



 DATA FOR *PROGRESS*

 **GUARDING AGAINST** PANDEMICS

# Voters See Pandemic Preparedness as Important to Include in Reconciliation — and Trust Democrats on the Issue

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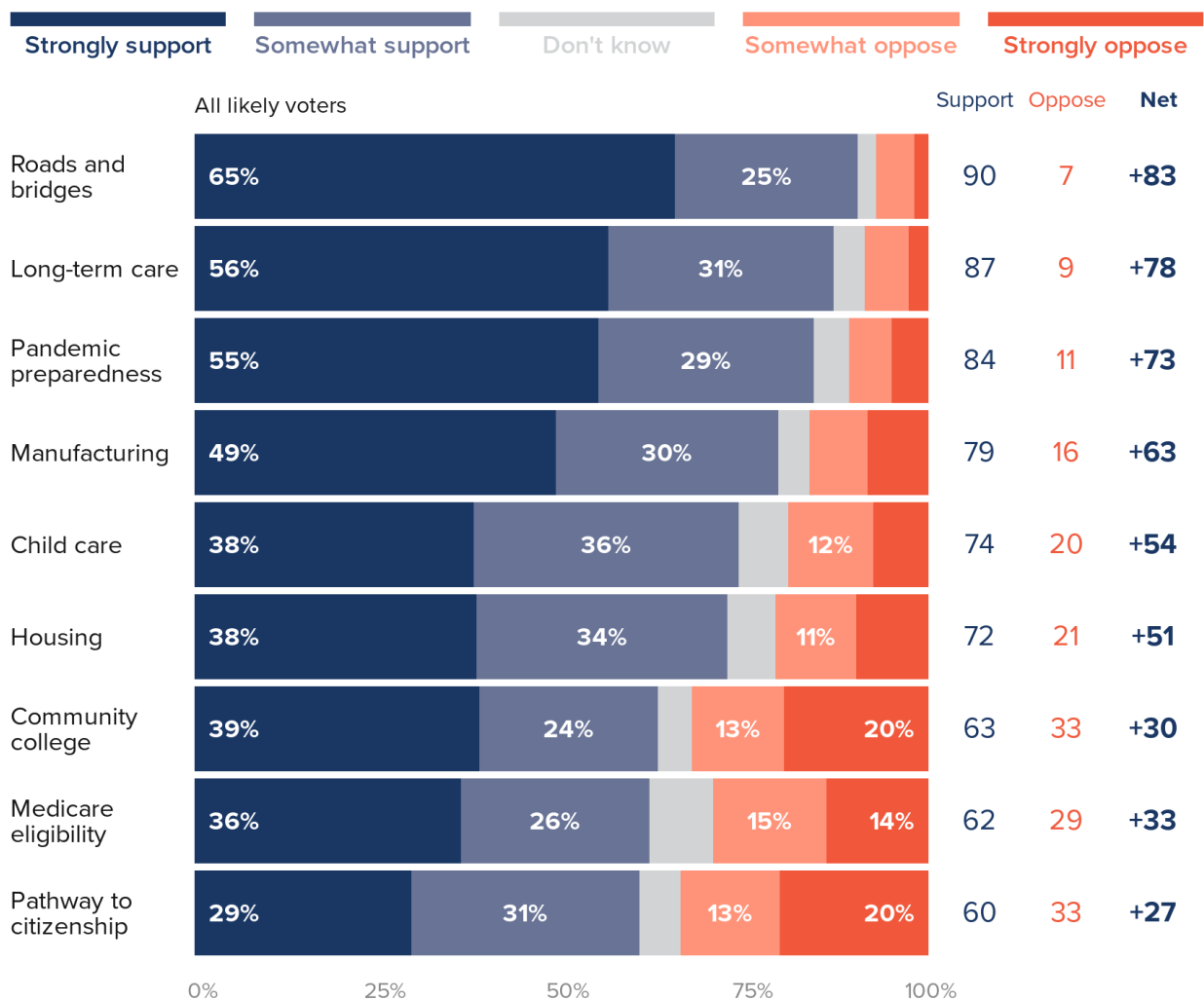
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As part of a July survey of likely voters nationally, Data for Progress and Guarding Against Pandemics conducted further research into the attitudes towards an investment in pandemic preparedness. Here, we were particularly interested in how likely voters view pandemic preparedness in relation to other parts of the reconciliation package that Democrats in Congress are currently considering.

