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BATTLEGROUND SENATE VOTERS SUPPORT BOLD CLIMATE ACTION

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August 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ▶ Voters in the key senate battleground states of Arizona, Iowa, Maine, and North Carolina support a broad range of climate policies and are more likely to support candidates that pledge bold climate action
- ▶ A plurality of voters in these battleground states (41 percent) think Congress should make addressing climate change a Day 1 priority
- ▶ A majority of voters (53 percent) support the Biden clean energy investment plan, even after hearing Republican arguments against it
- ▶ Voters support an ‘Equity Screen’ on all new major federal infrastructure investments to ensure funds go to the communities that need it the most by an overwhelming 49-point-margin

A progressive climate policy is a winning strategy for Democrats across the country and in key senate battleground states. In July, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, former Vice President Joe Biden, unveiled his new clean energy infrastructure plan after receiving recommendations from the campaign’s joint task force with representatives from the campaign of Senator Bernie Sanders. The [Build Back Better plan](#), which includes \$2 trillion in funding over the next

four years for clean infrastructure projects, signals Biden’s commitment to prioritizing climate change in his administration.

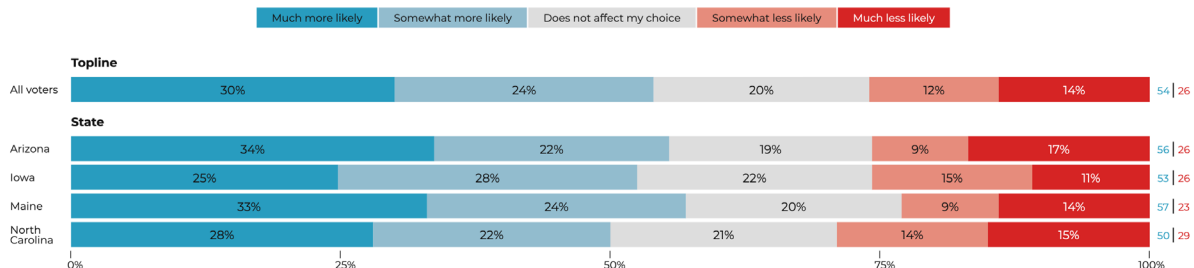
[Data for Progress polling](#) on the Build Back Better plan shows that voters express high support for investing in clean energy infrastructure, eliminating carbon emissions from the power sector by 2035, and guaranteeing funds for frontline communities that are most affected by climate change and pollution. Our polling shows that bold climate policies could bridge the gap for Democrats winning back the Senate and White House.

To assess how battleground voters view climate policies, Data for Progress conducted a poll of likely voters in four states—Arizona, North Carolina, Maine, and Iowa—between July 25 and August 2, 2020 using both web-panels and text-to-web.

First, we asked voters whether they would be more or less likely to vote for a Senate candidate that pledges to move the country to 100% clean electricity by 2035, a proposal that the Biden campaign adopted in the Build Back Better plan. A majority of voters in these states (54 percent) are more likely to vote for a Senate candidate that makes this pledge. Thirty-four percent of Arizona voters, 25 percent of Iowa voters, 33 percent of Maine voters, and 28 percent of North Carolina voters say they are “much more likely” to vote for a Senate candidate that makes this pledge.

Voters Are More Likely to Support a Candidate That Pledges 100% Clean Electricity by 2035

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a Senate candidate who supports the following proposals: Move the country to 100% clean electricity by 2035 to address climate change



