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JUSTICE  
DEMOCRATS

WORKING  
**WF**  
FAMILIES

**MOVE**ON



  
INDIVISIBLE

**COMMUNITY  
CHANGE**  
Power from the  
ground up

# THE PUT PEOPLE FIRST AGENDA HAS BROAD SUPPORT

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April 2020



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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- ▶ Voters support providing grants so small businesses keep workers on the payroll by a 75-percentage-point margin.
- ▶ Voters support universal, monthly cash-payments that will continue for the duration of the crisis by a 67-percentage-point margin.
- ▶ Voters support all people being provided with full health coverage for all coronavirus care and protections for all frontline workers by a 58-percentage-point margin.
- ▶ Voters support the expanded use of absentee voting by a 48-percentage-point margin.

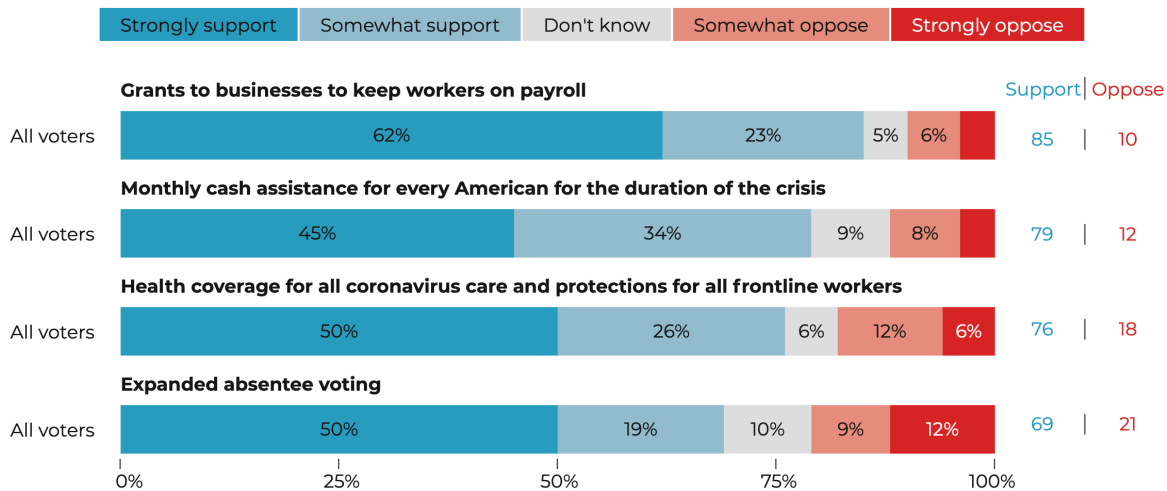
The coronavirus crisis is intensifying as President Trump and the Republican Party together fail to respond adequately. As unemployment continues to rise, the need for additional economic relief is becoming increasingly clear. To address this, progressive Democrats such as Rep. Pramila Jayapal, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Rep. Ilhan Omar, Rep. Mark Pocan, and Rep. Ayanna Pressley are now proposing that the next stimulus #PutPeopleFirst. Their agenda includes four planks: first, steps to keep workers on the payroll, second, provide financial relief to all people, third, protect public health by providing health care coverage to all frontline workers, and, fourth, defending elections by expanding use of vote-by-mail.

As part of an April survey, Data for Progress sought to test support for all four of these proposals. We found overwhelming support for all four of them.

This first chart depicts topline findings for the four proposals we tested. We found convincing support for all of them. The most popular was grants from the federal government to businesses to keep workers on the payroll with voters supporting it by a 75-percentage-point margin (85 percent support, 10 percent oppose). After weeks of devastating jobless claims—itsself a lagging indicator of the current shape of the economy—voters want decisive action to keep workers employed. The second most popular proposal is universal, direct cash-payments to all persons. This sort of emergency universal basic income enjoys a 67-percentage-point backing (79 percent support, 12 percent oppose). The third most popular is expanding health care coverage to all frontline workers, a proposal supported by a 58-percentage-point margin (76 percent support, 18 percent oppose). Last, voters support the expanded use of absentee voting by a 48-percentage-point margin (69 percent support, 21 percent oppose).

