



Temperature

Check

Poll:

**September 2021
Results**



In September 2021, Black to the Future Action Fund and Socioanalítica Research conducted the second Temperature Check Poll, a national survey of Black adults about important issues impacting our communities. We asked people to weigh in on the current state of the country and its leaders, policy priorities, and how issues like the COVID-19 pandemic and its health and economic consequences have affected

our communities. COVID-19 continues to devastate Black communities all over the country, exacerbating long-existing systemic problems.

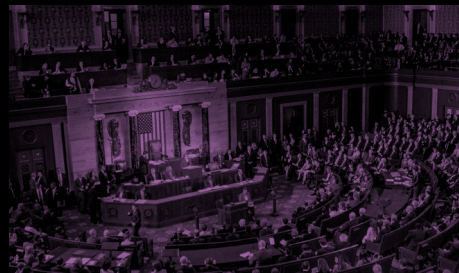
Read on to find out what they had to say.

The second iteration of our Temperature Check Poll reveals that Black adults in this country continue to face the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. As a result, opinions on the direction of the country and its leaders are souring amongst Black communities nationwide.

The second Black to the Future Action Fund/Socioanalítica Research Temperature Check Poll conducted in September finds that compared to July:



Satisfaction with the direction of the country and with the state of the economy has significantly dropped. So have the approvals of the President, governors, and Congress.



COVID relief policies continue to be highly popular and Black adults demand action from Congress.



New questions reveal that majorities of Black adults are in favor of vaccine and mask mandates.

Direction of Country

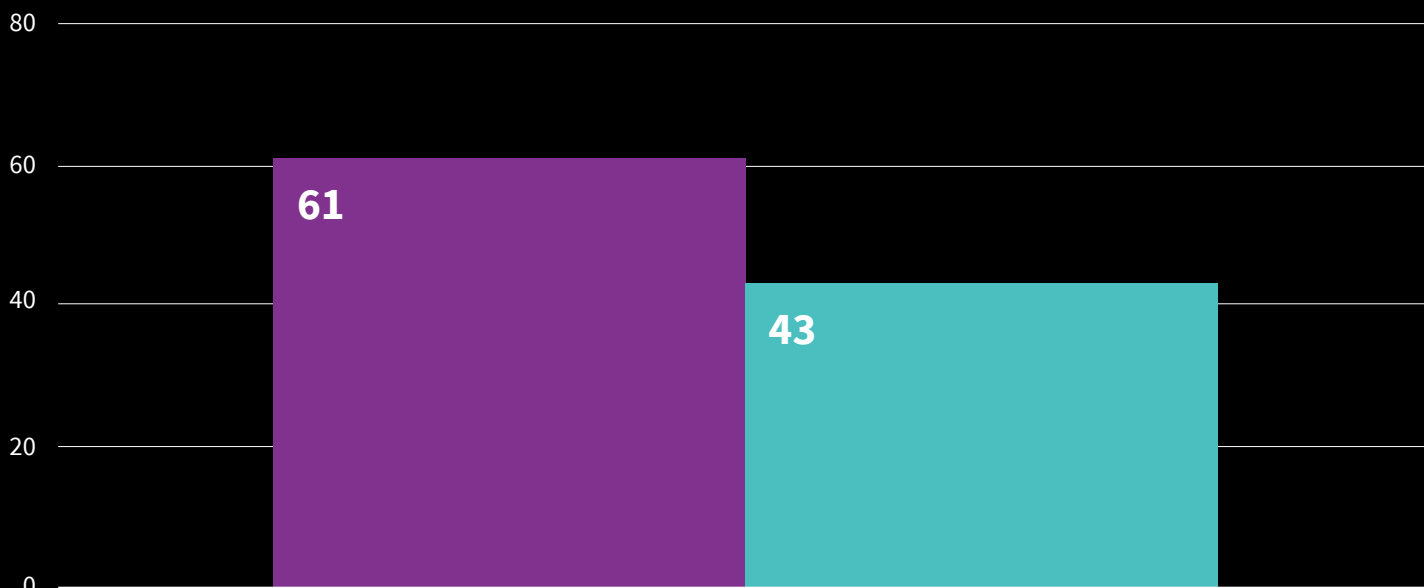
In September, only 43% of poll respondents reported satisfaction with the direction the country was headed. In July, 61% of poll

respondents expressed *satisfaction* with the direction of the country, **an 18 percentage point decline in two months.**

Generally speaking, are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the direction the country is headed?

