

Voters Want Lawmakers to Pass the American Jobs Plan

By Danielle Deiseroth, *Senior Climate Data Analyst, Data for Progress*

Key Findings

- **A majority of voters** are concerned about the impacts of unemployment, air and water pollution, extreme weather, and climate change on their communities
- **61 percent of voters** think the government should provide more assistance to cities and states for improving the resiliency of infrastructure to extreme weather events
- **57 percent of voters support the American Jobs Plan** without any additional information about the bill
- **Support for the American Jobs Plan jumps to 65 percent** after giving voters a description of the bill that emphasizes the proposal's key climate and clean energy provisions
- **Bipartisan majorities of voters** think nearly all of the key climate and clean energy investments in the American Jobs Plan will have a positive impact on their communities
- **Two-thirds of voters think it is important** that investments to create clean energy jobs are kept in the American Jobs Plan as lawmakers in Congress negotiate the proposal
- **Two-thirds of Democrats and a plurality of Independents** think Congress should pass the American Jobs Plan before departing for the August recess

Introduction

Earlier this spring, President Biden introduced the [American Jobs Plan](#), a historic proposal to create millions of new jobs addressing the climate crisis and building a clean energy economy that works for all Americans. As lawmakers in Congress debate the size and scope of the American Jobs Plan, Americans from coast to coast are dealing with the impacts of the climate crisis. From [historic heat waves](#) to [tropical storms](#), scientists fear these [record-setting extreme weather events](#) are only the beginning of what is to come this summer. They view these events as threats and want their leaders to pay

attention and take action to respond.

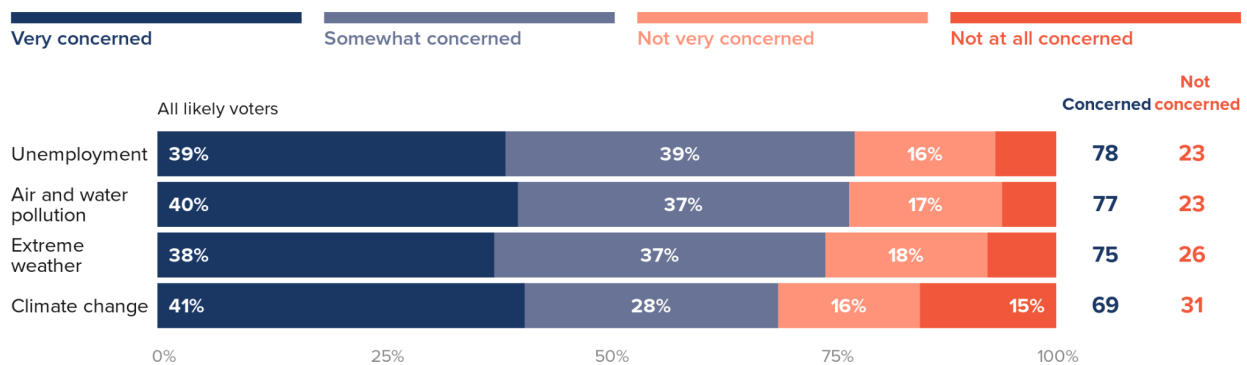
In a June 2021 [national survey](#), Climate Power and Data for Progress assessed the attitudes of likely voters towards the environmental problems impacting their communities, the American Jobs Plan, and the current bipartisan negotiations around the size and scope of President Biden’s proposal. We find that voters widely support the American Jobs Plan, including the proposal’s key climate and clean energy provisions. Moreover, voters want swift action, agreeing that Congress should pass an ambitious climate and infrastructure bill that includes investments to create clean energy jobs before departing for the August recess.

Voters Are Concerned About the Environmental and Economic Crises Impacting Their Communities

First, we asked voters how concerned they are about several major environmental crises impacting America today. Overwhelming majorities of voters are concerned about how their communities are affected by unemployment (78 percent), air and water pollution (77 percent), extreme weather (75 percent), and climate change (69 percent).

