

## **Chapter 2**

**Racing to the Top, the Bottom,  
or the Middle of the Pack?**

## **Chapter 3**

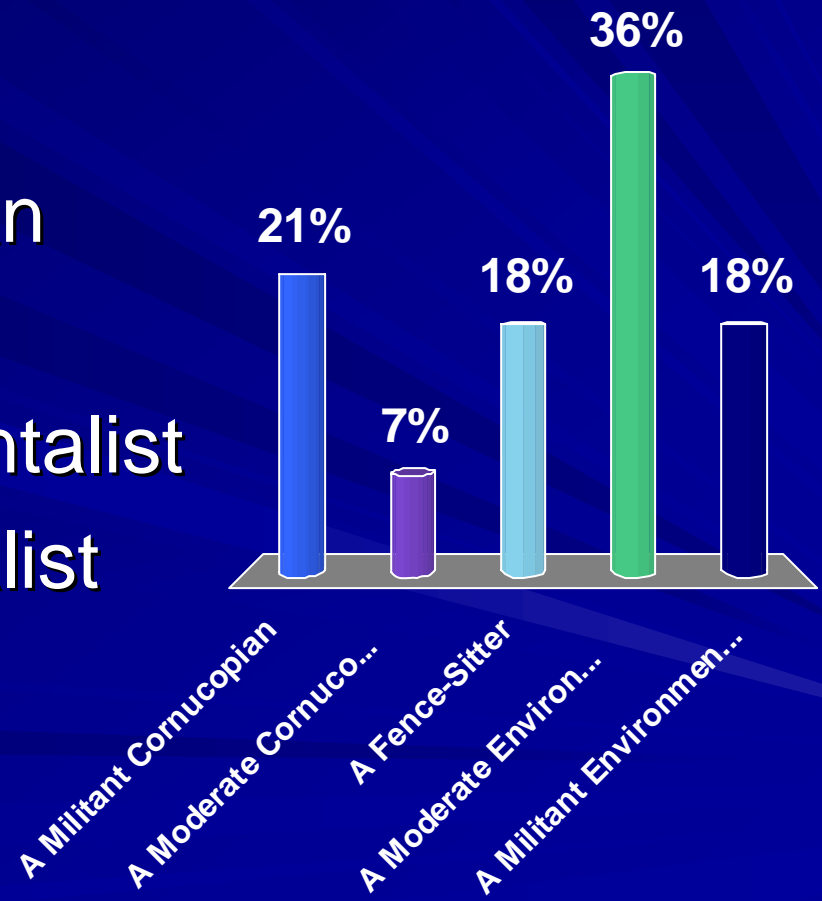
**Past the Tipping Point?**

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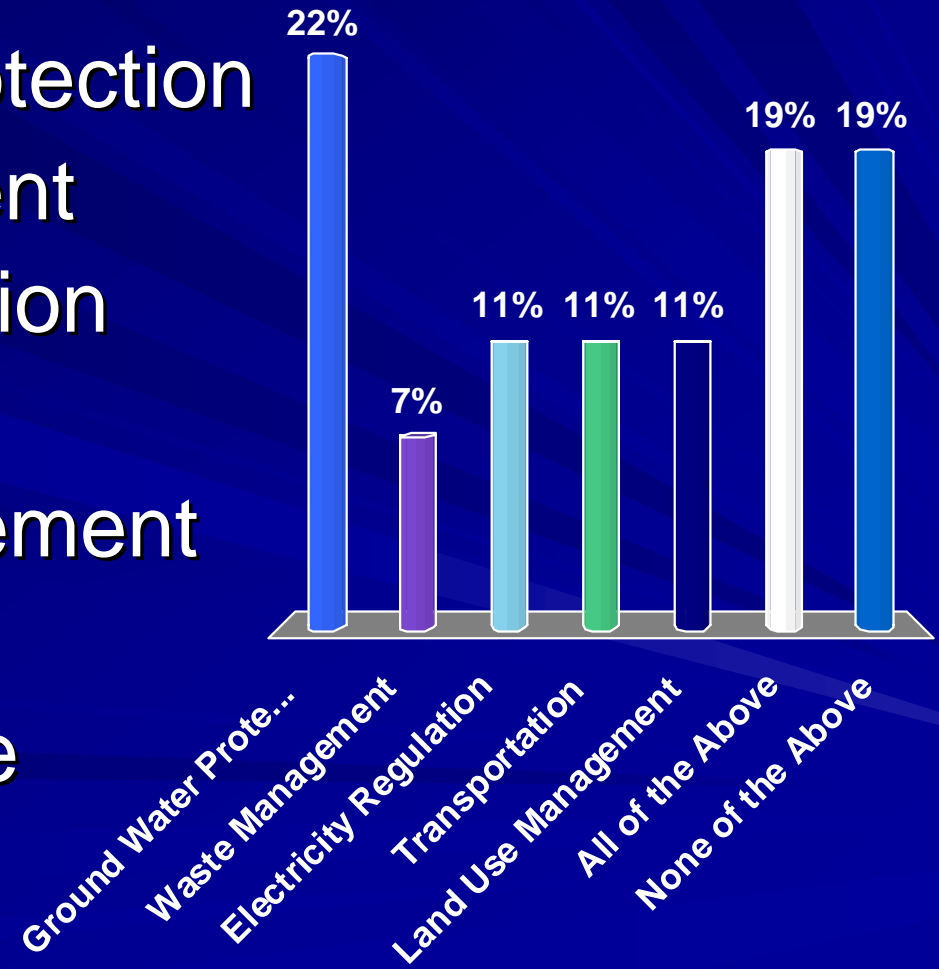
# How would you identify yourself?

