



# Temperature

# Check Poll:

**November  
2021 Results**





**In July 2021, [Black to the Future Action Fund](#) and [Socioanalítica Research](#) conducted the first Temperature Check Poll, a national survey of Black people 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. In the third iteration of this poll, we are excited to have added some new questions while we continue to track the trends and thoughts of Black adults across the country. Read on to find out what they had to say.

# Evaluation of the Country and its Leaders



**A majority (52%) of Black adults say  
that they are satisfied with the direction  
the country is headed**

A majority (52%) of Black adults say that they are satisfied with the direction the country is headed, a 10 percentage point increase since September. Increased satisfaction with the direction of the country can be attributed to the recent passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), days prior to when this poll was conducted. When Congress delivers real things for real people— like expanded broadband access that bridges the digital divide, resources to fix our crumbling physical infrastructure, and investments that will address the impacts of climate change— satisfaction with the direction of the country, particularly amongst Black communities, increases.

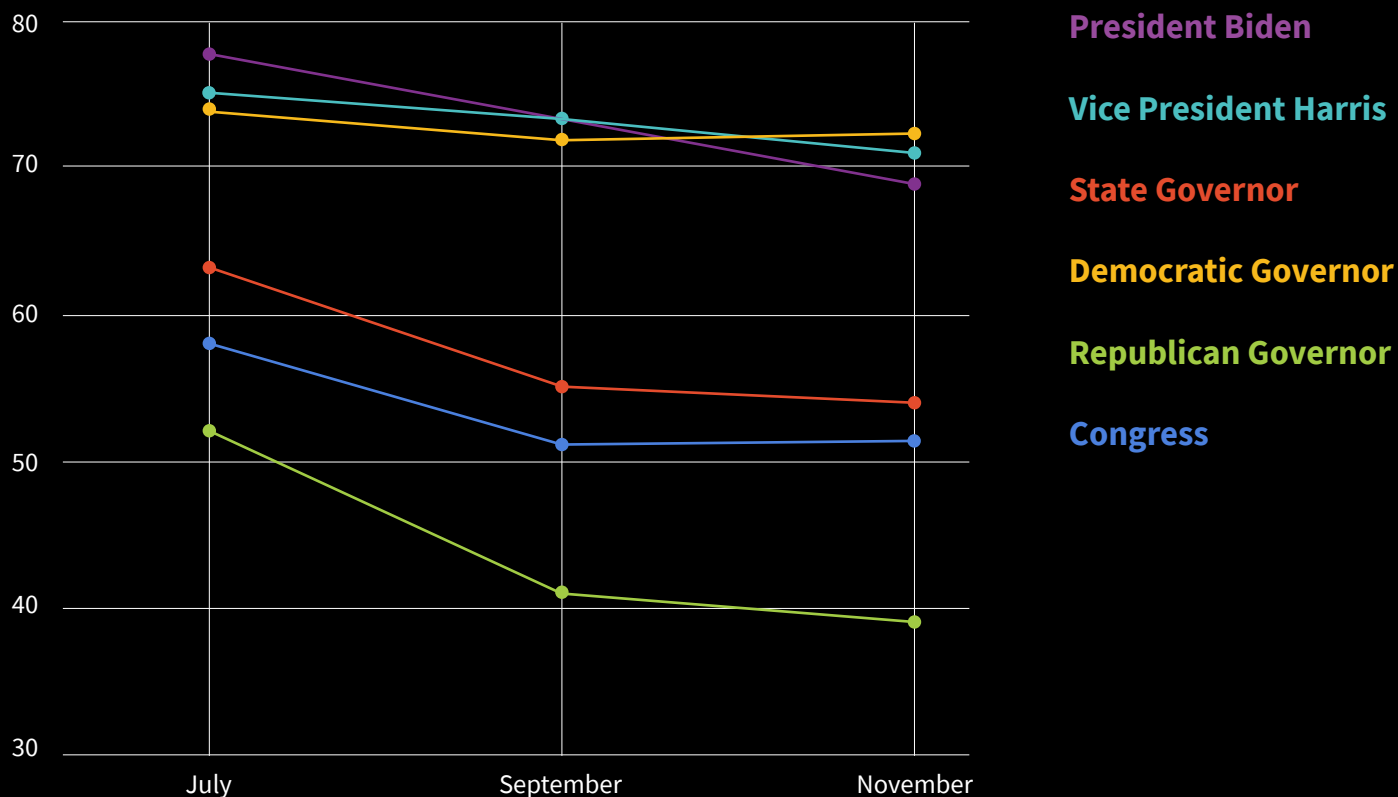
While the majority of Black adults are satisfied with the direction the country is headed, a significant majority (54%) remains dissatisfied with the state of the economy. There is still much work to be done by Congress to improve economic conditions for Black communities. While jobs are being created and the unemployment rate is dropping nationwide, those numbers are continuously and steadily higher for Black communities—a sign that the economic recovery hasn't built back fairly yet.

