



**PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

# **CLEAN ENERGY POLICY**

**A NATIONAL SURVEY OF REGISTERED VOTERS**

**Clean Air Priorities**  
**Green Banks**

**2021**

# Methodology

**Probability-Based Sample Provided by:** Nielsen  
Scarborough

**Field Dates:** September 17 – October 1, 2020

**Sample Size:** **Full Sample:** 4,828 Registered Voters  
**Sample A:** 2,415    **Sample B:** 2,413

**Margin of Error:** +/- 1.4% (Full Sample)  
+/- 2.0% (½ Sample A, B)

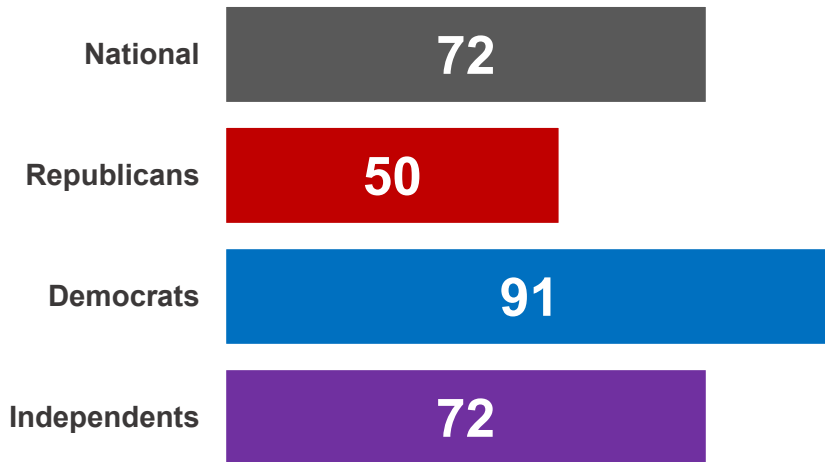
# Assessing Priorities

# Reducing Air Pollution

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

We have a responsibility to improve the conditions of thousands of people who are suffering from the negative health effects of poor air quality. Government research has shown that every dollar invested in cleaning up the air produces \$30 in benefits from reduced health costs and more productivity.

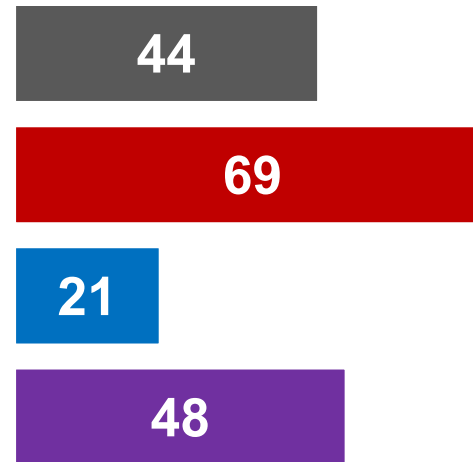
✓ **Convincing**



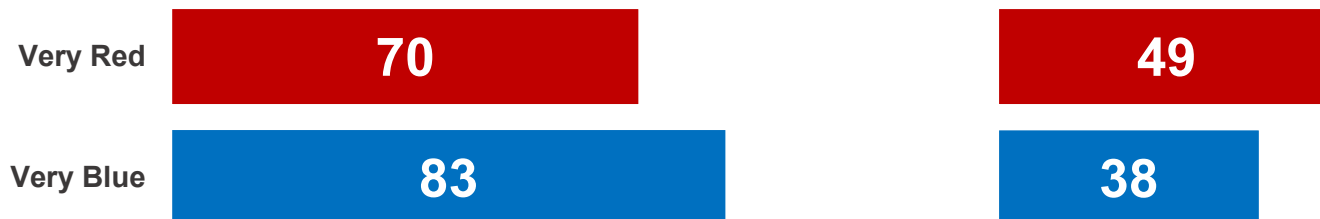
## ARGUMENT AGAINST

There's already legislation in place that has improved air quality and will continue to do so. Over the last 50 years, there was a 75% reduction in pollution. Meanwhile, the government keeps moving the goal posts and imposing new regulations, which hurts the economy and costs jobs.

