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Evergreen

Federal Investments in Clean Energy, Infrastructure, and Innovation Enjoy Bipartisan Support

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Executive Summary

- A majority of likely voters support all ten of the Clean Jumpstart proposals that Data for Progress tested

- Support is strongly bipartisan: a majority of Democrats and Independents support all ten proposals, and nearly all proposals enjoy net support among Republicans

- The most popular proposals across party lines are investments to upgrade aging water infrastructure, funding to help small farmers expand sustainable farming practices, the creation of a new Climate Conservation Corps, and a GI Bill for fossil fuel workers

Introduction

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris campaigned on a *Build Back Better* plan to make a historic $2 trillion investment in putting Americans back to work transforming the nation's infrastructure and energy grid. Last May, Data for Progress and Evergreen Collaborative released <u>A Plan for a Clean Jumpstart to Rebuild America's Economy</u>, a memo outlining policy guidance for major clean energy and infrastructure investments to include in pandemic stimulus legislation. Data for Progress polling released in conjunction with the Clean Jumpstart plan found that a green stimulus agenda was popular among voters.

Now that Congress and the White House have passed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, their legislative focus is shifting to new infrastructure legislation. In our new report <u>Clean Jumpstart 2021</u>, Evergreen and Data for Progress build upon the 2020 *Clean Jumpstart* plan to outline $2.3 trillion investments that will deliver on President Biden's vision of addressing climate change, expanding American innovation, creating new good-paying jobs, and addressing environmental justices.

As part of a March 2021 national survey, Data for Progress assessed the attitudes of likely voters toward ten key proposals included in *Clean Jumpstart 2021* that are top priorities for inclusion in new infrastructure legislation.
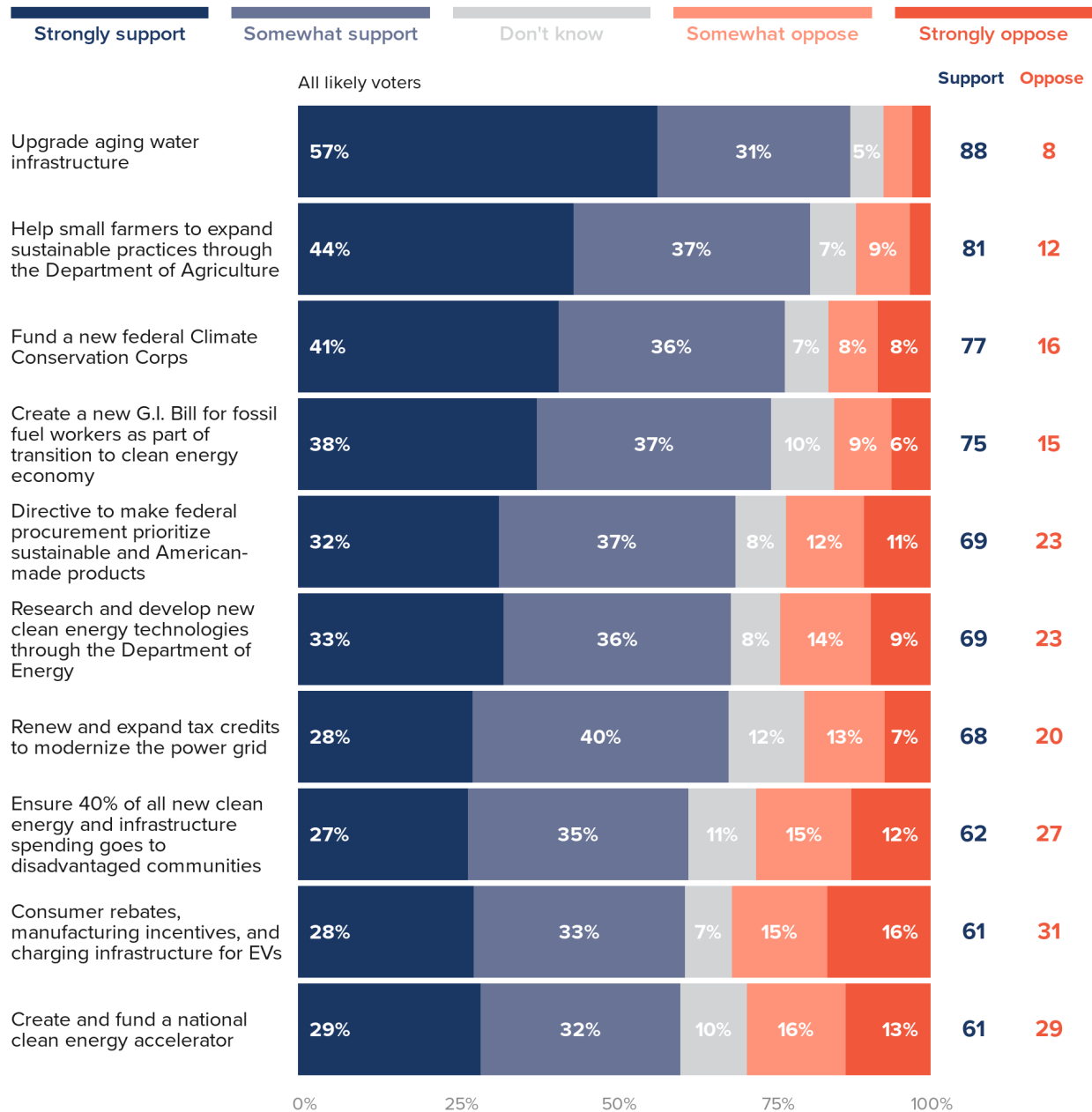
Voters Support Federal Investments in Clean Energy, Infrastructure, and Innovation

