CLIMATE Policy & Strategy

Climate Policy & Strategy: United States Tracking survey, May 2023



What this is based on

Our poll

- N=2,112 nationally representative survey of the United States
- Fieldwork: April 27 May 3, 2023
- Online, 20-minute questionnaire
- Weighted to national statistics on gender, age, region, education, employment and past voting behavior

Political target groups

Target group	Definition
Total	All respondents – represents registered voters in the United States
Engaged	Very interested (8-10/10) in November 2024 election
Climate priority	Chose climate as a top priority for government
Battleground	AZ, GA, MI, MN, WI, OH, PA, TX, NV, NC
Biden Shifters	Initially answer disapprove or don't know on Biden's handling of climate & energy transition, but after balanced positioning, approve

What this is based on

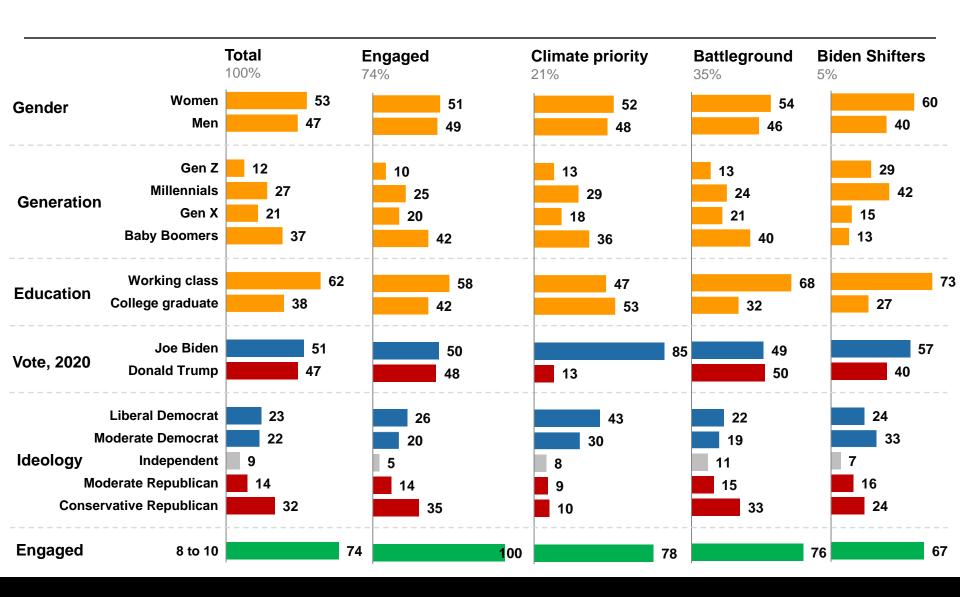
Our poll

- N=2,112 nationally representative survey of the United States
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Corporate target groups

Target group	Definition
Total	All respondents – represents registered voters in the United States
Pro Climate CEOs	Cool/negative or neutral to 'CEOs of major companies' but warm/positive to 'CEOs of major companies who say climate change is a crisis and companies must change the way they do business'

Targets: political



What you need to know

- Inflation and cost of living dominate the public consciousness, with crime and violence, and immigration and government spending also getting heard. Those make themselves felt in the President's overall approval and the close contest for re-election.
- About one in five say the main problem is climate change, the environment and the energy transition, and that puts it with in a cluster of important issues, including health care, immigration, and government spending. Surprisingly, reducing carbon pollution ranks as high in importance as reducing energy bills. A large majority of 55 percent say climate change a crisis requiring major action and worth the cost.
- Climate change is not as polarized and thus, not an effective "woke issue." Big majorities of Democrats say a crisis requiring bold action but so do a plurality of independents and moderates and over a quarter of conservative Republicans. Thus, there is strong support for companies taking account of climate change and social issues.
- A plurality wants to use natural gas as a transition and speed the the transition to lower-cost renewables and rather than exploiting all our domestic energy. And Democrats and independents want America to lead on renewables; conservative Republicans want America to be "the Saudi Arabia of energy."
- Fossil fuels are viewed more favorably in the US, and 42 percent believe government should provide the greatest support to the oil and gas sector, but close behind is the 38 percent who want to support the low carbon industries. Support for oil and gas shrunk a couple of points and support for low carbon grew.
- America looks exceptional. It gives very high marks for natural gas and nuclear, but also the EPA and environmental groups. It is ambivalent about most parts of the fossil fuel sector, but united in feelings toward China and Russia. Recall that Trump voters are hostile to big companies. So, Americans are broadly hostile to CEOs and profiteering and very warm to taxing big companies and billionaires.

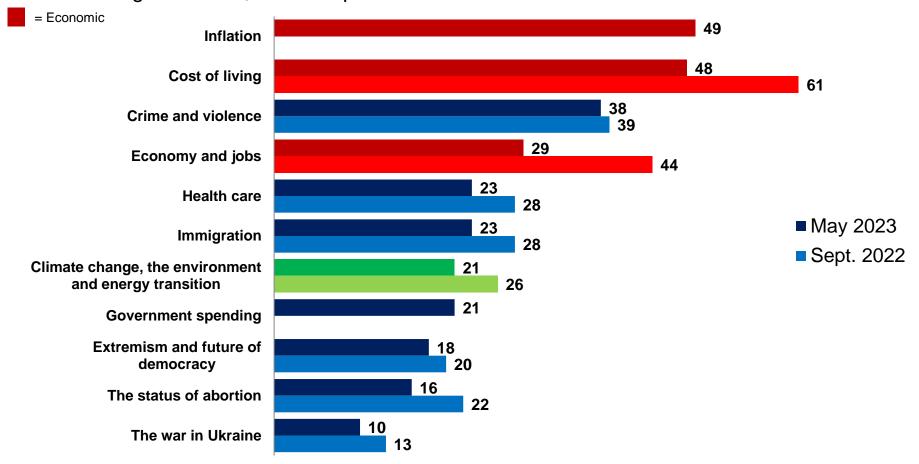
What you need to know

- Response to electric vehicles are polarized and may have trouble getting the buy-in that the IRA requires. The public responds to those parts of the Biden agenda that reduce their costs, which is no surprise with inflation and cost of living the top problems. The attacks from Republicans do not hurt on the standing of the IRA. At the end of the survey, their recall of the plan is significantly more positive. It is focused primarily on reduced health (not energy) costs.
- The presentation of the full Biden agenda or description of the IRA raise Biden's approval and vote against Trump or DeSantis. Across questions, Biden gets the strongest response to reducing drug costs and taxing big corporations. In his messages, he gets heard on saying climate is an existential crisis in blue and red America, but in the battleground states, he gets heard on saying, we're paying for these investments by having the biggest corporations pay their fair share, cutting the cost of prescription drugs and "investing in the cheapest source of energy."
- The Republicans' strongest attack is on immigration. Their strongest attack on the IRA is on Chinese companies supplying batteries and a tax on natural gas that raise prices for homes.
- Across all policy areas, the public responds across party to tax credits to change behavior. There is no support for a carbon tax as a way to make the transition. They are the poles of an exceptional country that is taking bold steps in the transition.
- Leadership of the country is contested and that will have huge implications for the future of these policies focused on an accelerated transition. The survey shows that transition would be aided by a fuller hearing on what the administration is doing.



