

Post-Election Survey: Biden Has Mandate to Act on Climate

Research Findings Prepared by Global Strategy Group & Normington Petts



Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For



Methodology and Definitions

GSG and Normington Petts conducted an online survey of voters in battleground states and congressional districts from November 8-16, 2020*, consisting of:

- 2,002 actual 2020 voters in AZ, CO, FL, GA, MI, MN, NV, NC, PA, and WI; About 200 voters per state
 - An oversample to achieve 428 actual 2020 Black voters in these battleground states
 - An oversample to achieve 435 actual 2020 Hispanic voters in these battleground states
- An additional sample of 803 actual 2020 voters in the 59 congressional districts rated as lean Democrat, lean Republican, or tossup by the Cook Political Report as of November 1
- “Conflicted voters” are those who, at some point, considered voting for both candidates in the relevant race (unless otherwise noted, any data labeled as “conflicted voters” in this deck refers to conflicted presidential voters – those who considered, at some point, voting for both Biden and Trump)
 - These voters were 13% of the electorate and ended up voting for Trump by a 38% to 53% margin.
- “Considered not voting” or “Turnout risks” are voters who specifically indicated there was a time when they considered not voting in this election.
 - These voters were 16% of the electorate and voted for Biden by a 52% to 44% margin.

*The survey was fielded immediately after the networks called the presidential race for Joe Biden

Key Findings

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At least two-thirds of those who voted for each of Biden and the Democratic Senate and House candidates called climate an important issue for their vote.

- That put the issue 4th out of 11 tested among Biden's coalition, behind only the pandemic, health care, and racial justice and ahead of the economy.

Climate and energy was clearly a winning issue for Biden and Congressional Democrats.

- Biden, Senate Democrats, and House Democrats each won voters who said climate was an important issue for their vote by at least 74 points.
- Biden was preferred over Trump on “climate change, clean energy, and the environment” by a 58-point margin among conflicted voters and by a 42-point margin among those who considered not voting at all.
- Critiques against Donald Trump for ignoring experts and calling climate change a hoax were far more potent than attacks on Biden for supposedly wanting to ban fracking or backing the Green New Deal.
- There is some evidence that climate was one reason Biden over-performed among voters who split their ticket.

Nearly two-thirds of voters agree that Biden campaigned on a plan to combat climate change by moving the country to a 100% clean energy and carbon-free economy and now has a MANDATE to make that happen.

- That includes 92% of Biden voters, 74% of conflicted voters, and even 32% of Trump voters.

Over 60% support Biden's plan that would move the country to a 100% clean and carbon-free economy and “set the country on an irreversible course to meet the ambitious climate progress that science demands.”

Key Findings

Voters across the political spectrum demonstrate very strong support for significant investments in clean energy as part of our economic recovery. In fact, about three-quarters of voters...

- Said that “passing an economic recovery plan that builds a clean energy economy, reduces pollution, and creates millions of jobs” should be a major priority for Biden and Congress, putting it at the top of a list of six items tested.
- Agree that “America should make significant investments in clean energy as part of our efforts to rebuild the economy.”
- Support “investing \$2 trillion over the next five years to build the infrastructure we need to scale up clean energy and combat climate change.”

Voters want to make sure that these investments in clean energy are made with racial justice and equity in mind.

Once again, three-quarters of voters agree that “as we move the country to clean energy, we should make sure that our investments benefit the communities most impacted by pollution, including Black, Hispanic, and indigenous communities.”

Voters overwhelmingly believe that “bold action to combat climate change” will have a positive impact on public health, future generations, their own families, and the American economy as a whole.

- And they reject the notion that such action would harm their own families’ finances.

Support for these positions is consistently strong among the Democratic coalition, conflicted voters, and turnout targets at the Presidential, Senate, and House levels.