✓ **Convincing**



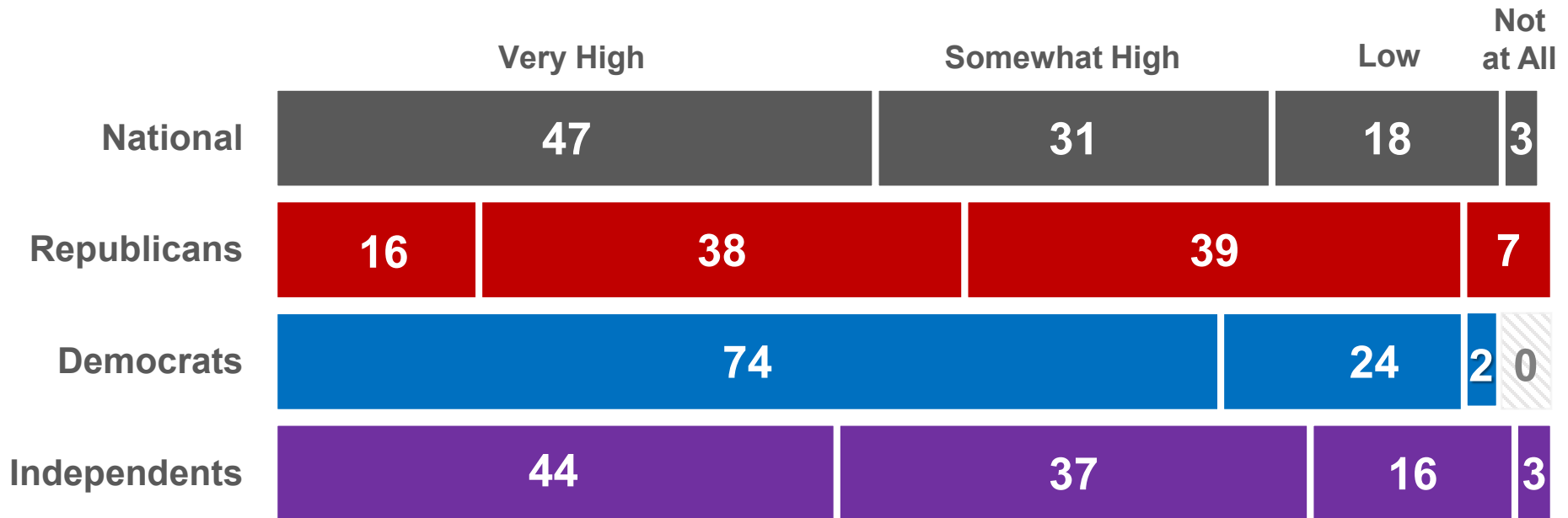
## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



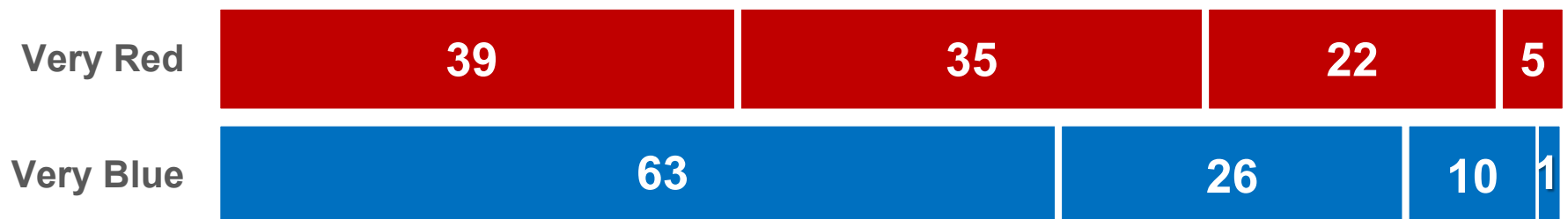
# Reducing Air Pollution

**PRIORITY**

How high a priority should it be for the government to work to reduce the air pollution that has negative effects on health?



## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

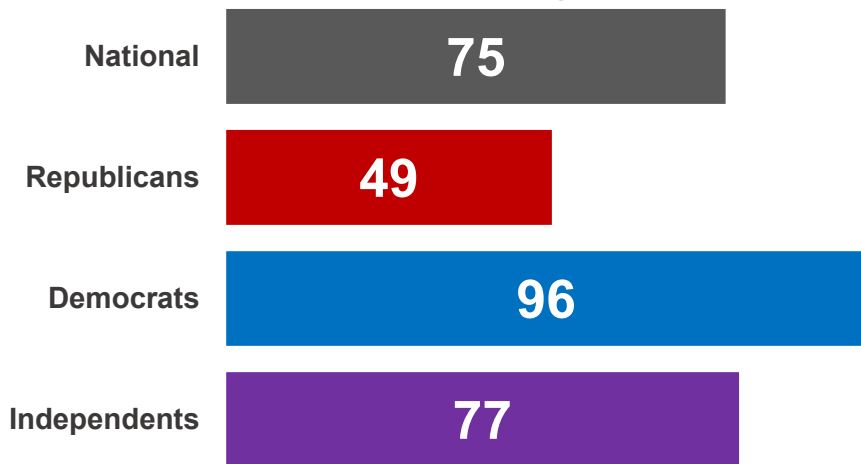


# Reducing Greenhouse Gases

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Most climate scientists agree greenhouse gases contribute to climate change and pose major threats. Without action, analysts predict these changes will cause the US economy to contract by several percent. Taking action now will benefit the economy by increasing energy efficiency. .

