RespectAbility Webinar

**Results of New National Poll of Voters with and without Disabilities**

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General Chat Transcript

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>> Hi, everyone! Thank you so much for joining us today for this conference call and Webinar. My name is Lauren and I'm the communications director of respect ability. Now, we're a non profit, non partisan organization that fights stigmas and advances opportunities for people with disabilities. We work with entertain / PL policymakers, education, seventy advocates, faith based organizations, journalist and online media to fight stigma and opportunities for people with disabilities. Lead by people with disabilities and those who love them. We know that people with disabilities and families have the same hopes and dreams as everyone else. We do not lobby. Our tools inform so that people with disabilities can achieve the education, training, job, security, and good health that everyone needs and deserves.

 We're here today to learn about a new national pole of registers voters showing the size, scope, and varied nature of the disability community in the United States. This is the first pole to cover a number of issues, including the NRA, pro life group, president Donald Trump, healthcare, values and other issues. Live captions are available at the bottom of your screen. Please submit questions via the online system or via phone. Press the number 7 and then the pound sign to get in the queue to ask a question.

 All questions will be taken at the end of the presentation. I would now like to introduce Dan Greenburg who is a New York Times, best selling author to prime ministers, CEOs and is conducting deep research in more than a dozen countries. He was a senior for (inaudible) British prime minister, Tony blare and president Nelson Mandela. His corporate clients include bowing, VP, Microsoft and other global companies. He was inducted into the American association of political consultants hall of fame. He has been described as the modern polling techniques, senior of all political consultants and unrivaled international guru. Esquire magazine named him as one of the most important people in the 20th century. He scares the hell out of me. He doesn't just have a finger on the people's pulse. He's got an IV inject into it.

 Whether it is exploring the new economy, climate change, new gender roles, political reform, or the role of millennials. Thank you so much for joining us here today.

>> Thank you Lauren, thank you Jennifer as well for the role that respect ability has come to play with respect to disabilities. We are proud to be part of the bipartisan teams that have monitored this community, its attitudes and role on issues and elections. Part of what is refreshing about this pole is just the fact that folks with attitudes on a broad range of issues are sometimes distinctive and sometimes aligned but it's important for everyone to recognize that there is a disability community and has views and strong views that are impacted by current events and that we're going to use this presentation to go through those.

 This poll was done with a full national sample of registered voters. About two thirds were done with cell phones. Very representative of the registered voting population. And when you see, when you look at the different slices of the pie, and the size of the pie by the way, you know, is not in proportion but they really are important slices of the pie. You know, 17 percent of the people themselves report having a disability. 17 just think about that number, almost one in five but 51 percent, half of them, if you go to people that includes immediate family members and then you get to close friends and you move even further. You begin to see the scope of this community.

 The 51 percent are the people with a disability connection. It spreads further. It has friends, family, and people who do volunteer work and you can begin to see the size of it. It's about 31 percent that have no connection. It's important to understand the scale of this and obviously everyone, there's all kinds of reasons why these views and needs should be important to all political leaders and opinion informers but some of that is self interest.

 For the first time we have brought in people who have a volunteer and worked directly with the communities, with these communities and you can see on the top, our /O healthcare workers and also teachers who are dealing with it. So when you're thinking about the community, not just the disabled themselves, and their friends, it's also people dealing with their needs that are led by healthcare workers and teachers.

 About 3 in 10 develop the disability before they were a voting age but about 10 percent, you know, are seniors but 60 percent which is the vast majority of them are people of working age. Well, what you'll see when you're dealing with folks of working age, and you know that there's a real difference in the proportion that are looking for a job. So as you're looking at people with disabilities. Be you are focusing on unemployment, people are temporarily unemployed. You only have 3 percent. The non disabled are 15 percent of those with disabilities. So you have 22 percent in the employed full time but almost as many are unemployed or looking for work. That's a critical issue for them.

 We also should know that three quarters of those with disabilities are working class. High school graduates, some college, but not have completed the full year degree. If you look over all in the population, over 70 percent of the voting population is without a college degree. I think it's about 63 percent of the registered population so we're dealing with the working people for the most part and many who are not retired want to work.

