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THE HEROES ACT AND PROGRESSIVE RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS IS POPULAR WITH VOTERS

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On May 15, 2020, House Democrats passed an expansive, three trillion dollar economic relief and healthcare package. The bill, called the "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act" or HEROES act, would send additional aid to states and cities hardpressed by a decline in tax revenue and an upsurge in expenses associated with the crisis. In addition, another round of $1,200 dollar checks would be distributed. Republicans are largely opposed to the measure and President Trump has already threatened to veto the law.

As part of a survey conducted from May 13 to May 15, 2020, of 1212 likely voters weighted to be representative of the national electorate, Data for Progress sought to test support for the HEROES Act as well as several other proposals currently being debated.
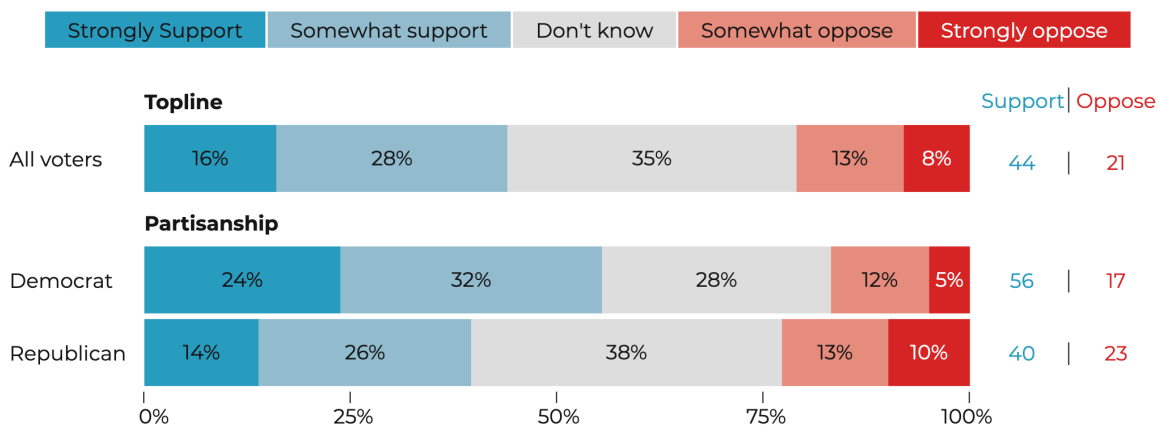
To test support for the HEROES Act, we began by asking voters two general questions. First, we asked voters, based on what they've heard, whether or not they'd support the measure. Specifically, voters were asked:

> *Based on what you have heard, do you support or oppose the "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act" or HEROES act?*

We found that the HEROES Act is popular enjoying a 21-percentage-point margin of support and with 35 percent of voters not sure (44 percent support, 21 percent oppose). Support for the HEROES Act is, importantly, bipartisan: Democrats back it by a 39-point margin (56 percent support, 17 percent oppose) while Republicans support it by a 17-point margin (40 percent support, 23 percent oppose).

Voters Support The HEROES Act

Based on what you have heard, do you support or oppose the "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act" or HEROES act?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose		Support	Oppose
Topline								
All voters	16%	28%	35%	13%	8%		44	21
Partisanship								
Democrat	24%	32%	28%	12%	5%		56	17
Republican	14%	26%	38%	13%	10%		40	23

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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We then re-asked voters whether or not they supported the HEROES Act, this time providing a definitional note about the bill. Specifically, voters were posed the following question:

The "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act" or HEROES Act is a $3 trillion dollar bill which includes increasing aid for state, local, and tribal governments, extending unemployment insurance benefits and providing more direct payments to Americans. Do you support or oppose the HEROES Act?

Here, we found even higher levels of support. Clearly, there's a hunger for additional, large-scale fiscal stimulus. Voters supported the HEROES Act by a 50-point margin (67 percent support, 17 percent oppose). Support was, again, bipartisan

with Democrats backing it by a massive 73-point margin and Republicans doing so by a still-wide 31-point margin.

As part of the same May survey, Data for Progress tested support for both the component parts of the HEROES Act and proposals that could be included in future progressive responses to the coronavirus crisis. We found high levels of support for all proposals we tested. Money for food assistance and child nutrition assistance was the most popular proposal tested, netting a 59-point margin of support (75 percent support, 16 percent oppose). Public health measures aimed at dealing with the coronavirus were all quite popular. Free coronavirus testing and treatment for all Americas was, for example, supported by a 54-point margin among all voters (73 percent support, 19 percent oppose).

