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TEXAS
YOUTH
POWER
ALLIANCE

TEXAS VOTERS SUPPORT BOLD CLIMATE ACTIONS

Danielle Deiseroth
Climate Data Analyst, Data for Progress

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

▶ A majority of Texas voters are more likely to support candidates who pledge to achieve 100% clean energy by 2035 and refuse fossil fuel money

▶ A majority of Texas voters support key components of Joe Biden's clean energy jobs and environmental justice plans

▶ Texas voters express high levels of support for transitioning away from fossil fuels and restricting natural gas flaring

▶ A majority of Texas voters support state-level policies to set new efficiency standards, incentivize new clean energy projects, and increase funding for electric vehicles

With the November election right around the corner, voters across the country are making their electoral choices in the midst of two major crises: The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and the climate crisis. In recent weeks, Americans have witnessed Hurricane Laura make landfall with historic force on the Gulf Coast and wildfires devastate unprecedented amounts of land in California, Oregon, and Washington. There's no question that climate change is here. Thankfully, momentum is growing to elect leaders that will take bold action to stop it.

Recent Data for Progress polling in several key swing states shows that climate change is not just an issue supported by Democrats in big cities on the coasts, but rather a galvanizing issue for voters in battleground states across the country. Earlier this month, Data for Progress released excerpts from an August survey conducted in conjunction with the Texas Youth Power Alliance that shows Democrats are in contention to win up and down the ballot in the state, with a majority of Texas voters more likely to support a candidate who pledges a clean energy standard by 2035. This polling adds to a growing body of research from Data for Progress and others indicating that voters support a progressive climate agenda that will create millions of new jobs, address systemic environmental injustices, and transform our nation to a clean energy economy.

As part of this survey, we asked likely Texas voters about a broad range of progressive climate and environmental policies on the national, state, and local levels.

Texas Voters Are More Likely to Vote for Climate Candidates

First, we asked Texas voters if they would be more or less likely to support a candidate that pledges to achieve 100% clean energy by 2035. A majority of voters (65 percent) say they are more likely to support a candidate that makes this pledge, with only 16 percent saying they are less likely to vote for a candidate that makes this pledge. This pledge enjoys high levels of support across party lines: A majority of voters who self-identify as Democrats
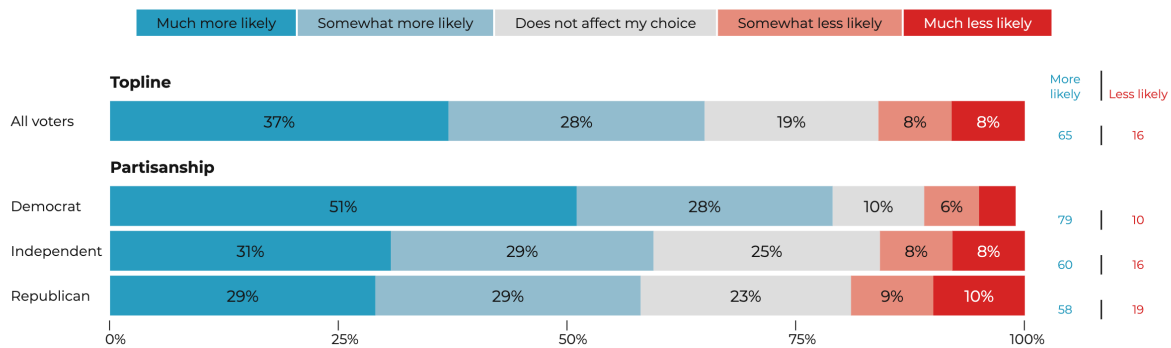
(79 percent), Independents (60 percent), and Republicans (58 percent) say they are more likely to support a candidate who pledges to achieve 100% clean energy by 2035.

Texas voters express similarly high levels of support for candidates that refuse contributions from fossil fuel companies, executives, or lobbyists, regardless of the candidate's party. A majority of all voters (58 percent) say they are more likely to

support candidates that refuse fossil fuel money, compared to only 16 percent who say they are less likely to support a candidate who refuses fossil fuel money. Refusing fossil fuel money is a popular pledge across party lines, as a majority of Democrats (66 percent), independents (52 percent), and Republicans (53 percent) all say they are more likely to support a candidate that refuses contributions from fossil fuel companies, executives, or lobbyists.

A Majority of Texas Voters are More Likely to Support a Candidate Who Pledges to Achieve 100% Clean Energy by 2035

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for office who pledges to achieve 100% clean energy by 2035 and create tens of millions of jobs to strengthen the middle class as America transitions to a clean energy economy?

| Much more likely | Somewhat more likely | Does not affect my choice | Somewhat less likely | Much less likely |

Topline

					More likely	Less likely
All voters	37%	28%	19%	8%	8%	65	16

Partisanship

Democrat	51%	28%	10%	6%		79	10
Independent	31%	29%	25%	8%	8%	60	16
Republican	29%	29%	23%	9%	10%	58	19

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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A Majority of Texas Voters Are More Likely to Support Candidates who Refuses Fossil Fuel Money

Would you be more likely or less likely to support a candidate if they refused to take money from fossil fuel companies, executives, or lobbyists, regardless of the candidate's party?

| Much more likely | Somewhat more likely | Does not affect my choice | Somewhat less likely | Much less likely |

Topline

| All voters | 30% | 28% | 27% | 10% | 6% | 58 | 16 |

Partisanship

Democrat	37%	29%	17%	10%	7%	66	17
Independent	23%	29%	32%	11%		52	15
Republican	28%	25%	32%	9%	6%	53	15

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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Texas Voters Support Key Components of Biden's Climate Plan

