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## ALASKAN OPINIONS ON GLOBAL WARMING



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# Alaskan Opinions on Global Warming

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# Executive Summary

A statewide, representative telephone survey entitled “Alaskan Opinions on Global Warming” was conducted with 1,016 Alaskan adults May 9 – June 29, 2006.

***The results show that most Alaskans consider global warming a serious threat.***

The study, funded by the National Science Foundation, was conducted in Alaska by Craciun Research Group<sup>2</sup> as part of a scientific study commissioned by Dr. Anthony Leiserowitz of Decision Research<sup>3</sup> through the Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED)<sup>4</sup>. Highlights of the survey:

- Over 81% of Alaskans are convinced that global warming is happening.
- A majority (55%) believe it is caused primarily by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, as opposed to normal cycles in the earth’s environment (37%).
- Most Alaskans believe global warming is already causing or accelerating the loss of sea ice (83%) melting permafrost (82%), coastal erosion (74%), and forest fires (72%) in Alaska, among other impacts.
- A large majority (67%) report that their local temperatures have increased, while 93% of people who have noticed local temperature changes say that global warming is at least partly responsible.
- Two out of three Alaskans (67%) say that global warming will be bad for Alaska, while 26% say it will be good.
- Majorities of Alaskans believe that global warming is a serious threat to themselves and their family (55%), their local community (59%), other countries (68%), Alaska as a whole (71%), the United States (71%), and plants and animals (76%).
- Many (43%) expect that global warming will have dangerous impacts on Alaskans within the next 10 years.
- Majorities expect that over the next 50 years global warming will cause increased flooding of towns and villages (73%), worse storms (68%), fewer salmon (67%), and extinction of the polar bear (65%). Majorities also believe, however, that global warming

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<sup>2</sup> Craciun Research Group, Inc. is a full service market research company committed to excellence in research design and analysis for twenty-six years with offices in Anchorage, Alaska; Washington DC; and Seattle, Washington ([www.crgresearch.com](http://www.crgresearch.com)).

<sup>3</sup> Decision Research is a non-profit, scientific research institute dedicated to helping individuals, industry, government, and society understand and cope with the complex and often risky decisions of modern life ([www.decisionresearch.org](http://www.decisionresearch.org)).

<sup>4</sup> The Center for Research on Environmental Decisions (CRED) is an interdisciplinary center that studies individual and group decision making under climate uncertainty and decision making in the face of environmental risk. CRED’s objectives address the human responses to climate change and climate variability as well as improved communication and increased use of scientific information on climate variability and change. Major funding is provided under the cooperative agreement NSF SES-0345840 ([www.cred.columbia.edu](http://www.cred.columbia.edu)).

is likely to provide more comfortable temperatures (73%), and more tourism in Alaska (60%).

- Nearly all Alaskans (93%) believe global warming is a problem. However, roughly half (48%) believe it is an urgent problem requiring immediate government action while half (45%) believe it is a longer-term problem requiring more study first.
- A plurality of Alaskans (41%) believe the state of Alaska should help native villages facing severe coastal erosion move to safer ground.
- Most Alaskans support the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from power plants (81%) and the signing of international treaties to reduce emissions (71%), but oppose higher taxes on electricity (71%) or gasoline (69%).
- Alaskans primarily trust their friends and family (86%), scientists (82%), and environmental groups (63%) to tell them the truth about global warming, but distrust President Bush (66%), Alaskan politicians (70%), and corporations (75%).
- Most Alaskans say that, due to their concern about global warming, they are likely to buy energy-efficient appliances (73%) or contact their politicians (60%), while nearly half (48%) say they are likely to join, donate money to, or volunteer with an organization working on issues related to global warming.
- Two-thirds (62%) report that they very often or occasionally talk about global warming with their friends and family.
- Democrats and liberals express stronger concern about global warming than do Republicans and conservatives.
- Alaskans without a party preference and moderates show levels of concern more similar to Democrats and liberals than to Republicans and conservatives.
- Majorities of Republicans and conservatives are convinced that global warming is happening (65% and 68% respectively), will be bad for Alaska (58% and 59%), is a serious threat to people in Alaska (62% and 60%), support international treaties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (61% and 53%), and support the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from power plants (82% and 76%).
- Majorities of Republicans and conservatives, however, believe that global warming is caused primarily by natural cycles, is not a serious threat to themselves, their families, or their local communities, and is a longer-term problem requiring more study before government action.
- More Semi-Urban and Rural Alaskans believe that global warming is currently dangerous and a serious threat to themselves, their families, and local communities than do Urban or Northern Urban Alaskans.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> See the “Definitions” section at the end of the report for descriptions of these categories.

