

# Polluter Accountability Findings

## Environmental Polling Consortium Q3 Briefing

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# DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

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Data for Progress is a progressive think tank and polling firm which arms movements with data-driven tools to fight for a more equitable future. DFP provides polling, data-based messaging, and policy generation for the progressive movement, and advises campaigns and candidates with the tools they need to win. DFP polling is regularly cited by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *MSNBC*, *CBS News*, and hundreds of other trusted news organizations.

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# What Data for Progress Does:



## Electoral Polling

Understanding the  
state of elections



## Issue Polling

Popularity and salience  
of key policy issues



## Message Testing

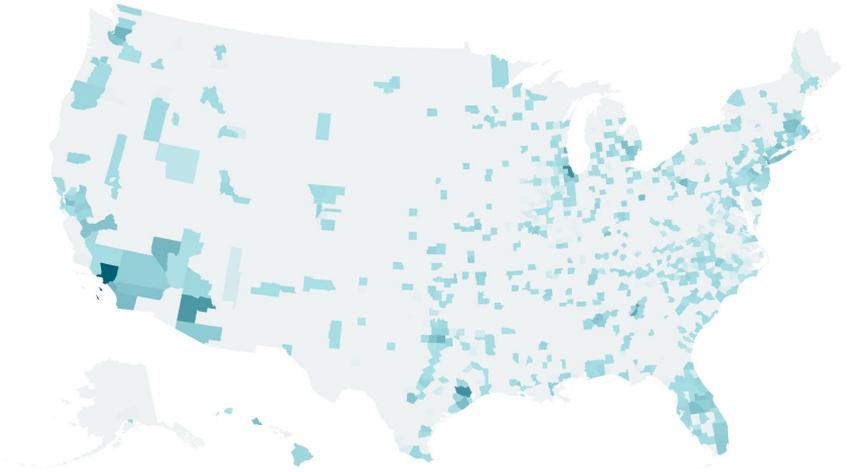
Assessing which  
messages are most  
persuasive

# Methodology

From August 15 to 20, 2025, Data for Progress conducted a survey of **2,372 U.S. likely voters** nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, urbanicity, and recalled presidential vote. This sample was also weighted to account for oversamples in **Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia** with unweighted Ns of 300 each, to ensure proportional representation of likely voters.

The survey was conducted in **English**. The margin of error associated with the sample size is **±2 percentage points**.

## Respondents by County



53% **Female** | 47% **Male**

71% **White** | 14% **Latino** | 11% **Black**

36% **College** | 64% **Non-college**

33% **Under 45** | 67% **Over 45**

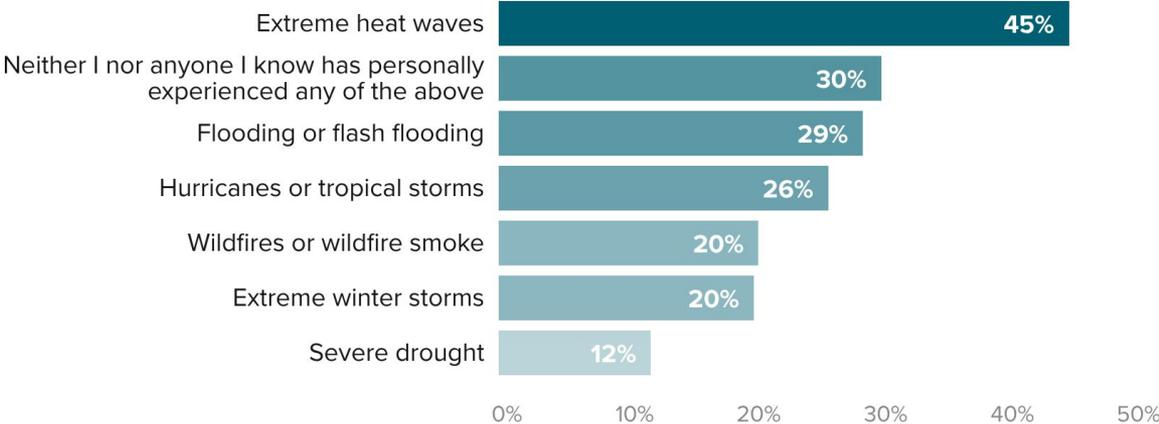
37% **Democrat** | 26% **Independent** | 36% **Republican**



# National Views on Polluter Accountability

# Nearly Half of Voters Report Personal or Indirect Experience With Extreme Heat Waves

Have you or someone you know personally experienced any of the following weather events in the last five years?