Data for Progress finds that likely voters across party lines overwhelmingly support key proposals of the Clean Jumpstart for 2021 plan. **A majority of likely voters support all ten of the Clean Jumpstart proposals that Data for Progress tested.** The most popular proposals that Data for Progress tested are investments to upgrade aging water infrastructure (88 percent support), funding for the Department of Agriculture to help small farmers adopt and expand sustainable farming practices (81 percent support), funding for a new federal Climate Conservation Corps (77 percent), and a new GI bill for fossil fuel workers as part of the nation's transition to clean energy (75 percent support).

Other proposals that enjoy over two-thirds support from all likely voters are a directive for federal government contracts to prioritize purchasing sustainable and American-made products (69 percent support), funding for the Department of Energy to research and develop new clean energy technologies (69 percent support), and the renewal and expansion of federal tax credits to modernize the power grid (68 percent support). A majority of voters also support a federal standard to ensure 40 percent of all new clean energy and infrastructure spending goes to disadvantaged communities (62 percent support), investments to incentivize EV production and build EV charging infrastructure (61 percent support), and funding to create a new federal clean energy accelerator that would provide financial support to lower the costs for states to make investments in new clean energy projects (61 percent support).

Voters Across Party Lines Support Federal Investments in Clean Energy, Infrastructure, and Innovation

Would you support or oppose the following proposals:

Strongly support   **Somewhat support**   Don't know   **Somewhat oppose**   **Strongly oppose**

All likely voters

	Support	Oppose
Upgrade aging water infrastructure	88	8
Help small farmers to expand sustainable practices through the Department of Agriculture	81	12
Fund a new federal Climate Conservation Corps	77	16
Create a new G.I. Bill for fossil fuel workers as part of transition to clean energy economy	75	15
Directive to make federal procurement prioritize sustainable and American-made products	69	23
Research and develop new clean energy technologies through the Department of Energy	69	23
Renew and expand tax credits to modernize the power grid	68	20
Ensure 40% of all new clean energy and infrastructure spending goes to disadvantaged communities	62	27
Consumer rebates, manufacturing incentives, and charging infrastructure for EVs	61	31
Create and fund a national clean energy accelerator	61	29

Bar chart values (Strongly support / Somewhat support / Don't know / Somewhat oppose / Strongly oppose):