July Satisfaction

September Satisfaction



The deteriorating personal economic situations from respondents was reflected in their evaluations of the country, economy, and its leaders. The job approvals of President Biden, Congress, and state governors have all decreased among respondents since July.

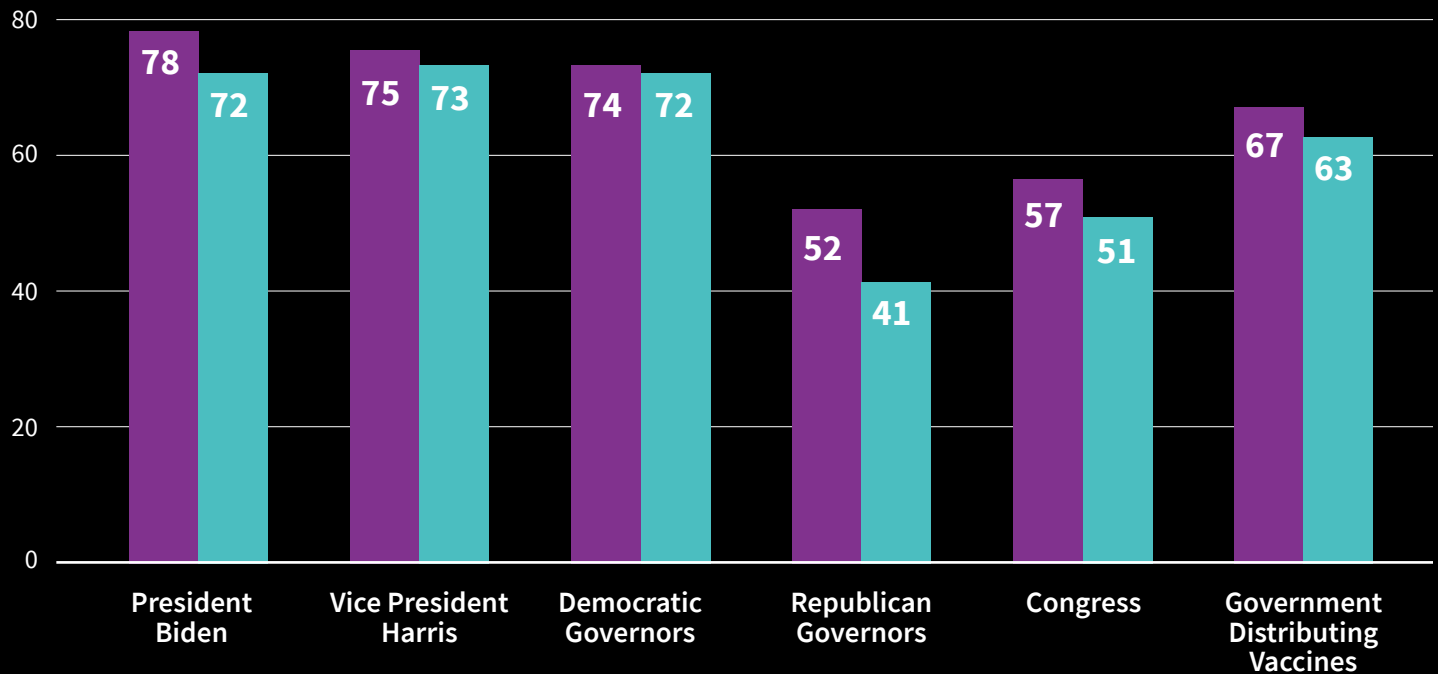
In the case of Biden and Congress, approvals decreased by six percentage points: 72% still approve of Biden and a slim majority (51%) approve of Congress. Overall approval of governors decreased by eight percentage points.