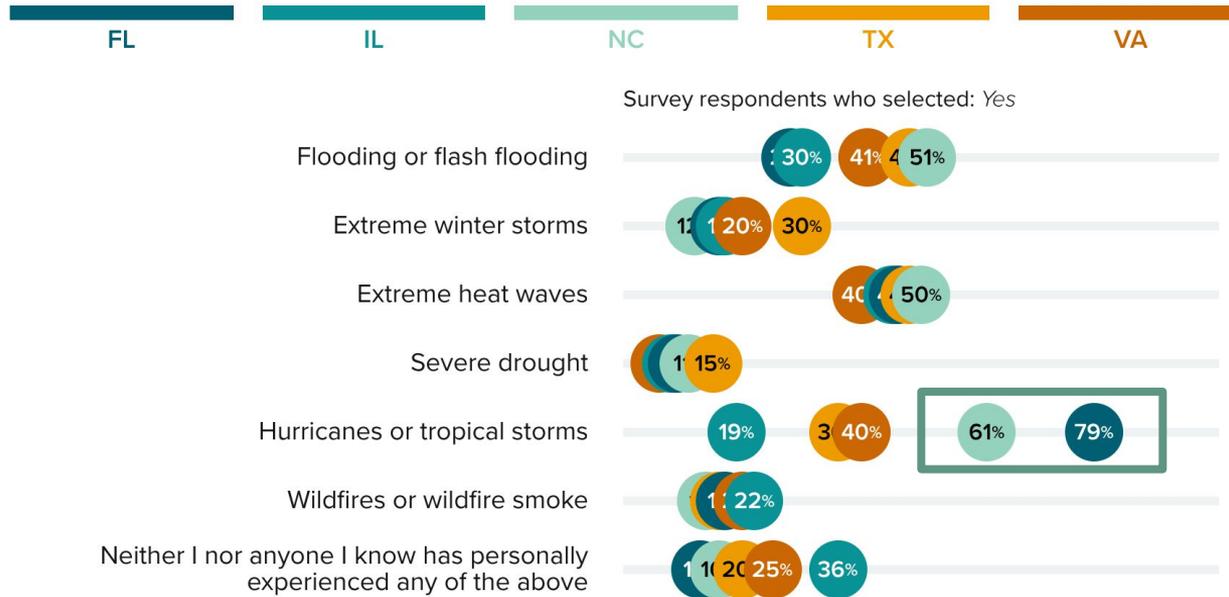
Nearly half of voters (45%) personally have experienced an **extreme heat wave** or know someone who has experienced an extreme heat wave in the last five years.

**Flooding** is the next most commonly reported extreme weather event (29%).

August 15–20, 2025 survey of 2,372 U.S. likely voters

# Voters in States Facing Recent Storms Report More Experience With Extreme Weather

Have you or someone you know personally experienced any of the following weather events in the last five years?



Extreme heat waves are the most widely reported form of extreme weather across all national voters.

Respondents in states like **Florida** and **North Carolina** that have faced recent extreme storms like Hurricane Helene report more experience with extreme weather events.

# Voters Believe Extreme Weather/Climate Change-Related Events Are on the Rise in Recent Years

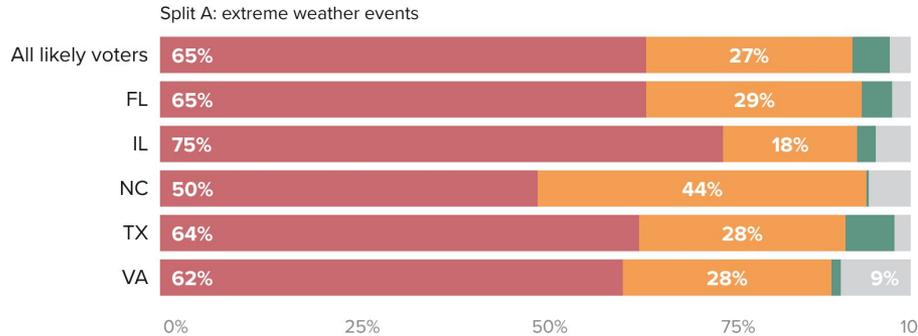
Would you say the number of [Split A: extreme weather events/Split B: climate change-related events] like hurricanes, flash floods, droughts, or heat waves, has increased, decreased, or stayed the same over the past five years?

