

May 2026

Environmental Protection Network

YouGov®

April 2026 survey

YouGov

Sample Methodology

- On behalf of Environmental Protection Network, YouGov fielded a survey of 2,025 US voters from April 22 to April 27, 2026 including a sampling frame to account for registered voter universe
- The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, and U.S. Census region based on voter registration lists, the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, as well as 2020 Presidential vote and approximate 2024 Presidential vote based on available results, and party identification estimates based on Pew Research Center's National Public Opinion Reference Survey

Executive Summary

- Most voters have strong concerns about the impact of chemicals and pollution on their lives
 - Voters believe rolling back EPA regulations will increase the costs of living and health care – the two top issues identified by voters as overall concerns.
 - Concerns are especially high among working-class Americans who can't afford to get sick from chemicals and pollution.
 - These concerns extend to constituencies — including Trump's core supporters, independents, rural Americans, and young men — who are not generally viewed as environmentalists.
- Many of Trump's supporters are unsure or critical of Trump's handling of polluters and EPA
 - 82% of President Trump's current supporters want him to be tougher on polluters.
 - 35% of President Trump's 2024 voters are skeptical that Trump has kept his promise to deliver the cleanest air and water.

Executive Summary (continued)

- Strong support for EPA across all voter segments
 - By a 62-to-8 margin, voters want EPA to be strengthened or expanded rather than weakened. This support has increased from 2024, according to other polling.
 - Voters across the political spectrum believe EPA should be holding polluters accountable, conducting scientific research, and protecting communities disproportionately impacted by pollution.
 - Voters reject the idea that EPA should be making the United States the AI capital of the world and fast-tracking data centers.
- A significant number of voters have heard only a little – or nothing at all – about what is happening to EPA under President Trump.
 - 35% of voters are not sure if EPA is on the right or wrong track.
 - When informed of various news about EPA, voters overwhelmingly oppose efforts to weaken the agency and its work protecting public health.

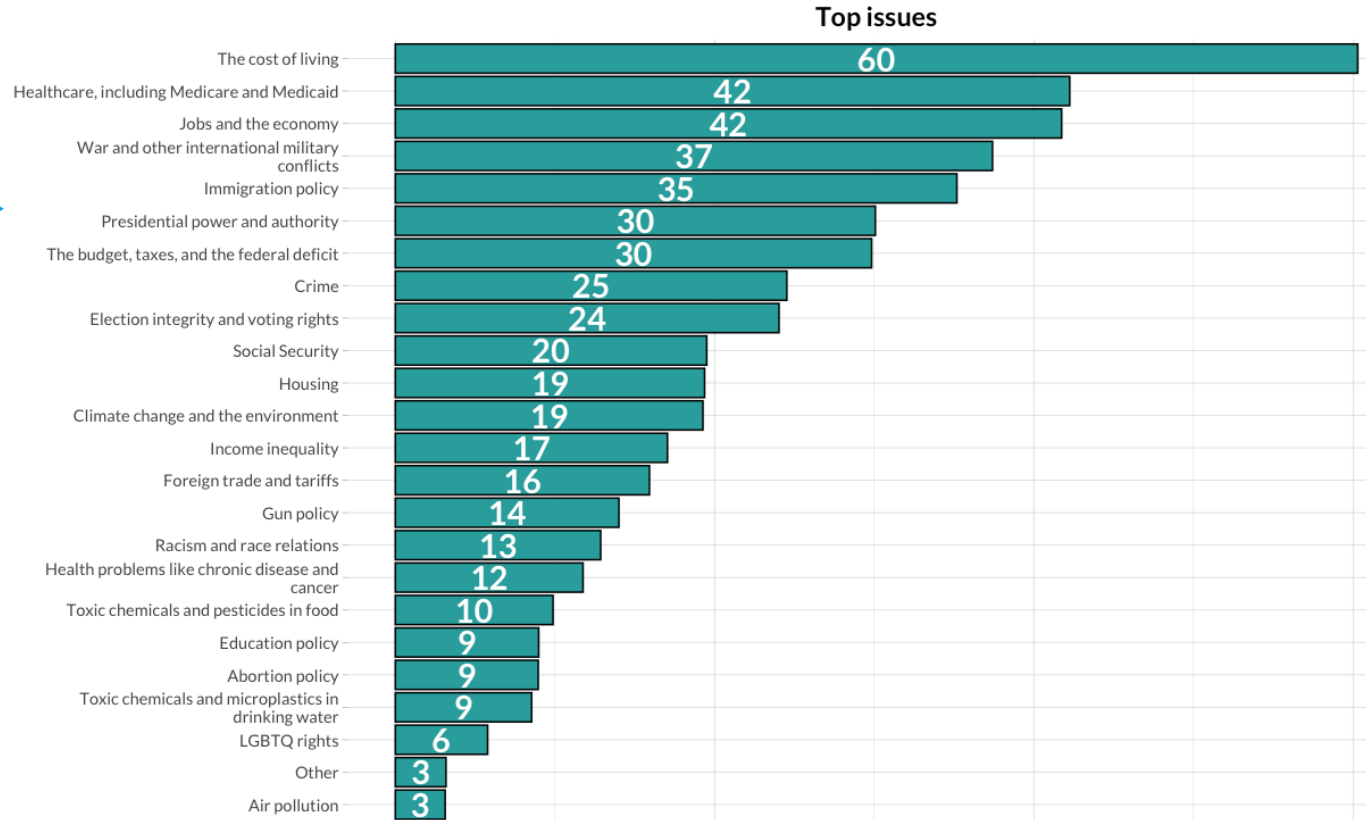
Executive Summary (continued)

- The amount of movement by respondents during the survey was unusually high compared to movement on other subjects where the national political context is involved, reflecting three things:
 - People care about staying healthy and avoiding chemicals/pollution
 - People don't fully know what is happening at EPA
 - When informed, people are concerned. People don't like what they hear as they learn more, and they become more concerned that things are off track
- It's not an issue debate. It's an awareness gap.

Top Concerns

The cost of living is the most typical “top 5” concern of US voters

- Healthcare at 42 percent
- Climate change a top 5 concern of about 19 percent of voters
- 22 percent picked at least one of the following as a top concern: Chemicals in water, chemicals in food, air pollution, or chronic illness

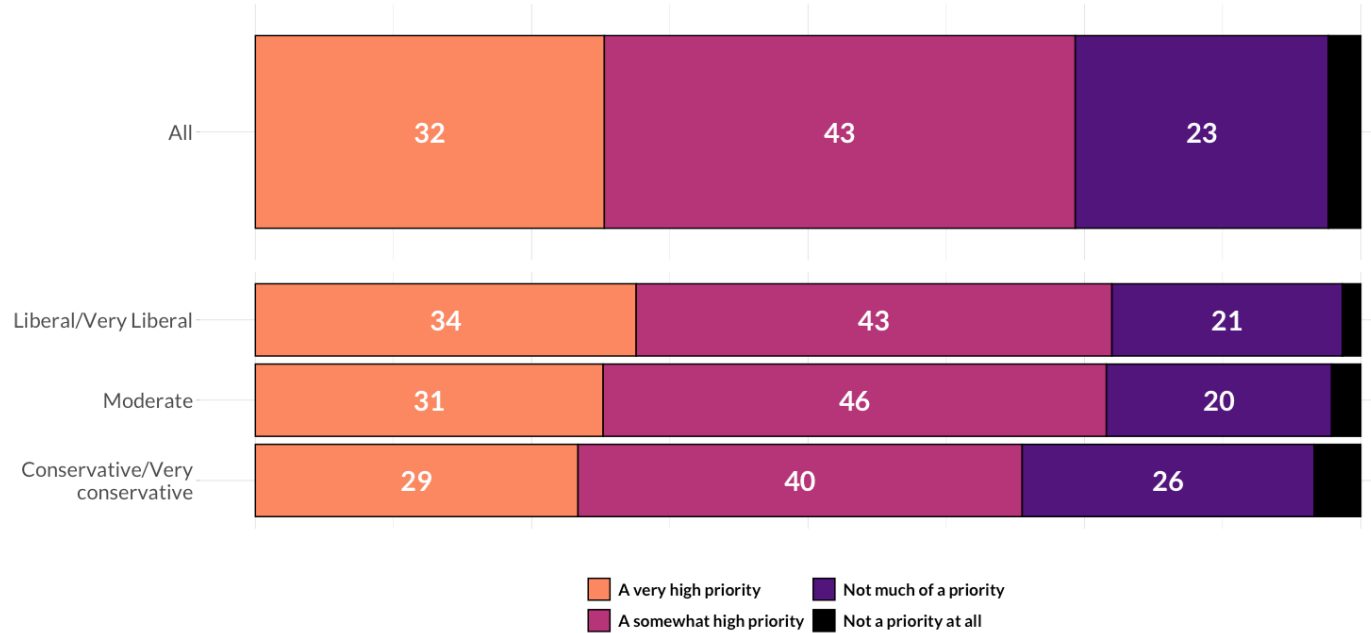


What are the top issues facing the U.S. today? Select up to 5.

