

Debate Questions on Corporate Power:

Ahead of the second Presidential debate on September 10, new polling reveals that a vast majority of American voters are deeply concerned about corporate monopolies and the excessive power of big businesses. According to an [August survey](#) from More Perfect Union and GQR, 81 percent of respondents expressed worry over the growing influence of dominant corporations across our economy. In response, Fight Corporate Monopolies has developed a list of debate questions on corporate power that the American people deserve to see addressed by both candidates, from lowering prices in housing and healthcare to helping small businesses succeed.

Lowering costs for working families

Price gouging. 41% of Americans name inflation and high cost of living as their top financial problem, and 60% of likely voters **dissatisfied** with the economy cite grocery prices as their top concern.

Question: *What will your administration do to protect consumers from price-gouging in housing and groceries?*

Making housing more affordable

Corporate ownership of housing. Housing is increasingly unaffordable, a top concern for young people. In addition to high interest rates, experts point to landlords using new software algorithms to coordinate rent hikes, and investors cornering single family home markets.

Question: *What would you do to prevent big corporations from buying up most properties– even single family homes– in a particular city or region to jack up rent?*

Promoting accessible and affordable healthcare

Drug prices and pharmacy benefit managers. The high cost of prescription drugs and healthcare services is a burden for many Americans.

Question: *What would you do to lower prices in the healthcare industry and take on exploitative middlemen like pharmacy benefit managers – which harm patients and independent pharmacists alike?*

Supporting workers

Noncompete agreements. The Federal Trade Commission has issued a rule banning non-compete clauses in employment contracts, but it is being challenged by Trump-appointed judges. Non-compete clauses prevent 30 million Americans – from security guards to doctors to journalists – from joining competitors or even working in the same industry after their employment ends.

Question: *Do you support enforcement of the Federal Trade Commission’s rule banning noncompetes?*

Enforcing antitrust laws against tech monopolies

Ongoing challenges against the biggest tech companies. Major technology companies like Amazon, Google, and Facebook have significant influence over the market and our daily lives.

Question: *How would you address the growing power and influence of major tech companies, and what would your administration do to ensure a competitive digital marketplace?*

Question: *What are your views on breaking up big tech companies such as Google, Facebook, and Amazon? Do you support such measures?*

Promoting innovation and small business dynamism

Tackling corporate consolidation. Over the past few decades, over 75% of industries have become more concentrated. Some have called this “America’s concentration crisis,” saying it harms consumers, workers, and small businesses. Despite being the

lifeblood of the American economy, small businesses struggling to compete in a marketplace rigged to favor big business.

Question: How are you going to make it easier for small businesses and innovators to compete in an economy so overly concentrated?