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Voters Want More Resilient Electoral and Economic Institutions

Ethan Winter *Senior Analyst, Data for Progress*

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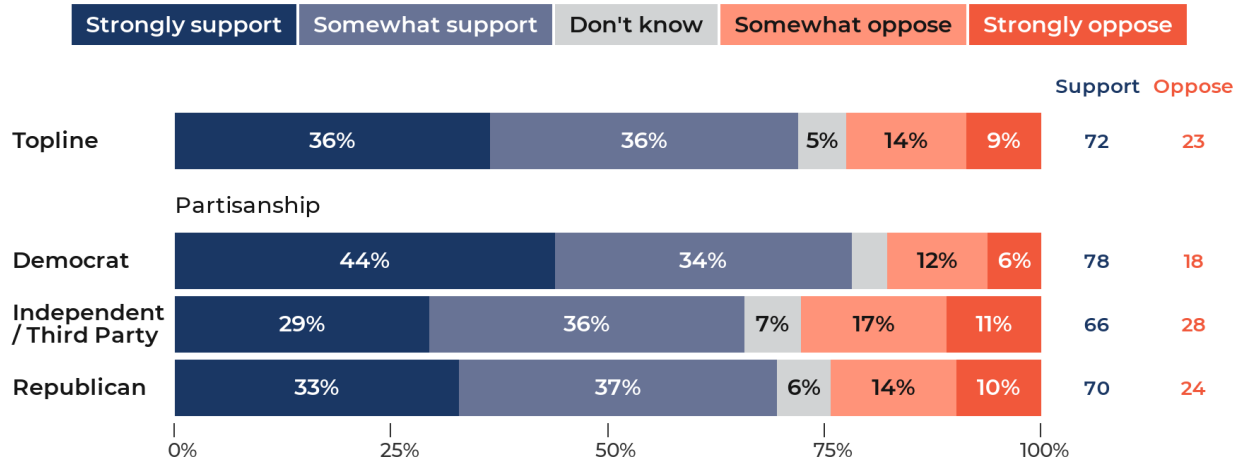
As part of a December survey, Data for Progress polled national likely voters about increased funding for election administration and reorganizing the cabinet for a new focus on ensuring economic resilience. We find high levels of support for both proposals.

Voters Support Increased Spending on Election Administration

Likely voters are extremely supportive of the federal government allocating increased funding for election administration. Among all likely voters, this proposal is backed by a 49-percentage point margin (72 percent support, 23 percent oppose). Support for this proposal is also bipartisan: among likely voters that self-identify as Democrats, Independents / Third Party, and Republicans, it enjoys margins of support of 60-points, 38-points, and 46-points, respectively.

Voters Overwhelmingly Favor More Spending On Election Infrastructure

Would you support or oppose Congress increasing funding for election administration so that there are shorter lines, vote counts can happen more quickly, and voting machines are protected from hacking?



Dec 30 to Dec 30, 2020 survey of 1166 likely voters

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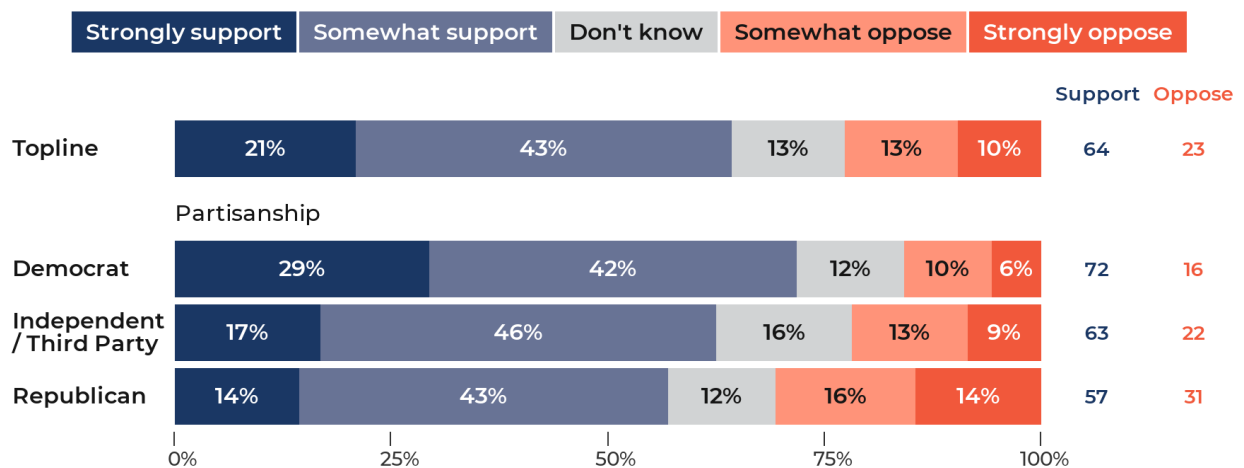
Voters Back the Creation of a Department of Economic Resilience

We also asked likely voters if they would support reorganizing the Department of the Commerce into a new Department of Economic Resilience, that would be in charge of industrial policy and supply chain security, and focused on regional development. We find that likely voters support this by a 41-point margin. Looking at responses broken out by partisanship, we find that Democrats, Independents, and Republicans support this proposal by margins of 56-points, 41-points, and 26-points.

