

Voters Overwhelmingly Support a People's Vaccine and Bold Coronavirus Relief for Working Families

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Introduction

As part of a January 2021 survey, Data for Progress and Oxfam America asked 1,140 likely voters nationally about their attitudes towards coronavirus relief broadly and, more specifically, how vaccines should be distributed and what should or should not be included in any additional coronavirus relief legislation.

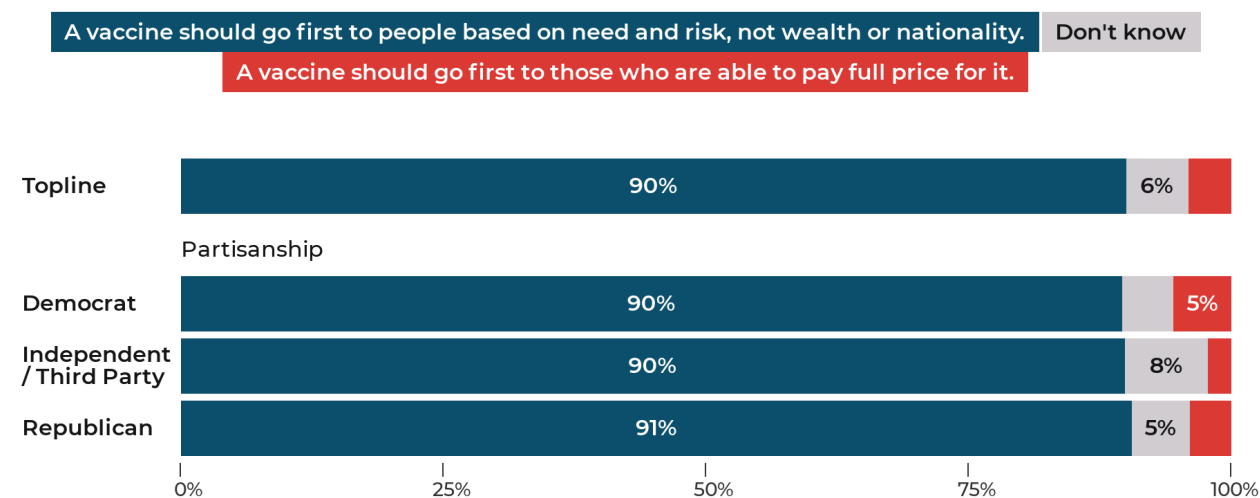
Our results make clear that voters strongly support actions by President Biden and Congress to help people deal with and recover from the coronavirus pandemic, regardless of nationality or wealth. This would be accomplished by, in part, ensuring the coronavirus vaccine is distributed fairly and made available free of charge, requiring pharmaceutical companies giving up their monopoly control over vaccines, and enacting a transformational coronavirus recovery plan that focuses on helping working families rather than protecting profitable corporations.

Voters Want a Vaccine to Go to the Highest Risk Groups First

We asked likely voters who they think should get a coronavirus vaccine first: either those at the highest risk, regardless of wealth or nationality, or those who are prepared to pay for it. We find that 90 percent of likely voters want the vaccine to go to those in high risk groups first. Only four percent want it to go to those who can pay full price first. This attitude is shared by voters regardless of partisanship: among likely voters that self-identify as Democrats, Independent / Third Party voters, and Republicans, 90 percent, 90 percent, and 91 percent respectively all want the vaccine to go to higher risk groups first.

Voters Want A Coronavirus Vaccine To Go To Those Who Are At The Most Risk First

When thinking about how the coronavirus vaccine should be distributed, which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



Jan 13 to Jan 14, 2021 survey of 1140 likely voters

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Voters Oppose Monopoly Control of a Coronavirus Vaccine

We also asked likely voters if they think that the pharmaceutical companies who develop a coronavirus vaccine should be able to hold a monopoly on it. We find that likely voters overwhelmingly oppose this and believe that while the government should pay any drug company a fair price, it should also step in to make sure that a coronavirus vaccine is free for all who want it. Specifically, likely voters think this by a 79-point margin (85 percent oppose allowing these companies to have monopolies, 6 percent support it). This opinion is consistent across partisanship.

