

Creating a Civilian Climate Corps (CCC)

JUNE 2021



1/4 of young adults are unemployed. The CCC will provide jobs in many sustainable fields.



Building homes



Planting trees

Putting millions of Americans to work through a Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) builds on the legacy of FDR’s Civilian Conservation Corps — a key initiative of the New Deal. The original Civilian Conservation Corps put young, unemployed Americans to work conserving the United States’ natural resources. The American Jobs Plan (AJP) promises to channel the original program, but this time with equity and justice at the CCC’s core. In an era marked by economic and environmental catastrophe, a Civilian Climate Corps is precisely the kind of public, popular and intersectional climate policy that we need.

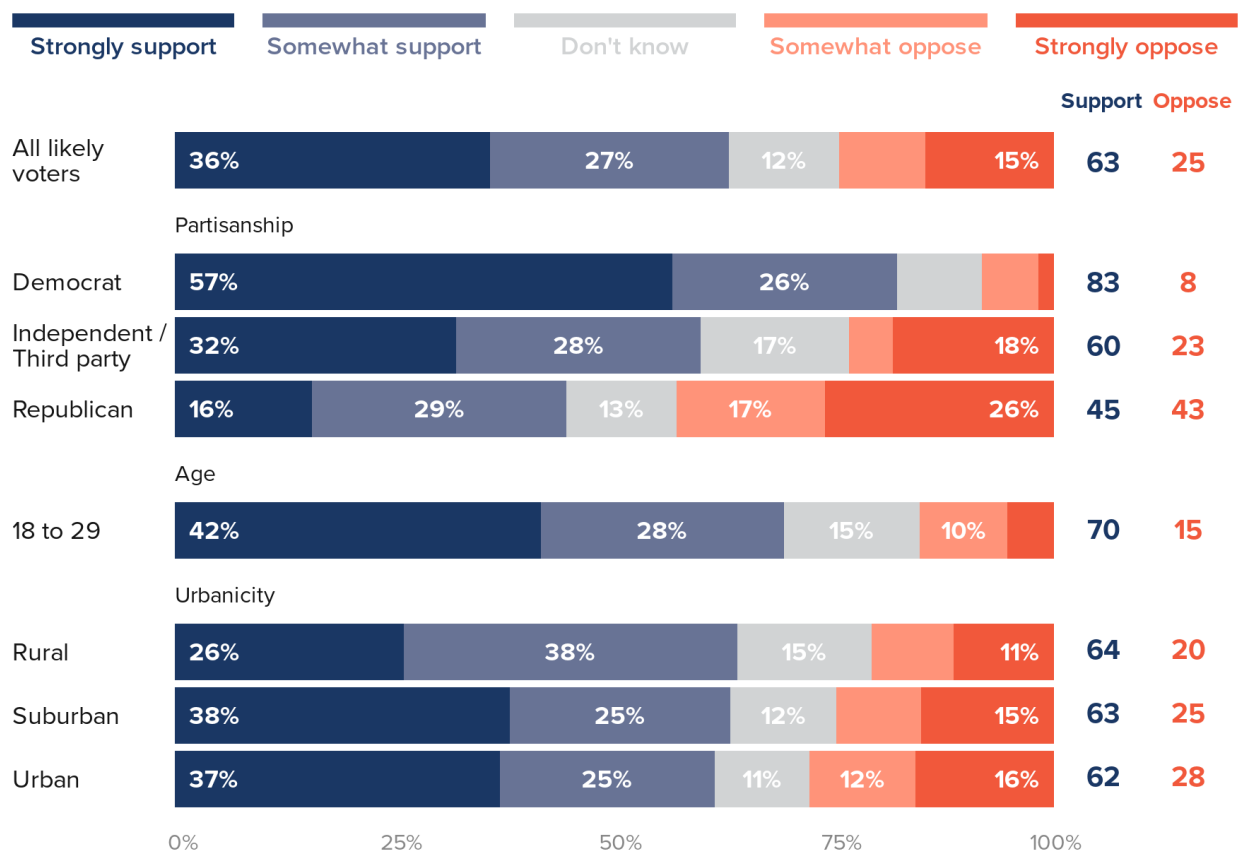
After issuing [an executive order to create a Civilian Climate Corps](#), the Biden Administration has allocated a proposed \$10 billion for the program in the AJP, which would [create](#) an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 new jobs. Proposals for an even more ambitious CCC have been pushed by organizations such as [Evergreen Action](#) and progressive lawmakers in Congress. In April 2021, Senator Markey (D-MA) and Representative Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) proposed the [Civilian Climate Corps for Jobs and Justice Act](#), which would create a CCC that employs 1.5 million Americans.

An ambitious Civilian Climate Corps program has the potential to significantly boost America’s resilience in the face of climate change while providing millions of employment opportunities in the process. As such, the White House needs to modify its CCC proposal to be much larger in scale, akin to the aforementioned proposals.

The CCC is broadly popular among voters, especially young voters and rural voters. Nearly two-thirds of likely voters (63 percent), including nearly all Democrats (83 percent), a majority of Independents (60 percent), and a plurality of Republicans (45 percent), support the AJP’s proposal for creating a new Climate Corps. Given the potential employment opportunities for young people in a CCC, it is no surprise that 18-29 year-old voters support this proposal by a 55-point margin (70 percent support, 15 percent oppose). Similarly, it is notable that rural voters support a CCC by an overwhelming 44-point margin (64 percent support, 20 percent oppose). While rural voters are most enthusiastic about a CCC, suburban voters and urban voters express similar levels of support (63 percent and 62 percent support, respectively).

A Majority of Voters Support the Creation of a Climate Conservation Corps

Do you support or oppose the following proposal in the American Jobs Plan: Creating a Climate Conservation Corps to employ young people in community sustainability and resiliency projects



May 5–6, 2021 survey of 1,328 likely voters

DATA FOR PROGRESS