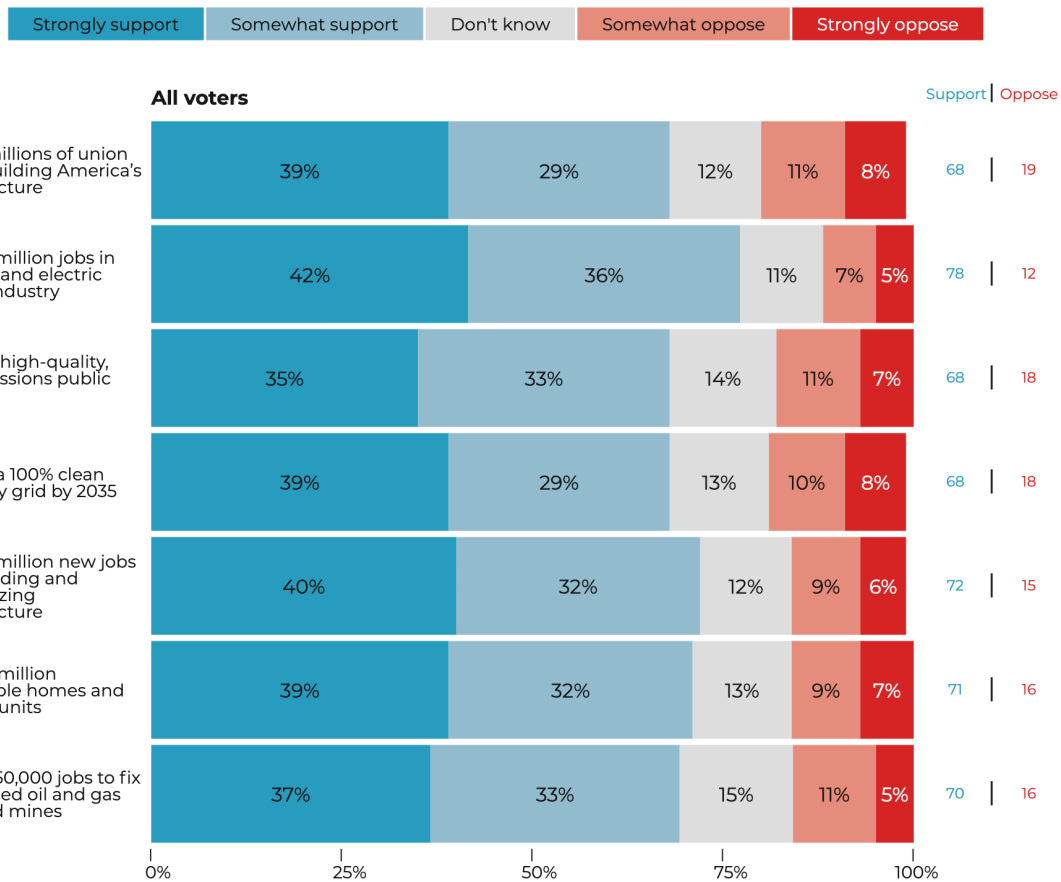Next, we asked Texas voters about several of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden's major climate plans. A majority of Texas voters support each of seven policies that we tested. Among the most popular policies are those to create 1 million jobs in the auto and electric vehicle industry (78 percent support, 12 percent oppose), create 1 million new jobs by upgrading

and weatherizing infrastructure (72 percent, 15 percent oppose), build 1.5 million new sustainable housing units (71 percent, 16 percent oppose), and create 250,000 new jobs to fix abandoned wells and mines (70 percent support, 16 percent oppose).

Additionally, we asked Texas voters if they support or oppose ensuring 40% of all new clean energy infrastructure and development spending goes to benefit low-income communities, a key policy from Biden's environmental justice plan that was championed by environmental justice activists.

A Majority of Texas Voters Support Key Policies from Biden's Climate Plan

For each of the following policy proposals, please indicate whether you support or oppose them:

| Strongly support | Somewhat support | Don't know | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |

All voters

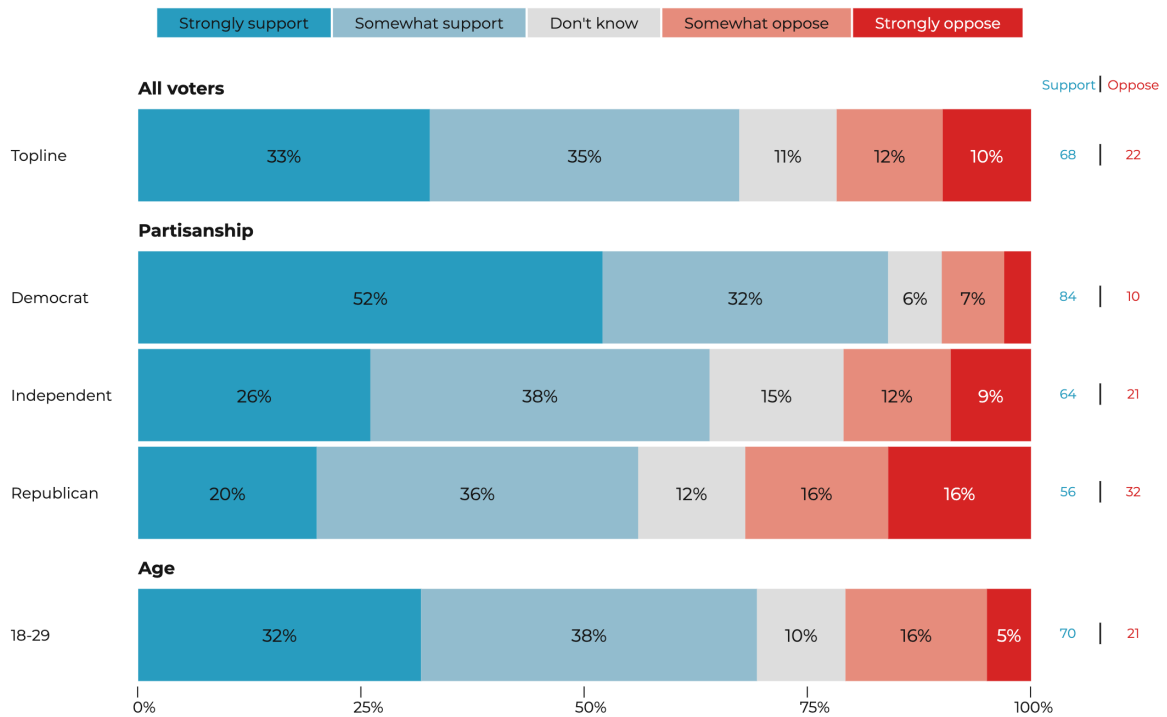|					Support	Oppose
Create millions of union jobs rebuilding America's infrastructure	39%	29%	12%	11%	8%	68	19
Create 1 million jobs in the auto and electric vehicle industry	42%	36%	11%	7%	5%	78	12
Invest in high-quality, zero-emissions public transit	35%	33%	14%	11%	7%	68	18
Achieve a 100% clean electricity grid by 2035	39%	29%	13%	10%	8%	68	18
Create 1 million new jobs by upgrading and weatherizing infrastructure	40%	32%	12%	9%	6%	72	15
Build 1.5 million sustainable homes and housing units	39%	32%	13%	9%	7%	71	16
Create 250,000 jobs to fix abandoned oil and gas wells and mines	37%	33%	15%	11%	5%	70	16