However, approval for Democratic governors has remained stable (74% in July vs. 72% in September) while approval of Republican governors dropped from a slim majority (52%) approval in July to a negative approval where only 41% of Black adults approve of their Republican governors in September. Approval of the job the government is doing distributing the COVID-19 vaccine in Black communities also dipped slightly from 67% in July to 63% in September. Only [Vice President Kamala Harris's approval remained stable, dropping only two percentage points.](#)

Approval Ratings

July Satisfaction

September Satisfaction



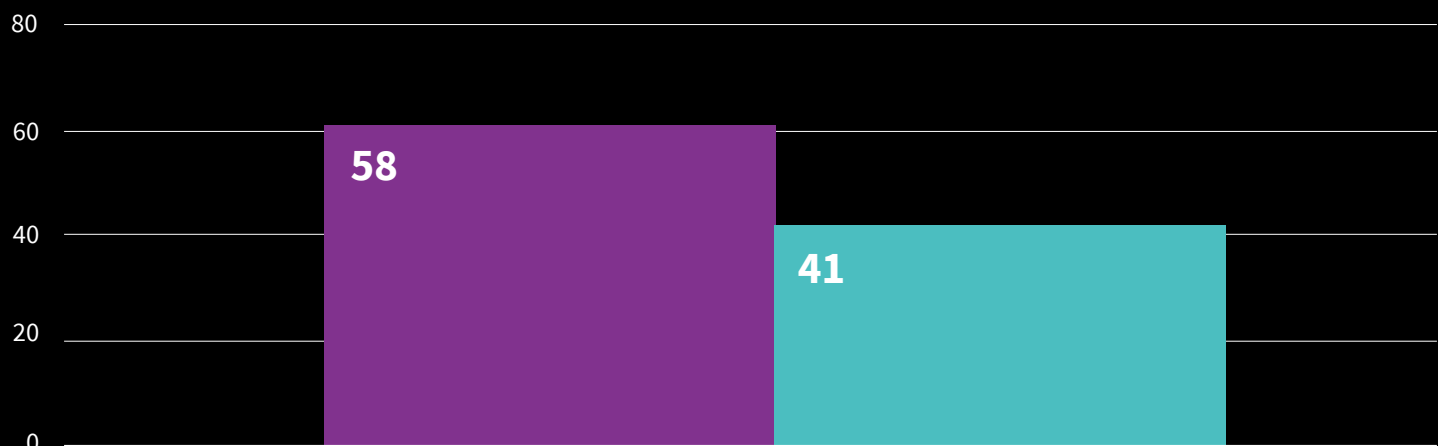
Satisfaction with the state of the economy has declined significantly as well. In July, a majority (58%) of Black adults were satisfied with how the economy was doing. **Two months later,**

only 41% report satisfaction, a 17 percentage point drop. Instead, 58% report they are dissatisfied with how the economy is doing.

Generally speaking, are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with how the economy is doing?

July Satisfaction

September Satisfaction



This change in Black public opinion occurs as the Delta variant makes COVID-19 a resurgent threat to the physical and economic well-being of communities across the country. It can additionally be noted that between the July and September surveys, we witnessed the

ending of the CDC's eviction moratorium and the expiration of expanded unemployment benefits.

The September Temperature Check Poll shows that Black adults' self-assessment of their personal financial situation has become more negative since July.

