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# VOTERS IN KEY STATES SUPPORT THE PROGRESSIVE PHARMACEUTICAL AGENDA

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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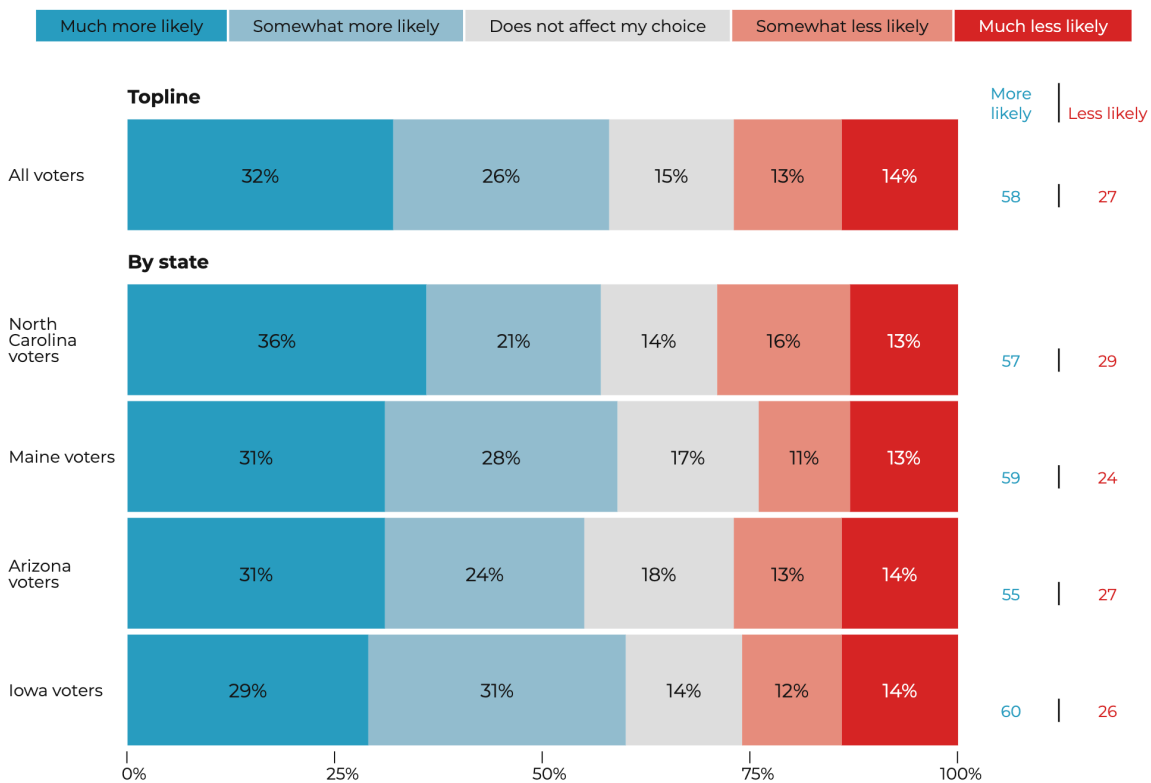
- ▶ Committing to a progressive pharmaceutical agenda is a political winner. For instance, 72 percent of voters said they'd be more likely to support a candidate who commits to ending the patents of high cost drugs, while only 14 percent said they'd be less likely.
- ▶ Voters support the progressive pharmaceutical agenda. For example, 65 percent of voters prefer a system where Medicare can negotiate the cost of prescription drugs, while only 19 percent prefer our existing system.
- ▶ Voters support making all coronavirus vaccines and treatments free by a 38 percentage point margin.
- ▶ Voters support a two percent tax on the assets of individuals with assets in excess of \$50 million by a 35 percentage point margin.
- ▶ As part of a survey fielded at the end of the July and into early August in four key battleground states -- Arizona, North Carolina, Iowa, and Maine -- we asked voters about their attitudes towards a host of progressive priorities regarding lowering the cost of prescription drugs, such as allowing Medicare to negotiate the cost of pharmaceuticals or having the government manufacture generic alternatives to high cost drugs. We asked two basic kinds of questions. First, whether or not they'd be more likely to vote for a candidate that supports these proposals. This was done to test whether or not these proposals could mobilize support for candidates in key races that will determine which party controls the Senate after this election. Second, we asked voters if they preferred the progressive alternative, such as allowing the government to end the patents on certain high cost drugs, or the existing system.
- ▶ We found that, overwhelmingly, voters in these four states both support progressive alternatives when it comes to pharmaceutical policy and that committing to these progressive positions will make voters more willing to vote for Senate candidates this November. Pharmaceutical policy is a terrain in which left positions are popular and a political winner.

# PHARMACEUTICAL POLICY

We asked voters if they'd be more willing to support a candidate who commits to having Medicare cover the cost of prescription drugs at the pharmacy counter. We found that, among all voters in these four states, 58 percent said they'd be more likely to back a candidate who supports this proposal, while only 27 percent said they'd be less likely. In all four states, voters reported by a roughly two-to-one margin that they'd be more likely to support a candidate who commits to this proposal than vote against them.

