



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Survey Finds Majority Of American Voters – Democrats, Republicans & Independents – Believe That Government Cannot Be Fixed Until It Is Rebuilt From The Ground Up**

**New York, NY – August 24, 2017** – At a time of deep political divisions in the nation, American voters regardless of political party agree that “We will never fix broken government until we rebuild the system from the ground up.” That’s the finding of a national survey released today.

According to the survey, which was conducted for the nonpartisan Common Good by Clarus Research Group, 57% of American voters agree with that statement, including 60% of Republicans, 54% of Democrats, and 56% of independents. 38% of American voters disagreed.

The survey also found that a majority of American voters believe that “No matter who we elect to public office, things won’t ever change in Washington as long as the fundamental system of government is broken.” 57% of American voters agreed with that statement, including 62% of Republicans, 51% of Democrats, and 58% of independents. 37% of American voters disagreed.

An even larger majority of American voters believe that “Even when politicians promise change, they have a hard time making change happen because the underlying system won’t let them do it.” 74% of American voters agreed with that statement, including 78% of Republicans, 74% of Democrats, and 69% of independents. 22% of American voters disagreed.

“Americans want fundamental change in how government functions,” said Philip K. Howard, Chair of Common Good. “They have come to realize that electing new leaders is not sufficient.”

An earlier survey conducted in May for Common Good by Clarus Research Group found that 83% of voters believe that government is broken, with 80% of Republicans, 85% of Democrats, and 87% of independents in agreement. That survey found that more than two-thirds of voters (68%) believe that “because of too much red tape, government department heads lack the authority to make decisions based on common sense.” A 62% majority favored 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.”

The most recent survey was conducted by Clarus Research Group from August 15 to 18, 2017, using a representative nationwide sample of 759 self-identified registered voters. All of the interviews were conducted using live telephone calls (60% landline and 40% cell). The margin of error is +/- 3.6%.

For more information on the survey results, 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](mailto:emckinstry@highimpactpartnering.com).

***Common Good** ([www.commongood.org](http://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.*