75 percent of voters consider limiting their exposure to toxic chemicals and pollution to be a high priority

- Many voters see chemicals and pollution as a higher personal priority than policy issue priority
- High support across political ideology

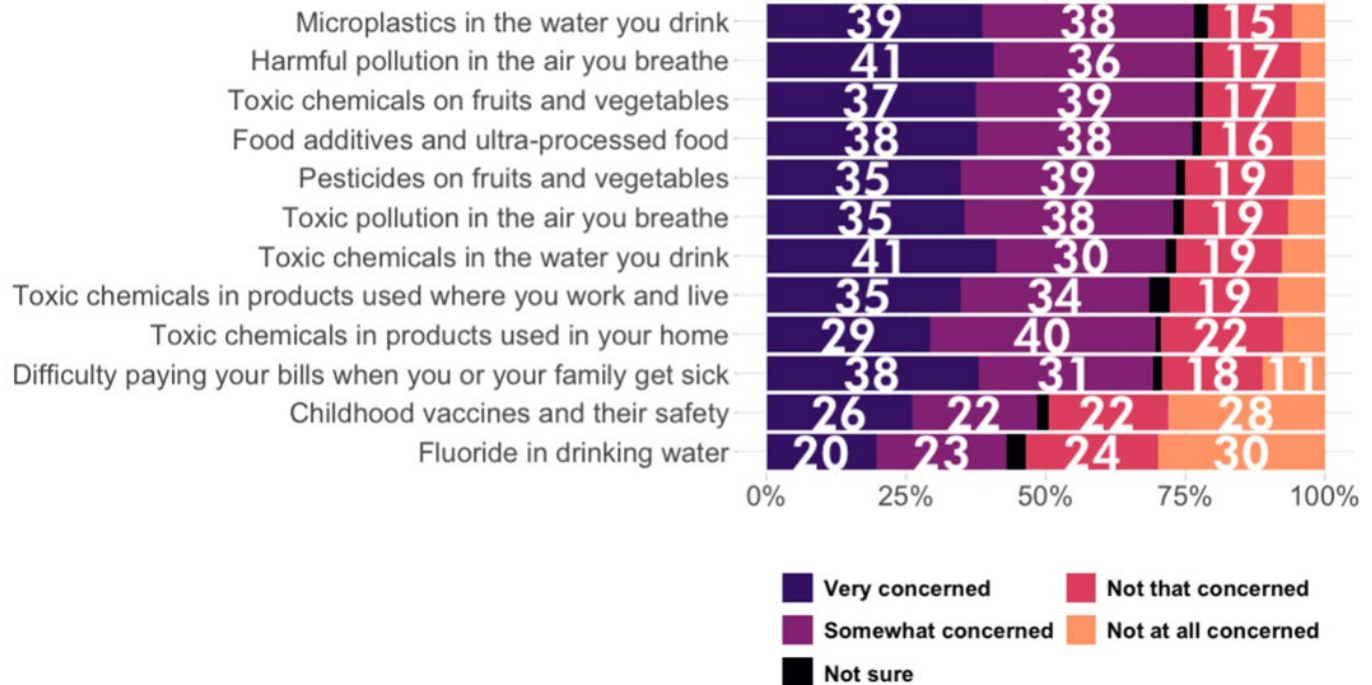
How high a priority should limiting exposure to toxic chemicals be



Compared to all of the things you are concerned about, how high of a priority is limiting [Split A: your, Split B: your family's] exposure to toxic chemicals and pollution in the water you drink, the air you breathe, the food you eat, and the products you use?

On specific environmental and pollution-related concerns, high levels of concern across the board

- Strong concern across water, air, food, and household products
- Concerns are equally high for “toxic chemicals” and “harmful pollution”
- Fluoride and vaccines least sources of concern for voters overall

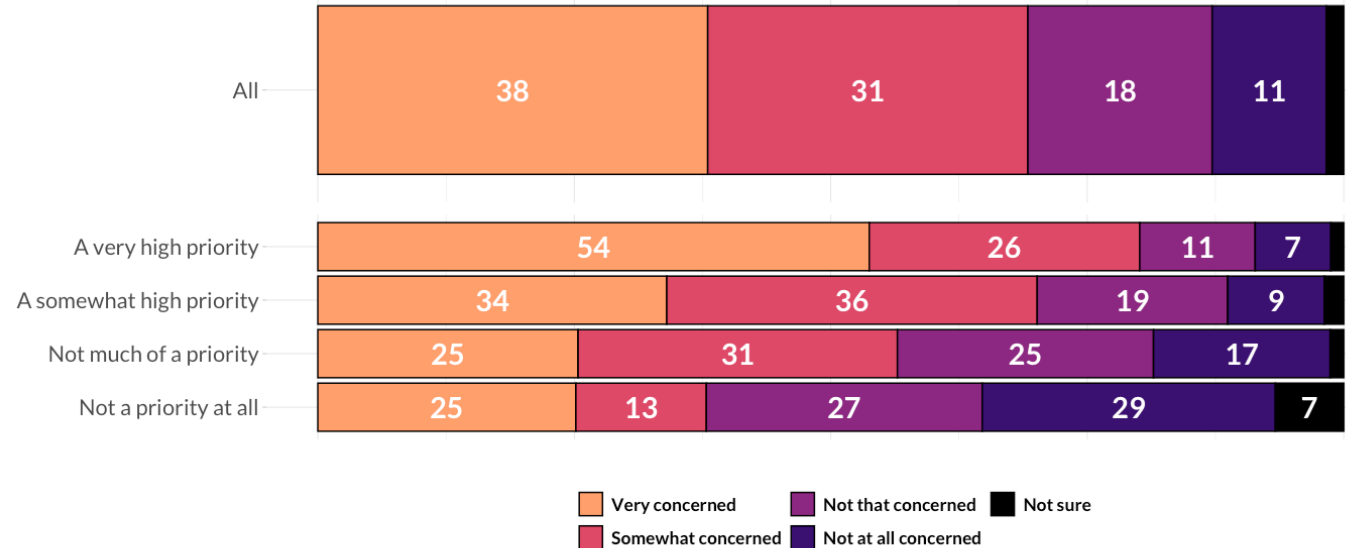


Toxic Pollution & the Cost of Getting Sick

Concerns about toxic chemicals are especially high among those who can't afford to get sick

- 69% are concerned with difficulty paying their bills when they get sick
- Among these, 80% view limiting exposure to chemicals and pollution a priority, compared to 61% of those who can better afford the costs

Priority for limiting exposure to toxic chemicals by concern about medical bills

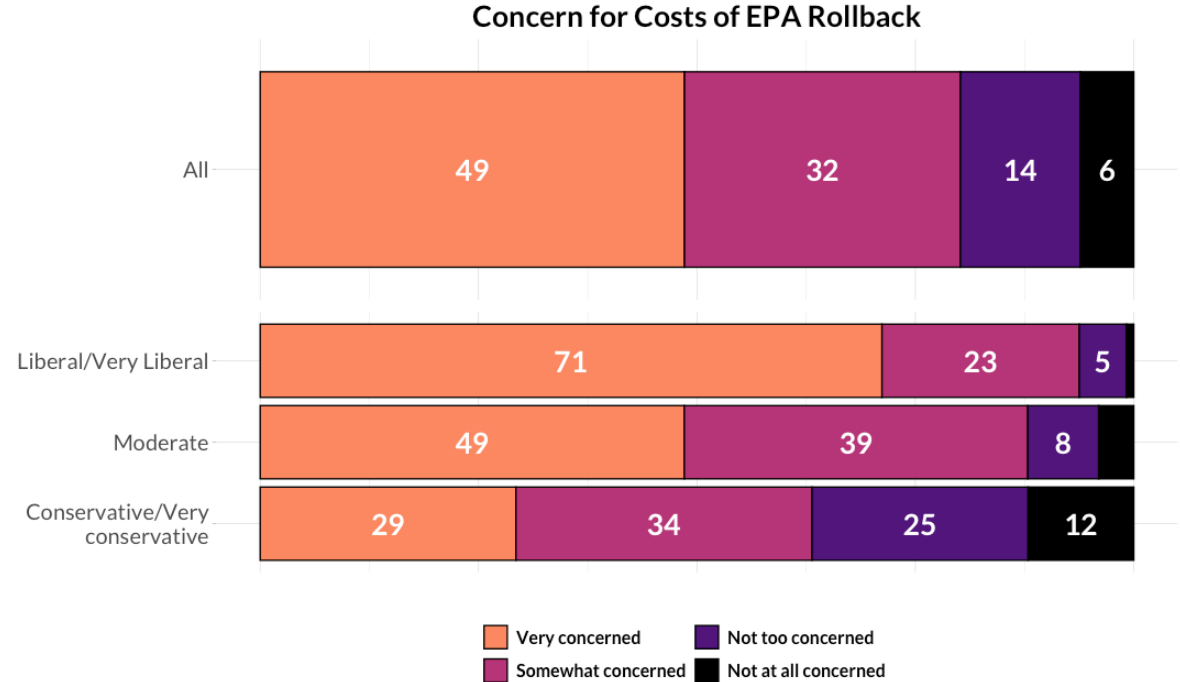


Compared to all of the things you are concerned about, how high of a priority is limiting [Split A: your, Split B: your family's] exposure to toxic chemicals and pollution in the water you drink, the air you breathe, the food you eat, and the products you use?

Compared to all of the things you are concerned about, how high of a priority is limiting [Split A: your, Split B: your family's] exposure to toxic chemicals and pollution in the water you drink, the air you breathe, the food you eat, and the products you use?

When thinking about your health, how concerned are you about difficulty paying your bills when you or your family get sick?

