



Health Care Poll

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HEALTH CARE RESEARCH

The Harris Poll® PEOPLE

Latest National Poll Says Health Care Issues May Influence 40% of Votes in Tuesday's Congressional Election

Forty percent of voters say that health care issues may influence the way they vote in Tuesday's congressional election, according to results of The Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive Health-Care Poll just released.

Other key findings from the poll include:

The two most important issues for those respondents who say health care issues may influence their vote are:

- The expansion of health insurance to lower the number of uninsured people
- The total cost of health care

Priorities for voters differ by party. Among those who say that the expansion of health insurance to reduce the number of uninsured is most likely to influence their vote, 30% identify themselves as Democrats, versus 20% who say they are Republicans.

For those who say that the total cost of health care is most likely to influence their vote, 26% identify themselves as Republicans, versus 16% who say they are Democrats.

TABLE 1

Are there any health care issues in this election which may influence the way that you will vote?	%
Yes, there are	40
No, there are not	36
Don't know	23

Base: Will probably/almost certainly/absolutely certain to vote.

TABLE 2

Which one—if any—of these issues will have the most influence on how you will vote on November 5?	%
Expanding health insurance to reduce the number of people who are uninsured	23
The total cost of health care	21
The cost and prices of prescription drugs	13
The future of Medicare	12
Improving the quality of health care	9
Protecting the public against bioterrorism such as anthrax or smallpox attacks	9
A new Medicare drug benefit	6
None of these	4
Don't know	2
A patient's bill of rights	1

Base: Health care issues may influence vote.

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TABLE 3

Here is the party affiliation of respondents who identified reducing the number of uninsured and lowering total health costs as health care issues which will most influence their vote on November 5.			
	Republicans %	Democrats %	Independent %
Expanding health insurance to reduce the number of people who are uninsured	20	30	19
The total cost of health care	26	16	26

TABLE 4

Which party do you think is more likely to do what you want about the health care issues that are important to you?	%
Neither/No difference/Both	33
Democrats	31
Republicans	21
Don't know	15

Base: All respondents.

When asked, “Which party do you think is more likely to do what you want about the health care issues that are important to you,” 31% named the Democrats as being more effective, and 21% named the Republicans. But the greatest percentage of respondents (48%) either did not rank one party over the other or said they don’t know.

“Health care is not a ‘first-tier’ issue with voters in the coming midterm elections,” according to Bob Leitman, president of Harris Interactive’s Health Care group. “Forty percent of those who are likely or certain to vote (77% of all adults) say there are health care issues which may influence them at the polls.”

Leitman added, “Among those who do consider health care an issue, responses differ politically. Republican voters are more concerned about the total cost of health care, while Democrats are more concerned about reducing the number of people who are uninsured.”

Methodology

This poll was conducted online within the U.S. between October 24 through October 28 among a nationwide cross-section of 1,722 adults. Figures for age, sex, race, education and number of adults were weighted where necessary to align them with the general population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents’ propensity to be online. Harris Interactive estimates the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus three percentage points of what they would be if the entire adult population had been polled with complete accuracy.

About The Poll

The WSJ Online/Harris Interactive Health-Care Poll is a biweekly poll focused on the health care industry. Topics and questions are selected by WSJ Online and Harris Interactive. Harris Interactive conducts the polling. Results appear in the Health Industry Edition of The Wall Street Journal Online every other Friday. If you have a suggestion for a poll topic, please write to health@wsj.com, and see other results at www.wsj.com/health, the Health Industry Edition of The Wall Street Journal Online at WSJ.com.



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