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NEW POLL SHOWS VOTERS IN BATTLEGROUND STATES OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT VOTE-BY-MAIL, SAFE VOTING OPTIONS AND FUNDING TO PROTECT ELECTIONS FROM COVID-19

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Vote Foundation Chair Michael Steele and pollster Geoff Garin shared data showing voters overwhelmingly support action from Congress to ensure voters have multiple options for casting their ballots

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), ranking member of the Senate Rules Committee with oversight jurisdiction over federal elections; Michael Steele, U.S. Vote Foundation Chair; and Geoff Garin, president of Hart Research Associates [released new polling data](#) showing formidable bipartisan support for safe voting options and increased funding from Congress to protect our elections from the pandemic.

The research shows that large majorities of voters in Republican-held Senate battleground states believe it is important to allow people to exercise their right to vote this November without putting their health at risk and that the Senate is responsible for ensuring there are multiple voting options in November. The research also underscores that most voters would react unfavorably if their senator does not support legislation to safeguard voting.

“Americans are facing unprecedented disruptions to their daily lives and we need to make sure that in the midst of this pandemic, Americans don’t also lose their ability to vote,” said **Senator Amy Klobuchar**. “We must take critical steps to ensure that states have the resources they need to implement early in-person voting and no-excuse absentee vote-by-mail programs.”

“As the former chairman of the Republican National Committee and the current chair of U.S. Vote Foundation, I have spent my career ensuring that all citizens are empowered to vote and contribute to the vibrancy of our democracy,” said **Michael Steele, chair of the U.S. Vote Foundation**. “While the ongoing COVID-19 crisis presents an unprecedented threat to voters, making democracy work for everyone is not a Democratic problem or a Republican problem—it’s an American problem. If Congress wants to safeguard voters’ faith in government, it must take immediate action to ensure they can cast their ballots this fall without risking their lives.”

“Voters across party lines in these Senate battleground states are sending a clear message that they want their senators to support legislation to ensure safe voting options, including the right to vote by mail,” said **Geoff Garin, president of Hart Research Associates**. “Large majorities in these Republican-held states say President Trump is wrong to oppose the expansion of mail balloting and say the right to vote safely outweighs the objections raised by President Trump.”

A recording of the call with Sen. Klobuchar, Michael Steele and Geoff Garin releasing the data is available [here](#).

Hart Research Associates obtained this data by conducting a phone survey among 805 likely November general election voters spread evenly across six U.S. Senate battleground states (AZ, CO, IA, ME, MT, NC) currently held by Republicans.

The name of the incumbent senator (i.e. Senator McSally, Senator Gardner, Senator Ernst, Senator Collins, Senator Daines, Senator Tillis) serving the respondents' state was used throughout the survey.

Key takeaways from the data include:

- **Large majorities of voters—including 71% of Republican voters—in Republican-held Senate battleground states believe it is important to allow people to exercise their right to vote this November without putting their health at risk.** By overwhelming margins, they support Senate action to make sure voters have multiple options for casting their ballots, including vote-by mail.
- **Three in four voters want their senator to vote for legislation to make sure every eligible voter has the right to vote by mail,** with state funding to improve systems for vote by mail and early voting.
- **Most voters would react unfavorably if their senator does not support such legislation,** including voters who currently support the Republican incumbent.
- **If a Republican incumbent opposes expanding voting options, voters are likely to perceive it as a partisan move.**
- **Voters—including a fifth (20%) of President Trump's base—explicitly reject his argument against expanding mail balloting.**

Poll findings:

- *Responses to the statement "In light of the coronavirus crisis, it is important to have voting options this November, such as voting by mail, that allow people to exercise their right to vote without putting their health at risk":*
 - *STRONGLY AGREE: 85%*
 - *SOMEWHAT AGREE: 15%*
 - *DISAGREE: 13%*
 - *NOT SURE: 2%*
- *Responses to support for voters having multiple options for casting November ballots:*
 - *STRONGLY FAVOR: 65%*
 - *FAVOR: 18%*
 - *OPPOSE: 12%*
 - *NOT SURE: 5%*
- *Responses to preference for Republican senators vote on early voting/vote-by-mail legislation:*
 - *SHOULD VOTE FOR: 74%*
 - *SHOULD VOTE AGAINST: 15%*
 - *NOTE SURE: 11%*
- *Responses to if Republican senator opposes options for casting ballots without endangering health:*
 - *UNFAVORABLE TO HIS/HER OPPOSITION: 65%*
 - *FAVORABLE TO HIS/HER OPPOSITION: 25%*
 - *NOT SURE: 13%*

- *Responses to the question: “Ensuring the right to vote safely should be a bipartisan issue—both Republicans and Democrats in Congress should agree on ensuring the right to vote without endangering your health”:*
 - *STRONGLY AGREE: 74%*
 - *SOMEWHAT AGREE: 16%*
 - *DISAGREE: 6%*
 - *NOT SURE: 4%*

- *Responses to the question: “President Trump is against the expansion of mail balloting because he says mail balloting is ‘corrupt’ and ‘ripe for fraud.’ Do you think President Trump is right or wrong to oppose the expansion of mail ballots?”*
 - *TRUMP IS WRONG: 59%*
 - *TRUMP IS RIGHT: 29%*
 - *NOT SURE: 12%*

- *Responses to the question: “If I have these options in November, I am most likely to cast my ballot:”*
 - *VOTE BY MAIL: 48%*
 - *IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY: 26%*
 - *IN PERSON DURING EARLY VOTING: 21%*
 - *NOT SURE: 5%*

About the U.S. Vote Foundation (US Vote): The U.S. Vote Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)3 organization that works to facilitate and increase the participation of U.S. domestic, overseas and military voters worldwide through streamlined voter registration and absentee ballot request services, civic data, technology development, and access to personalized voter information services. U.S. Vote is a leader in Vote-by-Mail Absentee Ballot Request services. Overseas Vote is the principal initiative of U.S. Vote. Further information: www.usvotefoundation.org and www.overseasvote.org. Contact: Susan Dzieduszycka-Suinat, susan@usvotefoundation.org, (202) 470-2480.

About Hart Research Associates: Hart Research Associates is one of the leading research firms in the United States and has been at the cutting edge of change in public opinion since its founding in 1971. Its clients include organizations from virtually every major sector of society, including candidates for public office and political parties, labor unions, the nonprofit and policy advocacy sector, business, health and medicine, technology, journalism, law, education, and the arts.