## Voters Support A Series Of Actions To Deal With The Coronavirus Crisis

Would you support or oppose the following provisions in a future legislative package to address the coronavirus?



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This following chart depicts support for a proposal to provide grants to businesses to keep workers on the payroll broken out across a series of measured demographics and by partisanship. We asked voters, specifically:

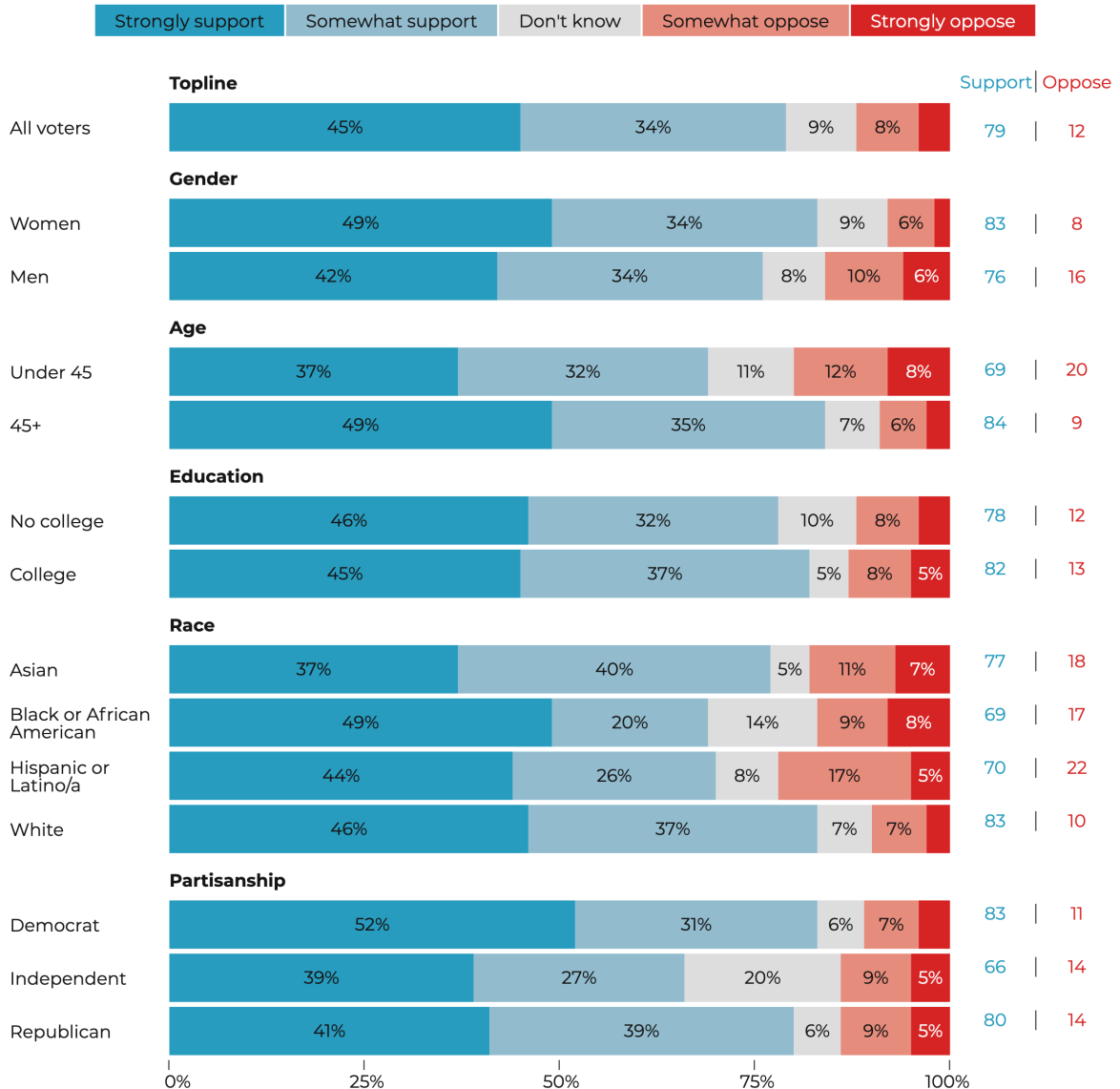
*Would you support or oppose the following provisions in a future legislative package to address the coronavirus:-- Grants to businesses to keep workers on payroll.*

