

# *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?*

## **2026 SURVEY SERIES**



SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC POLICY  
PROGRAM FOR  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION



SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC POLICY  
CIVIC INNOVATION CENTER

# ***Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?***

First-of-its-kind survey series

**40,000 Americans in 39 battleground states and districts**

**100+ policy questions on over a dozen national topics**

Nearly all policies based on Congressional legislation,  
some from the Executive Branch

Data is for educational purposes only. PPC, VOP and CivIC do not advocate for policies.

# States and Districts Surveyed

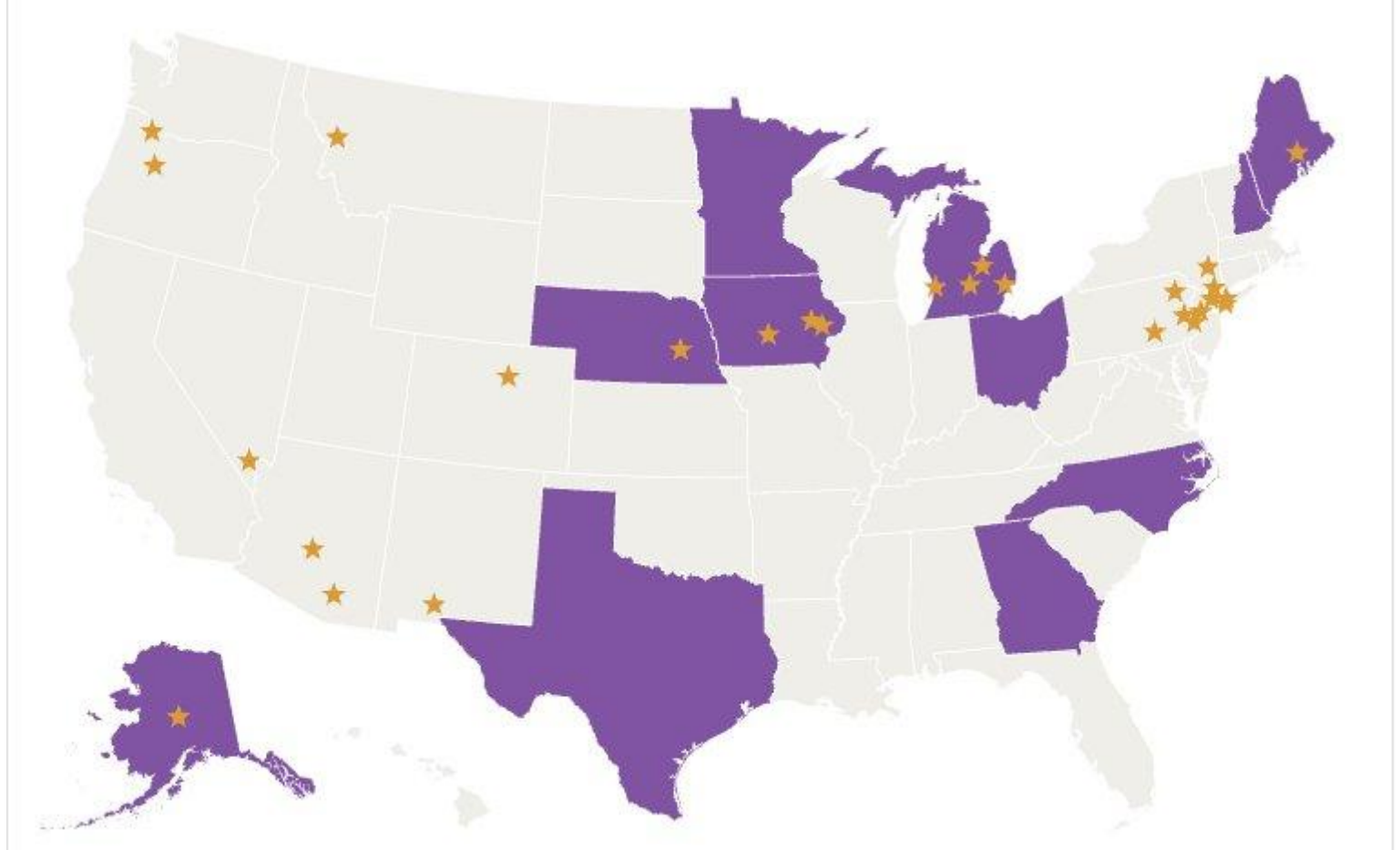
## ■ 11 Competitive States:

Alaska · Georgia · Iowa · Maine ·  
Michigan · Minnesota · Nebraska ·  
New Hampshire · North Carolina ·  
Ohio · Texas

## ★ 28 Competitive House Districts:

AK At-Large · AZ-1 · AZ-6 · CO-8 ·  
IA-1 · IA-2 · IA-3 · ME-2 · MI-4 · MI-  
7 · MI-8 · MI-10 · MT-1 · NE-2 · NJ-  
7 · NJ-9 · NM-2 · NV-3 · NY-3 ·  
NY-4 · NY-17 · NY-19 · OR-5 · PA-  
1 · PA-7 · PA-8 · PA-10 · WA-3

Excluded districts in states that  
were recently redistricted



# Methodology

**May through August in two waves, each with nearly 20,000 adults**

**Representative sample in each state and district**

## Fielding Dates and Sample Sizes

### Survey 1:

May 27 – July 1, 2026, to 19,564 adults — 600 to 2,000 in each state and 400 to 500 in each district

Confidence intervals: +/- 2.9% to 7.6%

### Survey 2:

July 21 – August 17, 2026, to 19,949 adults — 600 to 2,016 in each state and 499 to 592 in each district

Confidence intervals: +/- 2.9% to 8.1%

## Weighting

Each sample was pre-stratified and/or weighted to reflect the adult population of its state or district by key demographics (gender, age, race/ethnicity, income, education). Partisan affiliation was within expectations based on voter registration or the Cook Partisan Voting Index, or weighted to be so.

## Sample Collection

Samples were obtained from multiple online opt-in panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege. Collection and quality control were managed by QuantifyAI under direction of PPC.

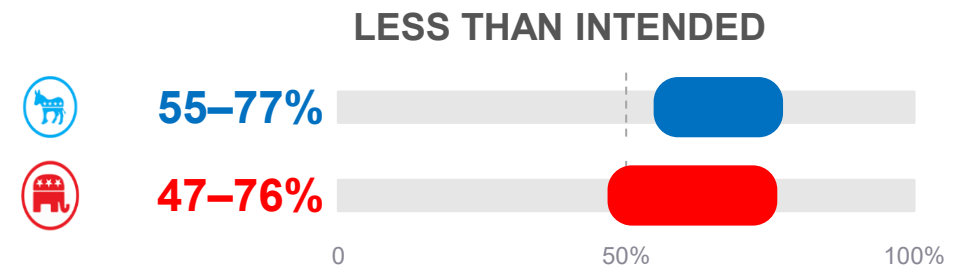
# *Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?*

## **Views in the Battlegrounds About the Role of Public Opinion**

# The Founders – Social Contract

Thinking about what the Founders were trying to achieve, do you think the amount of **influence the American people have on the government** is:

- more than they intended
- about the same
- less than they intended

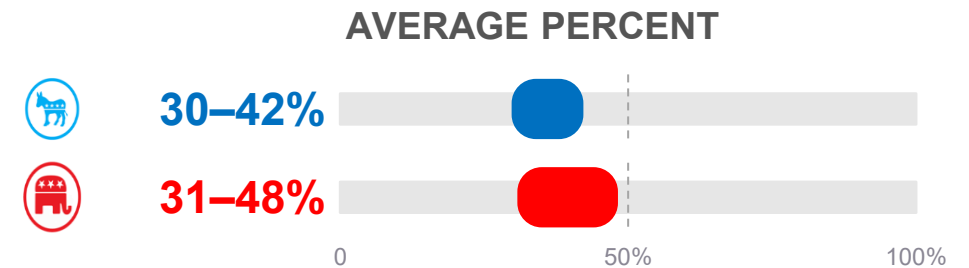


# Do the People Think They Have Influence?

What percent of the time do federal elected officials do what the majority of Americans want them to do?

