



# Majority of Americans Support Campaign Finance Reform

## Ipsos Poll on behalf of the Center for Public Integrity

Washington, DC, August 24, 2017 — In the latest Ipsos poll conducted for the Center for Public Integrity, nearly one in five Americans (18%) assume lawmakers spend 21-40 hours fundraising each week. The poll also revealed that almost half of Americans oppose the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision, with 48% opposing versus 30% supporting the decision. Republicans are more likely to come out in favor of the decision, with 39% supporting it. Given the chance to change the campaign finance system, a majority of Americans (57%) would place limits on the amount of money super PACs can raise and spend. This change is especially popular among Democrats, where nearly two thirds (65%) support limiting super PACs fundraising and spending.

### 1. How many hours each week do you think lawmakers spend fundraising?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
0	12%	14%	10%	9%
1-5	23%	22%	23%	22%
6-10	23%	22%	25%	22%
11-20	21%	23%	22%	19%
21-40	18%	19%	15%	27%
<i>Median Number Chosen</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>

### 2. How familiar are you with the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Very familiar	8%	9%	10%	7%
Somewhat familiar	16%	22%	13%	16%
Not very familiar	20%	19%	16%	25%
Have heard of it, but that’s it	11%	11%	13%	9%
Have not heard about it	36%	32%	40%	33%
Don’t know	9%	6%	8%	9%
<i>Familiar (Net)</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>Unfamiliar (Net)</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>43%</i>

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**  
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs  
Email: [chris.jackson@ipsos.com](mailto:chris.jackson@ipsos.com)  
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



3. The Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision in 2010 allowed so-called “super PACs” to raise and spend unlimited amounts of campaign cash from corporations, nonprofits and people. Some people oppose this decision because they believe it encourages corporate political spending, limiting the voice of individual Americans. Others support Citizens United because they believe it protects Americans’ first amendment rights for all groups that want to support candidates financially. To what extent do you support or oppose the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly support	9%	7%	14%	5%
Somewhat support	21%	23%	25%	14%
Somewhat oppose	24%	22%	26%	27%
Strongly oppose	24%	29%	16%	33%
Don’t know	22%	19%	19%	22%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>19%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>60%</i>

4. If you could change the campaign finance system, you would... (Select all that apply):

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Place limits on the amount of money super PACs can raise and spend	57%	65%	52%	61%
Require disclosure of donors to nonprofit organizations	42%	42%	43%	46%
Eliminate limits on the amount of money individuals can give to candidates	15%	13%	17%	17%
Allow super PACs to coordinate with candidates	10%	11%	9%	9%
Make no change	4%	2%	6%	3%
Don’t know	17%	15%	16%	12%

5. In just a few words, what does “draining the swamp” mean to you? *See verbatims*  
 6. With which political party do you most identify?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strong Democrat	14%	36%	-	-
Moderate Democrat	14%	37%	-	-
Lean Democrat	10%	26%	-	-
Lean Republican	7%	-	24%	-
Moderate Republican	12%	-	38%	-
Strong Republican	12%	-	38%	-
Independent	22%	-	-	100%
Other	2%	-	-	-

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 Email: [chris.jackson@ipsos.com](mailto:chris.jackson@ipsos.com)  
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Don't know/Refuse	6%	-	-	-
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Email: [chris.jackson@ipsos.com](mailto:chris.jackson@ipsos.com)  
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



## About the Study

*These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted August 28-29, 2017 on behalf of the Center for Public Integrity. For the survey, a sample of roughly 1,011 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 350 Democrats, 348 Republicans, and 220 Independents.*

*The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos's online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2013 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.*

*Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following ( $n=1,011$ ,  $DEFF=1.5$ , adjusted Confidence Interval=5).*

*The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 6.0 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 6.0 percentage points for Republicans, and plus or minus 7.5 percentage points for Independents.*

*For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.*

### For more information on this news release, please contact:

Chris Jackson  
Vice President, U.S.  
Ipsos Public Affairs  
+1 202 420-2025  
[chris.jackson@ipsos.com](mailto:chris.jackson@ipsos.com)

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Tel: +1 202 420-2025



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Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,782.7 million in 2016.

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[www.ipsos.com](http://www.ipsos.com)

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