

# Consumer Attitudes on Corporate Climate Action

Insights for Today's Business Environment



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People don't want companies to take political stands

Without the right framing, climate action can be seen as a political stand

Overall, climate doesn't face the same public backlash as other issues

Climate concern among Americans has been increasing

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A focus on the business case for climate action wins support



# A Message from Nat Keohane

President, Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

The political environment for corporate climate action has shifted significantly. Companies have faced pressure to pull back from public commitments, abandon ambitious targets, and stay quiet on issues where they once spoke with confidence. Against that backdrop, we asked a simple but consequential question: what do Americans actually think? The answer, in short: the public is watching and wants companies to continue to reduce climate impacts.

The survey findings presented here, drawn from 2,000 registered voters across the political spectrum, should give corporate leaders meaningful confidence. Nearly eight in ten voters—including majorities of Republicans and independents—view climate change as a moderate or serious problem, a figure that has risen since 2024, not fallen. Three-quarters believe companies have a responsibility to limit their climate impact, and roughly the same share call it smart business to do so. When asked directly about companies stepping back from climate commitments under political pressure, 71% of voters called that behavior opportunistic or simply wrong. And nearly half of climate-skeptical Republicans reached the same conclusion. The permission structure for continued corporate engagement exists. The reputational risk, it turns out, sits more squarely on the side of retreat.

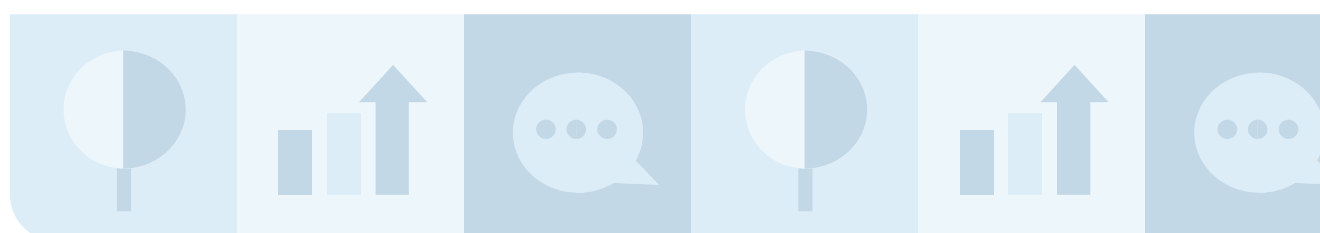
What has changed, and what the research helps us navigate, is how companies should talk about what they are doing and why. While terms like “net zero” and “renewable energy” have become more politically coded since 2024, this doesn’t mean companies should abandon their commitments; it means they should be more deliberate about the framing. The research points toward language grounded in common sense and fairness—emphasizing that reducing pollution, investing in clean energy, and managing costs over the long run are responsible business decisions, not political posturing. Critically, this framing works across party lines. The argument that climate action encourages companies to plan for the long term resonates with 70% of all voters, including 67% of Republicans and 71% of the climate-skeptical Republicans.

For companies navigating the current political context, the research suggests a strategic path forward: continue the work, broaden the frame, and ground your communications in the business logic that has always underpinned the strongest climate commitments.

Clean energy investment, operational resilience, reduced exposure to physical and regulatory risk – these are not concessions to a political agenda. They are the fundamentals of running a competitive, resilient enterprise. This research suggests that most Americans, across party lines, already understand that. The challenge now is for corporate leaders to communicate with the same clarity.

At C2ES, we have spent nearly three decades working alongside businesses to turn climate ambition into durable strategy. The findings in this report reflect a moment of real opportunity – and real complexity – for corporate leaders. We believe the business case for a clean energy, low-carbon economy remains strong. And we believe companies that continue to make that case – clearly, confidently, and on their own terms – will be better positioned for what comes next.

**Nat Keohane,**  
President



# Setting the stage

A look at the current landscape

## The business landscape around climate action has shifted dramatically. But not in the ways heated policy debates might suggest.

An in-depth analysis of consumer attitudes via a survey of 2,000 voters across the U.S. reflecting a representative range of political affiliations, ages, and incomes supports a different conclusion. It reveals something surprising for some: despite increased political polarization and a challenging regulatory environment, the business case for climate action has continued holding strong. What's more, this research suggests that corporate retreat from environmental commitments carries more reputational and financial risk than maintaining a clear, consistent stance. And perhaps most surprisingly, even those skeptical of climate policy remain open to the business case. Across party lines, strong majorities believe that climate action is smart business and would support companies that invest in clean energy and limit climate pollution.

Here's what executives need to know.

## Voter expectations for corporate climate action haven't changed—they've changed for how it's communicated.

76% of Americans

say companies should limit environmental impact

64% of Republican voters

acknowledge corporate environmental responsibility

Nearly three-quarters of American voters (73%) believe it's smart business for companies to limit their environmental impact. This isn't a niche or partisan position—majorities across party lines, including 68% of Republicans, say companies have a responsibility to reduce their climate impacts.

But here's what's particularly striking: even among climate-skeptical Republicans—voters who view most of a series of climate-related terms as part of a progressive agenda—64% acknowledge corporate responsibility on this issue. What's more, 7 in 10 of these same Americans agree that climate-related considerations encourage companies to plan for the long term. These aren't advocates; they're pragmatists.

Ultimately, most don't have a problem with climate action; they have a problem with the way companies have been talking about it. And when we stop leading with moral conviction and focus instead on business imperatives, like risk management, long-term strategy, and operational efficiency, skeptics become receptive.

The message Americans want to hear? We're managing our environmental footprint because it's smart business, not because it's part of a political agenda.



# The communications challenge

What's at risk and what matters most

## The complexity is real, but manageable.

Successfully navigating today's communications landscape is no easy feat. Roughly half of American voters now view assorted pro-climate corporate actions as "taking a political stand," and that perception has grown significantly since 2024. This is the source of genuine concern for many leaders.

But here's the critical insight: climate somehow still sits apart from traditional political issues. Which means frustrations tied to corporate climate action haven't translated to sustained activism against companies; twice as many American voters have boycotted companies for supporting an opposing political agenda than for taking steps to reduce environmental impact. This gap is significant—and it holds true even among climate-skeptical Republicans.

In essence, Americans still distinguish between responsible environmental stewardship and overt political activism, and they're substantially more forgiving of the former. This reinforces the importance of framing—and suggests the solution isn't to retreat, but to communicate differently.

## The real risk is appearing opportunistic.

This is perhaps the most important finding for executive decision-making. When companies roll back environmental commitments, Americans don't view this as pragmatism; they view it as opportunism. Seven in ten Americans characterize corporate retreat on climate as either "opportunistic" or "wrong."

Even many climate-skeptical Republicans—the group that might be expected to welcome pullbacks—reject this approach: 49% call retreat "opportunistic," even when given the option to justify it as "necessary" or "reasonable."

This rejection reflects a sophisticated understanding across the political spectrum: Americans are watching whether companies stand behind what they say. Appearing to cave under political pressure may damage reputation far more than maintaining a consistent environmental stance.

This logic extends to how skeptics view the current state of corporate climate action. Collectively, 71% of climate-skeptical Republicans (those inclined to associate many climate terms with a progressive agenda) believe companies are doing either "too little" (31%) or "the right amount" (40%) on reducing their climate impact. Rather than calling for corporate retreat on climate, Americans are asking companies to hold the line.

7 in 10

Americans  
characterize  
corporate retreat  
as "opportunistic"  
or "wrong."

49%

of climate-skeptical  
Republicans call  
corporate retreat  
"opportunistic."

And as an added incentive, notable percentages say they're not only more likely to hold a more favorable opinion of companies that take pro-climate actions, but also more likely to buy from those same companies. Meanwhile, anti-climate actions appeal to far fewer.



# The path forward

Strategic direction for boards and executives

## 1 Lead with business logic, not moral authority

Frame climate action as responsible risk management and operational efficiency—the approach that resonates most broadly and does the heavy lifting across political divides. This positioning naturally de-politicizes the issue. Even climate-skeptical Republicans respond to arguments grounded in long-term cost savings and strategic planning. The toughest critics will listen to the business case; they won't listen to moral arguments.

