



Voter Vitals: November 2023 Edition

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

November 2023

Methodology

Public Opinion Survey

- N=2,000 likely voters nationwide
- Balanced to U.S. demographics by gender, age, race, income, political ideology, and health coverage
- Conducted by LSG online November 2-13, 2023
- MOE: +/-2%

2,000

LIKELY VOTERS
NATIONWIDE

+/- 2%

SURVEY MARGIN OF ERROR



Key Findings

- 1 The most popular reform proposal remains **building on and improving our current system**, while a majority do NOT support the Medicare for All or the public option.
- 2 A growing majority of likely voters would be **UNWILLING** to pay more for health care or in taxes to fund the creation of a public option.
- 3 The threat of a federal government shutdown leads a majority to be **LESS** confident in the ability of a government-run health insurance system to meet the needs of the Americans who enrolled in it.
- 4 A majority would be **LESS** likely to vote for a lawmaker who supports creating a new government-run health insurance system funded by higher taxes or cuts to doctors and hospitals.
- 5 The vast majority believe the need for mental health care will **INCREASE** over the next decade, and believe it is **IMPORTANT** for the government to increase funding for mental health services.



Health care is NOT a top issue – trailing inflation, the economy, and immigration as the most important issues to address

Which of the following issues are MOST important for lawmakers in Washington D.C. to address? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP THREE)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Inflation and rising cost of living	53%	44%	58%	62%
The economy	42%	32%	45%	53%
Immigration	31%	13%	30%	53%
Health care	23%	29%	24%	15%
Crime and public safety	22%	16%	24%	27%
Gun policy	21%	36%	17%	5%
National security/foreign policy	19%	11%	22%	27%
The environment	16%	25%	15%	6%

COLUMN KEY:

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

DEM: n=852 Democratic likely voters nationwide

SWING: n=501 Swing likely voters nationwide

GOP: n=647 Republican likely voters nationwide



Judges/the judiciary, financial regulation, and energy rank among the least important issues to address

Which of the following issues do you believe are MOST important for lawmakers in Washington D.C. to address? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP THREE)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Abortion	14%	22%	9%	7%
Income and wealth inequality	14%	21%	13%	6%
Taxes	14%	10%	13%	19%
Education	10%	11%	10%	7%
Social justice	8%	14%	5%	3%
Energy	6%	6%	7%	5%
Financial regulation	5%	5%	5%	3%
Judges and the judiciary	4%	5%	4%	2%



Lowering costs is the MOST important priority to improve America's health care system

Which of the following is the MOST important priority to improve the U.S. health care system? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP TWO)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Bring down health care costs	72%	71%	71%	73%
Improve the quality of health care	34%	34%	34%	33%
Expand coverage to the uninsured	31%	42%	26%	20%
Make health care simpler	29%	28%	32%	30%
Give consumers more choice and control	23%	15%	24%	31%
Drive medical innovation and breakthroughs	12%	10%	14%	13%



Likely voters are **SPLIT** on their satisfaction toward our health insurance system overall, but most are **SATISFIED** with their plans

When considering all of the different health insurance coverage options available to Americans, including employer-provided coverage, Medicare, Medicaid, and plans available to purchase on a state's marketplace exchange, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with America's health insurance system overall?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
SATISFIED (NET)	43%	42%	38%	48%
NEITHER	14%	12%	15%	15%
DISSATISFIED (NET)	43%	47%	47%	37%

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your current health insurance plan, the coverage you have today?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
SATISFIED (NET)	70%	71%	64%	73%
NEITHER	11%	12%	12%	10%
DISSATISFIED (NET)	19%	18%	24%	17%



A growing majority of likely voters trust the FREE MARKET more than the federal government to manage health care

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

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Free market	61% (+7%)	39% (0%)	71% (+20%)	81% (+3%)
Federal government	39% (-7%)	61% (0%)	29% (-20%)	19% (-3%)



*Result in parenthesis tracks the change in public opinion from May 2023 to November 2023

