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FUTURE NOW

VOTERS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM SUPPORT A HOST OF PROGRESSIVE REFORMS

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May 2020

The ongoing coronavirus emergency has exposed existing inequalities. As part of a March 31 survey, Data for Progress sought to test support for pro-voter, pro-education, pro-consumer rights, pro-borrower, and pro-patient reforms as found in Future Now's policy library, America's Goals--reforms that if implemented would edge the United States towards being a more healthy, prosperous, and sustainable society. We found support for all of them.
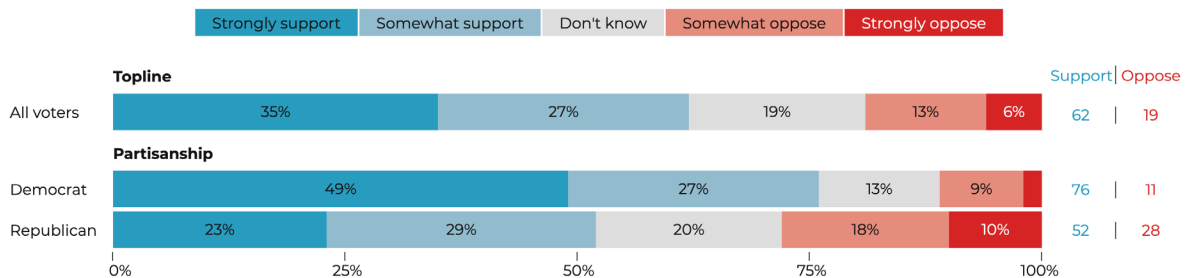
The first reform we looked at was taking steps to cap corporate political contributions, increase disclosure of a corporation's political activity, and institute automatic voter registration. We found that among all voters, these proposals enjoy a 43-percentage-point margin, voters support reducing corporate interests in politics and increasing voter participation (62 percent support, 19 percent oppose). Support for these reform measures was also bipartisan.

Next, we asked voters about a proposal designed to promote equal pay by halting the practice or employers accessing employee's salary history and implementing protections that would block employers from firing employees that talk about their salaries with coworkers. We found that voters supported this by a 50-point margin (69 percent support, 19 percent oppose). Both self-identifying Democrats and self-identifying Republicans supported this package of proposals.

Voters Support Curtailing Corporate Dollars in Politics and Ensuring Access to Voting

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a bill to empower people over special interests by reducing corporate influence in politics and increasing voter participation. The bill includes steps to cap corporate political contributions, increase disclosure of corporate political activity, and institute common-sense voting reforms, like automatic voter registration. Supporters say this law will break the grip of corporate interests in politics, and empower people's voices. Opponents say this legislation infringes on free speech and could cause voter fraud. Do you support or oppose this proposal?
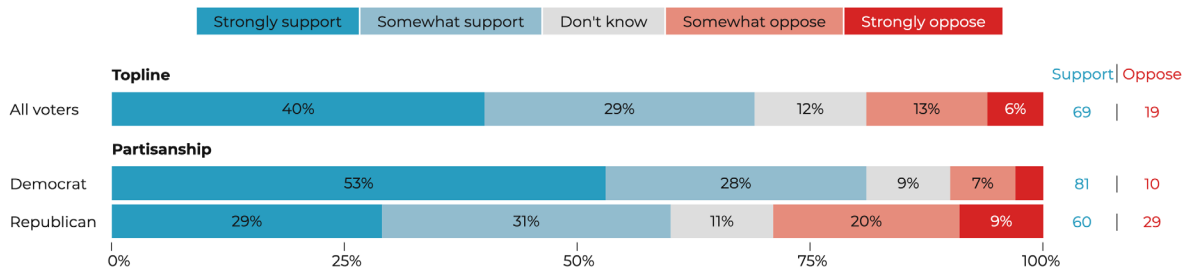
	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
Topline							
All voters	35%	27%	19%	13%	6%	62	19
Partisanship							
Democrat	49%	27%	13%	9%		76	11
Republican	23%	29%	20%	18%	10%	52	28

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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Voters Support Employers Being Blocked From Demanding Salary Histories

