QCQ PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: **INTERESTED PARTIES**
FROM: **NEIL NEWHOUSE & ROBERT BLIZZARD – PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES**
DATE: **JANUARY 28, 2019**
RE: **POLL RESULTS IN DEM-HELD DISTRICTS WON BY TRUMP IN '16**

On behalf of the Republican National Committee, Public Opinion Strategies conducted a survey of 800 registered voters (moe + 3.46%), January 24-26, 2019 in ten congressional districts which were won by the President in 2016 but are currently held by Democrats in Congress (MN-7, NY-2 2, SC-1, NY-11, OK-5, PA-8, ME-2, VA-7, NJ-3 and NY-19).

KEY FINDINGS

▪ *Voters in these DEM-held congressional districts approve of the President's job performance and support his policies, especially on border security.*
  - A plurality of voters in these districts approve of President Trump's job performance (49%-48%), including an overwhelming majority of Republican voters (87%-11%);
  - A majority of voters (54%-43%) say they support Donald Trump's policies;
  - And, by a 61%-35% margin, voters support the President's position on border security.
  - By way of comparison, the average approval score for the Democratic Members of Congress in these districts is 35%-20%.

▪ *Voters believe the current situation at the border represents a national security threat and a majority support building a wall or barrier.*
  - Fully 52% of voters agree that "*the current situation at the border between the United States and Mexico represents a national security threat to the US.*"
  - By a 53%-43% margin, voters in these DEM-held congressional districts support "*building a border wall or barrier to improve security between the US and Mexico.*"

▪ *Voters believe that Congressional Democrats should have accepted Trump's DACA proposal. And, a plurality of voters in these DEM-held districts say the President has been more open to compromise than Congressional Democrats.*
  - A majority of voters (50%-43%) believe that Democrats should have accepted Trump's offer of three years of protection for dreamers in exchange for $5.7 billion in funding a border wall.
  - By a 41%-34% margin, voters say President Trump has been "*more open to compromise on this issue*" than Congressional Democrats.

- ***After voters hear more about the need for a wall or barrier to improve national security, they move toward the President's stance and away from Speaker Pelosi's position.*** In fact, the messages related to the past success of the border wall seem to resonate the best – especially the information about the effectiveness of the wall between Juarez and El Paso – which is new information to these voters.

Messages tested regarding the border wall include:

>   *A border wall will help improve our national security - by cutting down illegal drugs, reducing human trafficking and illegal arms that are smuggled into the country. Law enforcement agents who patrol the border say a wall will improve national security and cut crime.*

>   *The wall is supported overwhelmingly by US agents who patrol the border because they believe it will work. A recent study conducted by the National Border Patrol Council shows that 89 percent of Border Patrol agents said that a wall is necessary to secure the border.*

>   *The entire debate over a wall is about politics. Prior to President Trump being elected, most Democrats in Congress supported building a wall or barrier with Mexico. Now that President Trump is supporting it, they oppose it. Even though our national security is at stake, Democrats want to play politics. Congress should support the wall and get back to work.*

>   *The estimated cost of building a wall or barrier at the border is just one-tenth of one percent of the federal budget. This shutdown has already cost American taxpayers more than the entire border security package President Trump is requesting. Democrats should OK the wall, move on, and get the government working again.*

After they hear this series of statements, voters in these DEM-held congressional districts move toward supporting the President's border barrier as they shift away from Pelosi:

Should Congressman [MEMBER NAME] …	Pre-Messaging	Post-Messaging	D/S
Support President Trump's border barrier	**27%**	**33%**	**+6**
Stand with Speaker Pelosi against the barrier	**28%**	**24%**	**-4**
Work to find a compromise between the two	**43%**	**41%**	**-2**