



**To:** Interested Parties  
**From:** Climate Power and Data for Progress  
**Date:** August 5, 2024  
**Re:** MEMO: New Polling Shows Harris With Significant Edge Over Trump on Climate and Energy Issues

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## Summary

With Vice President Kamala Harris now the presumptive Democratic nominee for president, and fewer than 100 days until the election, this moment offers a unique opportunity to remind voters of the sharp contrast on climate and clean energy between Harris and former President Donald Trump. Previous Climate Power and Data for Progress polling has [found](#) that climate issues are particularly salient with young voters, who could prove determinative this November.

To determine voters' views as they relate to Harris' approach to climate and energy issues, Climate Power and Data for Progress conducted two surveys of national likely voters, fielded [July 24-26](#) and [July 26-30](#). Notably, a strong majority of voters prefer Harris' approach to climate policy overall, want to hold oil and gas companies accountable, and see a strong mandate for Harris to continue building on the progress the Biden-Harris administration has made on clean energy and climate action.

## Voters Want a President Who Champions Clean Energy Manufacturing and Climate Action

Nearly 7 of 10 voters say the next president of the United States should **continue investing in clean energy manufacturing** (68%), including *half of Republicans*, two-thirds of Independents, and 71% of young voters between 18 and 34.

In a question asked on the subsequent survey, which explicitly names Harris as the presumptive Democratic nominee, 62% of voters say that she should continue investing in clean energy manufacturing to **deliver cleaner, cheaper energy options** and **strengthen the climate actions** taken under the Biden-Harris administration, while only 25% disagree – a +37-point margin.



## Voters Support Harris Continuing to Invest in Clean Energy Manufacturing and Strengthen Climate Actions if Elected

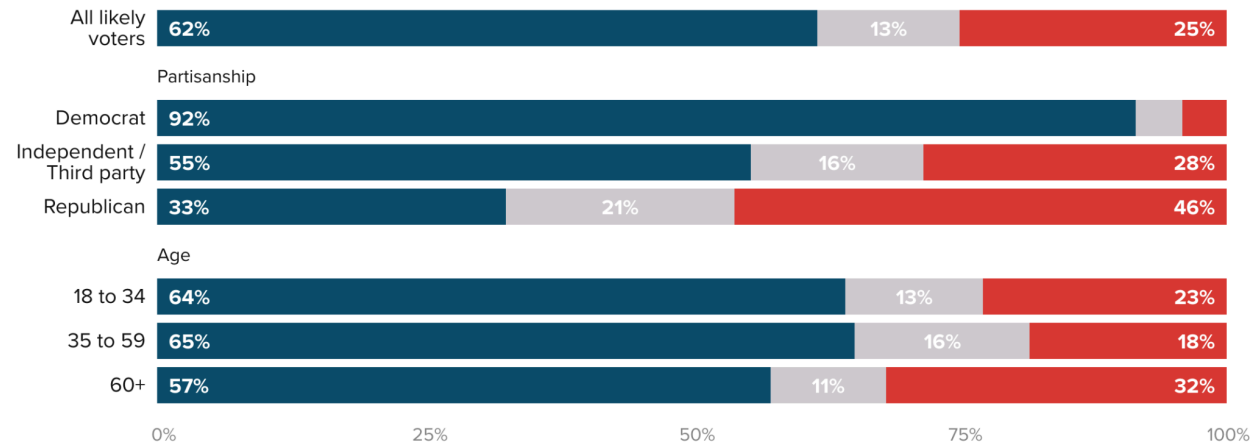
As you may now know, Vice President Kamala Harris is the presumptive presidential nominee of the Democratic Party for the 2024 election.

If Kamala Harris is elected to be the next president, which of these statements best matches your view?

**Kamala Harris should continue investing in clean energy manufacturing to deliver cleaner, cheaper energy options and strengthen the climate actions taken under the Biden-Harris administration.**

**Don't know**

**Kamala Harris should not continue investing in clean energy manufacturing to deliver cleaner, cheaper energy options nor strengthen the climate actions taken under the Biden-Harris administration.**



July 26–30, 2024 survey of 1,226 likely voters

### Voters Strongly Support Harris' Record and Actions on Climate

Voters express strong support for key climate actions taken by Harris throughout her career as a prosecutor, district attorney, attorney general, U.S. senator, and finally as the vice president.



