

“Shaping Our Future”

May 1-2, 2021

Proposals for a Civilian Climate Corps Berggruen Institute Future of Democracy Program In Partnership with Stanford University Report

[June 2021 Draft]

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Overview and Introduction

In partnership with Stanford University’s HAAS Center for Public Service and its Deliberative Democracy Center, Berggruen Institute’s Future of Democracy program collaborated on a Stanford University practicum that culminated in a two-day, [online deliberative polling experiment](#) designed to foster conversation on important policy debates. The practicum was held from May 1st-2nd, and engaged 617 participants between the ages of 18 and 29 from 38 states in deliberative discussion regarding the Civilian Climate Corps. The Berggruen Institute’s Future of Democracy team collaborated with professors and students at Stanford University to develop two proposals, survey questions, and a set of briefing materials related to the Civilian Climate Corps.

The objective of the practicum was three-fold. First, the Future of Democracy program aimed to extrapolate data that would provide youth-driven insights for policymakers engaged in building the Civilian Climate Corps. Second, the program sought to determine how deliberative processes can lead to transformed perspectives for the participants who engage in them. Third, the practicum served as part of the program’s broader experiment in developing a methodology for deliberative processes that model democratic participation.

The conversation focused on the following two proposals:

1. *“The CCC should receive enough funding to have 3 million corps members, compensated with a living wage”; and*
2. *“The communities most vulnerable to climate change should determine the projects and priorities of the Civilian Climate Corps.”*

Support for the first proposal measured 7.038 pre-deliberation and 7.053 post-deliberation (a statistically insignificant shift.) Support for the second proposal measured 7.034 pre-deliberation and 7.092 post-deliberation (again, a statistically insignificant shift.)

The deliberative exercise demonstrated that the sampled demographic — weighted toward Democratic and urban participants currently enrolled in college — was broadly in support of massive fiscal investment in the CCC, and in a community-led structure for the Corps.

Briefing Materials

Deliberative polling hinges on the premise that participants are informed about the issues polled. By contrast with traditional polling methods, deliberative polling was developed by James Fishkin to understand how public perspective shifts in scenarios where members of the public are informed about the topics discussed. As such, each participant in Shaping Our Future received the following briefing materials about the CCC to familiarize themselves with key data in advance of the deliberative polling event. These materials were developed in collaboration between the Berggruen Institute's Future of Democracy program and Stanford University professors and students:

Briefing Materials Distributed by Stanford University to Participants in "Shaping Our Future"

On Climate

National service programs have long been an initiative on behalf of the US Government to stimulate the economy and address major societal issues. For example, this method was implemented by President Roosevelt as a part of his New Deal Program. The programs built public works, such as roads, bridges, hospitals and schools, and created 10 million jobs. By bringing diverse groups of people together toward a common goal, national service helps to foster civic goals and increase civic responsibility and a sense of national spirit while adding jobs to the economy.

In January of 2021, President Biden announced his intent to create a Civilian Climate Corps (CCC) that will "mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers and maximize the creation of accessible training opportunities and good jobs" in order to "conserve and restore public lands and waters, bolster community resilience, increase reforestation, increase carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protect biodiversity, improve access to recreation, and address the changing climate."

Even more recently, on April 1, 2021, Senators Coons, Heinrich, Luján, Neguse, and Spanberger introduced a bill that would formalize this order. The legislation would establish a Civilian Climate Corps with the goals of putting Americans to work in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and helping communities address climate change issues. The same week, the White House announced support for \$10 billion to establish a Civilian Climate Corps as part of President Biden's American Jobs Plan. As Sen. Coors stated:

"Eighty-eight years ago, President Roosevelt tapped into the power of national service to address the unemployment crisis caused by the Great Depression and restore our environment when he created the Civilian Conservation Corps... Now, as our country faces the COVID-19 pandemic and the threats posed by climate change, we have another opportunity to address both challenges simultaneously. The Civilian Climate Corps Act will provide opportunities for people across the country to help the most

vulnerable communities prepare for the impacts of climate change.”

On Civilian Climate Corps Funding

At the appropriate scale, the Civilian Climate Corps could become a cornerstone of economic recovery by connecting its participants to training and employment; by building a force to tackle the climate emergency; and by cultivating a more resilient nation, community by community. While the program is still in development, questions have arisen around how many participants the CCC should support. One possible path forward is to expand the organization to 3 million members, compensated at a living wage.