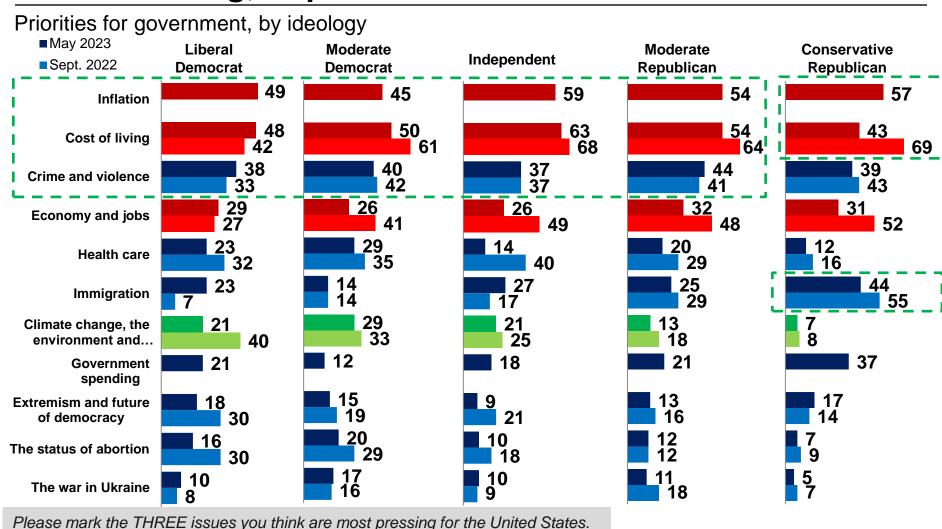
Cost of living and inflation dominant concerns, backed up by crime; climate in second-level with healthcare and immigration



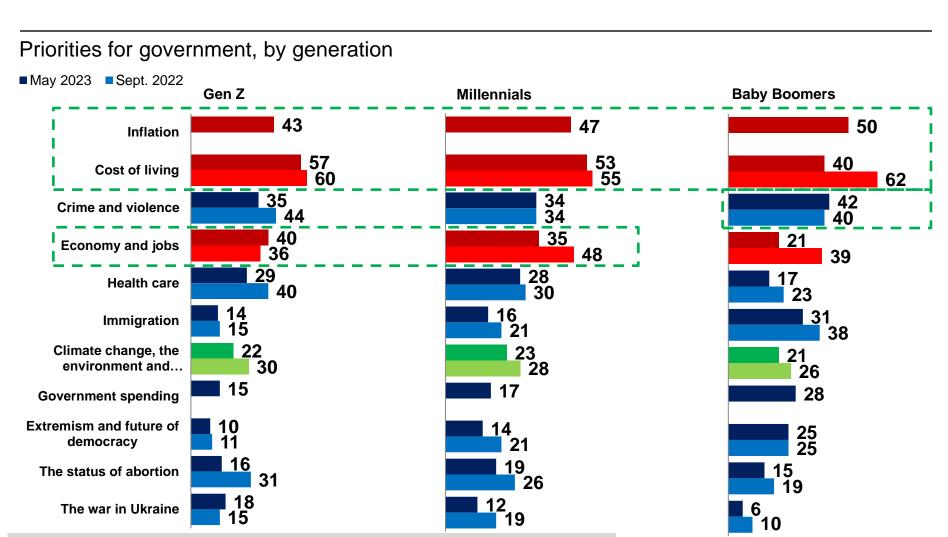


Please mark the THREE issues you think are most pressing for the United States.

Cost of living and inflation dominant across the ideological spectrum: Democrats & independents more cost of living; Republicans more inflation



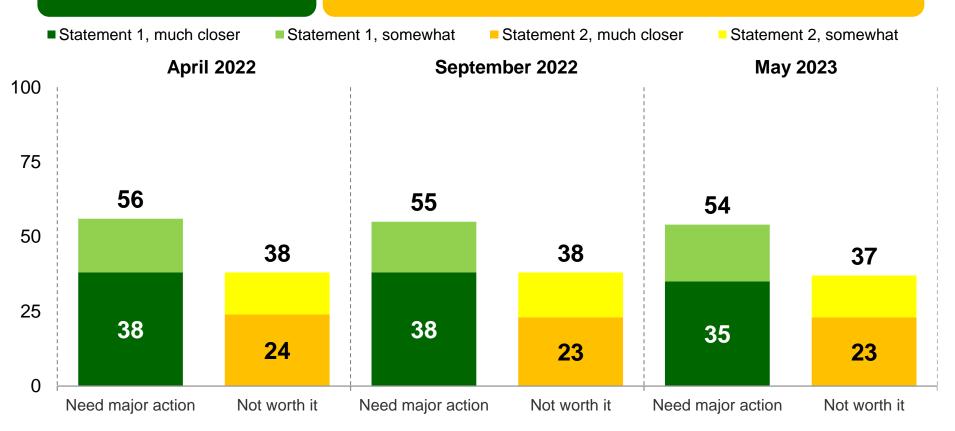
Cost of living and inflation dominant across age as well



Please mark the THREE issues you think are most pressing for the United States.

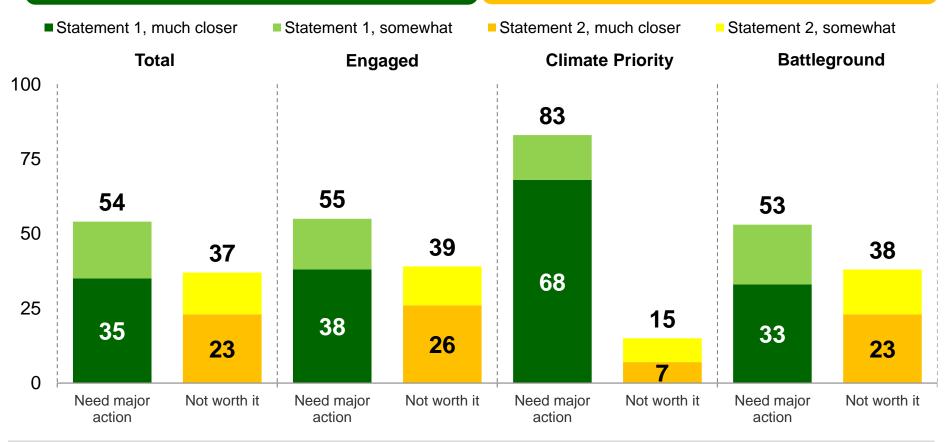
Majority believe climate change is a threat that requires major action

- 1) Climate change is a threat and we need major action to combat it.
- 2) The threat of climate change is exaggerated and the high cost of fixing it may not be worth it.



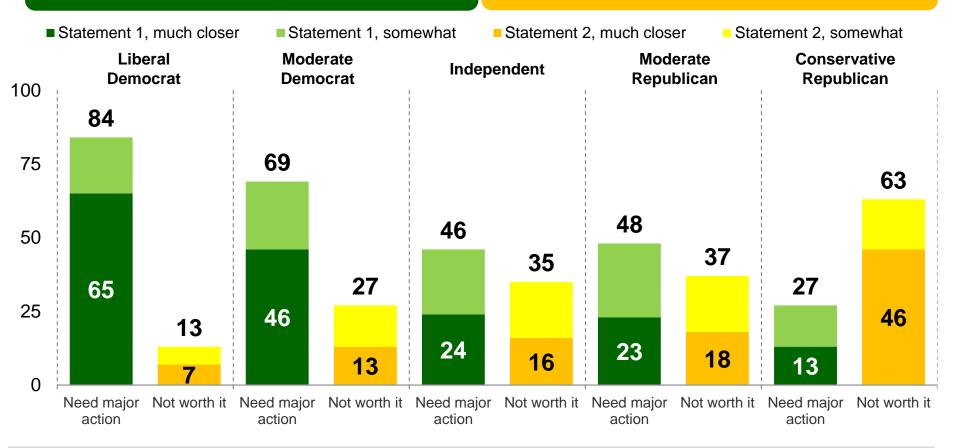
Belief climate a threat requiring major action also true among engaged and in battleground

- 1) Climate change is a threat and we need major action to combat it.
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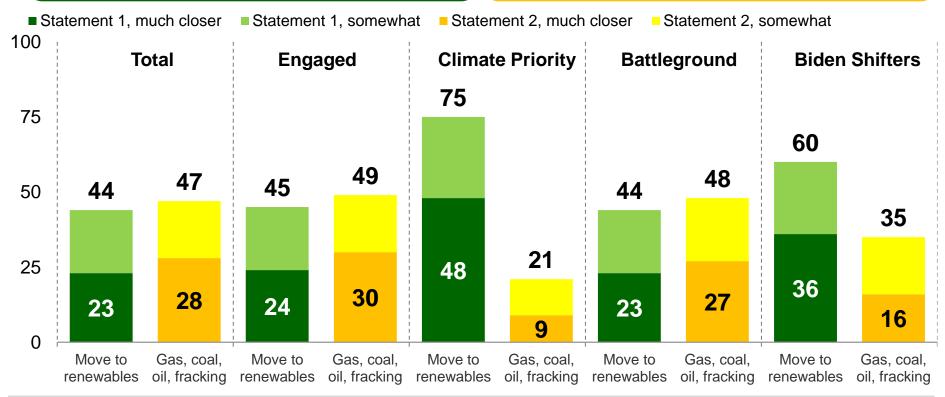
Need for major action cuts against deep US polarization: plurality of independents and moderate Republicans say yes, as do more than a quarter of conservatives Republicans.