Climate and Clean Energy in 2020 Election

Climate was a top issue for voters who supported Democrats at all levels. It was of higher importance to voters who shifted from Trump to Biden and those who voted for Biden but not Senate Democrats

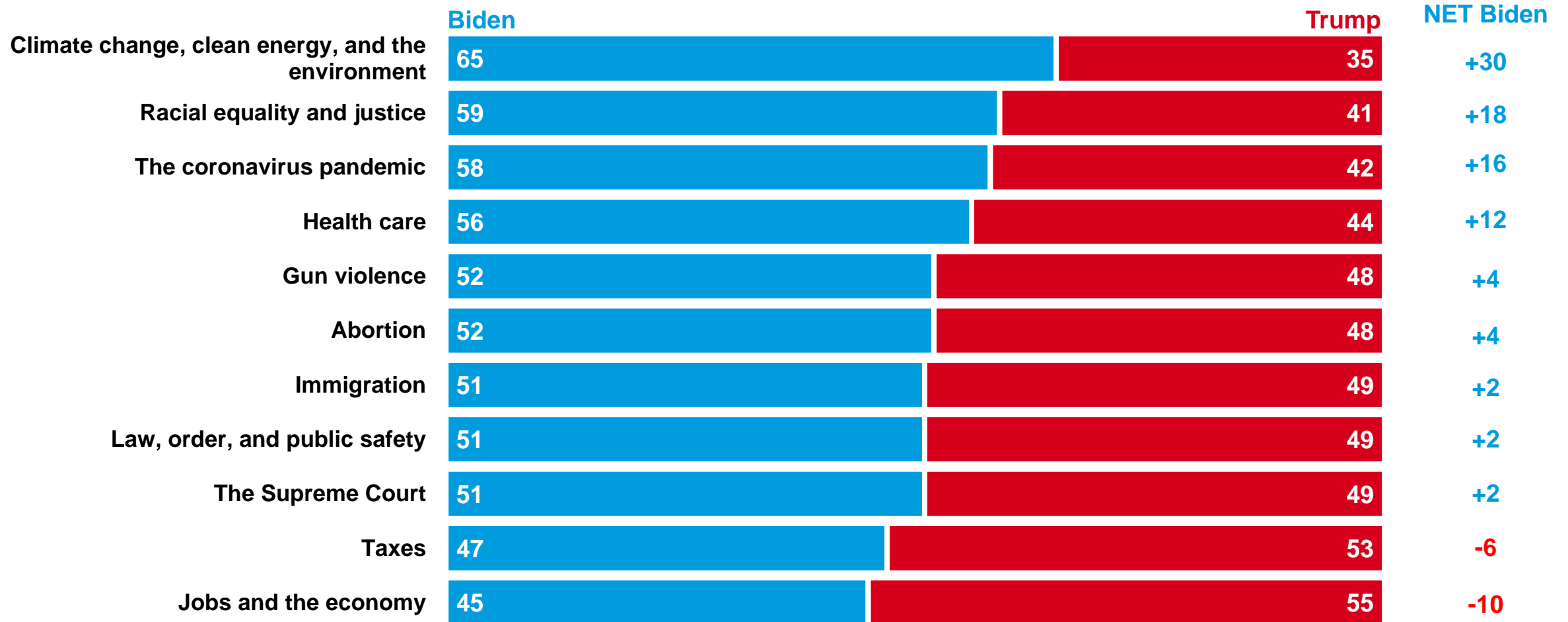
Which of the following were important issues to you as you made your decision in this election?

	Overall	Biden Voters	Democratic Senate Voters	Democratic House Voters	Trump 2016/ Biden 2020 Voters	Biden/Not Senate Dem
The coronavirus pandemic	64	87	86	86	76	77
Health care	63	77	80	79	58	54
Racial equality and justice	45	71	72	72	48	57
Climate change, clean energy, and the environment	39	65	65	70	51	46
Jobs and the economy	71	60	58	63	56	59
Gun violence	33	46	45	49	27	20
Immigration	48	42	42	44	36	32
Law, order, and public safety	53	40	37	43	58	47
The Supreme Court	39	40	39	42	25	21
Abortion	37	35	37	37	24	27
Taxes	47	34	33	37	33	37

*Biden won those who selected climate as a top issue 83% to 15%, Senate Dems won them 82% to 15%, and House Dems won them 81% to 17%. **7**

