



# AMERICANS IN BATTLEGROUND CDs ON BUILD BACK BETTER RECONCILIATION ACT

*Key findings from a survey among voters in  
24 battleground congressional districts,  
conducted September 2021  
for Climate Power and LCV*

**CLIMATE  
POWER**

✓ **LCV**  
Our Earth Is Worth Fighting For

**HART** 

---

**RESEARCH**  
ASSOCIATES

# Methodology

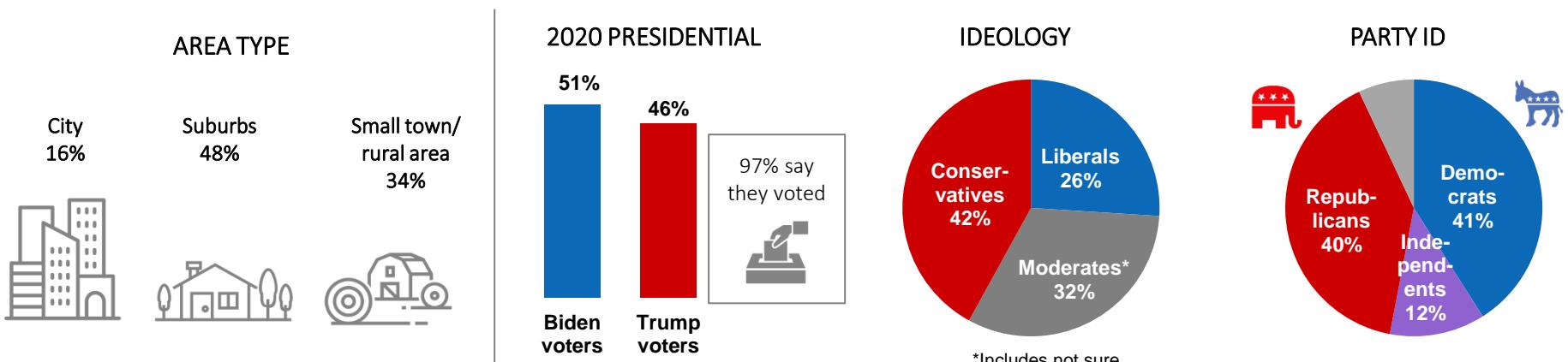
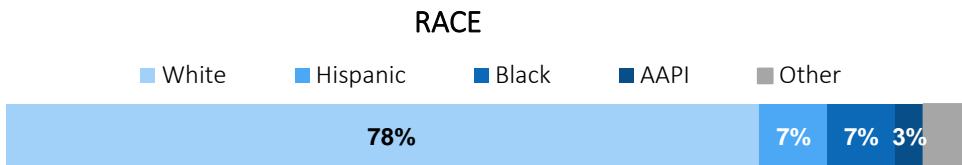
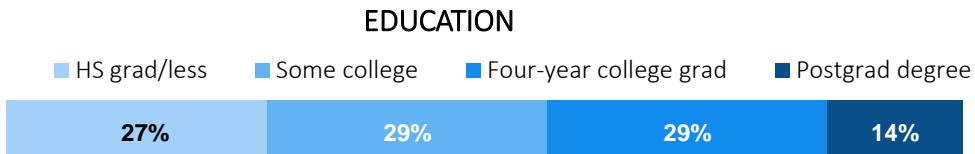
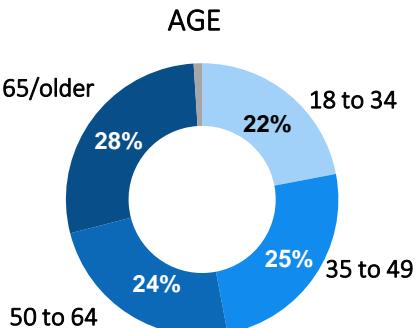
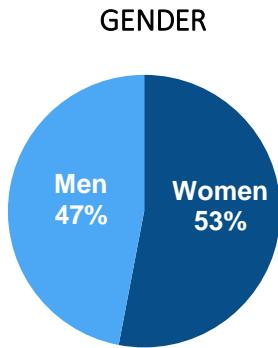
- 800 interviews in 24 battleground congressional districts
- Live interviews among registered voters, conducted by telephone
- Field dates September 9 to 16, 2021
- Overall margin of error =  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points, tolerances higher among subgroups of the sample