- 1) Climate change is a threat and we need major action to combat it.
- 2) The threat of climate change is exaggerated and the high cost of fixing it may not be worth it.



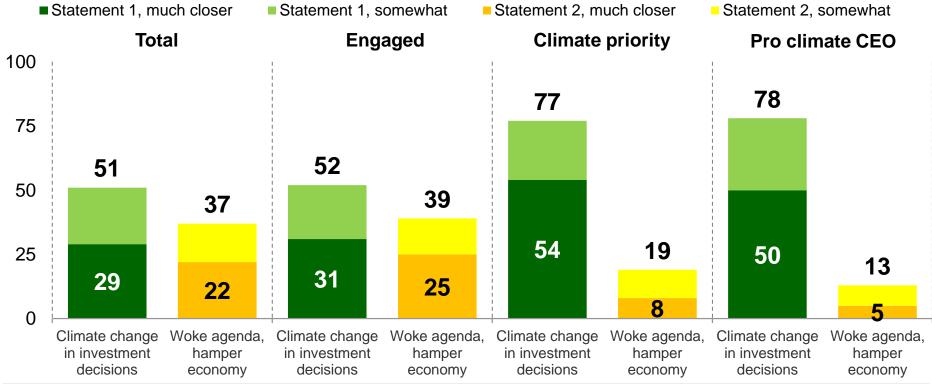
Surprisingly, public split on whether reducing carbon pollution or energy bills is more important

- 1) Reducing carbon pollution from energy use is more important.
- 2) Reducing energy bills is more important



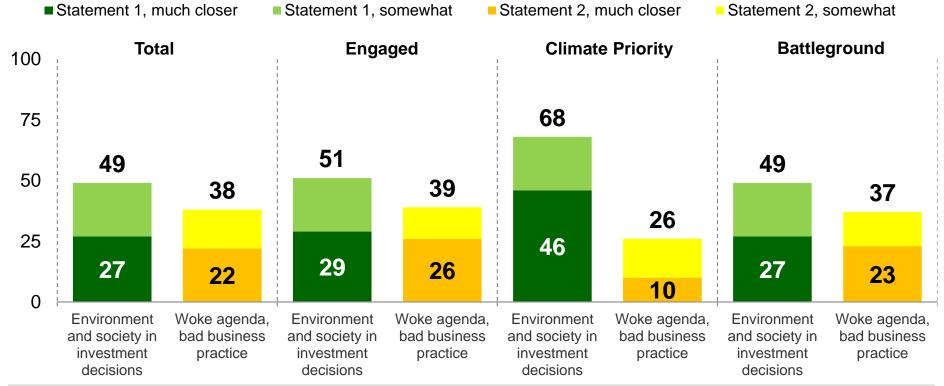
Majority in the US say it's right for companies to factor in climate change in their investments

- 1) Climate change is a major factor affecting future operations and companies and banks are right to bring it into their investment decisions globally.
- Bringing climate change into investment decisions is about forcing a left wing, woke agenda on companies and banks and will hamper flourishing of the economy and our ability to make correct decisions for USA.



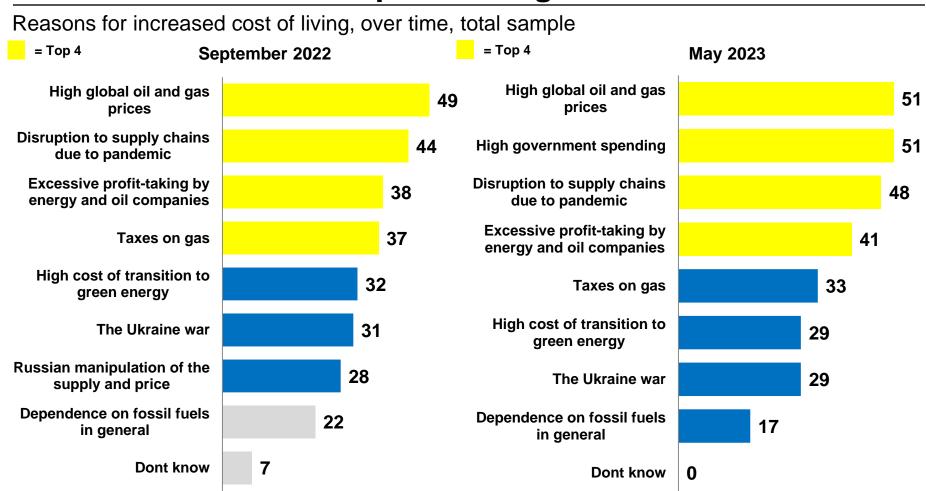
Near majority believe sound business to factor in environmental and society, even if competitors are not doing so

- It is sound business for companies to factor in their impacts on the environment and society when they make decisions, even if global competitors are not following suit.
- 2) Bringing the environment and society into investment decisions is about forcing a left wing, woke agenda on companies and banks and is not a sound way to do business.



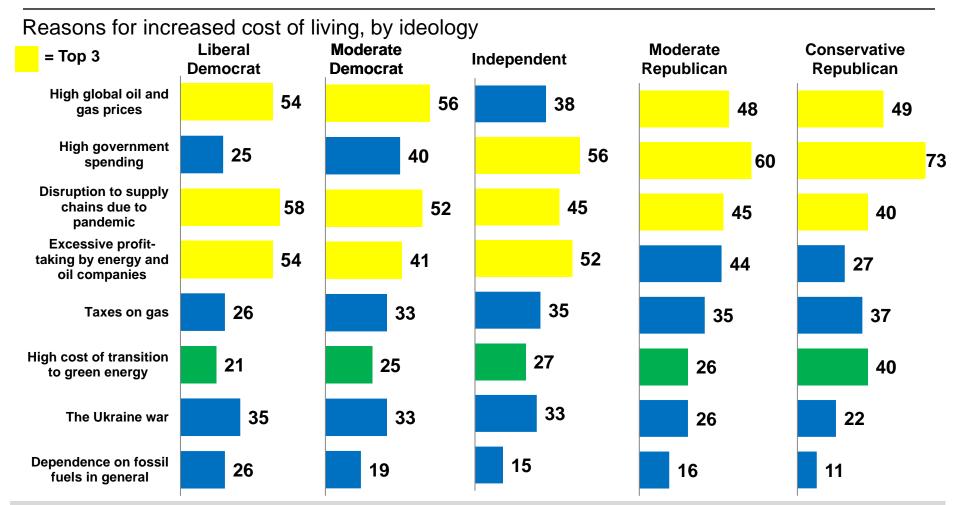


High global prices and government spending grow as top reasons for higher costs; disruptions to supply chain also factor and profiteering



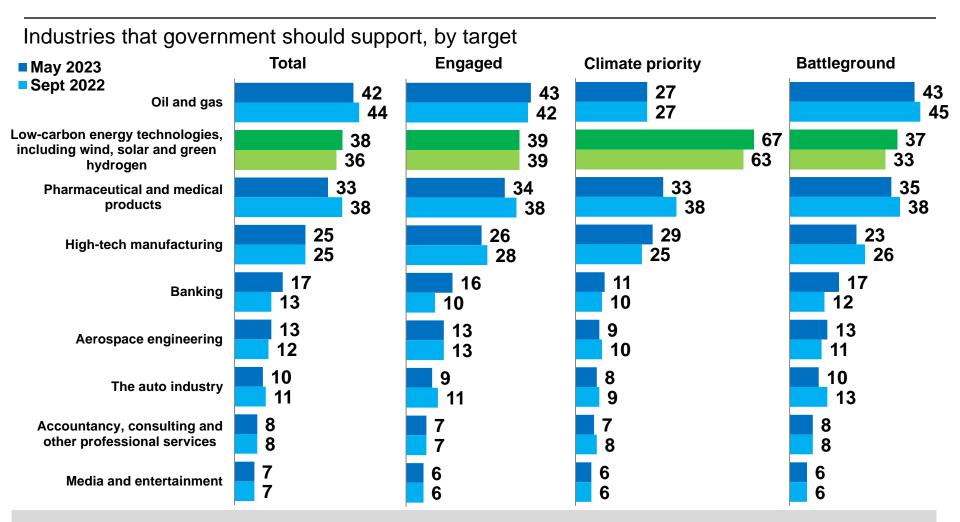
You may have noticed increased prices recently, particularly for energy and food. Why do you think prices are high today? Please select the TWO (April) / THREE (September) most important reasons from the list below.