1. A Militant Cornucopian
2. A Moderate Cornucopian
3. A Fence-Sitter
4. A Moderate Environmentalist
5. A Militant Environmentalist



In your opinion, which of the following environmental issues should NOT be regulated by individual states but rather by the federal government?

1. Ground Water Protection
2. Waste Management
3. Electricity Regulation
4. Transportation
5. Land Use Management
6. All of the Above
7. None of the Above



■ States are playing a more active role in environmental policy:

- Waste management, groundwater protection, land use management, transportation and electricity regulation.

■ Problem:

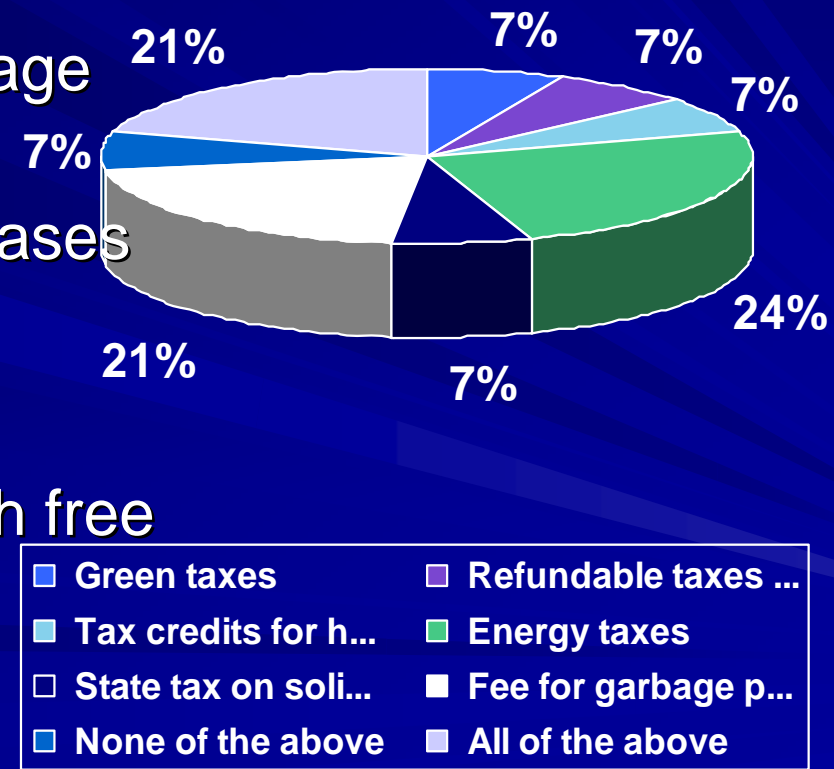
- What do we do when states don't respond to environmental policy needs equally?

■ Recommended Solutions:

- Implement legislation that will hold states accountable for performance.
- Focus federal energies on problems that are clearly national in scope (air, water pollution). Local issues can be handled at the state level (hazardous waste dumps)
- \*A partnership between state and federal government is critical

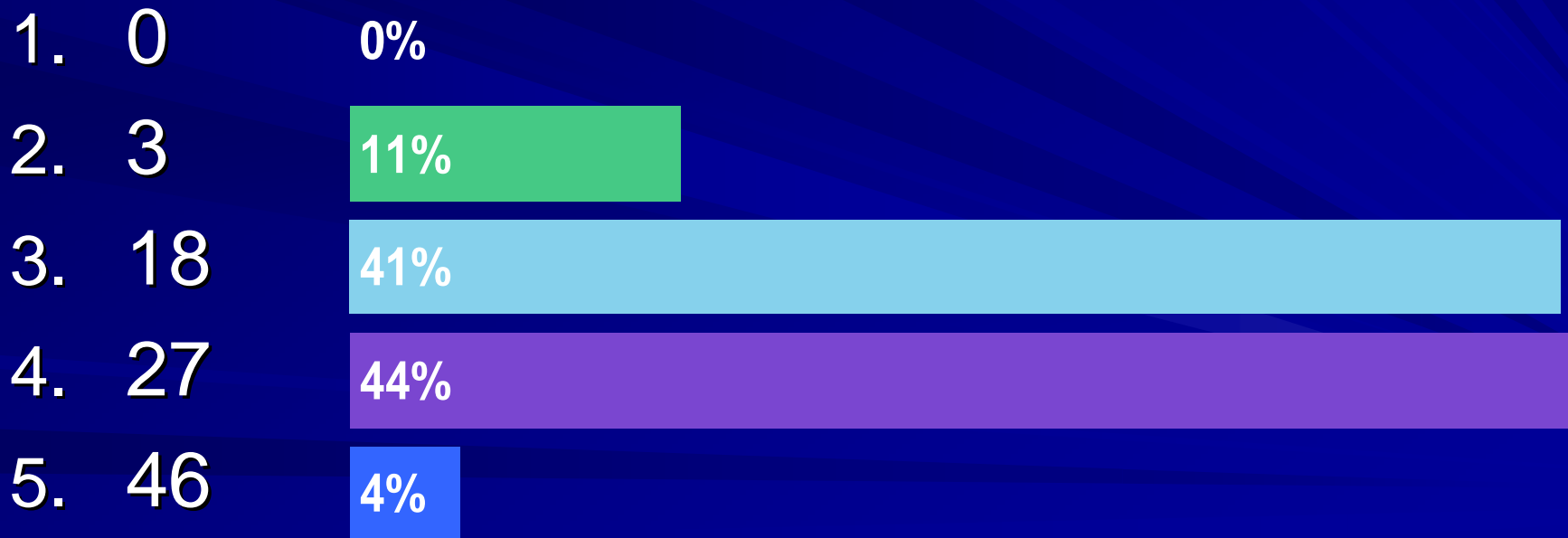
# In your opinion, which of the following taxes or incentives would most encourage consumers to change behavior?

