



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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More Favor Drilling in ANWR
AS GAS PRICES PINCH, SUPPORT FOR ENERGY EXPLORATION RISES

Amid record gas prices, public support for greater energy exploration is spiking. Compared with just a few months ago, many more Americans are giving higher priority to more energy exploration, rather than more conservation. An increasing proportion also says that developing new sources of energy – rather than protecting the environment – is the more important national priority.

The latest nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted June 18-29 among 2,004 adults, also finds that half of Americans now support drilling in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, up from 42% in February.

The public’s changing energy priorities are most evident in the growing percentage that views increased energy exploration – including mining and drilling, as well as the construction of new power plants – as a more important priority for energy policy than increased conservation and regulation. Nearly half (47%) now rates energy exploration as the more important priority, up from 35% in February. The proportion saying it is more important to increase energy conservation and regulation has declined by 10 points (from 55% to 45%).

Public’s Energy Priorities Shift as Prices Skyrocket			
	Feb	June	
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Change</u>
	%	%	
<i>More important priority for energy policy...</i>			
Expand exploration, mining/drilling, construction of new power plants	35	47	+12
More energy conservation/regulation	55	45	
Don’t know	10	8	
	100	100	
<i>Drilling in Alaska wildlife refuge...</i>			
Favor	42	50	+8
Oppose	50	43	
Don’t know	8	7	
	100	100	
<i>Higher priority for country...</i>			
Developing new energy sources	54	60	+6
Protecting environment	36	34	
Don’t know	10	6	
	100	100	

In surveys dating to 2001, majorities or pluralities had consistently said that greater energy conservation and regulation on energy use and prices was more important than increased energy exploration.

<i>More important priority for U.S. energy policy...</i>	May 2001	Feb 2002	Sept 2005	June 2006	Feb 2008	June 2008
Expand exploration, mining/drilling, construction of new power plants	44	37	43	35	35	47
More energy conservation/regulation	49	54	48	57	55	45
Don't know	7	9	9	8	10	8
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Partisan Gap over Energy Exploration Disappears

Much of the increase in support for energy exploration has come among groups that previously viewed this as a less important priority than energy conservation – young people, liberals, independents, Democrats, women and people who have attended college.

Fully half of people ages 18 to 29 (51%) now say expanding energy exploration is a more important priority for energy policy than increasing energy conservation and regulation; only about a quarter of young people (26%) expressed this view in February. The proportion of liberals who say expanded energy exploration is the more important priority also has doubled (from 22% to 45%).

The gender gap in attitudes about whether greater exploration or greater conservation is the more important priority has disappeared, as women have become much more supportive of expanded exploration (up 18 points).

Similarly, more independents (19 points) and Democrats (16 points) view increased energy exploration as the more important priority. About the same proportions of Democrats (46%) and Republicans (43%) now say expanded exploration, rather than increased conservation, should take precedence; in February, far more Republicans than Democrats expressed this view.

<i>More important to:</i>	Feb 2008	June 2008	Change
<i>Expand exploration, mining/drilling, build power plants</i>	%	%	
Total	35	47	+12
Men	42	47	+5
Women	28	46	+18
College grad+	30	47	+17
Some college	35	49	+14
HS or less	38	45	+7
Republican	49	43	-6
Democrat	30	46	+16
Independent	31	50	+19
Conservative	47	47	0
Moderate	33	48	+15
Liberal	22	45	+23
18-29	26	51	+25
30-49	35	47	+12
50-64	34	45	+11
65+	44	42	-2

ANWR Drilling Still Politically Divisive

In contrast with overall opinions about energy exploration, views about drilling for oil and gas in ANWR remain politically divided. As was the case in February, about twice as many Republicans as Democrats favor drilling in ANWR (75% vs. 36%). Support for oil and gas drilling in the Alaska wildlife refuge has increased sharply among Republicans (12 points), but only modestly among Democrats (five points).

Support for ANWR energy drilling has increased across age groups, but Americans ages 65 and older continue to support this at much higher levels than do those younger than 30 (62% vs. 37%). More women favor ANWR drilling than in February, but women continue to be less supportive of drilling for oil and gas in the Alaska wildlife refuge than men (45% vs. 56%).

	Feb 2008	June 2008	Change
<i>% favor:</i>	%	%	
Total	42	50	+8
Men	51	56	+5
Women	35	45	+10
College grad+	39	48	+9
Some college	40	50	+10
HS or less	46	52	+6
Republican	63	75	+12
Democrat	31	36	+5
Independent	41	48	+7
Conservative	60	67	+7
Moderate	38	47	+9
Liberal	24	31	+7
18-29	27	37	+10
30-49	40	50	+10
50-64	51	56	+5
65+	52	62	+10

Iraq War Views Stable

Public opinion about the war in Iraq has changed little over the past few months. A narrow majority (52%) says that the U.S. military effort is not going well; 44% say things in Iraq are going very or fairly well. That is identical to the balance of opinion in April; in February, a slightly greater percentage (48%) said things were going well in Iraq.