High prices: all blame high global oil prices & supply chain; Democrats and independents bring in excessive profits; independents and Republicans, government spending; green transition by conservative GOP



You may have noticed increased prices recently, particularly for energy and food. Why do you think energy prices are high today? Please select the THREE most important reasons from the list below.

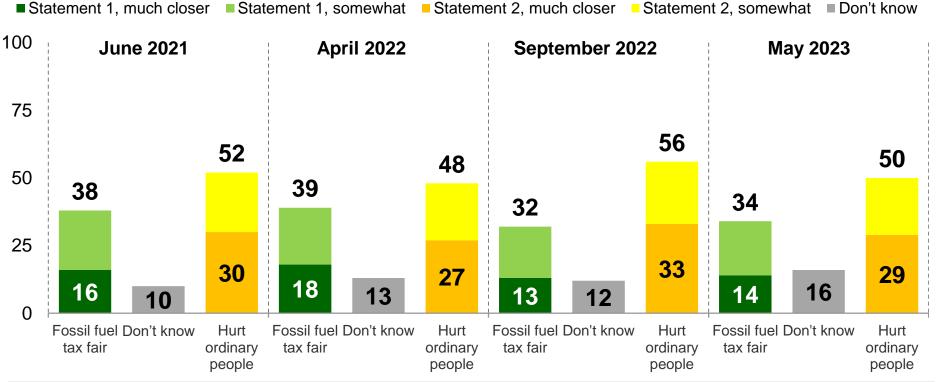
Public wants government to support oil and gas companies, as well as the low-carbon energy sector



Which of these industries would you MOST want the government to support and champion? Please choose two.

Majority continue to believe a tax on burning fossil fuels will hurt regular people, though a little more uncertainty this time

- 1) A tax on burning coal, oil and natural gas would be a fair and efficient way of encouraging people to switch to lower-carbon ways of living.
- 2) Even if the government tries to fully refund any tax revenue back to families, a tax on burning coal, oil and natural gas would end up hurting ordinary people.



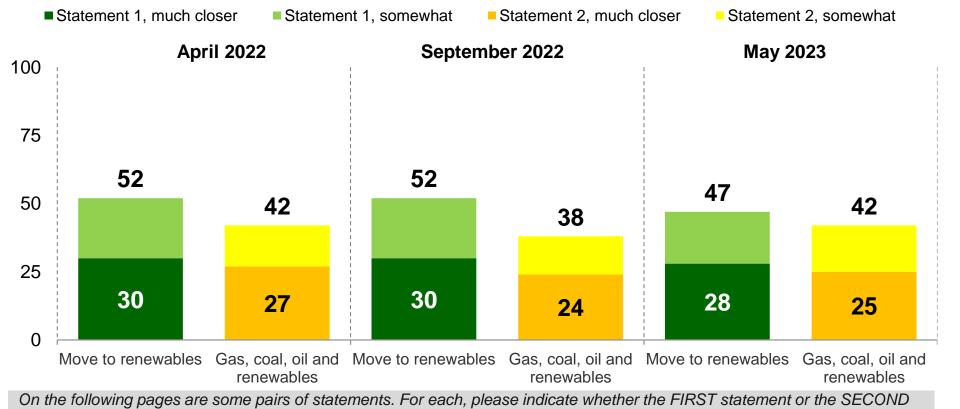
A plurality still favor a rapid transition to renewable power, rather than replacing Russian with domestic fuels, though country more divided in this wave

1) With our stopping energy imports from Russia, we should use natural gas as a transition and move quickly to cleaner renewable power that addresses climate change and doesn't have to be imported from unstable countries.

statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right.

2) With our stopping energy imports from Russia, we should exploit our natural gas, coal and oil, as well as renewables to achieve energy security.

Addressing climate change is a lower priority.



Total, n=2,112 - Shown to ½ sample split

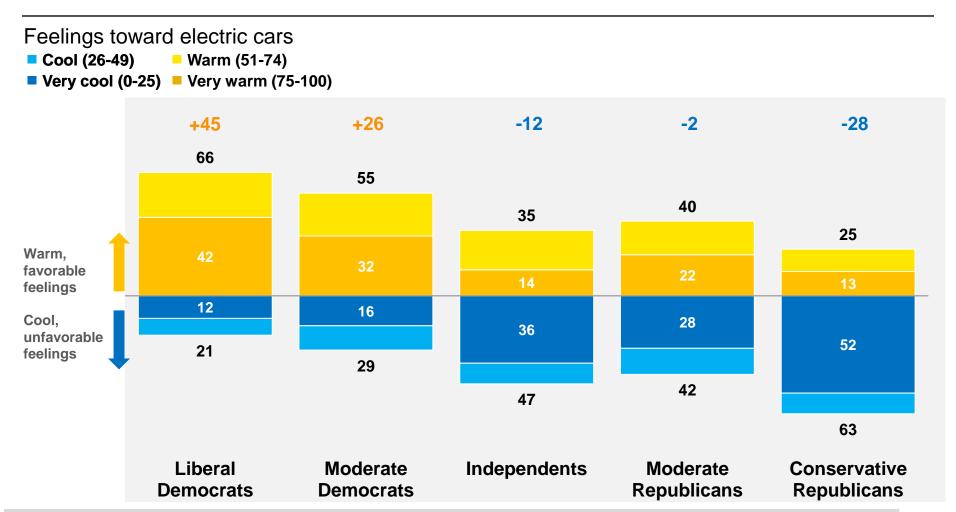
Natural gas companies and nuclear power viewed favorably, as is the EPA and environmental groups; people are divided on coal and fracking, negative on oil companies and CEOs; Russia and China the other pole.

Feelings toward companies and environmental actors, total sample

- Cool (26-49)
 Warm (51-74)
 Very cool (0-25)
 Very warm (75-100)
- +24 +15 +13 +12 +3 -8 -15 -52 -53 +4 -3 50 47 46 46 44 43 41 36 35 32 28 17 16 Warm. favorable 23 23 feelings 14 16 18 18 17 19 23 23 27 28 30 Cool, unfavorable 55 62 feelings 26 26 31 33 31 35 37 39 41 44 47 68 70 **NATO EPA** Electric Fracking Coal co. Oil co. CEOs of China Russia Natural Nuclear Power Enviro. Cars gas co. groups power and major co. energy CO

Please rate your feelings toward some people, organisations and activities, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.