**The number of [Split A: extreme weather events/Split B: climate change-related events] has increased**

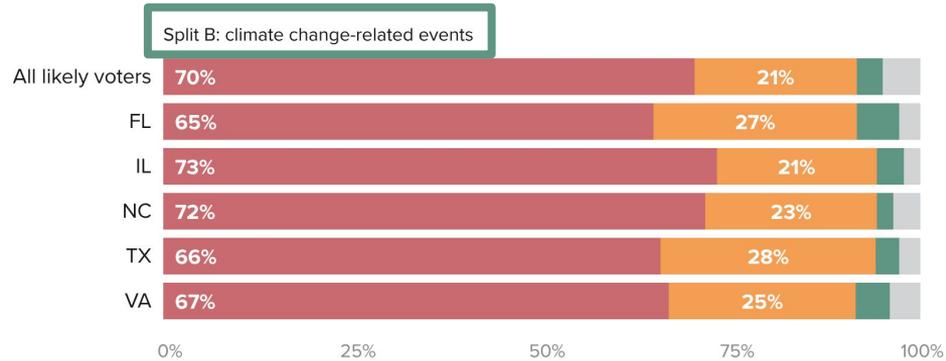
**The number of [Split A: extreme weather events/Split B: climate change-related events] has stayed the same**

**The number of [Split A: extreme weather events/Split B: climate change-related events] has decreased**

**Don't know**



A strong majority of voters nationally and in oversampled states think that disruptive climatic events are on the rise, whether described as **“extreme weather events”** (65%) or **“climate change-related events”** (70%).



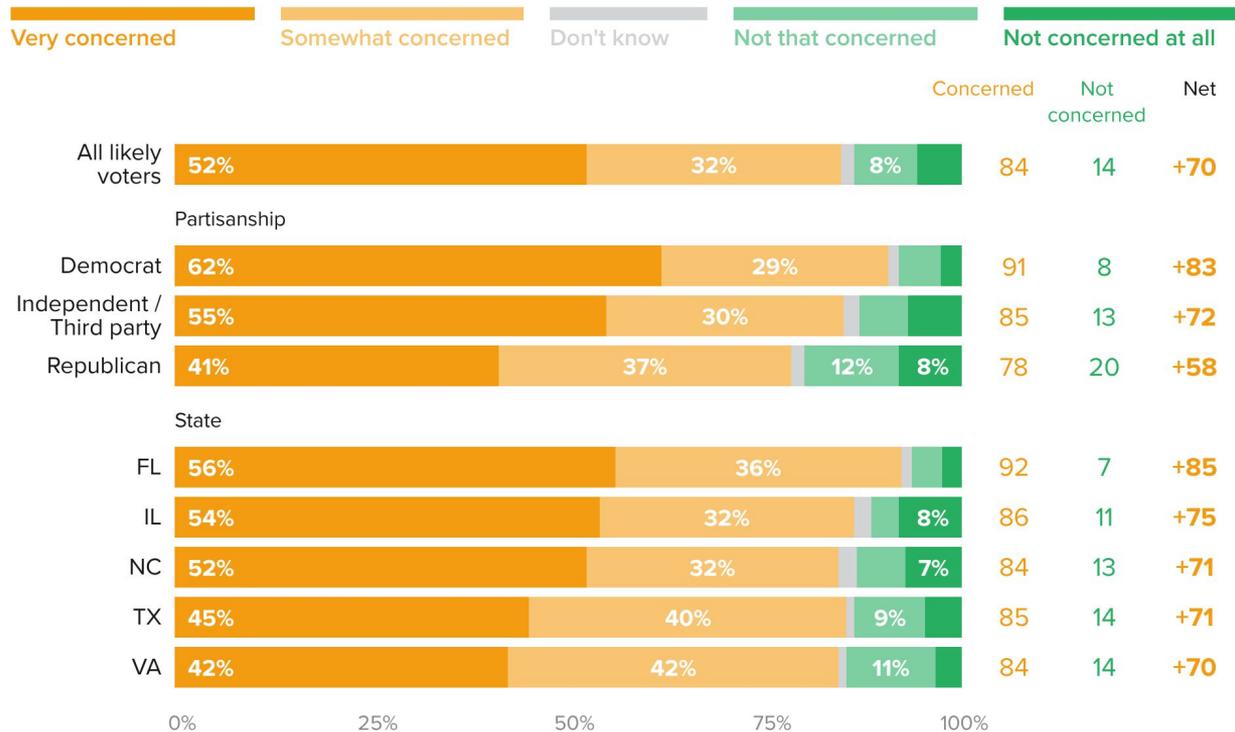
August 15–20, 2025 survey of 2,372 U.S. likely voters



