



DATA FOR *PROGRESS*

# NEW YORKERS SUPPORT RAISING TAXES ON THE RICH AND INCLUSIVE RELIEF EFFORTS

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# INTRODUCTION

As part of a September survey of likely voters in the state of New York, Data for Progress tested attitudes towards a slate of progressive proposals and measured attitudes towards raising revenue or cutting public services. We oversampled two battleground regions made up of competitive state senate districts: Long Island (Martinez SD-3, Gaughran SD-5, Thomas SD-6, Brooks SD-8), Hudson Valley (Harcckham SD-40, Smythe SD-41, Metzger SD-42, Hinchey SD-46). The sample size for each are 344 and 329 respectively.

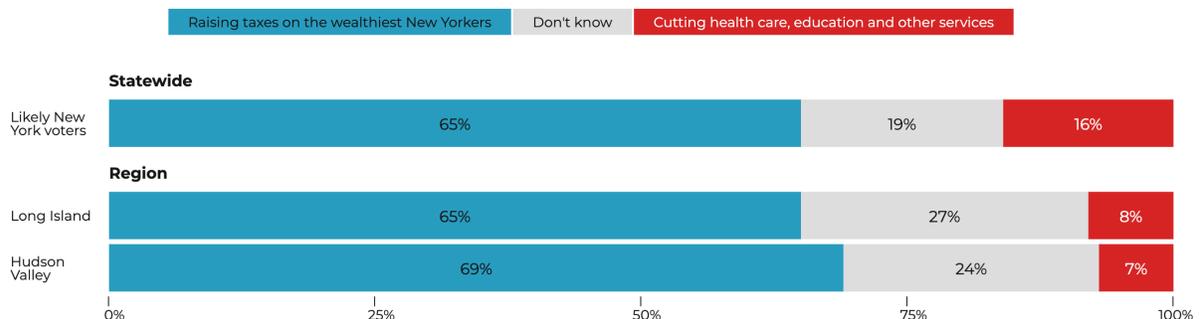
We find that voters across New York want to raise taxes on the wealthy, not cut essential services to fill a looming budget shortfall. In addition, voters want the state to establish a fund for excluded workers, to ensure that those left out of federal coronavirus-related relief efforts get the economic assistance they need. Lastly, voters are in favor of concerted action to stave off a housing crisis in the state, supporting, for instance, a universal eviction moratorium and forgiving rent and mortgage payments. We find these results hold in battleground State Senate districts, where voters favor taxing the wealthiest New Yorkers, funding excluded workers, and providing relief to tenants by a wide margin.

## TAXES V. SPENDING CUTS

We first asked voters two questions to gauge general sentiments towards whether voters would prefer to see taxes raised on the wealthiest New Yorkers or see services cut to compensate for the budget shortfall. We find that, overwhelmingly, voters want to raise taxes. Almost two-thirds (65 percent) of voters prefer to raise taxes, compared with only 16 percent who prefer service cuts. This holds steady in both Long Island Senate Districts (65 percent) and the Hudson Valley Senate Districts (69 percent), where there is even less support for service cuts (8 and 7 percent, respectively).

### Voters Want To Raise Taxes On The Wealthiest New Yorkers

New York faces a multi-billion dollar budget deficit due to coronavirus. How would you prefer the state close this deficit?



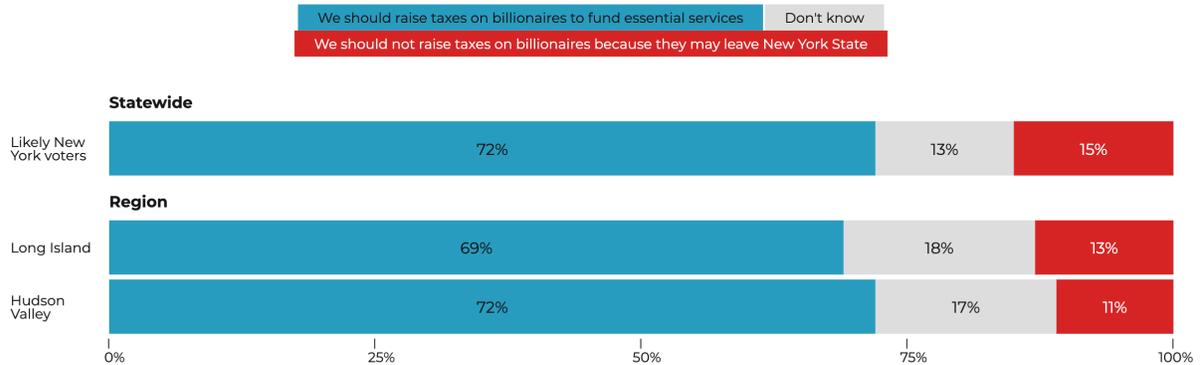
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This second question hits upon the same theme and shows consistent results. Seventy-two percent of voters statewide want to raise revenue by increasing taxes on billionaires. Only 15 percent of voters don't want to raise taxes in this way. Importantly, this result suggests that voters aren't persuaded by the argument that raising taxes on billionaires will lead them to exit the state -- an argument frequently used by prominent politicians in the state.