Economy

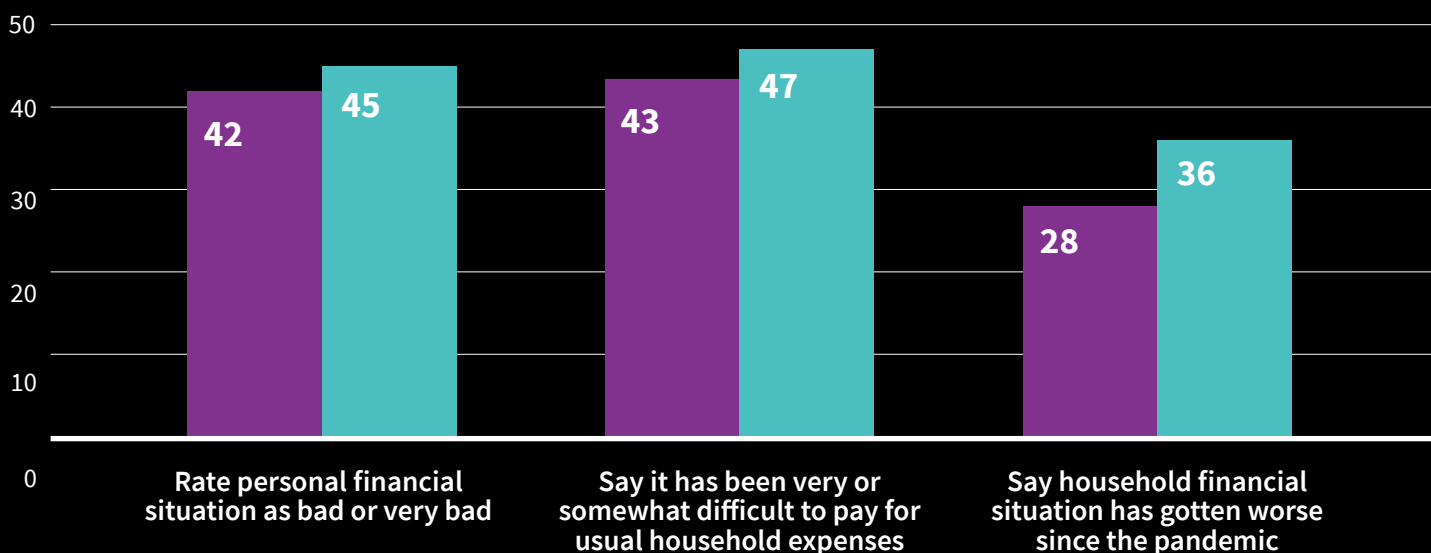
The percentage of poll respondents reporting their finances as good decreased four percentage points from 58% in July to 54% in September. A similar four percentage point

change occurred among respondents reporting having difficulty paying for household expenses, though in this case, it increased from 43% in July to 47% in September.

Deteriorating Personal and Household Finances

Percent of Black people who...

July **September**



Most striking among these economic indicators are the percentage of respondents reporting that their economic situation has taken a turn for the worse during the pandemic and the percentage of renters pessimistic about being able to cover rent the next month. In July just over one-quarter of respondents (28%) reported that

their financial situation had gotten worse since the start of the pandemic. In September that number increased by eight percentage points and now nearly four in ten (36%) respondents report their financial situation [has worsened during the pandemic.](#)

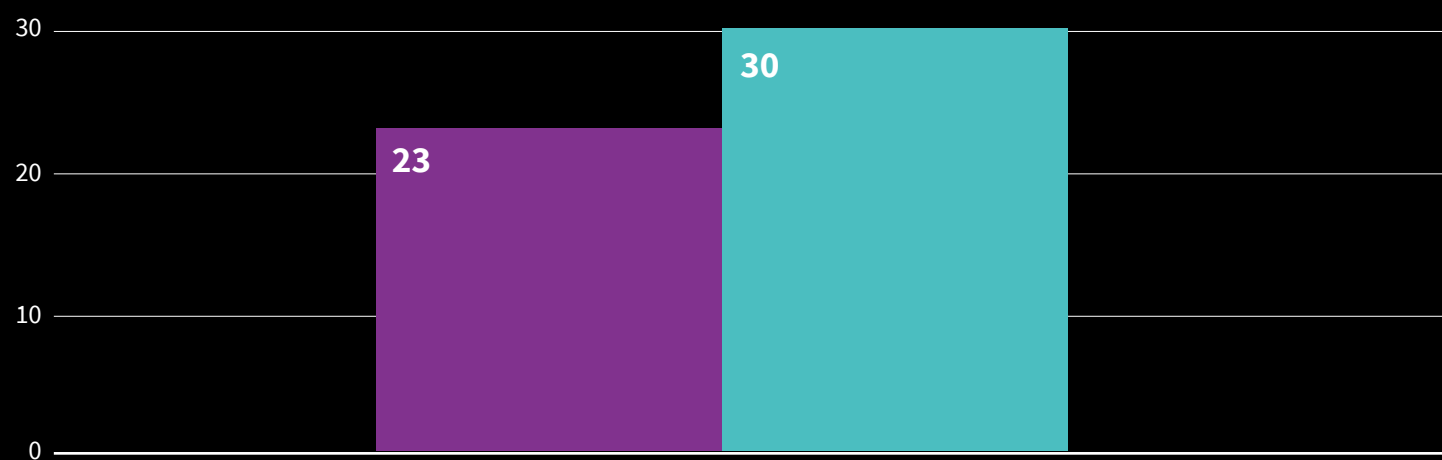
The income differences at both ends of the income spectrum are notable. Among respondents who report their income as under \$20,000, nearly half (47%) say their finances have gotten worse during the pandemic. **This is a 14-percentage point increase compared to July when one-third of respondents with income under \$20,000 reported their economic situation getting worse.** Higher-income respondents (\$75,000 or higher) are half as likely to report their economic situation worsening (19%) in September. This percentage is virtually unchanged from July when 20% percent reported their economic situation worsening since the pandemic started.

