## Health Care and the 2020 Election

Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D.

EVP, COO, and Executive Director
Public Opinion and Survey Research

## 2020 Democratic Primary Voters Say Defeating Trump Matters Most In A Candidate

In selecting a presidential nominee for the Democratic Party, which of the following is most important to you?

- A candidate who comes closer to your views on the issues

A candidate with the best chance to beat Donald Trump

Don't know/
Refused

## 2020 Vote Decisions Were Largely About President Trump

Is your vote mainly a vote ...?


## January - February

## Second-largest doctors group in US <br> endorses Medicare for All, public option



## Can We Please Stop Fighting About 'Medicare for All'?

One policy proposal has defined this Democratic race. It's time to move on.

```
Biden hopes to harness an S.C. win, key endorsements to overcome Sanders
Scherer, Michael; Balz, Dan; Viser, Matt.
The Washington Post; Washington, D.C. [Washington, D.Cl29 Feb 2020: A.6.
```


## March - August



THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS
Coronavirus: COVID-19 Is Now Officially A Pandemic, WHO Says
March 11, 2020 • 12:30 PM ET

## Another 1.9 million workers seek jobless benefits as layoffs persist even as states reopen economies

## The Top Issues For Election: February vs. October

AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS: Percent who say each of the following issues will be the most important in deciding their vote for president:


SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Polls (conducted February 13-18, 2020 and October 7-12, 2020). See topline for full question wording.

## Coronavirus And Economy Dominate Voters' Top Issues, Depending On Who They Voted For

Percent of voters who said each is the most important issue facing the country:


NOTE: Issues receiving at least 4\% of total voters saying it is "most important issue" shown.

## When Voters Say Health Care, What Do They Mean?

AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS: Percent who say, when it comes to health care, they specifically mean (open-end):

February 2020

## September 2020

| Health care costs | $24 \%$ | Increasing access | $18 \%$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Increasing access | $22 \%$ | Health care costs | $15 \%$ |
| Against single-payer/Medicare- <br> for-all | $11 \%$ | Coronavirus/COVID-19 <br> outbreak | $8 \%$ |
| In favor of single- <br> payer/Medicare-for-all | $4 \%$ | Medicare/senior concerns | $7 \%$ |
| Medicare/senior concerns | $4 \%$ | Keeping the ACA | $5 \%$ |
| Concern about quality/coverage | $4 \%$ | Health insurance | $4 \%$ |



## September-October

```
LAW
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Champion
Of Gender Equality, Dies At }8
```

September 18, 2020 • 7:28 PM ET

## Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court's Feminist Icon, Is Dead at 87

The second woman appointed to the Supreme Court, Justice Ginsburg's pointed and powerful dissenting opinions earned her late-life rock stardom.

## SUPREME COURT <br> Trump poised to nominate Amy Coney Barrett to fill Ginsburg's seat

The president will officially announce his choice Saturday, just over five weeks from
Election Day.

## POLItICS

Amy Coney Barrett Confirmed To
Supreme Court, Takes Constitutional Oath

## McConnell locks down key Republican votes for Supreme Court fight

## Voters Are Split Across Various Health Care Priorities On Which Is The Most Important To Their 2020 Vote Choice

REGISTERED VOTERS: Percent who say each of the following is the most important health care issue in making their decision about who to vote for president:
Protections for people with pre-existing conditions 17\%

The future of reproductive health issues, including abortion
Lowering the cost of health care for individuals
The health aspects of coronavirus
The future of the ACA
The future of the Medicare program
Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured
Lowering prescription drug costs 7\%

15\%
13\%
11\%
11\%
10\%
9\%

## The (Washingtom flost


E ELECTION 2020

## Biden defeats Trump

WITH HARRIS, HE REBUILDS 'BLUE WALL.' CALLS FOR 'A TINIE TO HEAL’



## Biden Administration "Day One" Priorities And Challenges

- How to govern a "50-50" nation?
- Evidence of split ticket voting in key battleground states?
- Which party will have control over the U.S. Senate?
- What do voters have to tell us about Biden Administration priorities and challenges in health?

