

AAPG Geoscientist Survey Results

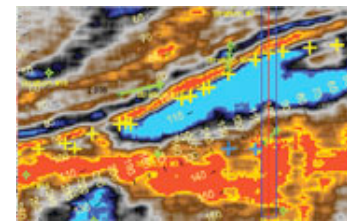
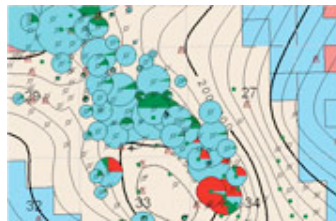
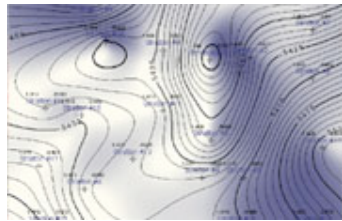
Political Views of Geologists and Geophysicists

Contents:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Overview of results..... | Slide 2 |
| Demographics..... | Slide 3 |
| Technologically speaking..... | Slide 4 |
| Environmentally speaking..... | Slide 5 |
| Presidential preference..... | Slide 6 |
| Conclusions..... | Slide 7 |

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Overview of Results

- Petroleum geologists do not disproportionately belong to any political persuasion
 - Pluralities describe themselves as independents and roughly equal numbers described themselves as conservative versus liberal
- Regardless of political affiliation, they tend to agree on the need for more research on renewables and view climate change as a lower environmental concern than other ecological issues today
- However, on the controversial topics of global warming *causes* and alternative fuel *use* it is political affiliation, and NOT their common scientific background as geoscientists, that define views
 - Conservative scientists dispute that human factors are primary causes for global warming and view hybrid technology as an insignificant factor in reducing global oil consumption.
 - Liberals hold the exact opposite perspective
 - Independents typically lean towards the liberal perspective

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Demographics

- Survey conducted at AAPG Yearly Conference in San Antonio on April 22nd 2008
 - AAPG is the American Association Petroleum Geologists – though name says “American”, it is international and the largest petroleum scientist org on Earth with 34,000 members (33% from outside of USA)
- Survey had 100 respondents from AAPG members
 - 51% 45 yrs or older, the rest under 45
 - 73% of respondents were from North America
 - Politically speaking, 39% of respondents described themselves as independents, 32% as conservatives, 29% as liberals

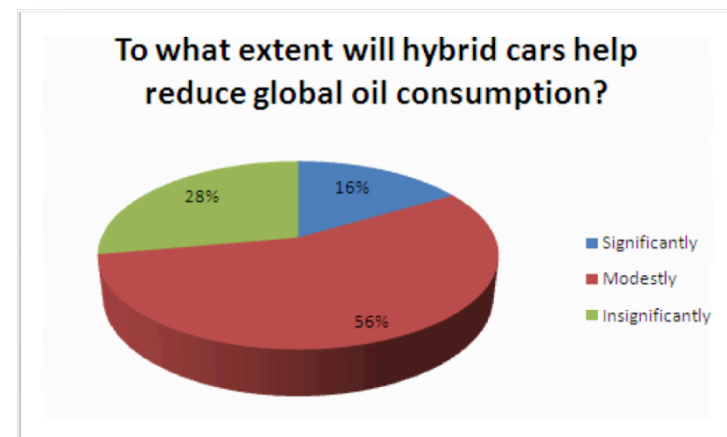
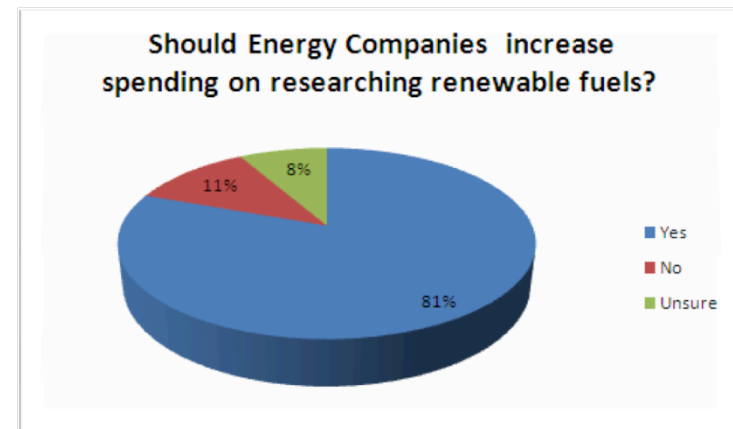
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Technologically - Scientists with differing political affiliations still agree on renewable research, but disagree on hybrids

- 81% overall believe energy companies should increase spend on renewable sources
 - Conservatives (76%), liberals (89%) and independent (78%) scientists agree on this issue
- 72% overall see hybrid cars making a *moderate to significant* impact on reducing global oil consumption
 - However there is significant disagreement based on political views
 - **Almost 4x as many conservatives (45%) see hybrids having an *insignificant* impact versus liberals (11%).**
 - Independents reflect the mean, with 28% viewing hybrids as insignificant in impact

