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 Agree on Over 100 Policy Proposals

Majorities of both **Democrats** and **Republicans** support every policy on this sheet. The findings come from national surveys conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC), February 11 – March 19, 2026, with 3,709 Americans; the policies were drawn primarily from Congressional legislation, and in some cases from the Executive Branch. Numbers are the percent of all respondents, of Democrats and of Republicans in support. Questions are abbreviated here — full wording, toplines and methodology are at **vop.org/cgoap**.

THE NATIONAL COMMON GROUND — 100+ POLICIES ACROSS 14 ISSUE AREAS

100+
policies supported by majorities of both Democrats and Republicans

80+
policies supported by more than two-thirds of both Democrats and Republicans

HEALTHCARE COSTS

National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Cap prescription drug prices to what other developed countries pay (would reduce prices by about half)	86	86	90
Ban drug companies from paying generic makers to delay putting cheaper drugs on to the market	76	77	79
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	79	78	83
Reinstate the expired enhanced ACA subsidies to lower premiums and deductibles	81	90	73
Increase federal Medicaid spending to cover more low-income people	70	83	59
Let people 55–64 buy into Medicare	80	84	75
Create a government-run public health insurance option anyone can buy into	80	86	76
Spend $13 billion more on substance-use treatment so nearly everyone who needs and wants it can get it	75	83	69
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)	88	93	86
Common ground positions		**9**	

SOCIAL SECURITY National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON THE BUDGET SHORTFALL)*	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Subject income over $400,000 to the payroll tax (-61%)	79	83	77
Gradually raise the payroll tax from 6.2% to 6.5% (-15%)	62	66	61
Reduce benefits for the top 20% of lifetime earners (-11%)	65	69	62
Gradually raise the full retirement age from 67 to 68 (-15%)	56	55	58
Raise the minimum monthly benefit to $1,630 (125% of the poverty line) (+8%)	78	81	76
Base cost-of-living adjustments to what older adults actually buy (+12%)	70	73	70
Common ground positions		6	

FAMILIES & CHILDREN National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Provide $25 billion to states and cities for to create or expand free universal preschool programs	79	89	69
Subsidize childcare so low- and middle-income families pay no more than 7% of income	83	89	77
Raise the Child Tax Credit to $3,600 and make it fully refundable for all income levels	78	84	74
Create a national 12-week paid family and medical leave program for all workers, funded by a 0.2% payroll tax	75	84	68
Common ground positions		4	

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY National survey fielded March 11 – 19, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Tax incentives for builders to build or repair homes affordable to low- and middle-income households	83	88	80
Invest $40 billion to build high-density housing affordable to very low- and low-income households	74	86	64
Provide $25 billion to local governments to build affordable high-density housing for low- and middle-income households	74	84	63
Increase funding for rental vouchers for the very low-income, elderly and disabled by $24 billion	80	89	74
Prohibit large corporations from owning single-family homes	80	82	77
Common ground positions		5	

LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Raise monthly SNAP benefits for individuals living alone above the current $170 (allowed to choose the amount)	79	88	70
…for single mothers above the current $530	60	67	52
Offer discounts on fruits and vegetables bought with SNAP	91	93	90
Raise the federal minimum wage above $7.25 (allowed to choose the amount)	94	97	90
Raise the maximum Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for workers without children from $630 to $1,300	77	82	73
Raise the savings limit for EITC eligibility	81	87	77
Lower the EITC eligibility age from 25 to 21	69	76	63
Common ground positions		7	

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Create a federal agency to monitor and regulate AI	80	85	79
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	78	82	78
For critical decision-making AI programs already in use, let the government audit them	74	77	73
Require deepfakes to be labeled as AI-generated	86	88	89
Prohibit campaigns and PACs from using deepfakes in ads	82	83	85
Work toward an international treaty regulating large-scale AI	77	82	78
Work toward an international treaty banning fully autonomous weapons (use AI to fire on targets without human command)	79	82	81
Common ground positions		7	

IMMIGRATION National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Deport undocumented immigrants convicted of a crime	85	79	94
Offer legal status to long-term undocumented immigrants with no criminal record who pay a penalty and back taxes	77	87	69
Offer a path to citizenship to those brought here illegally as children	83	90	76
Require E-Verify for all new hires AND increase the number of work visas to match labor demand	83	84	82