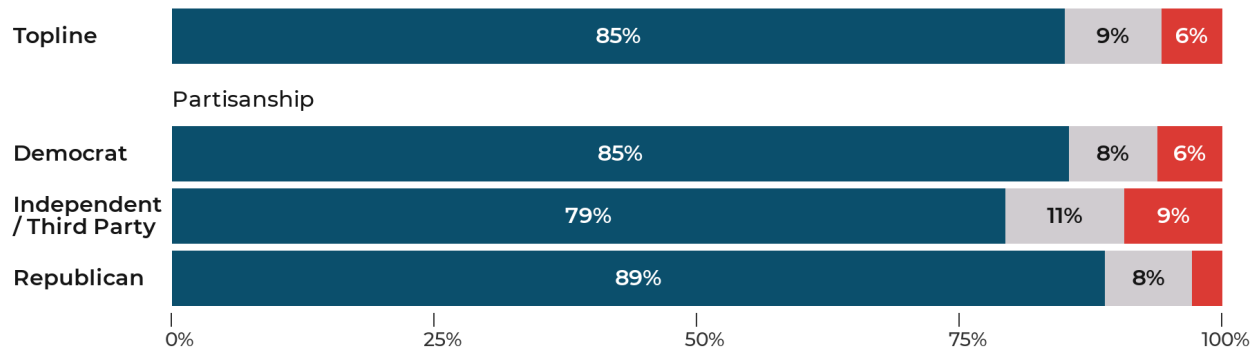
Voters Do Not Want Companies To Hold A Monopoly On The Coronavirus Vaccine To Ensure It Can Be Distributed For Free

When thinking about pharmaceutical companies that rely on taxpayer funded research to develop a coronavirus vaccine, which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

While the government should compensate fairly for any vaccine a pharmaceutical company develops, no private company should hold a monopoly on its manufacturing and the government should ensure the vaccine is free for all those who need it.

Don't know

Drug companies should be able to hold monopoly control and charge whatever price they choose for any vaccine they develop.



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Voters Want the Safety and Wellbeing of Workers Prioritized

We also asked likely voters whether or not they would back Congress enacting liability shields. This proposal would limit the ability of employees and customers to sue if they contract the coronavirus due to negligence, and has been a priority of Republicans in Congress. We tested this proposal with messaging on both sides: on the one side, we noted that liability shields may put workers, their families, and customers at risk, and on the other side, we told likely voters that it is time to reopen the economy after months of partial shutdown. Importantly, we also wanted to identify what likely voters are prioritizing: the immediate reopening of the economy, or keeping workers safe.

We find that under this framing, likely voters oppose the liability shields by a 33-point margin (61 percent oppose the shields, 28 support the shields). We observed some correlation with regard to partisanship: Democrats and Independents oppose the liability shields by margins of 57-points and 30-points, respectively, while Republicans oppose the shields by a narrower four point margin. This last point is crucial. While liability shields have been a top priority of Republicans in Congress, this is a policy course that a plurality of their own voters oppose.

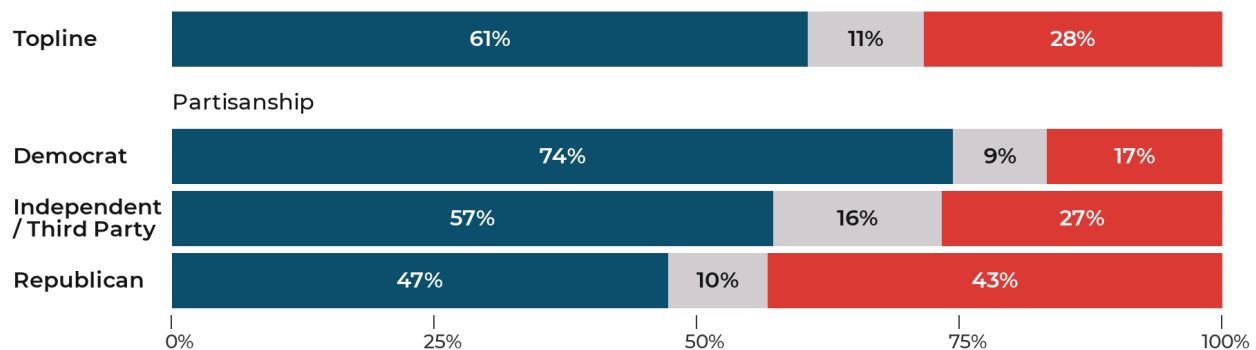
Voters Want The Safety Of Workers Prioritized — Oppose Granting Businesses Liability Shields

When thinking about how Congress should respond to the coronavirus pandemic and the process of reopening the economy, what comes closer to your view?

