



October 8, 2021

**TO: Climate Action Campaign & Environment
America**
FROM: Nancy Zdunkewicz, [Change Research](#)
RE: VA-7 voters support climate action in Build Back Better plan

Voters in Virginia's 7th congressional district support a bold reconciliation package that includes action and investments to address climate change and help the environment. This is according to a new survey of 452 voters in VA-7 conducted by Change Research on behalf of Environment America and Climate Action Campaign.¹

Voters support reconciliation package & its climate elements

By a 9-point margin (53% support, 44% oppose) voters support the Build Back Better plan to invest up to \$3.5 trillion to create jobs, address climate change and clean energy, health care costs, child care, paid leave, and Pre-K, paid for by raising taxes on large corporations and people making over \$400,000 a year. Democrats universally support the proposal as do 57% of independents and even 13% of Republicans. Forty-one percent of all voters polled "strongly support" the BBB plan.

Overall, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is more popular (65% support, 29% oppose) than Build Back Better. However, the infrastructure package garnered slightly lower "strong support" at 37%.

¹ Change Research surveyed 452 registered voters in VA-7 online from September 22-26, 2021. Respondents were recruited into an online survey instrument via Dynamic Online Sampling and via SMS from a voter-file. Post-stratification was done on gender, age, ethnicity, education, and past vote history.

Support for Build Back Better Investment Plan

President Biden and Democrats have proposed legislation to invest up to \$3.5 trillion to create jobs and address climate change and clean energy, health care costs, child care, paid leave, and pre-K, paid for by raising taxes on large corporations and people making more than \$400,000 a year. Do you support or oppose this proposed legislation?

● Total support ● Not sure ● Total oppose



Many of the individual elements to address climate change included in the proposed Build Back Better plan are even more popular than the overall package. For instance, 68% of voters support measures that make polluters bear the cost of their activities like reinstating 'polluter pay' laws and a fee on companies that emit methane. Plans to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy are supported by 62% of voters and 58% support provisions to reduce air pollution. More than 60% of independents support those policies as well.

Support for BBB climate provisions

These are some of the proposals that have been suggested for inclusion in this new legislation. Do you support or oppose each of the following proposals?

● Total support ● Not sure ● Total oppose

Reinstate 'polluters pay' laws to require corporate polluters to fund the clean up of their industry's toxic pollution and set a fee on oil and gas companies that emit methane.



Accelerate the adoption of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power by making new renewable energy tax incentives available to individuals and businesses and creating a program for electric companies to transition to clean energy sources.



Reduce air pollution from heavy duty vehicles, at ports and from diesel engines through grant programs to replace polluting vehicles, support manufacturing of zero-emission technologies, and by funding implementation of Clean Air Act provisions.



Support the transition from gasoline powered vehicles to clean electric vehicles by providing rebates for people purchasing electric vehicles, and making those vehicles easier to recharge by building a network of electric vehicle charging stations.



The proposed changes to tax policy to pay for these and other investments are also incredibly popular. The most popular proposal is one to require corporations to pay a minimum tax of 15%, with 63% of voters in support. Majorities also support plans to raise taxes on those making more than \$400K a year (60% support), to eliminate tax credits and subsidies for fossil fuel companies (55% support), and to increase the corporate tax rate to 26.5% (54% support).

Each of these proposals is supported by at least 90% of Spanberger voters and a plurality of reconciliation persuadables.² The proposal to increase taxes on those making over \$400K a year was particularly popular with reconciliation persuadables (70% support). With the exception of the proposal to increase the corporate tax rate which divides independents (42% support, 42% oppose), pluralities of independents also support each of these policies.

Support for Tax Increases

These are some tax proposals that the U.S Congress may consider. Would you support or oppose each of the following proposals?

● Total support ● Not sure ● Total oppose

Require any corporations using loopholes to minimize their taxes to pay a minimum tax of 15% on their profits.



Raise taxes on people with incomes of more than \$400,000 a year.



Eliminate more than \$20 billion annually in tax credits and subsidies for fossil fuel companies.



Increase the corporate tax rate from 21% to 26.5%. Until 2018, the corporate tax rate was 35%.



Climate change is a crucial priority for Spanberger voters and persuasion audiences

A 59% majority of voters in VA-7 say that it is very or somewhat important for Congress to address climate change by reducing carbon pollution and promoting an economy powered by clean energy sources, including 95% of Spanberger voters, 66% of voters who are persuadable on the reconciliation package, and even 19% of those who voted for Brat in 2018. Climate change is also tied with COVID-19 as the most important issue for Spanberger voters (45% rank climate a top-two issue, 46% rank COVID-19 a top-two issue).

Reasons to support climate action

These are some reasons why people support taking more action on climate change. How convincing are each of these reasons?

² Reconciliation persuadables are the 23% of voters surveyed who hold weak opinions (somewhat support, somewhat oppose) or who remain undecided on the proposed Build Back Better investment plan.

By reducing carbon pollution today, we can protect our health and environment now and for future generations.



Carbon pollution and climate change create increased health risks by contributing to greater rates of asthma, heart disease, and cancer, and threatening our access to food and clean drinking water.



Voters support congressional action to address climate change because taking action today will protect our health and environment now and for future generations (62% convincing) and because carbon pollution and climate change create increased health risks (62% convincing). An argument that climate change is producing more frequent severe weather which threatens property, lives, and the economy was slightly less convincing overall, but it generated the most intense reactions: 42% of voters and 83% of Democrats find this argument very convincing.