

Voter Vitals: A Health Care Tracking Poll

Key findings from the quarterly tracking survey of national and battleground state voters



Methodology



Quarterly Tracking Survey:

- N=1,000 voters nationwide plus n=500-voter oversamples in FL, MI, PA, WI, IA, and OH
- Balanced to U.S. demographics by gender, age, race, income, political ideology, and health coverage
- Fielded online November 6-19, 2019
- National MOE: +/- 3%; State OS MOE: +/- 4%

Key Findings

1

The top issues for 2020: **health care (59%), economy (46%), and immigration (42%)**. Health care continues to grow in importance to voters since August (+13%).

2

Lowering **COSTS** is the top health care priority for all voters.

3

A super-majority of voters (70%) are **SATISFIED** with their current coverage, and 65% believe **PRIVATE** insurance should continue to have a **ROLE** in our health care system.

4

More trust the **FREE MARKET** (60%) more than government (40%) as the foundation for health care reform.

5

Most voters are **UNKNOWLEDGEABLE** about incremental proposals like the public option (42%) or Medicare buy-in (36%), and support declines with knowledge.

Key Findings

6

More support **FIXING what we have today** (60%) than Medicare buy-in (49%), the public option (41%), Medicare for All (38%), and ACA repeal (32%).

7

Voters' top concerns with government-run health care reforms: **not addressing rising health care costs, higher taxes, and higher private premiums.**

8

Most voters would rather **BUILD ON** the **CURRENT** system (67%) than replace it with a new one (33%).

9

80% of voters 50-64 and 70% of voters 18-64 would rather **KEEP their coverage** than buy coverage through Medicare or the public option respectively.

10

Most voters (65%) are **UNWILLING** to pay **ANY** more in taxes for universal coverage.

Top 2020 issues: Health care, Economy & Immigration

Which of the following issues is MOST important to you when considering who to vote for in the 2020 presidential primary or caucus? (Combined – Top 3)

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Health care	59% (+13%)	57% (+6%)	70% (+14%)	56% (+13%)	49% (+14%)
The economy	46% (+6%)	47% (+7%)	38% (+8%)	49% (+13%)	53% (+2%)
Immigration	32% (-8%)	31% (-7%)	21% (-4%)	28% (-9%)	47% (-13%)
National security	30% (+2%)	33% (+3%)	15% (-1%)	31% (+6%)	48% (+2%)
Taxes	22% (-2%)	19% (-4%)	16% (-4%)	23% (-6%)	27% (+3%)
The environment	22% (+1%)	22% (0%)	32% (0%)	22% (+2%)	9% (+1%)
Education	14% (-6%)	14% (-4%)	15% (-11%)	13% (-11%)	12% (+3%)
Gun policy	23% (+3%)	20% (+5%)	32% (+7%)	19% (+1%)	16% (+1%)
Income and wealth inequality	19% (+2%)	18% (-2%)	26% (+2%)	19% (+1%)	9% (+2%)
Social justice	10% (-3%)	8% (-4%)	15% (-6%)	7% (-4%)	6% (0%)
Infrastructure	9% (0%)	10% (0%)	6% (-1%)	14% (+3%)	8% (+2%)
Judges and the judiciary	6% (-3%)	9% (-1%)	5% (-3%)	8% (+2%)	7% (-4%)
Trade and tariff policies	5% (-3%)	7% (-1%)	3% (-2%)	6% (-6%)	6% (-3%)
Energy	5% (-1%)	4% (-1%)	5% (-1%)	6% (-3%)	4% (0%)

U.S.: n=1,000 voters nationwide

BGRND: n=2,000 voters (500 each in key 2020 battleground states of FL, MI, PA, and WI)

DEM: n=408 Democratic voters nationwide

SWING: n=253 Swing voters nationwide

GOP: n=339 Republican voters nationwide



Locust Street

The top health care priority: **lowering COSTS**

Which of the following is the most important priority to improve the U.S. health care system? (Combined)

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Bring down health care costs	71%	79%	72%	69%	72%
Make health care simpler	35%	33%	33%	34%	38%
Expand coverage to the uninsured	33%	27%	45%	27%	21%
Give consumers more choice and control	26%	27%	19%	33%	31%
Improve the quality of care	26%	23%	27%	25%	25%
Drive medical innovations and breakthroughs	9%	11%	5%	11%	13%

A majority of insured voters are **SATISFIED** with their health coverage

How satisfied are you with YOUR current health insurance plan, the coverage you have today?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
SATISFIED (NET)	70%	74%	68%	66%	76%
Neither	12%	10%	12%	14%	11%
DISSATISFIED (NET)	18%	16%	20%	20%	13%

Most believe **PRIVATE** coverage should continue to have a role in our health care system

Many leading Democratic candidates for president have said we need to eliminate the private insurance system entirely – like the coverage that most Americans get through their job. Do you believe private insurance should exist and have a role in our health care system?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Yes	65%	67%	55%	66%	76%
No	19%	15%	23%	19%	14%
Don't know	16%	18%	22%	16%	10%

