




DATA FOR *PROGRESS*



GUARDING AGAINST PANDEMICS

Voters Support Investing in Pandemic Preparedness



Gabriel Bankman-Fried
Ethan Winter

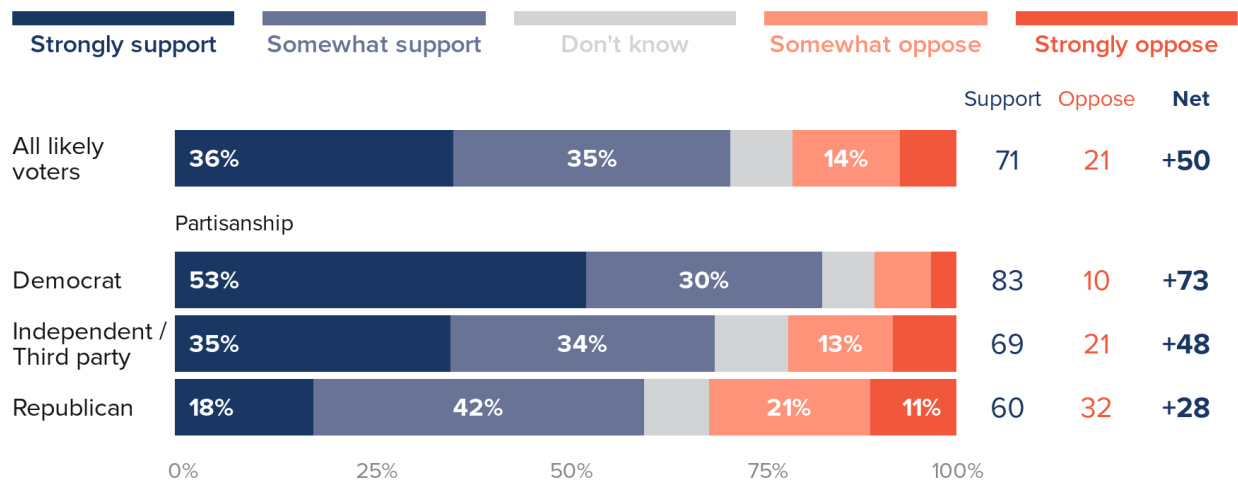
July 2021

As part of a July survey, Data for Progress tested attitudes towards investing in pandemic preparedness. This funding is critical to prevent future pandemics and support investments in researching vaccines and treatments, expanding early detection and testing capacity, and increasing the size of America's stockpile of supplies for pandemic response. This funding is currently in jeopardy of being struck from Democrats' reconciliation package.

We find that likely voters support investing \$30 billion in pandemic preparedness by a 50-percentage-point margin. Likely voters that self-identify as Democrats, Independents / Third party, and Republicans all back this proposal by margins of 73-points, 48-points, and 28-points, respectively.

Voters Support Investing \$30 Billion in Pandemic Preparedness

Some lawmakers in Congress are proposing investing \$30 billion to prepare for possible future pandemics and ensure economic competitiveness and resiliency. This funding would go to, for example, researching vaccines and treatments, expanding early detection and testing capacity, and increasing the size of America's stockpile of supplies needed for responding to pandemics. Do you support or oppose this proposal?