## 2 Address the real concern about costs directly and transparently

Americans worry that climate action will drive up prices in the near term. But they're also open to evidence that the long-term economics favor investment in efficiency and clean operations. Importantly, this openness extends to skeptics: 35% of climate-skeptical Republicans acknowledge the long-term cost savings argument. Companies positioned to win the narrative explain lifecycle costs honestly, distinguish between near-term investments and long-term savings, and don't pretend costs don't exist.

## 3 Maintain commitments

The American public is watching not just what companies say about climate, but whether they follow through. Unlike those who maintain clear positions, companies perceived as backing down face notable customer scrutiny and risks to not just credibility, but sales. Customers are watching to see if companies have the courage to follow through, and consistency builds trust.

## 4 Understand that Americans recognize the business benefits

Americans can distinguish between environmental responsibility and partisan activism. Positioning climate action as the former—grounded in business logic, operational efficiency, and appropriate investment back into communities—can maintain credibility. The data shows this works with Democrats, Independents, and Republicans, including those more skeptical on climate.

### THE BOTTOM LINE:

### The original business case for climate action remains intact.

Maintaining support for those actions requires clear, consistent communication rooted in business logic instead of moral appeals. In a polarized environment, corporate retreat reads as weakness and opportunism—and Americans across the political spectrum say they're willing to punish it. Conversely, companies that maintain principled positions grounded in smart business strategy are seen as leaders worthy of customer loyalty.

For boards and executives, the greater strategic risk is appearing to abandon climate commitments under external pressure. The path to sustainable competitive advantage runs through consistency, transparency, and the courage to lead with business sense.



## 03 Research overview

# About the research

In late 2025, the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) and Potential Energy Coalition (PEC) commissioned Language Strategy® firm maslansky + partners to research U.S. voter perceptions of corporate climate action and messaging.

Representing the third wave in a series of related issue and messaging research maslansky + partners has conducted dating back to 2023, this study was designed to provide an update on voter sentiment concerning specific climate approaches, policies, and terminology in the current political landscape.

## The key question

Does the strategy that has consistently tested well—positioning corporate climate action around materiality rather than morality, framing it as responsible business rather than ideological commitment—still hold?

To find out, maslansky + partners surveyed 2,000 registered U.S. voters in October 2025. The sample was representative of U.S. national racial/ethnic, regional, age, gender, education, and household income demographics—and maintained the partisan balance of previous studies: consisting of 35% Democrats, 30% Independents, and 33% Republicans.

Given the nature of shifting partisan conversations around climate, the study also isolated the responses of 253 “climate-skeptical Republicans”—defined as those Americans who self-identified as Republican and associated at least three of five tested climate-related terms with a “liberal” or “progressive” policy agenda, as opposed to having a “conservative” agenda or no agenda at all.

Where relevant, data from previous surveys fielded in 2024 is featured throughout to enable year-over-year comparisons. Collective results to date sit inside a body of research that now spans nearly 15,000 combined respondents across the U.S. and five additional countries.

**Note** Throughout this report, we refer to the results using the terms “voters” and “Americans” interchangeably

**2,000**

registered U.S. voters  
surveyed, October 2025

**35%**

Democrats

**30%**

Independents

**35%**

Republicans

**253**

respondents identified  
as climate-skeptical  
Republicans

**~15,000**

combined respondents  
across this body of research  
program since 2023

04 What we heard

# The politics problem

The sentiment is clear: people want companies out of politics

A majority of voters, specifically 63%, say companies should generally avoid engaging in politics. This should come as no surprise, as we've seen this trend across previous waves of research.

And as demonstrated in **Figure 1**, the sentiment holds true across not only party lines, but also key demographics—with notable percentages preferring companies avoid political action entirely.

Overall, this type of data could suggest a shrinking mandate for corporate climate action.

63%

of voters say companies should generally avoid engaging in politics

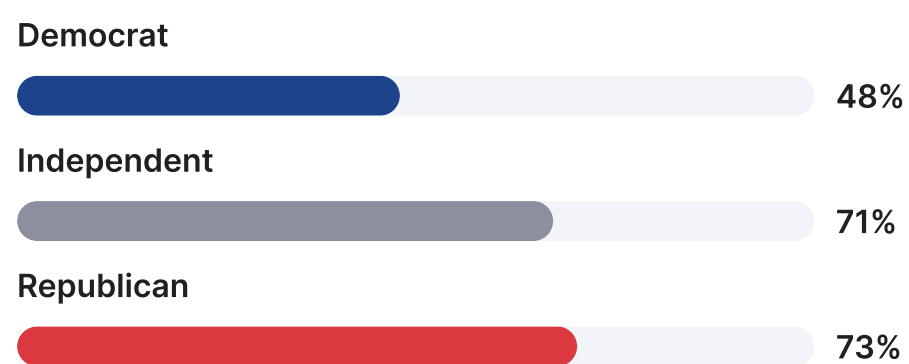
Figure 1

## Support for companies taking political stands

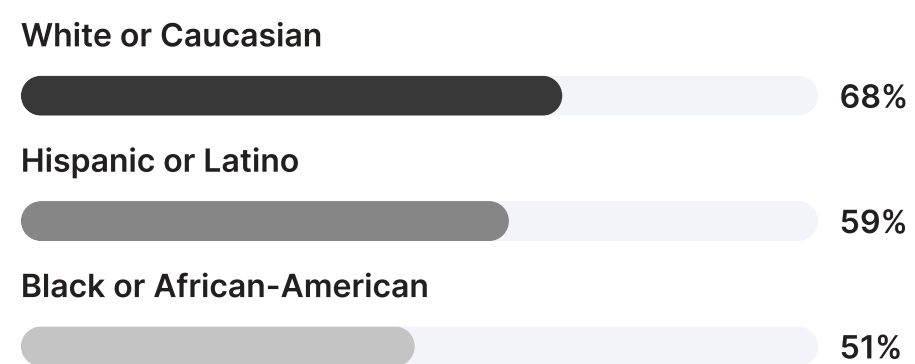
% who say companies should avoid taking stands on political issues



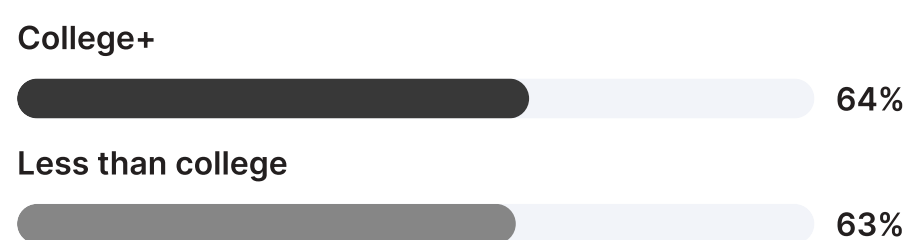
### Political affiliation



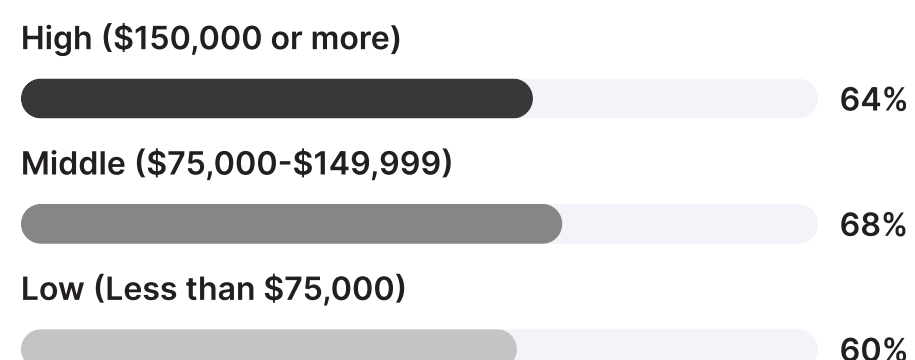
### Race / ethnicity



### Education



### Household income



2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters | Democrats: n=692 | Independents: n=604 | Republicans: n=651; Climate-skeptical Republicans: n=253 | Climate-Receptive Republicans: n=398; Less than college: n=1,005 | College or more: n=995; Low income: n=1,050; Middle income: n=669; High income: n=250)



04 What we heard

# Words matter more than ever

Without intentional framing and context, “climate” could fall into this trap

In fact, this research shows that without context, climate action increasingly comes off as political. As shown in **Figure 2**, more Americans now consider several climate-related corporate actions as “taking a political stand.”

