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NEW SURVEY SHOWS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR LARGE-SCALE NATIONAL SERVICE
Hart Research Survey of American Voters Released by the Aspen Institute's Franklin Project With Support From Target

Washington, DC, June 20, 2013 — According to new survey results released today by the Aspen Institute's Franklin Project, a strong majority of registered voters support large-scale national service. The survey findings, "Voters for National Service: Perspectives of American Voters on Large-Scale National Service," were presented by Franklin Project Co-Chairs John Bridgeland and Alan Khazei at the Points of Light's 2013 Conference on Volunteering and Service, during a session with Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Senator Dan Coats (R-IN).

The survey, conducted by Hart Research Associates and funded partially by Target as part of the company's commitment to service and volunteering, found that 80 percent of registered voters support a system of voluntary national service for people of all ages that provide a living allowance and education award. Seventy-six percent of respondents said increasing public funding for national service is worth it, to address the significant number of applications to programs like AmeriCorps and Peace Corps. Additionally, 48 percent of registered voters said they would be interested in participating in a national service program in the future.

"The American people believe deeply in the power of national service to build a common sense of civic responsibility and to solve our most pressing national challenges," said John Bridgeland. "And that support is broad, deep and bipartisan," he continued. "People are eager for more opportunities to engage in national service and see its power to meet critical needs." added Alan Khazei. "The time for national service on a large-scale is now."

Additional key findings include:

- A large majority of respondents believe the country would benefit from national service that addresses specific challenges (partial list):
 - Assist military families and veterans who are adjusting back to civilian life (93 percent)
 - Help communities prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters (91 percent)
 - Clean up rivers, parks, and blighted areas (91 percent)
- Respondents favor specific policy proposals that can increase opportunities for national service:

- Seventy-nine percent support creating a system of specialized service programs such as Health Corps, Green Corps, and Rapid-Response Reserve Corps;
- Seventy-eight percent support amending the current Selective Service System so that every American, both men and women, registers and receives information about opportunities to serve in the military or in a civilian national service capacity;
- Seventy-five percent support encouraging nonprofit organization, colleges, universities, and faith based institutions to join a national service system by offering positions for American to serve for a year through their respective organizations; and,
- Seventy-one percent support amending the GI Bill to permit veterans to use a portion of their GI Bill benefits to support their performing a full year of civilian national service.

About the Franklin Project

The Franklin Project is a program of the Aspen Institute to marshal the best case for a voluntary civilian counterpart to military service in the United States. Created to help make national service a common expectation and opportunity for all Americans, The Franklin Project engages outstanding Americans from the private sector, higher education, government, the military, the faith community, philanthropy, and nonprofit organizations, to develop innovative policy ideas and to build momentum around advancing a new vision of civilian national service for the 21st century. [General Stanley McChrystal \(retired\) is the chair of the Franklin Project Leadership Council.](#) More information about the Franklin Project is available at www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/franklin-project.

About the Aspen Institute

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, Colorado; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org.

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