Youth populations recognize the urgency of the climate crisis. For example, the International Youth Climate Movement (IYCM) is a growing campaign that is building “education, creating awareness, and taking action on climate change.” Sparked by Greta Thunberg who began skipping school to protest the atrocities of climate change, the movement has mobilized 14 million activists in 7,500 cities. Given a rising sense of polarization in the US over the last decade, national service could also fulfill the function of strengthening social bonds and healing divides. As a recent report from the Brookings Institution argues, public service can help to “rebuild civic and social connections by bringing participants from different backgrounds, income levels, races, ethnicities, and areas of the country together in shared experiences to solve public challenges.” Moreover, public service programs could be crucial to mitigating post-pandemic unemployment among youth populations, and could significantly decrease the economic hardships they face in the future.

Some people argue that national service is a cost-effective method to address pressing issues in the United States. A Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education report found that in the U.S. youth national service programs cost \$1.7 billion total annually and returned a value of \$6.5 billion, which created a social benefit of 3.95 times more than the cost. Policy Study Associates found that schools that had support from the existing national service program City Year AmeriCorps were two- to three times more likely to see improvements in English and math proficiency among students.

AmeriCorps members helped 25,000 unemployed coal miners in Eastern Kentucky find jobs in other industries and contributed to a 26% decrease in violent crime in Detroit by forming neighborhood watches and escorting kids to school. If the number of participants grows, and the resulting benefits would accordingly increase.

Public service is an opportunity for those who can work to do so and further the public good. As Joe Heck, Chairman of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, stated, in “a country of more than 329 million people, the extraordinary potential for service is largely untapped.”

Opponents of expanding national service programs point out that the scale of expansion being proposed would be prohibitively expensive, especially at a moment of record-high federal budget deficits. They also point out the current stipend levels for national service programs are unacceptably low, requiring young people to live in poverty. The living stipend for an Americorps VISTA volunteer in 2020 was less than \$15,000, which is not enough in many parts of the country to cover basic living expenses. But even assuming this stipend, expanding to 1,000,000 positions as some have suggested would require a minimum annual

budget of \$15 million dollars, which would not include the cost to administer the program. While national service is cost-effective, this does not necessarily make it the most financially optimal investment in terms of returns. Other government programs have higher returns than youth programs. For example, NASA has an estimated ROI of \$7 to \$14 of new revenue for every \$1 spent by the government on the program. Thus, there may be more cost-effective ways to invest in solving climate change.

Additionally, some argue that national service doesn't need to be expanded because the volunteer system is already booming. 28% of millennials already do volunteer work, for a total of 1.5 billion community service hours annually. Limitless voluntary programs and volunteer opportunities—federally funded and otherwise not—exist throughout the country. Since AmeriCorps was founded in 1993, over 800,000 participants have completed more than one billion service hours. Applications already outpace funding and capacity, meaning that forcing more people to participate would be difficult. As recent as 2016, there were 15 qualified would-be volunteers for every available AmeriCorps spot. The infrastructure cost to scale the organizational capacity and absorb these newly formed volunteer positions would be extremely costly.

At a time when government spending has reached an all-time high with the 2020 \$2.3 trillion coronavirus relief bill and recently President Joe Biden's 2021 \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, many are worried that increasing spending even further could lead to severe economic consequences. Deficit spending, or providing more services than taxes pay for, increases public debt, which in turn threatens to trigger higher inflation, interest rates, and capital flight. Over time, the cost of servicing this huge increase in debt will become a larger portion of the budget, which ultimately results in taxpayers getting less than they pay for. So while the reported social benefit of youth service programs may be almost 4 times the cost, this could erode given rising inflation. The \$10 billion bill proposed by Biden would expand AmeriCorps membership from 75,000 to 250,000 over the next three years, as well as increase the living stipend for members.⁵⁶ Increasing membership in the CCC to 3 million members would require a significant increase in public spending for national Service.

These benefits and drawbacks must be taken into account as we determine whether service in the CCC will be voluntary or compulsory.

On Vulnerable Communities and the Civilian Climate Corps

Scholarship and research studies have shown that the effects of climate change are concentrated among specific populations. The 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment found that:

Impacts within and across regions will not be distributed equally. People who are already vulnerable, including lower-income and other marginalized communities, have a lower capacity to prepare for and cope with extreme weather and climate-related events and are expected to experience greater impacts.

