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Support for State and Local Aid is Highly Popular When Framed Around Pandemic Relief Efforts

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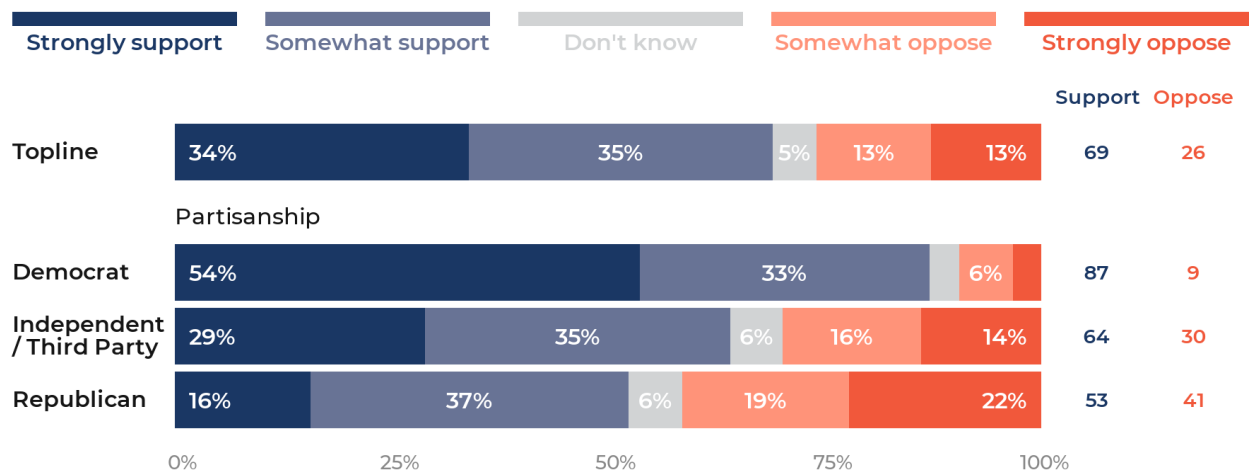


In a late February survey, Data for Progress and Invest in America conducted a national survey of 1,182 likely voters to examine support for state and local aid, particularly when framed around which groups and areas will benefit from the additional funding. We find that specifying aid around pandemic relief measures — such as funding to essential healthcare workers like nurses and doctors, hospitals, and emergency first responders — boosts support for state and local aid as part of a pandemic relief package.

First, we examined general support for providing aid to state and local governments facing financial hardships. State and local aid is popular among voters, even without any additional framing: 69 percent of likely voters support including aid to state and local governments. We also find bipartisan support where 87 percent of Democrats, 64 percent of Independents and 53 percent of Republicans support including aid as part of a pandemic relief package.

Voters Across Parties Support Including State and Local Aid In A Pandemic Relief Package

As part of the pandemic relief package, some lawmakers in Congress are proposing to include aid for state and local governments facing financial hardship as a result of the recession. Do you support or oppose this?



