SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

VOICE of the People

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY
CIVIC INNOVATION CENTER

Majorities of Both Democrats and Republicans in All 39 Battlegrounds Surveyed Agree on 82 Policy Proposals

This sheet shows bipartisan common ground across the 39 battlegrounds surveyed — 11 states and 28 congressional districts — on 106 policy proposals in 14 issue areas. Majorities of both Democrats and Republicans support 82 of them in every battleground, and 101 in at least two-thirds of them. Most of these proposals were drawn from Congressional legislation and some from the Executive Branch. Americans in every battleground also agree that Congress would be more likely to find common ground if it were more influenced by *We the People*. The findings come from the *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?* Survey Series, conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC) in the run-up to the 2026 midterm elections. For each proposal, the sheet shows the lowest and highest percent in support among Democrats and among Republicans across the battlegrounds, and the number of battlegrounds (of 39) in which majorities of both **Democrats** and **Republicans** support the proposal. Questions are abbreviated here — full question wording and more detail are at **vop.org/battlegrounds-aggregate**.

THE COMMON GROUND

Policies supported by majorities of both Democrats and Republicans

82	**101**
in every battleground	**in at least two-thirds**

Of the 106 policy questions, a policy is counted as a common ground policy when at least 51% of Democrats and 51% of Republicans take the same position.

HEALTHCARE COSTS Fielded May 27 – July 1, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Cap prescription drug prices to what other developed countries pay (would reduce prices by about half)	80–96	81–95	39
Ban drug companies from paying generic makers to delay putting cheaper drugs on to the market	69–89	71–86	39
When a drug is unaffordable and was developed with federal funds, let the government override the patent and license other drug companies to make it	70–87	68–90	39
Reinstate the expired enhanced ACA subsidies to lower premiums and deductibles	83–94	65–85	39
Increase federal Medicaid spending to cover more low-income people	74–91	51–83	39
Let people 55–64 buy into Medicare	74–92	66–87	39
Create a government-run public health insurance option anyone can buy into	77–93	66–84	39
Spend $13 billion more on substance-use treatment so nearly everyone who needs and wants it can get it	68–91	57–91	39
Make it a high priority for the government to ensure that everyone who needs and wants substance-use treatment can get it (very or somewhat high priority)	89–97	75–95	39
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			**9 | 9**

SOCIAL SECURITY Fielded May 27 – July 1, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL)*	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Subject income over $400,000 to the payroll tax (-61%)	73–89	66–84	39
Gradually raise the payroll tax from 6.2% to 6.5% (-15%)	55–81	46–74	37
Reduce benefits for the top 20% of lifetime earners (-11%)	49–79	53–74	38
Gradually raise the full retirement age from 67 to 68 (-15%)	39–71	46–72	27

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL)*	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Raise the minimum monthly benefit to $1,630 (125% of the poverty line) (+8%)	72–84	68–83	39
Base cost-of-living adjustments to what older adults actually buy (+12%)	62–77	60–84	39
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			3 | 6

FAMILIES & CHILDREN

Fielded May 27 – July 1, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Provide $25 billion to states and cities to create or expand free universal preschool programs	75–92	56–84	39
Subsidize childcare so low- and middle-income families pay no more than 7% of income	79–93	56–84	39
Raise the Child Tax Credit to $3,600 and make it fully refundable for all income levels	73–91	61–86	39
Create a national 12-week paid family and medical leave program for all workers, funded by a 0.2% payroll tax	72–96	57–80	39
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			4 | 4

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Fielded May 27 – July 1, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Tax incentives for builders to build or repair homes affordable to low- and middle-income households	77–93	71–87	39
Invest $40 billion to build high-density housing affordable to very low- and low-income households	69–91	49–81	37
Provide $25 billion to local governments to build affordable high-density housing for low- and middle-income households	77–91	45–77	37
Increase funding for rental vouchers for the very low-income, elderly and disabled by $24 billion	80–93	58–83	39
Prohibit large corporations from owning single-family homes	76–89	64–86	39
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			3 | 5

