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November 13, 2007

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**New Poll Shows that U.S. Small Business Owners  
Give Presidential Candidates an F**

*American Management Services and Suffolk University release poll that reveals 23 million small business owners feel that the Presidential Candidates are ignoring them*

BOSTON, MA – While presidential candidates are traveling all across the country raising money and talking to voters, small business owners in America are feeling ignored from the current presidential campaign process, according to an American Management Services/Suffolk University poll released today.

When asked to rate the small business plans of any of the top seven Democratic and Republican Presidential Candidates, over two-thirds of respondents could not rate the small business plans of any of the major presidential candidates. Despite 99.6% of all employer units being small businesses, small businesses are over looked by big government and by all the presidential candidates and as a result, small business owners are becoming the forgotten majority.

“Clearly the Presidential candidates are not reaching out and talking about the issues that concern and directly affect 23 million small business owners all over this country,” said George Cloutier, Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of American Management Services, a company offering implementation-based, profit-maximization and turnaround services to privately held, small and mid-sized business owners. “Small business owners make up a large voting block and it’s about time that small business owners were not ignored. Their votes count and their voices and concerns need to be addressed by the candidates running for President today.”

Other interesting results from the poll showed that small business owners also felt a disconnection with Wall Street. Poll results concluded that 70% of respondents did not benefit from the Dow Jones being at an all-time high in 2007. Also 56% of respondents concluded that the high price of oil was having a negative impact on their small businesses.

“It’s Main Street versus Wall Street. Bottom line is that the economy is great for the big corporations and for Wall Street but small businesses are not feeling the affects of a supposedly strong economy as Wall Street would have you believe,” said George Cloutier. “It’s about time that Wall Street and big business helped out small business owners or else their future will remain uncertain.”

Poll results also showed that 59% of respondents believed that the economy was headed in the wrong direction and 59% of respondents disagreed with President Bush’s handling

of the Iraq War. 73% of respondents believe that the next president and congress should pass a health care reform plan and 72% of respondents believed that the next president and congress should not grant amnesty to undocumented workers.

Finally poll results show that a significant political gap has been recorded between small business owners and the two major political parties. 36% of respondents did not know which political party will benefit small businesses. 32% of respondents believed a Republican president while 28% of respondents believed a Democrat president would benefit small businesses and the economy.

Of the 400 people who took part in the poll, 31% identified themselves as Republicans, 27% as Democrats and 28% as Independents.

The Suffolk University poll was conducted from October 17 to October 30, 2007. The margin of error is +/- 4.90% at a 95% level of confidence. The 400 small business owners were drawn from a Dun & Bradstreet sample of small business owners from all states, including the northeast, Midwest, west and south regions, per Department of Commerce/Census Regional and Gender Quotas.

Suffolk University is scheduled to release marginals, charts and pages of cross-tabulation data on its website ([www.suffolk.edu](http://www.suffolk.edu)) on Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact Suffolk adjunct professor David Paleologos at 781-290-9310.

### **About American Management Services, Inc.**

American Management Services is the leading provider of complete turnaround services to small and mid-sized businesses. Founded in 1986 by George Cloutier, a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Business School, American Management has worked directly with more than 6,000 business owners across 400 industries to implement the changes necessary to achieve profitability. In the last twelve months, American Management Services completed 54 successful small business turnarounds and over the past five years, has completed more than 250 successful turnarounds. American Management Services is a founding and active member of Partner America™, a unique public/private partnership created in 2001 with the US Conference of Mayors. American Management Services has offices in Orlando and Palm Beach, FL, Boston, MA, and Washington D.C. For more information, please visit [www.amserv.com](http://www.amserv.com).