

Economic Opportunity and Inequality

A Public Agenda/USA Today/Ipsos Hidden Common Ground Survey

September 24, 2020

A Public Agenda/USA Today/Ipsos Hidden Common Ground survey finds that Americans across the political spectrum support many measures to create good jobs and increase opportunity. These include infrastructure investments, retraining programs, affordable childcare, raising the minimum wage, and incentives for businesses to keep jobs in the U.S.

Strong cross-partisan majorities believe that policies to help small businesses would make their communities thrive economically – much more so than help for big businesses would. Cross-partisan majorities also believe that strong social capital, affordable housing, and anti-discrimination policies would help their communities build a strong economy that gives everyone the chance to succeed.

While most Americans think the economy is rigged to benefit the rich and powerful, most also think it is okay for the rich to get richer as long as everyone has a chance to succeed. Democrats are more concerned about both racial and economic inequality than Republicans. About a third of Americans support reparations for people whose ancestors were enslaved, including about half of Democrats and three-quarters of Black Americans.

Detailed findings:

Americans across the political spectrum support many measures to create good jobs and increase opportunity. These include infrastructure investments, retraining programs, affordable childcare, raising the minimum wage, and incentives for businesses to keep jobs in the U.S.

- An 80% majority of Americans supports creating more good jobs by *upgrading infrastructure*, including nearly equal majorities of Republicans (83%), Democrats (82%), and Independents (76%).
- A strong majority (80%) also supports *retraining programs* that would give adults the skills to compete for quality jobs, including similar majorities of Republicans (86%), Democrats (82%), and Independents (78%).
- Three-quarters of Americans (77%) support making *affordable, high-quality childcare* available to all families, including most Republicans (71%), Democrats (86%), and Independent (75%).
- Most Americans (72%) support *raising the minimum wage*, including most Republicans (62%), Democrats (87%) and Independents (69%). In a Hidden Common Ground survey fielded in February 2020 before the coronavirus pandemic struck, 66% of Americans supported raising the minimum wage, including only 48% of Republicans, 80% of Democrats and 54% of Independents.¹

¹ See <https://www.publicagenda.org/reports/americas-hidden-common-ground-on-creating-good-jobs>

- Most Americans (80%) support *incentives for businesses to bring overseas jobs back to the U.S.*, including 88% of Republicans, 82% of Democrats and 70% of Independents.
- Three-quarters of Americans support *funding research in technology, science and green energy*, including 71% of Republican, 83% of Democrats and 71% of Independents.
- *Providing tax breaks to businesses that create good quality jobs in communities that need them* attracts support from 71% of Americans, including 84% of Republicans, 68% of Democrats and 59% of Independents.
- There is cross-partisan support for two additional measures to increase economic opportunity and well-being, although that consensus is less robust than for the above:
 - *Making it easier to unionize*: 62% of Americans overall support making unionization easier, including about three-quarters of Democrats and about half each of Republicans and Independents.
 - *Decreasing regulation of businesses that create good jobs*: 55% of Americans overall support this, including 71% of Republicans, a 49% plurality of Democrats and a 45% plurality of Independents.

Strong cross-partisan majorities believe that policies to help small businesses would make their communities thrive economically – much more so than help for big businesses would. Cross-partisan majorities also believe that strong social capital, affordable housing, and anti-discrimination policies would help their communities build a strong economy that gives everyone the chance to succeed.

- Most Americans (78%) say that in their community, *policies that help small businesses thrive* would make a difference in building a strong economy and giving everyone a chance to succeed. This includes similar majorities of Republicans (83%), Democrats (82%) and Independents (71%). Fewer Americans (44%) say that help for big businesses would make a difference in their community.
- Most Americans (76%) also believe that *residents having strong connections with each other* would make a difference in their community's economy, including comparable majorities of Republicans (78%), Democrats (80%) and Independents (67%).
- Creating more *affordable housing for low-and-middle-income families* also would make a difference in their community according to 69% of Americans, including most Democrats (82%) and more modest majorities of Republicans (63%) and Independents (60%).
- For most Americans (68%), *strong anti-discrimination policies* would make a difference to their community economically. This includes most Democrats (81%) and modest majorities of Republicans (61%) and Independents (54%). Somewhat more Black Americans (76%) see strong anti-discrimination policies as a way to make their communities thrive economically than white (67%) or Latino (66%) Americans.
- Two-thirds of Americans (67%) believe that *having a population with diverse backgrounds, skills and ideas* would have positive economic impacts in their community, including most Republicans (64%) and Democrats (77%) and 58% of Independents. Strong majorities of Black, white and Latino Americans also say this type of diversity would help their communities thrive.