Likewise, the World Economic Forum asserts that “communities of colour are disproportionately burdened with health hazards” related to environmental pollutants. Finally, the NAACP notes that “race is the number one indicator for the placement of toxic facilities” in

the US. Given the evidence that climate change will not impact everyone to the same extent, it is worth examining the role the most vulnerable communities should play in the CCC.

Some people argue that communities disproportionately impacted by climate change have important insights into how to combat climate change around the world. Therefore, they argue, these communities ought to be represented to a greater degree in the CCC and similar organizations. This already happens in groups like Intersectional Environmentalist, Indigenous Climate Action, and the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program. Each of these initiatives considers the relation between climate impacts and factors like race, class, and region.

Moreover, supporters argue that the benefits and impacts of the projects executed by the CCC need to be centered where the risk is greatest; ensuring that the most vulnerable communities play a larger role in the CCC is a vital step to ensuring that the projects reach this goal. Communities that have historically been impacted by climate change have important insights on climate action largely because they have already experienced the detrimental effects of climate change. Therefore, they should take up a disproportionate role in programs like the CCC. Indeed, in order for the CCC's projects to be sustained in the long term, it is critical that the communities have the capacity to carry on with them beyond the scope of the CCC, thus ensuring that they are the ones setting the agenda would increase the likelihood that the projects are in line with local needs, realistic, and achievable, and would build capacity in frontline communities.

Supporters also contend that it is fair for members of impacted communities to be disproportionately represented in climate action organizations like CCC because they are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Given the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis on certain communities, members of those communities should assume leadership roles at the forefront of climate action, including in the CCC. While low-income communities, communities of color, and Indigenous communities disproportionately experience the effects of climate change, those same communities have historically been under-represented in decision-making around climate action. As such, weighting the input of stakeholders from impacted communities offers a way to redress the structural inequalities of the previous under-representation. This would also contribute to diverse leadership in the climate field by grounding the work in frontline communities and encouraging those most affected to join because they could help their own communities.

On the other hand, some argue that it is fundamentally unfair for members of impacted communities to be disproportionately represented in climate action organizations because that violates the idea of equal and civil rights. The impacts of climate change are not restricted to a single community or set of communities. As such, the scope of the CCC should be calibrated to the far-reaching, widespread effects of climate change rather than focused on a specific set of communities. Leadership in climate action should be restricted to figures who will weigh the needs of all communities equally, without privileging any one given community over another. Moreover, some argue that the process of designating certain communities "disproportionately foregrounding disproportionately impacted communities may result in unevenly distributed climate action, or result in certain communities' needs being addressed while others' are inadequately met. The CCC is not the only step and not the final step in the climate fight; CCC is both a political lever and a climate program. We want to build a legacy and momentum nationally, some argue, and having a program skew strongly towards impacted communities may leave other communities less engaged in the climate fight and thus less supportive of

long-term climate action, which ironically might actually undermine the achievement of long-term benefits for impacted communities while having near-term benefits for those same communities.

Proposals

Participants in “Shaping Our Future” were asked to consider the following two proposals. The accompanying arguments for and against each proposal were provided to offer a balanced perspective. These proposals were developed in collaboration between the Berggruen Institute’s Future of Democracy program and Stanford University professors and students:

Proposal	Arguments For	Arguments Against
<p>The CCC Should Receive Enough Funding to Have 3 Million Corps Members, Compensated With a <i>Living Wage</i>.</p>	<p>Given the massive scale of the climate crisis, the solutions we devise should be correspondingly unprecedented in scope and scale. The impacts of climate change will be felt at a national scale and should therefore be addressed by nation-wide efforts.</p> <p>There is a ten-year window to prevent irreversible climate catastrophes, which requires exponentially higher degrees of investment of human resources in the coming decade.</p> <p>Public service helps to strengthen social cohesion and enables community-building among participants from diverse backgrounds.</p> <p>Involvement in public service can lead to increased civic engagement and political participation.</p> <p>Public service that includes skills training could also serve as an entryway to the labor force for participants. For example, career development opportunities provided by organizations such as AmeriCorps provide long-term benefits to participants.</p> <p>Research has shown that federal investment in youth national</p>	<p>Non-governmental programs modeled on voluntary participation, with trained and credentialed participants, may be more effective in executing meaningful climate action.</p> <p>The cost that the federal government will incur by offering a <i>living wage</i> to program participants could instead be allocated to other areas and investments.</p> <p>Civil service and volunteering participation has grown regardless of expanding CCC membership.</p> <p>While national youth service programs are cost-effective, there are many other government programs that have a higher return on investment.</p> <p>At a time when government spending has reached a historical all-time high, increasing the budget even further—especially to the scale required to support CCC membership of 3 million people—could trigger severe unintended consequences and not be a viable investment.</p>