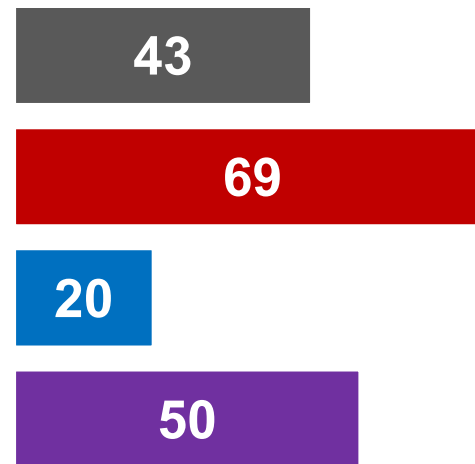
✓ Convincing



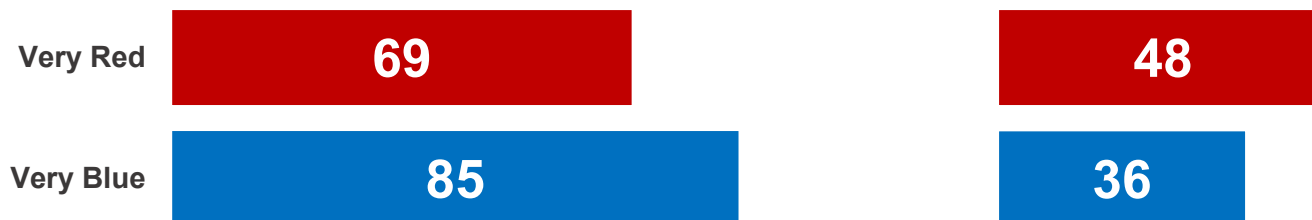
## ARGUMENT AGAINST

Some scientists question the degree of climate change and whether the risks warrant major action. We should continue to research the issue, but it's premature to take economically costly steps to change the way we produce energy.

✓ Convincing



## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



# Reducing Greenhouse Gases

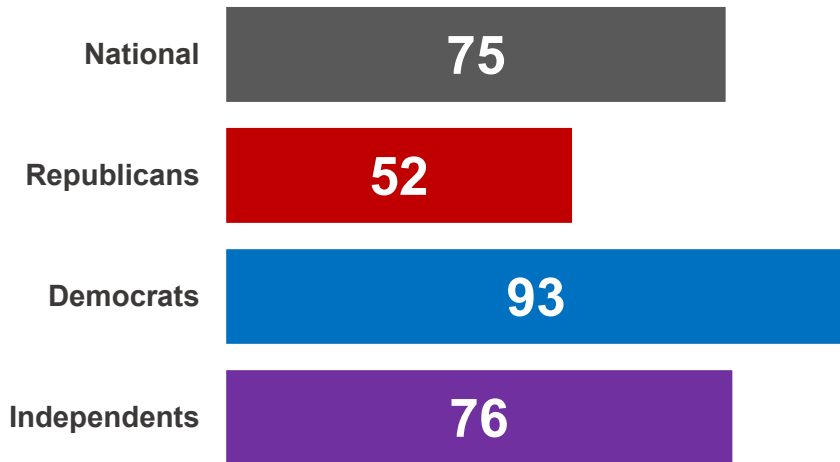
## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

There are many good reasons for the US to invest in clean energy. Cleaner air brings down health costs and has created far more jobs than coal, oil and gas combined. The world is moving to cleaner energy and the US should be ahead of the curve, not dragging behind.

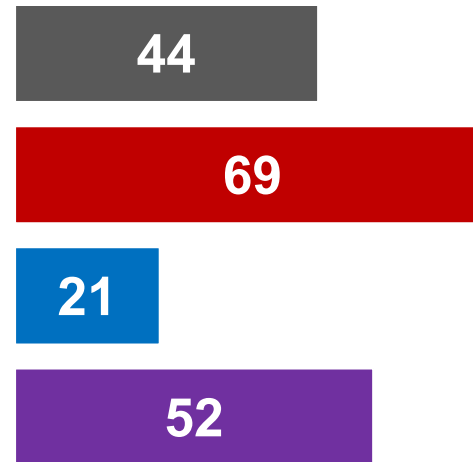
## ARGUMENT AGAINST

The effort to reduce CO2 will create an expanded role for government with new rules for businesses, which can slow the economy. If people want to reduce greenhouse gases, they can demand that companies from which they buy products change their ways.

