



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
For Release: Monday, December 14, 2009
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GLOBAL WARMING
December 4-8, 2009

Most Americans continue to think global warming is a serious problem, but fewer now view it as a high priority than they did two years ago. And amid the backdrop of a struggling economy, by two to one, Americans say stimulating the economy is more important to them than protecting the environment.

37% see global warming as very serious and something that should be one of the highest priorities for government leaders, down from 52% in 2007. Another 33% admit global warming is a serious problem, but do not think it needs to be a high priority. The percentage who says global warming is not serious - 23% - is three times what it was two years ago.

SHOULD GLOBAL WARMING BE A PRIORITY FOR GOVERNMENT LEADERS?

Table with 3 columns: Response, Now, 4/2007. Rows: Serious problem and high priority (37%, 52%), Serious problem but not high priority (33, 37), Not serious (23, 8)

With a national unemployment rate of 10% and three in four Americans saying the economy is in bad shape, the public thinks stimulating the economy is more important (61%) than protecting the environment (29%). This view is held by nearly all demographic groups in this poll.

Back in 2007, when the economy was better, more Americans saw protecting the environment as the priority.

WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT?

Table with 4 columns: Response, Now, 1/2009, 4/2007. Rows: Stimulating the economy (61%, 58%, 36%), Protecting the environment (29, 33, 52)

Some groups view global warming as a more urgent problem than others. 52% of Democrats say global warming should be a high priority, compared to 22% of Republicans. In fact, nearly four in 10 Republicans say the problem of global warming is not serious.

Young Americans, those under age 30, are the age group most inclined to think global warming should be a high priority.

There are gender differences too. Men are twice as less likely as women to describe global warming as not serious. Among women, 76% say

global warming is a serious problem, including four in 10 who think it should be a high priority.

**SHOULD GLOBAL WARMING BE A PRIORITY FOR GOVERNMENT LEADERS?**

	Serious & High priority	Serious but NOT high priority	Not Serious
Total	37%	33	23
Men	35%	29	30
Women	40%	36	16
Age 18-29	47%	30	21
30-44	33%	40	23
45-64	36%	31	23
65+	35%	29	25
Republicans	22%	32	39
Democrats	52%	33	11
Independents	35%	33	24

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,031 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone December 4-8, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

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**Global Warming**  
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q96 Which comes closer to your view? 1. Global warming is a very serious problem and should be one of the highest priorities for government leaders. 2. Global warming is serious but does not need to be a high priority. 3. Global warming is not serious and can be addressed years from now.

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	**** Party ID ****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr07b
	%	%	%	%	%
Very serious/High priority	37	22	52	35	52
Serious but not high priority	33	32	33	33	37
Not serious/Addressed later	23	39	11	24	8
Not serious/Never needs addressing (vol.)	4	6	2	4	1
DK/NA	3	1	2	1	2

q97 Often there are trade-offs or sacrifices people must make in deciding what is important to them. Generally speaking, when a trade-off has to be made, which is more important to you -- stimulating the economy or protecting the environment?

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Stimulating the economy	61	71	53	62	58
Protecting the environment	29	18	37	28	33
Both (vol.)	8	8	8	7	8
DK/NA	2	3	2	3	1

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>	
Total Respondents	1031		
Total Republicans	291	276	(27%)
Total Democrats	363	368	(36%)
Total Independents	377	387	(37%)