

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties  
FROM: American Edge Project  
DATE: June 2022

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### **New Poll: Policymakers Should Focus on Inflation and National Security Rather than Competition Restrictions for U.S. Tech**

#### ***Almost Nine-in-10 Support Candidates Who Ensure U.S. Tech Remains Globally Competitive***

As Congress considers legislation to restrict the competitiveness of U.S. tech companies, a new poll finds that likely voters – including those in midterm battleground states and districts – oppose these proposals and want their elected officials to focus on inflation and the cost of living, national security, jobs, and health care. Voters see competition restrictions as misguided and believe they will harm America’s national security and economy.

**As a result, these voters are signaling that candidates in competitive races who advocate for these overreaching proposals will lose support this cycle.**

The poll, conducted May 13-23, 2022, by Ipsos on behalf of the American Edge Project (AEP), surveyed 1,000 likely midterm voters nationwide, and oversampled 630 likely voters in Senate battleground states as well as 513 likely voters in House battleground districts.

Key findings include:

- **Policymakers pushing far-reaching tech regulation are pursuing a low priority issue.** Voters rate regulating U.S. tech companies as a comparatively low priority (51% priority), *below all others tested*. Instead, they want their representatives to focus on inflation and cost of living (88% priority), protecting American national security (86% priority), jobs and the economy (85% priority), lowering gas prices (83% priority), and health care (82% priority).
- **Midterm voters nationwide believe competition restrictions will harm the economy, national security, and small businesses.** Voters worry about the economic consequences that could result in breaking up U.S. companies. Their specific concerns include:
  - *There could be unintended negative consequences like greater threats to U.S. national security and the U.S. losing its economic competitive edge (89% concerning).*
  - *Restricting American tech companies from developing innovative new products could make the U.S. less economically competitive (87% concerning).*

There is also significant concern among voters about potential national security implications. They are concerned that:

- *U.S. consumers and national security could be more vulnerable to cyber-attacks (90% concerning),*
- *America could be made less safe by exposing our critical infrastructure to cyber-attacks, exposing our elections to foreign interference, and putting our private data at risk (88% concerning)*

There is additional concern about the impact competition restrictions will have on small businesses. Voters are worried that:

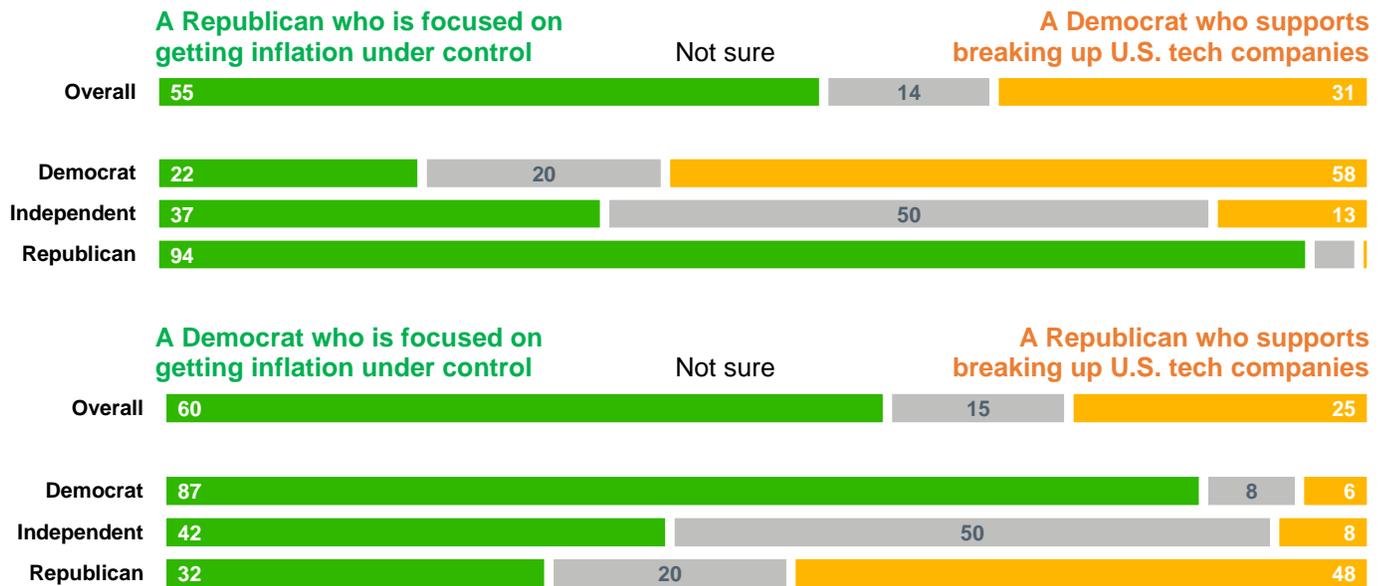
- *American small businesses that rely on tech platforms to reach consumers could be hurt because they could be forced to spend more money to attract customers (84% concerning).*
- *American small businesses could have to pay more for online advertising, which could make it more expensive for them to operate their business and get new customers (84% concerning).*

