



Renew America's Infrastructure



Research Methodology:

Benenson Strategy Group conducted 1505 online interviews with likely 2020 voters from July 26 to August 6, 2019.

- Respondents were spread across six swing states: Colorado (251 respondents), Florida (250), Iowa (250), North Carolina (251), Pennsylvania (253), Texas (250).
- Data was weighed within each state to ensure it is representative of the likely voting universe.
- The margin of error for the entire sample is $\pm 2.43\%$ at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error is larger among individual states and subgroups.

Following the quantitative survey, BSG conducted 6 focus groups among 2020 swing voters, including 2 groups in each of the following cities: Houston, TX; Detroit, MI; and Pittsburgh, PA.

Across key swing states, overwhelming majorities support a new, comprehensive infrastructure plan.



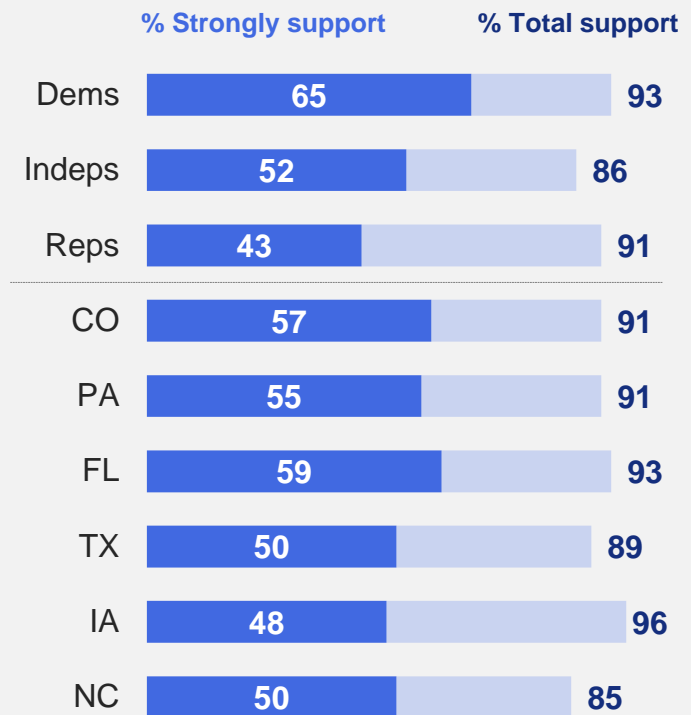
91%

of voters in key swing states

Support an infrastructure plan

to rebuild and modernize America's infrastructure for the 21st century. This infrastructure program would repair roads, bridges, and public transportation, expand rural access to high-speed internet, modernize K-12 school buildings, upgrade the nation's electrical grid to support more clean energy, improve our water and sewage systems to expand access to clean drinking water, and create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs.

Voters of all political stripes and geographies support a new plan.



2020 Election Impact: Strong support for a new infrastructure plan extends to key electoral audiences.



90% of voters who are **undecided in their 2020 vote** support this plan



95% of **Latinx** voters and **85%** of **African-American** voters support this plan



94% of **suburban women voters** support this plan

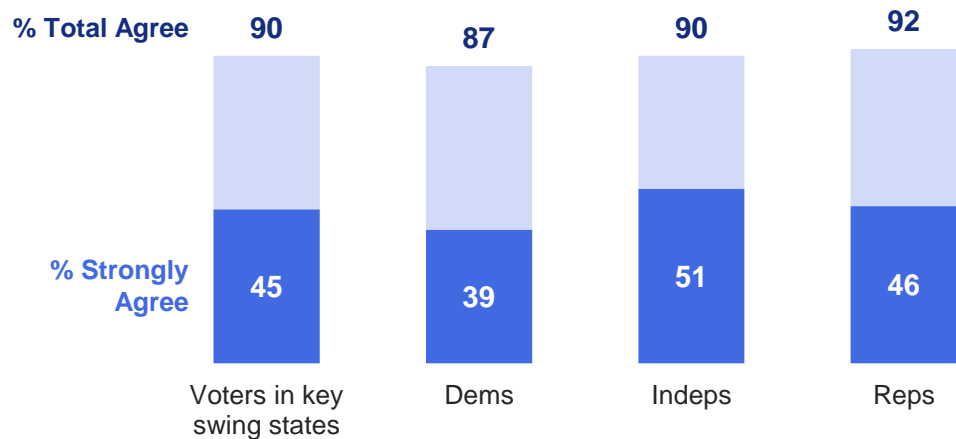


91% of **rural voters** support this plan

To get this done, voters need to hear from our leaders about what infrastructure will do for their daily lives—not the same old vague ideas and empty promises.