- *Universal basic income* is likely a relatively new idea to many Americans. Just over half of Americans (56%) say providing a monthly \$1000 payment to each citizen every month, whether they are employed or not, would make a difference in their community economically. Support for a universal basic income is higher among Democrats (72%) than Republicans (46%) or Independents (49%).

Most Americans believe it is okay for wealthy people to get wealthier as long as everyone has opportunities to succeed. But most Americans also believe that the economy is rigged to benefit the rich and powerful – including majorities of Democrats and Independents and a plurality of Republicans.

- Overall, 59% of Americans somewhat or strongly agree that *the economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful*. While this is a majority sentiment among Democrats (78%) and Independents (60%), among Republicans it is a plurality sentiment with a large number who have no distinct opinion (40% of Republicans agree, 35% disagree and 22% neither agree or disagree). Differences by race in these and other views about economic inequality are less pronounced.
- A 59% majority of Americans also think that *it is okay for wealthy people to get wealthier as long as everyone else also has a good chance to succeed*. This is a more widely-held view among Republicans (71%) than Independents (59%) or Democrats (52%).
- Half of Americans agree somewhat or strongly that *if you work hard, you will succeed* no matter what. More Republicans (66%) believe this than Democrats (41%) or Independents (47%).
- Americans are split in their views on how the economy worked *before* the coronavirus pandemic: 44% say it worked well for most or all Americans while 48% say it worked well for just some or only a few Americans. Most Republicans (71%) say that before the pandemic the economy worked well for all or most Americans, but just 26% of Democrats and 41% of Independents share that assessment.

Democrats are more concerned about racial inequality than Republicans. About a third of Americans support reparations for Black Americans whose ancestors were enslaved, including about half of Democrats and about three-quarters of Black Americans.

- Americans are divided over whether racial discrimination in their community makes it more difficult for people of color to succeed: 43% of Americans somewhat or strongly agree that racial discrimination makes success more difficult, while 47% somewhat or strongly disagree.
- Many more Democrats (60%) agree that racial discrimination makes it more difficult for people of color to succeed, compared with Republicans (28%) and Independents (30%). Many more Black Americans (67%) also think racial discrimination is a barrier to success, compared to Latino Americans (56%) and white Americans (35%).
- Despite those differences of opinion on whether racial discrimination makes it more difficult for people of color to succeed, across lines of partisanship and race most Americans (68%) say *strong anti-discrimination policies* would make a positive difference to their community economically. This includes majorities of Democrats (81%), Republicans (61%) and



Independents (54%), as well as majorities of white Americans (67%), Black Americans (76%), and Latino Americans (66%).

- While long a topic of discussion among people working toward racial justice, reparations is a relatively new idea for most Americans. Thirty-three percent of Americans say they somewhat or strongly agree that Black Americans whose ancestors were enslaved deserve financial compensation from the federal government. Fifty-seven percent of Americans somewhat or strongly disagree and 10% say they do not know.
- About half of Democrats (52%) support reparations, compared with only 16% of Republicans and 15% of Independents. Most Black Americans (73%) support reparations, compared with 22% of white Americans and 44% of Latino Americans.

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between August 28-31, 2020 on behalf of Public Agenda and USA Today. For this survey, a sample of 1,114 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:

Full Annotated Questionnaire:

1. How would you describe the following?

Total Positive Summary

	Total (N=1,114)	Rep (N=436)	Dem (N=486)	Ind (N=118)	Apo (N=74)
You and your family's financial situation today	50%	61%	45%	47%	34%
Your likely financial situation after the pandemic ends	49%	61%	46%	40%	29%
Local economic conditions in your community today	35%	51%	28%	24%	17%
National economic conditions in the country today	23%	38%	15%	13%	13%

Total Positive Summary (Trended)