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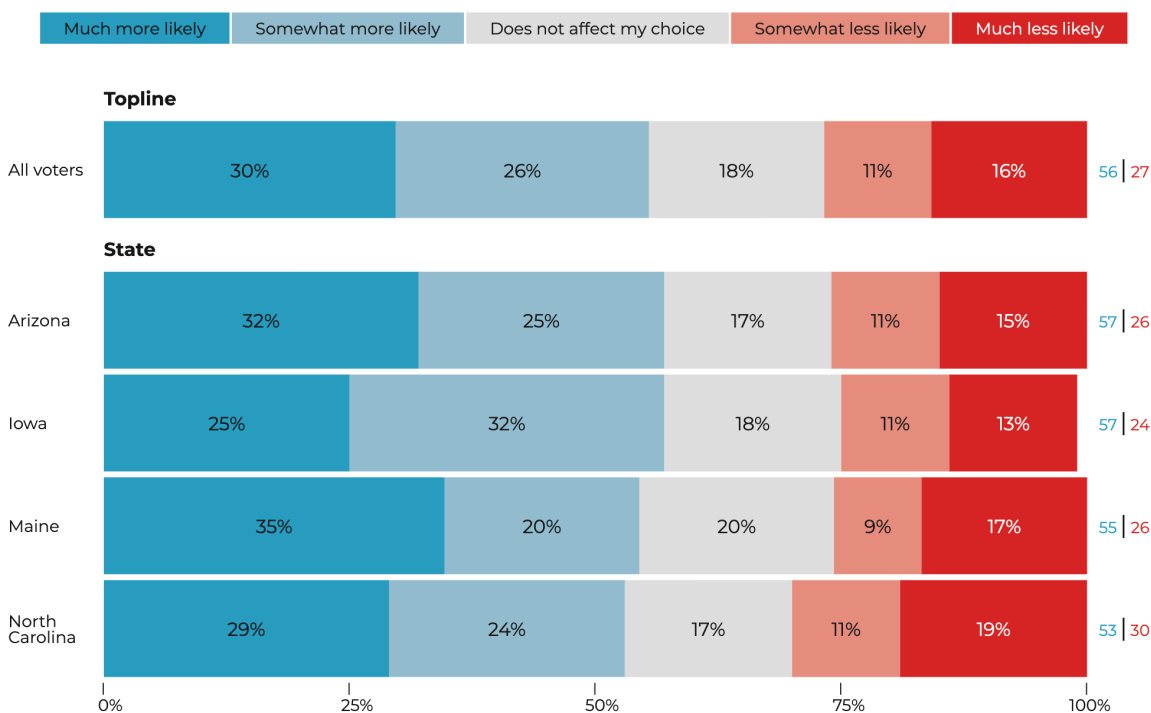
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We asked voters if they would be more or less likely to vote for a Senate candidate that invests \$2 trillion over the next four years to create millions of new jobs in the clean energy sector, another key component of the Build Back Better plan. A majority of voters in these states (56

percent) are more likely to support a Senate candidate that makes this pledge. Thirty-two percent of Arizona voters, 25 percent of Iowa voters, 35 percent of Maine voters, and 29 percent of North Carolina voters say they are “much more likely” to vote for a Senate candidate that makes this pledge.

Voters Are More Likely to Support a Candidate That Makes Historic Investments in Clean Energy

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a Senate candidate who supports the following proposals: Invest \$2 trillion over the next four years to create millions of new jobs in the clean energy sector



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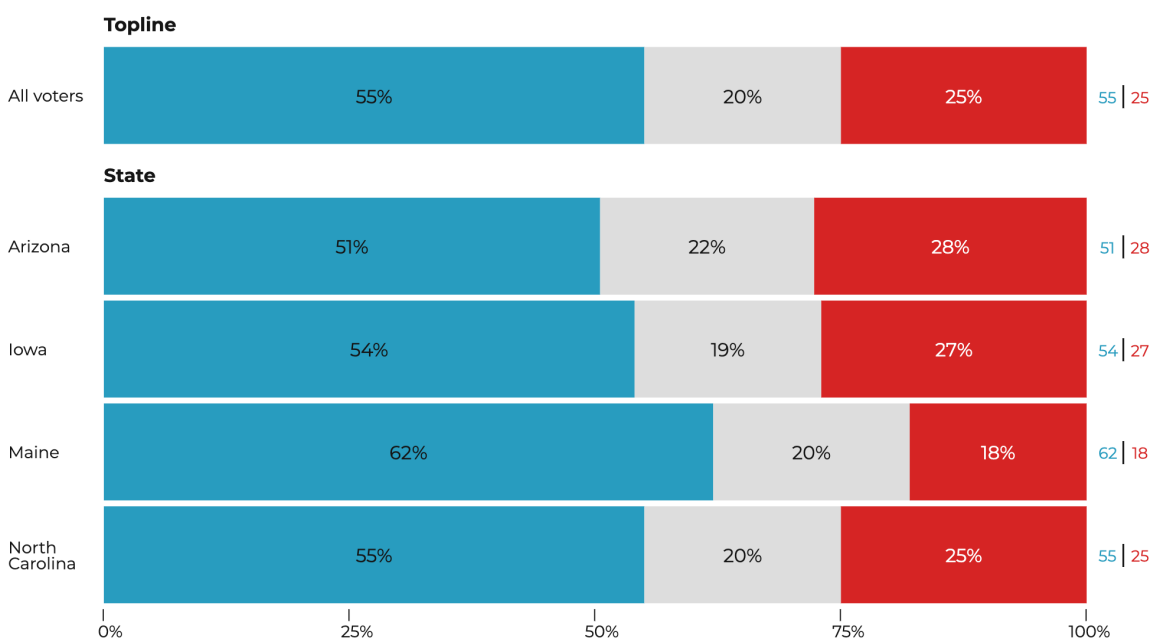
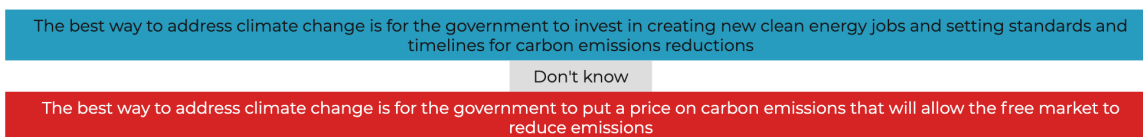
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Next, we presented voters with a series of statements about different proposals for the government's approach to addressing climate change and asked voters to select which one they most closely agree with. A majority of voters in these states (55 percent) agree that the best way to address climate change is for the federal government to invest in creating new clean

