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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.
- Voters have negative opinions of "oil company CEOs" (19% favorable / 54% unfavorable), and even more negative opinions of "Big Oil CEOs" (13% favorable / 62% unfavorable). [[Climate Power + EDF Action + NRDC Action Fund + LCV Victory Fund](#), July 2024]

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

- When asked to choose the industries that are "most likely to be greedy and raise prices to make record profits," voters are far more likely to select oil and gas companies (70%) and pharmaceutical and health insurance companies (68%) than any other industry. [[Navigator](#), Apr. 2024]

- 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]

Most voters blame oil and gas companies for high gas prices and for climate change.

- When asked to rank the groups or events that are most responsible for high gas prices, voters are more likely to rank oil and gas companies (62%) among the two most responsible causes than any other option - such as conflicts abroad (52%), Biden and Democrats (45%), or environmental policies (27%). [[Navigator](#), Apr. 2024]
- Voters are twice as likely to agree (60%) than disagree (30%) with the following statement about oil and gas companies’ contributions to climate change: *“Oil and gas companies have known that fossil fuels contribute to climate change for nearly 70 years. However, instead of warning the public or changing their business practices, they led a campaign of disinformation to hide the scientific reality of climate change from consumers and policymakers. These actions are now resulting in dangerous extreme weather events and harmful pollution that impacts public health.”* [[Data for Progress](#), May 2024]

Policies & Voting

There is bipartisan support for policies to hold oil and gas companies more accountable - including “polluters pay” legislation, cracking down on price gouging, and taxing excess profits.

- Roughly two-thirds of voters (66%) support the Polluters Pay Climate Fund Act after reading a brief description of it, including 84% of Democrats, 62% of independents, and 50% of Republicans. [[Data for Progress](#), Sep. 2024]
- By a greater than two-to-one margin, voters are more likely to agree (62%) than disagree (28%) that oil and gas companies “should be held legally accountable for their contributions to climate change.” [[Data for Progress](#), May 2024]
- Overwhelming majorities of voters, including large majorities of Republicans, support each of the following proposals when they are presented as options to lower energy prices: [[Climate Power](#), May 2023]

- o Crack down on oil and gas companies that engage in price gouging - 89% support, including 82% of Republicans
- o Pass a tax on the excess profits made by oil and gas companies - 76% support, including 62% of Republicans
- o Ban oil and gas companies from exporting American oil and gas overseas - 70% support, including 69% of Republicans

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.

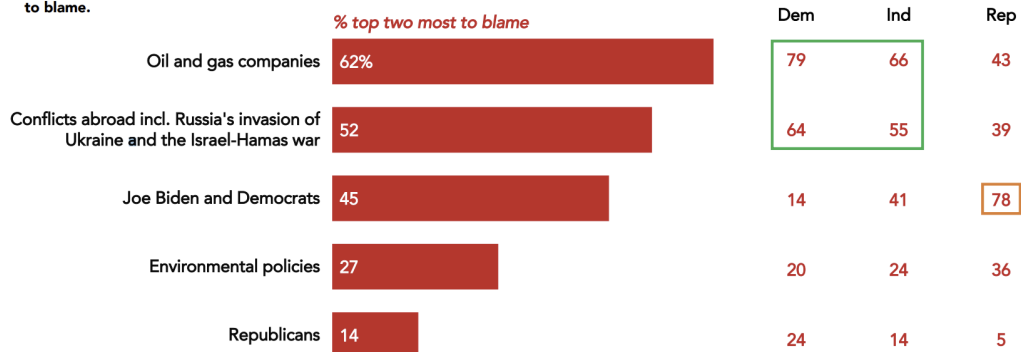
- By a 40-point margin, voters say that they prefer a candidate who “supports cracking down on price gouging and profiteering by the major oil companies” (63%) over a candidate who “supports giving tax cuts and incentives to oil and gas companies to increase the production of oil and gas” (23%). [[LCV 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

Oil and Gas Companies and Foreign Conflicts Most to Blame for Current Gas Prices

Few Americans blame environmental policies for current gas prices (just 27% say top two most to blame overall): Republicans drive the share who blame them (36%).

Please rank the following in terms of who or what you hold most responsible for current gas prices, 1 being the most to blame, and 5 being the least to blame.

