



# Voter Vitals: A Health Care Tracking Poll May 2021 Edition

Key findings from our national tracking survey of voters on health care



# Methodology



## National Tracking Survey:

- n=2,000 likely voters nationwide
- Balanced to U.S. demographics by gender, age, race, income, political ideology, and health coverage
- Fielded online May 11-18, 2021
- MOE: +/- 2%

# Key Findings

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**Lowering COSTS** (64%) remains the top health care priority for Democratic, Swing, and Republican voters.

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76% of voters with health insurance coverage are **SATISFIED** with their coverage.

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More voters support **FIXING what we have today** (65% support) than the public option (49% support) and Medicare for All (47% support).

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64% would rather **BUILD ON** our current system than create the public option, and 70% are **concerned about paying more in taxes** to create it.

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The vast majority of voters are concerned about **limiting access to quality care** (73%) and **bankrupting the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund** (70%) to expand Medicare.

# Top 2021 issues: **Economy & Health Care**

Which of the following issues is MOST important for the Biden administration and Congress to focus on? (Combined – Top Three)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>The economy</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>Health care</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>39%</b>	30%
Immigration	32%	17%	28%	<b>54%</b>
National security	28%	16%	26%	43%
Taxes	23%	17%	25%	28%
Income and wealth inequality	20%	28%	17%	13%
The environment	19%	26%	19%	12%
Social justice	18%	30%	15%	6%
Infrastructure	16%	17%	18%	13%
Gun policy	16%	20%	17%	9%
Education	15%	18%	15%	11%
Financial regulation	8%	6%	10%	7%
Trade and tariff policies	7%	4%	8%	11%
Judges and the judiciary	5%	6%	5%	4%

COLUMN KEY

U.S.: n=2,000 likely voters nationwide

DEM: n=800 likely Democratic voters nationwide

SWING: n=520 likely Swing voters nationwide

GOP: n=680 likely Republican voters nationwide

# Lowering **COSTS** is still voters' top health care priority

Which of the following is the MOST important priority to improve the U.S. health care system? (Combined – Top Two)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>Bring down health care costs</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>67%</b>
Improve the quality of care	33%	33%	34%	33%
Expand coverage to the uninsured	32%	45%	30%	19%
Make health care simpler	30%	28%	34%	30%
Give consumers more choice and control	25%	19%	24%	33%
Drive medical innovations and breakthroughs	16%	13%	16%	18%

# Top health care initiative during the pandemic: strengthening our current health care system

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

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>Strengthening private health coverage, Medicare, and Medicaid</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>49%</b>
Ensuring hospitals have the medical and protective equipment they need	28%	22%	33%	33%
Developing and distributing effective COVID-19 treatments and vaccines	26%	30%	23%	25%
Providing subsidies for Americans to keep health coverage if they lost their job or purchase new coverage	26%	29%	26%	22%
Creating a government-run public option health insurance system	21%	30%	21%	11%
Providing financial assistance for workers and businesses impacted by COVID-19	21%	23%	19%	21%
Supporting hospitals at risk of closing so they can stay open	18%	14%	18%	23%
Waiving costs for COVID-19 testing and treatment	17%	18%	17%	16%

# A supermajority of insured voters remain **SATISFIED** with their current health coverage

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

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>SATISFIED (NET)</b>	<b>76% (-1%)</b>	<b>75% (-2%)</b>	<b>71% (-1%)</b>	<b>80% (+0%)</b>
Neither	12% (+1%)	12% (+0%)	15% (+1%)	10% (+1%)
<b>DISSATISFIED (NET)</b>	<b>13% (+1%)</b>	<b>13% (+2%)</b>	<b>14% (+0%)</b>	<b>10% (-1%)</b>

# Voters 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.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>Private insurance plans should exist</b>	<b>64%</b> <b>(-1%)</b>	<b>50%</b> <b>(+0%)</b>	<b>66%</b> <b>(-1%)</b>	<b>77%</b> <b>(-6%)</b>
Private insurance plans should be eliminated	21% (+3%)	31% (+5%)	19% (+5%)	12% (+3%)
Don't know	15% (-2%)	19% (-5%)	14% (-4%)	11% (+3%)