The public also remains divided about whether to bring home U.S. troops as soon as possible (52%), or keep them there until the country is stabilized (43%). As in previous surveys, most of those who support a troop withdrawal from Iraq say it should gradual rather than immediate (35% gradual vs. 16% immediate).

	Feb 07	Sep 07	Dec 07	Feb 08	Apr 08	June 08
<i>Military effort is going...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very/fairly well	30	41	41	48	44	44
Not too/at all well	67	54	54	48	52	52
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>The US should...</i>						
Keep troops in	42	39	40	47	41	43
Bring troops home	53	54	54	49	56	52
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>US effort in Iraq...</i>						
Will succeed	47	42	45	53	47	50
Will fail	46	47	45	39	46	42
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>The war was the...</i>						
Right decision	40	42	36	38	37	39
Wrong decision	54	50	56	54	57	55
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

By 50% to 42%, more Americans believe that the United States will succeed, rather than fail, in achieving its goals in Iraq. In April, opinion about whether the United States will succeed was a bit more closely divided (47% definitely/probably succeed vs. 46% definitely/probably fail).

As has been the case since October 2007, a majority of Americans (55%) believe the United States made the wrong decision in using military force in Iraq. Just 39% say the war was the right decision.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 2,004 adults, 18 years of age or older, from June 18-29, 2008 (1,501 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 503 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 162 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling, Inc.

The combined landline and cell phone data were weighted using demographic weighting parameters derived from the March 2007 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, along with an estimate of current patterns of telephone status in the U.S. derived from the 2007 National Health Interview Survey, using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters. The weighting procedure also accounted for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones had a greater probability of being included in the sample.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	2,004	2.5 percentage points
Form 1	1,003	3.5 percentage points
Form 2	1,001	3.5 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of eight projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Kim Parker, Senior Researcher
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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JUNE 2008 VOTER ATTITUDES SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
 June 18-29, 2008
 N=2004

QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 56 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTION 57

And thinking about some issues...

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1001]:

Q.58F2 Right now, which ONE of the following do you think should be a more important priority for this country...
(READ AND ROTATE)?

		Late Feb <u>2008</u>	June <u>2006</u>	Mid- Sept <u>2005</u>	Mid- March <u>2005</u>	Feb <u>2002</u>	May <u>2001</u>
34	Protecting the environment [OR]	36	35	36	42	45	42
60	Developing new sources of energy	54	60	57	49	48	49
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1003]:

Q.59F1 Right now, which ONE of the following do you think should be the more important priority for U.S. energy policy... **(READ AND ROTATE; READ RESPONSE NUMBER TO CLARIFY OPTIONS)**

		Late Feb <u>2008</u>	June <u>2006</u>	Feb <u>2006</u>	Mid- Sept <u>2005</u>	Feb <u>2002</u>	May <u>2001</u>
47	Expanding exploration, mining and drilling, and the construction of new power plants [OR]	35	35	41	43	37	44
45	More energy conservation and regulation on energy use and prices	55	57	52	48	54	49
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (DO NOT READ)	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.60 Would you favor or oppose allowing oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska?

		Late Feb <u>2008</u>	May <u>2006</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>	Mid- Sept <u>2005</u> ¹	Late March <u>2005</u>	Mid- March <u>2005</u>
50	Favor	42	46	44	50	46	42
43	Oppose	50	44	47	42	49	46
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

QUESTIONS 61 THROUGH 63

NO QUESTIONS 64 THROUGH 69

¹ In Mid-September 2005 and earlier the question was worded "... drilling in the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

ASK ALL:

Now a few questions about Iraq...

Q.70 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
June, 2008	39	55	6=100
April, 2008	37	57	6=100
Late February, 2008	38	54	8=100
Late December, 2007	36	56	8=100
October, 2007	39	54	7=100
September, 2007	42	50	8=100
July, 2007	41	53	6=100
June, 2007	40	51	9=100
April, 2007	45	47	8=100
March, 2007	43	49	8=100
February, 2007	40	54	6=100
Mid-January, 2007	40	51	9=100
Early January, 2007	40	53	7=100
December, 2006	42	51	7=100
Mid-November, 2006	41	51	8=100
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	45	48	7=100
Late October, 2006	43	47	10=100
Early October, 2006	45	47	8=100
Early September, 2006	49	43	8=100
August, 2006	45	46	9=100
July, 2006	44	50	6=100
June, 2006	49	44	7=100
April, 2006	47	46	7=100
March, 2006	45	49	6=100
February, 2006	51	44	5=100
January, 2006	45	47	8=100
December, 2005	47	48	5=100
Late October, 2005	48	45	7=100
Early October, 2005	44	50	6=100
Mid-September, 2005	49	44	7=100
July, 2005	49	44	7=100
June, 2005	47	45	8=100
February, 2005	47	47	6=100
January, 2005	51	44	5=100
December, 2004	49	44	7=100
November, 2004 (RVs)	48	41	11=100
Mid-October, 2004	46	42	12=100
Early October, 2004	50	39	11=100
September, 2004	53	39	8=100
August, 2004	53	41	6=100
July, 2004	52	43	5=100
June, 2004	55	38	7=100
May, 2004	51	42	7=100
Late April, 2004	54	37	9=100
Early April, 2004	57	35	8=100
Mid-March, 2004	55	39	6=100
Late February, 2004	60	32	8=100
Early February, 2004	56	39	5=100
Mid-January, 2004	65	30	5=100