1. Green taxes
2. Refundable taxes on beverage containers
3. Tax credits for hybrid purchases
4. Energy taxes
5. State tax on solid waste
6. Fee for garbage pick up with free collection of recyclables
7. None of the above
8. All of the above

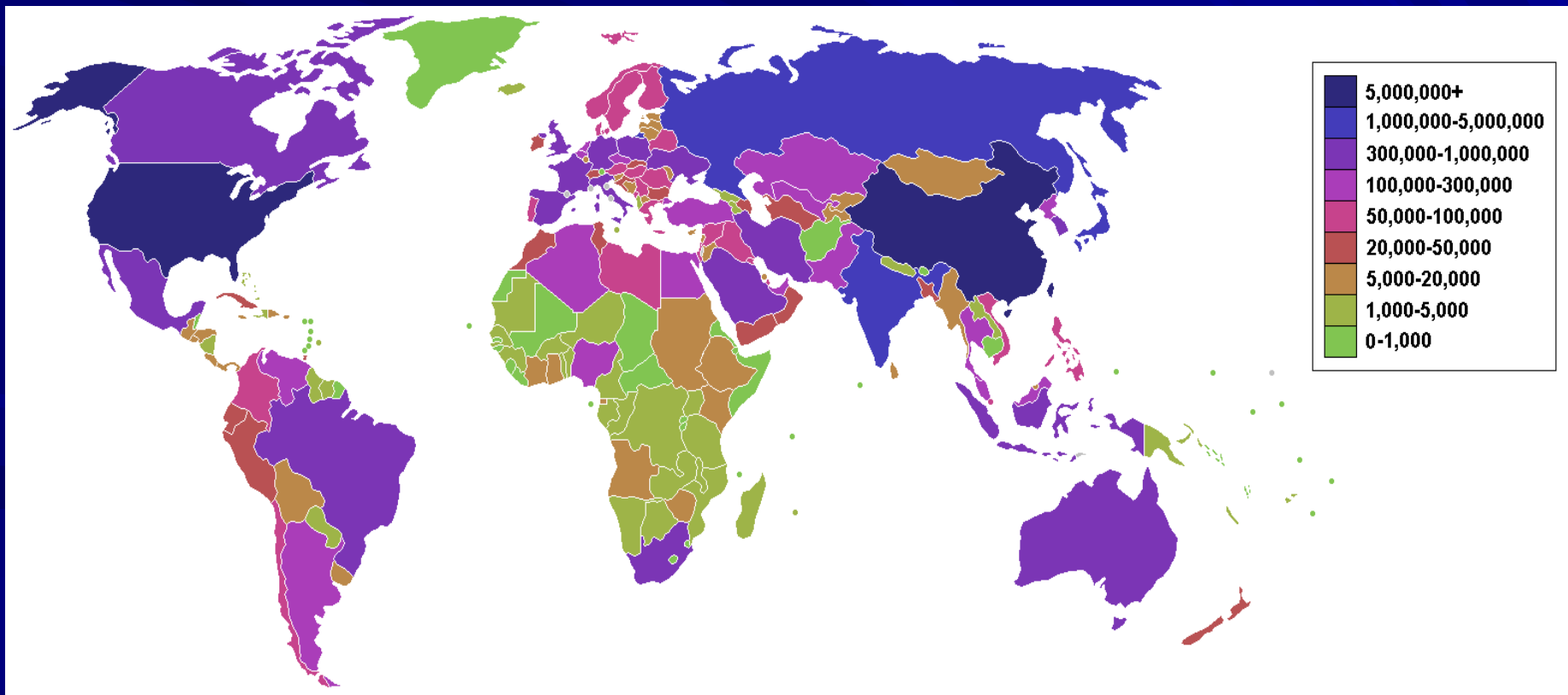


- The United States have enacted more than 400 measures that can be characterized as “green taxes” (Pg 33)
  - Fees are used to fund the management of environmental programs
- There is a fee included on new tire purchases that funds a recycling program for old tires.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program 2009
  - Conservation program for farmers and ranchers
  - Totaled \$944 million from 1995-2006
  - 63% of all farmers/ranchers in Ohio do not collect government subsidy

If all the states were to secede and become independent nations \_\_\_\_\_ of them would rank among the top 50 nations in terms of green house gas emissions.



