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# Implications of the 2016 US Election on Climate Change Policy

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29/09/2016

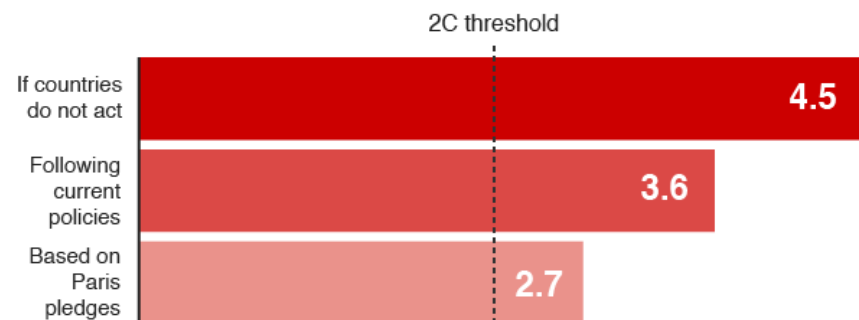
# International Cooperation on Climate Change

From Kyoto to Paris

- Paris 2015 Agreement was an historic step forward
- Much more effort is needed to avoid catastrophic climate change
- American leadership is vital
- Domestic politics continues to obstruct serious efforts moving forward



Average warming (C) projected by 2100

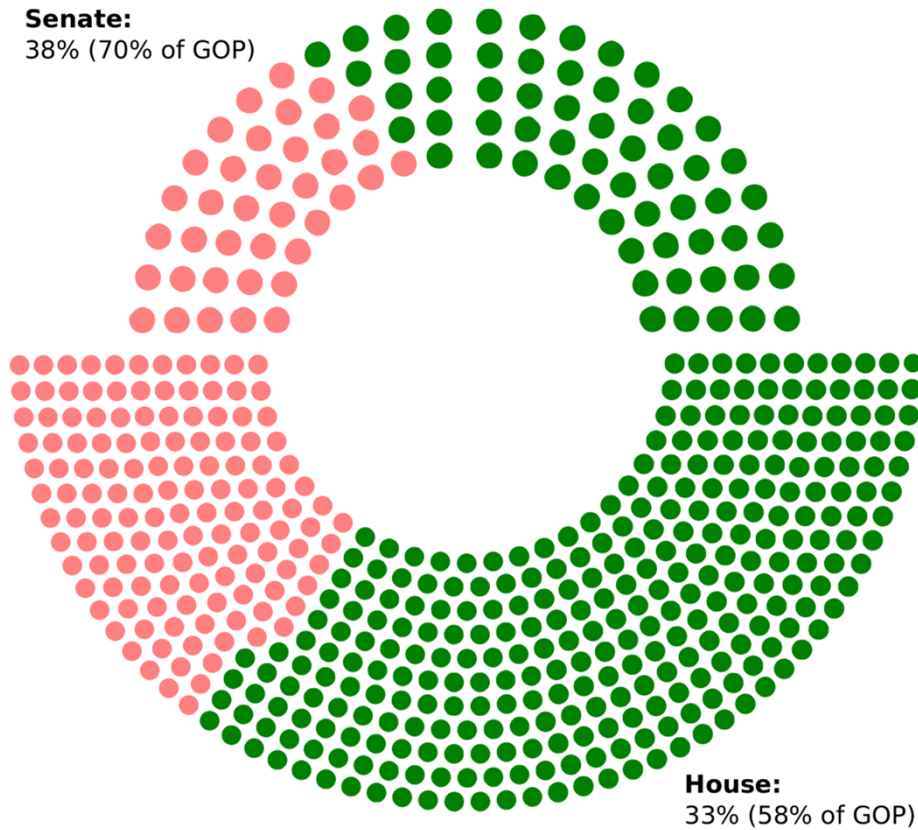


Source: Climate Action Tracker, data compiled by Climate Analytics, ECOFYS, New Climate Institute and Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research.

