries?

(0%) Advertising, public relations or market research **(Terminate)**  
(0%) Media such as newspaper, television or radio as a reporter  
or any other job **(Terminate)**  
(0%) Political Party or Candidate for Public Office **(Terminate)**  
(0%) Dk/Na **(Terminate)**

4. Regardless of how you are registered, do you consider yourself to be a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent or something else?

(33%) Democrat (Ask Q5 and Skip Q6)  
(29%) Republican (Ask Q5 and Skip Q6)  
(29%) Independent (Skip Q5 Ask Q6)  
(7%) Other (Skip Q5 and ask Q6)  
(2%) Dk/Na

5. And do you consider yourself a strong **(INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q4)** or not very strong **(INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q4)**?  
n=620  
(34%) Strong Democrat  
(19%) Not Very Strong Democrat  
(31%) Strong Republican  
(16%) Not Very Strong Republican
6. Do you think of yourself as closer to the **(Read and Rotate List/Ask only of those who answer Independent or Other in Q4)**?  
n=366  
(32%) Closer to Democratic Party  
(39%) Closer to Republican Party  
(24%) Neither  
(6%) Dk/NA
7. And how are you registered to vote?  
(43%) Democrat  
(34%) Republican  
(23%) Independent

**Warm-up and General**

8. Overall, do you believe things in this country are headed in the right direction or do you believe things are on the wrong track?  
(34%) Right Direction  
(59%) Wrong Track  
(7%) Dk/Na

9. I want to read you a list people or organizations, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the job each is doing – a lot, some, very little, or nothing at all: **(READ EACH AND ROTATE)**

	<b>Stng Apprv</b>	<b>Some Apprv</b>	<b>Some Disapprv</b>	<b>Stng Disapprv</b>	<b>Dk/ Na</b>
President Barack Obama	(27%)	(26%)	(12%)	(32%)	(2%)
The U.S. Congress	(5%)	(25%)	(24%)	(43%)	(3%)
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or EPA	(13%)	(37%)	(22%)	(21%)	(7%)
Large Businesses	(10%)	(34%)	(24%)	(24%)	(8%)
Small Businesses	(55%)	(32%)	(3%)	(3%)	(7%)
Environmental Activists	(18%)	(31%)	(19%)	(24%)	(9%)
Labor Unions	(13%)	(28%)	(20%)	(28%)	(12%)

10. Of the following issues, which one do you think Congress and elected officials should address first?  
**(Read and rotate each, mark first response only)**

- (38%) Job Creation and Economic Growth  
(9%) Immigration Reform  
(6%) Financial Reform  
(4%) Oil Industry Regulation  
(16%) Government Spending  
(10%) National Debt  
(3%) Global Warming

- (8%) National Security
- (5%) Lowering Taxes
- (3%) Dk/Na

11. And which of the following environmental issues do you believe elected leaders should address first?  
**(Read and rotate each, mark first response only)?**

- (8%) Air Pollution
- (24%) Water Pollution
- (9%) Recycling
- (44%) Energy Efficiency
- (11%) Global Warming
- (4%) Dk/Na

### **Energy Taxes**

12. **(Read Slowly and Clearly, Repeat as Necessary)** Now I would like to discuss some proposals being considered by Congress. Congress is considering new energy taxes, including a new tax on every gallon of gasoline. The goal of these taxes is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which many believe causes global warming. All businesses, consumers and households would have to pay additional costs under the Congressional proposals. These taxes and costs could increase as the government requires more reductions in emissions.

#### **(Read and Rotate Supporters/Opponents Statement)**

Supporters of these taxes say they would reduce our dependency on foreign sources of oil, encourage greater energy efficiency, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels such as oil and coal, and benefit the environment by reducing global warming at relatively little cost.

Opponents of these taxes say they will significantly increase costs on all consumers, households and businesses causing prices for U.S. goods and services to increase, making America less competitive globally and lead to significant job losses.

After hearing this, do you support or oppose new energy taxes in order to limit greenhouse gas emissions and address global warming? **(Probe Strong/Some Support/Oppose)**

- (14%) Strongly Support
- (14%) Somewhat Support
- (16%) Somewhat Oppose
- (54%) Strongly Oppose
- (2%) Undecided/DK (Do Not Read)
- (0%) No answer/Refuse

13. Senators who have written global warming legislation acknowledge new taxes on gasoline will lead to higher prices at the pump but they insist it is not a gasoline tax imposed on consumers. Would you agree or disagree this would be a tax on gasoline?

