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National Voters Support Infrastructure and Clean Energy Investments that Meet the Moment

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Key Findings

- ▶ **Over two-thirds of voters (67 percent)** say the federal government should be doing more to modernize American infrastructure
- ▶ **Over three-quarters of voters (77 percent)** say Congress should be doing more to help America fully recover from the pandemic
- ▶ **A majority of voters (73 percent)** say it is time for Congress to make a long-overdue investment in American infrastructure
- ▶ **A majority of Democrats, independents, and Republicans** all support President Biden's Build Back Better plan
- ▶ **Over two-thirds of voters (70 percent)** are more likely to support the Build Back Better plan if it includes provisions to prioritize oil and gas workers for new clean energy jobs that have fair labor standards and the opportunity to unionize
- ▶ **A majority of voters (63 percent)** are more likely to support the Build Back Better plan if 40% of investments go to low-income communities, communities of color, and other disadvantaged communities
- ▶ **Over two-thirds of voters (68 percent)** agree ambitious investments will make our nation stronger, more sustainable, and more equitable than ever before

Introduction

Now that the American Rescue Plan has been signed into law, both the White House and leaders in Congress are planning new legislation to enact President Biden's Build Back Better agenda. Proposed by President Biden and Vice President Harris on the campaign trail, the Build Back Better plan will accelerate America's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by creating millions of new jobs and making historic, long-overdue investments in the nation's infrastructure and clean energy.

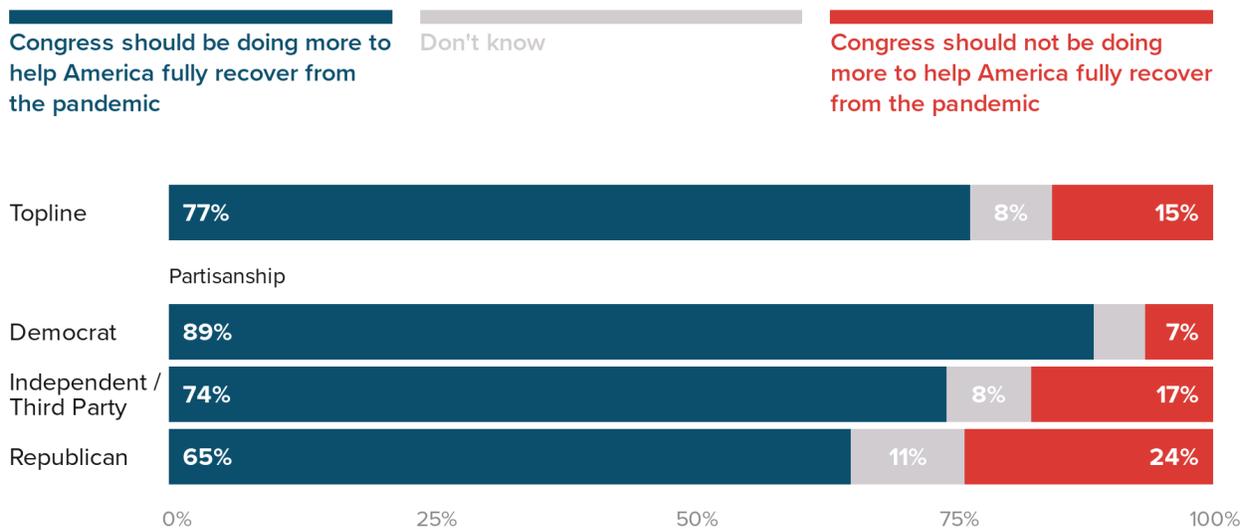
As part of a March 2021 national survey, Climate Power and Data for Progress assessed the attitudes of likely voters toward Congress making new investments in infrastructure and clean energy, the size and scope of the Build Back Better plan, and targeted efforts to ensure these investments will be made in the communities on the front lines of the energy transition and climate change.