Voters Are Overwhelmingly Concerned About Climate Change, Extreme Weather, Pollution, and Unemployment

How concerned, if at all, are you about the impacts of each of the following on your community?



June 15–17, 2021 survey of 1,257 likely voters

TSP/TP

CLIMATE POWER DATA FOR PROGRESS

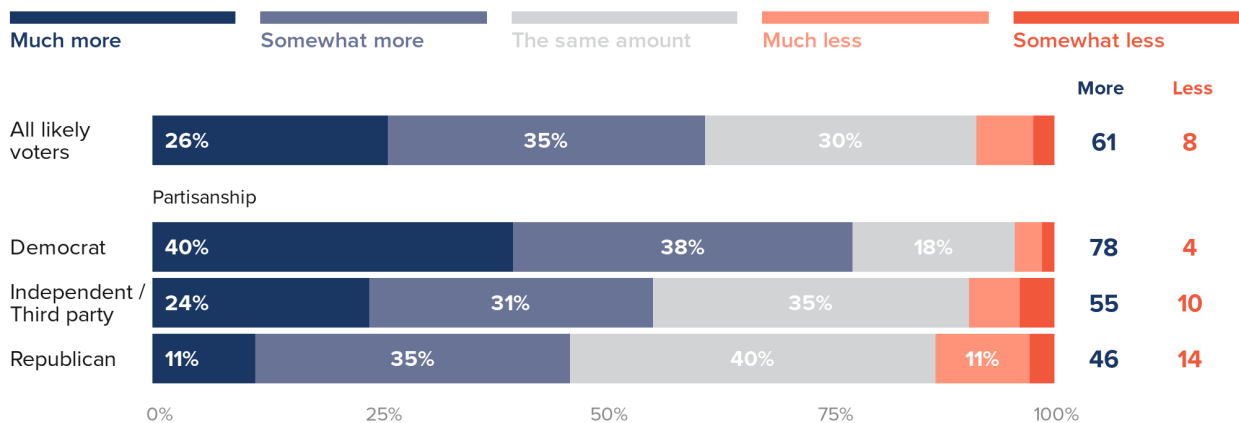
Given this overwhelming concern, especially for extreme weather, a majority of voters (61 percent) think the federal government should do more to help state and local governments improve infrastructure so it is more resilient. Over three-quarters of Democrats (78 percent), a majority of Independents (55 percent), and a plurality of

Republicans (46 percent) all agree the government is failing to help state and local governments improve preparedness for extreme weather events such as hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, and droughts.

Voters Want the Government to Provide More Assistance to Cities and States for Improving Infrastructure Resiliency

As you may know, spikes in extreme weather such as hurricanes, wildfires, flooding, and droughts across the country occur during the summer months

Do you think the federal government should do more, less, or the same amount to help state and local governments improve infrastructure so it is more resilient to extreme weather events?



June 15–17, 2021 survey of 1,257 likely voters

NW&CMX

**CLIMATE
POWER**

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Voters Back the Climate and Clean Energy Investments in the American Jobs Plan