## A Majority of Voters Support Harris' Record and Actions on Climate, Including Significant Support for Pollution Reduction

Below is a list of actions Vice President Kamala Harris has taken. For each, please say whether you support or oppose that action:

All likely voters

	All likely voters	Democrat	Independent / Third party	Republican
Supported strengthening the Clean Air and Water Acts, passed a law to replace 100% of lead pipes, and announced the first-ever limits on cancer-causing "forever chemicals" to protect drinking water	72%	91%	71%	54%
Took an oil company to court for potential criminal violations after an oil pipeline spill poisoned coastal waters	69%	90%	67%	47%
Passed a clean energy plan that has created over 300,000 new good-paying jobs across the U.S., the majority of which don't require a college degree	68%	90%	66%	44%
Supported legislation that would limit air pollution from vehicles and power plants and ensure communities have clean air to breathe	66%	89%	63%	42%
Implemented a national plan to support marginalized communities that have been polluted by the oil and gas industry, including a \$600 million grant to fund environmental justice projects across the country	65%	87%	59%	42%
Passed the most ambitious climate and clean energy plan in U.S. history to triple the production of clean energy, cut carbon pollution by up to 41% by 2030, and save Americans up to \$38 billion in electricity costs	64%	91%	62%	37%
Led an investigation into Exxon for its actions to mislead the American public about its awareness of and role in worsening climate change	61%	84%	57%	37%
Opposed plans by MAGA Republicans to gut protections for clean air and water and repeal clean energy investments	58%	83%	57%	29%

July 26–30, 2024 survey of 1,226 U.S. likely voters



A majority of likely voters support each of the eight Harris actions tested, with strong majorities favoring the following actions:

- **Strengthening the Clean Air and Water Acts**, legislating to **replace 100% of lead pipes**, and announcing the first-ever **limits on cancer-causing “forever chemicals”** in drinking water (72% support overall)
- **Taking an oil company to court** for potential criminal violations after an oil pipeline spill poisoned coastal waters (69% support overall)
- Passing a clean energy plan that has **created over 300,000 new, good-paying jobs** across the U.S. (68% support overall)
- Supporting legislation that would **limit air pollution from vehicles and power plants** (66% support overall)
- Implementing a national plan to **support marginalized communities that have been polluted by the oil and gas industry** (65% support overall)
- Passing the most ambitious climate and clean energy plan to **triple the production of clean energy**, reduce carbon pollution, and save Americans on electricity costs (64% support)

### **Harris Holds a Significant Edge Over Trump on Her Approach to Climate, Energy, and Protecting Clean Air and Water**

When asked to compare Harris’ and Trump’s energy and climate policies, voters say they prefer Harris’ approach by a +12-point margin. Harris’ approach would focus on expanding clean energy to lower costs for families and boost American manufacturing while protecting communities’ access to clean air and water from corporate polluters. Harris’ advantage is even larger among Independents (+17 points) and young voters between 18 and 34 (+22 points).



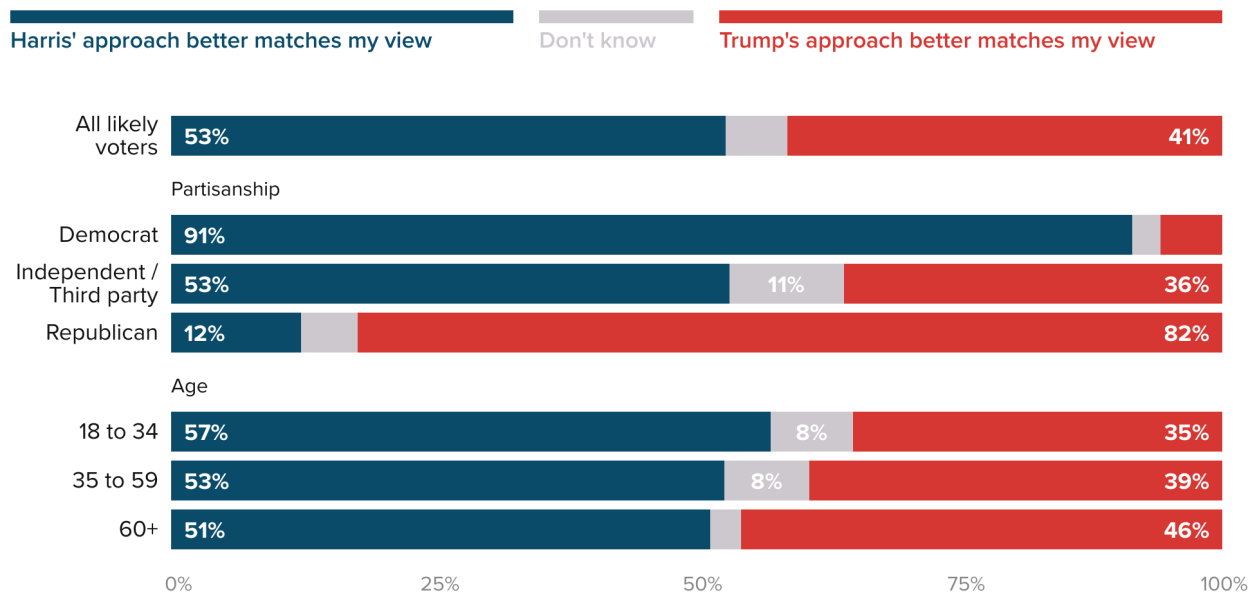
## Over Half of Voters Say That Harris' Platform on Energy and Climate Policy Better Matches Their View Than Trump's Platform

