



Voter Vitals: A Health Care Tracking Poll Edition IV

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



Methodology



Tracking Survey:

- n=4,000 voters (n=1,000 voters nationwide plus a 500-voter oversample in AZ, FL, IA, MI, PA, & WI)
- Balanced to U.S. demographics by gender, age, race, income, political ideology, and health coverage
- Fielded online August 27 – September 4
- National MOE: +/- 3%; State OS MOE: +/- 4%

Key Findings

1

Lowering COSTS (66%) is the top health care priority for Democratic, Swing, and Republican voters.

2

More voters support **FIXING what we have today** (66% support) than the public option (49% support) and Medicare for All (42% support). In fact, 65% of voters would rather **BUILD ON** our current system than create the public option (35%).

3

79% of voters with health insurance coverage are **SATISFIED** with their coverage.

4

68% of voters are **UNWILLING to pay more any more for health care** and 65% are **UNWILLING to pay any more in taxes** to create the public option.

5

63% of voters believe **PRIVATE COVERAGE** should continue to exist and have a role in our health care system.

Top 2020 issues: **Economy, Health Care & National Security**

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	COLUMN KEY
The economy	55% (+9%)	56% (+9%)	42% (+7%)	57% (+11%)	70% (+12%)	U.S.: n=1,000 likely voters nationwide
Health care	48% (-10%)	52% (-9%)	61% (-6%)	47% (-14%)	33% (-13%)	
National security	26% (-6%)	29% (-4%)	11% (-6%)	28% (-4%)	43% (-5%)	
Social justice	25% (+15%)	26% (+18%)	38% (+23%)	22% (+12%)	11% (+7%)	BGRND: n=2,000 likely voters (500 each in key 2020 battleground states of FL, MI, PA, & WI)
Immigration	21% (-9%)	20% (-5%)	11% (-7%)	22% (+1%)	30% (-20%)	
Income and wealth inequality	21% (-2%)	19% (-2%)	34% (-1%)	17% (-6%)	10% (+0%)	
Taxes	21% (+0%)	20% (-1%)	14% (-1%)	22% (-1%)	28% (+2%)	DEM: n=400 likely Democratic voters nationwide
The environment	20% (-2%)	20% (-4%)	28% (-5%)	23% (+0%)	9% (+1%)	
Gun policy	16% (-5%)	16% (-4%)	20% (-5%)	13% (-9%)	15% (-2%)	
Education	15% (+0%)	15% (+0%)	17% (-4%)	12% (-3%)	15% (+7%)	SWING: n=260 likely Swing voters nationwide
Judges and the judiciary	11% (+4%)	10% (+1%)	9% (+2%)	9% (+4%)	15% (+7%)	
Infrastructure	9% (+0%)	8% (-1%)	8% (+0%)	14% (+6%)	8% (-2%)	
Energy	6% (+2%)	4% (+1%)	7% (+3%)	6% (+0%)	6% (+4%)	
Trade and tariff policies	6% (+2%)	5% (+1%)	2% (+0%)	6% (+2%)	9% (+5%)	GOP: n=340 likely Republican voters nationwide

Lowering **COSTS** is still voters' top priority

Which of the following is the MOST important priority to improve the U.S. health care system?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Bring down health care costs	66% (-7%)	73% (-4%)	67% (-4%)	67% (-9%)	64% (-8%)
Expand coverage to the uninsured	34% (+4%)	34% (+3%)	52% (+9%)	27% (+1%)	18% (+2%)
Improve the quality of care	32% (+4%)	26% (+1%)	29% (-1%)	32% (+7%)	35% (+7%)
Make health care simpler	30% (-3%)	28% (-2%)	26% (-4%)	33% (-2%)	33% (+0%)
Give consumers more choice and control	24% (-2%)	24% (-3%)	16% (-1%)	26% (-1%)	31% (-6%)
Drive medical innovations and breakthroughs	15% (+5%)	15% (+4%)	10% (+2%)	16% (+6%)	19% (+5%)

Top health care initiatives: **COVID-19 treatments/vaccines** and **strengthening out current health care system**

Which of the following health care initiatives are MOST important for lawmakers to address? (Combined – Top Two)

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Finding and distributing effective COVID-19 treatments and vaccines	44%	49%	46%	46%	40%
Strengthening private health coverage, Medicare, and Medicaid	37%	39%	35%	36%	41%
Ensuring hospitals have the medical and protective equipment they need	31%	34%	23%	35%	38%
Waiving costs for COVID-19 testing and treatment	24%	20%	26%	21%	23%
Providing financial assistance for workers and businesses	24%	25%	28%	23%	22%
Creating a government-run public option health insurance system	21%	19%	30%	21%	12%
Supporting hospitals at risk of closing so they can stay open	18%	14%	13%	19%	24%

Nearly 80% of insured voters are **SATISFIED** with their current 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)	79% (+4%)	80% (+6%)	78% (+8%)	72% (+3%)	86% (+1%)
Neither	10% (+2%)	10% (-1%)	10% (+0%)	14% (+3%)	8% (+3%)
DISSATISFIED (NET)	11% (-6%)	10% (-5%)	12% (-8%)	14% (-5%)	6% (-4%)

Voters still believe **PRIVATE** coverage should have a role in our health care system