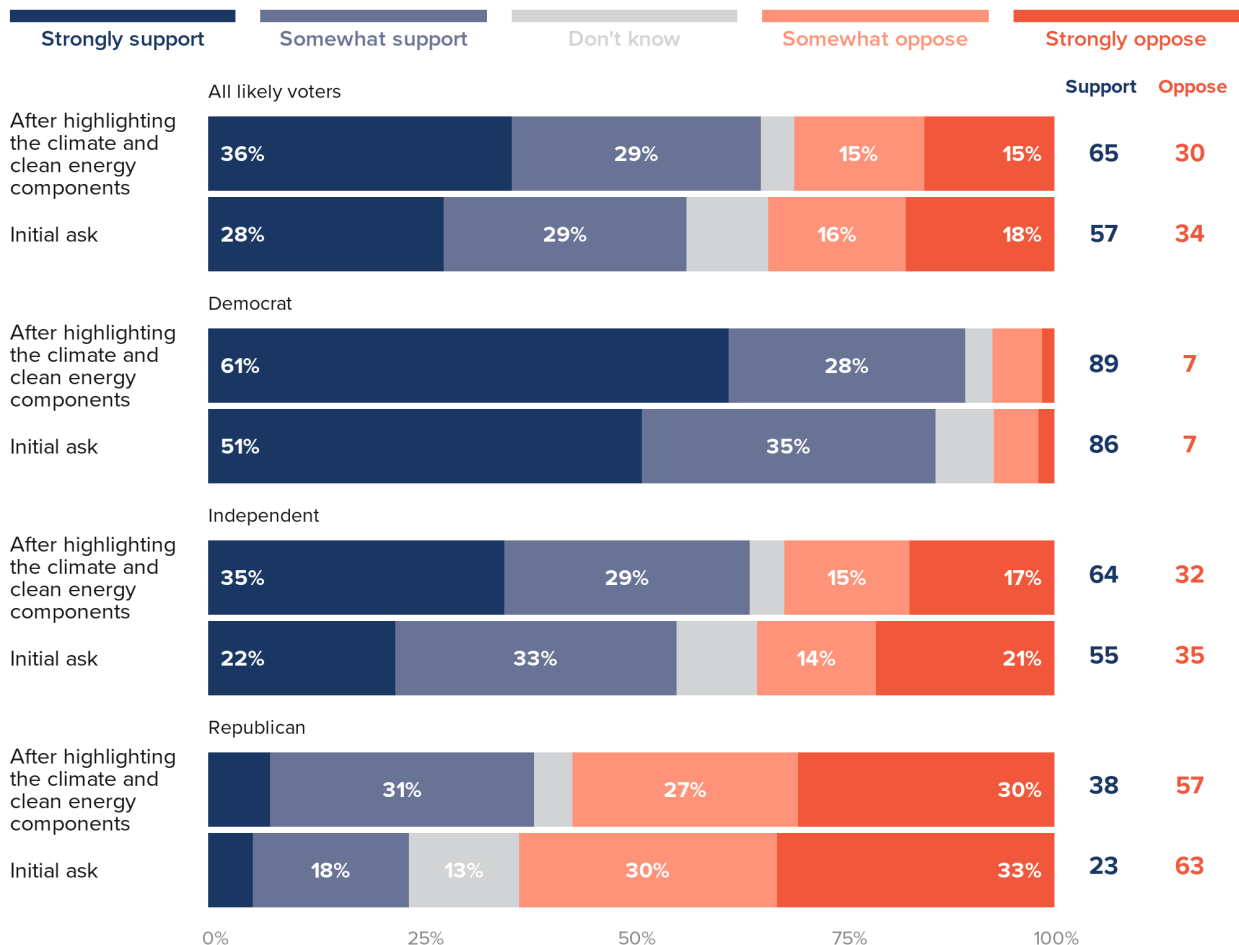
We then asked voters several questions about the American Jobs Plan and the key climate and clean energy provisions included in the proposal. First, we framed the bill as “President Biden’s proposal to invest in America’s workforce and infrastructure” and asked voters whether or not they supported the bill. Initially, without any additional information, voters supported the American Jobs Plan by a 23-percentage point margin (57 percent support, 34 percent oppose).

Next, we asked voters again whether they supported or opposed the American Jobs Plan, this time outlining the key climate and clean energy job creation components of the bill, including improving the resiliency of roads and bridges to extreme weather events, eliminating all lead pipes, investing in American energy innovation, and building new renewable energy projects. **When we provided voters with details about the specific**

climate and clean energy provisions in the American Jobs Plan, the margin of support among all voters increased to a 35-point margin (65 percent support, 30 percent oppose). While support among Democrats remained overwhelmingly high (89 percent support, 7 oppose), there were notable jumps in support among Independents and Republicans. **Support for the American Jobs Plan among Independents increased 9-points from 55 percent to 64 percent, and support among Republicans increased from 23 percent to 38 percent.**

More Voters Support the American Jobs Plan After Learning About the Key Climate and Clean Energy Components

We first asked voters if they supported the American Jobs Plan, President Biden's proposal to invest in America's workforce and infrastructure. Then, we provided voters with more information about the American Jobs Plan's key climate and clean energy components, and again asked if they supported or opposed the bill.



