# HARVARD CAPS DC HARRIS



CENTER FOR AMERICAN POLITICAL STUDIES AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Field Date: November 11-14, 2017



#### SURVEY METHOD

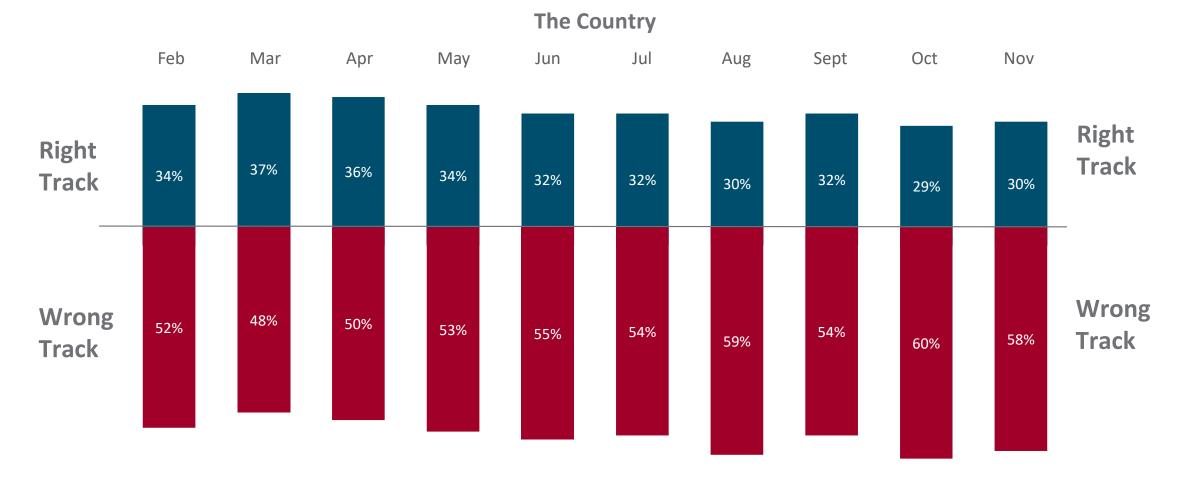
This survey was conducted online within the United States between November 11-14, 2017 among 2,350 **registered voters by The Harris Poll**. Results were weighted for age within gender, region, race/ethnicity, marital status, household size, income, employment, education, political party, and political ideology where necessary to align them with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

Pollsters Mark Penn, Prof. Stephen Ansolabehere, and Dritan Nesho supervised the poll.



# MAJORITY OF VOTERS CONTINUE TO FEEL THE COUNTRY IS OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK

Only about one in three voters believe the county is on the right track.

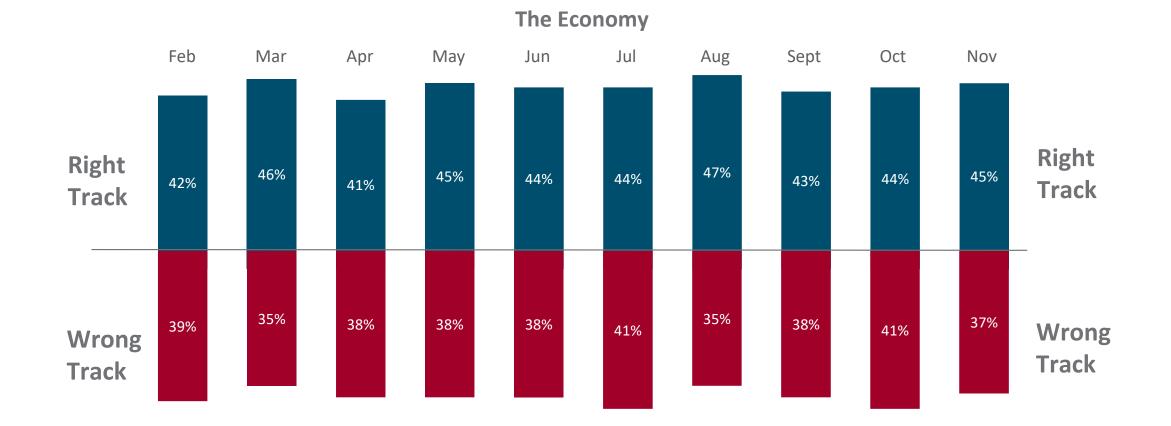


BASE: Registered Voters (February n=2148; March n= 2092; April n=2027; May n=2006, June n=2258, July n=2032; August n=2263; September n=2177; October n=2159; November n=2350)

M1.In general, do you think the country is on the right track or is it off on the wrong track?