More trust the **FREE MARKET** than government

Who do you trust MORE to effectively manage health care for Americans?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Free market	60%	63%	49%	64%	70%
Federal government	40%	37%	51%	36%	30%

A majority are aware of Medicare for All, but most are **UNAWARE** of incremental proposals

How knowledgeable or unknowledgeable are you about the following health care reform proposals and how they would work? (NET KNOWLEDGEABLE)

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Medicare for All	56%	57%	57%	48%	61%
Public option	42%	42%	42%	35%	48%
Medicare buy-in	36%	35%	37%	29%	39%

The proposal that earns the **MOST** support with all voters: **Fix what we have today**

Now, we're going to present you with a series of health care policy proposals. For each, please indicate your level of support or opposition to them. (NET SUPPORT)

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
<u>Fix what we have today.</u> We should build on and improve our current health insurance system – not start over.	60% (+3%)	63% (+1%)	61% (-1%)	54% (+5%)	63% (+5%)
<u>Medicare buy-in.</u> We should allow Americans age 50+ to purchase coverage through Medicare.	49% (+1%)	52% (0%)	56% (+2%)	46% (-1%)	44% (+3%)
<u>Public option.</u> We should create a new government-run insurance plan available for every American to purchase.	41% (-3%)	38% (-4%)	54% (-2%)	32% (-9%)	32% (+2%)
<u>Medicare for America.</u> We should enroll the uninsured and newborns in a new government-run insurance plan and allow any insured American to buy into it .	42% (+2%)	37% (-5%)	58% (+1%)	38% (+4%)	26% (+2%)
<u>Medicare for All.</u> We should replace private insurance plans with a single government-run insurance system that covers all Americans and is funded by federal taxes.	38% (-2%)	34% (-4%)	54% (-3%)	29% (-10%)	25% (+4%)
<u>Repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).</u> We should repeal the ACA and go back to the health care system we had prior to it that does not protect pre-existing conditions.	32% (-1%)	30% (-2%)	19% (+1%)	28% (-2%)	49% (-4%)

BUILDING ON what's working today earns more support than replacing it with something new

Of the following proposals to reform our health care system, which do you support MOST?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Building on and improving the health care system we have today	50%	56%	40%	51%	59%
Replacing our current health care system with a Medicare for All, government-run system	21%	18%	29%	17%	14%
Allowing Americans age 50+ to buy into Medicare	18%	16%	16%	21%	18%
Creating a government-run public option insurance plan	12%	10%	15%	11%	9%

Which of the following approaches to health care reform would you support MORE?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Build on and improve our current health care system	67%	70%	67%	65%	69%
Replace our current health care system with something new	33%	30%	33%	35%	31%

FIXING Medicare must come **BEFORE** expanding it

Which of the following is a MORE important priority?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Fixing/improving Medicare before expanding it	67%	70%	55%	67%	80%
Expanding access to Medicare now for people no matter their age, income, or where they live	33%	30%	45%	33%	20%

Most voters 50-64 would rather **KEEP** their coverage than buy into **Medicare**

Assuming that what you currently pay would be the exact same, would you rather keep your current health insurance coverage or get coverage through Medicare? (age 50-64)

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Keep my current coverage	74%	77%	64%	78%	83%
Purchase Medicare coverage	26%	23%	36%	22%	17%

Most voters 18-64 would rather **KEEP** their coverage than buy into a **public option**

Assuming that what you currently pay would be the exact same, would you rather keep your current health insurance coverage or get coverage through a government-run public option? (age 18-64)

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Keep my current coverage	69%	71%	62%	70%	76%
Purchase public option coverage	31%	29%	38%	30%	24%

Top concerns with government-run proposals: **COSTS**

Which of the following potential consequences of government-run proposals to reform our health care system are MOST concerning to you? (Combined – Top Two)

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
They do nothing to lower rising health care costs.	48%	48%	52%	47%	43%
Americans will pay higher taxes to fund them.	47%	49%	38%	49%	58%
Private health insurance plan premiums will increase.	27%	25%	30%	25%	25%
There will be lower quality of care.	24%	24%	23%	28%	22%
There will be less access to care.	22%	18%	22%	22%	21%
There will be longer wait times to see a doctor.	19%	18%	18%	18%	20%
There will be less choice of health care providers.	13%	16%	17%	11%	11%

Most voters would be **UNWILLING** to pay any more to ensure universal coverage

Are you or are you not willing to pay more in taxes to ensure universal health care coverage for every American?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
I would not be willing to pay more in taxes than I currently do.	65%	67%	49%	72%	78%
I would be willing to pay more in taxes than I currently do.	35%	33%	51%	28%	22%

A large decorative graphic consisting of a blue vertical bar and a red horizontal bar that meet at a right angle, forming an 'L' shape. The blue bar is on the left, and the red bar extends to the right from the bottom of the blue bar.

Thank You