



Voter Vitals: A Health Care Tracking Poll August 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 August 6-12, 2021
- MOE: +/- 2%

Key Findings

1

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

2

Support for government-run proposals has **DECLINED** – including for Medicare buy-in (52% support, -4% since May) and the public option (46% support, -3% since May).

3

64% prefer **BUILDING ON** our current system rather than creating the public option, and 67% prefer building on our current system instead of opening up Medicare.

4

A **GROWING** majority would rather keep their current coverage than purchase public option coverage (69%, +3% since May) or Medicare coverage (82%, +5% since May).

5

The vast majority are concerned about **limiting access to quality care (71%), increasing payroll taxes (67%), and bankrupting the Medicare HIT Fund (67%)** to expand Medicare.

Top 2021 issues: **Economy, Health Care, and Immigration**

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
The economy	51%	42%	52%	63%
Health care	36%	45%	35%	25%
Immigration	31%	14%	28%	53%
National security	25%	14%	26%	38%
Taxes	23%	16%	24%	32%
The environment	23%	32%	26%	12%
Income and wealth inequality	19%	26%	23%	9%
Social justice	17%	27%	12%	7%
Education	16%	18%	17%	12%
Infrastructure	15%	17%	15%	14%
Gun policy	15%	22%	14%	8%
Energy	10%	11%	9%	9%
Financial regulation	7%	7%	7%	6%
Trade and tariff policies	6%	4%	8%	7%
Judges and the judiciary	5%	6%	4%	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 remains 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
Bring down health care costs	64% (+0%)	60% (-2%)	64% (+1%)	68% (+1%)
Improve the quality of care	35% (+2%)	36% (+3%)	36% (+2%)	33% (+0%)
Make health care simpler	31% (+1%)	30% (+2%)	32% (-2%)	31% (+1%)
Expand coverage to the uninsured	29% (-3%)	45% (+0%)	25% (-5%)	15% (-4%)
Give consumers more choice and control	26% (+1%)	17% (-2%)	27% (+3%)	34% (+1%)
Drive medical innovations and breakthroughs	16% (+0%)	12% (-1%)	16% (+0%)	20% (+2%)

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
Strengthening private health coverage, Medicare, and Medicaid	39% (-3%)	31% (-4%)	42% (-1%)	45% (-4%)
Ensuring hospitals have the medical and protective equipment they need	28% (+0%)	23% (+1%)	28% (-5%)	34% (+1%)
Developing and distributing effective COVID-19 treatments and vaccines	27% (+1%)	30% (+0%)	23% (+0%)	26% (+1%)
Providing subsidies for Americans to keep health coverage if they lost their job or purchase new coverage	25% (-1%)	28% (-1%)	27% (+1%)	20% (-2%)
Providing financial assistance for workers and businesses impacted by COVID-19	21% (+0%)	27% (+4%)	19% (+0%)	17% (-4%)
Waiving costs for COVID-19 testing and treatment	21% (+4%)	21% (+3%)	20% (+3%)	22% (+6%)
Supporting hospitals at risk of closing so they can stay open	20% (+2%)	16% (+2%)	20% (+2%)	25% (+2%)
Creating a government-run public option health insurance system	19% (-2%)	25% (-5%)	21% (+0%)	10% (-1%)

The vast majority 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
SATISFIED (NET)	76% (+0%)	77% (+2%)	69% (-2%)	80% (+0%)
Neutral	12% (+0%)	11% (-1%)	15% (+0%)	11% (+1%)
DISSATISFIED (NET)	12% (-1%)	12% (-1%)	16% (+2%)	9% (-1%)

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.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Private insurance plans should exist	64% (+0%)	51% (+1%)	65% (-1%)	79% (+2%)
Private insurance plans should be eliminated	21% (+0%)	31% (+0%)	19% (+0%)	11% (-1%)
Don't know	15% (+0%)	18% (-1%)	16% (+2%)	10% (-1%)

Most trust the **FREE MARKET** more than government to manage health care – except Democrats

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

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Free market	59% (+2%)	38% (+1%)	63% (+2%)	79% (+4%)
Federal government	41% (-2%)	62% (-1%)	37% (-2%)	21% (-4%)

Awareness of most government-run health care proposals are **LIMITED**

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	58% (-3%)	66% (+0%)	53% (-2%)	53% (-6%)
Medicare at 60	50% (-1%)	55% (+1%)	45% (+0%)	48% (-3%)
Public option	44% (-2%)	50% (+0%)	40% (-3%)	40% (-5%)
Medicare buy-in	37% (+0%)	42% (+1%)	35% (+3%)	33% (-2%)

Fixing what we have today continues to earn the most support, while extending ACA subsidies does for Democrats

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
Fix what we have today. We should build on and improve our current health insurance system – not start over.	61% (-4%)	62% (-4%)	60% (-4%)	60% (-5%)
Medicare at 60. We should allow Americans to go on Medicare at age 60 instead of at age 65.	56% (-1%)	68% (-2%)	54% (+1%)	42% (-2%)
Medicare buy-in. We should allow Americans age 50-64 to purchase health insurance coverage through Medicare.	52% (-4%)	64% (-1%)	50% (-3%)	40% (-6%)
Extend Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies. We should permanently extend subsidies for those who are uninsured to more easily afford health insurance through the public marketplace.	52% (-3%)	73% (+0%)	47% (-5%)	30% (-6%)
Public option. We should create a new government-run insurance plan available for every American to purchase.	46% (-3%)	62% (-1%)	42% (-6%)	29% (-5%)
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.	45% (-2%)	64% (-3%)	42% (+0%)	25% (-3%)
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.	38% (+1%)	33% (-1%)	34% (+1%)	47% (+2%)

