

# Public opinion on the Trump-Republican Infrastructure proposal

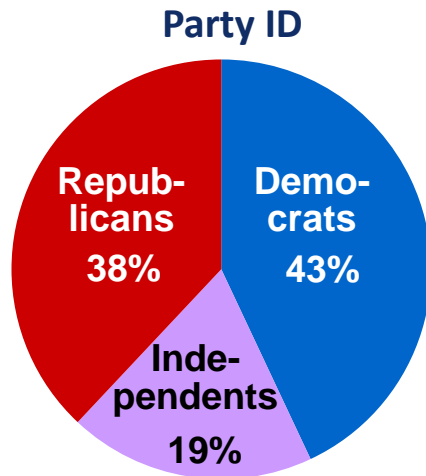
*Key findings from a nationwide survey among 2016 voters  
conducted October/November 2017 for*

Center for American Progress

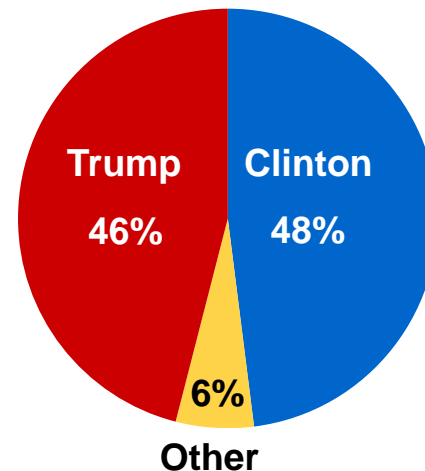


# Methodology

- Nationwide survey conducted October 31 to November 4, 2017, among 1,000 registered voters nationwide who voted in the 2016 election



**2016 Presidential Vote**



# Improving America's infrastructure and protecting the environment are both very high priorities for voters.

■ Absolutely critical priority   ■ Very important

**Build, repair, and modernize America's infrastructure** (including any or all of these: bridges, railways, airports, water and sewer systems, telecommunications networks, and energy transmission networks)



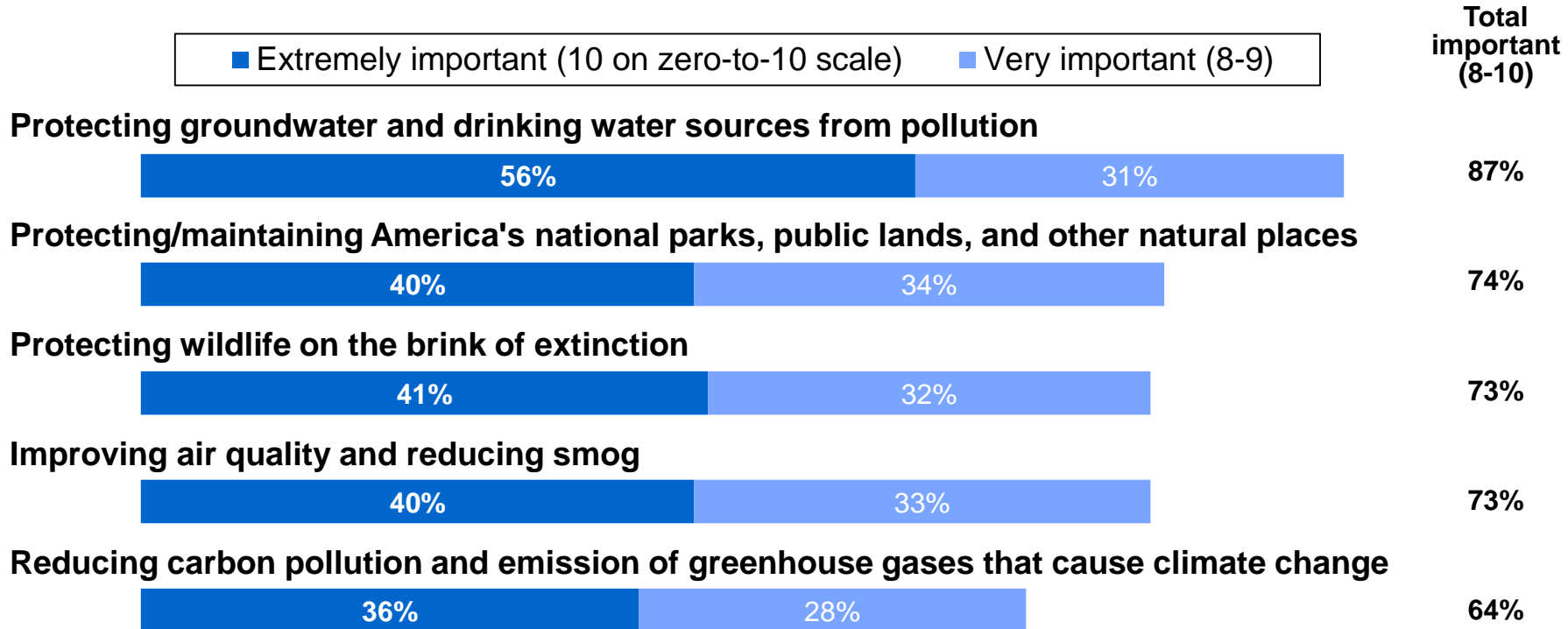
**Protect America's environment** (including clean air, clean water, wildlife, and natural places)



77% say both are critical/very important.

