



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**OCP, AFT RELEASE NEW RURAL VOTER POLL – DEMOCRATS MUST CHANGE COURSE TO
APPEAL TO RURAL VOTERS**

619 Rural Voters in West Virginia Feel Democrats Don't Share Their Values

WASHINGTON, D.C. – One Country Project (OCP) and American Federation of Teachers (AFT) released a new poll conducted by Change America on the values and priorities of rural and small-town voters. 619 voters in West Virginia were surveyed along with voters from Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

“What’s clear from these poll results is rural West Virginians, regardless of political party, feel like they are treading water economically. Simply put, the economy is not working for small towns and Main Street,” said One Country Project founder Heidi Heitkamp.

“These Americans are feeling the consequences of President Trump’s failed leadership and reckless economic policies in their daily lives. Unfortunately, rural West Virginians also don’t see Democrats as part of the solution. Rural voters are not seeing Democrats standing up for Democratic values – protecting hardworking Americans and focusing on kitchen table issues. This means Democrats need to change course and focus on solutions that help small town Americans.”

Poll Results

Economy

- West Virginians’ view of the economic vibrance of their communities was universally bleak. When asked in small towns across America, if Main Street was declining or thriving, 24% of West Virginians said it was thriving and 77% said it was declining.
- When asked about wages and the economy, 18% were concerned about monthly bills going up faster than income, 15% were concerned about jobs not paying enough, and 12% were concerned about saving for retirement.

Democrats

- The view of the Democratic party was just as negative.
- Only 16% think Democrats support rural communities, 22% believe Democrats support people like them, and 17% believe Democrats support trade policies that help their communities.

Solutions

- There are issues that rural voters care about and all candidates should focus on.
- 92% were concerned about opioid and prescription drug addiction, 92% about the cost of prescription drugs and medications, and 91% about the cost of health insurance premiums, a theme seen across the board in all states surveyed.

The full poll results can be found [here](#).

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About One Country Project

The One Country Project is working to promote greater opportunities for rural communities and ensure leaders earn support from rural Americans. One Country is reengaging with the American Heartland, serving as a clearinghouse of research and information for rural Americans, and working to ensure leaders regain trust by fighting for these communities. To learn more, visit the website, OneCountryProject.org.

Data

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>	<u>Respondents</u>
Sample Size (Weighted)	Entire Sample	619
Which of the following do you agree with more?	In small towns across America, Main Street is in decline	72
	In small towns across America, Main Street is thriving	24
For each of the phrases below, please indicate which political party is a better fit. - Supports rural communities	Democratic Party	16
	Republican Party	44
For each of the phrases below, please indicate which political party is a better fit. - Cares about people like me	Democratic Party	22
	Republican Party	41
For each of the phrases below, please indicate which political party is a better fit. - Supports trade policies that help my community	Democratic Party	17
	Republican Party	50
When you think about wages and the economy, which of these concerns you most? Choose up to two.	Bills going up faster than income	18
	Jobs don't pay well enough	15
	Saving for retirement	12
How much of a concern are each of the following health and public health issues to you? - Opioid and prescription drug addiction	Very serious concern	73
	Somewhat serious concern	19
	Not very serious concern	5
How much of a concern are each of the following health and public health issues to you? - Cost of prescription drugs and medications	Very serious concern	66
	Somewhat serious concern	26
	Not very serious concern	6
How much of a concern are each of the following health and public health issues to you? - Cost of health insurance premiums	Very serious concern	67
	Somewhat serious concern	24
	Not very serious concern	7