Trump and Sanders Supporters Differ Sharply on Key Scientific Fact

Lawrence C. Hamilton

During the week of September 17–23, a WMUR/CNN poll by the UNH Survey Center¹ asked more than 700 New Hampshire residents who they would vote for, given hypothetical pairs of candidates. For example,

Suppose the 2016 presidential election was being held today and the candidates were Donald Trump, the Republican, and Bernie Sanders, the Democrat, who would you vote for?

Other pairings in the poll were Trump vs. Clinton, or Trump vs. Biden. In the Trump/Sanders matchup, the poll found Sanders leading by 57 to 37 percent, with 6 percent saying another candidate or undecided.

FIGURE 1. IF ELECTION HELD TODAY, WOULD YOU VOTE FOR TRUMP OR SANDERS?

Analysis: Lawrence Hamilton, Carsey School of Public Policy, UNH 9-29-2015

About the Author

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The same poll also asked a few science questions, such as:

Which of the following three statements do you think is more accurate? Scientific measurements have confirmed that in recent decades, the concentration of CO₂ or carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere is increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?

While scientists since the early 1960s have known that CO₂ levels are rising, there were surprisingly wide differences in beliefs between candidates' supporters.²

FIGURE 2. PERCENT NH CANDIDATE SUPPORTERS BELIEVE ATMOSPHERE CO₂ INCREASED IN RECENT DECADES

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Endnotes

1. See <https://cola.unh.edu/survey-center/biden-clinton-sanders-lead-trump-hypothetical-2016-matchups-92515>.
2. See <http://scholars.unh.edu/carsey/252/> and <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0138208>.