Voters Want Lawmakers to Make Long-Overdue Investments in Infrastructure and Clean Energy to Accelerate America’s Recovery from the Pandemic

Across party lines, voters agree that lawmakers should be doing more to help America recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, even after the recent passage of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. Over three-quarters of all likely voters (77 percent) agree Congress should be doing more to help America fully recover from the pandemic, and voters across the political spectrum agree. An overwhelming majority of Democrats (89 percent), independents (74 percent), and Republicans (65 percent) agree that Congress should focus on passing more legislation to aid America’s recovery.

Voters Overwhelmingly Agree Congress Should Do More to Help America Fully Recover from the Pandemic

When thinking about what Congress should be doing, which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



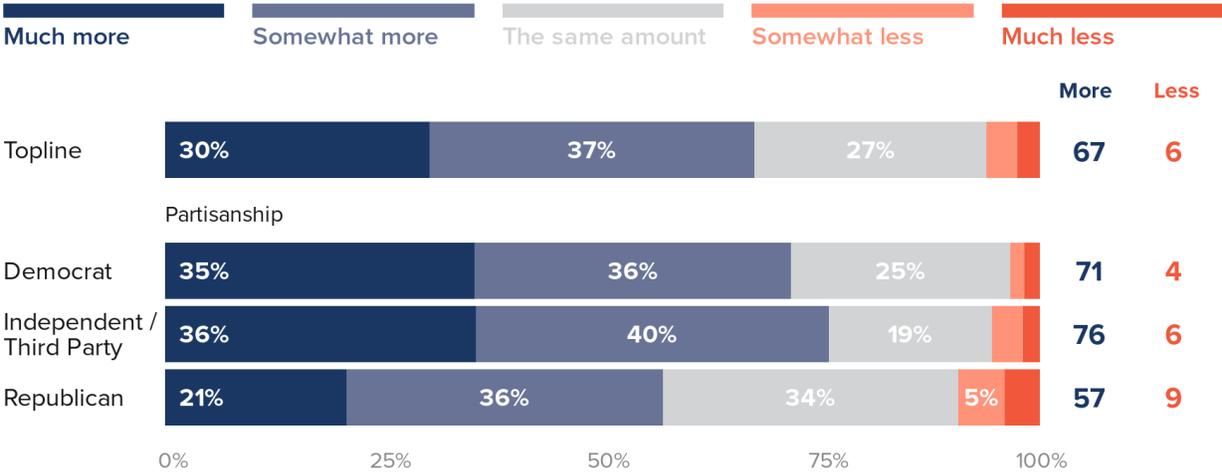
Mar 19 to Mar 21, 2021 survey of 1270 likely voters

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Voters also overwhelmingly agree that the federal government should be doing more to modernize American infrastructure. Over two-thirds of all likely voters (67 percent) think the government should do more to modernize American infrastructure, while only 27 percent think the government should do the same amount and a mere six percent think the government should do less. Again, there is bipartisan consensus: A majority of Democrats (71 percent), independents (76 percent), and Republicans (57 percent) all agree the government should step up its efforts to modernize American infrastructure.

A Majority of Voters Think the Government Should Be Doing More to Modernize American Infrastructure

Do you think the federal government should be doing more, less, or the same amount to modernize American infrastructure?