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# Voters Are Overwhelmingly Concerned About Rising Insurance Costs

How concerned are you about rising home or property insurance rates in the coming years, if at all?

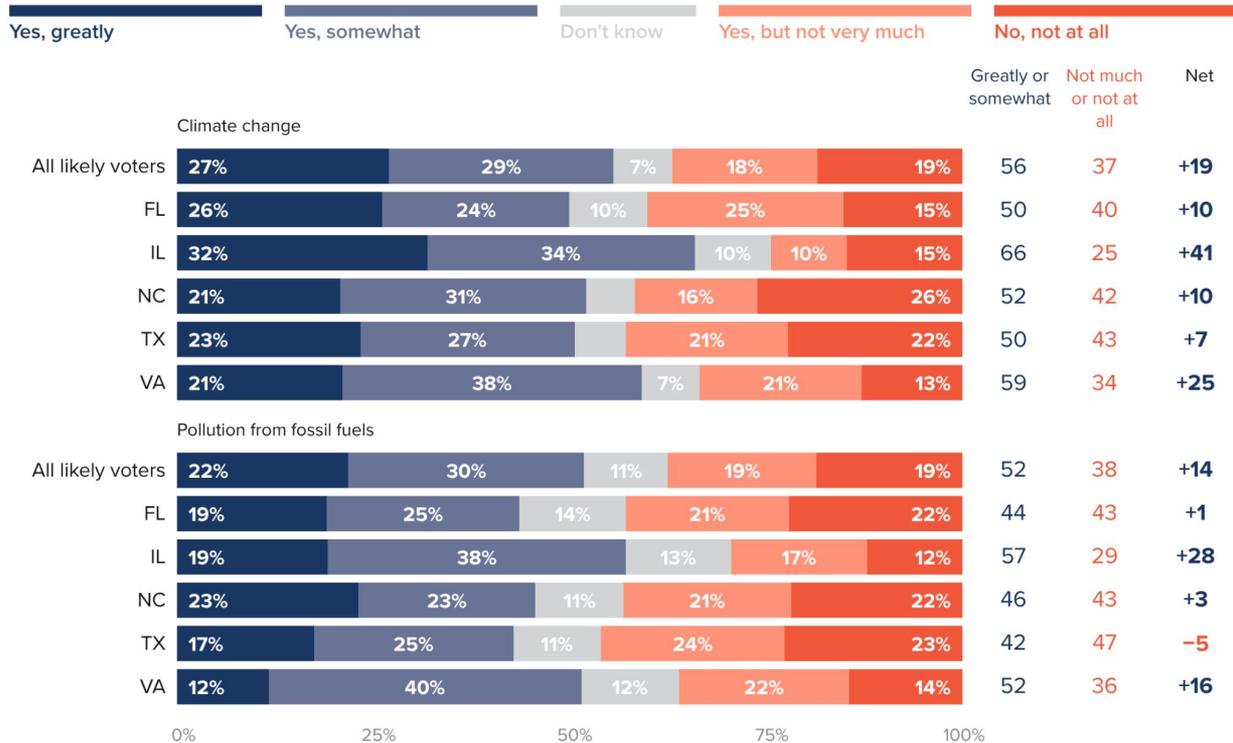


An overwhelming majority (84%) of national voters report concerns about **rising home insurance rates** in the coming years.