energy jobs and set standards and timelines for carbon emissions reductions. Voters support the standards and investments approach by significant margins: Arizona voters do so by a 23-percentage-point margin, Iowa voters by a 27-point margin, Maine voters by a 44-point margin, and North Carolina voters by a 30-point margin.

Voters Want a Standards and Investments Approach to Address Climate Change

Which statement comes closer to your view:



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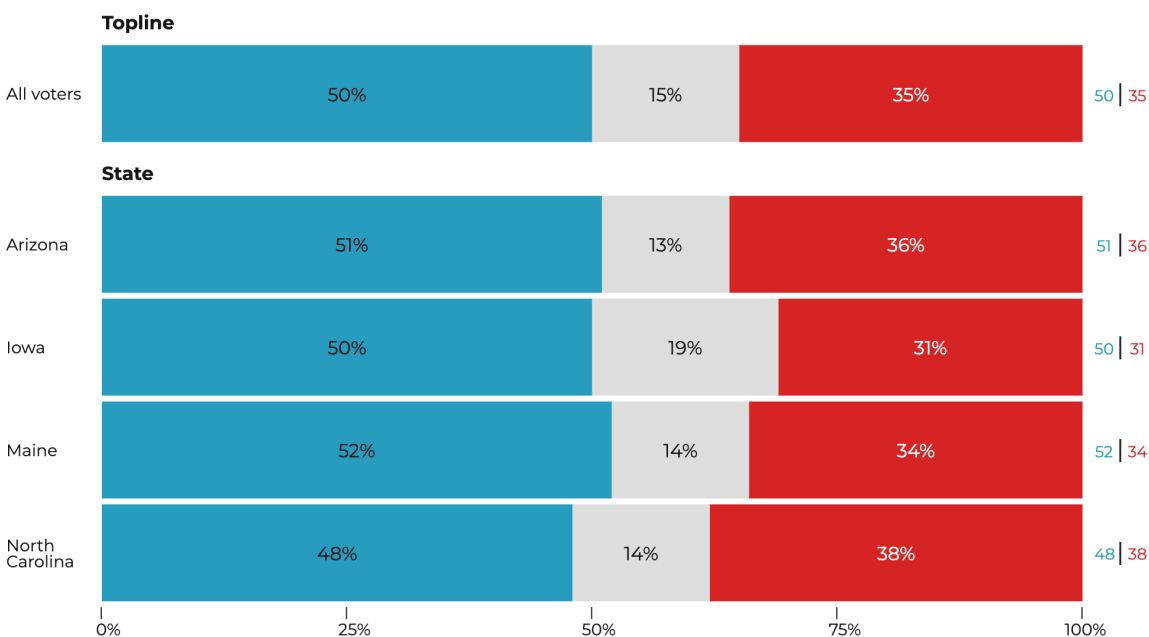
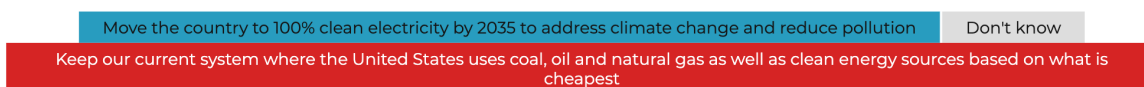
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We also presented voters with two statements regarding a transition to clean energy and asked voters to select the statement that came closest to their view. Overall, voters in these battleground states agree that the country should move to 100% clean electricity by 2035 rather than keep

the current system of relying on fossil fuels by a 15-point margin (50 percent support, 35 percent oppose). Fifty-one percent of Arizona voters, 50 percent of Iowa voters, 52 percent of Maine voters, and 48 percent of North Carolina voters agree that the United States should transition to 100% clean electricity by 2035.