Average response:  
**35% of the time**

In every battleground, Rs and Ds  
say **less than half the time**



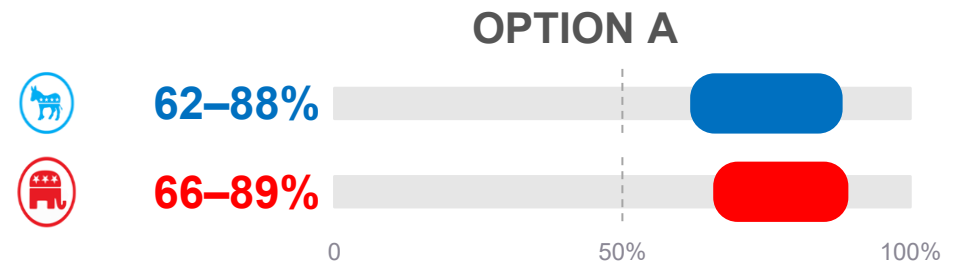
# Would Public Influence Help Break the Gridlock?

When Congress gets stuck in gridlock, do you think:

**A.** If Congress were to take into account the views of the people, this would help break the logjam **because the people are less polarized than Congress.**

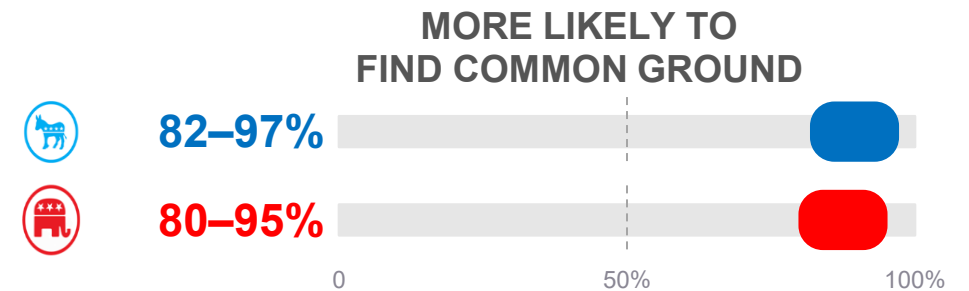
– or –

**B.** Taking into account the views of the people would not help because the gridlock in **Congress is just a reflection of the polarization among the people.**



# Would Congress Find More Common Ground?

If Congress were more **influenced by the people**, would they be more or less likely to **find common ground**?

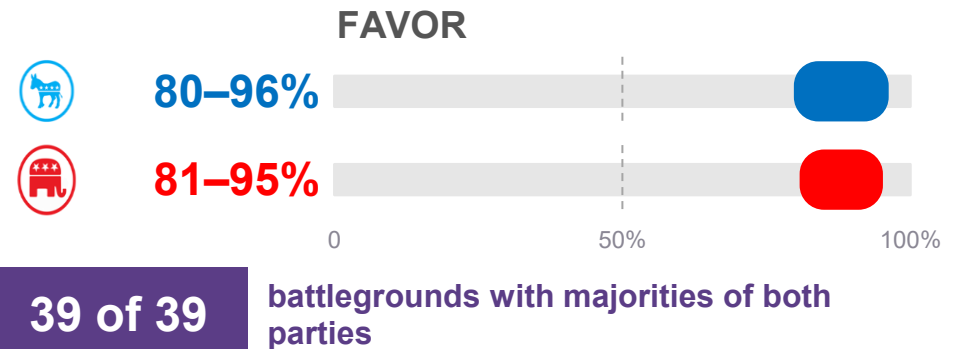


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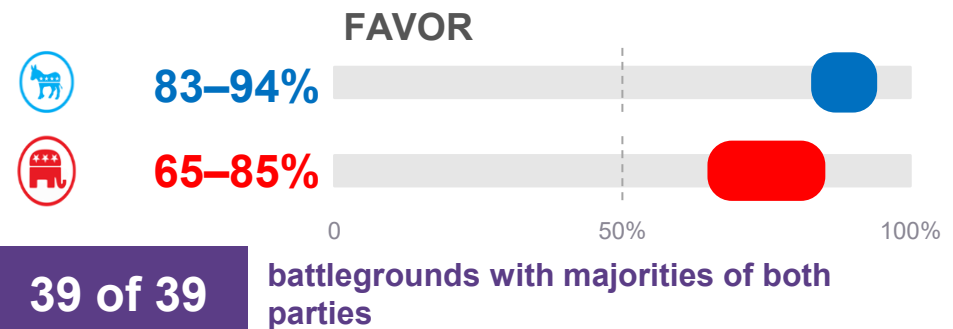
## **Views in the Battlegrounds About Policy**

# Costs of Healthcare - Examples

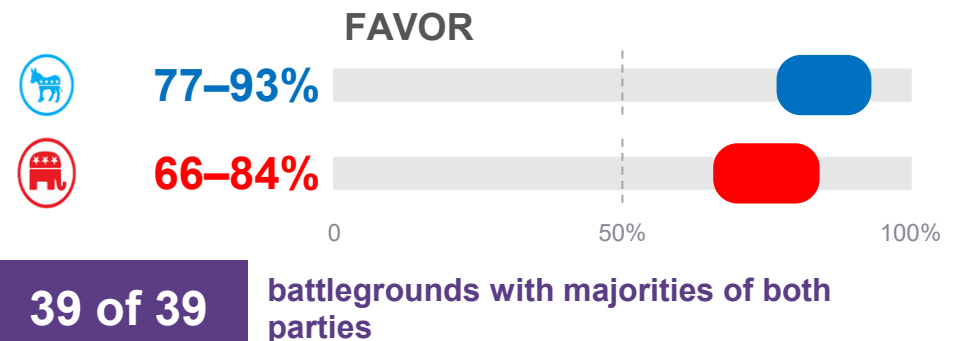
Cap drug prices based on lower prices in other developed countries



