League of Conservation Voters Climate-Smart Agriculture Michigan Survey Findings

Methodology

Quantitative Research

Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of **602 likely 2024 voters in Michigan** between August 22 and August 31, 2023. The survey was conducted on the phone, via text-to-web, and through online panel.

Confidence Interval

The confidence interval at the 95% confidence level is 4.0%.

The confidence interval on sub-samples is greater.

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Demographics of Michigan

Gender

Men	47
Women	53

Age

18-29 year olds	14
30-44 year olds	23
45-54 year olds	15
55-64 year olds	18
Seniors 65+	29

Race

White	85
White non-college	*59*
White college	*26*
Black	12
Hispanic	3

Party Self-Identification

Democrats	36
Independents (w/ leaners)	34
Republicans	30

Region

City of Detroit	5
Detroit Suburbs	33
Rest of Detroit DMA	11
Flint DMA	11
Grand Rapids/South Bend DMAs	22
Lansing/Toledo DMAs	7
Upper Peninsula/Northern DMAs	10

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Map of Michigan

Flint DMA
Likely turnout share: 11%
29% Democrat
40% Independent
32% Republican

Upper Peninsula/Northern DMAs
Likely turnout share: 10%
33% Democrat
27% Independent
40% Republican

Rest of Detroit DMAs
Likely turnout share: 11%
29% Democrat
39% Independent
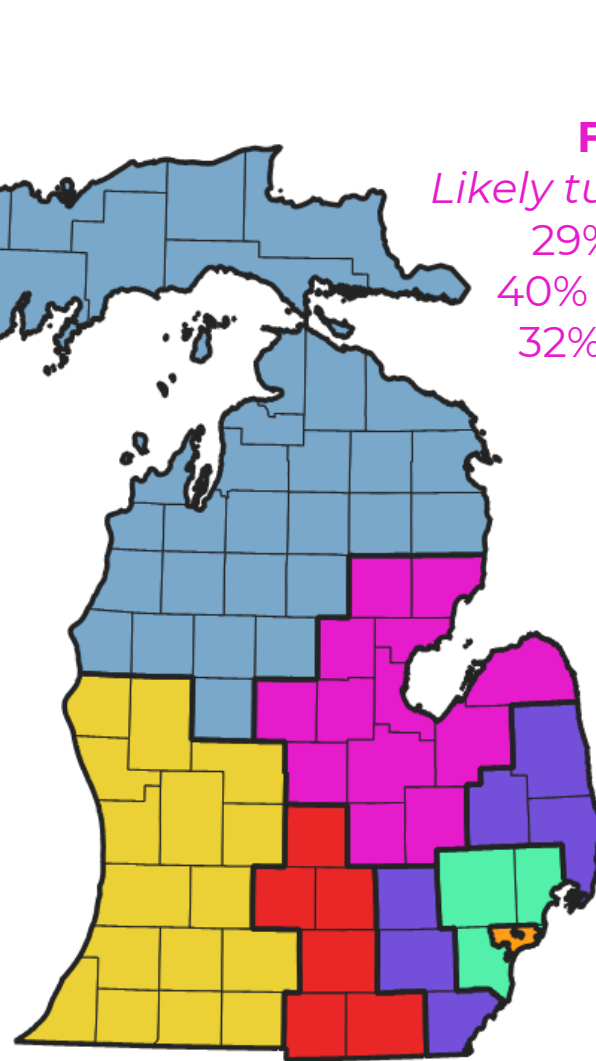32% Republican

Grand Rapids/South Bend DMAs
Likely turnout share: 22%
32% Democrat
30% Independent
38% Republican

Detroit Suburbs
Likely turnout share: 33%
37% Democrat
34% Independent
29% Republican

Lansing/Toledo DMAs
Likely turnout share: 7%
48% Democrat
41% Independent
10% Republican

City of Detroit
Likely turnout share: 5%
61% Democrat
37% Independent
1% Republican

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Key Findings

Michigan constituents want to see action in the Farm Bill to protect drinking water and help farmers and ranchers deal with extreme weather. Michiganders reject the idea that we need to choose between supporting American farmers and protecting our environment. Instead, an overwhelming majority agrees: "We can do both." As a result, big majorities agree that Congress should take action in the upcoming Farm Bill to help farmers deal with extreme weather and protect drinking water from pollution.