# Key Findings

1. A large majority (58%) of voters across these battleground congressional districts support the Build Back Better Act after hearing a brief description of it, including that it would cost \$3.5 trillion spread over 10 years.
2. Voters do not want to cut the cost and scope of the legislation: 54% say Congress should either keep the cost at the current proposed level or increase the cost so the legislation can do more.
3. Voters view addressing climate change and increasing use of clean energy as highly important elements of this legislation. Sixty-three percent (63%) say that addressing climate change should be an important priority for the president and Congress this year, a reflection of the fact that a large majority say that climate change is a cause of extreme weather events.
4. Thus it is perhaps unsurprising that three in four voters favor each of these provisions:
  - Modernizing schools and other public buildings to make them more energy efficient, and providing incentives to improve the energy efficiency of homes and businesses
  - Providing tax incentives to make clean energy sources like wind and solar power widely available at lower costs
  - Rewarding electric utilities that generate more electricity every year from clean energy sources, like wind and solar
5. The fact that the legislation creates good-paying jobs WHILE ALSO addressing the threat of climate change remains a central talking point in its favor. Swing voters find two other talking points about the legislation highly compelling:
  - It will protect Americans' health by cutting dangerous and toxic pollution in our air and water.
  - It will lower utility bills and energy costs, making life more affordable for middle-class and working families.

# Characteristics of the Sample



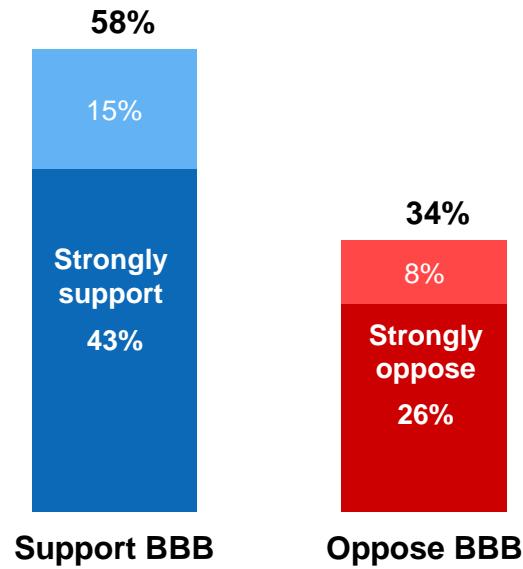
# Voters in these districts favor the Build Back Better Act by a wide margin.

## *Support for the Build Back Better Act after Description\**

\*Congress is considering legislation to address several needs facing the country. It would lower the cost of prescriptions and make health insurance more affordable. It would expand Medicare coverage. It would increase access to affordable home care services for the elderly, as well as increasing access to affordable child care and paid medical leave.

This legislation would take action on climate change by expanding the use of clean energy like wind and solar power and increasing energy efficiency.

This legislation, called the Build Back Better Act, would cost \$3.5 trillion spread out over 10 years and would mostly 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, and many families would have their taxes cut.