Restore the enhanced ACA subsidies

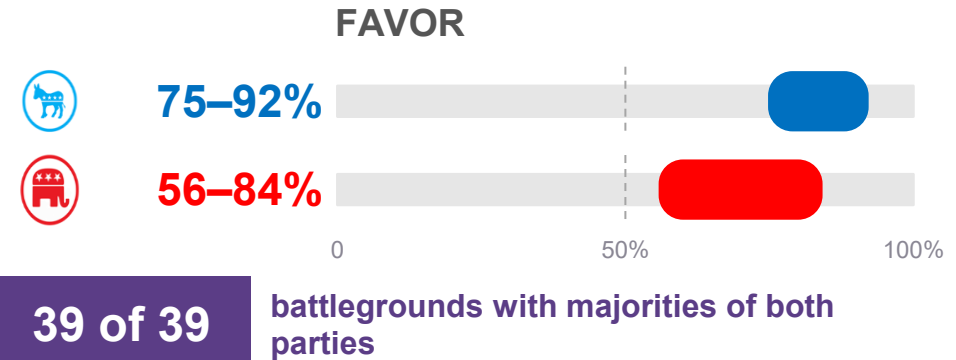


Offer a government-run public option anyone can buy into

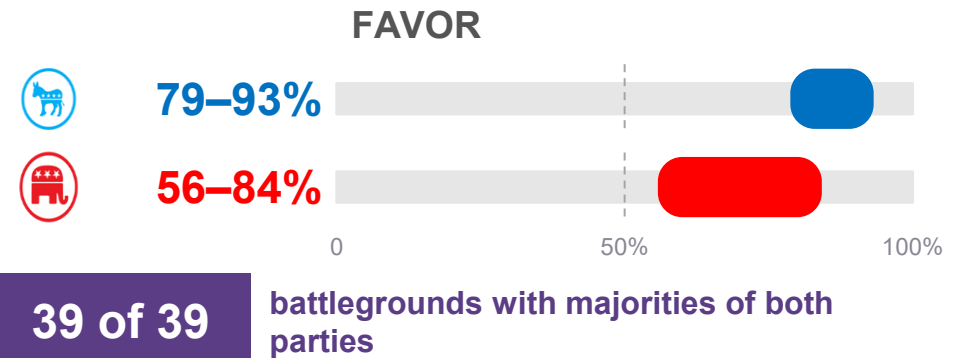


# Families & Children - Examples

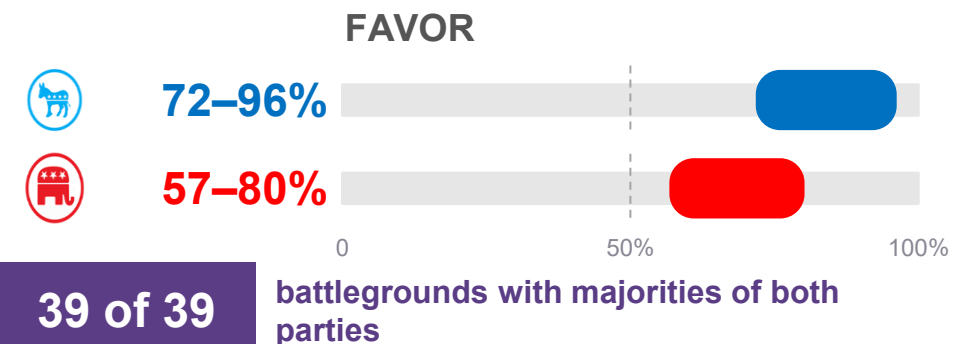
Provide **\$25 billion** to states and cities to **expand free preschool** programs