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

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Voters support this proposal by a 46-percentage-point margin (68 percent support, 22 percent oppose). The proposal enjoys high levels of support from Democrats, who support it by an overwhelming 74-point margin (84 percent support, 14 percent oppose), and voters aged 18-29, who support it by a 49-point margin (70 percent support, 21 percent oppose). A majority of independents (64 percent) and Republicans (56 percent) support this policy, indicative of strong support across party lines for this environmental justice policy.

A Majority of Texas Voters Support Ensuring 40% of Clean Energy Infrastructure Investments Benefit 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?

| Strongly support | Somewhat support | Don't know | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |

All voters

Support | Oppose

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
Topline	33%	35%	11%	12%	10%	68	22

Partisanship

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
Democrat	52%	32%	6%	7%		84	10
Independent	26%	38%	15%	12%	9%	64	21
Republican	20%	36%	12%	16%	16%	56	32

Age

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
18-29	32%	38%	10%	16%	5%	70	21

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

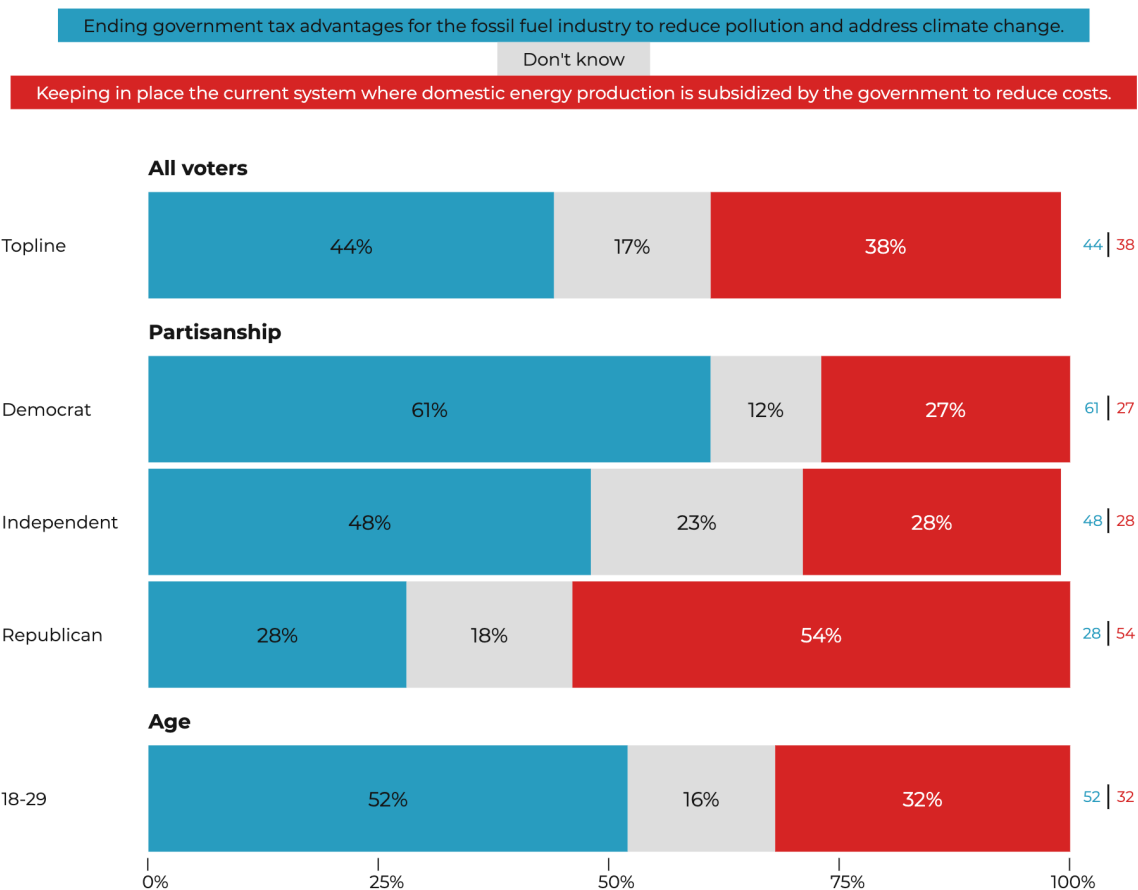Data for Progress

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Texas Voters Want to Transition Away from Natural Gas and Fossil Fuels

We then asked Texas voters a series of questions that presented two different approaches to energy production. When asked if they prefer to end government tax advantages for the fossil fuel industry or keep the current system in place where domestic energy production is subsidized by the government to reduce costs, a plurality of voters (44 percent) prefer ending government tax advantages for the fossil fuel industry. A majority of Democrats (61 percent) and voters aged 18-29 (52 percent) prefer ending tax advantages for the fossil fuel industry, as well as a plurality of independents (48 percent). However, a majority of Republicans (54 percent) prefer the government subsidizing domestic energy production to reduce costs.

A Plurality of Texas Voters Agree with Ending Government Tax Advantages for the Fossil Fuel Industry

Which of the following approaches to energy production would you prefer:

Ending government tax advantages for the fossil fuel industry to reduce pollution and address climate change.

Don't know

Keeping in place the current system where domestic energy production is subsidized by the government to reduce costs.