They strongly support climate-smart ag funding in the IRA – and overwhelmingly oppose using the Farm Bill to repeal or redirect that funding... More than three-in-five Michigan constituents support the $19.5 billion in the IRA to help farmers reduce pollution and make their farms more resilient to extreme weather, and they support specific programs funded by that $19.5 billion by even larger margins. Moreover, when we put them to a choice, more than two-thirds want to use the funding as intended rather than repealing it or redirecting it to "other agricultural programs like federal subsidies for crop prices."

... Because they overwhelmingly believe repealing the funding will harm American rural communities, America's water, farmers and ranchers – and even themselves and their families.
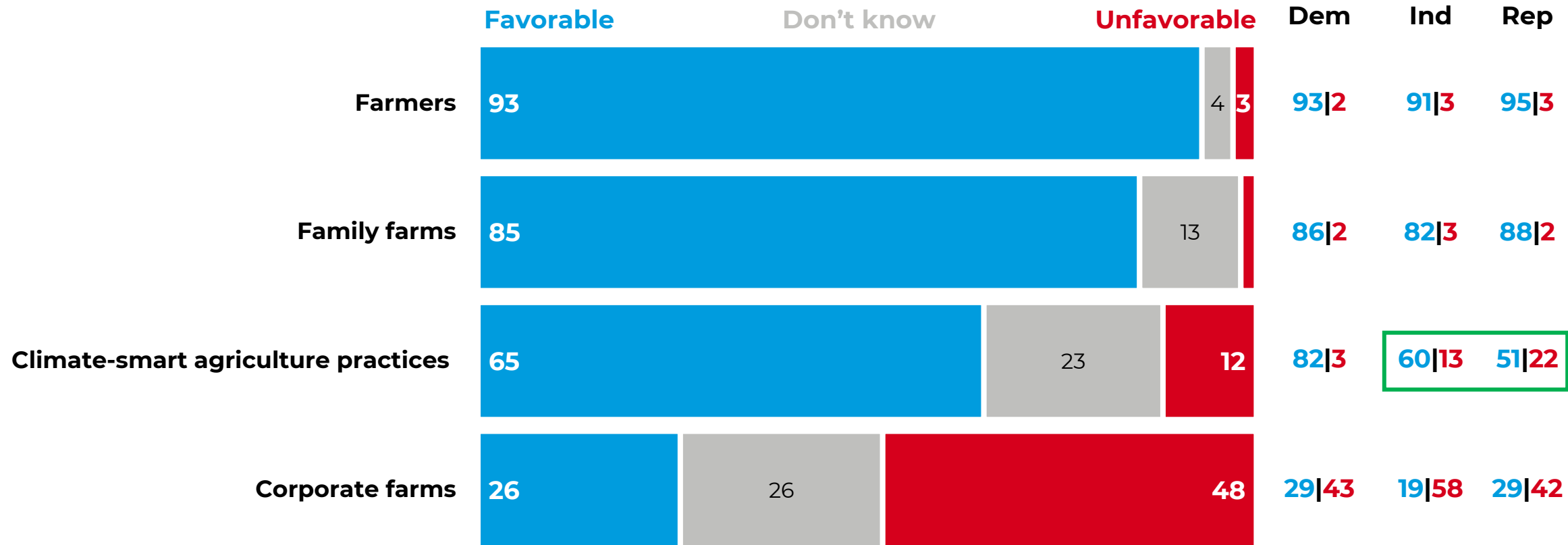
Opposition to repealing or redirecting funding holds strong after a simulated debate. After hearing a balanced debate with messaging from both sides, opposition to repealing or redirecting the climate-smart ag funding remains robust – with nearly 70% in Michigan continuing to favor using the funding as intended.