June 15–17, 2021 survey of 1,257 likely voters

NW6cMX

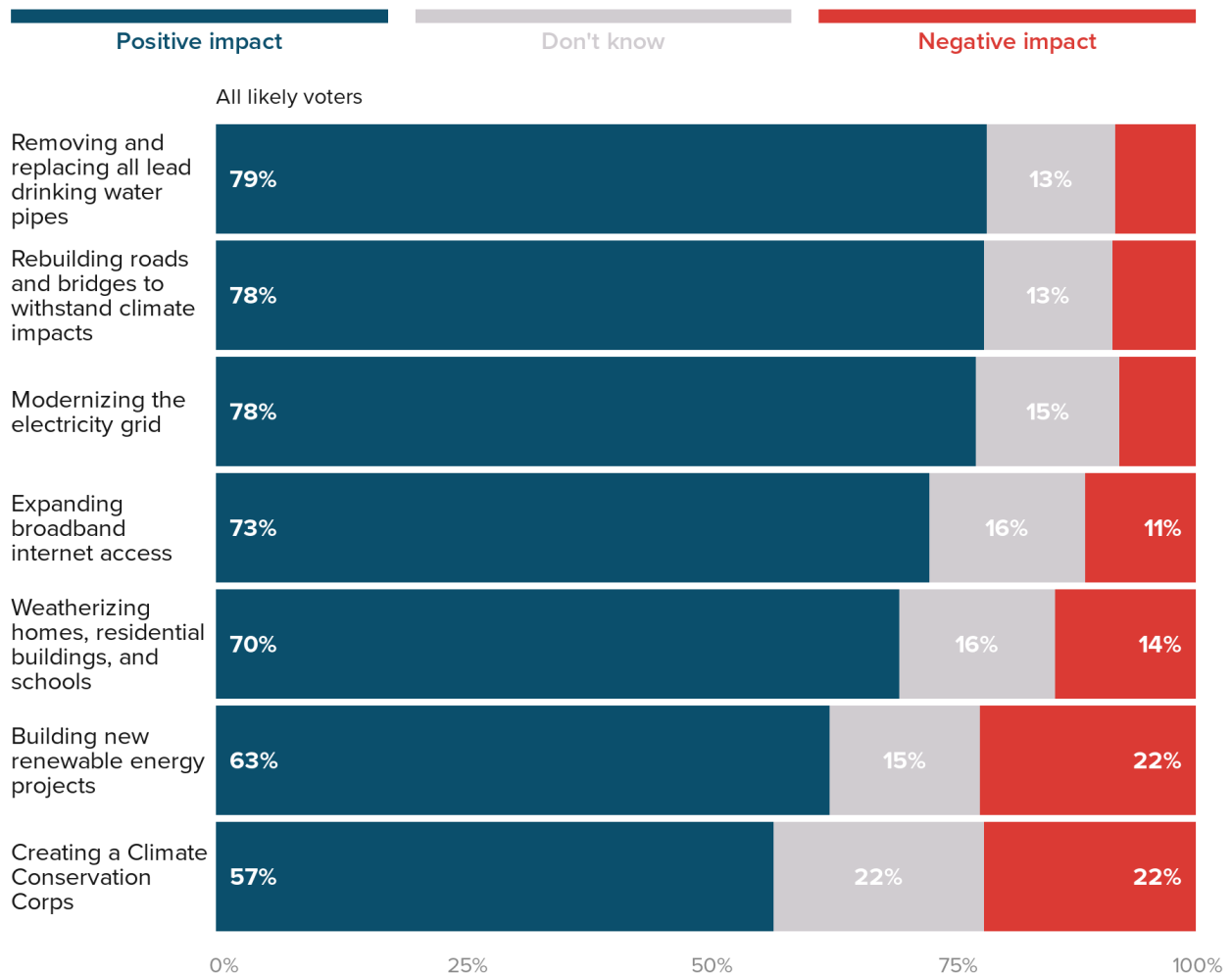
CLIMATE POWER DATA FOR PROGRESS

These climate and clean energy provisions of the American Jobs Plan are [broadly](#)