Voters Support The HEROES Act

The "Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act" or HEROES Act is a $3 trillion dollar bill which includes increasing aid for state, local, and tribal governments, extending unemployment insurance benefits and providing more direct payments to Americans. Do you support or oppose the HEROES Act?
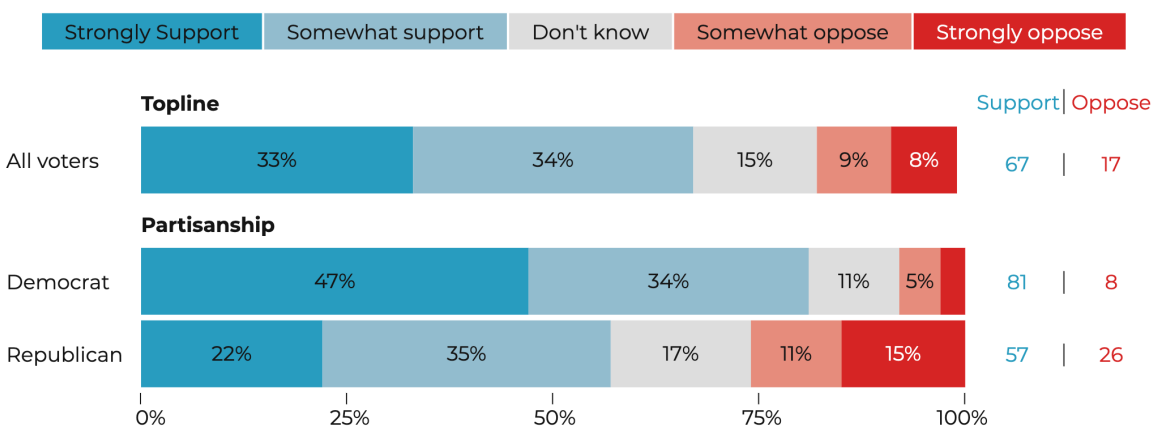
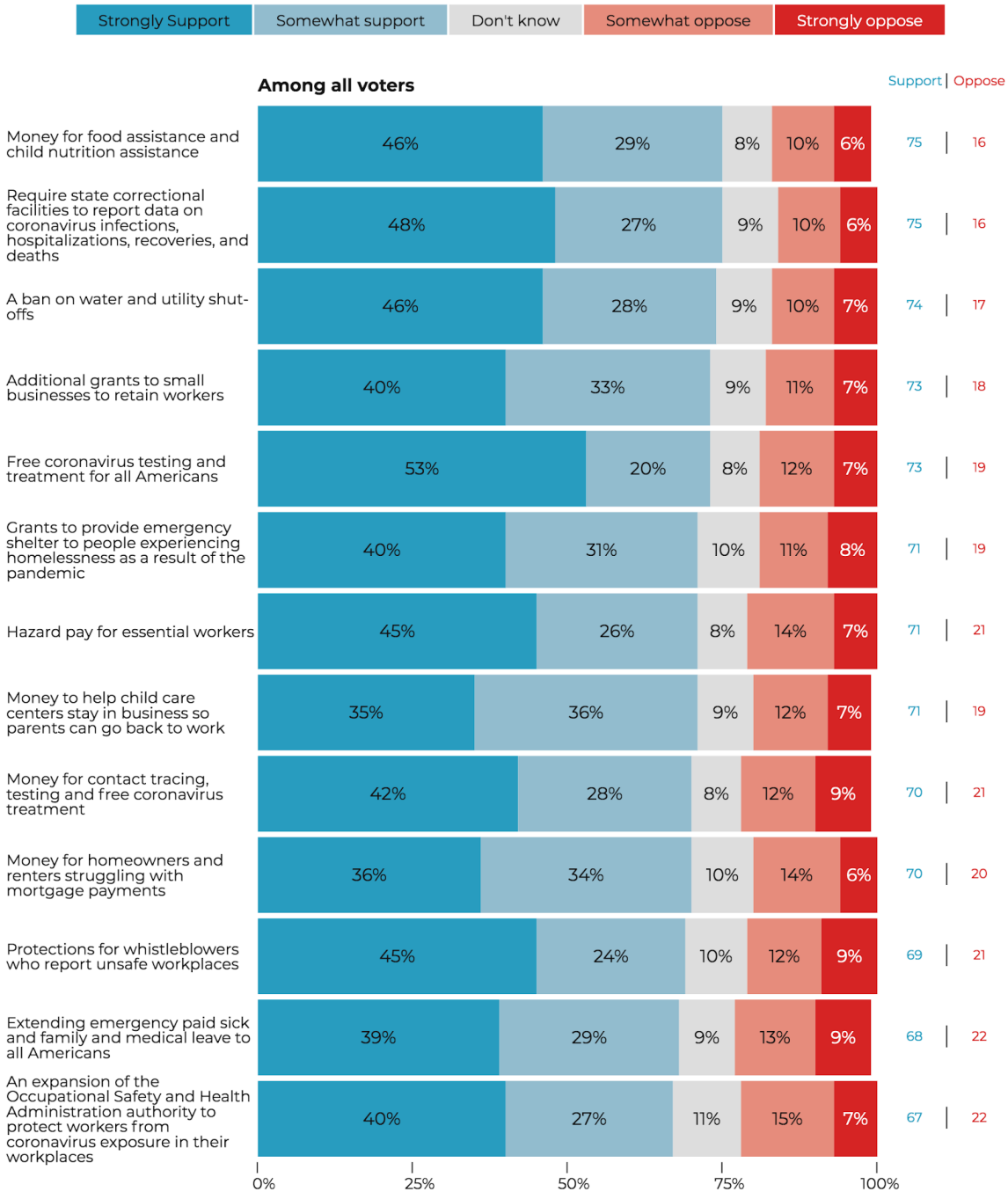|	Strongly Support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose		
						Support	Oppose
Topline							
All voters	33%	34%	15%	9%	8%	67	17
Partisanship							
Democrat	47%	34%	11%	5%		81	8
Republican	22%	35%	17%	11%	15%	57	26

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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Voters Support The Progressive Response To The Coronavirus Crisis

For each of these policies that could be included in an economic stimulus and coronavirus pandemic package, say whether you would support or oppose the policy: --

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

Among all voters

Support | Oppose

Policy	Strongly Support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
Money for food assistance and child nutrition assistance	46%	29%	8%	10%	6%	75	16
Require state correctional facilities to report data on coronavirus infections, hospitalizations, recoveries, and deaths	48%	27%	9%	10%	6%	75	16
A ban on water and utility shut-offs	46%	28%	9%	10%	7%	74	17
Additional grants to small businesses to retain workers	40%	33%	9%	11%	7%	73	18
Free coronavirus testing and treatment for all Americans	53%	20%	8%	12%	7%	73	19
Grants to provide emergency shelter to people experiencing homelessness as a result of the pandemic	40%	31%	10%	11%	8%	71	19
Hazard pay for essential workers	45%	26%	8%	14%	7%	71	21
Money to help child care centers stay in business so parents can go back to work	35%	36%	9%	12%	7%	71	19
Money for contact tracing, testing and free coronavirus treatment	42%	28%	8%	12%	9%	70	21
Money for homeowners and renters struggling with mortgage payments	36%	34%	10%	14%	6%	70	20
Protections for whistleblowers who report unsafe workplaces	45%	24%	10%	12%	9%	69	21
Extending emergency paid sick and family and medical leave to all Americans	39%	29%	9%	13%	9%	68	22
An expansion of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration authority to protect workers from coronavirus exposure in their workplaces	40%	27%	11%	15%	7%	67	22

