

Poll Findings About Oil & Gas Accountability

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Attitudes About Oil & Gas Companies

The oil and gas industry is deeply unpopular.

- Americans are more than twice as likely to hold negative views of the oil and gas industry than to hold positive views (24% positive / 58% negative). [[Gallup](#), Aug. 2023]
 - Out of 24 major industries that were included in the survey, only the pharmaceutical industry ranks lower.

Americans believe that fossil fuel companies hold too much power, aren't aligned with the public's interests, and have taken advantage of international crises at consumers' expense.

- More than two-thirds of voters (70%) agree that fossil fuel companies have too much influence on government decisions, including 93% of Democrats and 45% of Republicans. [[Yale + GMU](#), Oct. 2023]
- Three-quarters of voters (75%) agree that "CEOs of fossil fuel companies are taking advantage of skyrocketing energy prices caused by conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East," including 87% of Democrats and 68% of Republicans. [[Climate Power + Fossil Free Media + Data for Progress](#), Oct. 2023]

- Only 18% of voters trust fossil fuel companies to act in the public's best interest, including just 8% of Democrats and 29% of Republicans. [[Yale + GMU](#), Oct. 2023]

Policies & Voting

There is widespread support for policies to hold oil and gas companies more accountable - including “polluters pay” legislation.

- Roughly two-thirds of voters (66%) support a bill that would require oil and gas companies to pay a share of the cost of climate damages caused by their pollution, including 88% of Democrats and 46% of Republicans. [[Fossil Free Media + Data for Progress](#), Nov. 2023]
- Three-quarters of voters (75%) support oil and gas companies paying a tax on their excess profits after reading that oil and gas companies have achieved record profits due to charging higher energy prices during disruptions of the global energy market. [[Climate Power + Fossil Free Media + Data for Progress](#), Oct. 2023]
 - Majorities of Democrats (85%) and Republicans (65%) support an excess profits tax.