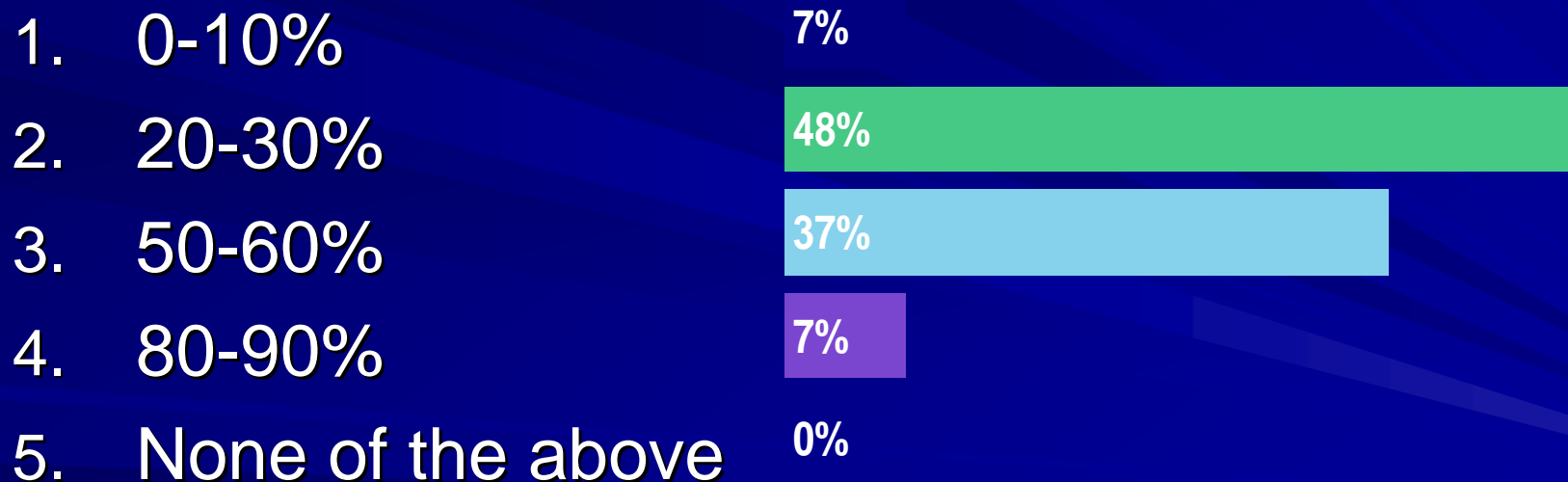
- Texas produces more than the United Kingdom, and Ohio's emissions are more than Turkey.
- US is second to China for the highest production of greenhouses gases in the world.



## The Good News

- Every state now has some policy for reducing greenhouse gases.
- 28 states (60 percent of the US population) now have “renewable portfolio standards”
- 23 States some cap-and-trade system

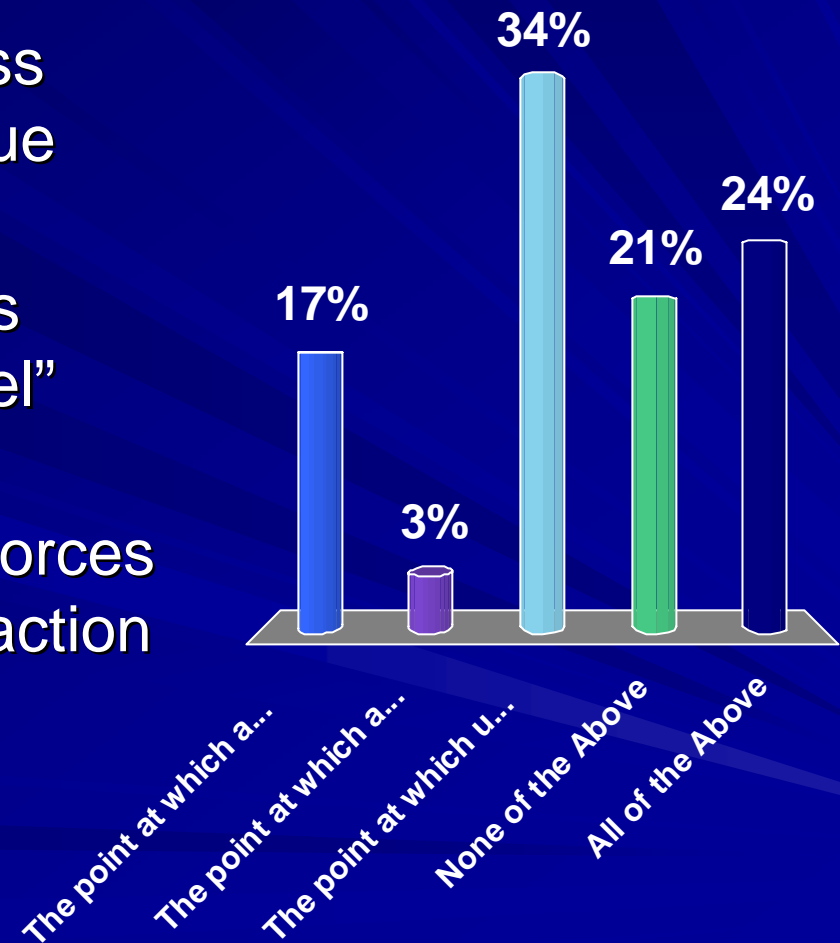
# What percent of dangerous toxins in Lake Superior stem from air deposition mostly originating from outside the Great Lakes basin?