## Voters Are More Willing To Support A Candidate Who Commits To Having Medicare Cover The Cost Of Prescription Drugs

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a Senate candidate who supports the following proposals: -- Have Medicare cover prescription drug costs for all Americans so that they are free at the pharmacy counter



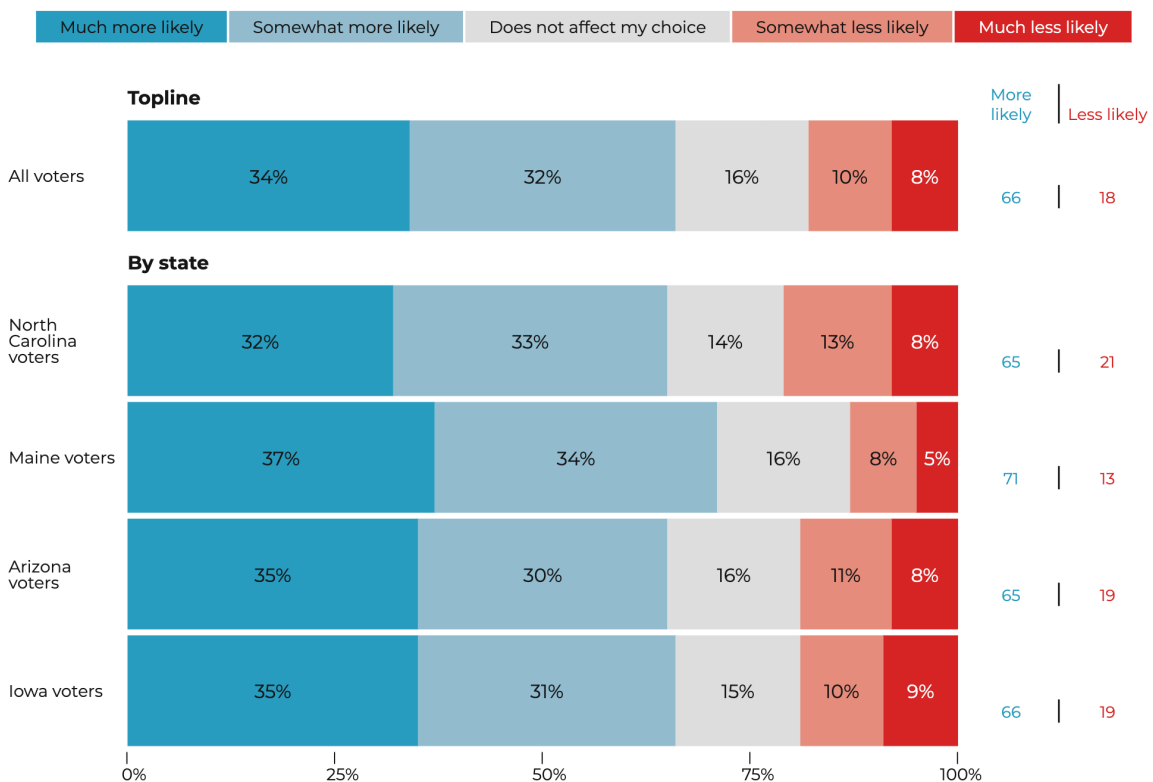
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We asked a similar question, this time about a candidate who commits to allowing the federal government to manufacture generic alternatives to high cost prescription drugs. We see similar patterns in attitudes. Across all four states, 66 percent of voters said they'd be more willing to support a candidate who backs this proposal, while only 16 percent said they'd be less likely.

## Voters Are More Likely To Support A Candidate Who Commits To Allowing The Government To Manufacture Generic Drugs

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a Senate candidate who supports the following proposals: -- Allow the government to manufacture generic versions of high-cost prescription drugs if the price has increased and there is no generic version available