Congress should prioritize keeping workers, their families, along with customers safe by ensuring that companies would be held legally liable for knowingly putting them at risk of getting the coronavirus (COVID-19) because of unsafe practices on their part.

Don't know

Congress should prioritize protecting businesses from lawsuits even if this means some of the employees and customers get the coronavirus (COVID-19) because after months of shutdowns it's time for businesses to reopen.



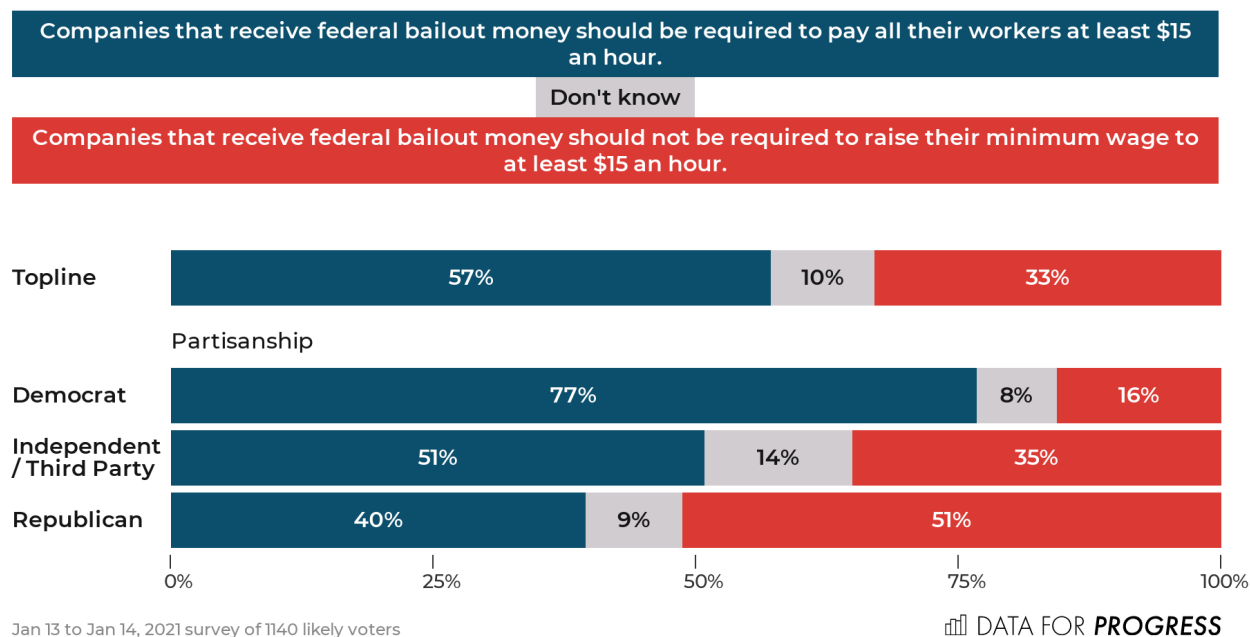
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Likely voters also support requiring that any company that receives bailout money from the federal government as part of any coronavirus relief effort be required to raise their minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Among all likely voters, this proposal is supported by a 24-point margin (57 percent support it, 33 percent oppose it). We can see some sorting by partisanship — by margins of 61-points and 16-points, respectively, Democrats and Independents back this proposal. Republicans, however, oppose it by an 11-point margin, though 40 percent of Republicans do support this proposal.