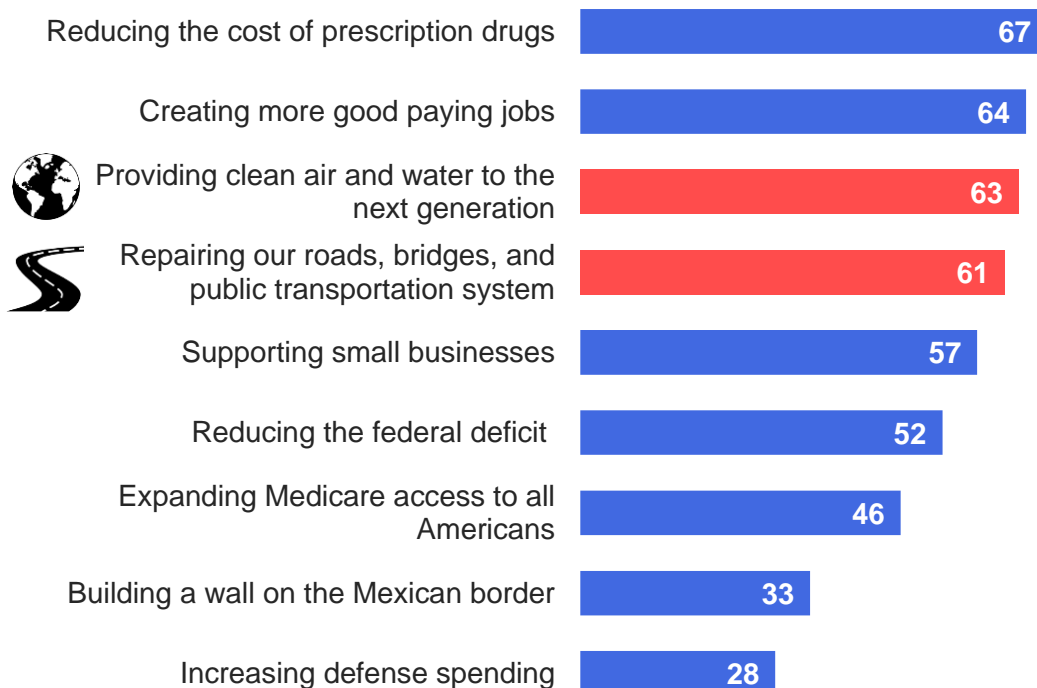
Politicians' overuse of "infrastructure" has turned the word into an empty political bromide.

When politicians talk about investing in infrastructure, I never know how or where the money is going to be spent.

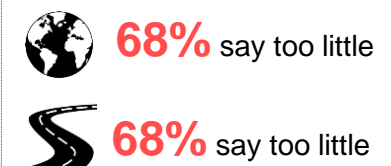


But when voters see the **concrete impact in their own lives**, infrastructure issues are on par with other top priorities.

% Very important priority the federal government could address
among voters in key swing states



% Who think politicians devote too little attention on this issue



Over two-thirds of voters in key swing states think politicians are **not devoting enough attention to these critical issues.**

Voters see several issues in dire need of repair and want a plan that addresses many aspects of their lives.

Voters agree on essential ingredients of a complete infrastructure package

Voters' Top Infrastructure Priorities

- ☒ Clean up local waterways and provide safe drinking water
- ☒ Repair crumbling roads and bridges around the country
- ☒ Upgrade our nation's power grid for the clean energy sources
- ☒ Ensure long-term funding for the federal highway system
- ☒ Modernize VA hospitals and construct extended care facilities
- ☒ Rebuild and repair K-12 school buildings

% Very Concerned about the current state of infrastructure in the United States *among voters in key swing states*

Billions of gallons of **raw sewage are discharged into local waterways** every year.

76

A majority of America's **drinking water and wastewater systems were built more than 50 years ago**. In some areas, they're as much as 150 years old.