Electric cars viewed favorably among Democrats but underwater among Independents and Republicans

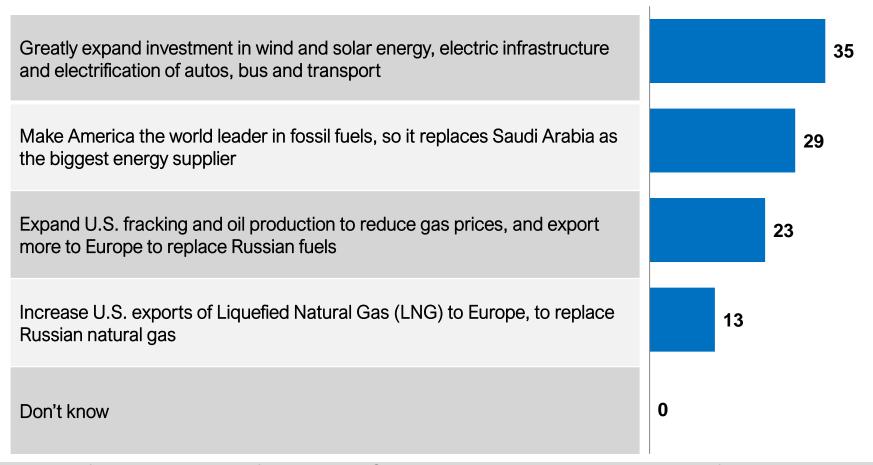


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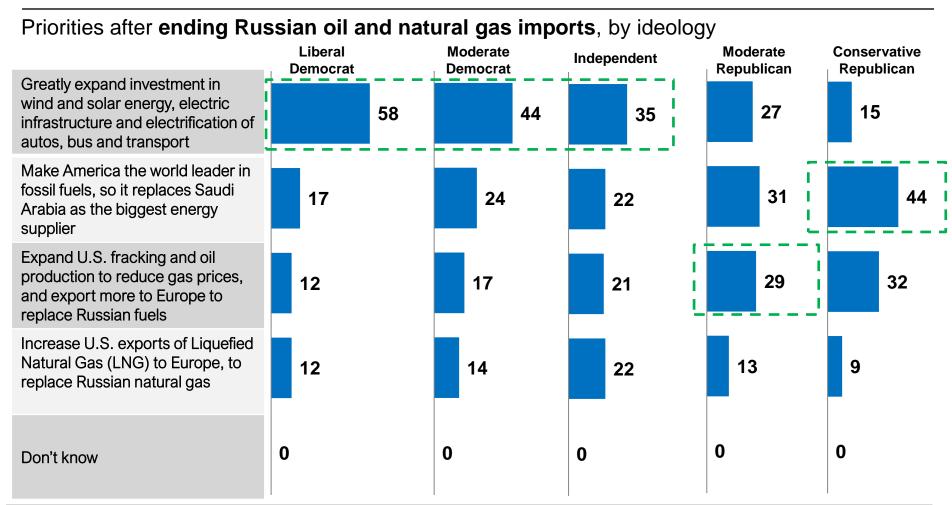
After ending imports of Russian oil and gas, public support expanding renewables, but also big appetite for expanded US fossil fuel production

Priorities after ending Russian oil and natural gas imports, total sample



Because of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the U.S., the UK and Europe are ending their imports of Russian oil and natural gas. Which of the following should be our BIGGEST priority now?

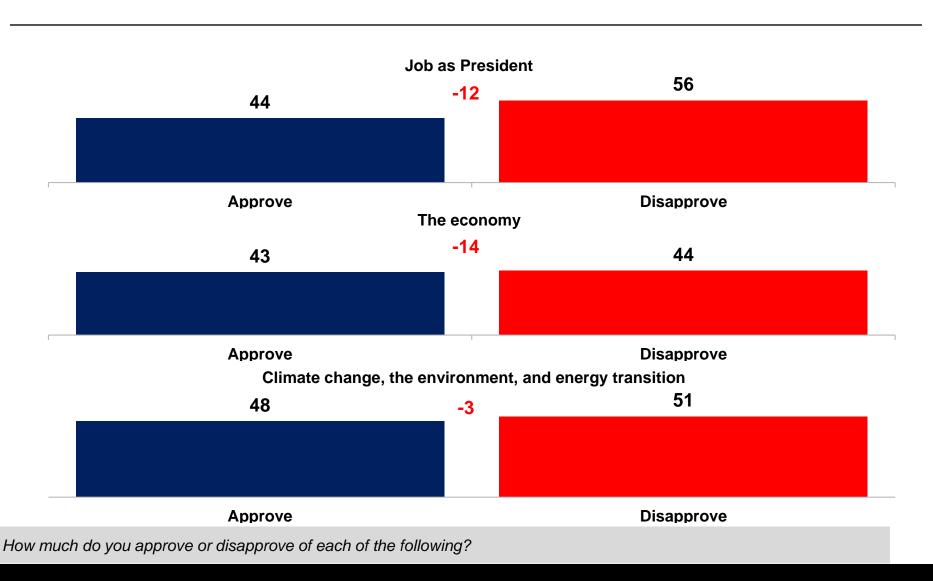
Sharp partisan differences on what now? Dems & independents support expanding renewables; mod Reps supplying Europe; conservative Reps becoming Saudi Arabia



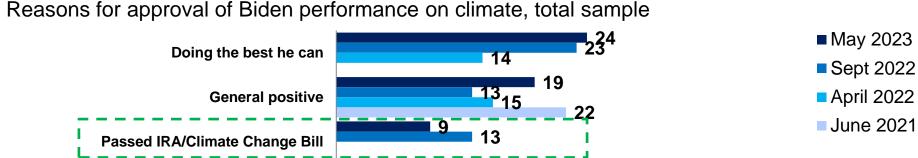
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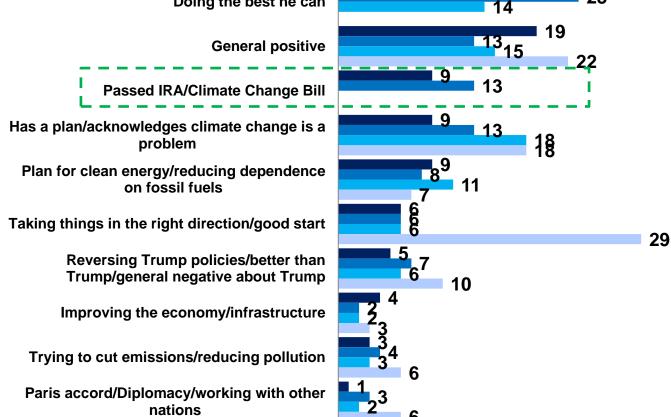


Biden approval at 43 to 44 percent overall and on economy, and slightly higher on climate, 48 percent



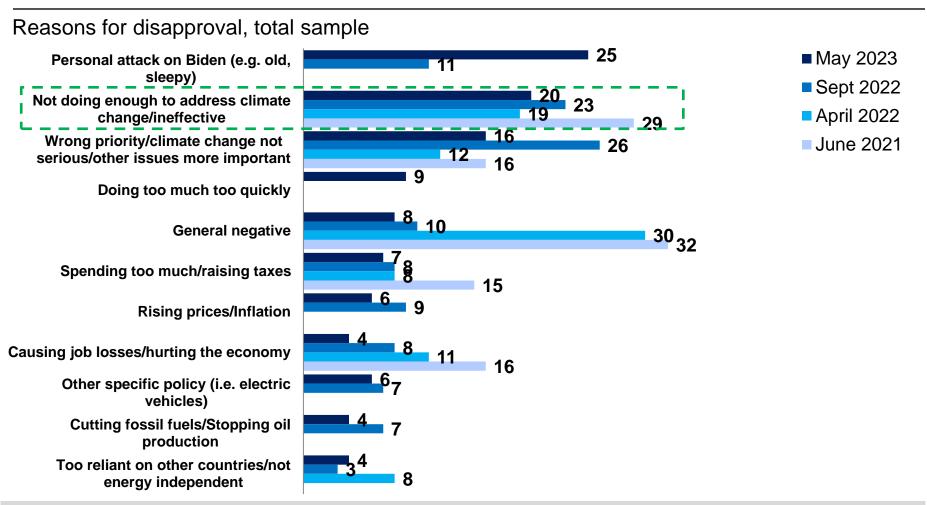
Doing the best he can and then – passing the IRA and has a plan to reduce dependence on fossil fuels pop in reasons for approving Biden climate performance





Please use the space below to explain why you APPROVE of the way Joe Biden is handling climate change, the environment and energy transition.

Biggest reason for disapproval is personal attacks, but a fifth disapprove because not doing enough



Please use the space below to explain why you said you DISAPPROVE of the way Joe Biden is handling climate change, the environment and energy transition.