Voters Support Transitioning to 100% Clean Electricity by 2035

Which statement comes closer to your view:



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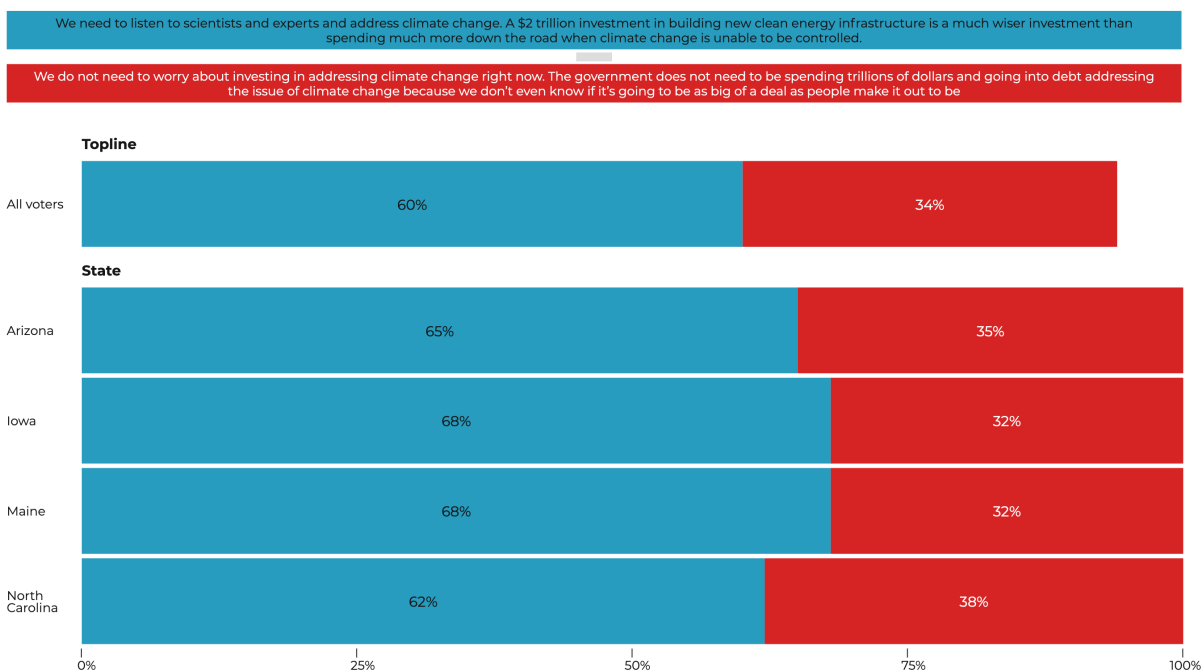
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We then presented voters with two two different statements regarding the justifications for and against a \$2 trillion investment in clean energy infrastructure and asked voters to select the statement that comes closest to their view. By a 22-point margin, a majority of voters in these states agree that we should listen to scientists and

experts to address climate change with a historic \$2 trillion investment that will pay itself off down the road. Sixty-five percent of Arizona voters, 68 percent of Iowa voters, 68 percent of Maine voters, and 62 percent of North Carolina voters agree we should listen to scientists and experts and make a \$2 trillion investment to address climate change.

Voters Support Listening to Scientists and Experts and Addressing Climate Change through a \$2 Trillion Investment in Clean Energy

Which statement comes closer to your view:



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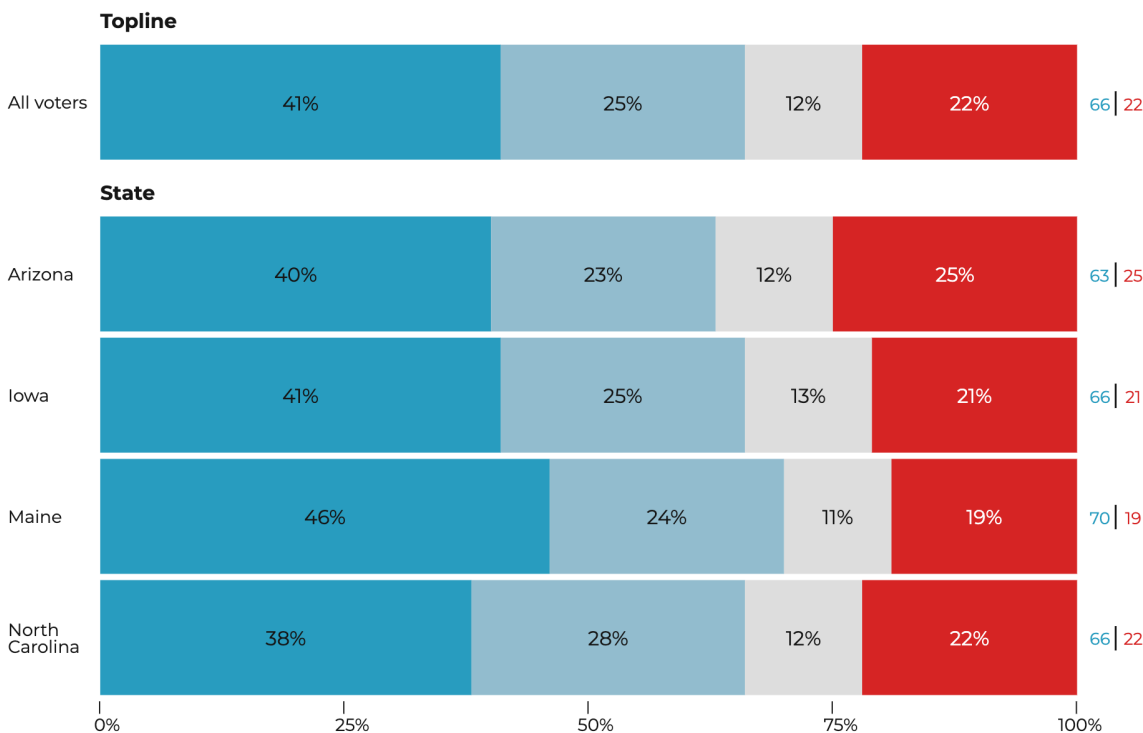
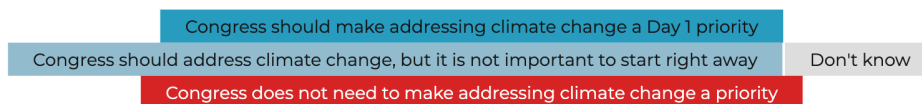
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We then presented voters with a series of approaches Congress could take to addressing climate change, and asked voters select the statement that came closest to their view. A majority of voters in these states (66 percent) think Congress should address climate change, and a plurality of voters in these states (41 percent)

think Congress should make addressing climate change a Day 1 priority. Forty percent of Arizona voters, 41 percent of Iowa voters, 46 percent of Maine voters, and 38 percent of North Carolina voters think Congress should make addressing climate change a Day 1 priority.

Voters Think Congress Should Make Addressing Climate Change a Day 1 Priority

Which statement comes closer to your view:



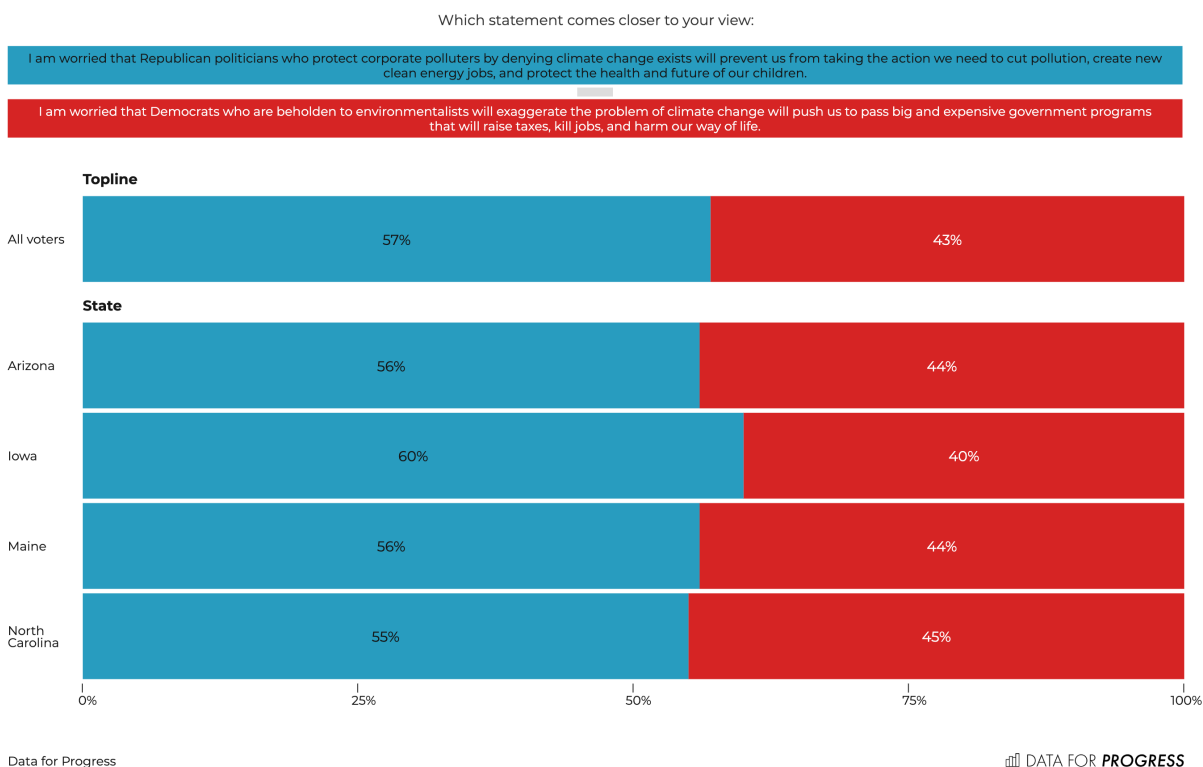
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To assess how voters trust Democrats and Republicans to address climate change, we presented sets of concerns about each party's approach to addressing climate change and asked voters to select the statement that came closest to their view. A majority of voters in these states (57 percent) are more concerned about

Republicans who protect corporate polluters by denying climate change and refuse to take action to address climate change. Fifty-six percent of Arizona voters, 60 percent of Iowa voters, 56 percent of Maine voters, and 55 percent of North Carolina voters are more concerned with Republican climate change denial and inaction.