Since the last time we asked these questions in 2024, an additional 8% or more feel that way about actions ranging from simply using more clean energy to announcing the phaseout of fossil fuels.

And importantly, politicization has happened across party lines –with notable upticks in percentages of Democrats, Independents, and Republicans characterizing the actions similarly (**Figure 3**).

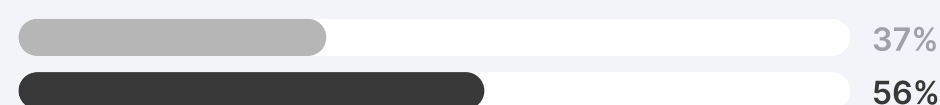
Figure 2

## Climate action politicization

% who say companies are taking a political stand when they...

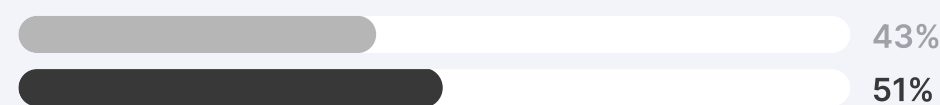
### Announce they will phase out fossil fuel use

In 2024, asked as: Stop using fossil fuels

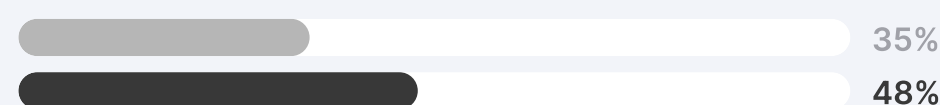


### Commit to achieving net zero emissions

In 2024, asked as: Make a net zero commitment to reduce and offset all of their carbon emissions by a target date

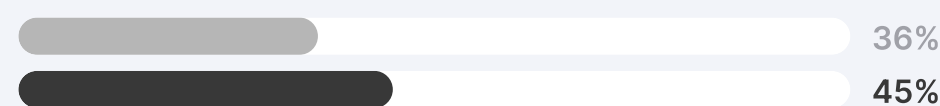


### Reduce their carbon pollution



### Use more clean energy like nuclear, solar, and wind power

In 2024, asked as: Invest in using more clean energy like solar and wind power



### Use more renewable energy like solar and wind



2024 2025

2024 Consumer Survey (Stop using fossil fuels: n=331 voters; Make a Net Zero commitment: n=328 voters; Reduce their carbon pollution: n=342 consumers; Invest in using more clean energy: n=334 voters)  
2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Announce they will phase out fossil fuels, Commit to achieving net zero emissions, Reduce their carbon pollution: n=2,000 voters; Use more clean energy: n=411 voters; Use more renewable energy: n=1,589 voters)

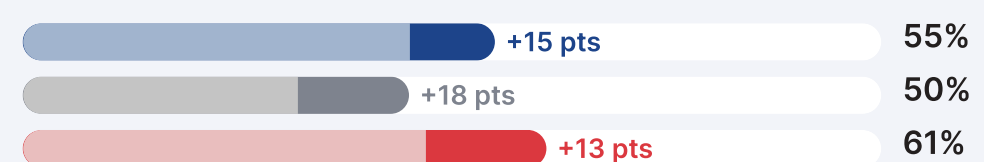
Figure 3

## Climate action politicization by party

% who say companies are taking a political stand when they...

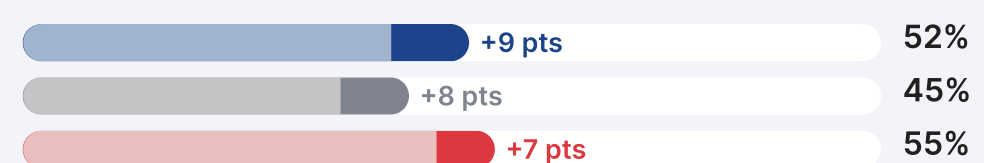
### Announce they will phase out fossil fuel use

In 2024, asked as: Stop using fossil fuels

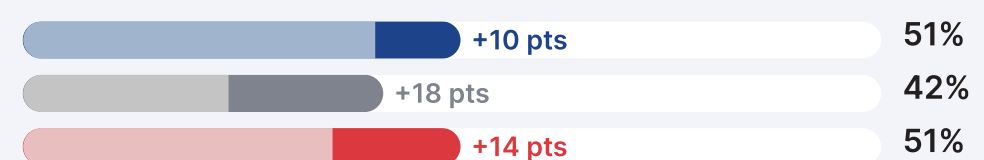


### Commit to achieving net zero emissions

In 2024, asked as: Make a net zero commitment to reduce and offset all of their carbon emissions by a target date

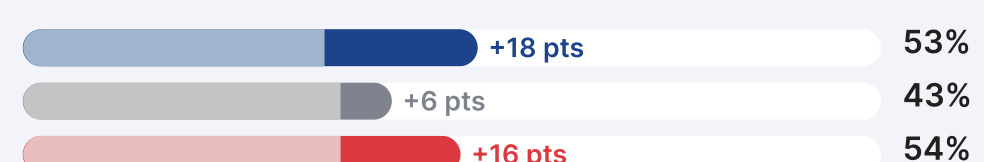


### Reduce their carbon pollution

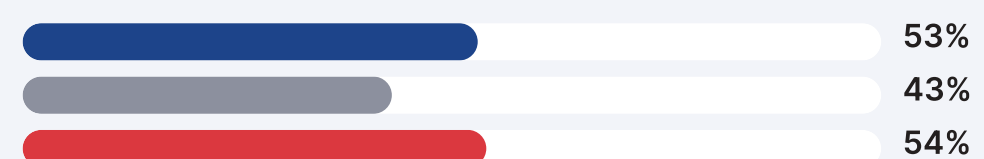


### Use more clean energy like nuclear, solar, and wind power

In 2024, asked as: Invest in using more clean energy like solar and wind power



### Use more renewable energy like solar and wind



2024 DEM | IND | REP  
2025 DEM | IND | REP

2024 Consumer Survey (Stop using fossil fuels: Democrats: n=136 | Independents: n=85 | Republicans: n=110; Make a Net Zero commitment: Democrats: n=122 | Independents: n=99 | Republicans: n=107; Reduce their carbon pollution: Democrats: n=120 | Independents: n=84 | Republicans: n=139; Invest in using more clean energy: Democrats: n=112 | Independents: n=95 | Republicans: n=126)  
2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Announce they will phase out fossil fuels, Commit to achieving net zero emissions, Reduce their carbon pollution: Democrats: n=692 | Independents: n=604 | Republicans: n=651; Use more clean energy: Democrats: n=54 | Independents: n=182 | Republicans: n=152; Use more renewable energy: Democrats: n=638 | Independents: n=422 | Republicans: n=499)

04 What we heard

# An exception to the rule

Yet in practice, climate simply isn't viewed in quite the same way

Broadly speaking, a majority of Americans across party lines believe companies have a responsibility to limit their climate impact. So while climate is certainly politically charged today, it's not as politically charged as other issues and is therefore not grouped alongside other political issues that more strongly drive behavior. As a result, Americans are far less likely to punish companies for environmental actions versus other choices seen as pushing a political agenda.

Roughly 25% of voters say they've boycotted a company for taking steps to reduce its environmental impact.

Yet approximately 50% of voters claim to have done the same to a company supporting an opposing political agenda. Notably, this was also true of climate-skeptical Republicans.