	Aug. 28-31, 2020 (N=1,114)	Feb. 20-21, 2020 (N=1,007)
You and your family's financial situation today	50%	55%
Your likely financial situation after the pandemic ends	49%	-
Local economic conditions in your community today	35%	54%
National economic conditions in the country today	23%	46%

a. National economic conditions in the country today

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Excellent	5%	8%	3%	3%	1%
Good	18%	30%	12%	10%	13%
Fair	35%	37%	33%	42%	25%
Poor	38%	23%	51%	33%	41%
Don't know	5%	2%	2%	12%	20%
<i>Positive (Net)</i>	23%	38%	15%	13%	13%
<i>Negative (Net)</i>	72%	60%	83%	75%	66%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
Excellent	5%	12%
Good	18%	34%
Fair	35%	37%
Poor	38%	14%
Don't know	5%	4%
<i>Positive (Net)</i>	23%	46%
<i>Negative (Net)</i>	72%	50%

b. Local economic conditions in your community today

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Excellent	4%	8%	3%	1%	3%
Good	30%	43%	25%	23%	14%
Fair	43%	35%	48%	49%	46%
Poor	17%	11%	21%	20%	18%
Don't know	5%	3%	4%	7%	19%
<i>Positive (Net)</i>	35%	51%	28%	24%	17%
<i>Negative (Net)</i>	60%	46%	69%	69%	64%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
Excellent	4%	11%
Good	30%	43%
Fair	43%	33%
Poor	17%	10%
Don't know	5%	3%
<i>Positive (Net)</i>	35%	54%
<i>Negative (Net)</i>	60%	43%

c. You and your family's financial situation today

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Excellent	11%	15%	8%	10%	6%
Good	39%	46%	37%	37%	27%
Fair	32%	29%	34%	34%	26%
Poor	15%	9%	19%	14%	21%
Don't know	3%	1%	1%	5%	20%
<i>Positive (Net)</i>	50%	61%	45%	47%	34%
<i>Negative (Net)</i>	47%	39%	53%	48%	47%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
Excellent	11%	13%
Good	39%	42%
Fair	32%	30%
Poor	15%	13%
Don't know	3%	2%
<i>Positive (Net)</i>	50%	55%
<i>Negative (Net)</i>	47%	43%

d. Your likely financial situation after the pandemic ends

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Excellent	11%	17%	8%	10%	3%
Good	38%	45%	38%	30%	26%
Fair	29%	25%	32%	35%	27%
Poor	15%	9%	18%	16%	25%
Don't know	6%	5%	4%	9%	19%
<i>Positive (Net)</i>	49%	61%	46%	40%	29%
<i>Negative (Net)</i>	44%	34%	50%	51%	53%

2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Total Agree Summary

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
We should reboot the economy slowly and carefully to avoid spreading the virus and endangering lives	72%	61%	86%	72%	55%
It's okay for wealthy people to get wealthier as long as everyone else also has a good chance to succeed	59%	71%	52%	59%	43%
In America, if you work hard, you will succeed no matter what	50%	66%	41%	47%	29%
In my community, racial discrimination makes it more difficult for people of color to succeed	43%	28%	60%	30%	37%
I have experienced serious financial hardship over the last six months	42%	37%	46%	33%	53%
Black Americans whose ancestors were enslaved deserve financial compensation from the federal government	33%	16%	52%	15%	27%

a. It's okay for wealthy people to get wealthier as long as everyone else also has a good chance to succeed

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Strongly agree	22%	32%	17%	18%	14%
Somewhat agree	37%	39%	36%	40%	29%
Somewhat disagree	18%	12%	22%	21%	16%
Strongly disagree	15%	10%	19%	10%	15%
Don't know	9%	7%	6%	10%	26%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	59%	71%	52%	59%	43%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	32%	22%	41%	31%	31%

b. In America, if you work hard, you will succeed no matter what

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Strongly agree	16%	26%	12%	10%	6%
Somewhat agree	34%	40%	29%	36%	23%
Somewhat disagree	26%	21%	29%	36%	20%
Strongly disagree	18%	10%	26%	8%	23%
Don't know	6%	3%	4%	9%	28%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	50%	66%	41%	47%	29%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	44%	31%	55%	44%	43%

c. In my community, racial discrimination makes it more difficult for people of color to succeed

