Poll Findings About The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) / Federal Clean Energy Plan

Attitudes

Voters overwhelmingly support the IRA when they learn about it, but most aren't hearing about it.

- Roughly two-thirds of voters support the Inflation Reduction Act (68% support / 24% oppose) after reading the following description of it: *"As you may know, Biden and Democrats' legislation that was passed by Congress is called the Inflation Reduction Act, which will give Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices, bring down health insurance premiums, and invest in clean energy like wind and solar power."* [Navigator, Feb. 2024]

- In July 2023, seven in ten Americans (71%) said that they had heard "little" or "nothing at all" about the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act that was passed by Congress and signed into law by Biden. [Washington Post + UMD, July 2023]

- Americans also lean toward supporting the IRA when they're provided with less of an explanation, but support tends to be lower the less they hear about it:

- o Half of voters (50%) say that they approve of the "new clean energy plan" that was passed by President BIden and Congress, while 32% disapprove and 19% are unsure. [LCV + Climate Power, Jan. 2023]
- o Roughly two in five Americans (39%) say that they support "the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act passed by Congress and signed into law by Biden," with 20% opposed and 39% unsure. [Washington Post + UMD, July 2023]

Support for the IRA has been very consistent over time.

- ● Tracking polling by Navigator found an identical margin of support for the Inflation Reduction Act in August 2023 (+43, 65% support / 22% oppose), one year after its passage, as they did when it passed in August 2022 (also +43). [Navigator, Aug. 2023]

Many of the audiences that are most inclined to support the IRA are hearing the least about it.

- ● Yale and George Mason found that Black Americans, Gen Z/Millennial Americans, women, and Americans with household incomes under $50,000 ranked among the groups both *most likely* to support the IRA after learning about it and *least likely* to have heard about it. [Yale + GMU, Dec. 2022]

Majorities of Americans support clean energy incentives in the IRA, but awareness of them is low.

- ● Half of Americans or more support key clean energy incentives in the IRA, including: [Washington Post + UMD, July 2023]
  - o Expanded tax credits to install solar panels at homes and businesses (65% support / 15% oppose)
  - o New tax credits for homeowners buying a heat pump system for heating and AC (54% support / 15% oppose)
  - o Expanded tax credits for companies manufacturing solar panels and wind turbines in the United States (54% support / 19% oppose)
  - o Expanded tax credits for buyers of electric vehicles (50% support / 22% oppose)
- ● At the same time, most Americans say that they have heard only "a little" or "nothing at all" about these clean energy incentives in the IRA: [Washington Post + UMD, July 2023]
  - o New tax credits for homeowners buying a heat pump system for heating and AC (77% heard little or nothing)
  - o Expanded tax credits for companies manufacturing solar panels and wind turbines in the United States (75% heard little or nothing)

o   Expanded tax credits for buyers of electric vehicles (67% heard little or nothing)

o   Expanded tax credits to install solar panels at homes and businesses (66% heard little or nothing)

Climate-related provisions of the IRA have remained popular over time.

● Tracking polling by Data for Progress found that voter support for each of the following climate-related policies held steady or increased in the year after the IRA's passage: [Data for Progress, July 2023]

o   Standards to ensure that businesses receiving government clean energy tax credits pay their workers a fair wage and make their goods in America (76% in Nov. 2022 -> 80% in July 2023)

o   Ramping up production of American-made clean energy technologies to strengthen our energy supply chains and manufacturing industries (73% -> 73%)

o   Penalties for oil and gas companies that are found to have pumped out excess methane pollution into the air (69% -> 73%)

o   Providing up to $14,000 in rebates on home energy efficiency investments per household that save families money and help reduce reliance on fossil fuels (70% -> 71%)

o   Investments to reduce pollution and improve public health in disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change (67% -> 71%)

o   Tax credits for businesses that produce clean electricity such as solar and wind power, electric vehicles, and other new clean energy technologies (65% -> 69%)

Messaging

Energy independence and health stand out as particularly compelling benefits of the federal clean energy plan.

