

To: Members of Congress  
From: Data For Progress and The Justice Collaborative Institute  
Re: Voters Support Requiring Federal Law Enforcement to Identify Themselves  
Date: 7/27/2020

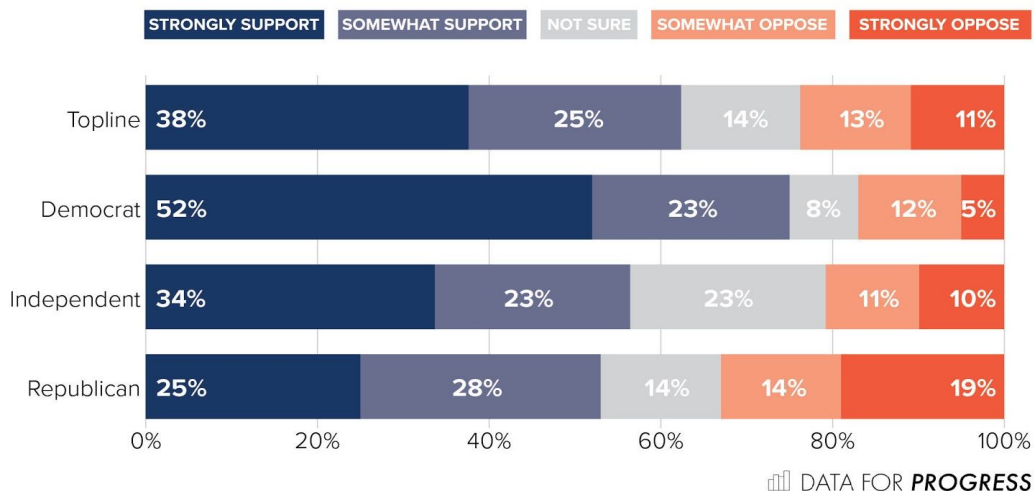
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In Portland, Oregon, federal agents in unmarked cars chased protestors and snatched them off the streets without explanation. One [video](#) shows federal agents in camouflage fatigues and generic “police” badges grabbing a protester, binding his hands, and placing him into the back of an unmarked minivan.

In Washington, D.C., during protests in front of the White House where protestors were teargassed, federal agents [reportedly](#) removed the insignia from their uniforms. Likewise, Bureau of Prisons personnel sent to protests as part of a “Special Operations Response Team” [told reporters](#) they were ordered not to identify themselves as working for the federal government.

The Trump administration’s use of anonymous federal law enforcement agents to patrol streets, quell protests, and round up demonstrators — in some cases over the express objections of local officials — met swift rebuke from both [Democratic and Republican lawmakers](#), as well as experts and advocates who decried the use of secret police as authoritarian.

Now polling from Data for Progress and The Justice Collaborative Institute shows that voters of both parties share that concern: Our research shows that **63% of likely voters, including 53% of Republicans, support federal legislation to require federal law enforcement officers to identify themselves, with oversight by the Inspector General:**



This polling comes as President Trump pledges to ignore local authorities and “surge” federal law enforcement presence in cities across the country, presenting threats to First Amendment and due process rights, and further eroding democratic norms in favor of violent, authoritarian tactics. Congress should at a minimum require federal agents sent to American cities to clearly identify themselves and the agency they work for.

### **Methodology**

From 7/24/2020 to 7/25/2020 Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,318 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 with a margin of error of +/- 2.7 percent.