# VOTERS ARE CONSISTENTLY MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF THE ECONOMY THAN THE COUNTRY



BASE: Registered Voters (February n=2148; March n= 2092; April n=2027; May n=2006, June n=2258, July n=2032; August n=2263; September n=2177; October n=2159; November n=2350)

M2 In general, do you think the American economy is on right track or is it off on the wrong track?



#### PRESIDENT TRUMP'S APPROVAL RATINGS REMAIN IN LOW 40S

Solid Trip Does not Lift Ratings; Huge gender Split

approve Those approving of 41% 42% 43% 44% 45% 45% 48% 48% 48% 49% President Trump are most often Republicans (79%) and Trump voters (86%). disapprove 59% 58% 57% 56% 55% 55% 52% 51% 52% 52% Those most commonly disapproving are Democrats (90%), African Americans (88%), and Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Clinton voters (96%).

Looking at the job President Trump is doing, voters...

BASE: Registered Voters (February n=2148; March n= 2092; April n=2027, May n=2006, June n=2258, July n=2032, August n=2263; September n=2177; October n=2159; November n=2350) M3. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President of the United States?

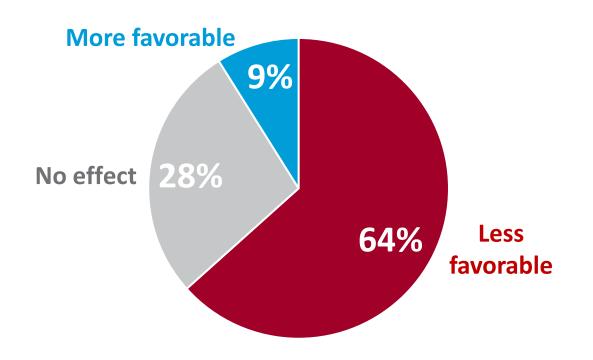


# A MAJORITY OF VOTERS THINK PRESIDENT TRUMP SHOULD STOP TWEETING

Half say his tweets are something that make them less favorable in their view of him.

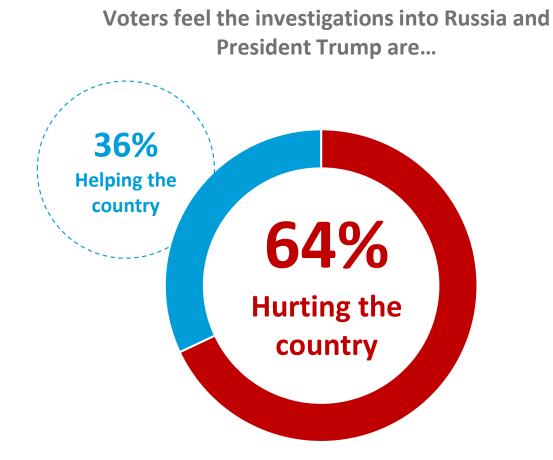
President Trump's tweets makes voters see him as...