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%
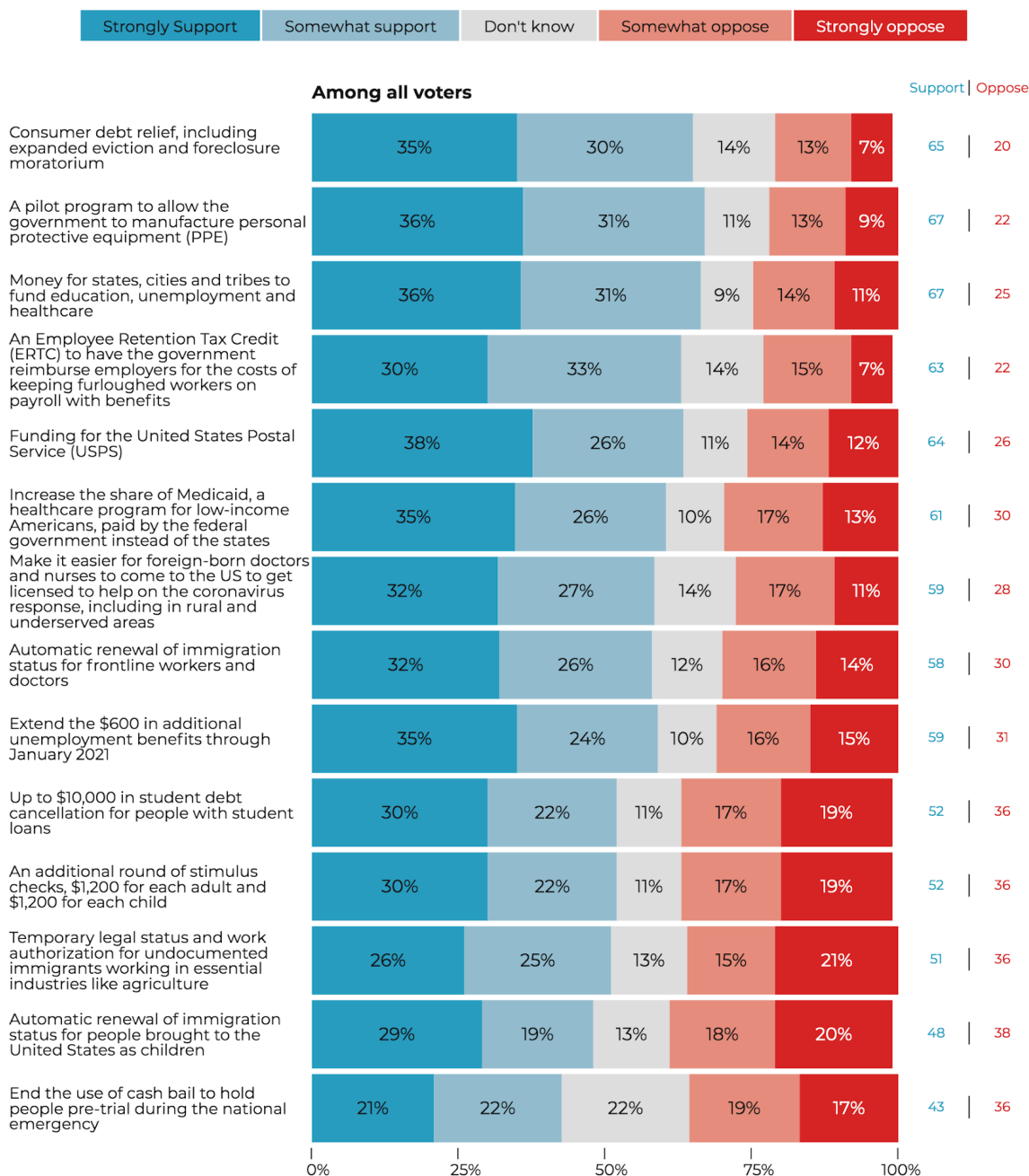
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A host of progressive proposals for addressing this ongoing economic and public health crisis are popular with voters. For instance, extending "supercharged unemployment" benefits––a proposal that Data for Progress has polled previously––was again found to have high levels of support among all voters, sitting at 28-points above water (59 percent support, 28 percent oppose).

Voters Support The Progressive Response To The Coronavirus Crisis

For each of these policies that could be included in an economic stimulus and coronavirus pandemic package, say whether you would support or oppose the policy: --

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

Among all voters

Policy	Strongly Support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
Consumer debt relief, including expanded eviction and foreclosure moratorium	35%	30%	14%	13%	7%	65	20
A pilot program to allow the government to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE)	36%	31%	11%	13%	9%	67	22
Money for states, cities and tribes to fund education, unemployment and healthcare	36%	31%	9%	14%	11%	67	25
An Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) to have the government reimburse employers for the costs of keeping furloughed workers on payroll with benefits	30%	33%	14%	15%	7%	63	22
Funding for the United States Postal Service (USPS)	38%	26%	11%	14%	12%	64	26
Increase the share of Medicaid, a healthcare program for low-income Americans, paid by the federal government instead of the states	35%	26%	10%	17%	13%	61	30
Make it easier for foreign-born doctors and nurses to come to the US to get licensed to help on the coronavirus response, including in rural and underserved areas	32%	27%	14%	17%	11%	59	28
Automatic renewal of immigration status for frontline workers and doctors	32%	26%	12%	16%	14%	58	30
Extend the $600 in additional unemployment benefits through January 2021	35%	24%	10%	16%	15%	59	31
Up to $10,000 in student debt cancellation for people with student loans	30%	22%	11%	17%	19%	52	36
An additional round of stimulus checks, $1,200 for each adult and $1,200 for each child	30%	22%	11%	17%	19%	52	36
Temporary legal status and work authorization for undocumented immigrants working in essential industries like agriculture	26%	25%	13%	15%	21%	51	36
Automatic renewal of immigration status for people brought to the United States as children	29%	19%	13%	18%	20%	48	38
End the use of cash bail to hold people pre-trial during the national emergency	21%	22%	22%	19%	17%	43	36