What are Biden & Democrats doing in general? Drug costs, guns, junk fees, and taxing billionaires

Most important actions done by President Biden and the Democrats , 1/2 Sa	ample Top 6
(PHARMA) Capped insulin at \$35 a month for seniors, gave Medicare the power to negotiate drug prices, and are requiring drug companies to pay the difference if prices rise faster than inflation	42
(GUNS) Passed new gun laws to change background checks for 18-21-year-olds and introduce red flag laws keeping guns out of the hands of people who are a danger to themselves and others	41
(FEES) Preventing surprise medical bills and now Proposed the Junk Free Prevention Act to stop companies from adding hidden surcharges, late fees, bank overdrafts	37
(BILLIONAIRES) Imposed a new 15% minimum tax on large corporations while cracking down on large corporations getting away with paying little or no minimum tax	37
(CHILD TAX CREDIT) Increased the Child Tax Credit that provided tax relief for poor, working, and middle-class families with children, and are now proposing to make it permanent	30
(JOBS) Helped create 12 million jobs in two years, including 800,000 good-paying manufacturing jobs	30

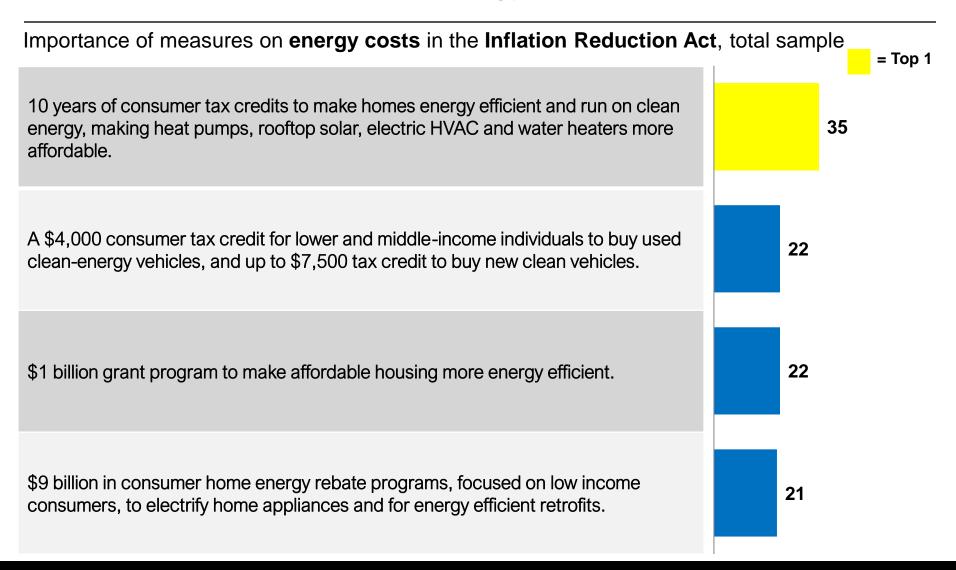
What are Biden & Democrats doing in general? Lowest priority in list was bipartisan legislation and EV charging stations & tax credits to families to help buy cars and appliances

Most important actions done by President Biden and the Democrats , 1/2 Sa	ample	Bottom 4
(UKRAINE) United our NATO allies against the Russian invasion of Ukraine and ended all purchase of Russian oil. They provided over \$50 billion in security assistance to Ukraine and humanitarian assistance for refugees		24
(MADE IN AMERICA) Created new standards to require all construction materials in federal projects are made in America		24
(BIPARTISAN) Signed over 300 bipartisan pieces of legislation, including the infrastructure law, the law to help victims exposed to burn pits, and reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act		18
(GREEN TRANSTION) Built 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations and provided tax credits to help families buy electric vehicles and efficient appliances	1	7

Most important IRA policies: negotiating price of prescription drugs, funding infrastructure projects, and taxing wealthiest corporations

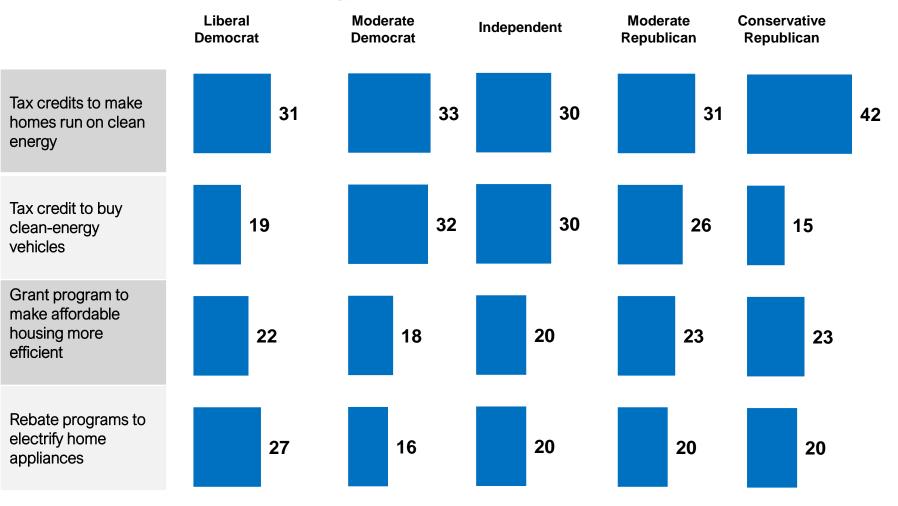
Importance of policies in Inflation Reduction Act, total sample	= Top
Medicare can now negotiate the price of prescription drugs, bringing down the price beneficiaries will pay for their medications.	57
Funded 20,000 projects, putting thousands of people to work rebuilding highways, airports, tunnels, and high-speed internet all across America	51
Corporations with over \$1 billion in income will have a new tax rate of 15% and stock buybacks by corporations will face a 1% excise tax.	33
Invest \$55 billion to deliver clean water and eliminate the national lead service lines	33
To cut carbon pollution by 40 percent by 2030, it gives \$369 billion in tax credits to households and businesses	30
It invests more than \$60 billion to create American-produced batteries, cars and new clean manufacturing	30
Extends financial assistance to help people enrolled in the Affordable Care Act pay lower premiums	27
An \$80 billion investment in the IRS over the next 10 years to increase enforcement.	21
\$3 billion for environmental justice block grants to address the harms from climate change	17

Most important IRA energy measures are tax credits to convert homes to clean energy and make affordable.

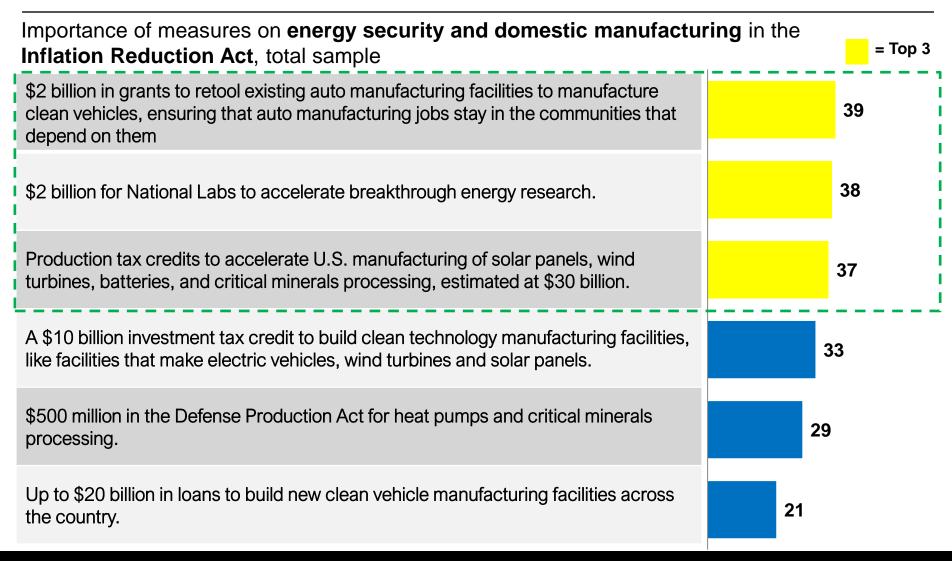


Most important IRA energy measures are tax credits to convert homes to clean energy and make affordable — especially for conservative Republicans.