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# Results

## PUBLIC BELIEFS ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING

**Table 1: Is it Happening?**

“How convinced are you that global warming is happening?”

	Percent
Convinced (net)	81
Completely	43
Mostly	38
Not convinced (net)	19
Not very	14
Not at all	5
Don't know	0
Total	100

**Table 2: Cause of Global Warming**

“If global warming is happening, do you think it is due more to the normal cycles in the Earth’s environment, or more to human activity such as burning fossil fuels?”

	Percent
Human activity	55
Normal cycles	37
Don't know	7
Not happening	1
Total	100

**Table 3: Current Impacts**

“Some people say that global warming is already impacting Alaska. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that global warming is already causing or making the following things worse?”

	Agree (net)	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Disagree (net)	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Total
Loss of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean	83	53	30	13	8	6	4	100
Melting permafrost	82	53	29	14	7	6	5	100
Coastlines eroding and flooding	74	41	34	20	11	9	5	100
Forest fires	72	41	31	25	15	10	3	100
More unpredictable weather	70	37	33	28	17	11	2	100
Changing bird migrations	64	30	34	24	14	11	12	100
Ice storms and freezing rain	56	21	35	36	20	16	8	100

## LOCAL CHANGES IN CLIMATE

**Table 4: Local Temperatures**

“Over the past five years, would you say that average temperatures in your local area have gotten warmer, colder, or stayed about the same?”

	Percent
Warmer	67
About the same	21
Colder	5
Don't know	7
Total	100

**Table 5: Cause of Local Temperature Changes**

[IF WARMER OR COLDER IN PREVIOUS QUESTION]

“In your opinion, how much of the change in your local temperatures is due to global warming?”

	Percent
All of it	14
Most of it	40
Some of it	39
None	4
Don't know	3
Total	100



## PUBLIC RISK PERCEPTIONS

**Table 6: Good or Bad for Alaska**

“Overall, do you think that global warming will be very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad for Alaska?”

	Percent
Bad (net)	67
Very bad	38
Somewhat bad	29
Good (net)	26
Somewhat good	23
Very good	3
Don't know	7
Total	100

**Table 7: Seriousness**

“How serious of a threat is global warming to:”

	Serious (net)	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not serious (net)	Not very serious	Not at all serious	Don't know	Total
Plants and animals	76	47	29	22	13	9	2	100
People in Alaska	71	32	39	27	16	12	2	100
People in the United States	71	29	42	25	14	11	4	100
People in other countries	68	31	36	24	13	11	8	100
Your local community	59	20	40	39	23	16	2	100
You and your family	55	18	37	44	28	16	1	100

**Table 8: Timing**

“When do you think global warming will start to have dangerous impacts on people in Alaska?”

	Percent
It is dangerous now	24
In 10 years	19
In 25 years	18
In 50 years	15
In 100 years	8
Never	10
Don't know	6
Total	100

**Table 9: Likelihood of Impacts on Alaska**

“In Alaska, how likely do you think it is that each of the following will occur, during the next 50 years due to global warming?”

	Likely (net)	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Unlikely (net)	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Don't know	Total
Permanent loss of summer sea ice in the Arctic Ocean	78	51	26	19	9	10	4	100
More comfortable temperatures	73	27	46	23	13	10	4	100
Flooding of towns and villages	73	39	35	25	11	14	2	100
Worse storms	68	33	35	30	17	12	3	100
Fewer salmon	67	37	30	26	14	13	7	100
Extinction of the polar bear	65	36	29	29	15	14	6	100
Increased rates of disease	61	22	39	36	18	18	4	100
More tourism	60	30	30	35	19	16	5	100
Food shortages	56	20	36	42	22	21	2	100

## POLICY PREFERENCES AND BEHAVIOR

**Table 10: Urgency of Action**

“Do you think global warming is an urgent problem that requires immediate government action, or a longer-term problem that requires more study before government action is taken?”

	Percent
Urgent problem	48
Longer-term problem	45
Not a problem	4
Don't know	3
Total	100

**Table 11: Native Villages and Coastal Erosion**

“Four native villages are in imminent danger from coastal erosion and flooding. Do you think the State of Alaska should help to:”

	Percent
Move these villages to safer ground	41
Maintain these villages in their current locations	21
Let the villages take care of themselves	17
Relocate the people to other parts of Alaska	15
Don't know	5
Total	100

**Table 12: Mitigation**

“For each of the following, please tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose it as a way for the federal government to try to reduce future global warming.”