## Voters Want to Raise Taxes on Billionaires

Some lawmakers in Albany are considering a proposal that would raise taxes on billionaires. Opponents of this argue that a new tax on billionaires could lead them to leave the state, leading to a loss in revenue. Supporters of this argue that experts have shown billionaires are unlikely to leave if their taxes are increased. Do you believe that New York should raise taxes on billionaires?



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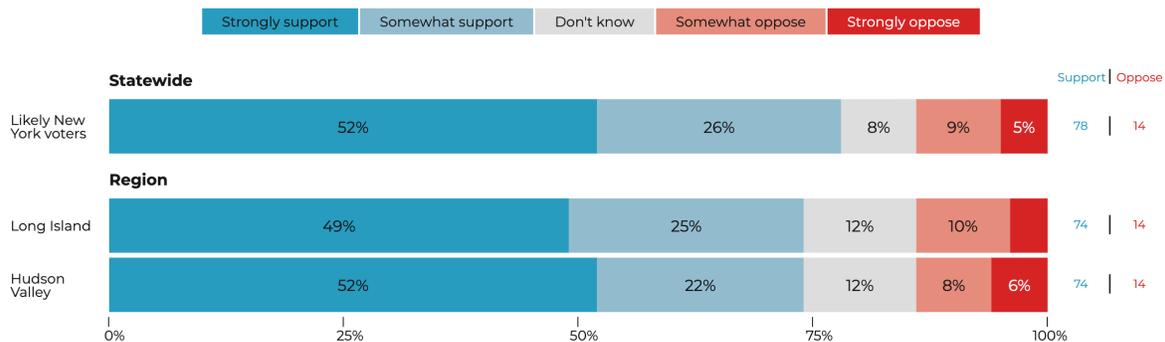
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## REVENUE PROPOSALS

We then tested support for two proposals to raise revenue. The first is a tax that would be levied on the investment income of billionaires in the state. Overall, voters support this proposal by a 64-point margin (78 percent support, 14 percent oppose). Voters in Long Island SDs and the Hudson Valley SDs support by the same margin: 60-points (74 percent support, 14 percent oppose).

## Voters Support A Tax On The Financial Transactions Of Billionaires

New York faces a multi-billion dollar deficit due to coronavirus. To close the deficit policymakers are considering some new taxes and budget cuts. For each tax or budget cut, say whether you support or oppose it: -- A tax on money made by billionaires on their investments, paid annually instead of when the investments are sold, which would raise \$5.5 billion.



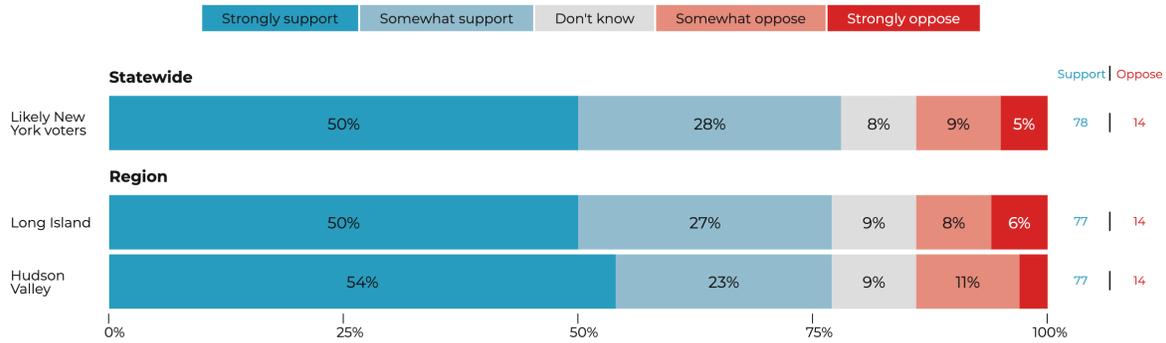
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Voters are also enthusiastic about levying a tax on those making more than \$2 million a year. Among all likely voters, this idea is backed by a 64-point margin (78 percent support, 14 percent oppose). In both Long Island SDs and the Hudson Valley SDs, this proposal nets a 63-point margin of support.

