

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group
RE: Aviation Issues Nationwide Survey Results
DATE: 02.09.17

Majority of Voters Oppose Privatizing the Air Traffic Control System

Over 60% of voters recently polled oppose privatizing the operations of the air traffic control system by “taking it from the FAA and turning it over to a non-profit corporation,” according to a recent telephone survey. The survey was conducted by Global Strategy Group of 800 registered voters nationwide between January 30th-February 5th, 2017. The sampling margin of error on the survey is +/-3.5% at the 95% confidence level.

Key findings include:

- **Over 60% oppose privatizing the air traffic control (ATC) functions of the FAA.** Fully 62% oppose privatizing the ATC functions of the FAA “by taking it from the FAA and turning it over to a non-profit corporation,” while 26% support it.
- **The FAA is well-regarded and is seen as doing a good job managing the air traffic control system.** Nearly three in four voters (74%) give the FAA a positive job rating overall, while only 10% say it does a not-so-good or poor job. When asked more specifically to rate the job the FAA does operating the nation’s air traffic control system, 88% of voters say the FAA does an excellent or good job and only 8% rate the FAA negatively. *Voters are currently very pleased with the performance of the FAA and see no reason to privatize it.*
- **Opposition is consistent across all key demographics, including age, gender, education, region of the country and party affiliation.** Opposition to privatization is at 60% among men, 63% among women, 61% among those under 55 and 64% among voters 55 and older. Privatization of the ATC is opposed by 75% of self-identified Democrats, 54% of independents, and 51% of Republicans. Among those who reported voting for Hillary Clinton in the last election, 76% oppose it, with 17% supporting privatization, and Trump voters oppose by 49%, with 39% who support it. It is opposed by 65% of those who travel frequently and by 61% of those who fly rarely or not at all.