- Upgrade aging water infrastructure: 57% / 31% / 5%
- Help small farmers to expand sustainable practices through the Department of Agriculture: 44% / 37% / 7% / 9%
- Fund a new federal Climate Conservation Corps: 41% / 36% / 7% / 8% / 8%
- Create a new G.I. Bill for fossil fuel workers as part of transition to clean energy economy: 38% / 37% / 10% / 9% / 6%
- Directive to make federal procurement prioritize sustainable and American-made products: 32% / 37% / 8% / 12% / 11%
- Research and develop new clean energy technologies through the Department of Energy: 33% / 36% / 8% / 14% / 9%
- Renew and expand tax credits to modernize the power grid: 28% / 40% / 12% / 13% / 7%
- Ensure 40% of all new clean energy and infrastructure spending goes to disadvantaged communities: 27% / 35% / 11% / 15% / 12%
- Consumer rebates, manufacturing incentives, and charging infrastructure for EVs: 28% / 33% / 7% / 15% / 16%
- Create and fund a national clean energy accelerator: 29% / 32% / 10% / 16% / 13%
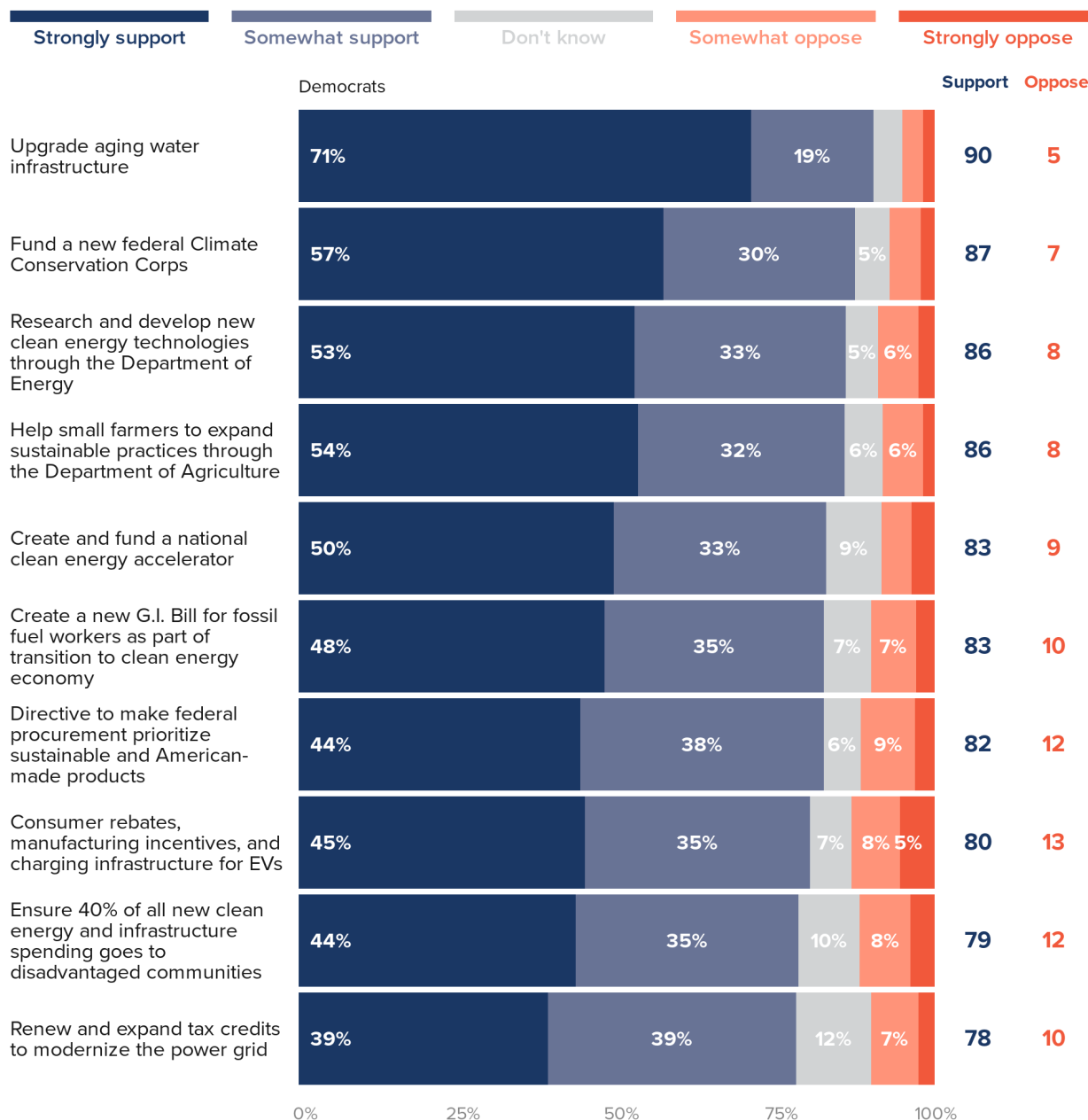
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All ten of the Clean Jumpstart proposals that Data for Progress tested enjoy support from over three-quarters of Democrats. Nearly all Democrats support investments to upgrade aging water infrastructure (90 percent support), funding for a new federal Climate Conservation Corps (86 percent support), funding for the Department of Energy to research and develop new clean energy technologies (86 percent support), and funding for the Department of Agriculture to help small farmers adopt and expand sustainable farming practices (87 percent support).

