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# Broad Public Support for Coronavirus Aid Package; Just a Third Say It Spends Too Much

*More Americans say the Biden administration made a ‘good faith’ effort working with opposition than say the same of GOP leaders*

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## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand the public's views of the economic aid package proposed by the Biden administration in response to the coronavirus outbreak . For this analysis, we surveyed 12,055 U.S. adults in March 2021. Everyone who took part in this survey is a member of Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the [questions used for the report](#), along with responses, and [its methodology](#).

# Broad Public Support for Coronavirus Aid Package; Just a Third Say It Spends Too Much

*More Americans say the Biden administration made a ‘good faith’ effort working with opposition than say the same of GOP leaders*

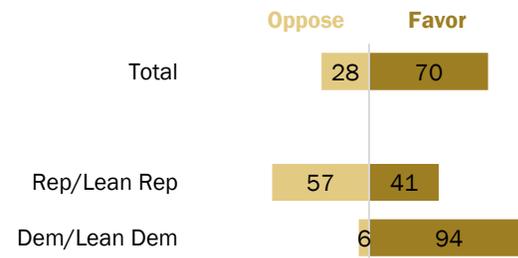
As the House of Representatives prepares to give final approval to the Biden administration’s \$1.9 trillion [coronavirus](#) relief package, a sizable majority of U.S. adults (70%) say they favor the legislation. Only about three-in-ten (28%) oppose the bill, which provides economic aid to businesses, individuals and state and local governments.

While congressional votes on the legislation have been [deeply divided along partisan lines](#), 41% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents support the measure. The bill draws overwhelming support from Democrats and Democratic leaners (94% favor).

In assessing the proposed spending in the aid package, 41% of Americans view it as about right, while another 25% say it spends too little; only a third of Americans say the legislation spends too much money. Republicans are far more likely than Democrats to view the spending in the bill as excessive (61% of Republicans vs. 11% of Democrats).

## Sizable majority of public favors Biden’s \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 economic aid bill

*% who say they \_\_\_ the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 economic aid package proposed by the Biden administration*



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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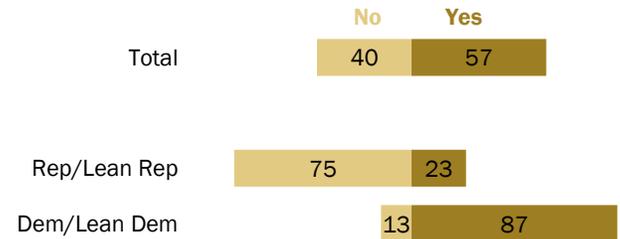
The new national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted on the Center's nationally representative American Trends Panel March 1-7, 2021, among 12,055 adults, finds that a majority of the public (57%) says the Biden administration made a good faith effort working with Republican congressional leaders on the coronavirus aid package.

By comparison, 42% say GOP leaders made a good faith effort to work with the White House on the pandemic relief bill, with a 55% majority saying they did not work in good faith.

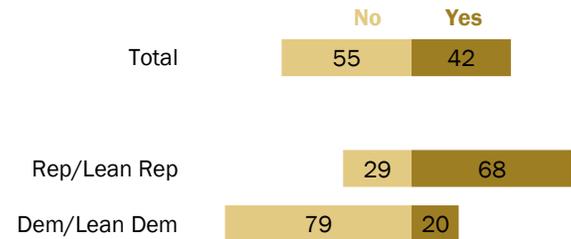
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### More say the Biden administration than GOP leaders made 'good faith' effort to work with opponents on COVID-19 aid

*Do you think the Biden administration is making a good faith effort to work with Republican congressional leaders on the coronavirus economic aid package?*



*Do you think the Republican congressional leaders are making a good faith effort to work with the Biden administration on the coronavirus economic aid package?*



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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## Across demographic groups, large shares of the public support the federal aid package

While most Americans favor the coronavirus aid package, there are demographic differences in the levels of support.

Three-quarters of women say they favor the aid package, while a smaller majority of men (66%) say the same.

While overwhelming majorities of Black (91%), Hispanic (80%) and Asian American adults (76%) say they favor the economic package, that compares with a smaller majority of White adults (63%).