All voters

Topline	44%	17%	38%	44 | 38

Partisanship

Democrat	61%	12%	27%	61 | 27
Independent	48%	23%	28%	48 | 28
Republican	28%	18%	54%	28 | 54

Age

18-29	52%	16%	32%	52 | 32

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

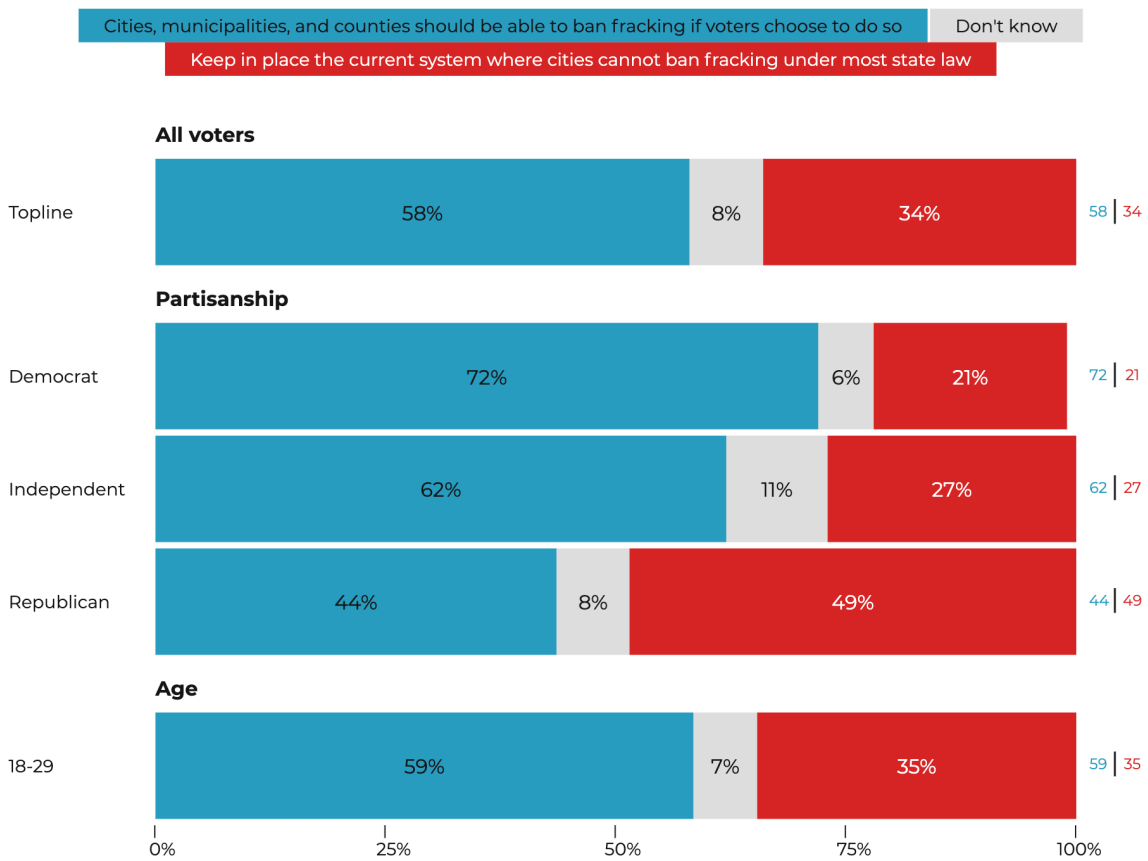Data for Progress

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Next, we asked voters if they prefer for cities, municipalities, and counties to ban fracking if voters choose to do so, or if the current system should be kept in place where cities cannot ban fracking under state law. Texas voters prefer for cities, municipalities, and counties to ban fracking if voters choose to do so by a 14-point margin (58 percent support, 34 percent oppose). A majority of Democrats (72 percent), independents (62 percent), and voters aged 18-29 (59 percent) prefer allowing local governments to ban fracking, while a plurality of Republicans (49 percent) prefer keeping the current system in place where local governments cannot ban fracking under state law.

A Majority of Texas Voters Agree that Local Governments Should Be Able to Ban Fracking

Which of the following approaches to energy production would you prefer:

Cities, municipalities, and counties should be able to ban fracking if voters choose to do so | Don't know

Keep in place the current system where cities cannot ban fracking under most state law

All voters

Topline	58%	8%	34%	58	34

Partisanship

Democrat	72%	6%	21%	72	21
Independent	62%	11%	27%	62	27
Republican	44%	8%	49%	44	49

