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NATIONAL: HALF THE PUBLIC SAY THEIR TAXES WILL GO UP UNDER GOP PLAN

Trump policies not helping middle class

West Long Branch, NJ – Americans disapprove of the tax reform plan currently making its way through Congress by a nearly 2-to-1 margin. Half the public believe their own taxes would go up under this plan and a plurality would like to see Congress scrap the current effort and start fresh in 2018. Results of the *Monmouth University Poll* also indicate there are potential hurdles for selling this proposal to the American public since most feel the middle class has not been seeing any benefits from Pres. Donald Trump’s policies so far.

Nearly half the American public (47%) disapprove of the tax reform bills passed by the Senate and House and just 26% approve. Another 8% withhold judgement until seeing the final plan and 19% have no opinion. [Note: the poll was conducted before the final conference version of the bill was released.] It is also worth noting that strong disapproval (35%) of the proposal far outweighs strong approval (13%).

The current proposal is significantly less popular than the landmark 1986 tax reform law. A Gallup poll taken in September 1986 when that bill was in the final stages of passage found that 39% of the public approved of the bill compared to 33% who disapproved.

“One of the reasons the current plan may be less popular than the Reagan-era package is that the 1986 bill was seen as a good faith bipartisan effort rather than a purely partisan proposal,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Republicans favor the proposed tax reform plan by a 55% approve to 16% disapprove margin. Democrats (7% approve to 72% disapprove) and independents (20% approve to 53% disapprove) are decidedly negative about the proposed changes. The package doesn’t play well in areas of the country that the GOP needs to win in 2018. Opinion of the tax reform plan is divided in “red” counties that Trump

won by at least ten percentage points in 2016 – 34% approve and 37% disapprove. In “swing” counties where the margin of victory for either candidate was less than ten points, 30% approve of the plan compared with 38% who disapprove. In “blue” counties that Hillary Clinton won by ten points or more, only 15% approve while 60% disapprove.

“Even though the poll was taken before the conference version was announced, the basic contours of the plan remain the same. Many Americans see this bill more as an attempt by Republicans to gain a political victory and would rather see Congress scrap this plan and start over,” said Murray.

Just 17% of the public say the current plan is a genuine attempt to reform the tax system while 35% say the push to pass this bill is driven mainly by Republicans’ desire to obtain a political victory. Another 35% say both reasons are equally at play.

A plurality of the public (39%) would prefer to see Congress scrap this plan and start work on a new bill next year. Just 29% want Congress to work out a deal to pass the current plan. Another 24%, though, would rather see Congress leave the tax system as it is for now.

Half of the public (50%) predict that the federal taxes they pay will go up with the plan now under consideration by Congress. Just 14% say their taxes will go down. Another 25% believe their own taxes will stay the same under this plan. A Gallup poll during the 1986 effort found that slightly fewer Americans (41%) back then believed their own taxes would go up because of that plan, compared to 18% who said they would go down and 30% who expected they would remain the same.

For the current proposal, a majority (55%) of those earning less than \$50,000 a year believe their own federal taxes will go up if this plan is passed. They are joined by 45% of those earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and 49% of those earning over \$100,000 who say their taxes will go up.

“Right now, the American middle class is not particularly impressed with the current administration’s performance on bread and butter issues. A major task for Congressional Republicans and Pres. Trump will be convincing these voters that they will benefit from the plan,” said Murray.

Currently, a majority of Americans (53%) say that middle class families have not benefited at all from Pres. Trump’s policies. Just 11% say the middle class has benefited a lot and 25% say it has benefited a little. The public was much more optimistic right before Trump took the oath of office in January. Back then, two-thirds expected that the middle class would benefit from the policies of a Trump administration – 26% a lot and 40% a little – while only 29% felt that the middle class would not benefit at all.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from December 10 to 12, 2017 with 806 adults in the United States. The results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1-4 previously released. Q5 held for future release.]

6. How much have middle class families benefited from President Trump's policies – a lot, a little, or not at all?

	December 2017
A lot	11%
A little	25%
Not at all	53%
(VOL) Don't know	11%
(n)	(806)

[Q7 and Q9-18 previously released. Q8 held for future release.]