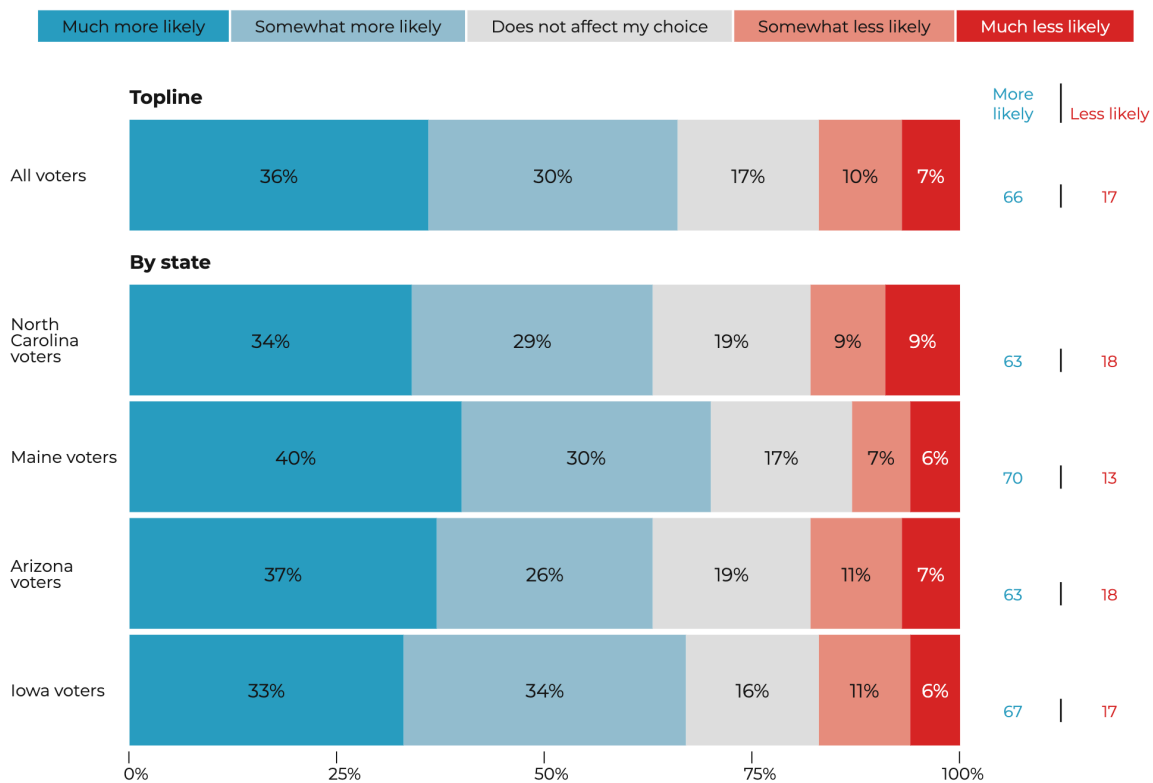
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We then asked voters in these four states whether they'd be more likely to support a candidate who commits to allowing Medicare to negotiate the cost of prescription drugs. We, again, found that this a political winner. Among voters in all four states, 66 percent reported they'd be more likely to support a candidate who backs this proposal, while only 17 percent said they'd be less likely.

## Voters Would Be More Likely To Support A Candidate That Allows Medicare To Negotiate The Cost Of Drugs

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a Senate candidate who supports the following proposals: -- Allow Medicare to negotiate the cost of all prescription drugs



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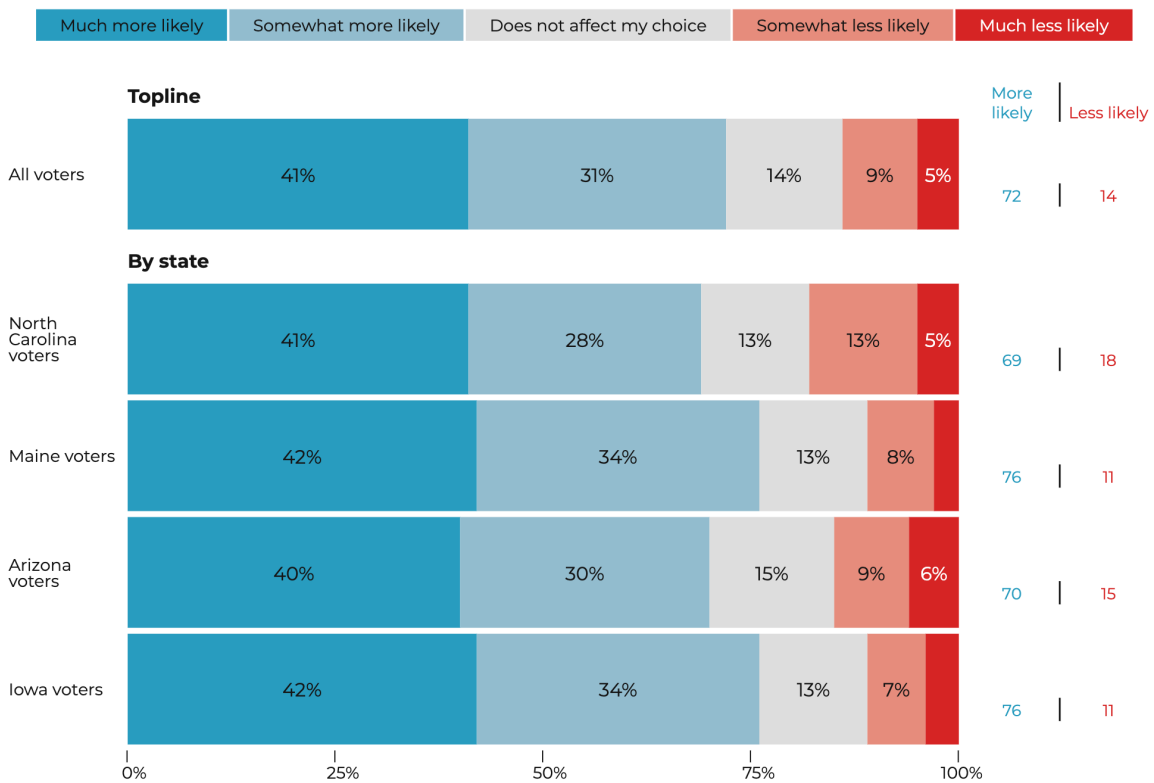
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Next, we asked whether voters would be more or less willing to vote for a candidate who commits to ending the patents on high cost drugs. This too, would drive support for whatever candidate opted to support it. Among all voters, 72 percent said they'd be more willing to vote for this candidate, while only 14 percent said they'd be less likely.

