

TO: Corporate Polluters and
Naive Beltway Reporters

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 DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

GREEN NEW DEAL SUPPORT AMONG UNION MEMBERS

Union opposition to the Green New Deal has been widely reported and is one of the most often cited cleavages in Democratic coalition politics. New polling and analysis from Data for Progress shows, however, that this narrative does not reflect the actual views of union members. In fact, we find that union membership is one of the factors most highly correlated with support for Green New Deal policies as well as the Green New Deal framework as a whole.

On behalf of Data for Progress, YouGov Blue fielded a survey on 1,012 US voters on YouGov's online panel. The survey was weighted to be representative of the US population of voters by age, race/ethnicity, sex, education, and US Census region. The survey fielded from March 30, 2019 through April 3, 2019.

As part of the survey, we asked voters their opinions of the Green New Deal. Specifically, we asked,

As you may know, the Green New Deal is a proposal to significantly reduce carbon

pollution and create jobs by spending billions of government dollars on infrastructure, wind and solar energy, and more efficient buildings and transportation systems. Based on what you know, do you support or oppose the Green New Deal?

1. *Strongly support*
2. *Somewhat support*
3. *Neither support nor oppose*
4. *Somewhat oppose*
5. *Strongly oppose*
6. *Don't know*

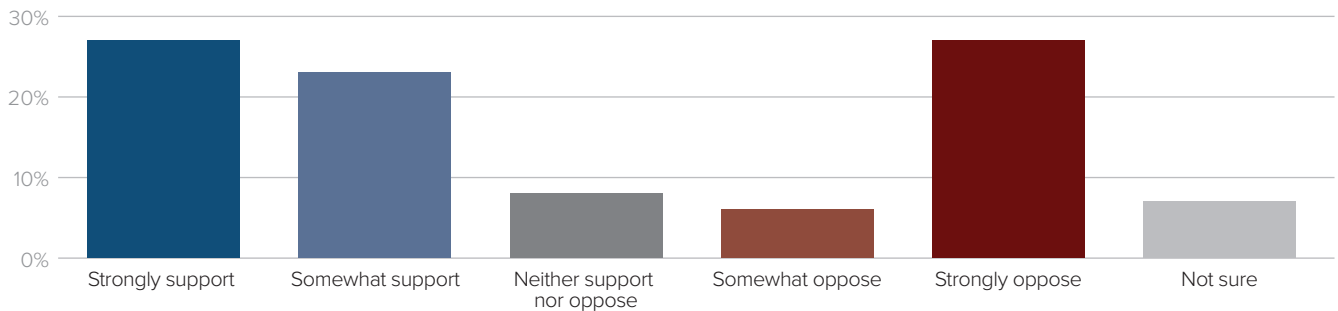
Additionally, we asked respondents a series of items pertaining to different potential policies that may ultimately end up as part of the Green New Deal. In addition to each of these policies being popular, fully 50 percent of US voters reported strongly or somewhat supporting the Green New Deal, even including the role of large volumes of government spending in the policy.

However, there is significant variation across the data by whether or not the respondent was a union member. We asked respondents to report whether they were in a union household, or a non-union household. The item included responses for whether the respondent was a union member, a retired union member, was in