Unemployment has spiked in the last month because of the coronavirus crisis. The [Guardian reports](#) that “More than 22 million American[s] have lost their jobs in the last four weeks” and a Data for Progress [research found](#) that 52 percent

of voters under forty-five have seen their hours reduced, been furloughed, or lost their jobs. Voters feel that urgent action must be taken to address this. Women are slightly more likely to support this proposal than men; voters over forty-five are modestly more supportive than those over forty-five; attitudes are generally consistent across both educational attainment and by race. Importantly, support for this proposal bipartisan. Those who self-identify as Democrats back it by a 72-percentage-point margin (83 percent support, 11 percent oppose) while those who self-identify as Republicans support it by a 66-percentage-point margin (80 percent support, 14 percent oppose).

## Voters Support Grants To Keep Workers On The Payroll

Would you support or oppose the following provisions in a future legislative package to address the coronavirus:-- Grants to businesses to keep workers on payroll.



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This third chart depicts attitudes for universal cash payments that would recur on a monthly basis for the duration of the crisis. We asked voters, specifically:

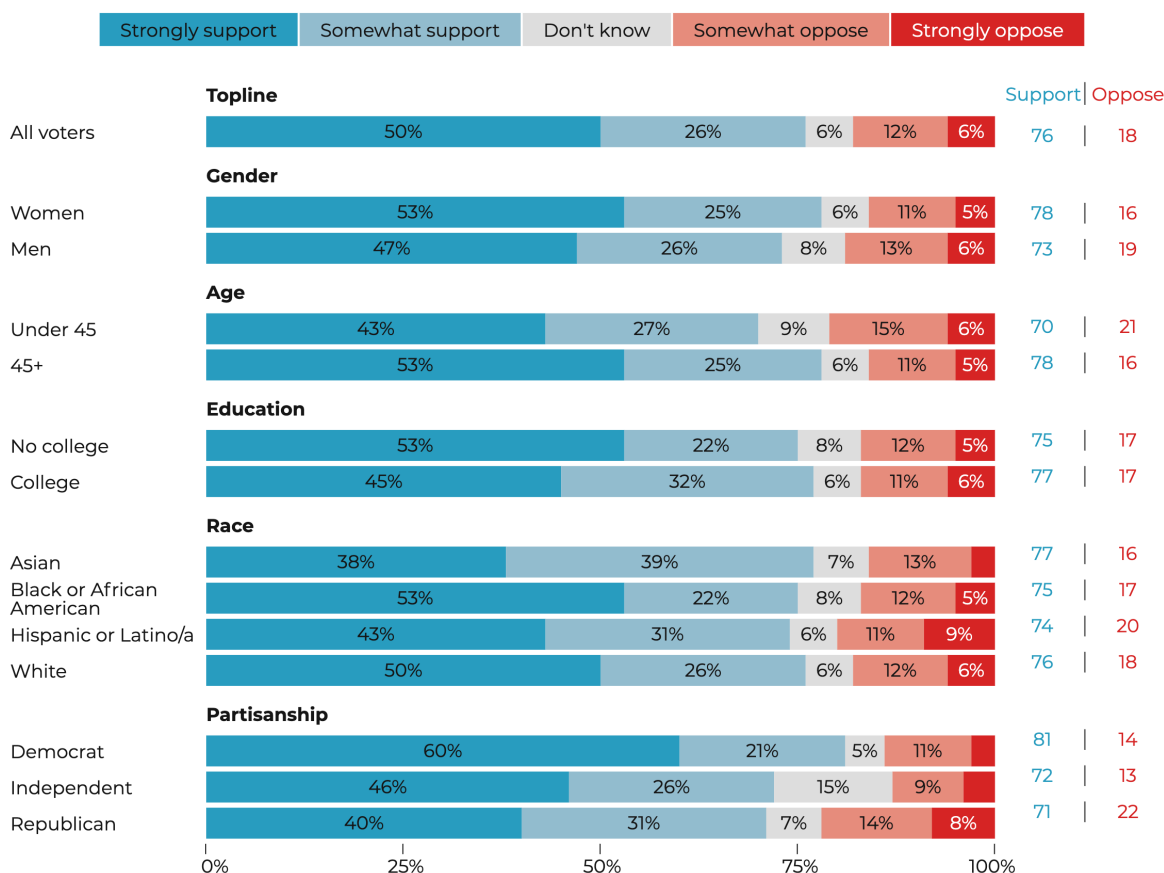
*Some members of Congress have proposed putting the following requirements on further stimulus. Do you support or oppose each proposal? -- Universal and monthly cash assistance for every American for the duration of the crisis.*