## Voters Support Levying A Tax On Those Making Over \$2 Million A Year

New York faces a multi-billion dollar deficit due to coronavirus. To close the deficit policymakers are considering some new taxes and budget cuts. For each tax or budget cut, say whether you support or oppose it: -- A tax on those making over \$2 million per year, which would raise \$4.5 billion or more.



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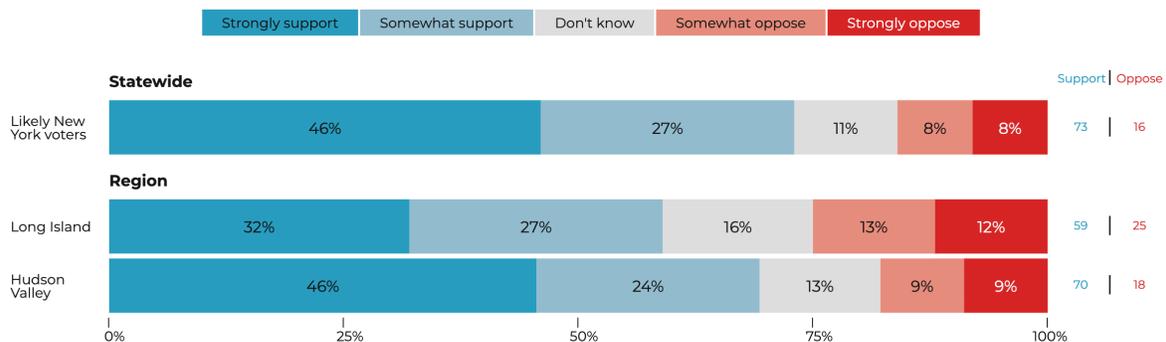
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# INCLUSIVE STIMULUS

Likely voters across New York also support efforts to ensure that New Yorkers excluded from federal cash relief and unemployment insurance programs due to their immigration status get the help that they need. Specifically, they support taxing New York's billionaires to create a fund to protect these workers by a 57-point margin (73 percent support, 16 percent oppose).

## Voters Want to Ensure that NY Tax Billionaires to Fund Excluded Workers

Millions of immigrant workers in New York have been excluded from the federal government's cash relief and unemployment insurance programs because of their immigration status. Meanwhile, New York's 118 billionaires have gotten \$77 billion richer in the first four months of the pandemic. Would you support or oppose taxing the state's 118 billionaires to create a \$3.5 billion fund to support workers who have been excluded from the federal stimulus?



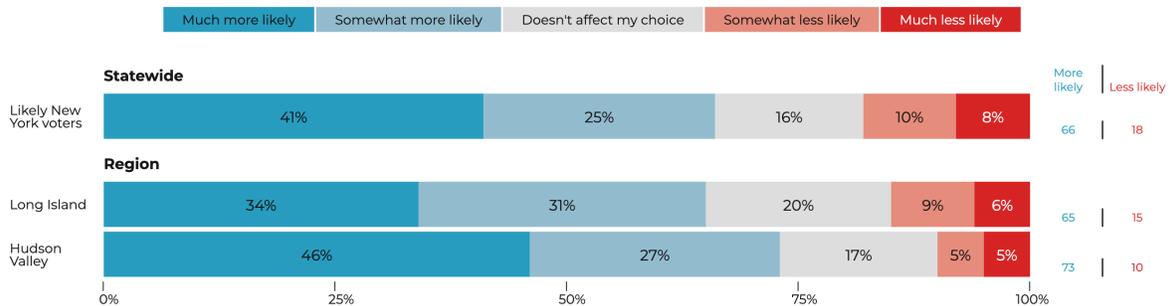
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We also find that likely voters in New York report that they're more likely to vote for a candidate who backs legislation that would create such a fund by a 48-point margin (66 percent more likely, 18 percent less likely). Voters on Long Island and in the Hudson Valley display similar attitudes, by a 50-point margin on Long Island and 63-point margin in the Hudson Valley.

## Voters Are More Likely To Support A Candidate Who Backs Taxing Billionaires and Creating a Fund for Excluded Workers

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate that supports legislation to tax billionaires and create a fund for workers excluded from federal programs who are affected by the current pandemic and economic downturn?