	<p>service programs yielded returns of 3.95 times more than the cost.</p> <p>Civil service will directly positively affect communities, such as by decreasing violent crime.</p>	
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Proposal	Arguments For	Arguments Against
<p>The communities most vulnerable to climate change should determine the projects and priorities of the Civilian Climate Corps.</p>	<p>The benefits and impacts of these projects need to be centered where the risk is greatest: ensuring that the most vulnerable communities play a larger role in the CCC is a vital step to ensuring that the projects reach this goal.</p> <p>Building capacity in frontline communities would leave a legacy of strength after the program ends.</p> <p>It is fair for members of impacted communities to be disproportionately represented in climate action organizations like CCC because they are disproportionately impacted by climate change.</p> <p>Communities that have historically been impacted by climate change have important insights on climate action. Therefore, they should take up a disproportionate role in programs like the CCC.</p> <p>While low-income communities, communities of color, and Indigenous communities disproportionately experience the effects of climate change, those same communities have historically been under-represented in decision-making around climate action. As such, weighting the input of stakeholders from impacted communities offers a way to redress the structural inequalities of previous under-representation. This would also contribute to diverse leadership in the climate field by</p>	<p>It is unfair for members of impacted communities to be disproportionately represented in climate action organizations because that violates the idea of equal and civil rights.</p> <p>Because the impacts of climate change are not restricted to a single community or set of communities, the scope of the CCC should be calibrated to the far-reaching, widespread effects of climate change rather than focused on a specific set of communities.</p> <p>Leadership in climate action should be restricted to figures who will weigh the needs of all communities equally, without privileging any one given community over another.</p> <p>The process of designating certain communities “disproportionately impacted” can be very subjective, and thus should not be incorporated into policymaking and climate action.</p> <p>Foregrounding disproportionately impacted communities may result in unevenly distributed climate action or result in certain communities’ needs being addressed while others’ are inadequately met.</p> <p>If we want to build a legacy and momentum for climate action nationally, having a program skew strongly towards impacted communities may leave other communities less engaged in the</p>

grounding the work in frontline communities and encouraging those most affected to join because they can help their own communities.

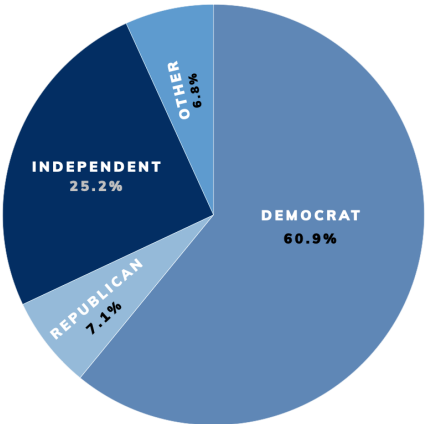
climate fight and thus less supportive of long-term climate action, which might undermine the achievement of long-term benefits for impacted communities while having near term benefits for those same communities.

Demographic Data

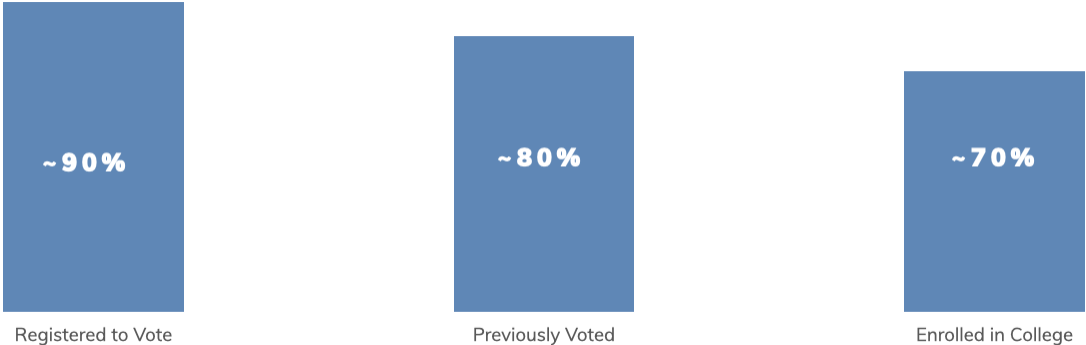
Shaping Our Future brought together 617 participants ages 18-29, geographically dispersed across 38 states and Washington DC. The participants were sampled from over 35 partner institutions, as well as through Stanford University’s polling partner, Generation Lab.