Despite the positive rebound of the country's outlook, the approval of President Biden (69%) and Vice President Harris (71%) remained stable, though slightly lower, compared to September.

We also introduced a new question asking respondents to evaluate the performance of the Supreme Court and found that there is relatively equal approval (51%) and disapproval (49%). Additionally, a majority of Black adults (55%) believe that over the last fifteen years,

the Supreme Court has sided with corporations more than it has sided with people. This coincides with the amount of time that the Supreme Court has been led by Chief Justice John Roberts.

## Approval Ratings of National Leaders



Notably, the gap in approval ratings for Democratic governors relative to Republican governors has increased significantly since July. Seven in 10 Black adults living in states with Democratic governors approve of their

performance. In states led by a Republican governor, only 39% of Black adults approve of their performance. That's a significant gap of 33 percentage points.



# Policy Priorities

The priorities of Black adults remain the same as in previous polls — monthly relief checks until the economy recovers (43%), increasing the minimum wage to \$15 an hour (35%), addressing white supremacy and structural racism (28%), and protecting and expanding voting rights (26%). Support among Black adults for \$2,000 monthly relief checks until the economy recovers (43%) increased from 38% in September to 43% in November, a 5 percentage

point increase.

Respondents want to see these policy proposals become law by eliminating the filibuster. In line with the July and September polls, Black adults overwhelmingly believe a simple majority should be able to pass legislation in the US Senate: 71% of respondents believe this is how we can pass the policy priorities that will offer real action and relief for our communities.

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**The top-four policy priorities of respondents to our Temperature Check Poll are:**



**\$2,000 monthly relief checks**



**Raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour**



**Addressing structural racism and white supremacy**



**Protecting voting rights**

# Economy

Perceptions from Black adults of their personal financial health did not change significantly since September. Nearly half of Black adults (46%) say their personal financial situation is bad, one third (33%) of Black adults say their personal financial situation has gotten worse since the onset of the pandemic, and more than four in 10 (42%) report having difficulty with household expenses since the pandemic began.

Although the self-reported finances of Black adults have not taken a turn for the worse overall, there are some areas of concern compared to previous waves of the Temperature Check Poll.

When asked how they would spend a hypothetical \$2,000 monthly stimulus check, the most common responses were utilities (65%) and food (63%). In the case of food, this represents a significant six percentage point increase compared to September when 57% mentioned this item. For the first time, rent and mortgage payments entered the top three

spending categories, as mentioned by 59% of respondents. This is nearly double the number of respondents (31%) who mentioned this expense in September.

In September, mortgage holders were three times more likely than renters (51% vs. 17%) to consider rent or mortgage among their spending priorities for how they would utilize an ongoing stimulus payment. While the share of homeowners needing stimulus to pay their mortgage stayed relatively stable in November (54%), nearly three quarters of Black renters (73%) now report needing a stimulus check to help pay the rent.

The percentage of mortgage holders and renters who reported being behind in payments declined from 36% in September to 29% in November. However, the percentage of renters and mortgage holders who are not confident in making their next payment on time increased significantly from 54% in September to nearly two-thirds (66%) in November.

## Black Communities Want Congress to Take Action

The economic priorities of Black adults include \$2,000 monthly stimulus checks (87%), rent and mortgage cancellations (78%), eviction

and foreclosure moratoriums (75%), and cash payments from the Child Tax Credit (84%).





**More than 8 in 10 (83%) Black adults who are fully vaccinated report that they are likely to receive a booster**

## Stopping the Spread of COVID-19

More than six in 10 (62%) Black adults report receiving at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and 55% report being fully vaccinated. Vaccination varies by age: about seven in 10 (71%) Black people over 50 years of age report being fully vaccinated, and more than three-quarters (77%) have received at least one dose. A majority of Black people under 30 report having at least one dose (52%) and 44% report being fully vaccinated.

More than eight in 10 Black adults (83%) who are fully vaccinated report that they are likely to receive a booster shot (69%) or have already gotten one (14%). Nearly one-quarter (23%) of

Black adults over the age of 50 say they have received a booster shot and an additional two-thirds (67%) report they are likely to get a booster shot.

Black adults are very supportive of mandates that reduce the spread of COVID-19. About two-thirds are in favor of businesses requiring vaccines for employees (66%) and of governments requiring their employees to be vaccinated (68%). Nearly six in 10 (59%) favor businesses requiring proof of vaccination or negative COVID tests for customers. More than eight in 10 (84%) are in favor of mask mandates in schools.

