



THE  
**POLICY**  
**CIRCLE**<sup>®</sup>

# Free Enterprise

## Discussion Guide

#policynotpolitics

### Let's get started

Each member is invited to give a **two minute reaction** to the brief answering the following questions. You may want to use a timer as you go around the room. And don't forget to decide who will take notes and post a discussion recap.

- What lens did you wear when reviewing this brief (e.g. personal, professional, etc.)?
- What did you find most interesting from reading the brief?
- What do you most care about regarding this issue?

### Let's discuss

- What does the government do well?
- What is the role of government in our society?
- What helps the most vulnerable in our society?
- Discuss a government regulation that may stop someone from either starting or growing a business?
- How does the rule of law relate to free enterprise?
- What is the case for individual freedom?
- What did you learn about free enterprise from the brief?
- What do you think is the most compelling argument for free markets?
- What arguments have you heard against free market economics? How would you counter those?

### Let's act

- How does free enterprise affect our community? Is this an issue we'd like to learn more about? If so, who could serve as point people?
- What organizations, legislators and journalists could we contact to ask questions, learn more and get engaged?
- Who can post a meeting recap of this discussion and be a resource to other circles on this issue?

## Key Facts

- Market system = individuals' freedom to pursue their own objectives + extensive cooperation/collaboration needed in economic field for production (food, clothing, housing)
- Free market disperses power and reduces area over which political power exercised.
- Economic growth of the free market = most effective at benefitting working people and the poor
- Reduction in tax rates promote economic growth and prosperity because people have more funds to take risks and invest in businesses (their own, small or big). Small businesses create jobs, increase people's income, which in turn increase revenue from taxes.
- Increases in tax rates slows economic growth and prosperity because people lose the motivation to take the risks to start or invest in business. In addition, people find ways to avoid paying taxes.
- Some regulations are necessary for public health and safety, but many prohibit economic growth and prosperity.

## Dig Deeper

- Bourgeois Equality: How Ideas, Not Capital or Institutions, Enriched the World, Deidre McCloskey (2016)
- Free to Choose, Milton and Rose Friedman (1980)
- The Wealth of Nations, Adam Smith (1776)
- The Road to Serfdom, Friedrich Hayek (1944)
- Short Reads: Foundational Readings for the Free Market Woman, The Policy Circle (2017)