

TO: Interested Parties  
 FROM: Global Strategy Group and North Star Opinion Research  
 DATE: April 4, 2017  
 RE: The National Debt and the Legislative Agenda

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American voters make a strong connection between the national debt and key issues on the legislative agenda. As lawmakers consider significant reforms on a number of issues, voters of all political stripes strongly want to see major policies addressed in ways that make progress on the national debt.

A recent national poll conducted by Democratic polling firm Global Strategy Group and Republican polling firm North Star Opinion Research found that voters place a high priority on fiscal responsibility when it comes to every major issue on the Congressional agenda. As Congress and the President consider areas including tax reform, the economy, health care, national security, infrastructure, and immigration, they stand a much stronger chance of winning public support if their proposals help alleviate the country's national debt problem.

**KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:**

- **Voters overwhelmingly want national priorities to be addressed in fiscally responsible ways:** Large majorities say it is important to address major issues in ways that make progress on the debt, with broad agreement that fiscal progress is important when addressing jobs and the economy (91% important), health care reform (87%), tax reform (86%), national security (85%), infrastructure (83% important), and immigration reform (72%).

Importance of Addressing Issues in Ways that Make Progress on the Debt		
	Net Importance	
	Important	Not Important
Jobs and the Economy	91%	6%
Health Care Reform	87%	9%
Tax Reform	86%	10%
National Security	85%	12%
Infrastructure	83%	13%
Immigration Reform	72%	24%

- **There is bipartisan consensus that issues need to be addressed in ways that make progress on the debt:** Clear majorities from both parties say it is important to address each issue in a way that yields progress on the debt, including jobs and the economy (91% important among Democrats and 94% among Republicans), health care reform (87% D, 93% R), tax reform (87% D, 89% R), national security
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(83% D, 91% R), and infrastructure (83% D, 86% R). Even on the issue with the greatest partisan difference, immigration, 65% of Democrats agree with 86% of Republicans that the issue should be dealt with in a way that makes progress on the debt.

**Importance of Addressing Issues in Ways that Make Progress on the Debt (By Party)**  
Net Importance

	Important		Not Important	
	Dems	GOP	Dems	GOP
Jobs and the Economy	91%	94%	6%	5%
Health Care Reform	87%	93%	12%	5%
Tax Reform	87%	89%	11%	6%
National Security	83%	91%	14%	8%
Infrastructure	83%	86%	14%	10%
Immigration Reform	65%	86%	33%	10%

- Voters feel strongly about the importance of fiscally responsible plans for each issue:** At a time when Americans are increasingly mobilized to make their voices heard in Washington, voters' feelings about the importance of the debt are both widespread and intense. Majorities say that it is "very important" to address jobs and the economy (69%), health care reform (60%), national security (57%), and tax reform (54%) in ways that make progress on the debt, and over two in five say the same for immigration reform (42%) and infrastructure (42%).

**Importance of Addressing Issues in Ways that Make Progress on the Debt**  
Intensity of Feeling

	Important		Not Important	
	Very	Somewhat	Somewhat	Not At All
Jobs and the Economy	69%	22%	4%	2%
Health Care Reform	60%	27%	4%	5%
Tax Reform	54%	32%	6%	4%
National Security	57%	28%	7%	5%
Infrastructure	42%	41%	9%	4%
Immigration Reform	42%	30%	12%	12%

**ABOUT THIS POLL:** Global Strategy Group and North Star Opinion Research conducted a national survey between March 20<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 among 1,004 registered voters nationwide. The results have a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points and care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the registered voter population are properly represented.