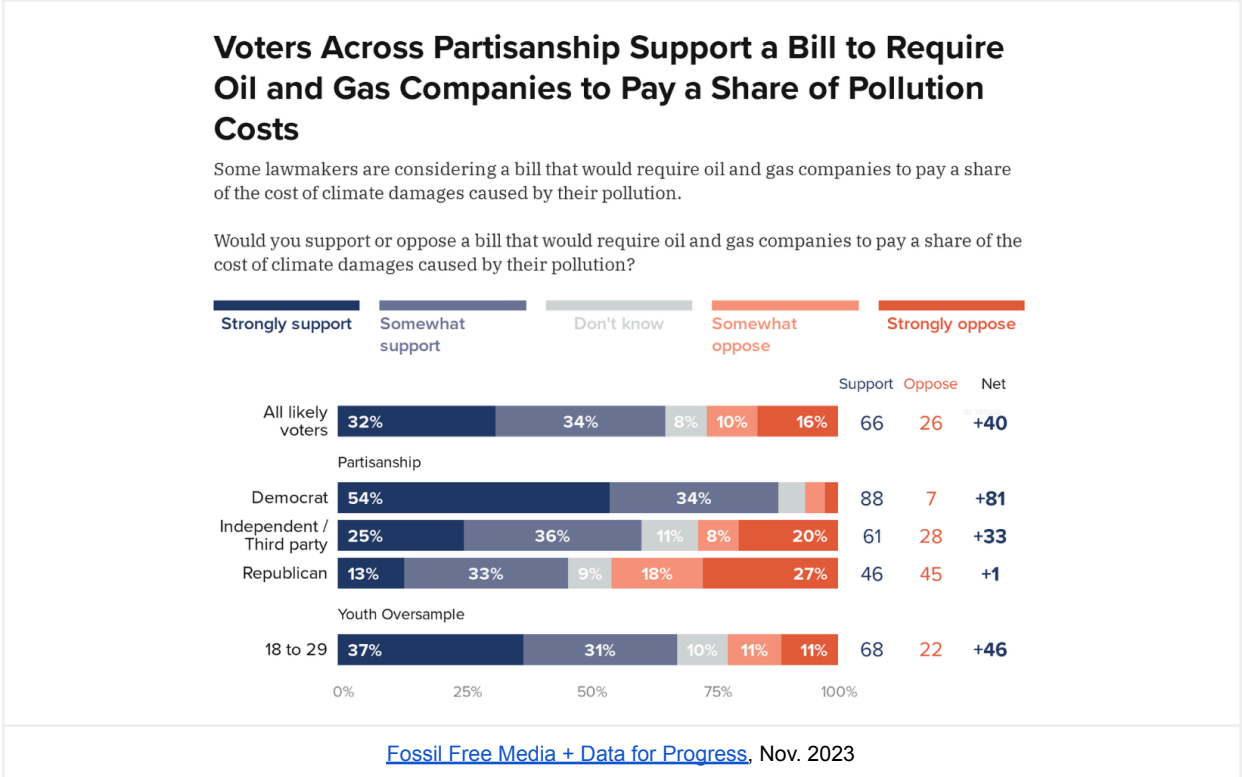
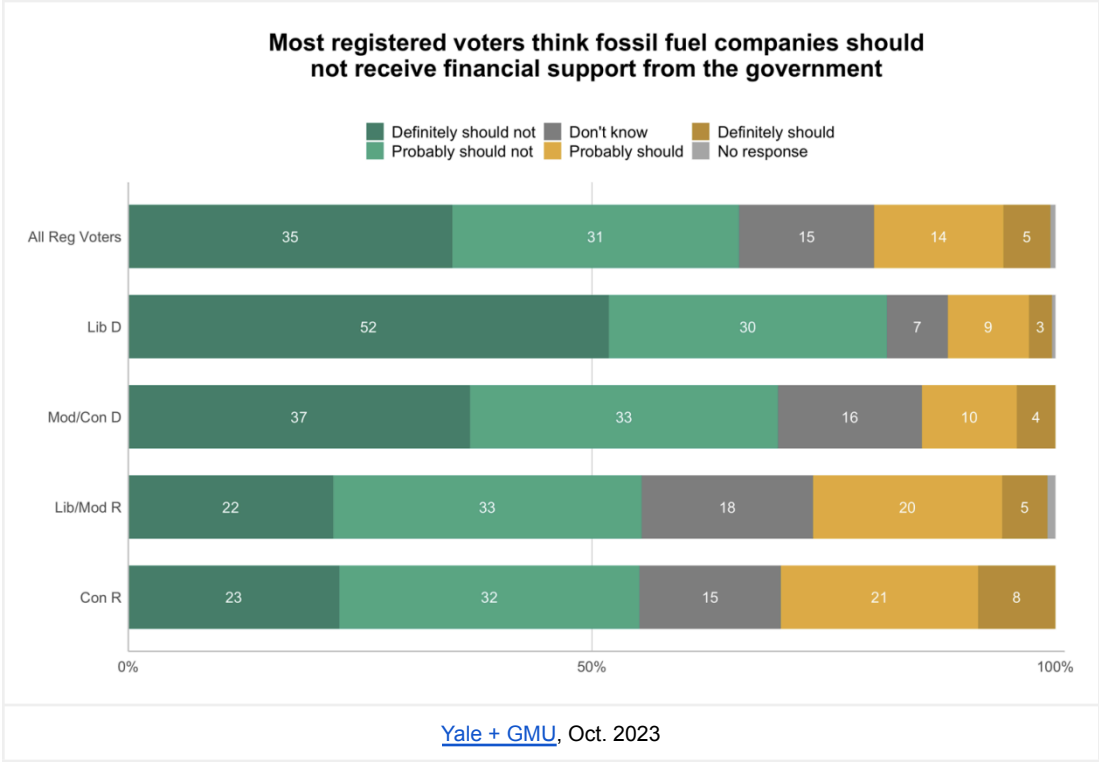
Most voters across party lines agree that the government shouldn't provide financial support to fossil fuel companies.

- Roughly two-thirds of voters (66%) agree that fossil fuel companies should not receive financial support from the government, including 77% of Democrats and 54% of Republicans. [[Yale + GMU](#), Oct. 2023]

Voters prefer candidates who will *crack down* on fossil fuel companies over candidates who will give them more tax breaks.

