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2009 Survey of Elected Officials prepared for The Heartland Institute

In January 2009, Victory Enterprises, Inc. surveyed by telephone 500 randomly selected state legislators and municipal officials, representing all 50 states. Results of the survey are summarized in the tables below.

State Legislators

Interviews were conducted with 300 randomly selected state legislators (no staff), approximately four from each state, 51 percent of them Republicans and 45 percent Democrats. The following table summarizes the results. **Last year's results, where available, are in parentheses.**

Questions	Republican	Democrat	All Legislators
Read one or more Heartland newspapers "sometimes" or "always"	92% (89)	76% (80)	85% (85)
Consider one or more publications a useful source of information	85% (82)	66% (53)	77% (76)
One or more Heartland newspaper influenced opinion or led to a change in public policy	54% (47)	40% (35)	47% (42)
Recognize Heartland	79% (72)	77% (69)	79% (71)
Recall using a Heartland publication	47% (46)	28% (17)	38% (33)
Consider Heartland to be a "very" or "somewhat" valuable source of information	61% (55)	40% (26)	51% (41)
Read <i>Budget & Tax News</i> "always" or "sometimes"	64% (59)	51% (47)	58% (53)
Consider <i>Budget & Tax News</i> a useful source of information	60% (51)	42% (40)	52% (46)
<i>Budget & Tax News</i> influenced opinion or led to a change in public policy	34% (28)	23% (16)	29% (23)
Read <i>Environment & Climate News</i> "always" or "sometimes"	61% (63)	51% (52)	57% (58)

Questions	Republican	Democrat	All Legislators
Consider <i>Environment & Climate News</i> a useful source of information	53% (53)	43% (36)	49% (46)
<i>Environment & Climate News</i> influenced opinion or led to a change in public policy	32% (24)	24% (11)	28% (19)
Read <i>Health Care News</i> “always” or “sometimes”	68% (56)	57% (50)	63% (54)
Consider <i>Health Care News</i> a useful source of information	55% (48)	46% (40)	52% (43)
<i>Health Care News</i> influenced opinion or led to a change in public policy	29% (24)	18% (17)	24% (21)
Read <i>School Reform News</i> “always” or “sometimes”	69% (69)	52% (46)	60% (58)
Consider <i>School Reform News</i> a useful source of information	56% (56)	36% (32)	46% (45)
<i>School Reform News</i> influenced opinion or led to a change in public policy	36% (27)	21% (13)	29% (21)
Read <i>InfoTech & Telecom News</i> “always” or “sometimes”	23% (28)	20% (15)	22% (22)
Consider <i>InfoTech & Telecom News</i> a useful source of information	18% (22)	18% (11)	18% (18)
<i>InfoTech & Telecom News</i> influenced opinion or led to a change in public policy	8% (10)	8% (7)	8% (9)
Recall receiving <i>Scientific Consensus on Global Warming</i>	54% (46)	45% (45)	50% (45)
Read a lot or a little of <i>Scientific Consensus on Global Warming</i>	42% (30)	32% (27)	37% (29)
Found <i>Scientific Consensus on Global Warming</i> very or somewhat useful	36% (26)	20% (21)	29% (26)

Municipal Officials

Interviews were conducted with 200 randomly selected municipal officials, including city council members, mayors, and county commissioners from major cities around the country. Many of these officials are elected in nonpartisan races, so party affiliation is not available.

