

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties  
FROM: Global Strategy Group  
RE: Aviation Issues Nationwide Survey Results  
DATE: 09.14.15

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### **Voters Overwhelmingly Oppose Privatizing the Air Traffic Control System** *Democrats, Independents and Republicans all oppose taking control from the Federal Aviation Administration and turning it over to a private non-profit entity.*

By a nearly two-to-one margin, voters oppose privatizing the operations of the air traffic control system by taking it from the FAA and turning it over to a private non-profit entity, according to a recent telephone survey conducted by Global Strategy Group of 801 registered voters nationwide between August 8 and August 12, 2015. The sampling margin of error on the survey is +/-3.5% at the 95% confidence level.

#### **Key findings include:**

- **A majority oppose privatizing the air traffic control (ATC) functions of the FAA.** A majority (55%) oppose privatizing the ATC functions of the FAA “by taking it from the FAA and turning it over to a non-profit corporation,” while 29% support it. Opposition exceeds support across party lines (it is opposed by 62% of Democrats and 58% of independents, while among Republicans, 46% oppose it and 38% support it). Opposition is higher than support across other demographic sub-groups, including gender, age, education and region of the country. There is also essentially no difference among those who fly often (56% oppose), those who fly about once a year (55%) and those who rarely or never fly (55%).
- **Generally, voters support privatizing government functions or services.** When asked whether they support or oppose “privatizing government functions or services, which is defined as allowing private companies to provide services currently or traditionally done by government,” 51% *support* privatization generally, while only 34% oppose it. Note: this question was asked immediately ahead of the question on privatizing the ATC functions of the FAA, which means that 20% of voters said they supported privatization generally and then immediately said they opposed privatizing the FAA’s ATC functions.
- **Opposition to privatization may be at least partly due to the fact that voters think the FAA does a good job managing the ATC system.** Fully 67% of voters give the FAA a positive job rating overall, while only 16% 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, 80% of voters say the FAA does an excellent or good job and only 14% rate the FAA negatively. *Voters are very clearly expressing an if-it-ain’t-broke attitude about the FAA and privatization.*