- (44%) Strongly Agree
- (19%) Somewhat Agree
- (11%) Somewhat Disagree
- (22%) Strongly Disagree
- (4%) Dk/Na

14. Consumers pay an average of 50 cents in state and federal taxes on a gallon of gasoline. Knowing this, how much more are you willing to pay for a gallon of gasoline in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address global warming? **(Top to Bottom/Bottom to Top – Mark Only One Response)**

- (61%) I oppose any increase in gas taxes
- (14%) 10 cents per gallon
- (8%) 20 cents per gallon
- (8%) 50 cents per gallon
- (4%) 1 dollar per gallon
- (2%) More than 1 dollar per gallon
- (2%) Dk/Na (Do Not Read)

14. Do you believe a new energy taxes will create more jobs, have no impact on jobs or cause more jobs to be lost?

- (15%) Create more jobs
- (30%) Have no impact on jobs
- (47%) Cause more jobs to be lost
- (9%) Dk/Na

15. And do you believe new energy taxes will increase economic growth, have no impact on economic growth or reduce economic growth?

- (15%) Increase economic growth
- (30%) Have no impact on economic growth
- (49%) Reduce economic growth
- (7%) Dk/Na

16. If Congress passed new energy taxes, who do you believe would be hit the hardest financially by such a taxes **(Read top 3 to bottom/ Bottom to top)?**

- (5%) Higher income citizens
- (39%) Middle income citizens
- (55%) Lower income citizens
- (1%) Dk/Na

17. Do you agree or disagree new energy taxes would significantly reduce global warming?

- (7%) Strongly Agree
- (18%) Somewhat Agree
- (20%) Somewhat Disagree
- (50%) Strongly Disagree
- (5%) Dk/Na
- (%) Dk/Na

18. Thinking about future elections for the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate, would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who supports new energy taxes?

- (10%) Much more likely
- (19%) Somewhat more likely
- (22%) Somewhat less likely
- (43%) Much less likely
- (6%) Dk/Na

**Misc.**

19. How much have you read, seen or heard about the recent BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?

- (77%) A lot
- (17%) Some
- (5%) Very Little
- (1%) Nothing at all (Skip Q21)
- (0%) Dk/Na (Skip Q21)

20. Which of the following issues do you believe President and Congress should address first regarding the spill? **(Read and rotate each, mark first response only)**

n=994

- (65%) Clean up and restoration
- (23%) Local economic recovery and getting affected workers back to work
- (10%) Congressional investigations about how and why the spill occurred
- (1%) Passage of global warming legislation
- (2%) Dk/Na

21. Has the BP oil spill made you more or less likely to support global warming legislation – or if it makes no difference, please tell me that too.

- (21%) More likely to support global warming legislation
- (64%) Makes no difference
- (12%) Less likely to support global warming legislation
- (3%) Dk/Na

22. In view of the BP oil spill, how much more are you willing to pay for a gallon of gasoline in order to reduce our dependence on oil and provide funding for renewable energies? **(Top to Bottom/Bottom to Top – Mark Only One Response)**

- (57%) I oppose any increase in fuel taxes
- (15%) 10 cents per gallon
- (9%) 20 cents per gallon
- (9%) 50 cents per gallon
- (6%) 1 dollar per gallon
- (2%) More than 1 dollar per gallon
- (3%) Dk/Na (Do Not Read)

## Demographics

23. Now I have a final few questions to help us analyze the data and ensure our survey is representative. Into which of the following best describes your ethnic background or race?

- (76%) Caucasian
- (9%) Hispanic/Latino
- (10%) African American
- (2%) Asian
- (2%) American Indian
- (1%) Other (RECORD)
- (1%) Dk/Na

24. What is your marital status? **(READ AS NECESSARY)**

- (20% ) Single
- (63%) Married
- (10%) Divorced/Separate
- (7%) Widowed
- (1%) Refuse

25. Do you own a small business that employs less than 100 people?

- (13%) Yes
- (87%) No
- (1%) Dk/Na

26. Into which of the following categories does your age happen to fall? **(READ EACH)**

- (6%) 18 – 24
- (14%) 25 – 34
- (16%) 35 – 44
- (21%) 45 – 54
- (20%) 55 – 64
- (24%) 65 & over
- (1%) Dk/Na

27. What was the last grade you completed in school?

- (7%) Non-high school graduate
- (21%) High school graduate
- (26%) Some college/technical school
- (31%) College graduate
- (15%) Post graduate
- (1%) Refuse

28. Do you have any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

- (31%) Yes
- (69%) No
- (0%) Refuse

29. Do you or does any member of your household belong to a labor union?

- (15%) Yes
- (83%) No
- (2%) Dk/Na/Refuse

30. Into which of the following categories does your annual household income happen to fall? **(READ EACH)**

- (5%) Less than \$10,000
- (10%) \$10,000 - \$20,000
- (9%) \$21,000 - \$30,000
- (12%) \$31,000 - \$40,000
- (9%) \$41,000 - \$50,000
- (17%) \$50,000 - \$75,000
- (13%) \$76,000 - \$100,000
- (15%) more than \$100,000
- (10%) Refuse

**End of Interview, say: "That's all the questions I have for you this evening. Thank you very much for helping us with this survey. Good-bye."**