OVERVIEW

Voters feel that the wealthy and corporations do not pay their fair share in taxes and that Republicans in Congress put corporations and the very wealthy ahead of everyday Americans.

- **Americans are overwhelmingly opposed to tax policies that benefit corporations and the rich.** Roughly nine in ten voters agree that there are already too many special tax loopholes for the wealthiest Americans (92%, including 69% who agree strongly) and corporations (90%, including 61% who agree strongly). Voters broadly agree that Republicans in Congress put the interests of corporations and the wealthiest Americans ahead of average Americans (80%, including 48% who agree strongly), and that it would help grow the economy if the country made sure the wealthiest Americans paid their fair share in taxes (88%, including 60% who agree strongly).

- **Voters widely agree that corporations pay too little in taxes, not too much.** Roughly two-thirds (67%) believe that corporations pay “less than their fair share” of federal taxes, compared to just 12% who believe corporations pay “more than their fair share.”

- **Voters feel strongly that President Trump should release his own tax returns.** Four in five voters (80%), including 64% of Republicans, agree that Donald Trump should release his tax returns (with 49% of all voters agreeing strongly). Nearly nine in ten (88%) believe it is important for Trump to release his tax returns in order to “be more honest and transparent with the American people,” including 62% who think it is “very important.”

Key findings from Global Strategy Group’s recent survey of 1,211 registered voters nationwide include:

KEY FINDINGS

**There is a strong appetite among voters for making corporations and the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share of taxes.** Just over three in four voters (76%) and over half of Republicans (56%) believe millionaires and billionaires pay less than their fair share of taxes, and similar proportions (77% of voters and 61% of Republicans) believe wealthy corporations do not pay their fair share. By contrast, majorities believe the middle class (59%) and working families (66%) pay more than their fair share of taxes.

Voters see a link between fairness and the strength of our economy, as 88% agree (and 60% agree strongly) that making sure the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share of taxes will help grow the economy. Conversely, voters reject the idea that lowering taxes on the highest-earning Americans will help grow the economy by nearly three to one (28% agree/72% disagree, including 40% who strongly disagree). Voters also overwhelmingly agree that we should eliminate special tax loopholes, both for the wealthiest Americans (92% agree, 69% strongly agree) and corporations (90% agree, 61% strongly agree).
While voters support specific proposals that would reduce the share of taxes paid by higher earners, this is outweighed by a strong desire to ensure the wealthy pay their fair share. Specific tax-cutting proposals such as repealing the estate tax (73% support/27% oppose), repealing the inheritance tax (68% support/32% oppose), lowering capital gains tax rates (66% support/34% oppose), and even lowering the top individual income tax rate (55% support/45% oppose) are generally supported by voters.

Despite the appeal of these proposed cuts, progressive tax policies have overwhelming and intense support – particularly when they focus on making sure the wealthy pay their fair share. Majorities of voters strongly support requiring millionaires to pay at least 30% of their income in taxes (86% support/14% oppose, 56% strongly support) and raising the taxes on the top one percent of Americans (82% support/18% oppose, 54% strongly support).

Americans widely believe that corporations should be paying more in taxes, not less. After a balanced debate, more voters feel corporations should pay more in taxes because they are making record profits (65%, 28% feel strongly) than feel corporate taxes should be lowered because America’s corporate tax rate is one of the highest in the world (35%, 13% feel strongly). This sentiment holds even among Republican voters (53% corporations should pay more/47% corporate taxes should be lowered).

Voters are even more in favor of raising corporate tax rates than they are of keeping corporate tax rates the same, following a debate that pits the idea of lowering corporate taxes (41%, 18% feel strongly) against not lowering corporate taxes (59%, 36% feel strongly).

Voters are troubled by Trump’s refusal to release his own tax returns. Americans overwhelmingly agree that Trump should release his own tax returns (80%, including 49% who agree strongly), and most (62%) believe that it is “very important” for Trump to release his tax returns in order to be “more honest and transparent with the American people.”

**METHODOLOGY**

Global Strategy Group conducted a national online survey among 1,211 registered voters from April 5-9, 2017. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the electorate are properly represented based on past voter turnout statistics.