

# Common Cause Change Congress Public Campaign Action Fund Frequency Questionnaire

February 2-4, 2010  
**805 Likely Voters**

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Q.3 First of all, are you registered to vote at this address?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes .....	100
No.....	-
(Refused).....	-
(ref:SCREEN1)	

Q.4 Many people weren't able to vote in the 2008 election for president between Barack Obama and John McCain. How about you? Were you able to vote, or for some reason were you unable to vote?

	<b>Total</b>
Voted .....	98
Not registered in 2008/Ineligible/too young .....	2
Did not vote .....	-
(Can't remember/Don't know).....	-
(Refused).....	-
(ref:VOTE08)	

Q.5 As you know, there was an election for Congress and other offices in 2006. Many people weren't able to vote. How about you? Were you able to vote or for some reason were you unable to vote?

	<b>Total</b>
Voted .....	94
Not registered in 2006/Ineligible/too young .....	6
Did not vote .....	-
(Can't remember/Don't know).....	-
(Refused).....	-
(ref:VOTE062)	

Q.7 I know it is a long way off, but what are the chances of your voting in the election for Congress this November: are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or don't you think you will vote?

	<b>Total</b>
Almost certain.....	81
Probably .....	18
50-50 .....	-
Will not vote.....	-
(Don't know) .....	1
(Refused).....	-
(ref:CP10)	

Q.8 Generally speaking, do you think that things in this country are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	<b>Total</b>
Right direction .....	35
Wrong track .....	58
(Don't know/refused) .....	6
<b>Right - Wrong.....</b>	<b>-23</b>
(ref:DIRECT)	

Q.9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

	<b>Total</b>
Strongly approve .....	30
Somewhat approve .....	17
Somewhat disapprove.....	10
Strongly disapprove.....	37
(Don't know/refused) .....	5
<b>Total approve.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Total disapprove.....</b>	<b>47</b>
(ref:BOAPP)	

Q.10 Now, I'd like to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred, the higher the number the more favorable your feelings are toward that person or organization. If you have no opinion or never heard of that person or organization, please say so.

	Mean	% Warm	% Cool	% >75	% <26	% ID	Warm - Cool
10 The Republican Party .....	44.6	33	43	12	28	97	-11
11 The Democratic Party .....	46.0	38	44	21	32	98	-6
12 Barack Obama .....	53.0	49	40	36	31	99	9
<b>[423 Respondents]</b>							
13 (DEM HOUSE INCUMBENT) <sup>1</sup> .....	54.6	42	25	23	19	81	17
<b>[382 Respondents]</b>							
13 (REP HOUSE INCUMBENT) <sup>1</sup> .....	55.4	39	21	20	15	78	18
14 The N.R.A., or National Rifle Association ....	57.3	47	30	31	21	94	17
15 Pro-life, anti-abortion groups.....	53.0	42	34	31	28	94	8
<b>[402 Respondents]</b>							
16 (SPLIT A) Big corporations .....	41.0	26	44	9	33	93	-18
17 Gay marriage .....	38.7	30	50	22	46	94	-20
18 The U.S. Supreme Court .....	59.8	52	20	26	12	97	32
19 The tea party movement .....	52.4	37	27	24	22	76	10
<b>[403 Respondents]</b>							
20 (SPLIT B) Foreign Corporations .....	38.2	13	39	3	27	82	-27
21 Labor Unions..... (ref:THERM04/THERM204)	48.7	39	38	22	28	95	1

<sup>1</sup> The applicable incumbent name was inserted without party identification.

Q.22 I know it is a long way off, but thinking about the elections this November, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you be voting for (DEMOCRATIC HOUSE CANDIDATE) or (REPUBLICAN HOUSE CANDIDATE)?<sup>2</sup>

	<b>Total</b>
Democratic candidate.....	43
Lean Democratic candidate.....	3
Republican candidate.....	40
Lean Republican candidate.....	5
(Other candidate) .....	1
Lean (Other candidate) .....	0
(Undecided).....	6
(Refused).....	1
<b>Total Democratic candidate .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Total Republican candidate.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Total (Other candidate) .....</b>	<b>2</b>

(ref:CONG10)

Q.24 Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

	<b>1st Stmt Strng</b>	<b>1st Not Strng</b>	<b>2nd Not Strng</b>	<b>2nd Stmt Strng</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Nei- ther</b>	<b>DK/ Ref</b>	<b>Total 1st Stmt</b>	<b>Total 2nd Stmt</b>	<b>1st - 2nd</b>
<b>[402 Respondents]</b>										
24 (SPLIT C) Special interests have too much influence over politicians in Washington today.										
OR										
Ordinary citizens still have the ability to influence what politicians do in Washington today. ....	66	9	5	18	1	1	1	<b>74</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>50</b>

<b>[402 Respondents]</b>										
25 (SPLIT C) Members of Congress are controlled by the groups that help fund and support their political campaigns.										
OR										
Members of Congress listen to voters more than the groups that help fund and support their political campaigns.....	64	15	8	11	0	1	2	<b>79</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>61</b>

<sup>2</sup> The incumbent names were inserted preceded by party identification. Generic “the Democratic candidate” or “the Republican candidate” were inserted for the opposition. For open seat districts, both candidates were given as generic.

