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Voters to Congress and President Biden: It's Time to Go Big on Health Care Reform



Dedicated to creating a nation where the best health and health care are equally accessible and affordable to all

Key Findings

1. Voters across the American electorate are looking for meaningful action this year on healthcare.

When asked what they want Biden and Congress to focus on this year, healthcare is a top-of-mind priority for voters. Three in four voters (75%) say healthcare should be a high or one of the top priorities for President Biden and Congress this year, including 91% of Democrats, 75% of independents and 58% of Republicans.

2. There is greater concern that Congress won't go far enough (51%) in making changes to the healthcare system than that it will go too far (40%).

Worry about lack of action is even stronger when it comes to addressing the cost of prescription drugs: 67% are more concerned that Congress will not go far enough vs. 23% who are more concerned Congress will go too far, including majorities of Democrats, independents and Republicans.





3. While voters want to see expanded coverage and an equity focus in healthcare reform, *addressing excessive costs* is their paramount concern.

The most important actions voters want to see on healthcare, and the proposed actions that **voters** rate most favorably, are lowering the price of prescription drugs (92% important, 83% favorable) and lowering the cost of healthcare (89% important, 80% favorable).

4. The most effective communications about healthcare reform should address voters' core concerns about *excessive prices* and *corporate abuses*, but also meet the current moment with a *call to unite* to make sure everyone can get quality, affordable healthcare.

Voters are clear that the status quo in the American healthcare system is not working. Fully 82% believe that the healthcare system today works more for the benefit of the insurance and drug industries rather than for the benefit of the average person (18%), a sentiment that holds true across demographic groups and partisan lines.





Methodology and Profile of the Electorate

Online survey among 1,607 voters nationwide, fielded January 27 to February 1, 2021



Voters' healthcare priorities for President Biden and Congress

Voters want President Biden and Congress to act on healthcare this year

Priority Healthcare Should Be for President and Congress this year







There is broad support for reforming the healthcare system; support is particularly strong among voters of color

Attitudes toward Healthcare System, Key Subgroups

| | Should be top/ high priority | Big reforms needed |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Men | 70% | 45% |
| Women | 78% | 55% |
| Whites | 69% | 46% |
| Blacks | 93% | 68% |
| Hispanics | 85% | 58% |
| Democrats | 91% | 62% |
| Liberal Democrats | 94% | 69% |
| Non-liberal Democrats | 88% | 53% |
| Independents | 75% | 59% |
| Republicans | 58% | 37% |
| Conservative Republicans | 55% | 35% |
| Non-conservative Republicans | 70% | 47% |
| Swing voters | 73% | 49% |





Amount of Changes/Reform Needed in Healthcare System



| Big changes/reforms needed | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|--|
| Private insured | 49% | |
| Gov't insured age 18 to 64 | 53% | |
| Gov't insured age 65/older | 43% | |
| Not insured | 74% | |





Voters want a number of priorities to be on the healthcare agenda, with addressing costs the most urgent concern





There is bipartisan consensus on the urgency of addressing costs; Democrats and independents want a more far-reaching agenda.

Very important priority for President and Congress







There is greater concern that Congress won't go far enough *(rather than too far)* in making changes to the healthcare system

Bigger Worry about Congressional Action on the Healthcare System

Won't go far enough making needed changes to lower healthcare costs/ensure all Americans have health insurance

Will go too far making changes that increase government spending/give government too much control over the way our healthcare system works

51%

40%

| | Won't go far enough | Will go too far |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Liberal Democrats | 81% | 12% |
| Non-liberal Democrats | 63% | 25% |
| Independents | 51% | 34% |
| Non-conservative Republicans | 47% | 40% |
| Conservative Republicans | 23% | 70% |



Across party lines, voters are more concerned that Congress won't go far enough *(rather than too far)* to regulate drug prices

Bigger Worry about Congressional Action on Prescription Drugs

Won't go far enough to lower Rx drug costs, allow drug companies to continue charging excessive amounts, making medicines too expensive for many

Will go too far regulating Rx drug costs, reduce companies' ability to invest in research and development of new life-saving medicines

23%

| | Won't go far enough | Will go too far |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Liberal Democrats | 81% | 11% |
| Non-liberal Democrats | 67% | 20% |
| Independents | 67% | 22% |
| Non-conservative Republicans | 73% | 16% |
| Conservative Republicans | 55% | 36% |



67%

Overwhelming majorities believe that the system works more for the insurance and drug industries than for the average person

The healthcare system today works more for the benefit of:



| Healthcare system works more for insurance and drug industries | | |
|---|-----|--|
| Whites | 82% | |
| Blacks | 83% | |
| Hispanics | 81% | |
| Democrats | 87% | |
| Independents | 83% | |
| Republicans | 77% | |
| Swing voters | 84% | |
| Private insured | 83% | |
| Government insured | 80% | |
| Not insured | 86% | |
| Income under \$40K | 84% | |
| Income \$40K to \$75K | 85% | |
| Income over \$75K | 77% | |