- States have shown reluctance to invest in tackling problems that might literally migrate to another state in the absence of intervention.
- An environmental policy could be more beneficial to another state, which reduces a state's incentive to take meaningful action.
- In many instances, states maintain a “we make it, you take it” strategy.
- States often rely on dispersion enhancement.
- The problem is most evident in the disposal of solid, hazardous and nuclear wastes (such as high-level nuclear waste).
- Air quality policy has long fit this pattern.

# What is the definition of the term “tipping point”?

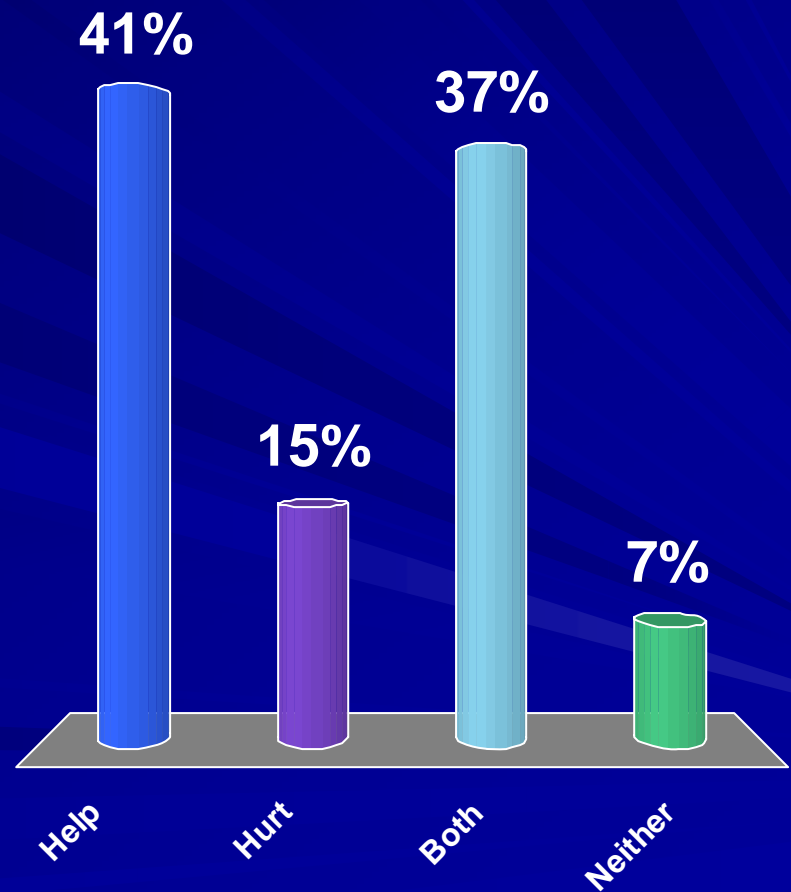
1. The point at which awareness and understanding of an issue reaches critical mass
2. The point at which an issue’s opponents “throw in the towel” and accept the inevitable
3. The point at which urgency forces lawmakers to take decisive action
4. None of the Above
5. All of the Above



- Scientists disagree on “tipping point” measure.
  - The destructions of the Amazon rainforests,
  - The collapse of monsoon season
  - The loss of sea ice in summer
  
- 2007 saw the fusion of science, politics and Hollywood – a year which experts are calling the tipping point for climate change
  - Shift from science to politics and an increased interest in climate change by major corporations has created an environment where being green is the most patriotic, capitalistic, geopolitical, healthy and competitive thing they could do.

