



Voter Vitals: February 2024 Edition

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

February 2024

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 February 7-15, 2024
- MOE: +/-2%

2,000

LIKELY VOTERS
NATIONWIDE

+/- 2%

SURVEY MARGIN OF ERROR



Key Findings

- 1 Satisfaction with our health insurance system overall (50%, +7% since November) and individual plans (75%, +5% since November) has **INCREASED**.
- 2 The most popular reform proposal remains **building on and improving our current system** (70% support), and a large majority still support **extending ACA subsidies** (62% support).
- 3 An overwhelming majority (73%) prefer to **build on our current system** than create a public option.
- 4 A majority of likely voters continue to be **UNWILLING** to pay any more for health care (79%) or in taxes (72%) to fund the creation of a public option.
- 5 The threat of a potential federal government shutdown makes a majority (56%) **LESS confident** in a new government-run health insurance system's ability to meet Americans' needs.



Health care is NOT a top issue – trailing inflation, immigration, the economy, and crime 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	48%	37%	52%	59%
Immigration	39%	22%	38%	63%
The economy	37%	32%	37%	43%
Crime and public safety	23%	17%	24%	31%
Health care	22%	28%	24%	13%
Gun policy	21%	34%	19%	7%
National security/foreign policy	20%	15%	22%	25%
Abortion	17%	27%	14%	8%
The environment	17%	26%	16%	5%

COLUMN KEY:

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

DEM: n=841 Democratic likely voters nationwide

SWING: n=522 Swing likely voters nationwide

GOP: n=637 Republican likely voters nationwide



Financial regulation, judges/the judiciary, 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
Taxes	14%	9%	12%	21%
Income and wealth inequality	13%	19%	14%	5%
Education	8%	8%	10%	6%
Social justice	8%	12%	5%	3%
Energy	5%	5%	5%	6%
Judges and the judiciary	5%	6%	4%	3%
Financial regulation	3%	3%	5%	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%	73%	69%	74%
Improve the quality of health care	32%	32%	33%	33%
Expand coverage to the uninsured	31%	42%	28%	18%
Make health care simpler	30%	28%	33%	29%
Give consumers more choice and control	22%	16%	23%	30%
Drive medical innovation and breakthroughs	13%	10%	15%	16%



Satisfaction with our health insurance system and individual plans is INCREASING

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)	50% (+7%)	47% (+5%)	46% (+8%)	56% (+8%)
NEITHER	14% (0%)	14% (+2%)	13% (-2%)	14% (-1%)
DISSATISFIED (NET)	37% (-6%)	39% (-8%)	40% (-7%)	31% (-6%)

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

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
SATISFIED (NET)	75% (+5%)	77% (+6%)	69% (+5%)	78% (+5%)
NEITHER	10% (-1%)	9% (-3%)	12% (0%)	10% (0%)
DISSATISFIED (NET)	15% (-4%)	14% (-4%)	19% (-5%)	12% (-5%)



*Results in parenthesis tracks the change in public opinion from November 2023 to February 2024

Most do NOT trust lawmakers to design and manage an effective health insurance plan – including a plurality of Democrats

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)	21%	27%	17%	17%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	21%	26%	21%	13%
DISTRUST (NET)	58%	47%	62%	69%



A majority are aware of Medicare For All, but most remain 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?
(FAMILIAR)

	U.S.	DEM	SWING	GOP
Medicare for All	52%	58%	50%	47%
Medicare at 60	44%	47%	42%	43%
Public option	35%	36%	34%	35%
Medicare buy-in	26%	27%	25%	27%



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.	70%	68%	71%	72%
<u>Medicare at 60.</u> We should open up Medicare to Americans at age 60 instead of at age 65.	63%	72%	61%	53%
<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	62%	81%	59%	38%
<u>Medicare buy-in.</u> We should allow Americans aged 50-64 to purchase health insurance through Medicare.	59%	66%	59%	51%



Least supported proposal: repealing the Affordable Care Act

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>Public option</u> . We should create a new federal government-run insurance plan available for any American to purchase.	52%	64%	49%	40%
<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.	50%	66%	48%	29%
<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 to expand Medicaid.	46%	57%	43%	33%
<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.	27%	17%	23%	44%



BUILDING ON our current system continues to earn 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	73% (+2%)	61% (-1%)	75% (+4%)	84% (+2%)
Creating a new federal government-run health insurance system like the public option	27% (-2%)	39% (+1%)	25% (-4%)	16% (-2%)

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% (+6%)	63% (+6%)	67% (+5%)	74% (+10%)
Opening up Medicare for seniors to Americans at age 60 instead of at age 65	33% (-6%)	37% (-6%)	33% (-5%)	26% (-10%)



Most prefer to address the Medicaid coverage gap by providing **SUBSIDIES** instead of creating something new – except Democrats

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	58%	46%	59%	71%
Creating a new government-run health insurance plan that would provide coverage to them	42%	54%	41%	29%



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	73%	64%	73%	83%
Purchase public option coverage	27%	36%	27%	17%

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	72%	65%	73%	80%
Purchase Medicare coverage	28%	35%	27%	20%



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

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
Costs. It would be subsidized by higher taxes or private health insurance premiums for American families.	53%	51%	53%	56%
Politicians in control. It would put politicians in control of determining what benefits and services are covered and which patients would have to pay for separately.	52%	54%	52%	50%
Quality. Our existing government-run health insurance programs in the U.S. have worse quality outcomes than private plans.	40%	40%	43%	37%
Bureaucracy. It would increase bureaucracy and red tape in health care.	38%	41%	38%	36%
Choice. It would drive out private health coverage options and eventually force Americans into a one-size-fits-all government-run health insurance system.	34%	31%	33%	37%
Government spending. It would increase our national debt and deficit further.	33%	27%	33%	41%
Access. There would be longer wait times and fewer doctors and hospitals.	31%	34%	31%	25%
Jobs and economic growth. It would result in the loss of countless health care jobs and hundreds of billions of dollars in economic activity.	20%	22%	18%	18%



A 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	72%	62%	75%	84%
Yes, I would be willing to pay more	28%	38%	25%	16%

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	79%	73%	81%	85%
Yes, I would be willing to pay more	21%	27%	19%	15%



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)	33%	44%	31%	21%
NO IMPACT	12%	15%	13%	8%
LESS LIKELY (NET)	55%	41%	57%	71%



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

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	82%	81%	83%	84%
Raising income taxes by \$3,400 per year on working families	81%	76%	80%	88%
Reducing the health care workforce by over 4,000 physicians	79%	77%	79%	82%
Bankrupting the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund by 2024.	76%	73%	74%	82%
Closing of at-risk hospitals	75%	74%	75%	77%
Increasing the federal deficit by \$1.2 trillion in its first ten years	72%	63%	74%	83%
Surpassing Medicaid and becoming the second largest government program behind Medicare	58%	47%	58%	73%



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)	15%	16%	13%	16%
NEITHER / I DON'T KNOW	29%	32%	30%	24%
LESS CONFIDENT (NET)	56%	52%	58%	59%



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)	78%	81%	74%	78%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	16%	15%	20%	16%
DECREASE (NET)	5%	4%	5%	6%



Most report it's **IMPORTANT** to increase mental health funding, expand telehealth, and continue 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	82%	87%	79%	77%
Expanding access to telehealth services	61%	68%	61%	53%
Continuing funding for COVID-19 vaccines and treatment	58%	79%	55%	33%





Thank You

Questions?

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