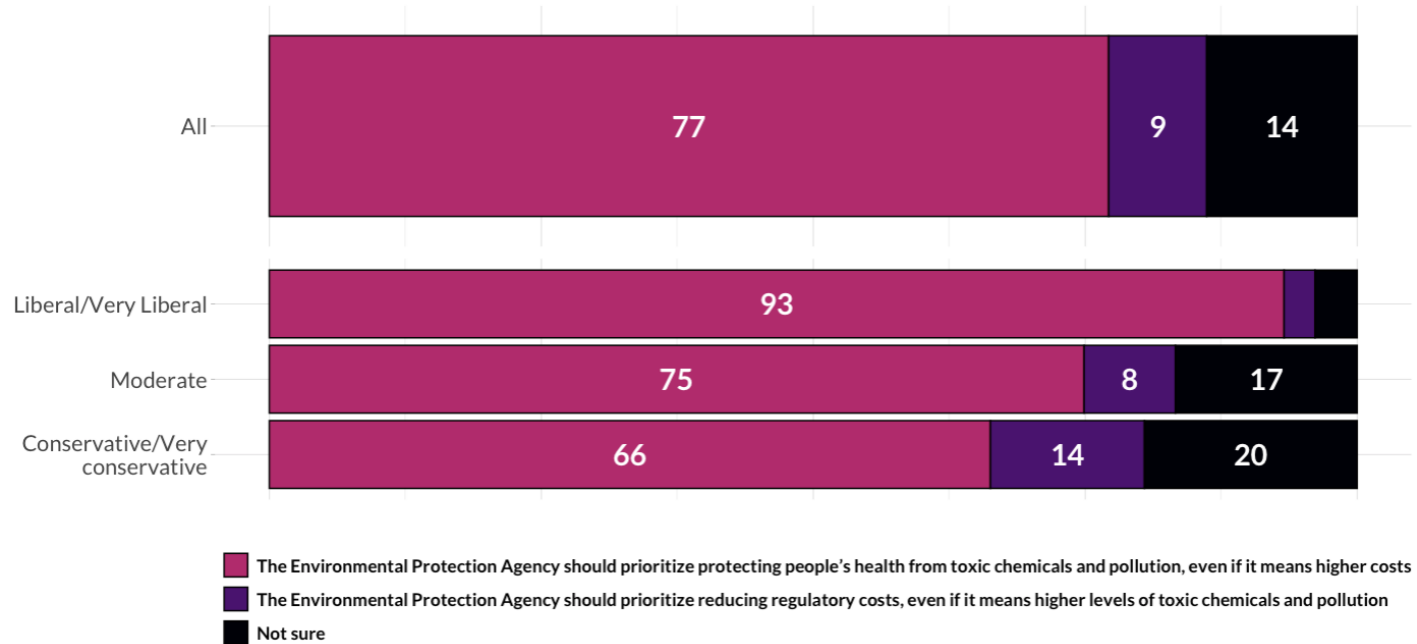
**Most voters (81%)
are concerned that
rolling back EPA
protections against
toxic chemicals and
pollution could end
up costing families
more**



How concerned are you that rolling back EPA protections against toxic chemicals and pollution could end up costing families more?

By a 77-to-9 margin, voters believe EPA should prioritize protecting public health from toxic chemicals and pollution over reducing regulations, even if it means higher costs

Concern for Costs of EPA Rollback

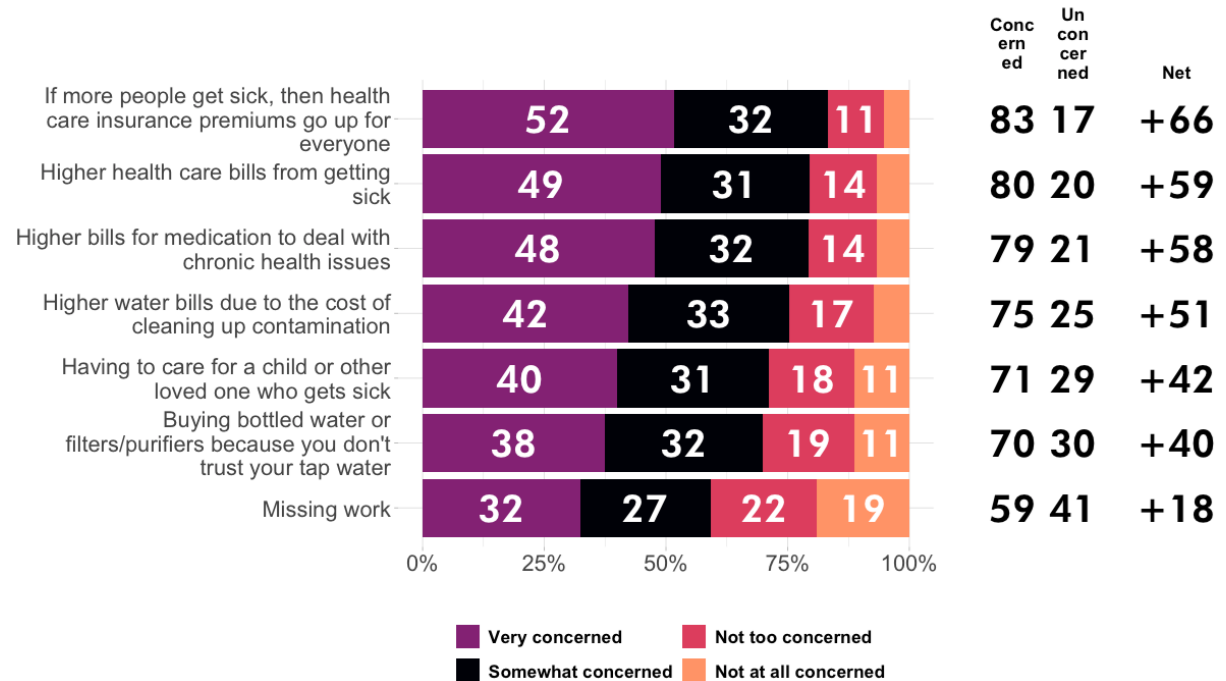


Even if neither is exactly right, which comes closer to your view?

People worry that cutting regulations of toxic chemicals and pollution would impact their family budget

- Higher health care premiums
- Higher health care bills
- Higher bills for medications

Healthcare cost concerns



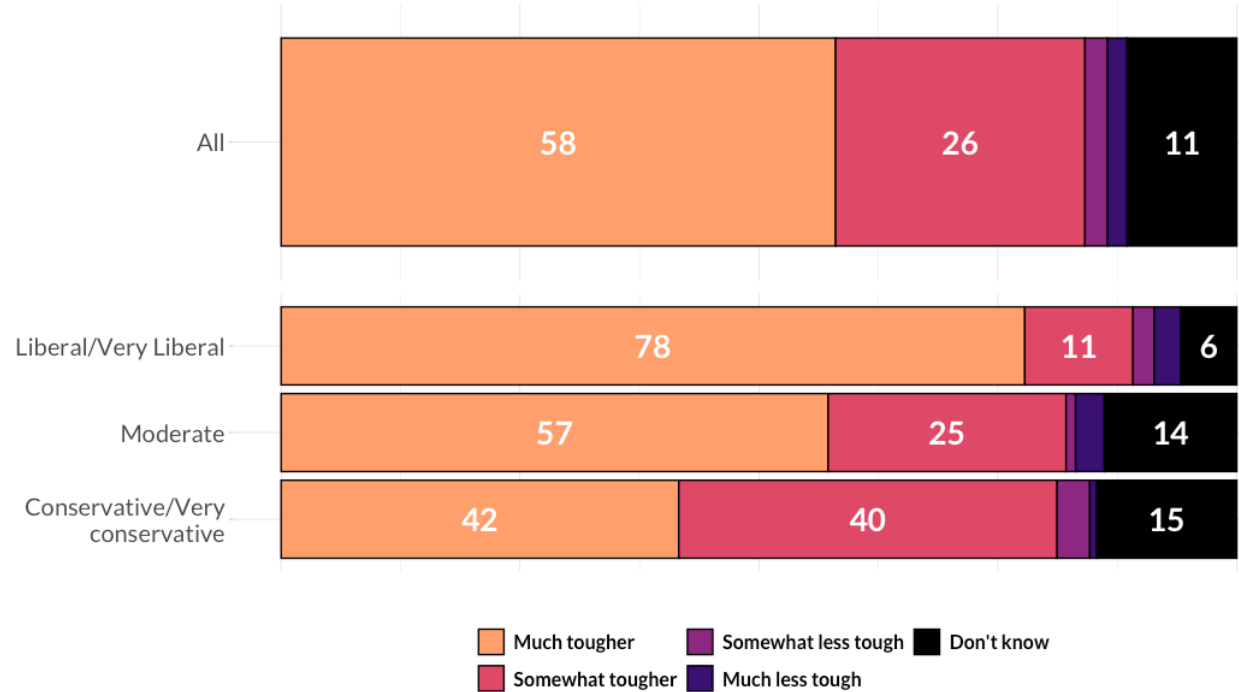
Below are some specific ways that scientists and public health professionals note that toxic chemicals and pollution could cause additional costs for families. Thinking specifically about each one, how concerned are you that toxic chemicals and pollution may impact your family budget?