- In a test of seven positive messages about the federal clean energy plan, voters were most likely to select the messages below about energy independence and health as the "most important" benefits of the plan. [LCV + Climate Power, Jan. 2023]

    o [Energy Independence] "*Energy from wind, the sun, and other clean sources is available here at home and it won't run out. The more we use American-made clean energy, the less we have to rely on imported oil from other countries, and the more we can protect ourselves from future price hikes and the unpredictable global market.*"

    o [Health Benefits] "*Using more clean sources to produce energy means using less dirty energy sources that give off pollution in the air and water, which in turn means fewer health problems like asthma and heart disease that come from toxic pollution.*"

- While most audiences chose the energy independence and/or health messages as the "most important" benefits of the plan, Democrats rated the message below about the plan's climate benefits as most important: [LCV + Climate Power, Jan. 2023]

    o [Climate Benefits] "*Using more clean energy will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and protect us from climate change. Otherwise, the irreversible negative effects of climate change, like sea levels rising and extreme weather (like hurricanes, floods, and wildfires), will continue to get worse.*"

- The same research by LCV and Climate Power identified four "basic communications imperatives" for advocates of the federal clean energy plan [LCV + Climate Power, Jan. 2023]

    o "*1.) Illustrate progress being made right now: Job creation and development of new projects is the currently easiest way to do this.*

    o *2.) Show people the outcomes of the plan all around them, on an ongoing basis: Personal testimonies and a steady drumbeat of actions show the benefits of clean energy in the real world.*

    o *3.) Take advantage of the benefits of clean energy that people already believe in, especially lower pollution/better health and energy independence: These are top-of-mind, intuitive, and aspirational for what the transition to clean energy can achieve.*

    o *4.) Say and show how the plan makes transitioning to clean energy affordable for everyday consumers, not just the wealthy.*"

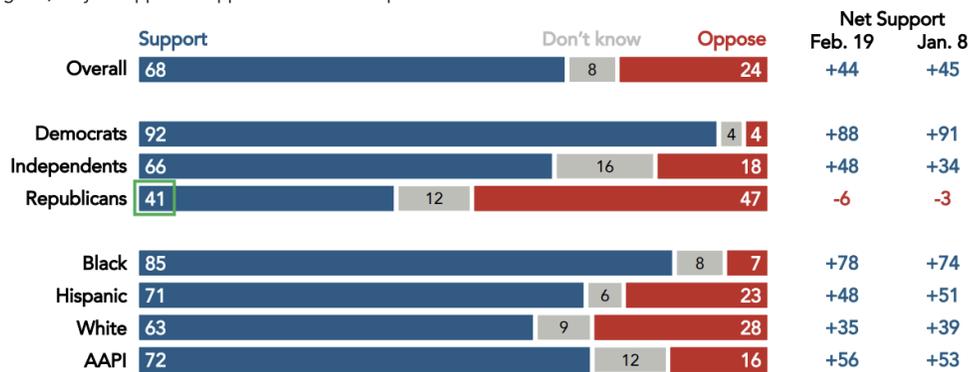**Lower energy costs are the most important outcome that voters want to see.**

- Four in ten voters (80%) say that lower energy costs in their state because of improved energy efficiency and increased use of clean energy will make them feel more positively about the federal clean energy plan, more than any other potential outcome. Further, nearly half (49%) say that lower energy costs will make them feel "much more" positive about the plan. [LCV + Climate Power, Jan. 2023]

Charts

Two in Three Remain Supportive of the Inflation Reduction Act

Large majorities of Democrats (net +88 support) and independents (net +48) continue to support the legislation, along with majorities across racial lines and two in five Republicans (net -6).

As you may know, Biden and Democrats' legislation that was passed by Congress is called the Inflation Reduction Act, which will give Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices, bring down health insurance premiums, and invest in clean energy like wind and solar power. Knowing this, do you support or oppose this economic plan?

	Support	Don't know	Oppose	Net Support Feb. 19	Net Support Jan. 8
Overall	68	8	24	+44	+45
Democrats	92	4	4	+88	+91
Independents	66	16	18	+48	+34
Republicans	41	12	47	-6	-3
Black	85	8	7	+78	+74
Hispanic	71	6	23	+48	+51
White	63	9	28	+35	+39
AAPI	72	12	16	+56	+53

