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New Swing State Poll: Americans Still Feeling The Effects Of The Recession, Looking Beyond Washington For Long-Term Economic Solutions, Bipartisan Support For Encouraging Entrepreneurship And Focusing Efforts On Distressed Communities

Washington, D.C. – The Economic Innovation Group (EIG) released a new survey today that examines economic sentiment among 2016 likely voters in key battleground states. Survey results indicate that over five years into the official recovery, a significant percentage of swing state voters believe the U.S. economy is still in a recession and that good jobs are difficult to find. Voters are looking beyond Washington for economic solutions, with a clear majority in agreement that entrepreneurs and investors should take on a greater role in providing innovative policy solutions to help solve our economic challenges. The survey also found resounding bipartisan support for encouraging the growth of entrepreneurship and for new incentives aimed at bringing private investment to economically distressed communities.

"While the overall U.S. economy continues to rebound, presidential candidates in both parties should understand the extent to which voters are concerned that economic growth is being held back by an uneven recovery, which offers fewer good paying jobs for working people in many communities across America," EIG's co-founder and Executive Director Steve Glickman said.

"Given Americans' support for entrepreneurship, and its direct impact on job growth, we expect it to emerge as a key theme of the 2016 campaign," said John Lettieri, EIG's co-founder and Policy Director. "There is an opportunity for candidates to separate from a crowded field by showing leadership on the specific issues of entrepreneurship and distressed communities."

The survey was conducted jointly by Public Opinion Strategies (R) and GBA Strategies (D) during April 26-29, and was fielded to more than 800 likely swing state voters in Colorado, Florida, Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, and Virginia. Respondents were asked about the economy at large, the extent



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to which the recession still impacts their communities, potential solutions to current economic challenges, and whether the government, private sector, or a mixture of both should lead the effort. Full results are available [here](#).

Key findings from the survey include:

- 61 percent describe the economy as “not good” or “poor,” and nearly 67 percent expect the economy to be “the same,” if not “worse,” a year from now;
- Only 51 percent of respondents feel their standard of living is better than that of their parents, and only 34 percent think their children's living standards will improve;
- 80 percent of swing state voters agree that lost manufacturing jobs and the financial crisis have trapped many local communities in cycles of low-paying jobs and poor quality of life;
- Nearly half of voters are living paycheck-to-paycheck, are struggling to pay bills, or have some other financial worries;
- 83 percent of respondents think that policymakers should focus efforts on helping those communities most harmed by the recession, with 79 percent specifically in favor of new incentives to make it easier for the private sector to invest in those communities;
- 78 percent disapprove of Washington's handling of the economic recovery. Majority disapproval also holds across party lines;
- 75 percent of respondents want innovative entrepreneurs and investors to take a larger role in solving the country's long-term economic problems;
- Fully 84 percent say that encouraging the growth of new businesses would most improve their family's life.
- Even in areas, such as infrastructure, which have historically fallen under the government's purview, likely voters express strong support for partnerships between the government and private sector.

Additional insights reveal:

- Swing state voters would choose a Republican candidate over a Democrat candidate by a 40 to 36 margin if a vote were held today, although these same voters re-elected President Obama by a 51 to 48 margin in 2012.
- Swing state Republicans and Independents have negative views about the direction of the country and the state of the economy. Hispanic and white swing state voters also align more closely on the direction of the country and the economy.



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- Younger swing state voters (18-34) are optimistic about where the economy will be in a year, and are more likely to say that their personal financial situation has improved over the past few years. The older the voter, the more negative their economic outlook and the less financial improvement they say they have seen.
- Swing state voters without a college degree say they haven't really gotten ahead over the past few years. Those with a college degree were more likely to say they have. Lower-income voters indicate that they were more likely to have lost their job over the past several years and have grown less financially secure. Job loss levels and financial security improve as voter income levels increase.

The full breakdown of survey results can be found [here](#). EIG has also issued an analysis of the current state of the recovery and remaining challenges, also available at the [EIG website](#).

*EIG is led by a bipartisan executive team including former Obama Administration senior economic advisor **Steve Glickman** and former Republican Senate aide and trade association executive **John Lettieri**. EIG's initial supporters include: **Ron Conway**, legendary tech investor and founder of SV Angel; **Rebecca Lynn**, co-founder of Canvas Venture Fund; **Sean Parker**, chairman of Brigade, founding president of Facebook, and co-founder of Napster; **Joseph Sanberg**, co-founder of Aspiration.com and Pt Capital; **Dana Settle**, co-founder of Greycroft Partners; and **Ted Ullyot**, investor and first General Counsel of Facebook. The EIG Advisory Board is co-chaired by **Dr. Kevin Hassett**, Director of Economic Policy Studies at the American Enterprise Institute and former advisor to several Republican presidential candidates, and **Dr. Jared Bernstein**, Senior Fellow at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities and former chief economist to Vice President Joseph Biden. Other members include **Dr. Steven Davis** and **Dr. Austan Goolsbee** at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, **Dr. Kenneth Rogoff** at Harvard University, and **Dr. Matthew Slaughter** at Dartmouth College's Tuck School of Business.*

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