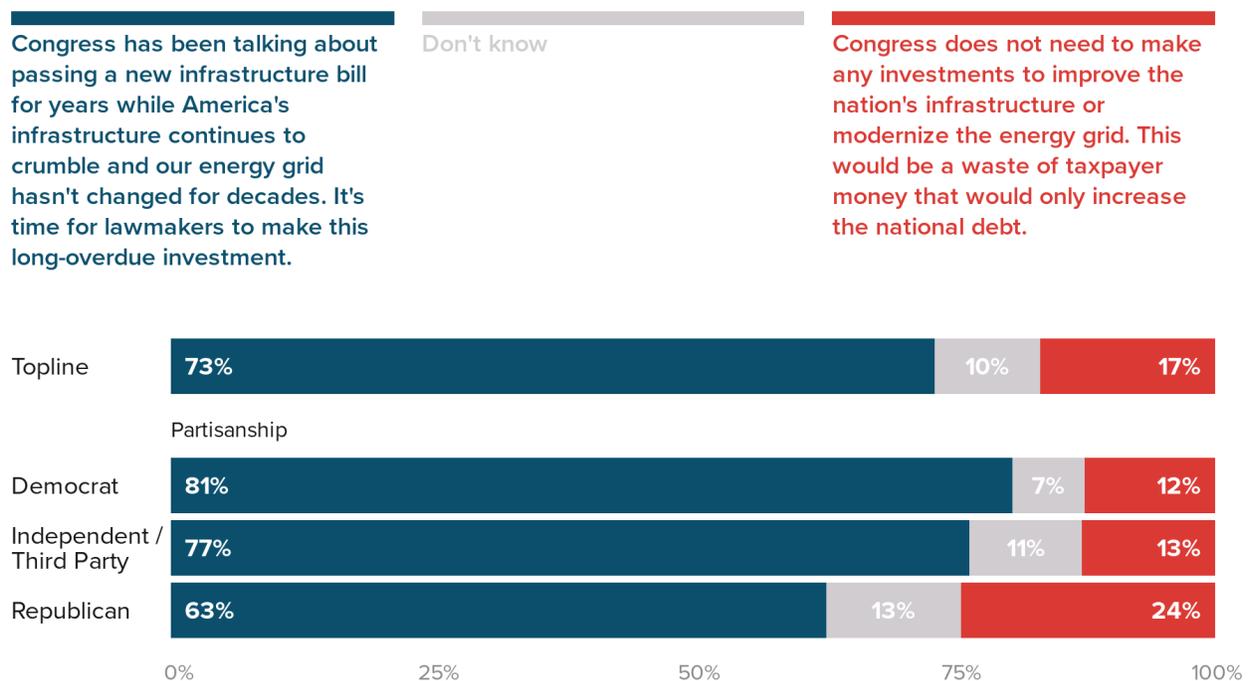
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Bipartisan support for major investments in America’s infrastructure and energy grid remains high, even when voters are shown oppositional messaging centered on fiscal responsibility. When asked to choose between two stances on investments in America’s infrastructure and energy grid, nearly three-quarters of all likely voters (73 percent) agree that it is time for lawmakers to make long-overdue investments in America’s infrastructure and clean energy grid, while only 17 percent think Congress should not make these investments due to costs to taxpayers and increases to the national debt. Notably, a majority of Democrats (81 percent), independents (77 percent), and Republicans (63 percent) all agree that Congress should make investments in the nation’s infrastructure and energy grid. While some members of Congress are making claims that new investments in infrastructure and energy will be a “Trojan horse” for tax hikes, it is clear that voters reject this notion and instead want lawmakers to finally act on years of discussions about modernizing America’s infrastructure and energy grid.

Voters Agree It is Time for Our Lawmakers to Invest in American Infrastructure

Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



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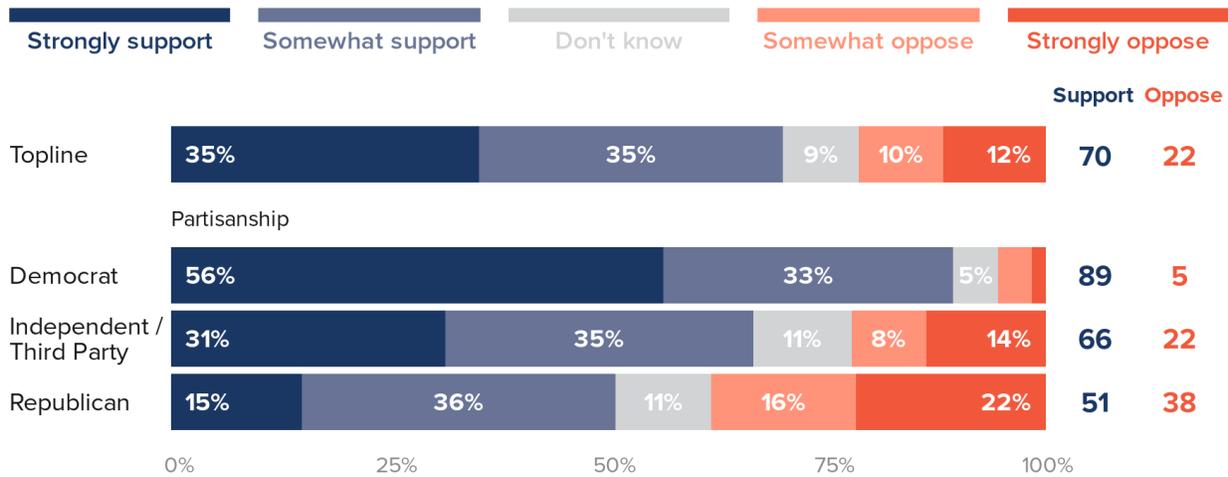
Voters Support the Build Back Better Plan and Targeted Investments to Ensure the Clean Energy Transition is Equitable for All Americans