**Subsidize childcare** so families spend **no more than 7% of income**

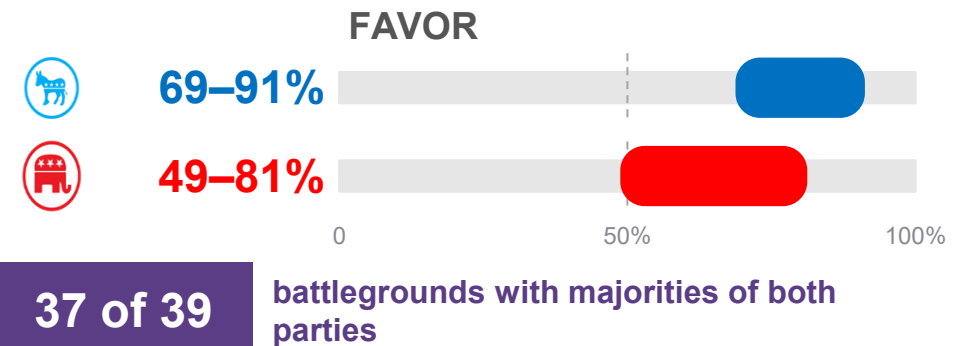


**National 12 week paid family and medical leave program**, funded through **new payroll tax**

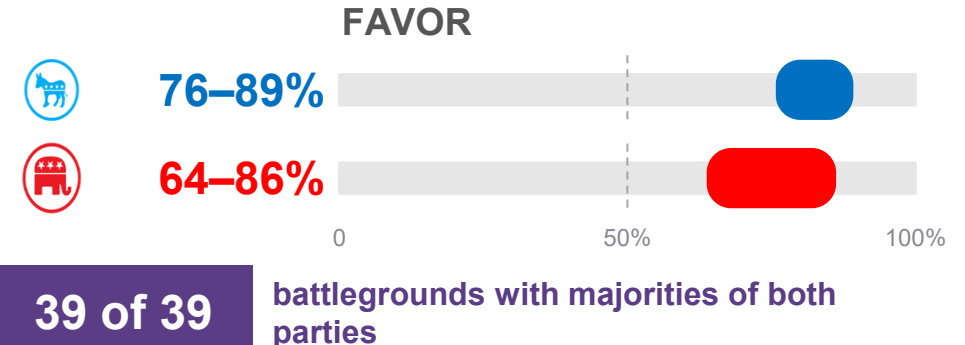


# Housing Affordability - Examples

**\$40 billion** for high-density housing affordable for low- and very low-incomes

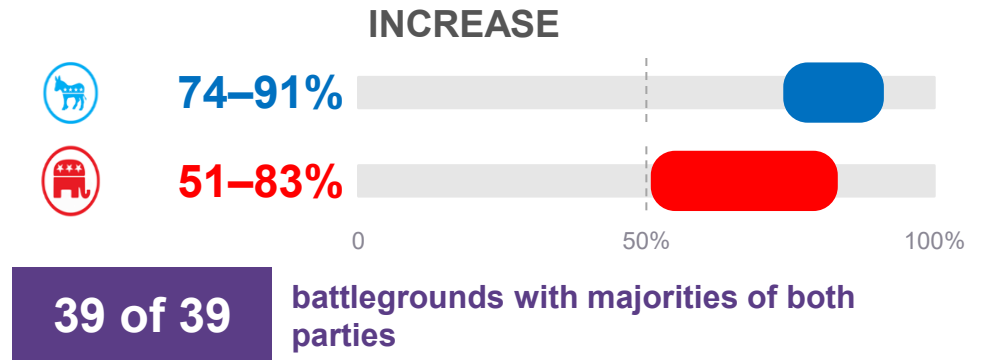


**Ban large corporations** from owning single-family homes

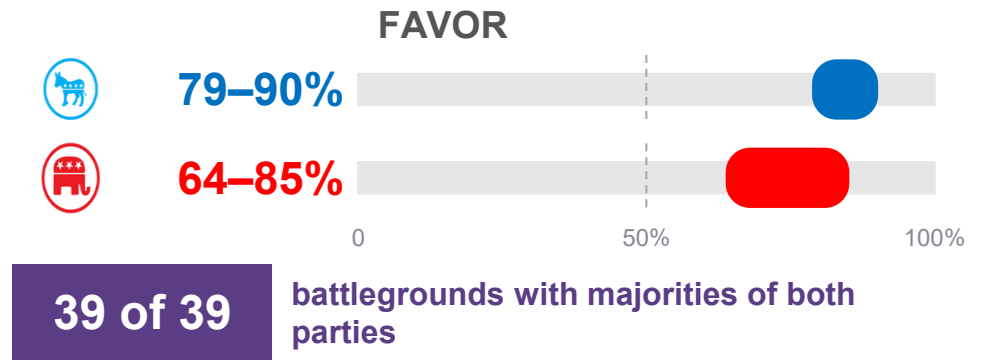


# Low-Income Assistance - Examples

**Increase spending on Medicaid**  
(could increase, keep same,  
or decrease)

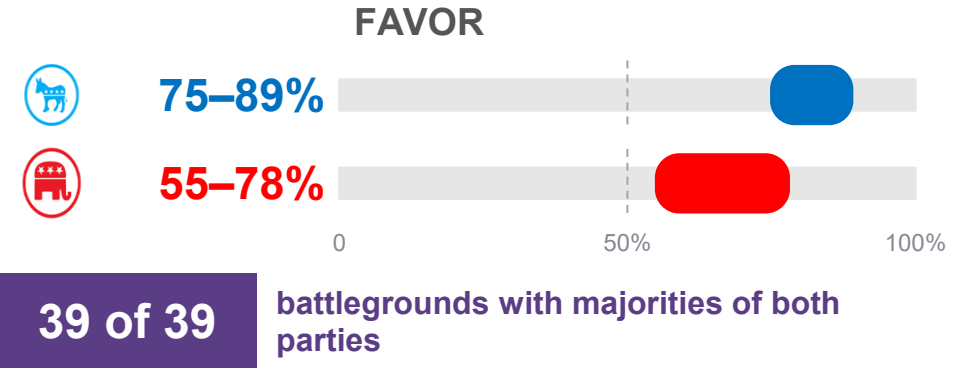


**Raise the maximum  
Earned Income Tax Credit**  
from \$630 to \$1,300 a year,  
for workers without children

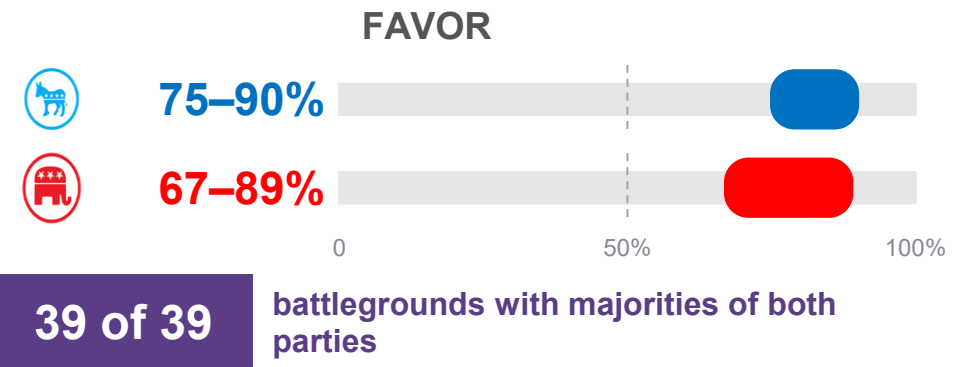


# Immigration - Examples

For undocumented immigrants who have been here for some years and not committed a crime, **provide a path to legal status** (must pay penalties, any owed taxes)

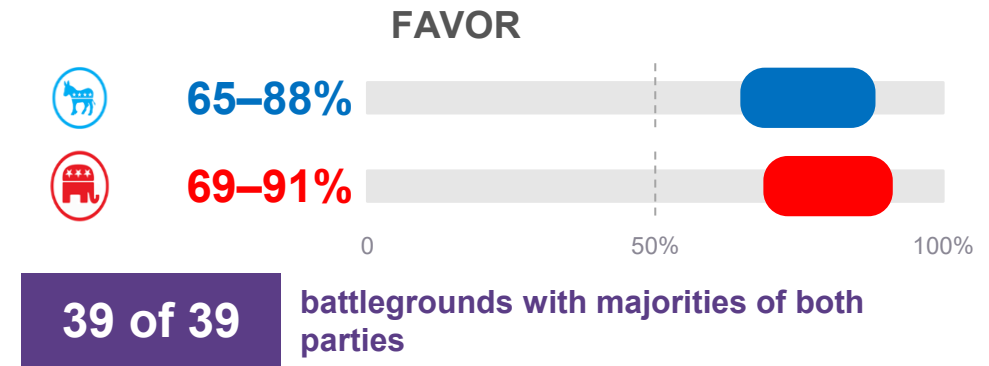


Require employers to use **E-Verify** to ensure legal status of new hires &  
**Increase number of work visas** to meet the demand for workers

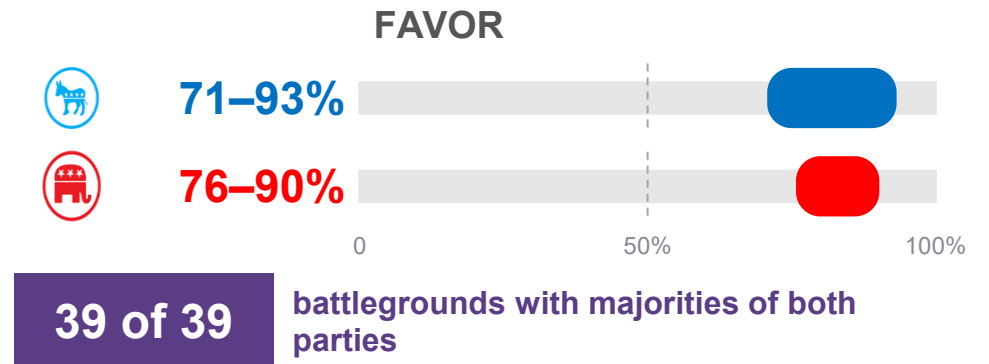


# Artificial Intelligence - Examples

For AI programs that make **critical decisions** (e.g. healthcare claims, hiring), require they pass **government-designed test to prevent law-breaking, bias and privacy violations**