Shaping Our Future constitutes “the largest national deliberative polling event ever carried out among this age group in the United States.”

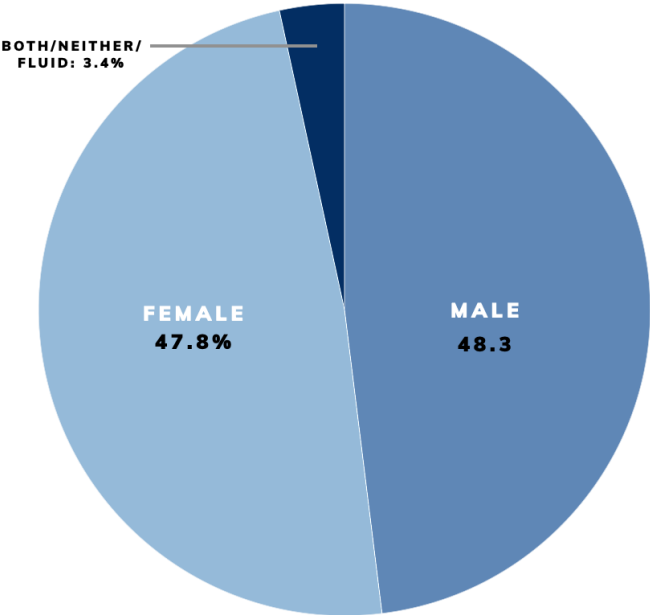
Despite its unprecedented scale, the sampling of participants skewed heavily toward respondents who self-identified politically as either Democrats (60.9%) or Independents (25.2%). This weighted distribution renders it difficult to assess the degree to which deliberative polling can result in transformed political perspectives, given that the majority of participants shared a similar political outlook from the outset of the process.



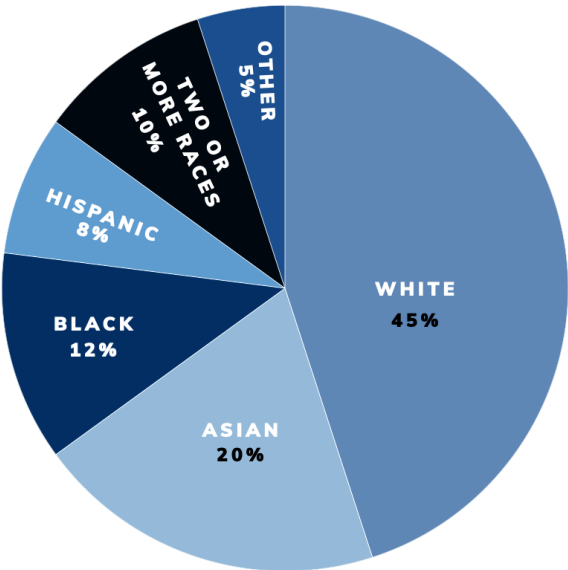
Among the participants, nearly 90% reported that they were registered to vote; approximately 80% reported that they had previously voted in a presidential election; and approximately 70% are currently enrolled in college.



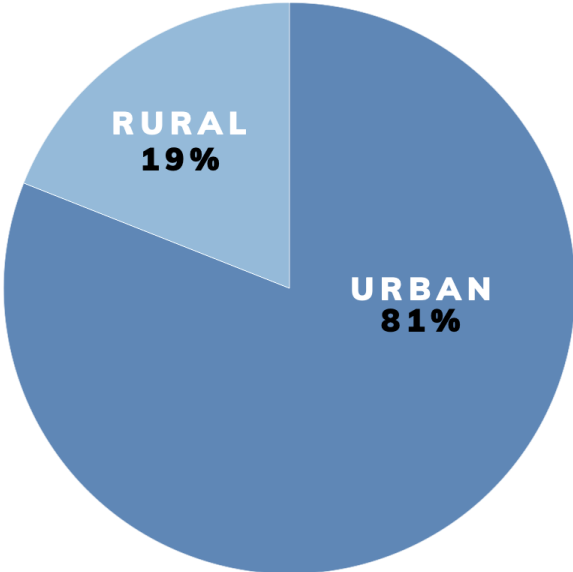
Men and women participants were roughly equal, with minimal representation from nonbinary participants:



With respect to race, white participants comprised the single largest racial group within the sampling (45%), with Asian, Black, and Hispanic participants represented at 20%, 12%, and 8%, respectively:

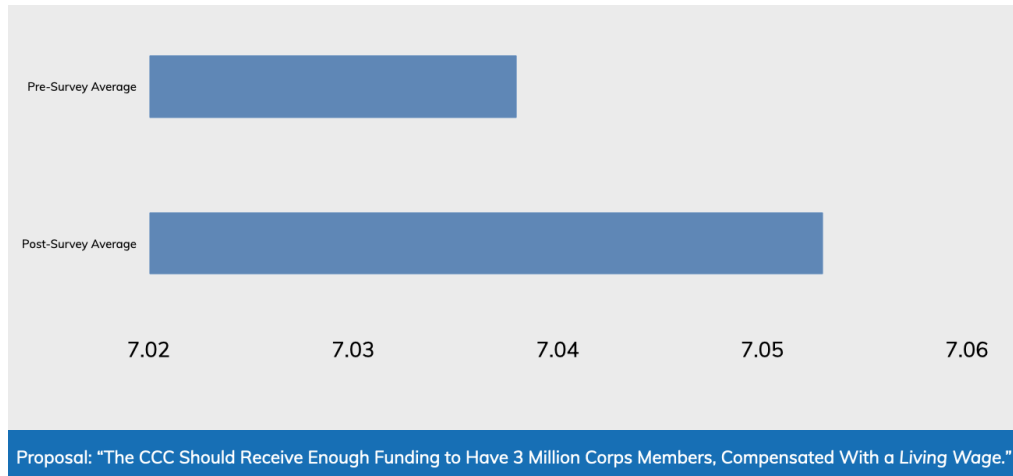


Finally, the urban/rural breakdown of participants skewed heavily toward the former category, with 81% of respondents based in urban areas:

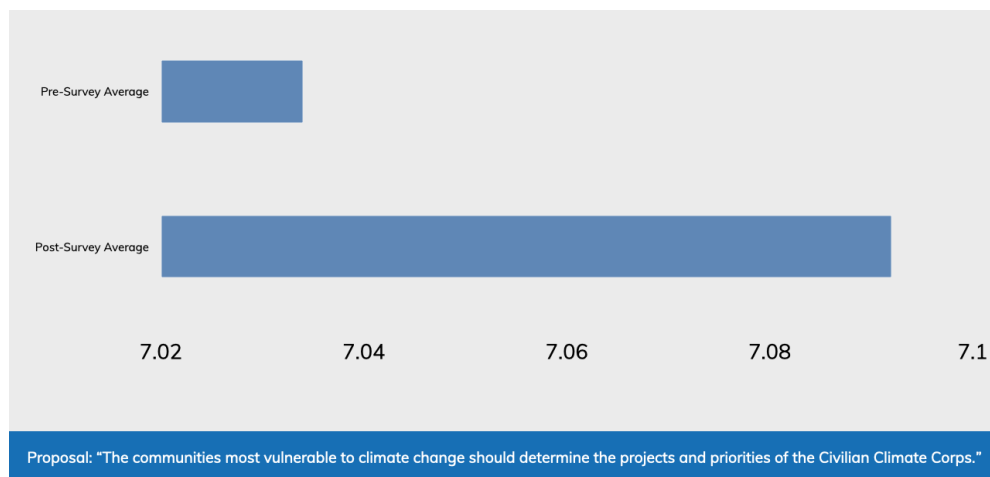


Results

The results of the deliberative poll indicated widespread existing support among respondents for both proposals, with a statistically insignificant increase in pre- and post-deliberation support for each:



In response to the first proposal (“The CCC should receive enough funding to have 3 million climate corps members, compensated with a *living wage*”), the pre-survey average in support of the proposal measured 7.038, whereas the post-survey average in support measured 7.053 (a 0.015 change with a p-value of 0.896).



In response to the second proposal (“The communities most vulnerable to climate change should determine the projects and priorities of the Civilian Climate Corps”), the pre-survey average in support of the proposal measured 7.034, whereas the post-survey average in support measured 7.092 (a 0.058 change with a p-value of 0.621).