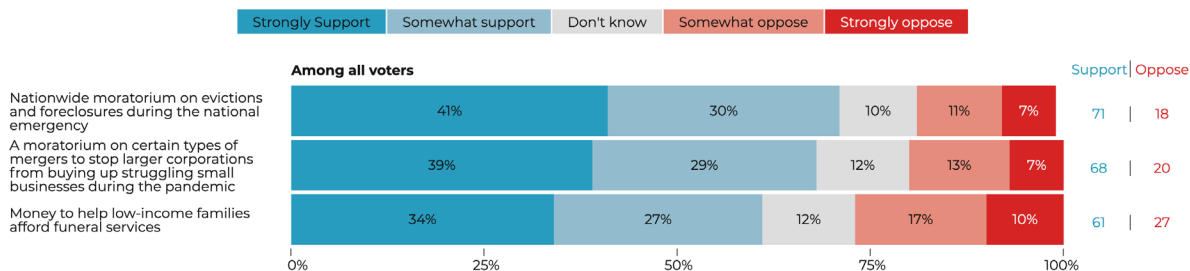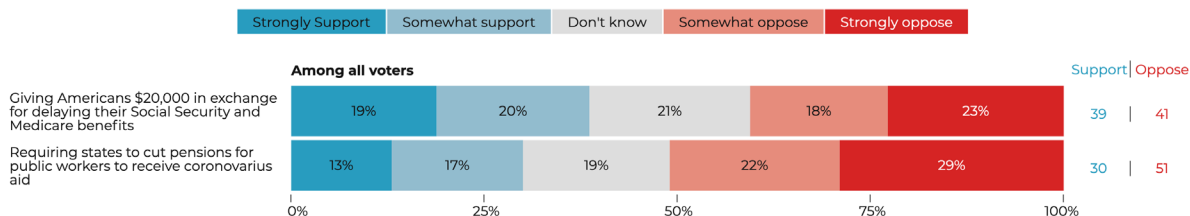0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

We also tested support for two progressive priorities which were left out of the HOUSE Act, specifically allocating money to cover funeral costs for lower-income people and a moratorium on evictions. We found that both are extremely popular. A nationwide moratorium on evictions and foreclosures enjoyed an overwhelming 53-point margin of support (71 percent support, 18 percent oppose). Money to assist low-income families to afford funeral services garnered a considerable 34-point margin of support (61 percent support, 27 percent oppose).

We also tested support for two Republican proposals, specifically, a proposal wherein Americans would trade away their Social Security and Medicare benefits in exchange for cash payments now and another where states would be required to slash pensions of public workers as a condition for receiving federal aid. Both were unpopular with voters. Voters receiving $20,000 dollars in exchange for delaying receiving their Social Security and Medicare benefits sat two-points underwater (39 percent support, 41 percent oppose). States being required to cut pensions was 21-points underwater (30 percent support, 51 percent oppose).

Voters Back Expansive Coronavirus Relief Efforts

For each of these policies that could be included in an economic stimulus and coronavirus pandemic package, say whether you would support or oppose the policy: --

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

Among all voters

	Strongly Support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
Nationwide moratorium on evictions and foreclosures during the national emergency	41%	30%	10%	11%	7%	71	18
A moratorium on certain types of mergers to stop larger corporations from buying up struggling small businesses during the pandemic	39%	29%	12%	13%	7%	68	20
Money to help low-income families afford funeral services	34%	27%	12%	17%	10%	61	27

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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Voters Oppose The Republican Response To The Coronavirus Crisis

For each of these policies that could be included in an economic stimulus and coronavirus pandemic package, say whether you would support or oppose the policy: --

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

Among all voters

	Strongly Support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
Giving Americans $20,000 in exchange for delaying their Social Security and Medicare benefits	19%	20%	21%	18%	23%	39	41
Requiring states to cut pensions for public workers to receive coronovarius aid	13%	17%	19%	22%	29%	30	51

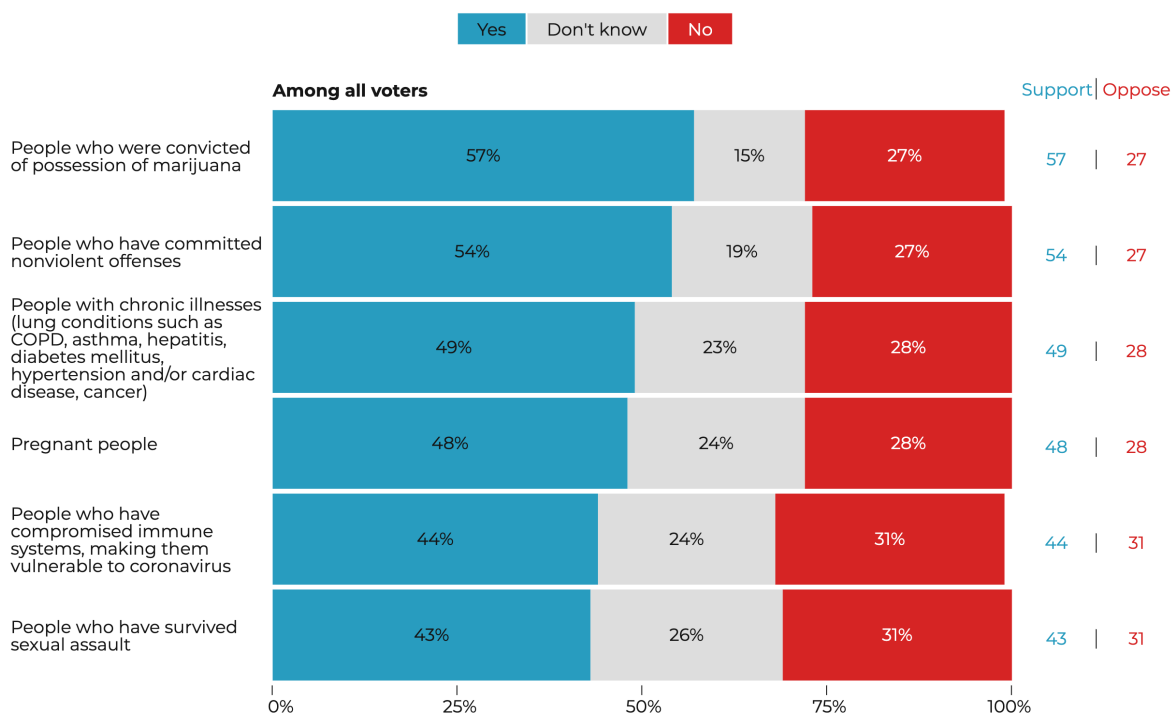0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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We also asked voters if they'd consider clemency for certain groups in light of the coronavirus. We found that voters support these proposals. For example, voters support releasing those charged with possession of marijuana by a 30-point margin (57 percent yes, 27 percent no). Voters also support releasing those who are immunocompromised by a 13-point margin (44 percent yes, 31 percent support no.