	Favor (net)	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Oppose (net)	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	Total
Regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants	81	53	28	15	9	6	4	100
Sign international treaties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	71	45	26	23	12	11	6	100
Increase taxes on gasoline so people either drive less or buy cars that use less gas	30	14	16	69	11	58	1	100
Increase taxes on electricity so people use less of it	28	10	17	71	16	55	2	100

**Table 13: Trust**

“Do you trust or distrust the following individuals and groups to tell you the truth about global warming -- strongly trust, somewhat trust, somewhat distrust, strongly distrust?”

	Trust (net)	Strongly trust	Somewhat trust	Distrust (net)	Somewhat distrust	Strongly distrust	Don't know	Total
Family and friends	86	25	62	12	10	2	2	100
Scientists	82	41	41	16	10	6	2	100
Environmental organizations	63	18	45	37	15	22	1	100
The news media	48	4	44	52	24	28	1	100
Religious organizations	40	6	34	53	23	30	7	100
President George W. Bush	33	6	27	66	17	49	2	100
Alaskan politicians	29	3	25	70	25	45	2	100
Corporations	23	3	21	75	30	45	2	100

**Table 14: Individual Behavior**

“How likely are you to do the following because of your concerns about global warming?”

- Buy energy-efficient appliances (refrigerators, stoves, dishwashers, etc.)
- Make your views on global warming clear to politicians (by writing, telephoning, sending e-mails, signing petitions, etc.)
- Join, donate money to, or volunteer with an organization working on issues related to global warming.

	Likely (net)	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Unlikely (net)	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Don't know	Total
Buy energy-efficient appliances	73	45	28	26	13	13	1	100
Make your views clear to politicians	60	24	35	40	15	25	1	100
Join, donate money, or volunteer	48	16	32	51	19	32	1	100

**Table 15: Talk about Global Warming**

“How often do you talk about global warming with your friends and family?”

	Percent
Very often	18
Occasionally	44
Rarely	30
Never	8
Total	100

# Selected Results by Political Party, Political Ideology, and Region<sup>6</sup>

## PUBLIC BELIEFS ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING

**Table 16: Is it Happening?**

“How convinced are you that global warming is happening?”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Respondent is:	Completely convinced	28.2%	40.9%	56.4%	55.3%	43.3%
	Mostly convinced	36.9%	43.3%	34.9%	28.2%	37.7%
	Not so convinced	26.1%	10.6%	7.7%	12.9%	14.3%
	Not at all convinced	8.4%	5.2%	.6%	3.5%	4.5%
	Don't Know	.3%		.3%		.2%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Respondent is:	Completely convinced	27.2%	42.6%	58.7%	43.5%
	Mostly convinced	40.8%	41.3%	31.0%	37.8%
	Not so convinced	22.3%	13.5%	7.4%	14.0%
	Not at all convinced	9.8%	2.0%	2.9%	4.4%
	Don't Know		.5%		.2%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Respondent is:	Completely convinced	40.5%	51.0%	47.2%	39.0%	43.3%
	Mostly convinced	36.8%	32.0%	40.7%	45.0%	37.7%
	Not so convinced	16.5%	12.4%	10.3%	13.0%	14.2%
	Not at all convinced	6.0%	4.6%	1.4%	3.0%	4.5%
	Don't Know	.2%		.5%		.2%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

<sup>6</sup> See the “Definitions” section at the end of the report for descriptions of these categories.

**Table 17: Cause of Global Warming**

“If global warming is happening, do you think it is due more to the normal cycles in the Earth’s environment, or more to human activity such as burning fossil fuels?”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Global warming is due:	More to normal cycles	55.6%	37.7%	20.4%	27.1%	36.5%
	More to human activity	37.8%	56.2%	71.2%	51.8%	55.3%
	Is not happening	.7%	1.2%	2.6%		1.4%
	Don't know	5.9%	4.9%	5.8%	21.2%	6.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Global warming is due:	More to normal cycles	56.0%	34.5%	23.5%	36.9%
	More to human activity	41.0%	55.0%	68.5%	55.5%
	Is not happening	.8%	.8%	2.3%	1.2%
	Don't know	2.3%	9.7%	5.8%	6.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Global warming is due:	More to normal cycles	38.0%	47.1%	29.4%	27.6%	36.5%
	More to human activity	53.5%	45.1%	62.6%	66.3%	55.4%
	Is not happening		1.3%	3.7%	4.1%	1.4%
	Don't know	8.5%	6.5%	4.2%	2.0%	6.7%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