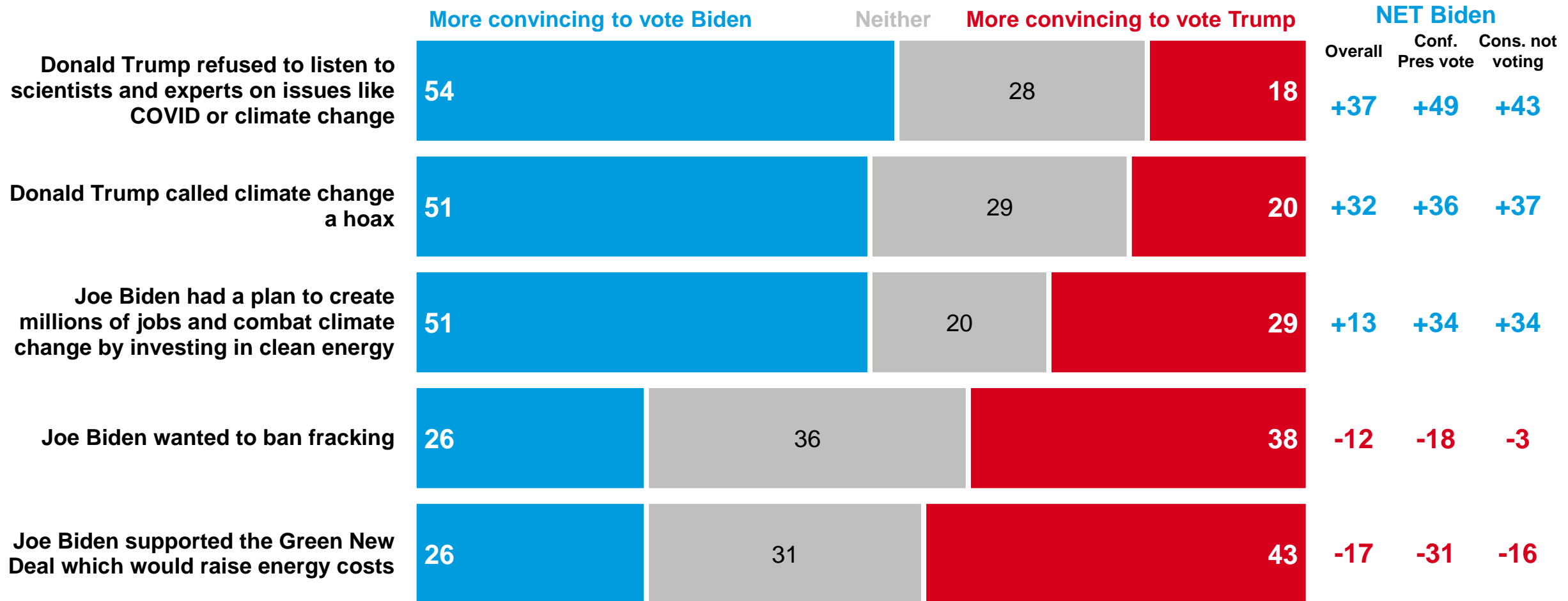
Climate, clean energy, and the environment was Biden's strongest issue vs. Trump

No matter which way you voted for President, who do you think would do a better job on each issue?



Climate and energy attacks on Trump were much more potent than fracking attacks on Biden, especially with conflicted voters and turnout risks

Please indicate how convincing you found each of these arguments



Climate and Clean Energy on the 2021 Agenda

Nearly two-thirds believe Biden has a **mandate** to combat climate change by enacting a plan to move to 100% clean energy. Strong support for investments in clean energy as part of recovery