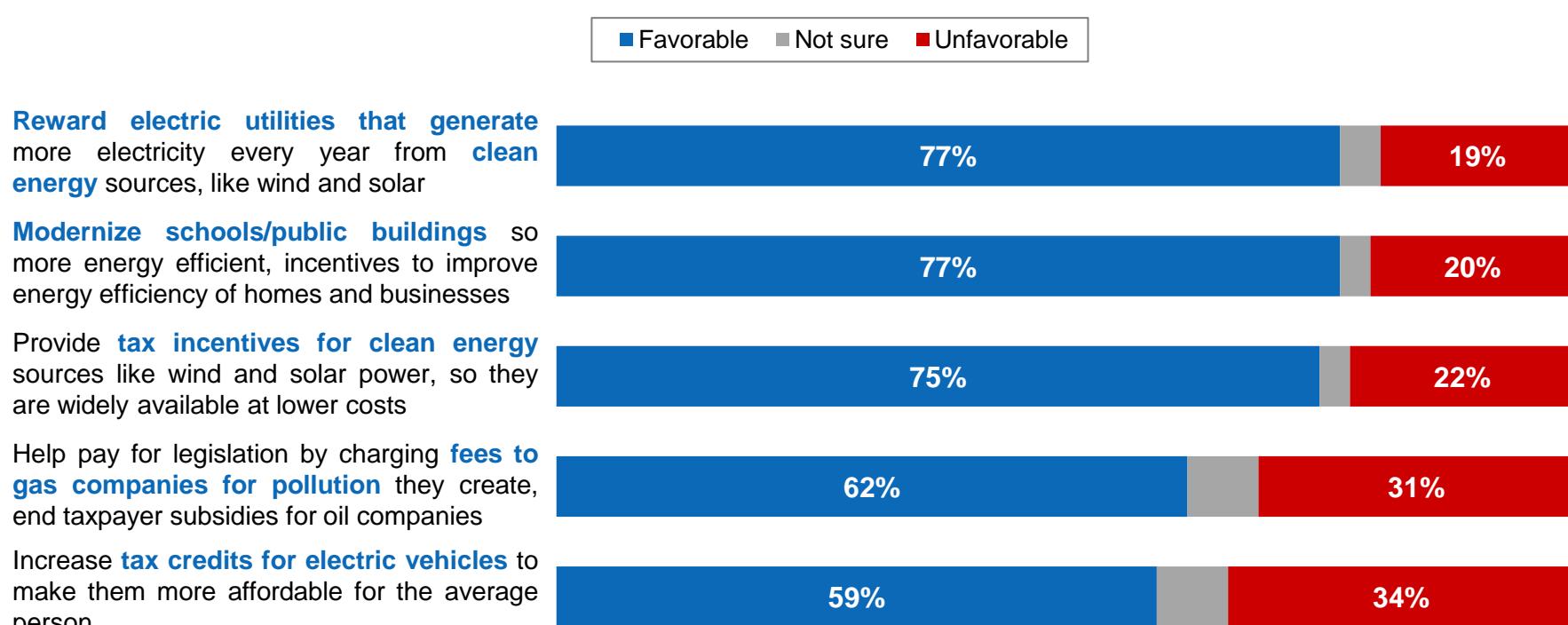


# Voters of all ages and in all types of communities favor BBB by wide margins—including a 23-point margin of support among independents.

*Support for Build Back Better Act*

	Support	Oppose		Support	Oppose
All voters	58%	34%	Men	54%	39%
Democrats	89%	5%	Women	62%	30%
Independents	57%	34%	White voters	55%	37%
Republicans	25%	66%	Voters of Color	68%	24%
Swing voters	64%	27%	Age 18 to 34	68%	25%
Biden turnout voters	96%	2%	Age 35 to 49	59%	30%
Urban	61%	32%	Age 50 to 64	55%	41%
Suburban	58%	35%	Age 65/older	52%	39%
Small town/rural	55%	35%			