 Now, folks in the community believe on that, you know, they share that with others in the country. They are a little bit more negative on Donald Trump than the rest of the population. It's 56 percent disapprove of his performance and that may change according to what is going on in healthcare and other issues. One of the things it makes surprises. Well, we asked, what is the level of interest? The percentage who picked ten on a 10 point scale, so having the highest interest in what is going on in voting in the election, people with disabilities score higher than all of the others that we looked at. Those were outside of it and those that are in the extend disability community. So it may well be we're paying close attention to what is happening and many of whom are giving the high level of interest of what is happening with the election.

 We looked at the congressional balance on how democratic or republican they are. You should. There again, we're talking now. What you're seeing now is there's a 16 percent for democrats with people with disabilities. I should mention that the you'll see when we look at the history of those with disabilities, it's not at all the case that they are more democratic. They're much more evenly put. There's evidence they have shifted some what towards democrats as events have developed on issues that affect their community.

 We looked at the congressional, and particularly, if you compare the off year election of 2014. What you saw then is that republicans, they actually were voting republican by 11 points in 14 but they are voting by 11 points democratic with intention using the ballot, in the potential 2018 election. That's a pretty striking number. Pretty striking shift.

 Again, there was no reason. Again, we have done these polls historically as bipartisan. There's no reason to think of the disabled community particularly as democratic and they were evenly split in 16 but not now. There's been a major shift towards democrats in the disabled community. When we look at the congressional vote compared to the presidential vote, you can see they were only going plus three. Just for the purposes of this. How democratic are people with disabilities? They were evenly split this the presidential election over a year ago but they have 16 now in the congressional vote suggesting something is affecting them, that's affecting their orientation towards politics.

 If you look at the attitudes, the favor ability toward the republicans in Congress, focusing on the republicans in Congress, we are using a thermometer scale which means people pick on 0 to 100 scale, 50 being the middle point. Red is a positive response, the yellow is the cold negative response. The intense are the scores below 25 which are the most negative.

 What you'll see is the biggest negative feelings towards the republican Congress is amongst people with disabilities. So again, something is happening that's affecting the kind of even split, the swing voter status of people with disabilities that are with democrats at this in a moment in time.

 Let's look at the tax cut. At the time we did this the they are it's 49 percent strongly opposed. There at the time this issue was debated, well, there was discussion on whether these tax cuts would have the affect of producing entitlement reform in the future that could affect spending on Medicare and medicaid that affect those with disabilities but there's intense opposition to the tax cuts amongst the disabled.

 And their views on affordable care act are also quite important because if you look at people outside of the disability community, views are evenly split. 40 percent are favorable to the affordable care act. 42 percent negative. But if you look at people with disabilities, the affordable care act is clearly, quite important. There's a strong intense response and there's a net, more positive view and that helps people without disabilities and also people in the extended community. Obviously the affordable care act has meaning and importance for them that may well be affecting that are views of what's happening in America and in our community.

 We also looked at their value and where they distinguish themselves from others. It's actually very interesting. The differences are particularly the biggest differences on being loyal with your family and keeping promises and fulfilling your duties. Those are the two areas where there's the biggest gap in which those with disabilities are saying these values are important.

 If you look more broadly, the top of the value chain is treating everyone equally. Also important is hard work and responsibility but for those with disabilities, they are very focused on family and people being loyal to family and keeping their promises and fulfilling your duties.

 You can clearly see why this community would value those values and that may very well affect the way they're responding, the whole range of institutions and what is happening in the country.

 You know, we looked at the views of the NRA and pro life groups. They are actually marginally more positive towards the NRA. Prior to the most recent events but I think the more important one is, they have views that are quite mainstream. If you look at their views on NRAs and pro life groups, it's fairly similar to what you see across the board.

 The most important thing is, remembering how important they are, how much their views are evolving and reacting to current events. On some instance, they are quite mainstream and look very similar to other groups but as we saw here, on the values that are important to them, the worry about what is happening to the affordable care act, the views on the tax cut and their interest in voting is pretty distinctive and that may well be associated with them moving away from a group evenly split in the last election and quite republican in the last off year election.