	1st Stmt Strng	1st Not Strng	2nd Not Strng	2nd Stmt Strng	Both	Neither	DK/Ref	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
<b>[402 Respondents]</b>										
26 (SPLIT D) Your Member of Congress, (HOUSE INCUMBENT) <sup>3</sup> , is controlled by the groups that help fund and support (his/her) political campaigns. OR Your Member of Congress, (HOUSE INCUMBENT), listens to voters more than the groups that help fund and support (his/her) political campaigns.....	21	17	17	24	0	5	16	37	42	-4

<b>[402 Respondents]</b>										
27 (SPLIT D) There is too much money spent on political campaigns and elections today and limits should be placed on campaign spending. OR Because electing our political leaders is one of the most important things we do as a nation, there should be no limits on campaign spending.....	76	7	5	9	0	2	1	82	14	68

<b>[402 Respondents]</b>										
28 (SPLIT C) The influence that special interests have on our political system has decreased since President Obama took office. OR The influence that special interests have on our political system has increased since President Obama took office.....	15	17	13	38	1	6	11	32	51	-19

<sup>3</sup> The applicable incumbent name was inserted without party identification.

	1st Stmt Strng	1st Not Strng	2nd Not Strng	2nd Stmt Strng	Both	Neither	DK/Ref	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
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**[402 Respondents]**

29 (SPLIT D) As president, Barack Obama has made a serious effort to reduce the influence of special interests on our political system.

OR

As president, Barack Obama has not done enough to reduce the influence of special interests on our political system.....

26	9	15	41	0	4	5	<b>35</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>-21</b>
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(ref:PAIRS10)

Q.30 Recently, the Supreme Court ruled on a case brought by the group Citizens United that changed campaign finance laws and will allow corporations, unions and other groups to spend money to directly support or oppose specific candidates. How much have you heard or seen about the Supreme Court's decision in this case -- a great deal, some but not a lot, not very much, or nothing at all?

	<b>Total</b>
A great deal .....	26
Some but not a lot .....	30
Not very much .....	23
Nothing at all .....	20
(Don't know/refused) .....	1
<b>Great deal/Some .....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Not very much/Nothing.....</b>	<b>43</b>

(ref:SPMCORTA)

Q.31 Now let me read you a short description of this case. Before the decision, the law barred corporations and unions from spending money to support or oppose candidates. The Supreme Court overturned this previous law and ruled that corporations and unions have the right to spend money to support or oppose specific candidates. Now, after learning a little bit more about this, do you favor or oppose this decision?

	<b>Total</b>
Strongly favor .....	11
Somewhat favor .....	16
Somewhat oppose.....	17
Strongly oppose .....	47
(Indifferent) .....	1
(Don't know/refused) .....	8
<b>Total favor .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Total oppose .....</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Favor - Oppose .....</b>	<b>-37</b>
(ref:SPMCORTC)	

Q.32 Now I would like to ask you something a little different. I am going to read you various proposals that would change current campaign financing laws. After I read each proposal I would like you to tell me if you favor or oppose that action.

	<b>Strng Fav</b>	<b>Smwt Fav</b>	<b>Smwt Opp</b>	<b>Strng Opp</b>	<b>DK/ Ref</b>	<b>Total Fav</b>	<b>Total Opp</b>	<b>Fav - Opp</b>
32 Passing a law that would ban foreign corporations from spending money in American campaigns and elections.....	51	9	11	26	3	<b>60</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>24</b>
33 Passing a law that would require that corporations receive the approval of their shareholders before spending money on campaigns or elections. ....	56	24	8	9	4	<b>80</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>63</b>
34 Passing a law that would allow candidates for Congress who take no single contribution larger than one hundred dollars to get limited public matching funds for all of the small donations they receive from voters in their home state. ....	33	29	16	15	6	<b>62</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>30</b>
35 Approving a constitutional amendment to prohibit corporations from spending money in elections. .... (ref:POLCYBAT)	33	18	17	28	3	<b>51</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6</b>

Q.36 Now I would like to read to you a description about a specific bipartisan plan that some in Congress have proposed. After I read this statement please tell me if you favor or oppose this policy.