Concern is particularly acute for Florida voters, with 92% saying they are somewhat or very concerned.

# Voters Believe Climate Change and Pollution Will Have a Direct Financial Impact on Them

Do you believe the following will have a direct financial impact on you and your family?

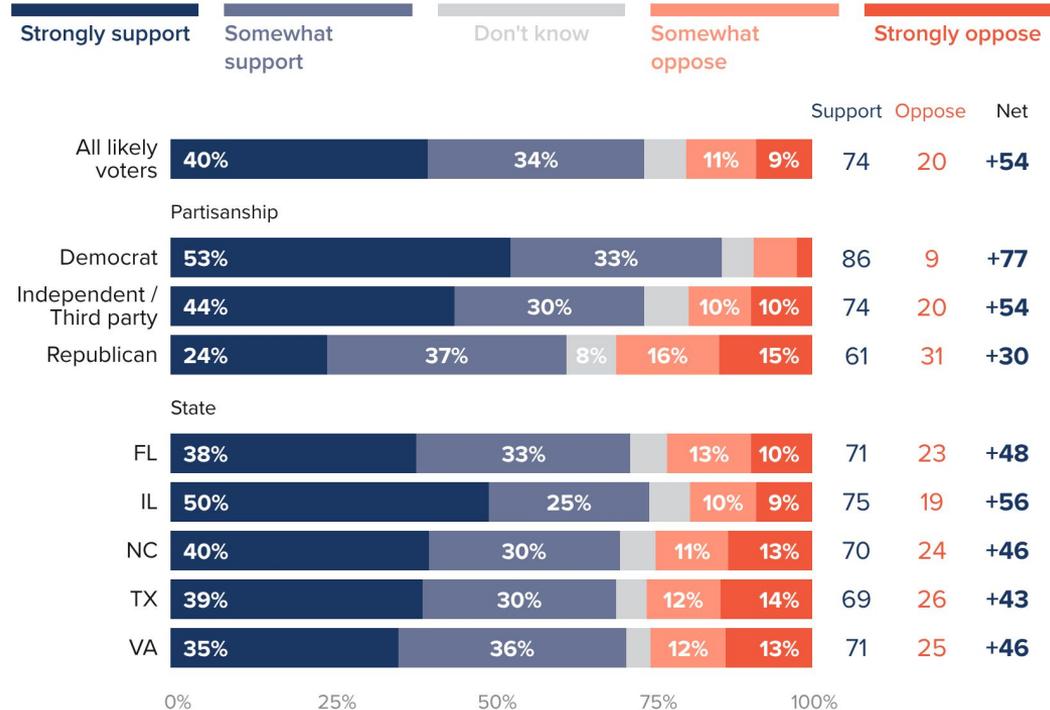


A majority of voters believe they will be **financially impacted** somewhat or greatly by **climate change** (56%) or and by **pollution from fossil fuels** (52%).

Potential financial impacts are **viewed differently across partisanship**, which also shapes how respondents in oversampled states view their financial risk from climate change and pollution.

# Voters Strongly Support Oil and Gas Companies Paying a Share of Climate Costs

Would you support or oppose requiring oil and gas companies to pay a share of costs for climate-related damages?



Around 3 in 4 voters (74%) support requiring oil and gas companies to **pay a share of climate-related damages**. This includes broad support across partisanship and other demographic groups, as well as from oversampled states.

