

**TO: Interested Parties**  
**FROM: Geoff Garin**  
**DATE: May 12, 2022**  
**RE: Passing Legislation Focused on Four Manchin-Backed  
Priorities Would Help Democrats in Key Senate Races**

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News reports indicate that Senator Joe Manchin would support reconciliation legislation that is focused on four priorities: (a) giving Medicare the power to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices, (b) providing funding and tax incentives to combat climate change and increase the use of clean energy sources, (c) raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans, and (d) lowering the federal government budget deficit.

In new polling, we tested voters' reactions to a legislative package focused on these priorities in key battleground states where four of Senator Manchin's Democratic colleagues are facing reelection contests this year, including Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and New Hampshire. Two important findings emerge from this research:

- **First, a very large majority of voters across the four states favor passage of this legislative package and believe it is important for the U.S. Senate to take action on it.**
- **Second, passage of the legislation would provide a significant benefit to Senator Manchin's colleagues in their reelection campaigns by solidifying their current support, creating the opportunity for new crossover support, and giving Democratic voters a reason to be more enthusiastic about turning out to vote in November.**

Across the four states, 74% of voters say they favor legislation that would address the four priorities specified by Senator Manchin, including 47% who strongly favor it. Support for the legislation crosses party lines, with 97% of Democrats, 73% of independents, and 53% of Republicans supporting it. We find large majority support the legislation in each of the four battleground states. Among those expressing an opinion, 80% of Arizona voters, 74% of

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Georgia voters, 78% of Nevada voters, and 74% of New Hampshire voters favor the legislation.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to expressing support for the legislation, 74% of voters across the four states say it is very important (44%) or fairly important (30%) for the U.S. Senate to pass this legislation.

With regard to the implications of this legislation for the reelections of Senator Manchin’s four Democratic colleagues, we find that voters in each of the four states would be more likely to support the incumbent for reelection if he or she supported the legislation and helped pass it.

|                                       | Four states combined | AZ  | GA  | NV  | NH  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| More likely to support for reelection | 47%                  | 47% | 48% | 52% | 39% |
| Less likely to support for reelection | 18%                  | 17% | 18% | 19% | 16% |
| No difference                         | 35%                  | 36% | 34% | 29% | 43% |

Each of the four incumbents currently has net positive job approval ratings in their states, and helping to pass this legislation would reinforce each senator’s current support. **Additionally, 14% of those who do not currently approve of the incumbent say they would be more likely to vote for them if they help pass this legislation – demonstrating the potential of this legislation to add incremental support that can be vital to providing each incumbent with a winning margin.**

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<sup>1</sup> The interviews in Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada were conducted online and respondents were not offered a “not sure” option on this question. The interviews in New Hampshire were conducted by telephone and interviewers were allowed to record a “not sure” response. To be consistent with the other states, we have recalculated the New Hampshire results excluding the “not sure” responses. Before the recalculation, the results in New Hampshire were 63% favor, 22% oppose, 13% not sure.

Many surveys have documented the frustration of voters, including Democratic voters, with a perceived lack of action by Congress on key issues – a frustration that surveys show takes a toll on the motivation of voters to turn out in November. Passage of this legislation would be an important antidote to that phenomenon. Across the four states, 62% say they would be more motivated and enthusiastic about voting in the elections this November if Congress took action and actually passed this legislation.

**Democrats in particular would be more motivated to vote (81%), including many Democrats who currently express a lower degree of enthusiasm about voting.**

Finally, passage of the bill also can set up a good contrast for the incumbent Democrats in the four states if the GOP candidates oppose the bill. If given a choice between the incumbent senator who helped pass the bill and a Republican who opposed it, voters across the four states say they would be more likely to vote for the Democrat by 46% to 23%. This contrast would be a rallying point for voters who backed Joe Biden in 2020 (77% more likely to vote for the incumbent Democrat). Among voters who backed Donald Trump voters, by contrast, only 43% say they would be more likely to vote for the Republican who opposed for the bill, *while 14% of Trump voters say they would be more likely to cross over and vote for the Democrat*. Independent voters would be more likely to vote for the Democrat by 45% to 18%.

The interviews for this survey were conducted May 5-9 with a total of 1,210 likely voters, including representative cross sections of likely voters in Arizona (302 interviews), Georgia (306 interview), Nevada (302 interviews), and New Hampshire (300 interviews).