

Experimental vignettes

Economic – Democrat

Climate change, or global warming, has become one of the most discussed issues in American politics because of its threat to economic development. Recently, Jay Goreham, a former Democratic Party congressman, spoke out on the issue. He said that climate change, if ignored, could seriously harm the American economy unless the US addresses the market distortions that currently restrict the free market. In particular, he mentioned how oil and other fossil fuel energy companies receive large subsidies from state and federal governments that tip the scales of the energy market in their favor, and allow them to avoid accountability for their greenhouse gas pollution. Mr. Goreham summarized his argument by saying that “we can address climate change and grow a free-enterprise economy if we fix market distortions and keep energy producers accountable for their costs to society.” In response to this problem, he called for the US government to act against climate change by reducing future economic risk. Please continue to the next page to give your thoughts on the issue.

Economic – Republican

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National Security – Democrat

Climate change, or global warming, has become one of the most discussed issues in American politics because of its threat to national security if untended. Recently, Jay Goreham, a former Democratic Party congressman, spoke out on the issue. He said that climate change, if ignored, could seriously endanger American national security interests as food and water shortages destabilize countries in the developing world. Specifically, he mentioned how this instability could lead to the rise of hostile regimes, the spread of dangerous weapons, and limit American access to crucial resources. Mr. Goreham summarized his argument by saying that climate change could “cripple the security environment” if not managed. In response to this problem, he called for the government to act against climate change to reduce future national security risk. Please continue to the next page to give your thoughts on the issue.

National Security – Republican

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Moral Justice – Democrat

Climate change, or global warming, has become one of the most discussed issues in American politics because of its threat to vulnerable populations such as the global poor. Recently, Jay Goreham, a former Democratic Party congressman, spoke out on the issue. He said that climate change, if ignored, could seriously harm the most vulnerable people around the world. In particular, he mentioned how the poor are more threatened by climate change-related events like hurricanes, drought, and food shortages due to their lack of resources. Mr. Goreham summarized his argument by saying that “eradicating poverty and stopping climate change are mutually reinforcing goals.” In response to this problem, he has called for the US government to act against climate change to reduce the risk of the global poor. Please continue to the next page to give your thoughts on the issue.

Moral Justice – Republican

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Natural Disaster – Democrat

Climate change, or global warming, has become one of the most discussed issues in American politics because of its connections to extreme weather events like Hurricane Sandy. Recently, Jay Goreham, a former Democratic Party congressman, spoke out on the issue. He said that climate change, if ignored, could seriously endanger American coastal cities like New York and New Orleans as these storms become stronger and more frequent. In particular, he mentioned how

damaging these storms are socially and economically, often causing billions of dollars in damage and hitting the poor hardest. Mr Goreham summarized his argument by saying that the devastation caused by extreme weather events “should be enough to compel all elected leaders to take immediate action” against climate change. In response to this problem, he has called for the US government to act against climate change to reduce the risk of more extreme weather damage. Please continue to the next page to give your thoughts on the issue.

Natural Disaster – Republican

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Control

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Variables

Governmental attitude index

How much do you support or oppose each of these following sentiments?

“We should immediately increase government regulation on industries and businesses that produce a great deal of the greenhouse emissions linked to climate change.”

- ☐ Strongly oppose (1)
- ☐ Oppose (2)
- ☐ Somewhat oppose (3)
- ☐ Neither support nor oppose (4)
- ☐ Somewhat support (5)
- ☐ Support (6)
- ☐ Strongly support (7)

"We should immediately increase taxes on industries and businesses that produce a great deal of the greenhouse emissions linked to climate change."

- ☐ Strongly oppose (1)

- ☐ Oppose (2)
- ☐ Somewhat oppose (3)
- ☐ Neither support nor oppose (4)
- ☐ Somewhat support (5)
- ☐ Support (6)
- ☐ Strongly support (7)

“Action through the government is the best way to deal with a big and difficult issue like climate change.”

- ☐ Strongly oppose (1)
- ☐ Oppose (2)
- ☐ Somewhat oppose (3)
- ☐ Neither support nor oppose (4)
- ☐ Somewhat support (5)
- ☐ Support (6)
- ☐ Strongly support (7)

Personal attitude

In the next year, how likely are you personally to take action against climate change, such as joining an environmental organization, signing a petition, changing your consumption patterns, or changing your life habits?

- ☐ Not at all likely (1)
- ☐ Not very likely (2)
- ☐ Fairly likely (3)
- ☐ Very likely (4)
- ☐ Extremely likely (5)

Attitudinal ambivalence index

People’s thoughts and feelings about an issue can be all one-sided or very mixed. How mixed are your thoughts and feelings about climate change?

- ☐ Not at all mixed (1)
- ☐ A little mixed (2)
- ☐ Somewhat mixed (3)
- ☐ Very mixed (4)
- ☐ Extremely mixed (5)

How much internal conflict do you feel about your opinions about climate change?

- ☐ No conflict at all (1)
- ☐ A little conflict (2)
- ☐ A moderate amount of conflict (3)
- ☐ Quite a bit of conflict (4)
- ☐ A great deal of conflict (5)

People can be very decisive or very indecisive in their thoughts and feelings about an issue. How

indecisive are your thoughts and feelings about climate change?

- ☐ Not at all indecisive (1)
- ☐ A little indecisive (2)
- ☐ Somewhat indecisive (3)
- ☐ Very indecisive (4)
- ☐ Extremely indecisive (5)

Interest in politics

In general, how interested are you personally in politics and public affairs?

- ☐ Not at all interested (1)
- ☐ Not very interested (2)
- ☐ Fairly interested (3)
- ☐ Very interested (4)
- ☐ Extremely interested (5)