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STUDENT DEFENSE
NATIONAL STUDENT LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK

VOTERS SUPPORT ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PREDATORY COLLEGES AND EXECUTIVES, SUPPORT TACKLING STUDENT DEBT ISSUES

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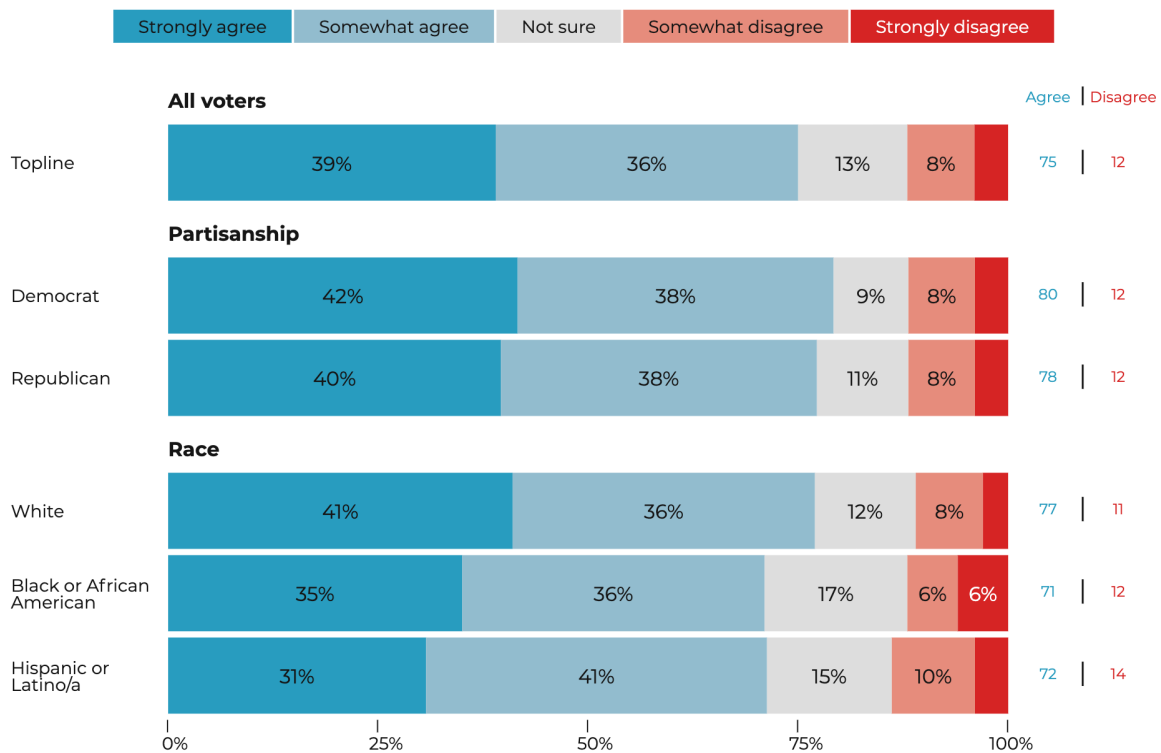
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We find that voters agree that for-profit colleges should be held to stringent standards, namely ensuring that their graduates get good jobs and earn enough to realistically repay their loans, and that broad student loan forgiveness also enjoys broad support.

First, we asked voters if they agree or disagree that for-profit colleges should meet benchmarks that ensure that their graduates are really earning enough to pay back their loans. We find that both voters who self-identify as Democrats and Republicans, overwhelmingly, agree that for-profit colleges be held to these benchmarks. Among all voters, voters agree by a 63-percentage-point margin (75 percent agree, 12 percent disagree). Black and Latin voters support this policy by wide margins as well, with 71 percent and 72 percent agreeing, respectively.

Voters Agree That The Department of Education Should Ensure That For-Profit Colleges Meet Benchmarks

Do you agree that the Department of Education should ensure that for-profit colleges that rely on federal student aid are meeting benchmarks which show that graduating students earn enough to pay back their loans?



