The Future of Health Care in the Post-Election Period: A View Through Polarized Lenses

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The Massachusetts Health Policy Forum
November 29, 2016
The Values Behind Health Care’s Role in the Election
Voters’ Beliefs About the Federal Government’s Role in Improving Health System

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Major role</th>
<th>Minor role</th>
<th>No role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Likely Voters</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>28</td>
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- **Major role**
- **Minor role**
- **No role**

Voters’ Views of the ACA Colored by Beliefs About the Government’s Role in Improving Health System

- Voters Who Say ‘Major Role’
  - ACA working well: 67
  - ACA working poorly: 30

- Voters Who Say ‘Minor Role’
  - ACA working well: 22
  - ACA working poorly: 78

- Voters Who Say ‘No Role’
  - ACA working well: 2
  - ACA working poorly: 96

Voters’ Views – How Well is the ACA Working?

- Very well
- Somewhat well
- Somewhat poorly
- Very poorly

All Likely Voters:
- Very well: 11
- Somewhat well: 32
- Somewhat poorly: 16
- Very poorly: 38

Democrats:
- Very well: 22
- Somewhat well: 58
- Somewhat poorly: 9
- Very poorly: 6

Republicans:
- Very well: 2
- Somewhat well: 10
- Somewhat poorly: 20
- Very poorly: 68

“Is it the responsibility of the federal government to ensure that all Americans have health coverage?”

**Yes - it is**
- All: 50%
- Democrats: 78%
- Republicans: 16%

**No - it is not**
- All: 48%
- Democrats: 20%
- Republicans: 83%
Voters’ Views on Government Responsibility to Ensure Rich and Poor Get Same Health Care

**All likely voters**
- Yes: 65
- No: 32

**Democrats**
- Yes: 91
- No: 6

**Republicans**
- Yes: 42
- No: 54

- Yes: it is govt's responsibility
- No: it is not govt's responsibility

Health Care in the 2016 General Election
Top Four Policy Issues in 2016 Election

Percent of registered voters saying: “Most important issue in presidential vote choice”

- Economy & Jobs: 38%
- Terrorism/National Security: 28%
- Health Care: 11%
- Immigration: 7%

CBS/NYT Poll of registered voters, November 1, 2016.
Voters Views on Obamacare (ACA)

Did not go far enough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Clinton Voters</th>
<th>Trump Voters</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did not go far enough</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>18%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Went too far

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<tr>
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<th>Clinton Voters</th>
<th>Trump Voters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Went too far</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voters’ Top Choice – What Should Happen to the ACA?

- Replace with universal Medicare: 26% (Democrats), 14% (Republicans), 5% (All likely voters)
- Expand existing program: 13% (Democrats), 8% (Republicans), 3% (All likely voters)
- Keep as is: 33% (Democrats), 18% (Republicans), 5% (All likely voters)
- Replace with tax credit program: 24% (Democrats), 16% (Republicans), 7% (All likely voters)
- Scale back, give states control: 20% (Democrats), 14% (Republicans), 7% (All likely voters)
- Repeal completely: 35% (Democrats), 20% (Republicans), 2% (All likely voters)

Voters’ Beliefs About a Public Option in the ACA

“Is it the responsibility of the federal government to make sure the rich and poor get the same quality access to health care?”

**Yes - it is**

- All likely voters: 65%
- Democrats: 91%
- Republicans: 42%

**No - it is not**

- All likely voters: 32%
- Democrats: 6%
- Republicans: 54%

*POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Poll, September 14-21, 2016.*
Public Opinion About Abortion, by Political Party

Legal in all/most cases

- Republicans: 39%
- Democrats: 74%

Illegal in all/most cases

- Republicans: 58%
- Democrats: 23%

Voters’ Evaluations of How Well Medicare is Working


**All likely voters**

- Very well: 16
- Somewhat well: 54
- Somewhat poorly: 17
- Very poorly: 8

**Democrats**

- Very well: 20
- Somewhat well: 56
- Somewhat poorly: 15
- Very poorly: 4

**Republicans**

- Very well: 14
- Somewhat well: 55
- Somewhat poorly: 15
- Very poorly: 10
Voters’ Top Choice for How to Address Rising Medicare Costs

- Increase incentives, penalties to encourage doctors and hospitals to practice in less costly ways: 36% (40% for Democrats, 34% for Republicans)
- Give retirees a fixed amount of money, let them choose a health plan: 22% (15% for Democrats, 25% for Republicans)
- No change; taxpayers, beneficiaries pay more: 18% (21% for Democrats, 15% for Republicans)
- Pay doctors and hospitals less: 8% (10% for Democrats, 7% for Republicans)

Responsibility for High Health Care Costs

“Who is to blame for the high costs of health care today?”

Top 3 ranked as “A lot”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pharmaceutical Co</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance Co</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Gov’t</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td></td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals</td>
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Voters’ Views on Whether Medicare Should Use Bargaining Power to Lower Prescription Drug Prices

- **All likely voters**: 73% for, 19% against, 8% undecided.
- **Democrats**: 80% for, 13% against, 7% undecided.
- **Republicans**: 68% for, 24% against, 8% undecided.

*POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Poll, September 14-21, 2016.*
Questions?