

1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 234-5570

Interviews: 1,003 registered voters
Dates: January 21-26, 2020

FINAL

Study #12815
CAP NEPA Online Survey
January 2020

Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

S2. Are you currently registered to vote in **(INSERT STATE FROM Q.S1)?**

Yes, registered.....	100	CONTINUE	[115]
Not registered to vote.....	-	TERMINATE	
Not sure	-		

S3. Are you...?

Male.....	47	[116]
Female	53	

S4. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a...?

Strong Republican.....	18	[117]
Leaning Republican.....	20	
Completely independent.....	20	
Leaning Democratic.....	17	
Strong Democrat	25	
Total Republican	38	
Total Democrat	42	

S5. For statistical purposes only, and to ensure that we have a representative sample, please indicate which age group you belong to.

18-24	7	[118-119]
25-29	8	
30-34	8	
35-39	8	
40-44	8	
45-49	8	
50-54	8	
55-59	10	
60-64	9	
65 -69	10	
70-74	8	
75 and older.....	8	

S6. And to ensure that we have a representative sample, are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS "NO," ASK:)** And again, for statistical purposes only, what is your race?

White	72	[252]
Black or African American	13	
Hispanic.....	11	
Asian	2	
Other	2	

S7. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school.....	-	[122]
Some high school	1	
High school graduate	27	
Some college, no degree	20	
Vocational training/2-year college	11	
4-year college/bachelor's degree	26	
Some postgraduate work, no degree	4	
2 or 3 years' postgraduate work/master's degree	9	
Doctoral/law degree	2	

S8. Which of these best describes your current situation?

Employed	60	[123]
Student	2	
Homemaker	5	
Retired	23	
Unemployed, looking for work	6	
Other	4	

S9a. Many people were not able to vote in the 2016 election for U.S. president. How about you? Did you vote in the 2016 election for U.S. president or did you not get a chance to vote that year?

Yes, voted.....	86	[124]
No, did not vote	14	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY "YES, VOTED" IN Q.S9a)

S9b. In the election for president, did you vote for...?

Hillary Clinton	47	[125]
Donald Trump.....	47	
Gary Johnson	4	
Jill Stein	2	

1. In general, do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as president?

Strongly approve	25	[126]
Somewhat approve.....	19	
Somewhat disapprove	12	
Strongly disapprove.....	44	
Total Approve	44	
Total Disapprove	56	

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling **(INSERT ITEM.)**?

	Total Approve	Total Disapprove	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	
The economy.....	57	43	35	22	16	27	[127]
Climate change.....	37	63	15	22	18	45	[128]
The environment.....	38	62	15	23	18	44	[129]

3. Below are some possible priorities and goals that the country might address. Please rate each one on a zero-to-10 scale to indicate how important you consider it to be.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY EXTREMELY IMPORTANT (RATING OF "9-10")

	Total 9-10	Extremely Important			Not Important At All		
		<u>10</u>	<u>8-9</u>	<u>6-7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0-4</u>	
Protecting groundwater and drinking water sources from pollution							[132-133]
January 2020.....	72	55	32	10	2	1	
October/November 2017	72	56	31	9	2	2	
Protecting the health and safety of residents in communities and neighborhoods from toxic pollution							[140-141]
January 2020.....	64	48	32	16	3	1	
Protecting and maintaining America's national parks, public lands, and other natural places							[138-139]
January 2020.....	53	40	34	20	4	2	
October/November 2017	55	40	34	18	5	3	
Reducing carbon pollution and the emission of greenhouse gases that cause climate change							[130-131]
January 2020.....	51	39	27	17	8	9	
October/November 2017	49	36	28	20	7	9	
Creating jobs through new infrastructure projects							[136-137]
January 2020.....	48	30	39	20	7	4	
October/November 2017	48	31	36	23	6	4	
Modernizing our highways, bridges, and other infrastructure							[134-135]
January 2020.....	45	29	36	23	8	4	
Reducing environmental regulation laws so that infrastructure can be built faster and in more places *							[144-145]
January 2020.....	22	15	20	18	11	36	
October/November 2017	21	11	21	17	11	40	
Reducing environmental regulation laws so that pipelines can be built faster and in more places **							[146-147]
January 2020.....	19	12	20	20	13	35	
Building more oil and gas pipelines							[142-143]
January 2020.....	17	12	17	21	17	33	

4. If you heard that Donald Trump was going to make a major change in environmental policy, do you think it is more likely the change would be for the better or more likely the change would be for the worse?