Voters Support Moves For Clemency In Response To The Coronavirus

Some policymakers have proposed allowing some incarcerated people to be granted clemency due to the coronavirus pandemic. Which of these groups do you think should be granted clemency?

	Yes	Don't know	No

Among all voters

	Support	Oppose
People who were convicted of possession of marijuana — Yes 57% / Don't know 15% / No 27%	57	27
People who have committed nonviolent offenses — Yes 54% / Don't know 19% / No 27%	54	27
People with chronic illnesses (lung conditions such as COPD, asthma, hepatitis, diabetes mellitus, hypertension and/or cardiac disease, cancer) — Yes 49% / Don't know 23% / No 28%	49	28
Pregnant people — Yes 48% / Don't know 24% / No 28%	48	28
People who have compromised immune systems, making them vulnerable to coronavirus — Yes 44% / Don't know 24% / No 31%	44	31
People who have survived sexual assault — Yes 43% / Don't know 26% / No 31%	43	31

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

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Next, we asked voters a question to gauge how they'd balance increased relief efforts against concerns about the deficit. Specifically, we asked voters the following:

Which comes closer to your view

And provided them the two following response options:

The government should do more to help needy Americans, even if it means going deeper into debt

And,

The government today can't afford to do much more to help the needy.

Voters reported by a roughly two-thirds margin that they think that the government should do more, even if it means increased deficit-spending.

Seventy-nine percent of Democrats think the government should do more and 44 percent of Republicans do so as well. All this suggests that Democrats, rather than worrying they're spending too much, should be worried about the opposite case: that they are spending *not enough.*

We then asked voters whether or not they think that economic relief and healthcare programs should be targeted at communities disproportionately impacted by the ongoing crisis. Voters were, again, told to select the response option that comes closest to their view. They were offered the two following response options:

Economic relief and healthcare programs to address the coronavirus pandemic should focus on low-income communities and communities of color where the pandemic is having the worst impacts

Voters Want The Government To Help Americans Even If It Means Going Into Debt

Which comes closer to your view:

The government should do more to help needy Americans, even if it means going deeper into debt

The government today can't afford to do much more to help the needy

Topline

All voters	63%	37%

Partisanship

Democrats	79%	21%
Republicans	44%	56%

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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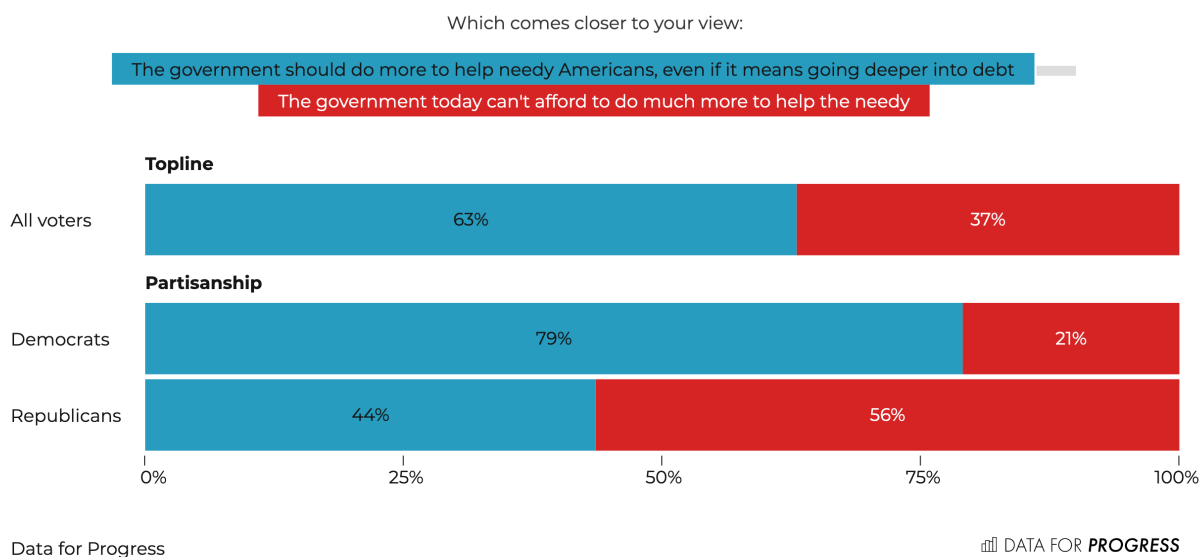
Voters Want Relief Efforts To Be Targeted On Communities Disproportionately Impacted