While one payment has been dispersed in the amount of \$1200, it's inadequate. The choice to means-test the payments opened up some

fairly large holes in terms of its beneficiaries and with the crisis set to drag on potentially for months, recurring payments are required. Women were slightly more supportive than men and those over forty-five tend to be narrowly more supportive than those under forty-five. Support is largely consistent regardless of educational attainment and by race. Support for the proposal is, again, bipartisan. Democrats back it by a 67-percentage-point margin (81 percent support, 14 percent oppose) while Republicans do so by a 49-percentage-point margin (71 percent support, 22 percent oppose).

## Voters Support Universal Cash Payments For The Duration Of The Crisis

Some members of Congress have proposed putting the following requirements on further stimulus. Do you support or oppose each proposal? -- Universal and monthly cash assistance for every American for the duration of the crisis.



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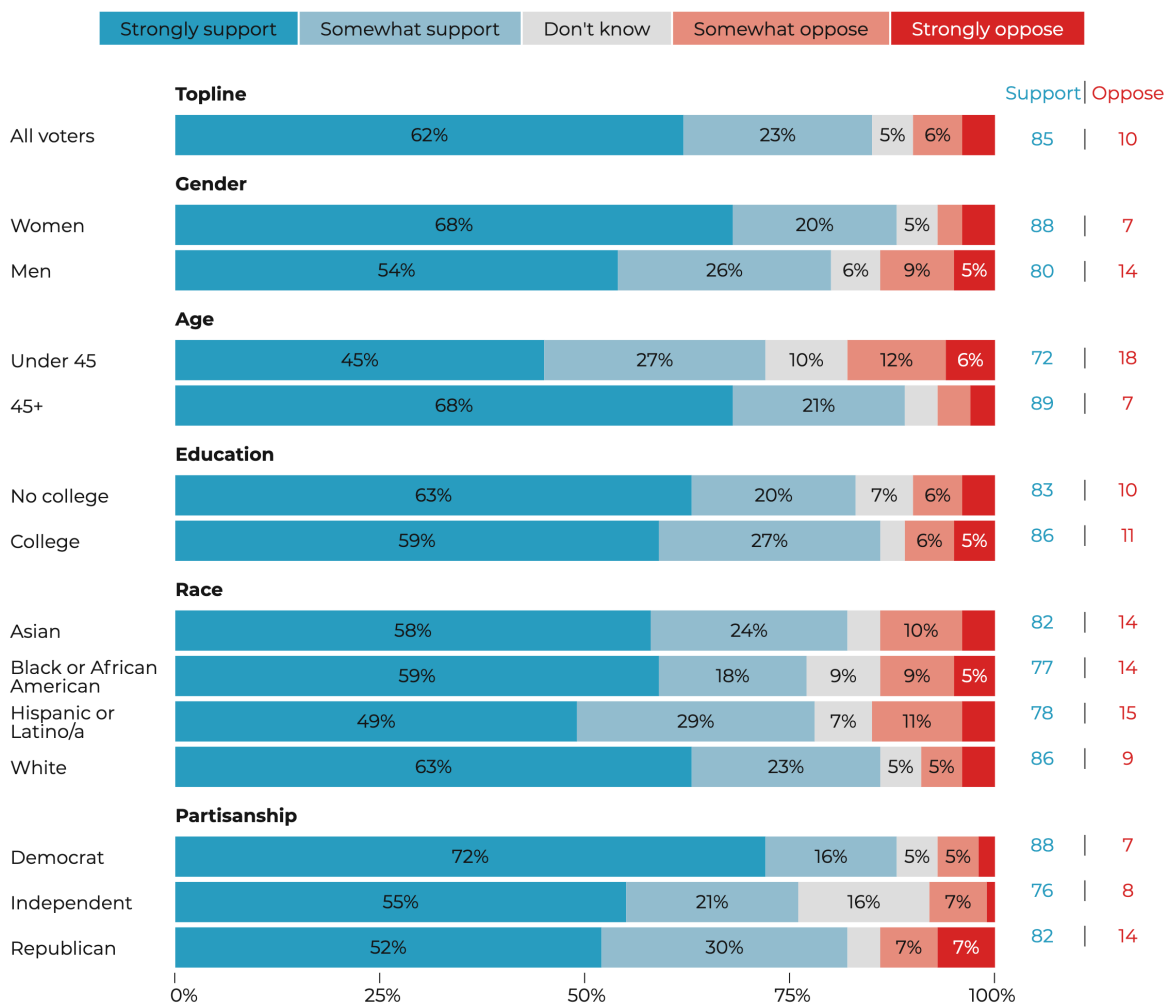
This fourth chart depicts support for providing health care coverage to frontline workers. We asked voters, specifically:

*Some members of Congress have proposed putting the following requirements on further stimulus. Do you support or oppose each proposal? -- Full health coverage for all coronavirus care and protections for all frontline workers.*

We can observe similar patterns of support for this proposal across demographics as with the previous two proposals that were considered. This proposal also enjoys broad bipartisan backing. Democrats support it by an 81-percentage-point margin (88 percent support, 7 percent oppose) and Republicans do so by a 68-percentage-point margin (82 percent support, 14 percent oppose).

## Voters Support Full Health Care Coverage For Frontline Workers

Some members of Congress have proposed putting the following requirements on further stimulus. Do you support or oppose each proposal? -- Full health coverage for all coronavirus care and protections for all frontline workers.



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This last chart depicts support for the expansion of the use of absentee voting to ensure that elections can proceed even in the face of the coronavirus crisis, one that provides a considerable challenge for in-person voting. We asked voters, specifically:

