



For Immediate Release
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**New Statewide Poll Shows Majority of South Carolina Primary Voters Believe
We Should Take Action Now To Address Global Warming**
Strong Agreement Between Republicans and Democrats on Solutions

Columbia, S.C. – On the eve of the first Presidential debate in South Carolina, a statewide poll of likely primary voters reveals that we should take action now to address global warming and that it is an important issue for the next president to address. There was also strong agreement between Republicans and Democrats about the solutions needed to address climate change.

The poll was conducted by Republican pollsters Ayres, McHenry & Associates and Democratic pollsters Hamilton Beattie & Staff on behalf of Conservation Voters of South Carolina Education Fund and the South Carolina Coastal Conservation League.

- Solid majorities of likely South Carolina voters from both parties (79 of Democrats and 56 percent of Republicans) believe that even if the serious consequences of global warming are decades away, we have a responsibility to our children and grandchildren to take action now. This demonstrates that even though South Carolina Republicans and Democrats disagree on the cause of global warming, they are united in agreeing that we should take action to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels
- 87 percent of likely Democratic primary voters and 80 percent of likely Republican primary voters believe that the state and federal government should take steps to reduce fossil fuels, such as oil and coal that are used by cars, factories, and power plants.
- A majority of South Carolina primary voters strongly favor an increase in mileage standards for new cars and SUVs over the next ten years to 40 miles per gallon instead of the current 24 miles per gallon.
- In addition, a majority support requiring major reductions in the amount of global warming pollution that power plants and industries are allowed to release in the air.

“This poll provides empirical evidence to back up what we’ve seen across the state: South Carolina voters care about the environment and want the next President of the United States to have a plan to address global warming,” Conservation Voters of South Carolina Education Fund Executive Director Ann Timberlake said. “We hope the 2008 presidential candidates are listening.”

(Continued)

“Although South Carolina primary voters have expressed concern about our current energy policy, they are very optimistic about the opportunities that exist for our state,” South Carolina Coastal Conservation League Program Director Megan Desrosiers said. “Voters believe that a transition to clean alternatives away from fossil fuels will boost our economy, increase our national security and help solve global warming.”

- The poll also asked primary voters who they would currently support for president and found:

| <u>Democrats</u> | | <u>Republicans</u> | |
|-------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| Hillary Clinton | 31 | John McCain | 24 |
| Barack Obama | 27 | Rudy Giuliani | 15 |
| John Edwards | 16 | Newt Gingrich | 12 |
| Bill Richardson | 2 | Fred Thompson | 11 |
| Joe Biden | 1 | Mitt Romney | 10 |
| Chris Dodd | * | Sam Brownback | 2 |
| Dennis Kucinich | * | Chuck Hagel | 1 |
| Mike Gravel | 0 | Duncan Hunter | 1 |
| Undecided | 22 | Jim Gilmore | 1 |
| | | Tom Tancredo | 1 |
| | | Tommy Thompson | * |
| | | Ron Paul | * |
| | | Undecided | 22 |

*Less than 1 percent.

The poll was conducted April 14-19 and sampled 800 likely South Carolina voters. The margin of error was +/- 4.9 percent.

Please click here to view the topline from the poll: <http://www.heatison.org/scpoll>.

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The Conservation Voters of South Carolina Education Fund (CVSCEF) is a charitable 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to maximize the participation of citizens in state and local public policy decisions regarding natural resources and the environment.

The Coastal Conservation League is a grassroots non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to protect the natural environment of the South Carolina coastal plain and to enhance the quality of life of our communities by working with individuals, businesses and government to ensure balanced solutions.