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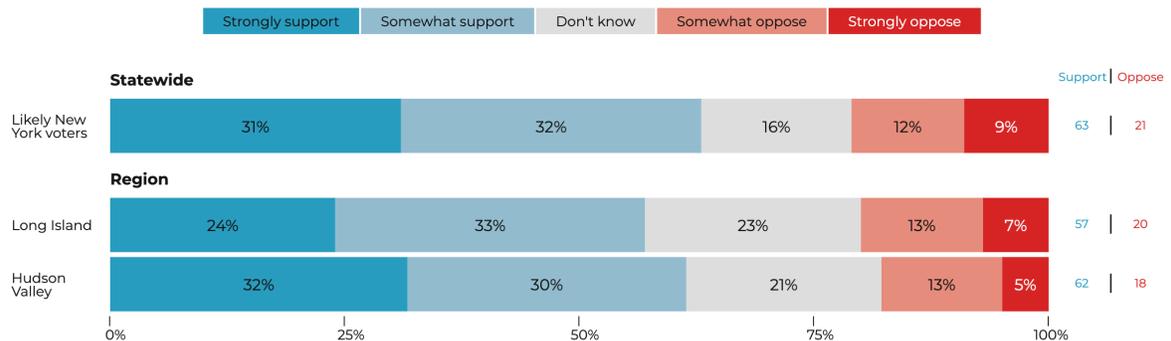
## HOUSING

We then tested three proposals aimed at preventing a housing crisis and wave evictions in the state. We find high levels of support for all of them.

First, we asked likely voters if they would support a universal eviction moratorium. We find that they do so by a 42-point margin (63 percent support, 21 percent oppose). In Long Island SDs, likely voters support this proposal by a 37-point margin while in the Hudson Valley SDs they do so by a 44-point margin.

## Voters Support A Universal Eviction Moratorium

Three tenant protection proposals have recently been proposed in the New York State legislature. Do you support or oppose each of these proposals? -- Adopt a universal eviction moratorium for residential and commercial tenants that would begin on March 7th 2020 and last for the duration of the crisis plus one year.



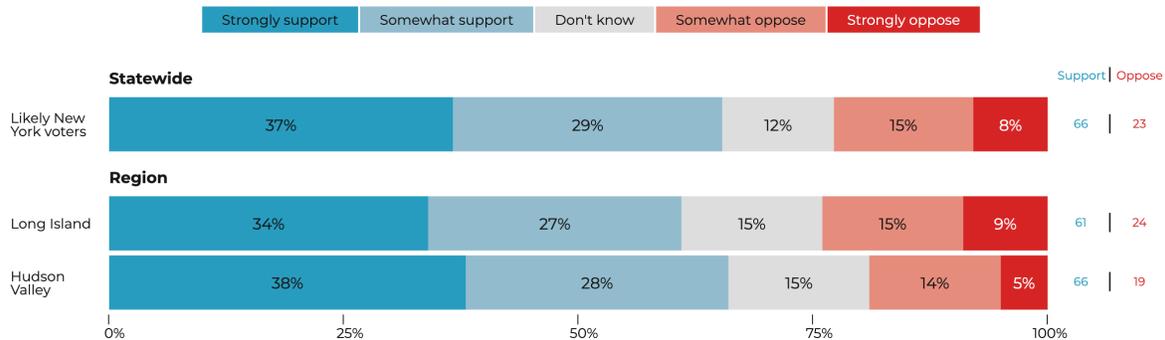
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Next, we asked likely voters if they would support forgiving rent, rent debt, and mortgage payments. We find that they do, with likely voters supporting this proposal by a 43-point margin (66 percent support, 23 percent oppose). In Long Island SDs and the Hudson Valley SDs, voters support this proposal by a 37-point and 47-point margin, respectively.

## Voters Support Forgiving Rents and Mortgages

Three tenant protection proposals have recently been proposed in the New York State legislature. Do you support or oppose each of these proposals? -- Forgives rent, rent debt and mortgage payments for tenants and homeowners from March 7, 2020 through the end of the crisis, plus 90 days, while providing relief to landlords who can prove hardship.



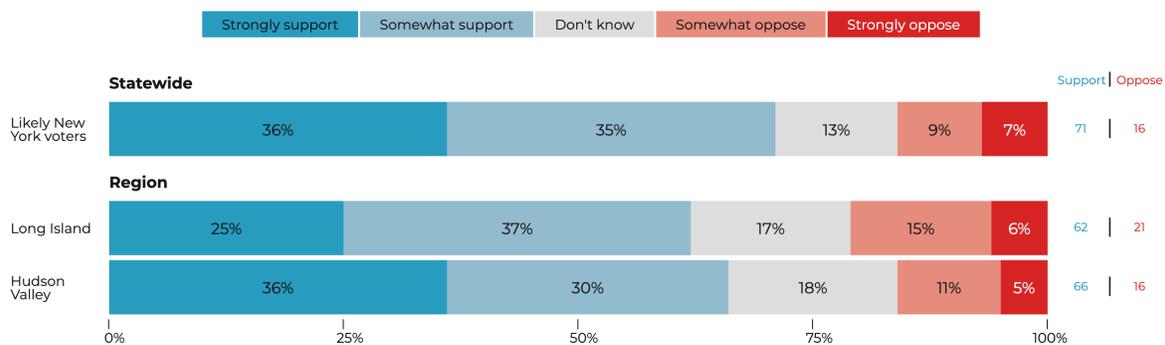
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Last, we asked likely voters if they would support the creation of a statewide rent support program that focuses on providing resources to those who suffer from chronic housing insecurity. We find that voters support this by a 55-point margin (71 percent support, 16 percent oppose). In Long Island SDs, likely voters back this proposal by a 41-point margin while they do so by a 50-point margin in the Hudson Valley SDs.