# 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.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>Free market</b>	<b>57%</b> <b>(+0%)</b>	37% (+5%)	<b>61%</b> <b>(-3%)</b>	<b>75%</b> <b>(-7%)</b>
Federal government	43% (+0%)	<b>63%</b> <b>(-5%)</b>	39% (+3%)	25% (+7%)

# Most are still **UNAWARE** of incremental proposals

How familiar or unfamiliar are you about the following health care reform proposals and how they would work? (NET FAMILIAR)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Medicare for All	61%	66%	55%	59%
<b>Medicare at 60</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Public option</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Medicare buy-in</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>35%</b>

# 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.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>Fix what we have today. We should build on and improve our current health insurance system – not start over.</b>	<b>65% (+0%)</b>	66% (+3%)	<b>64% (-1%)</b>	<b>65% (-2%)</b>
<b>Medicare at 60.</b> We should allow Americans to go on Medicare at age 60 instead of at age 65.	57% (+2%)	70% (+0%)	53% (+4%)	44% (+4%)
<b>Medicare buy-in.</b> We should allow Americans age 50-64 to purchase health insurance coverage through Medicare.	56% (+5%)	65% (+1%)	53% (+5%)	46% (+9%)
<b>Extend Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies.</b> We should permanently extend subsidies for those who are uninsured to more easily afford health insurance through the public marketplace.	55%	<b>73%</b>	52%	36%
<b>Public option.</b> We should create a new government-run insurance plan available for every American to purchase.	49% (+3%)	63% (-1%)	48% (+4%)	34% (+8%)
<b>Medicare for All.</b> We should replace private insurance plans with a single government-run insurance system that covers all Americans and is funded by federal taxes.	47% (5%)	67% (+3%)	42% (+6%)	28% (+9%)
<b>Repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).</b> 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.	37% (+2%)	34% (+6%)	33% (+1%)	45% (-2%)

# **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.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>Building on our current health insurance system by strengthening private coverage, Medicare, and Medicaid options</b>	<b>64%</b> <b>(-1%)</b>	<b>51%</b> <b>(-2%)</b>	<b>65%</b> <b>(-3%)</b>	<b>79%</b> <b>(+1%)</b>
Creating a public option which is a new government-run health insurance plan available for any American to purchase	36% (+1%)	49% (+2%)	35% (+3%)	21% (-1%)

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

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>Build on and improve our current health care system</b>	<b>75%</b> <b>(+4%)</b>	<b>71%</b> <b>(+5%)</b>	<b>76%</b> <b>(+3%)</b>	<b>80%</b> <b>(+4%)</b>
Replace our current health care system with something new	25% (-4%)	29% (-5%)	24% (-3%)	20% (-4%)

# Most voters 18-64 would rather **KEEP** their coverage than purchase **public option coverage**

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.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>Keep my current coverage</b>	<b>66%</b> <b>(-1%)</b>	<b>53%</b> <b>(-5%)</b>	<b>72%</b> <b>(+4%)</b>	<b>80%</b> <b>(-1%)</b>
Purchase public option coverage	34% (+1%)	47% (+5%)	28% (-4%)	20% (+1%)

# 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.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>Keep my current coverage</b>	<b>77%</b> <b>(-6%)</b>	<b>62%</b> <b>(-12%)</b>	<b>81%</b> <b>(-8%)</b>	<b>85%</b> <b>(-2%)</b>
Purchase Medicare coverage	23% (+6%)	38% (+12%)	19% (+8%)	15% (+2%)

# It's most important to ensure **lower health care costs for everyone**

Which of the following two health care priorities is MORE important to you? That we...

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>Lower health care costs for everyone</b>	<b>54%</b> <b>(-3%)</b>	37% (-1%)	<b>58%</b> <b>(-2%)</b>	<b>71%</b> <b>(-7%)</b>
Ensure health care coverage for everyone	46% (+3%)	<b>63%</b> <b>(+1%)</b>	42% (+2%)	29% (+7%)