Navigator, Feb. 2024

Prepared by the Environmental Polling Consortium, Mar. 2024
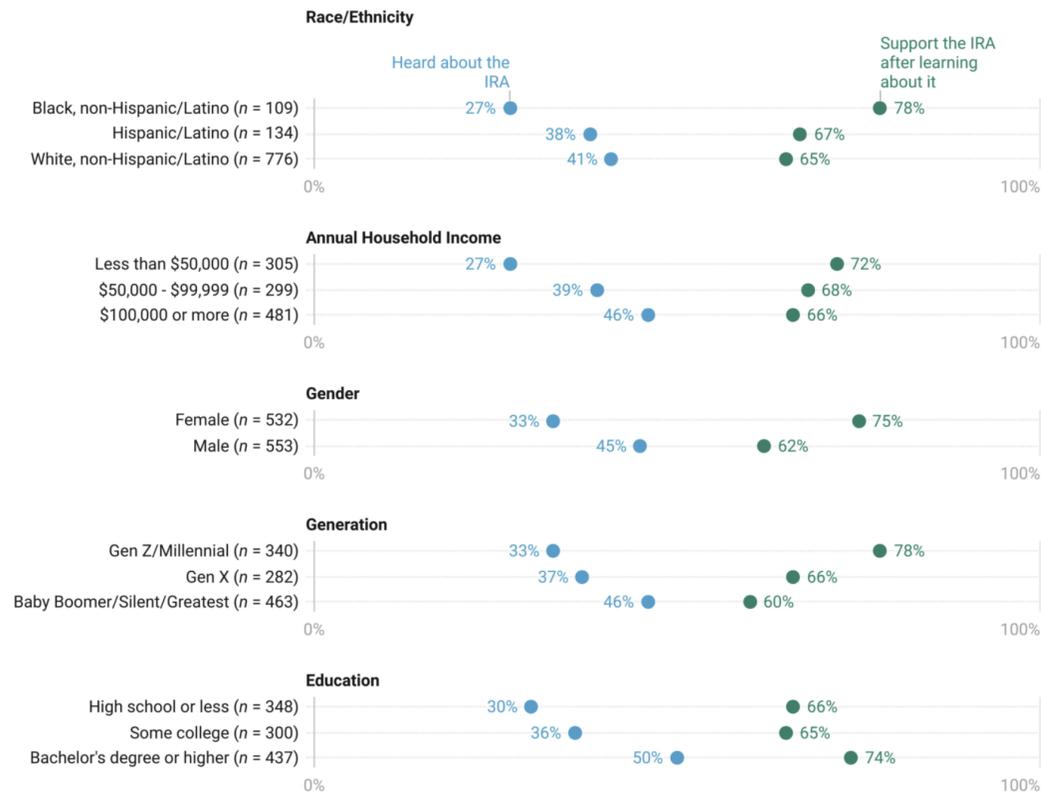*environmentalpollingconsortium.org*

Climate Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act Continue to Receive High Support a Year After the Law's Passage

The Inflation Reduction Act includes each of the following components. Please indicate whether you support or oppose each component of the bill below:

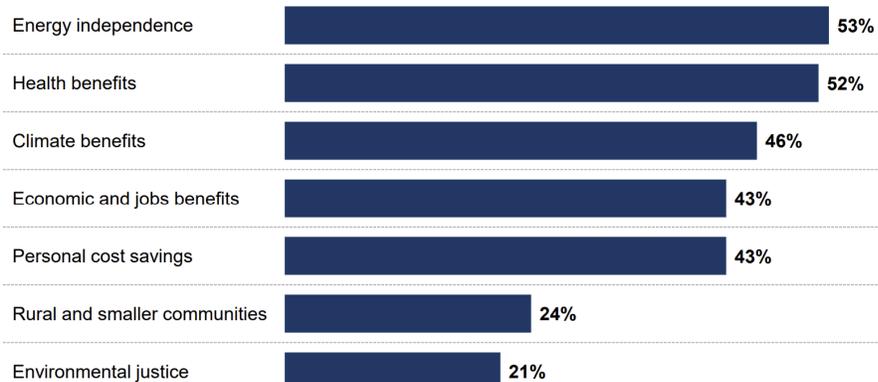| IRA Climate Provisions	Percentage of respondents who indicated they "Strongly support" or "Somewhat support"	
	Nov. 2022 Toplines	July 2023 Toplines
Tax credits for businesses that produce clean electricity such as solar and wind power, electric vehicles, and other new clean energy technologies	65%	69%
Standards to ensure that businesses receiving government clean energy tax credits pay their workers a fair wage and make their goods in America	76%	80%
Ramping up production of American-made clean energy technologies to strengthen our energy supply chains and manufacturing industries	73%	73%
Investments to reduce pollution and improve public health in disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change	67%	71%
Penalties for oil and gas companies that are found to have pumped out excess methane gas pollution into the air	69%	73%
Providing up to $14,000 in rebates on home energy efficiency investments per household that save families money and help reduce reliance on fossil fuels	70%	71%

Data for Progress, July 2023

Many demographic groups that have heard the least about the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) are among the most supportive after learning about it

Race/Ethnicity

Heard about the IRA · Support the IRA after learning about it

- Black, non-Hispanic/Latino (*n* = 109): 27% · 78%
- Hispanic/Latino (*n* = 134): 38% · 67%
- White, non-Hispanic/Latino (*n* = 776): 41% · 65%

(scale 0% to 100%)

