



Where Strategy Meets Science

To: Steven Law, One Nation  
From: Brenda Gianiny, Axis Research  
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RE: Public opinion regarding S.1 and eliminating the filibuster

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## Methodology

One Nation conducted a poll of 1,914 registered voters across four states (Arizona, New Hampshire, Nevada, and West Virginia) to better understand public opinion and key messaging on both H.R.1/S.1 and the efforts by Senate liberals to eliminate the filibuster.

The poll was conducted from April 11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and carries a margin of error of  $\pm 2.29\%$ .

## S.1 Poll Findings

First and foremost, it's important to realize that registered voters aren't paying attention to the debate around H.R.1/S.1 at nearly the level being portrayed in the media. When the topic is introduced to voters, just under a quarter (23%) say they're paying "a lot" of attention to the legislation. Instead, a plurality of voters say they're paying "a little" attention to the bill and the surrounding debate. This is positive news as voters' opinion on the legislation remains open to persuasion.

The data show that definition/context around S.1 is very beneficial. Even the purported objectives of the legislation are unpopular with voters. The electorate wants voting rules and regulations set at the state level rather than in Washington. They already believe voting in their area is "easy" and want the main objective of any reforms to focus on making sure elections are "fair and free of voter fraud" over "making it easier for as many people as possible to vote". And the results aren't even close; voters feel this way by a 33+ point margin. In essence, S.1 is a bad solution in search of a problem.

This leads us to key messaging against S.1. On a broad basis, below are key messages about the spirit or intention of the legislation that garner overwhelming agreement when contrasted with its supporters' claims:



- You need an ID to sign up for welfare, food stamps, get on an airplane, rent a hotel room, or open a bank account, but liberals say you don't need one to vote which makes no sense (71% agree).
  - This statement is also agreed to by 63% of Black voters and 60% of Hispanic voters.
- State legislatures should decide the voting rules and regulations for our state (68%).
- Any voting reforms should be focused on making sure our elections are fair and free of voter fraud (66%) versus just 33% who say we should make it easier for as many people as possible to vote.

When it comes to S. 1's specific provisions, the following messages are the most impactful at informing voters of what is actually in the legislation:

- Political groups would be allowed to collect thousands of absentee ballots and deliver ballots to the county clerk with no supervision to ensure their accuracy, a practice that is currently illegal in [STATE].
- It would allow the government to spend billions in public subsidies to fund political campaigns, even those receiving money from private donations.
- Politicians would get government funding for their campaigns.
- Voters would automatically be registered to vote upon turning 18 without them even knowing, which could result in illegal immigrants being registered.
- The bill would require states to allow people to vote without a photo ID to prove they are who they say they are.
- Voters could turn in absentee ballots without a photo ID or another form of identification.

Perhaps even more important is the consistency of these messages across subgroups. These messages test well with all segments of the electorate, including: Biden voters, Trump voters, Independents, Hispanics, suburban women, and men. Their strength is nearly universal.

## Filibuster Findings

When it comes to the filibuster and its possible removal, the messaging and the opportunity are even clearer. While voters are hearing "a lot" to "a little" (67%) about the filibuster recently, very few feel able to define what the filibuster is and its purpose; just 16% say they could explain the filibuster "very well" to someone else. Again, this presents a massive opportunity to define and educate voters on the filibuster and its importance.

Even when defined in fairly neutral terms, support for keeping the filibuster is solid. When informed that "the filibuster allows any U.S. Senator to prolong or stop legislation until 60 Senators vote to end the filibuster and vote on the legislation. In a closely divided Congress, it is used by the minority party to



stop legislation that it disagrees with to force a compromise on the legislation or stop it entirely,” a strong majority (63%) support keeping the filibuster.

There are two key reasons that voters support the filibuster. First, two-thirds (66%) say the filibuster results in “better laws” for the country by requiring senators to compromise and work with each other. Even a majority of Democrats (58%) believe the filibuster results in “better laws” for the country. Second, past bi-partisan support the filibuster has enjoyed is a point that is not lost on the electorate and is important to emphasize. Highlighting past support from leaders like Ronald Reagan and Barack Obama resonates with voters: 66% again say that support makes them more likely to want to keep the filibuster in place.

Echoing the messaging data from S.1, we again see consistently effective messaging on what elimination of the filibuster would allow across all segments of the electorate. The top two messages against getting rid of the filibuster were consistent, and consistently high, across subgroups (the first two bullets below focused on using taxpayer money to fund political campaigns and the end of bipartisanship).

The research showed that support for preserving the filibuster increased significantly when voters are focused on the actual legislative proposals that would be prioritized for passage without the 60-vote threshold. The top messaging against eliminating the filibuster, which focused on actual legislative proposals that would be prioritized for passage if the filibuster were abolished, are:

- Raise taxes, and then spend those tax dollars to fund political campaigns.
- Allow the Majority to pass anything it wants, ending what's left of bipartisanship.
- Defund the police by taking money out of law enforcement budgets and moving it to other areas like social services and public housing.
- Provide citizenship for over 11 million illegal immigrants, allow previously deported illegal immigrants back into America, and provide taxpayer-funded lawyers to illegal immigrants.
- Raise taxes by repealing the 2017 tax bill that cut income taxes for Americans in every tax bracket.

Both S.1 and the filibuster are similar opportunities for informing, persuading and mobilizing people. The public is not yet engaged on either issue, simple education goes a long way towards shifting public opinion, and the opponents of both measures have strong messaging on their side for both.