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Strongly agree	16%	10%	24%	9%	14%
Somewhat agree	27%	18%	36%	21%	22%
Somewhat disagree	20%	19%	20%	25%	16%
Strongly disagree	27%	47%	12%	26%	20%
Don't know	10%	5%	8%	18%	27%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	43%	28%	60%	30%	37%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	47%	66%	32%	51%	36%

d. We should reboot the economy slowly and carefully to avoid spreading the virus and endangering lives

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Strongly agree	39%	26%	52%	38%	34%
Somewhat agree	33%	35%	34%	34%	21%
Somewhat disagree	14%	24%	7%	14%	8%
Strongly disagree	7%	12%	3%	4%	9%
Don't know	7%	3%	4%	10%	28%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	72%	61%	86%	72%	55%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	21%	35%	10%	18%	17%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	May 22-26, 2020 (N=1,004)	Mar 27-30, 2020 (N=1,002)
Strongly agree	39%	45%	44%
Somewhat agree	33%	32%	40%
Somewhat disagree	14%	10%	7%
Strongly disagree	7%	7%	4%
Don't know	7%	6%	6%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	72%	77%	83%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	21%	17%	11%

e. Black Americans whose ancestors were enslaved deserve financial compensation from the federal government

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Strongly agree	15%	9%	23%	8%	10%
Somewhat agree	18%	8%	29%	7%	17%
Somewhat disagree	17%	14%	18%	25%	12%
Strongly disagree	41%	66%	21%	38%	31%
Don't know	10%	3%	9%	21%	30%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>27%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>43%</i>

f. I have experienced serious financial hardship over the last six months

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Strongly agree	17%	14%	19%	11%	25%
Somewhat agree	25%	22%	27%	22%	29%
Somewhat disagree	26%	29%	26%	27%	20%
Strongly disagree	28%	33%	26%	35%	5%
Don't know	4%	1%	2%	5%	21%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>53%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>25%</i>

3. Before the coronavirus pandemic began, do you think our nation's economy...?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Worked well for all Americans	14%	27%	5%	13%	5%
Worked well for most Americans	29%	45%	20%	28%	12%
Worked well for some Americans	32%	19%	44%	37%	28%
Worked well for only a few Americans	16%	5%	26%	11%	15%
Don't know	9%	5%	5%	11%	40%
<i>Worked well for all/most Americans (Net)</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>17%</i>
<i>Worked well for some/a few Americans (Net)</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>43%</i>

4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: **The American economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful.**

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Strongly agree	33%	16%	51%	24%	31%
Somewhat agree	26%	25%	27%	35%	14%
Neither agree nor disagree	18%	22%	14%	22%	19%
Somewhat disagree	11%	21%	4%	7%	7%
Strongly disagree	6%	14%	1%	4%	1%
Don't know	6%	3%	3%	7%	29%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>78%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>35%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>7%</i>

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Jun 26-27, 2018 (N=1,004)	Jul 26-27, 2017 (N=1,008)
Strongly agree	33%	38%	38%
Somewhat agree	26%	29%	34%
Neither agree nor disagree	18%	16%	15%
Somewhat disagree	11%	10%	8%
Strongly disagree	6%	5%	4%
Don't know	6%	2%	2%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>71%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>12%</i>

5. Which of the following do you think should be the three most important priorities for the country's economy? Please select up to three.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Wealthy people and corporations pay more taxes to support good schools and affordable health care	38%	23%	50%	39%	37%
Employees' pay is based on merit, regardless of race or gender	34%	43%	28%	37%	28%
America manufactures more products domestically and imports less from overseas	33%	47%	25%	36%	12%
The gap between rich and poor gets smaller	30%	19%	41%	29%	22%
Government policies and programs do more to help people get out of poverty	26%	18%	34%	28%	19%
Government policies and programs do more to enlarge and strengthen the middle class	23%	22%	27%	23%	11%
Ordinary citizens have more influence on government decisions that affect their economic well-being	21%	22%	21%	26%	16%
Government assistance programs are less generous, so that people learn to rely on themselves	16%	28%	7%	13%	14%
Taxes are reduced for corporations to encourage them to expand and create jobs	14%	21%	8%	12%	12%
Ordinary citizens pay more taxes to support good schools and affordable health care	7%	6%	9%	5%	4%
Other	1%	1%	*	2%	3%
None of these	8%	4%	5%	11%	31%

6. Would you support or not support the following federal and state actions aimed at creating more good quality jobs in the United States?