Annual Household Income

- Less than $50,000 (*n* = 305): 27% · 72%
- $50,000 - $99,999 (*n* = 299): 39% · 68%
- $100,000 or more (*n* = 481): 46% · 66%

(scale 0% to 100%)

Gender

- Female (*n* = 532): 33% · 75%
- Male (*n* = 553): 45% · 62%

(scale 0% to 100%)

Generation

- Gen Z/Millennial (*n* = 340): 33% · 78%
- Gen X (*n* = 282): 37% · 66%
- Baby Boomer/Silent/Greatest (*n* = 463): 46% · 60%

(scale 0% to 100%)

Education

- High school or less (*n* = 348): 30% · 66%
- Some college (*n* = 300): 36% · 65%
- Bachelor's degree or higher (*n* = 437): 50% · 74%

(scale 0% to 100%)

Yale + GMU, Dec. 2022

Health and energy independence rise above other themes as being the *most* compelling.

% saying <u>most</u> important benefits of clean energy plan (three chosen)

- Energy independence: 53%
- Health benefits: 52%
- Climate benefits: 46%
- Economic and jobs benefits: 43%
- Personal cost savings: 43%
- Rural and smaller communities: 24%
- Environmental justice: 21%

LCV + Climate Power, Jan. 2023

Prepared by the Environmental Polling Consortium, Mar. 2024
environmentalpollingconsortium.org

The leading message can be tailored to the audience, but health and energy independence are consistently popular.

% saying most important benefits of clean energy plan (three chosen)

Democrats		Independents		Republicans	
Climate benefits	65%	Health benefits	50%	Energy independence	54%
Health benefits	57%	Energy independence	49%	Personal cost savings	49%
Energy independence	53%	Personal cost savings	45%	Health benefits	47%
Biden defectors *		**Black voters**		**Hispanic voters**	
Health benefits	61%	Health benefits	57%	Health benefits	54%
Climate benefits	57%	Climate benefits	51%	Climate benefits	51%
Energy independence	50%	Economic/jobs	47%	Economic/jobs	46%
Non-college white voters		**College+ white voters**		**Suburban voters**	
Energy independence	53%	Energy independence	60%	Energy independence	57%
Health benefits	48%	Health benefits	52%	Health benefits	51%
Personal cost savings	48%	Climate benefits	48%	Climate benefits	47%
Rural voters		**Age 18-34**		**Age 65+**	
Energy independence	49%	Health benefits	51%	Energy independence	61%
Health benefits	48%	Economic/jobs	49%	Health benefits	54%
Personal cost savings	45%	Climate benefits	46%	Climate benefits	48%

LCV + Climate Power, Jan. 2023

Lower costs, fixing the grid, and worker training are among the "action items" voters want to see.

In the next two years, states and the Biden administration will be implementing the policies that we've been discussing. Some things that you could see happen in RESPONDENT'S STATE as part of this are listed below. How would this affect your thinking about expanded use of clean energy?

% saying this makes them feel more positive

	Much more positive	Somewhat more positive	
Lower energy costs projects in STATE because of improved energy efficiency and increased use of clean energy	49%	31%	**80%**
New jobs in clean energy industries in STATE for everyone from engineers and scientists to construction workers and electricians	38%	36%	**74%**
Major commitments to **expand the electricity grid** in STATE	41%	31%	**72%**
Cities and towns will **retrofit thousands of low-income homes** in STATE to lower their energy costs and make them more comfortable	40%	32%	**72%**
Major **worker retraining programs** in STATE, including for people who had worked in the fossil fuel industry or whose jobs have been outsourced in recent years	36%	34%	**70%**
Cities, towns, schools, and churches in STATE for the first time can get a 30% **rebate for installing renewable energy systems** like solar panels	39%	31%	**69%**
Large investments in solar energy, manufacturing plants, and other clean energy projects in STATE	35%	33%	**67%**

LCV + Climate Power, Jan. 2023

Prepared by the Environmental Polling Consortium, Mar. 2024
environmentalpollingconsortium.org

Additional Resources

The Economy: A Guide for Advocates
Navigator, Mar. 2024

A Year After the Passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, Key Climate Provisions of the Law Enjoy Strong Support Across the Electorate
Data for Progress, Aug. 2023

Government Shutdown and the Economy: A Guide for Advocates
Navigator, Aug. 2023

July 13-23, 2023, Washington Post-University of Maryland Climate Poll
Washington Post + UMD, July 2023

Messaging the Clean Energy Plan in Key States
Climate Power, May 2023

Who is Most Supportive of the Inflation Reduction Act?
Yale + GMU, Mar. 2023

Voters' Attitudes about Clean Energy Policy, Development, and Expansion
LCV + Climate Power, Feb. 2023