Age

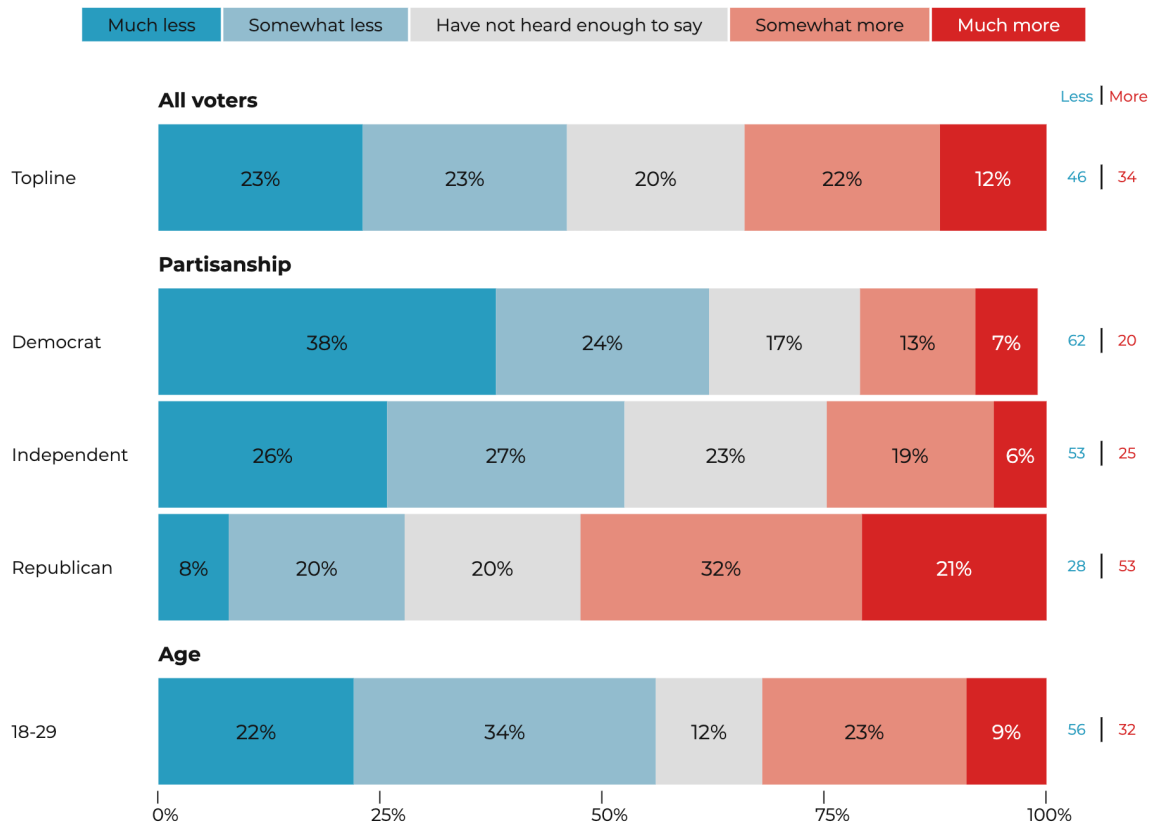|			
18-29	59%	7%	35%	59	35

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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To further assess how Texas voters view fracking and natural gas activities in the state, we asked voters if they think Texas should be doing more or less fracking. A plurality of voters (46 percent) think that Texas should be doing less fracking, while only about a third of voters (34 percent) think the state should be doing more fracking. A majority of Democrats (62 percent), voters aged 18-29 (56 percent), and independents (53 percent) think that Texas should be doing less fracking, while a majority of Republicans (53 percent) think that Texas should be doing more fracking.

A Plurality of Texas Voters Think the State Should Be Doing Less Fracking

Based on what you have heard, do you think Texas should be doing more or less fracking?

| Much less | Somewhat less | Have not heard enough to say | Somewhat more | Much more |

All voters

Less | More

Topline

Much less	Somewhat less	Have not heard enough to say	Somewhat more	Much more	Less	More
23%	23%	20%	22%	12%	46	34

Partisanship

	Much less	Somewhat less	Have not heard enough to say	Somewhat more	Much more	Less	More
Democrat	38%	24%	17%	13%	7%	62	20
Independent	26%	27%	23%	19%	6%	53	25
Republican	8%	20%	20%	32%	21%	28	53

Age

	Much less	Somewhat less	Have not heard enough to say	Somewhat more	Much more	Less	More
18-29	22%	34%	12%	23%	9%	56	32

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

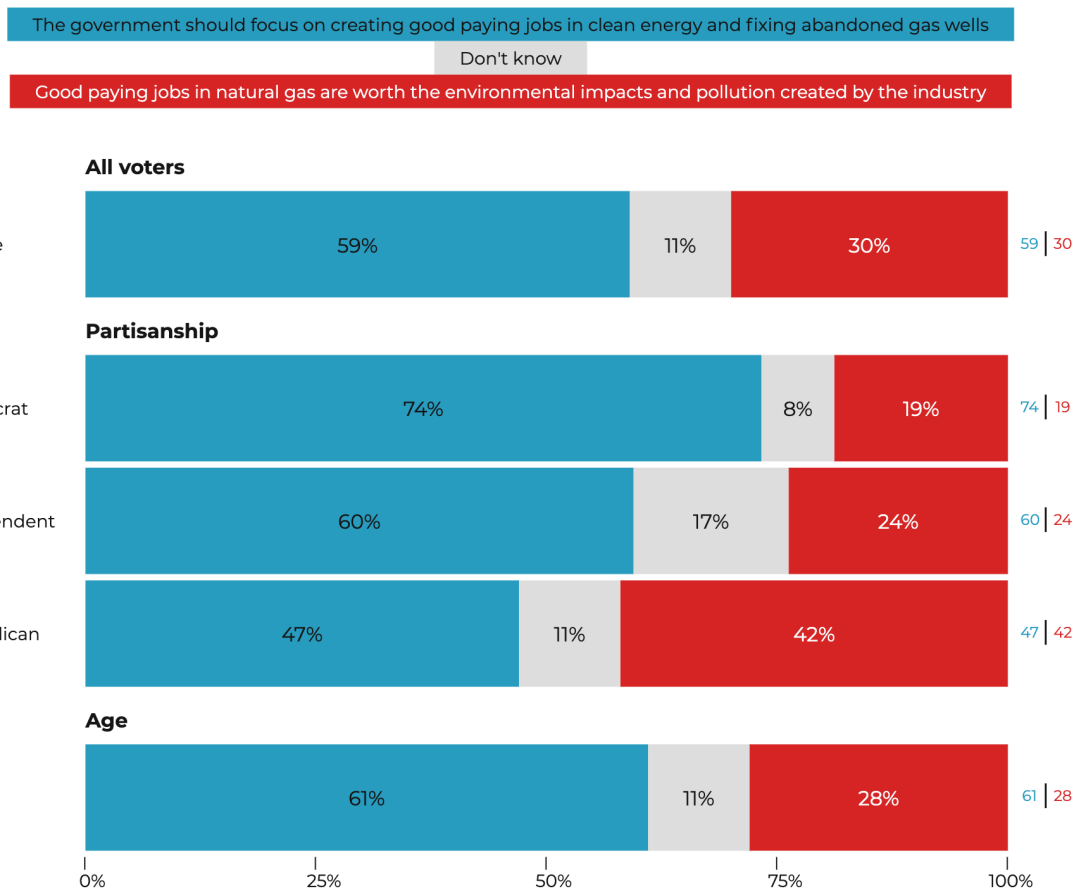Data for Progress

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However, when we asked Texas voters if they agree that the government should focus on creating good paying jobs in clean energy and fixing abandoned gas wells or if good paying jobs in natural gas are worth the environmental impacts and pollution created by the industry, a narrow plurality of Republicans (47 percent) agree that the government should focus on creating good jobs in clean energy rather than protect jobs in natural gas (42 percent). On the other hand, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (74 percent), independents (60 percent), and voters aged 18-29 (61 percent) agree that the government should focus on creating good paying jobs in clean energy rather than protect jobs in natural gas.