63

Americans make more than 200 million trips everyday across **59,000 bridges** today that are classified as **structurally deficient**.

55

K-12 schools in the U.S. have nearly \$200 billion of **outstanding needs for repairs, renovations, and modernization**.

50

240,000 **water main breaks** every year cost cities, towns, and taxpayers over \$2.6 billion in losses due to leaked and wasted drinking water.

50

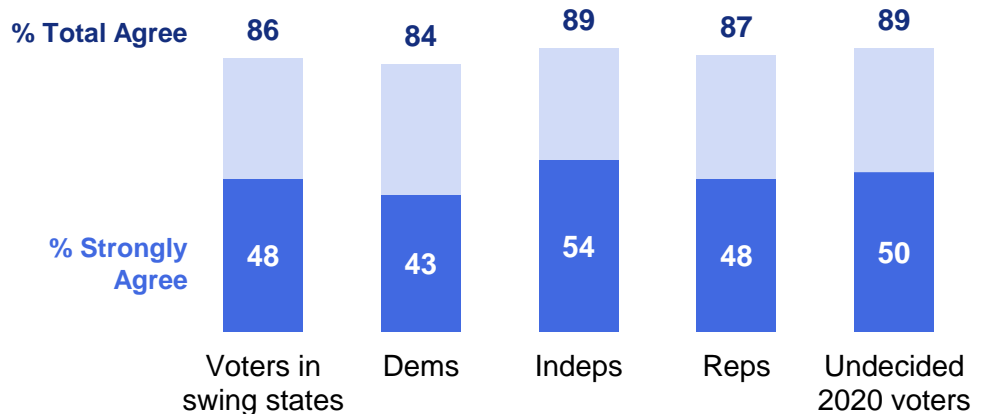
Voters' view of infrastructure goes beyond roads and transportation, they also want to see investment in our power grid, water systems, K-12 schools, etc.

Democrats and Republicans must put politics aside and work together to create the infrastructure Americans need.

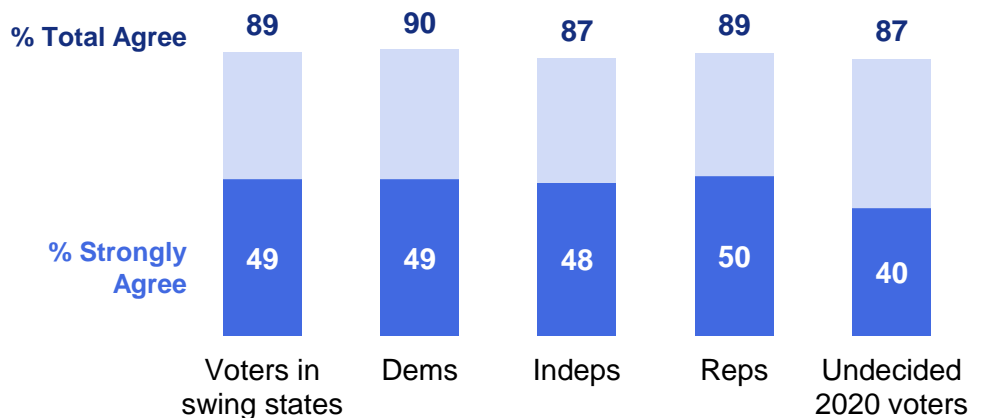


Politicians miss an opportunity to build broad support for infrastructure when they focus on partisan battles.

Washington politicians in both parties are putting their own political interests ahead of what's best for the country by refusing to invest in improving our infrastructure.



*Infrastructure is a unique opportunity for politicians to set aside partisan debates and **actually work together to get something done.***



In voters' own words...

Unity. It's something that we'll definitely need to strive for. Unity between the parties. **It's not a Democratic road or a Republican road—it's a road.**

Houston voter (from focus groups)

We need to put other stuff aside and get back to what makes us **who we are as a country and that's coming together.** It shouldn't take a catastrophic event for us to come together as a people.

