

Support for the American Jobs Plan Is Resilient Against Negative Talking Points

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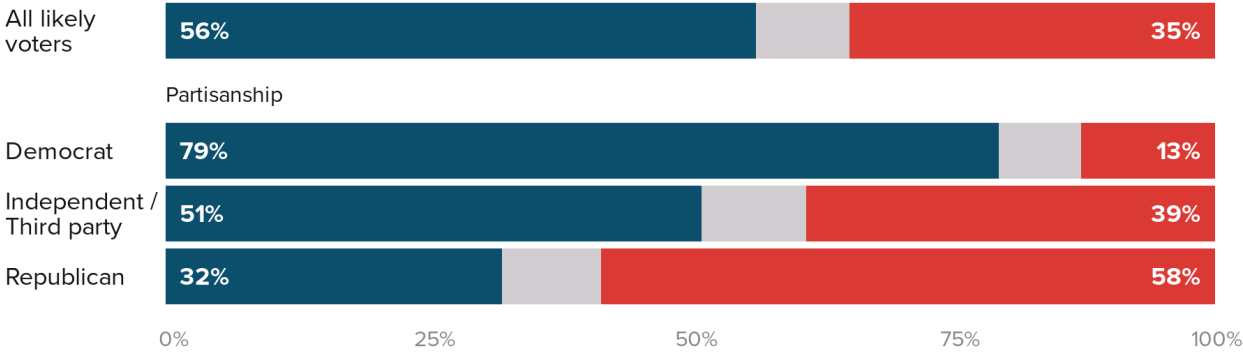
As outlined in the complementary policy and polling memos, the progressive priorities in the American Jobs Plan (AJP) enjoy broad bipartisan support. However, it is no surprise that after unanimously opposing the American Rescue Plan (ARP), Congressional Republicans have been just as swift in their opposition to the AJP. While voters overwhelmingly support the discrete policy priorities of the AJP, it is critical to understand how negative messaging about the legislation impacts overall support for the legislation. Data for Progress sought to understand how negative messaging impacts support for the key distinctions between the AJP and the Republican counterproposal, including the climate, clean energy, and care economy investments.

By a 21-point margin, likely voters agree that the American Jobs Plan should keep its key climate and clean energy investments to create new good-paying jobs that will combat climate change, reduce pollution, and make America a leader in the global clean energy transition. Only 35 percent of voters think the American Jobs Plan should not keep these investments. Democrats agree that the AJP should keep its key climate and clean energy components by a 66-point margin, while Independents agree by a 12-point margin. Republicans, meanwhile, favor a more austere position by a 26-point margin, which is not surprising given Republican lawmakers' emphasis on only passing limited investments in physical infrastructure. However, with both core Democratic voters and marginal Independent voters clearly in alignment that the climate and clean energy investments should be kept in the AJP, Democratic lawmakers must stand firm against Republicans and ensure that these investments are in the final legislation.

A Majority of Voters Support Keeping the Climate and Clean Energy Investments in the American Jobs Plan

President Biden recently introduced the "American Jobs Plan", a proposal to invest \$2.25 trillion over the next 8 years in our infrastructure and workforce. The American Jobs Plan includes proposals to make our roads, bridges, and electricity grid more resilient to the impacts of climate change like natural disasters and extreme weather, build new renewable energy projects like wind and solar power, invest in American energy innovation, expand public transportation, and improve energy efficiency in homes, buildings, and schools. Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