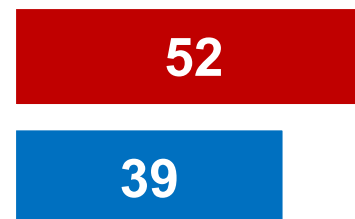
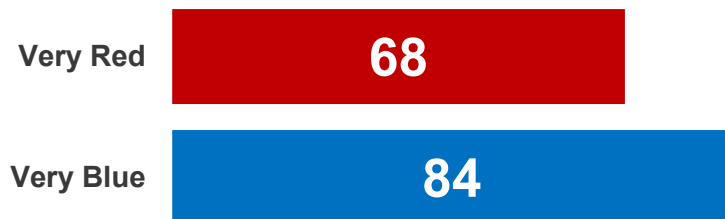
✓ Convincing



✓ Convincing



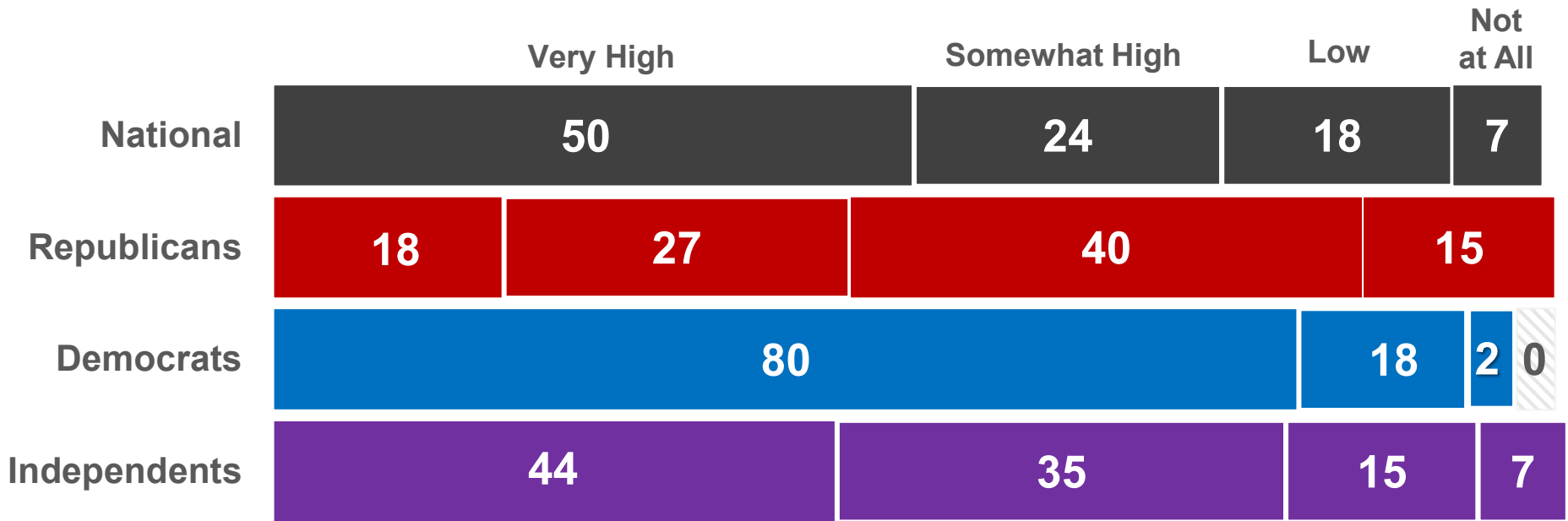
## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



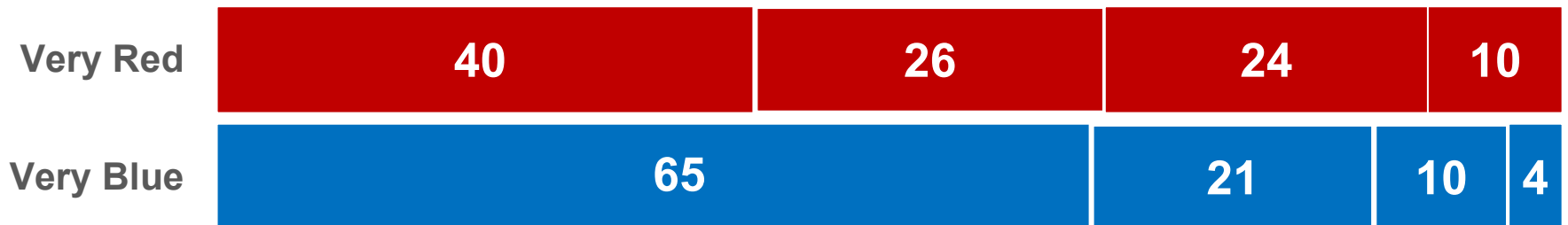
# Reducing Greenhouse Gases

**PRIORITY**

How high a priority should it be for the government to work to further reduce greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide?



## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS





# Reducing Greenhouse Gases

Support Among  
Republicans

Very / Somewhat High Priority

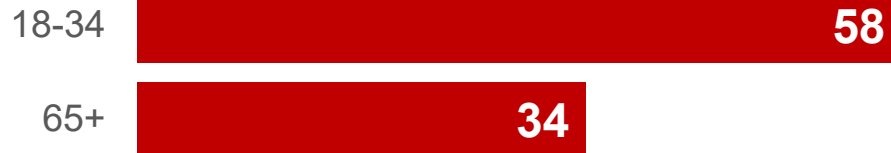
## RACE



## GENDER



## AGE



## INCOME



# Green Banks

# Green Banks

## BRIEFING

Most banks and investors don't get involved in small projects that are not worth their time and don't have the expertise to know which clean energy or energy efficiency projects are a good investment.

Green banks:

- Provide low interest loans not offered by ordinary banks
- Many green banks have been created with government funds at the state and local level and they have been self-sustaining
- Create local jobs and stimulate US domestic manufacturing

# Green Banks

## PROPOSAL

The Federal government would provide **\$35 billion** to create a **national green bank that** would provide funds to help local and state green banks **fund more projects**, help **create new green banks**, and **invest directly in clean energy projects**.

### Source of Proposal:

**National Climate Bank Act (116<sup>th</sup> Congress)**

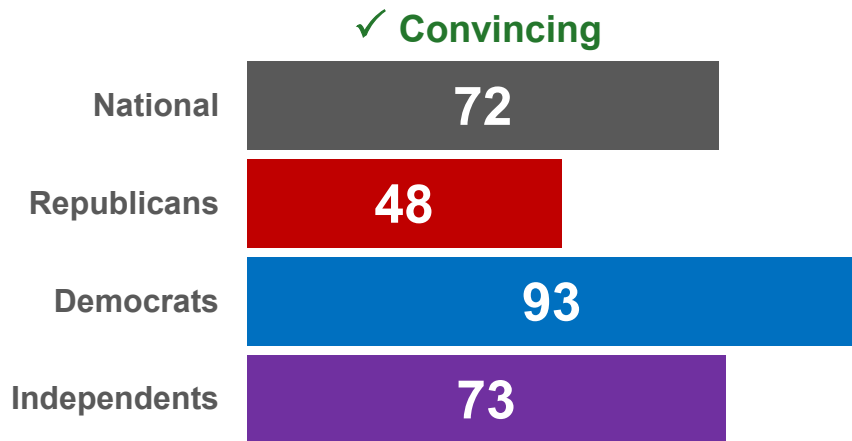
Sen. Edward Markey & Sen. Chris Van Hollen (S. 2057)  
& Rep. Debbie Dingell (H.R. 5416\*)

\*Resubmitted in 117<sup>th</sup> Congress: **Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator Act** (H.R. 806)

# Green Banks

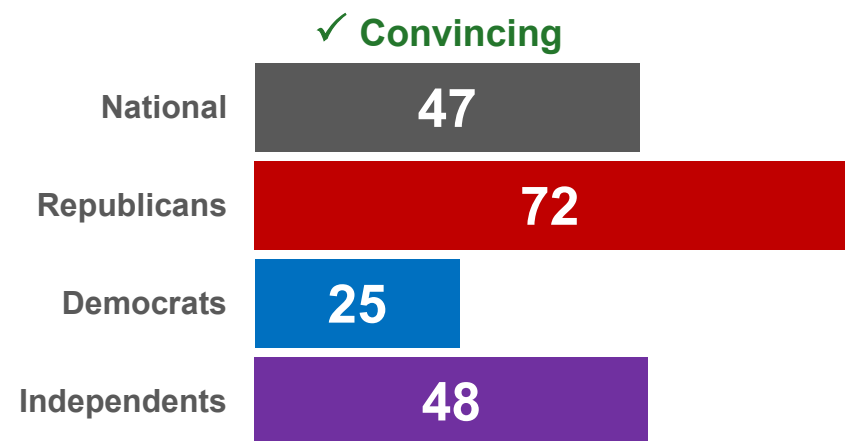
## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Green banks are a great way to kick-start investment in clean energy. A national green bank will boost the whole green bank effort to a new level that is needed to meet the demand for clean energy. It's a small investment that will grow over time, producing clean energy, and creating good jobs.