# The climate and clean energy elements of BBB are central to its appeal.

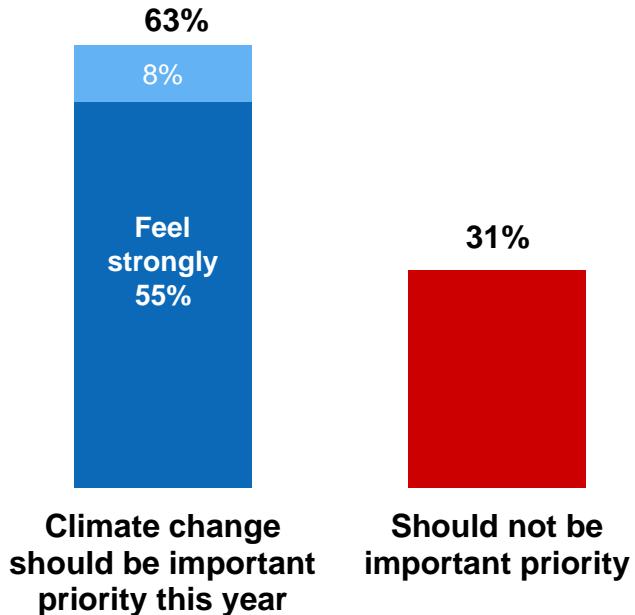


# Many of these clean energy elements are popular across partisan lines.

<i>Proportions who feel favorable toward each:</i>	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Reward electric utilities that generate more electricity every year from clean energy sources, like wind and solar	93%	77%	59%
Modernize schools/public buildings so more energy efficient, incentives to improve energy efficiency of homes and businesses	92%	81%	60%
Provide tax incentives for clean energy sources like wind and solar power, so they are widely available at lower costs	93%	76%	55%
Help pay for legislation by charging fees to gas companies for pollution they create, end taxpayer subsidies for oil companies	86%	61%	37%
Increase tax credits for electric vehicles to make them more affordable for the average person	82%	64%	35%

# Voters in these districts say dealing with climate change is a priority this year—even one in three Republicans feels this way.

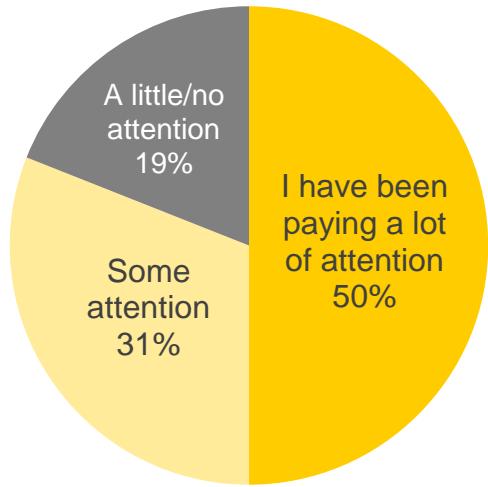
*Do you think taking action to deal with climate change should be an important priority for the president and Congress this year?*



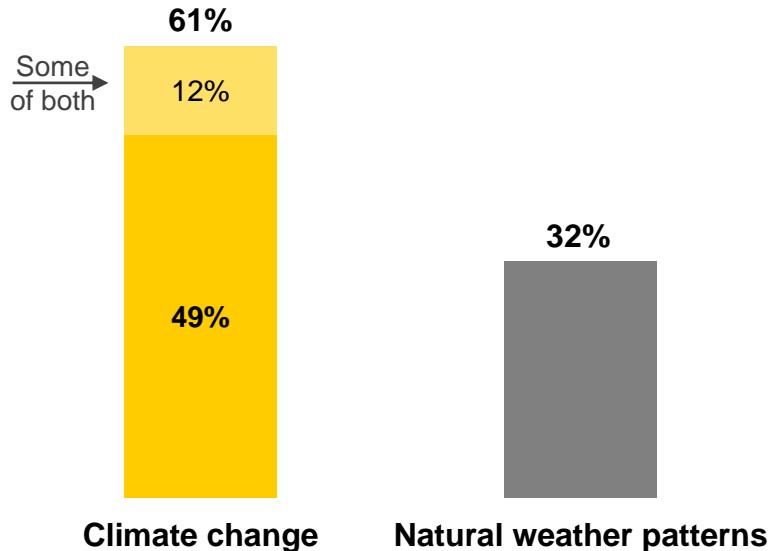
	Priority	Not priority
Urban	71%	25%
Suburban	66%	29%
Small town/rural	54%	39%
Democrats	94%	4%
Independents	59%	28%
Republicans	32%	61%