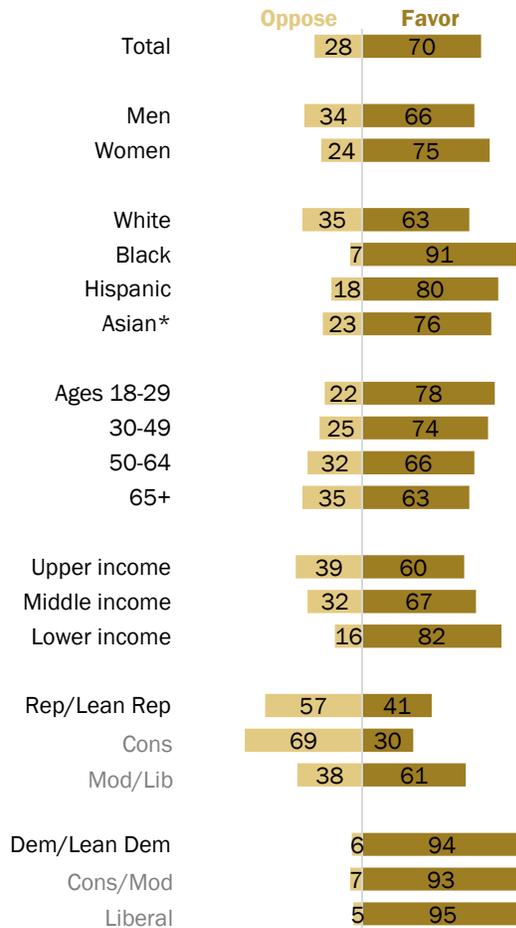
There are also substantial differences in views of the economic stimulus package by household income. About eight-in-ten Americans in lower-income households (82%) favor the bill, compared with two-thirds of middle-income and 60% of upper-income Americans.

Although a 57% majority of Republicans say they oppose the proposed stimulus bill, there is a substantial ideological divide within the GOP: Roughly seven-in-ten conservative Republicans (69%) say they oppose the economic package, while the balance of opinion is reversed among moderate and liberal Republicans, 61% of whom say they favor the aid bill.

By contrast, there is near-universal support for the economic bill among Democrats: More than nine-in-ten (94%) say they favor the COVID-19 economic aid package.

## Public largely supports \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 aid package

% who say they \_\_\_ the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 economic aid package proposed by the Biden administration



\* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Notes: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Family income tiers based on adjusted 2019 earnings. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

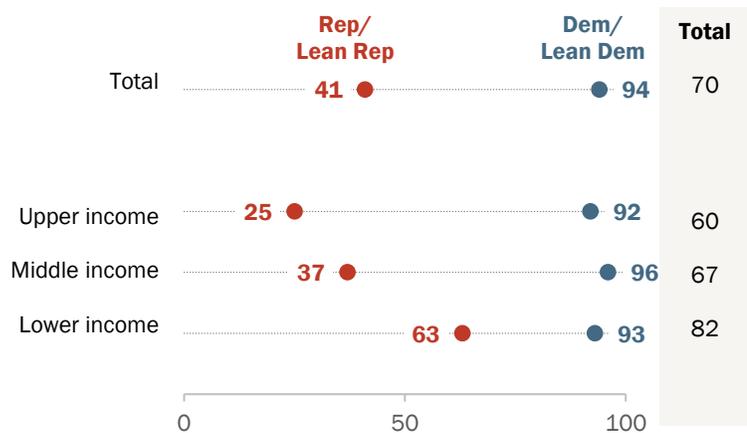
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Among Republicans, there are wide differences in support for the economic package by household income. A 63% majority of lower-income Republicans and Republican leaners (who make up 25% of all Republicans and Republican leaners) say they favor the proposed economic package. By comparison, 37% of Republicans in middle-income households (50% of Republicans) and just 25% of upper-income Republicans (21% of all Republicans) favor the bill.

There are no substantial differences by income among Democrats.

### COVID-19 economic aid bill favored by majority of lower-income Republicans

*% who say they favor the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 economic aid package proposed by the Biden administration*



Note: Family income tiers based on adjusted 2019 earnings.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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About four-in-ten Americans (41%) say the proposed spending on the bill is about right, while a third say the proposed spending in the bill is too much and a quarter say the amount of allocated money is too little.

While about four-in-ten of those in all income groups say the spending in the aid package is “about right,” Americans with lower incomes are more likely than others to say the amount of spending in the COVID-19 economic package is “too little” (and less likely to say it is “too much”).