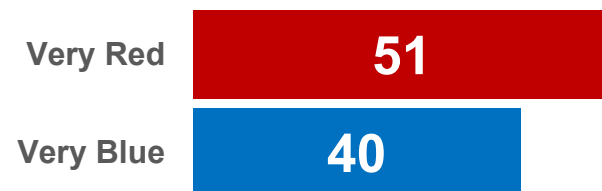
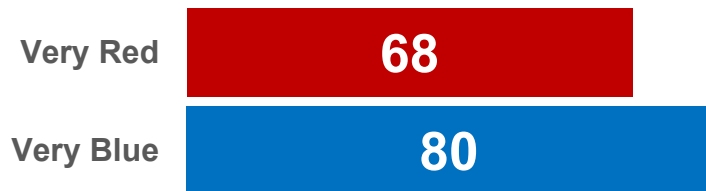


## ARGUMENT AGAINST

Investing taxpayer money in potentially risky and complex projects is not the kind of thing that governments should do. If there are viable business prospects, the private market will figure it out without having to put taxpayer's money at risk.



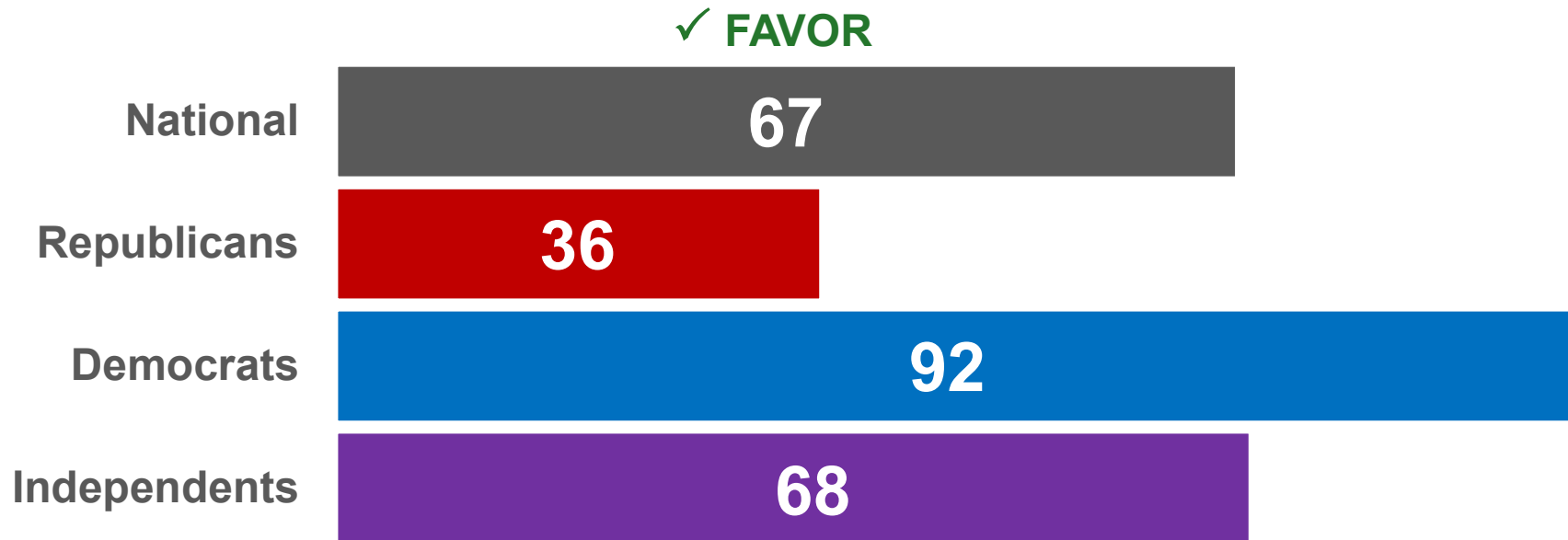
## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS



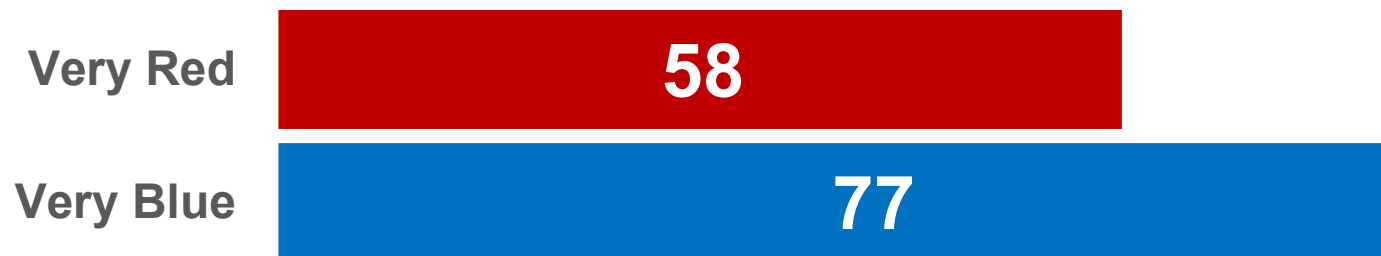
# Green Banks

FINAL  
RECOMMENDATION

The Federal government would provide \$35 billion to create a national green bank that would provide funds to help local and state green banks fund more projects, help create new green banks, and invest directly in clean energy projects.



## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

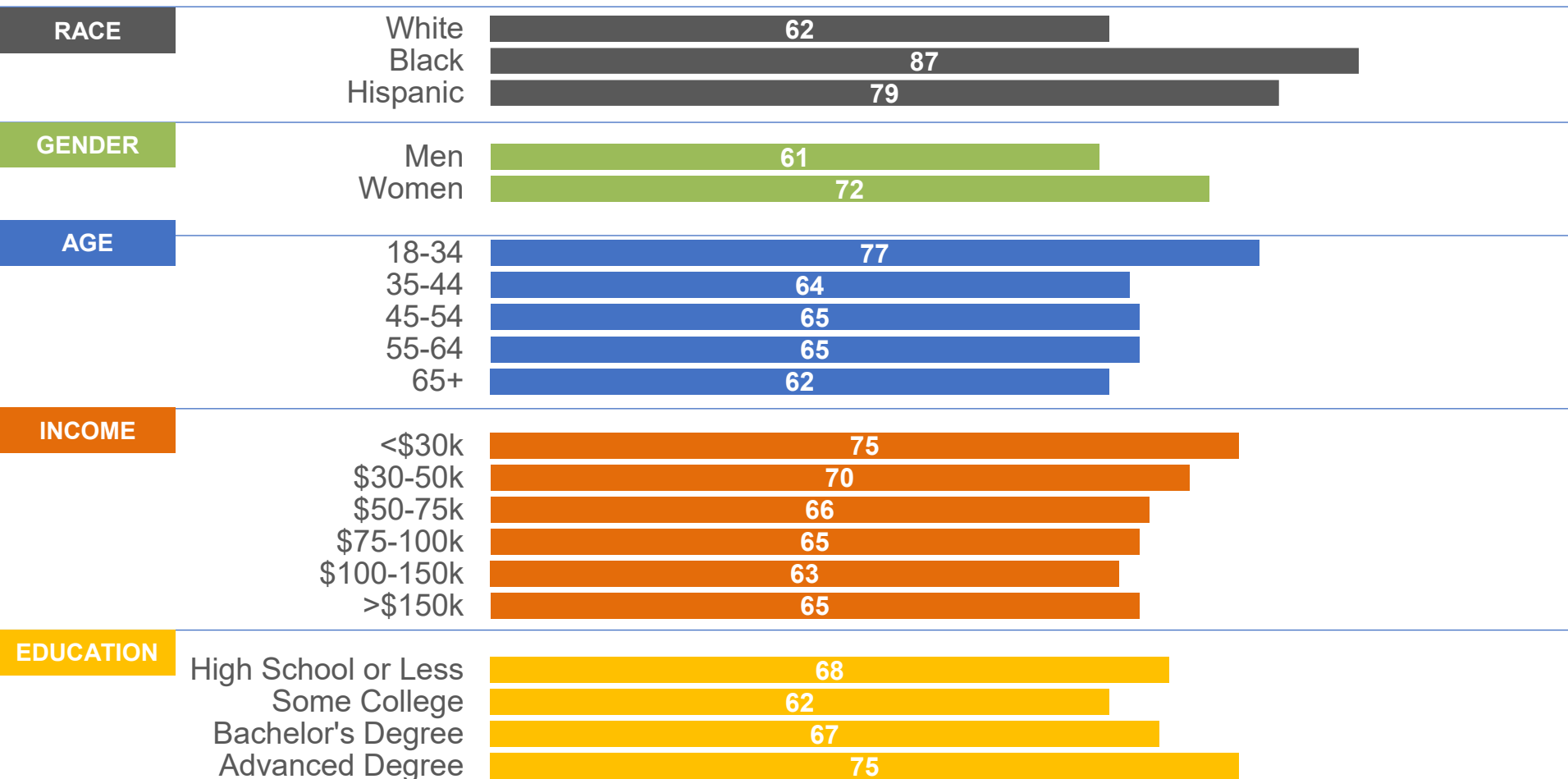


# Green Banks

FINAL  
RECOMMENDATION

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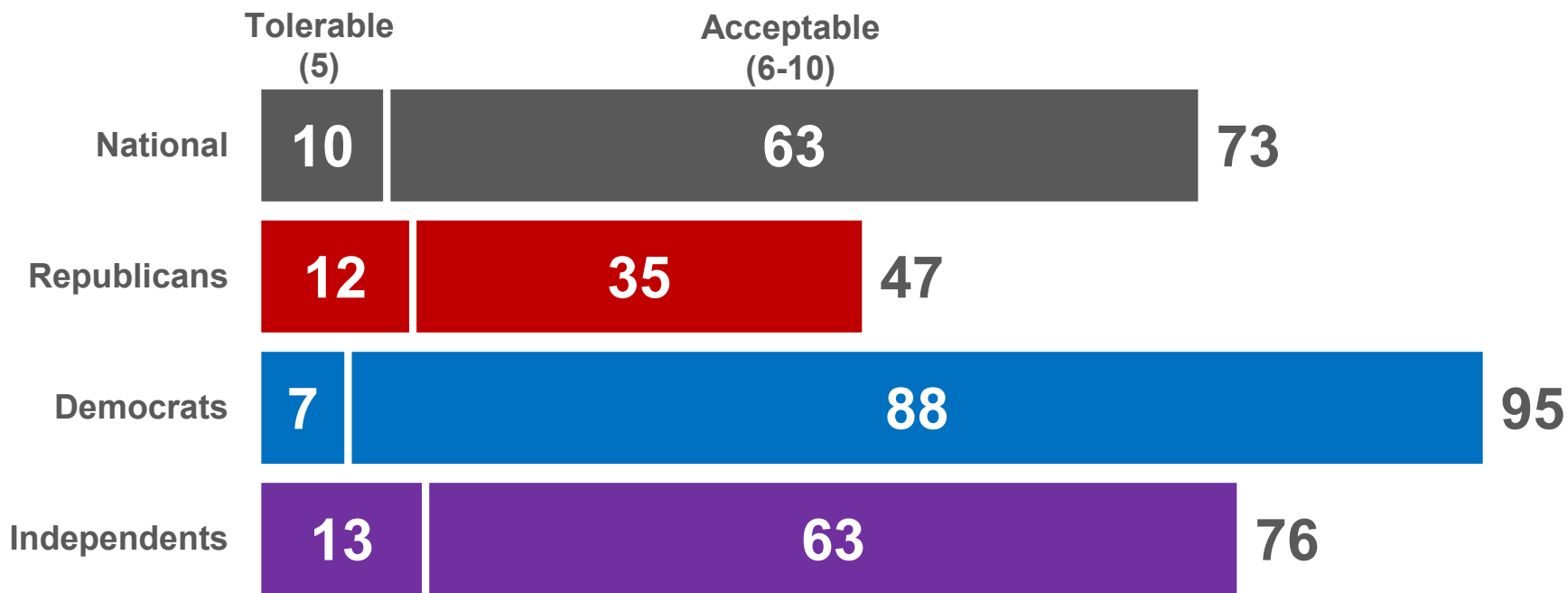
✓ FAVOR



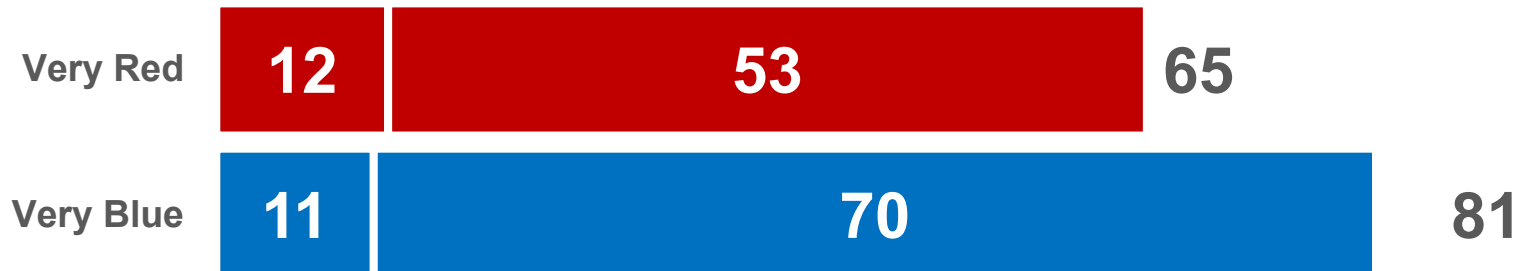
# Green Banks

ASSESSMENT

## Assessment of Acceptability



## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS





# Green Banks

Support Among  
Republicans

The Federal government would provide \$35 billion to create a national green bank that would provide funds to help local and state green banks fund more projects, help create new green banks, and invest directly in clean energy projects.

## Tolerable + Acceptable

