



## LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

**To:** Interested Parties  
**From:** League of Conservation Voters  
**Date:** August 5, 2015  
**RE:** Will the GOP Finally Address Climate Change?

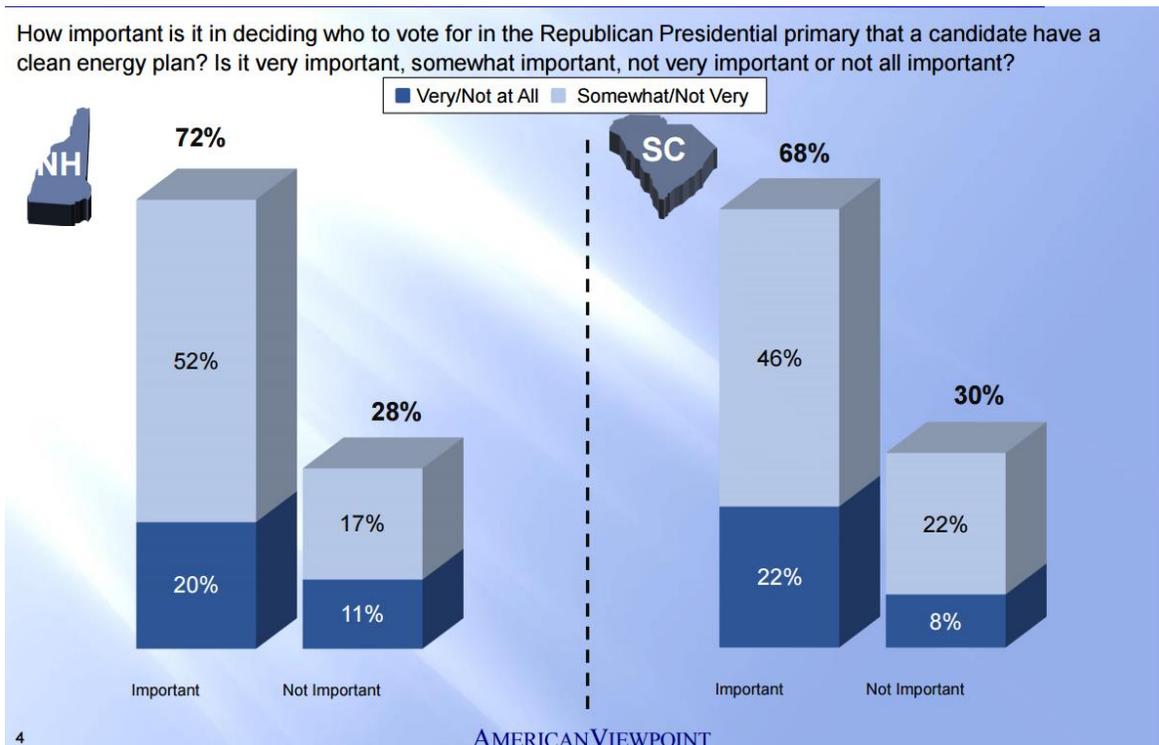
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Tomorrow night's first Presidential Republican primary debate presents a prime opportunity for the candidates to outline their plans to tackle the single greatest challenge of our time: climate change.

While nearly all of the candidates have voiced their vociferous opposition to the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan to limit carbon pollution—the final details of which were [released Monday](#)—none yet have put forth their own plans to reduce the carbon pollution driving climate change and endangering public health.

Many of the contenders continue to deny the science behind climate change entirely.

Voters across the country want to hear specifics. They want to hear the facts. In fact, a new [Republican poll](#) by American Viewpoint this week shows that large [majorities of Republican primary voters](#) want Republican presidential candidates to have a [clean energy plan](#).



**That's why heading into tomorrow's debate, the League of Conservation Voters is formally calling on the candidates to state their plans to reduce pollution, fight climate change, and promote clean energy.**

The League of Conservation Voters has provided a [2016 Climate Guide](#) to track presidential candidates' latest statements on this important issue.

Here's where the 10 GOP candidates in the prime time debate stand on climate change and clean energy.

## **DONALD TRUMP**

Trump's tweets on climate change speak for themselves:

- [February 14, 2015](#): "Record low temperatures and massive amounts of snow. Where the hell is GLOBAL WARMING?"
- [January 26, 2014](#): "Any and all weather events are used by the GLOBAL WARMING HOAXSTERS to justify higher taxes to save our planet! They don't believe it \$\$\$\$!"
- [January 25, 2014](#): "NBC News just called it the great freeze - coldest weather in years. Is our country still spending money on the GLOBAL WARMING HOAX?"
- [January 1, 2014](#): "This very expensive GLOBAL WARMING bullshit has got to stop. Our planet is freezing, record low temps, and our GW scientists are stuck in ice."
- [November 6, 2012](#): "The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive."

## **JEB BUSH**

Gov. Bush's view on climate change is "[hard to pin down](#)." He admits that the [climate is changing](#), but questions the extent to which human activity causes it. But, he has [repeatedly stated](#) that the science behind climate change is incomplete, and believes that the [issue](#) "has been co-opted by the hard-core left and if you don't march to their beat perfectly then you're a denier." Gov. Bush even said that it was "[intellectual arrogance](#)" to agree with scientists who say that human activity is the predominate/primary/main source of climate change.

