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April 30, 2024

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**A Supermajority of Voters Wants Big Oil to Cover the Cost of Climate Change**

*New polling shows voters more inclined to support Big Oil accountability the more they learn about oil companies’ deception.*

**Washington, D.C –** A new [poll](https://www.filesforprogress.org/datasets/2024/4/dfp_ffm_ca_ny_superfund_crosstabs.pdf) released by Fossil Free Media and Data for Progress shows that 66% of likely voters—including 89% of Democrats—support the passage of a *climate superfund bill* that would make oil companies cover the cost of climate damage caused by their pollution. The news comes as the Senate Budget Committee prepares for a [hearing](https://www.budget.senate.gov/hearings/denial-disinformation-and-doublespeak_big-oils-evolving-efforts-to-avoid-accountability-for-climate-change) on Wednesday focused on exposing Big Oil’s decades-long campaign of denying responsibility for climate change.

The polling goes further, showing 63% of voters under 45 and 66% of Black voters are more inclined to support a candidate that prioritizes the passage of a climate superfund bill—a key finding as the Biden administration looks to galvanize its voting base ahead of what is likely to be another record-setting year for climate disasters.

Around the country, momentum is building for a comprehensive investigation into Big Oil’s malfeasance—as over half of the states are passing legislation or taking legal actions to bring oil companies’ chicanery into the light.

In California, Senator Menjivar recently [introduced](https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/article287536030.html) the Polluters Pay Climate Cost Recovery Act, which would make the state’s largest oil producers pay for extreme weather damage and climate resiliency improvements. In Vermont—a state still reeling from last year’s Hurricane Irene, which caused nearly [$800 million](https://floodready.vermont.gov/flood_costs) in damages—the state’s bicameral legislature is inching closer to passing a climate superfund bill that will make oil companies pay for climate damage according to how much pollution they emit.

With gas prices contributing to stickier-than-expected inflation—and American consumers contending with skyrocketing home insurance costs ahead of extreme weather season—the data shows that shifting the burden of worsening climate change from the shoulders of ordinary citizens to oil companies is favored by an overwhelming majority of likely voters. That is the clear trend, even as the data also points to the fact that Americans are just beginning to scratch the surface of Big Oil’s history of denying fossil fuel’s impact on climate change and deceiving consumers.

The polling shows that 55% of respondents did not know that oil companies worked with Ogilvy—the PR firm that helped shield Big Tobacco from scrutiny in the early 2000s—to create the *carbon footprint* concept and shift climate culpability away from companies and towards consumers. Nearly half of respondents did not know that Big Oil ran ads in the New York Times that questioned reputable climate research.

Nevertheless, 72% of poll respondents said that it made them angry to learn that oil companies lied to Americans about fossil fuel’s impact on the climate, even as they knew it was accelerating global warming. What this ultimately means is that there are still millions of Americans who do not understand the full extent of Big Oil’s trickery and deception—and, in the months leading up to the election, it will be up to the Biden administration and environmentalists to reach those Americans and continue exposing Big Oil’s *profits over people* ethos.

Additionally, calls are mounting for the Biden Administration to push for a DOJ investigation into Big Oil as part of a larger Climate Emergency. Like the RICO case that ushered in a new era of accountability for Big Tobacco, a DOJ investigation into Big Oil’s deception would channel more prosecutorial resources towards holding oil companies accountable. It also stands to unify the myriad legal actions currently underway against Big Oil—establishing a throughline that illuminates Big Oil’s pattern of denial and obfuscation.

“The polling data is a resounding call to action from the American public. An overwhelming majority of voters are demanding that Big Oil pay for the damage they've caused, even without knowing the full extent of the industry's decades-long campaign of deception. As the truth continues to come to light and more Americans realize the wool has been pulled over their eyes, the support for climate superfunds and accountability will only grow stronger. Big Oil has a reckoning on the horizon, and they won't be able to hide from the consequences of their actions any longer. The public is speaking loud and clear—it's time to make polluters pay." **Cassidy DiPaola, spokesperson for the** [**Make Polluters Pay**](https://www.polluterpay.org/) **campaign.**

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