

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group & North Star Opinion Research
DATE: June 10, 2019
RE: **NEW POLL RESULTS: Voters agree that managing the national debt is a central issue**

There is bipartisan agreement among voters that America's ability to tackle important issues is inextricably linked to the national debt. Voters are keenly aware of the centrality of the national debt as a vital obstacle to addressing a number of key problems, with voters across party lines agreeing that the United States must manage its debt in order to operate from a point of strength on the economy, national security, and key social programs, and to create a better future for the next generation of Americans. Voters also understand that managing the debt increases the ability of the country to make important investments to domestic priorities, like infrastructure, education, and health care.

Key findings from a new poll conducted by Democratic polling firm Global Strategy Group and Republican polling firm North Star Opinion Research among 1,001 registered voters nationwide are as follows:

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **Voters strongly agree that leaders can improve America's future by managing the national debt.** Nine in ten voters (92%) agree that managing the national debt will "lead to a better future for the next generation of Americans," including 71% who "strongly agree." This attitude spans partisan lines, as 92% of Democrats, 91% of independent voters, and 94% of Republicans agree that future generations of Americans will be better off if the national debt is addressed.
- **Near universal agreement from younger voters that tackling the national debt will lead to a better future.** Among younger Americans age 18-34 – those who have the most at stake in how today's leaders set budget policy – 95% agree that managing the debt will lead to a better future for the next generation of Americans. This includes more than three-quarters (76%) of younger voters who "strongly agree" that managing the debt will lead to a better future.
- **The economy is a top-of-mind factor for voters when it comes to managing the debt.** A large majority of voters (86%) agree that "managing the debt will make the economy more stable," including 61% who "strongly agree". Again, voters across party agree with this rationale, including 86% of Democrats, 85% of independents, and 87% of Republicans. Even voters on opposite ends of the ideological spectrum find common ground here, with 83% of self-identified liberal Democrats and 89% of conservative Republicans agreeing that managing the debt will make the economy more stable.
- **Voters agree that managing the debt will strengthen America's standing as a world leader and our national security.** Voters view the issue of the U.S. national debt as more than an issue of dollars and cents, with nearly eight in ten voters (79%) agreeing that "managing the debt will strengthen America's standing as a world leader," including 56% who "strongly agree" with this. This sentiment is shared by 77% of Democrats, 81% of independents, and 80% of Republicans.

Similarly, more than three-quarters of voters (76%) also agree that "managing the debt will strengthen our national security." This also includes large majorities of Democrats (73%), independents (73%), and Republicans (83%).

- **The solvency of major federal programs – like Social Security and Medicare – is also a priority for voters.** Voters understand the importance of managing the national debt to ensure the solvency of major federal programs. Eight in ten voters (80%) agree that “managing the debt will help ensure that Social Security will have funding in the future,” including 55% who “strongly agree.” Democrats (82%), independents (75%), and Republicans (84%) all agree.

A similar number of voters (79%) also agree that “managing the debt will ensure that Medicare will have funding in the future,” including 51% who “strongly agree.” Again, Democrats (83%), independents (78%), and Republicans (76%) agree.

- **Voters also understand that managing the debt will help the country make important investments in key priorities like infrastructure, education, and health care.** Large majorities of voters also recognize that managing the national debt will increase the country’s ability to make investments in infrastructure (81% agree), education (79% agree), and health care (72% agree). The sentiment is bipartisan across each of these investment areas, with large majorities of Democrats, independents, and Republicans agreeing that managing the debt will help increase the country’s ability to make these important investments.

ABOUT THIS POLL

Global Strategy Group and North Star Opinion Research conducted a live telephone survey of 1,001 registered voters nationwide from May 20th to 23rd, 2019. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 3.1%. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the expected electorate are properly represented.