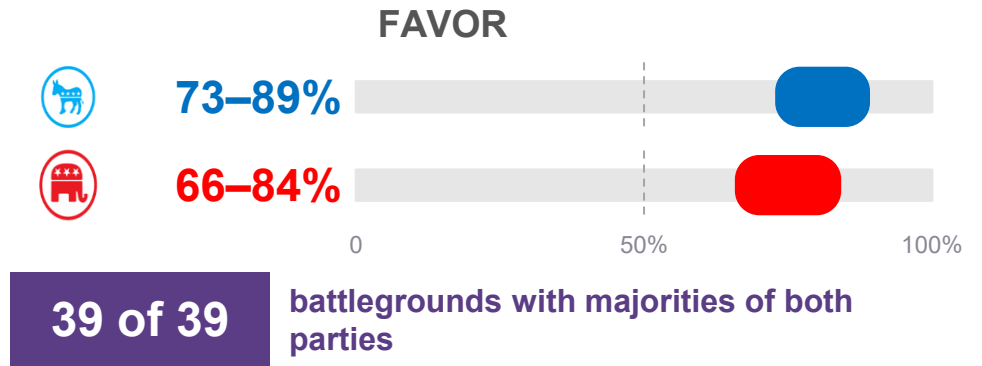


**Prohibit any deepfake use in campaign ads**

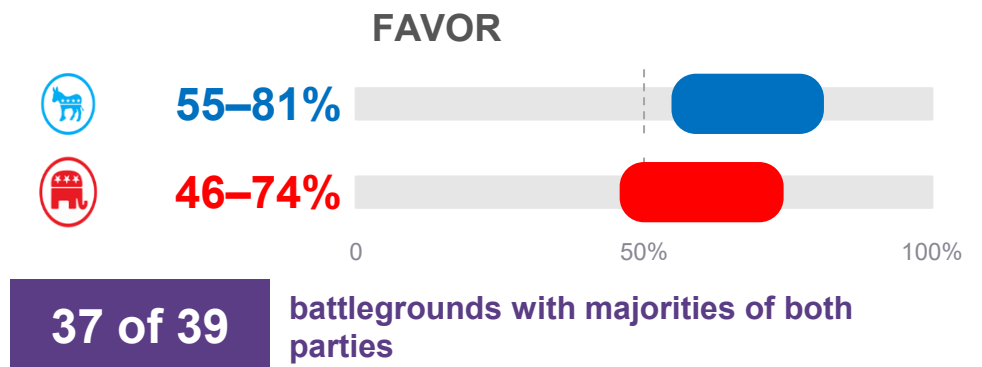


# Social Security – Increase Revenue

Subject **wages over \$400,000** to payroll tax  
(reduces shortfall by 61%)

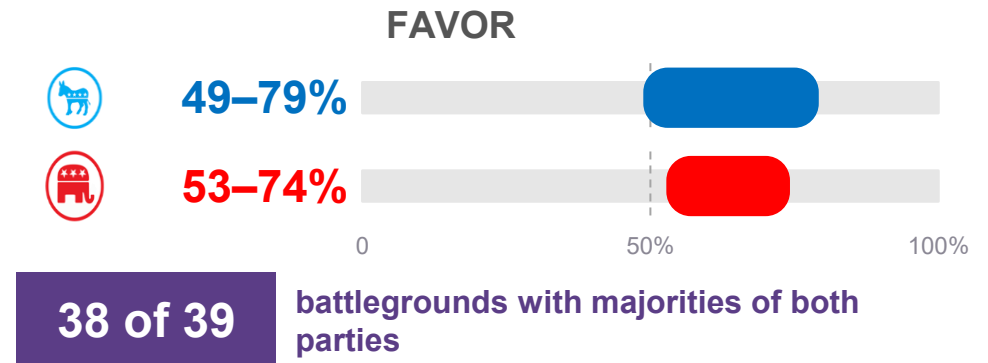


Gradually **increase payroll tax** from 6.2 to 6.5% (reduces shortfall by 15%)

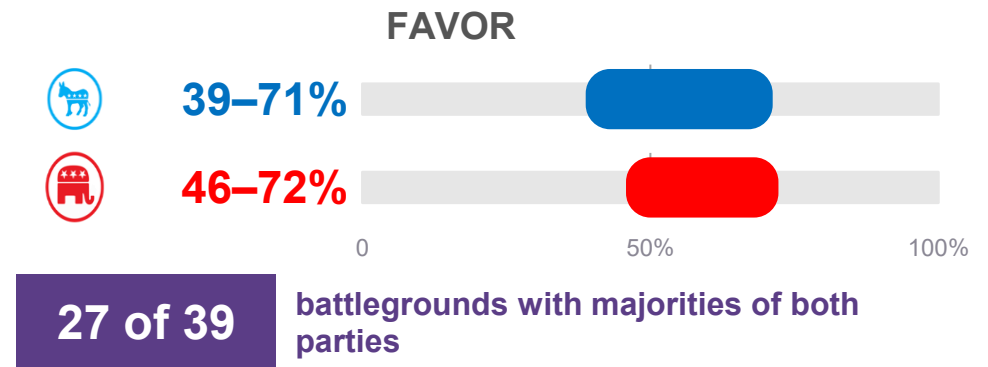


# Social Security – Reduce Spending

**Reduce benefits for top 20% of lifetime earners** (reduces shortfall by 11%)

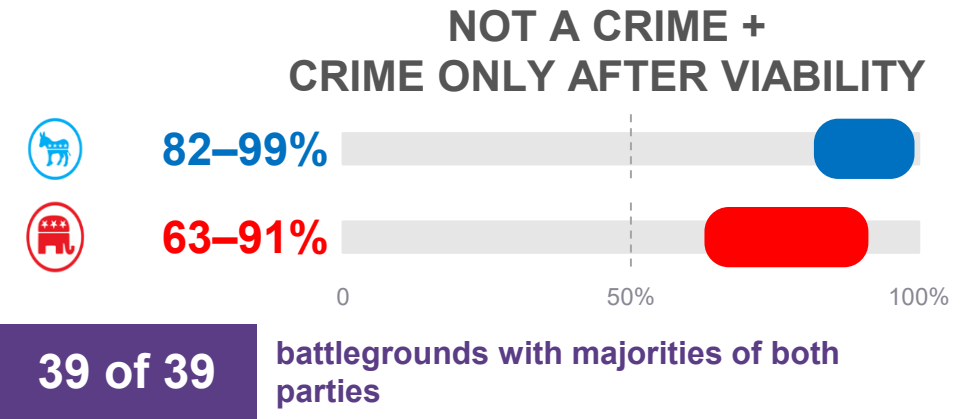


**Gradually increase the full retirement age** from 67 to 68 (reduces shortfall by 15%)

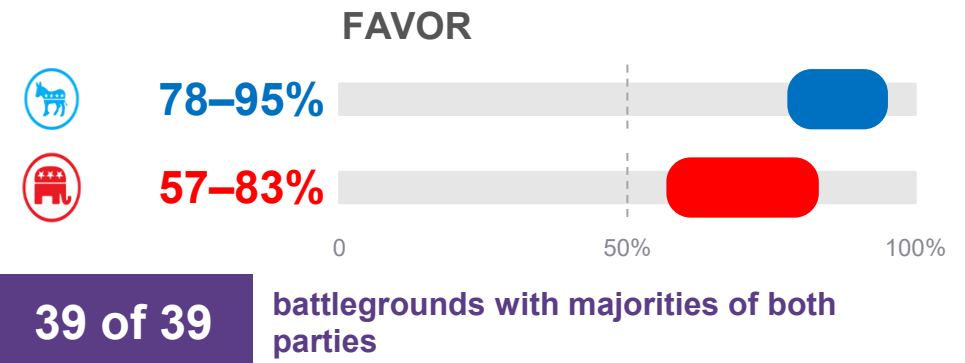


# Abortion & Birth Control - Examples

**Do NOT make it a serious crime**  
– with prison time - for doctors  
to provide abortions  
**before fetal viability**