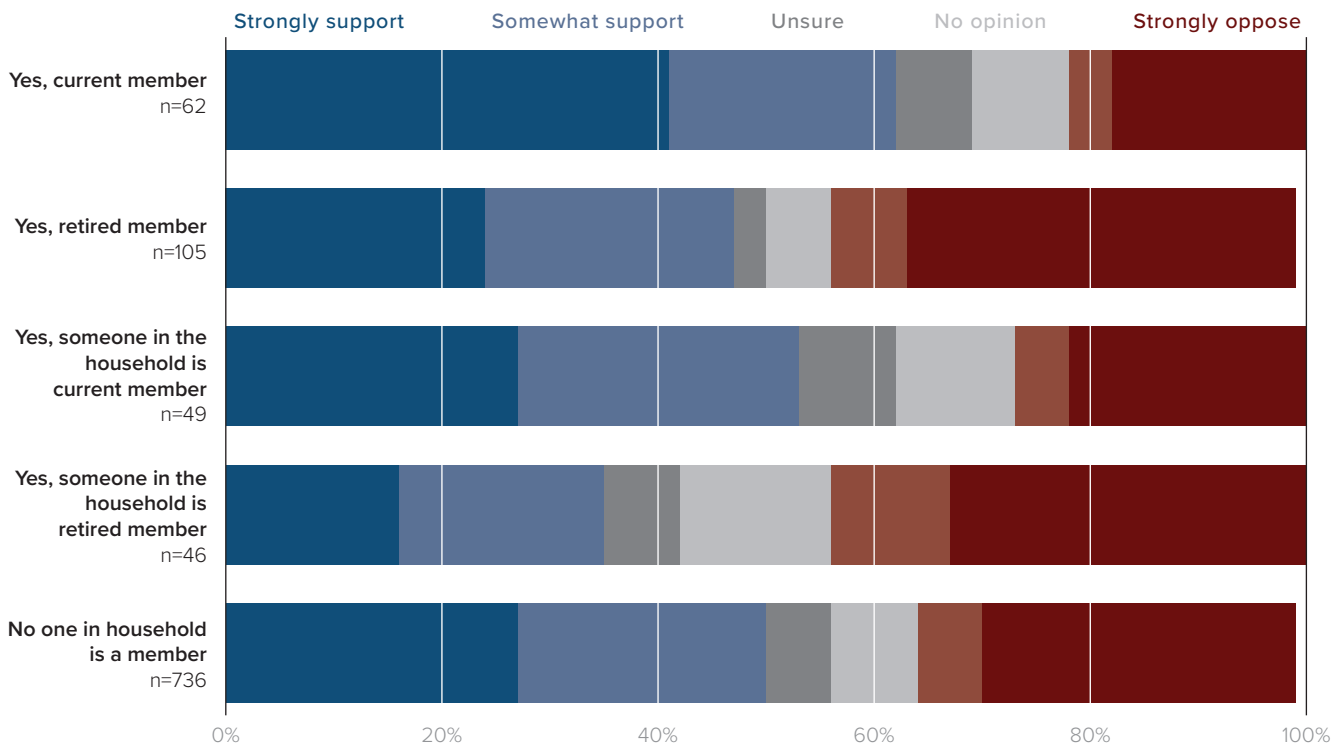
a household with a union member, was in a household with a retired union member, or had no union members in their households.

Across the range of household union membership, support for the Green New Deal ranges from a large

SUPPORT FOR THE GREEN NEW DEAL



SUPPORT FOR THE GREEN NEW DEAL BY UNION MEMBERSHIP



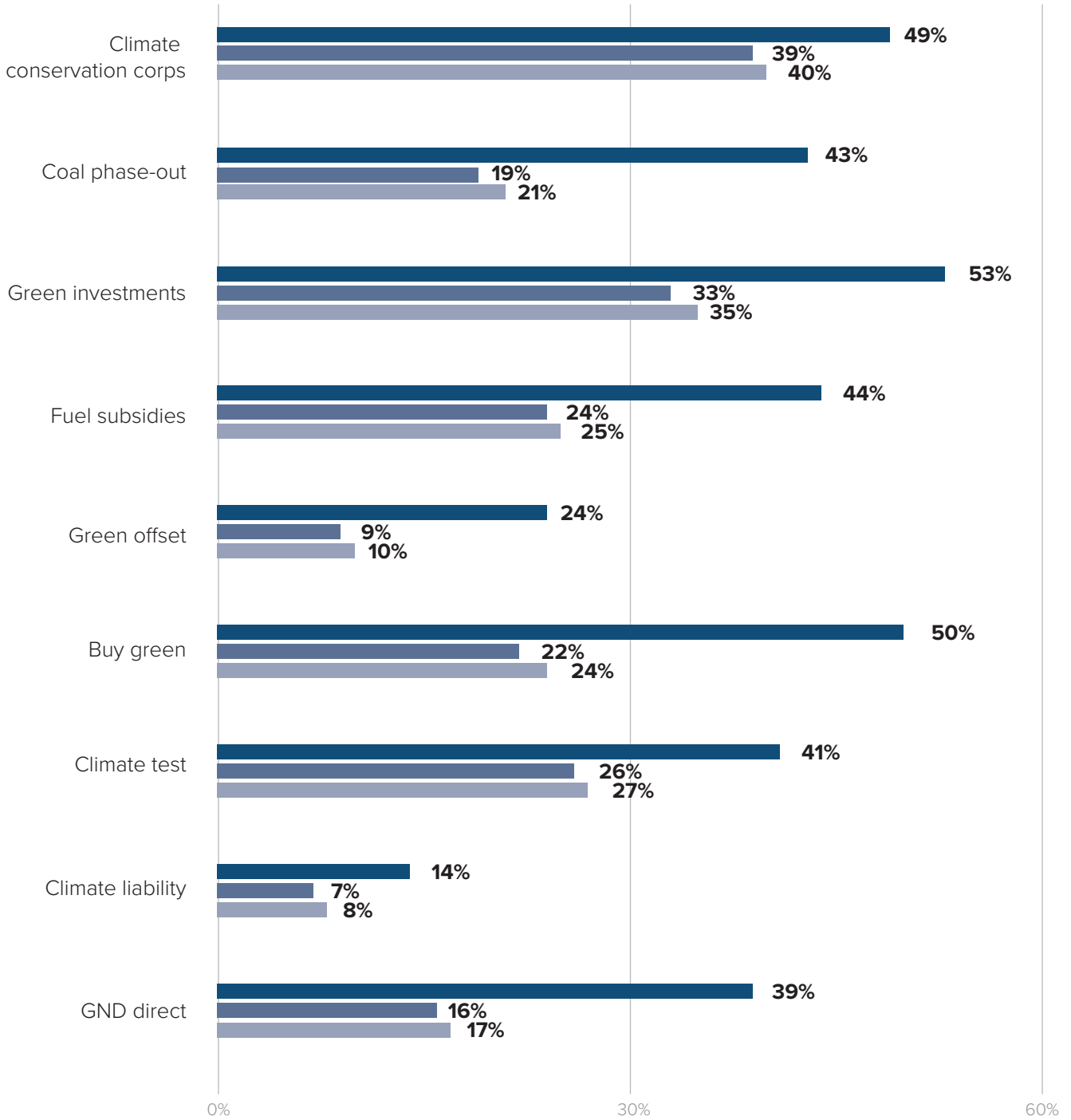
majority of union households (with 62 percent of union members supporting and just 22 percent opposing the Green New Deal) to a narrower but persistent statistical majority of 50 percent of non-union households supporting and just 35 percent of non-union households opposing the Green New Deal. Among all union groups,