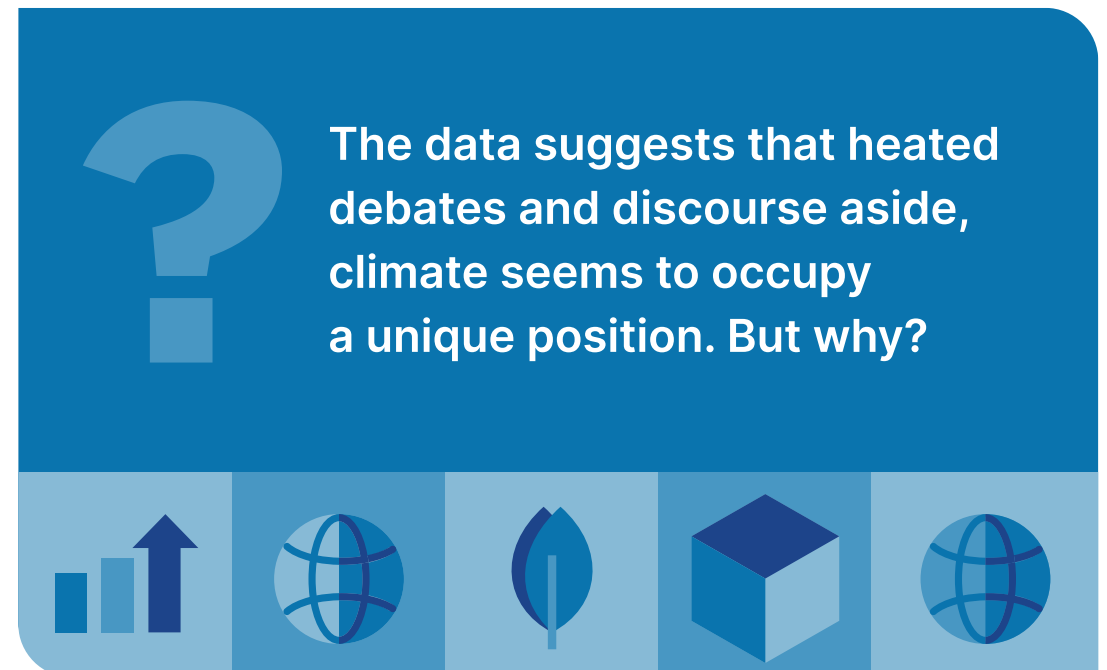
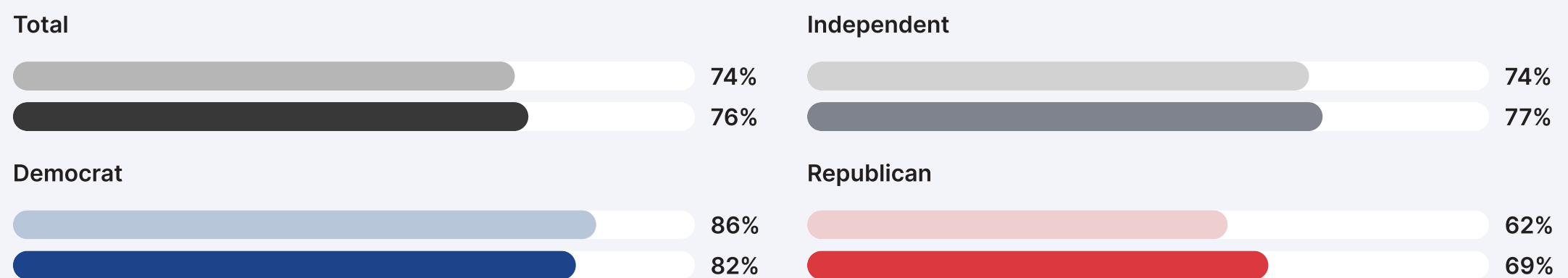


Figure 4

## Responsibility to limit impact

% who agree companies have a responsibility to limit their impact on the climate/environment



2024 TOTAL | DEM | IND | REP 2025 TOTAL | DEM | IND | REP

2024 Consumer Survey (Total: n=2,003 U.S. voters | Democrats: n=758 | Independents: n=532 | Republicans: n=714; all asked "responsibility to limit their impact on the climate")  
2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (asked "responsibility to limit their impact on the environment": n=1,000 U.S. voters | Democrats: n=344 | Independents: n=310 | Republicans: n=335; asked "responsibility to limit their impact on the climate": n=1,000 U.S. voters | Democrats: n=348 | Independents: n=294 | Republicans: n=335)

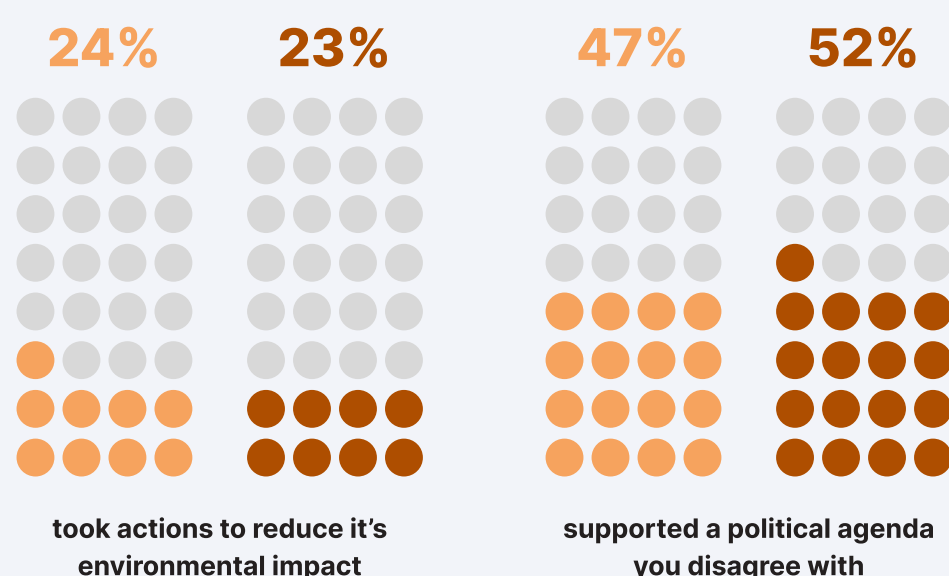
Figure 5

## Previous boycotts

% saying they've stopped doing business with or buying from a company because...

● Total ● Climate-skeptical Republicans

2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters | Climate-skeptical Republicans: n=253)



04 What we heard

# Climate reflects a widespread concern—one that's only grown over time

Despite recent pushback, Americans overall remain concerned about climate. Nearly eight in ten (77%) say climate change is a moderate or serious problem, up from 71% in 2024. The share calling it “serious” rose from 44% to 50% in a single year.

**ABOUT  
8 IN 10**

voters surveyed agree climate change is a “moderate” or “serious” problem

Figure 6

## Climate concern by political affiliation

% who say climate change is a “moderate” or “serious” problem

This concern also continues to span political affiliation—with 91% of Democrats, 79% of Independents, and 58% of Republicans classifying climate as at least a moderate concern.



2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey  
(Democrats: n=692 | Independents: n=604 | Republicans: n=651)



04 What we heard

# Americans get it

People recognize the connection between climate and business

In contrast to the polarized nature of political debates, Americans aren't advocating a corporate climate pullback. Just 12% of voters claim companies are doing "too much" when it comes to reducing their impact on the climate.

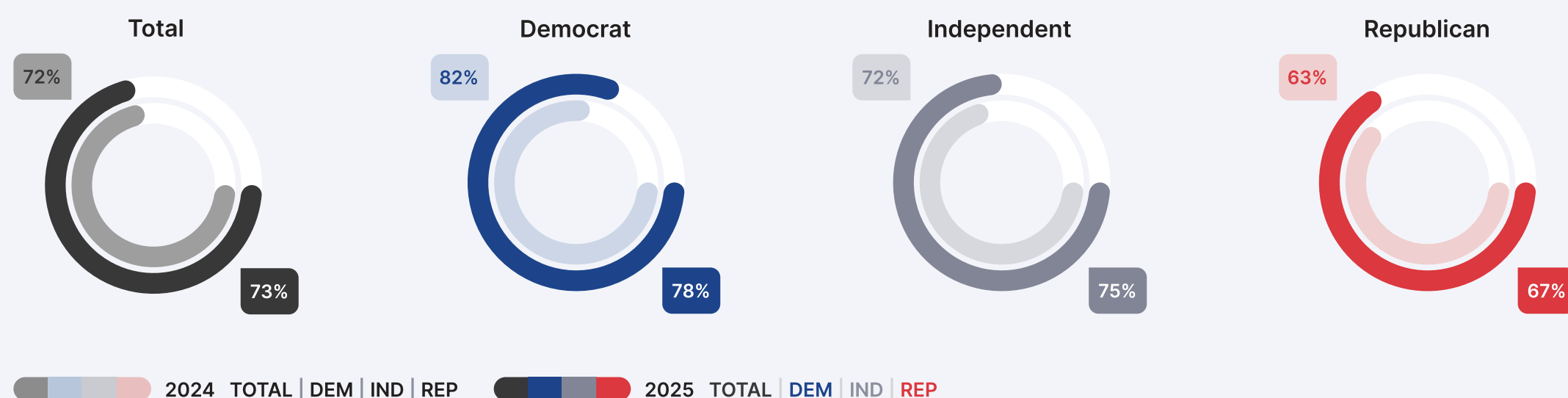
Meanwhile, roughly 7 in 10 recognize the real profitability risks posed by climate change, agree companies have a responsibility to limit their impact on climate, and consider doing so to be "smart business." As shown in **Figure 7**, belief that climate risk can negatively impact companies' ability to profit has held steady since 2024—and increased among Republicans.