A growing majority do NOT trust lawmakers to design and manage an effective health insurance plan

Do you trust or distrust lawmakers in Washington D.C. to design and manage an effective health insurance plan that meets the needs of all Americans?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
TRUST (NET)	23% (-3%)	32% (0%)	18% (-9%)	17% (0%)
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	18% (-3%)	22% (-3%)	19% (-5%)	11% (-3%)
DISTRUST (NET)	59% (+6%)	46% (+3%)	63% (+14%)	73% (+5%)



A majority are aware of Medicare For All, but most are unaware of Medicare at 60, public option, and Medicare buy-in

Please be honest. How familiar or unfamiliar are you with the following health care reform proposals and how they would work?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Medicare for All	54%	61%	50%	49%
Medicare at 60	46%	52%	45%	41%
Public option	40%	43%	38%	38%
Medicare buy-in	30%	32%	29%	28%



Most supported proposal: fixing 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. (SUPPORT)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<u>Fix what we have today.</u> We should build on and improve our current health insurance system - not start over.	67%	65%	69%	69%
<u>Medicare at 60.</u> We should open up Medicare to Americans at age 60 instead of at age 65.	64%	74%	62%	55%
<u>Extend Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies.</u> We should permanently extend subsidies for those who are uninsured to more easily afford health insurance through the public marketplace	60%	80%	56%	41%
<u>Medicare buy-in.</u> We should allow Americans aged 50-64 to purchase health insurance through Medicare.	58%	65%	56%	52%



Least supported proposal: repealing the ACA

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. (SUPPORT)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<u>Medicare for All</u> . We should replace private health insurance plans with a single federal government-run health insurance system that covers all Americans and is funded by federal taxes.	49%	69%	44%	29%
<u>Public option</u> . We should create a new federal government-run insurance plan available for any American to purchase.	48%	61%	47%	35%
<u>Medicaid Coverage Gap Plan</u> . We should create a new government-run health insurance plan to provide coverage to those in states that chose not expand Medicaid.	47%	62%	43%	32%
<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%	22%	30%	44%



BUILDING ON our current system earns much more support than creating a public option or opening up Medicare at 60

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	71% (+8%)	62% (+6%)	71% (+11%)	82% (+6%)
Creating a new federal government-run health insurance system like the public option	29% (-8%)	38% (-6%)	29% (-11%)	18% (-6%)

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	61% (-3%)	57% (+3%)	62% (-4%)	64% (-5%)
Opening up Medicare for seniors to Americans at age 60 instead of at age 65	39% (+3%)	43% (-3%)	38% (+4%)	36% (+5%)



Voters prefer to address the Medicaid coverage gap by providing marketplace **SUBSIDIES** instead of creating something new

Which of the following approaches do you support MORE to provide coverage for those living in states that chose not to expand Medicaid but would otherwise be eligible for it?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Providing subsidies for them to purchase coverage in the existing health insurance marketplace	60%	48%	64%	73%
Creating a new government-run health insurance plan that would provide coverage to them	40%	52%	36%	27%



Most prefer to KEEP their current health coverage instead of purchasing public option or Medicare 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?**

COVERAGE THROUGH PUBLIC OPTION	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Keep my current coverage	70%	59%	71%	82%
Purchase public option coverage	30%	41%	29%	18%

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?**

COVERAGE THROUGH MEDICARE	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Keep my current coverage	70%	63%	72%	78%
Purchase Medicare coverage	30%	37%	28%	22%



Top concerns with government-run proposals: putting politicians in control and costs