[Statement order was rotated randomly for respondents.]

Kamala Harris is planning to grow American-made clean energy to lower costs and boost U.S. manufacturing jobs, preserve laws that protect American families from air and water pollution, and make corporate polluters pay for hurting air and water quality.

Donald Trump is planning to grow the energy supply through oil and gas drilling on public lands, repeal clean energy programs established under the Biden-Harris administration, and eliminate or shrink government agencies focused on climate change and air and water pollution.

Which of these two approaches better matches your view on how to address energy and climate policy?



July 24–26, 2024 survey of 1,216 likely voters

### Voters Favor Holding Oil and Gas Companies Accountable for Both Pollution and Profiteering

After reading a short description of each candidate's approach, voters say they favor Harris' record of holding oil and gas companies accountable for profiteering and gouging Americans at the pump by a +22-point margin over Trump's record of offering large tax breaks and other financial incentives to the fossil fuel industry. Notably, Independents prefer Harris' approach by a 2-1 ratio (57% to 29%).



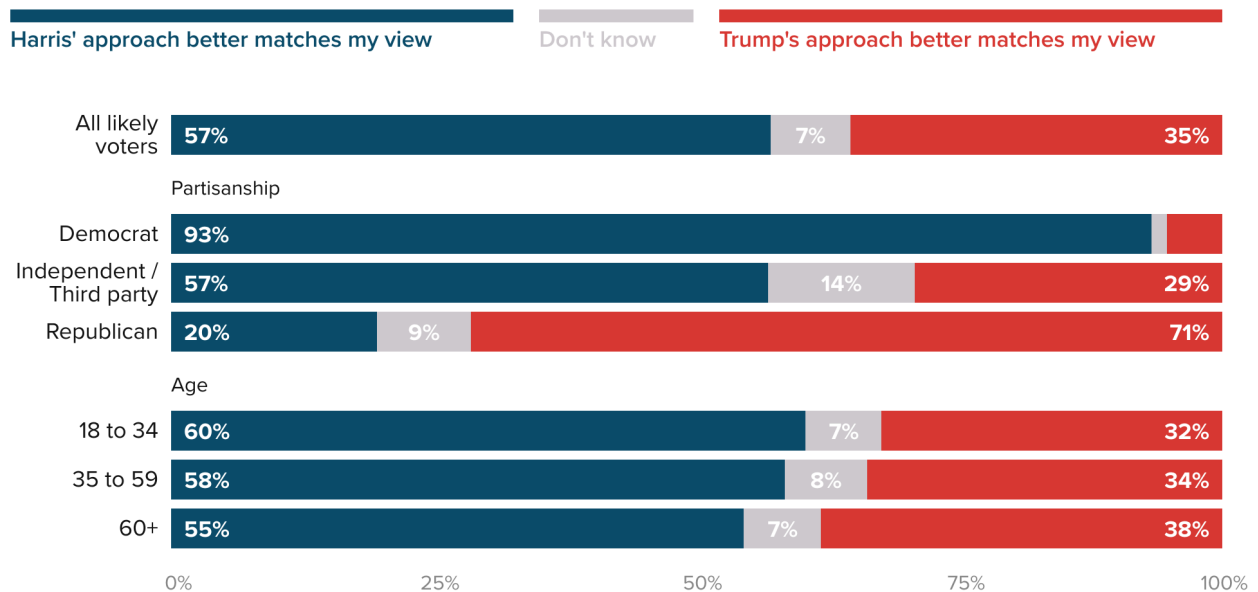
## Voters Say That They Prefer Harris' Approach to Hold Oil and Gas Companies Accountable by a +22-Point Margin Over Trump's Approach

[Statement order was rotated randomly for respondents.]

