



Voters Support Investments in Natural Climate Solutions

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Introduction

The American Jobs Plan includes several proposals to improve the resiliency of our nation's oceans and coastal communities, including investments to improve ports and waterways, create a Civilian Climate Corps, and expand offshore wind production. In a new policy memo, [Ocean Infrastructure Priorities](#), researchers from the Center for American Progress and Urban Ocean Lab outline these and other key policy proposals that should be included in an upcoming job-creation and infrastructure bill to create thousands of new good-paying jobs, harness nature's ability to combat climate change, and protect coastal communities.

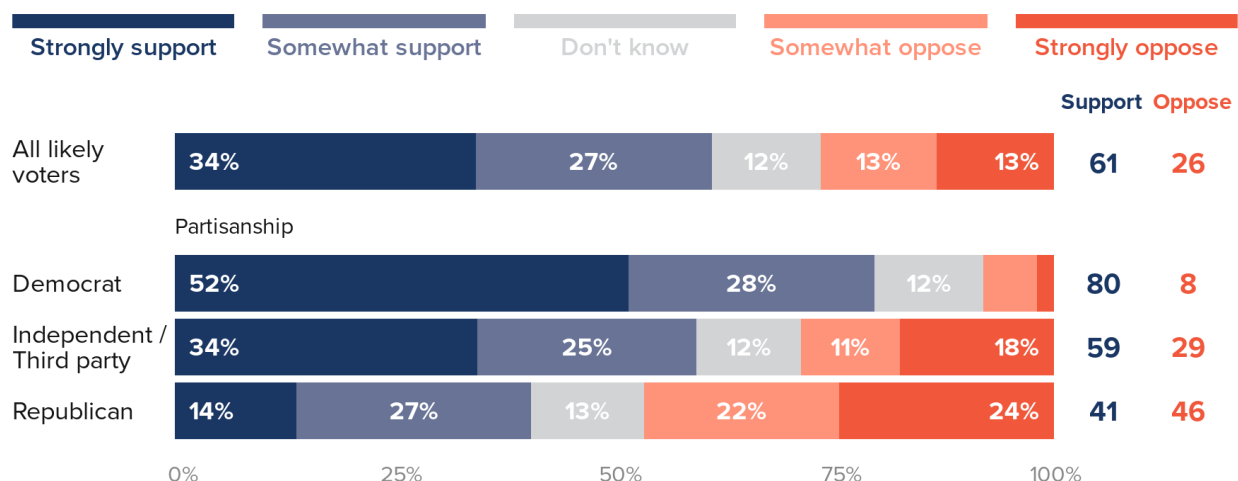
In a May 2021 national [survey](#), Data for Progress sought to assess the attitudes of likely voters towards government investments in natural climate solutions. We find that a majority of likely voters support government investments in ocean climate action, a Climate Conservation Corps, and nature-based solutions to climate change, three key proposals highlighted in [Ocean Infrastructure Priorities](#).

Voters Back Investments in Ocean Climate Action

First, we asked voters whether they support or oppose government investments in ocean climate action, the natural ability of the ocean to fight climate change. Examples of [ocean climate action](#) include protecting Arctic and maritime resources and improving the resiliency of natural coastal infrastructure. We find that by a 35-percentage-point margin, voters overwhelmingly support investments in ocean climate action. This includes nearly all Democrats, who support this proposal by a 72-point margin, as well as a majority of Independents, who support it by a 30-point margin. While Republicans are nearly split, a slight plurality (46 percent) oppose this proposal. However, 41 percent of Republicans support investments in ocean climate action, an indication that there is potential for bipartisan collaboration on this issue.

A Majority of Voters Support Investments in Ocean Climate Action

Would you support or oppose government investments in ocean climate action, which is harnessing the natural ability of the ocean to fight climate change?



May 14–17, 2021 survey of 1,214 likely voters

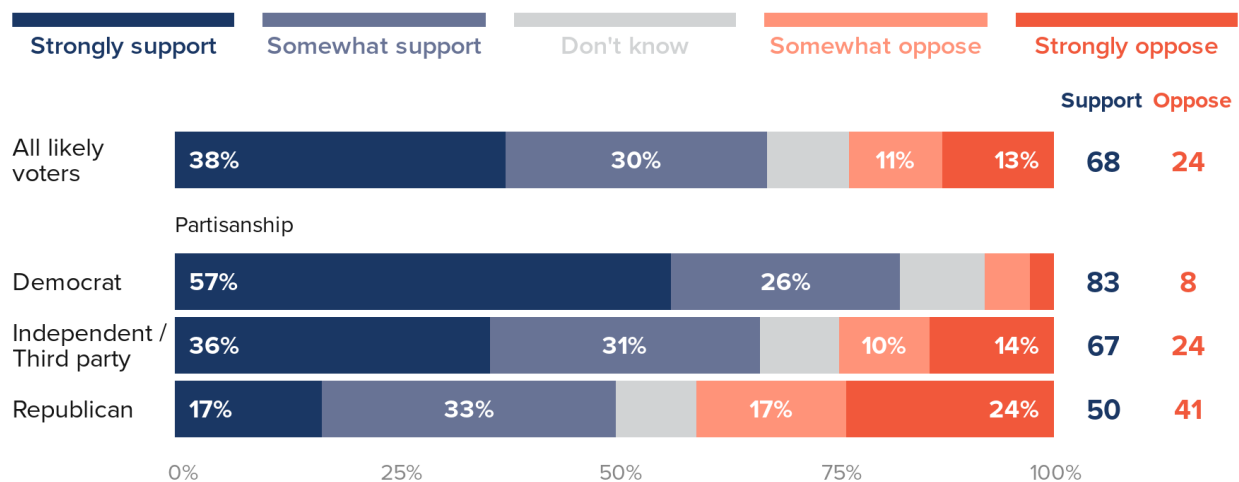
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Voters Across Partisan Divides Support the Establishment of a Climate Conservation Corps