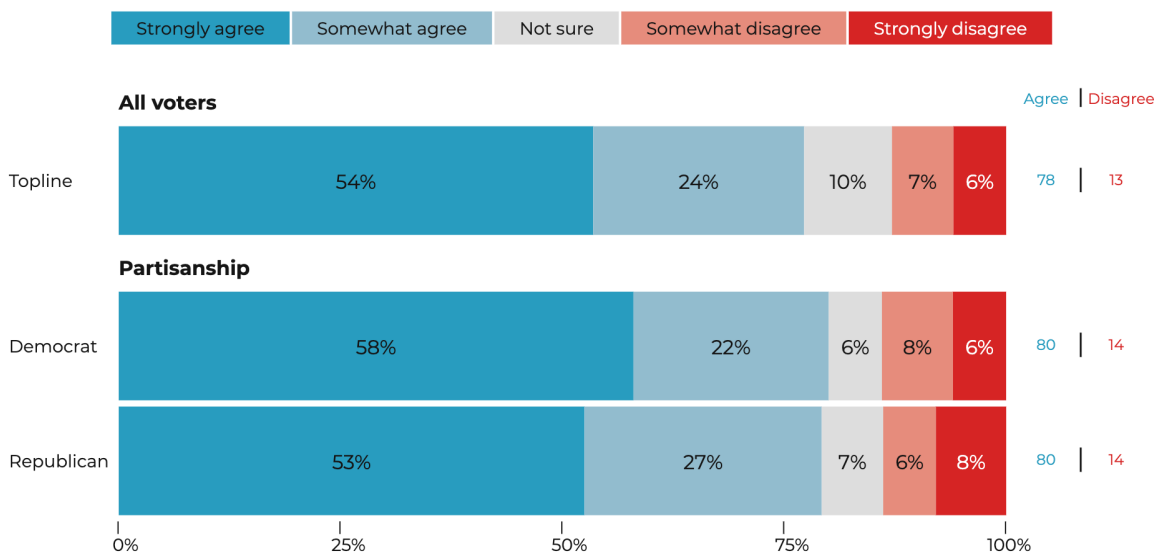
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We also asked voters if they agree or disagree that owners and executives should be held personally liable if their institution is found to have behaved fraudulently. We find that a massive majority of voters agree that these people should be held personally liable. Indeed, both a majority of Democrats (58 percent) and Republicans (53 percent) “strongly agree” with this proposal.

Voters Agree That Owners And Executives Of For-Profit Colleges Should Be Held Personally Liable If Their Institution Engages In Fraud

Would you support or oppose the Department of Education holding the owners and executives of for-profit colleges personally liable if their institutions were found to be engaging in predatory or fraudulent behavior?

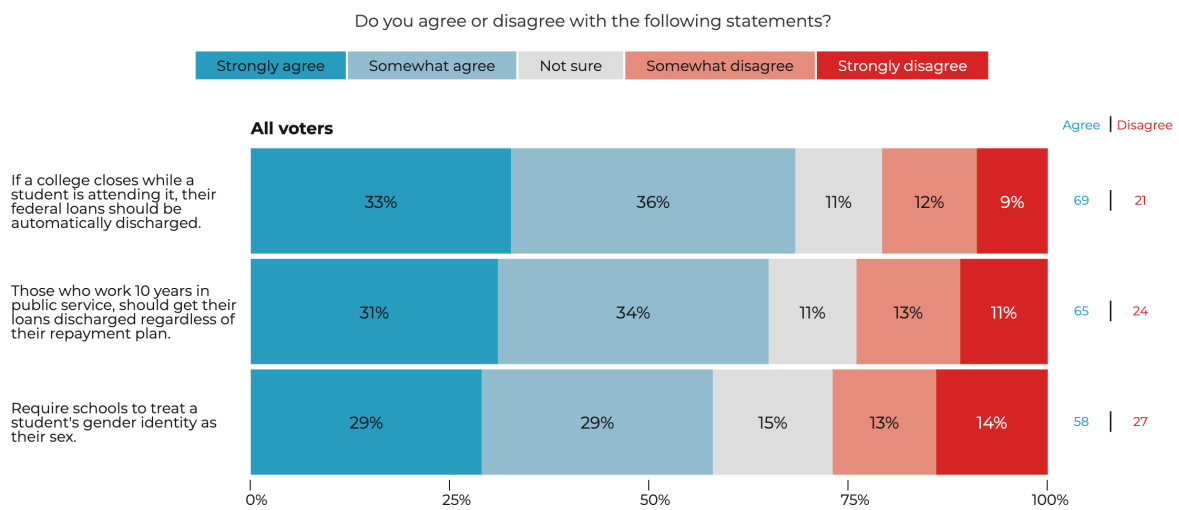


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One other proposal we tested is whether students who attend colleges that close while they are enrolled should have their loans forgiven if they're then unable to graduate. We find that, by a 48-point margin, voters agree with this proposal (69 percent support, 21 percent oppose). We also find that voters, by a 41-point margin, agree that those who spend 10 years in public service ought to have their student loans forgiven (65 percent support, 24 percent). Lastly, we find that voters agree that ED should implement regulations that require schools treat a student's gender identity as their sex by a 31-point margin (58 percent support, 27 percent oppose).