Total Support Summary

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Creating retraining programs through community colleges and trade schools that give adults the skills to compete for good quality jobs in emerging industries	80%	86%	82%	78%	48%
Creating incentives that encourage American businesses to bring good quality jobs that they moved overseas back to the United States	80%	88%	82%	70%	45%
Upgrading public infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, to create good jobs and make the economy more productive	80%	83%	82%	76%	62%
Making affordable, high-quality childcare available to all families	77%	71%	86%	75%	60%
Funding research in industries like technology, science, and green energy to create good quality jobs	75%	71%	83%	71%	59%
Raising the minimum wage so that every full-time job provides enough income to keep people above the poverty line	72%	62%	87%	69%	46%
Providing tax breaks to businesses that create good quality jobs in American communities that need them	71%	84%	68%	59%	50%
Making it easier for workers to unionize to negotiate for better wages, benefits, and working conditions	62%	51%	78%	54%	42%
Decreasing regulation of businesses that create good quality jobs in American communities that need them	55%	71%	49%	45%	26%



Total Support Summary (Trended)

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
Creating retraining programs through community colleges and trade schools that give adults the skills to compete for good quality jobs in emerging industries	80%	84%
Creating incentives that encourage American businesses to bring good quality jobs that they moved overseas back to the United States	80%	82%
Upgrading public infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, to create good jobs and make the economy more productive	80%	82%
Making affordable, high-quality childcare available to all families	77%	-
Funding research in industries like technology, science, and green energy to create good quality jobs	75%	78%
Raising the minimum wage so that every full-time job provides enough income to keep people above the poverty line	72%	66%
Providing tax breaks to businesses that create good quality jobs in American communities that need them	71%	71%
Making it easier for workers to unionize to negotiate for better wages, benefits, and working conditions	62%	61%
Decreasing regulation of businesses that create good quality jobs in American communities that need them	55%	53%



a. Raising the minimum wage so that every full-time job provides enough income to keep people above the poverty line

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	39%	27%	54%	27%	24%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	33%	35%	33%	42%	22%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	13%	20%	8%	12%	14%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	6%	12%	1%	4%	9%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	9%	7%	4%	15%	32%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	72%	62%	87%	69%	46%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	19%	31%	9%	16%	23%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	39%	39%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	33%	26%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	13%	18%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	6%	8%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	9%	9%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	72%	66%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	19%	26%

b. Providing tax breaks to businesses that create good quality jobs in American communities that need them

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	24%	36%	21%	10%	12%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	47%	48%	47%	49%	38%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	12%	8%	15%	16%	6%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	5%	4%	7%	2%	6%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	12%	4%	10%	23%	38%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	71%	84%	68%	59%	50%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	17%	12%	22%	18%	12%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	24%	30%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	47%	41%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	12%	15%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	5%	4%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	12%	11%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	71%	71%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	17%	18%

c. Decreasing regulation of businesses that create good quality jobs in American communities that need them

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	20%	30%	18%	8%	3%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	35%	41%	31%	37%	22%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	21%	14%	25%	28%	19%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	11%	6%	15%	6%	13%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	14%	10%	11%	21%	42%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	55%	71%	49%	45%	26%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	31%	19%	41%	34%	32%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	20%	19%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	35%	34%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	21%	22%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	11%	10%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	14%	15%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	55%	53%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	31%	32%

d. Creating incentives that encourage American businesses to bring good quality jobs that they moved overseas back to the United States

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	41%	52%	39%	33%	15%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	39%	36%	44%	37%	30%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	8%	6%	8%	11%	5%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	2%	2%	1%	1%	8%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	10%	4%	8%	18%	42%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	80%	88%	82%	70%	45%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	10%	8%	10%	12%	13%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	41%	47%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	39%	34%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	8%	7%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	2%	2%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	10%	8%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	80%	82%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	10%	10%

e. Making it easier for workers to unionize to negotiate for better wages, benefits, and working conditions

