

November 1, 2021

**To: Interested Parties**  
**From: GS Strategy Group and ALG Research**  
**Re: Poll Finds Strong Support for Reforming Ethics Laws in Congress**

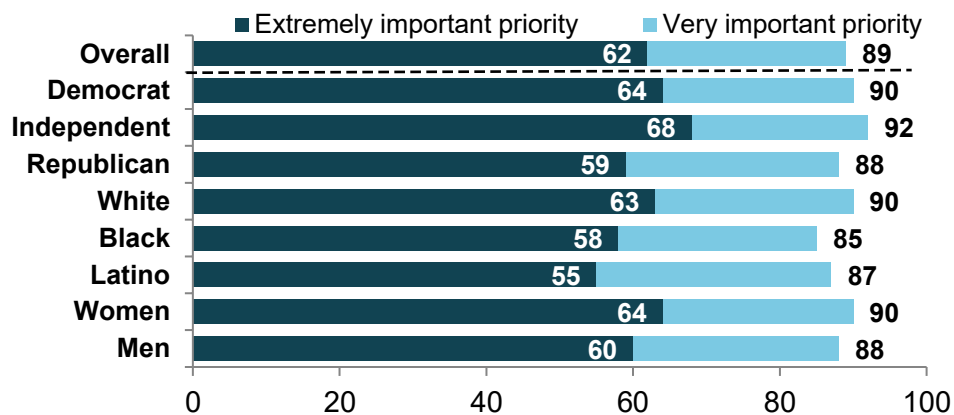
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A national poll of voters finds overwhelming support for reforming our ethics laws to hold members of Congress accountable for ethics violations. Strengthening ethics rules is very important to voters, and despite deep cynicism about the ethics of politicians, voters across partisan lines believe that stronger ethics laws can make elected officials act more ethically. Voters also firmly support requiring that contributions to organizations that spend money on elections be publicly disclosed.

### Key Findings

- **Voters believe that holding members of Congress accountable for ethics violations should be a high priority for Congress.** Nearly 90% of voters believe ethics enforcement should be an “extremely important” or “very important” priority for Congress, including 90% of Democrats, 92% of Independents, and 88% of Republicans. Additionally, more than 9-out-of-10 (92%) support increasing the enforcement of ethics rules in Congress.

*How important of a priority do you think “ensuring members of Congress are held accountable for ethics violations” should be for the U.S. Congress to address?*



- **Despite voters’ deep cynicism about the ethics of politicians, they believe that ethics laws can be effective.** Voters overwhelmingly believe that we must change our laws in order to get politicians to act ethically (85%). Currently, just 12% of voters believe members of Congress face serious consequences when they act unethically “all” or “most” of the time. However, by a 17-point margin,

they also believe that ethics laws can be improved to ensure that politicians act ethically (55%), rather than that politicians will always find a way around them (38%).

- **Each proposed ethics rule is supported by over two-thirds of voters.** Proposals to create an independent ethics committee, require members of Congress to cooperate with that committee, stricter rules on lobbying, and require members of Congress to disclose their financial holdings are especially popular and are supported by over 80% of voters.
- **There's overwhelming support for public disclosure of contributions to organizations that spend money on elections.** Nearly 90% of voters support it nationwide, including 88% of Democrats and Republicans and 92% of Independents. Attacks fail to dent this support for public disclosure, with voters continuing to back it by more than a 50-point margin even after hearing statements focused on the need to protect donors from harassment, cancel culture, or the potential impact on donations.

**Methodology:** These findings are based on the results of a bilingual nationwide online survey conducted by GS Strategy Group and ALG Research from April 15-23, 2021 among N=803 registered voters (703N nationwide + 101N oversample of Independents). The confidence interval for the main sample is +/- 3.7% at the 95% level of confidence. The confidence interval for subgroups varies and is higher.