

 DATA FOR *PROGRESS*

# LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS IN DELAWARE SUPPORT THE PROGRESSIVE AGENDA

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On September 15, Delaware Democrats will vote in a primary to select their candidates for statewide and local officials.

In an August survey, we asked likely Democratic primary voters in Delaware if they support or oppose three progressive priorities: the Green New Deal, Medicare for All, and the elimination of the filibuster. In particular, removing the filibuster is a key issue for progressives as it will make or break their ability to pass other progressive policies, like Medicare for All and a Green New Deal, in the event that Democrats are able to take a simple majority in the Senate in this year's November general election.

Our recent polling shows that likely Delaware Democratic voters support all three of these proposals by margins easily outside of the margin of error for the survey. The Green New Deal is backed by an overwhelming 73-percentage-point margin (83 percent support, 10 percent oppose).

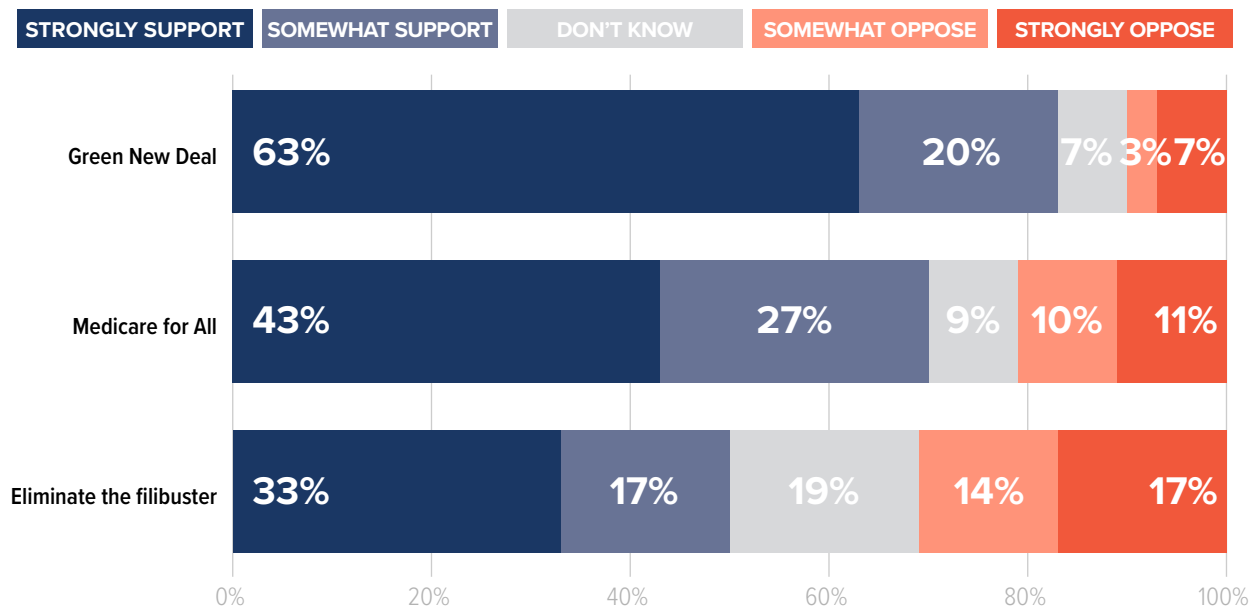
Medicare for All, meanwhile, enjoys a 49-point margin of support (70 percent support, 21 percent oppose). Most importantly, likely Democrat primary voters also back the elimination of the filibuster by a 29-point margin (50 percent, 31 percent oppose).

While the level of support for all three of these policies is encouraging for progressives, that a majority of Democratic primary voters support reforming Senate procedure is quite noteworthy, especially when one considers that eliminating the filibuster has not garnered the same media attention as either the Green New Deal or Medicare for All.

This is, in part, why this filibuster finding should be encouraging for progressives. Already, there is majority support among Delaware primary voters for democratizing the Senate, a step likely necessary for securing other legislative gains. This is a reality that many Democratic Senators

## Delaware Primary Voters Support the Progressive Agenda

Would you support or oppose a following proposals?



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themselves are also waking up to. In addition, with 19 percent of Democratic primary voters still to make up their minds about filibuster reform, there is room for net support to increase as the issue is raised in prominence.

At the funeral of the late Congressman John Lewis, former President Barack Obama called for the passage of a new voting rights bill and democratizing reforms and said, “If all this takes eliminating the filibuster, another Jim Crow relic, in order to secure the God-given rights of every American, then that’s what we should do.” While we cannot necessarily draw a straight causal line between these comments and our poll results, a pattern is emerging. Combined with other Data for Progress polling, it is clear that Democratic voters are increasingly placing importance on the issue of eliminating the filibuster.

In April 2017, Chris Coons, the incumbent Democratic Senator from Delaware, along with Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine, “led a bipartisan group of 61 Senators in writing to Senate leadership, urging them to preserve the 60 vote threshold for legislation.” His primary challenger, Jessica Scarane, is open to eliminating the filibuster in order to pass policies such as the Green New Deal and Medicare for All, both of which she supports. However, in recent months, Coons has inched closer to endorsing filibuster reforms, a testament to the changing winds of voters and politicians alike shifting their views about the Senate procedure. If progressives are serious about moving their aspirations on healthcare and climate from white papers to legislation, they must demand democratic reforms in terms of Senate procedure, and hold politicians accountable for these reforms.

## AUTHORSHIP

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## METHODOLOGY

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August 18-19, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of likely Democratic primary voters in Delaware using text-to-web. The responses were weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English and has a Margin of Error of +/- 4.4 percentage points.

*Would you support or oppose a 10 year investment in clean energy infrastructure and jobs, sometimes called a “Green New Deal”?*

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

*Would you support or oppose improving and expanding Medicare to be the sole health insurance provider for all Americans, commonly called a “Medicare for All” program?*

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

*Would you support or oppose eliminating the filibuster, a Senate rule that lets a minority of Senators prevent voting on a bill unless 60 out of 100 Senators vote to allow a vote?*

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