This deterioration of the financial situation of many Black adults across the nation is exemplified by the outlook of renters and mortgage holders. Though the percentage of Black renters and mortgage holders reporting they are behind on rent or mortgage payments has not changed, the percentage of people not confident in making their next payment has worsened. **In July, 23% of renters and mortgage holders who reported not being behind on their payments were not at all confident in making their next payment on time. In September, this number increased to 30%.**

Percent of people who are not at all confident of paying next month’s rent/ mortgage

Among renters and mortgage holders behind in their payments

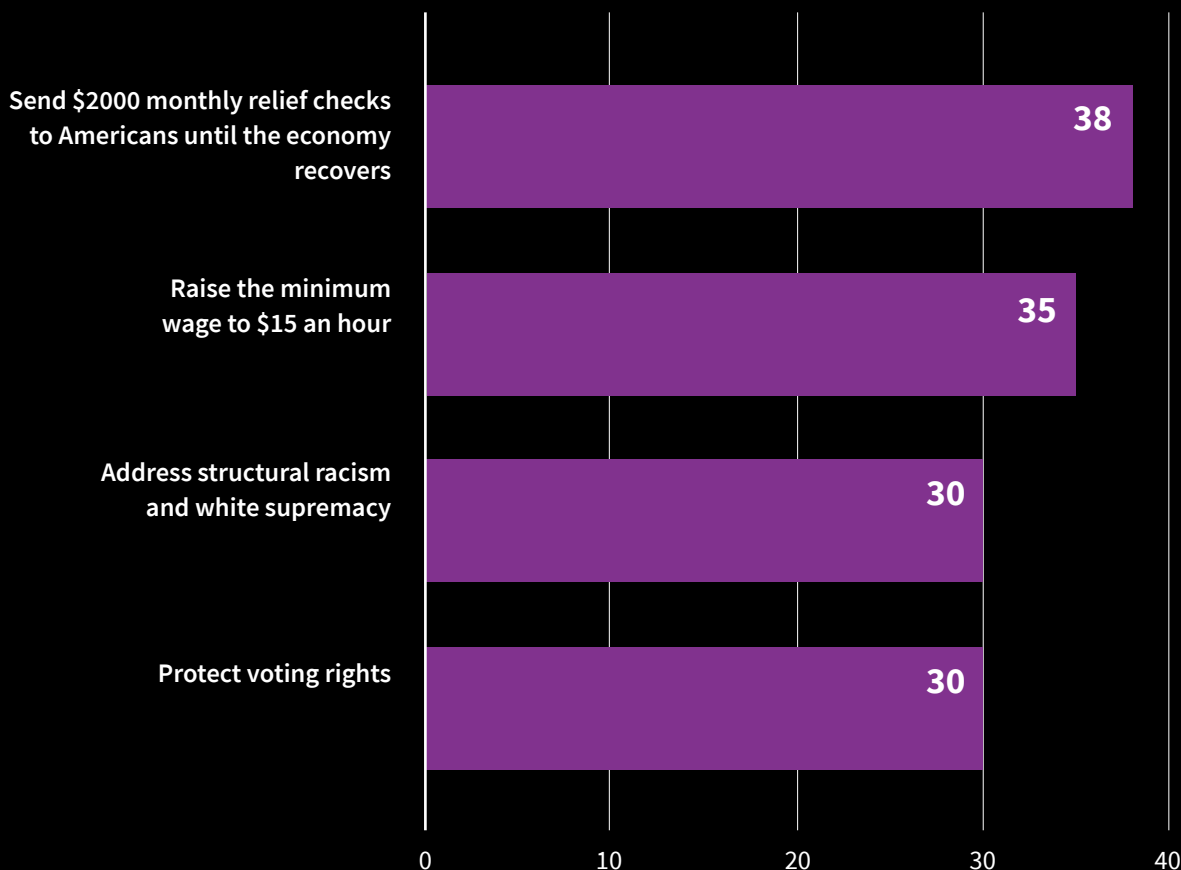
July September



Though the evaluations of the state of the country, the economy, and its leaders have soured, Black adults still consistently and overwhelmingly favor policies that will relieve