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Landscape

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Constituents in Michigan are intensely favorable of farmers and family farms and view climate-smart agriculture quite positively. Corporate farms are underwater

Favorability of Groups and Concepts

	Favorable	**Don't know**	**Unfavorable**	**Dem**	**Ind**	**Rep**
Farmers	93	4	3	93|2	91|3	95|3
Family farms	85	13		86|2	82|3	88|2
Climate-smart agriculture practices	65	23	12	82|3	60|13	51|22
Corporate farms	26	26	48	29|43	19|58	29|42

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Governor Whitmer is viewed favorably by a majority of Michiganders, including a plurality of independents. Representative Slotkin is unknown to a majority statewide, but tends to be viewed favorably by those familiar

Gretchen Whitmer Favorability

	Favorable	Don't know	Unfavorable	Net Fav
Overall	53	5	42	+11
Democrat	93	3	4	+89
Independent	47	10	43	+4
Republican	11	5	84	-73
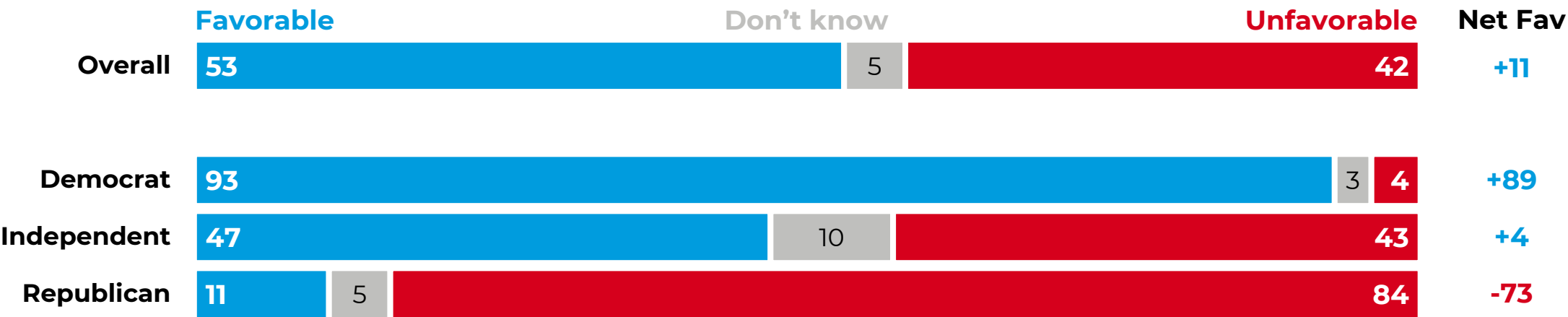
Elissa Slotkin Favorability

	Favorable	Don't know	Unfavorable	Net Fav
Overall	28	51	21	+7
Democrat	54	41	5	+49
Independent	21	54	25	-4
Republican	4	59	37	-33
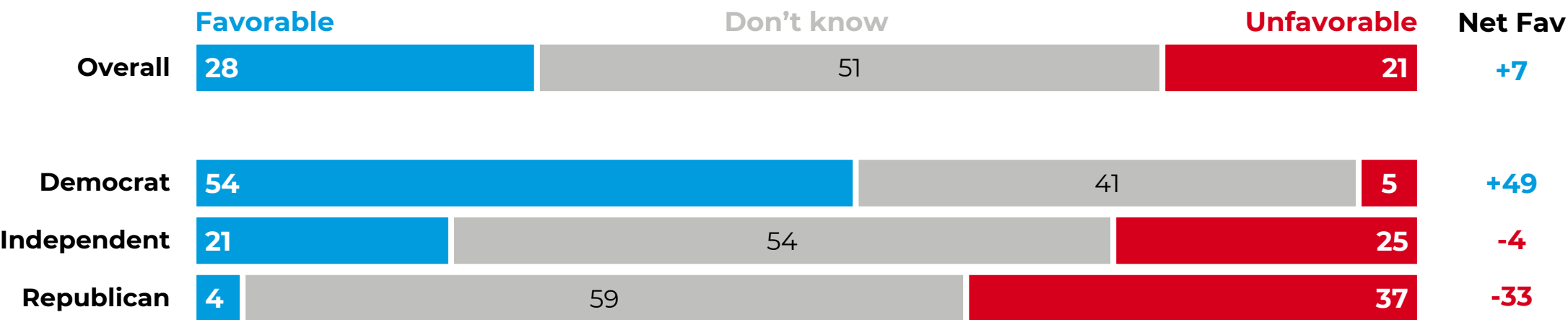
Michiganders agree we need to protect our drinking water and help farmers deal with extreme weather; they resoundingly agree we don't need to choose between our farmers and the environment

