To gauge public awareness and sentiment around multiemployer pension plans and their impending collapse, The Retirement Security Coalition commissioned a bipartisan poll among 2,700 likely voters in key states affected by the multiemployer pension crisis. The poll was conducted online from October 12-22 by Global Strategy Group (GSG) and McLaughlin & Associates.

The results clearly indicate:

- Voter recognition of the pension crisis; and
- The urgent need for Congressional action.

The survey results show broad voter support for protecting retirees and Congress needing to make changes to multi-employer pension plans:

- Voters said overwhelmingly (92%) that protecting American retirees is essential to our economy.
- The survey found that three-quarters of voters recognize the urgency and need for Congress to take action (75%)
- Voters support Congress taking action through a comprehensive (70%) “shared solution,” including additional employer support, government assistance and additional retiree support.

More Specifically:

- 75% of voters said they are concerned about having a financially secure retirement.
- 4 out of 5 voters (80%) support the concept of Multi-Employer Pension Plans.
- 77% believe the plans are in crisis.
- 75% agree Congress can’t wait to fix them.
- 74% believe the financial situation is unfair to the workers.
- Voters overwhelmingly (83%) have a favorable opinion of this group of workers: MEPP plans are made up of blue-collar workers such as coal miners, truck drivers, construction workers, bakers and grocery workers.
- 82% agree there is no simple solution and all parties involved will have to come together to find a long-lasting shared solution.
- 81% agree adding oversight tools to the system will ensure more stability for the future.

Summary:

- Without meaningful bipartisan congressional action, millions of workers and retirees – coal miners, construction workers, truck drivers, bakers, grocery workers, and musicians - may lose their hard-earned retirement – savings they depend on to live.

- Failure to rescue these plans will cause widespread harm to families and small business, cost taxpayers more money and risks sending a ripple effect across the economy.
The time for bipartisan, bicameral congressional action to find a shared solution to the multiemployer pension crisis is now – the message is loud and clear – American workers want a Congressional solution to the pension crisis.

Retirement Security Coalition Polling Research Q&A

1. Is there downside to Members if no action is taken regarding pensions?
   - A majority of voters (61%) including Republicans and Democrats, as well as independent voters, said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who does nothing to address this issue.

2. Is there upside to Members who support a solution to MEPP's?
   - A majority, 62 percent of voters said they were more likely to vote for a candidate that makes fixing the pension crisis a priority.

3. Do voters support protecting retirement savings?
   - 92 percent of voters agreed that protecting retirement savings is essential to our economy.

4. How do voters feel about MEPPs?
   - 4 in 5 voters supported the idea of Multi-Employer Pension Plans as a way to provide retirement security to hardworking Americans, including 77 percent of Republicans and 84 percent of Democrats.

5. Do Republican voters support the shared solution approach?
   - Yes, 66 percent of Republicans supported the approach.

6. Do Democrat voters support the shared solution approach?
   - Yes, 75 percent of Democrats supported the approach.

7. Do union members support the shared solution approach?
   - Yes, 76 percent of union households supported the approach.

8. Who opposes the shared solution approach?
   - No group that we polled based on political identity, age, education, race and ethnicity, gender, or employment status had majority opposition to the proposal.

9. Do voters really support government assistance to the PBGC?
   - 71 percent of voters supported providing government assistance to stabilize the PBGC, [including 62 percent of Republicans and 80 percent of Democrats].