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

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Alliance for Health Reform Symposium
November 16, 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>Group</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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voters Who Say 'Major Role'</th>
<th>ACA working well</th>
<th>ACA working poorly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
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<th>Voters Who Say 'Minor Role'</th>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>78</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Voters’ Views – How Well is the ACA Working?

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

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

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

Responsibility of the Federal Government in Health Care

“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

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

Clinton Voters: 78%
Trump Voters: 18%

Went too far

Clinton Voters: 13%
Trump Voters: 83%

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

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

Voters’ Beliefs About a Public Option in the ACA

- All Likely Voters: 48 Favor, 42 Oppose, 10 Don't know
- Democrats: 75 Favor, 15 Oppose, 10 Don't know
- Republicans: 25 Favor, 67 Oppose, 8 Don't know

Voters and Inequality

“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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>All likely voters</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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No - it is not

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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>54%</td>
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Public Opinion About Abortion, by Political Party

% Registered Voters

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Somewhat well</th>
<th>Somewhat poorly</th>
<th>Very poorly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All likely voters</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
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Voters’ Top Choice for How to Address Rising Medicare Costs

- Increase incentives, penalties to encourage doctors and hospitals to practice in less costly ways:
  - All likely voters: 36
  - Democrats: 40
  - Republicans: 34

- Give retirees a fixed amount of money, let them choose a health plan:
  - All likely voters: 22
  - Democrats: 15
  - Republicans: 25

- No change; taxpayers, beneficiaries pay more:
  - All likely voters: 18
  - Democrats: 15
  - Republicans: 21

- Pay doctors and hospitals less:
  - All likely voters: 8
  - Democrats: 10
  - Republicans: 7

Responsibility for High Health Care Costs

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

Top 3 ranked as “A lot”

All
- Pharmaceutical Co: 70%
- Health Insurance Co: 60%
- Federal Gov’t: 53%

Democrats
- Pharmaceutical Co: 74%
- Health Insurance Co: 64%
- Hospitals: 49%

Republicans
- Federal Gov’t: 68%
- Pharmaceutical Co: 61%
- Health Insurance Co: 47%

Voters’ Views on Whether Medicare Should Use Bargaining Power to Lower Prescription Drug Prices

- **All likely voters:**
  - Bargain with drug companies: 73%
  - Rely on market competition: 19%
  - DK/Ref: 8%

- **Democrats:**
  - Bargain with drug companies: 80%
  - Rely on market competition: 13%
  - DK/Ref: 7%

- **Republicans:**
  - Bargain with drug companies: 68%
  - Rely on market competition: 24%
  - DK/Ref: 8%

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