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE

Fielded May 27 – July 1, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Raise monthly SNAP benefits for individuals living alone above the current $170 (allowed to choose the amount)	71–93	58–87	39
…for single mothers above the current $530	58–80	40–73	29
Offer discounts on fruits and vegetables bought with SNAP	78–97	68–93	39
Raise the federal minimum wage above $7.25 (allowed to choose the amount) *Median Democrat: $15 in 35 of 39 battlegrounds. Median Republican: $12 in 19 of 39 battlegrounds*	90–99	80–96	39
Raise the maximum Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers without children from $630 to $1,300	79–90	64–85	39
Raise the savings limit for EITC eligibility	76–89	68–86	39
Lower the EITC eligibility age from 25 to 21	62–84	52–71	39

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			**6 | 7**

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE Fielded May 27 – July 1, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Create a federal agency to monitor and regulate AI	**76–89**	**66–85**	**39**
Require new AI programs that make critical decisions (e.g. review health insurance claims) to pass a government test to: ensure they follow the law, are unbiased, have security protections	**65–88**	**69–91**	**39**
For critical decision-making AI programs already in use, let the government audit them	**59–83**	**59–80**	**39**
Require deepfakes to be labeled as AI-generated	**84–95**	**80–93**	**39**
Prohibit campaigns and PACs from using deepfakes in ads	**71–93**	**76–90**	**39**
Work toward an international treaty regulating large-scale AI	**70–89**	**63–85**	**39**
Work toward an international treaty banning fully autonomous weapons (use AI to fire on targets without human command)	**62–90**	**59–87**	**39**
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			**7 | 7**

IMMIGRATION Fielded May 27 – July 1, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Deport undocumented immigrants convicted of a crime	**70–91**	**85–98**	**39**
Offer legal status to long-term undocumented immigrants with no criminal record who pay a penalty and back taxes	**75–89**	**55–78**	**39**
Offer a path to citizenship to those brought here illegally as children	**80–95**	**60–82**	**39**
Require E-Verify for all new hires AND increase the number of work visas to match labor demand	**75–90**	**67–89**	**39**
Hire hundreds more asylum judges and staff to cut wait times (which are currently several years on average)	**72–87**	**66–83**	**39**
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			**5 | 5**

ABORTION & BIRTH CONTROL Fielded July 21 – Aug. 17, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Do not make abortion a crime before fetal viability (chose between multiple options for criminalization)	**82–99**	**63–91**	**39**
Fund clinics to provide free or low-cost birth control to women who can't afford it	**83–96**	**59–87**	**39**
Prohibit states from restricting access to birth control	**78–95**	**57–83**	**39**
Continue to require that health insurance cover birth control	**74–96**	**64–86**	**39**
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			**4 | 4**

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Fielded July 21 – Aug. 17, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Make reducing air pollution a high priority	91–98	68–94	39
Make reducing greenhouse gas emissions a high priority	87–99	55–89	39
Adopt a goal of cutting U.S. emissions 2% a year	84–96	54–84	39
Provide tax credits for producing energy that has no greenhouse gas emissions (solar, wind, geothermal, nuclear)	81–96	49–90	38
Require electric companies to get a minimum share of power from zero-carbon sources	80–94	48–83	38
Provide tax credits for making homes and buildings more energy-efficient	79–94	68–87	39
Require new cars to get more miles per gallon	78–93	62–82	39
Commit with other countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	83–96	60–84	39
Take part in international efforts to study and share climate and energy data	83–96	58–84	39
Provide financial assistance and job training to fossil-fuel workers who lose their jobs in the transition to clean energy	76–97	67–89	39
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			8 | 10

FEDERAL TAXES

Fielded July 21 – Aug. 17, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON FEDERAL REVENUE)*	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Wealth tax of 2% on wealth over $50 million and 3% over $1 billion (+$200B)	81–95	58–84	39
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $200,000–$500,000 (+$26B)	55–94	40–81	31
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $500,000–$1 million (+$18B)	67–87	43–73	33
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $1 million or more (+$120B)	74–92	54–73	39
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $200,000–$500,000 income from 21% to at least 24% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$145B)	49–79	32–63	*9*
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $500,000–$1 million income from 25% to at least 28% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$48B)	47–82	31–62	*11*
Raise the effective income tax rate on households with $1 million+ income from 27% to at least 29% (allowed to increase, keep same or decrease tax rate) (+$73B)	51–87	40–60	*21*
Tax hedge fund managers' income like ordinary income (end the carried-interest break) (+$1B)	75–93	57–81	39
Apply the estate tax to more inherited wealth, by lowering the tax exemption from $15 million to $5 million (chose between multiple options, including eliminating the tax) (+$17B)	64–87	38–84	27
Raise the effective corporate tax rate from 12% to at least 14% (allowed to increase, keep same, or decrease) (+$41B)	53–82	38–66	*15*