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	27%	20%	37%	12%	23%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	35%	31%	41%	42%	18%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	16%	23%	11%	9%	13%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	10%	18%	4%	10%	9%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	13%	8%	8%	27%	36%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	62%	51%	78%	54%	42%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	26%	41%	15%	19%	22%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	27%	29%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	35%	32%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	16%	16%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	10%	10%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	13%	14%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	62%	61%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	26%	25%

f. Funding research in industries like technology, science, and green energy to create good quality jobs

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	36%	27%	48%	33%	25%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	39%	44%	36%	38%	34%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	10%	15%	8%	9%	4%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	4%	5%	3%	5%	-
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	11%	9%	6%	15%	37%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	75%	71%	83%	71%	59%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	14%	20%	11%	14%	4%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	36%	41%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	39%	38%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	10%	9%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	4%	3%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	11%	10%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	75%	78%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	14%	12%



g. Upgrading public infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, to create good jobs and make the economy more productive.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	41%	36%	49%	33%	34%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	39%	47%	33%	42%	28%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	10%	10%	10%	8%	11%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	8%	5%	5%	14%	25%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	80%	83%	82%	76%	62%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	12%	12%	13%	10%	13%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	41%	51%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	39%	32%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	10%	7%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	2%	2%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	8%	9%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	80%	82%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	12%	9%

h. Creating retraining programs through community colleges and trade schools that give adults the skills to compete for good quality jobs in emerging industries

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	41%	40%	46%	36%	28%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	39%	45%	36%	42%	20%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	7%	5%	9%	4%	11%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	4%	5%	2%	5%	4%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	9%	4%	7%	13%	36%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	80%	86%	82%	78%	48%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	11%	10%	12%	9%	16%

	Aug. 28-31, 2020	Feb. 20-21, 2020
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	41%	47%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	39%	37%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	7%	6%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	4%	2%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	9%	8%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	80%	84%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	11%	9%

i. Making affordable, high-quality childcare available to all families

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
It sounds very good to me, and I would support it	43%	33%	54%	38%	39%
It sounds somewhat good to me, and I would probably support it	34%	38%	32%	37%	20%
It does not sound very good to me, and I would probably not support it	9%	14%	7%	8%	7%
It does not sound good at all, and I would not support it	4%	7%	3%	2%	4%
Don't know/Don't have enough information to say	9%	8%	4%	15%	30%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	77%	71%	86%	75%	60%
<i>Not support (Net)</i>	14%	20%	10%	10%	10%

7. In your community, how much of a difference would each of the following make in building a strong economy that gives everyone a chance to succeed?

Total Difference Summary

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Public policies that help small businesses thrive	78%	83%	82%	71%	51%
Residents that have strong connections with each other and love their community	76%	78%	80%	67%	53%
Public policies that create more affordable housing for low-and-middle-income families	69%	63%	82%	60%	47%
Strong anti-discrimination policies that ensure everyone is treated fairly and has equal opportunity	68%	61%	81%	54%	53%
A population with diverse backgrounds, skills and ideas	67%	64%	77%	58%	47%
Public policy that provides a monthly \$1000 payment to each citizen every month, whether they are employed or not, also called a "universal basic income"	56%	46%	72%	49%	33%
Public policies that help big businesses thrive	44%	50%	44%	36%	31%

a. Residents that have strong connections with each other and love their community

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Great deal of difference	37%	38%	40%	28%	26%
Some difference	39%	40%	40%	39%	28%
Not much difference	13%	12%	13%	16%	14%
No difference at all	3%	5%	2%	3%	3%
Don't know	8%	5%	5%	14%	30%
<i>A difference (Net)</i>	76%	78%	80%	67%	53%
<i>No difference (Net)</i>	16%	17%	15%	19%	17%

b. A population with diverse backgrounds, skills and ideas

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Great deal of difference	36%	28%	46%	29%	28%
Some difference	32%	36%	32%	29%	19%
Not much difference	18%	20%	15%	21%	15%
No difference at all	5%	8%	2%	4%	6%
Don't know	10%	8%	6%	18%	33%
<i>A difference (Net)</i>	67%	64%	77%	58%	47%
<i>No difference (Net)</i>	22%	28%	17%	25%	21%

