# IMPLICATIONS OF THE 2012 ELECTION FOR HEALTH CARE: THE VOTERS' PERSPECTIVE 

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## Obama Voters' Perspective on the Future of Health Care

- Nation remains polarized over health policy. As a result of the election, Obama's voters' policy views will likely dominate future decisions. These include:
- Favor a more expansive government role in health care
- Favor implementing the ACA
- Favor keeping Medicare and Medicaid in their current form
- Oppose increased restrictions on abortion
- Oppose health care cuts to solve deficit and more likely to support tax increases and defense cuts
- The reality that the House and the governorships remain a majority Republican suggests there will be conflicts on many of these issues


# Voters' Views of Most Important Issue Facing the Country 

Economy

| Obama Voters |  | 55\% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Romney Voters |  | 64\% |
|  | Health Care |  |
| Obama Voters | 27\% |  |
| Romney Voters | 9\% |  |
|  | Federal Budget Deficit |  |
| Obama Voters | 9\% |  |
| Romney Voters | 21\% |  |
|  | Foreign Policy |  |
| Obama Voters | 6\% |  |
| Romney Voters | 3\% |  |

## Public Attitudes about the Affordable Care Act

## Average of available polls in each time period


*KFF April 2010; AP-GfK March 2010; Gallup-USA Today March 2010; WP March 2010; Pew Research Center April 2010; CBS March-April 2010.
†KFF April 2011; AP-GfK March 2011; Gallup March 2011; ABC-WP January 2011; Pew Research Center January 2011; CBS February 2011.
$\ddagger$ KFF April 2012; AP-GfK February 2012; Gallup-USA Today February 2012; ABC-WP March 2012; Pew Research Center March 2012; CBS-NYT March 2012.
§KFF September 2012; ABC-WP July 2012; Pew Research Center June-July 2012; Reuters-Ipsos July 2012; NBC-WSJ July 2012; NPR July 2012; CBS-NYT September 2012.

## Which Candidate Will Do A Better Job on Health Care: The Past Four Elections

## Average of available polls in each time period


*Fox November 2000; ABC October 2000; Pew October 2000; Harris October 2000; Newsweek October 2000. †Fox October 2004; ABC October 2004; Time/SRBI October 2004; Pew October 2004; Gallup/CNN October 2004. $\ddagger$ Fox November 2008; GWU Battleground October 2008; Princeton/Newsweek October 2008; CNN October 2008; Pew October 2008; ABC-WP October 2008.
§Fox October 2012; CBS-NYT October 2012; Pew October 2012; NPR October 2012; KFF October 2012; ABC-WP October 2012.

Role of Government in Health Care

## Voters' Views on the Role of Government to Solve Problems

Government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals


Government should do more solve problems


## Voters' Support for The Federal Government Continuing Efforts to Make Sure Most Americans Have Health Care Coverage



## Voters' Views on Government Responsibility for Fixing the Health Care System



Oppose government involvement in trying to fix health care

| Obama Voters | $11 \%$ |
| ---: | :--- |
| Romney Voters |  |

## Critical Policy Issues

## Voters' Preference for Controlling Rising Health Care Costs

Increasing federal government regulation of charges by insurance companies, doctors, and hospitals

| Obama Voters |  | $41 \%$ |
| :---: | :--- | :--- |
| Romney Voters |  | $20 \%$ |

The federal government providing incentives for more competition among insurance companies, doctors, and hospitals

| Obama Voters |  | $46 \%$ |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| Romney Voters |  |  |



# Voters' Views on What Should Be Done with the Affordable Care Act After the Election 

Expand it


## Gubernatorial Map Post-Election 2012


http://www.stateside.com/state-information/state-elections-maps/

## Voters' Views on What Should Be Done with Medicare for People Now Under 55

Medicare should continue as it is today, with the government providing seniors with health insurance


Medicare should be changed to a system where the government provides seniors with a fixed payment or credit they could use either to purchase private health insurance or to pay the cost of remaining in the current Medicare program


## Voters' Views on What Should Be Done with Medicaid

Medicaid should continue as it is today, with the federal government paying for programs jointly with state governments and setting basic standards for coverage, benefits, and eligibility


Medicaid should be changed to a system where the federal government gives states a fixed amount of money and each state decides who to cover and what services to pay for


## Voters' Views on the Legality of Abortion

Legal in all cases


## Future Budget Deficit Decisions

## Voters' Agreement for Major Cuts to Health Care and Education Programs are Needed Given the Size of the Federal Deficit



## Disagree



## Voters' Preferences for Reducing the Federal Budget Deficit: Budget Cuts (Part 1)

\% who favor

Large cuts in future spending for Medicare


Large cuts in future spending for Medicaid


Large cuts in future spending for the new health care law, the Affordable Care Act


# Voters' Preferences for Reducing the Federal Budget Deficit: Budget Cuts (Part 2) 

\% who favor

Large cuts in the future spending for other areas of health


Large cuts in future defense spending

| Obama Voters |  |  |
| ---: | :--- | :--- |
| Romney Voters |  |  |
| 53\% |  |  |

## Voters' Preferences for Reducing the Federal Budget Deficit: Willingness to Raise Taxes

\% who favor
Raising income taxes paid by people who make more than \$250,000 a year income in order to raise more revenue


Raising income taxes on everyone in order to raise more revenue


Raising taxes on corporations in order to raise more revenue
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