A Majority of Texas Voters Agree the Government Should Focus on Creating Good Paying Jobs in Clean Energy

Which statement comes closer to your view?

The government should focus on creating good paying jobs in clean energy and fixing abandoned gas wells

Don't know

Good paying jobs in natural gas are worth the environmental impacts and pollution created by the industry

All voters

| Topline | 59% | 11% | 30% | 59 \| 30 |

Partisanship

Democrat	74%	8%	19%	74 | 19
Independent	60%	17%	24%	60 | 24
Republican	47%	11%	42%	47 | 42

Age

| 18-29 | 61% | 11% | 28% | 61 \| 28 |

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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We then presented Texas voters with a brief description of natural gas flaring, and provided arguments for and against flaring restrictions. Despite seeing arguments against the restrictions, voters support flaring restrictions by a 21-point margin (52 percent support, 31 percent oppose). A majority of Democrats (62 percent) and voters aged 18-29 (57 percent) support flaring restrictions, as well as a plurality of independents (48 percent) and Republicans (45 percent).
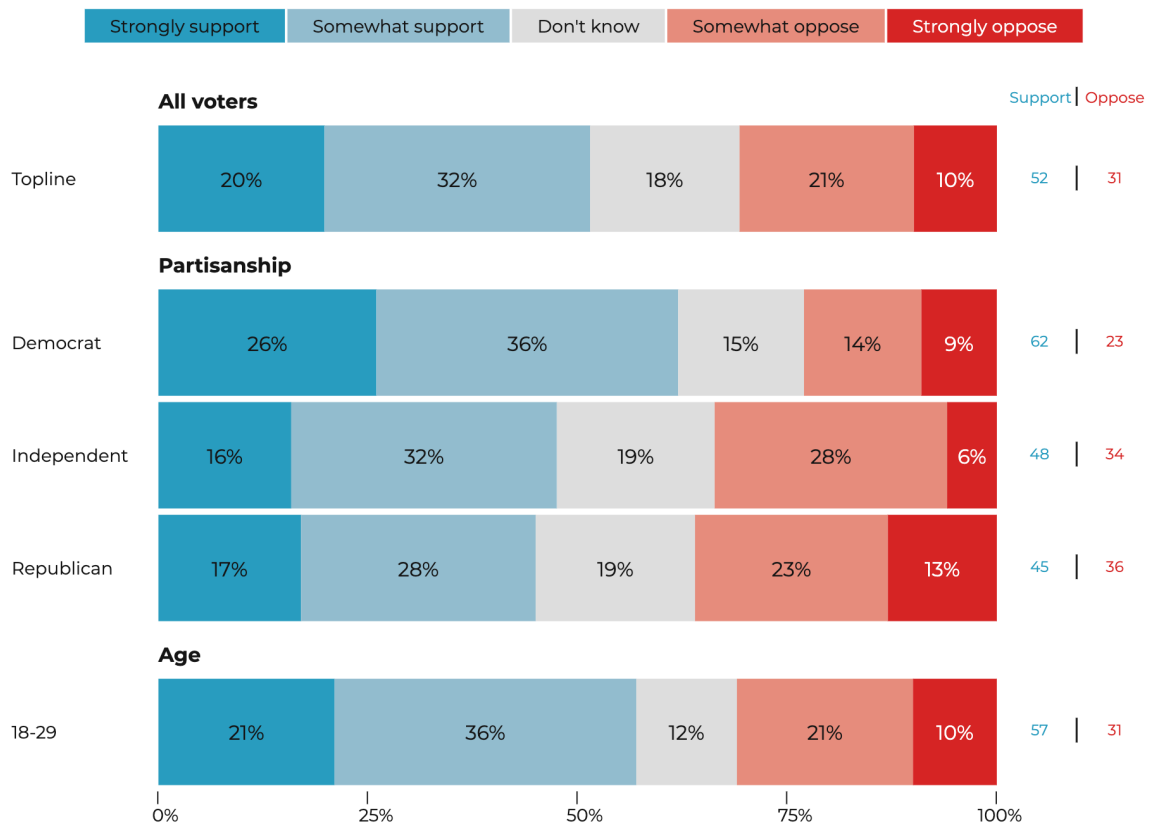
Texas Voters Support State-Level Climate Policies

Finally, we asked Texas voters several questions about state-level policies to make new infrastructure projects more sustainable, expand renewable energy projects, and incentivize transitioning to electric vehicles.

We asked Texas voters if they support or oppose the state government setting energy efficiency

A Majority of Texas Voters Support Restricting Natural Gas Flaring

Some lawmakers have proposed a bill to restrict flaring, the practice of purposefully burning unwanted or unused natural gas that is created as a byproduct of oil drilling. Supporters of restrictions say that many oil companies flare natural gas because oil is more profitable, and the flares cause unnecessary light and air pollution. Opponents of restrictions say that flaring natural gas is an essential part of oil production and oil and gas companies are already making progress to reduce flaring and venting. Do you support or oppose restricting natural gas flaring?

| Strongly support | Somewhat support | Don't know | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |

All voters

						Support	Oppose
Topline	20%	32%	18%	21%	10%	52	31

Partisanship

Democrat	26%	36%	15%	14%	9%	62	23
Independent	16%	32%	19%	28%	6%	48	34
Republican	17%	28%	19%	23%	13%	45	36