Out of nine provisions we tested, the two most popular things to include in an investment plan are roads and bridges and long-term care. The third most popular provision of a potential investment plan is pandemic preparedness, backed by a 73-percentage-point margin.

## Pandemic Preparedness is one of the Most Popular Proposals to Include in a New Investment Plan

Below is a list of proposals that some lawmakers in Congress are considering including in a new investment plan. For each proposal, say whether you support or oppose it.



July 26–27, 2021 survey of 1,292 likely voters

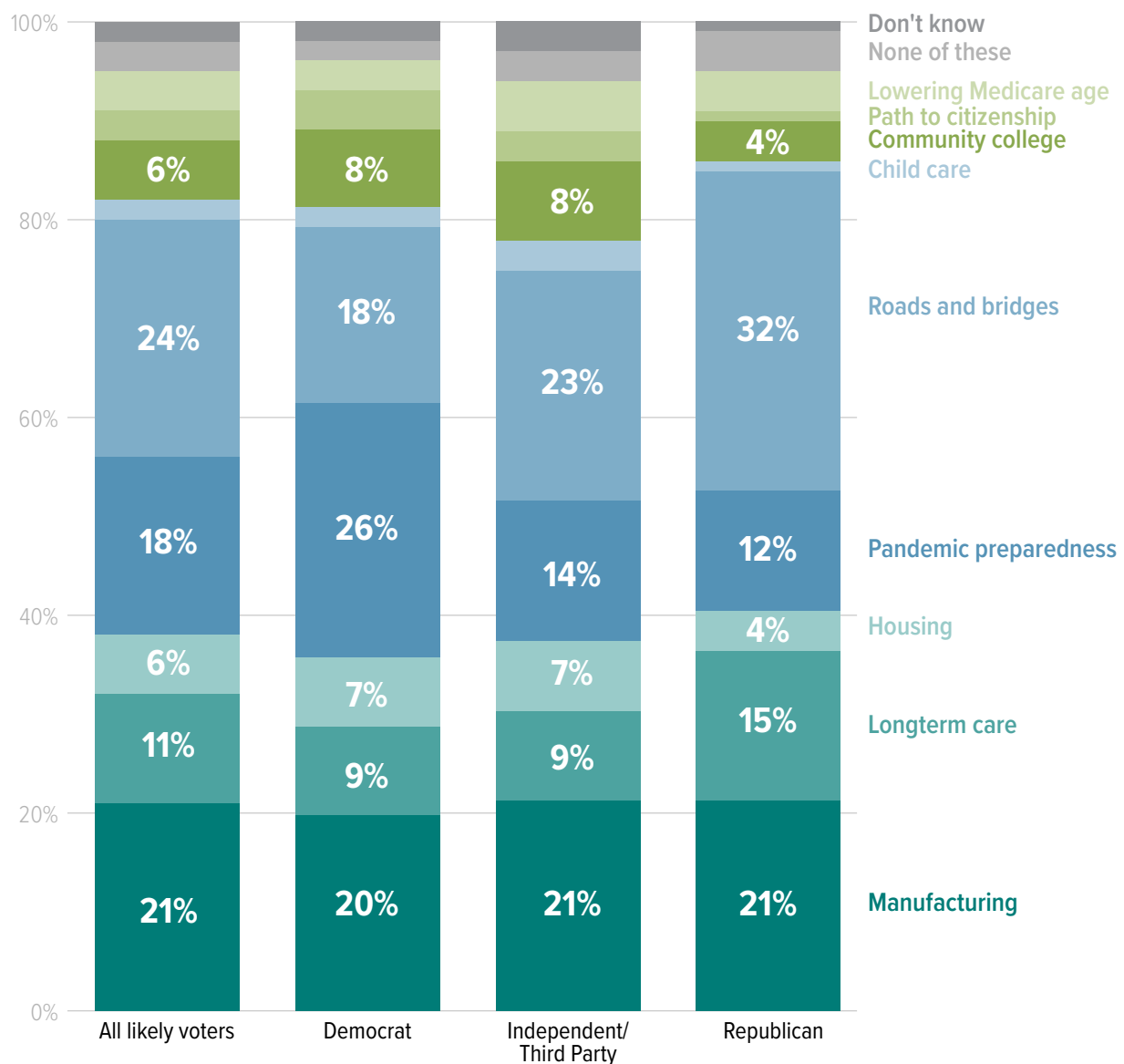
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To learn how likely voters prioritize these nine proposals that may be included in a reconciliation package, we asked likely voters to identify the single proposal they see as the most important to include. Among all likely voters, 18 percent identified pandemic preparedness as the most important. A plurality (26 percent) of likely voters that self-identify as Democrats see pandemic preparedness funding as the most important thing to include. Among likely voters that self-identify as Independents and Republicans, 14 percent and 12 percent, respectively, see pandemic preparedness as the most important thing to include.