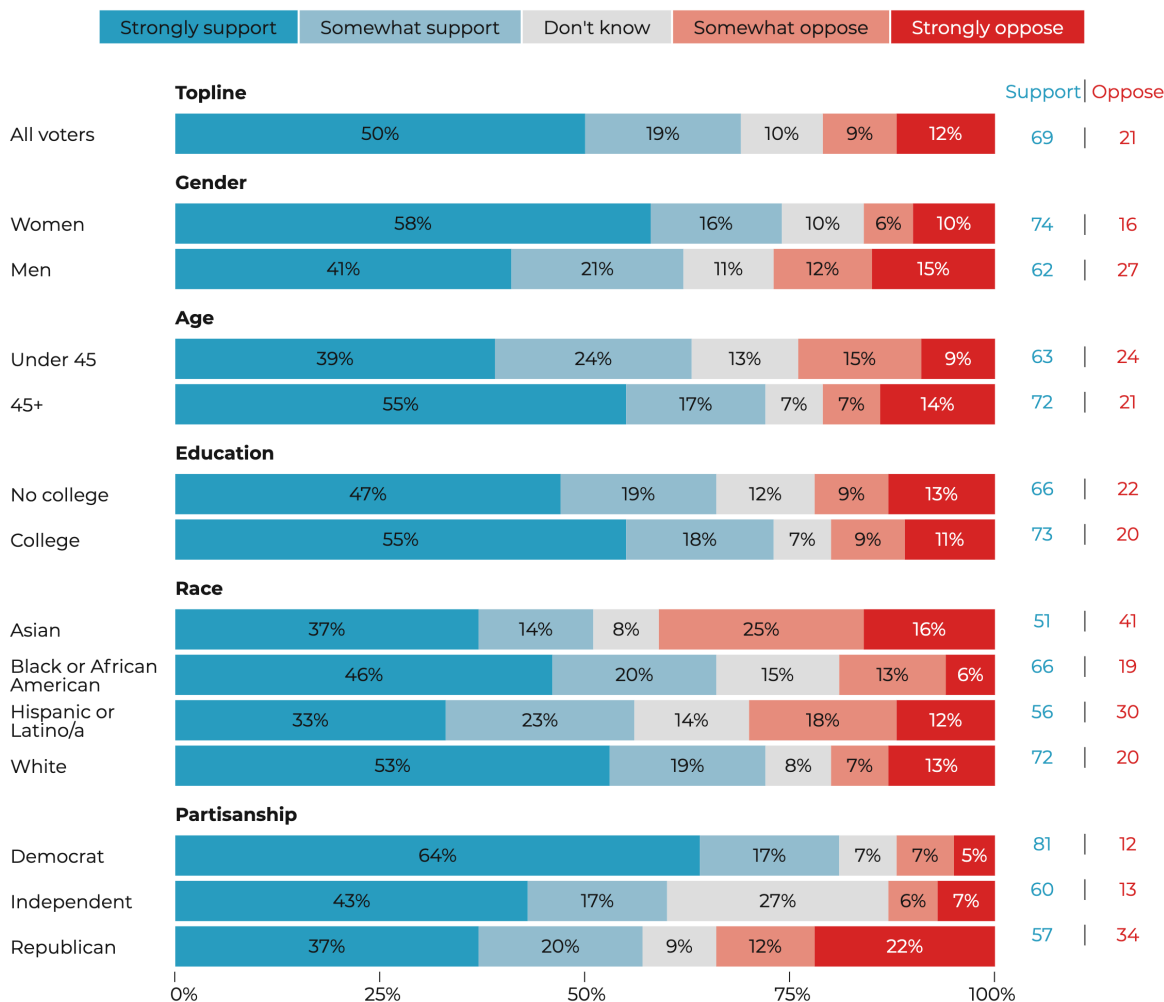
*Some members of Congress have proposed election reforms to address the coronavirus pandemic. For each proposal, say whether you would support or oppose it: -- Allowing*

*all registered voters to submit their vote by mail, sometimes called absentee voting.*

Support for this proposal was high across measured demographics. Crucially, support for this proposal is bipartisan, a significant finding considering [President Trump's attack](#) on the idea of vote-by-mail. Democrats support the proposal by a 69-percentage-point margin (81 percent support, 12 percent oppose) while Republicans do so by a 23-percentage-point margin (57 percent support, 34 percent oppose).

## Voters Support Allowing Expanded Use of Absentee Voting

Some members of Congress have proposed election reforms to address the coronavirus pandemic. For each proposal, say whether you would support or oppose it: -- Allowing all registered voters to submit their vote by mail, sometimes called absentee voting.



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## CONCLUSION

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What these survey results make clear is that voters support comprehensive steps to be taken to keep workers on the payroll, expand financial aid to all people, protect public health, and defend elections. The need to provide additional relief to small businesses affords lawmakers in Congress an opportunity to pass a more comprehensive plan that will truly take care of all Americans.

## METHODOLOGY

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On April 11, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 2409 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, urbanicity, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is  $\pm 2$  percent.