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a bill to promote equal pay for equal work by stopping employers from demanding salary history and by protecting employees from being fired for talking about their salary with colleagues. Supporters say these steps will help ensure men and women make equal pay for equal work, and will prevent people from being ripped off or fired. Opponents say that this legislation will make it harder for employers and small businesses to know how much they should offer to pay employees. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Support	Oppose
Topline							
All voters	40%	29%	12%	13%	6%	69	19
Partisanship							
Democrat	53%	28%	9%	7%		81	10
Republican	29%	31%	11%	20%	9%	60	29

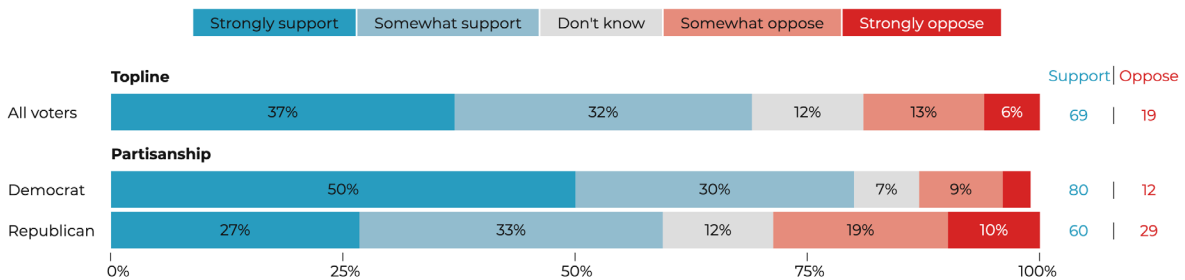0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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Next, we turn to education. Here, we asked voters whether or not they'd support a series of proposals that would protect kids from lead in drinking water at schools and daycares, expanding access to kids to federally-funded school breakfast programs, and supporting school discipline that is done within the school as opposed to by law enforcement and the criminal justice system. We again found robust support for this with voters supporting it by a 50-point margin (69 percent support, 19 percent oppose). These proposals also enjoyed high levels of bipartisan support as well.

We also found overwhelming support for proposals that would protect consumers' online privacy and data. If implemented, these reforms would give consumers the right to know what information companies were collecting about them and empowering them to prevent companies from selling or sharing their personal information. We found this proposal was supported by a 60-point margin (74 percent support, 14 percent oppose). Both Democrats and Republicans are enthusiastic about this proposal

Voters Support Improving Schooling for Children

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a package of bills to help kids learn by removing obstacles to academic success. The package includes protecting kids from lead in drinking water at schools and daycares, expanding access for kids in your state to federally funded school breakfast programs, and supporting school discipline that is done within the school, rather than by law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Supporters say there is strong evidence that this package would increase high school graduation rates. Opponents say that this would place costly burdens on local school systems to adhere to the new requirements and increase bureaucracy. Do you support or oppose this proposal?
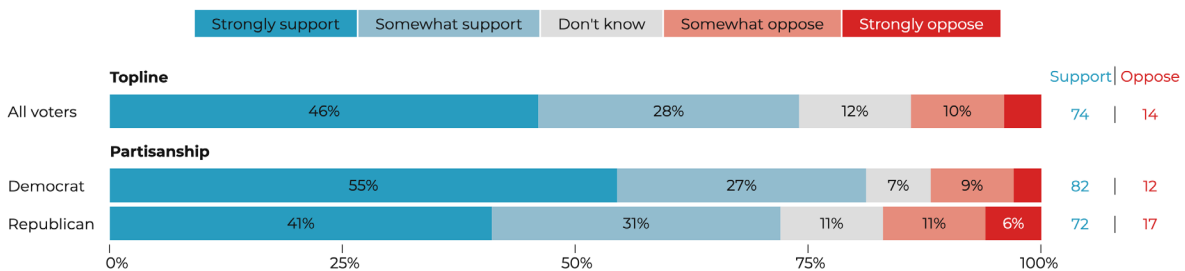
	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose

Topline — Support | Oppose

						Support	Oppose
All voters	37%	32%	12%	13%	6%	69	19

Partisanship

						Support	Oppose
Democrat	50%	30%	7%	9%		80	12
Republican	27%	33%	12%	19%	10%	60	29

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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Voters Support Protecting Consumers' Online Privacy And Data