- By a 40-point margin, voters say that they prefer a candidate who “supports cracking down on price gouging and profiteering by the major oil companies” (63%) over a candidate who “supports giving tax cuts and incentives to oil and gas companies to increase the production of oil and gas” (23%). [[LCV Victory Fund + Climate Power](#), Sep. 2023]
- Most voters (64%) say that they would be more likely to support a candidate for office who will prioritize requiring oil and gas companies to pay a share of the cost of climate damages caused by their pollution. [[Fossil Free Media + Data for Progress](#), Dec. 2023]

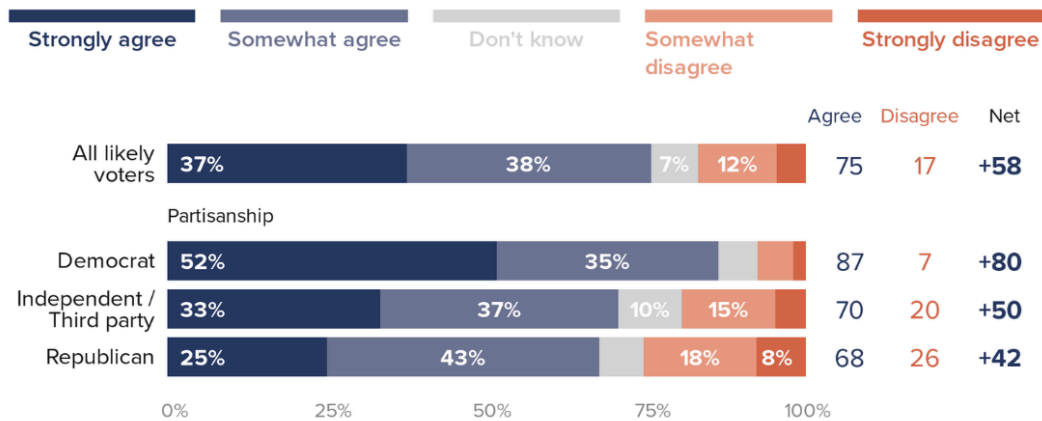
Charts



Voters Across Partisanship Agree That Fossil Fuel CEOs Are Taking Advantage of International Conflict With High Prices

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

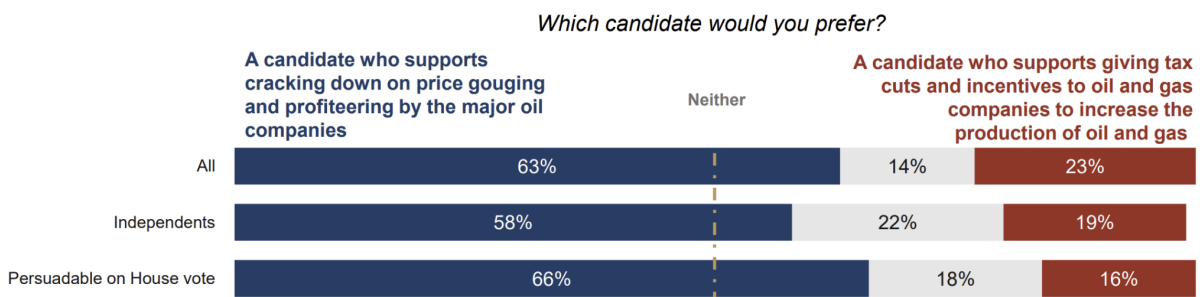
"CEOs of fossil fuel companies are taking advantage of skyrocketing energy prices caused by conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East."



[Climate Power + Fossil Free Media + Data for Progress](#), Oct. 2023

A clear winning debate: Voters want to crack down on oil company price gouging and profiteering, not give oil companies more breaks.

Approach to major oil companies



[LCV Victory Fund + Climate Power](#), Sep. 2023

Additional Resources

[*Voters Support Holding Oil and Gas Companies Accountable and Want to See Stricter Pollution Limits*](#)

Fossil Free Media + Data for Progress, Mar. 2024

[*Voters Support Making Oil and Gas Companies Pay a Share of Climate Costs Caused by Pollution*](#)

Fossil Free Media + Data for Progress, Dec. 2023

[*Voters Blame Oil and Gas Companies for High Energy Prices, Are Optimistic About the Clean Energy Industry*](#)

Climate Power + Fossil Free Media + Data for Progress, Nov. 2023

[*Climate Change in the American Mind: Politics & Policy, Fall 2023*](#)

Yale Program on Climate Change Communication + George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication, Oct. 2023

[*Retail, Pharmaceutical Industries Slip in Public Esteem*](#)

Gallup, Sep. 2023

[*How to Call Out the GOP on Energy and the Environment*](#)

LCV Victory Fund + Climate Power, Sep. 2023