**76%** of voters feel President Trump should stop tweeting





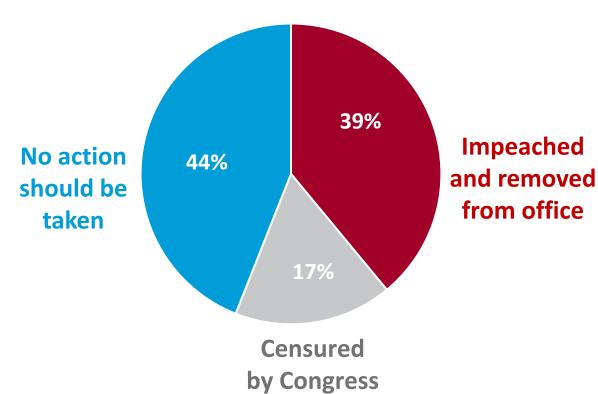
# THE MAJORITY OF VOTERS SAY THE RUSSIA INVESTIGATIONS ARE HURTING THE COUNTRY





#### A PLURALITY OF VOTERS DO NOT THINK PRESIDENT TRUMP SHOULD BE IMPEACHED AND REMOVED FROM OFFICE

Impeachment Sentiment Has Peaked

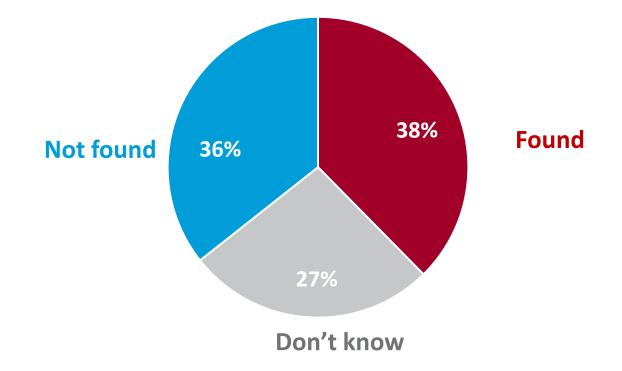


For his actions, President Trump should be...



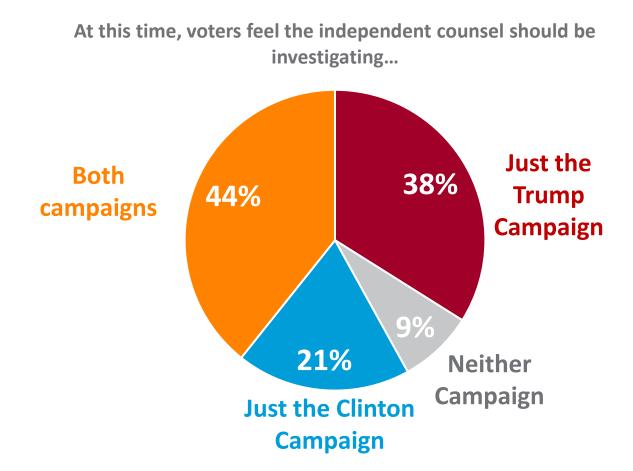
## ONLY FOUR IN TEN SAY EVIDENCE OF COLLUDING WITH RUSSIA HAS BEEN FOUND

Opinion on whether the independent counsel has found actual evidence of Trump campaign officials colluding with the Russians





### A PLURALITY FEELS BOTH TRUMP AND CLINTON CAMPAIGNS SHOULD BOTH BE INVESTIGATED

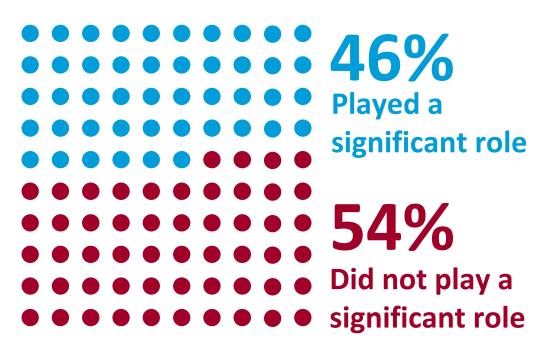




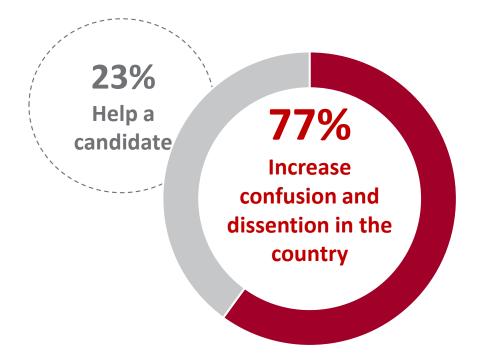
# MAJORITY OF VOTERS SAY THE FACEBOOK ADS DIDN'T PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE ELECTION OUTCOME

As more of the ads were run after the election than before, over three quarters feel they were designed to increase confusion and dissention in the country.

On whether the \$100,000 of Russian backed Facebook ads played a role in the election, voters feel...



Voters feel the Facebook ads were designed to...



BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

QFBAD1 Do you think that \$100,000 of Russian backed Facebook ads played a significant role in the outcome of the election or played no significant role in the outcome of the election? QFBAD2 More of the Facebook ads were run after the election than before. Do you think these ads were designed to help one candidate or just to increase confusion and dissention in the country?



