



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Methodology

Public Opinion Strategies conducted a national online survey of 1,014 voters in Freedom Caucus Member Districts (N=503) and Tuesday Group Member Districts (N=511). Interviews were conducted October 13-19, 2017. In order to qualify for the survey respondents had to meet one of the following criteria: self-identify as a Republican; identify as conservative; want a Republican controlled Congress, or; have voted for Trump in 2016.

Key Findings

- 1. These center-right voters want Republicans to help President Trump pass his agenda.** Just 11% of those surveyed believe the Republican Congress is trying to help Trump achieve his agenda, while nearly two-thirds (65%) say the Republican Congress is hurting Trump and his agenda.
- 2. Tax reform is an easy sell to Republican voters, and unifies the coalition like few other issues.** Over three quarters (77%) of voters surveyed believe Congress should cut taxes, with a majority (54%) who say taxes should be cut for both individuals AND businesses.
- 3. Passing tax cuts even takes precedence over the deficit.** While 43% of respondents say reducing the federal deficit should be a higher priority for Congress, 52% say cutting federal income taxes should come first. This includes 61% of base Republicans who believe that tax cuts is the higher priority.
- 4. Republican voters are very enthusiastic about the range of proposals that could be part of a tax reform package.** Respondents were asked if they found the following tax reform elements acceptable or unacceptable.

| Proposal | % Acceptable |
|---|--------------|
| Restructure the IRS to make it more efficient and accountable. | 90% |
| Streamline deductions to simplify paying taxes. | 85% |
| Lower the tax rates on small businesses from 40% to 25%. | 83% |
| Double the standard deduction to \$24,000 for married couples and \$12,000 for single filers. | 81% |
| Set the corporate tax rate at 20% and close business tax loopholes. | 79% |
| Preserve the top tax bracket at 40% for America's wealthiest individuals and reduce tax rates for the middle class. | 70% |
| Reduce the number of tax brackets from seven brackets down to three brackets. | 69% |

As a package, 79% of Republican coalition voters would encourage their Member of Congress to vote yes on the elements of this tax reform plan.

5. **Republicans recognize the boost tax reform would be to the American economy.** Seventy-three percent (73%) of respondents believe that tax reform would have a positive effect on the American economy.

6. **Most important to this Republican coalition is an effort to simplify the tax process, boost American business, and provide a fair playing field for the middle class.**

In support of reform, GOP-leaning voters found the following message statements more compelling:

The tax reform plan will make filing taxes simpler and easier, while maintaining the important deductions for things like home mortgages. (88% convincing)

The plan will benefit those who need it most, the middle class. The average family will save \$4,600 per year under this plan. (85% convincing)

The American corporate tax rate is the highest in the world. This tax reform plan will level the playing field for American businesses so we can compete against foreign competitors, start creating good manufacturing jobs here at home, and stop moving companies and jobs overseas. (83% convincing)

The plan is good for American workers. It is estimated that over one million jobs will be created over the next ten years with higher wages for workers. (81% convincing)

With the doubling of the standard deduction, the result is a big tax break for the middle class. In fact, the tax burden for 80% of American households will be reduced, while the top 20% of Americans will pay more. (80% convincing)

No more tax loopholes means special interest groups will start paying their fair share in taxes and that benefits everyone. (80% convincing)

7. **Republicans are willing to compromise to see tax reform become a reality.**

The prospect of tax reform is so important to the coalition that 82% agree with the statement “Republicans may have to settle on tax reform without everything they wanted. It’s better to get something done to cut taxes in some way rather than get nothing done at all.”

In addition, Republicans would give the President some latitude in dealing with Democrats with 69% who agree with the statement “President Trump should make a deal with Democrats in Congress to get some tax reform passed” compared to just 10% who say the President should “refuse to negotiate with Democrats in Congress even if it means no tax reform at all.”