Voters Support Requiring That Companies That Are Bailed Out By The Government To Pay A \$15 Minimum Wage

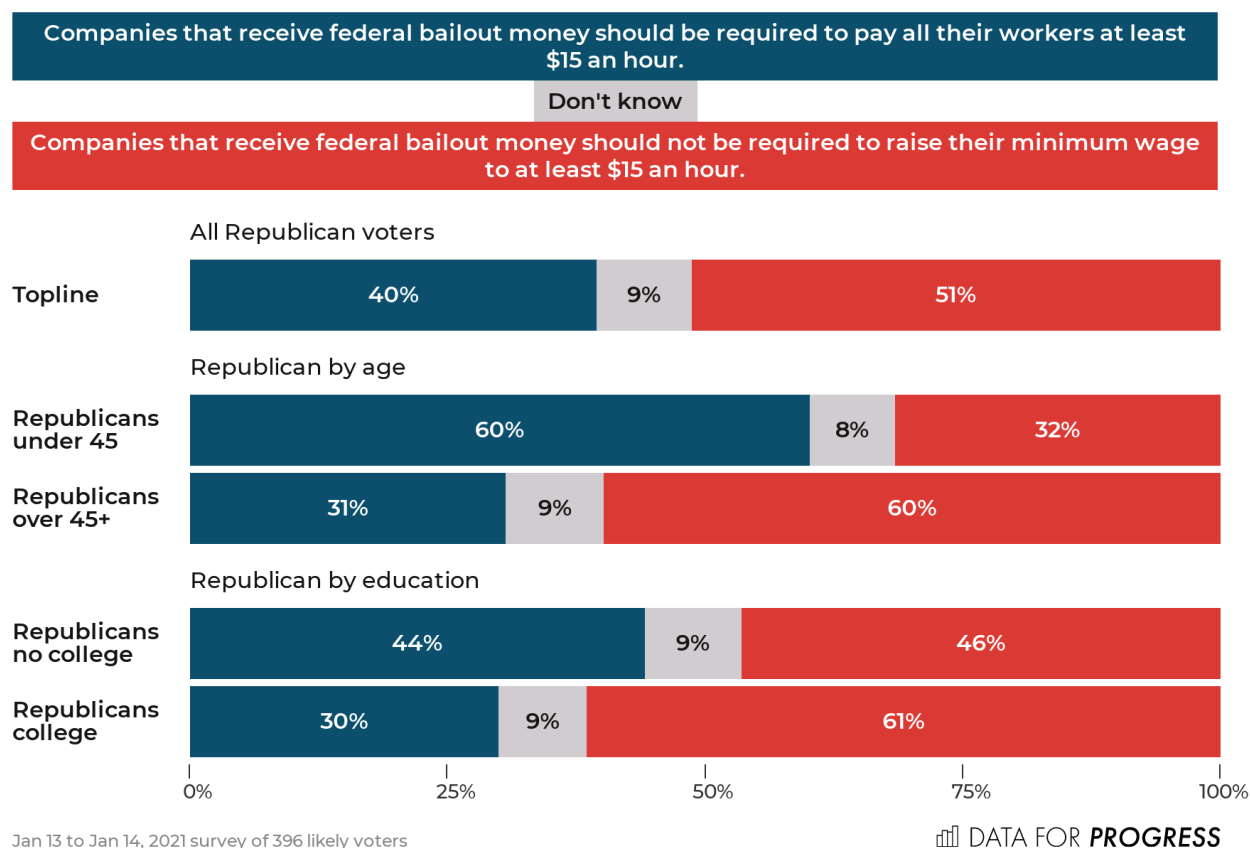
Some lawmakers in Congress are proposing that companies that receive funds from federal bailouts related to coronavirus-relief efforts should guarantee that all their employees be paid at least \$15 an hour. When thinking about this proposal, which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



These results merit pausing to examine Republican responses more closely. When we do this we can see that tensions exist within their coalition on this question. While among all Republicans, this proposal is opposed by an 11-point margin, there is large variance according to age. Republicans under 45 actually support this policy by a 28-point margin (60 percent support, 32 percent oppose). In contrast, Republicans over 45 oppose it by a 29-point margin (31 percent support, 60 percent oppose). We see a similar pattern when we look at Republicans by level of educational attainment, though not to the same degree. Although, on net, Republicans with college degrees oppose this proposal by a 31-point margin, Republicans without college degrees only oppose this by a narrow two point margin (44 percent support, 46 percent oppose).