July 21–23, 2021 survey of 1,186 likely voters

ZgNxeY

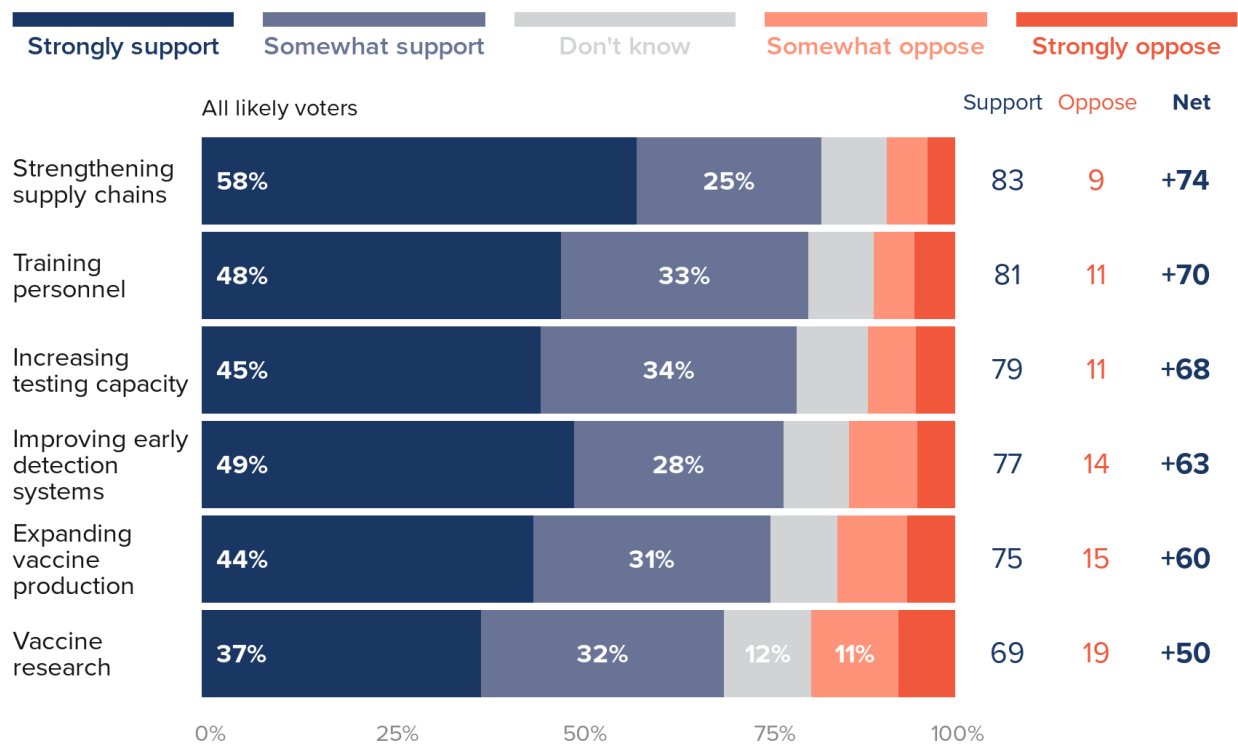
GUARDING AGAINST PANDEMICS

DATA FOR PROGRESS

We also tested support for specific things the \$30 billion in pandemic preparedness funding would be used to support. By margins of 74-points and 70-points, likely voters support investing in strengthening medical supply chains and increased training for personnel who respond to pandemics, respectively. Funding to expand testing capacity, improving early detection capabilities, and expanding vaccine production are all backed by margins of 60-points or greater. By a margin of 50-points, likely voters support increased funding for vaccine research and development.

Voters Support Investing in Pandemic Preparedness

Some lawmakers in Congress are proposing investing \$30 billion in preparing for possible future pandemics. Below is a list of ways some of this funding may be spent. For each way, please say whether you support or oppose it



July 21–23, 2021 survey of 1,186 likely voters

ZgNxeY

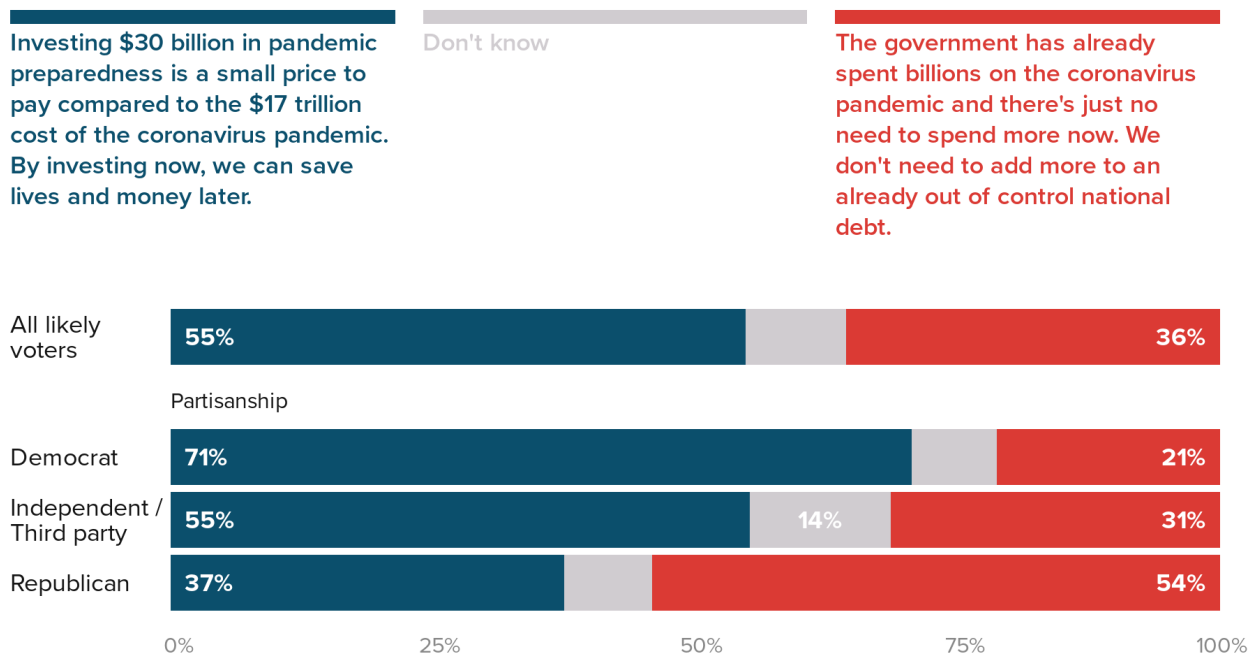
GUARDING AGAINST PANDEMICS DATA FOR PROGRESS

