



DATA FOR *PROGRESS*

New York Voters Favor A Vision of Progressive Government, Support Key Statewide and Federal Progressive Priorities

September 2021

In August 2021 Data for Progress [surveyed](#) 823 likely New York voters, around a number of legislative priorities. We find that voters overwhelmingly agree with a progressive worldview of state government, and strongly support a number of progressive proposals, including the recently passed millionaire's tax, providing rental assistance to low-income New Yorkers, passing climate resilience policies, and establishing Overdose Prevention Centers. We also find strong support for federal policies including the national voting reform bill known as the For the People Act and creating an earned pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children and essential workers.

These results are consistent with those from a similar April 2021 Data for Progress [survey](#), indicating that likely New York voters are drawn to a vision of government that invests in the common good. This poll also measured voter attitudes towards then Governor Andrew Cuomo, detailed [here](#), prior to his resignation on August 10th, 2021.

New York Voters Believe in a Progressive View of A New York State Government

To determine New York state voters' attitudes around progressive government, we asked voters whether they agreed or disagreed with progressive worldview statements on housing, the economy, and healthcare. We find that a majority of New Yorkers agree with these statements, including across party lines and urban, suburban, and rural geographies.

STABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL

Around housing, likely voters were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a statement emphasizing the need for our government to work for the people by providing secure housing for everyone, ending homelessness, cracking down on predatory landlords, and cleaning up outdated lead pipes poisoning children. Overall, we find likely voters agree with this statement by a +67-point margin (81 percent agree, 14 percent disagree).

AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERY NEW YORKER

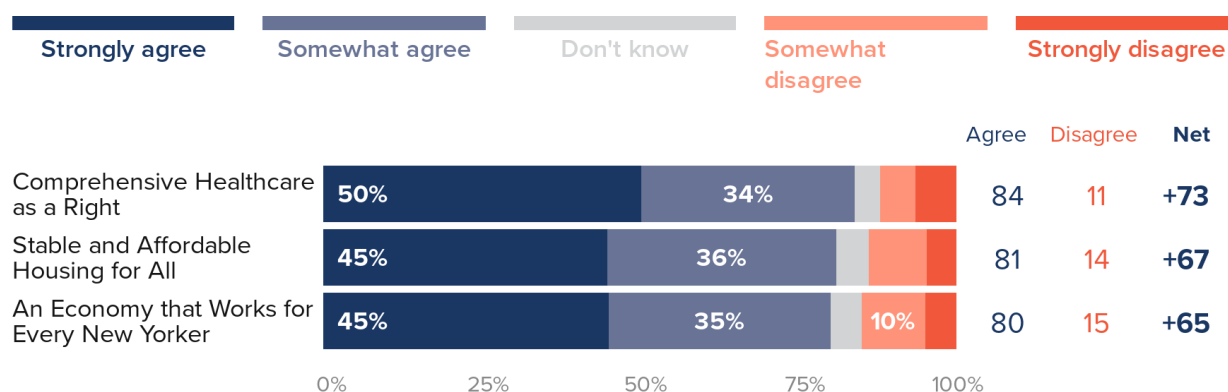
On the economy, New Yorkers were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a statement that proposed an economy focused on the good of everyone, one that ensures fair wages, good jobs, worker protections, universal broadband, small business support, and taxing corporations and the wealthy more. This particular view of a comprehensive worker-oriented economy, one that is in part funded by raising taxes on the rich and large corporations, enjoys agreement by a margin of +65 points (80 percent agree, 15 percent disagree).

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE AS A RIGHT

On healthcare, likely voters were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with a message that emphasized healthcare as a human right and high-quality healthcare for everyone, not just the wealthy. Moreover, this statement also asked if voters agreed that healthcare should include mental health services and treatment and prevention for substance-use disorders. We find that likely voters overwhelmingly agree with this statement by a +73-point margin (84 percent agree, 11 percent disagree).

New Yorkers Overwhelmingly Agree with a Progressive Vision for the State

Voters were shown progressive worldview messaging around New York's economy, healthcare, and housing and were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with each one.