**ROUGHLY  
7 IN 10** voters recognize  
the real profitability  
risks posed by  
climate change

Figure 7

## Climate-related risks

% who agree there are significant climate risks that could negatively impact companies' profitability

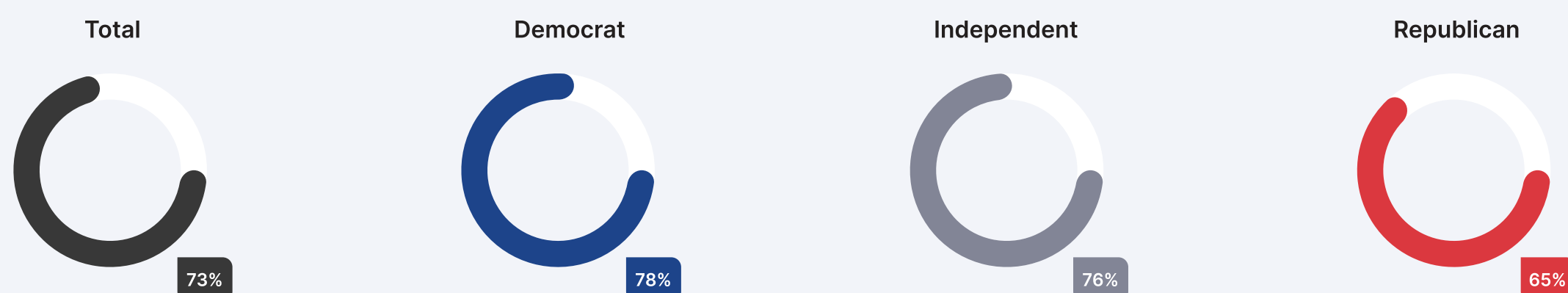


2024 Consumer Survey (Total: n=2,003 U.S. voters | Democrats: n=759 | Independents: n=532 | Republicans: n=714);  
2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters | Democrats: n=692 | Independents: n=604 | Republicans: n=651)  
Hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and extreme heat were given as examples of "climate risks"

Figure 8

## Smart business\*

% who agree it's smart business for companies to limit their impact on the climate/environment



2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters | Democrats: n=692 | Independents: n=604 | Republicans: n=651)  
\*This question was not asked in 2024 survey

04 What we heard

# And they have expectations

They want executives to hold the line

Amidst an increasingly politicized environment, one logical response would be to pull back from existing commitments and disengage. But the data suggests another path forward.

Americans want to see more – not less – climate action

**Figure 9** helps illustrate this point: revealing an expectations gap where significant percentages of Americans think companies are doing less today on a range of climate actions than they were before President Trump's second inauguration at the same time—yet far fewer think they should be doing less. In fact, roughly twice as many think they should be doing more.

Figure 9

## Climate action expectations

% saying since the second inauguration of President Trump, companies are...

Communicating their positions on climate change

Publicizing the actions they're taking on the environment

Advocating for different government policies to address climate change

Investing in programs that reduce carbon pollution

2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters)

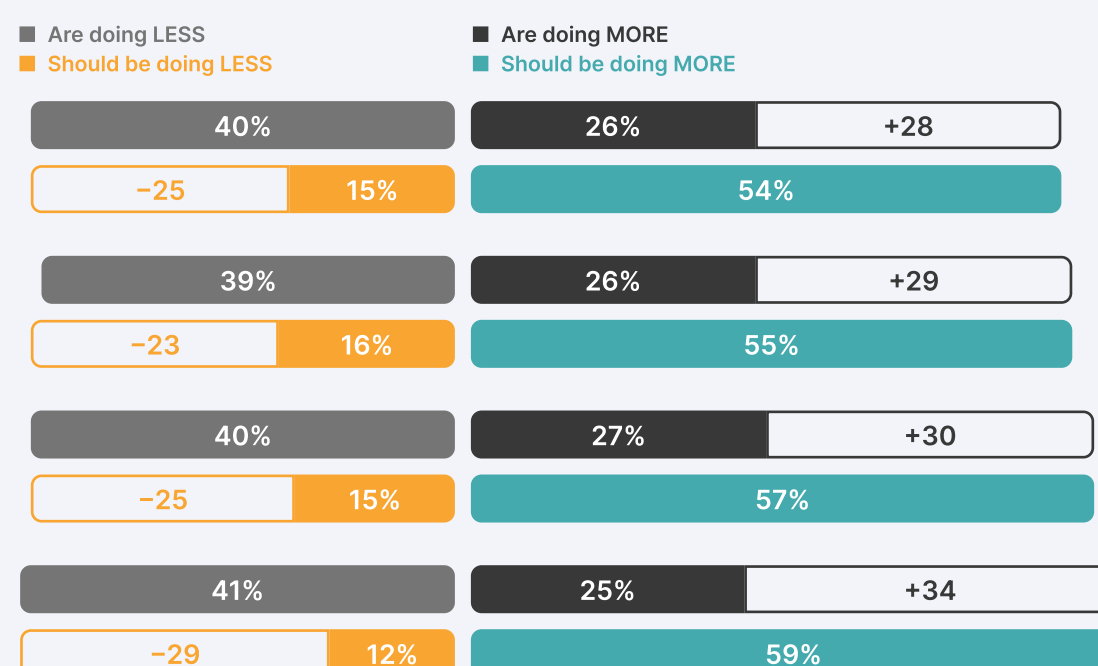


Figure 10

## Climate action expectations among Republicans

% saying since the second inauguration of President Trump, companies are...

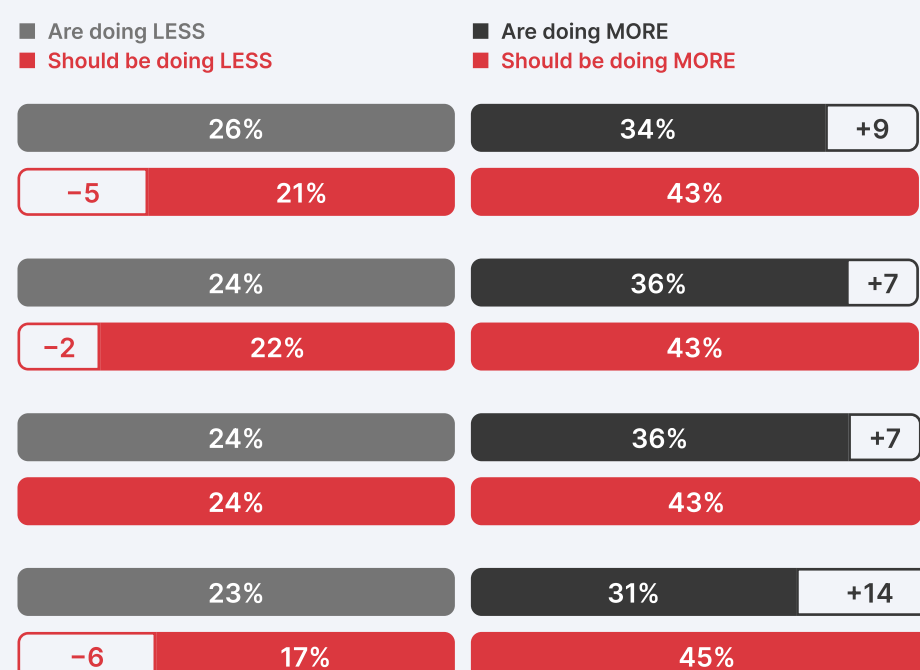
Communicating their positions on climate change

Publicizing the actions they're taking on the environment

Advocating for different government policies to address climate change

Investing in programs that reduce carbon pollution

2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters | Republicans: n=651)



04 What we heard

# There's a material payoff

Americans say they'll reward companies in turn

Reputational and financial rewards for climate action are holding – and in some areas, growing: 62% of voters say they're more likely to buy from a company using clean energy, up 11 points from a company using clean or renewable energy as industry leaders.