<p>The American Jobs Plan should keep these investments to create new good-paying jobs that will help combat climate change, reduce pollution, and make America a leader in the global clean energy transition.</p>	<p>Don't know</p>	<p>The American Jobs Plan should not keep these investments because we should not waste taxpayer money and should only focus on repairing the infrastructure we already have.</p>
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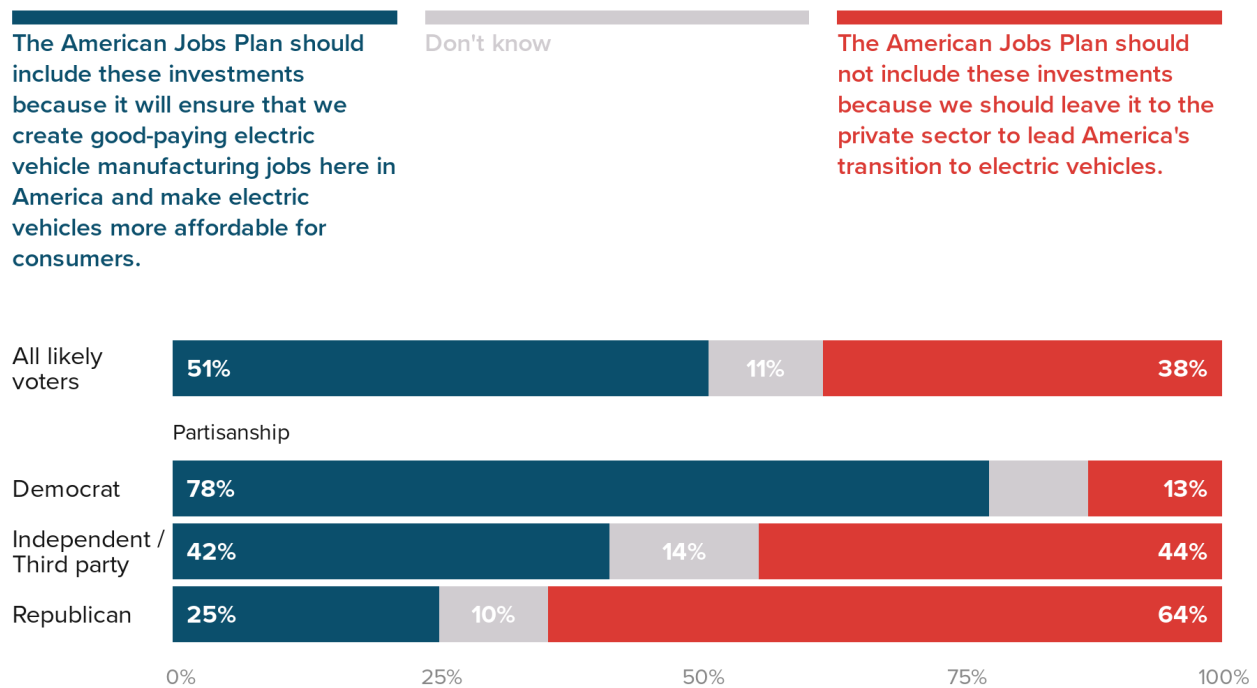
May 19–21, 2021 survey of 1,319 likely voters

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One of the provisions in the AJP that has received a significant amount of criticism from Republicans is a \$174 billion investment to accelerate electric vehicle (EV) production and usage in America. However, by a 13-point margin, likely voters agree that the AJP should keep this EV investment to create good-paying American auto manufacturing jobs and make EVs more affordable for consumers. Democrats are most supportive of this investment, supporting it by a 65-point margin.⁸ Independents, though, are narrowly split, with 42 percent agreeing that the AJP should keep the EV funding and 44 percent thinking the private sector should lead America's EV transition. Additionally, a majority of Republicans (64 percent) agree that the AJP should not include an investment in EVs and should let the private sector lead on this issue instead. Despite negative messaging swaying some marginal Independent voters and Republicans, Democratic lawmakers should be mindful that a majority of voters overall — including their core constituency by an overwhelming margin — support this investment. With this in mind, Democrats in Congress should stand firm to ensure that the robust EV investment remains in the AJP.