August 6–11, 2021 survey of 823 New York Likely Voters

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New Yorkers Support Progressive Policies on a Wide Range of Issues

Data for Progress also measured likely New York voters' attitudes on a number of progressive policies currently moving through the New York state assembly. Specifically, we surveyed views on:

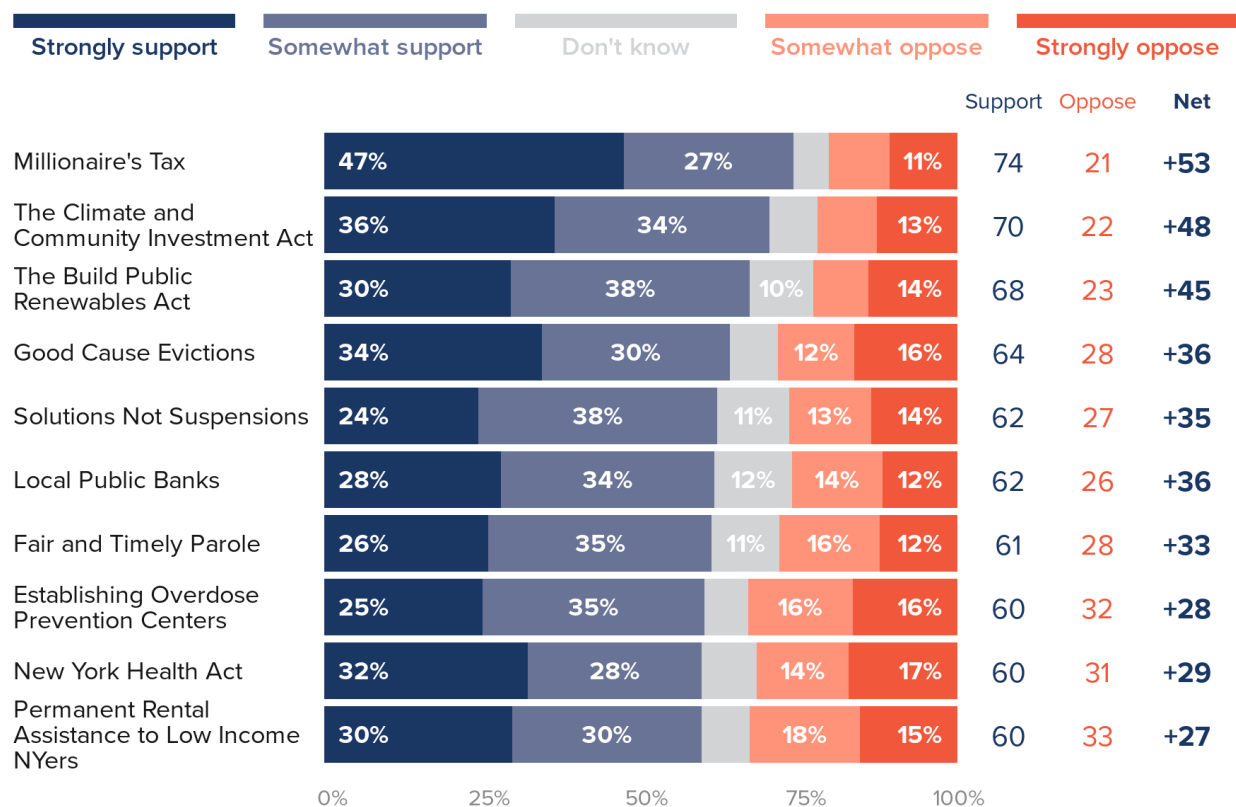
- ▶ **The income tax rate increase on millionaires** passed recently as part of the state budget
- ▶ **The Climate and Community Investment Act (CCIA)**, which would impose a fee on polluters to fund a green economy
- ▶ **The Build Public Renewables Act**, which would replace privately-owned fossil fuel electricity generation in New York State with publicly-owned renewable energy
- ▶ **The Good Cause Eviction Bill**, which would ban eviction without a reasonable cause such as not paying rent, guarantee the right to a lease renewal, and provide protection against large rent hikes
- ▶ **Solutions, Not Suspensions**, a proposal to reform school suspension policies to limit maximum suspension length and exclude minor infractions