## LOCAL CHANGES IN CLIMATE

**Table 18: Local Temperatures**

“Over the past five years, would you say that average temperatures in your local area have gotten warmer, colder, or stayed about the same?”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Average temperatures:	Are warmer	58.2%	74.8%	75.1%	83.3%	71.2%
	Colder	5.5%	6.0%	4.6%	2.6%	5.1%
	Stayed about the same	35.9%	18.9%	17.4%	14.1%	22.6%
	Don't Know	.4%	.3%	3.0%		1.1%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Average temperatures:	Are warmer	58.7%	72.8%	80.6%	71.6%
	Colder	5.5%	4.7%	5.2%	5.1%
	Stayed about the same	35.7%	20.2%	13.9%	22.2%
	Don't Know		2.3%	.3%	1.1%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Average temperatures:	Are warmer	74.1%	73.3%	65.2%	65.6%	71.3%
	Colder	3.4%	3.7%	6.8%	11.8%	5.0%
	Stayed about the same	22.2%	23.0%	23.2%	22.6%	22.6%
	Don't Know	.2%		4.8%		1.1%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 19: Cause of Local Temperature Changes**

[IF WARMER OR COLDER IN PREVIOUS QUESTION]  
 “In your opinion, how much of the change in your local temperatures is due to global warming?”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Change due to global warning:	All of it	9.4%	14.6%	16.3%	14.1%	13.9%
	Most of it	38.9%	36.7%	47.6%	23.9%	39.5%
	Some of it	38.3%	38.6%	32.5%	56.3%	38.2%
	None	8.3%	7.1%	.8%	2.8%	5.0%
	Don't Know/No Answer	5.0%	3.0%	2.8%	2.8%	3.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Change due to global warning:	All of it	14.8%	8.6%	19.2%	13.8%
	Most of it	30.2%	40.2%	46.2%	40.0%
	Some of it	43.2%	41.5%	31.5%	38.4%
	None	7.1%	7.0%	.4%	4.7%
	Don't Know/No Answer	4.7%	2.7%	2.7%	3.2%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Change due to global warning:	All of it	12.7%	18.2%	9.9%	20.8%	13.8%
	Most of it	36.6%	36.4%	46.7%	46.8%	39.6%
	Some of it	41.1%	32.2%	39.5%	29.9%	38.3%
	None	6.9%	5.8%	1.3%		4.9%
	Don't Know/No Answer	2.6%	7.4%	2.6%	2.6%	3.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## PUBLIC RISK PERCEPTIONS

**Table 20: Good or Bad for Alaska**

“Overall, do you think that global warming will be very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad for Alaska?”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Overall, global warming will be:	Very good	3.5%	4.6%	1.9%	2.4%	3.3%
	Somewhat good	29.6%	21.3%	18.2%	22.4%	22.8%
	Somewhat bad	35.5%	26.4%	25.2%	34.1%	29.3%
	Very bad	22.6%	42.2%	49.5%	27.1%	37.7%
	Don't Know/No Answer	8.7%	5.5%	5.1%	14.1%	7.0%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Overall, global warming will be:	Very good	4.5%	2.1%	3.2%	3.1%
	Somewhat good	25.7%	23.1%	19.6%	22.7%
	Somewhat bad	37.4%	29.0%	23.5%	29.5%
	Very bad	21.9%	39.2%	50.5%	38.1%
	Don't Know/No Answer	10.6%	6.7%	3.2%	6.6%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Overall, global warming will be:	Very good	.7%	6.6%	2.3%	15.2%	3.3%
	Somewhat good	21.4%	28.3%	20.4%	26.3%	22.7%
	Somewhat bad	34.2%	25.7%	20.8%	25.3%	29.2%
	Very bad	35.5%	31.6%	50.0%	32.3%	37.7%
	Don't Know/No Answer	8.2%	7.9%	6.5%	1.0%	7.1%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 21: Seriousness – You and Your Family**