# This year's repeated extreme weather events underlie voters' sense of urgency to address climate change now.

*News about extreme temperatures, wildfires, hurricanes, flooding around the country*

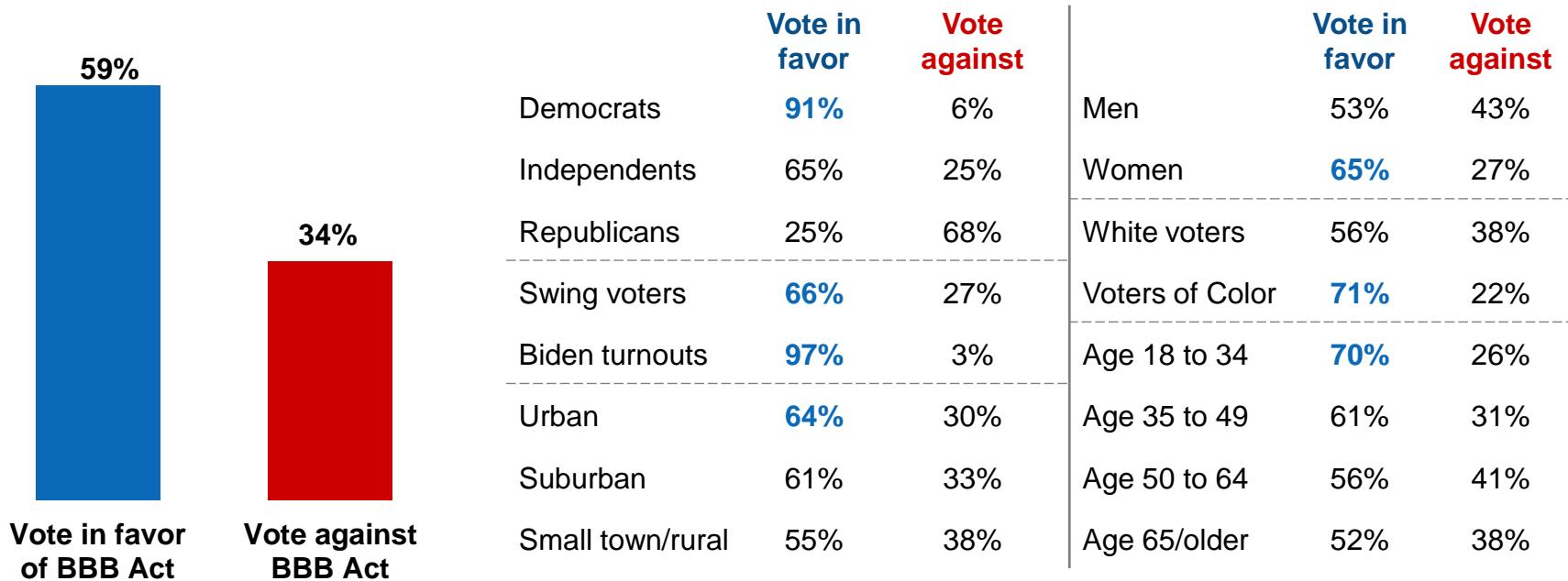


*Perceived cause of the situation with extreme temperatures, wildfires, hurricanes, flooding*



