



Strategic Memorandum

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Justin Wallin
J. Wallin Opinion Research

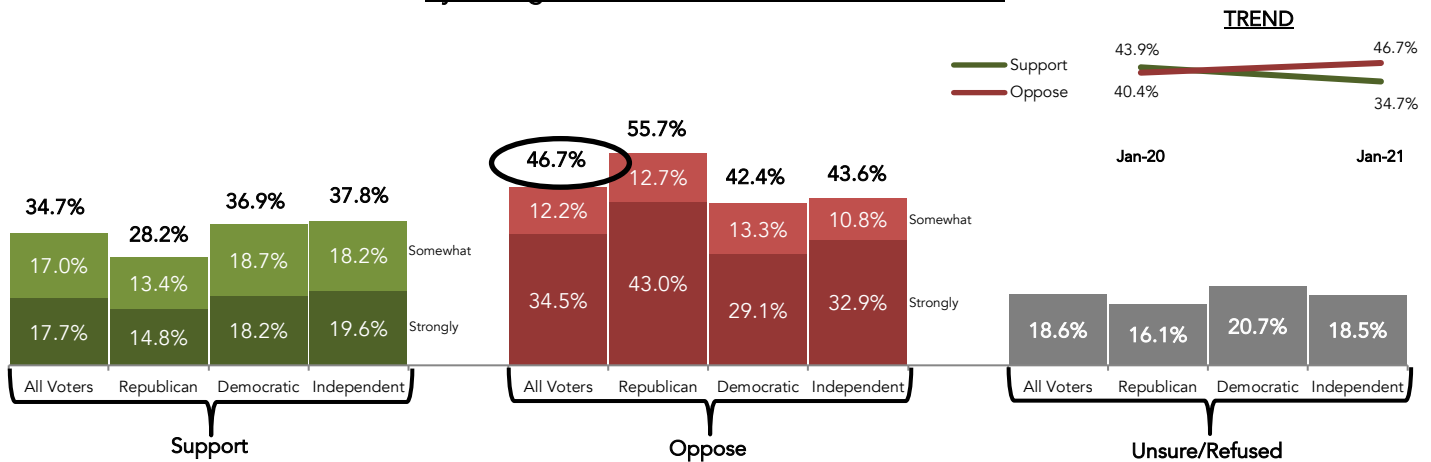
DATE: January 14, 2021

RE: Nationwide Voter Survey Results: Article V Constitutional Convention

From Saturday, January 2 through Thursday, January 7, 2021, J. Wallin Opinion Research conducted a telephone survey of voters throughout the United States.

Our research revealed that (prior to any messaging either in favor of or against), pluralities of both political parties and independent voters oppose changing the Constitution by calling an Article V Constitutional Convention (Republicans are especially intensely opposed). Opposition has increased significantly since our last research (fielded in January, 2020).

American Voters Oppose Changing the Constitution By Calling an Article V Constitutional Convention



Question: "There are two ways to change the U.S. Constitution. The first way is for Congress to propose changes, which requires approval by two-thirds of both the House and the Senate. Then three fourths of the states must vote in favor of these proposed changes before they become law. The U.S. Constitution has been amended 27 times with this method. The second way, which is allowable under "Article V" of the Constitution, is for two-thirds of the states' legislatures to call for a Constitutional Convention, with delegates sent from each state to meet and to propose changes. This also requires three-fourths of the states to vote in favor of any changes before they became law. This way of amending the Constitution has never taken place. Would you support or oppose proposing changes to the Constitution by calling a Constitutional Convention?"

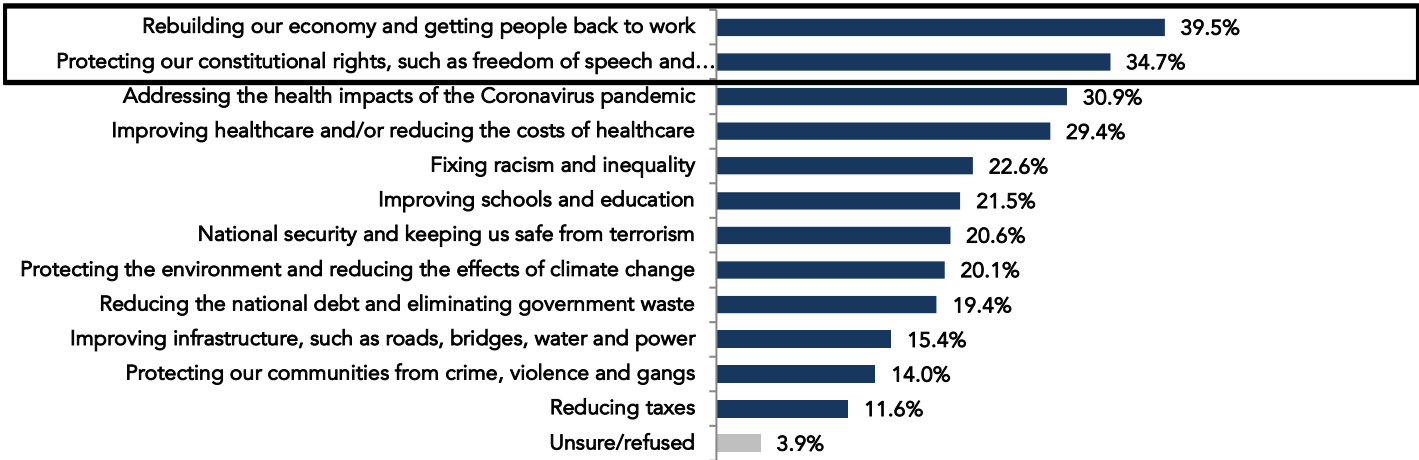
This is unsurprising given that protecting and preserving the rights guaranteed by the Constitution is one of the top two priorities for American voters (ranked even higher than addressing the health impacts of the Coronavirus