A Majority of Voters Support Keeping EV Investments in the American Jobs Plan

President Biden recently introduced the "American Jobs Plan", a proposal to invest \$2.25 trillion over the next 8 years in our infrastructure and workforce. The American Jobs Plan includes a \$174 billion investment to accelerate electric vehicle (EV) production and usage in America. This investment will be used to provide tax incentives to American auto manufacturers, give consumers point-of-sale rebates to purchase EVs, build a network of 500,000 charging stations across America, and electrify the U.S.P.S. postal vans and school buses. Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



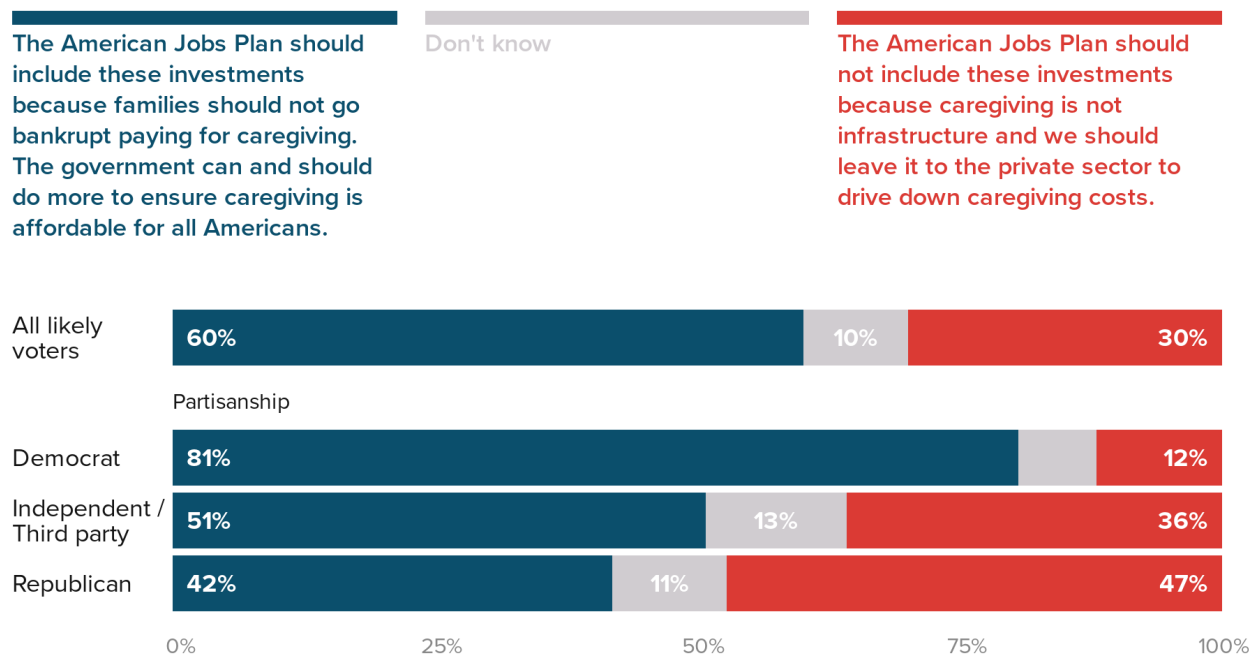
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In addition to criticizing the climate and clean energy components of the AJP, Republicans have expressed opposition to the proposed investments in America’s caregiving sector. However, by a 30-point margin, likely voters agree that the AJP should include these investments because families should not go bankrupt paying for caregiving.⁸ Only 30 percent of voters think the AJP should not include these investments because caregiving is not infrastructure and the private sector should instead be responsible for driving down costs. Democrats and Independents agree that the caregiving investments should be kept in the AJP by overwhelming 69-point and 15-point margins, respectively. Meanwhile, Republicans are nearly split: 42 percent agree the AJP should keep caregiving investments, while 47 percent think they should not be included in the plan. However, it is notable that over 40 percent of Republican voters support these caregiving investments while Republican lawmakers so vehemently oppose them. As such, despite negative messaging, it is clear that there is broad support across party lines for keeping caregiving investments in the AJP.

