

**TO: Interested Parties**  
**FROM: Guy Molyneux and Gillian Pentheny, Hart Research Associates**  
**DATE: June 2, 2021**  
**RE: Support for Legislation on Contracting Out**

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*Hart Research Associates conducted a survey for NELP among a representative sample of 1,000 2020 general election voters in the nation's 67 most competitive congressional districts—those where the 2020 vote margin was eight percentage points or less (see list of districts below). Interviews were conducted online from January 22 to February 1, 2021, and the survey's margin of error is ±3.1 percentage points.*

**OVERVIEW: Voters in battleground districts have negative views of two major changes in the workplace over the past few years: the increased use of temporary or staffing agencies to do the work of permanent employees, and the designation of workers as independent contractors rather than as company employees. Majorities of voters in these CDs favor proposed legislation to address both of these workplace issues.**

**Voters oppose the increased use of temporary or staffing agencies to do the work of permanent employees.** Seven in 10 (70%) voters believe that eliminating permanent jobs and instead using workers from temporary or staffing agencies is a bad change in the workplace, with a third of voters regarding this as a very bad change. There is little partisan divide here, with voters of all political identities and ideologies in agreement that this is a negative change. Fully 68% of both Republicans and Trump voters regard this as a bad change for the workforce, as do 70% of conservatives. Across the aisle, three-quarters (74%) of Democrats (and 63% of independents) also offer a negative view of the increased use of temporary or staffing agencies.

**There is also strong support for legislation to address this heightened use of temporary or staffing agencies.** Fully 72% of voters are in favor of passing legislation that would “allow workers to hold lead companies legally responsible if their subcontractor fails to make Social Security, unemployment insurance, or workers’ compensation contributions, or fails to pay workers the wages they are owed according to prevailing minimum wage and overtime laws.” Democrats especially favor such legislation (83% support), and both independents (60%) and Republicans (66%) also endorse legislative action. Similarly, four in five (80%) Biden voters favor passing legislation, along with 65% of Trump voters.

<b>Support for Temp/Staffing Legislation</b>		
		<u>Total Favor</u>
		%
<b>All Voters</b>		<b>72</b>
Gender	Female	74
	Male	70
Race/Ethnicity	Whites	73
	People of color	70
Education	Non-college	74
	College graduates	69
Region	Northeast	78
	South	69
	Midwest	76
	West	66
Annual Household Income	Less than \$50,000	80
	\$50,000 to \$100,000	70
	More than \$100,000	66
Political Party	Democrats	83
	Independents	60
	Republicans	66
2020 Vote	Biden Voters	80
	Trump Voters	65

**Battleground voters also say that designating more workers as independent contractors, instead of hiring them as employees, is a bad change for workplaces.** By a dramatic 40-point margin, 54% to 14%, voters think that this practice is a bad change rather than a good change for the workplace. Voters see this as a change for the worse rather than the better regardless of their party affiliation: 59% to 15% among Democrats, 52% to 17% among independents, and 51% to 11% among Republicans. Similarly, both Trump voters (51% to 13%) and Biden voters (59% to 14%) say the designation of more workers as independent contractors has been a bad change.

**Voters are in favor of legislation to address the designation of workers as independent contractors.** A strong majority (68%) of battleground voters favor legislation that would make it harder for companies to classify workers as independent contractors, including increasing the fees and penalties for companies that misclassify employees as independent contractors. Voters of color (76%) are more likely than white voters (66%) to favor this legislation, though majorities of both groups register approval. The proposal enjoys broad support across party lines, with 78% of Democrats, 56% of independents, and 63% of Republicans in favor. Among Trump voters, 58% say they favor taking legislative action.

## Support for Independent Contractor Legislation

		<u>Total Favor</u>
		%
<b>All Voters</b>		<b>68</b>
Gender	Female	67
	Male	69
Race/Ethnicity	Whites	66
	People of color	76
Education	Non-college	70
	College graduates	66
Region	Northeast	71
	South	70
	Midwest	66
	West	66
Annual Household Income	Less than \$50,000	68
	\$50,000 to \$100,000	66
	More than \$100,000	70
Political Party	Democrats	78
	Independents	56
	Republicans	63
2020 Vote	Biden Voters	79
	Trump Voters	58

## **SURVEY SAMPLE INFORMATION**

<b>CDs Surveyed</b>				
AZ 1	GA 7	MO 2	NY 22	TX 21
AZ 6	IA 1	NC 8	OH 1	TX 22
CA 21	IA 2	NE 2	OH 13	TX 23
CA 25	IA 3	NH 1	OK 5	TX 24
CA 34	IL 6	NJ 2	OR 4	TX 32
CA 39	IL 14	NJ 3	OR 5	UT 4
CA 45	IL 17	NJ 5	PA 7	VA 2
CA 48	IN 5	NJ 7	PA 8	VA 5
CA 49	ME 2	NJ 11	PA 10	VA 7
CA 50	MI 3	NM 2	PA 17	WA 8
CO 3	MI 8	NV 3	SC 1	WI 3
FL 13	MI 11	NV 4	TX 7	
FL 26	MN 1	NY 2	TX 10	
FL 27	MN 2	NY 11	TX 15	

### **2020 Presidential Vote**

Joe Biden, the Democrat	50%
Donald Trump, the Republican	48%
Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian	1%
Howie Hawkins, the Green Party candidate	1%

### **2020 U.S. House of Representatives Vote**

The Democrat	48%
The Republican	48%
Other candidate	4%