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON FEDERAL REVENUE)*	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Impose a 0.01% tax on stock purchases (+$30B)	54–95	36–82	*17*
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			**3 | 6**

GOVERNMENT REFORM

Fielded July 21 – Aug. 17, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Require that all Congressional redistricting be done by non-partisan citizen commissions (equal numbers of Republicans, Democrats and independents)	75–96	67–92	39
Pass a Constitutional amendment setting term limits for Congress (four terms in the House, two in the Senate)	76–95	68–92	39
Use ranked choice voting in Congressional elections with three or more candidates	55–97	41–79	31
Prohibit members of Congress from trading stocks in individual companies	65–94	63–88	39
Prohibit the President, Vice President and Supreme Court Justices from trading stocks in individual companies	54–92	55–82	39
Require Supreme Court Justices to follow the same ethics standards as all other federal judges	82–95	67–93	39
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			**5 | 6**

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Fielded July 21 – Aug. 17, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Pass a Constitutional amendment allowing Congress and state legislatures to restrict corporate and PAC spending on elections (overturning Citizens United)	80–93	73–89	39
Encourage small donors by making half of small campaign contributions refundable as a tax credit	58–91	52–76	39
Require corporations, unions and other groups to immediately report campaign-related spending to their shareholders and members, the public and the FEC	80–95	75–94	39
Require the FEC to publicly disclose the names of significant donors paying for TV or radio ads about candidates or controversial issues	76–92	65–86	39
Require federal contractors to publicly disclose donations to groups that spend on campaign-related activities	76–93	70–89	39
Keep the prohibition on nonprofits that receive tax-deductible donations (e.g. churches, universities) from endorsing or funding candidates	69–91	63–85	39
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			**6 | 6**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Fielded July 21 – Aug. 17, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Require police officers to intervene when another officer is using excessive force, and train them to do so	87–97	76–90	39
Prohibit chokeholds that cut off breathing or blood flow to the brain	78–95	46–86	38
Require police departments to have body cameras and officers to wear them and turn them on when responding to calls or interacting with suspects	83–96	71–90	39

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Require law enforcement agencies to report officer misconduct to a national database available to other agencies making hiring decisions	83–96	75–90	39
Fund states to hire independent prosecutors when an officer is charged with using deadly force	78–94	62–85	39
Lower the mandatory minimum sentence for major drug offenses from 10 years to 5, and let the judge decide whether it should be more	61–93	42–86	36
Let federal judges release prisoners convicted as juveniles who have served at least 20 years, with 5 years of supervised release	67–91	51–81	39
Restrict solitary confinement so it cannot be used as punishment for minor violations, or for no more than 30 days in a row	81–97	64–92	39
Prohibit employers and licensing boards from disqualifying someone who was arrested but never charged or convicted	65–94	48–89	38
…or convicted of a petty, nonviolent crime (e.g. littering, jaywalking, loitering)	57–82	45–80	38
…or convicted of a crime unrelated to their ability to do the job	55–86	46–72	36
Limit how long employers and licensing boards can disqualify a person: one year after a misdemeanor sentence, five years after a felony	74–95	64–90	39
Automatically seal the record of a non-violent drug conviction five years after the sentence is completed	72–95	55–89	39
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			**8 | 13**

AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD Fielded July 21 – Aug. 17, 2026

