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VOTERS IN KEY STATES SUPPORT EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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At the end of July, the expanded unemployment insurance (UI) benefit -- passed as part of the “Coronavirus Aid and Relief Act” (CARES) -- expired. In the month of July, expanded UI provided approximately 30 million unemployed Americans an extra \$600 per week. The goal of this policy was to ensure that workers would see 100 percent of their wage income replaced during the pandemic.

In a survey conducted by Data for Progress at the end of the July into early August, we polled voters in four states that will be crucial for determining whether or not Democrats are able to win control of the Senate, specifically, North Carolina, Maine, Iowa, and Arizona. As part of this, we asked voters their opinions on the expanded UI program, namely, whether they thought it was necessary and if they wanted to see the program extended

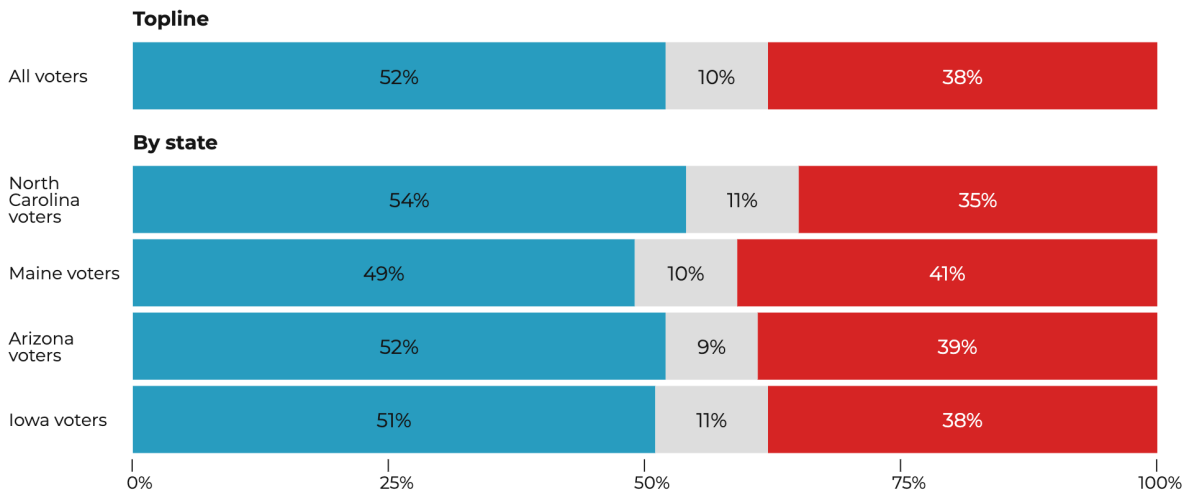
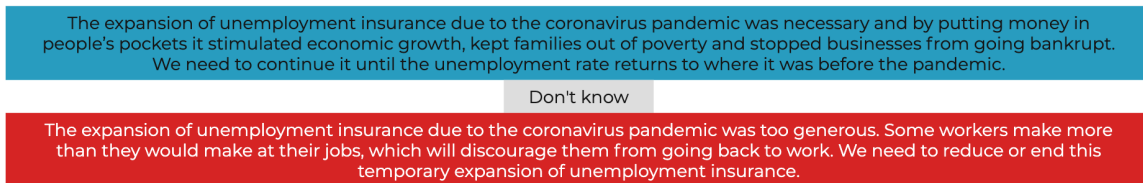
until the unemployment rate falls below pre-pandemic levels. We found that voters both think that this expansion was necessary and want to see the program continued.

First, we asked voters whether they thought that the expansion of UI benefits passed as part of the CARES Act was necessary or altogether too generous. Among all voters in North Carolina, Maine, Arizona, and Iowa, we found a majority (52 percent) thought that this expansion was needed. Thirty-eight percent thought that the expanded UI was too generous.

Across three states -- North Carolina, Arizona, and Iowa -- support for the expanded UI program is the majority position. In Maine, meanwhile, a comfortable plurality (49 percent) think that the expanded UI was necessary.