Voters Agree With A Range Of Priorities Around Loan Forgiveness And The Regulation Of Schools



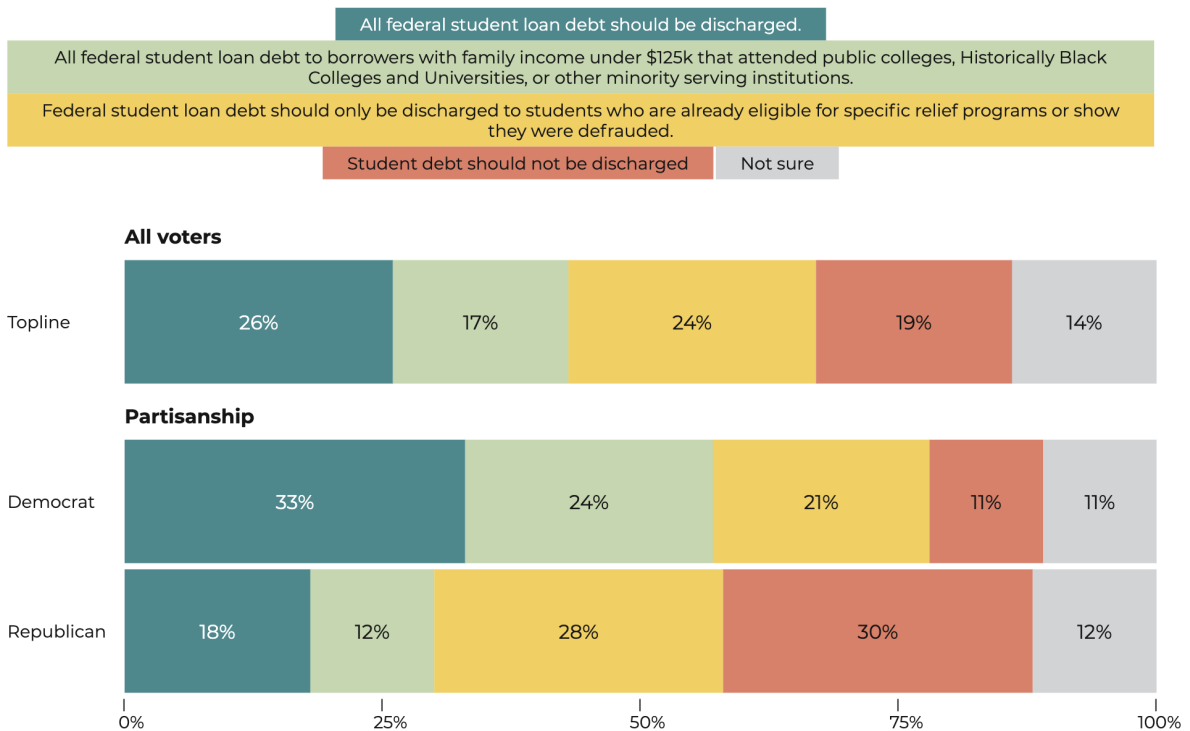
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In general, voters are fairly skeptical of for-profit colleges. Thirty-three percent of voters think that they shouldn't get federal funds at all. Another 26 percent of voters think that for-profit colleges, to qualify for federal funds, should have to prove that their graduates are earning enough to repay their loans. Lastly, only 24 percent of voters think for-profit schools should be treated the same as private non-profit and public schools. (Sixteen percent of voters weren't sure.)

Voters Support Discharging Student Loans

What comes closer to your view of whether the next President should or should not discharge student loan debt?