PROPOSAL	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
Make upholding collective security a high priority — contributing to collective military operations or using economic sanctions in response to aggression	68–97	68–88	39
Continue to be part of NATO	75–95	58–83	39
Continue to provide military assistance to Ukraine (equipment, ammunition, training and intelligence)	62–91	39–72	31
Have nuclear arms control treaties with Russia that limit both arsenals and require inspections	69–91	65–91	39
Continue to abide by the moratorium on testing nuclear weapons	72–93	62–88	39
Require the President to get a Congressional declaration of war before using nuclear weapons first (sole authority kept for responding to a nuclear attack)	57–93	63–89	39
Automatically cut off funding for a military action started by the President if Congress does not approve it within 60 days (except in response to a direct attack)	72–91	41–83	31
Provide foreign aid for humanitarian relief (food, medical care and shelter for victims of famine, floods or war)	84–97	74–91	39
…for global health (treating and preventing disease, training doctors and nurses, clean water)	84–98	71–89	39
…for economic development (food production, infrastructure, private enterprise and financial systems)	74–93	63–83	39
…for education (training teachers, school attendance, literacy)	81–96	62–88	39
…for the environment (reducing pollution, cleaner energy, preparing for natural disasters)	83–96	56–85	39
…for democracy (free and fair elections, human rights, a free press and the rule of law)	80–96	71–85	39
Common ground positions (in every battleground | in at least two-thirds)			**11 | 13**

THE COMMON GROUND

Policies supported by majorities of both Democrats and Republicans

82	101
in every battleground	**in at least two-thirds**

THE ROLE OF "WE THE PEOPLE" Fielded May 27 – July 1, 2026

HOW OFTEN ELECTED OFFICIALS DO WHAT THE MAJORITY WANTS	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	MEAN % OF THE TIME
Estimated share of the time federally elected officials do what the majority of the public wants (mean %) ***Mean in all battlegrounds: 35%***	30–42	31–48	35%

MAJORITIES OF BOTH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS AGREE	DEM LOW–HIGH %	REP LOW–HIGH %	BATTLEGROUNDS OF 39
If Congress were more influenced by the people, it would be more likely to serve the common good	77–94	79–94	39
…more likely to find common ground	82–97	80–95	39
Listening to the people would help break the logjam in Congress, because the people are less polarized than members of Congress	62–88	66–89	39
When Congress is going to vote on a bill, it's very important for news to report whether a majority favors the law	65–84	60–85	39
News stories on policy should include relevant public opinion data most of the time or always	71–88	67–89	39

ABOUT THE SURVEYS

The surveys were conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC) as part of the *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?* series covering 11 competitive states and 28 competitive U.S. House districts.

The 106 policy proposals included in these surveys were chosen because national surveys by PPC and others had found majorities of both Democrats and Republicans in support. The battleground survey series sought to see whether that common ground holds in competitive states and districts. Project partners are PPC, the Civic Innovation Center at the University of Maryland, and Voice of the People. None advocates for policy positions or endorses candidates.

The battlegrounds were surveyed in two waves. Wave 1 (Healthcare, Social Security, Families & Children, Housing, Low-Income Assistance, Artificial Intelligence, Immigration, The Role of *We the People*) was fielded May 27 – July 1, 2026, to 19,564 adults, including 600 to 2,000 in each state and 400 to 500 in each district; confidence intervals range from ±2.9 to 7.6%.

Wave 2 (Abortion & Birth Control, Energy & Environment, Federal Taxes, Government Reform, Campaign Finance, Criminal Justice, America's Role in the World) was fielded July 21 – August 17, 2026, to 19,949 adults, including 600 to 2,016 in each state and 499 to 592 in each district; confidence intervals range from ±2.9 to 8.1%.

Samples were drawn from multiple online opt-in panels, including Cint, Dynata, and Prodege. Samples were pre-stratified and/or weighted to match the adult population of each geography by key demographics (gender, age, race/ethnicity, income and education). The distributions of partisan affiliation were within expectations based on voter registration for non-leaners or the Cook Partisan Voting Index for leaners, or weighted to be so.

Battleground press releases, questionnaires and individual state and district findings: **vop.org/battlegrounds-aggregate**

STATES AND DISTRICTS SURVEYED

States **Alaska** · **Georgia** · **Iowa** · **Maine** · **Michigan** · **Minnesota** · **Nebraska** · **New Hampshire** · **North Carolina** **Ohio** · **Texas**

Districts **AK At-Large** · **AZ-1** · **AZ-6** · **CO-8** · **IA-1** · **IA-2** · **IA-3** · **ME-2** · **MI-4** · **MI-7** · **MI-8** · **MI-10** · **MT-1** · **NE-2** · **NJ-7** **NJ-9** · **NM-2** · **NV-3** · **NY-3** · **NY-4** · **NY-17** · **NY-19** · **OR-5** · **PA-1** · **PA-7** · **PA-8** · **PA-10** · **WA-3**