BUILDING ON our current system is much more popular than creating a public option or opening up Medicare

Which of the following is a MORE important priority? (SPLIT SAMPLE)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Building on our current health insurance system by strengthening private coverage, Medicare, and Medicaid options	64% (+0%)	49% (-2%)	63% (-2%)	82% (+3%)
Creating a public option which is a new government-run health insurance plan available for any American to purchase	36% (+0%)	51% (+2%)	37% (+2%)	18% (-3%)

Which of the following approaches to health care reform would you support MORE? (SPLIT SAMPLE)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Building on our current health insurance system by strengthening private coverage, Medicare, and Medicaid options	67%	60%	68%	73%
Opening up Medicare to Americans at age 60 instead of at age 65	33%	40%	32%	27%

Most voters 18-64 would rather **KEEP** their current 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
Keep my current coverage	69% (+3%)	57% (+4%)	70% (-2%)	83% (+3%)
Purchase public option coverage	31% (-3%)	43% (-4%)	30% (+2%)	17% (-3%)

Most voters 50-64 would rather **KEEP** their current 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
Keep my current coverage	82% (+5%)	69% (+7%)	86% (+5%)	86% (+1%)
Purchase Medicare coverage	18% (-5%)	31% (-7%)	14% (-5%)	14% (-1%)

Top concerns with government-run proposals: **higher costs and lower 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
Costs. Americans will pay higher taxes to fund it and private health insurance premiums would increase.	42% (+0%)	40% (+2%)	39% (-6%)	46% (+2%)
Quality. There will be lower quality of care.	33% (+1%)	33% (-1%)	36% (+4%)	31% (+2%)
Bureaucracy. It would increase bureaucracy and red tape in health care.	27% (-1%)	25% (+0%)	28% (+1%)	29% (-3%)
Government spending. It would increase our national debt and deficit further.	24% (+1%)	18% (+0%)	23% (+0%)	30% (+2%)
Access. There would be longer wait times and fewer doctors and hospitals.	23% (-1%)	25% (-1%)	23% (-2%)	21% (+0%)
One-size-fits-all. Private coverage and public programs would no longer be able to work together to provide coverage and care options for Americans.	19% (-1%)	21% (-1%)	19% (+0%)	17% (+0%)
Jobs. It would result in the loss of hundreds of thousands of health care jobs.	17% (+1%)	20% (+1%)	17% (+3%)	14% (+0%)
Instability. It would create instability as Americans could lose their current coverage.	15% (-1%)	18% (+1%)	15% (+0%)	12% (-3%)

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
I would not be willing to pay more than I currently do for health care.	71% (+0%)	59% (-4%)	74% (+2%)	84% (+3%)
I would be willing to pay more than I currently do for health care.	29% (+0%)	41% (+4%)	26% (-2%)	16% (-3%)

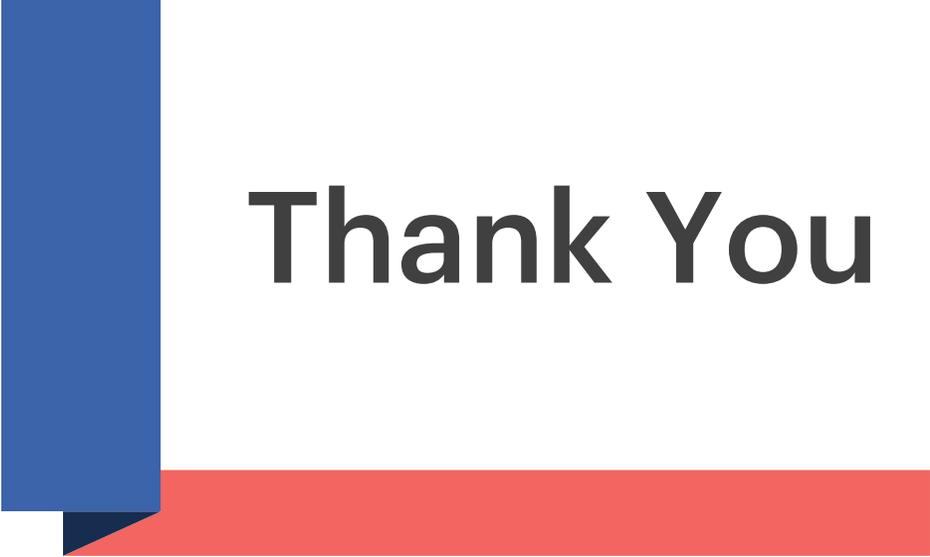
Are you or are you not willing to **pay more in taxes** to create a new government-run health insurance system?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
I would not be willing to pay more in taxes than I currently do.	70% (+2%)	56% (+1%)	73% (+1%)	84% (+4%)
I would be willing to pay more in taxes than I currently do.	30% (-2%)	44% (-1%)	27% (-1%)	16% (-4%)

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	71% (-2%)	68% (-3%)	69% (-4%)	76% (+0%)
Increasing payroll taxes by more than \$2,500 a year on the average worker	67% (-3%)	63% (-2%)	65% (-4%)	73% (-3%)
Bankrupting the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund by 2024	67% (-3%)	62% (-3%)	62% (-6%)	76% (-1%)
Closing of at-risk rural hospitals	65% (-3%)	65% (-1%)	59% (-7%)	68% (-5%)
Increasing the federal deficit by \$800 billion in its first ten years	63% (-1%)	57% (+2%)	60% (-5%)	74% (-1%)
Becoming the third largest government program behind Medicare and Social Security	56% (+1%)	47% (+0%)	51% (-3%)	70% (+6%)



Thank You