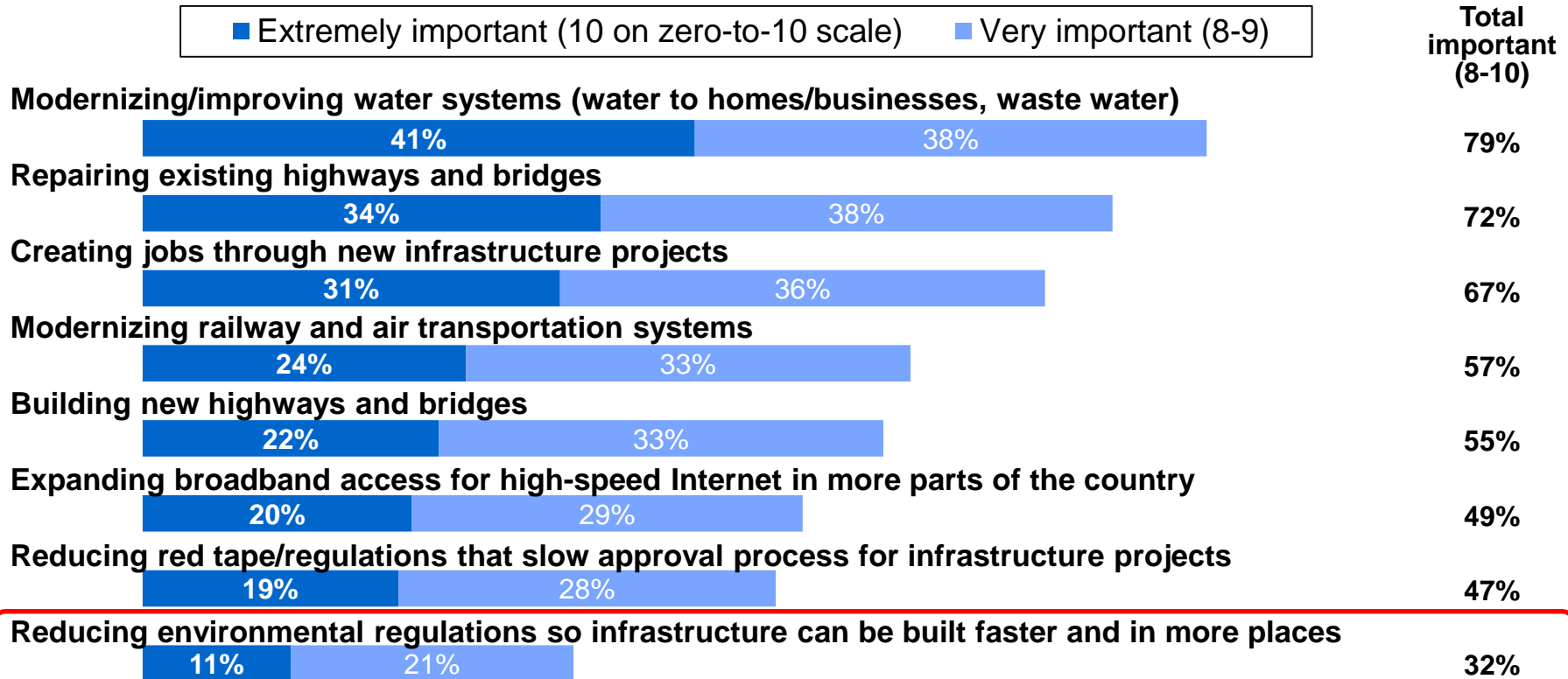
	Absolutely critical priority	
	Infra-structure	Environ-ment
Democrats	40%	65%
Independents	40%	49%
Republicans	39%	29%
Swing voters	33%	44%
Northeast	38%	51%
South	41%	45%
Midwest	43%	52%
West	35%	47%
Urban	35%	48%
Suburban	42%	52%
Small town/rural	41%	43%

# Voters have a number of environmental priorities; protecting clean water is paramount.



# On infrastructure, voters want to improve water systems and transportation, not reduce environmental regulations.

■ Extremely important (10 on zero-to-10 scale)   ■ Very important (8-9)



# Voters definitively reject the idea that it's necessary to sacrifice environmental protections in order to improve infrastructure.