“How serious of a threat is global warming to you and your family?”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Family	Very serious	10.8%	19.8%	22.8%	17.9%	18.0%
	Somewhat serious	26.8%	37.7%	45.8%	34.5%	36.9%
	Not very serious	39.0%	24.3%	25.0%	15.5%	28.0%
	Not at all serious	23.0%	17.3%	4.2%	29.8%	15.9%
	Don't Know/No Answer	.3%	.9%	2.2%	2.4%	1.3%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Family	Very serious	9.1%	19.7%	24.5%	18.3%
	Somewhat serious	24.2%	38.2%	46.5%	37.0%
	Not very serious	40.8%	25.1%	21.0%	28.1%
	Not at all serious	25.3%	14.6%	7.7%	15.3%
	Don't Know/No Answer	.8%	2.3%	.3%	1.2%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Family	Very serious	13.2%	15.7%	26.8%	29.6%	18.0%
	Somewhat serious	34.5%	36.6%	40.8%	41.8%	36.9%
	Not very serious	32.0%	29.4%	21.1%	17.3%	27.9%
	Not at all serious	19.3%	17.6%	8.0%	11.2%	15.9%
	Don't Know/No Answer	.9%	.7%	3.3%		1.3%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 22: Seriousness – Your Local Community**

“How serious of a threat is global warming to your local community?”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Local community	Very serious	10.1%	22.0%	28.5%	11.8%	19.8%
	Somewhat serious	35.5%	42.4%	41.0%	36.5%	39.5%
	Not very serious	26.1%	21.6%	24.4%	16.5%	23.3%
	Not at all serious	27.2%	11.9%	5.1%	29.4%	15.6%
	Don't Know/No Answer	1.0%	2.1%	1.0%	5.9%	1.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Local community	Very serious	10.5%	19.7%	29.6%	20.4%
	Somewhat serious	31.2%	44.2%	39.5%	39.2%
	Not very serious	27.1%	23.5%	20.6%	23.6%
	Not at all serious	30.1%	10.0%	9.0%	15.2%
	Don't Know/No Answer	1.1%	2.6%	1.3%	1.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Local community	Very serious	16.3%	16.2%	27.9%	28.3%	19.9%
	Somewhat serious	39.1%	40.9%	38.6%	40.4%	39.4%
	Not very serious	24.5%	20.1%	24.7%	19.2%	23.3%
	Not at all serious	18.8%	20.1%	7.0%	9.1%	15.6%
	Don't Know/No Answer	1.3%	2.6%	1.9%	3.0%	1.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 23: Seriousness – People in Alaska**

“How serious of a threat is global warming to people in Alaska?”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
People in Alaska	Very serious	20.3%	31.3%	45.7%	26.2%	32.2%
	Somewhat serious	41.6%	41.0%	35.1%	32.1%	38.6%
	Not very serious	18.9%	15.8%	13.4%	13.1%	15.7%
	Not at all serious	18.5%	9.7%	2.6%	27.4%	11.5%
	Don't Know/No Answer	.7%	2.1%	3.2%	1.2%	2.0%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
People in Alaska	Very serious	18.8%	30.2%	47.4%	32.6%
	Somewhat serious	41.0%	42.5%	31.3%	38.5%
	Not very serious	17.7%	15.6%	14.8%	15.9%
	Not at all serious	21.1%	9.0%	5.5%	11.2%
	Don't Know/No Answer	1.5%	2.8%	1.0%	1.9%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
People in Alaska	Very serious	31.8%	27.6%	35.0%	35.4%	32.2%
	Somewhat serious	40.5%	35.5%	36.0%	39.4%	38.7%
	Not very serious	13.4%	21.7%	17.3%	15.2%	15.6%
	Not at all serious	13.7%	13.8%	5.6%	9.1%	11.6%
	Don't Know/No Answer	.5%	1.3%	6.1%	1.0%	1.9%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 24: Timing**

“When do you think global warming will start to have dangerous impacts on people in Alaska?”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Alaskans	It is dangerous now	16.4%	26.7%	31.6%	15.3%	24.4%
	In 10 years	16.7%	18.8%	19.2%	24.7%	18.8%
	In 25 years	13.6%	21.0%	21.7%	8.2%	18.0%
	In 50 years	12.5%	13.1%	15.3%	29.4%	15.0%
	In 100 years	12.9%	4.3%	6.4%	17.6%	8.5%
	Never	18.5%	11.2%	1.6%	2.4%	9.6%
	Don't Know/No Answer	9.4%	4.9%	4.2%	2.4%	5.7%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Alaskans	It is dangerous now	16.6%	21.8%	35.6%	24.8%
	In 10 years	12.1%	22.8%	20.1%	19.0%
	In 25 years	16.2%	18.5%	18.4%	17.8%
	In 50 years	12.8%	19.0%	12.3%	15.1%
	In 100 years	14.7%	5.6%	6.5%	8.4%
	Never	20.0%	7.2%	3.2%	9.4%
	Don't Know/No Answer	7.5%	5.1%	3.9%	5.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Alaskans	It is dangerous now	20.3%	17.8%	37.4%	30.6%	24.5%
	In 10 years	18.1%	21.1%	15.9%	26.5%	18.9%
	In 25 years	16.5%	19.1%	17.3%	26.5%	18.0%
	In 50 years	15.2%	12.5%	18.2%	10.2%	14.9%
	In 100 years	10.7%	11.2%	2.8%	4.1%	8.5%
	Never	12.8%	11.2%	3.7%	1.0%	9.5%
	Don't Know/No Answer	6.5%	7.2%	4.7%	1.0%	5.7%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## POLICY PREFERENCES AND BEHAVIOR

