A nationwide survey of likely 2020 general election voters commissioned by the Campaign Legal Center – and conducted by both a Democratic and a Republican polling firm – finds that voters believe our campaign finance system is broken and that there is a strong desire for the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to take a more active role in enforcing campaign finance laws.¹

**Key Findings**

A majority of voters rate “corruption in the political system” as the most serious problem facing the country, even more serious than rising healthcare costs. Independents are especially likely to see corruption as the nation’s most pressing problem. Unlimited secret political donations and the influence of big money in our politics are also viewed as major problems, with even more expressing concern over them than over illegal immigration and stagnant wages.

¹ ALG Research, with consultation from GS Strategy Group, conducted n=855 online interviews with a representative, nationwide sample of likely 2020 presidential voters September 16-22, 2019. The sample consisted of n=755 voters nationwide, plus a n=100 oversample of Independents. The survey was conducted in both English and Spanish.
Voters don’t need to be convinced that the money spent by special interests impacts their lives, as three-out-of-five voters already believe that it does.

They also believe the problem of big money in politics is getting worse, with 74% saying that corporations and special interest spending on elections has increased over the past 10 years. Given this, it is not surprising that 61% also believe that major changes need to be made to the country’s campaign finance system.

About a quarter of voters (28%) are unable to rate the FEC, but after a description of its role, voters rate its job performance negatively by a 26-point margin (28% positive / 54% negative).

71% want the FEC to take a more active role enforcing campaign finance laws, and there is at least two-thirds support for this across party lines.
The desire for a more active FEC is not just broad. It is also intense, with a majority of voters (51%) saying that it is very important that the FEC takes on a more active role in enforcing campaign finance laws.