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**SURVEY FINDS VOTERS, REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL PARTY, AGREE ON A
NEW APPROACH TO GOVERNMENT REFORM**

**Majorities of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents Want Government To Set Goals
And Principles And To Allow Flexibility In Meeting Them**

New York, NY – June 26, 2017 – At a time when Americans are deeply divided, a new nationwide poll finds remarkable agreement on a new approach to government reform. That agreement should be the basis for further discussion and debate about a shared vision for fixing broken government.

According to the survey, conducted for Common Good by Clarus Research Group, 83 percent of voters believe that government is broken, with 80 percent of Republicans, 85 percent of Democrats, and 87 percent of independents in agreement. That opinion is shared by most groups in the electorate, including 80 percent of men, 86 percent of women, 86 percent of voters 18-44 years old, 82 percent of voters 45 years old and older, 83 percent of whites, and 87 percent of minorities—they all say government is broken.

Yet even more remarkable is the extent to which a majority of Democrats, Republicans, and independents agree on what to do about it. According to the poll, for instance, 55 percent of voters say that “changing the people who run government will never fix the real problems if we don't change the underlying system of government.” 53 percent of Democrats, 55 percent of Republicans, and 57 percent of independents agree.

Additional survey findings include the following:

- **Less Wasteful and Less Bureaucratic:** When given a choice, more voters want to “make government less wasteful and less bureaucratic” (55 percent) than want to make government smaller (21 percent) or bigger and more active (12 percent). At least half of all party groups—50 percent of Republicans, 57 percent of independents, and 59 percent of Democrats—would rather make government less wasteful and less bureaucratic.
- **Authority and Common Sense:** More than two-thirds of voters (68 percent) believe that “because of too much red tape, government department heads lack the authority to make decisions based on common sense.” 65 percent of Democrats, 67 percent of Republicans, and 78 percent of independents agree.

- **One-Size-Fits-All Regulation:** Most voters (70 percent) believe that “most government regulations try to use ‘one size fits all’ rules that don’t work in the real world.” 60 percent of Democrats, 74 percent of Republicans, and 79 percent of independents agree.
- **Basic Goals and Principles:** A 62 percent majority favor making “laws that give civil servants basic goals and principles on how to do their jobs along with the flexibility to work out the details on their own.” 56 percent of Republicans, 63 percent of independents, and 67 percent of Democrats agree.
- **Regulating Teachers and Health Care:** 72 percent of voters say that “government should set general standards and boundaries on doctors and hospitals and allow them to do their jobs within those limits” as opposed to government trying to manage them through detailed rules and regulations. Also, about the same number, 75 percent, say that “government should set general standards and boundaries on teachers and allow them to do their jobs within those limits.”

69 percent of Democrats, 71 percent of independents, and 75 percent of Republicans agree that “government should set general standards and boundaries on doctors and hospitals.” 64 percent of Republicans, 78 percent of independents, and 84 percent of Democrats agree that “government should set general standards and boundaries on teachers.”

“Americans are split on most issues, but they agree that government is broken and, more remarkably, on a framework for fixing it,” says Philip K. Howard, Chair of Common Good. “Across party lines, they agree on an approach in which government sets basic goals and principles and then allows flexibility—and the use of common sense—in fulfilling them. The public’s desire for simplicity and common sense in government overcomes party differences.”

The poll was conducted by Clarus Research Group from May 22 to 25, 2017, using a representative nationwide sample of 800 self-identified registered voters. 80 percent of the 800 interviews were conducted using live telephone calls (landline and cell), and 20 percent were conducted online. Margin of error = +/- 3.46 percent.

For more information on the poll, contact Dr. Ron Faucheux, President of Clarus Research Group, at 202-256-8036. To speak with Common Good Chair Philip K. Howard, contact Emma McKinstry at 203-912-7174 or emckinstry@highimpactpartnering.com.

Common Good (www.commongood.org) is a nonpartisan reform coalition that believes individual responsibility, not rote bureaucracy, must be the organizing principle of government. It presents proposals to radically simplify government and restore the ability of officials and citizens alike to use common sense in daily decisions. The Founder and Chair of Common Good is Philip K. Howard, a lawyer and author of The Rule of Nobody (W. W. Norton) and The Death of Common Sense (Random House), among other books.