



Retirement Security Coalition - Topline MEPP Polling Research

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].