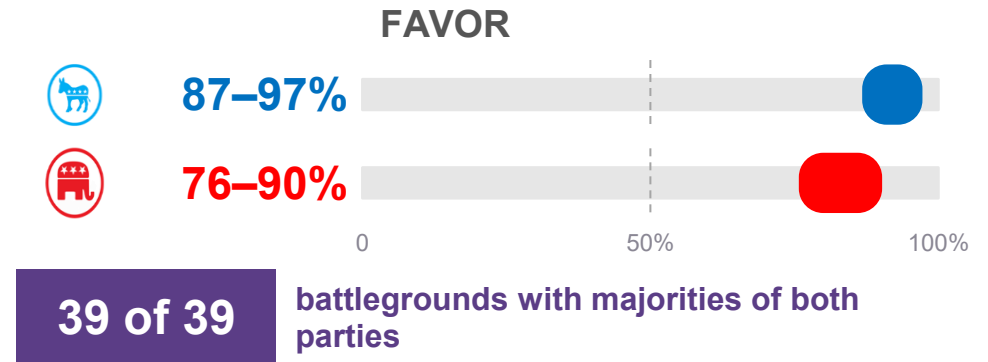


**Prohibit state governments**  
from restricting or banning  
access to birth control

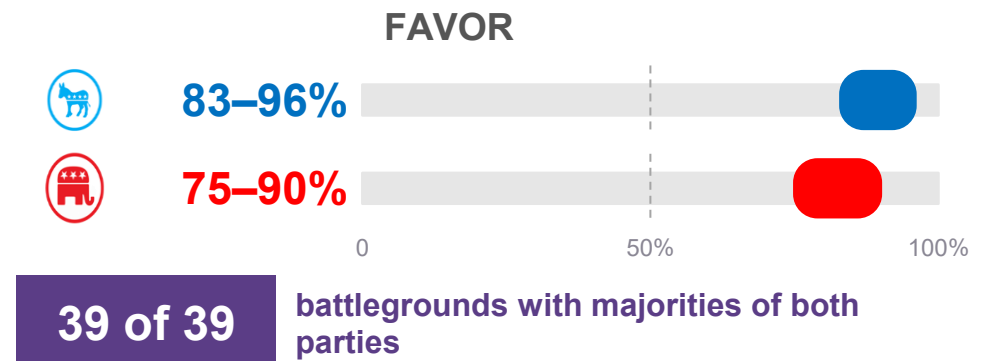


# Policing - Examples

Make it a **duty for officers to intervene** when they perceive another officer is using excessive force

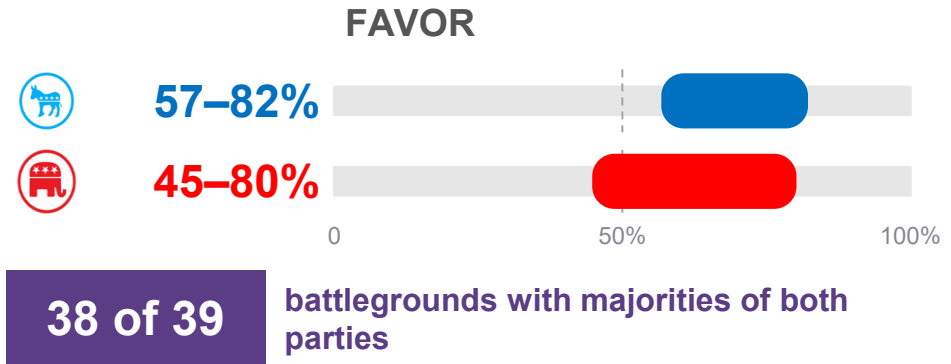


Require law enforcement agencies to submit information about **officer misconduct to a national database**



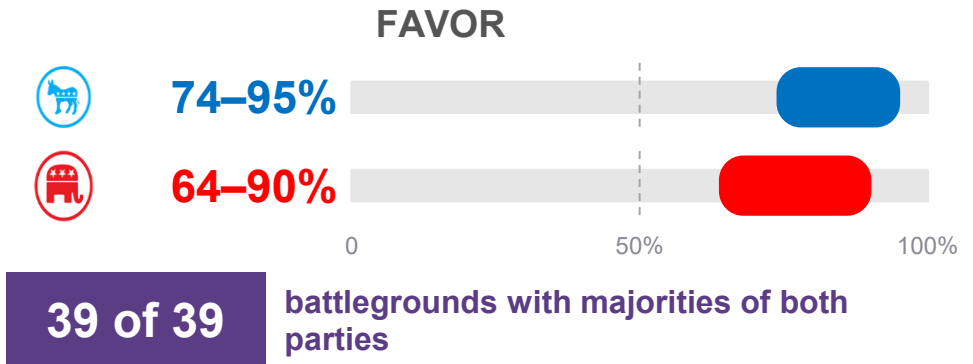
# Criminal Records - Examples

Prohibit employers and licensing boards from rejecting or firing a person because they were:  
Convicted of a **petty, nonviolent crime** (e.g. failing to pay a parking ticket, loitering)



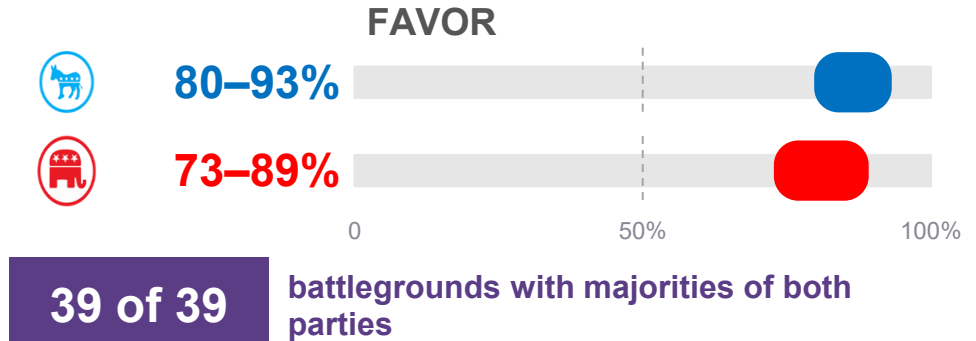
**Limit the period** during which employers and licensing boards can reject or fire a person:

- one year after a misdemeanor
- five years after a felony

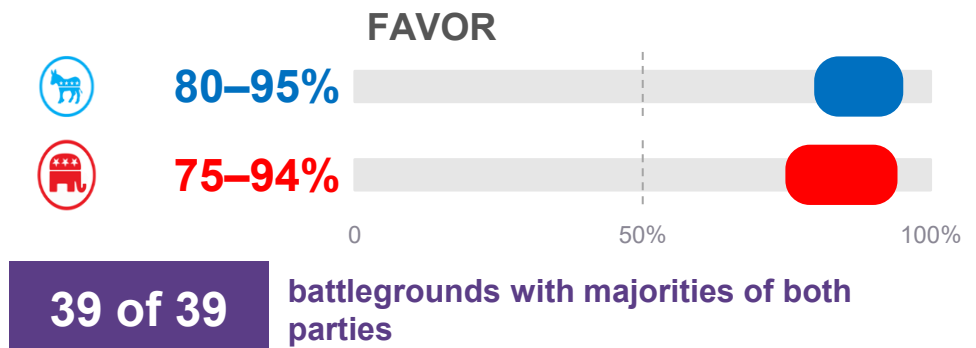


# Campaign Finance - Examples

New **Constitutional amendment** to allow Congress and states to restrict corporations from spending money to influence elections  
(**overturn Citizens United**)