# White Supremacy

Addressing white supremacy remains a top policy priority for Black adults.

Consistent with previous waves, the preferred policies among Black adults for addressing white supremacy are:



Declaring white supremacist acts as domestic terrorism



Removing white supremacists from federal, state, and local police departments



Preventing those who have committed hate crimes from getting firearms



Declaring white supremacy a national security threat

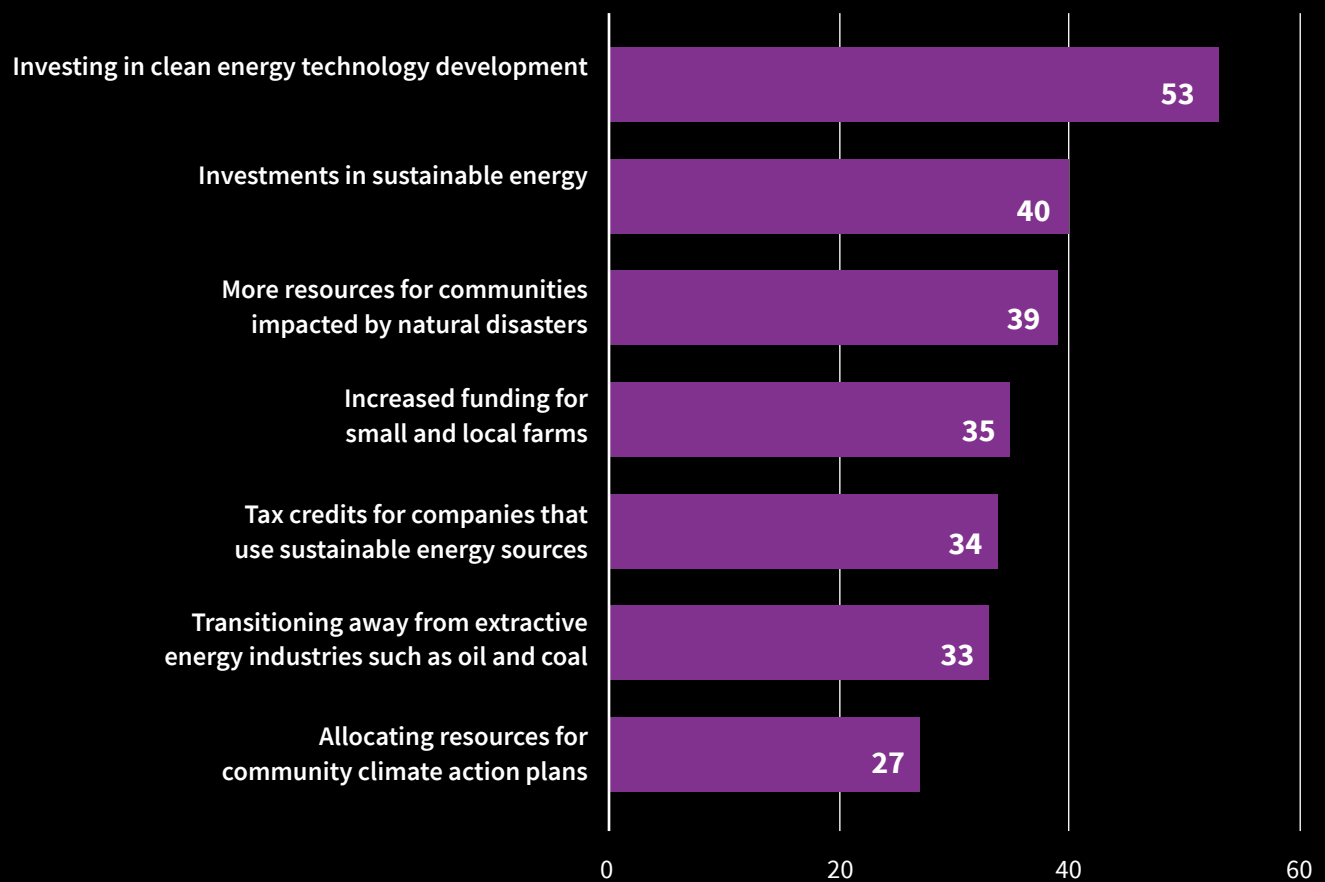


# Environment

The top environmental conditions that concern Black adults remain similar to September: health care (38%), unsafe or unhealthy conditions in homes (38%, an increase of 7 percentage points since September), access to healthy foods (31%, an increase of 7 percentage points since September), and clean drinking water (30%, an increase of 3 percentage points since September).