#### VOTERS FEEL FUSION GPS DOSSIER IS NOT A DEPENDABLE DOCUMENT

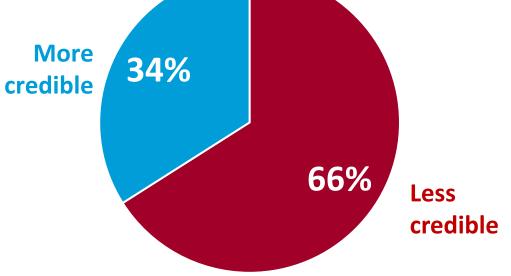
Two thirds say it's less credible because the Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton's campaign paid for it.

Voters feel the Fusion GPS Dossier on Donald Trump is...

A dependable document that can be relied upon for information

**42%** 58%

Not a dependable document and cannot be relied upon for information The fact that the Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton's campaign paid for the Fusion GPS Dossier makes it...



BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

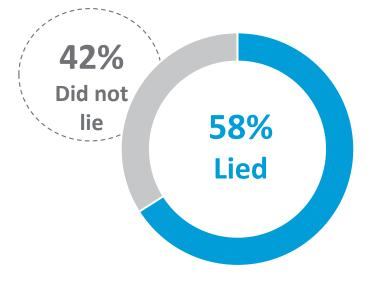
QDOSSIER1 Do you think the Fusion GPS Dossier on Donald Trump is a dependable document that can be relied upon for information or is it not a dependable document and cannot be relied upon? QDOSSIER2 Does the fact that the Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton's Campaign paid for the Fusion GPS Dossier make this dossier on Trump more credible or less credible?



#### A MAJORITY FEEL HILLARY CLINTON AND HER CAMPAIGN LIED ABOUT FUNDING FOR THE FUSION GPS DOSSIER

Over 6 in 10 feel Clinton's actions should be investigated.

On the funding for the Fusion GPS Dossier, voters feel Hillary Clinton and her campaign...



Hillary Clinton's actions on the Fusion GPS Dossier and the secret contracts with the DNC should...



BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

QCLINTON2 Do you think that Hillary Clinton and her campaign lied about the funding for the Fusion GPS Dossier at the time or did not lie about it?

QCLINTON4 Do you think that Hillary Clinton's actions on the Fusion GPS Dossier and the secret contracts with the DNC should be investigated by a special counsel or not investigated further?



#### NEARLY TWO THIRDS FEEL THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND SPEAKING FEES TO THE CLINTONS SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED

Voters feel strongly that the DNC was helping Hillary Clinton over Bernie Sanders during the primary.

On the investigation of the \$145 million contribution to the Clinton Foundation and a \$500,000 speaking fee to President Bill Clinton from a Russian Bank,

65%

of voters feel the contribution and speaking fee should be investigated During the presidential primary, the DNC was...

### Neutral during the primary



Helping Hillary Clinton over Bernie Sanders

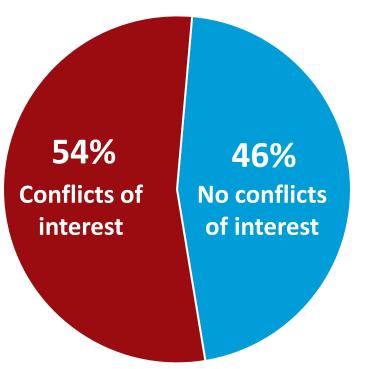
BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

QCLINTON1 Do you think that the \$145 million contribution to the Clinton Foundation and a \$500,000 speaking fee to President Bill Clinton from a Russian Bank should be investigated by a special counsel or not investigated further? QCLINTON3 Do you think that the DNC was helping Hillary Clinton over Bernie Sanders or was it neutral during the presidential primary with Bernie Sanders?



#### MAJORITY OF VOTERS FEEL INDEPENDENT COUNSEL ROBERT MUELLER HAS CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

As the former head of the FBI and a friend to James Comey, voters say independent counsel Robert Mueller has...

