



From: Anniken Williams, Public Policy Polling®

To: Interested Parties

Subject: Overwhelming Bipartisan Majorities Believe Big Money in NH Elections is A Problem; Majority Support Civic Dollars to Fix Big Money Issue

A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that overwhelming bipartisan majorities believe big money in New Hampshire elections is a problem, and support Civic Dollars to fix this issue. Eighty percent of voters—including 79% of Democrats, 74% of Republicans, and 85% of Independents—believe big money in NH elections is a problem. A bipartisan majority (63%)—including 70% of Democrats, 50% of Republicans, and 68% of Independents—also supports a proposal to give each registered voter four \$25 certificates, or Civic Dollars, to donate to political candidates who refuse to accept money from large donors and out-of-state donors. Majorities of Democrats (71%), Republicans (59%), and Independents (66%) would be more likely to support a candidate who funds his campaign with Civic Dollars than a candidate who funds his campaign with large and out-of-state donations.

Key findings from the survey include:

- If the New Hampshire legislature passed the proposed Civic Dollars program, a majority of voters (63%) would be very or somewhat likely to contribute their Civic Dollars to qualified candidates. When broken down by party, 70% of Democrats, 54% of Republicans, and 67% of Independents said they would be very or somewhat likely to contribute their Civic Dollars to qualified candidates.
- Two-thirds of voters say learning the expected cost of the program—less than one percent of the state budget—either makes them more likely (38%) to support the Civic Dollars program or doesn't change their opinion of the program (28%).
- Overall, a plurality of voters (34%) think that wealthy campaign donors have the most influence in New Hampshire politics, and both a plurality of Democrats (37%) and Republicans (33%) believe this as well. Only 14% of voters believe that New Hampshire voters have the most influence.



Do you believe big money in New Hampshire elections is a major problem, minor problem, not much of a problem, or no problem at all?

	Base	Party			
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...	Other
Big Money in NH Elections					
Major problem	51%	55%	54%	48%	14%
Minor problem	29%	24%	20%	37%	33%
Not much of a problem	13%	11%	18%	13%	-
No problem at all	5%	7%	6%	2%	43%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%	1%	10%

Now I am going to read you a list of groups. Tell me which one you think has the most influence in New Hampshire politics—big corporations, wealthy campaign donors, lobbyists, labor unions, New Hampshire voters, or small businesses.

	Base	Party			
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...	Other
Group With Most Influence in NH Politics					
Big corporations	15%	20%	16%	11%	-
Wealthy campaign donors	34%	37%	33%	34%	7%
Lobbyists	25%	22%	28%	26%	6%
Labor unions	7%	4%	8%	5%	65%
New Hampshire voters	14%	12%	12%	17%	21%
Small businesses	1%	0%	1%	0%	-
Not Sure	5%	5%	3%	6%	-

The current campaign finance laws in New Hampshire allow individuals to donate up to \$7,000 to candidates. Under the proposed new law, individuals could donate only up to \$250 to candidates who accept the Civic Dollar certificates. Would you be more likely to support a candidate who can accept donations up to \$7,000 or more likely to support a Civic Dollars candidate who agrees to limit individual donations to \$250?

	Base	Party			
		Democr...	Republic...	Independen...	Other
Candidate More Likely to Vote For					
More likely to support a candidate who can accept donations up to \$7,000	15%	12%	20%	12%	35%
More likely to support a Civic Dollars candidate who agrees to limit individual donations to \$250	64%	71%	59%	66%	19%
Not sure	21%	17%	21%	22%	46%

If the legislature passed the proposed Civic Dollars program, how likely would you be to contribute your Civic Dollars to qualified candidates: very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not likely at all?

	Base	Party			
		Democr...	Republic...	Independen...	Other
Likelihood of Civic Dollars Contribution					
Very likely	42%	52%	26%	47%	18%
Somewhat likely	21%	18%	28%	20%	17%
Not very likely	14%	10%	20%	14%	26%
Not likely at all	19%	18%	23%	15%	39%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	4%	-

The Civic Dollar program would cost less than one percent of the state budget. Does knowing this make you more likely or less likely to support the program, or does it not make a difference?

	Base	Party			
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...	Other
Program Costs Less than 1% of Budget More/Less Likely Support					
More likely	38%	49%	31%	35%	15%
Less likely	27%	16%	37%	27%	49%
Doesn't make a difference	28%	27%	22%	32%	36%
Not sure	8%	8%	10%	6%	-

Having heard all the information in this poll, let me ask you again about your opinion on a new proposal to change how elections are funded in New Hampshire. The proposed law has three main components: First, each registered voter in the state would receive four 25 dollar certificates that they can donate to political candidates of their choice. Second, candidates who accept these certificates could not raise money from large donors or out-of-state donors. Third, the bill would increase transparency of campaign donors and spending and toughen enforcement of campaign finance laws. Would you say you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose this proposed bill?

	Base	Party			
		Democr...	Republic...	Independe...	Other
Ask Again: Proposed Election Funding Bill Support/Oppose					
Strongly support	29%	39%	25%	25%	-
Somewhat support	34%	31%	25%	43%	22%
Somewhat oppose	13%	7%	16%	15%	26%
Strongly oppose	18%	18%	26%	10%	39%
Not sure	6%	5%	7%	6%	13%

PPP surveyed 579 New Hampshire voters from December 13-14, 2017. The margin of error is +/- 4.1%. This poll was conducted by automated telephone interviews.