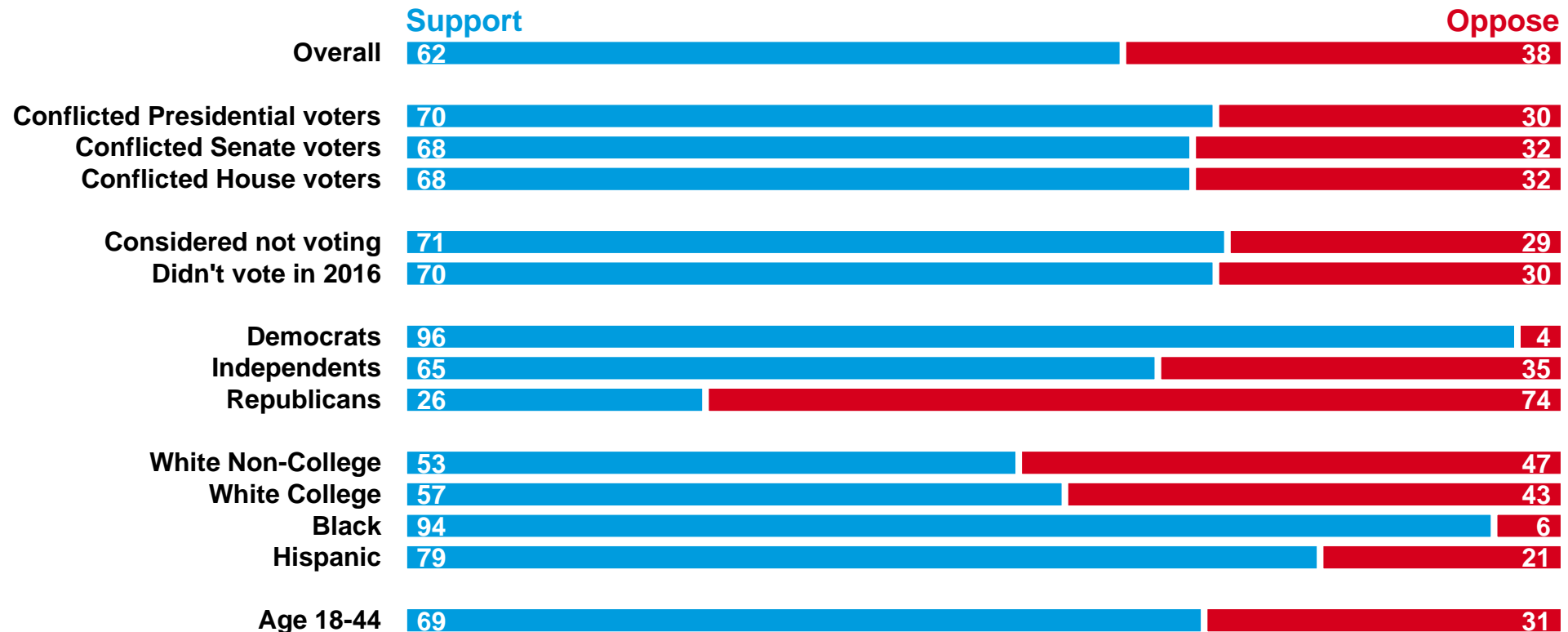
For each of the following statements, please indicate if you agree or disagree

Overall	% Agree				White	Black	Hisp.	
	Conf. Pres. Voters	Conf. Sen. Voters	Conf. Hou. Voters	Cons. not Voting				
79	80	81	82	82	76	90	86	We should let science and experts guide our response to climate change.
74	82	83	79	83	70	94	87	America should make significant investments in clean energy as part of our efforts to rebuild the economy.
74	77	83	83	78	69	96	84	As we move the country to clean energy, we should make sure that our investments benefit the communities most impacted by pollution, including Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous communities.
63	74	67	62	71	57	95	73	Joe Biden and the Democrats campaigned on a plan to move the country to a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and won the election. Now they have a mandate to make that happen.
59	63	60	65	65	53	83	72	America should transition entirely away from fossil fuels like oil to clean energy like wind and solar by 2050.

Biden plan to move to a 100% clean energy economy and set country on “irreversible course” to defeat climate change has big support, particularly from POC, swing voters, and turnout targets