Charts Reflect Views of All Respondents



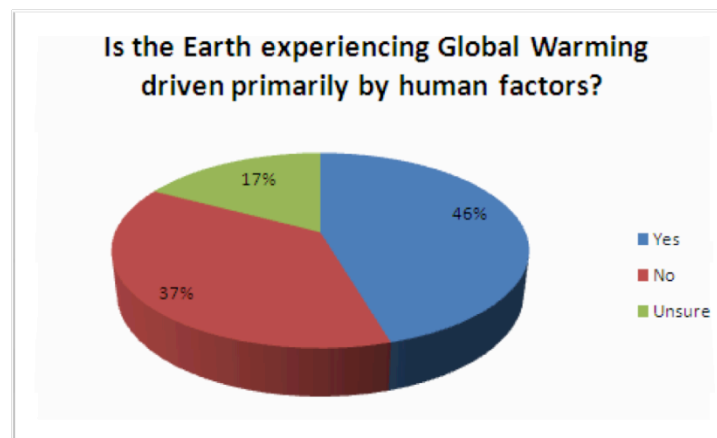
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Environmentally - Conservatives Disagree with Liberals & Independents

- A minority (37%) of all respondents disagree that human factors are primarily driving global warming – but political affiliation polarizes opinion
 - 57% of conservatives reject the consensus view, versus 27% of liberals.
 - Independents align with liberals - with only 30% rejecting the consensus view
 - Political views are more telling here than age, as both Under 45 and Over 45 show pluralities believing in human causes.
- Political affiliations correlate with level of concern across many environmental issues, not just global warming
 - Liberals & independents showed greater concern about every listed environment issues compared to conservatives
 - Interestingly, all political affiliations *agree* on the relative rankings, marking drinking water purity as most pressing and climate change as least problematic.

Chart Reflect Views of All Respondents



Q: Rate Your Level of Concern For the Following Environmental Issues. (5 is Highest Level)

| Answer Options | Overall | Conservatives | Independents | Liberals |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Drinking water | 3.4 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 3.7 |
| Air quality | 3.2 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 3.6 |
| Food contamination | 3.1 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| Loss of bio-diversity | 2.9 | 2.3 | 3.3 | 3.3 |
| Climate change | 2.8 | 2.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 |
| Average | 3.1 | 2.5 | 3.4 | 3.5 |

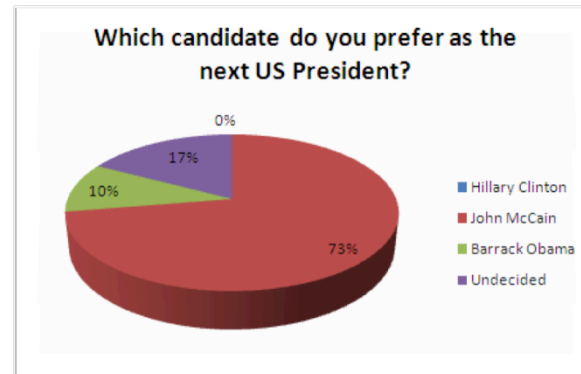
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Presidential preference aligns with political affiliation more strongly than shared industry background

- Across all respondents, McCain (29%) and Obama (26%) are significantly preferred over Clinton (13%)
 - However, the plurality of respondents are undecided (32%)
 - Among respondents >45 yrs old, McCain leads Obama 35% to 24%
 - Among those <45, Obama leads McCain 28% to 21%

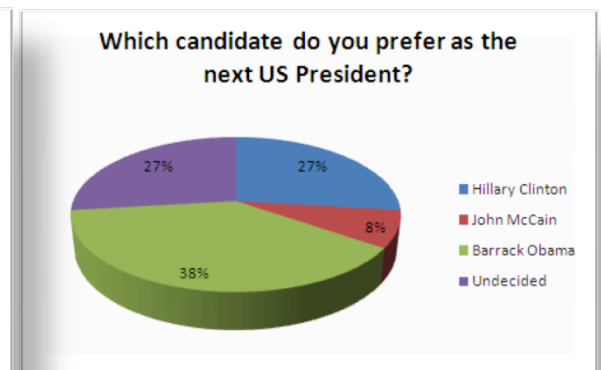
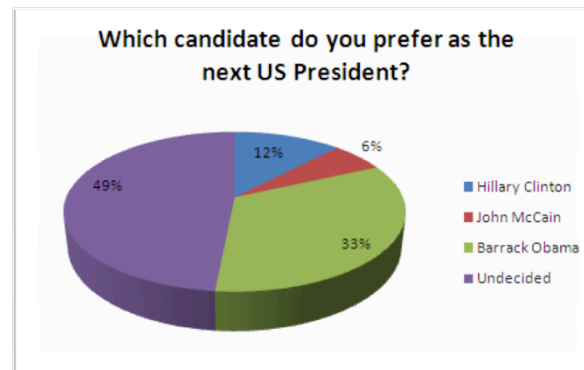
Conservatives



- Viewed by political affiliation conservatives show a clear preference, but others don't

- 73% of conservatives prefer McCain
- Liberals prefer Obama but 62% are undecided or prefer an alternate
- 49% of independents are undecided, though Obama leads among the decided

Liberals



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Conclusions

- Geoscientists are a politically diverse group of people, with no disproportionate representation for any political party.
- On the whole, they agree with the consensus view on global warming, as well as seeing value in the use of hybrid cars to reduce global oil consumption
- *However*, their perspectives on controversial energy and environmental issues tend to correlate more strongly with their political affinity than their shared scientific backgrounds.

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