[popular](#), with voters believing they will positively impact their communities. Over three-quarters of voters think that removing and replacing all lead drinking water pipes (79 percent), rebuilding roads and bridges to withstand climate impacts (78 percent), and modernizing the electricity grid (78 percent) will make life better where they live. Additionally, majorities of voters think the investments in the American Jobs Plan to expand broadband internet access (73 percent), weatherize homes, residential buildings, and schools (70 percent), build new renewable energy projects (63 percent), and create a Climate Corps (57 percent) will also have a positive impact on their communities.

Voters Think the American Jobs Plan Will Have a Positive Impact on Their Communities

For each of the following components of the American Jobs Plan, please indicate whether you think they would have a positive or negative impact on your community:



June 15–17, 2021 survey of 1,257 likely voters

NW6cmX

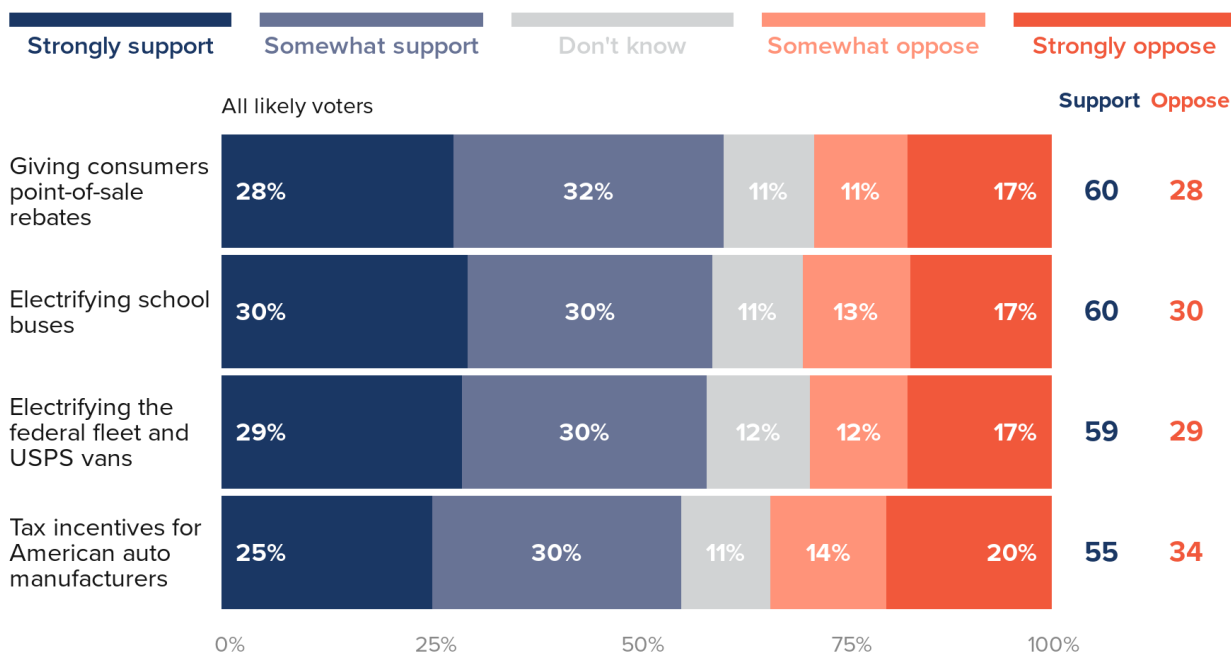


DATA FOR PROGRESS

Voters also widely support the American Jobs Plan’s investments in America’s electric vehicle (EV) market. Among the American Jobs Plan’s proposals to accelerate EV production and usage across the country, the most popular include providing consumers with point-of-sale rebates for EV purchases (60 percent support), electrifying yellow school buses through a new Clean Buses for Schools initiative (60 percent support), electrifying the federal fleet including USPS vans (59 percent support), and providing tax incentives for domestic auto manufacturers to re-tool their factories for EV production (55 percent support).