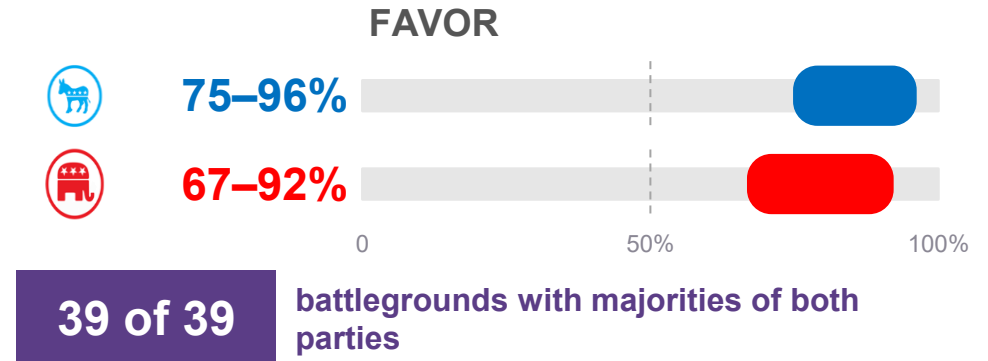


Require corporations, unions, and other groups to **report campaign-related spending** to shareholders, the public, and FEC

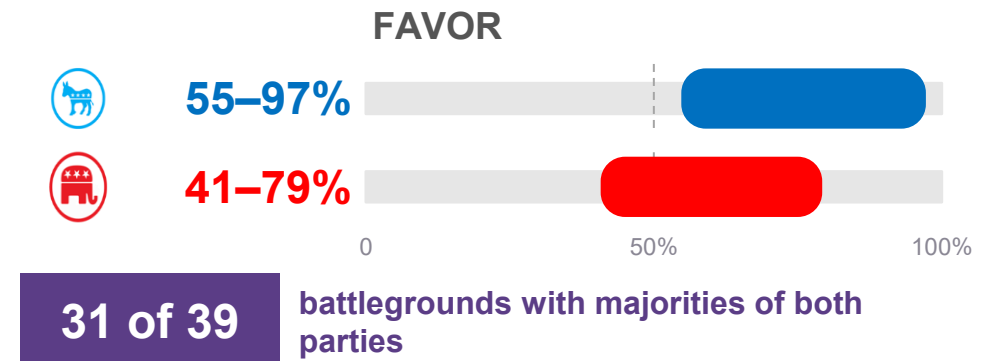


# Congressional Reform - Examples

Require in every state that **congressional districts be drawn by commissions of citizens**, made up of equal numbers of Republicans, Democrats and independents

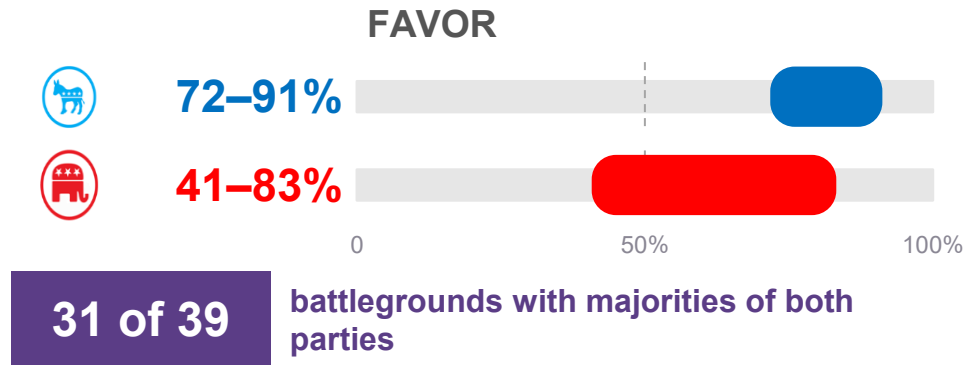


Use **ranked choice voting** in all Congressional elections

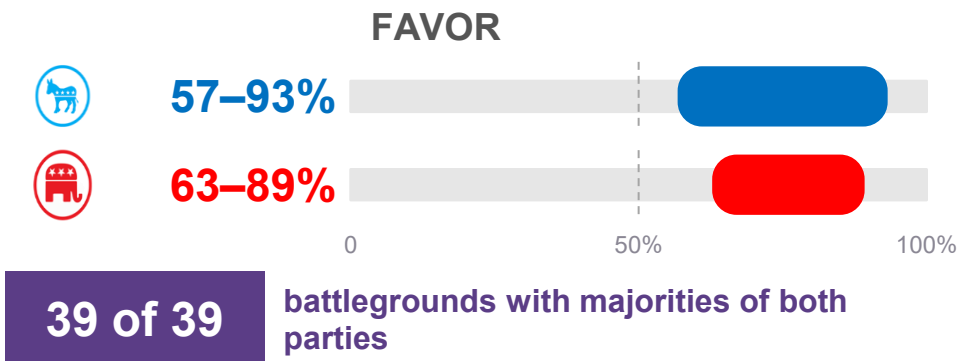


# Presidential War Powers - Examples

If the President uses military force and does not get Congressional approval within 60 days, **funding for that military action will be automatically cut off**

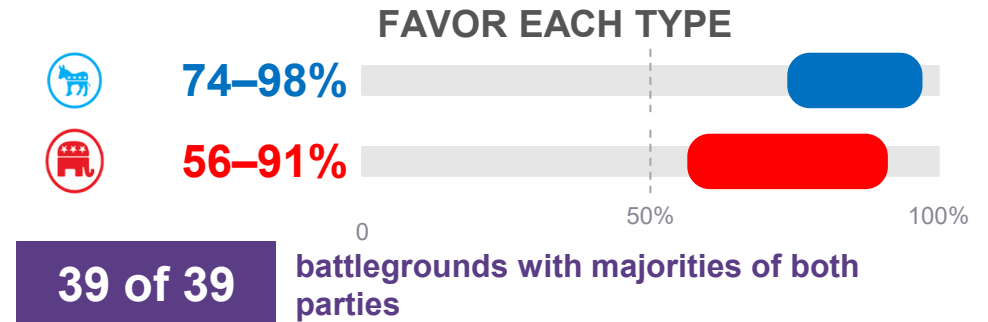


Prohibit a President from **first-use of nuclear weapons without Congressional authorization**

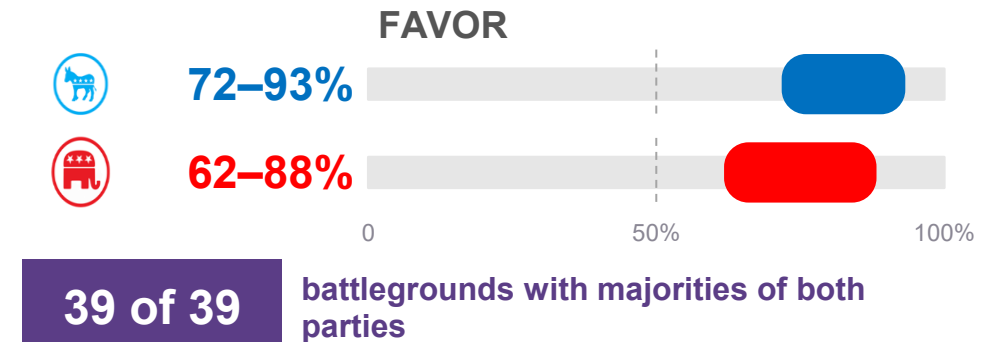


# America's Role in the World - Examples

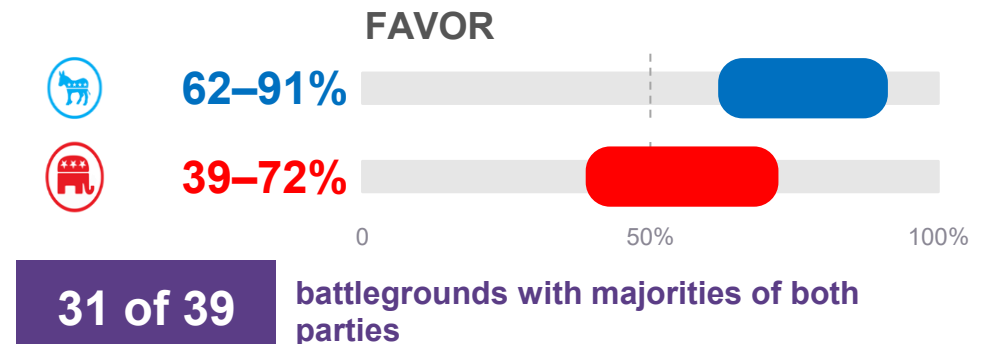
Provide **six types of foreign aid**: humanitarian, health, education, econ dev., environment, democracy