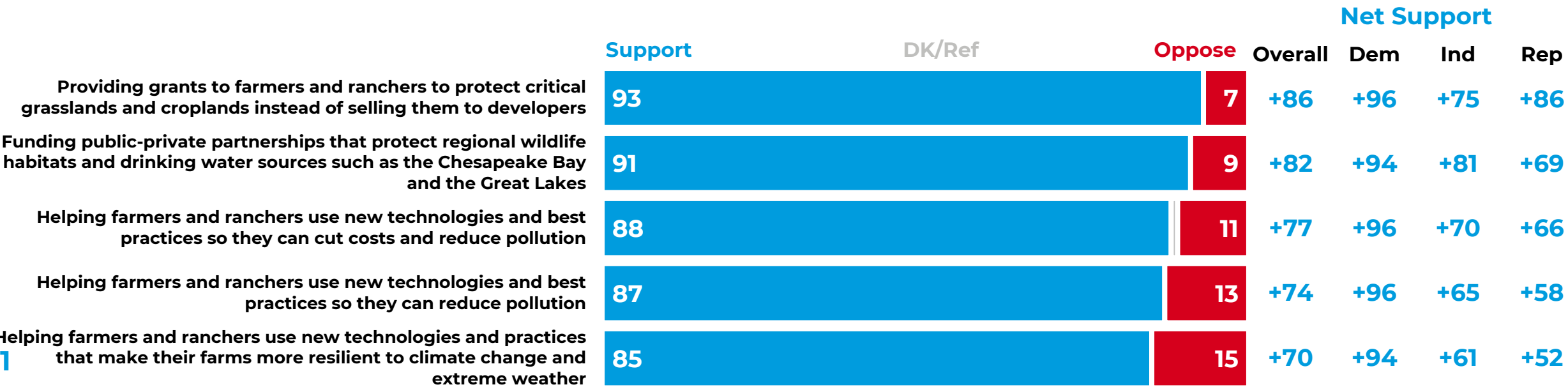## Climate and Farm Bill Statements

	Agree	DK/Ref	Disagree	Total Agree Dem	Ind	Rep
In the upcoming Farm Bill, Congress should include programs that help farmers deal with extreme weather like droughts and floods	92 — 60% strongly agree		8	97	86	91
In the upcoming Farm Bill, Congress should include programs that help conserve water and protect our drinking water from pollution	90 — 64% strongly agree		10	100	84	84
We don't have to choose between supporting American farmers and protecting our environment. We can do both	90 — 68% strongly agree		10	97	85	85
As extreme weather events continue to become more frequent and more severe, we need to take steps that will make America's farms and food systems more resilient and reliable	86 — 58% strongly agree		13	96	81	80
Michigan farmers and ranchers need more tools to prepare for extreme weather	84 — 51% strongly agree		14	97	79	75
The federal government should enact agricultural policies that reduce pollution	74 — 42% strongly agree		26	97	64	53