Trump's Handling of Pollution and EPA

Most voters (84%) think Trump should be tougher on corporate polluters

- 82% of voters who approve of Trump's overall job performance think he should be tougher on polluters

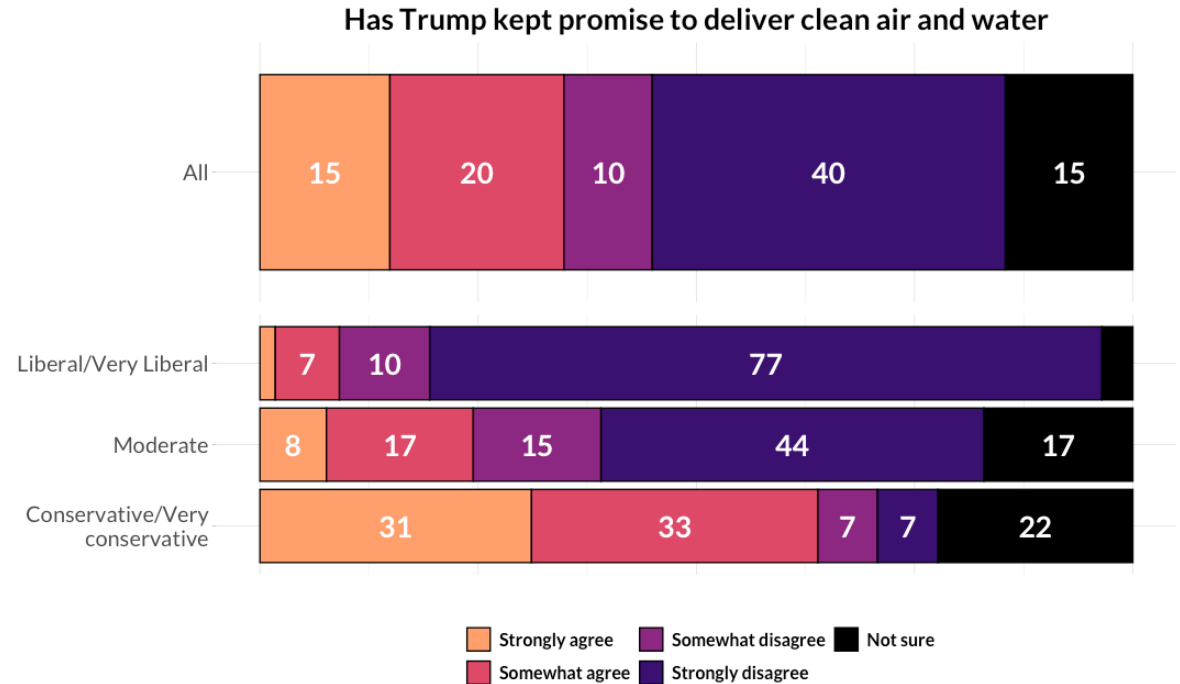
How tough should President Trump be on corporate polluters



How tough do you think President Trump should be on corporations when they violate environmental laws and release toxic chemicals and pollution into water, air, and food sources?

A majority are skeptical Trump has delivered “the cleanest air and water”

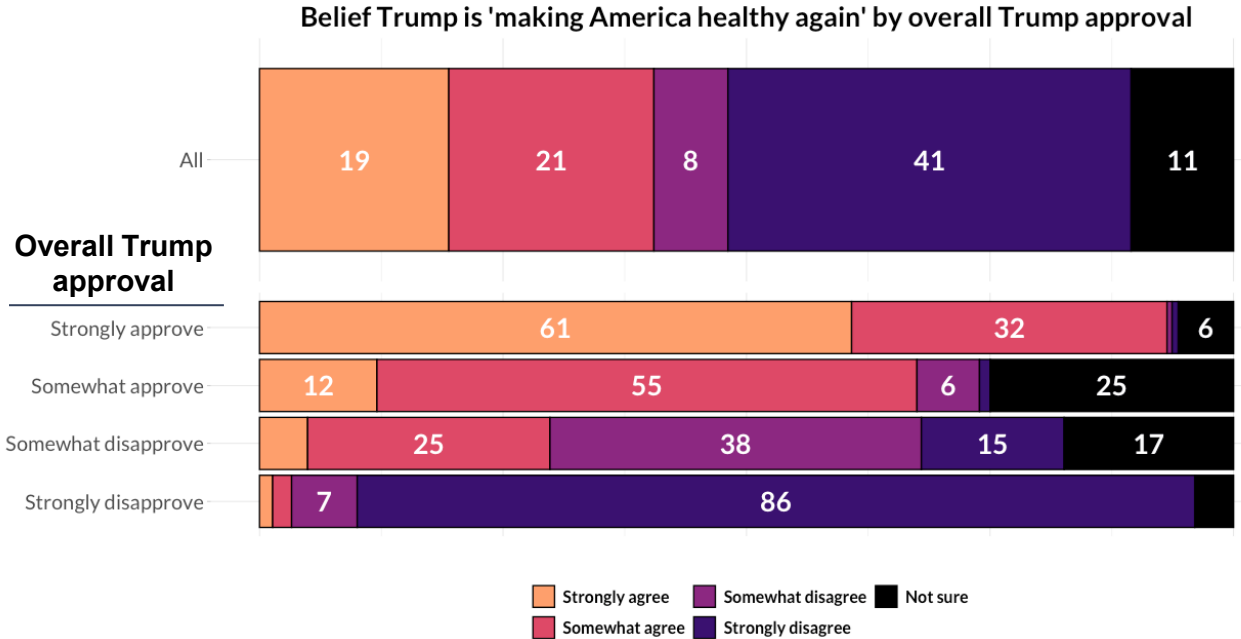
- Only 31% of conservatives feel strongly that Trump has kept this promise
- 35% of voters who approve of Trump's overall job performance are skeptical that Trump has kept his promise (“strongly disagree,” “somewhat disagree,” or “not sure”)



President Trump promised to deliver the cleanest air and water for Americans. Do you [agree or disagree] that he is keeping this promise?

Voters are split on whether Trump is making America healthy again

- Approval of Trump and approval of MAHA highly correlated
- Most who approve of Trump agree he is Making America Healthy Again, and vice versa



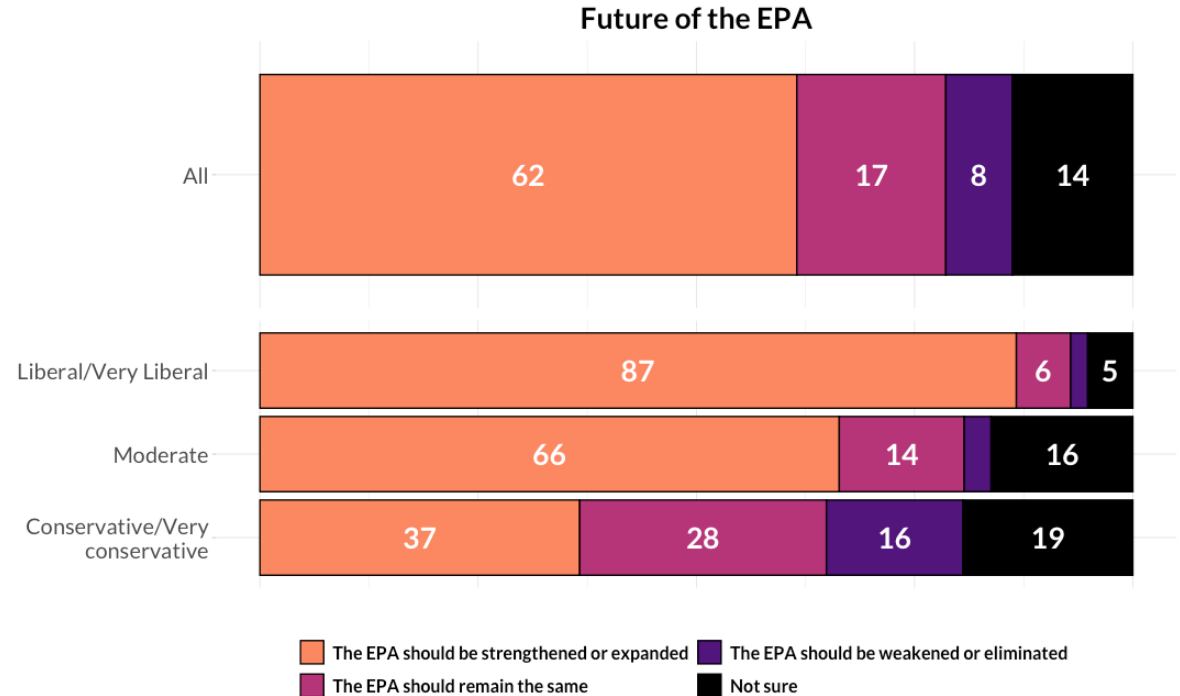
Do you [agree or disagree] that President Trump is Making America Healthy Again?