For the better	33	[148]
For the worse.....	48	
Not sure.....	19	

These next few questions are about the National Environmental Policy Act, also known as NEPA.

5. Have you heard of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) before?

Yes, have heard of it and know something about it	20	[149]
Yes, have heard of it but don't know much about it	41	
No, have not heard of it	39	

6. Below is a description of the federal law called the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Please read it over and then rate your reaction.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies to evaluate how infrastructure and energy development projects affect the environment and nearby communities. The law requires the government to review and disclose environmental impacts and gives communities a say on decisions about projects that include building roads and bridges, cutting forests, drilling for oil and gas, and building interstate pipelines.

Generally speaking, what is your reaction to this law?

Very favorable	46	[150]
Somewhat favorable.....	34	
Neutral.....	15	
Somewhat unfavorable.....	3	
Very unfavorable	2	
Total Favorable	80	
Total Unfavorable	5	

7a. Below are some different aspects of the National Environmental Policy Act related to infrastructure and energy development projects. Please rate your reaction to each one.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE

	Total Favorable	Very Favorable	Some-what Favorable	Neutral	Some-what Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	
It ensures that federal agencies evaluate the impact of proposed projects on local air and water quality.....	88	63	25	10	1	1	[152]
It requires federal agencies to evaluate the degree to which proposed projects affect public health and safety in nearby communities **	87	64	23	10	2	1	[159]
It makes sure the public has a chance to review and give input on major projects before building and development starts.....	87	57	30	11	2	-	[151]
It requires federal agencies to evaluate the degree to which proposed projects affect public health and safety in nearby communities, including low-income individuals and communities of color *	86	57	29	9	3	2	[158]
It requires federal agencies to consider alternative approaches to see whether a different approach would be better for the environment and nearby communities.....	85	54	31	12	2	1	[153]
It requires federal agencies to explore the impact of proposed projects on any unique characteristics of the area, such as historic or cultural sites, park lands, wetlands, or farmlands.....	85	54	31	11	3	1	[154]
It ensures that federal agencies investigate the extent to which proposed projects may harm wildlife, particularly endangered or threatened species or their habitats.....	84	57	27	11	3	2	[155]
It requires federal agencies to disclose the impact of proposed projects—such as oil and gas projects—on climate change, including the amount of carbon pollution that would be emitted.....	81	54	27	13	3	3	[156]
It requires federal agencies to consider how proposed projects would be affected by climate change in the short- and long-term (for example, how the project would withstand increased flooding or more extreme weather events).....	80	52	28	14	3	3	[157]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

7b. Below is the same list of different aspects of the National Environmental Policy Act. This time please rank order the three to which you have the MOST favorable reaction.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF THE COMBINED TOP THREE CHOICES

	<u>Top Choice</u>	<u>Combined Top Three Choices</u>	
It ensures that federal agencies evaluate the impact of proposed projects on local air and water quality.....	17	48	[160-163]
It makes sure the public has a chance to review and give input on major projects before building and development starts	26	42	>
It requires federal agencies to consider alternative approaches to see whether a different approach would be better for the environment and nearby communities	10	41	
It requires federal agencies to evaluate the degree to which proposed projects affect public health and safety in nearby communities **	12	40	
It ensures that federal agencies investigate the extent to which proposed projects may harm wildlife, particularly endangered or threatened species or their habitats	11	38	
It requires federal agencies to evaluate the degree to which proposed projects affect public health and safety in nearby communities, including low-income individuals and communities of color *	12	37	
It requires federal agencies to disclose the impact of proposed projects—such as oil and gas projects—on climate change, including the amount of carbon pollution that would be emitted	9	35	
It requires federal agencies to explore the impact of proposed projects on any unique characteristics of the area, such as historic or cultural sites, park lands, wetlands, or farmlands.....	9	31	
It requires federal agencies to consider how proposed projects would be affected by climate change in the short- and long-term (for example, how the project would withstand increased flooding or more extreme weather events)	4	22	
None of these	2	2	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

8. The Trump administration is proposing several changes to the National Environmental Policy Act that would weaken current environmental protections and public notification requirements to speed up the construction of major infrastructure and energy development projects.

