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**COMMON GOOD CHAIR PHILIP K. HOWARD PRAISES NEW REPORT THAT  
CONCLUDES GOVERNMENT OVERHAUL IS KEY ISSUE IN 2020 ELECTION**

**Groundbreaking Report by Paul Light Published by NYU, Brookings, and the Volcker Alliance**

New York, NY – April 18, 2019 – Common Good, the nonpartisan reform coalition, today praised a new report – “[The coming showdown over government reform: How the dismantlers and rebuilders will shape the 2020 election](#)” – published jointly by New York University, the Brookings Institution, and the Volcker Alliance. The report’s author Paul C. Light, a renowned scholar and NYU Professor, argues that “government reform could well decide the winner” of the 2020 presidential election.

Professor Light defines four types of government reformers: dismantlers, rebuilders, streamliners, and expanders. “The four reform options divide party supporters among themselves,” Light writes. “Republicans split between dismantling and streamlining, Democrats split between rebuilding and expanding, while independents sort themselves almost equally between all four groups.”

Yet most Americans support “very major reform.” In October 2018, according to the report, 63% of Americans said the federal government needed “very major reform.” The demand for reform continues to hover at or above 60%.

“Making government work,” Light concludes, “appears to be the key to creating common ground between the dismantlers and rebuilders. Even when the dismantlers and rebuilders disagree on the need for federal action on traditional Democratic policy priorities like access to health care..., they said the federal government was failing. Such is their level of shared distrust.”

“This report is groundbreaking in its analysis of the crucial importance of government reform to the outcome of the 2020 presidential election,” said Common Good Chair Philip K. Howard. “Too often, the need for government reform is overshadowed by the latest breaking news. But this essential report alerts presidential candidates to pay attention. Government reform is the breaking news they need to be making.”

For further information, or to speak with Philip Howard, contact Emma McKinstry at 203-912-7174 or [emckinstry@highimpactpartnering.com](mailto:emckinstry@highimpactpartnering.com).

*Common Good ([www.commongood.org](http://www.commongood.org)) is a nonpartisan reform coalition that believes individual responsibility, not rote bureaucracy, must be the organizing principle of government. It presents proposals to radically simplify government and restore the ability of officials and citizens alike to use common sense in daily decisions. The Founder and Chair of Common Good is Philip K. Howard, a lawyer and author of the new book Try Common Sense (W.W. Norton, 2019).*