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a bill to protect consumers' online privacy and data by giving consumers the right to know what information companies are collecting about them, and by empowering people to prevent companies from selling or sharing their personal information. Supporters say that private companies mining and selling private data makes it easier for criminals to commit identity theft and fraud. Opponents say this places a burden on businesses, will impose unnecessary costs to comply with new regulations, and that people don't care about keeping their personal online data protected. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

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

Topline — Support | Oppose

						Support	Oppose
All voters	46%	28%	12%	10%		74	14

Partisanship

						Support	Oppose
Democrat	55%	27%	7%	9%		82	12
Republican	41%	31%	11%	11%	6%	72	17

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%
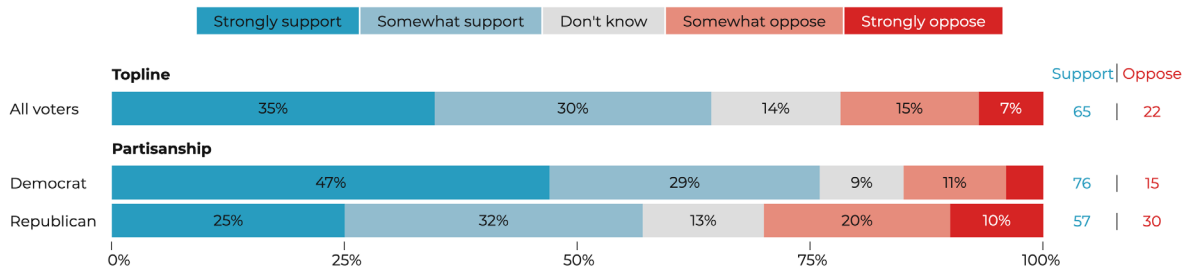
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We asked voters about reforms that aimed to protect student-loan borrowers and their families by increasing oversight and transparency in the student-loan industry and by establishing a Student-Loan Ombudsman to help borrowers navigate their options. Among all voters, we found this proposal enjoyed a 43-point margin of support (65 percent support, 22 percent oppose). Democrats are quite enthusiastic about this idea, backing it by a 61-point margin of support, while

Republicans do so by a narrower but still healthy 27-point margin.

Finally, respondents were asked about patients' rights. Here, we asked voters if they would support a bill that would protect patients from being billed huge amounts after seeking emergency and other medical care that was out of their control. This proposal enjoyed a 56-point margin (72 percent support, 16 percent oppose). We found high levels of bipartisan support for this proposal.

Voters Support Protect Student-Loan Borrowers And Their Families

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a bill to protect student-loan borrowers and their families by increasing oversight and transparency in the student-loan industry and by establishing a Student LoanOmbudsman to help borrowers navigate their options. Supporters say this will relieve the crush of student-loan debt for many families and help students and families afford college by preventing abusive practices by student-loan lenders. Opponents say the bill is unnecessary regulation and will drive up the cost of student loans. Do you support or oppose this proposal?
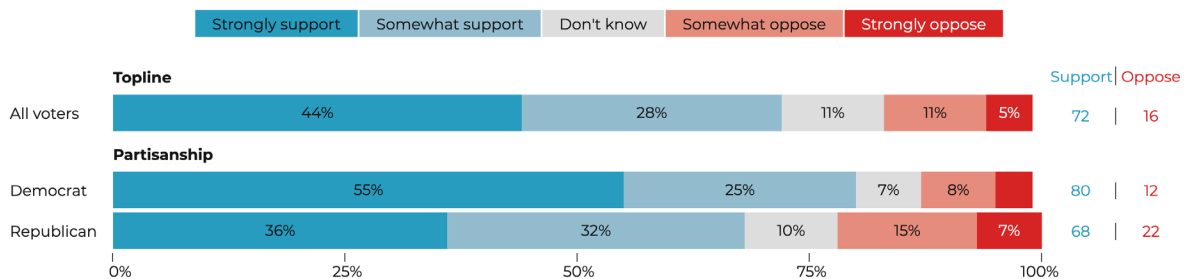
| Strongly support | Somewhat support | Don't know | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |

					Support	Oppose
Topline						
All voters	35%	30%	14%	15%	7%	65	22
Partisanship						
Democrat	47%	29%	9%	11%		76	15
Republican	25%	32%	13%	20%	10%	57	30