Age

| 18-29 | 21% | 36% | 12% | 21% | 10% | 57 | 31 |

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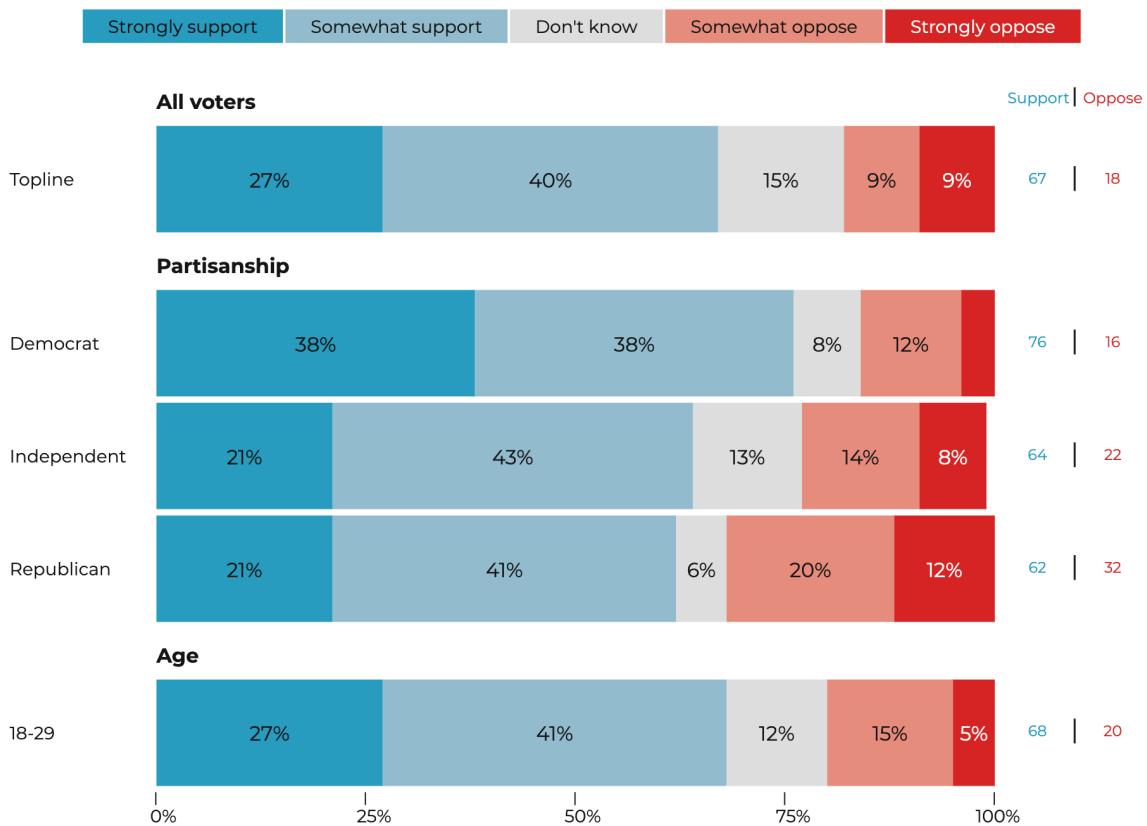
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standards on all new homes, schools, and other buildings. Voters support this policy by a 49-point margin (67 percent support, 18 percent oppose). The policy enjoys support across party lines: A majority of Democrats (76 percent), independents (64 percent), and Republicans (62 percent) all support state efficiency standards on new homes, schools, and other buildings. The policy also enjoys high levels of support from voters aged 18-29, who support it by a 48-point margin (68 percent support, 20 percent oppose).

A Majority of Texas Voters Support Setting Energy Efficiency Standards on New Infrastructure Projects

Would you support or oppose the state government setting energy efficiency standards on all new homes, schools, and other buildings?

| Strongly support | Somewhat support | Don't know | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |

All voters

Support | Oppose

| Topline | 27% | 40% | 15% | 9% | 9% | 67 | 18 |

Partisanship

Democrat	38%	38%	8%	12%		76	16
Independent	21%	43%	13%	14%	8%	64	22
Republican	21%	41%	6%	20%	12%	62	32

Age

| 18-29 | 27% | 41% | 12% | 15% | 5% | 68 | 20 |

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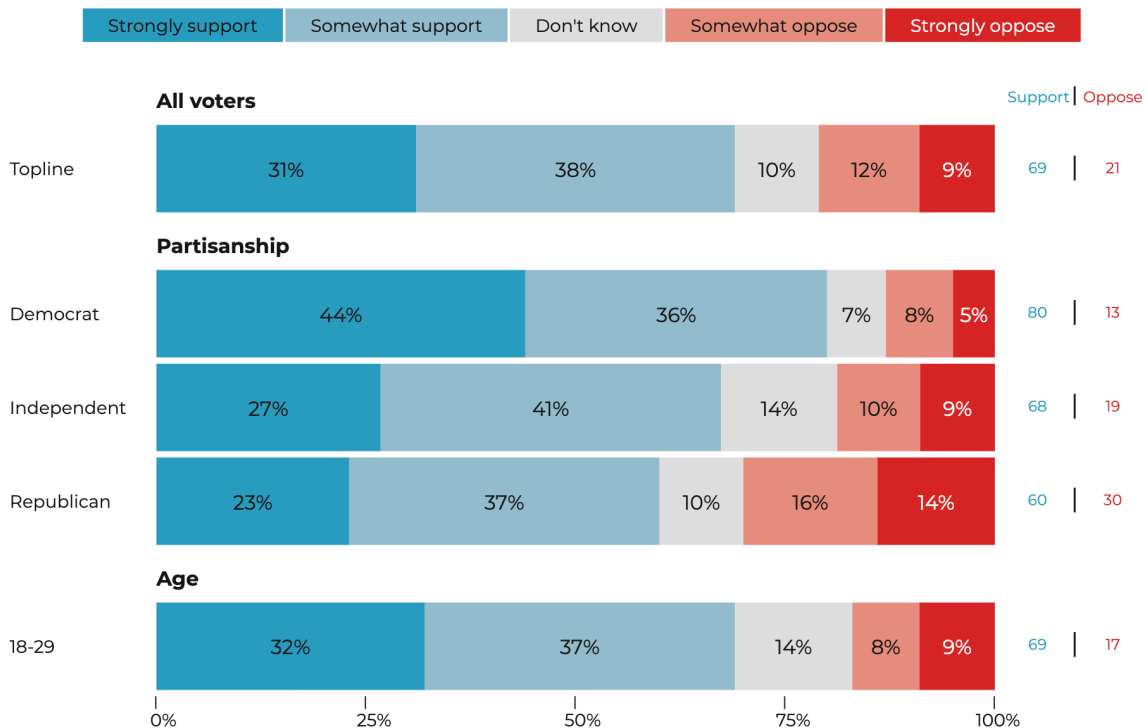
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Texas voters express similarly high levels of support for a state-wide tax incentive for new renewable energy projects, including wind and solar energy. Voters support this tax incentive by a 48-point margin (69 percent support, 21 percent oppose). An overwhelming majority of Democrats (80 percent), voters aged 18-29 (69 percent), independents (68 percent), and Republicans (60 percent) all support tax incentives for new renewable energy projects.

