



To: Interested Chamber Members
 From: Ashlee Rich Stephenson, Senior Political Strategist
 Date: March 2, 2024
 Re: Americans Prefer Free Market vs. Government Overreach in Business and Industry

New National Survey Reports Voters Prefer the Free Market to Government Micromanagement and Overreach

New research conducted on behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce reports a majority of voters are concerned about state government micromanaging private business in a way that could hurt taxpayers and strongly prefer candidates who say state elected officials should refrain from telling industry who they can do business with.

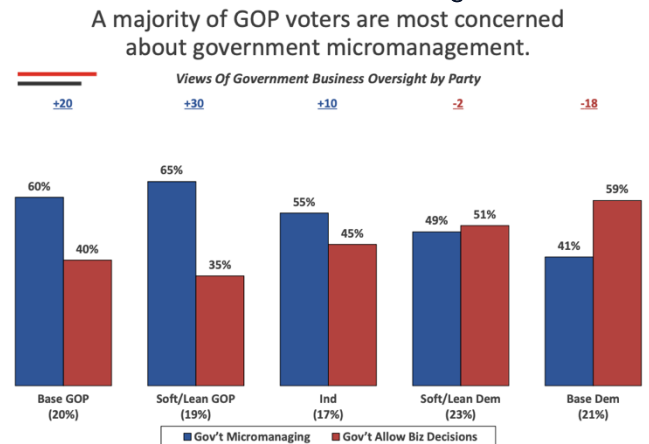
Majorities Concerned about Government Micromanagement of Business, Impact on Taxpayers

- Fifty-four percent (54%) of all voters indicate they are more concerned about government micromanaging private business versus allowing business to make decisions they think are best for their customers, even if they don't align with the personal views of the respondents (46%).

Please indicate what concerns you more...

The government micromanaging private business decisions in a way that could hurt taxpayers and the economy.	54%
The government allowing businesses to make decisions that the businesses think are in the best interests of their customers and shareholders, even if those decisions don't align with your personal political views.	46%

- Through partisanship, a large majority of base Republicans (60%) and soft or lean Republican voters (65%) indicate they are more concerned about business being micromanaged. In addition, and nearly aligning with the overall topline, a majority of Independents (55%) indicate a greater concern of government oversight in private industry versus a government that allows business to make decisions they think are best for customers and shareholders (45%).



- Overall, the concern about government micromanaging business is driven by voters ages 45-54 (61%), Republican men (64%), Republican women (61%) and Independent women (62%).

Three Quarters Prefer Candidates Who Say State Government Should Not Tell Business and Industry Who They Can Do Business With

- When presented with a three-choice option as to which type of candidate voters prefer more, nearly three out of four voters prefer those who say the state government should not tell banks or any other businesses who they can do business with, while also agreeing the government should instead focus on getting the best deals for taxpayers.

Please indicate which you agree with most...

Candidate A who says the state government shouldn't do business with banks IF they also work with certain companies (like gun manufacturers, oil and gas, and other such companies) even if it increases costs to taxpayers. **18%**

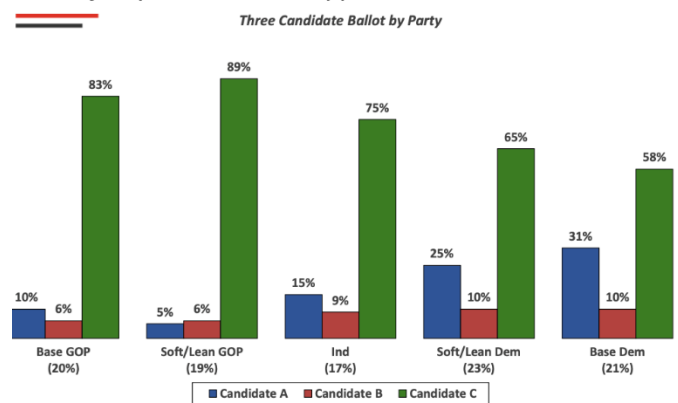
Candidate B who says the state government shouldn't do business with banks UNLESS they also work with certain companies (like gun manufacturers, oil and gas, and other such companies) even if it increases costs to taxpayers. **8%**

Candidate C who says the state government shouldn't attempt to tell banks or anyone else who they can and cannot do business with. Government should stop trying to micromanage business decisions and focus on getting the best deal for taxpayers. **74%**

- Large majorities of all voters across party breaks have a strong preference for the free market-based candidate C. Indeed, support for this candidate is driven by upwards of eighty percent of all Republicans, three quarters of Independents and on average sixty percent or more among base and lean Democrats.

- Preference for “candidate C” is driven by voters who live in the Midwest (77%), ages 45-64 (78%), 65+ (81%), men 65+ (79%) and women 65+ (88%).

Candidate C dominates among GOPers and Independents. A majority of Dems also support Candidate C's stance.



Political Background Questions and Methodology Report

- In addition to survey data collected among issues related to the free market and preference toward the policy positions of elected officials or candidates for office, this research collected key demographic and political information that included self-identified political philosophy and a recollection of party-based support in the 2020 general election.



U.S. Chamber of Commerce

- Interviews for this study were collected from February 15-18, 2024, among n=1,000 registered voters. The margin of error is $\pm 3.53\%$.

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