Democrats also nearly unanimously support the creation of a national clean energy accelerator (83 percent support), a GI bill for fossil fuel workers to ensure they are not left behind in the transition to clean energy (83 percent support), a directive for federal government contracts to prioritize purchasing sustainable and American-made products (82 percent support), and investments to incentivize EV production and build EV charging infrastructure (80 percent support). Also enjoying high levels of support from Democrats are proposals for a federal standard to ensure 40 percent of all new clean energy and infrastructure spending goes to disadvantaged communities (79 percent support) and the renewal and expansion of federal tax credits to modernize the power grid (78 percent support).

Democrats Overwhelmingly Support Federal Investments in Clean Energy, Infrastructure, and Innovation

Would you support or oppose the following proposals:

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose

Democrats

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
Upgrade aging water infrastructure	71%	19%				90	5
Fund a new federal Climate Conservation Corps	57%	30%	5%			87	7
Research and develop new clean energy technologies through the Department of Energy	53%	33%	5%	6%		86	8
Help small farmers to expand sustainable practices through the Department of Agriculture	54%	32%	6%	6%		86	8
Create and fund a national clean energy accelerator	50%	33%	9%			83	9
Create a new G.I. Bill for fossil fuel workers as part of transition to clean energy economy	48%	35%	7%	7%		83	10
Directive to make federal procurement prioritize sustainable and American-made products	44%	38%	6%	9%		82	12
Consumer rebates, manufacturing incentives, and charging infrastructure for EVs	45%	35%	7%	8%	5%	80	13
Ensure 40% of all new clean energy and infrastructure spending goes to disadvantaged communities	44%	35%	10%	8%		79	12
Renew and expand tax credits to modernize the power grid	39%	39%	12%	7%		78	10