Lastly, we provided Texas voters with a description of the Texas Emission Reduction Plan, and provided arguments for and against a proposal to spend a larger percentage of the Texas Emission Reduction Plan's funds on electric vehicles rather than diesel trucks. Despite seeing arguments against the proposal, a majority of voters (56 percent) support spending more of the Texas Emission Reduction Plan's funds on electric vehicles rather than diesel trucks. The proposal

A Majority of Texas Voters Support Tax Incentives for New Renewable Energy Projects

Would you support or oppose a state-wide tax incentive for new renewable energy projects, including wind and solar energy?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose

All voters

						Support	Oppose
Topline	31%	38%	10%	12%	9%	69	21

Partisanship

Democrat	44%	36%	7%	8%	5%	80	13
Independent	27%	41%	14%	10%	9%	68	19
Republican	23%	37%	10%	16%	14%	60	30

Age

| 18-29 | 32% | 37% | 14% | 8% | 9% | 69 | 17 |

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

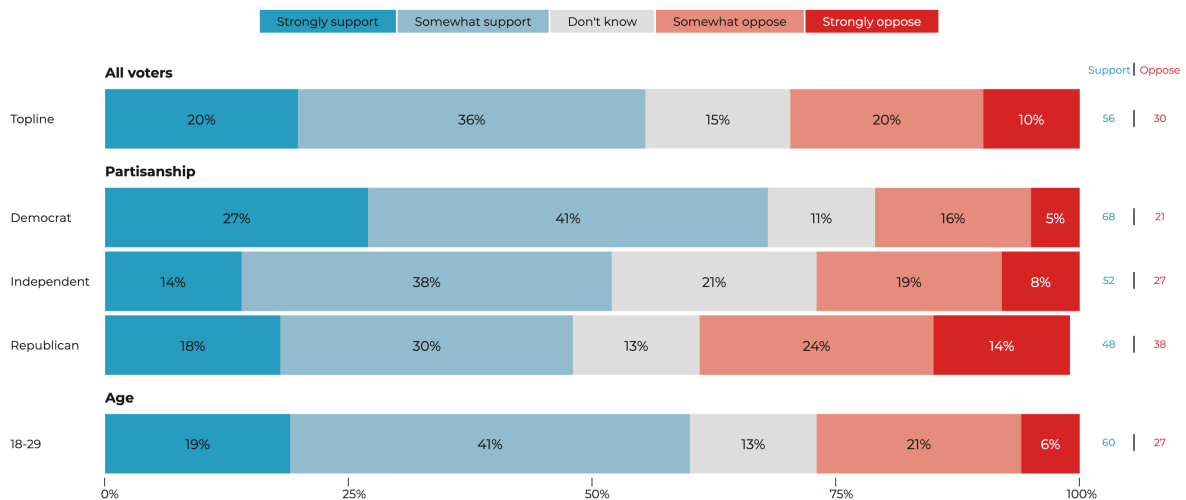Data for Progress

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enjoys support from a majority of Democrats (68 percent), voters aged 18-29 (60 percent), and independents (52 percent). The proposal also enjoys support across party lines, as a plurality of Republicans (48 percent) say they support spending a larger percentage of the Texas Emission Reduction Plan's funds on electric vehicles rather than diesel trucks.

These results show that Texas voters are putting climate change on the ballot this November. Candidates who pledge a national clean energy standard by 2035 and refuse contributions for fossil fuel money enjoy high levels of support from Texas voters. Joe Biden's plans to create millions of jobs building clean energy infrastructure and invest in communities that are on the front lines of pollution are popular among voters in the state, whose support could be consequential for winning the presidential election. Though fracking and fossil fuels are a major component of the state's energy production, Texas voters want to prioritize clean energy job creation, do less fracking, and place restrictions on natural gas flaring. Texas voters also support the state government taking action to combat climate change by setting efficiency standards on new infrastructure projects, establishing tax incentives for new renewable energy projects, and spending a larger percentage of the Texas Emission Reductions Plan's on electric vehicles rather than diesel trucks. Both national and state-level candidates in Texas can support ambitious climate policies knowing that voters in the state will have their backs.

Texas Voters Support State Investments in Electric Vehicles

The Texas Emission Reduction Plan is a program that funds a variety of initiatives to reduce pollution. Most of the funds are spent to replace old diesel trucks with new diesel trucks. There is a new proposal for the program to increase funding and provide financial incentives for purchasing electric vehicles. Supporters say electric vehicles produce no pollution and greatly improve air quality compared to diesel vehicles that produce hazardous emissions. Opponents say replacing old diesel trucks with new diesel is a more cost effective way to reduce pollution than purchasing new electricvehicles. Do you support or oppose spending a larger percentage of the Texas Emission Reduction Plan's funds on electric vehicles?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose

All voters

Support | Oppose

						Support	Oppose
Topline	20%	36%	15%	20%	10%	56	30

Partisanship

						Support	Oppose
Democrat	27%	41%	11%	16%	5%	68	21
Independent	14%	38%	21%	19%	8%	52	27
Republican	18%	30%	13%	24%	14%	48	38

Age

						Support	Oppose
18-29	19%	41%	13%	21%	6%	60	27

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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SURVEY
METHODOLOGY

From August 20 to August 25, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 2,295 likely general election voters in Texas using online web panels. The responses were weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, geography and voting history. The survey was conducted in English and has a Margin of Error of +/- 2 percentage points.

COVER PHOTO
Adam Thomas/Unsplash