Q.70 CONTINUED...

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early January, 2004	62	28	10=100
December, 2003	67	26	7=100
October, 2003	60	33	7=100
September, 2003	63	31	6=100
August, 2003	63	30	7=100
Early July, 2003	67	24	9=100
May, 2003	74	20	6=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	74	19	7=100
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	74	19	7=100
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	72	20	8=100
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	69	25	6=100
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	74	21	5=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	74	21	5=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	71	22	7=100
Late January, 1991	77	15	8=100

ASK ALL:

Q.71 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/ Refused</u>
June, 2008	10	34	31	21	4=100
April, 2008	10	34	28	24	4=100
Late February, 2008	12	36	25	23	4=100
Late December, 2007	11	30	31	23	5=100
November, 2007	11	37	29	19	4=100
October, 2007	10	34	29	22	5=100
September, 2007	9	32	30	24	5=100
July, 2007	8	28	34	25	5=100
June, 2007	7	27	33	28	5=100
April, 2007	7	31	34	25	3=100
March, 2007	10	30	32	24	4=100
February, 2007	5	25	38	29	3=100
Mid-January, 2007	7	28	32	30	3=100
December, 2006	4	28	37	27	4=100
Mid-November, 2006	6	26	34	30	4=100
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	7	30	32	27	4=100
Late October, 2006	5	30	34	25	6=100
Early October, 2006	8	29	33	25	5=100
Early September, 2006	8	39	28	20	5=100
August, 2006	8	33	32	23	4=100
June, 2006	16	37	25	18	4=100
April, 2006	13	34	29	21	3=100
March, 2006	9	34	30	21	6=100
February, 2006	13	38	29	17	3=100
January, 2006	12	39	27	17	5=100
December, 2005	14	37	29	17	3=100
Early October, 2005	9	35	31	22	3=100
Mid-September, 2005	12	41	26	18	3=100

Q.71 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>well</u>	Fairly <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	(VOL.) DK/ <u>Refused</u>
July, 2005	14	38	27	17	4=100
June, 2005	9	41	27	19	4=100
February, 2005	14	40	25	17	4=100
January, 2005	9	39	29	20	3=100
December, 2004	10	40	28	18	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	13	38	26	17	6=100
September, 2004	12	40	26	18	4=100
August, 2004	12	41	28	16	3=100
July, 2004	13	42	26	16	3=100
June, 2004	16	41	25	14	4=100
May, 2004	10	36	32	19	3=100
Late April, 2004	12	43	26	15	4=100
Early April, 2004	14	43	26	13	4=100
Mid-March, 2004	16	45	26	11	2=100
Early February, 2004	17	46	23	11	3=100
Mid-January, 2004	22	51	18	6	3=100
Early January, 2004	23	47	18	7	5=100
December, 2003	28	47	16	6	3=100
October, 2003	16	44	25	11	4=100
September, 2003	15	47	26	9	3=100
August, 2003	19	43	24	11	3=100
Early July, 2003	23	52	16	5	4=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>March 25-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7=100</i>

ASK ALL:

Q.72 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

	Keep troops <u>in Iraq</u>	Bring troops <u>home</u>	(VOL.) DK/ <u>Ref</u>
June, 2008	43	52	5=100
April, 2008	41	56	3=100
Late February, 2008	47	49	4=100
Late December, 2007	40	54	6=100
November, 2007	41	54	5=100
October, 2007	42	54	4=100
September, 2007	39	54	7=100
July, 2007	39	54	7=100
June, 2007	39	56	5=100
April, 2007	41	53	6=100
March, 2007	43	52	5=100
February, 2007	42	53	5=100
Mid-January, 2007	46	48	6=100
Early January, 2007	41	53	6=100
December, 2006	44	50	6=100
Mid-November, 2006	46	48	6=100
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	49	44	7=100
Late October, 2006	46	47	7=100

Q.72 CONTINUED...