Less than a week ago, Gov. Bush spoke at a forum hosted by the Koch Brothers at which he said that the Clean Power Plan was "[unconstitutional](#)" and a "[disaster](#)." Two days later, he said that the newly-finalized EPA rule was "[irresponsible and overreaching](#)," and would raise energy costs. According to the White House, the Clean Power Plan will "[save](#) the average American family nearly \$85 on their annual energy bill in 2030, reducing enough energy to power 30 million homes, and save consumers a total of \$155 billion from 2020-2030."

## **SCOTT WALKER**

Walker recently told [WMUR](#) in New Hampshire that "most scientists" would say there hasn't been a "noticeable change" in the weather in recent years—despite the well-established fact that our [10 warmest years](#) have all occurred since 1997 (and 2014 was Earth's [hottest yet](#)).

During a New Hampshire Republican candidates' forum earlier this week, Gov. Walker [avoided](#) saying whether or not he believed climate change was real. He added that the Clean Power Plan would [devastate the economy](#), "cost hard-working Americans jobs and [raise their energy rates](#)." According to the White House, in addition to saving the average family \$85 on their annual energy bill by 2030, the Clean Power Plan will "drive significant new investment in cleaner, more modern and more efficient technologies, creating tens of thousands of [jobs](#)."

## **MIKE HUCKABEE**

Gov. Huckabee doesn't believe that the science on climate change is [settled](#). He recently mocked the notion that climate change is a major threat to Americans when he [told conservative activists](#) in January 2015 that "a beheading is a far greater threat to an American than a sunburn."

Gov. Huckabee believed that with the Clean Power Plan, President Obama showed he was "more committed to confronting American coal miners than Iranian clerics who chant '[death to America](#).'"

## **BEN CARSON**

In a November 2014 interview, Dr. Carson said, "There's always going to be either cooling or warming going on. As far as I'm concerned, [that's irrelevant](#)." In an op-ed earlier that year, he [wrote](#), "To use climate change as an excuse not to develop our God-given resources makes little sense."

## **TED CRUZ**

Sen. Cruz asserted that the "[data and facts](#)" don't support the [nearly-unanimous scientific consensus](#) on climate change, which he referred to as a "[pseudoscientific theory](#)." He has [repeatedly asserted](#) the false claim that the Earth is not warming. Sen. Cruz has previously compared himself to Galileo, adding that the "global warming alarmists" who accept the science behind climate change are [no different than flat-Earthers](#). He has voted [against](#) acknowledging the reality of climate change.

Sen. Cruz believes that the Clean Power Plan is "[flatly unconstitutional](#)," and a "lawless and radical attempt to destabilize the nation's energy system."

## **MARCO RUBIO**

Sen. Rubio has [repeatedly voted](#) against acknowledging the reality of climate change. Although he readily admits [he's not a scientist](#), he questioned the science behind climate change, saying he was "[deeply skeptical](#)" because there was [no scientific consensus](#) on what role humans played in it. In reality, [97 percent](#) of climate scientists agree that "climate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities."

He believes that the Clean Power Plan is [catastrophic](#), and would increase utility costs while doing nothing to address the issue of carbon pollution. A White House fact sheet, released when the Clean Power Plan was finalized, states that in addition to saving the average family \$85 on their annual energy bill by 2030, the rule will "drive significant new investment in cleaner, more modern and more efficient technologies, creating tens of thousands of [jobs](#)."

## **RAND PAUL**

Sen. Paul has [repeatedly voted](#) against acknowledging the reality of climate change. He insisted that the science behind climate change is [inconclusive](#), adding that "people who tie extreme weather to a changing climate" were "ignorant" and "[alarmists](#)."

One day after the EPA unveiled the Clean Power Plan in June 2014, Sen. Paul said, "In my state, this is going to be higher electric bills and it's going to be more unemployment. So we're steadfast against it, and I will do everything I can to [repeal this rule](#)." In addition to saving the average family \$85 on their annual energy bill by 2030, the Clean Power Plan will "drive significant new investment in cleaner, more modern and more efficient technologies, creating tens of thousands of [jobs](#)."

## **CHRIS CHRISTIE**

Gov. Christie has been [inconsistent](#) on whether [he believes](#) climate change is real, and that [human activity is predominant contributor to it](#). During a July 2015 WMUR interview in New Hampshire, he said, “That’s where I think we should have the climate change discussion – what do we do? Not this big scientific argument. [I’m not a scientist](#). But I do know that climate change is happening.”

Gov. Christie has said he is “[totally opposed](#)” to the Clean Power Plan. In 2011, he [announced](#) that New Jersey would pull out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a market-based regulatory program undertaken by various Northeastern states to [reduce carbon pollution](#). Last year, a state appellate panel found that the Christie administration [acted improperly](#) in doing so.

## **JOHN KASICH**

While Gov. Kasich [admits](#) that the climate is indeed changing, he’s quick to add that he doesn’t “[worship the environment](#),” and [neither should we](#). He opposes “any kind of dramatic economic policy” to act on climate change.

In July 2015, the *Toledo Blade* reported, “The Clean Power Plan has major implications for Ohio, one of the nation’s most coal-reliant states and traditionally a swing state in presidential elections. It calls for tougher rules on coal-fired power plants, which Gov. John Kasich, a potential GOP presidential candidate in 2016, has [worked with utilities to fight](#).” In June 2014, Gov. Kasich [signed into law](#) a bill to “[freeze](#) scheduled increases in how much electricity utilities must get from renewable energy sources and put on hold requirements that businesses cut their electricity usage.” In doing so, he put the brakes on [a successful program](#) that created 25,000 jobs and “netted Ohio consumers more than \$1 billion in savings.”