Which of the following potential consequences of creating a new government-run health insurance system are MOST concerning to you?
(COMBINED CHOICE – TOP TWO)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
<u>Politicians in control.</u> It would put politicians in control of determining what benefits and services are covered and which patients would have to pay for separately.	53%	55%	52%	51%
<u>Costs.</u> It would be subsidized by higher taxes or private health insurance premiums for American families.	51%	49%	53%	52%
<u>Quality.</u> Our existing government-run health insurance programs in the U.S. have worse quality outcomes than private plans.	39%	42%	41%	35%
<u>Choice.</u> It would drive out private health coverage options and eventually force Americans into a one-size-fits-all government-run health insurance system.	36%	35%	34%	38%
<u>Bureaucracy.</u> It would increase bureaucracy and red tape in health care.	36%	40%	33%	34%
<u>Government spending.</u> It would increase our national debt and deficit further.	33%	25%	31%	44%
<u>Access.</u> There would be longer wait times and fewer doctors and hospitals.	31%	33%	34%	27%
<u>Jobs and economic growth.</u> It would result in the loss of countless health care jobs and hundreds of billions of dollars in economic activity.	21%	23%	21%	19%



A growing majority are UNWILLING to pay any more in taxes or health care costs to fund the creation of a government-run system

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

TAXES	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
No, I would not be willing to pay more	73% (+5%)	59% (-2%)	77% (+11%)	88% (+7%)
Yes, I would be willing to pay more	27% (-5%)	41% (+2%)	23% (-11%)	12% (-7%)

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?

HEALTH CARE COSTS	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
No, I would not be willing to pay more	78% (+5%)	70% (+2%)	83% (+9%)	84% (+4%)
Yes, I would be willing to pay more	22% (-5%)	30% (-2%)	17% (-9%)	16% (-4%)



Most would be LESS likely to vote for a lawmaker who supports creating a new government-run health insurance system

Would you be more or less likely to vote for a lawmaker who voted to create a new government-run health insurance system that was funded by either higher taxes, cuts to doctors and hospitals, or both?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
MORE LIKELY (NET)	34%	45%	32%	22%
NO IMPACT	10%	12%	11%	8%
LESS LIKELY (NET)	56%	43%	57%	70%



The vast majority are CONCERNED about the access, cost, long-term fiscal impacts, and size of government-run proposals

How concerned would you be if creating a new government-run health insurance system had the following impacts? (CONCERNED)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Reducing access to quality care	83%	80%	84%	86%
Raising income taxes by \$3,400 per year on working families	83%	79%	82%	90%
Bankrupting the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund by 2024.	77%	72%	75%	84%
Reducing the health care workforce by over 4,000 physicians	77%	75%	76%	82%
Increasing the federal deficit by \$1.2 trillion in its first ten years	73%	62%	71%	87%
Surpassing Medicaid and becoming the second largest government program behind Medicare	59%	50%	58%	72%



The threat of a potential government shutdown makes a majority **LESS** confident in a new government-run health insurance system

Does the threat of a potential federal government shutdown make you more or less confident in the ability of a new government-run health insurance system to meet the needs of the Americans who would be enrolled in it?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
MORE CONFIDENT (NET)	18%	22%	16%	15%
NEITHER / I DON'T KNOW	27%	26%	31%	23%
LESS CONFIDENT (NET)	55%	52%	53%	62%



The vast majority believe the need for mental health care will **INCREASE** over the next decade

Do you think the need for mental health care will increase, decrease, or stay the same over the next decade?

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
INCREASE (NET)	80%	83%	79%	78%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	15%	13%	16%	15%
DECREASE (NET)	5%	3%	5%	7%



FEW believe the federal government's response to addressing America's mental health crisis is adequate

How would you describe each of the following's response to addressing America's mental health crisis? (ADEQUATE)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Hospitals	47%	48%	45%	45%
Health insurance providers	40%	42%	39%	38%
Federal government	26%	33%	23%	18%



Most report it's IMPORTANT to increase mental health funding, expand telehealth, and continuing funding COVID-19 treatments

How important or unimportant is it for lawmakers in Washington D.C. to address the following health care challenges? (IMPORTANT)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Increasing funding for mental health services	81%	90%	80%	71%
Expanding access to telehealth services	62%	72%	60%	50%
Continuing funding for COVID-19 vaccines and treatment	54%	79%	48%	29%





Thank You

Questions?

Phillip Morris, Partner
phillip@locuststreet.com

Tom Rodriguez, Principal
tom@locuststreet.com