Furthermore, likely voters do not appear to have spending fatigue — they continue to support investing in pandemic preparedness even when provided messages both for and against it. Among all likely voters, 55 percent support making this investment after being shown statements for and against making this investment. A majority of Democrats (71 percent) and Independents (55 percent) both support spending \$30 billion in pandemic preparedness. After messaging, Republicans are divided: thirty-six percent support making this investment and 54 percent oppose it.

Likely Voters see Investing in Pandemic Preparedness as a Prudent Financial Investment

Some lawmakers in Congress are proposing investing \$30 billion to prepare for possible future pandemics.

When thinking about this proposal, which statement comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



July 21–23, 2021 survey of 1,186 likely voters

ZgNxaY

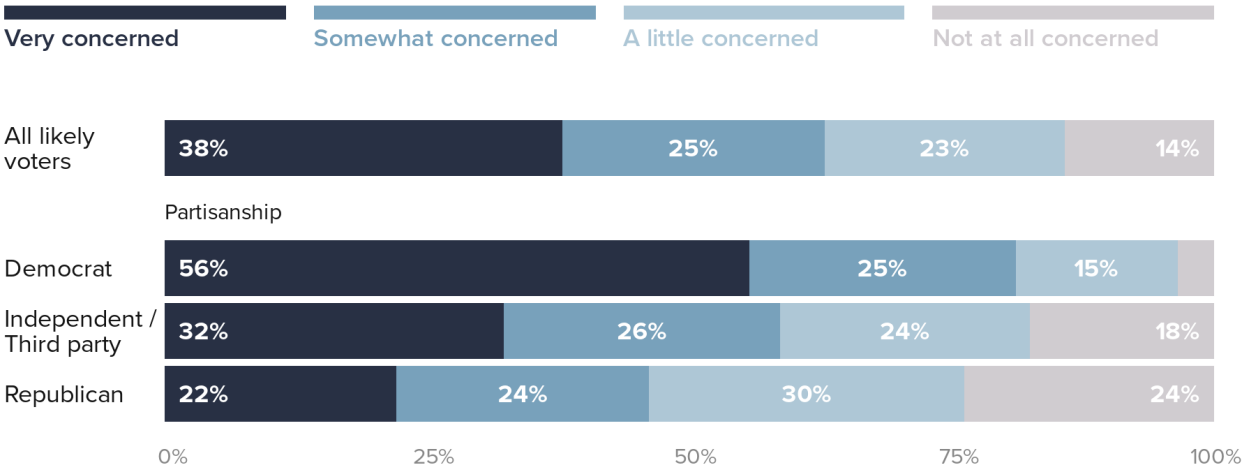
GUARDING AGAINST PANDEMICS

DATA FOR PROGRESS

A likely driver of support for funding pandemic preparedness is that concern about possible future pandemics is high. Among all likely voters, 38 percent report being “Very Concerned” about future pandemics. Looking at responses broken out by partisanship, we find that 56 percent of Democrats, 32 percent of Independents, and 22 percent of Republicans are very concerned about future pandemics.