Tracking data from DFP and FFM shows that **national support for polluter accountability has grown over time.**

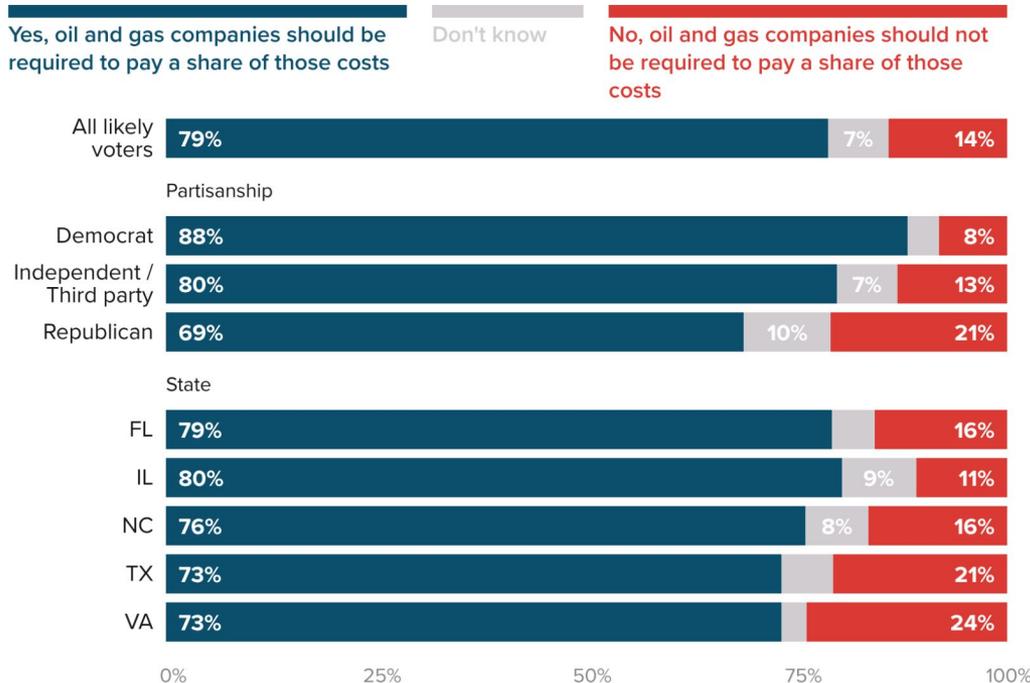
# Support for Polluter Accountability Rises Once Voters Learn About the Scale of Climate Costs

A recent report by Bloomberg News estimated that climate-related extreme weather events cost the U.S. economy \$1 trillion last year.

Right now, much of that cost is paid for with taxpayer dollars.

Some experts say oil and gas companies are among the largest sources of climate pollution.

Do you think oil and gas companies should be required to pay a share of the costs for climate-related damages?



While support for polluter accountability is already strong, **mentioning the costs of climate-related extreme weather events and acknowledging these costs are paid primarily with taxpayer dollars increases support for accountability to 79%.**

Support increases across partisanship and across all oversampled states.

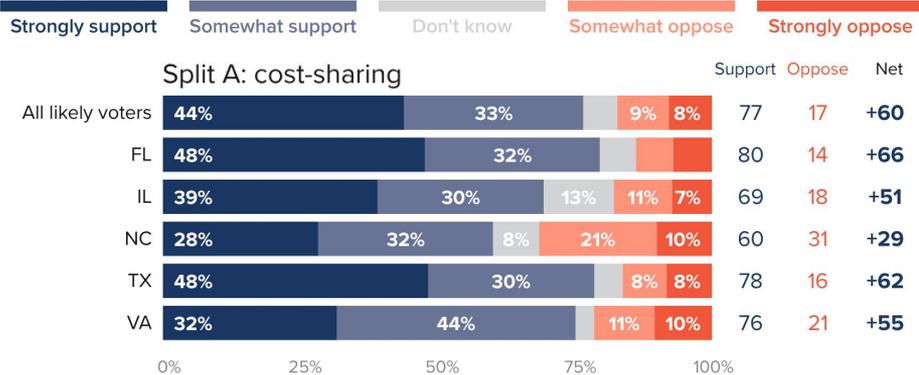
# Most Voters Support a “Climate Superfund” Bill

Some lawmakers are considering a "climate superfund" bill that would require oil and gas companies to...