Kamala Harris has a record of holding big oil and gas companies accountable for profiteering and price gouging at the pump.

Donald Trump has a record of giving big oil and gas companies and CEOs large tax breaks and other financial incentives.

Which of these two approaches better matches your view on **oil and gas companies**?



July 24–26, 2024 survey of 1,216 likely voters

In a similar question contrasting the candidates' positions on the oil and gas industry and pollution, 56% of voters agree more with Harris' approach, drawing upon her record as a district attorney going after polluters to ensure all Americans have access to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. In comparison, just 38% agree more with Trump's stated intention to aggressively expand drilling while not treating climate change as an existential threat. Harris' advantage is particularly pronounced among young voters, winning support from nearly 7 in 10 voters between 18-34.



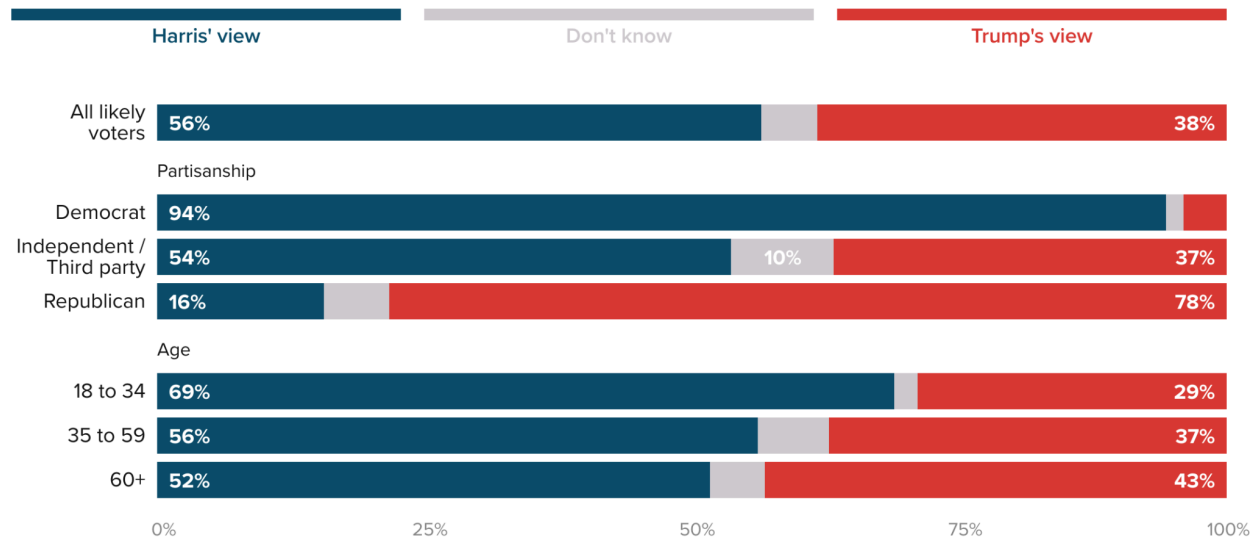
## After Reading About Their Positions on Climate, a Majority of Voters Prefer Harris' Approach to Go After Polluters Compared With Trump's Support of Drilling for More Oil

[Statement order was rotated randomly for respondents.]

Kamala Harris says she will draw on her record as a state district attorney going after polluters to ensure all Americans can have access to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment.

Donald Trump says he wants to be a "dictator" on "day one" to drill, drill, drill and that he wants clean air and clean water, but climate change is not an existential threat.

Which of these two better matches your view?



July 26–30, 2024 survey of 1,226 likely voters

Respondents also read specifically about Harris’ approach to holding oil and companies accountable, in contrast with Trump’s approach to offering the industry tax breaks and the rollback of pollution rules that impact its business. Whether respondents read about Harris’ efforts to hold these companies accountable for **polluting our air and water**, or for **profiteering and price gouging Americans at the gas pump**, a majority agree more with Harris’ view than Trump’s on the matter (58% agree more with Harris across both halves of the split sample).