19. Have you heard that the Senate and the House have passed tax reform bills and are now working on a final version, or haven't you heard about this?

	December 2017
Heard	75%
Not heard	25%
(n)	(806)

20. Do you approve or disapprove of this tax reform plan? [Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?]

	December 2017
Strongly approve	13%
Somewhat approve	13%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	35%
(VOL) Depends on final version	8%
(VOL) Don't know	19%
(n)	(806)

21. Which of the following statements describes this plan more: it is a genuine attempt to reform the tax system – or – Republicans want to pass this mainly so they can claim a political victory, or both reasons equally? [CHOICES WERE ROTATED]

	December 2017
It is a genuine attempt to reform the tax system	17%
Republicans want to pass this mainly so they can claim a political victory	35%
Both reasons equally	35%
(VOL) Don't know	13%
(n)	(806)

22. If this new plan becomes law, do you think the federal taxes you pay will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

	December 2017
Go up	50%
Go down	14%
Stay about the same	25%
(VOL) Don't know	12%
(n)	(806)

23. Which of the following would you rather see Congress do: work out a deal to pass this proposed tax plan, scrap this plan and start work on a new plan next year, or just leave the tax system as it is for now? [CHOICES WERE ROTATED]

	December 2017
Work out a deal to pass this proposed tax plan	29%
Scrap this plan and start work on a new plan next year	39%
Just leave the tax system as it is for now	24%
(VOL) Don't know	9%
(n)	(806)

[Q24-32 held for future release. Q33-36 previously released.]

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from December 10 to 12, 2017 with a national random sample of 806 adults age 18 and older, in English. This includes 403 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 403 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Troidahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and SSI (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>	
<i>Self-Reported</i>	
	<i>28% Republican</i>
	<i>41% Independent</i>
	<i>31% Democrat</i>
	<i>49% Male</i>
	<i>51% Female</i>
	<i>31% 18-34</i>
	<i>34% 35-54</i>
	<i>35% 55+</i>
	<i>65% White</i>
	<i>12% Black</i>
	<i>15% Hispanic</i>
	<i>8% Asian/Other</i>

MARGIN OF ERROR		unweighted sample	moe (+/-)
TOTAL		806	3.5%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	702	3.7%
	No	104	9.6%
SELF-REPORTED PARTY ID	Republican	232	6.4%
	Independent	310	5.6%
	Democrat	242	6.3%
IDEOLOGY	Liberal	188	7.2%
	Moderate	314	5.5%
	Conservative	274	5.9%
GENDER	Male	413	4.8%
	Female	393	5.0%
AGE	18-34	150	8.0%
	35-54	267	6.0%
	55+	380	5.0%
RACE	White non-Hispanic	603	4.0%
	Other	178	7.4%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	452	4.6%
	4 year degree	348	5.3%
INCOME	<\$50K	311	5.6%
	\$50 to <100K	203	6.9%
	\$100K+	219	6.6%
2016 VOTE BY COUNTY	Trump 10+pts	285	5.8%
	Swing< 10pts	179	7.3%
	Clinton 10+pts	342	5.3%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 12/18/17