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%
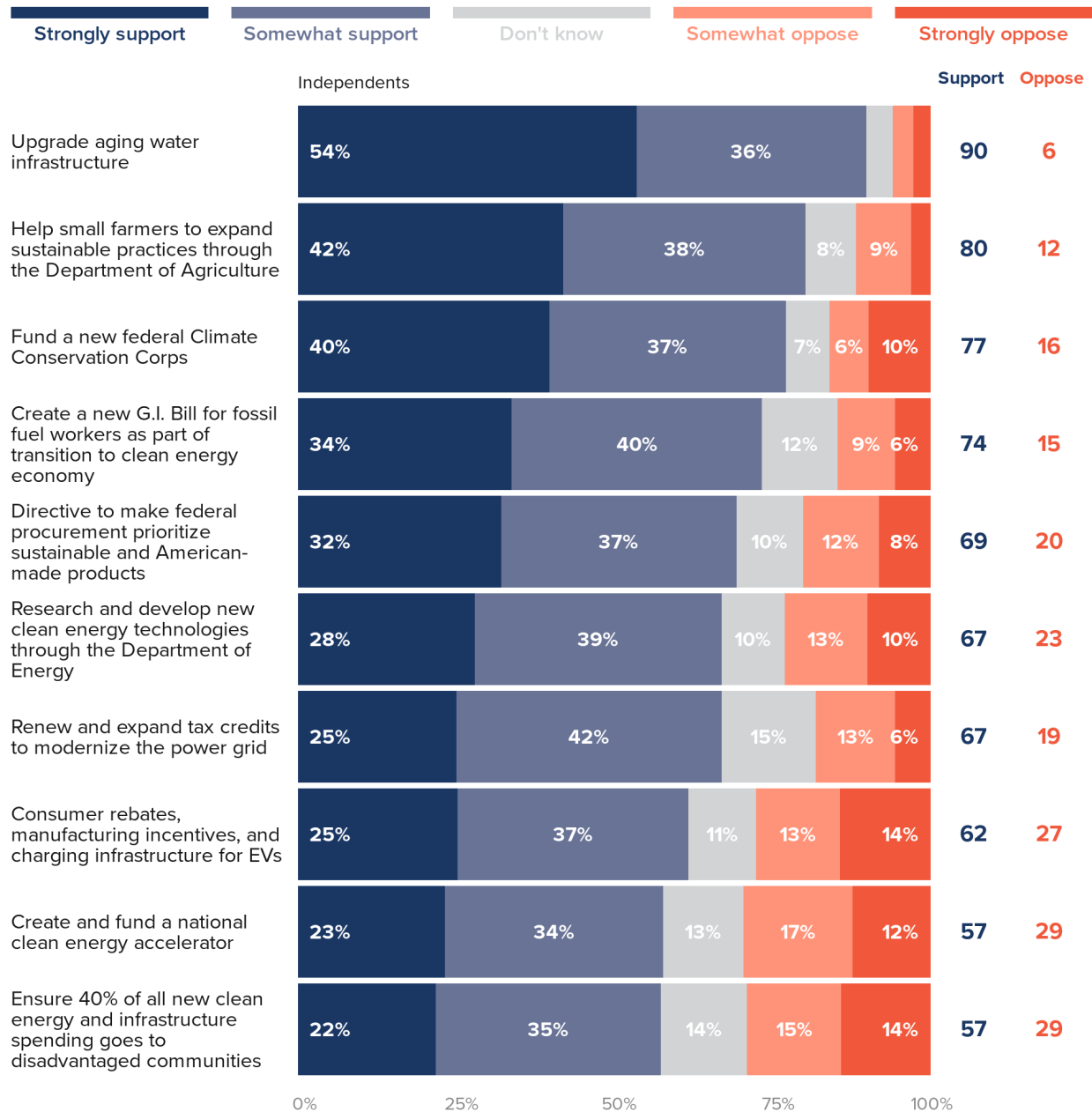
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Like Democrats, **a majority of Independents support all ten of the Clean Jumpstart proposals that Data for Progress tested**. The most popular proposals among Independents are investments to upgrade aging water infrastructure (90 percent support), funding for the Department of Agriculture to help small farmers adopt and expand sustainable farming practices (80 percent support), funding for a new federal Climate Conservation Corps (77 percent support), and a GI Bill for fossil fuel workers to ensure they are not left behind in the transition to clean energy (74 percent support).

Other proposals that enjoy over two-thirds support among Independents are a directive for federal government contracts to purchase sustainable and American-made products (69 percent support), funding for the Department of Energy to research and develop new clean energy technologies (67 percent support), and the renewal and expansion of federal tax credits to modernize the power grid (67 percent support). A majority of Independents also support investments to incentivize EV production and build EV charging infrastructure (62 percent support), the creation of a new federal clean energy accelerator (57 percent support), and a federal standard to ensure 40 percent of all new clean energy and infrastructure spending goes to disadvantaged communities (57 percent support).