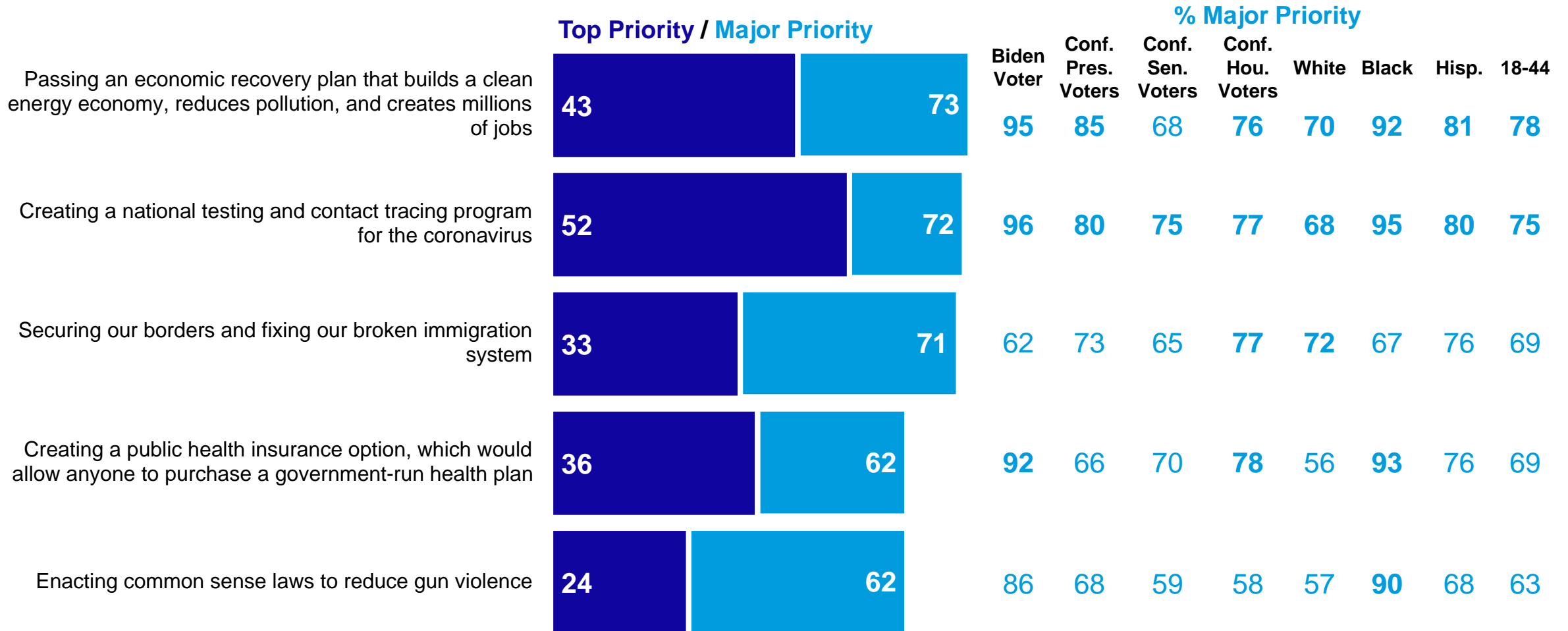
As you may know, during the campaign, Joe Biden highlighted his plan to combat climate change and move the country to clean energy. Here is a summary of Biden’s plan:

Joe Biden will **move the country to a 100% clean energy economy and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050**. He'll start by investing \$2 trillion over the next five years to create the jobs we need to build a modern, sustainable infrastructure now and deliver a just and equitable clean energy future. His plan is paid for by eliminating tax breaks and subsidies for oil and coal companies and other corporations and **will set the country on an irreversible course to meet the ambitious climate progress that science demands**.



Enacting a recovery plan that builds a clean energy economy is a major priority across the political spectrum, but particularly for Biden's coalition

Thinking about the next four years, please indicate how much of a priority you think each of the following issues should be for Joe Biden and Congress



