

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Geoff Garin, Corrie Hunt, Jay Campbell
DATE: August 20, 2021
RE: Moderate and Suburban Voters Support Build Back Better Budget with Climate and Clean Energy Investments

On behalf of Climate Power and the League of Conservation Voters, Hart Research conducted a national online survey of 1,006 registered voters (fielded July 26 to 29, 2021). This memo highlights the key findings among moderate and suburban voters.

The political landscape on climate and clean energy has changed. Moderate and suburban voters are now strong supporters of budget plans that invest in clean energy and climate—reforms they believe are essential.

Large majorities of moderate and suburban voters express a strong desire for Congress to take action on climate now.

- More than three in four (78%) moderate voters and 67% of suburban voters believe that taking action on climate change should be an important priority for the president and Congress this year.
- Climate change has become a more common concern for these voters right now, with 86% of suburban voters and 77% of moderate voters following the news about extreme temperatures, wildfires, and droughts in different parts of the country this summer. Majorities (57% suburban, 66% moderate) attribute these recent extreme weather events to climate change.

Moderate and suburban voters overwhelmingly favor the full Build Back Better Agenda and see its climate and clean energy elements as essential.

- After reading a detailed description* of the package that includes its cost and tax components, fully 83% of moderate and 71% of suburban voters support the plan.
- 62% of suburban and 71% of moderate voters say the fact that the plan takes strong action to address climate change makes them more likely to support it.

*See Appendix

- The anticipated long-term environmental benefits are integral to the plan's strong favorability. Seven in 10 (70%) suburban voters and 80% of moderate voters say an important reason to support the plan is that it will help build a clean energy economy that protects our environment from pollution and climate change.

Conversely, failure to act on climate change can depress turnout among the constituencies that Democrats are counting on to win marginal House seats.

- Nearly half of turnout targets (people who voted for Biden in 2020 but did not vote in 2016 or 2018) and even larger numbers of young voters (58%) report that they would be LESS motivated to vote for Democrats in the 2022 elections if Democrats do not include clean energy and climate change efforts in legislation.

APPENDIX: Description of the BBB Plan Survey Respondents Read

Congress is considering a major legislative package to address important needs of the country. Here is a list of some of the things this legislation would do.

- Make dental care, vision care, and hearing care more affordable for seniors by covering them under Medicare
- Reduce the cost of prescription drugs by giving Medicare the power to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for lower prices
- Make health insurance more affordable for people who buy coverage on their own by expanding tax credits and subsidies
- Expand the use of clean energy sources and combat climate change by increasing tax incentives for wind and solar power and by setting clean energy standards that electric companies must meet
- Make electric vehicles more affordable for consumers by providing tax rebates for the purchase of electric vehicles
- Lower energy costs by making homes, buildings, and vehicles more energy efficient
- Expand access to quality, affordable home care for the elderly and people with disabilities
- Expand access to quality child care that working parents can afford
- Continue the new child tax credit of \$3,000 to \$3,600 per child per year, which had been passed on a temporary basis
- Provide two years of tuition-free community college
- Provide pre-Kindergarten for three- and four-year-old children

This legislation would cost \$3.5 trillion and would be paid for by raising taxes on corporations and the wealthy. It would not raise taxes on anyone earning less than \$400,000 a year.