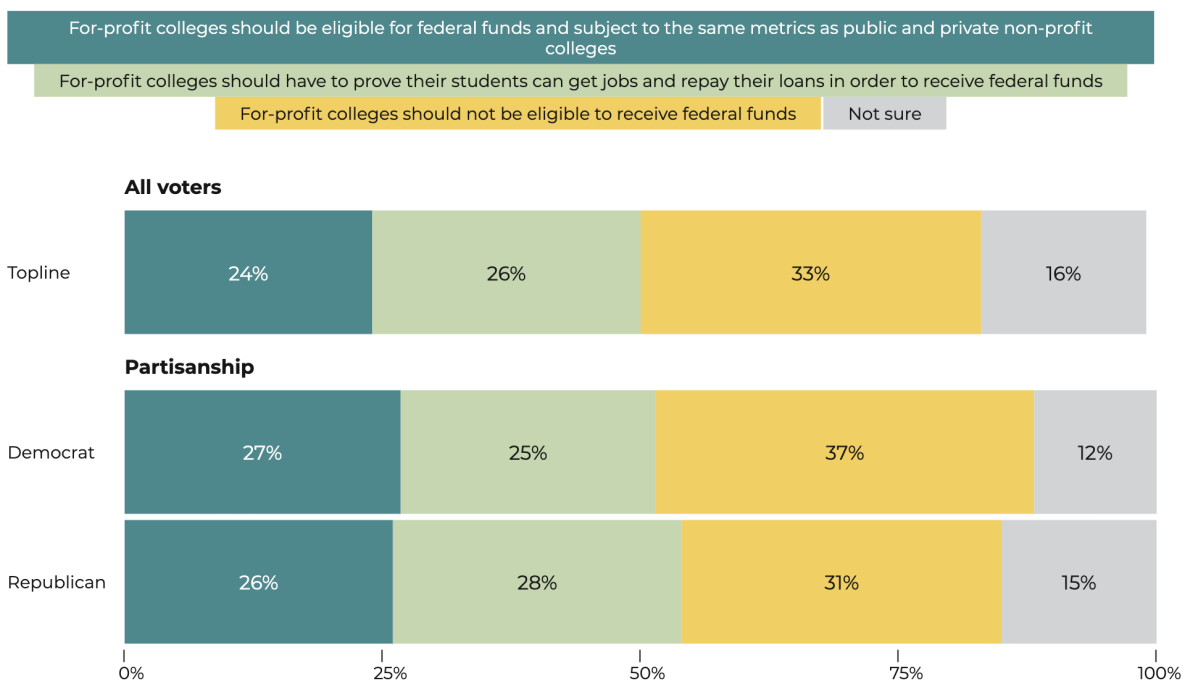
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Voters in swing states are also receptive to the idea of student loan forgiveness. A narrow plurality (26 percent) think that all federal student loans ought to be discharged. Another 17 percent of voters think that federal student loans should be discharged for those making less than \$125,000 a year and who've attended public colleges or universities, Historically Black Colleges or Universities, or other minority serving institutions. Another 21 percent of voters think that federal student loans ought to be discharged under the terms of existing programs. Only 19 percent of voters in the eleven states polled think that federal student loans shouldn't be discharged. (Fourteen percent of voters weren't sure.)

Voters Are Skeptical Of For-Profit Colleges

Which of the following most closely reflects your view of for-profit colleges?



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CONCLUSION

The presidential race will come down to a handful of key swing states concentrated in the midwest and the sun belt. We find that, across the 11 states polled, voters agree that for-profit colleges ought to be held to high standards by regulators and that their owners and executives be held accountable if they engage in fraudulent behavior. There is a recognition among voters that student loans represent a serious challenge and that action to address this crisis should be taken.

METHODOLOGY

From 9/15/2020 to 9/22/2020 Data for Progress conducted a survey of 3,199 likely voters in selected swing states (OH,TX,GA,WI,PA,FL,NC,AZ,CO,MI,MN) 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 +/- 1.7 percentage points.

QUESTION WORDING

Would you support or oppose the Department of Education holding the owners and executives of for-profit colleges personally liable if their institutions were found to be engaging in predatory or fraudulent behavior?

- ▶ Strongly agree
- ▶ Somewhat agree
- ▶ Somewhat disagree
- ▶ Strongly disagree
- ▶ Not sure

Do you agree that the Department of Education should ensure that for-profit colleges that rely on federal student aid are meeting benchmarks which show that graduating students earn enough to pay back their loans?

- ▶ Strongly agree
- ▶ Somewhat agree
- ▶ Somewhat disagree
- ▶ Strongly disagree
- ▶ Not sure

Do you agree or disagree that students attending colleges that close while they are attending so that they can't complete their studies should automatically get their federal student loans discharged?

- ▶ Strongly agree
- ▶ Somewhat agree
- ▶ Somewhat disagree
- ▶ Strongly disagree
- ▶ Not sure

Do you agree or disagree that students who spend 10 years working in public service should get the remainder of their federal student loans discharged regardless of what repayment plan they were enrolled in?

- ▶ Strongly agree
- ▶ Somewhat agree
- ▶ Somewhat disagree
- ▶ Strongly disagree
- ▶ Not sure

Do you agree or disagree that the U.S. Department of Education regulations should ensure that schools must treat a student's gender identity as their sex in all instances in which the law permits students to be separated by sex, such as with respect to restrooms and locker rooms, single sex classes and housing and overnight accommodations?

- ▶ Strongly agree
- ▶ Somewhat agree
- ▶ Somewhat disagree
- ▶ Strongly disagree
- ▶ Not sure

Which of the following most closely reflects your view of for-profit colleges?

- ▶ For-profit colleges should be eligible for federal funds and subject to the same metrics as public and private non-profit colleges
- ▶ For-profit colleges should have to prove their students can get jobs and repay their loans in order to receive federal funds
- ▶ For-profit colleges should not be eligible to receive federal funds
- ▶ Not sure

What comes closer to your view of whether the next President should or should not discharge student loan debt?

- ▶ All federal student loan debt should be discharged.
- ▶ All federal student loan debt to borrowers with family income under \$125k that attended public colleges, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or other minority serving institutions.
- ▶ Federal student loan debt should only be discharged to students who are already eligible for specific relief programs or show they were defrauded.
- ▶ Student debt should not be discharged
- ▶ Not sure