Voters Think The Expansion of Unemployment Insurance Was Necessary

Which statement comes closer to your view:

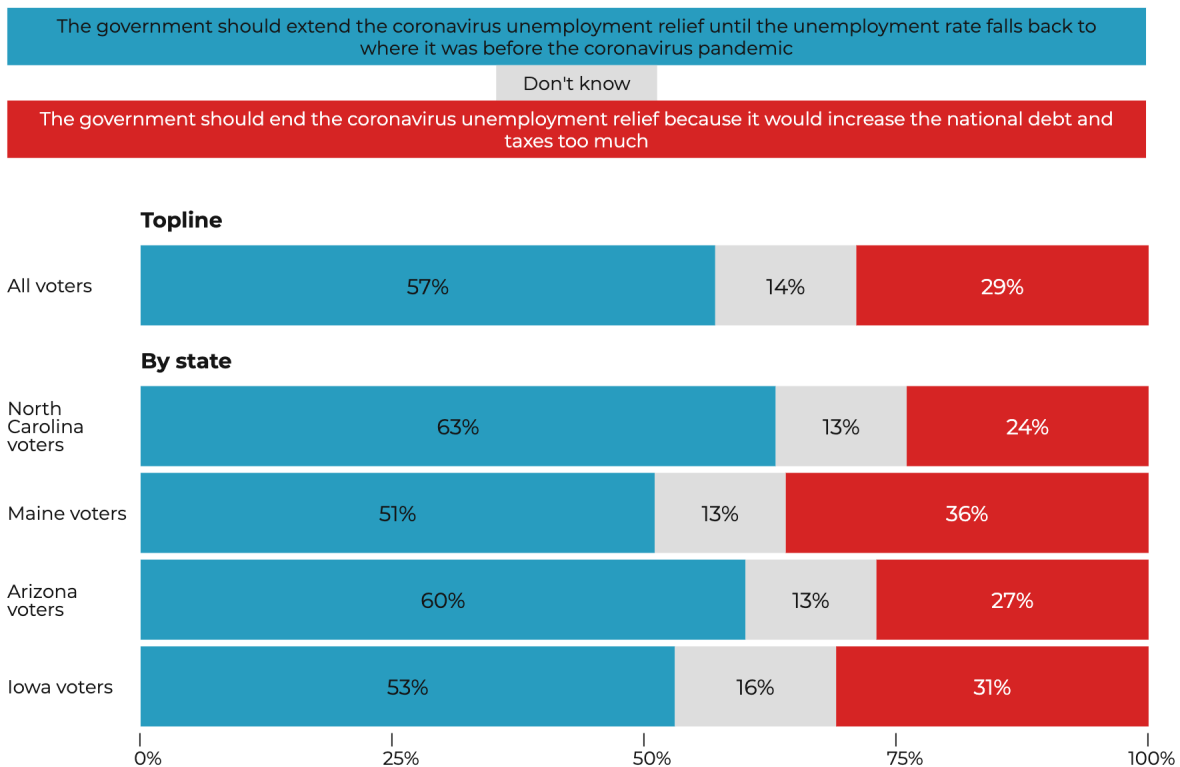


Next, we asked voters if they would prefer either extended the expanded UI until the unemployment rate returned to pre-pandemic levels -- with UI thus functioning as a form of automatic stabilizer -- or if the government should end the expanded UI program. Among voters in all four of the states, 57 percent think that the government should extend the UI program while 29 percent want the program to be ended. The extension of the UI program is also the majority in all four of the states we surveyed.

The expansion of UI as part of the CARES Act was a humane policy that ensured that those put out of work could still provide for themselves and their families in the midst of a global pandemic and economic downturn. The refusal of Republicans in Congress to extend this program is a travesty. Voters in North Carolina, Maine, Arizona, and Iowa, understand the expansion of the UI to be a necessary response to an unprecedented crisis and want to see this aid continue until economic conditions improve.

Voters Favor Extending The Expanded Unemployment Relief

Which statement comes closer to your view:



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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.

Question Wording

Which statement comes closer to your view:

- ▶ The expansion of unemployment insurance due to the coronavirus pandemic was necessary and by putting money in people's pockets it stimulated economic growth, kept families out of poverty and stopped businesses from going bankrupt. We need to continue it until the unemployment rate returns to where it was before the pandemic.

- ▶ The expansion of unemployment insurance due to the coronavirus pandemic was too generous. Some workers make more than they would make at their jobs, which will discourage them from going back to work. We need to reduce or end this temporary expansion of unemployment insurance.
- ▶ Don't know

Which statement comes closer to your view:

- ▶ The government should extend the coronavirus unemployment relief until the unemployment rate falls back to where it was before the coronavirus pandemic
- ▶ The government should end the coronavirus unemployment relief because it would increase the national debt and taxes too much
- ▶ Don't know