A new question asked about the climate change priorities the Biden-Harris administration should achieve. A majority of Black adults (53%) said investing in clean energy development was a top policy priority. Four in 10 (40%) chose investments in sustainable energy and more resources for communities impacted by natural disasters (39%).

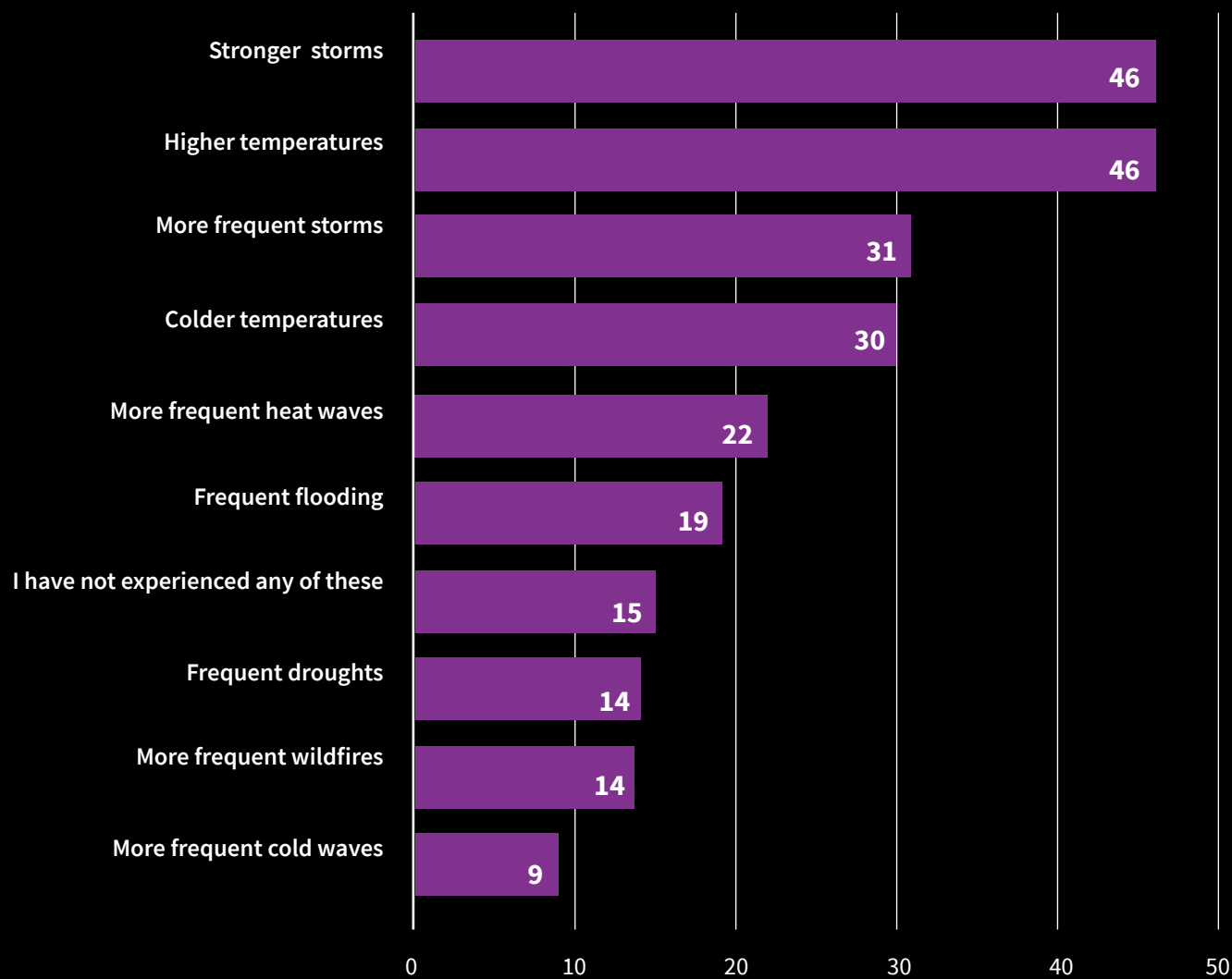
## What do you think are the three most important climate policy solutions for Joe Biden to achieve?



Another new question in this wave asked Black adults about their personal experiences with extreme weather events. Nearly half reported either stronger storms (46%), and higher

temperatures (46%) while about three in 10 reported seeing more frequent storms (31%) and feeling colder temperatures (30%).

**Which of the following, if any, weather events have you experienced in recent years?**





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## 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 November 8 and November 9, 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 1.6. The margin of error accounting for the design effect is +/- 4.1.



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### 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.

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### 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.