*Under this plan, candidates for Congress could run for office without raising large campaign contributions. Instead, they would collect a large number of small contributions from their home state in order to qualify for a limited amount of public funding for their campaign. They would be prohibited from taking any contributions over one hundred dollars. Contributions of one hundred dollars or less from their home state would be matched with public funds on a four to one basis, up to a strict limit.*

Do you favor or oppose this policy?

	<b>Total</b>
Strongly favor .....	31
Somewhat favor .....	31
Somewhat oppose.....	15
Strongly oppose .....	16
(Don't know/refused) .....	7
<b>Total favor .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Total oppose .....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Favor - Oppose .....</b>	<b>31</b>
(ref:FENASUPR)	

Q.37 Now I'm going to read you two statements that some people might make about the public campaign financing program that we just discussed. After I read both statements, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

*(Some/others) say that Congress takes too much money from donors representing Wall Street and other special interests. This bipartisan proposal gives control of government back to ordinary people by having politicians seek support for their campaigns back home, not in Washington, DC. It's paid for with a small fee on large government contractors, without funding from individual taxpayers. It's the best way to rebuild trust in Congress and reduce politicians' wasteful spending and special interest deals.*

*(Some/others) say that we can't afford a program to pay for politicians' campaigns when the country is facing record deficits. Instead of giving politicians a bailout to pay for TV ads, Congress should spend the money on more important priorities. They say that as much as Congress tries, there's no way to keep special interest money out of elections, and anything Congress comes up with will only serve the politicians and their friends, not us.*

Which statement comes closer to your own view?

	<b>Total</b>
First statement strongly .....	28
First statement not so strongly .....	18
Second statement not so strongly .....	14
Second statement strongly .....	28
(Both).....	0
(Neither) .....	3
(Don't know/refused) .....	8
<b>Total First statement .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Total Second statement.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>First - Second .....</b>	<b>4</b>
(ref:MNYWRTHC)	

**[402 Respondents]**

Q.38 (SPLIT A) Some in Congress say we should pass legislation that would ban foreign-owned corporations from spending money in political campaigns and require that all corporations gain shareholder approval before spending money in campaigns. I am going to read you two statements that some people might make about these proposals and after I read both statements, please tell me which comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

*(Some/other) people say that we must pass legislation to ban foreign-owned corporations from influencing our elections. If we don't, then corporations from countries like Iran, Venezuela or China could spend unlimited amounts of money to elect candidates that will back their agenda, not America's, in Congress. And we need to protect American shareholders by requiring big corporations to get their approval before spending money to influence elections.*

*(Some/other) people say that the freedom to engage in the political process lies at the very heart of the First Amendment. Any law that limits the ability of Americans, including businesses, to participate in elections goes against the wishes of the Founding Fathers. Current law already bans foreign involvement in elections, so these proposals would do nothing but prevent American businesses, their employees, and shareholders from exercising their constitutional right to free speech.*

Which statement comes closer to your own view?

	<b>Total</b>
First statement strongly .....	45
First statement not so strongly .....	17
Second statement not so strongly .....	11
Second statement strongly .....	20
(Both).....	-
(Neither) .....	2
(Don't know/refused) .....	5
<b>Total First statement .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Total Second statement.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>First - Second .....</b>	<b>31</b>
(ref:MINMLSTA)	

**[403 Respondents]**

Q.39 (SPLIT B) Some in Congress say we should pass legislation to address how candidates raise money. They say we should limit large campaign contributions and provide public matching funds only for candidates who raise small contributions from people in their home state. While doing so, we should also ban foreign-owned corporations from spending money on political campaigns, and require that all corporations gain shareholders approval before spending money on a political campaign. I am going to read you two statements that some people might make about these proposals, and after I read both statements, please tell me which comes closest to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

*(Some/other) people say that we must pass legislation to ban foreign-owned corporations from influencing our elections. If we don't, then corporations from Iran or China could spend unlimited amounts of money to elect candidates that will back their agenda, not America's. But to get real change we also need to reduce the influence of special interests like Wall Street banks and Big Oil by allowing candidates to rely on the support of ordinary people in their home states, not big-money corporations.*

*(Some/other) people say that the freedom to engage in the political process lies at the very heart of the First Amendment. Any law that limits the ability of Americans, including businesses, to participate in elections goes against the wishes of the Founding Fathers. Current law already bans foreign involvement in elections, so these proposals would do nothing but prevent American citizens from exercising their right to free speech while allowing politicians to use taxpayer money to fund their campaigns.*

Which statement comes closer to your own view?

