University of New Hampshire
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Trump and Sanders Supporters Differ Sharply on Key Scientific Fact

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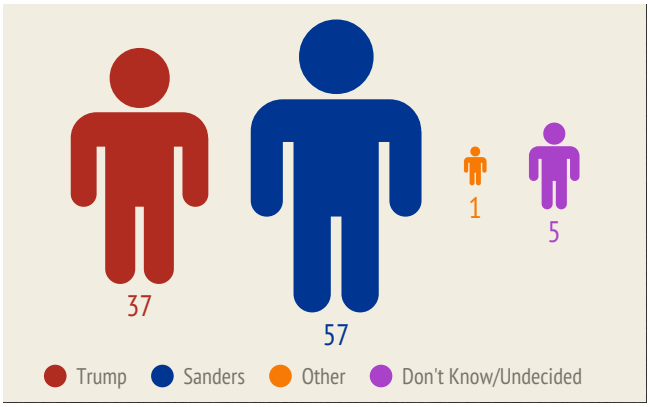
During the week of September 17–23, a WMUR/CNN poll by the UNH Survey Center[1] asked more than 700 New Hampshire residents who they would vote for, given hypothetical pairs of candidates. For example,

> *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?



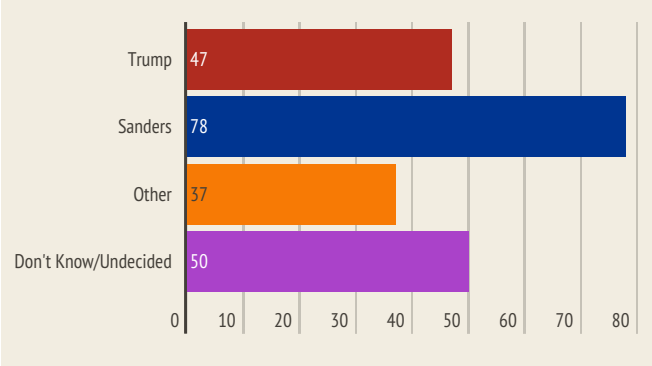
Analysis: Lawrence Hamilton, Carsey School of Public Policy, UNH 9-29-2015

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 CO_2 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 CO_2 levels are rising, there were surprisingly wide differences in beliefs between candidates' supporters.[2]

FIGURE 2. PERCENT NH CANDIDATE SUPPORTERS BELIEVE ATMOSPHERE CO_2 INCREASED IN RECENT DECADES



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About the Author

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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.