Do you [approve or disapprove] of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

The state of the EPA

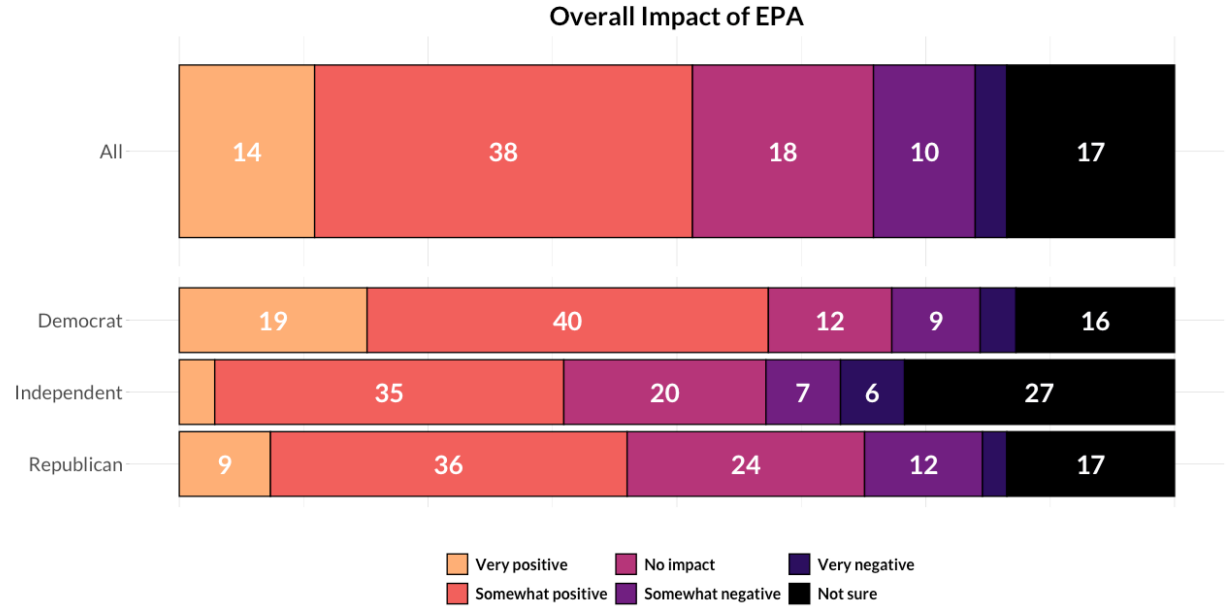
Majorities say the EPA should be strengthened

- Very few people (8%) think the EPA should be weakened or eliminated
- According to [2024 polling published by EPN](#), the numbers have grown more supportive of a strengthened EPA since the 2024 elections, when 50% of voters wanted EPA to be strengthened or expanded



Which statement about EPA comes closer to your view?

Voters have a generally positive impression of EPA's overall impact

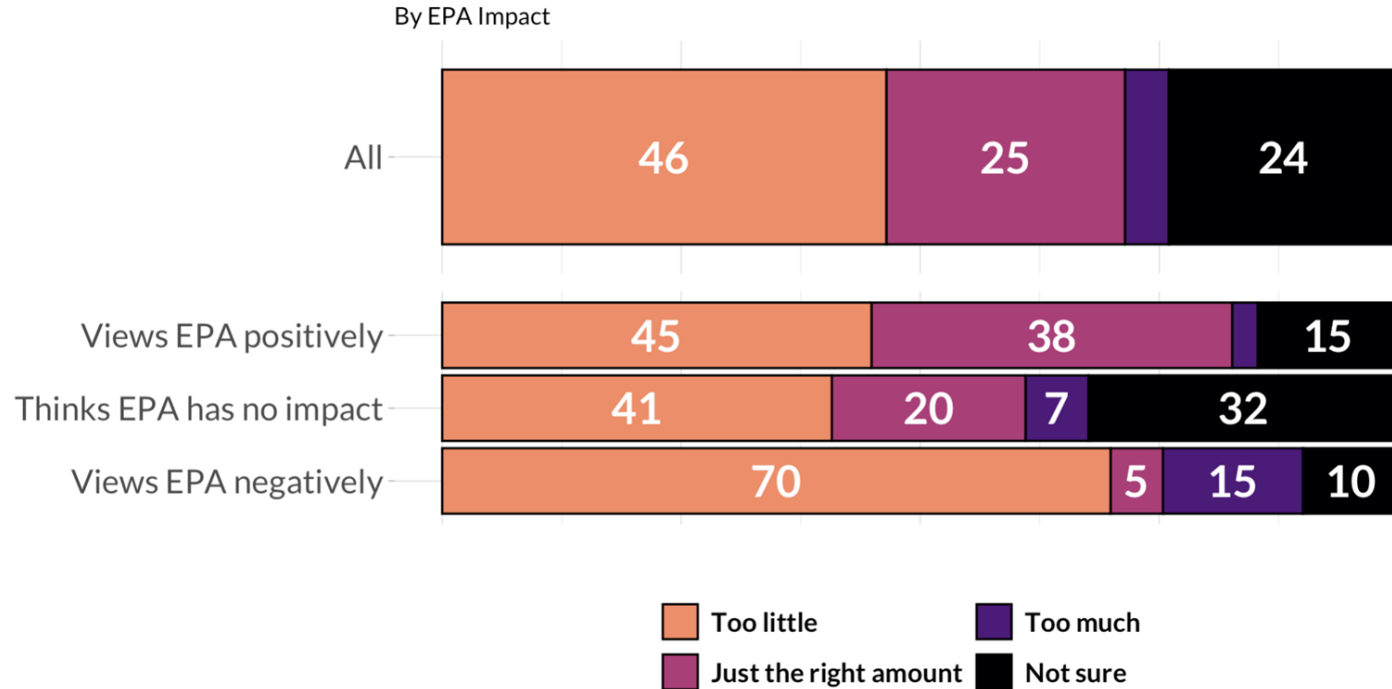


What type of impact do you believe the Environmental Protection Agency has on your life?

Most people think the EPA has a positive impact on their life, but want it to do more

- More than half of respondents (52%) say the EPA has had a somewhat or very positive impact on their life
- Those who see the impact of the EPA as negative want it to do more

EPA Protection



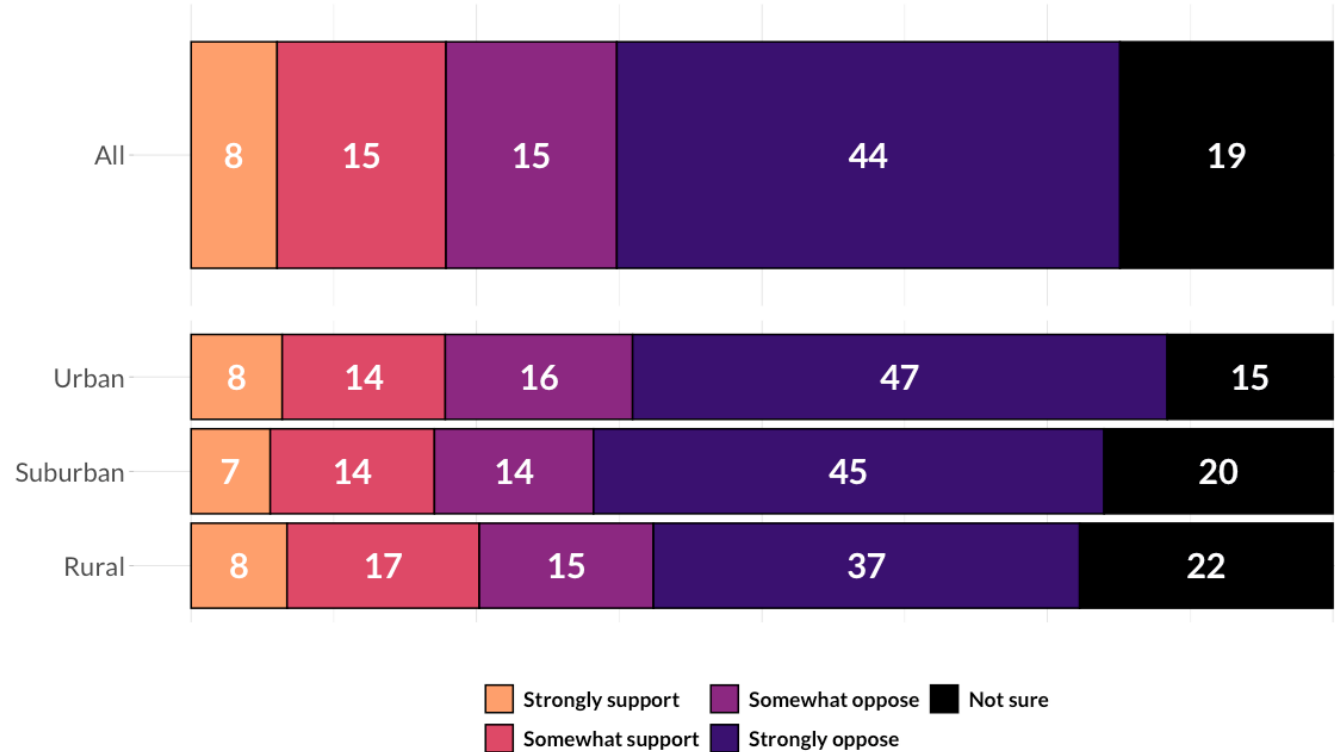
Do you think the EPA is doing [too much or too little] to protect the public from water pollution, air pollution, and toxic chemicals?

What type of impact do you believe the Environmental Protection Agency has on your life?