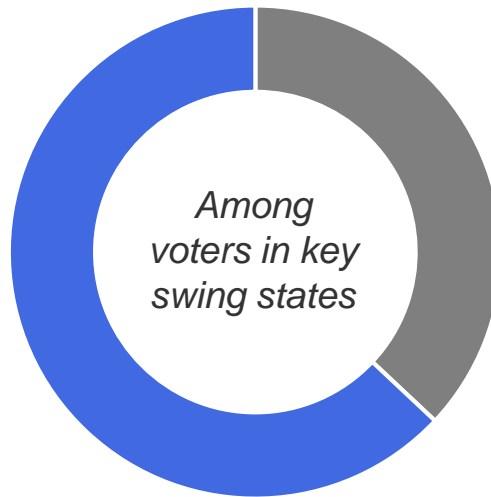
Detroit voter (from focus groups)

Voters want a vision of an America that works—an America where our roads, bridges, power grid, and water systems are reliable, efficient, and durable.

Which of the following is a bigger problem in the United States today?

63%

The federal government **doesn't have a real vision** for improving our country's infrastructure.



37%

The federal government doesn't invest enough in our country's infrastructure.

What words come to mind when you think of the qualities you want in America's infrastructure?



In voters' own words...

"Things should **last longer than a week**. We keep patching instead of fixing things permanently. We need **solutions for the future**." – NC voter

"Our infrastructure system must be modern and reflective of **where our country wants to go**." – PA voter

"Infrastructure needs to address both present and future together. **You can't strive towards the future without addressing the here and now**, and you can not envision the future without incorporating the needs of the future." – CO voter

Environmental concerns cut across key voting blocs and elevate these issues for the 2020 election.

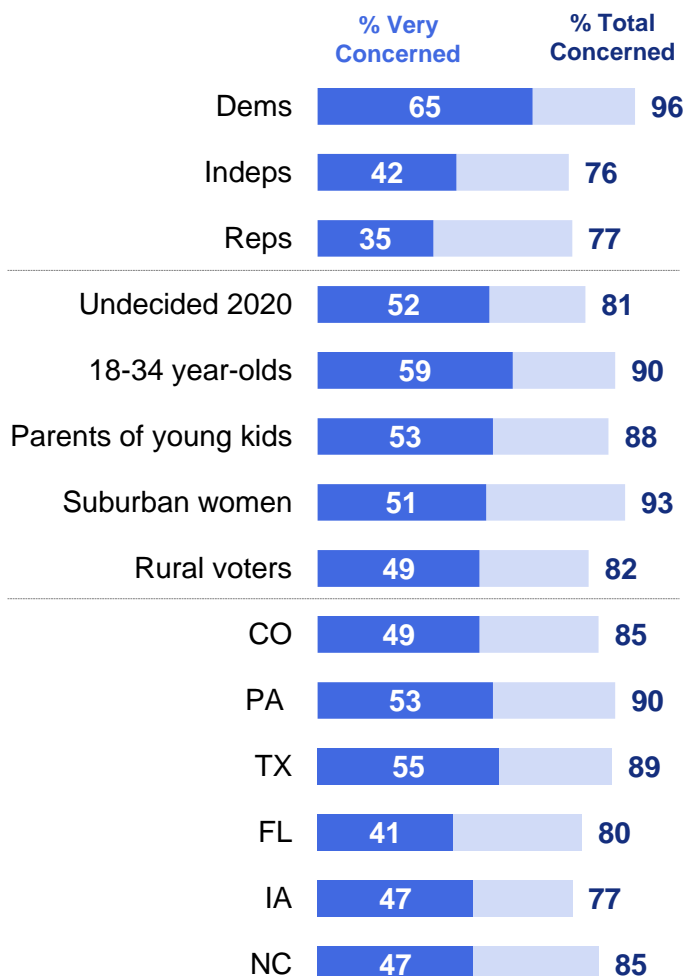


84%

of voters in key swing states

Are concerned (49% very concerned)

that the frequency and severity of natural disasters are increasing dramatically, making our communities and infrastructure especially vulnerable to future environmental catastrophe.



Large majorities of key 2020 voter groups think DC politicians are not devoting enough attention to **combating climate change**

66% of Independents say politicians in Washington devote too little attention

64% of Undecided voters say politicians in Washington devote too little attention

66% of Florida voters say politicians in Washington devote too little attention

62% of Iowa voters say politicians in Washington devote too little attention

For **younger generations**, climate change and other environmental concerns will be a major voting issue in upcoming elections

The increasing number of natural disasters in **Texas, Florida, and Iowa** make the **environmental case for immediate** infrastructure investment