

Implementing a Clean Electricity Standard (CES)

JUNE 2021

A Clean Electricity Standard (CES) is the most important policy lever for reducing greenhouse gas pollution included in the American Jobs Plan (AJP). Earlier this year, Data for Progress and Evergreen Action proposed a Roadmap To 100% Clean Electricity by 2035 that offers various legislative pathways to achieve a CES including via budget reconciliation. The effectiveness of a CES is proven in states — already one in three Americans live in a place targeting 100 percent clean, carbon-free power. Furthermore, it’s a practical approach, which can ensure job creation and justice are at the center of a rapid clean energy transition. Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) and then-Representative Luján (D-NM) introduced legislation in 2019 to establish a federal Clean Energy Standard.

Beyond a CES, the AJP includes a proposal for a ten-year extension of a direct-pay investment tax credit (ITC) and a production tax credit for generating and storing renewable energy. Such provisions would provide a major boost to renewable energy production in the United States. The legislation also seeks to implement stronger labor standards in booming renewable energy industries.

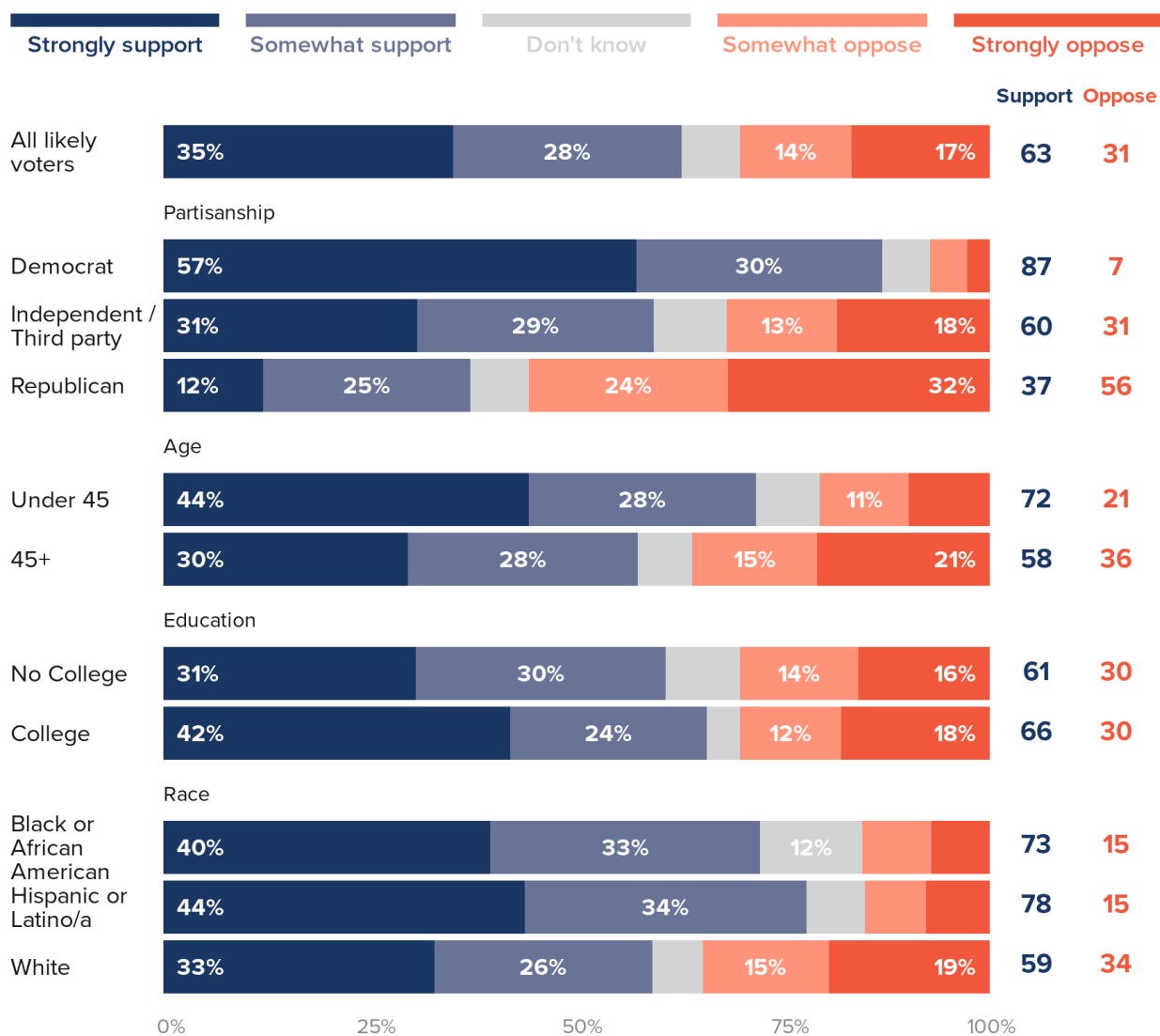
In addition, the AJP incentivizes competition between renewable energy firms to drive down consumer costs. State, municipal, and tribal governments are highlighted in the AJP as having a critical role to play in the federal transition to a clean energy economy, with the Administration proposing the creation of clean energy block grants to help these jurisdictions. Through the instatement of a CES, the United States will be able to seriously reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, which will be crucial for securing an environmentally-sustainable future.

Data for Progress has been consistently polling support for a federal CES on our bi-weekly national surveys, and our findings indicate that there is widespread support for moving the country to a

100 percent clean energy electricity grid by 2035. Nearly two-thirds of all likely voters (63 percent), including nearly all Democrats (87 percent), a majority of Independents (60 percent), and 37 percent of Republicans, support this proposal. Young voters are especially enthusiastic about a CES, with support from nearly three-quarters of voters under 45 (72 percent). There is also consistent support for a CES among non-college and college-educated voters (61 percent and 66 percent support, respectively). Finally, Black and Latino voters overwhelmingly back a CES (73 percent and 78 percent support, respectively). Given the remarkable support for this proposal, Democratic lawmakers should ensure that a CES is included in the final legislation.

Voters Support Moving to a 100% Clean Electricity Grid by 2035

pooled over 6 surveys Would you support or oppose the government moving the country to a 100% clean energy electricity grid by 2035?



May 5–23, 2021 survey of 7,518 likely voters

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