**Table 25: Urgency of Action**

“Do you think global warming is an urgent problem that requires immediate government action, or a longer-term problem that requires more study before government action is taken?”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Global warming requires:	Immediate government action	28.9%	51.4%	62.2%	44.0%	47.7%
	Longer-term problem	64.1%	41.6%	32.4%	44.0%	45.4%
	Not a problem	5.6%	4.6%	1.9%	1.2%	3.8%
	Don't Know/No Answer	1.4%	2.4%	3.5%	10.7%	3.2%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Global warming requires:	Immediate government action	28.7%	50.0%	63.3%	48.4%
	Longer-term problem	61.1%	44.1%	32.8%	45.1%
	Not a problem	8.7%	1.0%	2.6%	3.6%
	Don't Know/No Answer	1.5%	4.9%	1.3%	2.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Global warming requires:	Immediate government action	45.5%	38.6%	58.4%	51.5%	47.7%
	Longer-term problem	48.2%	51.0%	35.0%	41.4%	45.2%
	Not a problem	3.3%	7.8%	1.9%	5.1%	3.8%
	Don't Know/No Answer	3.1%	2.6%	4.7%	2.0%	3.2%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



**Table 26: Native Villages and Coastal Erosion**

“Four native villages are in imminent danger from coastal erosion and flooding. Do you think the State of Alaska should help to:”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
The State should:	Maintain villages	19.2%	28.0%	17.5%	10.7%	20.8%
	Move villages	44.3%	34.8%	46.5%	35.7%	41.2%
	Relocate people	12.5%	13.7%	20.7%	9.5%	15.2%
	Let villages alone	21.6%	19.8%	8.9%	25.0%	17.4%
	Don't Know/No Answer	2.4%	3.7%	6.4%	19.0%	5.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
The State should:	Maintain villages	21.4%	20.2%	21.5%	21.0%
	Move villages	36.5%	43.5%	42.8%	41.3%
	Relocate people	13.2%	13.6%	17.7%	14.8%
	Let villages alone	25.2%	14.3%	14.5%	17.4%
	Don't Know/No Answer	3.8%	8.4%	3.5%	5.6%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
The State should:	Maintain villages	13.4%	13.7%	33.5%	46.5%	20.9%
	Move villages	45.7%	47.1%	30.2%	31.3%	41.3%
	Relocate people	14.3%	18.3%	16.3%	12.1%	15.1%
	Let villages alone	19.4%	11.1%	19.5%	10.1%	17.3%
	Don't Know/No Answer	7.1%	9.8%	.5%		5.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 27: Mitigation – International Treaties**

“For each of the following, please tell me whether you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose it as a way for the federal government to try to reduce future global warming:”

“Sign international treaties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Sign international treaties to reduce greenhouse gas	Strongly favor	34.5%	39.9%	57.2%	50.6%	44.6%
	Somewhat favor	26.5%	27.4%	28.1%	14.1%	26.3%
	Somewhat oppose	16.7%	11.9%	4.5%	23.5%	11.9%
	Strongly oppose	19.5%	9.8%	4.2%	11.8%	11.0%
	Don't Know/No Answer	2.8%	11.0%	6.1%		6.2%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Sign international treaties to reduce greenhouse gas	Strongly favor	33.5%	43.2%	57.1%	45.0%
	Somewhat favor	19.5%	33.5%	23.2%	26.4%
	Somewhat oppose	17.3%	11.0%	9.0%	12.1%
	Strongly oppose	24.8%	4.9%	6.8%	11.0%
	Don't Know/No Answer	4.9%	7.4%	3.9%	5.6%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Sign international treaties to reduce greenhouse gas	Strongly favor	48.6%	41.8%	44.9%	27.3%	44.7%
	Somewhat favor	18.1%	29.4%	30.8%	56.6%	26.2%
	Somewhat oppose	15.8%	11.1%	5.6%	6.1%	12.0%
	Strongly oppose	12.7%	13.7%	6.1%	6.1%	10.8%
	Don't Know/No Answer	4.9%	3.9%	12.6%	4.0%	6.3%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 28: Mitigation – Regulation of Power Plants**

“Regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants	Strongly favor	41.1%	50.6%	66.5%	54.7%	53.1%
	Somewhat favor	40.4%	26.4%	22.4%	11.6%	27.9%
	Somewhat oppose	11.1%	9.4%	4.2%	20.9%	9.3%
	Strongly oppose	6.3%	7.9%	3.5%	9.3%	6.2%
	Don't Know/No Answer	1.0%	5.8%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants	Strongly favor	41.0%	52.8%	66.8%	54.0%
	Somewhat favor	35.0%	29.2%	19.7%	27.7%
	Somewhat oppose	12.8%	10.5%	4.5%	9.2%
	Strongly oppose	9.4%	4.4%	5.8%	6.2%
	Don't Know/No Answer	1.9%	3.1%	3.2%	2.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Regulate greenhouse gas emissions from power plants	Strongly favor	60.5%	49.7%	46.3%	33.3%	53.2%
	Somewhat favor	20.3%	32.0%	33.6%	50.5%	27.8%
	Somewhat oppose	12.5%	8.5%	3.7%	4.0%	9.2%
	Strongly oppose	5.3%	8.5%	6.1%	9.1%	6.3%
	Don't Know/No Answer	1.4%	1.3%	10.3%	3.0%	3.4%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

**Table 29: Political Behavior**

“How likely are you to make your views on global warming clear to politicians (by writing, telephoning, sending e-mails, signing petitions, etc.)?”

		Political Party				Total
		Republicans	No Party	Democrats	Other	
Make your views clear to politicians	Very likely	18.2%	19.6%	35.5%	21.2%	24.2%
	Somewhat likely	34.3%	35.5%	36.4%	32.9%	35.2%
	Somewhat unlikely	19.6%	17.4%	9.3%	8.2%	14.7%
	Very unlikely	27.6%	27.2%	17.9%	37.6%	25.3%
	Don't Know/No Answer	.3%	.3%	1.0%		.5%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Political Ideology			Total
		Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	
Make your views clear to politicians	Very likely	20.8%	14.3%	40.6%	24.5%
	Somewhat likely	34.3%	40.4%	29.4%	35.2%
	Somewhat unlikely	14.3%	17.6%	11.6%	14.8%
	Very unlikely	30.6%	27.4%	17.7%	25.2%
	Don't Know/No Answer		.3%	.6%	.3%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

		Region				Total
		Urban	Northern Urban	Semi-urban	Rural	
Make your views clear to politicians	Very likely	27.9%	31.4%	14.5%	15.0%	24.3%
	Somewhat likely	36.2%	29.4%	36.4%	34.0%	35.0%
	Somewhat unlikely	14.5%	19.6%	13.1%	12.0%	14.7%
	Very unlikely	21.0%	19.6%	35.0%	36.0%	25.2%
	Don't Know/No Answer	.4%		.9%	3.0%	.7%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

# Methodology

These results come from a statewide survey entitled “Alaskan Opinions on Global Warming,” which examined Alaskan risk perceptions, policy preferences, and behaviors regarding global climate change. From May 9 to June 29, 2006, 1,016 adults (18 and older) completed a 25 minute telephone survey, for a CASRO response rate of 74%. If researchers had sought to interview every household in Alaska using the same questionnaire, the findings would differ from these overall survey results by no more than 3.1 percentage points in either direction. For results based on the total sample of respondents, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is +/- 3.1%.

Respondents from rural Alaska were oversampled to enable urban vs. rural and native vs. non-native analyses. The results represent a random sample of Alaska residents and are weighted<sup>7</sup> to bring them in line with actual population proportions. This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation and the Center for Environmental Decisions (CRED) at Columbia University under Grant No. SES 0345840. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation. The study was commissioned by Decision Research, and conducted by Craciun Research Group, Inc.