 The group that is now intending to vote democratic. Obviously things can evolve but this is a check on a very important take on their attitudes and I think this was very important survey that respect ability did and I'm now happy to answer any questions on this project. Thank you.

>> Thank you very much! Operator, do we have any questions on the phone?

>> Not yet, but if you have not dialed in and would like to ask a question, please press 7 pound on your phone now and you'll be placed in the queue in the order received. Again, that's 7 pound on your touch tone phone. Thank you.

>> So I'm going to ask a question while we're waiting for other people. So there's a lot of information that people, while they received the deck ahead of time, they received the live information from you. What would you say are the biggest one or two takeaways from the survey?

>> Well, I think, look. The first is how important the disability community is. You have almost one in five that are disabled themselves, the majority of the country if we're dealing with family.

 This is part of the very close disabled world. They have been, obviously they have a very strong interest in work. Obviously these are very important issues for them. But they are following what has happened since the 2016 election and this group which has been evenly split and leaning republican, are leaning strongly democratic and strikingly, have a higher interest in voting in the off year elections than the non. And at the moment, the vote is more democratic and appears to be linked towards what they're watching and what's happening in Washington and what is happening in the affordable act and what is happening around other programs around this community.

>> So in previous years we have not found presidential candidates or other candidates to with be paying attention to the disability community as a block. Do you see any changes happening there? Do you foresee any changes happening there?

>> Well, they should, they should. Look, these are very powerful results and really just put up on the what we have here on the comparison to the 2016 election. If you look at the disability community, what you see is this ought to be front and center for anyone who is concerned with what happened in 2018 election.

 This community is clearly paying attention. There's obviously opportunity for democrats who have seen this shift away from them being split but obviously Congress ought to be looking at this seriously and thinking about this as their building with the whole range of policies that affect them. Whether it has to do with the laws that are affecting the disability community itself or issues like medicaid and I I fordable care act that have a differential impact on this community.

>> Do we have any questions from anybody on the done?

>> No one has any yet. It's 7 pound for questions.

>> We seem to have a very quiet crowd today. Usually we have a lot more questions coming in. Yes?

>> Lauren, we have a couple now who have expressed their interest. First one is Michael. I'm unmuting your line. Go ahead, please, Michael.

>> Sure, I'm looking at the chart that's presently up. It shows a bunch between republicans and democrats and not in the disability community and very similar 11 point margin in the disability community. So that would seem to indicate more that it's just a shift in the general electorate rather than the disability community itself. Look at 2018.

>> Well, first of all, I'm looking at the 2014, what we had was an 11 point right, from the presidential year. You're right in pointing out this is in both. But if you look at the year 2014 off year can which was a waive election for the republicans but the disabled community was part of that, there, we have moved to the opposite. The number was closer in the non disability to be even and actually, it is if you live in the non disability community, it's republican in each of them, of the prior.

>> If you look at the this is looking at the if you look at the next slide, again, you're looking here, you're looking at the shift from 16 until now. Again, you're looking at the disability community. Sorry, people with disabilities is a plus 16 toward the shift.

>> Yeah, it's

>> You're right, you're right. If you're looking at a comparable shift, but you're looking at a margin combined with them having the highest interest in voting which is probably surprising for them being higher than the other communities on the interest of voting.

>> Do you also have data going back before the years that you're showing in these slides?

>> No, I wish we did. These are done in respectability and very smart in doing these bipartisan polls and putting in the demographics, questions that break up the status. This shows the significance of it.

>> Okay, thank you.

>> Thank you Michael. The next one is the honorable Curtis.

>> Thank you Dr. Greenberg. I wanted to see if you would flush out something. You touched upon a shift on the disability community and their position on president Trump which I can understand but do you have any data as to where or what some of the issues may have created more of a equal divide between democratic republican when say, President Obama was in office doing his two terms, were there any specific issues that were points of concern or not addressed? And you also mentioned in terms of the disability community position on the NRA. Do we have any data as to the specifics as to why they have a some what positive position. Just their positive position on NRA?