the country's economic struggles. **Like in July, the top-four policy priorities of respondents remain sending \$2,000 monthly relief checks to people until the economy recovers (38%), increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour (35%), addressing structural racism (30%) and protecting voting rights(30%).** These numbers are virtually unchanged from July.

Income differences in these priorities are also notable. **The top three priorities of lower-income respondents (who earn less than \$20,000 a year) are \$2,000 relief checks (49%), increasing the minimum wage (36%), and addressing structural racism and white supremacy.** Higher income respondents (\$75,000 or higher) prioritize addressing racism (48%), protecting voting rights (46%), and raising the minimum wage (26%).

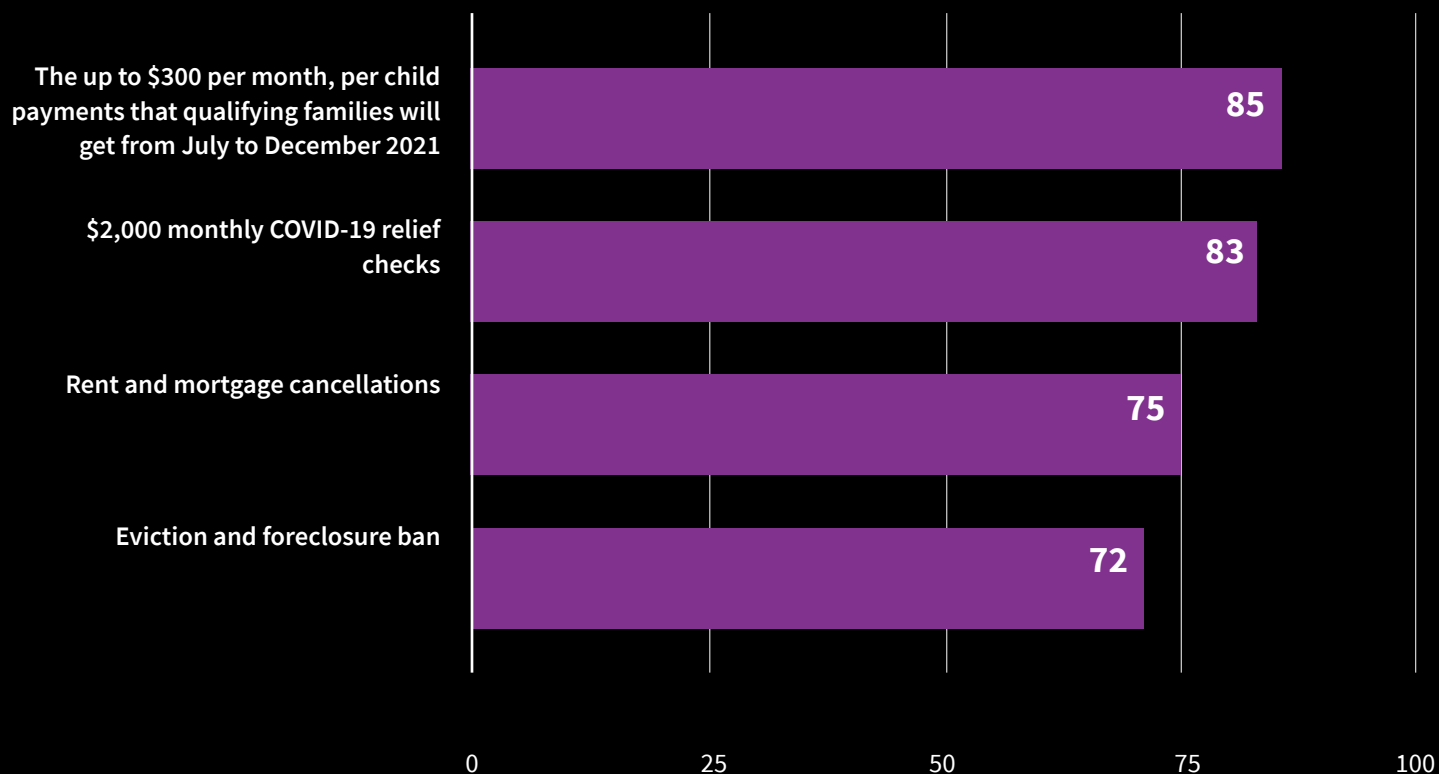
What do you think are the three most important legislative or policy priorities for Joe Biden to achieve?