A Majority of Independents Support Federal Investments in Clean Energy, Infrastructure, and Innovation

Would you support or oppose the following proposals:

Strongly support | **Somewhat support** | **Don't know** | **Somewhat oppose** | **Strongly oppose**

Independents

	Support	Oppose

Upgrade aging water infrastructure
54% | 36% — **90** | **6**

Help small farmers to expand sustainable practices through the Department of Agriculture
42% | 38% | 8% | 9% — **80** | **12**

Fund a new federal Climate Conservation Corps
40% | 37% | 7% | 6% | 10% — **77** | **16**

Create a new G.I. Bill for fossil fuel workers as part of transition to clean energy economy
34% | 40% | 12% | 9% | 6% — **74** | **15**

Directive to make federal procurement prioritize sustainable and American-made products
32% | 37% | 10% | 12% | 8% — **69** | **20**

Research and develop new clean energy technologies through the Department of Energy
28% | 39% | 10% | 13% | 10% — **67** | **23**

Renew and expand tax credits to modernize the power grid
25% | 42% | 15% | 13% | 6% — **67** | **19**

Consumer rebates, manufacturing incentives, and charging infrastructure for EVs
25% | 37% | 11% | 13% | 14% — **62** | **27**

Create and fund a national clean energy accelerator
23% | 34% | 13% | 17% | 12% — **57** | **29**

Ensure 40% of all new clean energy and infrastructure spending goes to disadvantaged communities
22% | 35% | 14% | 15% | 14% — **57** | **29**
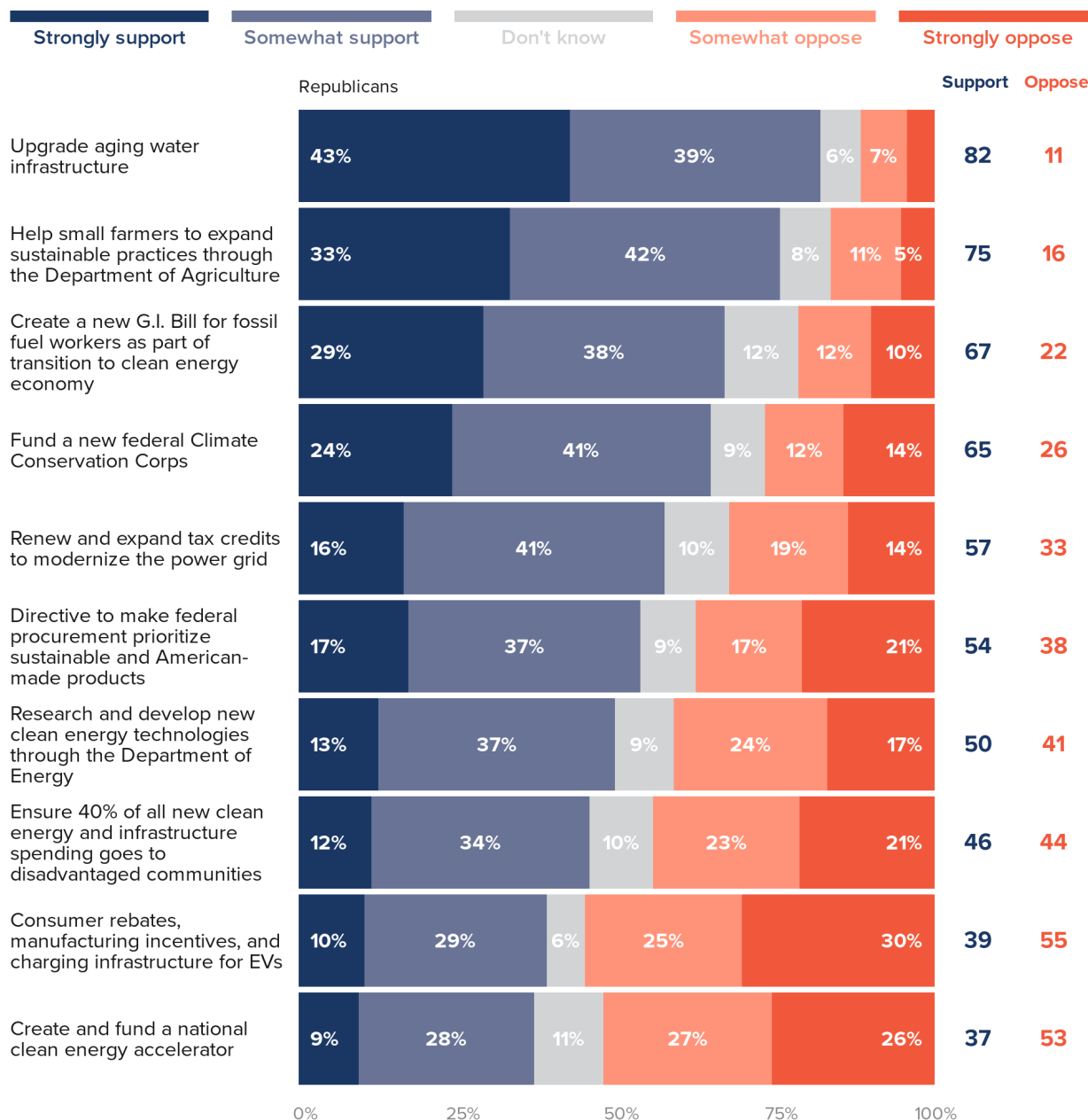
0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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Support for these federal investments in clean energy, infrastructure, and innovation is strongly bipartisan: **A majority of the Clean Jumpstart proposals that Data for Progress tested enjoy net support among Republicans.** Over two-thirds of Republicans support investments to upgrade aging water infrastructure (82 percent support), funding for the Department of Agriculture to help small farmers adopt and expand sustainable farming practices (75 percent support), and a GI Bill for fossil fuel workers to ensure they are not left behind in the transition to clean energy (67 percent support).

