

Topline: Voters support federal relief and new state investments

In this issue of *Topline*, we take stock of the wide support for the American Rescue Plan, as well as other public investments and progressive tax proposals. These polls underscore the important opportunity state lawmakers have to target federal relief to people struggling to make ends meet; build on or make permanent funding to strengthen schools; expand access to health care, food assistance, and worker protections; and dismantle long-term inequities that harm Black and Indigenous communities and People of Color.

Overwhelming bipartisan support for federal stimulus and investments

A significant majority (**73%**) of likely voters support the American Rescue Plan (ARP), including 56% and 66% of Republican and Independent voters, according to a [Data for Progress/Invest in America poll](#) from late March. That number held steady from their [earlier poll](#), which found that 78% of likely voters support the \$1,400 stimulus checks, 76% support the funding for state, local, and territorial governments, and 68% support expanding tax credits. Similarly:

- A recent [Pew survey](#) found that **70% of U.S. adults favor the relief package**.
- A [Yahoo News/YouGov poll](#) found that support is significantly higher with the \$1.9 trillion price tag attached (58%) than with it omitted (51%), while opposition remains at 25% with or without the price tag.

Service industry workers, women, and people with incomes below \$50,000 – who are more likely to benefit from ARP’s provisions – are the least likely to have heard of it, according to a [Navigator Research survey](#) from March. This disconnect points to an opportunity for state advocates to educate more voters about the potential impact of the federal relief.

A majority of likely voters (**57%**) also support large infrastructure investments to help Americans get back to work and rebuild the economy, according to a March [Data for Progress/Invest in America survey](#). Similarly, messaging that emphasized **the need to “improve America’s infrastructure because roads, electrical grids, and bridges are in disrepair” was favored by 58% of voters** compared to a statement arguing that infrastructure spending “will only balloon the deficit,” according to a [Navigator Research poll](#).

Voters want progressive taxes and people-first policies

Polls continue to show **strong support for taxes on the wealthy and closing corporate tax loopholes**, as demonstrated by a compilation of the findings from [Americans for Tax Fairness](#). In a February 2021 poll from [Data for Progress and Vox](#), **57% of respondents (including 48% of Republicans) supported a federal estate tax** when told that it would only affect estates “valued at more than \$3.5 million.” In New York, 73 percent of those polled preferred to address the state’s revenue shortfall by **taxing the rich rather than cutting public services**, especially during the ongoing pandemic, according to a March [Data for Progress survey](#). And 66% of Maine voters surveyed said they support a new state tax bracket that would **increase taxes on those making more than \$200,000 a year**, according to a February [Maine People's Resource Center](#) survey.

Voters are also supportive of policies that increase economic security and opportunities for people with low-paid jobs. Roughly three in five voters in Arizona **support raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour**, according to a [poll from Data for Progress](#). And over half of Arizonans are in **favor of an increase to weekly unemployment benefits**.

In a survey of the Black community conducted by [HIT Strategies on behalf of Black Futures Lab](#), nearly half of **Black people identified the COVID-19 stimulus checks and \$15 minimum wage as the most important** policy priorities for the Biden administration (50% and 48% respectively). When asked about racism and white supremacy, a majority or **55% of Black survey respondents said they feel very to somewhat unsafe** in the country these days. And nearly half or **48% want the Biden/Harris administration to identify white supremacist acts as domestic terrorism**. Surveys of and other forms of engagement with the Black community are critical but underutilized and an extension of Black voter suppression.