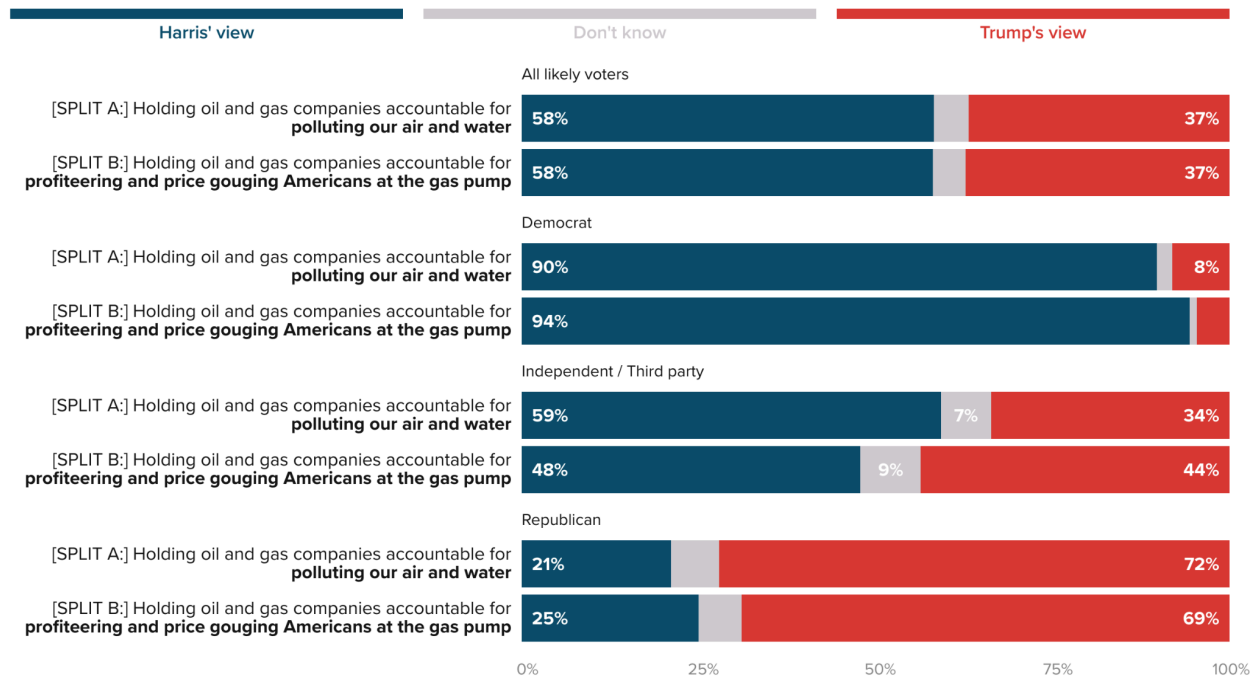
### Voters Agree More With Harris' Efforts to Hold Oil and Gas Companies Accountable for Pollution or Profiteering Than Trump's Approach to the Industry

[Statement order was rotated randomly for respondents. This is a split sample question.]

Kamala Harris says she supports holding oil and gas companies accountable for [SPLIT A:] polluting our air and water / [SPLIT B:] profiteering and price gouging Americans at the gas pump.

Donald Trump says he supports giving oil and gas companies tax breaks and rolling back pollution rules that hurt their business.

Which of these two better matches your view?



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### Conclusion

Voters show a clear preference for continuing to build on the clean energy and climate progress made by the Biden-Harris administration over Trump's promises to reverse it. Even when the climate platforms of Harris and Trump are assigned to the candidates by name, a majority of voters overall show clear support for expanding clean energy, strengthening protections against pollution, and holding big oil and gas companies accountable.





## **Survey Methodology**

*From July 24 to 26, 2024, Data for Progress and Climate Power conducted a [survey](#) of 1,216 U.S. likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, geography, and 2020 recalled vote. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error associated with the sample size is  $\pm 3$  percentage points. Results for subgroups of the sample are subject to increased margins of error. Partisanship reflected in tabulations is based on self-identified party affiliation, not partisan registration. For more information please visit [dataforprogress.org/our-methodology](https://dataforprogress.org/our-methodology).*

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