## **Eighteen Percent of Likely Voters Think That Pandemic Preparedness is the Most Important Proposal to Include in a New Investment Package**

Below is a list of proposals that some lawmakers in Congress are considering including in a new investment plan. Please select the one proposal you think is the most important to include in this investment plan.



Next, we sought to test how investing — or not investing — in pandemic preparedness would change how people rate the job that Democrats in Congress are doing. As a control, we asked a third of likely voters surveyed the following question:

*Do you approve or disapprove of the overall job Democrats in Congress are doing?*

The other two-thirds of likely voters surveyed were shown the same question, but after receiving a statement focused on Democrats’ stance on investing \$30 billion in pandemic preparedness. One-third of respondents were told that Democrats support this investment, and then were asked if they approve of the job that Democrats in Congress are doing:

*Democrats in Congress want to invest \$30 billion to prepare for possible future pandemics. Knowing what you know now, do you approve or disapprove of the overall job Democrats in Congress are doing?*

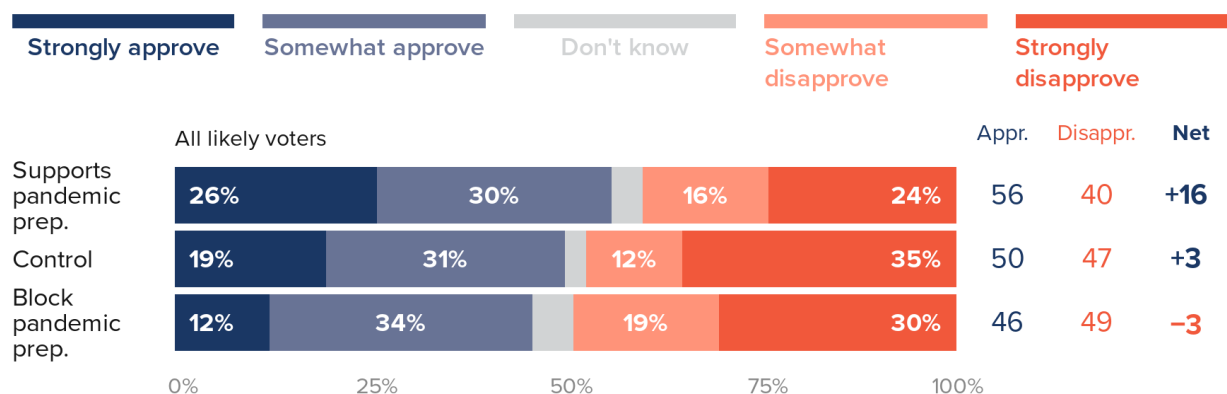
Another third of respondents were told that some Democrats oppose this investment, and then were asked the same question:

*Some Democrats in Congress oppose the passage of \$30 billion in investments to prepare for possible future pandemics. Knowing what you know now, do you approve or disapprove of the overall job Democrats in Congress are doing?*

We find that, by a 3-point margin, likely voters approve of the overall job Democrats are doing in Congress. We find that when voters are told that Democrats want to invest \$30 billion in pandemic preparedness, approval of the job Democrats in Congress are doing rises 13-points compared to the control. In contrast, when likely voters are told that Democrats want to block pandemic preparedness funding, approval of the job they’re doing drops by 6-points against the control.