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male
6. How much have middle class families benefited from President Trumps policies - a lot, a little, or not at all?	A lot	11%	12%	8%	23%	10%	2%	2%	7%	24%	14%
	A little	25%	23%	36%	40%	23%	16%	8%	28%	34%	30%
	Not at all	53%	55%	40%	20%	56%	79%	85%	55%	29%	42%
	[VOL] Dont Know	11%	10%	17%	17%	11%	3%	5%	10%	13%	14%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			WHITE		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME
		Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K
6. How much have middle class families benefited from President Trumps policies - a lot, a little, or not at all?	A lot	9%	5%	12%	15%	12%	8%	11%	12%	9%
	A little	21%	28%	25%	24%	28%	21%	28%	19%	28%
	Not at all	62%	51%	54%	52%	48%	61%	50%	60%	52%
	[VOL] Dont Know	8%	16%	9%	8%	12%	10%	12%	9%	11%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		INCOME		2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
6. How much have middle class families benefited from President Trumps policies - a lot, a little, or not at all?	A lot	10%	17%	15%	13%	7%
	A little	24%	21%	32%	25%	20%
	Not at all	55%	51%	43%	50%	62%
	[VOL] Dont Know	12%	10%	10%	12%	11%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY			GENDER
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con	Male
19. Have you heard that the Senate and the House have passed tax reform bills and are now working on a final version, or havent you heard about this?	Heard	75%	80%	51%	79%	73%	78%	84%	72%	75%	75%
	Not heard	25%	20%	49%	21%	27%	22%	16%	28%	25%	25%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		GENDER	AGE 3-WAY			WHITE		COLLEGE GRAD		INCOME
		Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree	4 yr degree	<\$50K
19. Have you heard that the Senate and the House have passed tax reform bills and are now working on a final version, or havent you heard about this?	Heard	75%	67%	72%	84%	79%	67%	68%	93%	66%
	Not heard	25%	33%	28%	16%	21%	33%	32%	7%	34%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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		INCOME		2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
19. Have you heard that the Senate and the House have passed tax reform bills and are now working on a final version, or havent you heard about this?	Heard	85%	84%	72%	73%	79%
	Not heard	15%	16%	28%	27%	21%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
20. Do you approve or disapprove of this tax reform plan? [PROBE] Do you [approve_disapprove] strongly or somewhat?	Strongly approve	13%	13%	9%	31%	9%	2%	3%	7%	28%
	Somewhat approve	13%	13%	13%	24%	11%	5%	4%	11%	23%
	Somewhat disapprove	12%	12%	12%	7%	15%	14%	13%	16%	8%
	Strongly disapprove	35%	38%	23%	9%	38%	58%	67%	36%	14%
	[VOL] Depends on final version	8%	9%	7%	11%	8%	6%	7%	8%	9%
	[VOL] Dont Know	19%	15%	35%	19%	19%	14%	6%	23%	18%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			WHITE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
20. Do you approve or disapprove of this tax reform plan? [PROBE] Do you [approve_disapprove] strongly or somewhat?	Strongly approve	16%	9%	6%	16%	16%	15%	9%	14%
	Somewhat approve	17%	9%	11%	11%	16%	17%	6%	14%
	Somewhat disapprove	9%	15%	15%	13%	9%	11%	14%	13%
	Strongly disapprove	28%	42%	35%	35%	36%	32%	42%	30%
	[VOL] Depends on final version	9%	7%	8%	7%	9%	9%	7%	8%
	[VOL] Dont Know	20%	17%	25%	17%	15%	17%	22%	21%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
20. Do you approve or disapprove of this tax reform plan? [PROBE] Do you [approve_disapprove] strongly or somewhat?	Strongly approve	9%	10%	19%	14%	18%	16%	6%
	Somewhat approve	11%	13%	11%	14%	16%	14%	9%
	Somewhat disapprove	11%	14%	11%	10%	9%	9%	16%
	Strongly disapprove	49%	34%	39%	37%	28%	29%	44%
	[VOL] Depends on final version	8%	8%	7%	6%	10%	9%	7%
	[VOL] Dont Know	12%	21%	13%	18%	18%	22%	17%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	