Most voters oppose efforts to remove EPA scientists

- Support for science is strong across all geographies, including rural areas

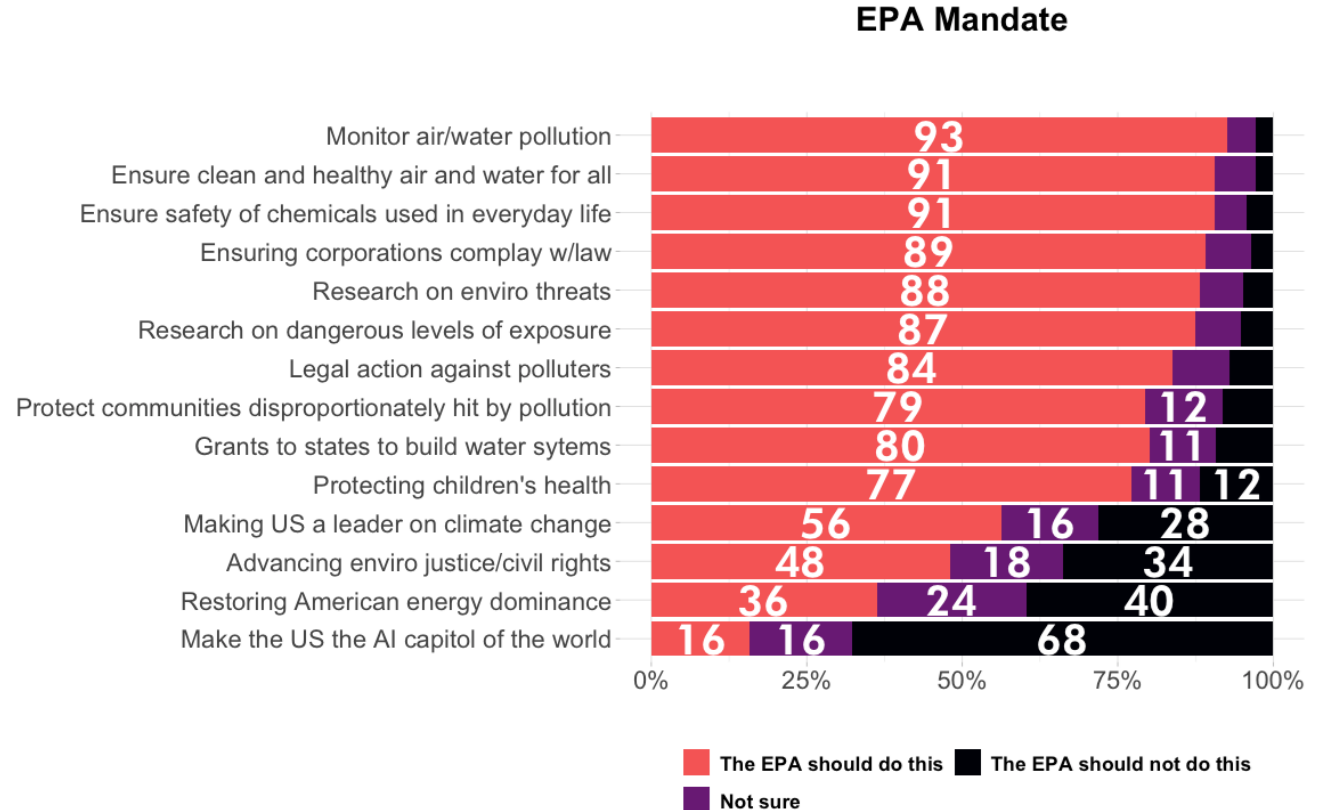
Support for cuts to EPA staff and research



Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency has reduced staffing and reorganized its research office, which studies how toxic chemicals and pollution affect human health and how to monitor and reduce those risks. This office has played a key role developing ways to detect substances like PFAS—often called “forever chemicals”—in drinking water and air. The EPA says these changes will save money for taxpayers and improve coordination. Scientists who once worked at EPA warn the move will jeopardize the agency’s ability to identify health risks before it’s too late. Do you [support or oppose] efforts to remove EPA scientists and shut down the EPA’s research office?

Voters want EPA to focus on protecting them from air and water pollution

- Most do not think EPA should be boosting AI dominance

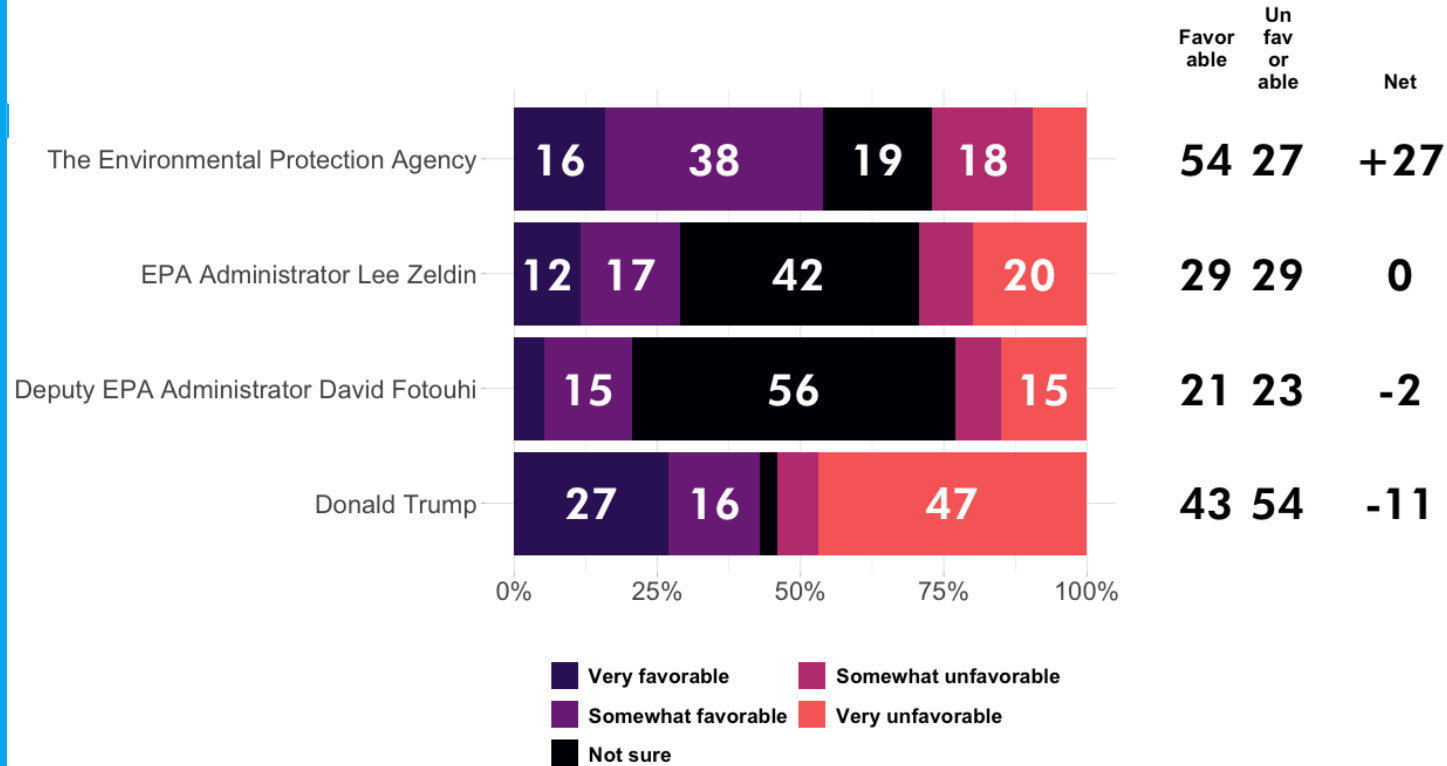


Next, you will see some things the EPA may or may not currently be involved in. For each of these, please say whether you believe the EPA be doing each one.

The EPA itself is very popular, but its leadership is either unknown or unpopular

- Large numbers of respondents are not familiar with either Zeldin or Fotouhi

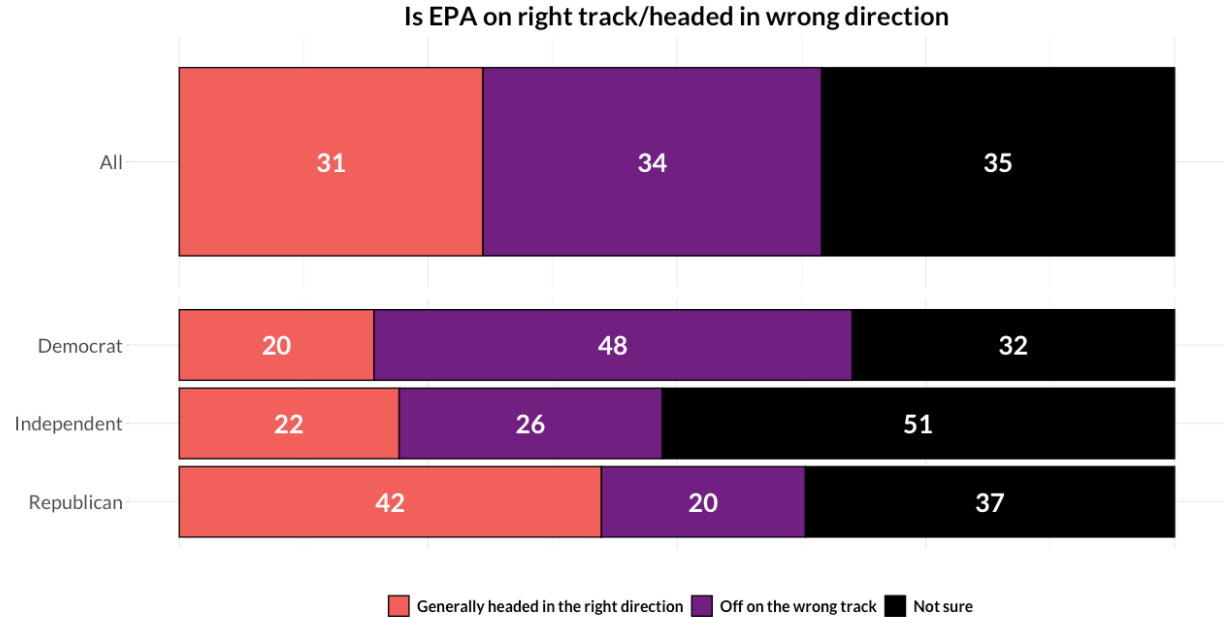
Favorability of EPA Leadership



Please rate your feelings toward each of the people and government agencies

35% of voters are not sure if EPA is heading in the right direction or wrong direction

