

Online Chapter 7, Appendix A: Republican Party Stances on the Issue of Climate Change

2008	2012	2016
<p><i>Approach: Recognize that human activity contributes to climate change and that the nation should address issue through market-based solutions.</i></p> <p>“The same human economic activity that has brought freedom and opportunity to billions has also increased the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. While the scope and long-term consequences of this are the subject of ongoing scientific research, common sense dictates that the United States should take measured and reasonable steps today...”</p> <p>“As part of a global climate change strategy, Republicans support technology-driven, market-based solutions that will decrease emissions, reduce excess greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere, increase energy efficiency, mitigate the impact of climate change where it occurs, and maximize any ancillary benefits climate change might offer for the economy.”</p> <p>“Republicans caution against the doomsday climate change scenarios...We can — and should — address the risk of climate change based on sound science...”</p>	<p><i>Approach: Criticize Obama administration’s priority of climate change over national security interests and imply faulty science of climate change.</i></p> <p>“The current Administration's most recent National Security Strategy reflects the extreme elements in its liberal domestic coalition...the strategy subordinates our national security interests to environmental, energy, and international health issues, and elevates ‘climate change’ to the level of a ‘severe threat’ equivalent to foreign aggression.”</p> <p>“Science allows us to weigh the costs and benefits of a policy so that we can prudently deal with our resources. This is especially important when the causes and long-range effects of a phenomenon are uncertain. We must restore scientific integrity to our public research institutions and remove political incentives from publicly funded research.”</p>	<p><i>Approach: Criticize Obama administration’s priority of climate change, reject international climate agreements, and create space of acceptance for climate deniers.</i></p> <p>“Climate change is far from this nation's most pressing national security issue. This is the triumph of extremism over common sense, and Congress must stop it. We support the development of all forms of energy that are marketable in a free economy without subsidies, including coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear power, and hydropower.”</p> <p>“The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a political mechanism, not an unbiased scientific institution. Its unreliability is reflected in its intolerance toward scientists and others who dissent from its orthodoxy.... We reject the agendas of both the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement... no such agreement can be binding upon the United States until it is submitted to and ratified by the Senate. We demand an immediate halt to U.S. funding for the U.N.'s Framework Convention on Climate Change...”</p>

Note: Quotes taken from Republican Party platforms available from The American Presidency Project.