# 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.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>Costs.</b> Americans will pay higher taxes to fund it and private health insurance premiums would increase.	42% (-2%)	38% (+0%)	45% (+2%)	44% (-7%)
<b>Quality.</b> There will be lower quality of care.	32% (-2%)	34% (-1%)	32% (-3%)	29% (-3%)
<b>Bureaucracy.</b> It would increase bureaucracy and red tape in health care.	28% (+0%)	25% (-3%)	27% (-3%)	32% (+4%)
<b>Access.</b> There would be longer wait times and fewer doctors and hospitals.	24% (+1%)	26% (+2%)	25% (+2%)	21% (-1%)
<b>Government spending.</b> It would increase our national debt and deficit further.	23% (+1%)	18% (+0%)	23% (+0%)	28% (+2%)
<b>One-size-fits-all.</b> Private coverage and public programs would no longer be able to work together to provide coverage and care options for Americans.	20% (+1%)	22% (+0%)	19% (+1%)	17% (+0%)
<b>Jobs.</b> It would result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of health care jobs.	16% (+0%)	19% (+1%)	14% (-1%)	14% (+2%)
<b>Instability.</b> It would create instability as Americans could lose their current coverage.	16% (+1%)	17% (+0%)	15% (+2%)	15% (+2%)

# Most voters – even Democrats – are **UNWILLING** to pay more to create a new government health insurance system

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.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>I would not be willing to pay more than I currently do for health care.</b>	<b>71%</b> <b>(-2%)</b>	<b>63%</b> <b>(+2%)</b>	<b>72%</b> <b>(-4%)</b>	<b>81%</b> <b>(-4%)</b>
I would be willing to pay more than I currently do for health care.	29% (+2%)	37% (-2%)	28% (+4%)	19% (+4%)

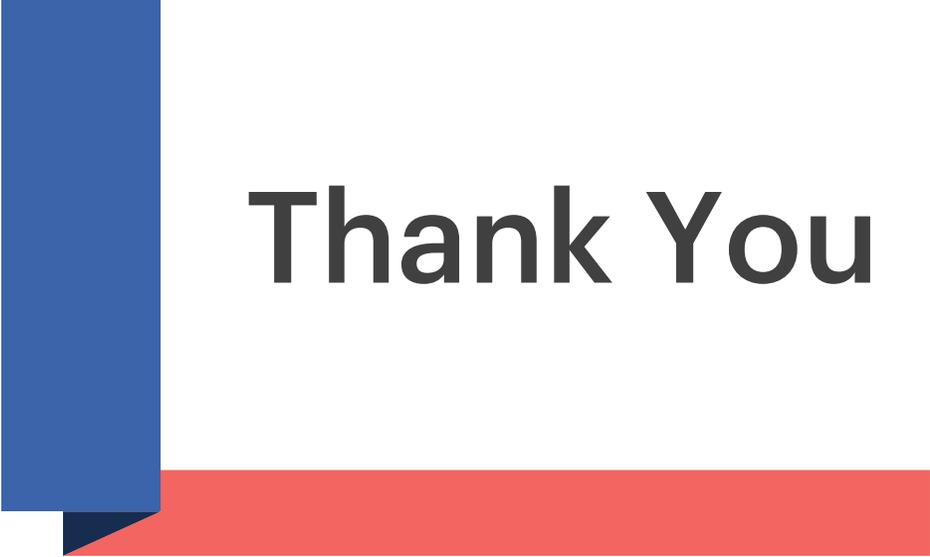
Are you or are you not willing to **pay more in taxes** to create a new government-run health insurance system?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<b>I would not be willing to pay more in taxes than I currently do.</b>	<b>68%</b> <b>(-3%)</b>	<b>55%</b> <b>(+0%)</b>	<b>72%</b> <b>(-3%)</b>	<b>80%</b> <b>(-7%)</b>
I would be willing to pay more in taxes than I currently do.	32% (+3%)	45% (+0%)	28% (+3%)	20% (+7%)

# A large majority of voters are **CONCERNED** about the **access, cost, and long-term fiscal impacts** of government-run proposals

How concerned would you be if creating the public option or opening up Medicare had the following impacts? (NET CONCERNED)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Reducing access to quality care	73%	71%	73%	76%
Increasing payroll taxes by more than \$2,500 a year on the average worker	70%	65%	69%	76%
Bankrupting the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund by 2024	70%	65%	68%	77%
Closing of at-risk rural hospitals	68%	66%	66%	73%
Increasing the federal deficit by \$800 billion in its first ten years	64%	55%	65%	75%
Becoming the third largest government program behind Medicare and Social Security	55%	47%	54%	64%



**Thank You**