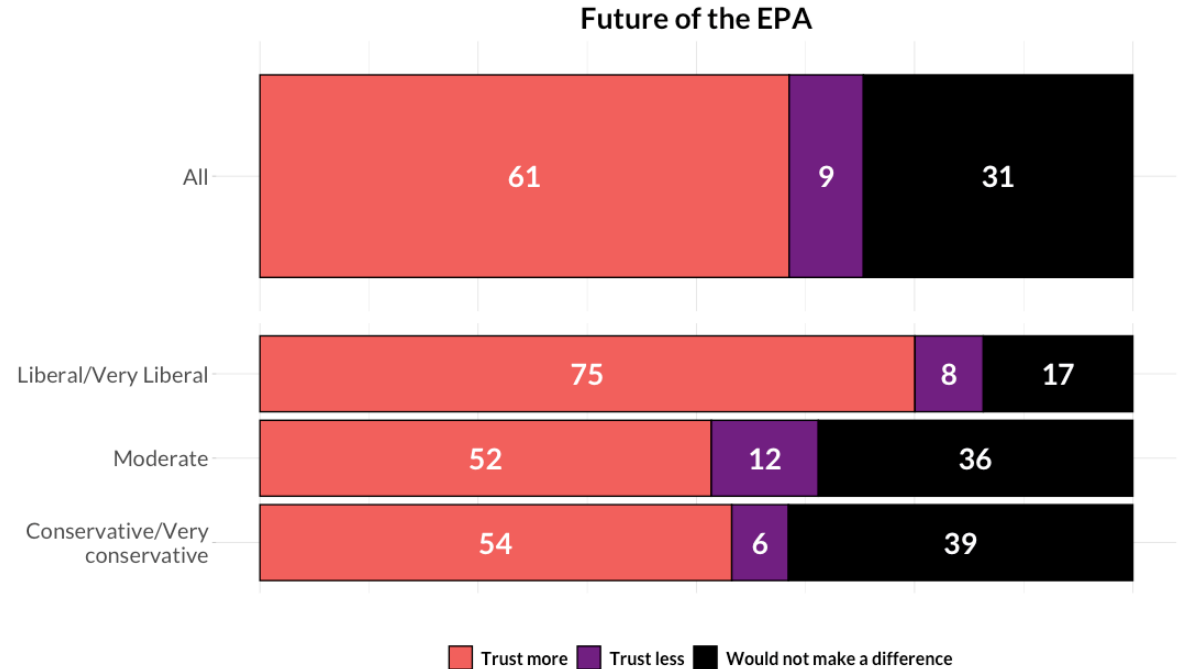
- Opinions of the direction of Trump's EPA are less firmly-held than opinions of Trump
- Partisanship plays a role, but less than it does regarding questions like voters' opinion of Trump



Would you say the Environmental Protection Agency is...

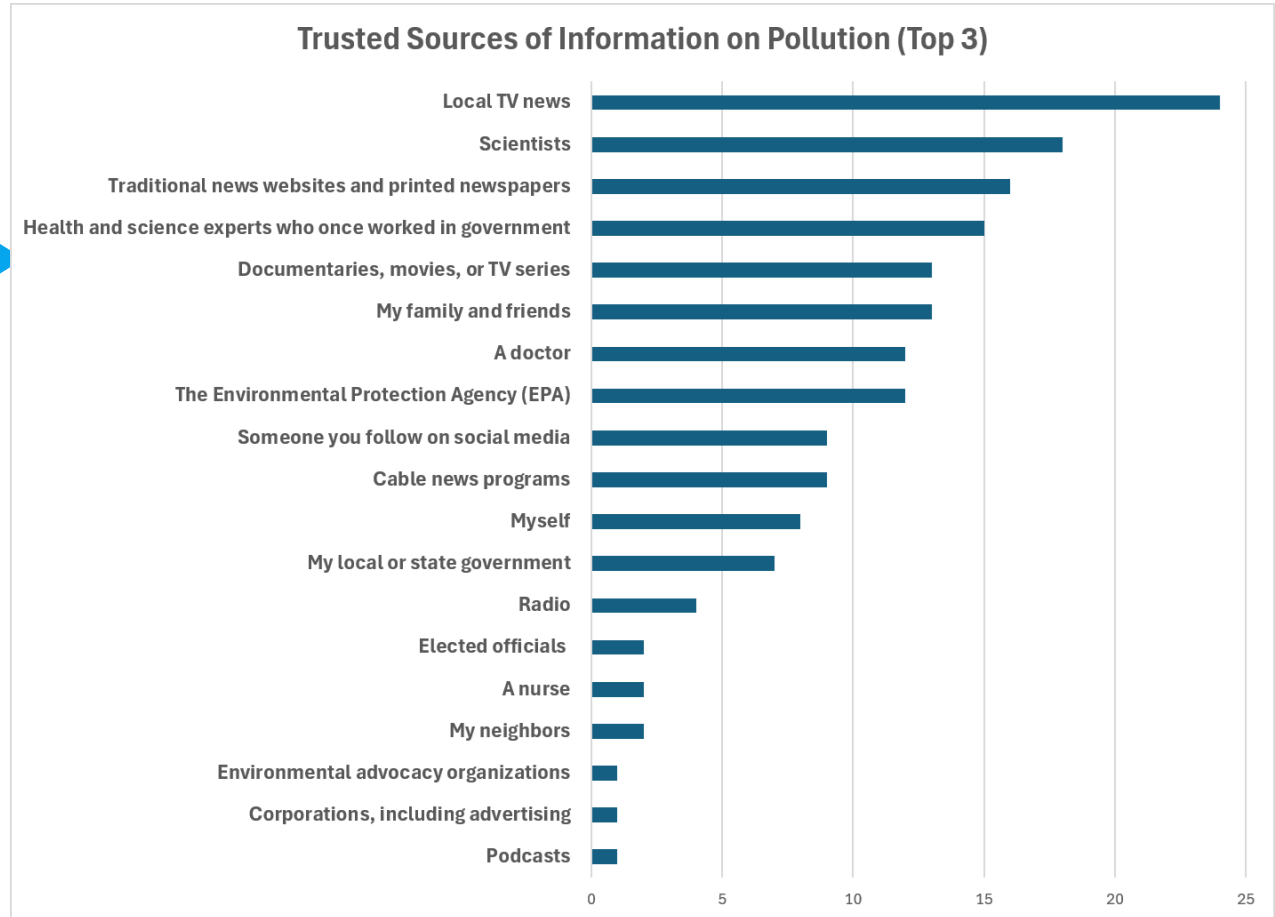
Most say they would trust the EPA more if it did more to reject corporate influence

- Regardless of political ideology most believe rejecting corporate influence would improve trust



Would seeing EPA reject corporate influence when deciding whether to approve chemicals and pesticides make you [trust the agency more, trust it less], or would it not make much difference?

Trusted sources of information about pollution across all voters

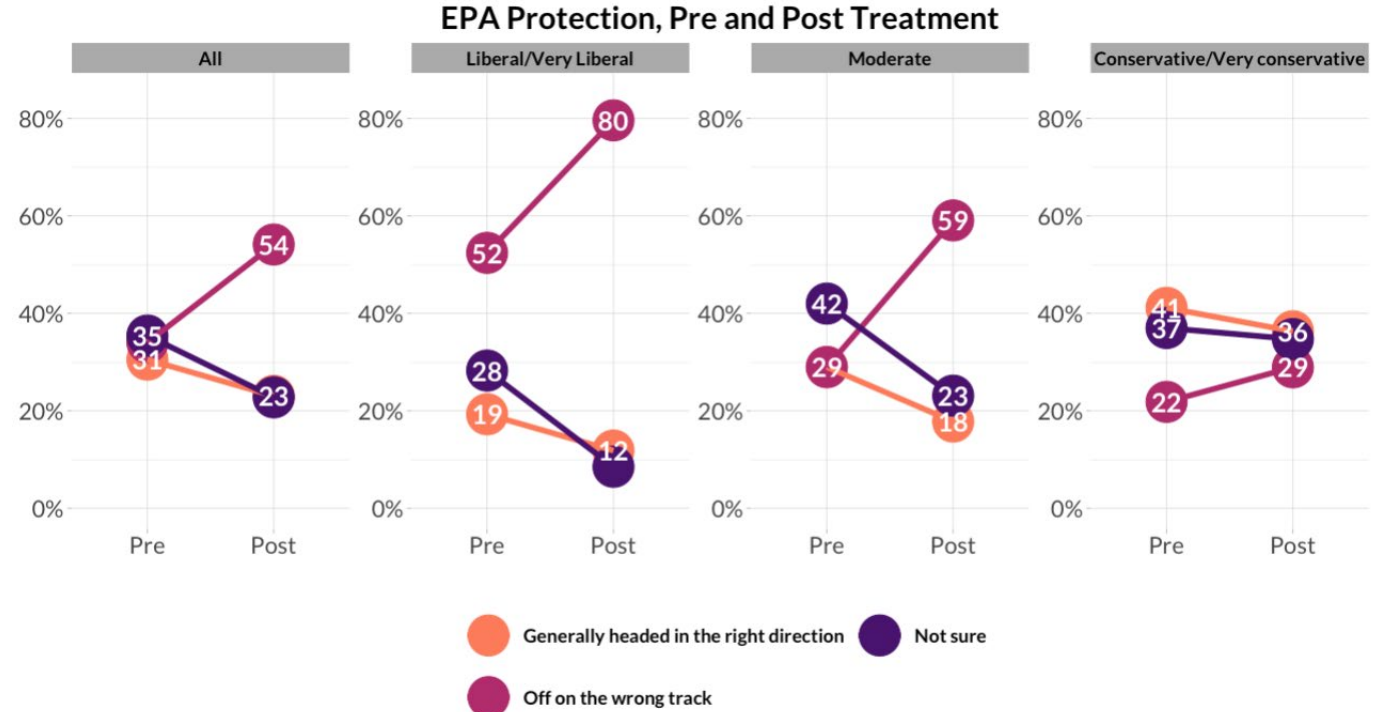


please list up to the top three sources you trust the most when it comes to information about toxic pollution and its potential health effects.