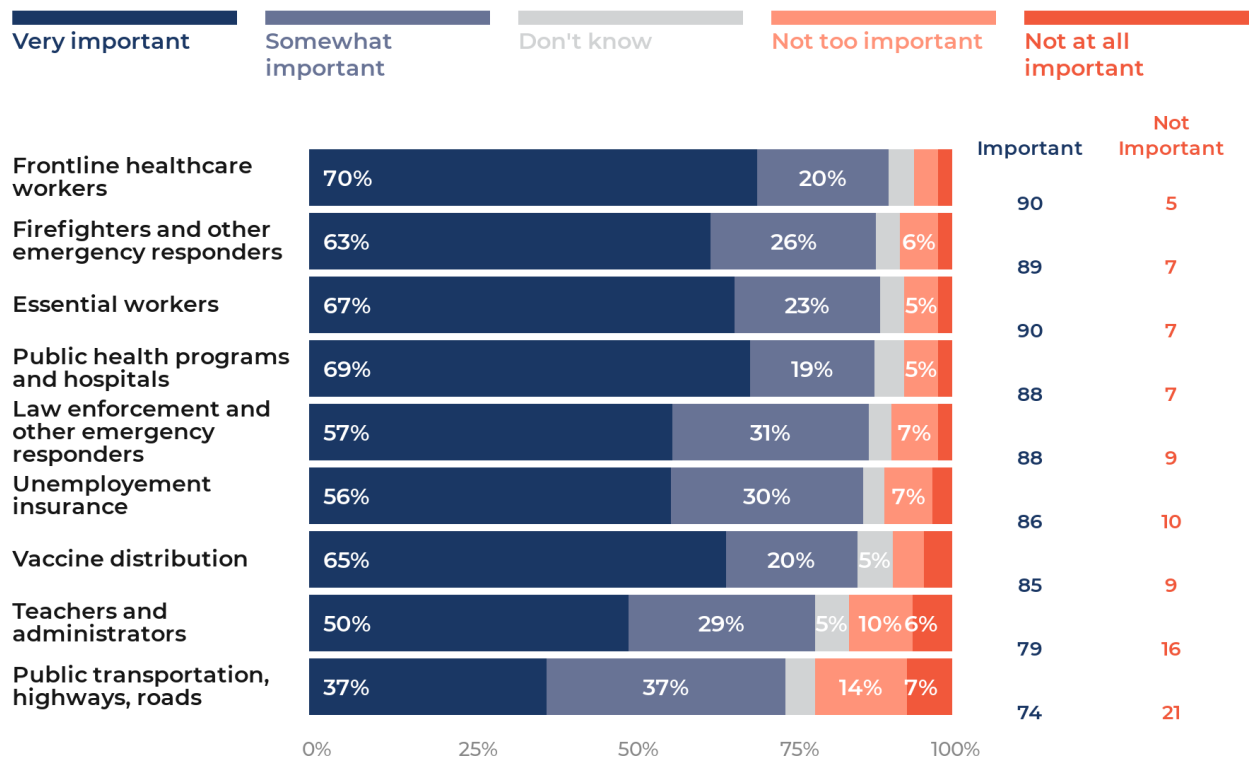
Feb 23 to Feb 25, 2021 survey of 1182 likely voters



We then polled the various areas and groups that would benefit from state and local aid separately, from frontline healthcare workers fighting COVID-19 to public transportation. We find that even when breaking out individual components, state and local aid remains highly popular. Seventy four percent of voters believe it is important for public transportation, for example, to receive funding for state and local aid. We find, however, that importance among voters rises when the item is directly related to pandemic relief efforts. An overwhelming 90 percent of voters believe it is important for frontline healthcare workers like nurses, doctors and EMTs, and essential workers fighting COVID-19 to receive funding. Individual items such as aid for firefighters and other emergency responders, public health programs and hospitals needed to fight COVID-19, unemployment insurance for those who lost their jobs due to COVID-19, and vaccine distribution also poll at extraordinarily high levels.

Voters View Items Related to Pandemic Recovery Efforts as the Most Important To Receive State Funding

Below are different areas and groups of people that might receive funding through a pandemic relief package to state and local governments. When thinking about each of these items, how important is it for each item to receive funding for state and local aid?



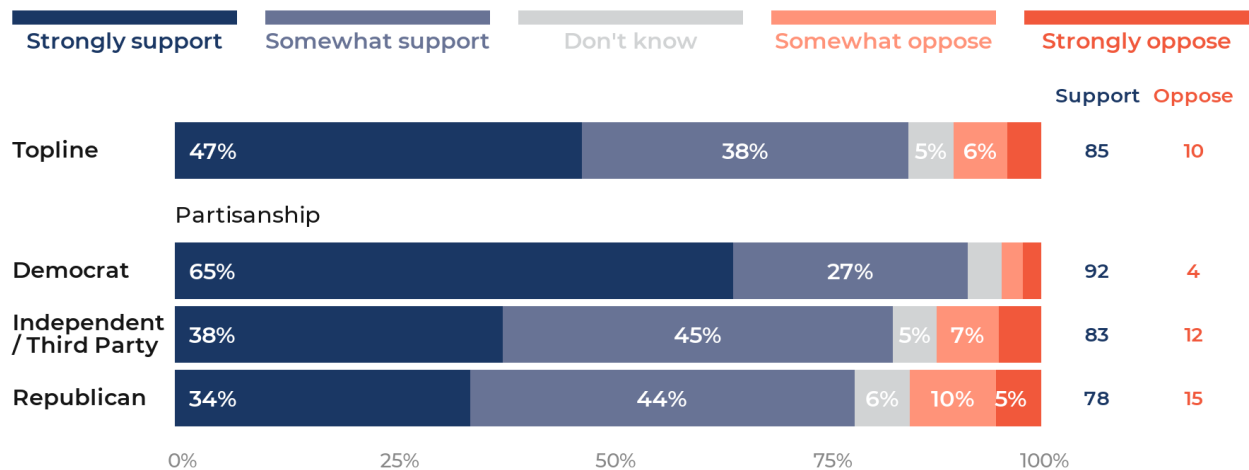
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After seeing this battery of individual questions, voters were then asked again if they would support including state and local aid as part of a pandemic relief package. This time we included the following question: “This would fund a wide variety of government services including frontline healthcare workers and nurses, emergency first responders and vaccine distribution needed to fight COVID-19.” We find including this description boosts support for state and local aid from our original ask by 16 points up to support at 85 percent. We also find a substantial increase by partisanship among Independent and Republican voters. We see an increase in support among Democrats by 5 points, Independents by 19 points and Republicans by 25 points.