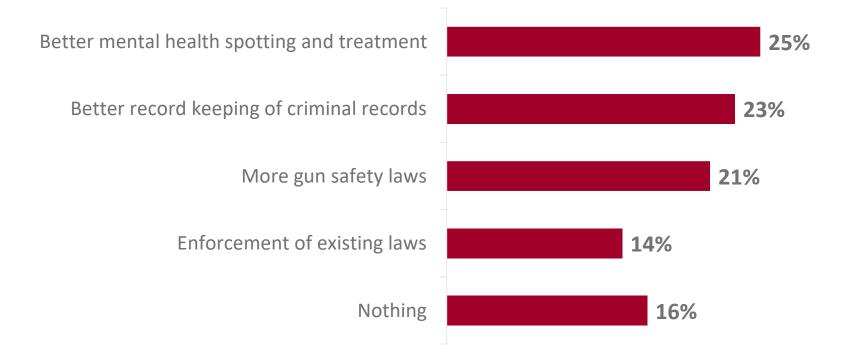




# VOTERS ARE SPLIT ON WHAT COULD HAVE PREVENTED THE TEXAS CHURCH MASSACRE

One quarter say better mental health spotting and treatment while over 1 in 5 each say better record keeping of criminal records and more gun safety laws.

Voters say the following could have stopped the recent church massacre in Sutherland Springs, Texas



### TAX REFORM



#### NEARLY THREE QUARTERS OF VOTERS SUPPORT TAX REFORM; TWO THIRDS WANT TAX RATES LOWERED

However, nearly 6 in 10 say cutting corporate taxes will only benefit companies more.

Cutting corporate taxes will... Tax rates in this country should be... 73% Lead to more competitive industries, more jobs and potentially better wages 34% of voters Kept the support tax 42% 58% 66% same reform in this Lowered Only benefit country companies more

BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

QTAXREF In general, do you support or oppose tax reform in this country?

QCORPTAX Do you believe that cutting corporate taxes will lead to more competitive industries, more jobs, and potentially better wages or will it only benefit companies more?

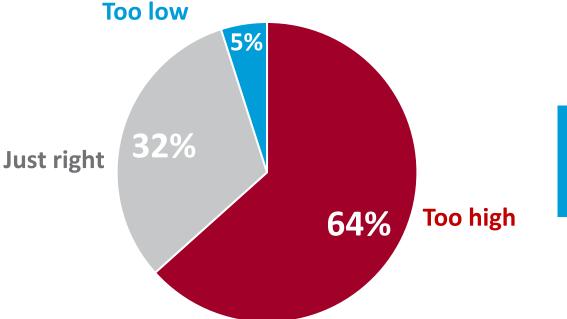
QTAXRATES Do you believe that tax rates in the country should be lowered or kept the same?



#### A MAJORITY OF VOTERS THINK INCOME TAX THEY PAY IS TOO HIGH; FAVOR SIMPLIFYING TAX CODE TO FOUR BRACKETS

Voters feel the income tax they pay is...

On individual tax bracket options, voters support...



Keeping seven individual tax brackets in place but lowering the top tax bracket from 39.6 percent to 38.5 percent



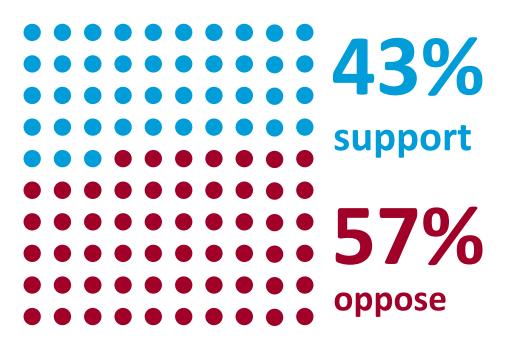
Simplifying the tax code to four individual tax brackets



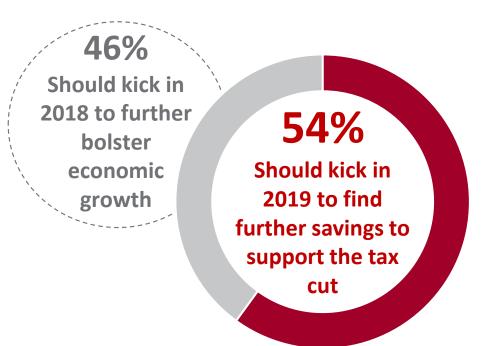
#### MAJORITY OPPOSES REDUCING TOP CORPORATE TAX RATE

A slight majority says the reduction should kick in in 2019 to find further savings to support the cut.

Attitude towards reducing the top corporate tax rate from 35% to 20%



Attitude towards when the corporate tax rate reduction should kick in



BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

QCORPTAX1 Do you support or oppose reducing the top corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 20 percent?

QCORPTAX2 Should the top corporate tax rate reduction from 35 percent to 20 percent kick in 2018 to further bolster economic growth or should we delay the reduction until 2019 to find further savings to support the tax cut?