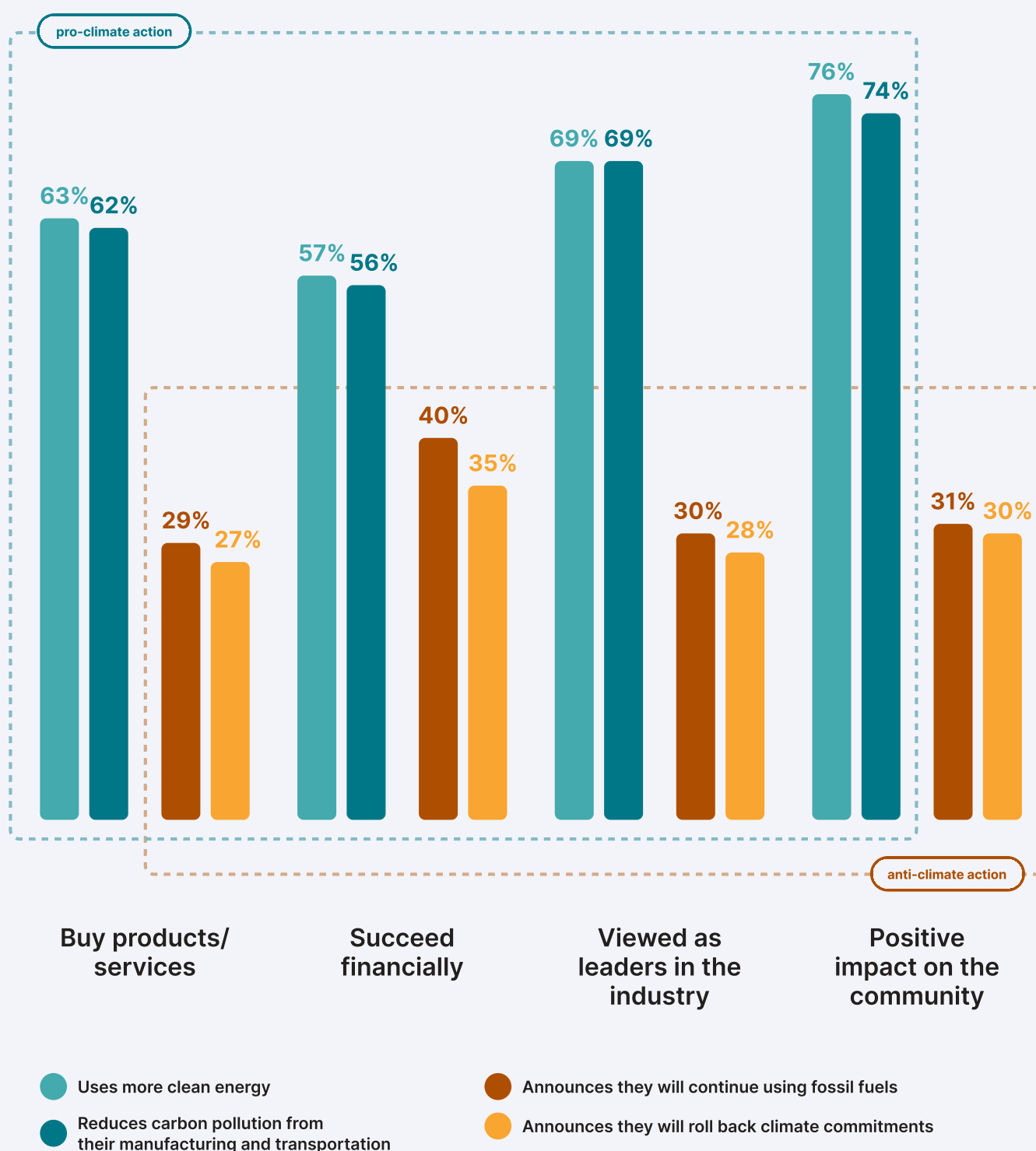
As shown in **Figure 11**, comparable boosts of anti-climate corporate actions are lower.

What's more, majorities across party lines say they want more backbone from companies. As shown in **Figure 12**: 87% of Democrats, 76% of Independents, and 51% of Republicans agree “companies should have the courage to stand up to the Trump Administration on environmental issues.”

Figure 11

## Climate action influence on behavior

% saying they'd be more likely to... if a company...

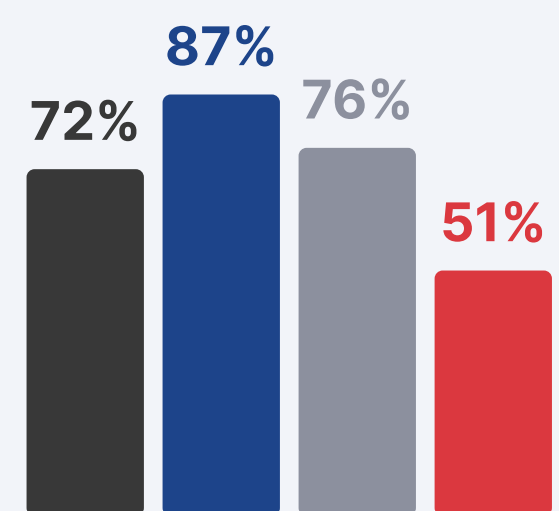


2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters)  
 In 2024:  
 “Uses more clean energy”: buy products/services (52%), succeed financially (51%), viewed as leaders in their industry (63%), positive impact on the community (71%)  
 “Reduces carbon pollution from their manufacturing and transportation”: buy products/services (59%), succeed financially (52%), viewed as leaders in their industry (68%), positive impact on the community (71%)  
 “Announces they will continue using fossil fuels”: buy products/services (29%), succeed financially (41%), viewed as leaders in their industry (27%), positive impact on the community (33%)  
 “Roll back their climate commitments” not included in 2024 survey  
 2024 Consumer Survey (Total: n=2,003 U.S. consumers)

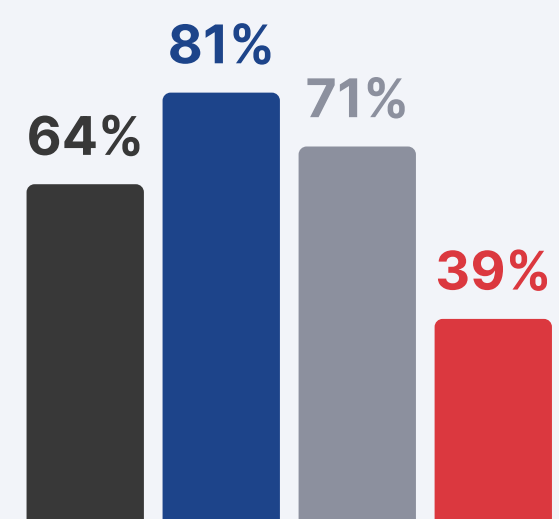
Figure 12

## Companies' response to federal climate policy changes

% saying they “agree” or “strongly” agree



Companies should have the courage to stand up to the Trump Administration on environmental issues



Too many companies are giving in to pressure from the Trump Administration.

TOTAL | DEM | IND | REP

2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters | Democrats: n=692 | Independents: n=604 | Republicans: n=651)



