



MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: ELIZABETH HARRINGTON, PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES
JEFF HORWITT, HART RESEARCH
CC: AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CANCER ACTION NETWORK
DATE: AUGUST 27, 2024
SUBJECT: KEY FINDINGS – PENNSYLVANIA STATEWIDE SURVEY

KEY FINDINGS

- 1. More than half (54%) of voters in Pennsylvania say their state has gotten off on the wrong track.** This is a bit more negative than voters nationally (49% wrong track) when asked about their state.
- 2. The most important issue to voters in Pennsylvania is consistent with what is most important to voters nationally – inflation and the cost of living (38% first choice / 54% combined 1st/2nd choices).** The top issues consistently across most demographic audiences in Pennsylvania are the cost of living, protecting democracy, and immigration/border security.
- 3. More than 8 in 10 voters (86%) in Pennsylvania say a candidate’s position on access to affordable, comprehensive health coverage is important to them when deciding who to vote for, including 52% who say a candidate’s position is very important to them.** Majorities of Republicans (78%), Independents (82%) and Democrats (97%) say a candidate’s position on access to affordable comprehensive health care is an important factor in their vote decision.
- 4. A majority of Pennsylvania voters (58%) do not believe the health care system is meeting the needs of most Pennsylvania residents.** Conversely though, a majority of voters (63%) say the health care system is meeting the needs of their family.
- 5. The most important health care issue for voters in Pennsylvania is addressing health insurance costs: 1) Out-of-pocket health insurance costs, such as copays & deductibles (27% first choice / 49% combined 1st/2nd choices), 2) Providing health coverage to all Pennsylvania residents (22% first choice / 36% combined 1st/2nd choices), and 3) The cost of monthly health insurance premiums (18% first choice / 37% combined 1st/2nd choices).** Lowering out-of-pocket costs is the top health care issue for voters ages 45-64 (36% first choice), Republicans (33% first choice), and White voters (29% first choice).
- 6. Majorities of voters across party say these should be high or very high priorities to improve the health care system at the state level:**
 - a. Making sure all health insurance plans cover medical tests, screenings, preventive care and treatments recommended by a patient's doctor (84% very high/high priority all voters, 76% Republicans, 82% Independents, 94% Democrats).**
 - b. Lowering the cost of what residents pay monthly and out-of-pocket for health insurance premiums, copays, and deductibles (79% very high/high priority all voters, 70% Republicans, 77% Independents, 88% Democrats).**

c. Ensuring all residents have access to affordable, comprehensive health insurance coverage (77% very high/high priority all voters, 62% Republicans, 73% Independents, 94% Democrats).

7. **Medical debt is prevalent in Pennsylvania. A majority of voters (58%) report they or an immediate family member currently have or have had medical debt.** Virtually all voters (97%) believe medical debt is experienced by at least a few people in Pennsylvania, including 69% who say it is experienced by many.
8. **More than 6 in 10 Pennsylvania voters (67%) believe access to medical care is a problem where they live.** This includes 24% saying it is a “major problem” where they live. The groups most likely to say access to medical care is a problem where they live include caregivers (74% total problem), Medicaid beneficiaries (73% total problem), and women (72% total problem).
9. **Access to affordable health coverage in the communities where they live is an even bigger problem for voters in Pennsylvania (84% total problem/41% major problem).** The groups most likely to say access to affordable health coverage is a problem where they live include Independents (88% total problem), women (88% total problem), voters ages 18-44 (88% total problem), and caregivers (88% total problem).
10. **There is overwhelming support for each of the health care policy proposals we tested. A majority of voters “strongly support” the five policy proposals. Majorities of voters across party in Pennsylvania support each of the health care policy proposals we tested.**

Ranked by %Total Support – All Voters	All Voters	GOP	Ind	Dem
Increasing federal funding to make cancer screenings and diagnostic tests free for patients	92%	87%	89%	98%
Ensuring patients who qualify receive the full benefits from financial assistance or drug discount programs	92%	89%	85%	97%
Increasing and expanding patient access to services and programs that address medical debt	91%	84%	91%	98%
Increasing federal funding for cancer research for the discovery of new treatments, therapies, and cures	90%	85%	89%	96%
Making permanent the enhanced premium tax credits the federal government provides to help working adults who qualify purchase an Affordable Care Act Marketplace health insurance plan	82%	71%	77%	96%

11. Majorities of Pennsylvania voters say they would be more likely (63%) to vote for a political candidate who supports this proposal to make permanent the ACA enhanced premium tax credits. Only 10% say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supports this proposal and 25% say it would not impact their vote one way or the other.

- Majorities of Democratic voters (85%), voters of color (79%), those with a college and above education (71%), and women (69%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported making permanent the enhanced premium tax credits.
- A majority of Independents are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports this proposal (59% more likely, 9% less likely, 31% no impact) and a plurality of Republicans are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the proposal (44% more likely, 17% less likely, 36% no impact).

METHODOLOGY

On behalf of American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research conducted a Pennsylvania statewide mixed mode survey (phone and text-to-web) of N=600 registered voters. This survey was conducted as a statewide survey in Pennsylvania with regional and demographic statewide quotas based on the Census and voter file population statistics. This survey includes N=39 interviews that were conducted July 11-16, 2024 in the state as part of ACS CAN's national telephone survey of registered voters, with the remaining N=561 interviews conducted July 24-29, 2024 via a mix of phone interviewing and text-to-web interviewing. The statewide survey results have a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percentage points.