1. Coronavirus v. Economy
2. Affordable Care Act
3. Public option and other broad reforms

## Views Of Whether Federal Government Should Prioritize Limiting Spread Or Economy Differ By Vote Choice

What should be the federal government's higher priority?
■ Limiting the spread of the coronavirus, even if it damages the economy
$\square$ Limiting the additional damage to the economy, even if it increases the spread of the coronavirus

Total voters


## Twice As Many Democrats Worry About Getting Sick From Coronavirus

Percent who say they are very worried or somewhat worried that they or someone in their family will get sick from the coronavirus:

```
Total
- 66\%
```



## Partisans Differ in Trust of Public Health Institutions and Prominent Public Health Officials

Percent who say they have a great deal or a fair amount of trust in each of the following to provide reliable information on coronavirus:


[^0]
## Majorities Of Democrats And Independents Worry FDA May Rush To Approve A Vaccine

How worried are you, if at all, that the FDA will rush to approve a coronavirus vaccine without making sure that it is safe and effective, due to political pressure from President Trump and the White House?


## Partisan and racial divide in willingness to get vaccinated

If a coronavirus vaccine was determined to be safe by scientists and available for free to everyone who wanted it, would you...?

■ Probably or definitely not get it
$\square$ Probably or definitely get it


## Black Adults Who Are Vaccine Hesitant Cite Safety Concerns, Distrust; More White Adults Say They Don't Need/Want It

AMONG THOSE WHO SAY THEY WOULD NOT GET A COVID-19 VACCINE: Percent who say each of the following is the main reason why (open-end):


WHITE $30 \%$

23\%

39\%
2\%

SOURCE: KFF/The Undefeated Survey on Race and Health (conducted Aug. 20-Sept. 14, 2020). See topline for full question wording

## Tue. Nov 10th

## The Uuashington flost

Justices appear ready to uphold ACA An Boint Rinfe,
 Cumpienim
 Grataumatinn



ssimeteplial dias asite trallt-arnke
$\qquad$

川 펴문








 detherabmenery


 yenrasian arimbed buna thbor



Biden, allies assail stalling of transilion













新



## Majority Of Public View The ACA Favorably

Do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of the 2010 heath reform law?


## Majorities Do Not Want Court To Overturn ACA's Pre-Existing Condition Protections, Republicans Want Entire Law Overturned

Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn...?
■ Yes, overturn
$\square$ No, do not overturn
...the Affordable Care Act


SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (conducted October 7-12, 2020). See topline for full question wording

## Majorities Continue To View Plans To Expand Government’s Role In Health Care Favorably

Percent who favor each of the following:


## Views Of Medicare-For-All And Public Option Are Largely Partisan, Most Democrats And Independents Favor Both

Percent who strongly or somewhat favor...

A national health plan, sometimes called Medicare-for-all, in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan

A government-administered health plan, sometimes called a public option, that would compete with private health insurance plans and be available to all Americans


## Attitudes Towards Public Option Can Be Swayed By Arguments

Do you favor or oppose having a governmentadministered health plan, sometimes called a public option?

Would you favor or oppose a public health insurance option if you heard that it would do the following?
Help drive down costs because private insurers would be competing with the public plan

Provide more choice to people getting insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplaces

Cause doctors and hospitals to be paid less

Lead to too much government involvement in health care

| $75 \%$ | $22 \%$ | +53 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $74 \%$ | $23 \%$ | +51 |
| $53 \%$ | $41 \%$ | +12 |
|  |  |  |
| $40 \%$ | $57 \%$ | -18 |

## Lots of Health Care Issues Resonate

AMONG REGISTERED VOTERS: Percent who say each of the following health care issues will be very important or somewhat important in making their decision about who to vote for in this year's presidential election:


SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (conducted October 7-12, 2020). See topline for full question wording.

Thank you.


[^0]:    SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (conducted August 28-September 3, 2020). See topline for full question wording