# The Politicization of Climate Change in America

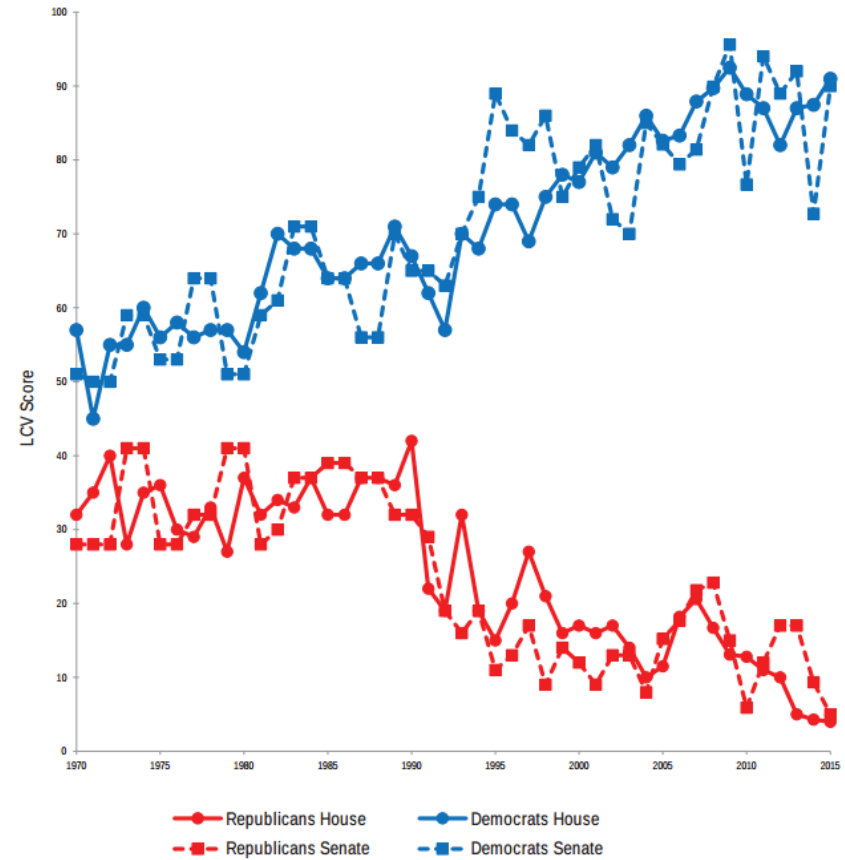
## Political Parties Divided over the Environment

Proportion of Climate Skeptics in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress



Source: CAP Action

Environmental Voting by Party (1970-2015)

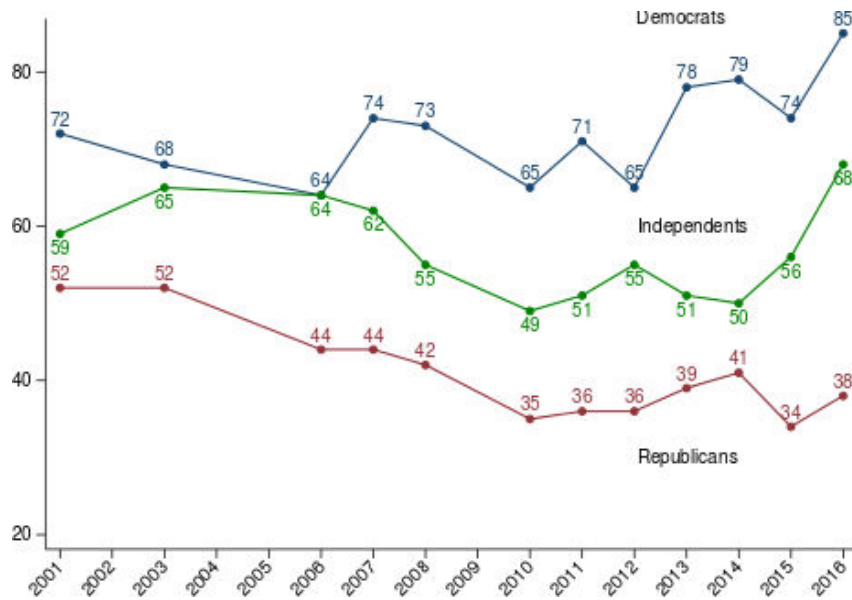


League of Conservation Voters' environmental voting scores.  
Source: Dunlap, McCright and Yarosh (2016); LCV

# American Public Opinion on Climate Change

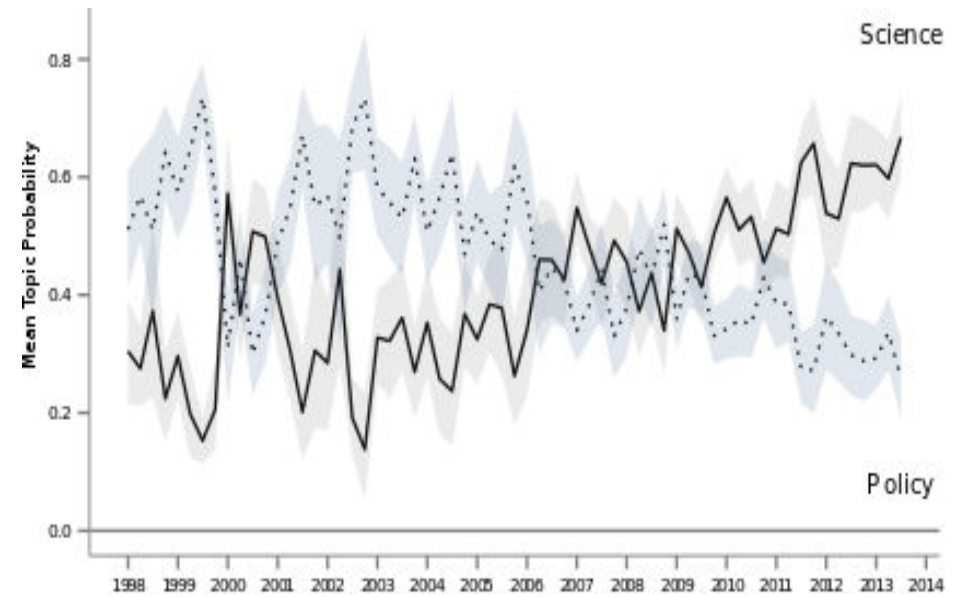
A Widening Partisan Chasm – Not by Chance

