



MEMORANDUM

KEY FINDINGS FROM A NATIONAL TELEPHONE SURVEY OF REGISTERED VOTERS

KEY FINDINGS

Nearly all voters (94%) believe it is important for the U.S. to be the global leader in scientific research and technology. Republican (95%), Democratic (96%) and Independent (89%) voters all agree about the importance of the U.S. being the global leader in this field.

- Voters' perceptions about the importance of the U.S. being the global leader in scientific research and technology is on the rise. Today, six in ten voters (61%) say it is "very important" compared to 48% saying "very important" in 2015.

Eight in ten voters (82%) approve of the federal government using taxpayer funds to invest in scientific research. There is significant support across party with majorities of Republican (77%), Democratic (87%), and Independent (79%) voters saying they approve of the federal government using taxpayer funds to invest in scientific research.

Majorities of voters across the political spectrum agree that scientific research contributes to the U.S. economy. Seven in ten voters (72%) say that scientific research helps grow the U.S. economy, including 69% of Republicans, 78% of Democrats, and 62% of Independents.

A majority of voters (60%) support the federal government investing more in scientific research.

- There is a difference by party on this measure. Majorities of Democrats (75%) and Independents (56%) support more federal funding for scientific research, while Republicans views are evenly divided (45% support/46% oppose).

Although majorities of voters support greater federal government investment in scientific research, it is not an area they select as one of the top funding priorities. From a list of federal funding priorities, voters say public education is the most important issue area for the federal government to invest in. Scientific research is viewed more important than unemployment benefits and transportation and just as important as the government investing in energy and agriculture.

- Voters were asked to select the two most important issue areas or programs for the federal government to invest in from a list of nine items.

<i>Ranked by First Choice</i>	First Choice	Combined 1 st and 2 nd Choice
Public Education	29%	53%
National Defense	20%	32%
Roads, bridges, and other infrastructure	18%	39%
Programs for low income families	15%	30%
Energy	4%	11%
Scientific Research	3%	9%
Agriculture	3%	9%
Unemployment Benefits	3%	6%
Transportation	1%	4%

When choosing the most important contributions science makes to the economy, society, and individual Americans, voters continue to see the health and medical discoveries as the top contributions. The least important contributions continue to be exploring the world we live in and exploring space.

<i>Ranked by First Choice</i>	First Choice	Combined 1 st and 2 nd
Developing new medicines and curing diseases/ Researching ways to improve people's health and prevent diseases	33%	58%
Identifying the best ways to protect our environment	16%	29%
Developing new energy technologies to make America more energy independent	15%	33%
Developing new national security technologies to keep America safe	12%	25%
Developing new technologies so business can grow and create jobs	9%	25%
Keeping America competitive in a global economy	8%	16%
Exploring and better understanding the world we live in	3%	5%
Exploring space to better understand the solar system and the broader universe	2%	5%

There has been an increase in the importance of the following scientific contributions since 2015: “identifying the best ways to protect our environment” and “developing new technologies so business can grow and create jobs.”

<i>Ranked by 2018 % Most Important Combined Choice</i>	2011	2015	2018
Developing new medicines and curing diseases/ Researching ways to improve people’s health and prevent diseases	55%	54%	58%
Developing new energy technologies to make America more energy independent	44%	36%	33%
Identifying the best ways to protect our environment	14%	19%	29%
Developing new technologies so business can grow and create jobs	24%	17%	25%
Developing new national security technologies to keep America safe	22%	32%	25%
Keeping America competitive in a global economy	20%	15%	16%
Exploring and better understanding the world we live in	7%	8%	5%
Exploring space to better understand the solar system and the broader universe	5%	8%	5%

IN SUMMARY:

- ✓ Eight in ten voters approve of the federal government using taxpayer funds to invest in scientific research. There is strong support across party. Significant majorities of Republicans, Independents and Democrats say they approve of the federal government using taxpayer funds to invest in scientific research.
- ✓ A majority of voters support the federal government investing more in scientific research.
- ✓ Seven in ten voters believe that scientific research helps to grow the U.S. economy.
- ✓ Scientific research makes a number of contributions to society, but the most important continues to be developing new medicines and curing diseases and researching ways to improve people’s health and prevent diseases.
- ✓ Nearly all voters believe it is important for the U.S. to be the global leader in scientific research and technology.

METHODOLOGY:

Public Opinion Strategies conducted a national telephone survey among N=800 registered voters from November 10-14, 2018 on behalf of The Science Coalition. The margin of error is $\pm 3.46\%$. Quotas were set by specific demographics such as cell phone households, region, age, gender, ethnicity, and education based on data from the U.S. Census and voter files to ensure the sample is representative of the national registered voter population.