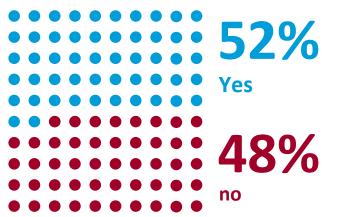
#### MAJORITY DEDUCTS ITEMIZED CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS, DOES NOT DEDUCT STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

Over one third say they deduct mortgage interest.

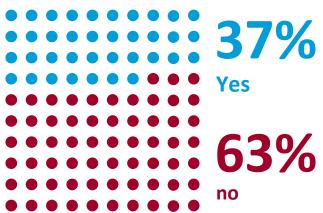
On whether they deduct itemized state and local taxes, voters say...

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46%
ves
54%
no
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On whether they deduct itemized charitable contributions, voters say...



On whether they deduct mortgage interest, voters say...



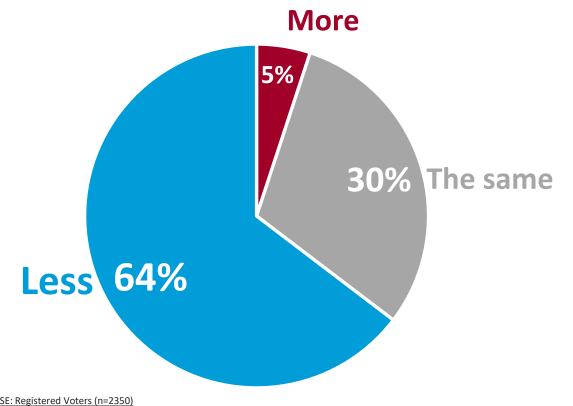
BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350) QDEDUCT12 Do you deduct itemized state and local taxes? QDEDUCT13 Do you deduct charitable contributions? QMORT Do you deduct mortgage interest?



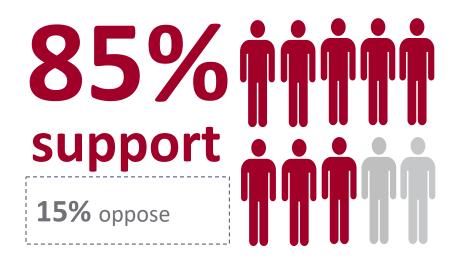
#### SMALL BUSINESS SHOULD BE TAXED LESS ACCORDING TO MAJORITY **OF VOTERS**

Over 8 in 10 support a tax break for small businesses that employ multiple people.

Small businesses should be taxed...



Attitude towards a tax break to small businesses that would cut the tax rate from 39% to 32% for small businesses that employ multiple people



BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

QSMBIZ1 Do you think that small businesses should be taxed more than, less than or the same as they are now?

QSMBIZ2 Would you favor or oppose a tax break to small businesses that would cut the tax rate for small businesses that employ multiple people from 39% to 32%?



#### NEARLY THREE QUARTERS FAVOR DOUBLING THE STANDARD DEDUCTION

Over 8 in 10 have healthcare and on average, voters pay over 19% of their income to income taxes.

73% of voters Favor doubling the standard deduction to \$24,000

On average, voters pay

of their income in income taxes

81% of voters have healthcare (paid either by them or their employer)

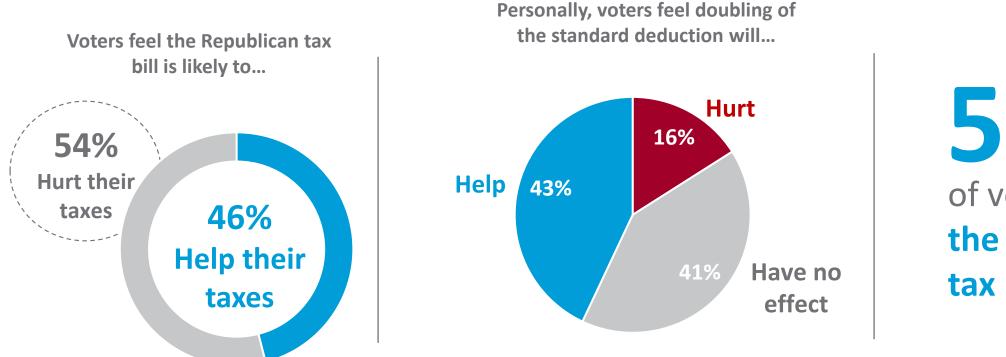
BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

QDEDUCT10 Do you favor or oppose doubling of the standard deduction to \$24,000? QDEDUCT11 What percentage of your income do you pay in income taxes? QHC Is your healthcare paid by you or your employer or you don't have any?



