

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Guy Molyneux and Geoff Garin
DATE: November 22, 2017
RE: Arizona Voter Survey on Republican Tax Plan

From November 18 to 21, 2017, Hart Research Associates conducted a survey among 400 registered voters in Arizona, with a margin of error of \pm five percentage points. The survey measures voters' views of the Republican tax plan now being considered in the US Senate. This memo reports the survey's key findings.

OVERVIEW: Arizona voters disapprove of the tax plan proposed by Republicans in Congress by an 18-point margin, and those who have heard a lot or some about it oppose the plan by 55% to 32%. Most Arizonians say the plan would mostly benefit the wealthy, and very few believe that it would reduce their own taxes. A very large majority reject the claim that corporate tax cuts will lift wages. Many facts about the plan are deeply troubling to voters, especially higher health premiums, tax hikes on the middle class, increased deficits, and cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and education. Finally, as voters learn more about the tax plan, their opposition grows and intensifies, and they conclude that Senators McCain and Flake should oppose it.

1) A significant plurality of Arizona voters oppose the Republican tax plan; those with strong feelings oppose it by three to one.

Just 26% of Arizona voters currently approve of the Republican tax plan, while 44% disapprove. Significantly, strong sentiment on the issue is even more lopsided, with three times as many voters strongly disapproving (32%) as strongly approving (11%).

- While fully 78% of Democratic voters disapprove of the plan (66% strongly so), only 51% of Republicans approve of it (just 22% strongly).
- Fifty-seven percent (57%) of voters say that they have heard a lot or some about the plan; these voters oppose the plan by 55% to 32%.
- Pluralities of every demographic group oppose the plan, including voters age 60 or older (27% approve, 50% disapprove).

2) Arizona voters believe that the tax plan mainly will benefit the wealthy, and do not expect to receive a tax cut themselves.

- A 52% majority say the tax plan mostly will benefit the wealthy, while far fewer expect it to help middle-class (25%) or low-income (6%) Americans. This runs directly counter to voters' own preference, which is that wealthy families pay more rather than less in federal taxes (52% to 10%).
- Only 20% of Arizona voters say the corporations will use their tax cuts to raise wages for employees, while fully 71% reject this claim.
- By 51% to 44%, Republicans in Arizona say it is more important to reduce the budget deficit and national debt than to pass an across-the-board tax cut.

3) Arizona voters react very negatively to many features and consequences of the tax plan, especially higher health premiums, tax hikes on the middle class, increased deficits, and cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and education. Opponents of the tax plan have many powerful arguments at their disposal in this debate.

When voters learn about specific provisions and outcomes of the tax plan, their reaction often is extremely negative. The following facts about the tax plan elicit the strongest negative response, with about three-quarters saying that each makes them less favorable to the plan:

- The healthcare changes in the plan will raise health insurance premiums by \$2,000 for thousands of Arizona families with individual insurance (75% less favorable, 51% much less favorable).
- It raises taxes on tens of millions of middle-class households (74% less favorable, 56% much less favorable).
- It increases the federal debt by \$1.5 trillion (73% less favorable, 57% much less favorable).
- It increases the budget deficit by an average of more than \$100 billion per year (68% less favorable, 55% much less favorable).
- It will result in cuts to Medicare of \$25 billion a year for the next decade (66% less favorable, 48% much less favorable).
- The loss of revenue from tax cuts will likely require funding cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and education (71% less favorable, 56% much less favorable).

Two elements of the plan are popular with Arizona voters: increasing the child credit to \$2,000 (58% more favorable) and reducing individual tax rates in most brackets (52% more favorable). However, these positive features are overwhelmed by voters' more numerous—and more strongly felt—concerns.

4) After learning more about the tax plan, Arizona voters' opposition grows and intensifies: a 61% majority disapprove—46% strongly—while just 27% approve. And just three in 10 Arizonians wants Senators McCain and Flake to vote yes on the plan, while 58% say they should oppose it.

After voters learn more about the Republican tax plan, opposition increases by 17 points to 61%. By the end of the survey, strong opposition exceeds strong support by nearly four to one (46% to 12%).

- Independents oppose the plan by a lopsided margin of 68% to 17% when they are informed about it.

By two to one (58% to 29%), Arizona voters say that Senators McCain and Flake should oppose rather than support the Republican tax plan when it comes to a vote in the US Senate.