# In your opinion, did Al Gore's movie An Inconvenient Truth, help or hurt the environmental movement?

1. Help
2. Hurt
3. Both
4. Neither

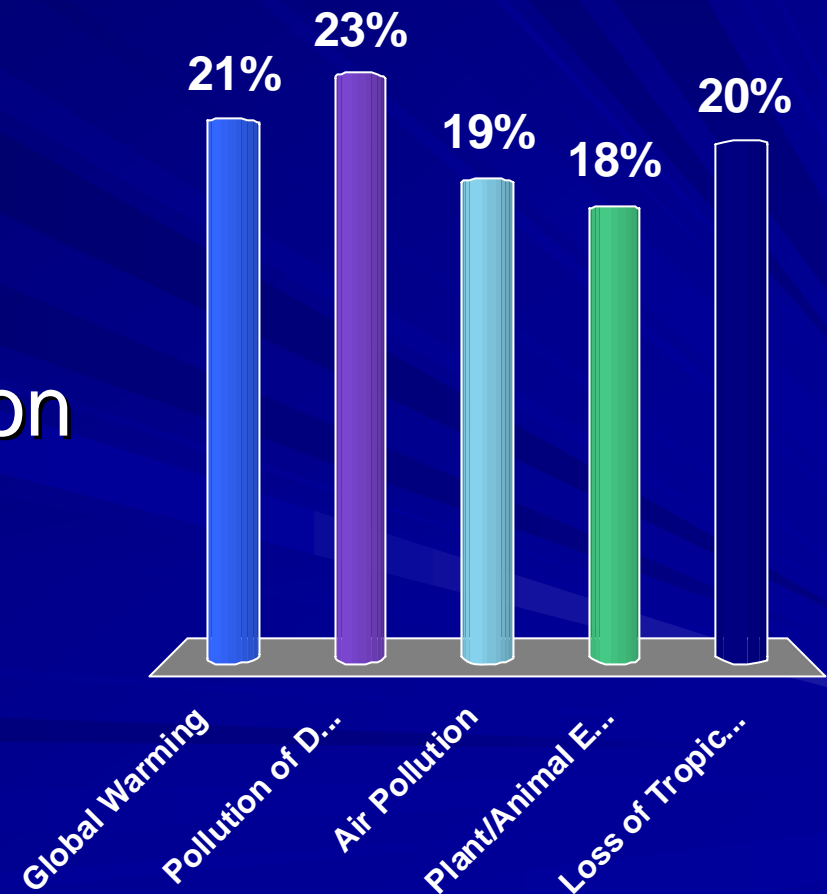


# “Gore puts “green before red, white and blue” – Nick Kyriotakis

- Are the policies one sided?
  - No mention of the health and economic benefits of climate warmth
  - Glaciers melting would increase available water
- Is it exaggerated?
- Was the movie motivating to the public?
- Knowing More, Caring Less
  - Priority to immediate problems, over long-term uncertainties

Please rank the following in order of importance:

- A. Global Warming
- B. Pollution of Drinking Water
- C. Air Pollution
- D. Plant/Animal Extinction
- E. Loss of Tropical Rainforests