## Definitions

### Political Party

Republicans = individuals who self-identify as Republican or leaning Republican  
Democrats = individuals who self-identify as Democratic or leaning Democratic  
No Party = individuals who do not identify with either Republicans or Democrats  
Other = individuals who self-identify with other parties (e.g., Libertarian, Green, Independent Party)

### Political Ideology

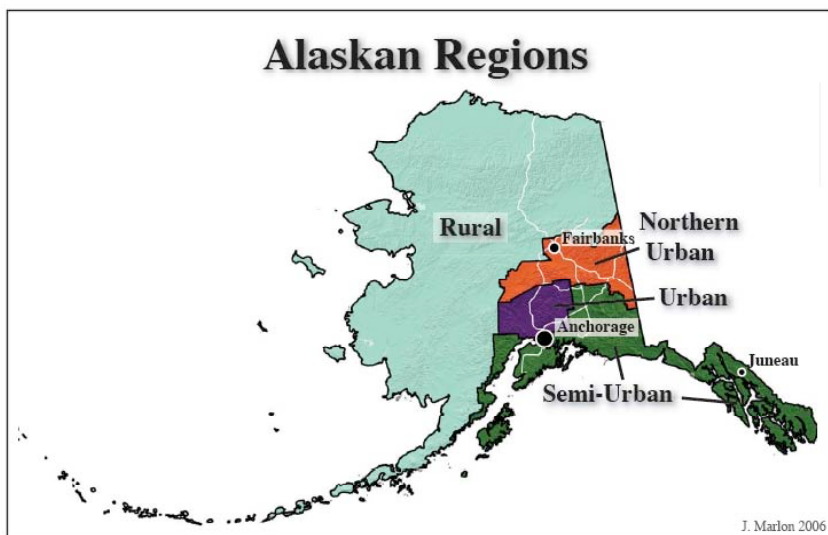
Conservatives = self-identified as somewhat or very conservative  
Liberals = self-identified as somewhat or very liberal  
Moderates = self-identified as moderate, middle of the road

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<sup>7</sup> Weighting causes slight anomalies such as the apparent increase in the total sample from 1016 to 1018.

## Region

Alaskans can, for the purpose of this study, be grouped into four regions based on the similarity of their lifestyles. Education, income levels, ethnicity, outdoor activities, politics, military service and frequency of attending church vary significantly in the four regions:



**Urban**, Anchorage and Mat-Su, includes more than half the population of the state. Most of the households in this area contain people who work at jobs for wages, drive cars, and shop at supermarkets. In this sample, they have the highest median household incomes (\$77,727) of the four areas, and the most college graduates (47%, including 17% post-graduate degrees). Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the population sampled in this area is Caucasian. Most of them (76%) work indoors, and only 12% get half or more of their diet from wild foods gathered by the household. Except for gardening, they are the least likely of those sampled to engage in subsistence or sports activities outdoors. Thirty-two percent (32%) consider themselves at least somewhat conservative politically, and 26% go to religious services weekly.

In the **Northern Urban** region, primarily Fairbanks and surrounding areas, the lifestyle is mostly, but not entirely, tied to roads and the modern mobile economy. They differ from Anchorage, Mat-Su in several respects. The population is much lower, the society more small-town. In the sample for this survey, the median income is lower than Anchorage, Mat-Su at \$56,136. The percentage of college graduates is slightly lower at 37% (including, however, 18% with post-graduate degrees). Seventy-eight percent (78%) are Caucasian. Seventy-two percent (72%) work indoors and 20% get half or more of their diet from wild foods. They differ from Anchorage, Mat-Su in the percentage who engage in outdoor activities; more of them consider fishing, hunting, and picking wild berries important to their lives. Thirty-nine percent (39%) consider themselves conservative and 39% attend religious services weekly.

The **Semi-Urban** region includes the coastal area from Ketchikan in the Southeast to the Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak along the South central coast. Most of the people in these areas are connected by road or ferry and have roads within their locality. Many work for wages and/or do commercial fishing. Those sampled have a median income of \$50,253, and 15% have college degrees. Eighty-five percent (85%) are Caucasian. Half (49%) of them work outdoors, and 49% of the households get half or more of their diet from wild foods. Fishing, hunting and wild berry picking are important to more than

six in ten of these households. Fourteen percent (14%) are conservative politically, and 34% attend religious services weekly.

The mostly **Rural** region is distinguishable from all the others by the lack of roads. The vast area of Western and Northern Alaska is accessible from the population centers only by air. Comparatively few of these people work for wages; most households receive cash only from the State's Permanent Fund and/or dividends from their Native Corporations. These differences from the other areas are reflected in the median income of \$28,060, and in the lower percentage of college graduates (10%). Twenty-seven percent (27%) are Caucasian, 68% Alaska Native. Fifty percent (50%) work outdoors, and 83% of the households get half or more of their diet from subsistence. In this region, with few roads, 82% consider snow machining important to their lives. Thirteen percent (13%) consider themselves politically conservative and 54% attend religious services weekly.