Pre- and Post-survey Views

Significant movement among a large number (39%) of respondents over the course of the survey

- 39% of respondents (including 32% of Trump supporters) moved toward EPA is “on the wrong track” or “doing too little to protect the public from water pollution, air pollution, and toxic chemicals”



Given some of the things you have learned about in this survey, would you say the Environmental Protection Agency is generally headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track?

High level of concern among persuaded respondents when they hear about what is happening to EPA

Top Concerns:

- Fast tracking chemicals
- Cuts to pollution monitoring
- Clean Water/PFAS
- Hiding health consequences
- Loss of EPA scientists
- Fast tracking data centers

EPA news concerns (scored 8-10)	Liberal/Very Liberal	Moderate	Conservative/Very conservative	All ▼
EPA is fast-tracking approval of new pesticides and chemicals without fully reviewing their safety	83	70	66	73
EPA is weakening the standard for how much pollution can be in the air we breathe before it is considered unhealthy. This...	84	72	59	72
Deep cuts to EPA's staffing in the past year have left the agency without the inspectors needed to monitor pollution and hold...	86	73	57	72
EPA is cutting funding and protections for clean water	87	70	58	72
EPA has closed its science and research office, and hundreds of doctors and scientists have left the agency	87	70	53	71
EPA is dragging its feet on PFAS forever chemicals, which contaminate 45% of all tap water in the U.S.	85	69	59	71

CONTINUED...

Next, you will see statements about some things that are happening or may happen soon at the Environmental Protection Agency. On a scale of 1 to 10, we'd like to know how concerned you are about each of the following, where 1 is not at all concerned and 10 is extremely concerned.

High level of concern among persuaded respondents when they hear about what is happening to EPA

Top Concerns:

- Fast tracking chemicals
- Cuts to pollution monitoring
- Clean Water/PFAS
- Hiding health consequences
- Loss of EPA scientists
- Fast tracking data centers

Fewer conservatives and moderates are highly concerned about EPA ignoring climate science

....CONTINUED

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EPA news concerns (scored 8-10)CONTINUED			All ▾
	Liberal/Very Liberal	Moderate	Conservative/Very conservative	
People currently in charge of EPA are hiding the health consequences of regulatory rollbacks because they don't want people ...	83	73	56	70
EPA is fast-tracking approval of new data centers without the usual pollution safeguards, which means more pollution f...	81	70	58	69
EPA has slowed enforcement of environmental laws such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act	83	69	53	68
A number of top political appointments at EPA have been filled by former chemical industry lobbyists and insiders who are no...	81	68	55	68
EPA is ignoring climate science and failing to take action on climate change	86	60	40	62

Next, you will see statements about some things that are happening or may happen soon at the Environmental Protection Agency. On a scale of 1 to 10, we'd like to know how concerned you are about each of the following, where 1 is not at all concerned and 10 is extremely concerned.

These messages resonate strongly with persuaded respondents across political ideologies

Top Messages:

- Health/pollution/chemicals
- Protecting the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the food we eat
- Putting health ahead of corporate polluters
- Corporate accountability

Top EPA messages (combined score 8-10)	Liberal/Very Liberal	Moderate	Conservative/Very conservative	All ▼
People have a right to know what is in the products they use, the air they breathe, the water they drink, and the food they eat	88	82	79	83
Everyone deserves to be safe from toxic chemicals and pollution that make people sick	85	80	78	81
Corporations must be held accountable for what they put in the water we drink, in the air we breathe, on the food we eat and in th...	86	82	76	81
Strong protections are needed to keep toxic chemicals out of the food we eat, the water we drink, and the products we use every...	85	79	73	79
America needs an EPA that puts our health first — not the interests of corporate polluters	92	72	71	78
Toxic chemicals and pollution can harm children now and for decades to come. Strong protections are needed to keep toxi...	86	79	70	78

“When thinking about whether or not strong safeguards from the Environmental Protection Agency are important to the health of you and your family, how convincing do you find the following statements?”

Republicans who moved over the course of the survey get more of their news from Facebook and local news than Republicans who did not move

Top News Sources for Republicans

Sources Of News

Information

In the past week, did you get news from any of the following sources? Please select all that apply:

	Moved Over Survey	Did Not Move Over Survey	All GOP
Facebook	43	34	38
Fox News	43	52	49
Local TV News	42	37	39
YouTube	29	28	28
News websites or apps	24	25	25
News on the radio	19	20	19
National nightly network TV news	19	13	15
CNN	19	19	19
Instagram	16	13	14
Twitter	12	17	15
Other Cable News TV Networks	12	13	13
Podcasts	11	17	15

In the past week, did you get news from any of the following sources?

Democrats who moved over the survey also get much of their news from Facebook and local news

Top News Sources for Democrats

Sources Of News

Information

In the past week, did you get news from any of the following sources? Please select all that apply:

	Moved Over Survey	Did Not Move Over Survey	All Dems
Local TV News	46	39	42
Facebook	35	31	33
CNN	34	36	35
News websites or apps	34	41	38
YouTube	29	33	31
MSNBC	22	28	25
National nightly network TV news	21	21	21
Instagram	20	21	20
News on the radio	17	21	19
TikTok	17	14	15
Late night comedy shows	16	21	19
Twitter	16	12	14
Other Cable News TV Networks	15	14	15
Podcasts	14	22	19

In the past week, did you get news from any of the following sources?

Republicans who moved over the survey are less likely than other Republicans to be the strongest MAHA supporters

34% of persuadable Republicans strongly agree with MAHA, compared to 47% of other Republicans

Republican Views on MAHA

Agreement with MAHA

Movement

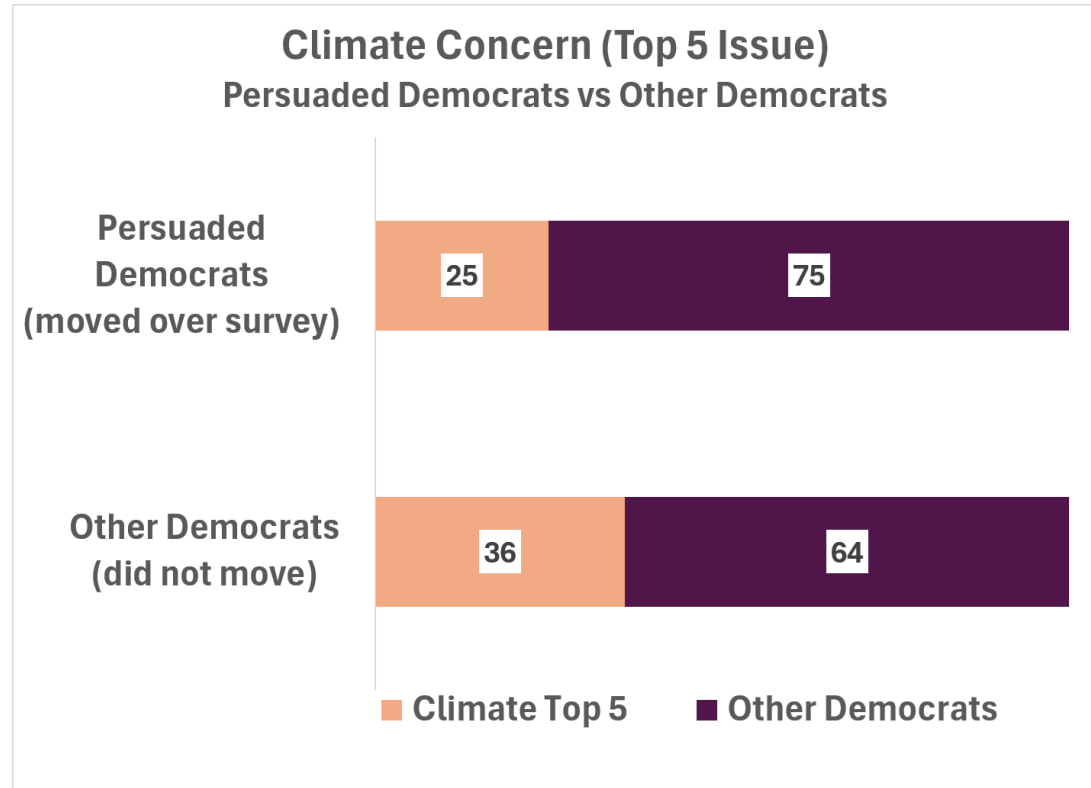
From what you understand about the Make America Healthy Again movement (or MAHA), how much do you [agree or...

	Moved Over Survey	Did Not Move Over Survey	All Republicans
Strongly agree	34	47	42
Somewhat agree	36	36	36
Somewhat disagree	8	3	4
Strongly disagree	3	2	2
Not sure	20	13	15
N	325	623	948

From what you understand about the Make America Healthy Again movement (or MAHA), how much do you [agree or disagree] with this movement?

Democrats who moved over the survey are less likely than other Democrats to identify climate change as a top 5 issue priority

25% of persuadable Democrats identify climate as a top 5 priority, compared to 36% of other Democrats



What are the top issues facing the U.S. today? Select up to 5.