## Voters Would Be More Likely To Support A Candidate Who Commits To End The Patents On High Cost Drugs

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a Senate candidate who supports the following proposals: -- End the patents on high-cost prescription drugs and allow other companies to produce generic versions of that drug



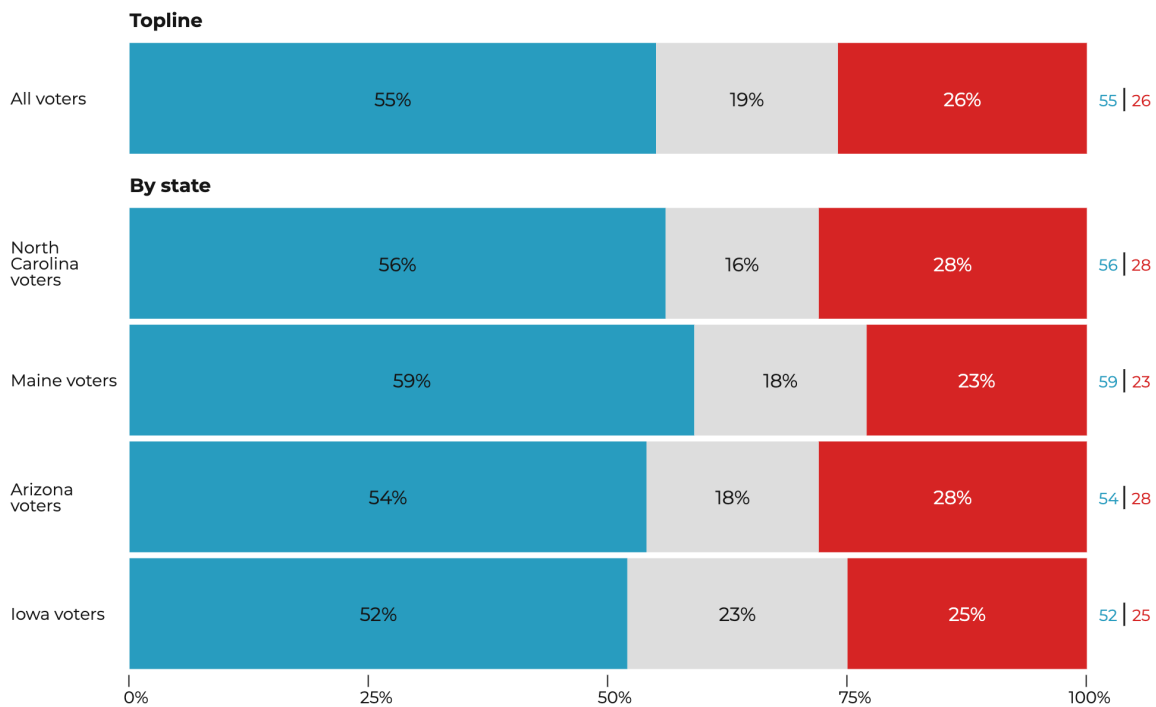
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Next, we then reasked voters about these four proposals to drive down the cost of pharmaceuticals, this time to gauge whether or not they'd support or oppose it. For all four, we found extremely high levels of enthusiasm. Across all four states, voters support allowing Medicare to cover the cost of prescriptions at the pharmacy counter by a 29-percentage-point margin, having the government manufacture generic alternatives to certain drugs by a 46-point margin, allowing Medicare to negotiate the cost of drugs by a 46-point margin, and ending the patents of high cost drugs by a 51-point margin.