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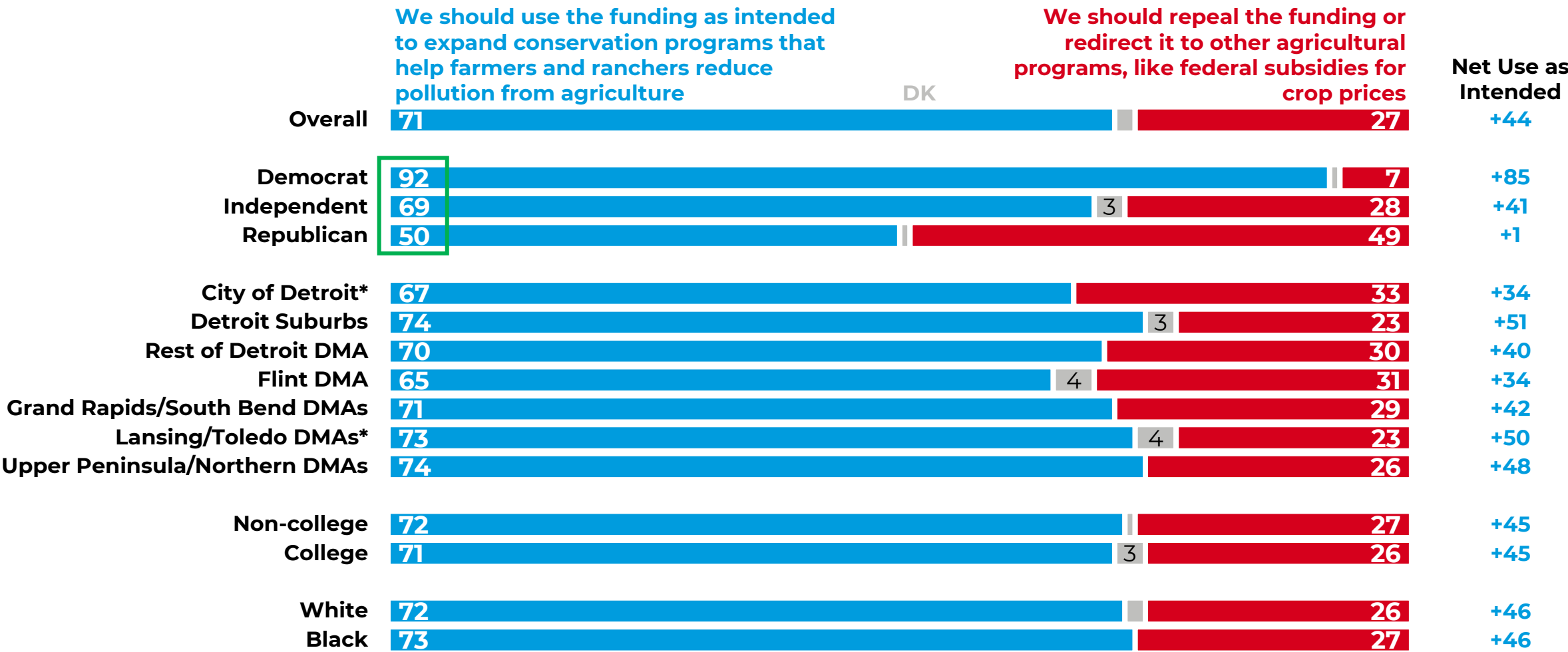# Climate-Smart Agriculture Funding

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Majorities in Michigan, including independents and a plurality of Republicans, support the IRA's funding for climate-smart agricultural programs. Specific policies enjoy high levels of support

As you may know, last year, Democrats in Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which included $19.5 billion in new funding to expand existing programs that help farmers and ranchers use practices that reduce their pollution and make their farms more resilient to extreme weather. Just based on what you know, do you support or oppose this funding?

	Support	DK/Ref	Oppose	Net Support Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep
Overall	64	12	24	+40	+83	+29	+3

	Support	DK/Ref	Oppose	Net Support Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep
Providing grants to farmers and ranchers to protect critical grasslands and croplands instead of selling them to developers	93		7	+86	+96	+75	+86
Funding public-private partnerships that protect regional wildlife habitats and drinking water sources such as the Chesapeake Bay and the Great Lakes	91		9	+82	+94	+81	+69
Helping farmers and ranchers use new technologies and best practices so they can cut costs and reduce pollution	88		11	+77	+96	+70	+66
Helping farmers and ranchers use new technologies and best practices so they can reduce pollution	87		13	+74	+96	+65	+58
Helping farmers and ranchers use new technologies and practices that make their farms more resilient to climate change and extreme weather	85		15	+70	+94	+61	+52