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		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
21. Which of the following statements describes this plan more: It is a genuine attempt to reform the tax system - or - Republicans want to pass this mainly so they can claim a political victory, or both reasons equally?	It is a genuine attempt to reform the tax system	17%	19%	12%	40%	13%	5%	5%	11%	36%
	Republicans want to pass this mainly so they can claim a political victory	35%	37%	24%	9%	36%	57%	61%	36%	17%
	Both reasons equally	35%	34%	41%	39%	38%	29%	25%	38%	38%
	[VOL] Dont Know	13%	11%	23%	12%	13%	10%	8%	15%	10%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			WHITE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
21. Which of the following statements describes this plan more: It is a genuine attempt to reform the tax system - or - Republicans want to pass this mainly so they can claim a political victory, or both reasons equally?	It is a genuine attempt to reform the tax system	23%	13%	10%	18%	24%	21%	10%	18%
	Republicans want to pass this mainly so they can claim a political victory	29%	40%	37%	32%	36%	31%	41%	32%
	Both reasons equally	35%	35%	34%	38%	34%	39%	30%	35%
	[VOL] Dont Know	13%	13%	19%	13%	7%	9%	19%	15%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
21. Which of the following statements describes this plan more: It is a genuine attempt to reform the tax system - or - Republicans want to pass this mainly so they can claim a political victory, or both reasons equally?	It is a genuine attempt to reform the tax system	16%	14%	20%	22%	19%	24%	13%
	Republicans want to pass this mainly so they can claim a political victory	41%	36%	38%	32%	30%	31%	41%
	Both reasons equally	36%	35%	34%	37%	39%	31%	33%
	[VOL] Dont Know	7%	15%	9%	9%	12%	14%	13%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
22. If this new plan becomes law, do you think the federal taxes you pay will go up, go down, or stay about the same?	Go up	50%	52%	38%	26%	53%	69%	72%	53%	33%
	Go down	14%	13%	18%	26%	13%	5%	4%	11%	26%
	Stay about the same	25%	25%	22%	34%	25%	17%	18%	25%	31%
	[VOL] Dont Know	12%	10%	23%	14%	10%	9%	6%	12%	11%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			WHITE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
22. If this new plan becomes law, do you think the federal taxes you pay will go up, go down, or stay about the same?	Go up	42%	57%	52%	53%	45%	41%	66%	49%
	Go down	18%	10%	12%	16%	13%	16%	10%	14%
	Stay about the same	26%	23%	19%	19%	34%	32%	12%	24%
	[VOL] Dont Know	15%	10%	17%	12%	8%	12%	12%	13%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
22. If this new plan becomes law, do you think the federal taxes you pay will go up, go down, or stay about the same?	Go up	52%	55%	45%	49%	41%	48%	58%
	Go down	14%	10%	18%	17%	17%	14%	11%
	Stay about the same	25%	24%	25%	26%	28%	26%	21%
	[VOL] Dont Know	9%	12%	13%	8%	13%	13%	10%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
23. Which of the following would you rather see Congress do: Work out a deal to pass this proposed tax plan, Scrap this plan and start work on a new plan next year, OR Just leave the tax system as it is for now?	Work out a deal to pass this proposed tax plan	29%	29%	28%	56%	26%	10%	10%	20%	55%
	Scrap this plan and start work on a new plan next year	39%	41%	28%	16%	43%	55%	54%	47%	21%
	Just leave the tax system as it is for now	24%	23%	26%	17%	21%	31%	33%	24%	16%
	[VOL] Dont Know	9%	7%	18%	11%	10%	4%	3%	9%	8%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			WHITE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
23. Which of the following would you rather see Congress do: Work out a deal to pass this proposed tax plan, Scrap this plan and start work on a new plan next year, OR Just leave the tax system as it is for now?	Work out a deal to pass this proposed tax plan	37%	21%	21%	30%	34%	30%	26%	29%
	Scrap this plan and start work on a new plan next year	33%	44%	38%	37%	41%	40%	37%	35%
	Just leave the tax system as it is for now	21%	26%	29%	25%	18%	21%	29%	25%
	[VOL] Dont Know	9%	9%	13%	8%	6%	9%	8%	10%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 MARGIN by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump 10+pts	Swing <10pts	Clinton 10+pts
23. Which of the following would you rather see Congress do: Work out a deal to pass this proposed tax plan, Scrap this plan and start work on a new plan next year, OR Just leave the tax system as it is for now?	Work out a deal to pass this proposed tax plan	28%	24%	35%	33%	33%	35%	21%
	Scrap this plan and start work on a new plan next year	47%	39%	43%	37%	32%	39%	44%
	Just leave the tax system as it is for now	19%	27%	17%	22%	23%	18%	27%
	[VOL] Dont Know	5%	10%	5%	8%	11%	8%	8%
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%