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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Voters Support Protecting Patients from Surprise Medical Billing

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a bill to protect patients from being billed huge amounts after seeking emergency and other medical care that was beyond their control. Supporters say people with medical emergencies are being thrown into debt and bankruptcy, and that this proposal would save families from outrageous medical bills that often come at the worst time. Opponents say that hospitals can't afford this, and that it would lead to shortages in ER doctors and to emergency room closures. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

| Strongly support | Somewhat support | Don't know | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose |

					Support	Oppose
Topline						
All voters	44%	28%	11%	11%	5%	72	16
Partisanship						
Democrat	55%	25%	7%	8%		80	12
Republican	36%	32%	10%	15%	7%	68	22

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

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CONCLUSION

All of these six proposal packages we tested here enjoyed high levels of support from Democrats or Republicans. Together, they form an agenda that moves us in a more people-centric direction, touching everything from reform the discipline process in our schools to protecting people's online privacy.

METHODOLOGY

On March 31, 2020 Data for Progress conducted a survey of 2,165 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, urbanicity, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ± 2.1 percentage points.

Question Wording

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a bill to empower people over special interests by reducing corporate influence in politics and increasing voter participation. The bill includes steps to cap corporate political contributions, increase disclosure of corporate political activity, and institute common-sense voting reforms, like automatic voter registration. Supporters say this law will break the grip of corporate interests in politics, and empower people's voices. Opponents say this legislation infringes on free speech and could cause voter fraud. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

> *1- Strongly support*

> *2- Somewhat support*

> *3- Somewhat oppose*

> *4- Strongly oppose*

> *5- Don't know*

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a bill to promote equal pay for equal work by stopping employers from demanding salary history and by protecting employees from being fired for talking about their salary with colleagues. Supporters say these steps will help ensure men and women make equal pay for equal work, and will prevent people from being ripped off or fired. Opponents say that this legislation will make it harder for employers and small businesses to know how much they should offer to pay employees. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

> *1- Strongly support*

> *2- Somewhat support*

> *3- Somewhat oppose*

> *4- Strongly oppose*

> *5- Don't know*

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a package of bills to help kids learn by removing obstacles to academic success. The package includes protecting kids from lead in drinking water at schools and daycares, expanding access for kids in your state to federally funded school breakfast programs, and supporting school discipline that is done within the school, rather than by law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Supporters say there is strong evidence that this package would increase high school graduation rates. Opponents say that this would place costly burdens on local school systems to adhere to the new requirements and increase bureaucracy. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

> *1- Strongly support*

> *2- Somewhat support*

> *3- Somewhat oppose*

> *4- Strongly oppose*

> *5- Don't know*

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a bill to protect consumers' online privacy and data by giving consumers the right to know what information companies are collecting about them, and by empowering people to prevent companies from selling or sharing their personal information. Supporters say that private companies mining and selling private data makes it easier for criminals to commit identity theft and fraud. Opponents say this places a burden on businesses, will impose unnecessary costs to comply with new regulations, and that people don't care about keeping their personal online data protected. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

    1- Strongly support

    2- Somewhat support

    3- Somewhat oppose

    4- Strongly oppose

    5- Don't know

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a bill to protect student-loan borrowers and their families by increasing oversight and transparency in the student-loan industry and by establishing a Student LoanOmbudsman to help borrowers navigate their options. Supporters say this will relieve the crush of student-loan debt for many families and help students and families afford college by preventing abusive practices by student-loan lenders. Opponents say the bill is unnecessary regulation and will drive up the cost of student loans. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

    1- Strongly support

    2- Somewhat support

    3- Somewhat oppose

    4- Strongly oppose

    5- Don't know

Some lawmakers in your state have proposed a bill to protect patients from being billed huge amounts after seeking emergency and other medical care that was beyond their control. Supporters say people with medical emergencies are being thrown into debt and bankruptcy, and that this proposal would save families from outrageous medical bills that often come at the worst time. Opponents say that hospitals can't afford this, and that it would lead to shortages in ER doctors and to emergency room closures. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

    1- Strongly support

    2- Somewhat support

    3- Somewhat oppose

    4- Strongly oppose

    5- Don't know