only union members outright support the Green New Deal, with the next closest group being those who live with a union member, who are split on the Green New Deal.

POLICY	QUESTION WORDING
Green Liability	Would you support or oppose a policy in which people are permitted to sue companies that fail to meet government emissions targets?
Climate Test	Would you support or oppose a mandated assessment of climate, environment, and public health impacts for all new infrastructure projects requiring federal permits?
Climate Conservation Corps	Would you support or oppose a government policy creating a “Climate Conservation Corps”, which would provide jobs to those who qualify, repairing and upgrading our infrastructure to reduce pollution?
Buy Clean	Would you support or oppose a “Buy Clean” law, requiring the government to prioritize purchasing and spending to go towards clean manufacturing firms with good paying union jobs? (Note: This item was asked in the second survey)
Green Offset	Would you support or oppose a proposal to create a \$10 billion fund for public utility commissions to offset the costs for low-income families of adopting new energy efficiency standards?
Fuel Subsidies	Would you support or oppose ending government subsidies given to energy companies that fund the production and distribution of fossil fuels?
Investments in Communities of Color	Would you support or oppose a new policy requiring the government to invest in clean energy infrastructure in poor communities and communities of color with disproportionate levels of pollution? (Note: This item was asked in the second survey)
Coal Phase-Out	Would you support or oppose a policy mandating the phasing out of domestic coal plants over the next ten years in favor of new clean energy facilities?

POLICY NET SUPPORT/SPLIT/OPPOSE BY UNION MEMBERSHIP

UNION MEMBERSHIP	NO UNION MEMBERSHIP	ALL VOTERS
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In the following figure, we plot net support for Green New Deal policies as well as for the overall concept of the Green New Deal. We polled a number of policies that have been considered under the umbrella of the Green New Deal. Those policies include:

Each of these policies are “above water” among US voters, that is, more voters support than oppose those policies. Clear differences in support emerge between union and non-union households. While voters are generally supportive of each of these policies, and of the Green New Deal overall, union members are more supportive in every case that we polled.

This relationship holds when controlling for a variety of other factors. Next, we model support for the Green New Deal as a function not just of union membership,

but also by a variety of political and demographic factors including, age, race/ethnicity, education, ideology, party identification, sex, media watching habits, income, geography, and union membership. Even controlling for other factors, being a union member is a statistically significant and substantively meaningful predictor of support for the Green New Deal.

In terms of statistical magnitude, the estimate for “Union Member” and “College” mostly overlap, and the estimate for “Union Member” slightly overlaps with the estimate for “MSNBC viewership.” This indicates that being a union member is about as strong a predictor of supporting the Green New Deal as is having a college degree, and is almost as strong a predictor of supporting the Green New Deal as being a regular MSNBC viewer.