Which comes closer to your view:

Economic relief and healthcare programs to address the coronavirus pandemic should focus on low-income communities and communities of color where the pandemic is having the worst impacts

Economic relief and healthcare programs to address the coronavirus pandemic should not be targeted because low-income areas don't put in as much in taxes

Topline

All voters	68%	32%

Partisanship

Democrats	73%	27%
Republicans	63%	37%

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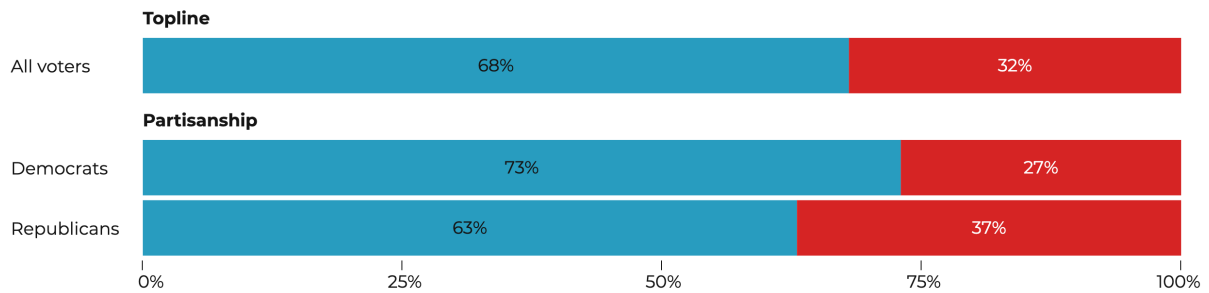
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And,

> *Economic relief and healthcare programs to address the coronavirus pandemic should not be targeted because low-income areas don't put in as much in taxes*

We found that, overwhelmingly, think that aid should be targeted, rejecting this idea that relief should be pegged to how much an area pays in taxes.

In a previous Data for Progress memo, we demonstrated that automatic stabilizers are a kind of policy proposal that enjoys wide margins of support among all voters. In a survey conducted from May 8 to May 9, we found that voters support this concept by considerable margins.

To do this, voters were again told to select the response which comes closest to their view. They were then provided the two following response options:

> *Automatically increase spending whenever there is an ongoing or deepening recession*

And,

> *Don't automatically increase spending when there is a recession*

Here, we can see that the concept of automatic stabilizers receives the backing of roughly two-thirds of voters. This notion that economic relief should be turned automatically the moment conditions begin to worsen is a popular one.

We also asked voters their attitudes about whether or not relief measures should include Native Americans. Voters were, again, asked which position came closer to their view and were provided the two following response options:

> *Economic relief and healthcare programs to address the coronavirus pandemic should include Native Americans because we have an obligation to make sure that all Americans get relief and that the United States honors the treaties it signed with American Indian tribes*
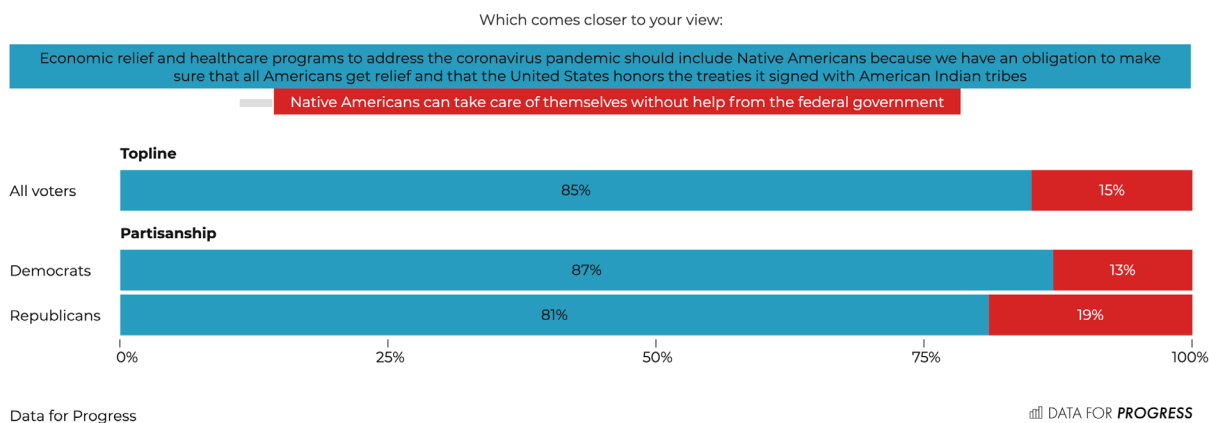
And,

> *Native Americans can take care of themselves without help from the federal government.*

Eighty-five percent of voters think that Native Americans should receive economic relief, an overwhelming majority. This is in line with previous Data for Progress findings that show that voters support efforts to aid the Native American population during this crisis.

Voters Support The Creation Of Automatic Stabilizers

Which view comes closer to your opinion:

Automatically increase spending whenever there is an ongoing or deepening recession
Don't automatically increase spending when there is a recession