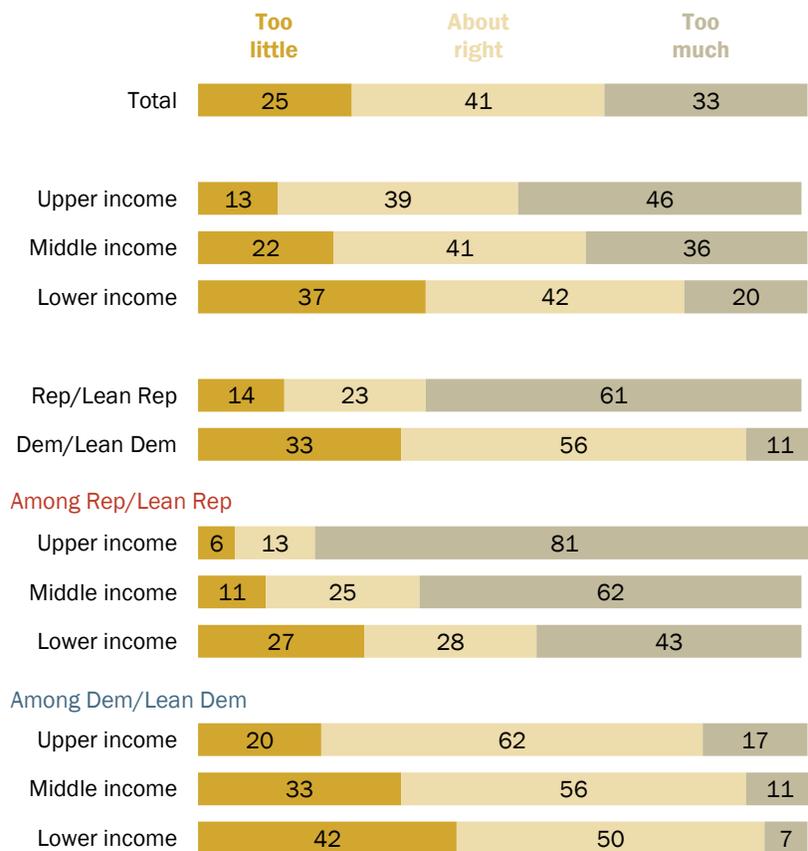
About four-in-ten lower-income Americans (37%) say the bill spends too little, compared with 22% of middle-income and 13% of upper-income Americans. Conversely, 46% of upper-income Americans say the bill spends too much; just 20% of lower-income Americans say this.

Partisans also differ in these views: A majority of Democrats (56%) say spending for the bill is about right, with a third saying it is too little and just 11% saying it is too much. In contrast, most Republicans (61%) say the bill is spending too much.

Reflecting the income pattern among all Americans, within both partisan groups, those with lower incomes are more likely than those with higher incomes to say the proposed spending on the economic bill is not enough.

### Public divided over COVID-19 bill spending; those with lower incomes more likely to say it spends too little

% who say the proposed spending in the COVID-19 economic aid bill is ...



Notes: No answer responses not shown. Family income tiers based on adjusted 2019 earnings.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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For example, while more than a quarter of lower-income Republicans (27%) say the proposed spending in the aid package is too little, just 11% of middle-income and 6% of upper-income Republicans say the same. Fully 81% of upper-income Republicans say the proposed spending in the economic aid package is too much, a view held by 42% of lower income Republicans.

Similarly, lower-income Democrats (42%) are more than twice as likely as upper-income Democrats (20%) to say that spending is too little. Still, half or more Democrats across income levels say the level of spending is about right.

## Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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## Appendix: Defining income tiers

To create upper-, middle- and lower-income tiers, respondents' 2019 family incomes were adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size. "Middle-income" adults live in families with annual incomes that are two-thirds to double the median family income in the panel (after incomes have been adjusted for the local cost of living and for household size). The middle-income range for the American Trends Panel is about \$38,900 to \$116,800 annually for an average family of three. Lower-income families have incomes less than roughly \$38,900, and upper-income families have incomes greater than roughly \$116,800 (all figures expressed in 2019 dollars).

Based on these adjustments, 31% are lower income, 45% are middle income and 19% fall into the upper-income tier. An additional 4% either didn't offer a response to the income question or the household size question.

For more information about how the income tiers were determined, please see [here](#).