Voters Trust Democrats Over Republicans to Address Climate Change

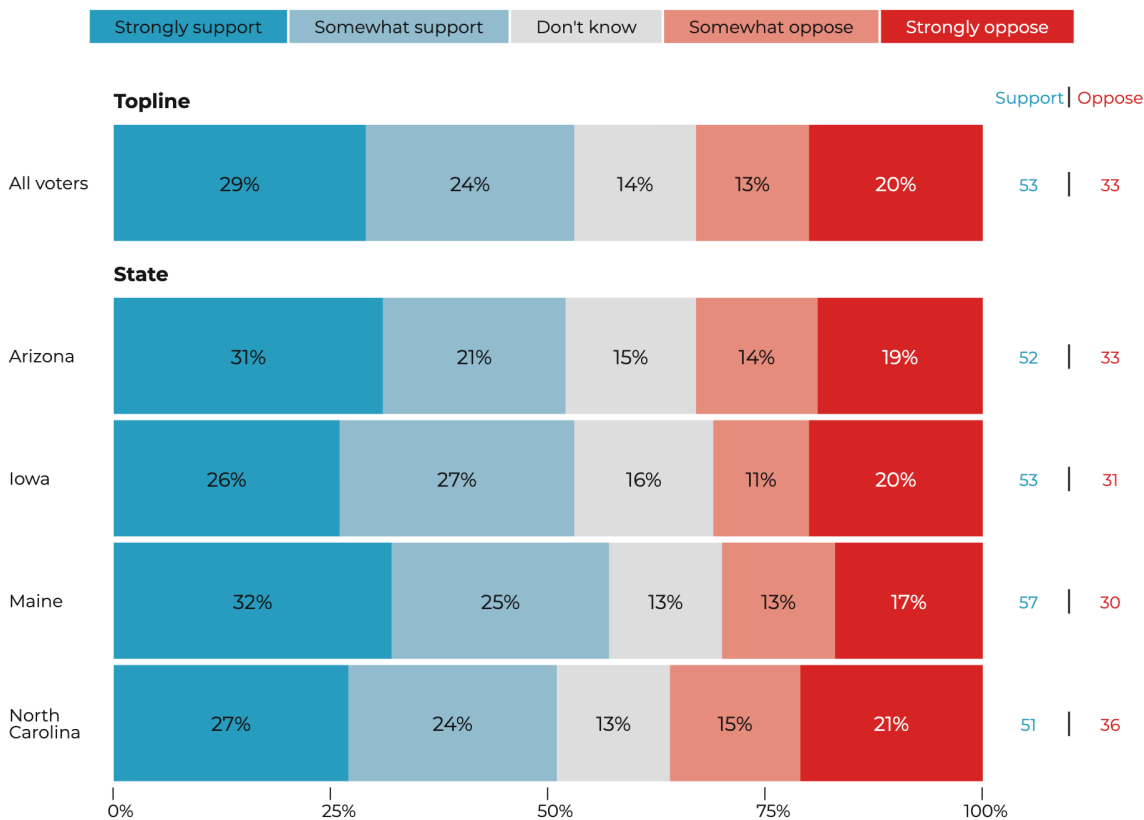


We then presented voters with the Biden plan to invest \$2 trillion over four years in new clean energy infrastructure projects, and showed partisan arguments for and against the plan. Voters in these states support the Biden clean energy investment plan by a 20-point margin (53

percent support, 33 percent oppose). This plan enjoys support from a majority of voters: Fifty-two percent of Arizona voters, 53 percent of Iowa voters, 57 percent of Maine voters, and 51 percent of North Carolina voters support the Biden clean energy investment plan.

A Majority of All Voters Support the Biden Clean Energy Investment Plan

Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden has proposed a \$2 trillion investment over 4 years for new clean energy infrastructure projects. Democrats say that this investment will create millions of jobs, aggressively attack the growing climate crisis, and transform America into a clean energy economy. Republicans say that this investment will destroy the fossil fuel industry, which employs millions of people and is a critical part of the American economy. Do you support or oppose this investment?



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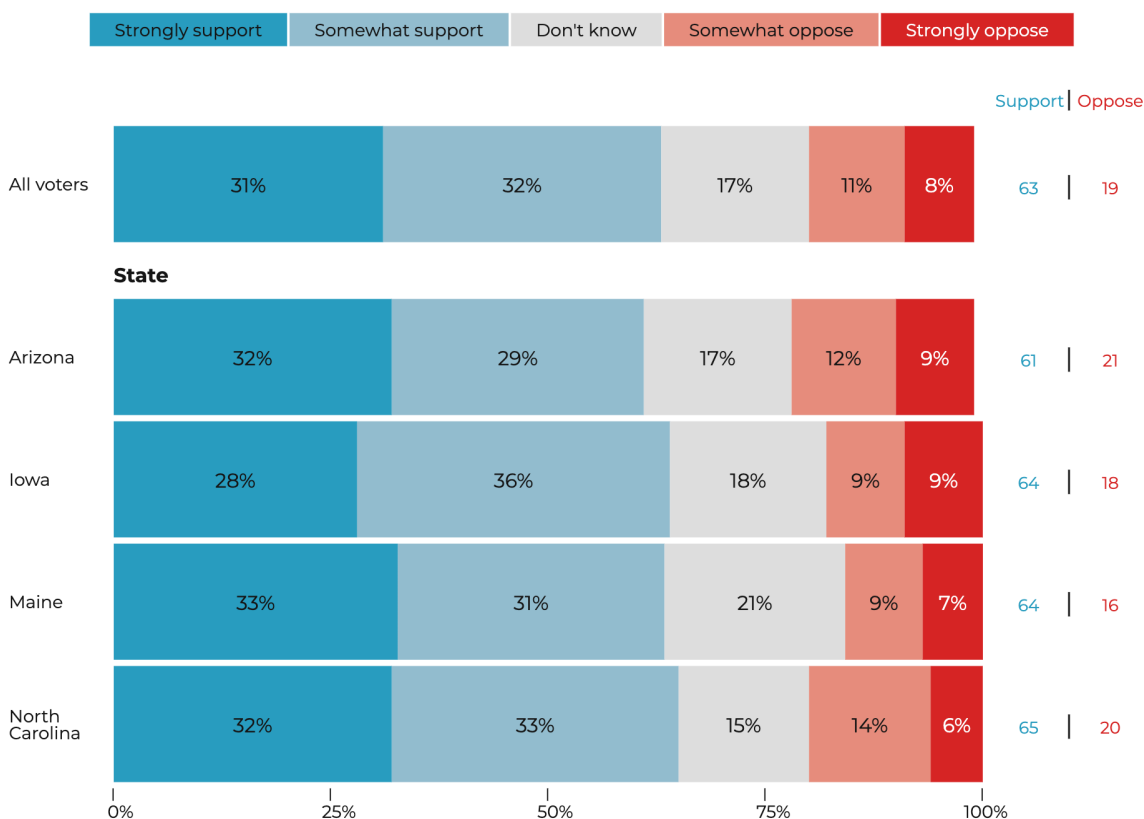
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We also asked voters about several of the Biden campaign's new plans to address environmental justice. First, we asked voters if they would support or oppose ensuring 40 percent of clean energy infrastructure and development spending goes to low-income communities. Voters in these

states support ensuring 40% of clean energy infrastructure and development spending goes to low-income communities by a 44-point margin (63 percent support, 19 percent oppose). A majority of voters in Arizona (61 percent), Iowa (64 percent), Maine (64 percent), and North Carolina (65 percent) support this proposal.

