

## 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 – GEORGIA STATEWIDE SURVEY

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### KEY FINDINGS

- 1. Eight-in-ten voters (80%) in Georgia say a candidate's position on health care is important to them when deciding who to vote for, including 45% who say a candidate's position is very important to them.** Majorities of Republicans (69%), Independents (73%) and Democrats (96%) say a candidate's position on health care is important to them when deciding who to vote for.
- 2. Fully 80% of Georgia voters agree (including 65% who strongly agree) that everyone in Georgia, regardless of their income, where they live, their race, gender, or immigration status should be able to get affordable health care.**
  - Voters in Georgia strongly agree that everyone should be able to get affordable health care. Supermajorities of Democrats (97%), Independents (73%) and Republicans (67%) agree with this statement, as do supermajorities of urban (86%), suburban (79%) and rural (75%) voters.
  - Georgia voters also agree that elected officials in Georgia should protect people so they don't lose their health insurance during periods of high inflation and an uncertain economy. Fully 79% of Georgia voters agree with this statement, including strong majorities of white voters (77%) and African American voters (93%).
  - Three-quarters of Georgia voters agree that low-wage workers in Georgia who don't receive insurance through a job should have access to free or low-cost health care. Majorities of Democrats (98%), Independents (71%) and Republicans (57%) agree with this sentiment.
- 3. Seven-in-ten (70%) Georgia voters support fully expanding the state's Medicaid program, including 48% who strongly support it.**
  - Majorities of African American voters (91%) and White voters (63%) support fully expanding the Medicaid program
  - Majorities of urban (77%), suburban (69%) and rural (62%) voters all support full expansion
  - A nearly universal 97% of Democratic voters support full expansion and majorities of Independents (64%) support full expansion, while Republicans are more closely divided (47% support)
- 4. A majority of Georgia voters (53%) say they would be more likely to vote for a political candidate who supported fully expanding the Medicaid program.** Only 23% say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported full expansion and 24% say it would not impact their vote one way or the other.
  - Majorities of women (61%), suburban voters (52%), voters ages 18-44 (56%), voters ages 45-64 (52%), urban voters (62%), African American voters (86%), and Democratic voters (94%) say they

would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported fully expanding Medicaid. A plurality of Independent voters (43%), middle class voters (49%), and rural voters (39%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported it. A plurality of Republicans say it would not make a difference in their vote (42%) one way or the other.

**5. More than two-thirds of Georgia voters believe ensuring all Georgians 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 Georgia have discussed for improving the health care system.

- More than two-thirds (68%) of Georgia voters believe ensuring all Georgians 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 (94%), Independents (68%) and Republicans (73%) all believe this should be a very high or high priority.
- Fully 82% say making sure all health insurance plans cover medical tests, screenings, preventive care and treatments recommended by a patient's doctor should be either a very high or high priority.
- Eight-in-ten voters (80%) believe that lowering the cost of what Georgians 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 (94%), Independents (68%) and Republicans (73%) all agree this should be a very high or high priority.
- Nearly two-thirds (65%) of voters believe that ensuring all Georgians have access to health professionals in the county where they live should be a very high or high priority, including 64% of rural voters.

**6. Medical debt is prevalent in the Peach State. The issue affects voters across political party (69% of Biden voters and 64% of Trump voters say they currently have medical debt or have had medical debt in the past).** More than two-thirds (67%) of Georgia voters say they or a family member currently have medical debt (31%) or have had medical debt in the past (36%). Medical debt is particularly hard on the African American community and Georgians in rural areas, with 75% of African American voters and 69% of rural Georgians saying they or a family member currently has medical debt or has had medical debt in the past.

**7. The two most important health care issues for Georgia voters: 1) Expanding access to health coverage for all Georgians (26%); and 2) Lowering out-of-pocket costs like co-pays and deductibles (21%).** These are also the top health care issues for Independent voters (25% expanding access, 26% lowering out-of-pocket costs). Expanding access to health coverage is the top health care issue for Democratic voters (47%), African American voters (30%), women voters (28%), voters ages 18-44 (28%), those voters who self-identify their economic circumstances as low-income or working class (26%) and those who identify as upper class or well-to-do (32%), those with a college degree or higher (30%), urban (32%) and suburban (25%) voters. Lowering out-of-pocket costs is the top health care issue for Republican voters (28%), voters ages 65+ (27%), those with a high school education or less (25%), and rural voters (23%).

**8. A majority of voters (60%) across the state do not believe the health care system is meeting the needs of most Georgians.** Six-in-ten voters say the current system is not meeting the needs of most Georgians, including 48% who "strongly" believe the system is not meeting the needs of most Georgians. More than three-quarters (76%) of African American voters in Georgia do not believe the health care system is meeting the needs of most Georgians, while a majority (52%) of rural voters believe the same.

- 9. One-third of Georgia voters (34%) say they are worried they or a loved one will be without health insurance in the next year.** A majority of African American voters (51%) and 47% of those voters self-identifying as low-income/working class say they are worried about this in the next year. And while at lower levels, significant proportions of middle (30%) and upper middle/upper class voters (24%) also worry about this.
- 10. More than four-in-ten (44%) Georgia voters believe access to medical care is a problem where they live.** Majorities of African American voters (63%), Democrats (63%), Rural voters (53%) and women (52%) 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 Georgia statewide mixed mode survey (land line, cell phones, and text-to-web) of N=600 registered voters from September 10-14, 2022. Additionally, Public Opinion Strategies and Hart Research Associates conducted oversamples to reach of N=200 African American registered voters & N=150 registered voters living in Rural Counties.*

*The statewide survey results have a margin of error of  $\pm 4.00$  percentage points. The results among African American voters has a margin of error of  $\pm 6.93$  percentage points and the results among Rural voters has a margin of error of  $\pm 8.00$  percentage points.*