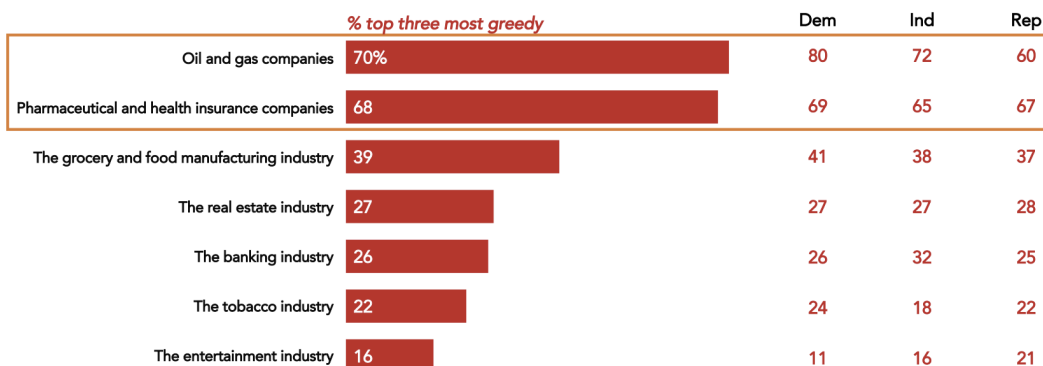


[Navigator](#), Apr. 2024

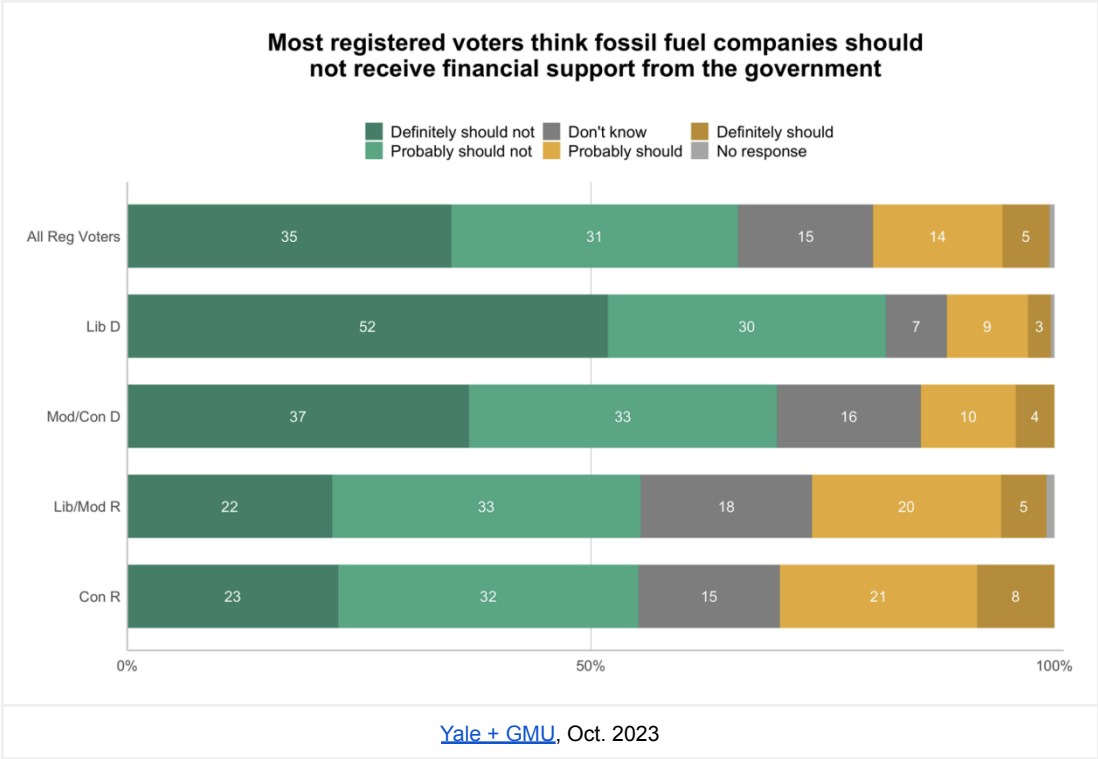
Oil & Gas, Pharmaceutical/Insurance Companies Seen As Most Likely to Be Greedy/Raise Prices to Make Record Profits

Americans across party lines say oil and gas companies and pharmaceutical/health insurance companies are most likely to be greedy.

Below is a list of some groups. Please indicate which three you think are most likely to be greedy and raise prices to make record profits.



[Navigator](#), Apr. 2024

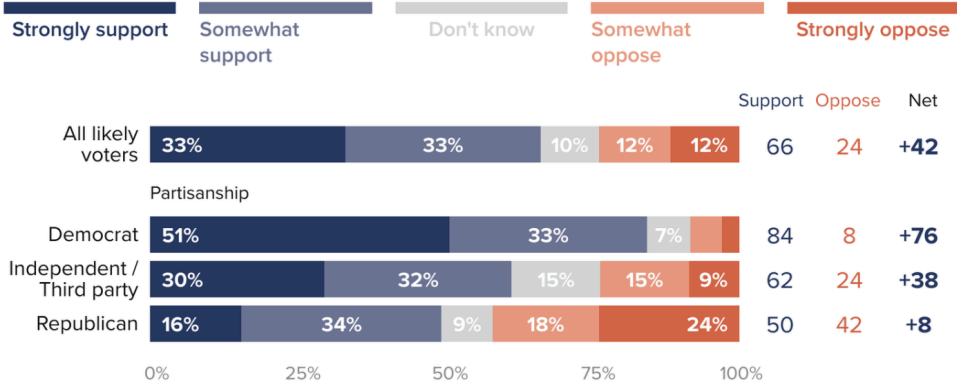


Voters Across Partisanship Support the Polluters Pay Climate Fund Act

Recently, lawmakers introduced the **Polluters Pay Climate Fund Act**, which would require the biggest polluters to begin paying their fair share to confront the climate crisis.