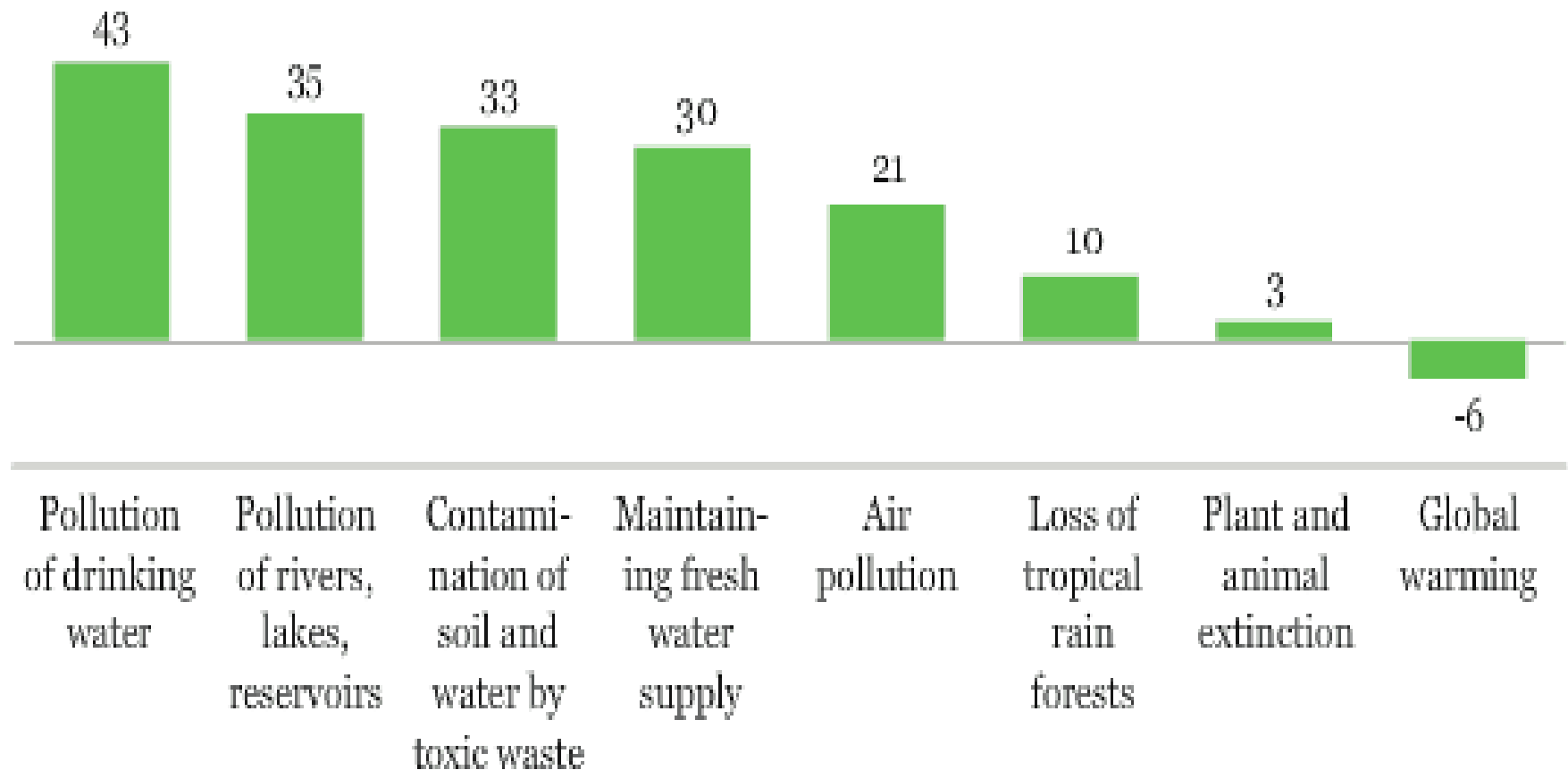
## Gallup Survey conducted March 2009

- Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,012 national adults, aged 18 and older
- Shows a trend that Americans are more focused on local issues, such as water supply.
- Issues that are “creeping” are less visible, and obscured by magnitude and “technical complexity”.

## *Net Worried About Environmental Issues*

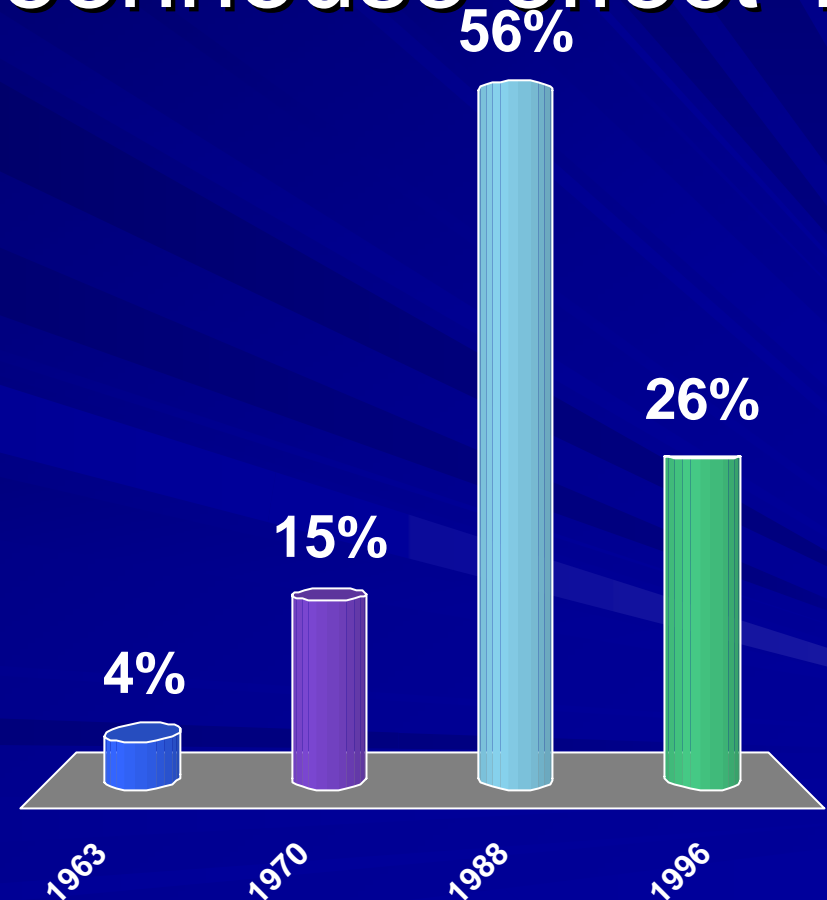
Percentage worried a great deal minus percentage worried only a little or not at all