Republicans Under 45 Support Support Requiring That Companies That Are Bailed Out By The Government To Pay A \$15 Minimum Wage

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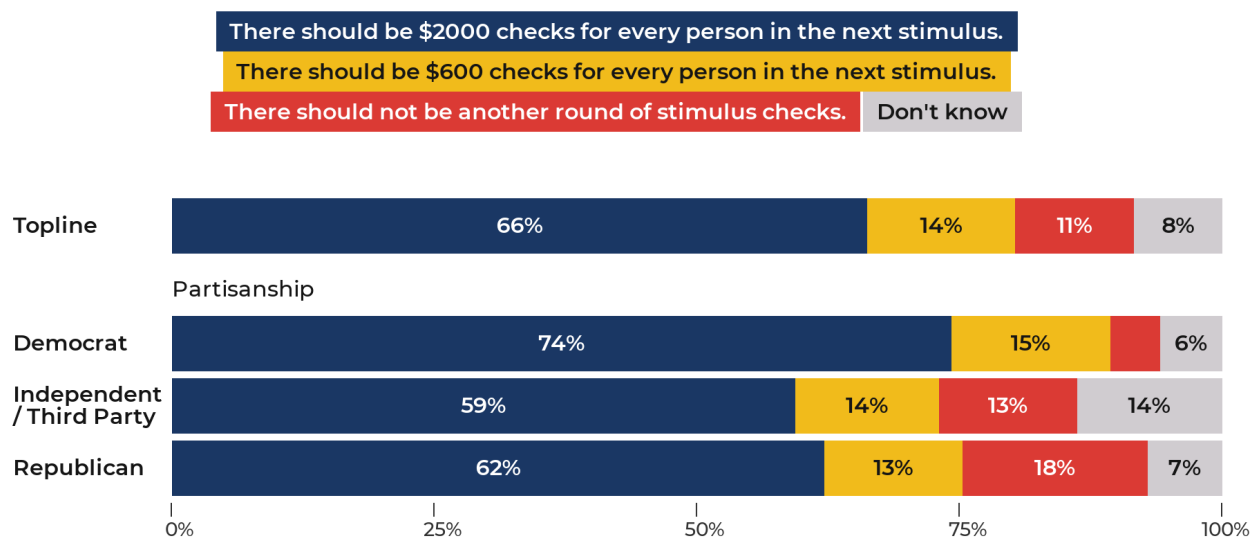
Voters Strongly Support More Stimulus Payments for Those Impacted by the Pandemic

Finally, we asked likely voters if they would support more stimulus checks, specifically whether they would prefer to see checks in the amount of either \$2,000 or \$600 distributed — or nothing at all. It should be noted that the lines of debate have shifted somewhat since this question was asked. Nonetheless, the question still serves as a good proxy for identifying, first, whether or not likely voters want to see more checks and, second, just how large the appetite for direct relief is.

We find that two-thirds of likely voters want to see \$2,000 checks included in new coronavirus relief legislation. Only 14 percent prefer the more moderate path of only \$600, with just 11 percent totally opposed to more checks. The idea that more \$2,000 checks should be distributed is the consensus position of Democrats (74 percent), Independents (59 percent), and Republicans (62 percent).

Voters Prefer \$2,000 Checks To \$600 Checks

Some lawmakers in Congress are proposing there be another round of stimulus checks sent to most Americans. When thinking about this proposal, which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



Jan 13 to Jan 14, 2021 survey of 1,140 likely voters

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Conclusion

These results indicate that likely voters support an inclusive coronavirus relief effort that leaves no one behind. Importantly, massive majorities of likely voters favor making the coronavirus vaccine free and ensuring it goes to those most at risk first, a policy the Biden administration has supported. Support for workers during the pandemic is also popular, as opposition to corporate liability shields and support for making relief to businesses conditional on raising their minimum wage to \$15 an hour is also high.

Methodology

From January 13 to January 14, 2021, Data for Progress, in partnership with Oxfam America, conducted a survey of 1,140 likely voters nationally using web-panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ± 2.9 percentage points.

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