A majority of Republicans also support funding for a new federal Climate Conservation Corps (65 percent support), the renewal and expansion of federal tax credits to modernize the power grid (57 percent support), and a directive for federal government contracts to prioritize purchasing sustainable and American-made products (54 percent). Additionally, a plurality of Republicans also support funding for the Department of Energy to research and develop new clean energy technologies (50 percent support) and a federal standard to ensure 40 percent of all new clean energy and infrastructure spending goes to disadvantaged communities (46 percent support).

While Republicans support a majority of the proposals that Data for Progress tested, a majority oppose proposals to create a national clean energy accelerator (53 percent oppose) and investments to incentivize EV adoption and build EV charging infrastructure (55 percent oppose). Though there is net opposition to these two proposals, it is clear that Republican voters do support federal investments in clean energy, infrastructure, and innovation.

Republicans Support Federal Investments in Clean Energy, Infrastructure, and Innovation

Would you support or oppose the following proposals:

Strongly support | **Somewhat support** | **Don't know** | **Somewhat oppose** | **Strongly oppose**

Republicans

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
Upgrade aging water infrastructure	43%	39%	6%	7%		82	11
Help small farmers to expand sustainable practices through the Department of Agriculture	33%	42%	8%	11%	5%	75	16
Create a new G.I. Bill for fossil fuel workers as part of transition to clean energy economy	29%	38%	12%	12%	10%	67	22
Fund a new federal Climate Conservation Corps	24%	41%	9%	12%	14%	65	26
Renew and expand tax credits to modernize the power grid	16%	41%	10%	19%	14%	57	33
Directive to make federal procurement prioritize sustainable and American-made products	17%	37%	9%	17%	21%	54	38
Research and develop new clean energy technologies through the Department of Energy	13%	37%	9%	24%	17%	50	41
Ensure 40% of all new clean energy and infrastructure spending goes to disadvantaged communities	12%	34%	10%	23%	21%	46	44
Consumer rebates, manufacturing incentives, and charging infrastructure for EVs	10%	29%	6%	25%	30%	39	55
Create and fund a national clean energy accelerator	9%	28%	11%	27%	26%	37	53

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

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Conclusion

After successfully funding another stimulus package to deliver pandemic relief, it is time for Congress to look ahead to jumpstarting American recovery through investments in clean energy, infrastructure, and innovation. Like the American Rescue Plan, voters across the political spectrum support ambitious federal actions to put Americans back to work rebuilding the nation. With clear bipartisan support, Congress should pass legislation that meets the moment and transforms the economy to be more sustainable and equitable for Americans today and for generations to come.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

From March 10 to March 12, 2021, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,566 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ±2 percentage points.