Under the bill, the largest U.S.-based fossil fuel extractors, oil refiners, and foreign-owned companies doing business in the U.S. would be required to pay into a \$1 trillion *Polluters Pay Climate Fund*, with their contributions based on a percentage of their global carbon emissions. The Fund would then be used to finance a wide range of efforts to tackle the impacts of climate change.

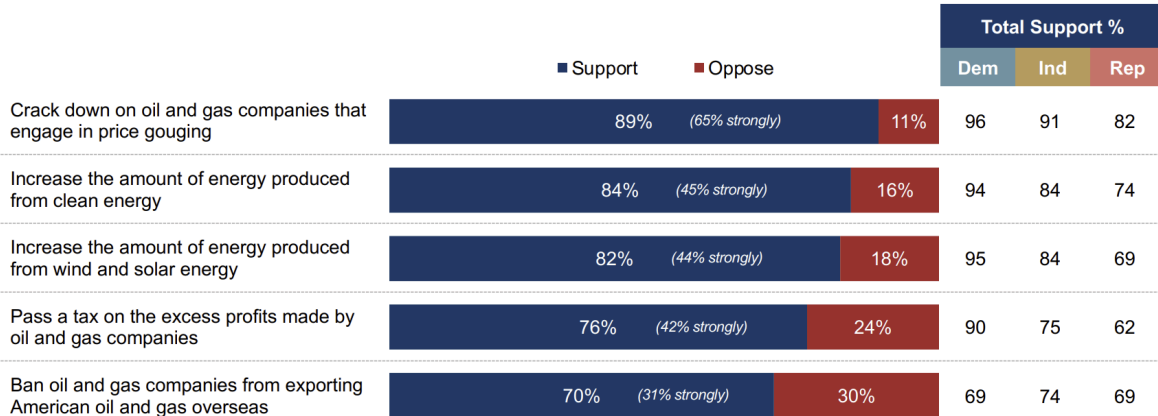
Do you support or oppose the **Polluters Pay Climate Fund Act**?



[Data for Progress](#), Sep. 2024

There is strong and bipartisan support for policies that hold oil and gas companies accountable and expand clean energy.

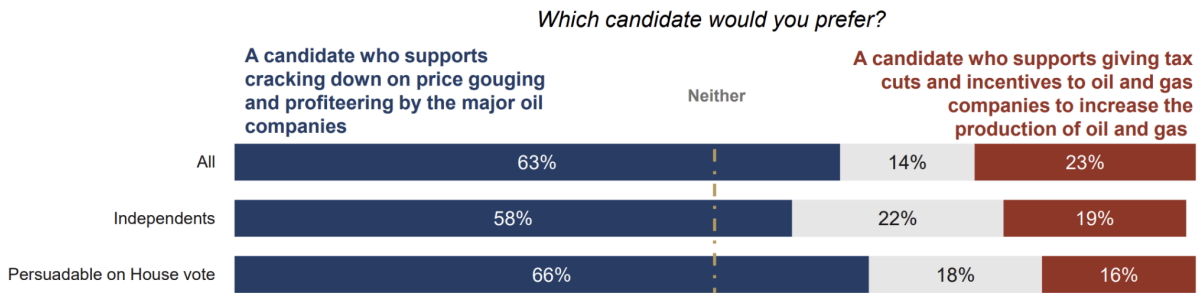
APRIL 2023*: Do you support or oppose this step leaders could take to lower energy prices?



[Climate Power](#), May 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 Strongly Support the Polluters Pay Climate Fund Act*](#)

Data for Progress, Sep. 2024

[*Public Opinion on Climate: The State of Play in 2024*](#)

Climate Power + EDF Action + NRDC Action Fund + LCV Victory Fund, July 2024

[*Prosecuting Climate Homicide: Voters Support Holding Fossil Fuel Giants Legally Accountable for Climate Change*](#)

Data for Progress, June 2024

[*Holding Big Oil Accountable for Higher Gas Prices*](#)

Climate Power, May 2024

[*MEMO: Trump's \\$1 Billion "Deal" with Big Oil and Gas is a Political Liability with Voters*](#)

Climate Power + Data for Progress, May 2024

[*Two in Three Blame Oil Companies for Rising Gas Prices*](#)

Navigator, May 2024

[*This Earth Month, Voters Want to Hold the Biggest Emitters Most Responsible for Climate Damages*](#)

Data for Progress, Apr. 2024

[*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 + GMU, 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