04 What we heard

# And a material risk

Critically, they aren't inclined to view retreat favorably

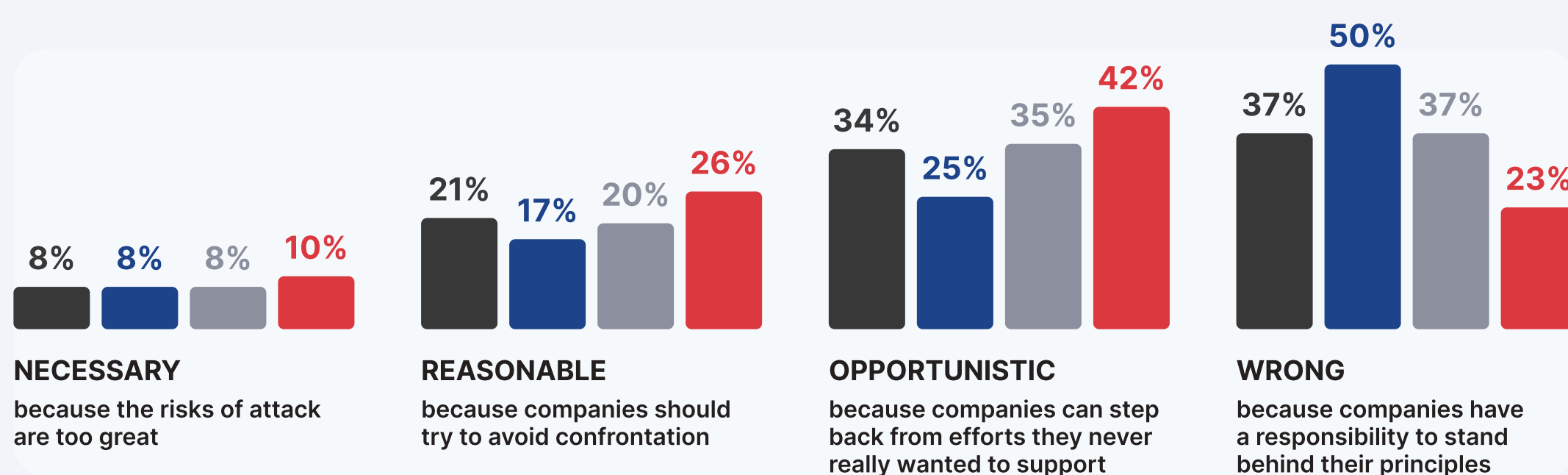
When given the choice, 71% of voters critiqued pullbacks in response to pressure from the Administration as either “opportunistic” or outright “wrong.” It’s worth noting that they chose these terms over more generous assessments, like “reasonable” or “necessary.” As called out in **Figure 13**, this includes notable percentages across party lines.

Americans also claim they’re willing to withdraw support from companies succumbing to this type of pressure. See **Figure 14**: notable percentages say they’re less likely to buy from or support a company that changes course by rolling back commitments or investments.

Figure 13

## Characterization of response to federal climate policy changes

% saying the behavior of companies who pull back their climate commitments is...



TOTAL | DEM | IND | REP

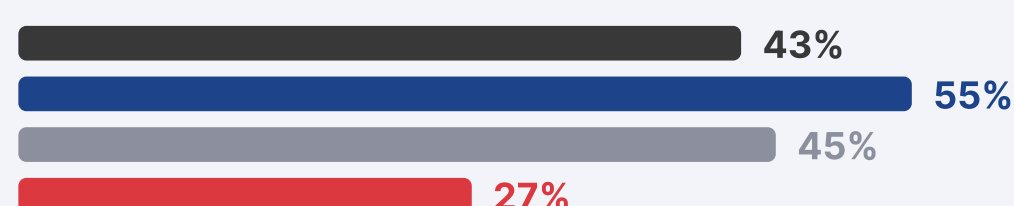
2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters | Democrats: n=692 | Independents: n=604 | Republicans: n=651)

Figure 14

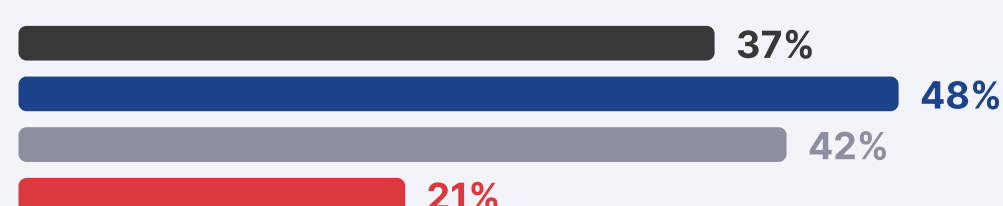
## Likelihood to buy from companies that take action

% who say they’re LESS likely to buy products or services from a company that...

announces it will no longer be investing in clean energy



announces it will roll back climate commitments



TOTAL | DEM | IND | REP

2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters | Democrats: n=692 | Independents: n=604 | Republicans: n=651)

04 What we heard

# Cost is key

Cost is a tension companies must navigate

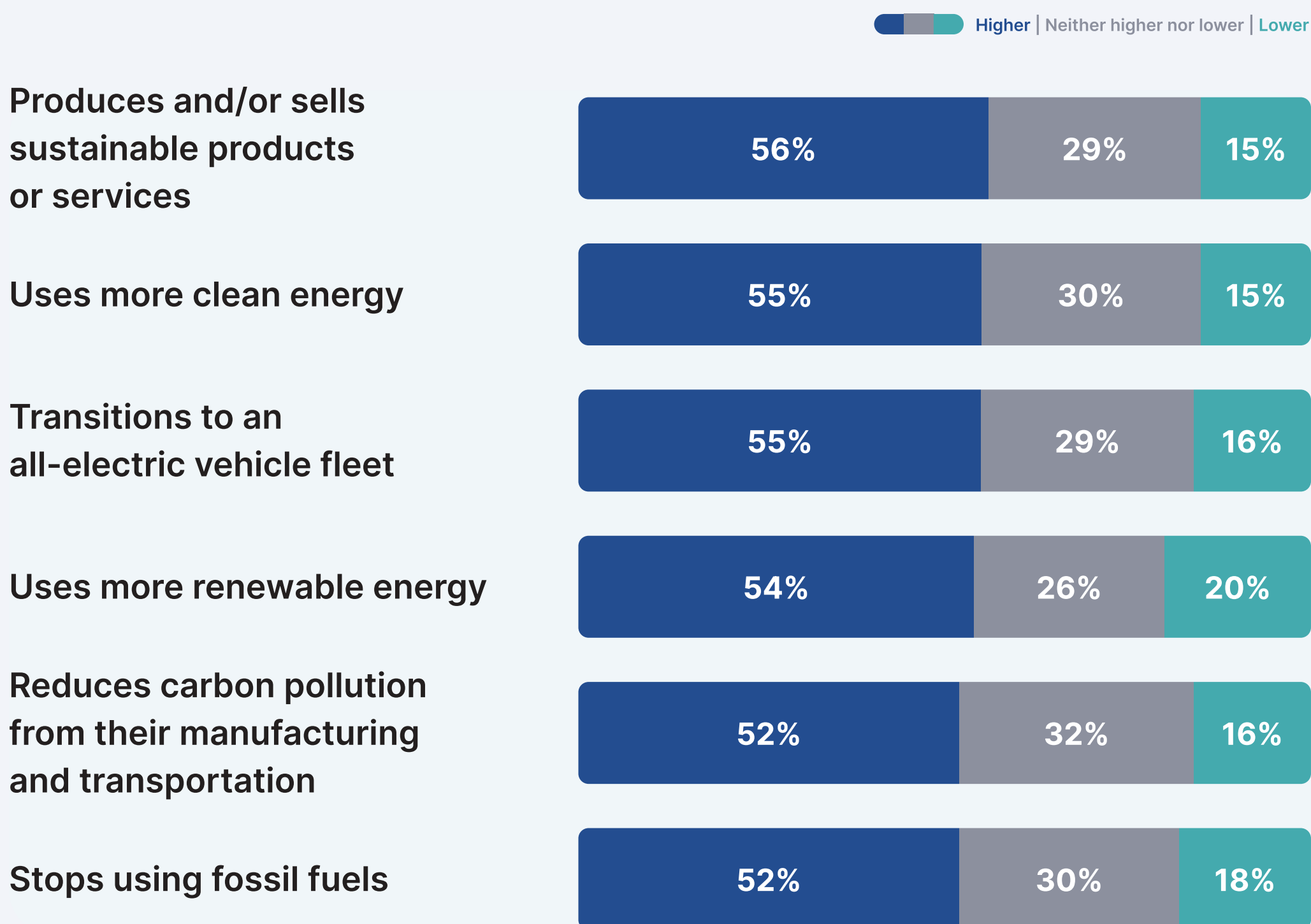
The affordability crisis is real, and it's impacting Americans throughout the United States. This raises the stakes when it comes to Americans' default belief that pro-climate actions lead to higher costs, at least in the near-term.

As shown in **Figure 15**, more than half associate sustainable products, clean energy, fleet electrification, and pollution reduction with higher prices.