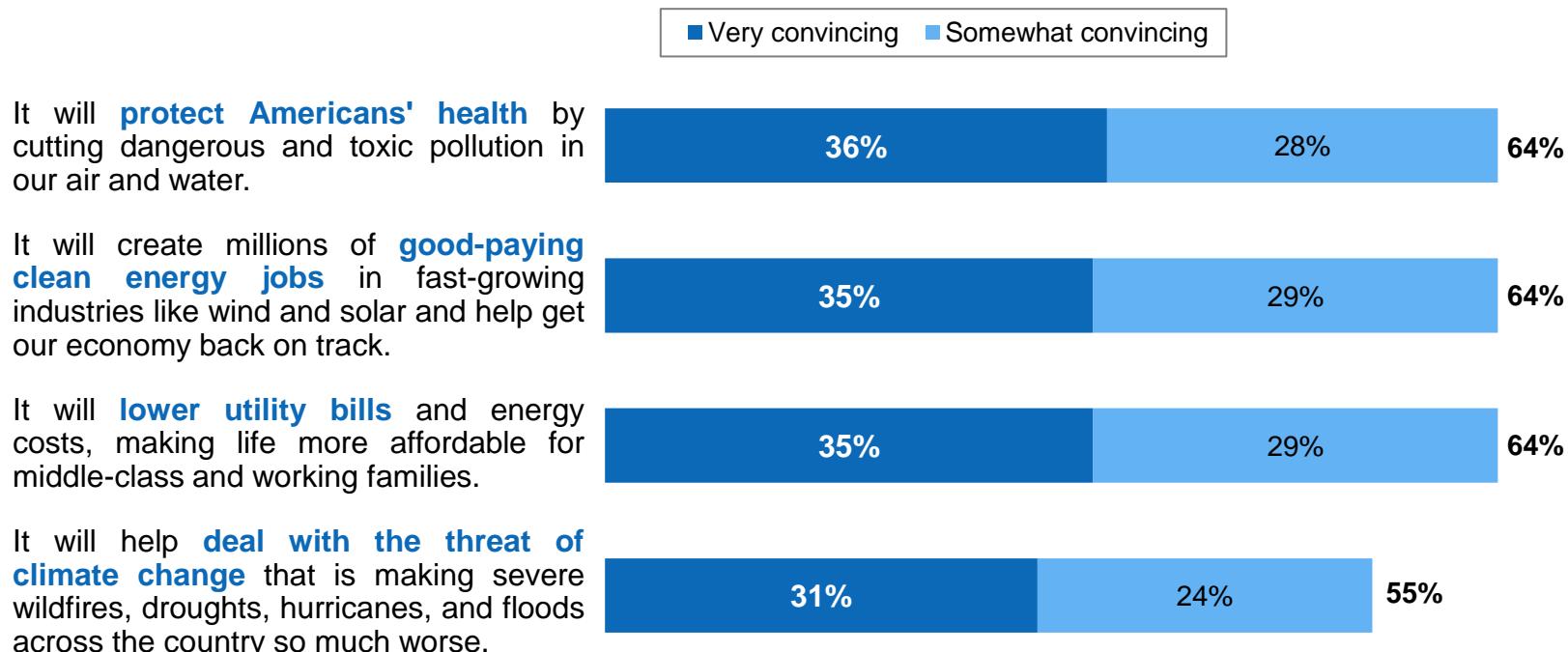
# Voters want their representatives to vote in favor of BBB, especially both the swing voters and Biden turnouts that Democrats will need next year.

*How I Want my Congressional Representative to Vote on the Legislation*



# The public health, job creation, and lower utility bills are especially compelling reasons in BBB's favor.

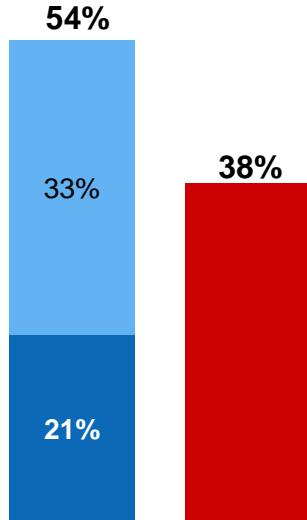
*How convincing is this reason for Congress to pass the legislation?*



# Majorities say BBB's current proposed cost and scope should be maintained or increased; only Republicans favor paring back to lower costs.

