

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: FIGHT CORPORATE MONOPOLIES
RE: POLLING ON NON DISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEALS

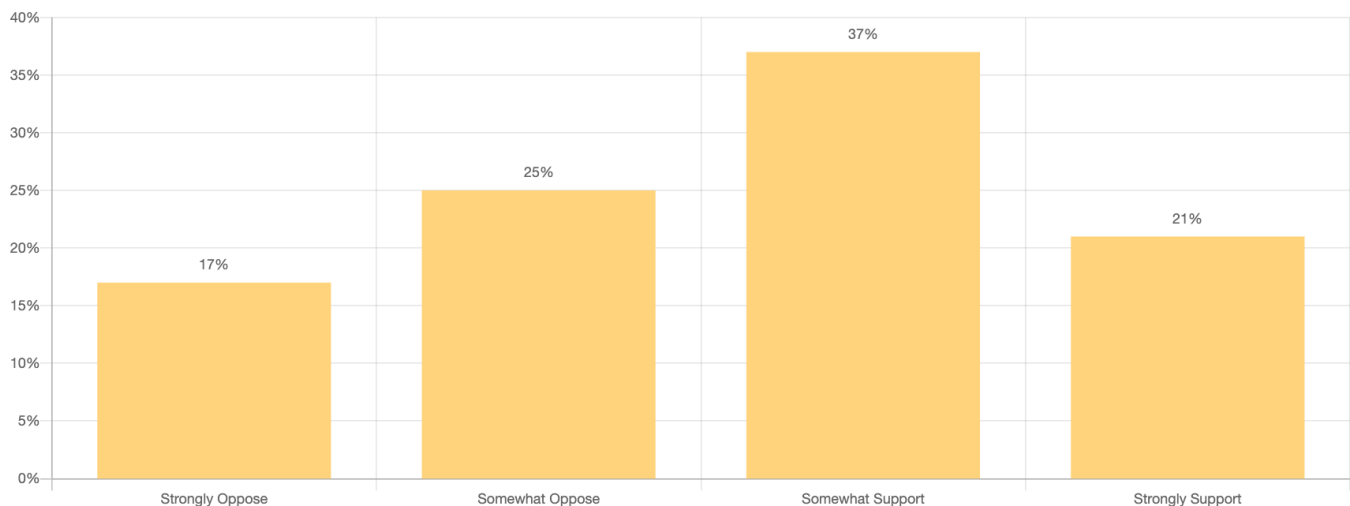


Corporations often use nondisclosure agreements when they are negotiating subsidy deals with elected officials or economic development agencies. This practice intentionally keeps taxpayers and local businesses in the dark about who their public money is subsidizing, what the impact of a particular economic development project will be, or what promises were made in return for access to public funds. They foster corruption and undercut a key tenet of local democracy: That communities should have a say in how their public resources are spent, and should expect public officials to not sign away their right to discuss important public matters.

In March 2023, Fight Corporate Monopolies and Grow Progress surveyed 600 adults about the use of nondisclosure agreements in economic development deals.

The majority - 58% - of respondents supported a ban on nondisclosure agreements in economic development deals.

Corporations often require public officials to sign nondisclosure agreements (NDAs) when they negotiate economic development deals, such as corporate tax breaks. These NDAs shield the public from details about the deals that elected officials make with corporations. Do you support or oppose a ban on NDAs in economic development deals?



When asked why respondents answered the way that they did:

- "It's not being honest with the public" – White woman, 35–54, Independent, Rural, High school or less education
- "Politicians should be more transparent" – Latino woman, 18–34, Democrat, Suburban, High school or less education
- "Public officials shouldn't engage in private business with corporations" – Black man, 18–34, Democrat, Urban, Some college
- "If there are tax break deals made, the taxpayers should have a right to see the deals...after all, they are the ones having to make up for the loss of taxes being paid" – White man, 55+, Democrat, Rural, Some college
- "All aspects of these kind of deals should be public knowledge" – White man, 55+, Republican, Suburban, High school or less education
- "Corporations and elected officials who want to keep their deal making a secret are trying to hide something from the American people" – Black woman, 55+, Democrat, Suburban, High school or less education
- "They let people get away with stuff that they shouldn't be able to" – Race "other" woman, 18–34, Independent, Urban, Bachelor's Degree +

Words used repeatedly to describe NDAs in economic development deals:

- Unfair
- Sneaky
- Shady
- Corrupt
- Crooked
- Unethical
- Dishonest

We believe that with further education and messaging, the percentage of supportive voters will be even higher.

These findings support earlier [polling findings](#) from Fight Corporate Monopolies and GBAO that showed **71% of voters** were more likely to support a candidate for office who supports "banning secret back room deals with large corporations to give them giant tax breaks and subsidies in communities without any public input".

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please email
info@fightcorporatemonopolies.org