## Voters Support The Creation Of A Statewide Rent Support Program

Three tenant protection proposals have recently been proposed in the New York State legislature. Do you support or oppose each of these proposals? -- Creates a state-funded statewide rent support program that prioritizes resources for homeless New Yorkers and New Yorkers who are chronically housing insecure.



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# CONCLUSION

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In New York State, including in key battleground State Senate Districts, likely voters want to raise taxes on the rich, not cut essential services, and fund excluded workers. There's widespread support for forging an inclusive relief effort in the state -- one that doesn't leave people behind because of their immigration status or other factors that have excluded them from federal relief. Lastly, voters want to take aggressive action to ensure that the coronavirus doesn't trigger an even deeper housing crisis and wave of evictions. New Yorkers want to take care of one another and agree that increasing taxes on the wealthy is the way forward.

## METHODOLOGY

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September 5 to 22, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of likely general election voters in New York using online web-panels. The responses were weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, geography and voting history. The survey was conducted in English and has a Margin of Error of +/- 3 percentage points.

### QUESTION WORDING

*New York faces a multi-billion dollar budget deficit due to coronavirus. How would you prefer the state close this deficit?*

- ▶ Raising taxes on the wealthiest New Yorkers
- ▶ Cutting health care, education and other services
- ▶ Don't know

*Some lawmakers in Albany are considering a proposal that would raise taxes on billionaires. Opponents of this argue that a new tax on billionaires could lead them to leave the state, leading to a loss in revenue. Supporters of this argue that experts have shown billionaires are unlikely to leave if their taxes are increased. Do you believe that New York should raise taxes on billionaires?*

- ▶ We should raise taxes on billionaires to fund essential services
- ▶ We should not taxes on billionaires because they may leave New York State
- ▶ Don't know

*New York faces a multi-billion dollar deficit due to coronavirus. To close the deficit policymakers are considering some new taxes and budget cuts. For each tax or budget cut, say whether you support or oppose it: -- A tax on money made by billionaires on their investments, paid annually instead of when the investments are sold, which would raise \$5.5 billion.*

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

*New York faces a multi-billion dollar deficit due to coronavirus. To close the deficit policymakers are considering some new taxes and budget cuts. For each tax or budget cut, say whether you support or oppose it: -- A tax on those making over \$2 million per year, which would raise \$4.5 billion or more.*

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

*Millions of immigrant workers in New York have been excluded from the federal government's cash relief and unemployment insurance programs because of their immigration status. Meanwhile, New York's 118 billionaires have gotten \$77 billion richer in the first four months of the pandemic. Would you support or oppose taxing the state's 118 billionaires to create a \$3.5 billion fund to support workers who have been excluded from the federal stimulus?*

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

*Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate that supports legislation to tax billionaires and create a fund for workers excluded from federal programs who are affected by the current pandemic and economic downturn?*

- ▶ Much more likely
- ▶ Somewhat less likely
- ▶ Somewhat more likely
- ▶ Much less likely
- ▶ Doesn't affect my choice

*Three tenant protection proposals have recently been proposed in the New York State legislature. Do you support or oppose each of these proposals? -- Adopt a universal eviction moratorium for residential and commercial tenants that would begin on March 7th 2020 and last for the duration of the crisis plus one year.*

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

*Three tenant protection proposals have recently been proposed in the New York State legislature. Do you support or oppose each of these proposals? -- Forgives rent, rent debt and mortgage payments for tenants and homeowners from March 7, 2020 through the end of the crisis, plus 90 days, while providing relief to landlords who can prove hardship.*

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

*Three tenant protection proposals have recently been proposed in the New York State legislature. Do you support or oppose each of these proposals? -- Creates a state-funded statewide rent support program that prioritizes resources for homeless New Yorkers and New Yorkers who are chronically housing insecure.*

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