## Approval of the Jobs Democrats in Congress are Doing Rises When Likely Voters are Told They are Investing in Pandemic Preparedness

Do you approve or disapprove of the overall job Democrats in Congress are doing?



July 26–27, 2021 survey of 1,292 likely voters

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Last, we ran an experiment to measure which party likely voters trust more when it comes to preparing for future pandemics — and how trust may shift after messaging. To do this, half of the likely voters surveyed were asked the following question:

*Which party do you trust more when it comes to preparing the United States for a possible future pandemic that is similar to or worse than the coronavirus?*

The other half of likely voters surveyed were asked the following question:

*Some Democrats in Congress are proposing investing \$30 billion in preparing for possible future pandemics that are similar to or worse than the coronavirus pandemic.*

*Democrats say that this investment is how the United States can stay competitive with countries like China and prevent the unacceptable loss of life, loss of personal freedoms, high unemployment, and business closures we saw during the coronavirus pandemic.*

*Republicans say that this is just another big government program that the Democrats want to put on America's credit card. Our national debt is growing at an out of control rate and now isn't the time to add more to it.*

*Which party do you trust more when it comes to preparing the United States for a possible future pandemic that is similar to or worse than the coronavirus?*

For both questions, the response options were the same:

<1> *The Democratic Party*

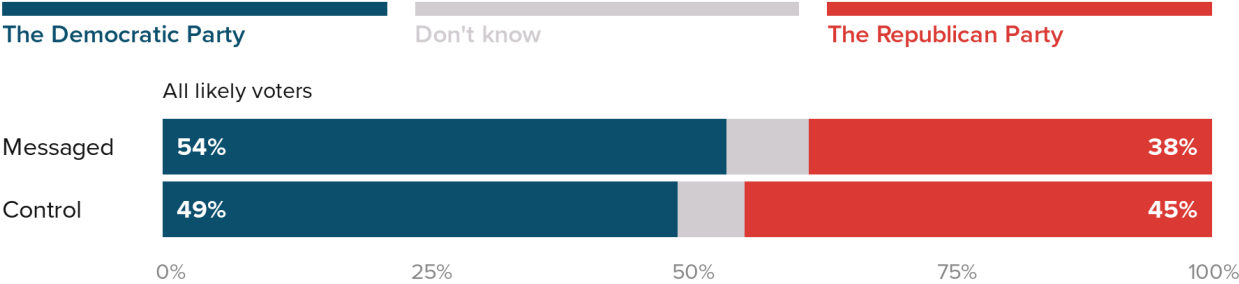
<2> *The Republican Party*

<3> *Don't know*

We find that among all likely voters, the Democratic Party starts with a 4-point trust advantage over the Republican Party. When voters are told that the Democratic Party wants to invest \$30 billion in pandemic preparedness and are provided arguments for and against this policy, the Democrats' trust advantage rises to 16-points.

# Voters Trust in the Democratic Party to Handle Future Pandemics Increases After Messaging

Which party do you trust more when it comes to preparing the United States for a possible future pandemic that is similar to or worse than the coronavirus?



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Investing in pandemic preparedness is one of the most popular policies currently up for consideration for inclusion in Democrats’ reconciliation package. Furthermore, likely voters rate pandemic preparedness as one of the most important policies that ought to be included. Furthermore, it offers a way for Democrats in Congress to boost their overall job approval rating. Lastly, even when likely voters are provided arguments for and against the policy, Democrats see their trust advantage on the issue of the pandemic rise in comparison to Republicans.

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