	<b>Total</b>
First statement strongly .....	45
First statement not so strongly .....	17
Second statement not so strongly .....	15
Second statement strongly .....	17
(Both).....	0
(Neither) .....	2
(Don't know/refused) .....	3
<b>Total First statement.....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Total Second statement.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>First - Second .....</b>	<b>30</b>
(ref:MAXMLSTB)	

Q.40 Now imagine that your Representative in Congress, (HOUSE INCUMBENT), voted in favor of these proposals that we just discussed. Would that make you more or less likely to support (HOUSE INCUMBENT) for reelection, or would it make no difference?<sup>4</sup>

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Split A</b>	<b>Split B</b>
Much more likely.....	12	12	12
Somewhat more likely .....	15	13	16
No difference .....	52	52	53
Somewhat less likely .....	7	7	7
Much less likely .....	7	8	7
(Don't know/refused).....	7	7	6
<b>Total more likely .....</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total less likely .....</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>More - Less.....</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>
(ref:IMPCFINC)			

Q.41 Now imagine that your Representative in Congress, (HOUSE INCUMBENT), voted against these proposals that we just discussed. Would that make you more or less likely to support (HOUSE INCUMBENT) for reelection, or would it make no difference?<sup>4</sup>

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Split A</b>	<b>Split B</b>
Much more likely.....	7	6	8
Somewhat more likely .....	9	11	8
No difference .....	50	48	52
Somewhat less likely .....	11	10	12
Much less likely .....	17	19	15
(Don't know/refused) .....	6	6	5
<b>Total more likely .....</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total less likely .....</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>More - Less.....</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>-11</b>
(ref:IMPCFAGN)			

<sup>4</sup> The incumbent names were inserted preceded by party identification.

Q.42 Finally, I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	<b>Total</b>
1 - 11th grade .....	5
High School graduate.....	22
Non-college post H.S. ....	2
Some college.....	26
College graduate.....	30
Post-graduate school .....	15
(Don't know/refused) .....	1
(ref:EDUC)	

Q.43 Are you a member of a labor union? (IF NO) Is any member of your household a union member?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes: Respondent belongs .....	13
Household member .....	8
No member belongs .....	78
(Don't know/Refused).....	1
 <b>Union Household.....</b>	 <b>21</b>
(ref:UNION)	

Q.44 Other than what you may have invested in a 401K or retirement account, do you currently have more than \$10,000 invested in individual stocks, bonds, or mutual funds?

	<b>Total</b>
Yes.....	36
No.....	54
(Don't know/refused) .....	10
(ref:INVESTNT)	

Q.45 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican or what?

	<b>Total</b>
Strong Democrat .....	25
Weak Democrat.....	11
Independent-lean Democrat.....	10
Independent .....	7
Independent-lean Republican .....	14
Weak Republican .....	10
Strong Republican.....	21
(Don't know/refused) .....	1
(ref:PTYID1)	

Q.48 Thinking in political terms, would you say that you are Conservative, Moderate, or Liberal?

	<b>Total</b>
Liberal.....	18
Moderate .....	33
Conservative .....	45
(Don't know/refused) .....	4
(ref:IDEO1)	

Q.49 How often do you attend religious services -- more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, several times a year, or hardly ever?

	<b>Total</b>
More than once a week .....	13
Once a week .....	32
Once or twice a month .....	13
Several times a year.....	11
Hardly ever .....	24
(Never) .....	5
(Don't know/Refused).....	3
<b>More than/Once a week .....</b>	<b>45</b>
(ref:RELIG2)	

Q.50 In the 2008 election for president, did you vote for Democrat Barack Obama or Republican John McCain?

	<b>Total</b>
Democrat Barack Obama.....	45
Republican John McCain .....	43
(Ralph Nader).....	0
(Bob Barr).....	-
(Other) .....	2
(Don't know/Refused).....	9
(ref:VOTE2008)	

Q.51 In the 2008 election for Congress, did you vote for (2008 HOUSE DEMOCRAT) or (2008 HOUSE REPUBLICAN)<sup>5</sup>?

	<b>Total</b>
(2008 HOUSE DEMOCRAT).....	45
(2008 HOUSE REPUBLICAN) .....	43
(Other candidate) .....	2
(Did Not Vote for Congress).....	2
(Don't know/Refused).....	8
(ref:VT CG2008)	

<sup>5</sup> Actual candidate names were inserted preceded by party identifications for all districts. In unopposed districts, a generic candidate was used as the opposition.

Q.52 What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

	<b>Total</b>
White .....	76
African-American or Black.....	11
Hispanic or Latino.....	9
Native American .....	1
Asian .....	0
(Other) .....	1
(Don't know/Refused).....	3
(ref:RACETHN)	

Q.2 Respondent's gender

	<b>Total</b>
Male.....	48
Female .....	52
(ref:GENDER)	

Q.6 In what year were you born?

	<b>Total</b>
18 - 24 .....	6
25 - 29 .....	6
30 - 34 .....	10
35 - 39.....	3
40 - 44 .....	7
45 - 49.....	12
50 - 54.....	9
55 - 59.....	11
60 - 64.....	10
Over 64.....	22
(No answer).....	2
(ref:AGE)	