With such strong bipartisan agreement on federal investments in infrastructure and pandemic relief, lawmakers have a mandate from voters across party lines to pass legislation that will accomplish these two critical goals. When provided a brief description of the plan that includes proposals from both President Biden’s campaign platform and recent indications from the White House, a majority of all likely voters (70 percent) say they support the Build Back Better plan. Support for the Build Back Better plan is also strongly bipartisan: Nearly all Democrats (89 percent), two-thirds of independents (66 percent), and a majority of Republicans (51 percent) support the proposal.

A Majority of Voters Across Party Lines Support the Build Back Better Plan

The Build Back Better plan is a proposal to rebuild our economy by making historic investments and creating millions of new jobs to build modern infrastructure and an equitable, clean energy future. This plan would include funding for repairing roads, bridges, and schools, expanding broadband internet service, building new renewable energy projects including wind and solar power, investing in new American energy innovation, funding the cleanup of mines and orphan gas wells to reduce pollution, and repairing aging drinking water systems.

Do you support or oppose the Build Back Better plan?



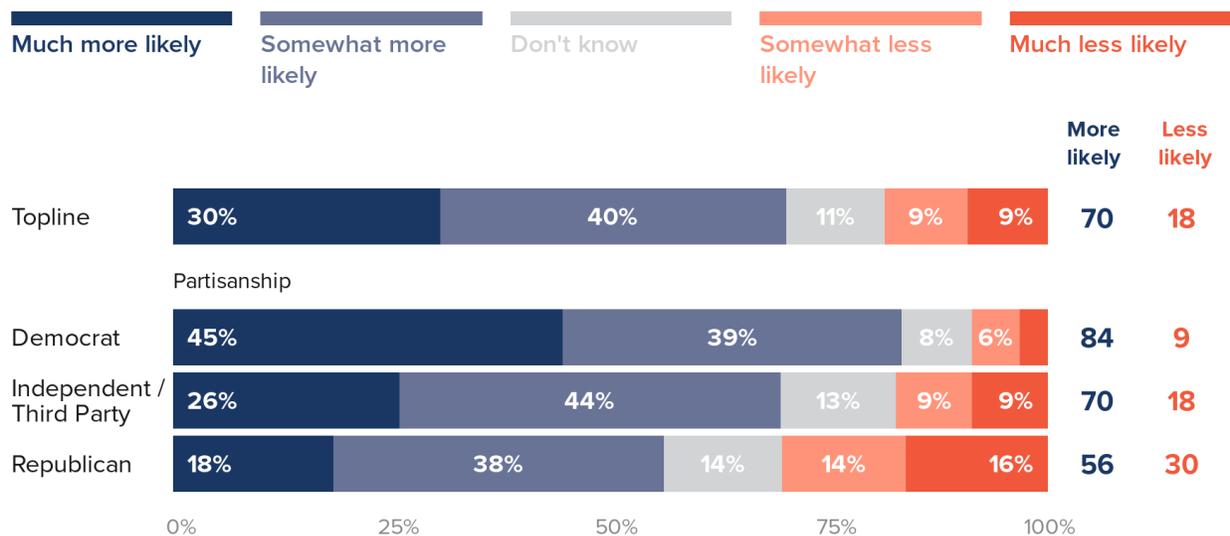
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As America transitions away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy, it is critical that lawmakers ensure that fossil fuel workers are not left behind. Given the immense job-creating opportunities presented by the Build Back Better plan, over two-thirds of all likely voters (70 percent) say they are more likely to support the plan if it includes provisions to prioritize creating new jobs for oil, gas, and coal workers and securing funding for these workers to receive certifications for similar or higher-paying jobs in the clean energy sector with fair labor standards and the opportunity to unionize. Nearly all Democrats (84 percent), over two-thirds of independents (70 percent), and a majority of Republicans (56 percent) say they are more likely to support the Build Back Better plan if it includes this assistance to fossil fuel workers.

