

TO: Interested Parties  
FROM: Global Strategy Group & North Star Opinion Research  
DATE: October 26, 2018  
RE: **NEW POLL RESULTS: Voters prioritizing the national debt as they head to the ballot box this year**

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Voters of all political persuasions are weighing the national debt as an important factor in their vote for Congress this year, and are more inclined to vote for candidates from either party who are willing to work in a bipartisan way to fix the problem. Key findings from a recent bipartisan poll conducted by Democratic polling firm Global Strategy Group and Republican polling firm North Star Opinion Research among 1,000 registered voters nationwide are as follows:

#### KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **The national debt is a salient election issue for voters of all political stripes.** Nearly three-quarters of voters (74%) say the debt is at least “somewhat” important in their vote for Congress, including 36% who rate it as “extremely” or “very” important. By contrast, just 25% say the issue is either “not that important” or “not important at all.”

These attitudes span partisan lines, as 74% of Democrats, 72% of independent voters, and 77% of Republicans rate the debt as an important factor in their vote.

- **Candidates from both parties can pick up late support by showing that they are willing to work in a bipartisan way to reduce the debt.** Just over half of voters nationwide (52%) say they would consider voting for a Republican candidate for Congress absent any other information about the candidate, while 63% would consider voting for a Republican candidate “who is willing to work with Democrats on a plan to reduce the national debt.”

Similarly, the share of voters who are willing to vote for a Democratic candidate rises six points, from 61% to 67%, when they hear the candidate is willing to work with Republicans on a plan to reduce the debt.

- **Voters want increased focus on the debt in the next Congress, whichever party holds the majority.** Over three-quarters of voters (77%) agree that they want the next Congress to focus more on the national debt regardless of the party that holds control, including 40% who “strongly” agree.

Voters from across the political spectrum agree that the next Congress should focus more on the issue, including 74% of Democrats, 82% of independent voters, and 75% of Republicans.

#### ABOUT THIS POLL

*Global Strategy Group and North Star Opinion Research conducted a live telephone survey of 1,000 registered voters nationwide from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018. 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.*