Key Insights

Beyond the survey data yielded by the practicum, the weekend-long discussion collected generative contributions from its 617 participants, providing insight into how we might structure the Civilian Climate Corps.

Participants voiced widespread support for compensating Corps members with a living wage, and for allocating massive federal investment to climate-related initiatives. A reoccurring question across sessions concerned whether a CCC would be the best possible investment in a climate-related initiative. As one participant put it, “None of us seem to be disagreeing...about the exigencies of climate change and we're...more so discussing the logistics of how this would actually work and if it would be helpful compared to...other things we can do to address climate change.”

On Federally Funding the Civilian Climate Corps as a Jobs Program With a Living Wage Allotted to 3 Million Corps Members

“The CCC should receive enough funding to have as many members as is needed.”¹

“We have seen in history that large-scale jobs programs in our country have worked to help reduce [the] economic impact of disasters.”²

“I think we can do better than that and offer more than [a] living wage, but [it] also would be great [for] corporations to provide additional funding.”³

“If people see the effectiveness of such a program, new jobs in a field such as climate preservation will come up for these new trained individuals.”⁴

“My AmeriCorps experience was...geared to a more environmental program... but I wasn't paid a living wage.”⁵

“Instead of putting the burden on the taxpayer, we can put the burden on...the corporations that do cause climate change and then redirect those funds into greener and better energy.”⁶

“[Funding] three million is actually optimistically almost naively low...we're going to need way more than 3 million people tasked with this.”⁷

¹ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-A

² “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-A

³ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-A

⁴ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-A

⁵ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-A

⁶ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-C

⁷ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-C

“We could take money away from parts of the military...it’s truly over-funded.”⁸

“If people are being paid a livable wage...it also gives people an opportunity from within the...communities that are being disproportionately affected by climate change, to have a personal hand in trying to combat it.”⁹

“The carbon tax or investing...in research...would be more helpful rather than young people being in a volunteer position.”¹⁰

“We need to be doing all these things in parallel: developing new carbon capture technologies, and electric vehicles, alternative sources of energy. And...having the labor force required to do things like planting trees, cleaning areas, creating new green areas.”¹¹

“None of us seem to be disagreeing...about the exigencies of climate change and we’re...more so discussing the logistics of how this would actually work and if it would be helpful compared to...other things we can do to address climate change.”¹²

“If anyone is working anywhere...they should be paid a living wage, period.”¹³

“When I think about this, I think of FDR’s New Deal proposals...we see the effects of those programs today...I think something similar would happen with this initiative.”¹⁴

Participants also conveyed widespread support for the prospect of communities playing a prominent role in the design and implementation of the CCC. A thread of continuity across sessions was that members of disproportionately impacted communities would be equipped with local knowledge that would enable them to formulate precise solutions, and would have the most at stake in formulating those solutions. Two recurring questions emerged in connection with this proposal: 1) how would the parameters of “vulnerable communities” be determined?; and 2) what would the role of community members be in relation to climate experts and scientists?

On Community-Led Climate Action

“We have to think of solutions on a broad scale as this affects the world and then apply them in a sense that works for each community.”¹⁵

“These communities...know their communities and they know what they’re experiencing more so than a bureaucrat or somebody who’s part of a task force.”¹⁶

⁸ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-E

⁹ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-H

¹⁰ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-K

¹¹ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-L

¹² “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-L

¹³ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-O

¹⁴ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-O

¹⁵ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-A

¹⁶ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-A

“The communities in general that are going to be very impacted by climate change will probably have the greatest motivation to create change.”¹⁷

“Indigenous people whose land is being threatened by fossil fuels, they know how their land’s being affected and they know what needs to not happen...in order for them to keep that land.”¹⁸

“I don’t have any faith in the government to follow through with [this]...we’ve already seen how the government’s willing to abandon areas and after periods of natural disaster.”¹⁹

“The most vulnerable places in the climate crisis are probably similar to the ones who are vulnerable economically. So, I think it would be a great idea, but...how do we decide?”²⁰

“We’ve got to start somewhere small before we can really go global and attack anything else.”²¹

“One thing I would like to see from the Civilian Climate Corps would be experts *from* those [vulnerable] communities, being able to be the ones who decide what projects to take on. Have a panel of experts from these different communities that are disproportionately impacted to be able to decide what are we going to do next? What’s going to have the biggest impact on the community is what’s going to have the biggest impact on the world.”²²