Voters More Likely to Support Build Back Better if Oil and Gas Workers are Prioritized for Good Paying, Union Clean Energy Jobs

The Build Back Better plan will create millions of new jobs in clean energy, infrastructure, and innovation. If the Build Back Better plan includes special provisions to prioritize getting new clean energy jobs for oil, gas, and coal workers and funding for these workers to become certified for similar or higher-paying jobs with fair labor standards and the opportunity to unionize, would this make you more or less likely to support the Build Back Better plan?



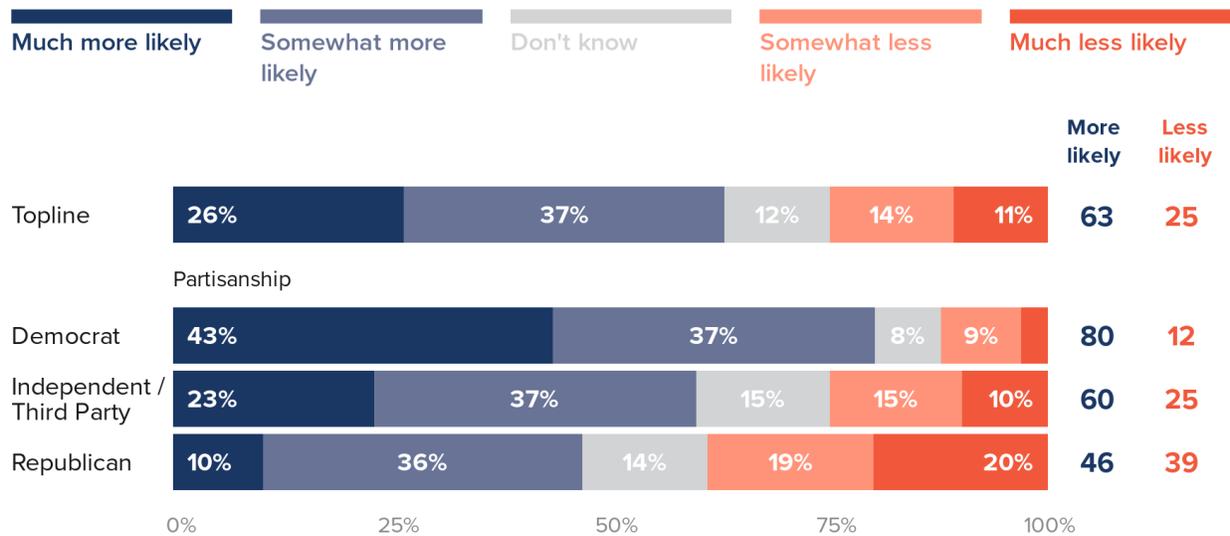
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A federal standard to ensure that funding from the Build Back Better plan goes to the communities that need it the most is not only an opportunity to address decades of systemic environmental injustices, but also a key way for lawmakers to bolster support for the plan. Nearly two-thirds of all likely voters (63 percent) say they are more likely to support the Build Back Better plan if 40 percent of investments made are in low-income communities, communities of color, and other disadvantaged communities. A majority of Democrats (80 percent) and independents (60 percent), as well as a plurality of Republicans (46 percent), say they are more likely to support the Build Back Better plan if it includes these targeted investments.

Voters More Likely to Support the Build Back Better Plan if 40% of New Investments Are Made in Disadvantaged Communities

The Build Back Better plan will make historic investments in clean energy, infrastructure, and innovation. If the Build Back Better plan includes standards to ensure that 40 percent of these investments are made in communities of color, low-income communities, and other disadvantaged communities, would that make you more or less likely to support the Build Back Better plan?