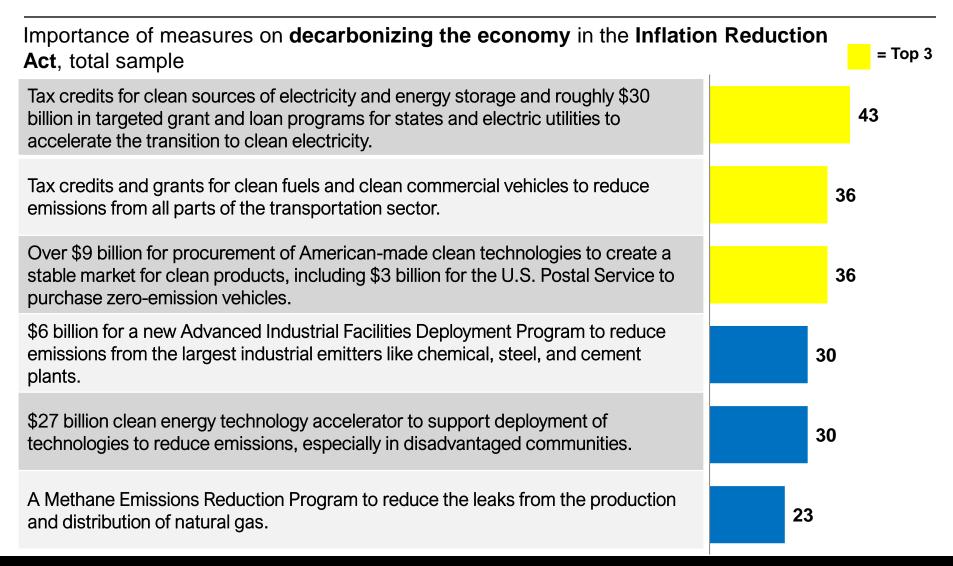
Importance of measures on energy costs in the Inflation Reduction Act, total sample



Top energy security measures: grants for clean auto production, funding for energy research, and tax credits to increase manufacturing of clean energy materials



Top decarbonizing measures: tax credits for renewable energy manufacturing/investment, clean vehicles and transportation, and American-made clean tech

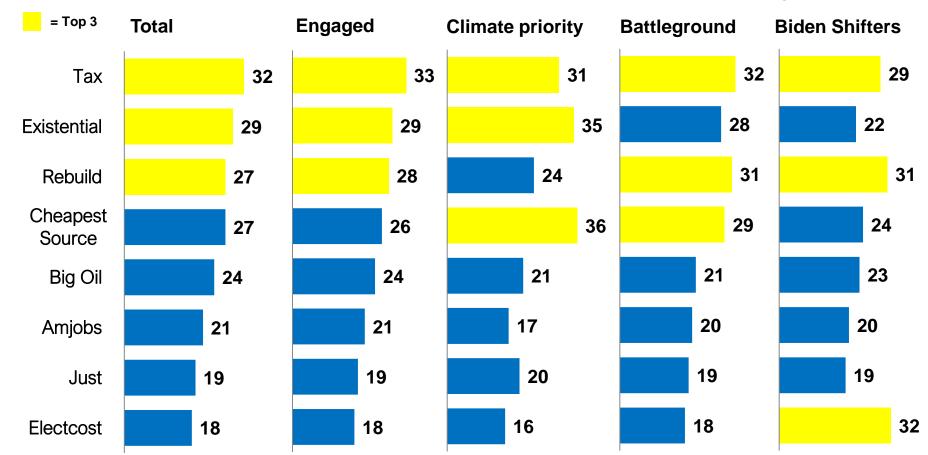


Statements on the Inflation Reduction Act from the Biden government: full wording

We are paying for these investments by making the wealthiest corporations pay their fair share. In 2020, 55 of the largest corporations in America made \$40 billion in profits and paid zero in federal taxes. It's simply not fair. Because of the law I signed, billion-dollar companies have to pay a minimum of 15 percent and nobody earning less than \$400,000 will pay an additional penny in taxes.
Let's face reality. The climate crisis doesn't care if you're in a red or a blue state. It's an existential threat. We have an obligation not to ourselves, but to our children and grandchildren to confront it. And America is stepping up to the challenge
Wind and solar energy are now the cheapest sources of power. The Inflation Reduction Act is the most significant investment ever in these renewable energies and climate change. It will lead the world to a clean energy future, lowering utility bills for the rest of the century and creating American jobs along the way.
We're rebuilding for the long term. New electric grids will be able to weather major storms. Roads and water systems will withstand the next big flood. Clean energy will cut pollution and create jobs in communities often left behind.
Big Oil reported \$200 billion in profits while charging record prices. They invested too little of that profit to increase domestic production or invest in lower-cost renewable energy.
Clean energy companies have announced 101,036 new jobs in 31 states between August 16, 2022 to January 31, 2023. As of January 31, there are over 90 new clean energy projects in small towns and bigger cities nationwide creating secure good-paying American jobs.
We will ease the shift from coal to clean energy and support a just transition for fossil fuel communities. This means helping utilities replace energy infrastructure or reduce emissions, including retooling and repurposing old fossil fuel sites, while providing additional jobs.
We're building the new energy infrastructure, creating 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations, installed by tens of thousands of well-paid workers. And families will save more than \$1,000 a year with tax credits to purchase electric vehicles and energy efficient appliances.

Wealthiest paying fair share top hit for groups; existential threat for red & blue, rebuild strong & with cheapest cost in battleground; Biden shifters no electric cars and cost

President Biden and Democrats' pro-Inflation Reduction Act statements, by target



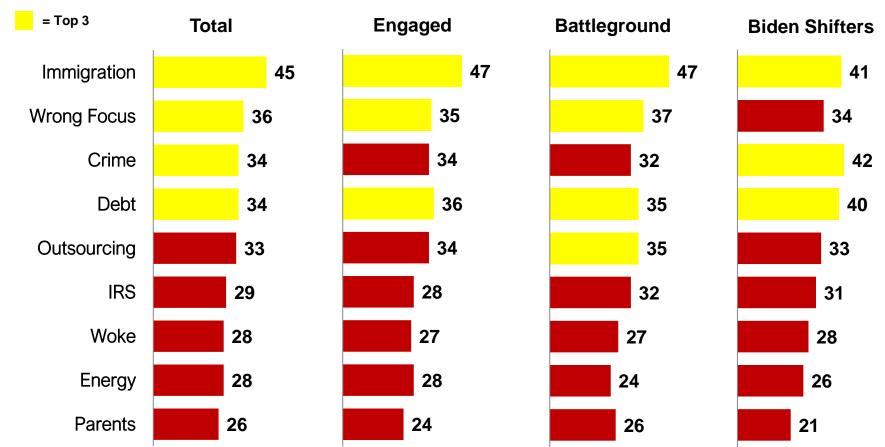
Here are some statements in the support of the new law by Biden and the Democrats. Please pick the THREE that are most convincing.

Political messages from the Republicans: full wording

Immigration	Since Biden has been in office, nearly two million illegal immigrants have crossed our borders. We now have the worst border crisis in American history, contributing to 100,000 overdose deaths a year, largely from fentanyl coming across the border.
Wrong focus	Democrats are willing to spend billions on Ukraine but they should be using that money at home to help Americans.
Crime	Democrats are pushing to defund the police, while hundreds of officers across the state have left their jobs. As police departments are short-staffed, violent crime is surging across the country and murders and carjackings continue to rise.
Debt	Democrats have spent trillions recklessly, adding to mountains of debt, while having no plan to make necessary cuts.
Outsourcing	The United States is one of the largest oil producing countries in the world and rather than keeping it here to lower costs for citizens, Democrats are exporting it all over world.
IRS	Biden is hiring and arming 87,000 Internal Revenue Service agents to create an IRS superpolice force to target everyday Americans at a cost of nearly \$80 billion.
Woke	The President has surrendered his presidency to a woke mob that can't even tell you what a woman is and teaches our children to hate each other on account of race.
Energy	Democrats are waging war on American energy and pushing unrealistic promises coming out of The Green New Deal while begging foreign nations to increase oil production.
Parents	Democrats don't trust parents on what to teach in schools while students are being bombarded with woke propaganda about gender, gender ideology, and Critical Race Theory.