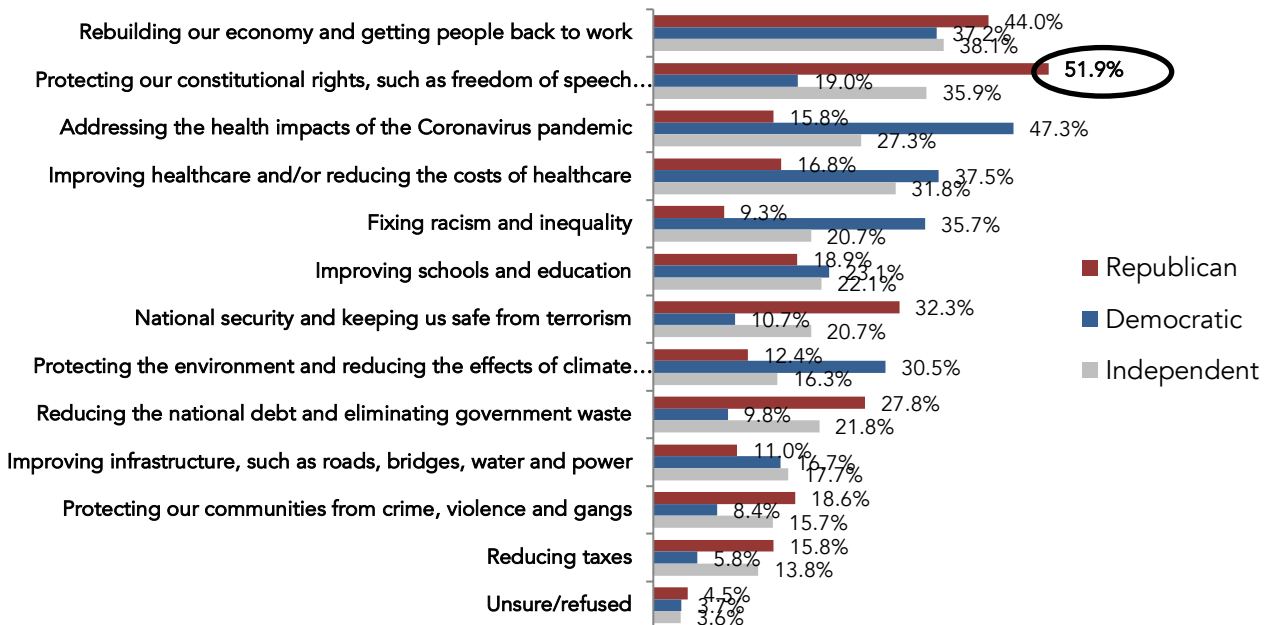
pandemic). Especially interesting is that Republicans regard this issue as significantly more important than traditional conservative totems such as reducing taxes and government finances:

Protecting Our Constitutional Rights is One of the Top Two Issues That American Voters Want Their Leaders to Prioritize



Question: "Now I am going to read a list of issues that may be facing the United States. Please listen to each and then tell me which THREE should be the top priorities of our nation's elected leaders? Choose three."

