



POST-ELECTION POLLING: PUBLIC OPPOSES TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY OR CORPORATIONS

December 16, 2016

Public opinion reveals that Republicans are misguided in their efforts to claim an Election Day mandate to cut taxes for the wealthy and corporations. A wave of post-election polling shows public opinion is on the side of those who oppose the coming push for Reaganomics 3.

Voters want a government and an economy that works for everyone, not just the rich and powerful. They called for a shakeup of the system on Election Day. That desire for change is ultimately what elected Donald Trump, who ran as the political equivalent of the bull in the china shop.

But calls for change should not be misrepresented as an excuse to further tilt what is already perceived to be an uneven economic playing field. Voters want to change business as usual because they feel the system is warped in favor of the rich and politically-connected corporations. Voters do not want to give even more power and more economic benefit to them—which is exactly what the Trump and House Republican tax plans would do.

Americans Want to Change a Rigged Economy

Our rigged economy is most evident in the U.S. tax code, which politicians have filled with tax breaks and loopholes that benefit special interests, the wealthy and big corporations. Most Americans now feel our politicians are working for the rich and powerful, or as Trump called them during the campaign, “the establishment.” It’s why his calls to “drain the swamp” were so well received.

The [Reuters/Ipsos National Election Day Poll](#) found 75% of voters agree that “America needs a strong leader to take the country back from the rich and powerful.” Nearly as many (68%) agree that “traditional parties and politicians don’t care about people like me.”

The problem is that “the American economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful,” according to 72% of voters in the Reuters/Ipsos National Election Day Poll. That sentiment has been uncovered in poll after post-election poll.

In the [McClatchy-Marist Poll \(Dec.1-9,2016, p7\)](#), six times as many people said “there are different rules for the well-connected and people with money” (83%) as said “everyone more or less plays by the same rules to get ahead” (14%). Similarly, [the Center for American Progress](#)

[National Post-Election Survey \(Nov.9-14,2016, Q33\)](#) found that 85% of November 2016 voters agree that “the wealthy and big corporations are the ones really running this country.”

That explains why, in the [NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll \(Dec.12-15, 2016, Q13\)](#), 85% of Trump voters said an important reason for their vote was “to improve the economy and make it work better for the middle and working class,” with 41% saying that is *the most important* reason they voted for Trump. Conversely, only 36% of Trump voters said the reason they pulled the lever for him was “to pursue traditional Republican policies,” with just 10% saying it was the most important reason they voted for him.

Voters Reject Tax Cuts for Corporations and the Wealthy

[Quinnipiac University’s Post-Election Poll \(Nov.17-20, 2016, Q37\)](#) found two-thirds of voters (67%) said President-elect Trump *should not* “lower taxes on the wealthy,” while only 29% said he should.

Cutting to the core of the issue, a strong majority does not believe tax cuts for the wealthy will improve the economy. Quinnipiac asked, “Do you believe that reducing taxes on the wealthy will improve the economy and create more jobs or not?” Only 38% agreed, while 57% said tax cuts for the wealthy *will not* improve the economy and create more jobs. (Q51)

The [McClatchy-Marist Poll](#) had even stronger results. It asked “In order to help the economy and move the nation forward, do you think the focus of government should be: *More on raising the minimum wage and providing job training and education or More on cutting corporate taxes and reducing regulations on businesses?*” 61% said raising the minimum wage, providing job training and education, compared to 35% who chose cutting corporate taxes and reducing business regulations. (p11)

The Trump/Republican Plan is Not Change

The key to resisting the Trump/Republican tax plan is to make clear that it is a huge giveaway to the wealthy and corporations. Voters said they want an end to a rigged system in Washington and nothing is more rigged in Washington than the tax system. It’s the poster child for what’s wrong. The tax system is riddled with special-interest loopholes that benefit the rich and powerful but not the rest of us.

The Trump tax plan is not change. It reinforces the broken system Americans rejected on Election Day.