## Voters Support Having Medicare Cover The Cost Of Prescription Drugs At The Pharmacy Counter

Which statement comes closer to your view:



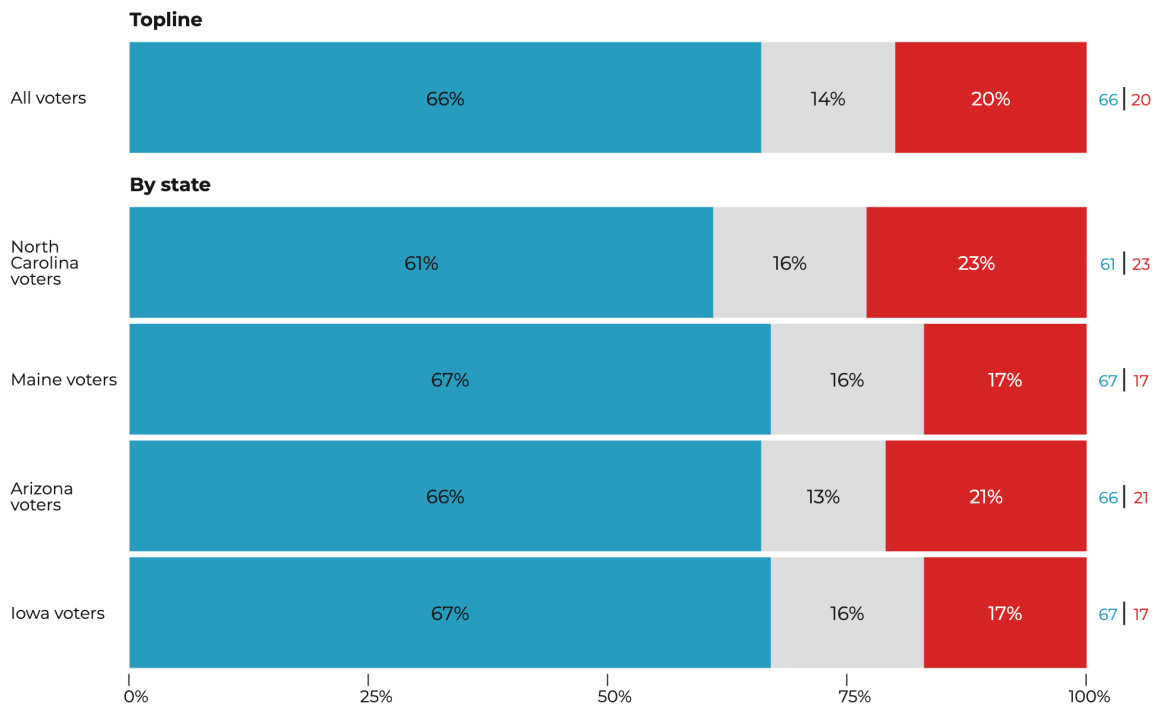
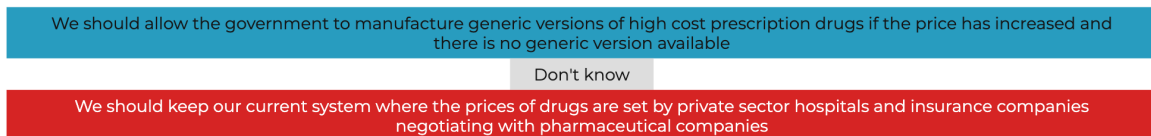
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We also presented voters with two proposals asking if the government should be allowed to manufacture generic drugs if the price of a certain drug has increased and there is no generic version available for it, or if the current system should be kept in place and the price of drugs should be set by private pharmaceutical and insurance companies. A majority of voters in these four states (66 percent) agree that the government should be allowed to manufacture generic drugs if the price of a certain drug has increased and there is no generic version available for it. This proposal enjoys high support from voters in all four battleground states: A majority of voters in North Carolina (61 percent), Maine (67 percent), Arizona (66 percent), and Iowa voters (67 percent) agree that the government should be allowed to manufacture generic drugs if the price of the drug increases and there is no generic available.

## Voters Support Allowing The Government To Manufacture Generic Alternatives To Prescription Drugs

Which statement comes closer to your view:



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We asked voters if they think Medicare should be allowed to negotiate the price of prescription drugs, or if they think the current system of private insurance companies negotiating the price of drugs should stay in place. We found high levels of net support for this proposal in all four states. Voters in Maine were particularly enthusiastic about the proposal, preferring that Medicare be allowed to negotiate the cost of prescription drugs by a 52-point margin.