A Majority of Voters Support the Electric Vehicle Investments Included in the American Jobs Plan

The American Jobs Plan includes a plan to invest \$174 billion to accelerate electric vehicle (EV) production and usage in America. Please indicate whether you support or oppose each of these proposals included in this plan:



June 15–17, 2021 survey of 1,257 likely voters

NW6cMX

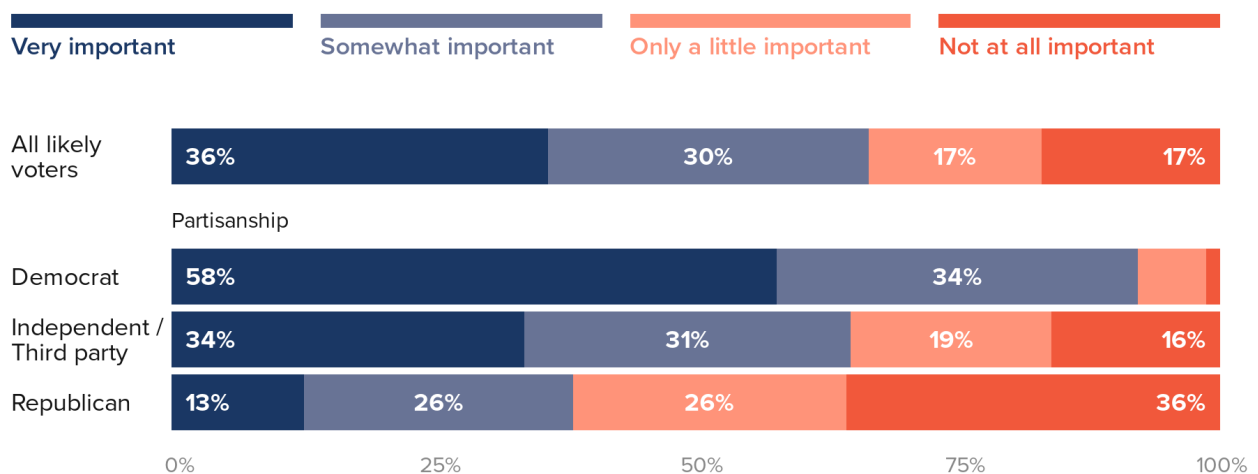
CLIMATE POWER DATA FOR PROGRESS

Voters Want to See Congress Pass an Ambitious Climate and Infrastructure Bill This Summer

Lastly, we asked voters several questions about the ongoing bipartisan negotiations that lawmakers in Congress are having about the size and scope of the American Jobs Plan. Two-thirds of voters (66 percent) agree that it is “Very” or “Somewhat” important to keep investments that will create clean energy jobs in the final version of the American Jobs Plan that passes in Congress. Consensus is bipartisan: Ninety-two percent of Democrats, 65 percent of Independents, and 39 percent of Republicans all agree that it is “Very” or “Somewhat” important for lawmakers to include investments in the American Jobs Plan that will create clean energy jobs.

Voters Overwhelmingly Agree It Is Important to Keep Clean Energy Investments in the American Jobs Plan

As lawmakers in Congress negotiate which parts of the American Jobs Plan will be included in the final bill, how important or not important do you think it is to include investments that will create clean energy jobs?