Additionally, respondents noted their strong support for other types of relief. Eighty-three (83%) of poll respondents favor \$2,000 monthly COVID-19 relief checks until the economy recovers, unchanged from July.

When asked how they would spend \$2,000 relief checks, respondents still consider utilities (62%), food (57%), and household items (48%) as their top priorities. Mentions of utilities and paying off debt both increased five percentage points from July's survey.

Support for economic relief policies



Other COVID-related economic policies with wide support include an eviction and foreclosure ban (72%) and rent and mortgage cancellation (76%) until the economy recovers. More than eight in ten (85%) also support the Child Tax Credit Expansion. Black adults want these policies enacted even if Democrats need to do it without bipartisan support. A sizable majority of respondents (71%) favor abolishing the Senate filibuster. These numbers are virtually unchanged from July.

Black adults are also very supportive of policies to mitigate the spread of the Delta variant. Support for these policies are strongly associated with vaccination status and suffering personal losses due to COVID-19.

A majority of Black adults (57%) favor businesses requiring customers to show proof of vaccination or a recent negative test. Seven in ten Black adults who report having at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine favor this policy.

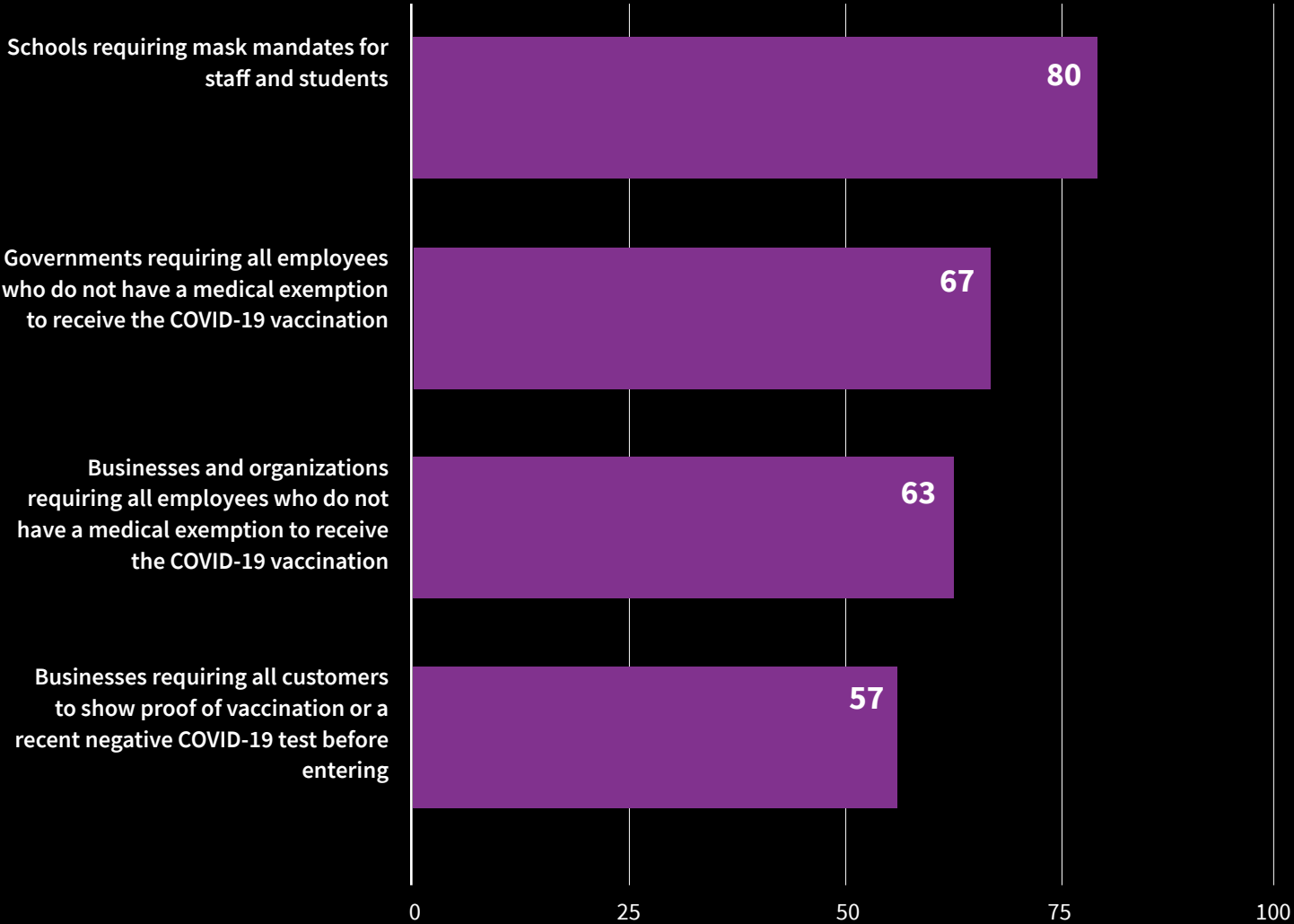
More than six in ten (63%) Black adults favor

business and organizations mandating employees get the COVID-19 vaccine. Among those who have been vaccinated, support

increases to 80% while two-thirds (67%) of respondents who reported losing a loved one to COVID also favor this policy.

Support for COVID-19 mitigation mandates

Percent who strongly or somewhat favor





Two-thirds (67%) of Black adults also support a vaccination mandate for government employees. The policy is supported by 82% of vaccinated Black adults and 71% of people who have lost loved ones to COVID.