### “Earth's Temperature Increase in Last Century Mainly Due to Human Activities”



Source: Gallup Environmental Poll

### Heartland Institute's Discussion of Climate Change (1998-2013)

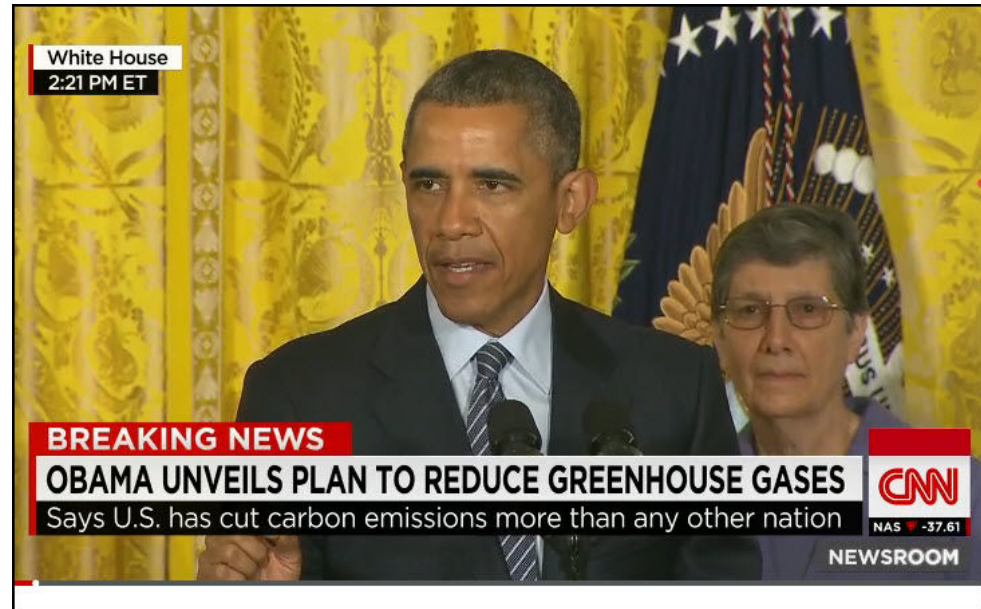


Source: Boussalis and Coan (2016)

# Policy Responses in the Face of Adversity

Overcoming the GOP “Wall”

- Executive Branch has been forced to circumvent Congress
- Clean Power Plan
- State and local government policy responses
- Not a sustainable approach:
  - CPP is being challenged in the courts
  - Adaptation is extremely expensive
- For a comprehensive solution, Congressional action is necessary



# Two Policy Futures

## Implications of the Upcoming Election

 **Hillary Clinton** ✓  
@HillaryClinton


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"I believe that climate change is real and that we can save our planet while creating millions of good-paying clean energy jobs." —Hillary

RETWEETS	LIKES
3,248	9,176

12:04 AM - 29 Jul 2016

- Promised to uphold Paris Agreement
- Defend & likely expand Clean Power Plan
- Apply further Executive powers
- Effectiveness will depend on the courts and Congress

 **Donald J. Trump** ✓  
@realDonaldTrump

⚙️ [Following](#)

The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive.

RETWEETS	LIKES
24,831	14,654

2:15 PM - 6 Nov 2012

- Vocal climate change denier
- Vows to repudiate the Paris Agreement
- Promised to dismantle the EPA
- Clean Power Plan will be withdrawn
- Appointment of climate deniers to key positions
- Supports renewed efforts for Keystone XL pipeline

## Concluding Remarks

- American leadership in global effort to reduce GHG emissions is essential
- The politicization of climate change has hampered serious efforts to combat the problem
- Congress cannot stand on the sidelines; it must act
- Upcoming elections are critical: President *and* Congress are key actors
- Bittersweet conclusion: Observed climate change is revealing the limits of partisanship



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**Thank You**