How do you feel about the Trump administration making these changes to the National Environmental Policy Act?

Very favorable	12	[166]
Somewhat favorable.....	16	
Neutral	17	
Somewhat unfavorable.....	15	
Very unfavorable	40	
Total Favorable	28	
Total Unfavorable	55	

9a. Here are some things you could learn about the Trump administration's proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act. Please rate whether your reaction to each one is favorable or unfavorable.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR SOMEWHAT UNFAVORABLE

	Total Favorable	Total Unfavorable	Very Favorable	Some-what Favorable	Neutral	Some-what Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	
It would limit the amount of input from the public, including from residents in nearby and surrounding communities, for infrastructure or energy development projects.....	17	65	6	11	18	22	43	[173]
It would eliminate the requirement that the company preparing an environmental review must disclose any conflicts of interest, including financial conflicts	22	61	9	13	17	19	42	[169]
It would allow corporations and industries to conduct their own reviews of the environmental impact of their projects, rather than requiring independent federal government oversight and review.....	22	61	8	14	17	19	42	[168]
It would weaken the requirement that federal agencies consider alternative approaches to see if there are better approaches for the environment.....	19	60	8	11	21	21	39	[172]
It would eliminate the requirement that federal agencies must consider the impact of proposed projects--such as oil and gas projects--on climate change, including the amount of carbon pollution emitted.....	23	59	12	11	18	17	42	[171]
It would eliminate the requirement that federal agencies must consider how proposed projects would be affected by climate change in the short- and long-term (for example, how the project would withstand increased flooding or more extreme weather events).....	23	59	10	13	18	20	39	[170]
It would prohibit groups from taking legal action to stop the development of an infrastructure or energy development project if that group does not weigh in or raise their concerns during the official public comment period	30	53	14	16	17	16	37	[174]
It would limit the amount of time federal agencies can spend reviewing the environmental impact of new projects to two years, compared to a current average of 4.5 years.....	36	44	16	20	20	15	29	[167]

9b. Which three of these proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act do you oppose the most?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF THE TOP CHOICE

	<u>Top Choice</u>	<u>Combined Top Three Choices</u>	
It would allow corporations and industries to conduct their own reviews of the environmental impact of their projects, rather than requiring independent federal government oversight and review	22	51	[175-177]
It would eliminate the requirement that federal agencies must consider the impact of proposed projects—such as oil and gas projects—on climate change, including the amount of carbon pollution emitted.....	16	42	>
It would eliminate the requirement that federal agencies must consider how proposed projects would be affected by climate change in the short- and long-term (for example, how the project would withstand increased flooding or more extreme weather events)	12	37	
It would eliminate the requirement that the company preparing an environmental review must disclose any conflicts of interest, including financial conflicts.....	11	35	
It would limit the amount of input from the public, including from residents in nearby and surrounding communities, for infrastructure or energy development projects	9	33	
It would weaken the requirement that federal agencies consider alternative approaches to see if there are better approaches for the environment	6	31	
It would prohibit groups from taking legal action to stop the development of an infrastructure or energy development project if that group does not weigh in or raise their concerns during the official public comment period	5	30	
It would limit the amount of time federal agencies can spend reviewing the environmental impact of new projects to two years, compared to a current average of 4.5 years	12	23	
Do not oppose any of these	7	7	

10ab. Here are two statements about the Trump administration's proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act. Please select the statement that is more convincing to you, even if it is not exactly how you feel.