## Voters Support Allowing Medicare To Negotiate The Cost Of Prescription Drugs

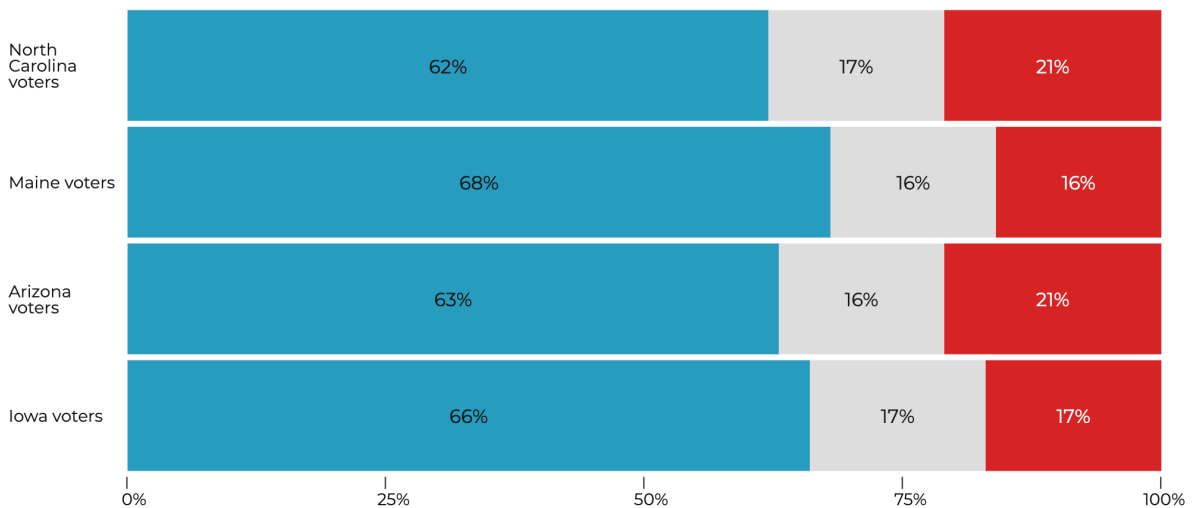
Which statement comes closer to your view:



### Topline



### By state



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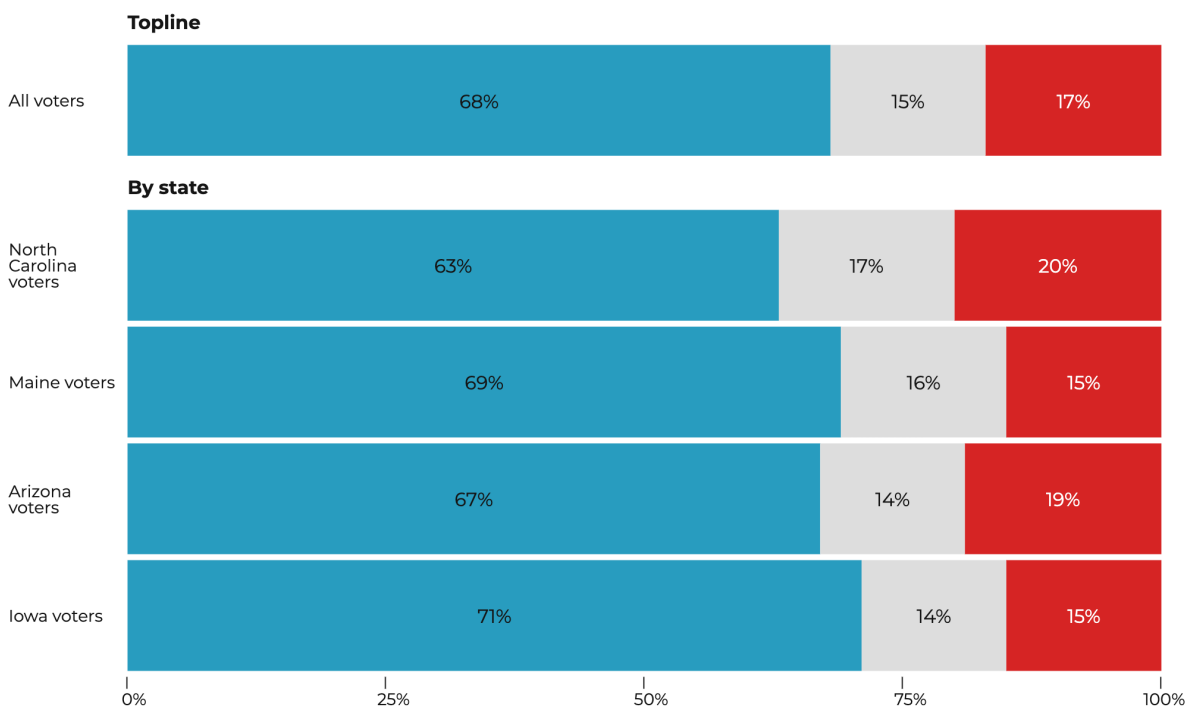
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Similarly, we found high levels of net support for the government ending the patents of certain pharmaceuticals. Voters in Iowa were particularly supportive of this idea, backing it by a 56-point margin.

What is clear is that the progressive pharmaceutical agenda enjoys broad and deep support in the states that Democrats need to win in this November. Adopting these positions appears to be an electoral winner as they are all overwhelmingly popular.