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Seven in ten support using climate-smart ag funding as intended, including majorities of independents and half of Republicans
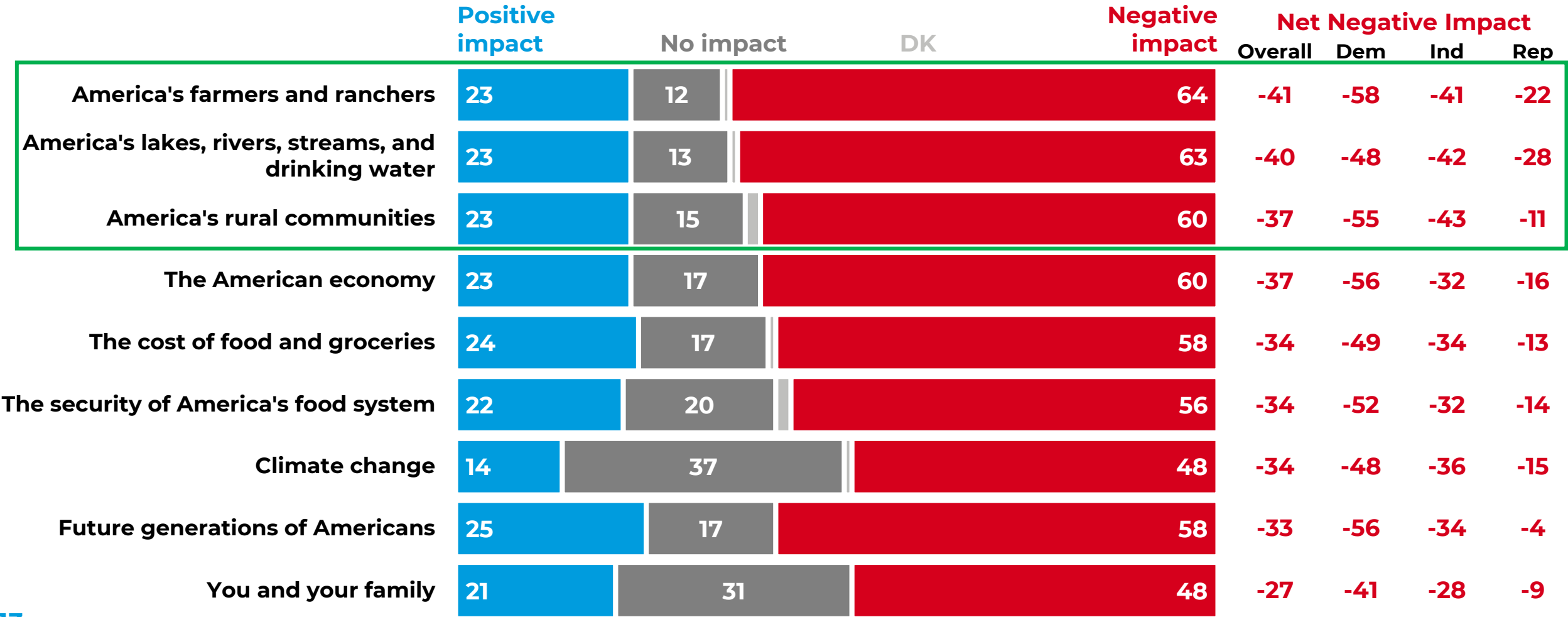
Some members of Congress have said that as part of the Farm Bill, they want to repeal the $19.5 billion that was provided to help farmers and ranchers reduce the amount of pollution they create by expanding conservation programs and other climate-smart agricultural practices. **Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?**

	We should use the funding as intended to expand conservation programs that help farmers and ranchers reduce pollution from agriculture	DK	We should repeal the funding or redirect it to other agricultural programs, like federal subsidies for crop prices	Net Use as Intended
Overall	71		27	+44
Democrat	92		7	+85
Independent	69	3	28	+41
Republican	50		49	+1
City of Detroit*	67		33	+34
Detroit Suburbs	74	3	23	+51
Rest of Detroit DMA	70		30	+40
Flint DMA	65	4	31	+34
Grand Rapids/South Bend DMAs	71		29	+42
Lansing/Toledo DMAs*	73	4	23	+50
Upper Peninsula/Northern DMAs	74		26	+48
Non-college	72		27	+45
College	71	3	26	+45
White	72		26	+46
Black	73		27	+46

*Small sample size: results are directional.