#### A MAJORITY OF VOTERS FEEL THE REPUBLICAN TAX BILL WILL HURT THEIR TAXES; EQUAL PERCENTAGE OPPOSE THE BILL

Voters are split on whether doubling the standard deduction will help or have no effect.



**54%** of voters oppose **the Republican tax reform bill** 

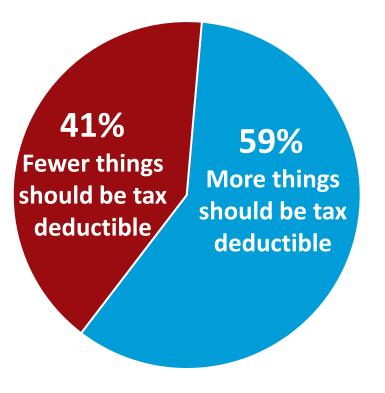
#### BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

QTAX3 Do you think the Republican tax bill, when it is finished, is likely to help or hurt your taxes? QTAX4 Do you think the doubling of the standard deduction to up to \$24,000 will help you, hurt you or have no effect? QTAX5 Do you favor or oppose the Republican Tax reform bill?



#### NEARLY 6 IN 10 FEEL MORE THINGS SHOULD BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

On the amount of tax deductions





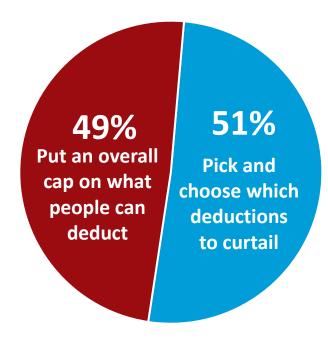
#### MAJORITY OF VOTERS FEEL MOST ITEMS SHOULD BE TAX DEDUCIBLE

Voters are split on whether it makes more sense to pick and choose deductions to curtail or to put an overall cap.

Voters' attitudes towards what should and should not be tax deductible

	Not tax deductible	Tax deductible	
Large, unexpected healthcare expenses	49%	85%	
Charitable donations	53%	82%	
Healthcare you pay	58%	82%	
401k contributions	23% 77%		
Mortgage interest for mortgages up \$500,000	23% 77%		
State and local taxes	25%	75%	
College tuition	27%	73%	
A home office	38%	62%	
Mortgage interest for mortgages up \$1 million	44%	56%	
Commuting expenses	46%	54%	
Healthcare paid by an employer	49%	51%	
Interest on a mortgage on a second home	58%	42%	
Business meals	64%	36%	
Political contributions	73%	27%	
Business entertainment	75%	25%	

On whether to pick and choose which deductions to curtail, or put an overall cap on deductions, voters say...



BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

QDEDUCT2 For each of these elements, please let me know if you think they should be tax deductible or not.

QTAX Does it make more sense to pick and choose which of these deductions to curtail or more sense to put an overall cap on what people can deduct?



#### VOTERS SHOW STRONGEST FAVOR FOR PUTTING A \$200,000 CAP ON STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTIONS

6 in 10 support eliminating the ability to deduct state and local property taxes from federal taxes.

Voters attitudes towards state and local tax deduction options

60%			Favor
	Putting a \$200,000 cap on state and local tax deductions	38%	62%
of voters support eliminating the	Letting people take up to 5% of their income off for state and local taxes paid and capping it at 5%	45%	55%
ability to deduct state and local property taxes	Leaving in place unlimited state and local tax deductions	48%	52%
from federal taxes in an effort to raise more money to pay for tax	Putting a \$10,000 cap on state and local deductions	50%	50%
cuts elsewhere	Making them completely not deductible	77%	23%

BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

**60%** 

QDEDUCT3 Do you support or oppose eliminating the ability to deduct state and local property taxes from federal taxes in an effort to raise more money to pay for tax cuts elsewhere? QDEDUCT4 Here are some ideas related to the state and local tax deduction. For each one, tell me if you would favor or oppose it.

