

# Public Support for Holding Big Oil Accountable

Poll after poll has found that a majority of voters across the country — regardless of race, age, party, or gender — support holding fossil fuel companies accountable for decades of disinformation and the resulting climate-driven costs to adapt to a huge range of climate impacts. When respondents hear about Big Oil’s [decades-long deception](#) and the actual dollar-costs of climate change, support often increases.

A 2019 nationwide survey of nearly 17,000 voters found widespread support for climate accountability: 70% believe oil and gas companies should pay for at least some climate change costs, 71% said they support suing climate polluters to help pay for damages related to climate change, and 83% believe that oil and gas companies are at least somewhat responsible for climate change impacts like heat waves and sea level rise. These findings have been mirrored time and again in state-level surveys.

## Polls

### Pennsylvania (2023) 400 voters in Allegheny and Philadelphia counties

Before learning of the industry’s deception:	After learning of the industry’s deception:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% of voters believe oil companies should pay for all or most of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>58% believe oil companies should pay for all or most of the costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>69% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>

### South Carolina (2022) 954 voters

Before learning of the industry’s deception:	After learning of the industry’s deception:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>88% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>58% believe oil companies should pay for all or most of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60% believe oil companies should pay for all or most of the costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>68% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>69% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>

**Nevada** (2021) 561 voters

Before learning of the industry's deception:	After learning of the industry's deception:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>42% believe oil companies should pay for all or most of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>48% believe oil companies should pay for all or most of the costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>61% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>62% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>

**Washington State** (2021) 640 voters

Before learning of the industry's deception:	After learning of the industry's deception:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>82% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>86% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41% believe oil companies should pay for all or most of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>45% believe oil companies should pay for all or most of the costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>61% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>61% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>

**Ohio** (2020) 1,017 voters

Before learning of the industry's deception:	After learning of the industry's deception:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>89% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41% believe oil companies should pay for all or most of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60% believe oil companies should pay for all or most of the costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>71% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>

## Oregon (2020) 543 voters

Before learning of the industry's deception:	After learning of the industry's deception:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>83% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>83% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>44% believe oil companies should pay for all or most costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>51% believe oil companies should pay for all or most of the costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>64% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>

## Maine (2020) 600 voters

Before learning of the industry's deception:	After learning of the industry's deception:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>79% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>82% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18% believe oil companies should pay for all of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24% believe oil companies should pay for all of the costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>69% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>

## North Carolina (2020) 588 voters

Before learning of the industry's deception:	After learning of the industry's deception:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>84% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% of voters believe oil companies should pay for at least some climate change costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15% believe oil companies should pay for all of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23% believe oil companies should pay for all of the costs</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>64% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>72% support suing the companies to make them pay their fair share of the costs</li> </ul>

For complete polling results, visit <https://climateintegrity.org/surveys>