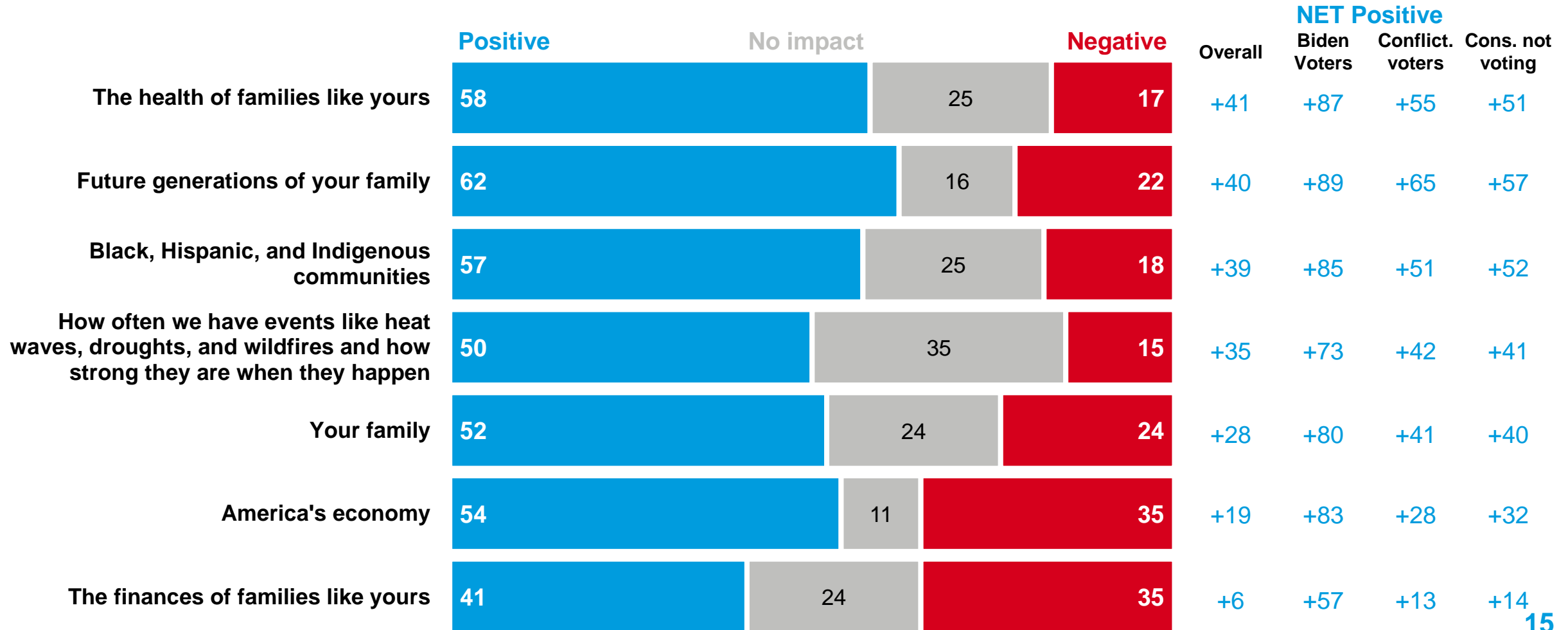
Three-quarters of Presidential and Senate swing voters support a \$2 trillion investment in clean energy. Huge support for cleaning up air and water pollution

Please indicate how much you support or oppose Joe Biden and Congress taking action on each of the following issues

Overall	Biden	% Support				White	Black	Hisp.	18-44	
		Conf. Pres. voters	Conf. Senate voters	Conf. House voters	Cons. not voting					
87	99	96	93	91	94	86	97	90	90	Protecting our air and water from toxic pollution like sulfur dioxide, mercury, and cancer-causing PFAS chemicals
84	98	91	87	88	90	82	97	90	88	Cleaning up air and water pollution in communities of color and low-income communities with higher instances of asthma, cancer, or birth defects
69	97	76	77	72	79	63	94	82	74	Ensuring that the U.S. achieves a 100% clean energy economy and reaches net-zero carbon emissions no later than 2050
68	96	76	74	68	75	62	94	81	73	Investing \$2 trillion over the next five years to build the infrastructure we need to scale up clean energy and combat climate change
64	97	68	66	69	75	58	92	80	72	Rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement and leading an effort to get every major country to set more ambitious climate goals
63	95	74	66	72	75	58	89	76	71	Restoring the environmental protections that were rolled back by the Trump Administration
61	88	66	63	65	75	56	89	73	69	Immediately ending all taxpayer subsidies and tax breaks for oil, gas, and coal companies

Voters, especially swing voters and turnout risks, believe that “bold action to combat climate change” would have a positive impact on health, future generations, the economy, and their families

For each of the following statements, please indicate if you agree or disagree



Thank You

New York

Washington, DC

Hartford

Chicago

Denver

Seattle