Questions	Municipal Officials
Read one or more Heartland newspapers “sometimes” or “always”	65% (63)
Consider one or more publications a useful source of information	55% (53)
One or more Heartland newspaper influenced my opinion or led to a change in public policy	31% (38)
Recognize Heartland	35% (29)
Recall using a Heartland publication	10% (8)
Consider Heartland to be a “very” or “somewhat” valuable source of information	17% (13)
Read <i>Budget & Tax News</i> “always” or “sometimes”	45% (30)
Consider <i>Budget & Tax News</i> a useful source of information	37% (25)
<i>Budget & Tax News</i> influenced opinion or led to a change in public policy	21% (14)
Read <i>Environment & Climate News</i> “always” or “sometimes”	38% (34)
Consider <i>Environment & Climate News</i> a useful source of information	27% (26)
<i>Environment & Climate News</i> influenced opinion or led to a change in public policy	18% (16)
Read <i>Health Care News</i> “always” or “sometimes”	46% (37)
Consider <i>Health Care News</i> a useful source of information	35% (30)
<i>Health Care News</i> influenced opinion or led to a change in public policy	16% (12)
Read <i>School Reform News</i> “always” or “sometimes”	32% (27)
Consider <i>School Reform News</i> a useful source of information	23% (20)
<i>School Reform News</i> influenced opinion or led to a change in public policy	12% (11)
Recall receiving <i>Scientific Consensus on Global Warming</i>	33% (23)

Questions	Municipal Officials
Read a lot or a little of <i>Scientific Consensus on Global Warming</i>	16% (14)
Found <i>Scientific Consensus on Global Warming</i> very or somewhat useful	12% (12)

Think Tank Comparisons

All 500 randomly selected state and local elected officials were asked three questions about Heartland and other think tanks and national membership organizations for elected officials. State legislators were asked about three other conservative or libertarian think tanks, two liberal think tanks, and one membership organization. Local elected officials were asked about three national and one state-based conservative or libertarian think tanks, one liberal think tank, and one membership organization.

Q.: Are you familiar or unfamiliar with _____?

Organization	Yes - State Legislators	Yes - Municipal Officials
Heritage Foundation	84% (81)	54% (52)
The Heartland Institute	79% (71)	35% (33)
Cato Institute	62% (71)	35% (33)
Public Interest Research Group*	31% (38)	—
Center on Budget & Policy Priorities	30% (24)	—
Reason Foundation	13% (17)	10% (7)
Urban Institute	—	32% (36)
Manhattan Institute	—	17% (22)
League of Cities	—	73% (67)

Q: Have you ever actually used any of their information to form an opinion, or to change the opinion of a colleague or constituent?

Organization	Yes - State Legislators	Yes -Municipal Officials
Heartland Institute	38% (33)	11% (8)
Heritage Foundation	35% (34)	10% (9)
Cato Institute	24% (22)	7% (7)
Public Interest Research Group*	13% (15)	—
Center on Budget & Policy Priorities	10% (6)	—
Reason Foundation	6% (6)	3% (2)
League of Cities	—	37% (39)
Urban Institute	—	6% (5)
Manhattan Institute	—	3% (1)

Q: How valuable would you say, is _____ to you?

Organization	Valuable - State Legislators	Valuable - Municipal Officials
Heritage Foundation	52% (48)	21% (18)
Heartland Institute	51% (41)	17% (12)
Cato Institute	36% (34)	14% (13)
Public Interest Research Group	19% (25)	—
Center on Budget & Policy Priorities	23% (16)	—

Reason Foundation	7% (6)	4% (3)
League of Cities	—	54% (52)
Urban Institute	—	15% (15)
Manhattan Institute	—	7% (7)

About Victory Enterprises, Inc.

Victory Enterprises, Inc. is a technology communications company that provides both Internet services and political communication services. Steve and Kelli Grubbs founded Victory Enterprises, Inc. in 1993 as a communications company. In 1996 they began building web sites and in 1997 it was incorporated..

Steve Grubbs serves as President and CEO of Victory Enterprises, Inc. He is a former Iowa state representative and Chairman of the Republican Party of Iowa. He graduated from the University of Iowa Business school as well as its law school. **Kelli Grubbs** serves as Chief Financial Officer for Victory Enterprises, Inc. Her undergraduate degree is in journalism from the University of Iowa. In addition, she graduated with distinction from the University of Iowa Law School and was formerly a law partner with Stanley, Lande and Hunter in Davenport, Iowa.

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