Thirty-Eight Percent of Likely Voters are 'Very Concerned' About a Possible Future Pandemic

How concerned or not concerned are you about a possible future pandemic that is similar to or worse than the coronavirus pandemic?



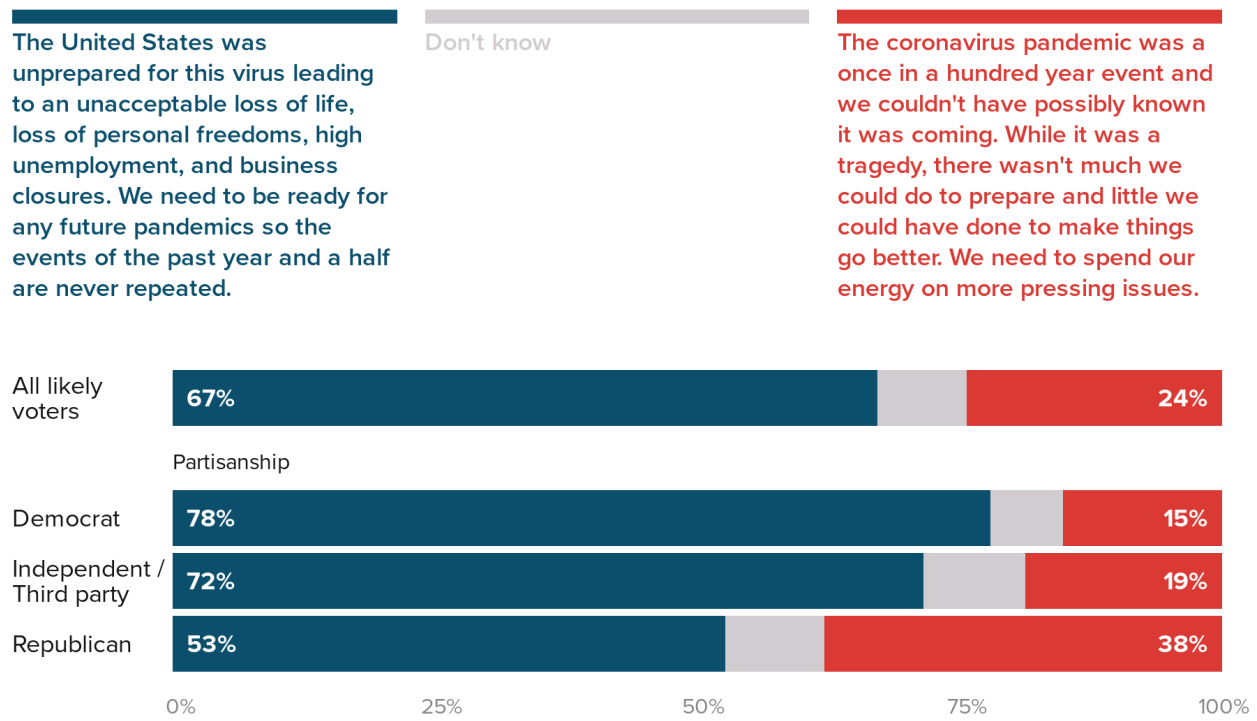
July 21–23, 2021 survey of 1,186 likely voters

ZgNxaY
GUARDING AGAINST PANDEMICS DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

In addition, likely voters are overwhelmingly of the opinion that the United States was insufficiently prepared for the coronavirus pandemic. Specifically, 67 percent think the United States was unprepared. This includes majorities of Democrats (78 percent), Independents (72 percent), and Republicans (53 percent).

Voters Think That the United States was Unprepared for the Coronavirus Pandemic

When thinking about the coronavirus pandemic, which statement comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



July 21–23, 2021 survey of 1,186 likely voters

ZgNxaY

GUARDING AGAINST PANDEMICS DATA FOR PROGRESS

This polling makes clear that voters want America to face future pandemics with resilience and preparation. Democratic, Independent, and Republican majorities of Americans believe that the United States needs to take steps to ensure we are prepared for future pandemics and it is important that Congress delivers on this for voters.

Toplines to this polling can be found [here](#).

Gabriel Bankman-Fried is the Executive Director of Guarding Against Pandemics (@asaferfuture)

Ethan Winter (@EthanBWinter) is a senior analyst at Data for Progress. You can email him at ethan@dataforprogress.org

COVER PHOTO
Clay Banks/Unsplash