Topline

| All voters | 65% | 35% |

Partisanship

| Democrats | 79% | 21% |
| Republicans | 52% | 48% |

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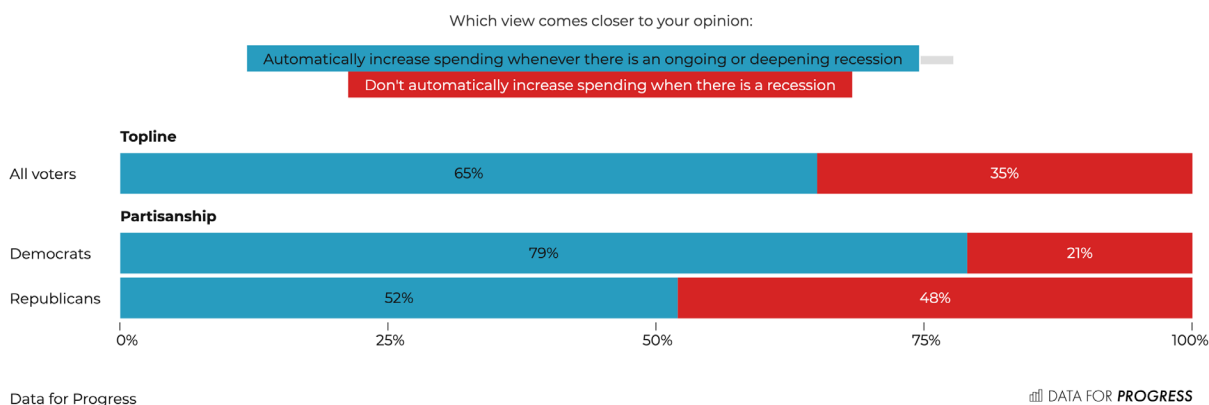
Voters Want Economic Relief To Help Native Americans

Which comes closer to your view:

Economic relief and healthcare programs to address the coronavirus pandemic should include Native Americans because we have an obligation to make sure that all Americans get relief and that the United States honors the treaties it signed with American Indian tribes
Native Americans can take care of themselves without help from the federal government

Topline

| All voters | 85% | 15% |

Partisanship

| Democrats | 87% | 13% |
| Republicans | 81% | 19% |

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We then retested support for the HEROES Act this time with Democratic arguments for and Republicans arguments against. By doing this, we can gauge how the legislation would fare when exposed to a partisan environment. Voters were posed the following question, specifically:

The Heroes Act was introduced by Democrats in the House of Representatives, and includes aid for state, local and tribal governments, extended unemployment benefits and direct payments to Americans at a total cost of $3 trillion. Republicans in the Senate say that the bill is too expensive and would increase the national debt. They say the bill has too many Democratic priorities that aren't focused on the economy. Do you support or oppose the Heroes Act?

We found that even when voters were faced with partisan arguments, the HEROES Act retains robust support. Among all voters, the bill enjoys a 33-point margin of support (59 percent support, 26 percent oppose). When we look at attitudes broken out according to partisanship, we see some sorting of opinions. Democrats are enthusiastic about the bill, backing it by a 69-point margin of support (79 percent support, 10 percent oppose). Republicans, meanwhile, oppose the bill but only narrowly with it sitting underwater by a five-point margin (41 percent support, 46 percent oppose).

The HEROES Act Is Popular Even With A Partisan Frame

The Heroes Act was introduced by Democrats in the House of Representatives, and includes aid for state, local and tribal governments, extended unemployment benefits and direct payments to Americans at a total cost of $3 trillion. Republicans in the Senate say that the bill is too expensive and would increase the national debt. They say the bill has too many Democratic priorities that aren't focused on the economy. Do you support or oppose the Heroes Act?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
Topline							
All voters	31%	28%	15%	11%	15%	59	26
Partisanship							
Democrat	47%	32%	11%	9%		79	10
Republican	22%	19%	14%	15%	31%	41	46
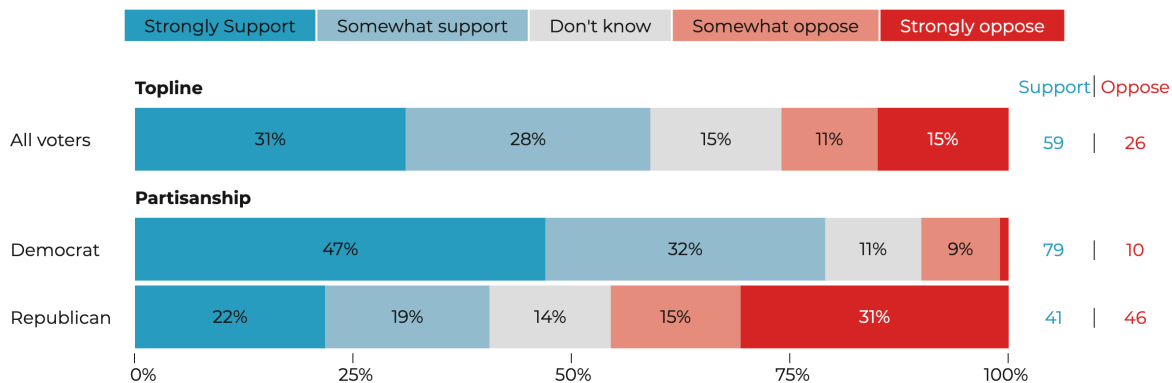
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Attitudes Have Swung In Favor Of Automatic Stabilizers

Some Democrats in Congress have proposed a policy that would send a $1,000 check to all Americans once a year if there is a rapid increase in unemployment. Democrats say that this money would stimulate the economy by reducing the chance of a recession, and that we should bail out taxpayers, not big banks. Republicans say that this will increase the national debt and eventually require tax hikes, which will slow economic growth. Would you support or oppose this policy.

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

Among all voters

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
May 15, 2020	33%	23%	22%	10%	12%	56	22
March 17, 2020	33%	25%	16%	13%	13%	58	26
March 2, 2020	17%	16%	19%	18%	30%	33	48

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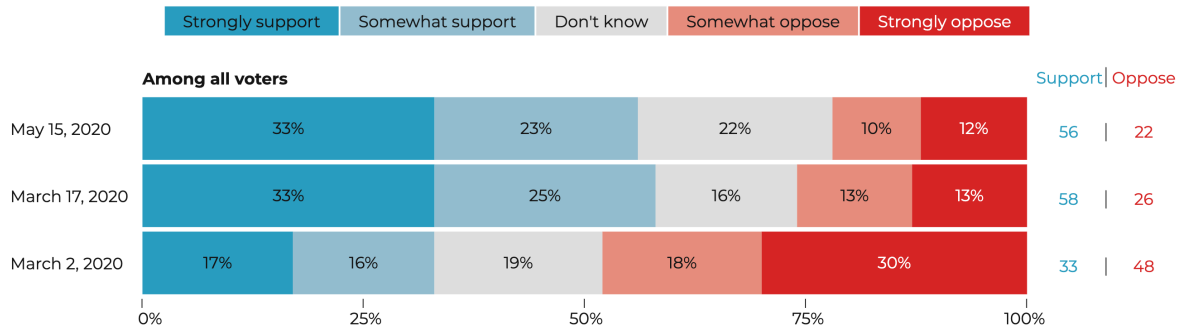
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Next, we tested support for one automatic stabilizer proposal which would, if implemented, distribute $1,000 to every American when economic indicators forecasted a potential recession on the horizon. Specifically, we asked voters:

> *Some Democrats in Congress have proposed a policy that would send a $1,000 check to all Americans to prevent the economy from falling into recession. Democrats say that this money would stimulate the economy, reduce the chance of a recession, and would help workers who are losing their jobs and shifts because of coronavirus. Republicans say that this will increase the national debt and eventually require tax hikes, which will slow economic growth. Would you support or oppose this policy?*

This is a proposal we have tested repeatedly since March of this year. On March 2, the proposal sat 15-points underwater (33 percent support, 48 percent oppose). By March 17, however, the proposal enjoyed a 32-point margin of support—a dramatic 47-point swing in the positive direction (58 percent support, 26 oppose). When we retested the proposal in May, we found that this proposal has retained substantial levels of support, enjoying a 34-point margin of support (56 percent support, 22 percent oppose).

CONCLUSION

The HEROES Act is popular with voters, enjoying considerable bipartisan support. There is an appetite for aggressive fiscal stimulus to address the economic crisis and also support for measures

aimed at dealing with the ongoing public health emergency, such as funding to establish a contact tracing regime. There is also support for some progressive priorities that were left out of the HEROES Act. One proposal that would entail sending every American $1,000 dollars when certain economic conditions are breached––a form of automatic stabilizers––is supported by wide margins, even when voters are provided partisan arguments for and against.

METHODOLOGY

Due to rounding, some values sum to 99 or 101 percent.

From May 13 to May 15, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1212 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 ± 2.8 percentage points.

From May 8 through May 9, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,235 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 ± 2.7 percentage points.

Question Wording

For each of these policies that could be included in an economic stimulus and coronavirus pandemic package, say whether you would support or oppose the policy: --

▶ Money for food assistance and child nutrition assistance

▶ Require state correctional facilities to report data on coronavirus infections, hospitalizations, recoveries, and deaths

▶ A ban on water and utility shut-offs

▶ Additional grants to small businesses to retain workers

▶ Free coronavirus testing and treatment for all Americans

▶ Grants to provide emergency shelter to people experiencing homelessness as a result of the pandemic

▶ Hazard pay for essential workers

▶ Money to help child care centers stay in business so parents can go back to work

▶ Money for contact tracing, testing and free coronavirus treatment

▶ Money for homeowners and renters struggling with mortgage payments

▶ Protections for whistleblowers who report unsafe workplaces

- Extending emergency paid sick and family and medical leave to all Americans

- An expansion of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration authority to protect workers from coronavirus exposure in their workplaces

  1- Strongly support

  2- Somewhat support

  3- Somewhat oppose

  4- Strongly oppose

  5- Don't know

For each of these policies that could be included in an economic stimulus and coronavirus pandemic package, say whether you would support or oppose the policy: --

- Consumer debt relief, including expanded eviction and foreclosure moratorium

- A pilot program to allow the government to manufacture personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Money for states, cities and tribes to fund education, unemployment and healthcare

- An Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) to have the government reimburse employers for the costs of keeping furloughed workers on payroll with benefits

- Funding for the United States Postal Service (USPS)

- Increase the share of Medicaid, a healthcare program for low-income Americans, paid by the federal government instead of the states

- Make it easier for foreign-born doctors and nurses to come to the US to get licensed to help on the coronavirus response, including in rural and underserved areas

- Automatic renewal of immigration status for frontline workers and doctors

- Extend the $600 in additional unemployment benefits through January 2021

- Up to $10,000 in student debt cancellation for people with student loans

- An additional round of stimulus checks, $1,200 for each adult and $1,200 for each child

- Temporary legal status and work authorization for undocumented immigrants working in essential industries like agriculture

- Automatic renewal of immigration status for people brought to the United States as children

- End the use of cash bail to hold people pre-trial during the national emergency

  1- Strongly support

  2- Somewhat support

  3- Somewhat oppose

  4- Strongly oppose

  5- Don't know

For each of these policies that could be included in an economic stimulus and coronavirus pandemic package, say whether you would support or oppose the policy: --

- Nationwide moratorium on evictions and foreclosures during the national emergency

- A moratorium on certain types of mergers to stop larger corporations from buying up struggling small businesses during the pandemic

▶ Money to help low-income families afford funeral services

1- Strongly support

2- Somewhat support

3- Somewhat oppose

4- Strongly oppose

5- Don't know

For each of these policies that could be included in an economic stimulus and coronavirus pandemic package, say whether you would support or oppose the policy: --

▶ Giving Americans $20,000 in exchange for delaying their Social Security and Medicare benefits

▶ Requiring states to cut pensions for public workers to receive coronovarius aid

1- Strongly support

2- Somewhat support

3- Somewhat oppose

4- Strongly oppose

5- Don't know

Some policymakers have proposed allowing some incarcerated people to be granted clemency due to the coronavirus pandemic. Which of these groups do you think should be granted clemency?

▶ People who were convicted of possession of marijuana

▶ People who have committed nonviolent offenses

▶ People with chronic illnesses (lung conditions such as COPD, asthma, hepatitis, diabetes mellitus, hypertension and/or cardiac disease, cancer)

▶ Pregnant people

▶ People who have compromised immune systems, making them vulnerable to coronavirus

▶ People who have survived sexual assault

1- Yes

2- No

5- Don't know