In percentage points



# When did a majority of Americans first become aware of the terms “Global Warming” and “greenhouse effect”?

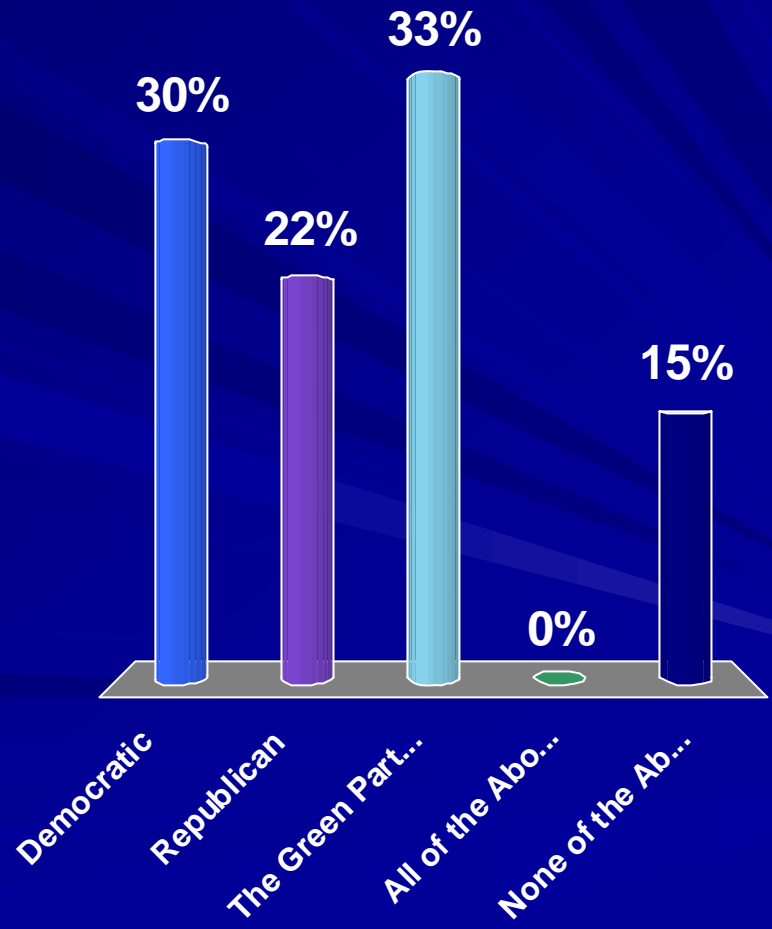
1. 1963
2. 1970
3. 1988
4. 1996



- A majority of Americans now believe that climate change is real, according to polls.
- 1992 Gallup Poll: how well do you understand global warming?
  - 22% said not at all.
  - By spring 2008 that number had fallen to 2%.
- Pew Poll: of 15 nations worldwide that were surveyed in 2006, the U.S.'s concern for global warming was lowest.
- Even though Americans express confidence in their knowledge about global warming, evidence suggests that misunderstandings abound.

# Prior to 1998 which political party was more widely associated with the environmental movement?

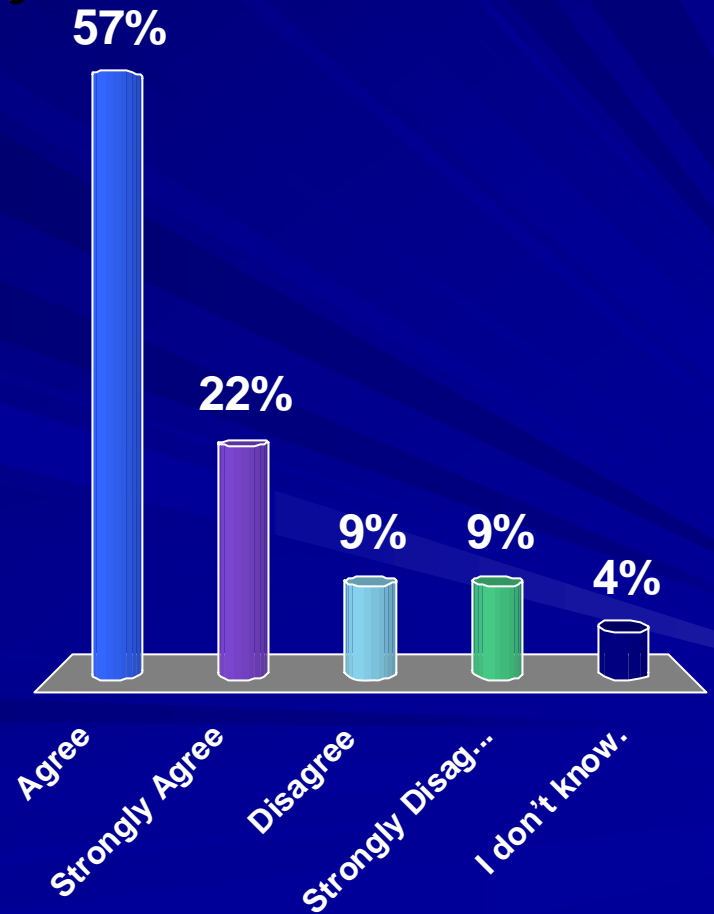
- A. Democratic
- B. Republican
- C. The Green Party
- D. All of the Above
- E. None of the Above



- 1998-2008 question: Has global warming already begun?
  - Democrats yes votes increased from 46-76%
  - Republicans yes votes decreased from 47-41%
- Between 1998-2008 the respondents who said they understood issues of global warming either “fairly well” or “very well” increased steadily with correlations to party affiliation
- Partisan divides make it difficult for environmental groups to connect to mass public because messages must be tailored to partisan beliefs

# Interest groups will play an increasingly important role in the development of environmental policy in the future.

1. Agree
2. Strongly Agree
3. Disagree
4. Strongly Disagree
5. I don't know.



- Mainstream environmental movement has failed to translate public environmental support into votes. The challenge is to make environmentalism politically sustainable.
- Interest groups can:
  - Educate, organize and mobilize like-minded citizens into action
  - Represent them in government.
- Challenges:
  - Environmentalists struggle to establish geographically situated coalitions like those of extractive industries (coal, oil, timber)—in those areas, environmentalists often labeled as anti-job, anti-money

- Major environmental groups often lack regional offices/influence.
- Such groups often lack audience outside of white upper middle class.
- **Goal:**
  - Interest groups should reframe the approach to environmental movement. Industrialists should ally with environmentalists, forming a blue-green alliance.
- **Successful Interest Groups/Coalitions:**
  - Evangelical Climate Initiative
  - Apollo Alliance
  - Blue Green Alliance
- Such groups aim to broaden support for global climate change—call for renewed mission, sounder economy.