

To: Interested Parties

From: GBA Strategies & Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research

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Congressional Survey Results: The Tax Debate

Recent surveys show that Republicans in Congress are vulnerable on taxes. Voters don't trust Republicans to handle tax reform and believe that the Republican tax plan will help the rich and large corporations at the expense of the middle class. A debate on the Republican tax plan moves voters even further toward Democrats, hurting Republican incumbents.

- **Voters do not trust Republicans on taxes.** A national survey¹ from December finds that voters continue to trust Democrats in Congress to do a better job on tax reform than Republicans in Congress by an eleven-point margin, 55 percent to 44 percent. Democrats held a six point advantage in November (53-47 percent). Voters also trust Democrats more than Republicans on taxes and government spending, 53 percent to 47 percent.
- **Voters in battleground congressional districts oppose the Republican tax plan and believe it will help the rich and big corporations, not the middle class.** Voters in battleground congressional districts² oppose the Republican tax plan 27 percent to 42 percent. Democrats oppose it (71 percent to 6 percent) more than Republicans favor it (53 percent to 12 percent), and Independents oppose it as well (41 percent to 23 percent).

Before any messaging, voters in battleground districts already believe that the Republican tax plan will primarily benefit the rich and corporations (48 percent to 33 percent), will not benefit the middle class (51 percent to 35 percent), and will increase the federal debt (49 percent to 32 percent).

- **The tax plan will damage Republicans nationally and particularly in battleground districts.** Nearly 4 in 5 voters nationally have serious concerns about the bill raising taxes on the middle class, slashing Social Security and Medicare benefits, and increasing healthcare premiums. After a simulated debate on the Republican tax plan with messages from both sides, a majority of voters in battleground districts oppose the plan (36 percent support, 55 percent oppose). More importantly, the generic congressional ballot shifts from a 4-point Democratic advantage to an 11-point advantage at the end of the survey, despite over 80 percent of these battleground districts being currently held by Republicans.

¹ Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research conducted a survey of 2000 registered voters on November 29 – December 4, 2017 using an online panel.

² GBA Strategies conducted a survey of 800 registered voters in 51 congressional districts, including 41 Republican-held seats and 10 Frontline Democratic seats, with approximately 40 percent of interviews conducted via cell phone. This survey carries a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.