Voters Want to Keep Care Infrastructure Investments in the American Jobs Plan

President Biden recently introduced the "American Jobs Plan", a proposal to invest \$2.25 trillion over the next 8 years in our infrastructure and workforce. The American Jobs Plan includes a proposal to invest \$400 billion in quality, affordable home- or community-based care for the elderly and people with disabilities. Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



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Finally, we gave voters brief descriptions of both the AJP and the first Republican counterproposal (Senator Shelley Moore Capito has since proposed a \$928 billion proposal that still excludes most of the main provisions of the AJP), and then asked voters which plan they prefer. By a 21-point margin, likely voters prefer the AJP over the counterproposal. Democrats prefer the AJP by an overwhelming 71-point margin, while Independents prefer the AJP by a 9-point margin.⁸ Republicans, however, prefer the counter proposal by a 32-point margin. While Republicans prefer the smaller plan, there is clear consensus among Democrats and Independents that Congress should pass the American Jobs Plan.

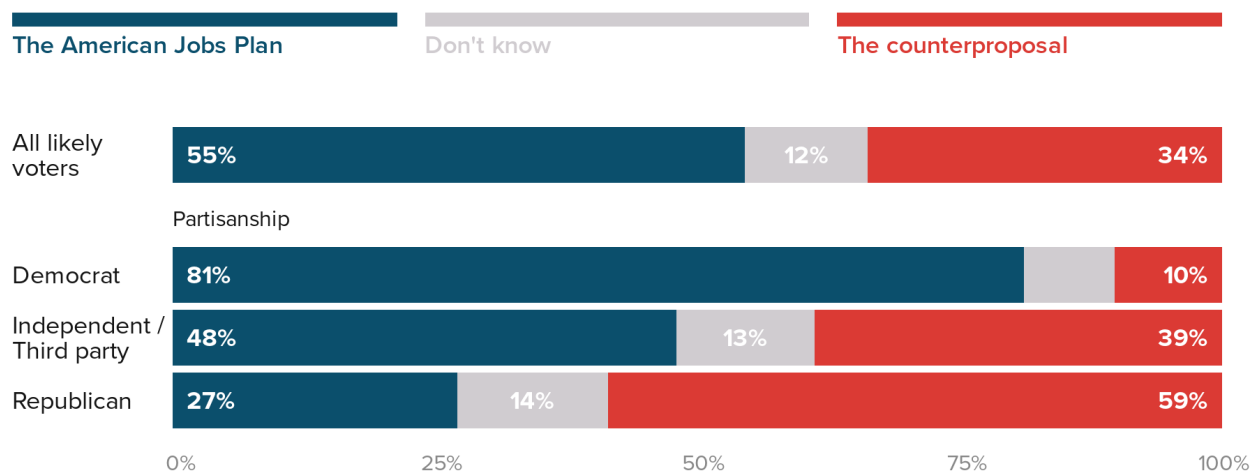
Voters Support Passing the American Jobs Plan Over the Republican Counterproposal

President Biden recently introduced the "American Jobs Plan", a proposal to invest \$2.25 trillion over the next 8 years in our infrastructure and workforce. The American Jobs Plan includes proposals to repair roads and bridges, modernize the electricity grid, ensure every American has access to clean drinking water, expand broadband internet access, and expand our nation's caregiving services for children, people with disabilities, and the elderly.

To pay for this investment, the American Jobs Plan proposes raising the tax rate of large corporations from 21% to 28% to pay for this investment, which would be the lowest corporate tax rate since World War II other than the 2017 corporate tax cuts.

As a counterproposal, some lawmakers in Congress are proposing a \$568 billion infrastructure bill that focuses only on repairing roads, bridges, and drinking water pipes and improving transportation and internet infrastructure. This plan would be paid for by using unspent pandemic relief money, raising user fees from individuals such as road tolls, and increasing the gas tax.

Which plan do you prefer?



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As President Biden continues negotiations with Democratic and Republican lawmakers, it is clear that the AJP — including its climate, clean energy, and care investments — are broadly popular among likely voters. Moreover, support for these investments remains resilient even when voters are presented with negative talking points and oppositional stances against these pivotal components of the AJP. Both the White House and Democrats in Congress should feel confident advocating for including climate, clean energy, and care investments in the AJP that meet the demands of our current climate and economic crises.