Which comes closer to your view?

We can build and modernize America's infrastructure while also maintaining environmental protections for air, water, wildlife, and natural places.



It's necessary to reduce protections for air, water, wildlife, and natural places in order to build and modernize America's infrastructure.

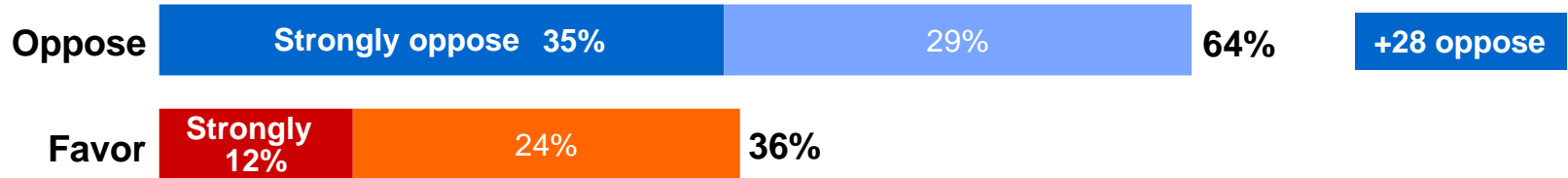


	DEFINITELY CAN DO	Total can do both
Democrats	71%	95%
Independents	69%	95%
Republicans	58%	91%
Swing voters	62%	94%
Trump voters	60%	92%
Clinton voters	71%	95%
Urban	64%	94%
Suburban	68%	95%
Small town/rural	64%	92%

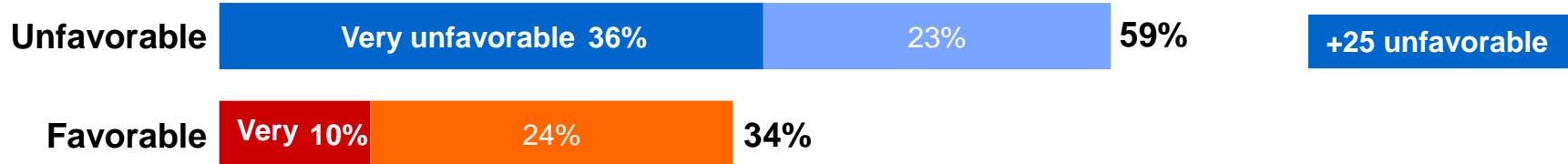
# Voters' initial response is negative to a proposal to weaken environmental protections to build infrastructure when presented in the abstract and as a Trump/GOP proposal.

## *Reaction to Descriptions of Trump/GOP Proposal*

**Weakening environmental protections for air, water, wildlife, and natural places in order to build and modernize more infrastructure projects and do so more quickly.**



**Donald Trump/Republicans in Congress proposed bill that would fund some infrastructure development and weaken environmental protections for infrastructure projects.**



## Opposition is strong among Democrats and independents; Republicans return to party lines when Trump's name is attached.

	Weaken enviro protections to build infrastructure projects		Trump/GOP bill to fund infrastructure/weaken enviro protections for infrastructure	
	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	Favor
Democrats	<b>76%</b>	24%	<b>81%</b>	13%
Independents	<b>67%</b>	33%	<b>60%</b>	33%
Republicans	49%	<b>51%</b>	33%	<b>59%</b>
Swing voters	<b>67%</b>	33%	<b>61%</b>	32%
Clinton voters	<b>77%</b>	23%	<b>81%</b>	12%
Trump voters	50%	<b>50%</b>	34%	<b>58%</b>



# Informing voters about increasing the power of Trump's cabinet and the impact on wildlife, water, and air raise major concerns.\*

*Reaction to Information about Trump/GOP Proposal*

■ Unfavorable reaction ■ Favorable reaction

**Allows Trump's cabinet to unilaterally sidestep public health, worker safety, environmental protections to speed up major infrastructure projects**



NET  
among  
Movers

-62

**Delays efforts to save and recover threatened and endangered species**



-54

**Provides funding for roads/bridges but not for clean water systems, water treatment facilities, or other needed infrastructure**



-69

**Eliminates requirement that new infrastructure plans meet air-quality standards set by the Clean Air Act**



-66

\* Of 13 statements tested

# Voters have a negative reaction to several other proof points about reductions to environmental regulations.

*Reaction to Information about Trump/GOP Proposal*

■ Unfavorable reaction ■ Favorable reaction

**Reduces oversight/regulations for pollution of waterways during construction projects**



NET  
among  
Movers

-40

**Eliminates federal requirement to account for climate change/sea-level rise when building infrastructure**



-44

**Allows members of Trump's cabinet to unilaterally approve major infrastructure projects if they decide environmental review is taking too long**



-40

**Allows more interstate highways to operate as toll roads and allows private companies to operate rest areas**



-34

**Eliminates regulations that make taxpayer-funded infrastructure projects less vulnerable to flooding**



-38

# After learning more about the proposal, voters overwhelmingly say it goes too far in weakening environmental protections.