U.S. continuing to abide by the **moratorium on testing nuclear weapons**

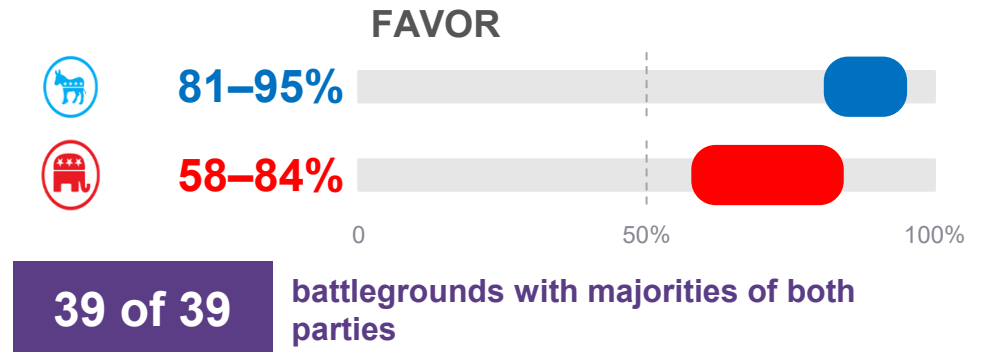


Continue to provide **military assistance to Ukraine**

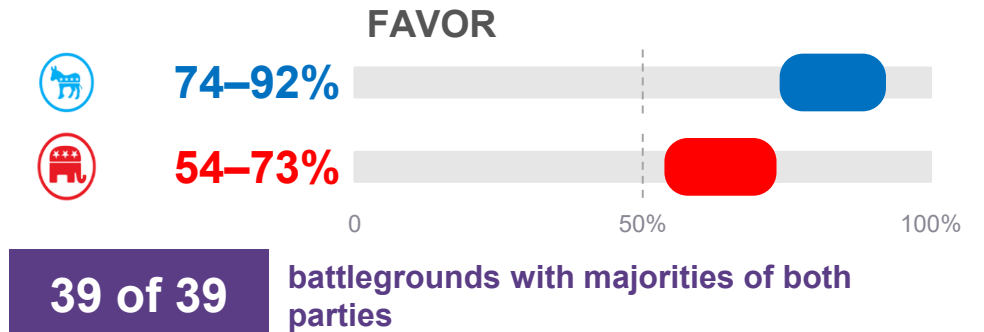


# Taxes - Examples

**Wealth tax** of 2% above \$50 million and 3% above \$1 billion (+\$200B)

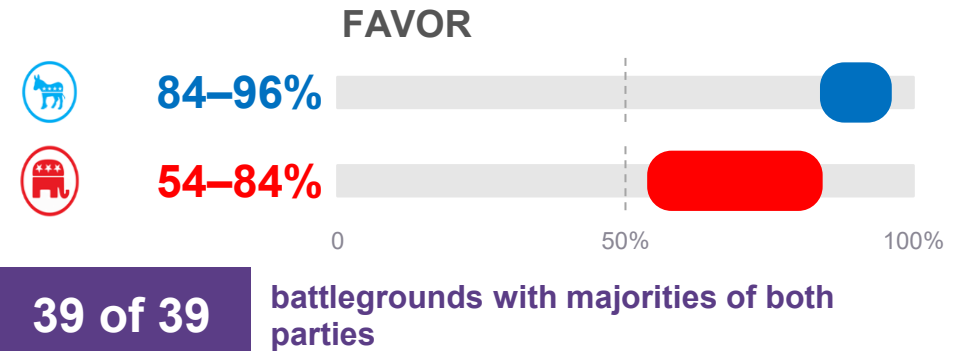


**Tax capital gains at the same rate as ordinary income** for households with income of **\$1 million or more** (+\$120B)

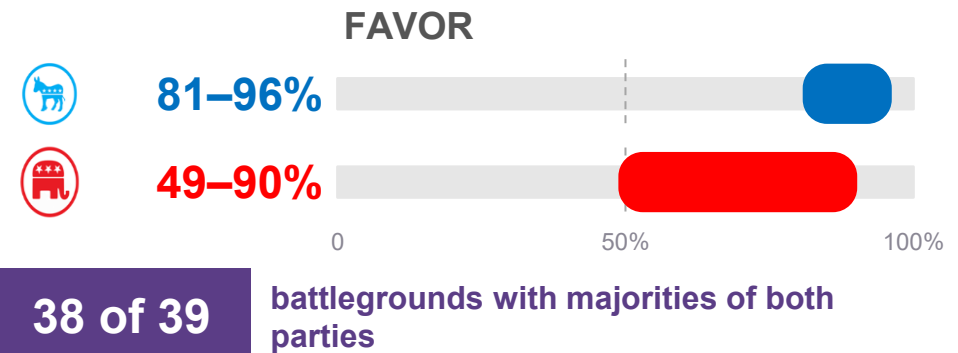


# Energy & Environment - Examples

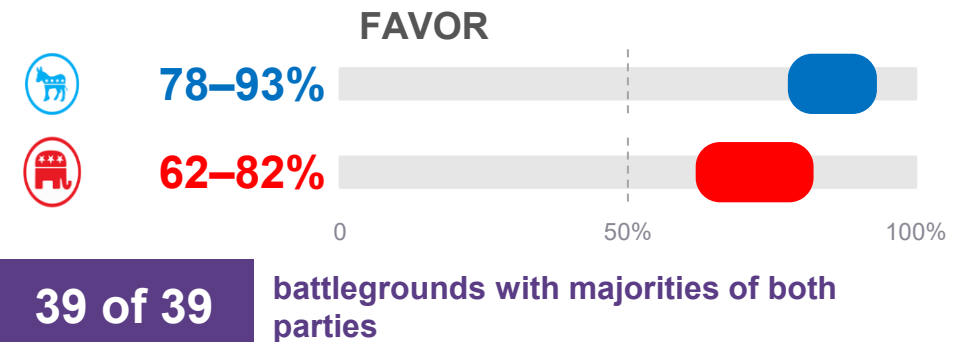
Adopt the goal of **reducing US greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 2% a year**



**Tax credits** for the production of energy that has **no carbon emissions**



Require new cars and trucks to get **more miles per gallon**



# ***Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?***

**So, is the public correct that there is more common ground among “We the People” than Congress?**

**Yes**

**On dozens of proposals for solving key problems that Congress has not acted on, majorities of both Democrats and Republicans agree on what should be done**

# ***Common Ground in the Battlegrounds?***

**Number of policies supported by majorities of both Democrats and Republicans in...**

**At least two thirds of battlegrounds**

**101**

**Every battleground**

**82**

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