>> You know, my main by the way. Look, the NRA has a more positive image than (inaudible) and the elites recognize. Part of the reason for having this slide in is to recognize how mainstream is the disability community and people with disabilities. And the fact the abuse of the NRA, it's a little bit more positive than others, is consistent with them in the past being either, a swing group or even marginally lean republican.

 So I think it's part of that over all and the differences aren't that great. And so I think it's more about them being mainstream than, you know, something distinctive about what is happening with the NRA.

 But when I look back to 14 when we did that poll, I think in 14, that was a low turn out. It was the lowest turn out in the elections since World War II in the off year. I don't remember the it was not just Obama specifically, it was the community. It was more related to feeling on the wrong track. A lot of that is between economic rather than anything specific to the community. I can't say it wasn't but it was part of a way, you know, a way in which President Obama was arguing that the left were making progress and the country was still discontent with the fact of leading incomes were not back to precrisis level so I think it's more about those issues than anything specific to those policies.

>> Is there any more policy questions? So we have a question that came in online. Oh, sorry, go on, Luke.

>> Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead, Lauren. I'm sorry.

>> So we had a question that came in online and it was, do you have any information on how people of different genders and ages answer the questions in the survey?

>> Nancy, are you on? To be honest, the sample size wouldn't allow us I mean, we have it. I'm cautious about it that way. We have a thousand sample. We have 17 percent with disabilities. We did not we have that but we didn't highlight it because we didn't want to get into the differences that are not real. We can address it.

 The with can certainly get back to you on the break out within the specific parts. We can do that because of the disability community which is half the population and for sure, we can get back to you with that.

>> All right, thank you. Does anyone have any more questions?

>> I don't see any. All right, go ahead, sorry.

>> No, I just wanted to add one thing because the you know, I do want to talk about the unions which I was trying to make a point about this community is the center of the electorate but there is one of the things that we measured in which they the disability community is stronger and it has to do with use of unions. It may be that the unions become advocates to them.

 If you look at people with disability versus people outside, really significant difference. We have a plus nineteen on labor unions, on favorable versus negative, versus fairly evenly split, plus five. People outside of that community and it may be they see unions, advocates of their community. But it's also I think it's important when we think about the people, but the politics. We think about the people who can take up these issues.

>> Thank you, we received one other question via our online question. I don't know if you have the data for this, but have you seen a shift in support of people with disabilities for the affordable care act of 2014?

>> What we have is the data on the ACA. We do know is they have watching it, the efforts to repeal it. Apparently it has brought out the more favorable views of it and there's stronge favorable views of it that are paired in this slide. It may have the change but we didn't measure the affordable care act in the previous pole.

>> We have questions from respect ability board member. I have a comment and a question. I understand this survey focuses on voting pattern. I'm also interested in the ability consumer market group and really appreciate what you shared. I am curious about disabilities share commonalities to the extended members of the community. I'm curious whether you would say the extended members, extended disability community appeared with the actual disability community, IE, people with disabilities, as far as their opinions on the issues and so forth.

>> This is a varying question. Again, for sample reasons, we presented people with disability community or the extended 63 percent. Now, what you're looking at is to look at the 15 percent that are (inaudible) I think you raise a question. How do we get them more engaged and to react with intensity on this.

 We didn't present this because we're trying to deal with enough sample size to make the bigger how the disabled community compares to the non disabled. We have that data. Then we'll work with Jennifer and Lauren in bringing that.

>> All right, thank you so much. Do we have any more questions moderator?

>> Hi, Lauren. I don't think we have anybody who raised the hand over the phone line.

>> Okay. So Stan, anything else you would like to add before we conclude?

>> No, I would just like to say thank you for respect ability for doing this simple thing of saying, you should ask people. There's lots of demographics and surveys that people with opinions look at. They can add disability to their survey and what we can see here is it matters. They are reacting to events and can play an important role to the events going forward.

>> Thank you very much. If anyone has any questions, you can contact us at respect ability. We would be willing to contact Stan on your behalf. If anyone would like to join us as we continue our work to increase, continue fighting stigmas and increasing opportunities for people with disabilities, we're always looking for volunteers.

 You can check us at on our website with www.respectability.org or look on Facebook and Twitter, thank you!

>> Thank you!