June 15–17, 2021 survey of 1,257 likely voters

NW6cMX

**CLIMATE
POWER**

DATA FOR PROGRESS

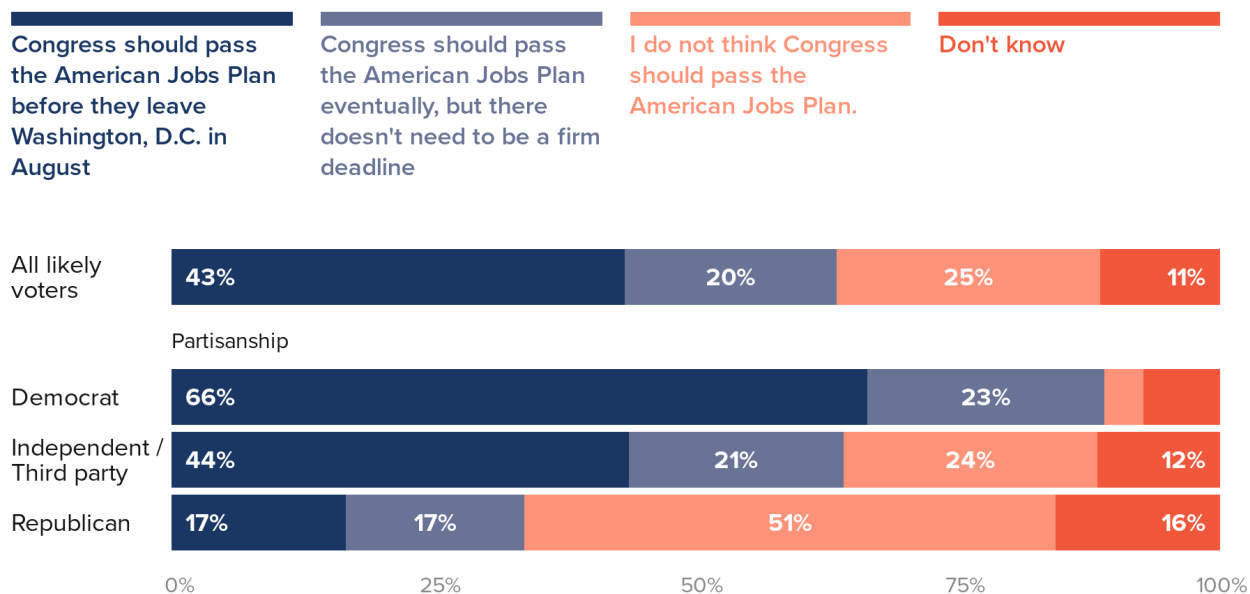
Next, we provided voters with a brief description of the ongoing negotiations in Congress and asked when they think Congress should pass the American Jobs Plan. A plurality of voters (43 percent), including two-thirds of Democrats (66 percent) and a plurality of Independents (44 percent), think Congress should pass the American Jobs Plan before

leaving Washington, D.C. for the August recess.

Voters Want Congress to Pass the American Jobs Plan Before Leaving for the August Recess

Lawmakers in Congress are currently in negotiations with President Biden over which components of the American Jobs Plan will be included in the final bill and how the bill will be paid for. President Biden introduced the proposal at the end of March, and negotiations are still ongoing. Congress is set to leave Washington, D.C. and return to their home districts in the month of August.

Would you prefer that Congress passes the American Jobs Plan before they leave Washington, D.C. in August, eventually but with no firm deadline, or not passed at all?



June 15–17, 2021 survey of 1,257 likely voters

NW6cMX

**CLIMATE
POWER**

DATA FOR PROGRESS

Conclusion

As President Biden highlighted [in remarks](#) earlier this year, climate change is here and is impacting Americans “...in big cities, small towns, coastlines, and in farmlands, in red states and blue states.” Voters are overwhelmingly concerned about how their communities are impacted not only by environmental crises such as climate change, pollution, and extreme weather, but also by the need for quality jobs. President Biden’s American Jobs Plan aims to spark a jobs revolution, and voters across party lines both widely back the proposal’s key climate and clean energy provisions. Moreover, voters think these key investments will have a positive impact on their communities.

Voters recognize that the clock is winding down for Congress to take much-needed actions to create clean energy jobs and combat the crisis, and as such, they think Democrats should pass the American Jobs Plan — including clean energy investments — before the August congressional recess. As lawmakers continue negotiations over the American Jobs Plan, they should feel confident advocating for ambitious investments to tackle the climate crisis and create clean energy jobs knowing that voters overwhelmingly support these proposals.

Survey Methodology

From June 15 to 17, 2021, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,257 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 ± 3 percentage points.