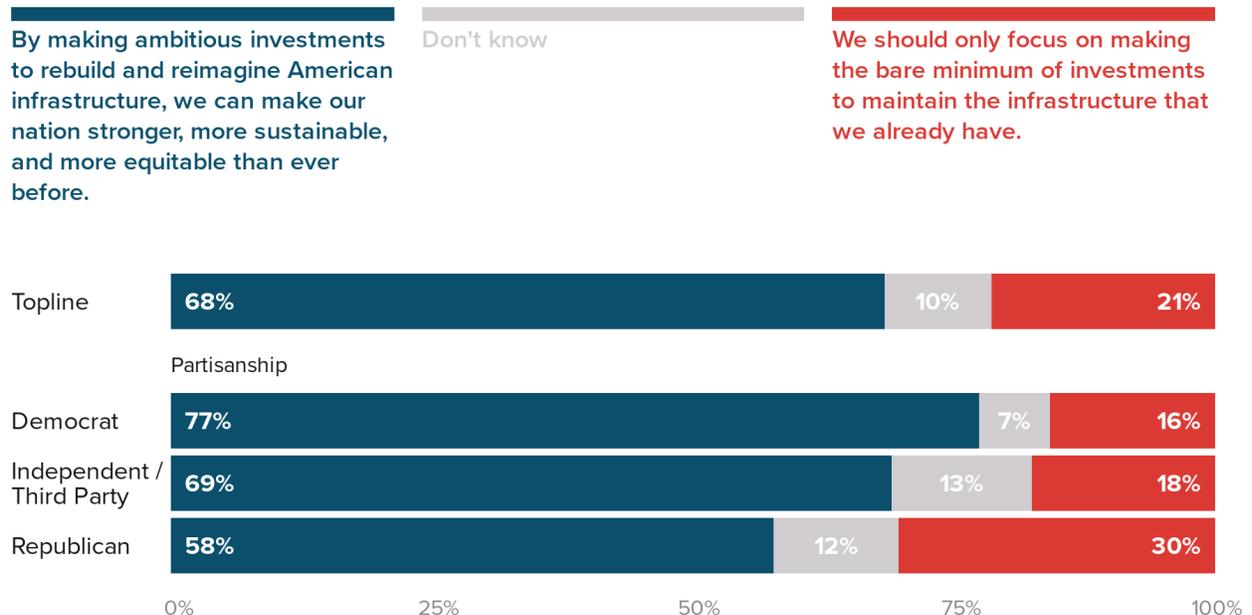
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When considering the size and scope of the Build Back Better plan, voters want lawmakers to choose ambition over austerity. Over two-thirds of all likely voters (68 percent) support making ambitious investments to rebuild and reimagine American infrastructure, while only 21 percent think the focus should be on maintaining what already exists. A majority of Democrats (77 percent), independents (69 percent), and Republicans (58 percent) all prefer ambitious investments that will make America stronger, more sustainable, and more equitable than ever before over bare-minimum investments to maintain current infrastructure.

Voters Agree America Needs Ambitious Infrastructure Investments to Create an Equitable, Sustainable, and Stronger Nation

Lawmakers are considering the size of the investments that will be included in the Build Back Better plan. When thinking about these investments, which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



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Conclusion

With high levels of bipartisan support for Congress to accelerate America’s recovery and make long-overdue investments in the nation’s infrastructure, it is not a surprise that voters across party lines support Biden’s Build Back Better plan. Moreover, by including provisions to ensure America’s fossil fuel workers and frontline communities receive targeted assistance and investments, lawmakers can augment the already high levels of bipartisan support for the Build Back Better plan and ensure America can create millions of jobs to transform America’s infrastructure and energy grid. Voters across party lines overwhelmingly support ambitious actions to build America into a more sustainable, equitable, and stronger nation — lawmakers should follow suit.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

From March 19 to March 21, 2021, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,270 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 ± 3 percentage points.