“If you look at historically...targeted populations...[that] have had adverse health effects from mines or factories that they had no say in [they are] actually like the most powerful voices when...advocating against that in their communities.”²³

“They definitely should have a say in this matter, but I’m not sure if it should be entirely left for them to determine because project planning is very complicated.”²⁴

“A lot of the reasons why we have...[certain] communities being more vulnerable than other communities [is] because...in the past...developers...have not listened to their concerns...as they were building power plants, chemical waste facilities. [G]oing forward...it’s an absolute necessity that there’s a lot more input from people who are actually being impacted by the project.”²⁵

“There are a lot of indigenous activists who are requesting a role in [climate policy]...Those are the people who have been most involved throughout their entire lives and their livelihoods and community and culture all depend on aspects of the climate...They do have a lot of knowledge that we need to gain.”²⁶

¹⁷ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-B

¹⁸ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-B

¹⁹ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-C

²⁰ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-D

²¹ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-E

²² “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-I

²³ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-J

²⁴ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-K

²⁵ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-L

²⁶ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-O

Throughout the sessions, participants repeatedly voiced the concern that establishing a CCC would not necessarily address the role of multinational corporations as the primary drivers of climate change. As one participant put it, the CCC “put[s] the onus on people...to solve an issue that was created by industry.”

On Corporate Accountability and the Role of Industry in the Climate Crisis

“I don't see the CCC really combating any of the damage that big corporations are doing if they themselves don't change...Not a whole lot will change because corporations are still doing what they're doing.”²⁷

“All well and good to have a bunch of motivated individuals to help with this. But in the end if...you still have these massive factories that are just pumping a bunch of CO2 into the air, [the CCC] may not do as much good as it could, in the end.”²⁸

“A lot of us have heard that commonly cited statistic that over 70% of the world's carbon emissions come from a hundred companies and this is because companies aren't really highly motivated to do anything about their carbon emissions or their environmental impact generally. So...just identifying companies that [create] the biggest negative impact and offering their employees to form [something] like a climate mitigation unit...would potentially be a good way to go about this.”²⁹

“I don't understand why we aren't just regulating corporations more.”³⁰

“I don't really get the concept of a Civilian Climate Corps because...climate change is primarily caused by...emissions from giant companies. I'm not sure what is it we in the Climate Corps will be able to do about it...It feels like it's putting the onus on people again to solve an issue that was created by industry.”³¹

Each session was asked to develop a set of key questions sparked by the proposals. Recurring questions included requests for a more specific account of the CCC's prospective activities; the role the CCC would play in regulating industry-driven climate change; and the trade-offs of investing in a civilian service corps rather than in expert-driven initiatives and scientific research.

Key Questions on the CCC

“Does the CCC include provisions for training and transitioning fossil-fuel workers to the renewable energy job market?”³²

²⁷ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-D

²⁸ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-J

²⁹ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-K

³⁰ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-N

³¹ “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-P

³² “Shaping Our Future,” Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-A

"Why not include greater funding for environmental research as opposed to allotting everything to CCC members?"³³

"How much of an effect would the CCC have on actual climate change when big corporations are the majority of the issue?"³⁴

"How exactly would the CCC determine what a vulnerable community is?"³⁵

"Is the CCC the most effective way to enact meaningful change with its significant amount of capital investment?"³⁶

"What is the main priority of the CCC, environmental justice or climate change? Do both go hand in hand?"³⁷

"What is the better way to benefit the most vulnerable populations to climate change? By motivating them to engage actively in policymaking positions or in climate-related research projects?"³⁸

"What, specifically, would the CCC do? Specifically."³⁹

"What type of conservation and sustainability efforts would be made through the CCC program? Is it preventative work? Or reactive work?"⁴⁰

"What are the benefits of creating the CCC as opposed to expanding upon programs already in place?"⁴¹

"What type of work would the Civilian Climate Corps do that would be more helpful than regulating the corporations killing the planet?"⁴²

³³ "Shaping Our Future," Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-C

³⁴ "Shaping Our Future," Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-D

³⁵ "Shaping Our Future," Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-D

³⁶ "Shaping Our Future," Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-F

³⁷ "Shaping Our Future," Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-I

³⁸ "Shaping Our Future," Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-M

³⁹ "Shaping Our Future," Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-M

⁴⁰ "Shaping Our Future," Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-N

⁴¹ "Shaping Our Future," Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-P

⁴² "Shaping Our Future," Stanford Center for Deliberative Democracy, May 1-2, 2021, Session 1-P