

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** INTERESTED PARTIES  
**FROM:** ELIZABETH HARRINGTON & JARRETT LEWIS, PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES  
JEFF HORWITT, HART RESEARCH ASSOCIATES  
**CC:** AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY CANCER ACTION NETWORK  
**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 26, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** KEY FINDINGS – KANSAS STATEWIDE SURVEY

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### KEY FINDINGS

- Nearly nine-in-ten voters (87%) in Kansas say a candidate's position on health care is important to them when deciding who to vote for, including 40% who say a candidate's position is *very* important to them.** Supermajorities of Republicans (82%), Independents (84%) and Democrats (97%) say a candidate's position on health care is important to them when deciding who to vote for.
- More than seven-in-ten (72%) Kansas voters support expanding KanCare, including 46% who *strongly* support it – a majority of Republicans (56%) support expanding KanCare.**
  - A nearly universal 98% of Democratic voters support expansion and majorities of Independents (64%) and Republicans (56%) support expansion
  - Majorities of urban (78%), suburban (62%) and rural (72%) voters all support expansion
  - Majorities of voters of color (81%) and White voters (70%) support expanding KanCare
- A majority of Kansas voters (57%) say they would be more likely to vote for a political candidate who supported expanding KanCare.** Only 21% say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported expansion and 22% say it would not impact their vote one way or the other.
  - Majorities of Democratic voters (91%), voters of color (75%), women (64%), urban voters (66%), voters ages 18-44 (59%), Seniors (58%), middle class voters (57%) rural voters (55%), Independent voters (54%) and voters ages 45-64 (52%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported expanding KanCare. A plurality of suburban voters (49%), middle class voters (49%), and Republicans (37%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported it.
- Fully 81% of Kansas voters agree (including 62% who *strongly* agree) that everyone in Kansas, regardless of their income, where they live, their race, gender, or immigration status should be able to get affordable health care.**
  - Voters in Kansas strongly agree that everyone should be able to get affordable health care. Supermajorities of Democrats (98%), Independents (79%) and Republicans (72%) agree with this statement, as do supermajorities of urban (79%), suburban (79%) and rural (83%) voters.
  - Kansas voters also agree that elected officials in Kansas should protect people so they don't lose their health insurance during periods of high inflation and an uncertain economy. Fully 78% of Kansas voters agree with this statement, including strong majorities of urban voters (83%), suburban voters (75%) and rural voters (77%).

- More than seven-in-ten (72%) Kansas voters agree that low-wage workers in Kansas who don't receive insurance through a job should have access to free or low-cost health care. Majorities of Democrats (97%), Independents (61%) and Republicans (62%) agree with this sentiment.
- 5. More than seven-in-ten Kansas voters believe ensuring all Kansans have access to affordable health insurance coverage should be a very high or high priority for elected officials in the state.** Respondents were read priorities that elected officials in Kansas have discussed for improving the health care system.
- Fully 72% of Kansas voters believe ensuring all Kansans have access to affordable health insurance coverage should be a very high or high priority for elected officials in the state. Strong majorities of Democrats (93%), Independents (71%) and Republicans (59%) all believe this should be a very high or high priority.
  - Eight-in-ten Kansas voters (80%) say making sure all health insurance plans cover medical tests, screenings, preventive care and treatments recommend by a patient's doctor should be either a very high or high priority.
  - Fully 79% believe that lowering the cost of what Kansans pay monthly and out-of-pocket for health insurance premiums, copays, and deductibles should be a very high or high priority for elected officials in the state. Majorities of Democrats (95%), Independents (64%) and Republicans (77%) all agree this should be a very high or high priority.
  - Seven-in-ten voters (70%) believe that ensuring all Kansans have access to health professionals in the county where they live should be a very high or high priority, including 75% of rural voters.
- 6. Medical debt is prevalent in the Sunflower State. The issue affects voters across political parties (66% of Biden voters and 61% of Trump voters say they currently have medical debt or have had medical debt in the past).** More than six-in-ten (62%) Kansas voters say they or a family member currently have medical debt (24%) or have had medical debt in the past (38%). Medical debt is particularly hard on Kansans with lower incomes, with 74% of low-income voters in Kansas saying they or a family member currently has medical debt (37%) or has had medical debt in the past (37%). Even 63% of middle-class Kansans have medical debt. Medical debt is also higher in rural areas in the state (73%) than urban (61%) or suburban (55%) areas.
- 7. The two most important health care issues for Kansas voters: 1) Expanding access to health coverage for all Kansans (25%); and 2) Lowering monthly health insurance premiums (20%).** Expanding access to health coverage is the top health care issue for Democratic voters (49%), voters of color (34%), women (29%), voters ages 18-44 (27%), those voters who self-identify their economic circumstances as low-income or working class (25%) and urban voters (32%). Lowering monthly health insurance premiums is the top health care issue for Republican voters (24%), suburban voters (23%) and men (22%). The most important issue for rural voters is lowering out of pocket costs not covered by health insurance plans, such as copays and deductibles.
- 8. A majority of voters (59%) across the state do not believe the health care system is meeting the needs of most Kansans.** Nearly six-in-ten voters say the current system is not meeting the needs of most Kansans, including 47% who "strongly" believe the system is not meeting the needs of most Kansans. Majorities of urban voters (60%), suburban voters (53%) and rural voters (57%) in Kansas do not believe the health care system is meeting the needs of most Kansans.

- 9. Fully one-third of Kansas voters say they are worried they or a loved one will be without health insurance in the next year.** Voters of color (50%), those voters self-identifying as low-income/working class (47%), voters in the Western part of the state (47%), Democrats (46%) and women (41%) are among the groups most likely to be worried about being without health insurance. However, concerns about losing health insurance extend to other groups as well, including significant proportions of middle-class voters (31%) and suburban voters (24%).
- 10. Nearly one-in-two (49%) Kansas voters believe access to medical care is a problem where they live.** Majorities of Democrats (66%), Rural voters (62%), women (58%) and voters ages 18–44 (56%) all say that access to medical care is a problem where they live.

## **METHODOLOGY**

*On behalf of American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates conducted a Kansas statewide mixed mode survey (land line, cell phones, and text-to-web) of N=500 registered voters from September 11-15, 2022. Additionally, Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates conducted an oversample to reach N=150 registered voters living in Rural Counties.*

*The statewide survey results have a margin of error of  $\pm 4.38$  percentage points. The results among Rural voters has a margin of error of  $\pm 8.00$  percentage points.*