



Republicans and Democrats Overwhelmingly Support National Service

A new poll conducted by TargetPoint Consulting confirms that American voters are united in support for national service, and want Congress to maintain or increase federal spending on national service programs. Strong support for national service cuts across demographic groups and party lines, demonstrating national service is an issue on which Americans can agree.

TargetPoint Consulting surveyed voters across the political spectrum in nine battleground states, including Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Here are the results:

VOTERS STRONGLY SUPPORT INVESTING TAX DOLLARS IN NATIONAL SERVICE.

- ✓ 83% of voters would like to maintain or increase the federal investment in national service.
- ✓ This includes 78% of Republicans, 84% of Independents, and 90% of Democrats.
- ✓ 24% of Republicans, 39% of Independents and 57% of Democrats support an increase in spending for national service.
- ✓ Only 9% of voters, including only 14% of Tea Party supporters, would support cutting all federal funding for national service.

VOTERS SUPPORT NATIONAL SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE.

- ✓ 79% of voters support investing in a public-private partnership with strict accountability; competitive grants awarded to nonprofits and funds matched by private contributions.
- ✓ 87% of voters support Senior Corps and 80% support AmeriCorps, a model where members commit to up to one year of community service in return for a living allowance and an educational scholarship.
- ✓ Voters support national service programs that serve veterans (89%), respond to disasters (85%), help young people develop professional skills that make them more competitive when applying for jobs (83%), and offer a post-service college scholarship to make higher education more accessible and support families struggling with the high costs of college education (81%).

VOTERS BELIEVE IN THE UNIQUE BENEFITS OF NATIONAL SERVICE.

Across party lines, voters overwhelmingly agreed that national service:

- ✓ Helps replace government handouts with local, volunteer-based, community work and empower people to be more self-sufficient and less dependent on the government in the long run (74%).
- ✓ Helps prepare young people for the workforce (80%).
- ✓ Helps build stronger neighborhoods and communities (79%).
- ✓ Helps restore important values of patriotism and civic duty to young people (78%).

VOTERS SUPPORT CANDIDATES WITH NATIONAL SERVICE PLANS.

- ✓ 67% of voters are more likely to vote for a candidate who comes out with a plan to place an AmeriCorps member in every low-performing school in America. This includes 59% of GOP base voters, 65% of Independents, and 58% of Tea Party supporters.
- ✓ 61% of voters are more likely to vote for a candidate who would guarantee funding to establish a service position for every qualified national service applicant.

“In today’s highly partisan atmosphere, the bipartisan agreement on the value of national service is wonderful to see. There is deep support for the national and local benefits, and the core values, that define our national service programs.” —Michael Meyers, President, TargetPoint Consulting

National service harnesses America’s most powerful resource – the energy and talents of our citizens – to improve communities, impact lives, and tackle some of the biggest challenges facing our nation. National service participants strengthen education from preschool through college, help communities recover and rebuild after natural disasters, support veterans and military families, combat poverty, assist seniors in independent living, and build economic opportunity for individuals and communities. For more information, about the TargetPoint poll, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1KZH4Fg>.