	Keep troops <u>in Iraq</u>	Bring troops <u>home</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/ Ref</u>
Early October, 2006	47	47	6=100
Early September, 2006	47	47	6=100
August, 2006	48	46	6=100
June, 2006	50	45	5=100
April, 2006	48	48	4=100
March, 2006	44	50	6=100
February, 2006	50	46	4=100
January, 2006	48	48	4=100
December, 2005	49	46	5=100
Early October, 2005	47	48	5=100
Mid-September, 2005	51	45	4=100
July, 2005	52	43	5=100
June, 2005	50	46	4=100
February, 2005	55	42	3=100
January, 2005	54	41	5=100
December, 2004	56	40	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	57	36	7=100
September, 2004	54	40	6=100
August, 2004	54	42	4=100
July, 2004	53	43	4=100
June, 2004 ²	51	44	5=100
May, 2004	53	42	5=100
Late April, 2004	53	40	7=100
Early April, 2004	50	44	6=100
Early January, 2004	63	32	5=100
October, 2003	58	39	3=100
September, 2003	64	32	4=100

IF “KEEP TROOPS IN IRAQ” (1 IN Q.72) ASK:

Q.73 Do you think the U.S. should or should not set a timetable for when troops will be withdrawn from Iraq?

	Should set a <u>timetable</u>	Should not set <u>timetable</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/</u> <u>Refused</u>
June, 2008	14	28	1=43%
April, 2008	14	26	1=41%
Late February, 2008	16	30	1=47%
Late December, 2007	13	26	1=40%
November, 2007	11	29	1=41%
October, 2007	15	26	1=42%
September, 2007	13	25	1=39%
June, 2007 [^]	13	25	1=39%
April, 2007	11	28	2=41%
March, 2007	14	27	2=43%
Mid-January, 2007	19	26	1=46%
December, 2006	17	25	2=44%
Mid-November, 2006	17	27	2=46%
Late October, 2006	15	29	2=46%
Early October, 2006	15	30	2=47%
Early September, 2006	13	32	2=47%

²

In June 2004 and earlier, the question was worded: “Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?”

Q.73 CONTINUED...

	Should set a <u>timetable</u>	Should not set <u>timetable</u>	(VOL.) DK/ <u>Refused</u>
August, 2006	16	30	2=48%
June, 2006	16	32	1=50%
April, 2006	14	32	1=48%
March, 2006	14	29	1=44%
January, 2006	16	30	2=48%
December, 2005	17	30	2=49%
Early October, 2005	15	31	1=47%
Mid-September, 2005	19	30	2=51%
July, 2005	16	34	2=52%

^ Trend note: In June 2007 and earlier the question was asked of all respondents. Results shown here are limited to those who said we should “keep troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized” in order to be consistent with the way the question is currently asked. The small number who volunteered that the U.S. should “get out now” in previous surveys have been grouped with supporters of a timetable.

IF “BRING TROOPS HOME” (2 IN Q.72) ASK:

Q.74 Should the U.S. remove all troops from Iraq immediately, or should the withdrawal of troops be gradual over the next year or two?

	Remove all troops <u>immediately</u>	Gradual <u>withdrawal</u>	(VOL.) DK/ <u>Refused</u>
June, 2008	16	35	1=52%
April, 2008	16	39	1=56%
Late February, 2008	14	33	2=49%
Late December, 2007	18	34	2=54%
November, 2007	16	36	2=54%
October, 2007	18	35	1=54%
September, 2007	18	34	2=54%
July, 2007	21	31	2=54%
June, 2007	20	35	1=56%
April, 2007	17	34	2=53%
March, 2007	18	33	1=52%
February, 2007	16	35	2=53%
Mid-January, 2007	16	30	2=48%
December, 2006	18	32	*=50%
Mid-November, 2006	16	31	1=48%
August, 2006	15	30	1=46%
April, 2006	18	29	1=48%
January, 2006	14	32	2=48%
December, 2005	17	28	1=46%

ASK ALL:

Q.75 Regardless of what you think about the original decision to use military force in Iraq, do you now believe that the United States will definitely succeed, probably succeed, probably fail, or definitely fail in achieving its goals in Iraq?

	Definitely <u>succeed</u>	Probably <u>succeed</u>	Probably <u>fail</u>	Definitely <u>fail</u>	(VOL.) DK/ <u>Refused</u>
June, 2008	12	38	31	11	8=100
April, 2008	12	35	30	16	7=100
Late February, 2008	13	40	26	13	8=100
Late December, 2007	10	35	31	14	10=100
November, 2007	11	37	33	13	6=100
October, 2007	11	35	31	13	10=100
September, 2007	8	34	32	15	11=100
July, 2007	9	34	32	17	8=100
April, 2007	9	36	30	16	9=100
February, 2007	7	40	34	12	7=100
November, 2006	12	41	28	13	6=100
Mid-September, 2006	13	44	26	9	8=100
August, 2006	14	40	28	12	6=100