Michigan constituents believe repealing this funding would have a negative impact on all metrics tested – especially America's farmers and ranchers, drinking water, and rural communities

Impact of Repealing Funding for Climate-Smart Agricultural Programs

	Positive impact	No impact	DK	Negative impact	Net Negative Impact			
					Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep
America's farmers and ranchers	23	12		64	-41	-58	-41	-22
America's lakes, rivers, streams, and drinking water	23	13		63	-40	-48	-42	-28
America's rural communities	23	15		60	-37	-55	-43	-11
The American economy	23	17		60	-37	-56	-32	-16
The cost of food and groceries	24	17		58	-34	-49	-34	-13
The security of America's food system	22	20		56	-34	-52	-32	-14
Climate change	14	37		48	-34	-48	-36	-15
Future generations of Americans	25	17		58	-33	-56	-34	-4
You and your family	21	31		48	-27	-41	-28	-9

Each half of the sample heard a different statement from supporters, while the full sample heard the same opposition statement. Each supporter framing yielded nearly identical results

Full Text of Supporter and Opposition Messaging: Thinking again about the $19.5 billion that was provided to help farmers and ranchers reduce the amount of pollution they create by expanding conservation programs and other climate-smart agricultural practices…

Supporters of these policies say:

[SPLIT A – FOOD SECURITY] Supporters say **this funding will be used for programs that not only help farmers and ranchers, but also provide crucial protections to ensure the U.S. food system remains safe and reliable**. Extreme weather associated with climate change, like droughts and floods, wreak havoc on farmers and endanger our country's food security. These conservation programs are an important investment in maintaining our country's food security and the well-being of our farmers, and they will provide a much-needed boost to America's rural communities, adding 90,000 new jobs in rural areas across America.

[SPLIT B – POLLUTION] Supporters say that the agricultural industry creates 10% of all climate pollution in America as well as a significant amount of toxic pollution that makes its way into our lakes, rivers, streams, and drinking water. These programs have a proven track record of reducing climate and water pollution to make sure everyone has clean water to drink and to make farms more resilient to extreme weather like droughts and floods. However, these programs are underfunded and can't meet the demand from all the farmers who want to participate. **We should listen to farmers and expand these valuable programs that protect our farmers, our food supply, and our environment.**

Opponents of these policies say:

[FULL SAMPLE] Opponents say that this funding is just another example of **runaway government spending that is driving up inflation, the price of food and groceries**, and the national debt. **The link between climate change and farming is being wildly exaggerated by radical politicians** who are pushing their own agenda. Congress should take this opportunity to cut this wasteful spending and, instead, invest in programs that will actually help our farmers who are still struggling to recover from the effects of the pandemic – **programs like crop subsidies and insurance** and other forms of financial assistance.

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After hearing a balanced debate, an overwhelming majority still wants to use the IRA funding as intended – Republicans stand alone in favoring repeal after initially being slightly supportive

Vote Movement: Use Funding as Intended vs. Repealing/Redirecting Funding

	Use as Intended	Initial Ask Repeal/ Redirect	NET Use as Intended	Use as Intended	Informed Ask Repeal/ Redirect	NET Use as Intended
Overall	71	27	+44	69	31	+38
Democrat	92	7	+85	93	6	+87
Independent	69	28	+41	67	32	+35
Republican	50	49	+1	41	59	-18
City of Detroit*	67	33	+34	66	34	+32
Detroit Suburbs	74	23	+51	71	28	+43
Rest of Detroit DMA	70	30	+40	63	37	+26
Flint DMA	65	31	+34	61	39	+22
Grand Rapids/South Bend DMAs	71	29	+42	70	29	+41
Lansing/Toledo DMAs*	73	23	+50	76	21	+55
Upper Peninsula/Northern DMAs	74	26	+48	68	32	+36
Non-college	72	27	+45	67	32	+35
College	71	26	+45	73	27	+46
White	72	26	+46	68	31	+37
Black	73	27	+46	79	21	+58

Small sample size: results are directional.

Thank You

New York   Washington, DC   Hartford   Chicago   Denver   Seattle