## Voters Support Ending The Patent Of High Cost Drugs

Which statement comes closer to your view:



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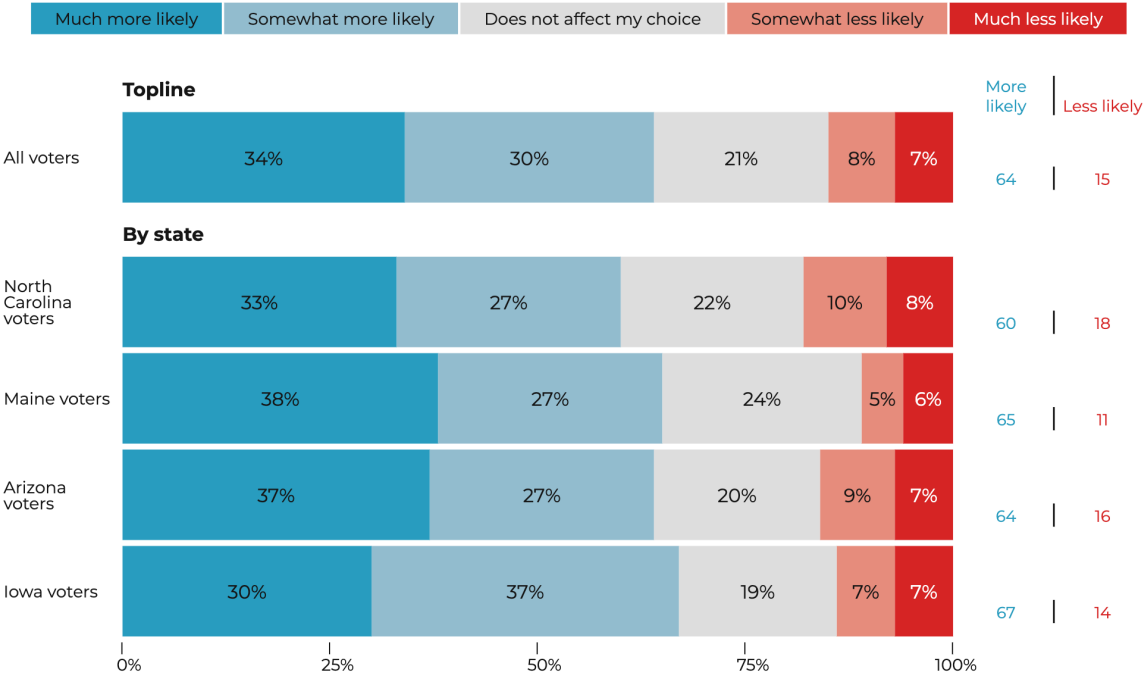
# CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

We also asked voters about two proposals that sit at the intersection of pharmaceutical policy and the government response to the coronavirus pandemic, specifically, whether the United States should join an international working group to develop and share treatments for the coronavirus and whether the American government should make free any vaccine and/or coronavirus treatment that becomes available.

We found that by an overwhelming margin, voters would be more willing to vote for a Senate candidate that committed to both of these proposals. Furthermore, both proposals enjoy high levels of support from voters in these key states.

## Voters Would Be More Likely To Vote For A Candidate Who Backs Joining An International Working Group On The Coronavirus Response

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a Senate candidate who supports the following proposals: -- Join an international working group to develop and share treatments and cures for the coronavirus pandemic

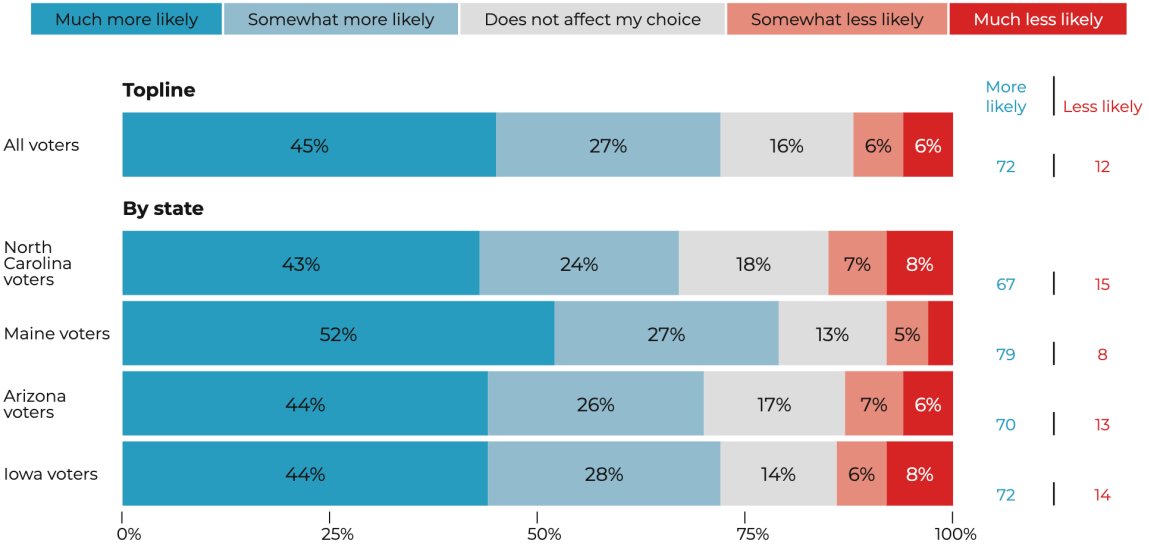


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# Voters Are More Willing To Back A Candidate That Commits To Making The Coronavirus Vaccine Free

Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a Senate candidate who supports the following proposals: -- Guarantee that the coronavirus vaccine and treatments are free to all Americans

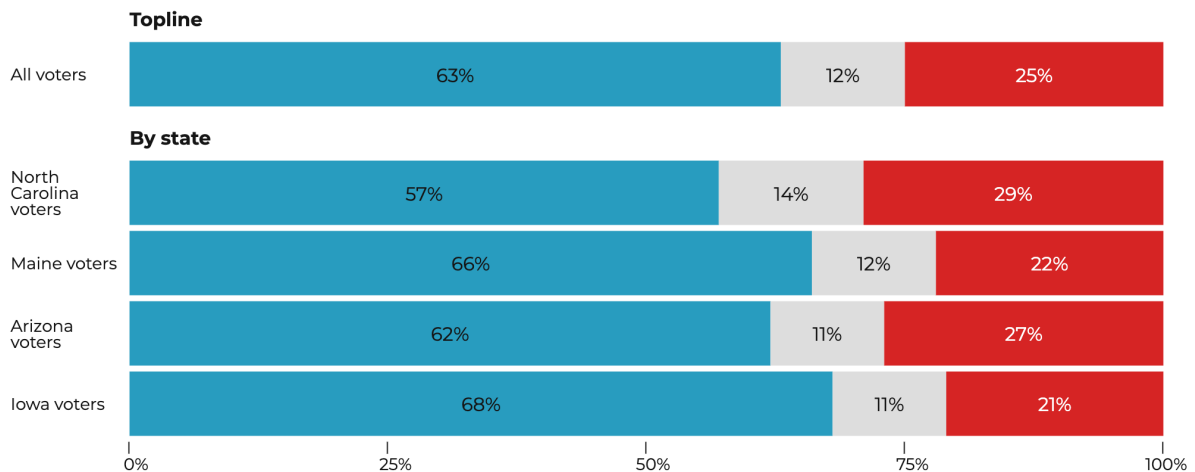


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# Voters Support Joining An International Coronavirus Response Working Group

Which statement comes closer to your view:

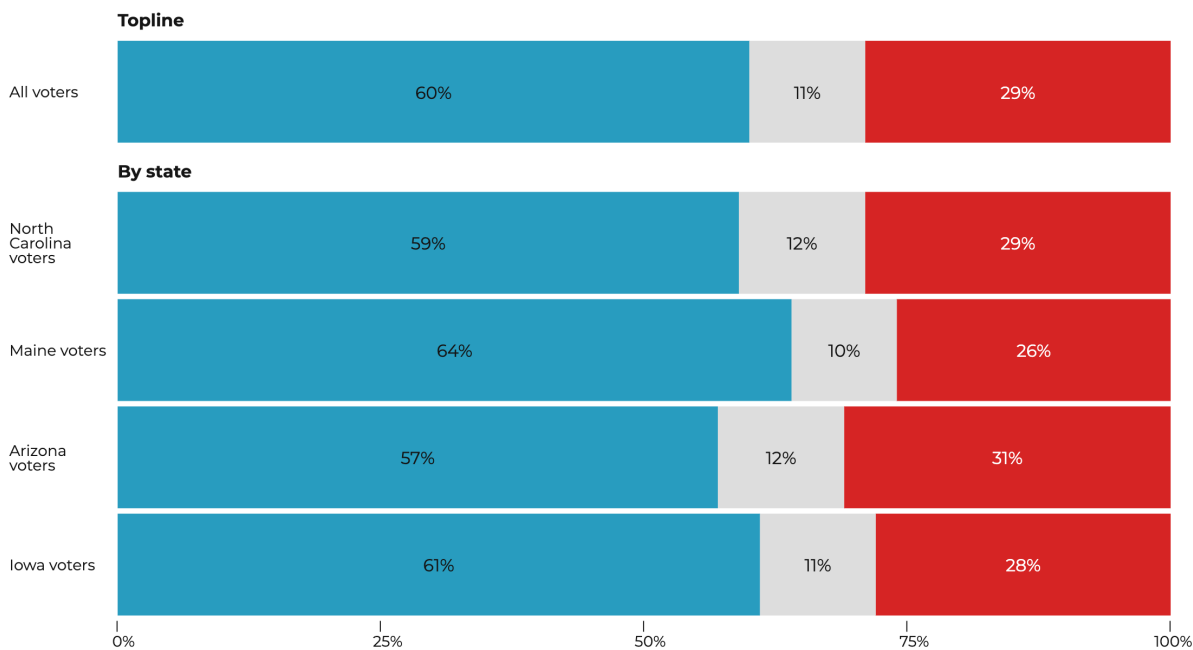


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# Voters Want A Coronavirus Vaccine And Treatment To Be Free

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.

COVER PHOTO  
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