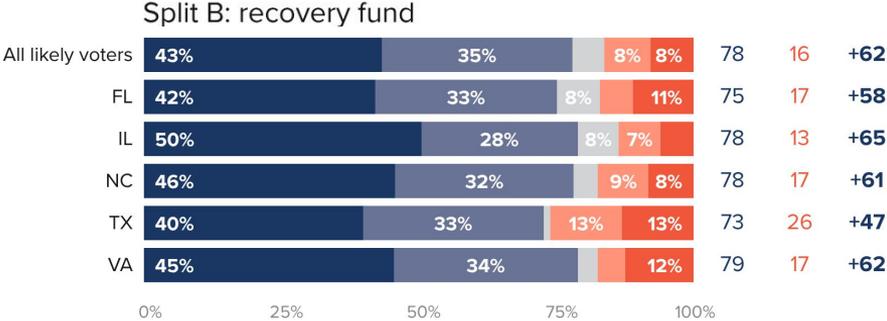
Split A: *pay a share of the cost of climate damages caused by their pollution.*

Split B: *into a fund that would be used to help communities recover from climate disasters.*

Would you support or oppose a "climate superfund" bill?



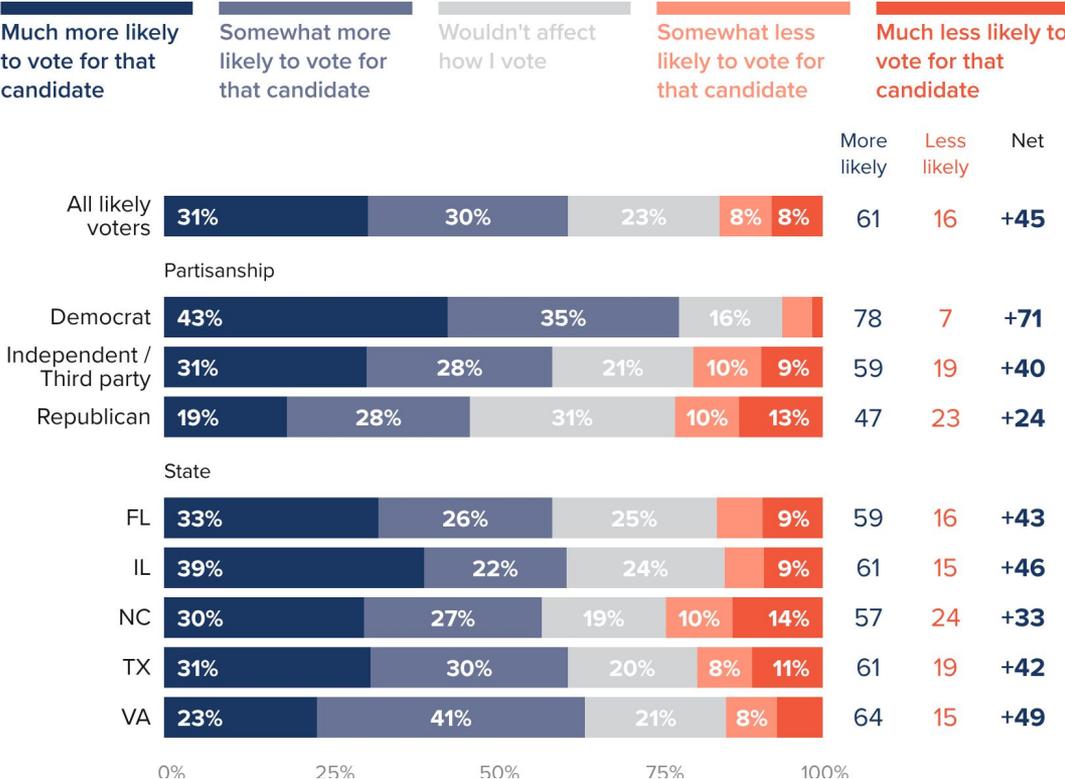
Whether framed as oil and gas companies paying a **share of climate damage costs** (77%) or as paying into a **climate disaster recovery fund** (78%), voters strongly support a “climate superfund” bill.



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# Most Voters Would Be More Likely to Vote for Candidates Who Support “Climate Superfund” Bills

Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who supports a "climate superfund" bill that would require oil and gas companies to pay a share of the cost of climate damages caused by their pollution, or would it not affect how you vote?