Voters Support Ensuring 40% of Clean Energy Infrastructure Spending Goes to Low-Income Communities

Do you support or oppose ensuring 40% of clean energy infrastructure and development spending, including clean public transit, affordable and sustainable housing, training and workforce development for green jobs, pollution reduction, and development of critical clean water infrastructure, goes to benefit low-income communities?



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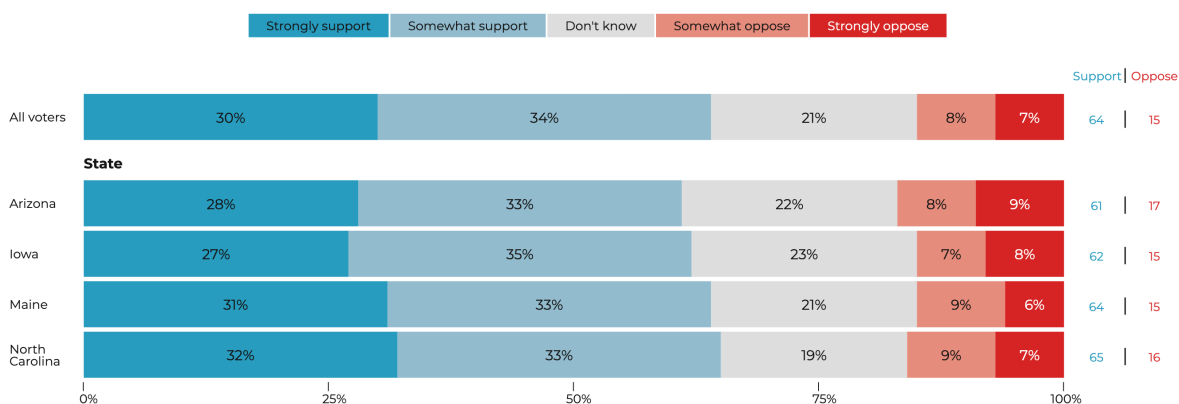
Lastly, we asked voters if they would support or oppose an ‘Equity Screen’ on all new major federal infrastructure investments to ensure funds go to the communities that need it the most. Voters in these states support an ‘Equity Screen’ by a 49-point margin (64 percent support, 15 percent oppose). A majority of voters in Arizona (61 percent), Iowa (62 percent), Maine (64 percent), and North Carolina (65 percent) support an ‘Equity Screen’ on all new major federal infrastructure investments.

The results show that voters in Arizona, Iowa, Maine, and North Carolina support bold climate actions. Voters in these states are more likely to vote for a Senate candidate that pledges to achieve 100% clean energy electricity by 2035 and invest \$2 trillion over the next four years in clean energy infrastructure. Voters in these battleground states support proposals for the government to address climate change through a standards and investments approach, make historic investments

in clean energy infrastructure, and transition to a clean power sector by 2035 even when presented with arguments against these actions. A plurality of voters in these battleground states think that Congress should make addressing climate change a Day 1 priority, and a majority of voters are more concerned with Republican inaction than with Democratic spending to address climate change. A majority of voters in these states support the Biden clean energy investment plan, even when presented with partisan arguments against it. Lastly, an overwhelming majority of voters in these states support guaranteeing 40% of clean energy infrastructure spending goes to low-income communities and putting an ‘Equity Screen’ on all new major federal infrastructure investments. For the candidates running in the crucial battleground states to win back the Senate, embracing bold climate policies is popular among voters and can turn the tide towards the Democrats in November.

Voters Overwhelmingly Support an 'Equity Screen' on All Major Federal Infrastructure Investments

Do you support or oppose an 'Equity Screen' on all major federal infrastructure investments, such as housing, transportation, and clean energy, to ensure funds go to the communities that need it the most?



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AUTHORSHIP

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METHODOLOGY

Between July 24 and August 2, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of likely voters in Arizona, Maine, North Carolina and Iowa using both web-panels and text-to-web. The responses were weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English.