c. Public policies that help small businesses thrive

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Great deal of difference	41%	42%	44%	36%	30%
Some difference	38%	42%	38%	35%	22%
Not much difference	10%	9%	10%	13%	9%
No difference at all	2%	2%	2%	1%	4%
Don't know	9%	5%	6%	16%	36%
<i>A difference (Net)</i>	78%	83%	82%	71%	51%
<i>No difference (Net)</i>	12%	11%	12%	14%	13%

d. Public policies that help big businesses thrive

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Great deal of difference	14%	16%	15%	8%	5%
Some difference	30%	34%	28%	29%	27%
Not much difference	29%	30%	30%	32%	22%
No difference at all	12%	8%	15%	12%	13%
Don't know	15%	12%	11%	20%	34%
<i>A difference (Net)</i>	44%	50%	44%	36%	31%
<i>No difference (Net)</i>	41%	37%	45%	44%	35%

e. Strong anti-discrimination policies that ensure everyone is treated fairly and has equal opportunity

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Great deal of difference	40%	28%	55%	26%	31%
Some difference	28%	33%	26%	29%	21%
Not much difference	17%	22%	12%	25%	13%
No difference at all	6%	10%	2%	5%	8%
Don't know	9%	7%	5%	16%	26%
<i>A difference (Net)</i>	68%	61%	81%	54%	53%
<i>No difference (Net)</i>	23%	32%	14%	30%	21%

f. Public policies that create more affordable housing for low-and-middle-income families

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Great deal of difference	37%	27%	48%	31%	28%
Some difference	33%	36%	34%	29%	19%
Not much difference	16%	22%	12%	18%	9%
No difference at all	5%	9%	2%	4%	7%
Don't know	10%	7%	5%	18%	37%
<i>A difference (Net)</i>	69%	63%	82%	60%	47%
<i>No difference (Net)</i>	21%	30%	14%	22%	16%

g. Public policy that provides a monthly \$1000 payment to each citizen every month, whether they are employed or not, also called a "universal basic income"

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apo
Great deal of difference	29%	20%	41%	24%	17%
Some difference	27%	26%	31%	25%	16%
Not much difference	14%	12%	13%	15%	20%
No difference at all	15%	26%	5%	14%	13%
Don't know	16%	16%	10%	22%	34%
<i>A difference (Net)</i>	56%	46%	72%	49%	33%
<i>No difference (Net)</i>	28%	38%	19%	29%	33%



About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between August 28-31, 2020, on behalf of Public Agenda and USA Today. For this survey, a sample of 1,114 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll includes 436 Republicans, 486 Democrats, 118 Independents, and 74 apolitical individuals. The poll is trended with Public Agenda/USA Today/Ipsos polls conducted:

- February 20-21, 2020, among 1,007 U.S. adults
- March 27-30, 2020, among 1,002 U.S. adults
- May 22-26, 2020, among 1,004 U.S. adults

The topline also includes data from polls conducted:

- July 26-27, 2017, among 1,008 U.S. adults
- June 26-27, 2018, among 1,004 U.S. adults, on behalf of USA Today

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following ($n=1,114$, $DEFF=1.5$, adjusted Confidence Interval= ± 4.8 percentage points).

The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.4 percentage points for Republicans, plus or minus 5.1 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 10.3 percentage points for Independents, and plus or minus 13.0 percentage points for apolitical individuals. All polls included for trending have credibility intervals of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents.

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About Ipsos

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Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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About The Hidden Common Ground Initiative

The Hidden Common Ground Initiative focuses on underappreciated and under-leveraged areas of agreement among the public on solutions to tough public problems, like health care and criminal justice. HCG 2020 is the election-year iteration of the initiative, spearheaded by Public Agenda and USA Today, with The National Issues Forums (NIF), Ipsos, and the America Amplified: Election 2020 Public Media Collaborative. It applies the HCG mission to an array of election year issues via nonpartisan research, national and local journalism, community-based and online deliberative forums, and "Strange Bedfellows" storytelling and events. Hidden Common Ground is supported by a diverse group of foundations, including the [Carnegie Corporation of New York](#), the [John S. and James L. Knight Foundation](#), the [Charles Koch Foundation](#), and the [Rockefeller Brothers Fund](#), as well as through the generosity of individual donors. In addition, the [Kettering Foundation](#) is a research partner of the initiative.