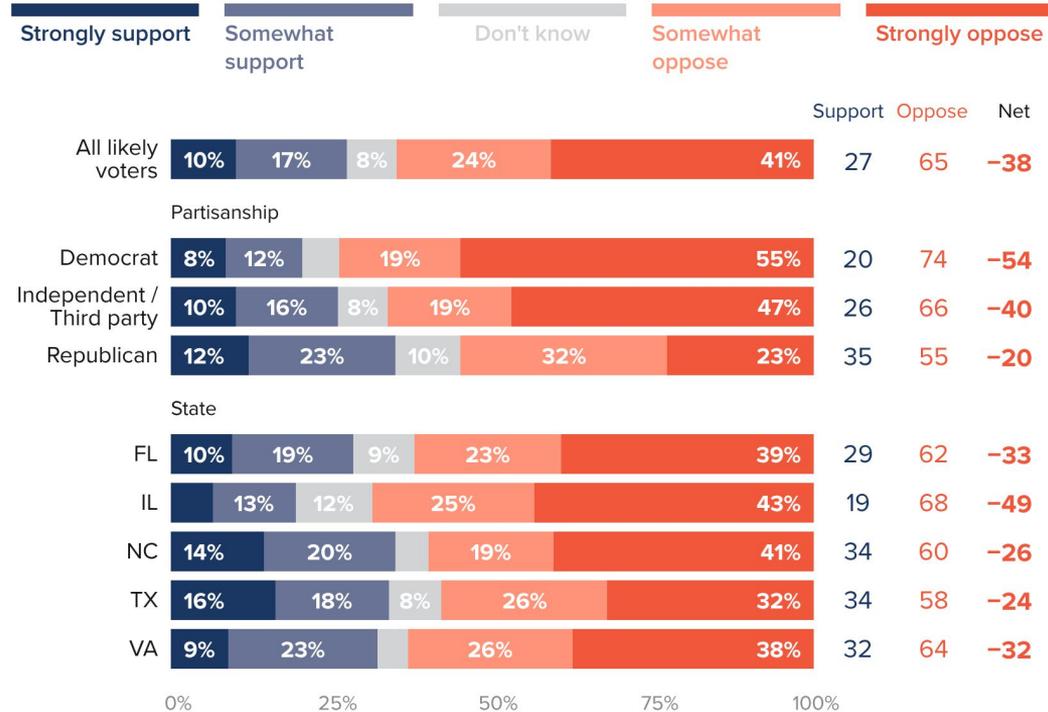
Three in five voters (61%) say they would be more likely to **vote for a candidate who supports a climate superfund bill.**

This includes majorities across all states oversampled and among Democrats and Independents, as well as a plurality of Republicans (47%).

# Voters Reject Shielding Fossil Fuel Companies From Being Sued for Climate Disaster Damages

Recently, some oil and gas companies have pushed for legislation that would provide them with legal immunity from lawsuits for damages caused by climate change.

Do you support or oppose legal immunity for oil and gas companies, shielding them from being sued for climate disaster damages?



Voters widely **oppose** giving legal immunity to oil and gas companies that would shield them from being sued for climate disaster damages.

Majorities of voters **across partisanship, including Republicans (55%),** oppose legal immunity for oil and gas companies.

# Key Takeaways

- Voters increasingly recognize the consequences of extreme weather are exacerbated by oil and gas pollution, and report recent experiences with “**extreme weather**” and “**climate change-related events**,” as well as concerns about **rising home insurance costs**.
- A majority of voters believe they will be **financially impacted** either somewhat or greatly by climate change (56%) or and by pollution from fossil fuels (52%).
- **Polluter accountability continues to be a high priority** for voters, and one that is viewed favorably across demographic groups:
  - ◆ Nearly three-quarters of voters support making oil and gas companies **pay a share of the costs of climate damages**.
  - ◆ Mentioning the around ~\$1 trillion in climate damage costs borne primarily by taxpayers **raises support** for polluter accountability.
- Voters are **supportive of climate superfund laws** and **more likely to support candidates** who champion such legislation. They also widely reject legal immunity for oil and gas companies.

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