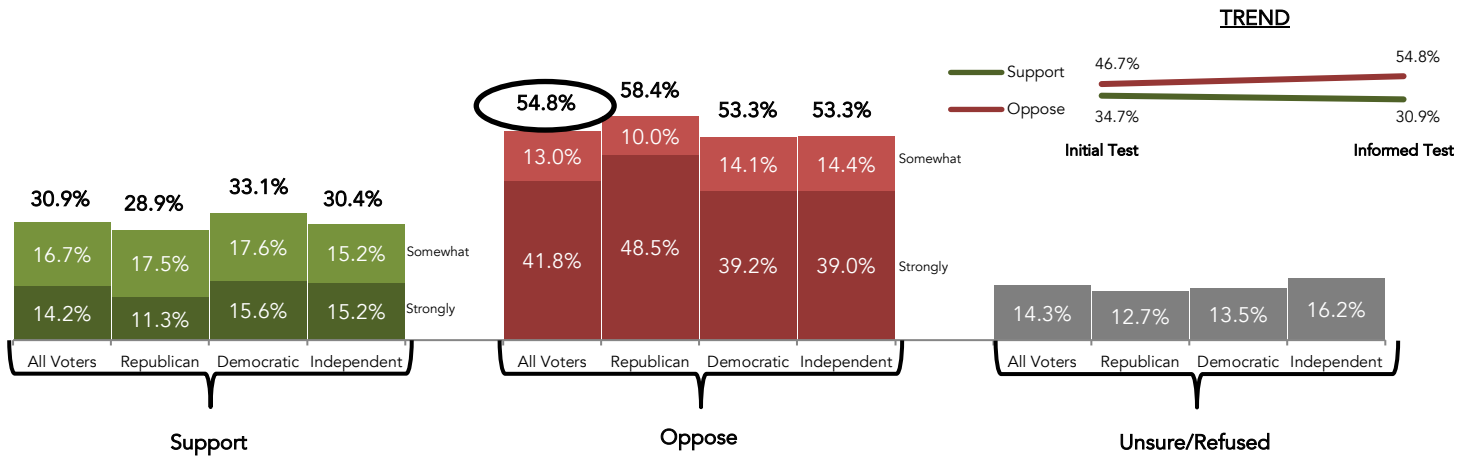
DRILL-DOWN: Protecting Our Constitutional Rights is THE Most Important Issue Republicans Want to Prioritize



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Moreover, opposition increased dramatically after voters hear both positive and negative messaging:

Opposition to Changing the Constitution
By Calling an Article V Constitutional Convention Increases



Question: "Knowing what you do now, would you support or oppose a proposal to change the Constitution by calling a Constitutional Convention?
[RECORD] [IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE>>>] And would you say that you strongly or somewhat (support/oppose) a proposal to change the
Constitution by calling a Constitutional Convention?"

Messages Used By Supporters Are Ineffective: We tested the two messages that our research last year proved to be MOST effective, used by those who support proposing changes to the Constitution by calling an Article V Constitutional Convention. However, none of those messages was successful at persuading more than ½ (50%) of American voters to become more likely to support the idea. In fact, this year, one message was even counterproductive:

- 50.4% became more likely to support knowing: "The Supreme Court's Citizens United decision opened the floodgates of political spending, allowing special interests and big businesses to spend unlimited amounts of money on political campaigns with no transparency of who spends what and how. The 2020 Presidential election is a perfect example. The only way to fix this is for us to amend the Constitution and return power to American voters. But politicians in Congress will never vote against their financial interest by passing such an amendment. A Constitutional Convention is the only way to overturn secret, massive special-interest contributions and give power over our government back to the American people."
- 32.8% became less likely to support knowing: "It's our responsibility to give our children the best shot at success. But today, the national debt has ballooned to over 20 trillion dollars – including nearly 4 trillion just from the costs of the COVID-19 pandemic in this year. If this debt isn't paid by us, then it will be paid by our kids...and by their kids. If families have to balance their checkbooks, the federal government should also have to balance the U.S. budget every year."

Messages in Opposition Are Effective: We tested a variety of messages used by those who oppose proposing changes to the Constitution by calling an Article V Constitutional Convention. One effectively persuaded more than 60% of American voters to become less likely to support the idea:



- 62.6% became less likely to support knowing: “The U.S. Constitution is one of the most important documents in the history of the world. But some supporters of a Constitutional Convention have openly said that they want to use the convention to put every part of the document up for discussion. This could include changing our rights to free speech, freedom of religion, the right to bear arms and even our right to vote. Everything in the Constitution would be vulnerable to being changed forever.”
- 54.2% became less likely to support knowing: “A Constitutional Convention may sound good in theory, but the problem is that there just aren’t enough rules to protect us if one took place. There aren’t even any rules about who can be appointed by the states to vote on these changes – it can be anyone. There is absolutely no limit on the scope of changes that can be made and there are no guarantees the convention’s outcomes will actually be representative of the beliefs, goals and will of American voters. Constitutional changes are massive, permanent changes. We can’t trust this risky un-tested system because it’s just too easy to rig the rules with shady back-room deals that only benefit politicians, big government, big business and special interests.”

Methodology

We interviewed 1,000 respondents speaking Spanish and English languages and contacting both mobile and landlines (66.7% of this survey was completed on mobile phones). A survey of this size yields a margin of error of +/-3.1% (95% confidence interval). Our sample is stratified, meaning that the demographic composition of our results matches the demographic composition of the region and turnout model that we surveyed.

About the Firm

J. Wallin Opinion Research specializes in opinion research on behalf of business, government, media and political clients. Company CEO Justin Wallin is a regular guest on Fox News, CNN and BBC. His research, commentary and analysis can be found in RealClearPolitics, Politico, Roll Call, Campaigns & Elections, Public CEO and Inside Politics with Nathan Gonzales. He is a featured speaker throughout the nation on matters of strategy, marketing and messaging.



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