On the BBB legislation,  
Congress should:

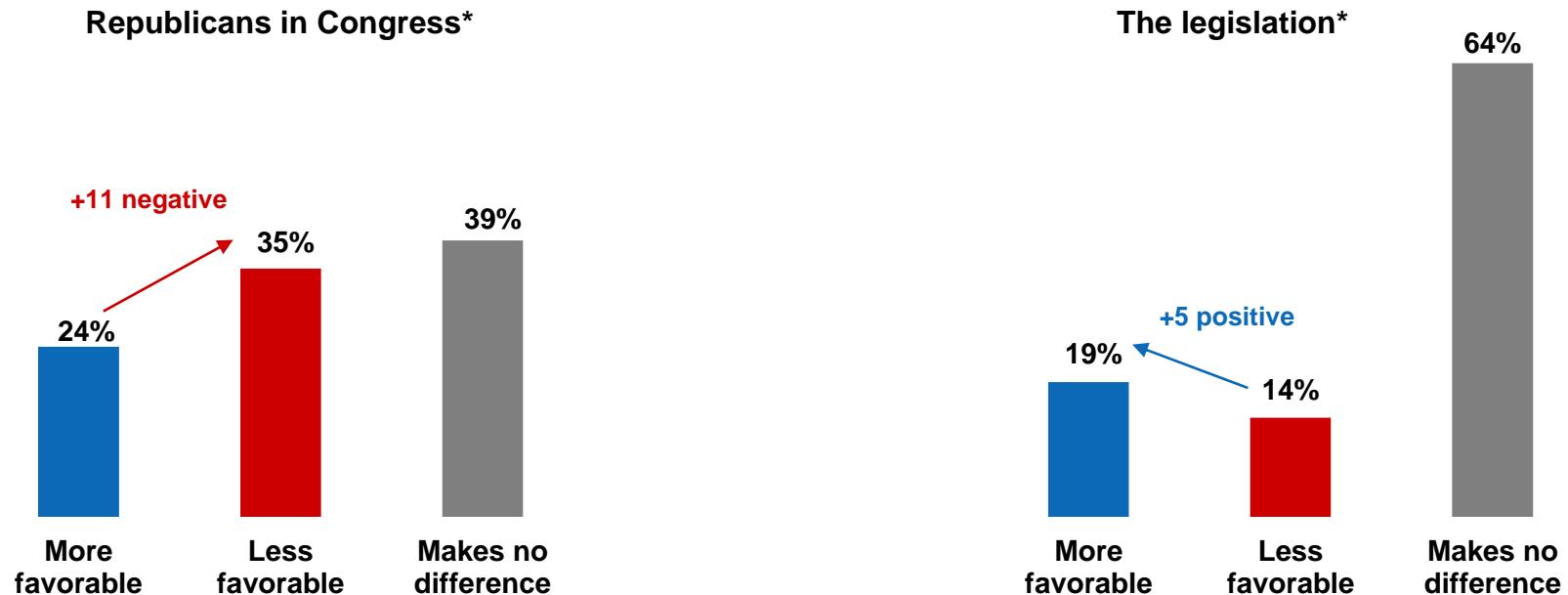
- Keep costs at current level
- Spend MORE so it does more to address important problems and provide more help to working families, even if this means increasing the cost
  
- Spend LESS to save money, even if this means doing less to address important problems and providing less help to working families



	More/ same	Less		More/ same	Less
Democrats	80%	11%	Men	47%	45%
Independents	52%	34%	Women	61%	32%
Republicans	29%	67%	White voters	50%	42%
Swing voters	58%	32%	Voters of Color	70%	23%
Biden turnouts	85%	7%	Age 18 to 34	63%	31%
Urban	62%	35%	Age 35 to 49	58%	34%
Suburban	57%	37%	Age 50 to 64	44%	49%
Small town/rural	49%	42%	Age 65/older	55%	37%

# Lockstep GOP opposition to BBB harms Republicans' image but does not harm BBB itself.

*No Republicans in the U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives support this legislation.  
How does knowing this make you feel toward . . . ?*



\*Half of respondents were asked about Republicans in Congress, the other half were asked about the legislation