Next, we asked likely voters if they would support or oppose government investments in a new Climate Conservation Corps that would put Americans to work restoring our forests and coasts. President Biden included a [Climate Corps proposal in the American Jobs Plan](#), and Senator Ed Markey [recently introduced a complementary bill](#) in Congress with Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. We find that voters support government investments in a Climate Conservation Corps by a 44-point margin (68 percent support, 24 percent oppose). This includes a majority of Democrats and Independents, who support the proposal by margins of 75-points and 43-points, respectively, as well as half of Republicans, who support it by a 9-point margin.

Democrats, Independents, and Republicans Support a Climate Conservation Corps

Would you support or oppose government investments in a new Climate Conservation Corps that would put Americans to work restoring our forests and coasts?



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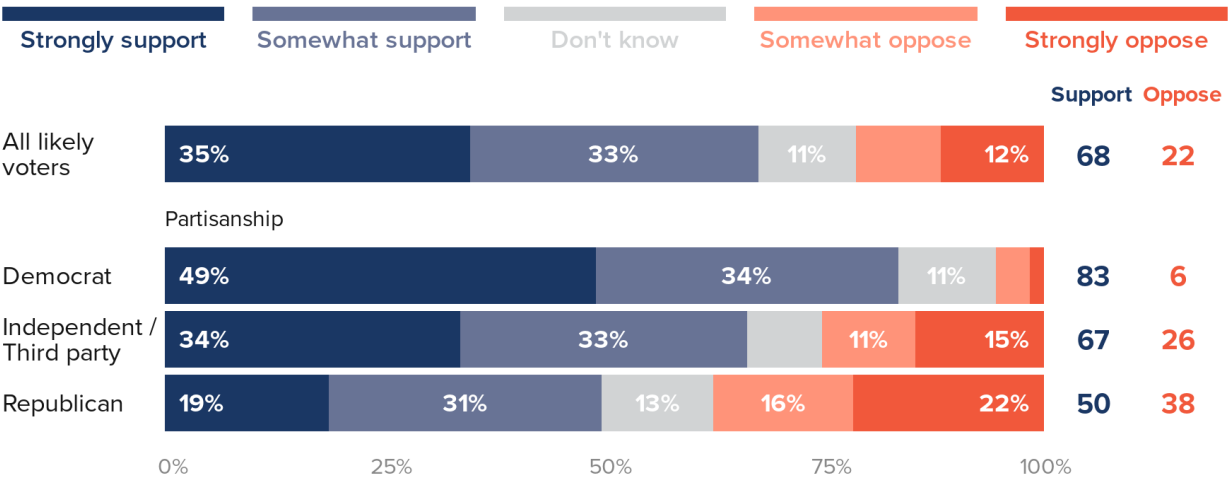
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Bipartisan Majorities Support Government Investment in Coastal Nature-Based Solutions to Climate Change.

Finally, we asked likely voters if they would support or oppose government investments in nature-based solutions to climate change. Examples of coastal nature-based solutions to climate change include restoring coastal infrastructure such as salt marshes, mangroves, and seagrass beds, which are natural carbon sinks. By a 46-point margin, a majority of voters back this proposal (68 percent support, 22 percent oppose). This includes nearly all Democrats and over two-thirds of Independents, who support the proposal by margins of 77-points and 41-points, as well as half of Republicans, who support investments in natural climate solutions by a 12-point margin.

A Majority of Voters Support Investments in Nature-Based Climate Solutions

Would you support or oppose government investments in nature-based solutions to climate change, such as restoring natural coastal infrastructure?



May 14–17, 2021 survey of 1,214 likely voters

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Conclusion

It is clear that voters across party lines back government investments in natural climate solutions. Voters support the government funding initiatives to harness the ocean's natural ability to fight climate change, restore our nation's forests and coasts, and utilize natural infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions. Democrats and Independents overwhelmingly support all three proposals, and half of Republicans support investments in both a Climate Conservation Corps and coastal nature-based solutions to climate change. With bipartisan backing and the potential to create thousands of new jobs, lawmakers should feel confident advocating for including natural climate solutions in the upcoming jobs and infrastructure bill.

METHODOLOGY

From May 14 to 17, 2021, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,214 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.