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Hire hundreds more asylum judges and staff to cut wait times (which are currently several years on average)	76	83	73
Common ground positions		5	

ABORTION & BIRTH CONTROL National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Do not make abortion a crime before fetal viability (chose between multiple options for criminalization)	84	91	74
Fund clinics to provide free or low-cost birth control to women who can't afford it	81	91	72
Prohibit states from restricting access to birth control	79	86	73
Continue to require that health insurance cover birth control	82	90	77
Common ground positions		4	

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Make reducing air pollution a high priority	86	94	79
Make reducing greenhouse gas emissions a high priority	81	93	69
Adopt a goal of cutting U.S. emissions 2% a year	80	90	72
Provide tax credits for producing energy that has not greenhouse gas emissions (solar, wind, geothermal, nuclear)	77	86	71
Require electric companies to get a minimum share of power from zero-carbon sources	76	87	67
Tax credits for making homes and buildings more energy-efficient	84	91	79
Require new cars to get more miles per gallon	80	86	75
Commit with other countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	82	91	75
Take part in international efforts to study and share climate and energy data	82	89	76
Provide financial assistance and job training to fossil-fuel workers who lose their jobs in the transition to clean energy	85	89	82
Common ground positions		10	

FEDERAL TAXES National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON FEDERAL REVENUE)*	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Wealth tax of 2% on wealth over $50 million and 3% over $1 billion (+$200B)	80	88	72

PROPOSAL *(AND ITS EFFECT ON FEDERAL REVENUE)*	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $200,000–$500,000 (+$26B)	64	69	61
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $500,000–$1 million (+$18B)	72	79	65
Tax capital gains like ordinary income for households earning $1 million or more (+$120B)	76	83	70
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)	60	67	54
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)	60	69	55
Tax hedge fund managers' income like ordinary income (end the carried-interest break) (+$1B)	73	78	70
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	71	59
Raise the effective corporate tax rate from 12% to at least 14% (allowed to increase, keep same, or decrease) (+$41B)	62	71	56
Impose a 0.01% tax on stock purchases (+$30B)	56	62	53
Common ground positions		**10**	

GOVERNMENT REFORM National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Require that all Congressional redistricting be done by non-partisan citizen commissions (equal numbers of Republicans, Democrats and independents)	81	83	81
Pass a Constitutional amendment setting term limits for Congress (four terms in the House, two in the Senate)	82	83	85
Use ranked choice voting in Congressional elections with three or more candidates	66	70	64
Prohibit members of Congress from trading stocks in individual companies	76	75	78
Prohibit the President, Vice President and Supreme Court Justices from trading stocks in individual companies	71	70	74
Require Supreme Court Justices to follow the same ethics standards as all other federal judges	85	86	87
Common ground positions		**6**	

CAMPAIGN FINANCE National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Pass a Constitutional amendment allowing Congress and state legislatures to restrict corporate and PAC spending on elections (overturning Citizens United)	82	85	82
Encourage small donors by making half of small campaign contributions refundable as a tax credit	67	72	63
Require corporations, unions and other groups to immediately report campaign-related spending to their shareholders and members, the public and the FEC	83	85	85
Require the FEC to publicly disclose the names of significant donors paying for TV or radio ads about candidates or controversial issues	81	85	80
Require federal contractors to publicly disclose donations to groups that spend on campaign-related activities	81	83	82
Keep the prohibition on nonprofits that receive tax-deductible donations (e.g. churches, universities) from endorsing or funding candidates	79	80	80
Common ground positions		6	

