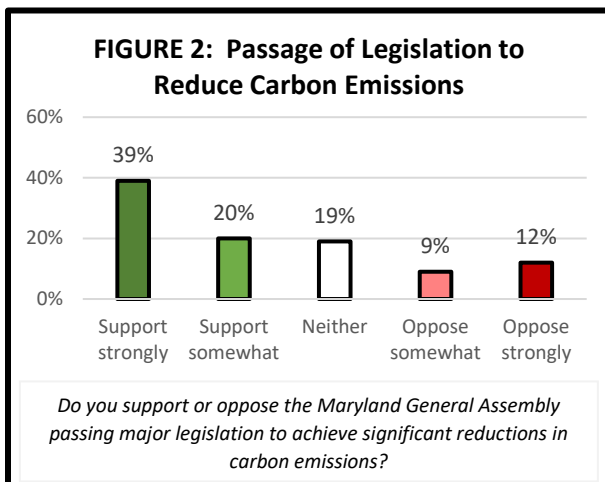
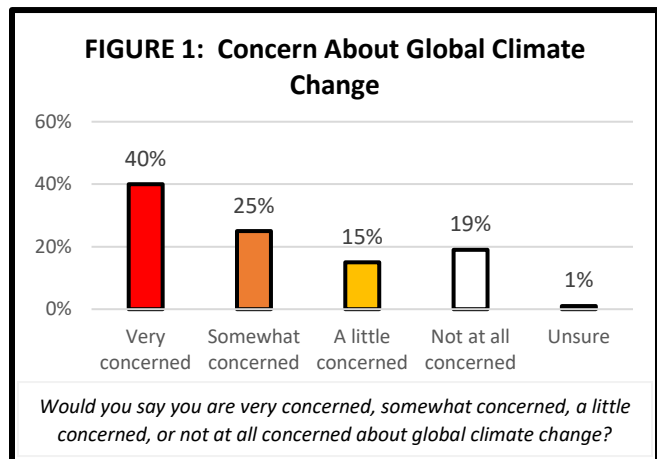




DATE: February 25, 2021
 TO: Interested parties
 FROM: Ben Lazarus, TargetSmart
 RE: New Maryland poll shows broad support for state-level action on climate change

According to the results of our recent statewide poll¹, Maryland voters, long recognized as some of the most environmentally conscious in the nation, continue to place a high premium on state-level action when it comes to carbon emissions and climate change.

As shown in **Figure 1**, a plurality of Maryland voters (40 percent) indicate that they are very concerned about global climate change, and roughly 2-in-3 voters across the state (65 percent) are at least somewhat concerned. Four-in-five Democrats say they are very or somewhat concerned about climate change (84 percent) as do a majority of independents (53 percent). Even 2-in-5 Republicans say they are very or somewhat concerned about climate change (38 percent), and a solid majority of Republicans say they are at least a little concerned (60 percent). Voters of color are especially worried about climate change as just shy of half say they are very concerned (48 percent).

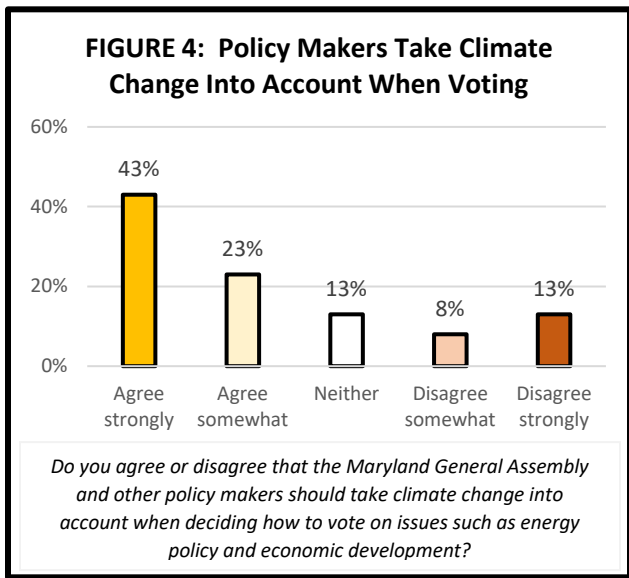
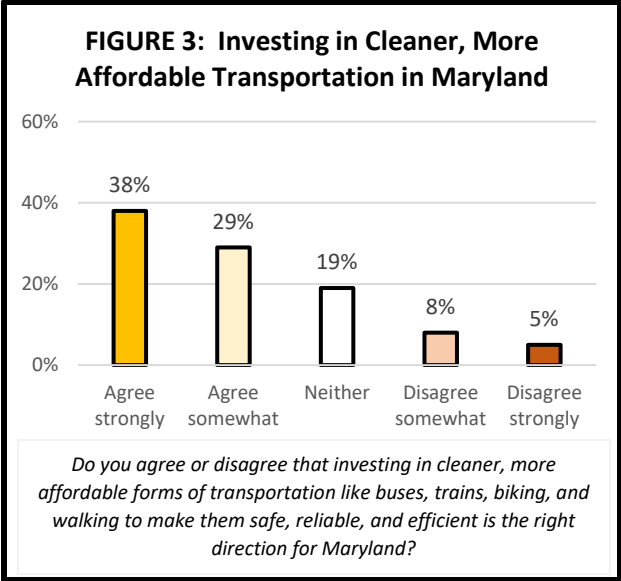


Similarly, 3-in-5 Maryland voters (60 percent) support the General Assembly passing major legislation to achieve significant reductions in carbon emissions, with a plurality of voters (39 percent) strongly supporting such legislation (see **Figure 2**). Democrats overwhelmingly wish to see the passage of legislation (79 percent) as do almost half of independents (47 percent) and 1-in-3 Republicans (33 percent). What's more, 64 percent of Maryland voters support the creation of a carbon tax paid by companies based on how much carbon they emit, while just 25 percent oppose such a tax. Four-in-five Democrats support a carbon tax (80 percent) as do a majority of

¹ January 25-February 3, 2021, n=615 online respondents, registered voters, credibility interval +/- 4.0%

independents (52 percent) while Republicans are more split on the question (43 percent support, 49 percent oppose).

These concerns about climate change and calls for significant reductions in carbon emissions impact Marylanders' attitudes about some other issues as well. As shown in **Figure 3**, we find that two-thirds of voters across the state support investing in cleaner forms of transportation (67 percent). Four-in-five Democrats agree (81 percent) as do nearly 2-in-3 independents (60 percent) and a plurality of Republicans (48 percent). Young voters (age 18 to 34) and voters of color are particularly intense in their support as half say they strongly agree in this kind of transportation investment (49 percent youth, 50 percent VOC).



Additionally, two-thirds of voters across the state agree that the General Assembly and other policy makers should take climate change into account when deciding how to vote on energy and economic development policy (see **Figure 4**). Democrats agree with this statement overwhelmingly (83 percent) as do a majority of independents (56 percent) while Republicans are more split (40 percent agree, 46 percent disagree).