Figure 15

## Cost assumptions

% saying they associate the following with higher costs



2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Produces and/or sells sustainable products or services, Transitions to an all-electric vehicle fleet, Reduces carbon pollution from their manufacturing and transportation: n=2,000 U.S. voters; Uses more clean energy: n=1,000 U.S. voters; Uses more renewable energy: n=1,000 U.S. voters)

# Timeframes provide context

It's important to distinguish between the near and long-term

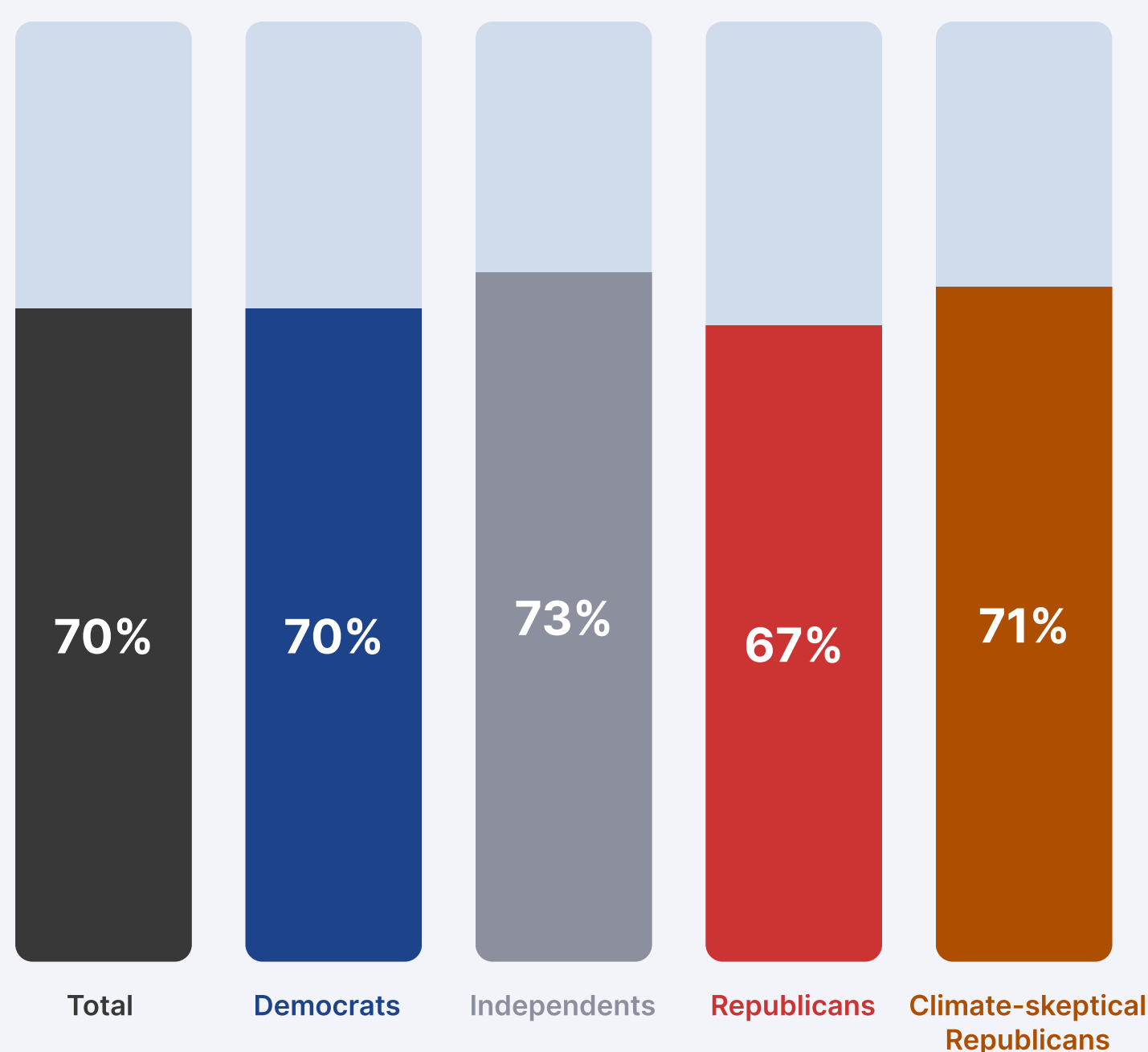
52% of voters agree that reducing environmental impact lowers long-term costs for customers, and 70% consider it a strong argument that climate action encourages long-term planning – including 71% of climate-skeptical Republicans, as shown in **Figure 16**.

Companies who hold the line on their climate action should expect to have a response ready that connects the dots between the short- and long-term implications for consumers' wallets.

Figure 16

## Strength of long-term impact argument

% saying it's a strong argument to say companies should reduce their climate impact because it encourages long-term planning



2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters | Democrats: n=692 | Independents: n=604 | Republicans: n=651 | Climate-skeptical Republicans: n=253)



04 What we heard

# Practical, not moral, frames win out

As **Figure 17** shows, messages that connect climate action to everyday advantages consistently garner broader support. Americans are more receptive to language that presents environmental action as delivering practical, business benefits rather than framing it as a moral or social justice issue.

We observed similar results in previous waves of this study—as well as broader research into consumer sentiment.

Figure 17

## Company focus preference

% saying companies should focus on...

Advancing responsible, long-term energy solutions

77%

23%

Accelerating the net zero transition

Make sure their shipping and raw material partners are reducing pollution

76%

24%

Reducing their scope 3 emissions

Addressing issues in the world that affect their employees and customers

63%

37%

Being socially responsible

Environment fairness

57%

43%

Environmental justice

2025 Climate Attitudes Update Survey (Total: n=2,000 U.S. voters)

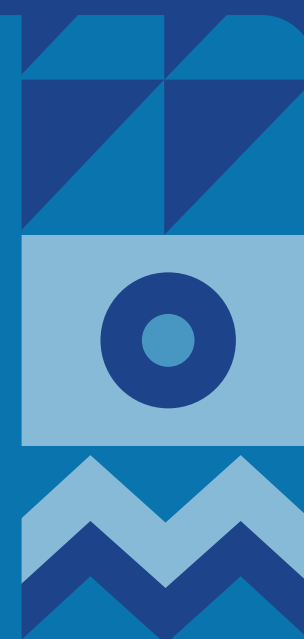
## 05 What this means

# To make the case for corporate climate action today, focus on the business case

Americans have not withdrawn permission for companies to act on climate. What this research makes clear is that Americans, if anything, still expect it. They acknowledge its very real implications for short- and long-term business opportunities and risks. And they recognize it as part and parcel of doing “smart business.”

Likening climate action to a moral crusade risks activating the familiar public frustration we often see in the headlines. But the more companies anchor their efforts in a responsible business frame, the less likely they are to get caught up in the surrounding politics.

**In addition to sidestepping an unhelpful debate, describing climate action as responsible management positions leaders to continue leading on the relevant and material issues their businesses face.**



# Thank you!



## About C2ES

The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)—or C2ES—champions policies and technologies that foster thriving economies and shared prosperity, founded on abundant, affordable, and reliable clean energy and a safe climate. Founded in 1998 as the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, C2ES is known worldwide as a thought leader and trusted convener. C2ES works with policymakers and leading businesses in the United States and around the world to forge durable, effective, and ambitious solutions to climate and energy challenges. For more information on how C2ES is helping to prepare businesses for the low carbon future and make the business case for long-term investments in resilience. For media inquiries, please reach out to [press@c2es.org](mailto:press@c2es.org).



## About maslansky + partners

maslansky + partners (m+p) is a strategic communications and research consulting agency widely recognized as a leader in language, research, and message development. m+p is the leader and creator of Language Strategy®, the singular discipline of finding exactly the right words to make audiences listen, care, and act. The firm's approach is built on a simple but powerful idea: it's not what you say that matters, it's what they hear®. Combining behavioral science, linguistics, and a strategic understanding of business, m+p delivers a clear action plan of what to say, how to say it, and why it will work to drive business results. m+p makes a big impact on how winning organizations communicate, from Fortune 500 companies to trade associations to nonprofits around the world. m+p is part of Omnicom Public Relations. For more information, visit [maslansky.com](http://maslansky.com)



## About Potential Energy

Potential Energy is a nonprofit marketing firm driving public demand for climate solutions. Leveraging deep analytics and creative storytelling, Potential Energy connects with people on a human level to tip the balance on the policies that will dramatically accelerate the energy transition. Our campaigns are backed by extensive audience research, yielding data-driven insights that shift the climate narrative to win the fights that matter. Founded in 2018, Potential Energy has a track record of transformative campaigns that capture audiences and mobilize support for climate action. For more information, visit [potentialenergycoalition.org](http://potentialenergycoalition.org)