CRIMINAL JUSTICE National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Require police officers to intervene when another officer is using excessive force, and train them to do so	88	91	88
Prohibit chokeholds that cut off breathing or blood flow to the brain	78	86	70
Require police departments to have body cameras and officers to wear them and turn them on when responding to calls or interacting with suspects	90	90	90
Require law enforcement agencies to report officer misconduct to a national database available to other agencies making hiring decisions	89	92	87
Fund states to hire independent prosecutors when an officer is charged with using deadly force	78	85	73
Lower the mandatory minimum sentence for major drug offenses from 10 years to 5, and let the judge decide whether it should be more	67	74	60
Let federal judges release prisoners convicted as juveniles who have served at least 20 years, with 5 years of supervised release	73	79	70
Restrict solitary confinement so it cannot be used as punishment for minor violations, or for no more than 30 days in a row	82	90	75
Prohibit employers and licensing boards from disqualifying someone who was arrested but never charged or convicted	65	65	66
…or convicted of a petty, nonviolent crime (e.g. littering, jaywalking, loitering)	60	63	59
…or convicted of a crime unrelated to their ability to do the job	57	58	57
Limit how long employers and licensing boards can disqualify a person: one year after a misdemeanor sentence, five years after a felony	79	82	79
Automatically seal the record of a non-violent drug conviction five years after the sentence is completed	77	83	73

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Common ground positions		**13**	

AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

PROPOSAL	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Make upholding collective security a high priority — contributing to collective military operations or using economic sanctions in response to aggression	80	76	87
Continue to be part of NATO	83	89	79
Continue to provide military assistance to Ukraine (equipment, ammunition, training and intelligence)	65	75	58
Have nuclear arms control treaties with Russia that limit both arsenals and require inspections	79	79	81
Continue to abide by the moratorium on testing nuclear weapons	78	81	77
Require the President to get a Congressional declaration of war before using nuclear weapons first (sole authority kept for responding to a nuclear attack)	69	64	77
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)	71	82	63
Spend at least 1% of the federal budget on foreign aid	91	97	87
Provide foreign aid for humanitarian relief (food, medical care and shelter for victims of famine, floods or war)	90	94	89
…for global health (treating and preventing disease, training doctors and nurses, clean water)	89	93	87
…for economic development (food production, infrastructure, private enterprise and financial systems)	80	86	76
…for education (training teachers, school attendance, literacy)	85	90	80
…for the environment (reducing pollution, cleaner energy, preparing for natural disasters)	82	91	74
…for democracy (free and fair elections, human rights, a free press and the rule of law)	86	91	82
Common ground positions		**14**	

THE NATIONAL COMMON GROUND

100+

policies supported by majorities of both Democrats and Republicans

80+

policies supported by more than two-thirds of both Democrats and Republicans

THE ROLE OF "WE THE PEOPLE" National survey fielded February 11 – 26, 2026

HOW OFTEN ELECTED OFFICIALS DO WHAT THE MAJORITY WANTS	MEAN % OF THE TIME		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
Estimated share of the time federally elected officials do what the majority of the public wants (*mean %)*	41	38	47

MAJORITIES OF BOTH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS AGREE	NATIONAL		
	OVERALL	DEM	REP
If Congress were more influenced by the people, it would be more likely to find common ground	88	88	89
Listening to the people would help break the logjam in Congress, because the people are less polarized than members of Congress	72	75	71
When Congress is going to vote on a bill, it's very important for news to report whether a majority favors the law	75	75	79
News stories on policy should include relevant public opinion data most of the time or always	78	81	79

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The surveys were conducted by the University of Maryland's Program for Public Consultation (PPC). The national list was the baseline for the Common Ground in the Battlegrounds? survey series, which tested whether the same bipartisan common ground held in 11 competitive states and 28 competitive U.S. House districts. Those results are at vop.org/battlegrounds-aggregate.

The national surveys were fielded February 11 – 26, 2026, to 2,509 adults, and March 11 – 19, 2026, to 1,200 adults. The confidence interval for both is ±2.9%.

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 by key demographics (gender, age, race/ethnicity, income, education and Census region). The samples were also weighted by partisan affiliation to balance the sample and ensure a roughly representative distribution of Democrats and Republicans, as well as Independents, including those that register as unaffiliated, or chose another party affiliation.

Project partners are PPC and the Civic Innovation Center at the University of Maryland, and Voice of the People. They do not advocate for policy positions or endorse candidates.

National questionnaire with toplines and crosstabs: **publicconsultation.org — Common Ground National Questionnaire 2026**
All states and districts: **vop.org/battlegrounds-aggregate**