Support for State and Local Aid Increases When Specifying Funding for Pandemic Relief Efforts

Some members of Congress are proposing state and local aid as a component of a pandemic relief package. This would fund a wide variety of government services including frontline healthcare workers and nurses, emergency first responders and vaccine distribution needed to fight COVID-19. Do you support or oppose including aid to state and local governments in the proposal?



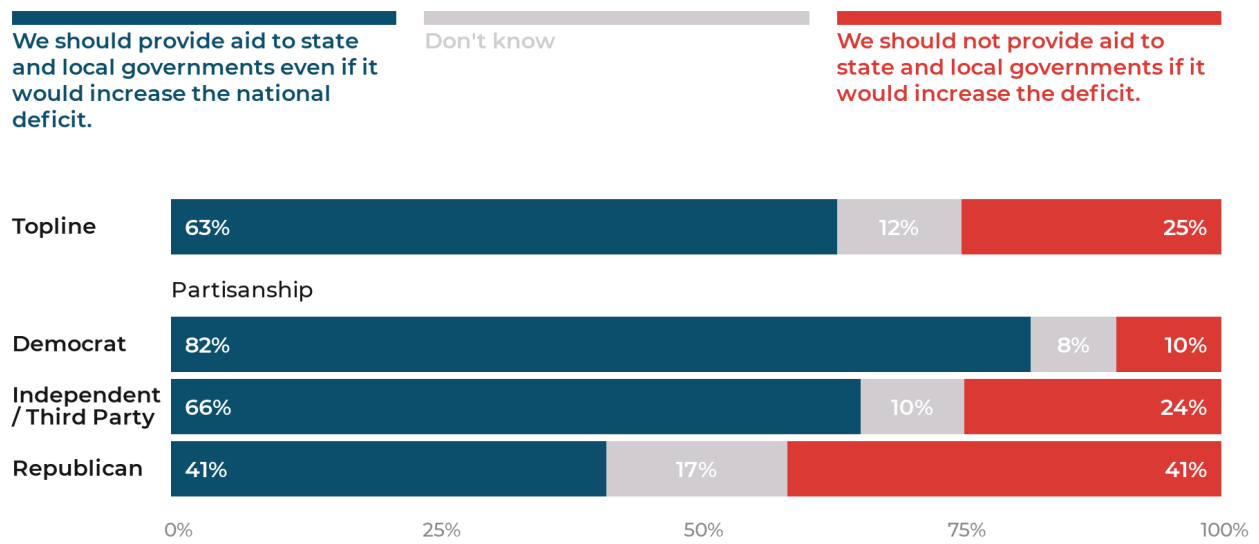
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Lastly, we tested the argument that state and local aid is not worth it because it adds to the national deficit. Even when showing voters arguments against aid, we find high levels of support: 63 percent of voters support providing aid to state and local governments even if it would increase the national deficit. The majority of Democrats (82 percent) and Independents (66 percent) support doing so as well, while Republicans are largely split (41 support, 41 oppose) on this framing.

Voters Support State and Local Aid Even When Seeing Arguments Against Increasing the National Deficit

There is currently a debate in Congress over whether we should pass state and local aid using deficit spending. Supporters of state and local governments aid say it is worth doing so because this will help speed up our overall economic recovery and support essential workers fighting COVID-19. Opponents of providing aid to state and local governments say it is not worth it because it adds to the national deficit. When thinking about this debate what comes closer to your view?



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Broadly, our polling shows that funding for state and local governments is popular among voters. However, when we add framing which emphasizes funding to support nurses, doctors, emergency responders and vaccine distribution efforts across states, we find support increases significantly. Voters recognize the urgency and need to continue pandemic relief efforts which states and localities cannot pursue by themselves.

METHODOLOGY

From February 23 to February 25, 2021, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1182 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ±3 percentage points.

[Survey crosstabs](#)

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