SUPPORTERS of the Trump administration's proposal say that over the past 50 years, the environmental review process has become increasingly complex and difficult to navigate, causing lengthy delays that increase the cost of projects and slow down much-needed improvements. They say it is time to cut burdensome regulations and make NEPA more efficient so that we can begin repairing and improving the nation's broken infrastructure and increase energy development projects that America desperately needs.

(FORM A) OPPONENTS of this proposal say that the Trump administration is distorting the facts as it often does to sell its policy of weakening environmental protections. The truth is that environmental reviews required by NEPA are not responsible for significant project slowdowns—rather, a lack of funding and local opposition to projects are the main cause of delays. The current law gives the public an opportunity to have a voice on major projects that affect the health and safety of the communities in which they live. *

(FORM B) OPPONENTS of the Trump administration's proposal say that the Trump administration is not reforming NEPA—they are gutting it. They say that this is an extreme proposal that would eliminate crucial environmental protections, take away the public's right to hold federal agencies and corporations accountable for harming the environment, and continues the Trump administration's denial of climate change science. **

Which statement do you agree with more?

	All	FORM A*	FORM B**	
Much more convincing: SUPPORTERS of the Trump administration's proposal.....	19	19	19	[178/179]
Somewhat more convincing: SUPPORTERS of the Trump administration's proposal.....	23	22	24	
Somewhat more convincing: OPPONENTS of the Trump administration's proposal.....	21	21	20	
Much more convincing: OPPONENTS of the Trump administration's proposal.....	37	38	37	
Total Supporters	42	41	43	
Total Opponents	58	59	57	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

11. Now that you have learned a little bit more, please rate how you feel about the Trump administration's proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act.

	Q.11	Initial Results (Q.8)	
Very favorable.....	12	12	[180]
Somewhat favorable.....	20	16	
Neutral.....	13	17	
Somewhat unfavorable.....	14	15	
Very unfavorable.....	41	40	
Total Favorable	32	28	
Total Unfavorable	55	55	

12a. Next, you'll read some reasons some people give for why they OPPOSE Donald Trump's proposal to change the National Environmental Policy Act. For each one, please indicate whether this gives you concerns about Donald Trump's proposed changes to NEPA.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY VERY OR FAIRLY MAJOR CONCERNS

	Total Major Concerns	Very Major Concerns	Fairly Major Concerns	Just Some Concerns	Does Not Really Give Me Any Concerns	
(HEALTH) Air pollution can lead to pregnancy complications, cancer, asthma, heart problems, and even premature death. These policy changes remove important protections for clean air that protect the health of Americans, especially the most vulnerable among us, such as young children and the elderly	77	56	21	16	7	[210]
(COMMUNITY VOICE) These changes would strip American citizens of their right to have a say on major development projects built in their own backyards. It puts a huge amount of power in the hands of industry and will make it harder for local communities to raise concerns about the safety and environmental impact of infrastructure projects, including on their water supply and air quality	76	55	21	17	7	[208]
(WILDLIFE) This proposal will jeopardize the natural places that America's wildlife calls home. Many threatened and endangered species, such as grizzly bears, wolves, and jaguars, will be put at further risk of extinction if important conservation laws are sacrificed for the benefit of rapid, unfettered development	73	51	22	18	9	[214]
(LOW-INCOME/COMMUNITIES OF COLOR) Low-income communities and communities of color are especially at risk from removing environmental protections. Historically, in cities across the country, federal infrastructure dollars have been used to bulldoze and evict communities of color and to allow harmful pollutants to seep into water supplies	73	50	23	16	11	[213]
(TAXPAYERS) These changes mean the government and developers will be able to cut corners instead of building environmentally sustainable infrastructure. As a result, taxpayers will pay more in the long run for repairing and rebuilding projects that were not constructed to withstand flooding and other extreme weather events	73	49	24	18	9	[211]
(LEGAL) This proposal is an attempt to undermine laws that American citizens have used to block big polluting projects and hold corporate polluters accountable. The Trump administration has already lost in court 12 times for not considering the environmental impact of their actions and is using these proposed changes to remove the barrier of judicial process.....	71	48	23	18	11	[209]
(CLIMATE CHANGE) This proposal is yet another step in the Trump administration's ongoing efforts to deny the science of climate change and roll back federal government efforts to address climate change. It would allow federal agencies to ignore scientific warnings about a project's vulnerability to climate change and the role projects might play in adding to carbon pollution	67	47	20	16	17	[212]
(DIRTY FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS) This proposal is a green-light to speed up pipeline construction and oil and gas drilling across the country. It will lock us into decades more of fossil fuel projects that pollute communities and make climate change worse.....	67	44	23	17	16	[215]

