



TO: Interested Parties
FR: Mark Riddle, Future Majority President
DT: September 5, 2024
RE: Voters overwhelmingly support an anti-corruption agenda

Future Majority and our polling partner, Change Research, conducted a survey of tossup congressional districts: CA-22, NE-02, NY-17, PA-07, PA-17. The survey of 2,429 voters was fielded August 10-17, 2024. This memo reports on key findings from voter opinions toward corruption and proposals to reduce its influence in government and on the economy.

Key Findings:

- Voters overwhelmingly want reform to address corruption in government. 92% of voters agree that Democrats and Republicans need to come together to pass a comprehensive plan to crack down on corruption in government.
• Voters are more likely to blame corporate monopolies for high costs than government. 67% agree that corporate monopolies are responsible for the rising costs of living due to reduced competition.
• Voters see outside influence as a concern. 84% of voters believe that foreign governments are influencing our political divisions, and they are concerned about power they could wield.

Anti-Corruption Reform:

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Democrats and Republicans need to come together to pass a comprehensive plan to crack down on corruption in government."

Table with 4 columns: Response, Total, Movable, 18-34 Yrs. Rows include Total Agree (92, 92, 92), Total Disagree (4, 3, 5), and Net Agree (+88, +89, +87).

Voters see federal leaders as more corrupt than their state and local leaders. The following chart shows that Republicans in Washington are viewed as more corrupt than Democrats by a 14-point-margin, but among movable voters that narrows to a 5-point-margin.

\*Movable voters are determined if they meet one of the following categories: Somewhat disapprove of the job Kamala Harris is doing as Vice-President or are not sure; Undecided or Third Party in the presidential race; Support Trump or Harris, but say there is a chance they could change their minds

***On a scale of 1-10, where 1 is least corrupt and 10 is the most corrupt, how corrupt do you believe are the following? (% Choosing 6-10, Corrupt)***

	Total	Movable	18-34 Yrs.
Federal government leaders	72	84	81
Republicans in Washington	70	83	77
Democrats in Washington	63	79	66
State government leaders	59	68	66
Local government leaders	40	45	39

Many proposals receive near universal support, and all receive majority support. Movable voters are most motivated by increasing transparency in political spending, enforcing ethics laws, and implementing a cooling off period for Members of Congress from serving on corporate boards or lobbying after their term is finished.

***Do you support the following corruption reform proposals?***

	Total	Movable	18-34 Yrs.
Require all organizations involved in political activity to disclose their large donors	94	93	93
Make it harder for super PACs and dark money groups to violate election laws	94	91	91
Ban members of Congress from sitting on corporate boards and from lobbying after they leave office for at least three years	94	90	92
Enforce ethics laws and give prosecutors the resources they need to go after corruption	91	92	88
Prohibit big-money contributors and special interests from hiding their political spending	90	88	90
Limiting the number of years a member of Congress can serve	90	88	88
End partisan gerrymandering to prevent politicians from picking their voters	87	89	86
Limit how much people can give groups that support candidates for office	79	75	74
Establish a code of ethics for the Supreme Court of the United States	74	83	78
Require a paper trail of all voters	73	67	62
Reinstate the protections for voters in states with a history of voter disenfranchisement and discriminating against people of color that the Supreme Court overturned in 2013	66	69	72
Ban all private campaign contributions and create a fund that pays for campaign expenses for candidates for office	64	64	60

Again, overwhelming majorities indicate that the federal government embracing some or all of these proposals would increase their trust in the government.

***If the federal government were to embrace some or all of the proposals to crackdown on corruption in government, how much would it affect your trust in government?***

	Total	Movable	18-34 Yrs.
<b>Total Increase Trust</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>88</b>
Total Decrease Trust	3	3	2
<b>Net Increase</b>	<b>+83</b>	<b>+83</b>	<b>+86</b>

**The Blame for Cost of Living:**

Voters see economic corruption as a significant challenge to securing financial freedom. When voters are asked who they blame for the cost of living, housing and healthcare, they are more likely to blame corporations than policymakers, specific policies or economic circumstances for these high costs in their daily lives. Voters see these corporate monopolies as entities that reduce competition and raise prices. This sentiment is more evident in movable and younger voters.

***Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The biggest reason for the high cost of living is economic corruption like corporate monopolies reducing competition."?***

	Total	Movable	18-34 Yrs.
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>76</b>
Total Disagree	27	18	16
<b>Net Agree</b>	<b>+40</b>	<b>+55</b>	<b>+60</b>

Similarly, voters are more likely to put explicit blame on corporate monopolies price gouging than the government. Sentiments blaming President Biden are driven by Republicans, 86% of which choose Biden. Just 35% of Independents and 26% of movable voters blame President Biden most for the high cost of living.

***Who or what do you think is most responsible for the cost of living these days?***

	Total	Movable	18-34 Yrs.
<b>Big corporations gouging customers</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>
President Joe Biden / government spending	42	26	30
Foreign governments influencing the global markets	3	5	3
Labor shortages	2	4	2
Not sure	5	10	4

On healthcare, voters place the most blame on insurance companies and their pharmacy benefit managers for the cost of healthcare. Just 17% blame the government. The cost of healthcare is the second-most identified issue influencing movable voters' decision.

***Who or what do you think is most responsible for the cost of healthcare these days?***

	Total	Movable	18-34 Yrs.
<b>Insurance companies / pharmacy benefit managers</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>59</b>
The government	17	13	18
Drug manufacturers	14	9	12
Hospitals	3	3	3
Not sure	5	7	4
Other (please specify)	5	7	4

On housing costs, voters are more likely to blame corporate landlords than regulatory interest rates or market supply and demand. By 36-points+, younger voters blame corporate landlords over interest rates and supply and demand.

***Who or what do you think is most responsible for the cost of housing these days?***

	Total	Movable	18-34 Yrs.
<b>Corporate landlords backed by Wall Street private equity firms</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>58</b>
High interest rates set by the federal government regulators	31	20	22
Local market of supply and demand	17	21	14
Not sure	9	11	7

**Foreign and Other Influences**

Voters are increasingly concerned about the influence of foreign entities and wealthy individuals have on our national discourse, particularly when it comes to exacerbating issues like antisemitism. This interference contributes to the perception of corruption within government. Additionally, voters express concern about figures like Elon Musk having gained significant control over technology that shapes public opinion and impacts national security.

***How much influence do you believe that foreign governments like China and Russia have in influencing political division in America, including the recent rise in antisemitism?***

	Total	Movable	18-34 Yrs.
<b>Total Influence</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>73</b>
Total Not Influence	11	14	19
<b>Net Influence</b>	<b>+73</b>	<b>+63</b>	<b>+54</b>

A majority of voters agree with a statement that defends American interests in protecting its information consumption platforms.

***Do you agree or disagree with the statement: “America did not let the Soviet Union have control of NBC News during the Cold War. We would never allow our adversaries to control how we consume our information. No individual or foreign country should have that much control over information platforms like TikTok or X, formerly Twitter. It is better if these companies are publicly traded so they have transparency because they are in everyone’s interest.”***

	Total	Movable	18-34 Yrs.
<b>Total Agree</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>53</b>
Total Disagree	19	16	20
<b>Net Agree</b>	<b>+39</b>	<b>+39</b>	<b>+33</b>

A majority of voters also express concern when presented information about wealthy individuals like Elon Musk having outsized control and ownership of these information platforms and businesses that the government relies upon. Movable voters express more concern than the overall electorate.

***Critics of Elon Musk, who is now the wealthiest person on Earth, say that he is a significant risk to national security. They cite Musk’s sole ownership of the social media platform X, formerly Twitter, his interest in building his own artificial intelligence platform, as well as his global satellite internet network Starlink, which has contracts with the Pentagon, and Musk’s company SpaceX, which has contracts with NASA. How concerned are you that Elon Musk may put his interests above those of America’s?***

	Total	Movable	18-34 Yrs.
<b>Total Concerned</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>62</b>
Total Not Concerned	43	29	35
<b>Net Concerned</b>	<b>+11</b>	<b>+35</b>	<b>+27</b>

**Methodology:**

*The survey of 2,429 voters was conducted by Change Research between August 10-17, 2024. Respondents were recruited via dynamic online sampling to obtain a sample reflective of the population. Post-stratification performed on age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, region, and 2020 presidential vote. Weighting parameters were based on voter file data. The survey has a modeled margin of error of 2.2%.*