## *Assessment of Trump/GOP Proposal after Information*

**Goes too far in weakening environmental protections for air, water, wildlife, and natural places.**

**63%**

**Strikes right balance between building and modernizing America's infrastructure, while also maintaining environmental protections for air, water, wildlife, and natural places.**

**37%**

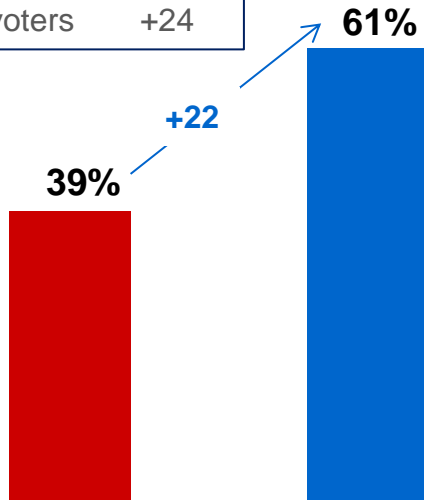
	<b>Goes too far</b>	<b>Strikes balance</b>
Men	56%	44%
Women	<b>70%</b>	30%
Age 18 to 34	<b>69%</b>	31%
Age 35 to 49	64%	36%
Age 50 to 64	63%	37%
Age 65/older	58%	42%
Democrats	<b>87%</b>	13%
Independents	66%	34%
Republicans	35%	<b>65%</b>
Swing voters	63%	37%

# We win the argument decisively when voters learn about environmental impacts.

*With whom do you agree more on Trump/GOP infrastructure proposal?*

## Opponents' advantage

Clinton voters	+70
Trump voters	-34
Independents	+26
Swing voters	+24



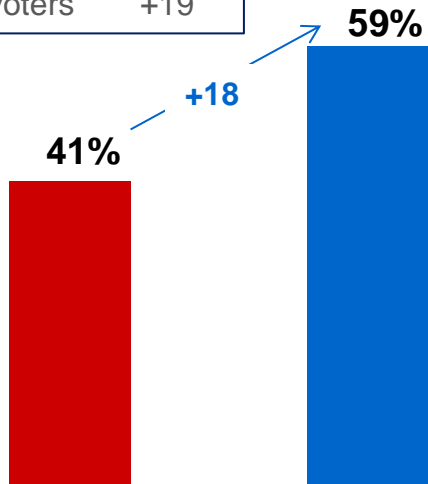
- SUPPORTERS:** **Government permits and the approval process are holding America back from repairing and improving the nation's broken infrastructure.** They say that government red tape is the biggest obstacle to starting new roadwork and construction projects. These lengthy delays can increase the cost of projects, slow down needed improvements, and leave our country with failing bridges, dams, and roads. **We must find common-sense ways to speed up Washington's bureaucracy and save taxpayers money.**
- OPPONENTS:** **It unnecessarily weakens environmental protections that are important for the air we breathe and the water we drink.** This **dangerous proposal** gets rid of the requirements that ensure that new construction is able to withstand flooding, earthquakes, and other natural disasters and **makes it easier to rubberstamp projects that could be hazardous to the public health. It jeopardizes natural places that protect endangered species on the brink of extinction.** Instead of a free pass for special interests to build whatever they want, we need a forward-looking infrastructure plan that provides good jobs, clean energy, protects wildlife, and provides safer, healthier communities.

# Republicans' critique of environmental regulations does not hold up to Democrats' response.

*With whom do you agree more on Trump/GOP infrastructure proposal?*

## Opponents' advantage

Clinton voters	+66
Trump voters	-36
Independents	+20
Swing voters	+19



- **SUPPORTERS:** Supporters of the proposal from Donald Trump and the congressional Republicans say that **current environmental regulations involve too much red tape that delays infrastructure projects, makes them more expensive, and stops some projects from being built at all.**
- **OPPONENTS:** Opponents of the proposal from Donald Trump and congressional Republicans say **most infrastructure projects aren't required to go through environmental review, and those that do produce better projects that protect communities and the environment while saving taxpayer money.**