

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Garin-Hart-Yang and Global Strategy Group
DATE: May 4, 2021
RE: Key Poll Findings on Electorate's Attitudes toward Reforming the Filibuster

Results from a recently completed national survey on behalf of Fix Our Senate, conducted April 13 to 19 among a representative sample of 1,218 2020 voters, reveal that reforming the filibuster is remarkably popular among diverse segments of the electorate and that the more voters learn about what the filibuster is and the impact it has on the Senate, the more they support reforms.

Key Findings

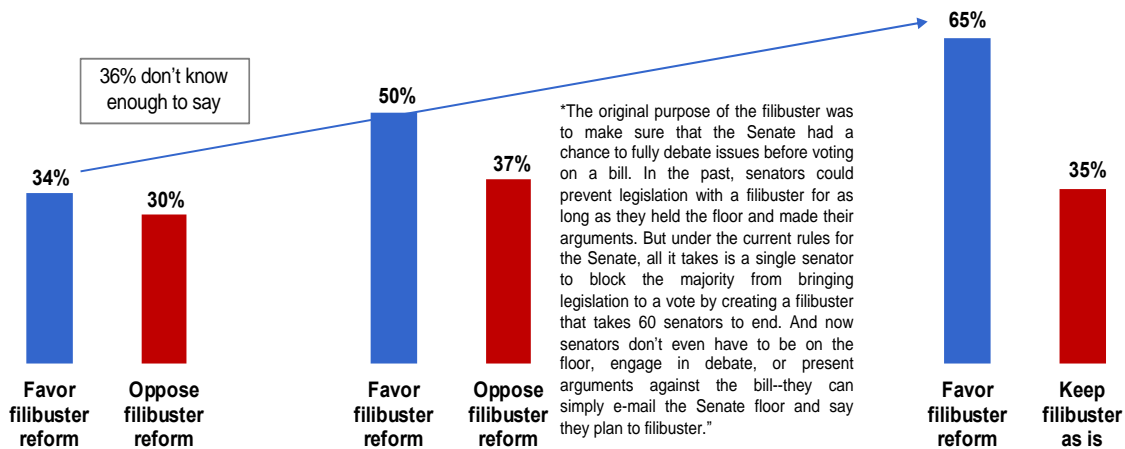
1. Voters' background knowledge of the filibuster is limited, and they are highly receptive to new information and messaging in favor of reform.

- 36% of voters (including 45% of swing voters) initially say they don't know enough to have an opinion about reforming the filibuster, and only 20% indicate that they understand what the filibuster is very well.
- After reading a series of reasons to reform the filibuster, support increases to 65% in favor of reform (only 35% say to keep the filibuster as it is). Black voters, white women, and swing voters all increase support for reform by large margins after messaging.
- When asked to identify their preferred action on the filibuster, only 30% would prefer the status quo of the filibuster compared to 70% who say they would reform (48%) or eliminate it (22%).

Initial/uninformed view

Informed view*

Post-messaging view

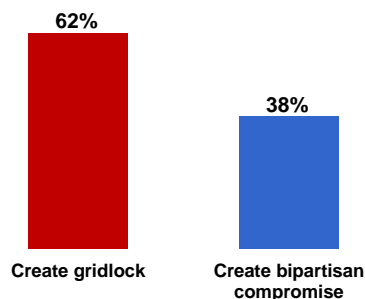


2. Supporting filibuster reform is a net positive for senators—by a 20-point margin, more voters say they would feel positive (46%) than negative (26%) if their senator supported reform.

3. Voters believe the filibuster as it currently stands does more to create gridlock than compromise.

- Large majorities of voters across the country believe that allowing a minority of senators to filibuster contributes more to gridlock than compromise, including large majorities of Democrats and swing voters.

Allowing a minority of senators to filibuster and prevent moving a bill to final vote does more to:



Create gridlock	
Core Democrats	74%
Swing voters	66%
Core Republicans	45%
White	62%
AA/Black	64%
Latino	68%
Northeast	63%
South	61%
Midwest	59%
West	66%

- After providing voters with a brief description of the filibuster, voters support reform by a 13-point margin (50% favor, 37% oppose). Support for filibuster reform includes majorities of Democrats (67%), independents (55%), and swing voters (52%).

4. The strongest case for filibuster reform highlights how reform will improve the way Congress operates so that government works for the people and will help advance progress on important issues.

- The idea that government should work for the people—not politicians—is the top reason (48%) to support reform for the electorate at large and across partisan groups (Dems: 49%; Swing: 51%; Reps: 46%).

Americans want their representatives to work together and get things done. Instead, politicians work the system in their favor to play partisan politics rather than putting the American people first. Reforming the filibuster is a way to restore balance to our government so that the system works for us—not for the interests of career politicians.

- Persuadable voters also respond to the argument that reform will help speed progress on important issues.

Voters made their voices heard in November and want to see real action on issues that they care about. Reforming the filibuster is the key to unlocking the door on policy solutions that are important for our country's future, such as rebuilding America's infrastructure, expanding access to affordable healthcare, and getting our economy back on track.

5. When communicating on reasons to support reform, it is critical that we meet voters where they are by highlighting the specific issues that the electorate cares about, but filibusters will likely block.

- Voters want to hear in real terms what filibuster reform will help the Senate take action on. When given a list of 10 issues that the filibuster could be used to block action on, voters rate several as the most important to them personally:
 - Protecting the right to vote
 - Reducing the price of prescription drugs

- Making healthcare affordable
 - Investing in rebuilding America's infrastructure
- Among those who move in favor of reforming the filibuster, addressing gun safety is also a top issue.

6. While the plurality of voters support eliminating the filibuster, overall support grows even stronger when specific reforms are mentioned. In particular, efforts to bring back the talking filibuster resonate with voters across party lines, including 77% of core Democrats, 74% of swing voters, and 69% of core Republicans.

Bring back the “talking filibuster,” which would force senators who wanted to filibuster to actually stay on the Senate floor continuously if they wanted to block a bill that has majority support.