12b. Based on what you just read, what are your biggest concerns about the Trump administration's proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act?

Impact on community, people	24%
More damage to the environment, he doesn't care about our environment	19
Trump catering to rich and wealthy	12
Concerns about endangered wildlife	12
Lack of trust in Trump, Trump's decision-making	9
Concerns about entire proposal	9
Concerns about global warming, climate change	8
Concerns about protecting natural resources	7
Concerns about lack of oversight, lack of transparency in research/fact-checking process	6
Criticisms of Trump and his administration, Trump is not honest, he is corrupt	5
Concerns Administration is undermining existing laws, making the laws too weak	3
Pollution will increase, our country will be at a higher risk from pollution	3

Don't know; no response	12%

13a. Here are some criticisms some people have raised about the Trump administration's proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act. For each one, please rate whether you think this is true or not.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY DEFINITELY OR PROBABLY TRUE

	Total True	Total Not True	Definitely True	Probably True	Probably Not True	Definitely Not True	
It allows corporations with conflicts of interest to complete their own project reviews	79	21	47	32	18	3	[215]
It puts the interests of corporate polluters ahead of the environment	75	25	49	26	18	7	[215]
It would roll back basic environmental protections	73	27	48	25	22	5	[215]
It would put the health and safety of communities at risk	72	28	50	22	22	6	[215]
It will weaken efforts to address the impacts of climate change	71	29	47	24	21	8	[215]
It puts the interests of big industry and Trump's wealthy friends over average Americans	70	30	50	20	18	12	[215]
It would take us backwards on progress we have made on clean air and clean water	70	30	47	23	21	9	[215]
It will cost taxpayers more money in the long run.....	70	30	39	31	22	8	[215]
It is part of their effort to weaken the role of science and facts in federal decisions.....	65	25	41	24	24	11	[215]

13b. And which THREE of these bother you the most about the Trump administration's changes to the National Environmental Policy Act?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF THE TOP CHOICE

	Top Choice	Combined Top Three Choices	
It would put the health and safety of communities at risk.....	21	48	[236-238]
It puts the interests of corporate polluters ahead of the environment	10	33	>
It would take us backwards on progress we have made on clean air and clean water.....	7	31	
It would roll back basic environmental protections.....	11	30	
It will weaken efforts to address the impacts of climate change	10	30	
It puts the interests of big industry and Trump's wealthy friends over average Americans.....	10	28	
It will cost taxpayers more money in the long run	7	28	
It allows corporations with conflicts of interest to complete their own project reviews	9	26	
It is part of their effort to weaken the role of science and facts in federal decisions	5	15	
None of these	10	10	

FACTUALS: These last few questions are for statistical purposes only.

F1. How would you describe the area in which you live?

Urban.....	27	[242]
Suburban.....	45	
Small town.....	10	
Rural.....	18	

F2. In terms of your views on political issues, would you describe yourself as...?

Very conservative.....	15	[243]
Somewhat conservative.....	23	
Middle of the road.....	33	
Somewhat liberal.....	16	
Very liberal.....	13	
Total Conservative		38
Total Liberal		29

F3. Do you have any children under age 18 currently living in your household that you are responsible for raising?

Yes.....	26	[244]
No.....	74	

F4. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, what would the total be?

\$10,000 or less.....	6	[245]
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000.....	9	
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000.....	13	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000.....	14	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000.....	12	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	21	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000.....	11	
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000.....	11	
\$150,000 or more.....	3	