Finally, 80% of Black adults favor mask mandates for school staff and students. Support among vaccinated respondents (86%) and those who lost family or friends to the pandemic (85%) is higher.

When it comes to addressing white supremacy, the top three solutions suggested by Black adults remain declaring white supremacist acts as domestic terrorism (43%), removing white supremacists from federal, state, and local police departments (42%), and preventing those who have committed hate crimes from getting firearms (35%).

Methodology:

The Black to the Future Action Fund/ Socioanalítica Research Temperature Check Poll was conducted online in English among a sample of 1,001 Black adult (18 years and older) respondents living in the United States. The survey was conducted between September 6 and September 14, 2021. The data were

weighted by region, age, gender, and education using the 2019 American Community Survey 5-year dataset. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percent at the 95% confidence level and the design effect is 1.7. The margin of error accounting for the design effect is +/- 4.1.



About Black to the Future Action Fund

The Black to the Future Action Fund works to make Black communities powerful in politics, so that we can be powerful in the entirety of our lives. We work to enact policies that improve the lives of Black communities, and to elect Black and pro-Black legislators with progressive values who move progressive policies. Together we work to ensure that Black people have what all people deserve —dignity, safety, and power.

About Socioanalítica Research

Socioanalítica Research was born out of a belief that research and knowledge are universal tools that should be accessible to everyone and anyone. We strive to design high quality research products that are simple in their execution yet powerful in their content and analysis. Our firm, headquartered in the nation's capital, brings a critical and analytical eye to issues of religious belief and identity, in addition to supporting ongoing research at major nonprofit and academic organizations around the world.