## Methodology

### The American Trends Panel survey methodology

#### Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted March 1 to March 7, 2021. A total of 12,055 panelists responded out of 13,545 who were sampled, for a response rate of 89%. This does not include two panelists who were removed from the data due to extremely high rates of refusal or straightlining. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 12,055 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

#### Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample of households selected

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#### American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	2,183
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,243
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	621
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	5,900
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS/web	5,900	4,720	2,329
June 1 to July 19, 2020	ABS/web	1,865	1,636	1,269
	<b>Total</b>	<b>36,879</b>	<b>25,076</b>	<b>13,545</b>

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Across these three address-based recruitments, a total of 17,161 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 15,134 (88%) agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 25,076 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 13,545 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.<sup>1</sup> The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

### **Sample design**

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii.

### **Questionnaire development and testing**

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data which was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

### **Incentives**

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

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<sup>1</sup> AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.](#)"

## Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was March 1 to March 7, 2021. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on March 1, 2021.

On March 1 and March 2, invitations were sent out in two separate launches: Soft Launch and Full Launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on March 1, 2021. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on March 2, 2021.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists that consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

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### Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	March 1, 2021	March 2, 2021
First reminder	March 4, 2021	March 4, 2021
Final reminder	March 6, 2021	March 6, 2021

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## Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center’s researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, two ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

## Weighting

The ATP data was weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey (and the probability of being invited to participate in the panel in cases where only a subsample of respondents were invited). The base weights for panelists recruited in different years are scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all active panelists in their cohort. To correct for nonresponse to the initial recruitment surveys and gradual panel attrition, the base weights for all

active panelists are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table to create a full-panel weight.

For ATP waves in which only a subsample of panelists are invited to participate, a wave-specific base weight is created by adjusting the full-panel weights for subsampled panelists to account for any differential probabilities of selection for the particular panel wave. For waves in which all active panelists are invited to participate, the wave-specific base weight is identical to the full-panel weight.

In the final weighting step, the wave-specific base weights for panelists who completed the survey are again calibrated to match the population benchmarks specified above. These weights are trimmed (typically at about the 1st and 99th percentiles) to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

## Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age x Gender	2019 American Community Survey
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2019 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2016 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. The 2016 CPS was used for voter registration targets for this wave in order to obtain voter registration numbers from a presidential election year. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population. The 2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey featured 1,862 online completions and 2,247 mail survey completions.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	12,055		1.5 percentage points
Half sample	At least 6,011		2.2 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	4,796	43	2.3 percentage points
Half sample	At least 2,390		3.2 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	6,988	52	2.1 percentage points
Half sample	At least 3,488		3.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

### Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	12,055
Logged onto survey; broke-off	2.12	119
Logged onto survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	72
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	1,297
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		2
Screened out		0
<b>Total panelists in the survey</b>		<b>13,545</b>
Completed interviews	I	12,055
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	1,490
Non-contact	NC	0
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,545</b>
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		89%

<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>Total</b>
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 84	57%
Response rate to Wave 84 survey	89%
<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>4%</b>

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**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 84 MARCH 2021  
FINAL TOPLINE  
MARCH 1-7, 2021  
N=12,055**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

COVID\_ASSIST21

As you may know, in response to the coronavirus outbreak Congress is currently considering a bill proposed by the Biden administration that would provide \$1.9 trillion in economic aid to businesses, individuals and state and local governments.

All in all, do you favor or oppose this bill?

Mar 1-7

2021

70	Favor
28	Oppose
1	No answer

**ASK FORM 1 [N=6,044]:**

COVIDLEG21A

Do you think the proposed spending in the coronavirus economic aid package is...

Mar 1-7

2021

33	Too much
25	Too little
41	About right
1	No answer

**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF BIDEN\_GOODFAITHC AND REPS\_GOODFAITHC AND SHOW ON SAME SCREEN]**

**ASK FORM 2 [N=6,011]:**

BIDEN\_GOODFAITHC

Thinking about the proposed coronavirus economic aid package, do you think the Biden administration is making a good faith effort to work with Republican Congressional leaders?

Mar 1-7

2021

57	Yes, the Biden administration is making a good faith effort to work with Republican congressional leaders
40	No, the Biden administration is not making a good faith effort to work with Republican congressional leaders
2	No answer

**ASK FORM 2 [N=6,011]:**

REPS\_GOODFAITHC Thinking about the proposed coronavirus economic aid package, do you think the Republican congressional leaders are making a good faith effort to work with the Biden administration?

Mar 1-7

2021

42	Yes, Republican congressional leaders are making a good faith effort to work with the Biden administration
55	No, Republican congressional leaders are not making a good faith effort to work with the Biden administration
3	No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING [N=4,808]:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
24	31	29	15	2	19	21