- ▶ **Creating local public banks** in New York to hold public funds and provide low-cost financial services and community development
- ▶ **The Fair and Timely Parole Bill**, a parole reform bill that would ensure that release decisions are based on people's rehabilitation and current risk of violating the law
- ▶ **Establishing Overdose Prevention Centers** that would offer sterile supplies and controlled settings for people to use pre-obtained drugs under the supervision of trained professionals
- ▶ **The New York Health Act**, which would replace private health insurance with high quality, publicly provided health insurance that covers all New Yorkers
- ▶ **Making rental assistance permanent for low-income New Yorkers**

Overall, we find topline support for these proposals is high among likely voters.

A Strong Majority of New Yorkers Support Progressive Measures on Issues Including Housing, Climate, and Healthcare

Voters were told about various proposals and asked whether they supported or opposed each one.



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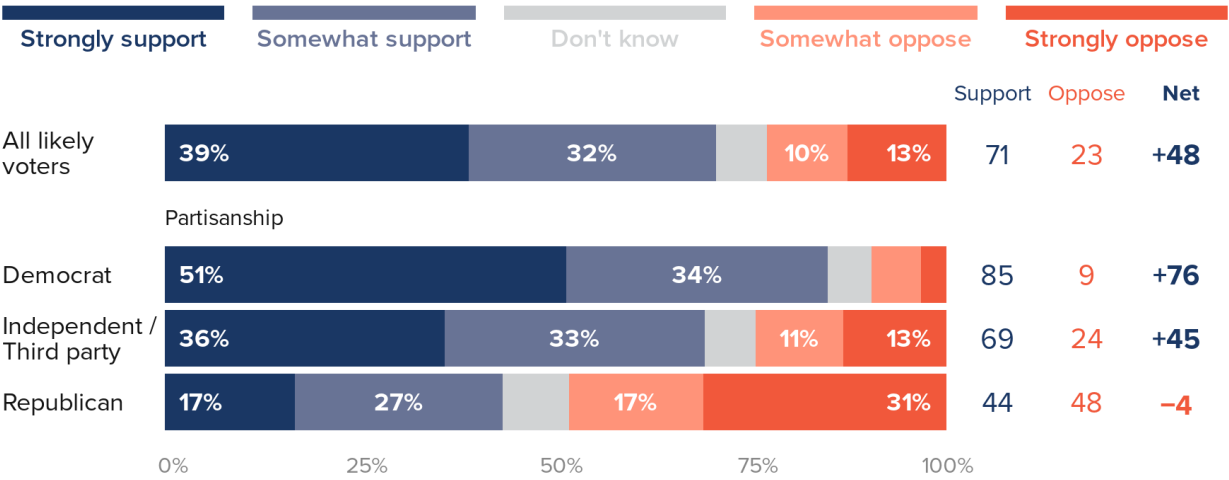
Likely New York voters support the millionaire's tax by a margin of +53-percentage-points. Similarly, the CCIA, which would impose a fee on polluters to fund a green economy, is supported by a margin of +48 points, followed closely by the proposal to replace fossil fuels with publicly owned renewables with a +45-point margin of support. Next, the Good Cause Eviction Bill, which would ban evictions without a reasonable cause such as not paying rent, enjoys a +36-point margin of support. The creation of local public banks and the Solutions, not Suspensions proposal involving school suspension reform are also both largely popular, both receiving margins of support by +36 points. Likely voters also support the Fair and Timely Parole bill by a margin of +33 points. Finally, passing the New York Health Act, establishing Overdose Prevention Centers, and providing permanent rental assistance to low-income New Yorkers enjoy the support of 60 percent of voters, by margins of +28 points, +29 points, and +27 points, respectively.