For targets, immigration attack dominant, followed by Ukraine priority, crime and debt.



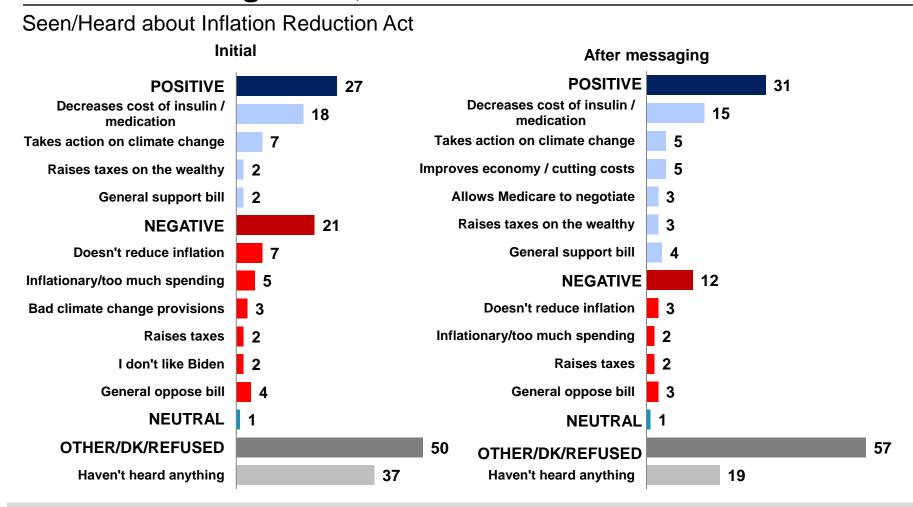


Now you will read some things Republican critics are saying about the Democrats. Please pick the THREE that raise the most doubts in your mind about Democrats and their policies.

Republican attack on IRA: most important are cutting China out of supply chain out and repealing natural gas tax that raises energy bills

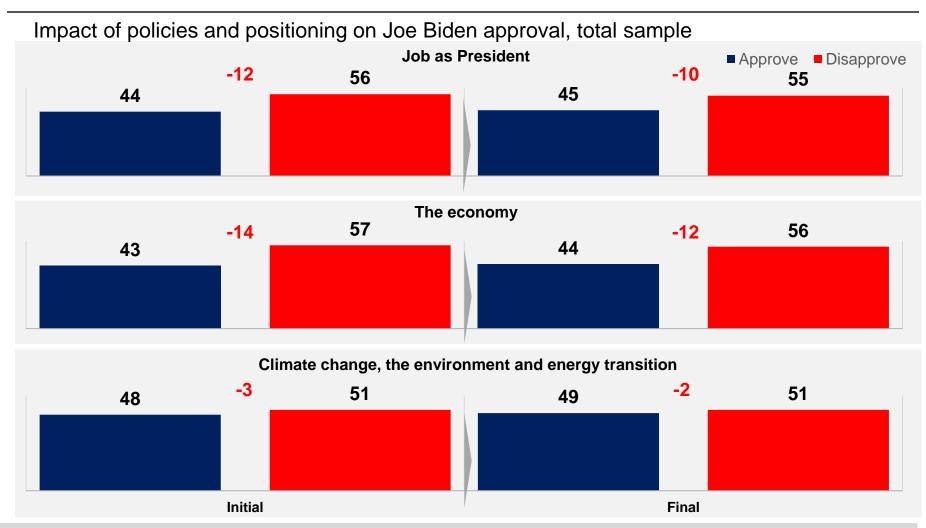
Importance of policies in The Lower Energy Costs Act, total sample	= Top 2
Cut China out of the supply chain for critical minerals, since they currently provide the majority of batteries, solar panels, and green technology	57
Repeals President Biden's \$6 billion natural gas tax that they say increases energy bills for families	51
Roll back President Biden's \$27 billion increase in funding for the EPA that they say is a slush fund for special interests	33
Enhance our ability to develop crucial energy resources by speeding up the environmental permitting processes at critical minerals refining and processing facilities	33
Repeals royalties and fee increases on oil and gas companies that they say drives up prices for families	30
Not Sure these descriptions are accurate	30
Prohibits President Biden from banning hydraulic fracturing	27
Repeals all restrictions on the import and export of natural gas, including LNG	21

After information about IRA, & attacks, positive recall rose 4 points and negative dropped 9; positive concentrated on reduced drug costs; 5% cite climate at end.



President Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act last year. It includes new measures on taxes, prescription drugs, and climate change. Can you write down anything you have heard of that is part of this law?

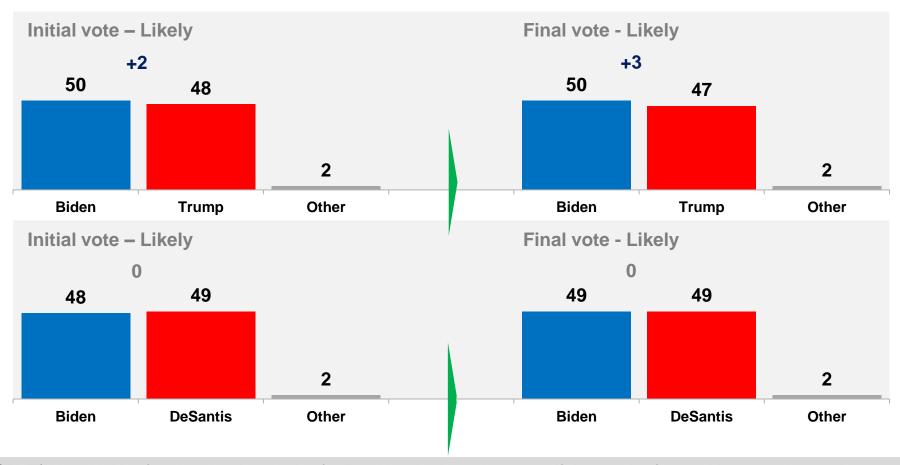
Biden gained a point on all approval measures



Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as President/the following issues facing the country?

Presidential vote close against Trump and DeSantis, though information in survey gives minor boost to Biden.

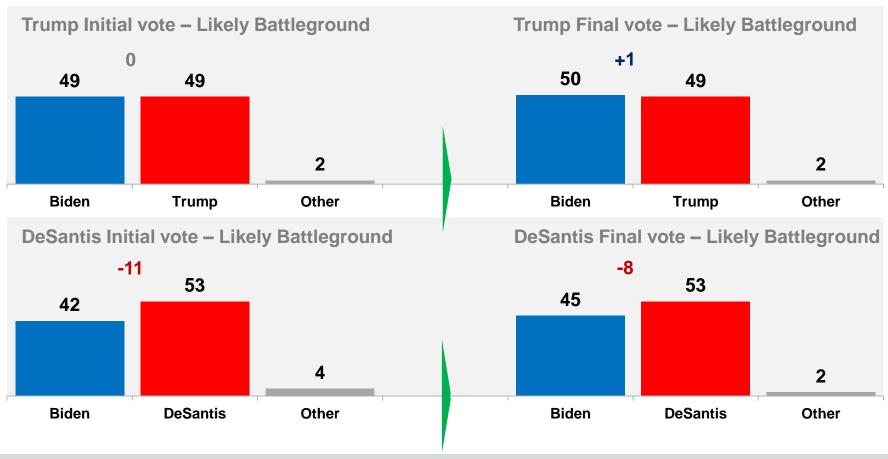
Impact of policies and positioning on presidential vote, by target



(SPLIT) Now thinking far ahead to the election for President in November 2024. If the election for president were help today and the candidates were Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden, for whom would you vote?

In battleground, race tied with Trump — before and after simulated campaign. Biden trails DeSantis but gains 2 points in margin against both.

Impact of policies and positioning on presidential vote, by target



(SPLIT) Now thinking far ahead to the election for President in November 2024. If the election for president were help today and the candidates were Republican Donald Trump/Ron DeSantis and Democrat Joe Biden, for whom would you vote?

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