### **Oppose** Favor Limiting the deductible charitable contributions of

Putting a \$200,000 cap on charitable donations 45% Putting a \$10,000 cap on state and local 53% deductions Making them completely not deductible 77% 23%

#### BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350) QDEDUCT5 Here are some ideas related to the charitable deduction. For each one, tell me if you would favor or oppose it.

billionaires to no more than half of their capital

Leaving in place unlimited charitable contributions

### NEARLY TWO THIRDS FAVOR LIMITING THE DEDUCTIBLE CHARITABLE harris CONTRIBUTIONS OF BILLIONAIRES TO NO MORE THAN HALF THEIR CAPITAL

Over three quarters oppose making them completely not deductible.

Voters attitudes towards charitable contribution tax deduction options

35%

45%

65%

55%

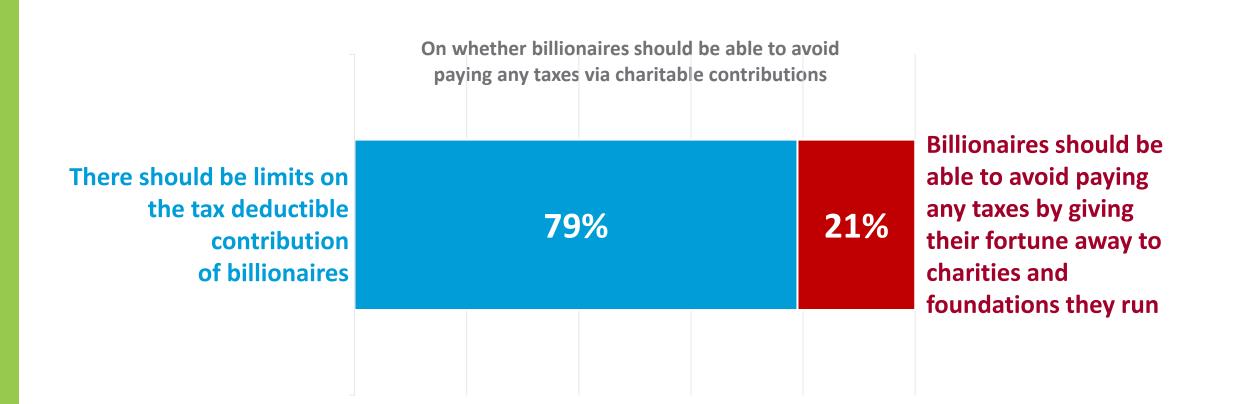
55%

47%





# VOTERS SAY THERE SHOULD BE LIMITS ON THE TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BILLIONAIRES





#### MAJORITY SUPPORTS ELIMINATING ESTATE TAX

Two-thirds are in support of the mortgage interest deduction, while around 6 in 10 are each in favor of lowering the threshold for the mortgage interest deduction and eliminating the estate tax.

Voters attitudes towards various tax proposals for individuals

	Oppose	Support
The mortgage interest deduction which allows taxpayers to deduct the interest they pay on the first \$1 million of mortgage debt	34%	66%
Lowering the threshold for the mortgage interest deduction from \$1 million to \$500,000 for any new mortgages	37%	63%
Eliminating the estate tax	42%	58%

BASE: Registered Voters (n=2350)

QDEDUCT7 Do you support or oppose the mortgage interest deduction which allows taxpayers to deduct the interest they pay on the first \$1 million of mortgage debt? QDEDUCT8 Do you support or oppose lowering the threshold for the mortgage interest deduction from \$1 million to \$500,000 for any new mortgages? QDEDUCT9 Do you support or oppose eliminating the estate tax?

### DEMOGRAPHICS



#### DEMOGRAPHICS

Base	n=2350
AGE*	
18-34	25%
35-49	23%
50-64	31%
65+	22%
GENDER*	
Male	47%
Female	53%
EDUCATION*	
Less than high school degree	7%
High school degree to less than 4	
year college degree	56%
4 year college degree or more	36%

	Base	n=2350
RACE/ETHNICITY*		
White		70%
Black/African American		11%
Hispanic		12%
Asian		4%
Other		3%

	Base	n=2350
POLITICAL PARTY*		
Democrat		37%
Republican		32%
Independent		28%
Other		4%
LOCALE		
Urban		25%
Suburban		54%
Rural		22%
POLITICAL IDEOLOGY*		
Liberal		26%
Moderate		42%
Conservative		31%