Some politicians have said we need to eliminate private insurance plans 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
Private insurance plans should exist	63% (-1%)	67% (+2%)	52% (+4%)	65% (-2%)	75% (-4%)
Private insurance plans should be eliminated	22% (+1%)	16% (-2%)	28% (-3%)	21% (+0%)	15% (+5%)
Don't know	15% (+1%)	16% (-1%)	20% (-1%)	14% (+1%)	10% (-1%)

More trust the **FREE MARKET** than government to manage health care

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

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Free market	56% (-4%)	60% (+0%)	46% (+4%)	57% (-6%)	67% (-10%)
Federal government	44% (+4%)	40% (+0%)	54% (-4%)	43% (+6%)	33% (+10%)

Most are still **UNAWARE** of incremental proposals like the public option

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	54% (-4%)	54% (-3%)	54% (-9%)	46% (-8%)	59% (+3%)
Public option	44% (-4%)	43% (+0%)	42% (-9%)	35% (-13%)	53% (+9%)
Medicare buy-in	39% (+2%)	35% (+0%)	39% (+2%)	34% (-1%)	44% (+7%)

Fixing what we have today continues to earn the most support

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
Fix what we have today. We should build on and improve our current health insurance system – not start over.	66% (+4%)	67% (+4%)	64% (+4%)	63% (-4%)	70% (+9%)
Medicare buy-in. We should allow Americans age 50-64 to purchase health insurance coverage through Medicare.	55% (+2%)	52% (-1%)	62% (+9%)	50% (-6%)	52% (+2%)
Public option. We should create a new government-run insurance plan available for every American to purchase.	49% (+5%)	41% (+0%)	57% (-1%)	46% (+4%)	41% (+11%)
Medicare for All. We should replace private insurance plans with a single government-run insurance system that covers all Americans and is funded by federal taxes.	42% (+2%)	38% (+1%)	55% (-3%)	34% (-2%)	31% (+8%)
Repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). 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.	35% (+0%)	28% (-1%)	22% (-3%)	29% (+2%)	54% (+3%)

BUILDING ON our current system is more popular than creating a public option or starting over

Which of the following is a MORE important priority?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
Building on our current health insurance system by strengthening private coverage, Medicare, and Medicaid options	65%	70%	58%	66%	72%
Creating a public option which is a new government-run health insurance plan available for any American to purchase	35%	30%	42%	34%	28%

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% (+1%)	74% (+5%)	63% (+1%)	69% (+3%)	70% (+0%)
Replace our current health care system with something new	33% (-1%)	27% (-4%)	37% (-1%)	31% (-3%)	30% (+0%)

Most voters 18-64 would rather **KEEP** their coverage than buy the **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	66% (-3%)	72% (+1%)	57% (-2%)	71% (+4%)	72% (-11%)
Purchase public option coverage	34% (+3%)	28% (-1%)	43% (+2%)	29% (-4%)	28% (+11%)

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	76% (-4%)	74% (+0%)	64% (-5%)	84% (+5%)	81% (-5%)
Purchase Medicare coverage	24% (+4%)	26% (+0%)	36% (+5%)	16% (-5%)	19% (+5%)

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

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
Americans will pay higher taxes to fund them.	49%	51%	45%	53%	49%
There will be lower quality of care.	39%	38%	33%	41%	45%
Private health insurance plan premiums will increase.	34%	32%	41%	28%	32%
There will be longer wait times to see a doctor.	33%	32%	34%	33%	30%
There will be fewer private health insurance options.	24%	25%	27%	23%	22%
There will be fewer doctors and hospitals.	21%	21%	20%	22%	21%

Most voters – even Democrats – are still **UNWILLING** to pay more to create the public option

Are you or are you not willing to **pay more than you currently pay for health care**, including premiums, co-pays, and out-of-pocket expenses, to create a new government-run health insurance system?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
I would not be willing to pay more than I currently do for health care.	68% (-4%)	75% (-1%)	65% (+2%)	69% (-6%)	72% (-9%)
I would be willing to pay more in taxes than I currently do.	32% (+4%)	25% (+1%)	35% (-2%)	31% (+6%)	28% (+9%)

Are you or are you not willing to **pay more in taxes** to create a new government-run health insurance system?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
I would not be willing to pay more in taxes than I currently do.	65% (-1%)	69% (+0%)	53% (+1%)	67% (+3%)	76% (-7%)
I would be willing to pay more in taxes than I currently do.	35% (+1%)	31% (+0%)	47% (-1%)	33% (-3%)	24% (+7%)

A large majority of voters across all parties are **CONCERNED** about the cost impact of the public option

An independent study has found that the public option could require tax increases on most Americans, including middle-income families, and add over \$700 billion to our federal deficit in its first ten years. How concerned are you about the cost impacts the public option could have on Americans?

	U.S.	BGRND	DEM	SWING	GOP
CONCERNED (NET)	83% (-4%)	83% (-3%)	75% (-3%)	83% (-5%)	92% (-4%)
NOT CONCERNED (NET)	17% (+4%)	17% (+3%)	25% (+3%)	17% (+5%)	8% (+4%)

A large decorative graphic consisting of a blue vertical bar and a red horizontal bar meeting 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