Voters Support The Creation Of A Department Of Economic Resilience

Some lawmakers in Congress are proposing that the Department of Commerce be replaced with a Department of Economic Resilience that would be required to develop a strategy to protect our supply chains, invest in local economies that are suffering from trade deals that moved jobs overseas, and create a plan for the next economic downturn.

Would you support or oppose establishing this new department?



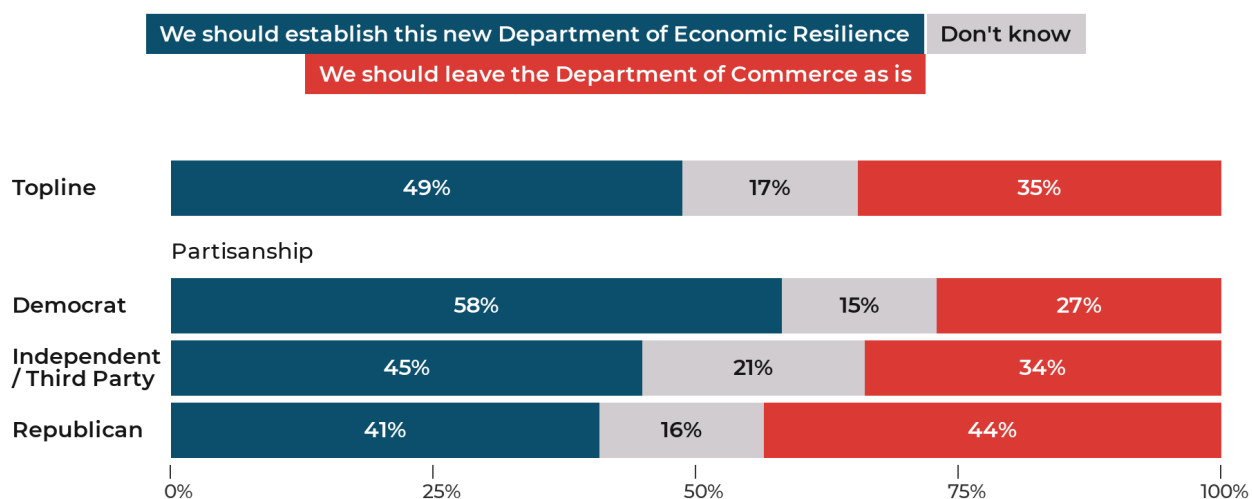
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We then re-asked support for this proposal, this time after showing likely voters messaging both for and against the proposal. We find that among all likely voters the proposal still enjoys a 14-point margin of support. Some of the decrease here likely owes to status quo bias and owes in part to the low salience of the issue. Nonetheless, a majority of Democrats still support this proposal, backing it by a 31-point margin and a plurality of Independents do, favoring it by an 11-point margin. Republicans, meanwhile, oppose it by a narrow margin of three-points.

Even After Hearing Opposition Messaging A Plurality Of Voters Still Support The Creation Of A Department Of Economic Resilience

Votes were provided statements both for and against and then asked whether or not they would support or oppose it.



Dec 30 to Dec 30, 2020 survey of 1166 likely voters

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Conclusion

America’s election infrastructure needs an update, and our national polling finds there is bipartisan support for these overdue reforms. Investments in election administration will mean more precincts can be open, meaning shorter lines on election day and faster vote counts on election night. Those are bipartisan initiatives every American can get behind.

That’s not to mention the weaknesses of the American state laid bare by the coronavirus epidemic. A lack of preparedness has repeatedly hampered the ability to track coronavirus cases, get personal protective equipment where it needed to be, and make sure people could get unemployment benefits in a timely manner. Crises like climate change will only exacerbate these challenges.

Methodology

On December 30, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,166 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.

QUESTION WORDING

Would you support or oppose Congress increasing funding for election administration so that there are shorter lines, vote counts can happen more quickly, and voting machines are protected from hacking?

- ▶ Strongly support
- ▶ Somewhat support
- ▶ Somewhat oppose
- ▶ Strongly oppose
- ▶ Don't know

Some lawmakers in Congress are proposing that the Department of Commerce be replaced with a Department of Economic Resilience that would be required to develop a strategy to protect our supply chains, invest in local economies that are suffering from trade deals that moved jobs overseas, and create a plan for the next economic downturn.

Would you support or oppose establishing this new department?

- ▶ Strongly support
- ▶ Somewhat support
- ▶ Somewhat oppose
- ▶ Strongly oppose
- ▶ Don't know

Some lawmakers in Congress are proposing that the Department of Commerce be replaced with a Department of Economic Resilience that would be required to develop a strategy to protect our supply chains, invest in local economies that are suffering from trade deals that moved jobs overseas, and create a plan for the next economic downturn.

Supporters argue that this country was caught flat footed with the pandemic. We had weak supply chains for medical equipment and unemployment and stimulus money got out too slowly. A Department focused on economic resilience will ensure that we are better prepared in the future.

Opponents argue that there's no need to reshuffle offices around. These responsibilities are already being managed by existing government departments. Besides, there are other priorities that are much more important.

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

- ▶ We should establish this new Department of Economic Resilience
- ▶ We should leave the Department of Commerce as is
- ▶ Don't know