Likely New York Voters Support Federal Measures to Create an Earned Pathway to Citizenship and to Expand Voting Rights

New York voters also support progressive policies on the federal level. Specifically, a majority of likely voters support creating an earned path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children, those who work in essential industries, like farmworkers, and people who would not be safe in their country of origin by a +48-point margin (71 percent support, 23 percent oppose). Self-identified Democrats and Independents also largely support this proposal by margins of +76 and +45 points, respectively. Republicans, meanwhile, oppose an earned pathway to citizenship by a -4-point margin (44 support, 48 oppose).

New York Voters Support Creating a Pathway to Citizenship for DACA Recipients, Essential Workers, and People Who Cannot Safely Return to Their Country of Origin

Would you support or oppose federal legislation that would provide an earned path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children, those who work in essential industries, like farmworkers, and people who would not be safe in their country of origin?



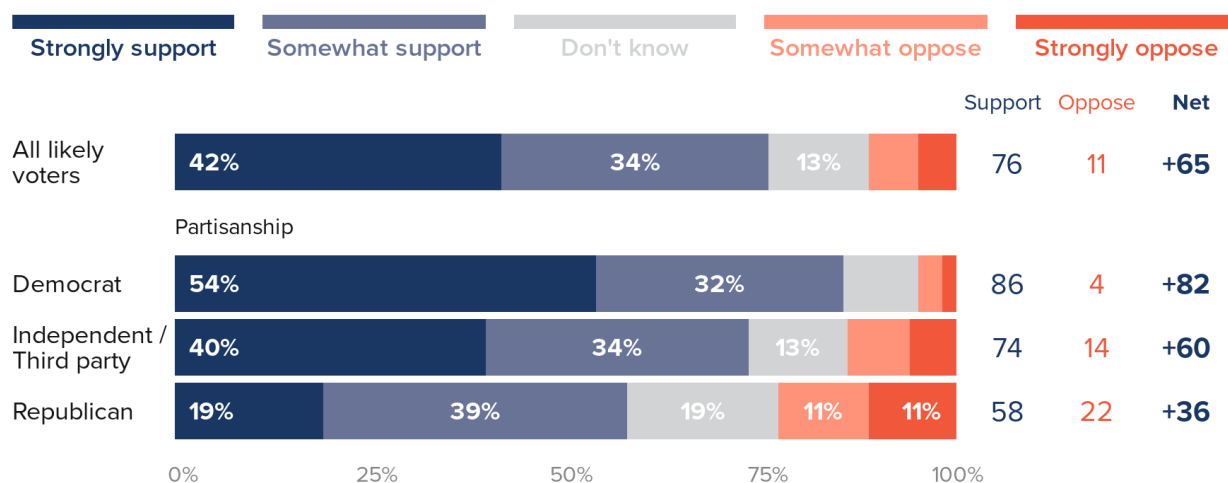
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We also measured voter attitudes around the For the People Act, a federal voting reform bill that would reduce the influence of big money in politics and enfranchise all eligible citizens. Among likely New York voters, this bill enjoys support by a +65-point margin (76 percent support, 11 percent oppose). The majority support for this act extends across party lines, where self-identified Democrats, Independents, and Republicans support it by margins of +82 points, +60 points, and +36 points, respectively.

New Yorkers Overwhelmingly Support the For The People Act

The For The People Act is a package of reforms that would reduce the influence of big money in politics by increasing the power of small donors, strengthen the freedom to vote by making voting accessible to all eligible citizens, and ban politicians from drawing congressional districts so that no party gets an advantage.

Do you support or oppose the For the People Act?



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Conclusion

By large margins, we find a majority of New York voters agree with a progressive worldview that envisions comprehensive healthcare, including mental and substance-use-related health, as a right for all, an economy that works for everyone, and secure and affordable housing conditions for all New Yorkers. Moreover, we find that voters also support a number of progressive legislative priorities that invest in the public good — demonstrating that progressive New York lawmakers and leaders should continue to advocate for progressive priorities as they look ahead to 2022's state and local elections.

Read the full poll and methodology [here](#).

COVER PHOTO
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