- **Voters are signaling that they will shift away from candidates who support efforts to restrict tech competition.** Half of midterm voters nationwide say they could not vote for a candidate who supports *breaking up American tech companies* (50% could never vote), which rises to 59% who say they could not vote for a

candidate supporting regulation that limits access to online tools and services, like Amazon Prime and Google Maps, and limits access to free social media services like Facebook, and Instagram (59% could never vote). In contrast, nearly all voters could vote for a candidate who supports *protecting small businesses* (95% yes, could vote), *creating new jobs* (95% yes, could vote), *getting inflation under control* (94% yes, could vote), lowering gas prices (93% yes, could vote), and *ensuring U.S. tech companies remain globally competitive* (86% yes, could vote).

- **As a result, voters are poised to reward candidates who prioritize inflation over far-reaching tech regulation.** Candidates that prioritize getting cost of living under control have an edge over candidates who are focused on breaking up American tech companies.

*Question: If the next election for Congress were today, which candidate would you be more like to support even is neither is perfect?*



**The bottom line:** This cycle, voters want to see elected officials address the priorities that matter to them – issues like national security, jobs and the economy, and health care. They view overregulating tech companies as a relatively low priority and are concerned that restrictions are misguided and could have negative unintended consequences like greater threats to national security and the U.S. losing its economic competitive edge. Candidates who support far reaching tech regulation proposals are substantially less favored by voters than candidates who are focused on tackling inflation.

#### Additional methodology notes:

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between May 13 - 23, 2022, across House congressional battleground districts and Senate battleground states, on behalf of the American Edge Project. For this survey, a sample of 1,000 midterm likely voters, as well as 630 likely voters in Senate battleground states as well as 513 likely voters in House battleground districts was interviewed online in English.

House battleground districts were: AZ-01, AZ-06, CA-13, CA-22, CA-27, CA-45, CA-47, CO-08, IA-03, IL-06, IL-13, IL-14, IL-17, KS-03, MD-01, ME-02, MI-03, MI-07, MI-08, MI-10, MN-02, NC-13, NH-01, NJ-05, NJ-07, NM-02M NV-01, NV-03, NV-04, NY-01, NY-11, OH-01, OH-09, OH-13, OR-05, PA-07, PA-08, PA-17, TX-15, TX-28, VA-02, VA-07, WA-08, WI-03

Senate battleground states were: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington, Wisconsin

The sample was randomly drawn from [Ipsos' online panel](#), [partner online panel sources](#), and "river" sampling and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After the sample has been obtained from the multiple Opt-in panel sources, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Registered Voter Population, using a standard procedure called raking-ratio adjustments. The sample drawn for this study reflects Registered Voter population targets on gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, Party ID, and 2020 Vote choice. The source of the demographic targets is the US Census Bureau's 2020 Voting and Registration Supplement. Party ID targets come from the 2018 Pew Research Center annual survey data. 2020 vote choice targets come from 2020 State Election Offices 2020 General Election results.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability 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 3.8 percentage points for the national sample, plus or minus 4.8 percentage points for the Senate battleground sample and plus or minus 5.3 points for the House Battleground Sample. 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 (National sample; n=1,000, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5.3 percentage points. Senate Battleground sample; n=630, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-6.3 percentage points. House Battleground sample; n=513, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-6.8 percentage points).

#### **About American Edge Project**

The American Edge Project is a newly formed coalition dedicated to the proposition that American innovators are an essential part of U.S. economic health, national security and individual freedoms.

For more information, visit <https://americanedgeproject.org/>

#### **About Ipsos**

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