

**TO:** Environmental Defense Action Fund  
**FR:** Morning Consult  
**DT:** September 2021  
**RE:** Voter Perceptions of the Budget Bill's Environmental and Economic Priorities



Voters view it as important to include funding for several environmental and economic priorities in the upcoming budget bill. Top priorities for voters include reducing climate pollution, investing in clean energy jobs, and funding to replace lead drinking pipes. This data also showcases voters' belief that the government is responsible for protecting the environment, reducing air pollution, and investing in clean energy jobs. Lastly, the data highlights that a majority of voters would be more likely to vote for candidates running for Congress in their state if they supported investment in U.S. clean energy technology and clean energy jobs.

# **1. VOTERS VIEW ACTION ACROSS A RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC MEASURES AS IMPORTANT FOR CONGRESS TO ADDRESS IN THE UPCOMING BUDGET BILL.**

*Percentage of Voters Who Say the Following are Important for Congress to Address in the Upcoming Budget Bill*

% Important (Very + Somewhat Important)	All Registered Voters	Moderate Voters	Independent Voters
Funding to replace lead pipes that carry drinking water	85%	86%	81%
Reducing air pollution in highly polluted communities	81%	86%	77%
Incentivizing power plants to use clean energy	76%	83%	74%
Creating jobs in the clean energy sector	74%	77%	70%
Increasing public/private partnerships in clean energy manufacturing	73%	80%	65%
Increasing funding in clean energy manufacturing	71%	81%	71%
Expanding the development and production of clean cars, trucks, and buses	68%	79%	68%
Providing tax credits for new or used electric vehicle purchases	60%	65%	56%

**Methodology:** This poll was conducted between September 17-20, 2021 among a sample of 2000 Registered Voters. The interviews were conducted online, and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Registered Voters based on gender by age, educational attainment, race, marital status, home ownership, race by educational attainment, 2016 presidential vote, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

## **2. VOTERS SEE INVESTMENT IN CLEAN ENERGY JOBS AS A POSITIVE FOR REDUCING CLIMATE POLLUTION (61%), THE U.S. JOB MARKET (56%), AND THE U.S. ENERGY SECTOR (55%)**

- Majorities of blue- and white-collar voters view investment in clean energy jobs as mostly positive for:
  - **The U.S. job market**; blue-collar: 55%, white-collar: 60%
  - **U.S. climate leadership**; blue-collar: 50%, white-collar: 58%
  - **The U.S. energy sector**; blue-collar: 54%, white-collar: 57%
- Independent voters (51%) and moderate voters (58%) also view increased investment in clean energy jobs as mostly positive for the U.S. job market.
- Voters across urban (62%) and suburban (56%) community types see investment in clean energy jobs as mostly positive for the U.S. job market. Fifty five percent of suburban voters also view this investment as mostly positive for the U.S. energy sector, and 62% do so for reducing climate pollution.

## **3. AROUND TWO-THIRDS OF VOTERS SAY THEY WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES IN THEIR STATE IF THEY WERE TO SUPPORT INVESTMENT IN U.S. CLEAN ENERGY JOBS (66%) AND CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY (63%).**

- Sixty-two percent of independent voters and 74% of moderate voters say they would be more likely to vote for congressional candidates if they were to support investment in clean energy jobs.
- Fifty-nine percent of rural voters, 64% of suburban voters, and 76% of urban voters also say they'd be more likely to vote for congressional candidates who support clean energy job investment.

## **4. VOTERS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM VIEW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CLEAN ENERGY JOB INVESTMENT.**

- Republican (65%), Democratic (88%), and independent (72%) voters believe it is the U.S. government's responsibility to reduce the U.S.'s climate pollution.
- Voters across party lines also believe it is the U.S. government's responsibility to invest in U.S. clean energy jobs (*Republicans: 62%, Democrats: 88%, independents: 71%*).
- Three-quarters of Republican voters (76%), nine-in-ten Democratic voters (90%), and four-in-five independent voters (79%) voters believe it is the U.S. government's responsibility to protect the environment.

## **5. VOTERS VIEW ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC SETBACKS AS LIKELY IF CONGRESS FAILS TO MAKE INVESTMENTS IN CLEAN ENERGY**

- Half or more voters say it is likely the U.S. would fall behind other countries economically (50%) and environmentally (59%) if Congress failed to make investments in clean energy.
- Over three-in-five voters also believe it is likely environmental issues would be more difficult to address in the future (62%) and climate pollution would increase (64%) if Congress did not make these investments.